



Geoff Schaber relaxes with staff person Judy Nielson in front of The Center's office on Alexander Street.

Runaways Find Hope At 'The Center'

By MICHAEL GRODEN

A young person runs away from home in a state of confusion, anger and fear. They seldom have any idea of where they are going, or why they are running, only that they have to get away.

As a result most runaways end up living in the street, doing whatever they have to do to survive. Too often that leads to crime or being exploited by criminals (prostitution, drug addiction, drug pushing etc.) and the inevitable run-ins with police.

Until recently the runaway problem in many cities appeared hopeless. Runaways were caught by police and sent home only to run away again. Some agencies, however, both private and governmental, have begun to make some headway. One agency in Monroe County has been very successful.

The Center for Youth Services, located at 258 Alexander St., is designed to help area youth in both crisis situations and self-development programs.

In a statement of philosophy, published in the 1976 annual report, The Center's directors state that when young people run away they usually "find themselves alienated from their families and or themselves and at a dead end in terms of their own resources. They are angry and hurt and need time to think things out, to cool off, and to work on positive alternatives to their situation."

The Center provides this opportunity by offering temporary housing "in a safe, loving atmosphere." Over thirty families have

LIFE CONFERENCE

The Board of the New York State Right to Life Committee will meet here Aug 19 with local people active in the movement. Everyone interested is invited to a session at 8 p.m. in the Monroe Developmental Services building, 620 Westfall Road. Further information may be obtained through 271-2121.

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volunteered their homes thus far, housing some 90 runaways in 1976. The 1977 figure will probably be higher.

After the youth is safe in a temporary home, attempts are made to reconcile the runaway and their parents or guardians. Formally trained staff members are available to help counsel parents and runaways so that a solution can be reached.

If reconciliation proves impossible, The Center can place the runaway in a long-term foster home.

"All runaways under the age of 16 cannot stay with a temporary family unless they receive parental permission," explained Geoff Schaber, the Center's agency and housing specialist.

"However, with anyone over 16 there is no such requirement," he said. All parents are notified as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

The Center never reveals the identity or location of the temporary emergency family. Schaber explained that the "families don't want unnecessary hassles with the runaway's parents, they want to help the kids."

Jane (not her real name) is an attractive, shy teenager who has been placed in a foster home.

She was reluctant to describe what her homelife was like except to say that there were "problems" with her mother and her step-sister.

"I just couldn't hack it in that house anymore," she said.

Jane's new life is "a lot different" from what she was used to at home. She has returned to school and reestablished a normal life style. She isn't on the street anymore.

In addition to the emergency program, The Center offers a wide variety of programs for young adults who are interested in helping themselves and others. Programs focusing on career development, volunteer placement in community agencies, youth involvement at the Center, and the life-skills workshop series are offered.

This year marked the establishment of a satellite office in Gates and plans for a third site in the eastern part of the county, with three full-time staff members, are well underway.

Anyone who is interested in The Center's programs, needs help themselves or would like to volunteer to help is asked, by the agency, to call or write The Center at 473-2464, 258 Alexander St., Rochester 14607.

FAMILY SERVICE

Family Service of Rochester will open an Irondequoit office Sept. 1, at 2400 Oakview Drive. The announcement from the agency said that continued expansion into the suburbs is "intended to bring itself closer to its user population."

Deaths

E. B. Killeen

The death of Edward B. Killeen of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, who came of a Rochester family and left a number of cousins here, was reported last week by Mrs. Fred Dittman of Wendhurst Drive, a cousin.

Mr. Killeen died July 21, 1977, and the funeral was held at St. Joan of Arc Church, Chagrin Falls. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, he was president of the alumni club in his area and in 1975 was named Notre Dame Man of the Year by fellow alumni.

Survivors include his widow, Marion; four sons, three daughters and 29 grandchildren; two sisters and a brother.

W. G. Knapp

William G. Knapp, a member of the Knights of St. John for 75 years, died July 19, 1977, leaving scores of direct descendants in four generations. He was 95 years old.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 22 at St. Augustine's Church.

Mr. Knapp joined the Knights of St. John in 1902 from St. Joseph's Church, and he "never missed a field Mass," according to a daughter, Mrs. Allen W. House. He was a member of St. Eustace Commandery 39.

His survivors include three other daughters and two sons, Mrs. Catherine Paul, Mrs. Alma Wooden, Mrs. Eugene Stewart, Jerome and William Knapp, 28 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

PATRIARCH DIES

Lisbon (RNS)—Cardinal Manuel Goncalves Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon and Primate of Portugal for 40 years until his retirement in 1971, died here Aug. 1 at the age of 88. His death reduces the number of cardinals to 135.

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