CHARITABLE AIMS FOSTERED GROWTH OF WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Needs of Soldiers' Emilies Inspired

By JUANITA TANNER Jubilee Feature Writer

The story of the early Elmira organizations for women is the story of the local growth of charity, education and civic interests. Their development follows the dictates of early needs and, answering these, the separate organizations cross paths and memberships. In general the basic and common point around which they all revolve is rightly enough, charity.

Near the close of the Civil War in October 1864, the first Womans' Organization was founded and called "The Ladies Relief Association." Elmira being a military post, it became a rendezvous for returning soldiers where they were mustered out of service and received their pay. Many thousands came here for that purpose, among them the sick and wounded who needed the tender care and sympathy of women rather than the coarse fare and still coarser nursing of hired government officials.

THIS WAS MADE apparent by | soldiers so all of the Association's the daily arrival of sick and dis- attention was turned to the care abled soldiers laboring under suf- of children made homeless by the ferings of heart-rendering charac- war. Thus the first "Orphans ter and who were sometimes per- Asylum" in Elmira was established. mitted to lie at the railroad station means for alleviating their suffer- has gone a step further in placing Mrs. R. Jones, Mrs. A. Frisbie, and life altogether for the children. were featured in every up-to-date spring wear." Mrs. A. Hathorn.



Mrs. Helen L. Bullock, founder of the Anchorage Home and national figure in WCTU work.

and bounty. There was no longer a with the New York State Federa- ing bedroom and smothered the

course of a year.

city buying the property.

been heeded.

of that day.

be preserved as a park or memorial.

begun his business career as store-

egren in his native town, Vernon,

County, N. Y. After a dec-

need to care for the families of the tion of Women's Clubs.

A Board of Elmira women interested in children's welfare still store in Elmira in the 60s.

that mothers became aware of the fact many years back that free distion League," which was a na- ing." tional organization, to promote A basque was designed for Milady president. This club, limited to 40 members and mothers of children Knockout Saves of school age, has done much to promote the welfare of their own Patrolman in Fire children, and has always been

care of needy soldiers, their wives of the churches have Mothers' his mate, Patrolman Clarence and children. To this end money groups and a very interesting group Smith, during a raid on a mariwas raised by subscription and a of Italian mothers can be found huana den. building was procured at the cor- at the Neighborhood House. The A gas flame ignited Smith's alner of Third and Magee Street, YMCA has a Mothers' Club which cohol-saturated clothing after a where for nearly two years the assumes much responsibility for woman tenant had hurled a bottle charities of this Institution were keeping the camp at Keuka Lake of alcohol at him. Kolesar smashdispensed. equipped and only last year spon- ed him on the jaw and knocked At the close of the war the As- sored the establishment of an in- him out, preventing him from runsociation felt that the adults were firmary at the camp. Several of ning about wildly. well taken care of with pensions these groups are now affiliated He dragged Smith in an adjoin-

Langdon Mansion, Soon to Be Razed, Linked

With History of Elmira for Four Score Years



The old Southern Tier Orphans Home on Franklin St., in 1873.

Mrs. Marjorie Hager, chair-

man of the Republican Women's

Educational League.

for hours without assistance. This elicited the sympathies of the THE SOUTHERN TIER Chil- Elmira Stores of '64 Kept Pace elicited the sympathies of the noble and generous ladies of Elmira, who immediately devised this first bit of charitable work by Elmira women and today Elmira Elmira women and today Elmira With Metropolitan Styles

nected with this home and is Queen Victoria at Balmoral, Scot- low take up of the bustle." assisted by a staff of directors. larity with the patent leather, cloth vogue.

might be helpful to all concerned. coats were the rage. These woolen newest patterns. As a result of this a few Elmira underskirts, "originally red with mothers grouped together and black stripes, were for wear under joined "The Childrens Conserva- a long dress looped up for walk-

child welfare and a better under-standing between parent and child. Mrs. Robert Bentley was president of the League and when a few of the League and when a few of the skirt and trimmed with ribyears later the League withdrew bon velvet. Fashion books comfrom the national organization and mented that "it is almost unnecesbecame the Monday Mothers' sary to say that these garments Club, Mrs. Bentley was its first

ready to assist whenever needed. | Cleveland, Ohio-(UP)-The quick THE IDEA of a Mothers' Club thinking of Patrolman Charles The object was declared to be the has spread so rapidly that many Kolesar probably saved the life of

flames with a mattress.

