

HISTORY OF DISASTER AT LOVE CANAL

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

The name, Love Canal, became a household word in western New York in 1978, but the idea for the place that was to carry that name originated in 1836 - only 60 years after this country adopted a constitution and became a nation.

Just as the first thoughts of the place that came to be known as Love Canal began many years ago -- so, undoubtedly, the memory of that place will linger. Many fear that the chemicals buried in Love Canal will continue to produce a bitter harvest for years into the future.

The Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier was formed to serve as an advocate for the relief of the physical, psycho/social, and economic distress of persons living near Love Canal, the first residential area in the U.S. afflicted by a non-natural disaster.

- 1836 - A U.S. government engineer surveyed Niagara County to determine the best site for a canal connecting Lakes Erie and Ontario. An area between the upper Niagara River and Lewiston was chosen primarily because the 300 foot escarpment on the Lewiston side could be used to generate electrical power. At the time, electricity could not be generated over long distances.
- 1837 - An economic depression and a series of other events postponed construction of the Canal.
- 1892 - William T. Love, a colorful entrepreneur, decided to revive the idea of a canal connecting the upper Niagara River with Lewiston. The canal was to be the focus of an industrial city of 600,000 people.
- 1894 - William T. Love's idea failed because of the great depression of 1894 and the invention of alternating current which meant that electrical power could now be transmitted inexpensively over long distances.
- 1920 - Hooker Chemical used the canal as a dump site for toxic wastes.
to
1953
- 1953 - Hooker Chemical sold the canal to the Niagara Falls Board of Education. The agreement reportedly included a disclaimer releasing Hooker of responsibility.
- 1953 - 1970 The Board of Education built a school on the land and homes were built adjacent to the Canal.

- 1970 - 1978 Several reports were made from the residents of the Love Canal area to the County Health Commissioner of noxious odors and black sludge oozing from the ground.
- January, 1978 The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) urged city officials to investigate the dump site.
- April 25, 1978 NYS Department of Health declared Love Canal "an extremely serious threat to the health and welfare of residents".
- August, 1978 Local, state and federal officials have been aware, at least since this time, that millions of pounds of toxic chemical wastes with carcinogenic or teratogenic potential are buried in former Love Canal.
- NYS began health tests in area by taking more than 2,800 blood samples.
- Plan for remedial construction at canal in attempt to contain toxic leachate developed.
- NYS Love Canal On-Site Interagency Task Force appointed to deal with Love Canal problems.
- Visit to Love Canal by William Wilcox, Federal Disaster Assistance Administration Director.
- United Way provided for temporary relocation of several families whose physicians indicated that illnesses could be aggravated by living in Love Canal area. These families not included in NYS relocation.
- August 2, 1978 NYSDOH declared State of Emergency at Love Canal. Two rings (rows) of homes closest to canal declared "imminent health hazard". Pregnant women and children under two years of age ordered evacuated and 99th Street School located a few yards from canal ordered closed.
- August 7, 1978 NYS Governor Hugh Carey offered permanent relocation of 239 families in homes "most immediately adjacent" to canal proper.
- President Jimmy Carter declared a Federal Emergency for same area (97th - 99th Streets).
- October, 1978 Remedial construction begun at Love Canal toxic waste dumpsite.
- November 21, 1978 NYSDOH confirmed contamination outside first two rings of homes.
- December 9, 1978 NYSDOH confirmed finding of dioxin, most toxic substance synthesized by man, in Love Canal area soil.

