

Auburn's Family Centers Unite for Better Service

BY MARY ANN GINNERTY
Auburn Correspondent

Auburn — The union of the Catholic Family Center and Family Services of Cayuga County, Inc., is now a reality in name as well as fact. On Jan. 1 the name of the united agencies officially became the Cayuga Family Center.

The boards of directors of the two agencies have been retained and will be jointly responsible for the policies of the Cayuga Family Center, which is under the administration of Robert C. McAvoy as executive director.

This union has been in the works since 1967 when it was possible to contract for the services of McAvoy as director, as in many areas both agencies offered similar services. The resultant savings in administration costs and duplications of service permitted an addition to the staff and increased casework counseling services to county residents.

The Catholic Family Center was established originally in 1955 with a grant from the diocesan Catholic Charities office as the Catholic clergy and laymen were concerned that professional counseling be available for the Catholic population. In 1957 the agency became a member of the United Fund and with financial support coming from the community, clients were accepted regardless of creed, although most were Catholic.

Family Service of Cayuga County had evolved through several stages from the Associated Charities of Auburn established in 1909, through the Family Welfare Society in 1928, and eventually as the Family Service Agency, funded through the United Fund of Cayuga County.

Commenting on the union, McAvoy pointed out, "Social change of the last few years, including ecumenical emphasis in the field of religion and adaptation of our social service system to these changes, makes it possible and financial costs make it necessary, for agencies

Anyone who has news of the Auburn area for the Courier-Journal should contact Mrs. Ginnerty at 315-253-2176.

such as Catholic Family Center and Family Service to consolidate. This converts duplication costs and time into productive, more efficient and better service to the community and to those who use the agency's service."

The Cayuga Family Center will provide casework services to families and individuals with adjustment problems. The program encompasses all aspects of salvaging and fostering healthy family life, from marriage counseling, parent-child relationship difficulties, financial counseling, planning in the area of the unmarried pregnancy, adolescent and personal adjustment problems, and adoption services.

The executive director, in addition to administrative duties, fulfills supervisory and some casework duties. Two full-time and one part-time caseworker, and two secretaries round out the staff. Concerned with community social needs, the agency also cooperates with other agencies, especially with regard to developing services aimed at prevention or determining the cause of social problems.

The Cayuga Family Center, at

80 North St., will serve Cayuga county residents regardless of creed. To make services more accessible, a caseworker works out of the Union Church, in Cato, on Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m., and in Moravia, Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cayuga County Health Clinic on Church Street.

Auburn Sister Takes Post

Birmingham, Ala. — Sister Beatrice Giovannetti of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity has been appointed director of religious education for the Diocese of Birmingham by Bishop Joseph G. Vath. Sister is the second woman in the nation to hold such a position.

Sister Beatrice is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Giovannetti of 5 Washington St., Auburn, N.Y. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Sciences from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, and a Master of Arts degree in Theology from St. Xavier College in Chicago.

She has worked in Rochester, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

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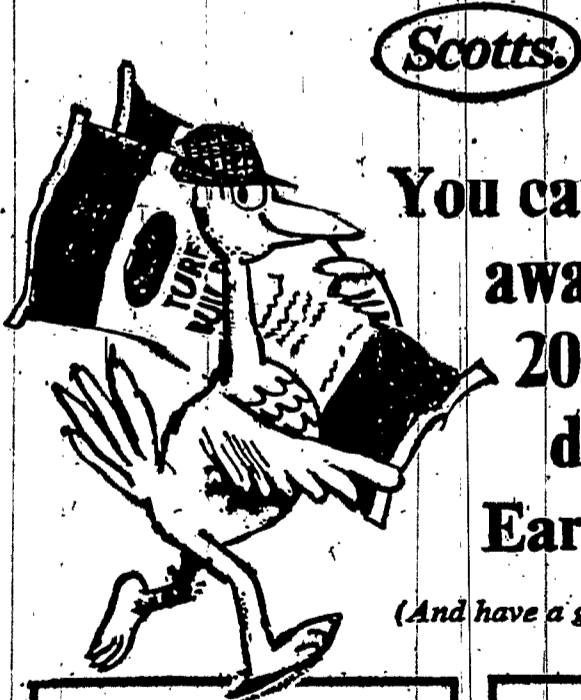
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