ings. The leaders in this great un- the children in foster homes, get- Balmorals—shoes for men and require heavy linings, else they dertaking were Mrs. David Decker, ting away from the institutional women which laced up the front—would be unsuitable for early Carousel

Bustle skirts were coming into Cleveland, Ohio - (UP)-The popularity. They were "long in four baby robins hatched in the carries on the necessary work con- Introduced for outdoor wear by back, both for a train and to al- cupola atop a merry-go-round at Euclid Beach Park here will have known as the Southern Tier Chilland, the new style shoe was sweep- Gentlemen preferred long frock a hard time getting used to a dren's Home Board. Mrs. John E. ing the country and vied in popu-Close fitting trousers were in doesn't revolve if they ever have The state m to live in one.

Speaking of children as orphans, topped shoe which was ultra Elmira stores were proud that Their life has been just one church in procuring the leadership it might be well to mention here fashionable. they were in step with the styles round of activity since they were of the Rev. Charles M. Kreidler In the smart shops specializing in New York and Boston. Seamborn on the merry go-round, in 1909 and during his pastorate what with the music, lights and which extended to 1924 the building cussion of children's problems in ladies' wear, Balmoral petti- many, were prepared to offer the general gayety.

> book form, and may be read now In June, 1924 the Rev. Allan M. at the Steele Memorial Library. later acquired the military title Sunday School grew so large that "General" through his service as a balcony was added, and later a worked so ardently and successcommissary-general on Gov. Cor- gymnasium. The property to the fully, she soon became a national sett felt if all charitable organizanell's staff, fell heir to the house north of the church was pur- leader in the WCTU. and lived there until his death in chased as a manse and became the Working along temperance lines roof, cost could be greatly pared 1916. He married Ida B. Clark in home of the pastor. brought in a great deal of outside and much more satisfactory work 1870, brought her home to live with Pastor Laird closed his work Jan. work and one of the important could be accomplished. With this

> 303 N. Main St. which took place his coming was supplied by the started about 1882, the first location years, the schools have provided vobetween 1870 and 1890 was largely Rev. S. M. Bartlett, an elder of being at Davis Street and Roe Ave- cational training and guidance and due to Mrs. Langdon's interest in the church, and resident of El- nue. Later it was moved to College the YWCA building has come into gardening and landscaping. She mira. supervised the planting of hundreds of trees and shrubs, many from distant countries, and established a grapes and tropical flowers the year round. The first night-blooming Rome's New 'round. The first night-blooming Cereus to be seen in this section blossomed there.

made within the house. The long parlor or drawing room on the south and the library on the north were transposed and the whole of the house redecorated. The portecochere was added and verandas extended in 1890.

father's sterling principle of "hos- stations but Rome will be able to pitality without ostentation." Many claim the most original—for it will a great man of the day made the contain a church. General's home headquarters when of the spacious parlor and were re- a basement. married Charles' niece, Clara Cle- 1872-only two years after the mens, Jacob Gould Schurman, unity of the Italian State — it Grass Sown, Lawn then president of Cornell Univer- finally has been obliged to bow to sity, later ambassador to Germany; the exigencies of a modern, bustl-Samuel L. Clemens, "Mark Twain," ing city. humorist and author, who married The new station, which will be scientists at the Case School of long summers spent there, his

ago, Max Eastman, son of the Rev. completed in time for the 1942 to predict what would grow on the atmosphere of his beloved "study," Samuel E. Eastman, who succeeded World's Fair. It will not occupy lawn of their new \$300,000 labor- his literary genius thrived. Mr. Beecher as Park Church pas- exactly the same site of the atory. tor, described his boyhood recol- present station as authorities in- Grass had been planted. lections of the Langdon family and tend to enlarge the square in But the grass, when it grew, was sociated with the great author's their home. Symbolic, to him, was front of the station. dotted thickly with new potatoes. many subsequent sorrows. There the beautiful mahogany stairway It will be the largest and most The question now: Whether to near the fireplace in the library. which leads to the second floor. | modern station in Italy and Fas- take out the grass and grow po- were read funeral services for his staircases," Mr. Eastman writes. continent. But most of them were a little It will be four stories high and Berlin has one beerhouse and seen his happy marriage, he, him-