- December 11, 1978 Six residents arrested for disorderly conduct after forming informational picket to warn construction workers of possible dangers of exposure to dioxin.
- December 12, 1978 Additional residents arrested.
- Construction workers hospitalized to determine cause of body rashes. Dioxin can cause chloracne—a serious skin rash.
- February 8, 1979 NYSDOH reported "small but significant increase in the risk of miscarriages and birth defects" (twice the usual risk), and recommended temporary relocation of pregnant women and children under two years of age from wider area (93rd to 103rd Streets).
- February 20, 1979 Dr. Beverly Paigen, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, and consultant to Love Canal Homeowners' Association challenged NYSDOH report re miscarriages and birth defects. Her studies revealed significantly higher incidences of both than NYSDOH claimed.
- February, 1979 Concerns expressed by 2 members of First Presbyterian, Lewiston, N.Y. that churches should be doing something to help Love Canal families resulted in letter calling religious community to informational meeting (see Appendix).
- March 13, 1979 Meeting for "Religious Community Concerned for Love Canal" at Wesley United Methodist in canal neighborhood.
- More than 230 attended including H. McKinley Coffmann, representing office of CWS Domestic Disaster Coordinator.
- Following informational presentation, the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of WNY, suggested formation of Ecumenical Task Force and was supported by ranking representatives of each denomination present. Motion was unanimously supported by all others present.
- March 20, 1979 First meeting of Ecumenical Task Force to Address the Love Canal Disaster at Wesley United Methodist.
- Rev. Dr. Paul L. Moore and Donna H. Ogg, organizers of previous informational meeting, appointed chairman and secretary pro-tem. Also, Task Force membership defined, name chosen, goals adopted:
1. To provide direct aid to residents.
 2. To assume the advocate role in applying political pressure.
 3. To gather and interpret appropriate data.
 4. To seek reconciliation through justice.
 5. To advocate for complete neutralization of toxic wastes.

- March 22, 1979 Dr. Beverly Paigen recommended further evacuations of families living on or near "wet areas" where they appear to be more susceptible to medical problems.
- April 6, 1979 Report by NYS Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes revealed that compounds produced for U.S. Army may have been dumped at Love Canal.
- April 23, 1979 ETF membership elected officers:
- Dr. Paul L. Moore, Chairman
 Rev. James Brewster, Vice Chairman
 Mr. Roger Cook, Secretary
 Mr. John Lynch, CSW, Treasurer
- and additional Executive Board members:
- Mrs. Therese Mudd
 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard Graeber
 Rev. Andrew Kennedy
 Rev. Charles Lamb
 Mr. Alvin C. Ogg
- April 27, 1979 ETF Executive Board meeting with Niagara Falls Mayor Michael O'Laughlin to discuss concerns re residents of Love Canal.
- May, 1979 New dioxin results showed 6.7 ppb in yard near canal.
- Residents told there would be no further permanent relocation.
- May, 1979 Paul L. Moore and Donna H. Ogg presented statements to N.Y.S. hearings sponsored by Legislative Committee on Toxic Wastes and Interagency Task Force on Hazardous Wastes at Niagara Falls' International Convention Center calling officials to responsible action re Love Canal residents.
- Executive Board interviewed Sister Margeen Hoffmann, O.S.F., for position of ETF Executive Director. Board offered job; Sister Margeen accepted, to begin late in July.
- Added Donna Ogg to Executive Board with administrative responsibilities until arrival of director - salary an in-kind contribution of Lewiston Presbyterian.
- Located ETF office for 3 months at Lewiston Presbyterian - rental an in-kind contribution of the church.
- Hired Elizabeth Watts as part-time secretary.

May, 1979

ETF letter to Superintendent of Niagara Falls Schools appealed for careful thought re considered closing of Cleveland Avenue School which would necessitate another school transfer for Love Canal children.

ETF invited to become ad hoc member of Governor's Love Canal On-Site Interagency Task Force.

ETF report and proposal for funding prepared and submitted to CWS and denominational judicatories.

ETF accepted invitation of United Way Executive Director to serve on United Way Advisory Committee re \$200,000. N.Y.S. Love Canal grant.

June, 1979

Residents express fears that toxic fumes during remedial construction may be dangerous to health.

Reports of contaminated leachate overflowing or bypassing containment facilities continue.

Residents attempt to stop remedial work via court order until "adequate" safety plan is developed.

N.Y.S. Supreme Court Justice Norman A. Stiller orders one week temporary evacuation (renewable weekly) for residents suffering adverse health effects which could be causally related to remedial construction if the causality were confirmed by physician.

Day Care center and day camps for Love Canal area children opened to remove children from neighborhood during hours of remedial construction when escaping toxic fumes may be more severe.

Accepted offer of Wesley United Methodist Administrative Board to locate ETF permanent office there -- no rental charge.

ETF sponsored Walk of Concern thru Love Canal neighborhood.

