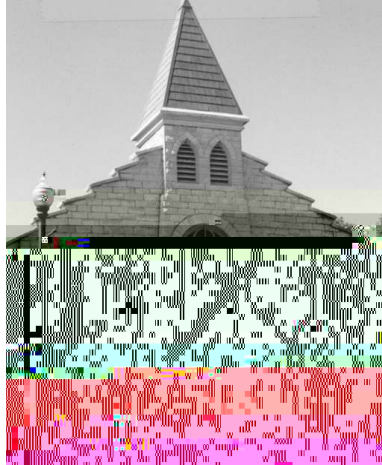


“Many ‘Firsts’ Occurred in 1830s.” *Lockport Free Press*. “Old Canal Days” Special, 15 June 1978.

### Many ‘firsts’ occurred in 1830s

*This is the third of a series on the history of the Lockport area by John Lamb. Lamb is a professor of history at Lewis University and is active in the Will County Historical Socie*



The Old First Congregational Church, now the Lockport Youth Center, is one of the landmarks of the area

farm to Comstock Hanford and moved west of the Des Plaines.

Several 'firsts' for Lockport occurred in those early days. Lockport's first white child was Orrin R. Runyon, born in 1833. He

1840s when it became apparent that the state could not afford the cost of the deep cut necessary to drain Lake Michigan water.

The fabric of Lockport was set though. In 1837 the first substantial structure in town was built. It is the north wing of the present canal museum. It