



Dunn II

Father Gerald Dunn, pastor of St. Theodore's Church on Spencerport Road, stands over the site of the future Dunn Tower II, an apartment building for senior citizens. The eight-story structure will have 100 apartments and is expected to be completed by April of next year. The new structure joins Dunn Tower I, a 13-story building, also on grounds behind the parish. Rent on the new building will be subsidized completely by the federal government, but applications, according to Father Dunn, will not be accepted until the first of the year.



In Alcoholic's Family A Miracle Can Happen

By John Dash

It would take a string of five Rochester Community War Memorials to contain all the alcoholics in Monroe County; and it would take an additional 25 such arenas to hold all the other people directly affected by the disease. Those others are members of each alcoholic's family. They are the alcoholic's employers, employees, and coworkers. They are the friends.

According to Anna L. Thomas, chief of the area's affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism, Monroe County is home for an estimated 45,000 alcoholics. For each alcoholic, she said, five other people are involved.

And for the past year and a half, she and her associates have been encouraging those other people to "Make a Miracle Happen."

Make a Miracle Happen is the name of a program, unique to Rochester. Ms. Thomas, in an interview last week, said that its aim is to

educate, especially family members, on "the difference between alcoholism and problem drinking, and to see alcoholism as a multi-faceted problem. We also help them understand what they can do to help the alcoholic seek and continue through treatment."

It is a four-week, three-hours-a-week course staffed by professionals. "It is not therapy," she said, "but education."

Persons who attend the program learn "the kind of pressure that makes giving up alcohol a more beneficial alternative to loss of job or family stability."

Since the program's inception a year ago April, more than 210 family members have attended, "including one family of seven children who would come down from Buffalo," Ms. Thomas said. The children were concerned about what they could do for an alcoholic parent.

Make a Miracle Happen was designed, she said,

because it is now known that 95 per cent of the alcoholic population is "functioning." She explained that "they work every day, complete their responsibilities; and all colors, religions and both sexes are included."

She asserted that "alcoholism is a disease that can be helped; and it is both a public issue and a public responsibility. The best ways to reach the alcoholic are through the family and through the employer."

Make a Miracle Happen started up "because of the kind of leverage the family can exert to get the alcoholic into treatment."

The next series for families and friends of alcoholics begins at 7 p.m. on Nov. 19, at the Health Association, 973 East Ave. Persons desiring further information on the program or on any alcohol related topic are invited to call (716) 271-3540.

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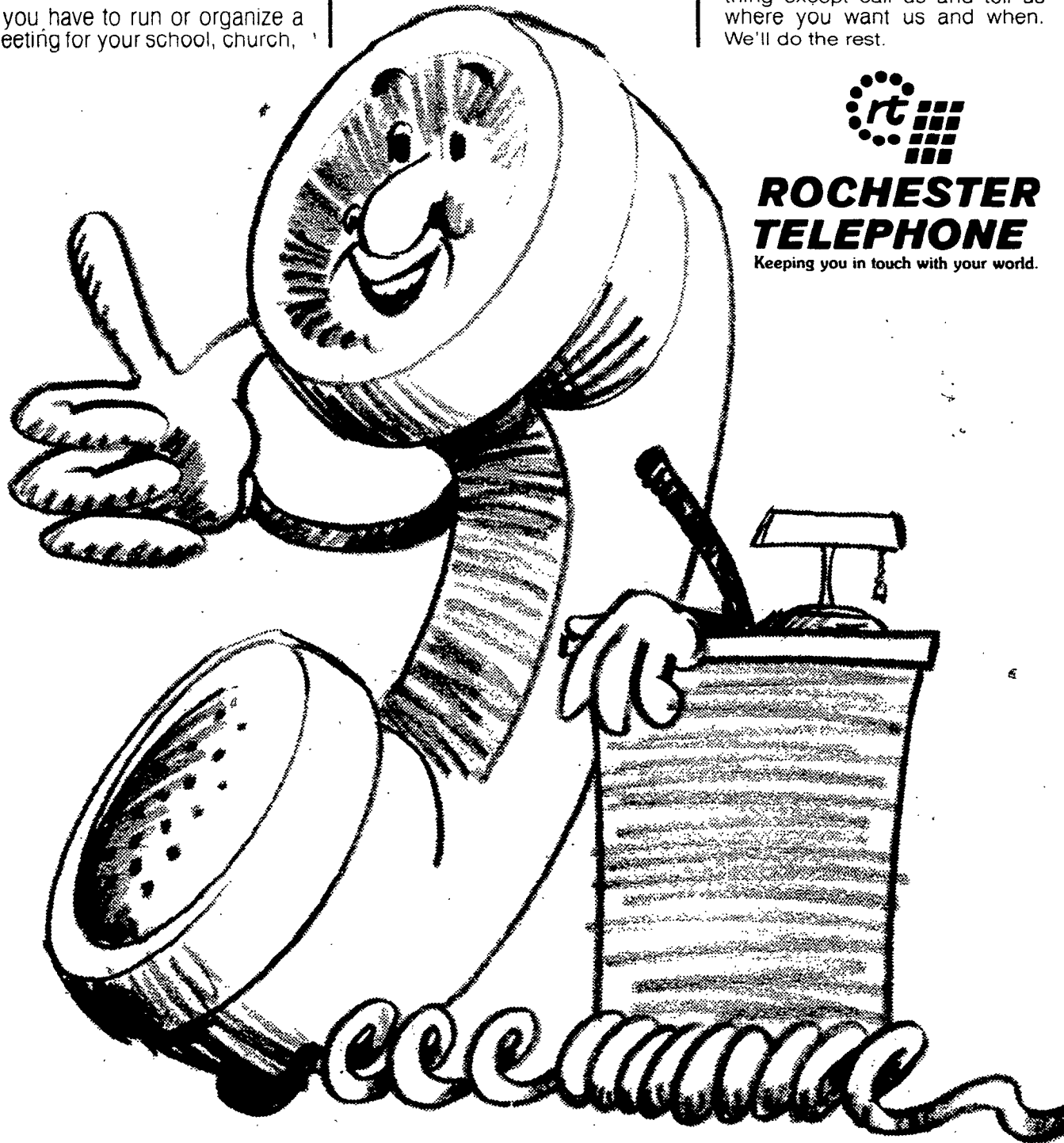
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