

Oct. 5 - Oct. 11, 1969

By Tom Bodle

October is always known for its contrasting beauty in northeast Ohio. Setting on the shores of Lake Erie, St. Joseph High School was privileged to have the vistas of water and shoreline. Looking north across the football field, the lake could be placid with a beautiful blue reflection of the sky and spotted with shadows of the white puffy clouds floating overhead. We could also be treated to an "October Sky" as clouds in a variety of gray came in off the lake, spitting out rain as well as sleet. On occasion waterspouts were whipped up offshore by the winds, while waves splashed the base of the cliffs. As we looked west from the library and past the Retreat House, we were treated to the red, orange and golden hues of the changing leaves on the trees.

In this second week of October, international news was being made by the Soviet Union, which sought to gain ground in the space race. The U. S. moon landing in July set Soviet prestige back. To regain some of that prestige, three separate space rockets (Soyuz 6,7,8) were launched within three days to place five cosmonauts in orbit. This was the first time five men had been in space at the same time.

In the national spotlight, social discontent was fostered by the "Weathermen", an offshoot of the SDS. The group planned four days of demonstrations (October 8-11) in Chicago, with focuses on racial, gender, ant-war and the trial of the "Chicago 8" topics. Their "Days of Rage" were met by a strong police reaction. The organizers failed to generate the crowds for which they hoped. In most of the demonstrations, the police presence was larger than the crowds. Some arrests were made and the cost for security was large, but the Weathermen were unable to muster the support they expected.

In major league baseball, the Baltimore Orioles and New York Mets swept the first ever divisional championship series, three games to none. Baltimore bested the Minnesota Twins, while the Mets downed the Atlanta Braves. The Seattle Pilots announced that their franchise would move to Milwaukee and be renamed the "Brewers".





Rowan and Martin's "Laugh-In" led the television ratings in the United States. In Britain, "Monty Python's Flying Circus" premiered on the BBC. In music, the "Supremes" recorded their signature song "Some-day We'll Be Together" and the soundtrack of "Jesus Christ Superstar" was recorded.

Following a quiet week in the Viking halls, this week would bellow with spirit and pride. It was "Chanel" week as well as the beginning of the homecoming festivities for 1969.

The Chanel Firebirds had caused the only blemish on the class of '70's football record. As freshmen the Firebirds tied the Vikings 6-6. Also Chanel had upset the St. Joe varsity in 1967, ending a fourteen game unbeaten streak. The Vikings were getting ready for payback. The Spirit Committee plastered the halls with signs imploring all to "Remember". The school's bulletin board was plastered with letters and posters allegedly sent by Chanel students disparaging our team and encouraging us to attend the game. An in school rally was spirited, as the student body packed the gym, cheered and watched as a band of Vikings captured a Firebird (Ed Acton) and made him pay.

The varsity then in turn made the Chanel football team pay. In a record tying performance, St. Joe scored nine touchdowns in a 60-18 victory. Quarterback Bob Bobrowski ran for 194 yards and passed for 129. "Bobo" was named "Player of the Week" by three different media surveys. The student section did themselves proud. Ten booster busses arrived at Maple Hts. Stafford field. Along with the rest of the crowd, the attendance proved beyond the capacity of the visitor's side, causing a huge standing room crowd. As the contest turned into a celebration, the student section gathered itself into the longest "chorus line" in northeast Ohio as they danced to the "Saints Go Marching In", from midfield to the endzone. The Firebirds had been conquered and the Vikings made "Chanel No. 5."

Homecoming festivities began this week as well. Twelve young ladies from Villa Angela, Notre Dame, Regina and St. Peter had been selected to represent their schools on our homecoming court. Bravely they each spoke in front of the student body. Juniors and seniors voted for the queen and her court. On Friday, in front of a packed Homecoming Premier Dance,

Marcy Capadonna was announced as the queen, with Nancy Wagner, Claudia Conrad, Dianne Yama and Karen Chaser as her attendants. Queen Marcy and her court would reign over the homecoming game and dance yet to come.

A big victory, a spirited rally, and an eloquent homecoming court: Yes the Viking Village was as beautiful as the October days provided by Mother Nature.#