

## December 28, 1969 to January 3, 1970

By Tom Bodle

Do you remember your new year's resolution in 1970? Do you remember your new year's resolution from last year? Do you remember where you placed your car keys when you came home last night?

Resolutions aside, as 1969 morphed into 1970 much was on our minds. With the dawn of a new year and a new decade, most of us were apprehensive about our futures. 1970 would bring only one certainty, that our four years at St. Joseph High School would be coming to an end. Most of us were in the process of applying to colleges, awaiting acceptances and seeking means by which to fund our education. Others were concerned about the military draft and how it could interfere with future plans. Still others committed to serving the United States in the military. Even a few had committed to taking on jobs right out of high school as possible career paths.

In spite of the underlying anxiety, the turn of the year and of the decade was a festive time. Northern Ohio sports lovers relished in the Cleveland Browns NFL East title victory on the last Sunday of the year. Quarterback Bill Nelson completed 20 of 29 passes for 247 yards in helping to dismantle Dallas 38-14. Browns fever was high in anticipation of attaining Super Bowl IV, with only Minnesota in its path.

St. Joe Student Council treated the student body to a festive holiday party on Monday December 29th. Many area high schools celebrated the holidays with a winter formal dance. Desiring something informal and more "fun" the Student Council had each of the four classes take on a role. Our senior class was in charge of decorations. Using some left over evergreens from the Christmas tree sale and finding a massive tree that reached to the top of the stage, the gym was transformed into a holiday palace. The popular local band, "The Montage" provided dance music. Underclasses organized refreshments, a hayride and a snowball fight. Even





Santa Claus took time from his “winter’s nap” to make an appearance at an event which delighted all in attendance.

As the new year rolled in at midnight on Thursday January 1st, the United States had a population of 293 million. The economy was strong with the Dow Jones Industrial reaching 838. A postage stamp cost 6 cents, a gallon of gas 36 cents and the average household income was \$9400. As we were contemplating life after high school, a new AMC Gremlin would cost about \$1890 to take as on our way. Going in style, an 8-track player would add \$39.99 to that bill. A portable typewriter to help with term papers would cost \$29 and a “cool” lava lamp to give atmosphere to our room was only \$19.95. B.J Thomas’ “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head” from the Number One movie of 1969, “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” was the cruising song of the month. Of course before we could contemplate any of those niceties we would have to pay off our \$450 tuition bill to St. Joe!

Yearly, New Year’s Day was a day for football. The four major bowl games provided match ups of top ranked teams. In an era where there were no play-offs, the bowl games were crucial in the voting by the national polls for the NCAA college champion. The least significant game turned out to be the “Granddaddy” of them all bowl, the Rose Bowl. Michigan’s upset of Ohio State made this contest between the Pac-10 champs Southern Cal and the Big 10 champs, the Wolverines, one of lower rated teams. USC won 10-3. #2 Penn State defeated Missouri in the Orange Bowl. #3 Arkansas was upset by Mississippi in the Sugar Bowl. Undefeated Texas entered the Cotton Bowl as #1. Withstanding #9 Notre Dame 21-17, Texas earned enough votes to beat out Penn State to be crowned “National Champs” for this 100th anniversary season of college football.

Immediately after New Year’s Day, the Viking sports season resumed. A January 2nd rematch with Cathedral Latin was in the offing at the “Purple Palace.” The Lions had been trounced 97-53 earlier in the season. Their strategy was to slow down the pace of the game and frustrate St. Joe’s high powered offense. Latin succeeded in controlling the pace, but did not have the fire-power to counter the Viking talent. The hoopers emerged with a 54-33 win. The wrestlers followed the next day taking on West High School. West had been a strong wrestling program in Cleveland’s West Senate. The Viking grapplers showed their prowess however with a dominating 49-3 win over the Cowboys.

Ending the old year with excitement and beginning the new year with a good start, Viking students completed their holiday vacation and readied themselves to return to classes.