'upper bourgeoisie' than a nobility ed by underground passages. They were at once princely and cafe, a florist, tourist agencies,

in which the contemporary Lang- attend Sunday services. dons are held is proof that the

signed regret. The once lavishly appointed rooms are cold and empty now; the handsome crystal Prowl Cars chandeliers which illuminated so many happy gatherings glitter forlornly. The beautiful staircase, however, which so impressed Max Eastman, retains its dignity intact, and so does the spacious upstairs London-(UP)-A fleet of "camhallway with its friendly front ouflage" cars is being used by Scotwindows. At the right is a bed-land Yard to track down a gang room which Mark Twain and his of car bandits who have raided Olivia once occupied, and, there, jewelers, furriers and tobacconists still stands the old-fashioned bed in different parts of London.

needs frequent repairs that are hicles, of which three are at prescostly," mused Mr. Langdon as he ent in use, are fitted with high-

rate through standing vacant. So, when 90 per cent of the smash-and-

Disciples

Churches of Christ or (Christian Churches) in Pennsylvania, held a on College Ave., Nov. 12, 1893. This est membership of the 65 churches of the Disciples of Christ in New York State.

A group in the western part of the city, who in 1893 formed the Westside Baptist Church in a wood en building on Reformatory Ave. (now W. Thurston St.) later merged with adherents of the Disciples. They joined the latter group when the Disciples Church was built on S. Main St.

months a stated meeting place was procured in a rented hall over cigar store at 107 E. Church St. become a leader and, because she a desire to help themselves and this There on Feb. 4, 1894 was begun the Sunday School with about 40 scholars. On Sept. 1, 1896 the Rev. C. C. Crawford was called as the first settled pastor of the congregation. Under his leadership the place of meeting was changed in October 1898 to an old two story brick building on the corner of S. Main and Partridge Sts. This location was subsequently purchased, present building being dedicated in June 1906. During Pastor Crawford's service the church grew from a few members to a congregation of several hundred. The burden of debt on the building made the work difficult and for a time the build-

The state mission board of the Disciples of Christ assisted the became again the property of the congregation and the membership That eulogy was preserved in grew considerably.

Laird was appointed to lead the dent of the Democratic Women's JERVIS' SON, Charles J., who church. During his pastorate the Club of Chemung County.

his widowed mother, and there she 1, 1939 and the Rev. John Francis branches in Elmira was the estab- thought, the Women's Federation resided for 64 years. She died in Bellville of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, lishment of a home and shelter Building was built at the corner of was called as the fourth pastor of for wayward girls. This home was State and Church St. Relief work Beautification of the grounds at the church. The interim preceding called the Anchorage and was has changed so much in recent

In 1874, extensive alterations were Rail Termina

GEN. LANGDON continued his brag of larger and better railway

date: Miss Emma Thursby, one- longer meet the needs of the fast until at last he won the affection day, Twain had his famous first time famed soprano; Ossip Gabrilo- growing capital which is slowly of the whole household, who con- meeting with the young Rudyard witsch, illustrious musician, who stretching to the sea. Built in

constructed along the new Fascist Applied Science and their profes- delicate wife and children waxed In a magazine article not long concepts of architecture, will be sors thought it would be a cinch strong and rosy; in the congenial

"There were richer families in cists say it will be one of the tatoes, or to pick the potato seed- wife, his daughters, Jean and equally mahogany best and most complete on the lings out of the top-soil.

raw and self-conscious by compari- contain three basements. It will one telephone to every 271 of its self, lay in state prior to his burial have 22 main tracks and 12 cov- residents. "—the family were less like and ered platforms which will be joinin Elmira. The elevation seemed The new "Termini" station will deep and old and spiritual and in- be a miniature city in itself. It finitely removed from snobbishness. will contain shops, a restaurant, a

barber shops and a church. GEN. LANGDON'S three chil- Religiously inclined travelers ardren, all living, are Mrs. Julia riving or departing from Rome Olivia Langdon Loomis of New will be able to go into the church York City; Dr. Ida Langdon, the to say a few prayers. Sunday exhome's last occupant, now at 528 cursionists no longer will be forc-W. Water St.; and Jervis Langdon ed to miss Mass to catch an early of Quarry Farm, trustees of the morning train. They will be able Samuel Clemens estate. The esteem to enter the basement church and

with massive headboard where Looking like dirty and neglected private cars of makes not normally "A LARGE building of this type used by the police, these new ve-

of the cars patrols the streets of

Elmira Groups Gave Church Dates Early Support to To 1893 In the early 90's, Disciples of Christ who had been members of