Executive Board met with representatives of NYS agencies and elected state officials.

ETF accepted invitation to become member of Love Canal On-Site Task Force.

Encouraged letter writing campaign to government officials to inform them of the ETF's existence and goals.

Established communications with residents, helping agencies and as many WNY congregations as possible.

Conducted several bus tours of Love Canal neighborhood for out-of-state church groups.

July, 1979

N.Y. Governor Carey gave final approval to bills allowing partial property tax exemptions for Love Canal area property owners.

Remedial construction's tile drainage system became blocked preventing free flow of leachate through system for detoxification at on-site treatment facility.

Panel of federal experts including representatives of HEW (HHS) and EPA concluded that the "population in the Love Canal area has suffered certain adverse health effects as a consequence of exposure to a chemically contaminated environment."

July, 1979

ETF provided counseling and aid to residents - sometimes by referral, sometimes directly.

ETF received contributions totalling \$6,775. from local and national sources. Also recorded \$5,450. in local in-kind contributions through first half of month.

We welcomed Sister Margeen on July 23, and introduced her to community the next evening where the speaker was the Rev. Dr. Paul McCleary, CWS Executive Director.

August, 1979

Additional blockage occurred in tile drainage system around canal.

Dioxin confirmed in southern section of canal and reportedly present in Black Creek (north of canal's northern terminus).

Late in month, residents began to leave neighborhood because of severe chemical fumes in area. Under provisions established by court, N.Y.S. was required to pay food and lodging for 48 hours for family if any member's illness was believed causally linked to remedial construction. At end of 48 hours, family was expected to provide N.Y.S. with verification from physician that illness could be causally related to canal work to receive continued payment. Family then was permitted to remain away from home for one week. However, physician statements were rejected in virtually all cases because physicians' wording was unacceptable to N.Y.S.

Ultimately, 130 families evacuated.

Dr. James Dunlop, Niagara Falls School physician, recommended closing 93rd Street School (second area School) as a precaution against exposing children to chemicals determined to be present on and near school property; Board of Education accepted Dr. Dunlop's recommendation.

August, 1979

ETF moved into permanent office at Wesley United Methodist in Love Canal neighborhood, one year after declaration of state and federal emergency.

Staff hired:

Barbara Hanna, Receptionist
Elizabeth Watts, Executive Secretary
Donna Ogg, Administrative Assistant

Executive Board accepted Donna Ogg's resignation from Board and Rev. Bruce Stearns, Pastor of Wesley United Methodist, added to ETF Executive Board.

ETF staff and volunteers began to spend many hours counseling temporarily evacuated residents at motels when longer term evacuation caused its own set of problems.

August 29, 1979

ETF received request from N.Y.S. On-Site Coordinator to find housing for temporarily relocated residents for Labor Day weekend, since local motels had previous registrations to honor. ETF also requested to counsel residents in motels to "keep the lid on."

ETF secured temporary housing to accommodate up to 300 residents for Labor Day weekend.

Residents staying at motel informed ETF they would go to Stella Niagara Education Park (a Sisters' of St. Francis provincialate and elementary school in nearby Lewiston, N.Y.) for weekend, provided they were assured of returning to motels rather than being forced to return to contaminated neighborhood. On-Site Coordinator agreed to put assurance in writing to ETF at residents' request.

August 31, 1979

N.Y.S. employees left town for holiday weekend. Red Cross, United Way counselors and ETF left behind to facilitate residents' registration and all weekend questions and problems at Stella Niagara.

September 3, 1979

ETF sponsored picnic for Love Canal residents at Stella Niagara.

September 4, 1979

Former N.Y.S. On-Site Coordinator recalled to Love Canal to assist with mounting temporary relocation problems.

N.Y.S. Senator John Daly and Assemblyman Matthew Murphy, representing Love Canal area, urged governor to purchase at full market value the home of any resident wishing to leave canal area. Also challenged Federal government for "callous disregard" for residents and asked that Federal government relocate residents of LaSalle

September 4, 1979 Development, a Federal housing project in the
Cond't.

Approximately 200 persons relocated to Stella
Niagara and elsewhere during holiday weekend.

