

OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

with us for years. Stories like Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn told about ambitious kids who went to seek their own lives away from their homes and communities.

Recently, the phenomenon has that "99 plus percent" of missing been made even more severe youngsters notify their parents, with an affluent society and a youth culture that gives kids the wherewithal and the information needed to establish themselves away from home.

Currently, the tragic story of the 27 boys murdered in Houston has brought the problem of teenage runaways to the front pages and caused fear in many homes with youngsters.

many runaways there are, but the experts estimate annual figures of 15,000 runaways in Washington, youngsters use their live-in 2,500 in Minneapolis, 9,500 in San facilities during the past six Diego, and more than 16,000 in months, and only three have run Chicago, to give a few examples.

The number of runaways is not only increasing, but the age of the runaways is dropping, so that nearly half of the runaways in New York City are in the 11-to-14years of age category.

There are significantly more runaway girls than boys.

Significantly, most runaways never leave their home turf. never leave their home turf, department's resources, and Seven of the 27 boys killed in either he gets institutionalized or Houston were from the same sent back to a bad family neighborhood.

According to Chicago police officials, of the 9,551 runaways apprehended in Chicago, 8,764 were from Chicago, and 787 were

'My Neighbor' **Focus of CWU** Celebration

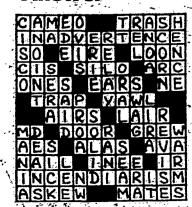
Church Women United in the Rochester area will celebrate World Community Day Nov. 2 in Brighton Presbyterian Church, 1775 East Ave. A service built on the Christian concept of "neigh-bor," as set forth in Jesus's story of the Good Samaritan, will begin at. 10 a.m.

Mrs. Joseph B. Corcoran, a teacher in the East Irondequoit school system, will talk about sensitivity to American Indian culture and religion. Mrs. Corcoran is a Torongraph Sonoca coran is a Tonawanda-Seneca Indian educated in State University colleges, and she frequently is invited to address national conferences exploring the problems that beset minorities in the United States.

There will be exhibits indicating the various charitable of activities of CWU. The organization provides a retail outlet for the work of artisans taking part in self-help projects all over the world. There will be a sale of such Things, and also of hand-done Christmas cards from similar cooperatives.

Coffee and dessert will be offered and nursery care provided Mrs. Thomas Kerwick of Pinecrest Drive is denominational chairwoman for Catholics in CWU.

Crossword Answer-



The runaway problem has been from outside the city, including the suburbs. Another 39 Chicago runaways were arrested in other cities and turned over to Chicago police.

> Even though the police report return home or are returned by the police, the runaway's trip may lead to a complex system of street life, police, courts, social agencies — and worse, like the Houston murders.

> There are probably as many different reasons why kids run away as there are youngsters who leave home.

The principal antidote for No one knows exactly how runaways seems to be temporary any runaways there are, but the shelter homes. Alternative House in Washington, D.C., has had 60 away again.

> Temporary shelter homes can give youngsters immediate, unhassled help. It gives them a chance to catch their breath, and can keep them from being charged as delinquents and institutionalized:

Many police officials see the runaway as a social, not a police, problem. The runaway drains the

Congress has started to become aware of the problem. In June, the Senate passed the Runaway Youth Act; hearings on a similar bill are underway in the House. If finally approved, the bills would give \$10 million annually for three years to provide temporary shelter care for runaways.

Runaways concern some of your parish families. The parish council should examine the situation in the community. Begin by contacting your local police department and the diocesan Catholic Charities office. Also, write for a very helpful booklet, "Runaway House Handbook," available from the National Institute for Mental Health. Write NIMH, Center for Studies of Child and Family Studies of Child and Family Mental Health, Section on Youth and Student Affairs, 5600 Fisher Lane, Rockville, Md. 20852.

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Laity Council Elects President

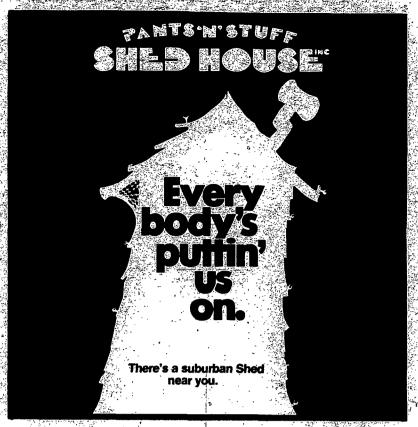
New Orleans [RNS] — An estimated 2,000 delegates from around the country heard the call go out for activism by church groups as they gathered here for the second convention of the National Council of Catholic

Mrs. John Eckstein of Iowa City, Iowa, was elected the second president of the NCCL

William H. Sandweg of Annandale, Va., was chosen as the new president of the National Council of Catholic Men (NCCM) while Mrs. G. Sam Zilly was elected president of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

Mrs. Eckstein, who served as secretary of the NCCW for two years, said the first item on her agenda will be to study the concerns expressed at the NCCL assembly as reflected in reports from the various groups.

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