

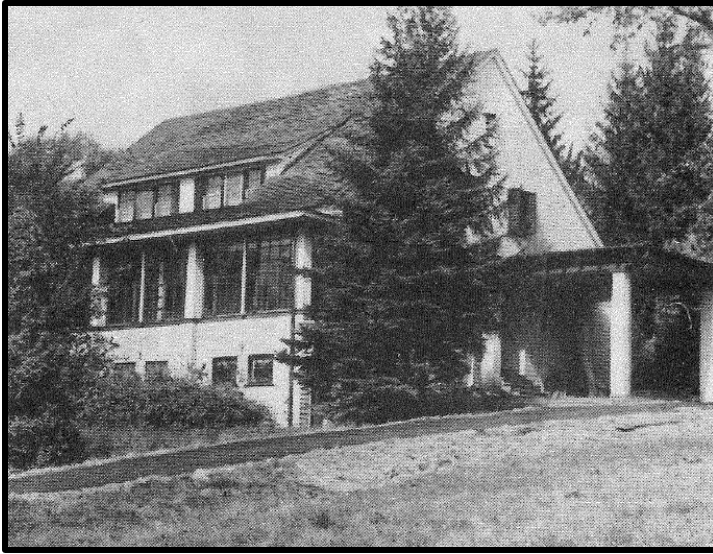
The Dominican Monastery
Town of Elmira
1944-2014

By: Scott W. Deming
Town of Elmira Historian
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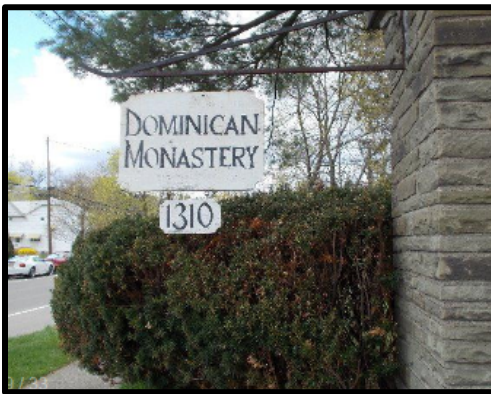
Town residents recently found out that the Dominican Monastery at 1310 West Church Street in West Elmira was closing after residing in the town for 70 years. The monastery was established in the former Elmira Country Club (ECC) clubhouse on June 15, 1944 and the property still borders the original ECC property. Rev. J. Edmund O'Brien of the diocesan clergy was appointed their first chaplain by the Bishop when the monastery opened in 1944. The ECC clubhouse building was built in 1909 (their second clubhouse) and the building had been vacant for three years prior to the opening as a monastery. The 4 acre monastery site is one of the Chemung County's three monasteries with the facility housing Dominican nuns. It was established by eight nuns from the Buffalo area and the facility has gone through a number of expansions and upgrades over the years. In 1964 the facility was expanded to include a new chapel and dormitory wings and has had up to 22 nuns living there in the past. Today the facility is a three building 24,000 square-foot facility with more than 65 rooms including living facilities, suites, conference rooms, libraries, kitchen and dining areas. The daily mass ended when the nuns departed on September 2, 2014. At the time of closing there were approximately twelve nuns residing in the facility. The nuns were relocated to the Dominican Monastery in Springfield, Illinois. The monastery has served many of the local residents over the years and will be missed by all.

Information for this article was taken from articles in the Star Gazette, photos from Realty USA and information from the Dominican Monastery website.

Writer's Note: I continue to look for historic subjects (people, places, homes, historical events, old schools, family history, etc.) about the Town of Elmira to write about. If you have any suggestions or information for future articles please e-mail them to me at demingsw@yahoo.com or call me at 607-732-1177.



The main building in 1944





The Monastery and Chapel in 2014