N.Y.S. relocation officials insisted upon receipt
of medical statements from residents to continue
temporary relocation, but no medical form
acceptable to N.Y.S. was available.

September 4, 1979 ETF requested 2 week extension of temporary
relocation to have time to develop medical form
acceptable to both N.Y.S. and local physicians.

ETF Board officially adopted stance calling for
N.Y.S. permanent relocation of Love Canal homes
which are believed to be contaminated.

September 5, 1979 ETF Board and Staff negotiated for more than
10 hours with N.Y.S. officials to:

1. Return Love Canal residents to motels, as
promised, and to permit school to be at
Stella Niagara.
2. Work with ETF to develop medical forms.
3. Consider physical and mental health of
residents in all decisions and to cease
subjecting them to intense suffering through
bureaucratic ineptitude.

September 6, 1979 Just past midnight, N.Y.S. began to process Love
Canal residents' registrations to allow them to
return to motels from Stella Niagara, with no
N.Y.S. decision about how long they could remain
at motels.

Small children were included in group of people
who awaited that decision. Two women collapsed
and were taken by ambulance to hospital for
treatment. Another had required medical treat-
ment during previous afternoon and numerous other
individuals had become extremely upset emotionally.

September 6, 1979 ETF received N.Y.S. agreement to work on medical
form.

September 7, 1979 ETF received medical form agreed to be acceptable
to N.Y.S. and local physicians. By now (Friday)
119 families had left canal area. Extension was
granted by N.Y.S. until Tuesday, 11:00 A.M., to
secure signed medical statements allowing residents
to remain away from canal area.

- September 9, 1979 ETF Board and Staff worked through weekend to find physicians willing to go to motels to examine residents to verify continued illness.
- A Buffalo psychiatrist began examination of residents at motels, free of charge. ETF provided assistance to him. By late that evening approximately 80 persons had received signed medical forms - agreed to be acceptable to N.Y.S. two days earlier.
- September 10, 1979 ETF Staff found note tucked under office door indicating that N.Y.S.D.O.H. had decided medical forms were not acceptable and supplying alternate form.
- Deadline for submission of forms remained September 11 at 11:00 A.M.
- Two Buffalo psychiatrists began examining and re-examining residents in attempt to comply with September 11 deadline only to discover error in N.Y.S. form which permitted relocation of "illness" rather than "person". One physician gave up in disgust. The other continued to work until 112 families had received certification of illness.
- September 11, 1979 ETF presented 113 medical forms to N.Y.S. officials 2½ hours before deadline. All requirements of Spring court order had been fulfilled.
- ETF Board accepted resignation of Rev. Dr. Andrew Kennedy, Unitarian Universalist, because of transfer.
- ETF Board added Rev. Joseph Power, O.S.F.S., Stella Niagara Center of Renewal and Mr. G. Thomas Martin, Unitarian Universalist representative, to Board.
- At 4:00 P.M., ETF was advised that N.Y.S.D.O.H. had rejected 112 medical forms (all describing illness as "acute depression"), because N.Y.S. had never had a mental health epidemic. (See June, 1980)
- At the same time, Dr. David Axelrod, Commissioner of Health for N.Y.S., accused ETF and physicians of having acted in bad faith.
- September 11, 1979 Residents in motels were told they would be required to return to Love Canal homes on September 12.
- September 12, 1979 Residents refused to return to homes.
- September 13, 1979 ETF and United Way counselors assisted Red Cross who established "disaster headquarters" at St. Paul's United Methodist, Niagara Falls, to house again uprooted Love Canal victims.

