

# 'Kill, Kill' Not Answer to Rat Problem

With the acute problem rats are causing in the inner city and the accompanying danger they present to all parts of the area, Joseph DeSantis, associate public health sanitarian for the county, has prepared a series for the Courier-Journal providing insight on the problem.

By JOSEPH DeSANTIS  
Monroe County Department of Health

Rodent control is often widely misunderstood. There is a common belief that all a community has to do to rid itself of rats is to kill, kill, kill through the use of poisons and allied extermination methods.

This belief is erroneous. If we followed it, we could kill rats 'til doomsday and still be plagued by approximately the same number of rodents as before.

Why? Let's backtrack. In a previous article, we pointed out that rats need three things to survive — food, shelter and water. The size of the rat population, or the population of any species for that matter, is directly dependent on the availability of these three essentials.

Because of this, any rodent control program that solely



**COVER ALL CANS**

employs the "kill, kill" approach is doomed to failure. Rats are prolific breeders, each female having 5 to 7 litters per year and 6 to 14 young per litter. Even though you destroyed a great number, the population would build up rapidly again to its former level, as determined by the available food, shelter and water.

So what must be done?

We must eliminate one of the three essentials rats need for survival. It is difficult, and often impossible, to eliminate shelter and water. But we can shut off the food supply. And by so doing the rat population can be reduced 75 per cent without even undertaking any extermination!

You may ask how the food supply can be cut off. In public health we are continually

using the term "environmental sanitation." What we are talking about, in short, is the application of sanitary practices by every citizen and organization to produce an overall clean, healthy community.

If every citizen saw to it that his property is clean and free of litter and trash, that all his garbage and debris is placed in rubbish containers, that the containers are always kept tightly sealed, then rats would starve and their population would swiftly decline. Extermination, when coupled with this kind of sanitation, then becomes meaningful.

Unfortunately, that's a big order. But we've got to fulfill it if we are to achieve long-lasting benefits in rodent control. That's why the County Department of Health, with the assistance of the City of Rochester and neighborhood organizations, has undertaken a massive rodent control demonstration project in a 175-block section of the Model Cities area.

The steps in the project are as follows: 1) a survey to pinpoint rat infestations and property conditions; 2) the placement of poison baits to reduce the rodent population and to prevent their scattering prior to clean-ups; 3) neighborhood clean up campaigns; 4) a mopping up extermination program; 5) twice weekly trash pickups; 6) intensive enforcement of property and sanitary codes; 7) education of residents on proper sanitation, including the correct disposal of garbage and trash.

Eventually the project will be extended to other areas.

In the meantime, every citizen, no matter where he lives, can do his part in the "war on rats."

First of all, inspect your own property. See if there is any litter or rubbish around that could provide a lure and nesting place for rats. If so, conduct your own cleanup campaign. At the same time, make sure your rubbish containers are intact and are always sealed with lids.

Second, examine your home with a view to making it rat-proof. Are basement windows and casements intact? Are they covered with screens? Are there any cracks in foundations or openings in doorways? Remember rats can squeeze through very tiny places.

Third, look for signs of rats. A rat doesn't like brightly lit, wide open spaces. Therefore, the logical place to look is in dark, narrow places. Look along floors close to walls, as rats feel secure in following a path where his whiskers can touch a wall. Look for rat droppings. Look for tracks—four-toed front paws and five-toed rear paws.

Fourth, if you find evidence of a rat infestation, conduct an extermination program. Rat traps are safe to use. So are anti-coagulant poisons, such as warfarin or coumatral. Avoid using highly toxic poisons that might accidentally be ingested by a child or pet.

If you need advice or assistance, call the Monroe County Department of Health, 442-4000 and ask for Rodent Control.

## Council Planned

### At Holy Ghost

Parishioners of Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater, will inaugurate a Parish Council on Sunday, Nov. 3.

Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, pastor, said ballots containing the names of 34 men and women will be distributed, with 12 to be elected.

He said the council's purpose will be "to enable the people to become even more active in parish life and to explore methods of determining and fulfilling the needs and desires of our Christian Community."

Names were submitted by a nominating committee. Harry Williams is chairman of a committee which is preparing a council constitution.

**ZING!**  
Enjoy that  
**REFRESHING  
NEW  
FEELING**  
DRINK  
**Coca-Cola**  
BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY ROCHESTER COCA-COLA BOTTLING CORPORATION

## MASS INTENTIONS?

Your Loved Ones Look To You For Help Now . . .  
**1,000 Foreign Missionaries Look To You For Daily Food and Clothing By Much Needed Mass Intentions**

To meet our urgent food and clothing needs, we are grateful for:

Low Masses (\$2.00)

High Masses (\$5.00)

**BUT** since we can never meet our needs of 30,000 every month, we are **HAPPY** with \$1.00 stipends.

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES is the 7th Largest Missionary Organization of the Catholic Church Working In 35 Countries

**NO LONG DELAYS—Masses for Loved Ones IMMEDIATELY**

All Requests Acknowledged Personally. Kindly send your Mass intentions to:  
Father Francis Kamp, S.V.D. DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES  
Dept. 5K Techy, Illinois 60082

## Irondequoit Church Plans Survey on Education Attitudes

Parishioners of Christ the King Church, Irondequoit, are being polled on their attitudes about the religious education of their elementary school pupils.

