



## **Kankakee and Iroquois River Improvement**

**John M. Lamb**

The Kankakee river region was regarded by the Illinois and Michigan Canal Commissioners as of great potential economic value. Near the mouth of the Kankakee in Will County they platted the City of Kankakee. It was expected that this city would become one

contract was let to Peter Stewart for \$4000. An engineer named Mr. Benjamin was hired to do a survey of the Kankakee, and there was a promise that further contra

depth would be six feet, the same as the canal's. Also, it would be necessary to raise the Kankakee Dam No. 1 and the lock. At the south end of Alden's Island a lock and dam were to be built.

From there on, there was to be "...at Polly's Ripple one dam and lock; between Altorf and Bourbonnais, one dam and lock; at Kankakee City one dam and lock, which will complete the navigation to the mouth of the Iroquois. From this point on the Kankakee, one dam and lock at Aroma Park, and one dam and lock at Momence will be required to make navigation to the Indiana state line, and with slight labor in clearing the river for many miles inside Indiana. On the Iroquois it will require three dams and locks to complete to the Indiana state line; through Middleport, Texas, and Concord."<sup>10</sup>

Most of this was hypothetical and merely



by taking Route 113 north out of Wilmington to Kahler Road, then turn left at Sunset Drive for seven-tenths of a mile to Hamilton Street, and take that street down to the river. The lock