By JUANITA TANNER

Prohibition had had its ups and downs long before first meeting in Elmira at a home women took up the "No liquor license goal." New York began a congregation which has State voted for and passed prohibition in 1854. This was grown throughout the years to repealed in 1864 and it was that time women become intermore than 800, making it the larg- ested in temperance. To gain prohibition again seemed far in the future and temperance was only a step in that di-

THERE WAS MUCH work to be much corrective work. So it was, done and every effect was used to methods were changed and work enlist women sympathic to the of a much greater scope was accause. Elmira became a center complished. from which a great deal of temper-After meeting in homes for a few founded the first WCTU organiza- mira brought about. There were in tion in this country. Mrs. Helen L. Elmira at that time a few families Bullock was selected that day to in need of help. However, they had

Miss Rena Rockwell, presi-

ance work throughout the State THE INDUSTRIAL School, was carried on. Very quietly one founded in 1878 at the corner of afternoon in the late Fall about Madison Ave., and Church St., was 1884 a group of ten women met one of the most important pieces in one of Elmira's churches and of work which the women of El-

> school bridged the gap. Boys and girls went to the school, were taught vocations helpful to them and when any special aptitude was shown, this school endeavored to

develop them. Mothers from these families were taken to the Industrial school where they were taught to sew and keep house. Mrs. Eliza A. Wright was the investigator of these cases. It was her work to look up all cases reported in need of help, refer them to the right channels and do the follow-up work. The only means she had of transportation were her two feet until the traction company appreciatively furnished her with a pass. Her salary was \$500 a year. Mrs. Wright continued in this work 25 years until failing health caused her to resign. Her son, Mr. Abner C. Wright, present county historian, furnished me with this bit of information and similingly added, today the cost of the same work is now \$60,000 and the investigators travel by auto. Family names such as Langdon, Diven, Gillett, Arnot and Decker are associated with

ABOUT 1900 Mrs. J. Sloat Fastions could be brought under one Avenue near the North Presbyter- its own in the city, that again the ian Church. Mrs. Bullock super- real purpose of the Federation was

promotion of this school.

vised and instructed the girls in the outgrown. school and many lives were set However, if it had not been for aright due to her noble efforts. | the untiring and unrelenting ef-After a few years work with these forts of the pioneer women of Elgirls it became apparent if pre- mira, much of the finer work along ventive work could be accomplished these lines would never have come

there would not be the need for so into being. Mark Twain's Life Associated Rome-(UP)-Other cities may Closely with Langdon Home

and to the world at large is as- when they came to appreciate his This new railway church will be sociation of Mark Twain with the true greatness of character. passing through Elmira. Among no ordinary house of worship. It old Langdon home. He first en- The marriage of Mark Twain and those who supped in the paneled will lack domes and steeples and tered its doors in 1868 as a friend Olivia Langdon took place in 1870 dining hall, trod the polished floors church bells and will be located in of "Charlie" Langdon and a suitor in the south parlor, now the for the hand of Olivia, with whose library. flected by the huge pier glass mir- Work of demolishing the pres- face in a miniature he had fallen Thereafter Mr. and Mrs. Clemens rors which still ornament the walls ent antiquated station has begun. in love a year before. There the and their growing family were frewere President Ulysses S. Grant, Simple in appearance and pro- romantic young journalist from the quent guests at 303 N. Main St. In James G. Blaine, Presidential candi- vincial in character it can no West pressed his difficult courtship one end of the parlor, as it is to-

in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Of prime interest to Elmirans | doned his oddities and rough ways

But Quarry Farm, home of Olivia's sister, Susan, Mrs. Theodore Crane, saw Clemens' happiest Cleveland, Ohio - (UP)-Young moments in Elmira. During the

