



FR. JOHN HEMPEL

Salting The Earth

A few weeks ago the Upper Falls Improvement Association headed by Helen Martin sponsored a group to investigate the conditions of some of the homes in the 5th Ward of Rochester. As often as I have traveled the streets of the "Inner City", I was never so conscious of the incredible deterioration of a part of the city. House after house was boarded up, many ravaged by fire — each a nesting place for rats and every imaginable disease-bearing creature. The ultimate tragedy, however, is to realize that human beings, yes people, still

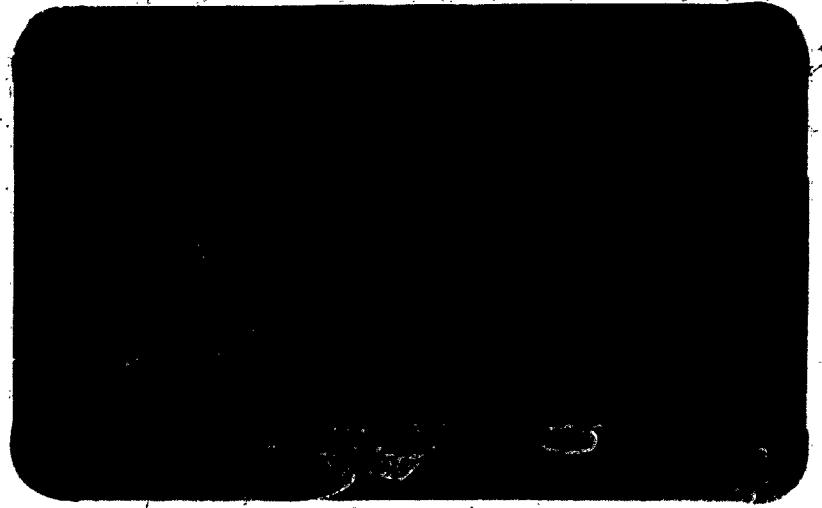
live within the boundaries of this ugly cancer eating away at the life of a city.

Our first visit included Sam DePasquale and other sanitation officials. Upon their request and especially that of Josephine Lombardo from the Bureau of Community Relations of the city, Mayor Stephen May, Tom McHugh of Urban Renewal, James Porcari of the City Code Enforcement office and other city officials undertook the same tour two days later. Much credit should be given the mayor and the others

for their presence at the request of those living in the area. These are concerned people desirous of a better way of life — a people so concerned that by a determined effort they produced a tot lot in this area.

As we walked through the area, the different departments of the city indicated their inability to effect radical change — all this because of legal complications, finances, the slow workings of bureaucracy, and a dependency upon state and federal programs.

Something will be done, I am sure, for there was a real sincerity on the part of the local officials to do at least what could be done. Yet as I reflect upon the events of these two days, I cannot but ask: "Why must people be locked into circumstances so repugnant to human dignity? Why must children grow up in an atmosphere of filth, ugliness and rats?" Pray God that those who can effect a change will soon make it possible for all to have a chance for a more fruitful life.



A Little Help

Johnny Murray of Hilton gets a friendly assist from Sandra Scherzi at Star Lake Camp in the Adirondacks run by Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc. Johnny was one of 14 patients from the Rochester area taking advantage of the free camp experience made possible by the Rochester Muscular Dystrophy Chap-

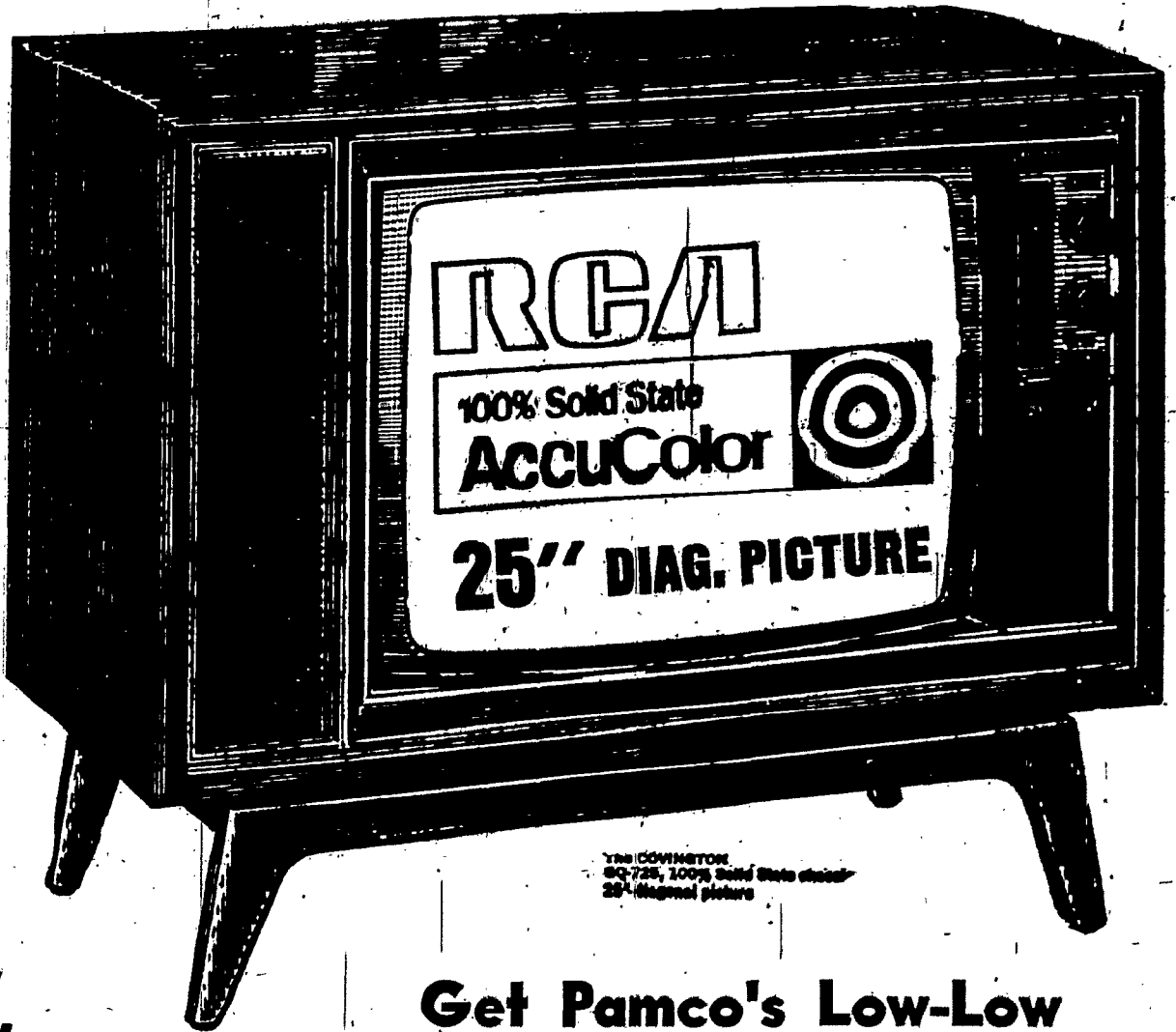
ter, Miss Scherzi, of North Park Drive, Rochester, is a bookkeeper at Monroe Abstract & Title Co. and Chapter treasurer who volunteered her time to attend the same 10-day session as Johnny. Johnny's father, John Sr., is president of the local Muscular Dystrophy Chapter. The Murray family resides at 288 North Avenue.

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