- September 12, 1979 Mid-evening N.Y.S. announcement of compliance with court order secured by Love Canal Homeowners' Association to allow residents to return to motels. Justice Stiller also allowed one week for residents to secure another medical form.
- Also in
September, 1979 Burglaries occurred at vacated Love Canal homes raising fears of some who remained in canal area about wisdom of temporarily relocating.
- Team of federal doctors indicated readiness to assist with health examinations to verify illness and possible causal relationship to remedial construction. Dr. David Axelrod indicated that N.Y.S. would not accept signatures unless physicians were certified by N.Y.S.
- Local physicians began to sign medical forms for their temporarily relocated patients now that such form existed.
- October 10, 1979 Remedial construction completed on southern sector of canal.
- October 12, 1979 Dr. Janette Sherman, EPA Toxic Substances Advisory Committee, "strongly urged" relocation of Love Canal residents "as soon as possible".
- October 14, 1979 U.S. House Commerce Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigation report criticized N.Y.S.'s handling of canal matters and supported Dr. Paigen's suggestion that additional families be moved.
- October 25, 1979 *Public Policy Committee of N.Y.S. Catholic Conference appealed to Governor Carey at ETF behest.*
- October 26, 1979 State officials announced plans to purchase homes in Love Canal neighborhood at Fair Market Value and indicated that option to leave would be open to anyone in neighborhood desiring to do so.
- November 1, 1979 N.Y.S. Legislature passed Murphy/Daly bill providing \$5 million for "stabilization and revitalization" of Love Canal area. Bill included provision for establishment of an "authority" to purchase homes and design future use of the neighborhood.
- Note: N.Y.S. Council of Churches lobbied for passage of bill at ETF request.*
- November 7, 1979 Remedial construction on central and northern sectors of canal completed. N.Y.S. indicated that funds for temporary relocation would stop on November 8.

- November 8, 1979 Many families evicted from motels assisted by ETF in securing alternate housing, but many others returned to homes. Food and counselling provided by ETF at Wesley United Methodist for evicted persons.
- November 10, 1979 N.Y.S. confirmed presence of dioxin in Black Creek.
- November 14, 1979 EPA air sampling in Love Canal area begun.
- November 14, 1979 ETF office moved from Love Canal area because of "responsibility to protect staff and volunteers from any adverse health effects caused by unnecessary proximity to Love Canal". New office located in Madonna building of Niagara Catholic High School - no rental charge.
- November 17, 1979 Niagara Falls' Mayor Michael O'Laughlin named to chair task force to establish the "stabilization and revitalization authority."
- November 28, 1979 EPA scientists returned to Love Canal to re-sample ambient air in homes.
- November 30, 1979 First meeting of Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force chaired by Mayor O'Laughlin Group will ask for appraisal of Love Canal homes.
- Also in November, 1979 ETF formally designates Attorney Barbara Morrison as legal counsel to task force.
- ETF assisted Alfred University's School of Allied Health Services, Dean Robert Love, in arranging for university taping of documentary entitled "Love Canal: A Community Under Stress".
- Various resolutions adopted by religious organizations supporting ETF's call for permanent relocation of Love Canal residents.
- Ecumenical Task Force of the Niagara Frontier (note change of name) adopts By-Laws.
- Additional persons added to ETF Executive Board included Rev. Robert Grimm (Buffalo and N.Y.S. Council of Churches), Rev. Donald Lawrence (American Baptist Churches of Niagara Frontier), Rev. Guy Peek (Episcopal Diocese of W.N.Y.).
- ETF representatives continued to provide presentations re Love Canal at request of congregations.
- ETF continued to advocate for renters lest they be overlooked in negotiations and decisions.

- November 1979
Cont'd. ETF arranged for N.Y.S. Senator John Daly to meet with residents who wish to remain in neighborhood for purpose of answering their questions - meeting chaired by Rev. Dr. Moore at Wesley United Methodist Church.
- December, 1979 U.S. Justice Department suit for \$197.5 million against Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corporation filed.
- Appraisals of Love Canal homes to be conducted in January.
- Nearly 450 homeowners requested appraisals.
- December, 1979 ETF received grant proposal request from Environmental Defense Fund for health testing to be conducted on Love Canal residents.
- ETF attempted to secure apartment buildings for long term temporary relocation for residents who cannot return to homes while awaiting state action on permanent relocation.
- ETF established close communications with Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force.
- ETF sent letter to Dr. Axelrod requesting information re charges of N.Y.S. harassment of Dr. Paigen for her Love Canal activities.
- January, 1980 Home appraisals begun.
- January, 1980 Letter sent to Roswell Park Board of Visitors indicating ETF opinion that Dr. Paigen's assistance at Love Canal has been valuable public service.
- ETF gave tentative endorsement to EDF grant proposal and sent on to CWS for possible funding.
- February, 1980 ETF sponsored Public Forum to attempt to answer residents' questions re stabilization and revitalization.
- Added Sister Joan Malone, O.S.F. to Board.
- ETF responded to public request from Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force for priority list of residents who should have homes bought. After lists were submitted to ETF by residents' groups, ETF sent priority list to Mayor and Task Force.