THE LANGDON homestead, on the other hand, is strongly as-Susy, and his infant son, Langdon. And, finally, in the room which had

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Wallpaper

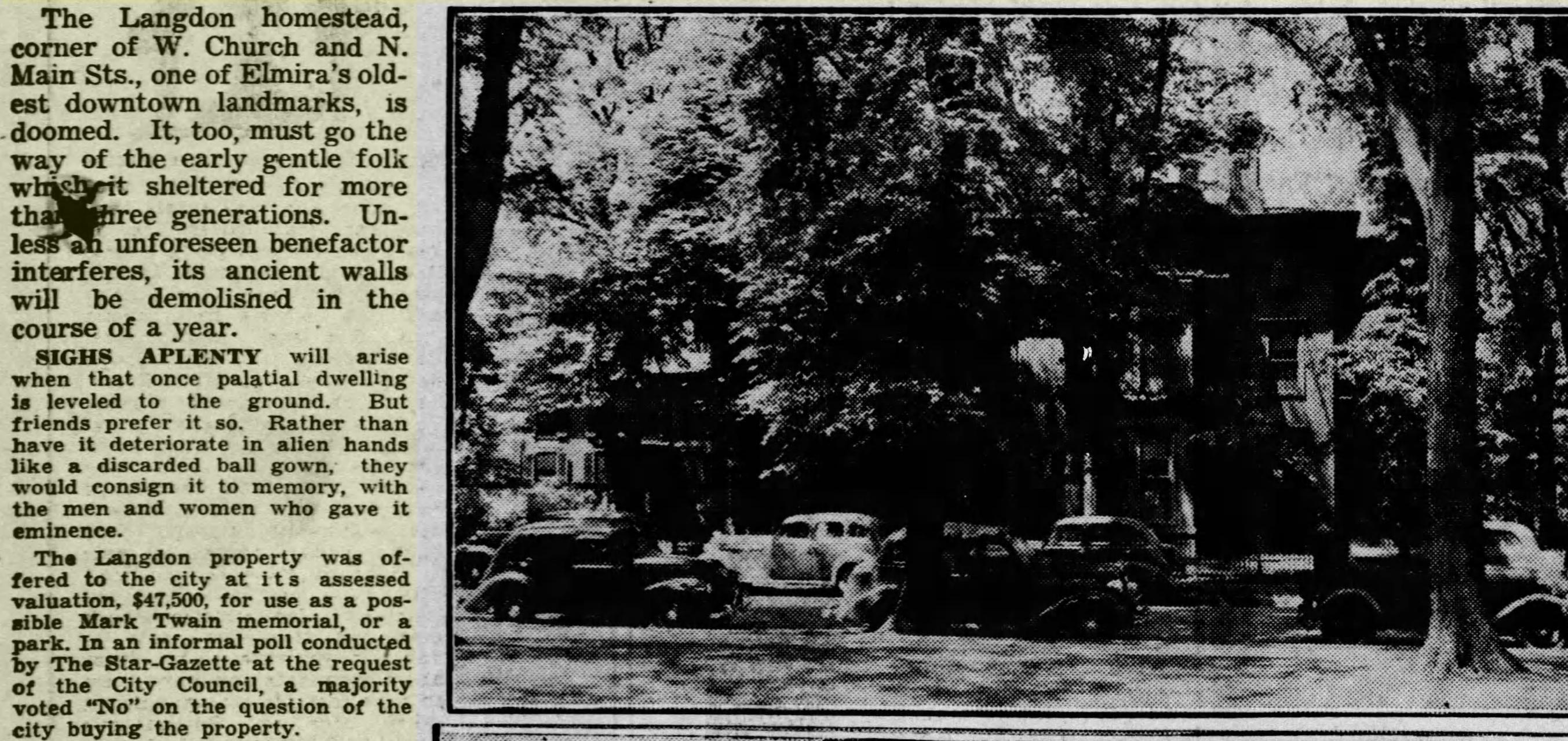
Window Shades Venetian Blinds

Art Supplies

The same policies that in the past has created a volume of business for us beyond our fondest dreams, will be closely followed in the future. Congratulations, Elmira, on your 75th Anniversary.