The Parish School Board this week mailed a four-page questionnaire to everyone on the rolls, with the request that the form be filled out and returned to the church on Sunday, Oct. 27.

In an effort to obtain as complete a response as possible, members of the Rosary Society-Ladies Guild are being organized to call on persons or families who do not return the questionnaire next Sunday.

Bernard H. Florack, school board president, said that all parishioners, including non-parents, have been requested to cooperate in returning the form.

Respondents are asked to identify themselves and to list (if any) the names and birth dates of their pre-school and elementary school children—and, for the latter, the school and grade now attending.

One question asks parents to indicate whether they intend to enroll their pre-school children in a Catholic or public school when they become of age. Among other points on which facts or attitudes are sought are:

Suggestions for improvement of the parish parochial school and the program for religious education (C.R.D.) of Catholic children attending other schools; attitudes and reasons for or against enrolling children in the parochial school; willingness to increase contributions in order to expand religious education; willingness to volunteer time and effort to expand the program.

## Cenacle Lists

### Month's Retreats

Spiritual Exercises will be held at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Avenue, during November as follows:

Retreats: Nov. 13 — Married couples; Nov. 14 — Single and married women—Father Peter Duggan, O.C.D.; Nov. 15-17 — Single women—Father Albert Bartlett, S.J.; Nov. 22-24 — High school students—Father Neil Verschnelder, S.J.

Special Meetings: Nov. 10 — Mass and tea — 4:00 p.m. Bishop James E. Kearney; Nov. 10 and 24 — "Search" (high school boys and girls) 7:00 p.m.; Nov. 18 — Executive committee, Retreat League, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 19 — St. Raphael (Business and Professional Women) 7:15 p.m.; Father Louis Hohman; Nov. 20 — Blind Group — Father William Poorters, S.J. 8:00 p.m.; Nov. 21 — Eucharistic Guild, 8:45 a.m.; Father Albert Bartlett, S.J.; Nov. 29-Dec. 1 — "Prayer Weekend".

### HOUSEHOLD HINT

Pack cream cheese for salad in a strainer, turn out upside down on a bed of lettuce. Criss-cross lines from the strainer makes the salad more eye appealing.

## Rabbi Levine Is

### Nazareth Lecturer

A course in contemporary Jewish philosophy is being given at Nazareth College by Rabbi Joseph Harold Levine, director of B'nai B'rith Hillel foundation in this area.

The lectureship is one of 70 sponsored in U.S. colleges this year by the Jewish Chautauqua Society, which also has supplied Nazareth with reference books.

Rabbi Levine, a former assistant at the Central Synagogue of Nassau County, and then director of the Hillel Foundation for North Carolina, lives at 72 Azalea Road. He is married and has one son.

## Hey, Mrs. Santo

Wednesday is Prince Spaghetti Day... that leaves oodles of time for noodles.

**PRINCE**  
Egg Noodles

A POP PRODUCT

## Retreat Leaguers At Convention

The Rochester Cenacle Retreat League sent delegates this weekend to the 14th national congress of the Laywomen's Retreat Movement, in New Orleans.

Members in this diocese will be represented by Mrs. Ernest Smith of Bath, Miss Rosaline Nesser of Rochester and Sister Helen Sula of the Cenacle. Speakers will include Miss Rosemary Goldie of Australia, associate secretary of the new Council of the Laity, in Rome; Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh, and the English Jesuit writer, Father Bernard Bassett.

DICK STRAUB

Some people would be a lot happier if they moved!!

AGENTS FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES

**GEO. M. GLANCY CARTING CO., INC.**  
8 Circle St. 473-3120

JULIUS KESSLER COMPANY, LAWRENCEBURG, INDIANA. BLENDED WHISKEY. 86 PROOF. 72-172% GRAIN NEUTRAL SPIRITS.

Smooth as Silk.

You'd come up with those three words to describe Kessler's good taste even if we took them off the label.

It's funny, but no one can say it any better.

Or more honestly. Smooth as Silk. Enough said.

**KESSLER**  
BLENDED WHISKEY

SMOOTH AS SILK

Kessler the Smooth as Silk Whiskey. 4.99 qt. 4.49 1/2 qt. 2.85 Pint

LOVELY ROMANTIC SETTING

Lends Charm And Dignity To Your Wedding Reception At The

**Crescent Beach Hotel**

Where Every Detail is Attended, To Make That VERY SPECIAL DAY The Most Memorable Of Your Life — Candle Glow And Flowers, Food, Lovely Background Music And Exquisite Surroundings Make All Your Dreams A Reality.

Plan Ahead And Dial 863-5776 So That We May Give "YOUR DAY" Every Consideration

**DIXIELAND RAMBLERS**  
Every Friday & Saturday

Your Hosts "THE BARRYS" Gloria and Joe 1372 EDGEWATER DR.

A POP PRODUCT

Every morning we churn fresh, sweet cream into Land O'Lakes Butter. A full 1/2 gallon in every pound.

**LAND O'LAKES**  
Sweet Cream Lightly Salted  
BUTTER

That's the secret of its sweeter, fresher flavor.

A POP PRODUCT