March, 1980

N.Y.S. indicated unwillingness to be part of "authority" to purchase Love Canal homes and consider neighborhood revitalization.

County of Niagara also indicated hesitation to join "authority".

These actions stalled forward movement on purchase of Love Canal homes.

March, 1980

Sister Margeen, Roger Cook, Sister Joan, Barbara Morrison of ETF and representatives of Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility met with Occidental Petroleum attorneys in New York City.

ETF Board had day-long evaluation with H. McKinley Coffman, CWS consultant to ETF, assisting in process.

ETF continued presentations to church groups and visiting denominational representatives.

ETF began development of volunteer advocate program.

ETF continued to express concern to all government officials for suffering of people.

Technical advisory group to ETF will be established comprising both locally and nationally recognized experts.

April, 1980

ETF advocated very strongly and in great depth for Niagara County Legislature's participation on Stabilization and Revitalization Authority.

We received major assistance in this from the Very Rev. Edward D. Head, Bishop of Diocese of Buffalo.

ETF representatives attended meeting with Peace and Justice Commission, Diocese of Buffalo.

ETF Volunteer Advocate Training provided by Nancy Freye, CRWRC.

Presentations by ETF to church groups continued.

April 29, 1980

Niagara County Legislature reached decision not to participate on Stabilization and Revitalization Agency, thereby potentially impairing that group's ability to function.

[Note: ETF advocacy had positive though insufficient impact on final decision.]

May 1, 1980

Sister Margeen attended World Council of Churches consultation at Gallneukirchen, Austria. She was one of only 25 persons from 17 different countries invited to attend.

Sister Margeen returned from Gallneukirchen with a Statement of Solidarity [see Appendix] signed by all but one participant to the WCC Consultation. The single individual who did not sign statement could not do so for political reasons.

ETF Annual Meeting included election of officers, approval of 1980-1981 budget, and decision to continue ETF response for another year, since serious need for interfaith response continues.

ETF sponsored Conference on Toxic Wastes for interfaith community called "What Is the Moral Thing To Do?" Keynote speaker for the conference was Father William O'Connell, CWS consultant to the ETF. Other representatives from industry, the interfaith community, the field of science, and government officials participated.

May 17, 1980

The EPA released during simultaneous press conferences in Niagara Falls and Washington, D.C., chromosome study contracted by EPA to Dr. Dante Picciano, Biogenics Laboratory, Houston, Texas. The results released that day indicated significant damage to the chromosomes in the blood of a number of Love Canal residents.

That announcement catapulted the Love Canal story into the front pages and TV screens of America once again. Picciano study's validity challenged later by other government experts.

May 17, 1980

Telegram sent from ETF to President Jimmy Carter requesting federal disaster declaration in view of EPA announcement of "chromosomal aberrations" among 11 of 36 residents tested.

May 19, 1980

ETF again contacted President Carter and Governor Carey requesting that they take whatever steps necessary to produce a federal declaration of disaster due to the "unbearable anguish and emotional strain" on residents caused by the continuing "inhuman response" of government.

The EPA announcement's adverse impact on the mental health of residents was area of major concern to ETF. ETF sent professional pastoral counselors, social workers and volunteer advocates to assist residents in meeting the crisis.

ETF received request via U.S. Congressman LaFalce's office from Gene Eidenberg, White House aide, to submit a plan for coordinating expected relocation effort among local social service agencies.