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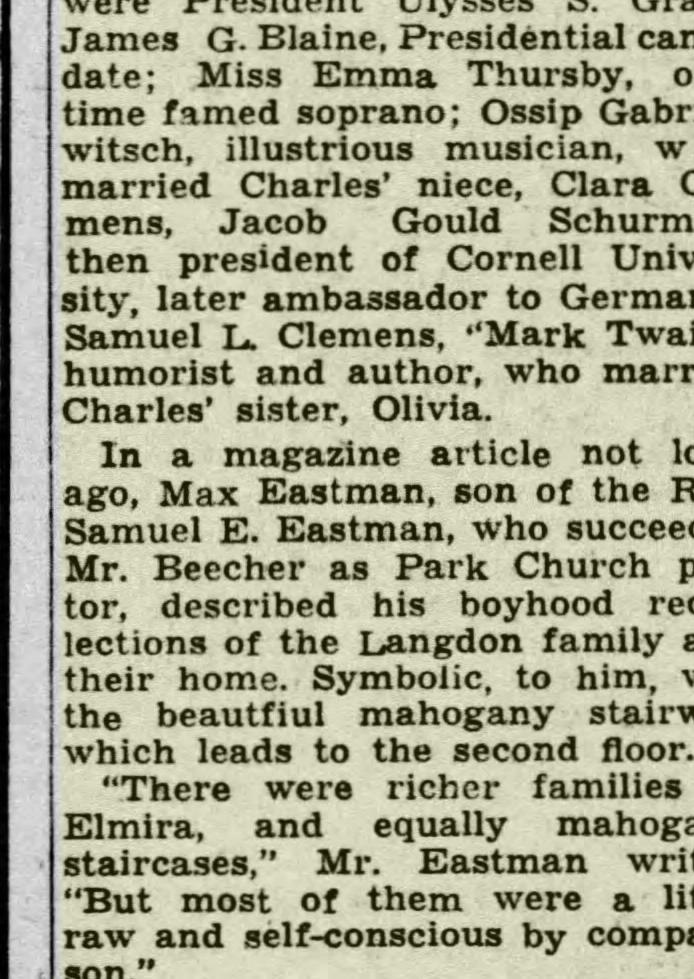
VIEW of the Langdon home from Church St. is shown in the top photo. Below a group of Elmira College girls inspecting with interest the home so closely identified with historic events in the life of

ade of varying fortunes, he went

to Millport, then Elmira's most don reared his three children, said to have declared, "If I can't do adequate reward for a lifelong in- walked through the rooms where powered engines capable serious rival, where he lirst became Susan, Olivia and Charles, while business as a Christian, I can't do dustry directed by unusual sagac- he had played as a boy. "Main- m.p.h. and equipped with the lates." interested in the lumber trade. he successfully pioneered in the business at all." ity," said the Rev. Mr. Beecher. tainance items such as heating and police wireless apparatus. Within seven years, he transferred iron, coal and lumber businesses. When he died in 1870, the whole "His was no sudden growth; when taxes are heavy; the house is not Each is manned by four mem-"MR. LANGDON'S life had three town mourned and his good friend at last he stood among us unques- fireproof and its arrangement is bers of the Flying Squad, each dif-Here he prospered, and in 1863 paramount elements," to quote the and pastor, the Rev. Thomas K. tionably one of our larger trees, we unsuited for any public use that ferently disguised every night. One

Ely, Anson's widow, Lot 41 on W. they were always perceptible. They an oration at the Opera House be- he left not one voice to impeach his "We do not wish to see it degene- London throughout the early hours Church St., second above N. Main. had to do with his business, his fore a large and attentive audience integrity." In 1865, he bought the adjoining home and his religion; if you to honor his faithful parishoner. Mr. Beecher described the Lang- on the whole we feel it is better grab raids take place. The times corner lot, on which stood the Ely touched one, you were very apt to "Only after he was more than don home as "unostentatious and that the place be removed, regard- and routes of this patrol are kept home. In that house, Mr. Lang-touch them all—" Mr. Langdon is 50 years old did he seem to receive hospitable"

he purchased from Mrs. Martha words of Ausburn Towner, "and Beecher of the Park Church, gave all knew that he had deep roots— has been suggested.



democratic."

name's prestige has never dimin-

Mr. Langdon views the disintegration of his boyhood home with re- Scotland Yard

les of what happens to the grounds." secret