- May 19, 1980 Members of Love Canal Homeowners' Association held 2 federal EPA officials hostage at Association office in Love Canal neighborhood for several hours.
- May 19, 1980 Homeowners' Association requested ETF to send clergy to counsel residents in extremely distraught frames of mind earlier that day. Board members remained available throughout day in and near Association office.
- May 21, 1980 President Jimmy Carter declared the area between 93rd. and 103rd. Streets and Bergholtz Creek, and Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, a Federal Emergency area.
- Residents of the area were offered temporary relocation with federal funds to be administered by N.Y.S. officials.
- May, 1980 The ETF cooperated with the United Way Outreach counselors in offering referral, counseling and rumor-control services to residents.
- Rev. Douglas Behm representing Niagara Council of Churches added to ETF Board.
- ETF, Catholic Charities and 4 residents' groups objected to elements of EPA proposed health testing and indicated that none would encourage residents to participate unless major changes occurred in protocol for testing and until permanent relocation became possible.
- June, 1980 Sister Margeen appeared with Hillis and Sandonato families, residents of Love Canal, on nationally televised "Good Morning, America" program for discussion of severe psychological problems associated with stress upon residents and their families.
- Sister Margeen, Mayor O'Laughlin and leaders of several residents' groups invited to EPA/federal agencies meeting in Washington.
- ETF representatives began attending Federal Coordinating Officer and State Coordinating Officer meetings weekly.
- Sister Margeen assisted in producing a 10 minute segment for NBC Nightly News detailing the problems faced by one woman suffering severe mental anguish in conjunction with stresses of living in a chemically contaminated neighborhood.

June, 1980

ETF arranged meeting with federal personnel and local Board of Realtors and continued to host meetings of local service agencies to discuss problems, concerns, and responses to the crisis.

ETF supported "Right to Know" legislation with WVN Council on Occupational Safety and Health pending in N.Y. Senate and Assembly with letters to 41 daily newspapers and all legislators. Bill was passed before Legislature adjourned.

June, 1980

N.Y. Legislature passed bill creating Industrial Development Agency to replace proposed Stabilization and Revitalization Task Force. Still only \$5 million available to them with additional \$15 - \$20 projected need.

N.Y. Governor Carey submitted plan including permanent relocation to White House.

The Governor and Dr. Axelrod are in agreement that a 'mental health emergency' now exists in the Love Canal area.

June, 1980

ETF remained in daily contact with many residents, service agencies, and government officials.

ETF received notice of incorporation after lengthy delay reportedly stemming from advocacy nature of ETF activities.

Father William O'Connell, in brief visit, indicated that ETF should:

1. Clearly define its relationship to CWS to insure ongoing assistance and consultation.
2. Provide for debriefing of Board and Staff.
3. Indicate in writing the purpose of Board and manner in which it can remain viable rather than becoming entangled merely in responding to inaction of government agencies.

July, 1980

Federal Relocation Task Force has been established to prepare "package" of available programs for Love Canal residents.

Plans for environmental and health tests performed by/for federal government continue to be made and discussed.

July, 1980
Cont'd.

Agency for Stabilization and Revitalization
named 3 persons to represent residents:

Rev. Leotis Belk
Mr. John Lynch, CSW
Mr. William Waggoner

and have chosen Mayor Michael O'Laughlin as chairman.

*[Note: Mr. Lynch is Niagara County Director of
Catholic Charities and Treasurer of the ETF.]*

Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia held
educational meeting re chromosome study for Love
Canal residents. Intense stress of residents showed
in unorderly, vocal displays at meeting.

Javits/Moynihan Amendment to Supplemental Appropria-
tions Bill approved by Congress. Entire bill
signed by President Carter. The amendment allows
the President as much leeway as necessary to
implement permanent relocation of residents.
(As this goes to press, there is no indication
about whether President does or does not intend to
implement.)

July, 1980

*Betty Watts assumes full-time secretarial position and
Barbara Hanna accepts part-time administrative
assistant position for ETF.*

*ETF advocated in depth and at length for full use of
FEMA authority. It is ETF contention that
"regulations" can and must be changed to address
problems associated with Love Canal.*

*Experts continued to respond positively to ETF
invitations to form our Scientific Advisory Board.*

*ETF strongly supports Presidential implementation of
Javits/Moynihan Amendment.*

*ETF assisted, as possible, N.Y. Assembly Task Force
investigating alleged Army dumping at Love Canal.*

*ETF and United Way Outreach counselors staff a
Drop-In Center daily at Wesley United Methodist.*

Rev. Donald S. Brown added to ETF Board.

*ETF Report from March, 1979 through July, 1980 prepared
and readied for distribution to members, funding
sources, friends.*