

# The Messenger

Vernon Junior High School  
OCTOBER, 1974

## Students Learn About Newspapers; Teachers, Too!

By Sherri Arnold

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! For the newspaper unit, the first unit the eighth graders had in English and Social Studies, I interviewed Mrs. Dunn and Mr. Dolinaj.

Mrs. Dunn felt that some of the important ideas the instructors had to get across were how the paper is made, what it consists of, and how it can be helpful in social studies, not to mention who makes it.

We students learned the four main parts of the newspaper, what different presses are used in making a paper, how important a deadline is, and what some of the different types of news are. Mrs. Dunn feels that this unit will help a lot when she introduces the Current Events.

Approaching the newspaper from a different point of view were the English classes. Not many teachers get asked this question, but Mr. Dolinaj is new, and he gets asked a lot of weird questions. I asked if this unit was easy to teach and he said, "Yes." When I asked why, he replied, "The unit was an activity, and when students are involved in a learning activity, they become more involved and don't need much supervision."

## Brad Albaugh Is President of Council

By Zack Miller

The Student Council held an organizational meeting in September. They elected officers and went over parliamentary procedure. Brad Albaugh was elected president, Tom Vernon, vice-president, and Cheryl Barker, secretary.

Joining holdover members Zack Miller and Janice Kincheloe, are, from the 7th grade, John Huber (119), Sue Rathje (120), Todd Schmitz (206), Tracy Cole (207), Jonathan Foege (208), Kris Klawitter (302), Debbie Rathje (308), Ken Waters (309), and Sara Bice (310). From the 8th grade we have Dave Decker (110), Mike Zalaznik (115), Jerry Kirk (117), Mark Klopfenstein (125), Brad Albaugh (129), Jordon McAreavy (210), Steve Schone (306), Tom Vernon (307), and Cheryl Barker (311).

The Council expects a busy year aiding Vernon Junior High in its growth and change. Its advisor is Mr. Fowler.

A majority of students were interested in the unit because they could use their own ideas and imaginations in creating their own papers. Making the paper was to show the students what is involved in publishing something. Since the newspaper is an important form of media, it was important to know how it was put together.

Learning isn't for students only. Mr. Dolinaj was reawakened in his interest in the newspaper, and finds that he now reads it more.

The teachers joined in saying they hoped they interested a lot more people in reading, appreciating, and understanding the newspaper.

## Sentinel Editor Speaks To Messenger Staff

By Karen Kemp

On Friday, September 20, the MESSENGER Newspaper Staff held a meeting, with Mr. Lana from the SENTINEL as the speaker. Mr. Lana discussed a number of newspaper-related topics. He discussed the processes that the newspaper goes through, and how important it is that the people on the newspaper staff proofread their articles. He also encouraged the use of creative writing in the newspaper. Mr. Lana said he liked the idea of the newspaper having its own editor and co-editor; he said that they were the two most responsible people on the staff. They should be encouraged, he said, to write up some editorials to put in the newspaper. Before Mr. Lana left, he asked for questions, at which time Mr. Miller asked several. Mr. Lana also added that Marion High School makes a newspaper, and that Junior High staff members should be using that edition as a guide, and also be thinking, before the year is over, about setting up their own newspaper format. We all appreciate Mr. Lana's efforts to make our newspaper informative and interesting.

The MESSENGER staff for the 1974-75 school year involves 18 eighth graders and 26 seventh graders. Their names will be appearing at various times in the newspaper as their articles appear or as listings are made. Eighth graders have been given the first assignments as it is felt that they are

a new Student Counselor's office and Media Center.

Part of the plan is to build a new section onto the school; this will basically be the new gym. The old gym will be cut in half, and the top level will be used for a new library, the bottom for various classrooms.

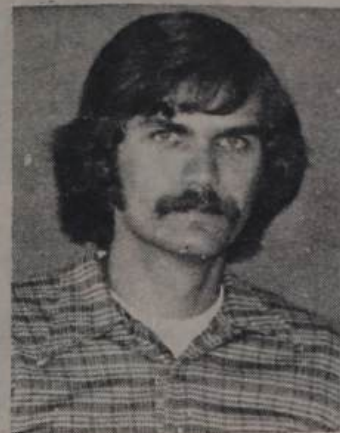
The contracting company is now at work on the Art and Industrial Arts areas,

Mr. Holden

New Faces. . .

Miss Plonsky

Mr. Dolinaj



## Meet 3 New Teachers

### MR. HOLDEN ENJOYS HUNTING, FISHING

By Jane Maxey

Who's the new science teacher in Room 206? His name is Bill Holden.

Holden was born in Vinton, Iowa, where his parents live. He was graduated from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. His sister is now attending U.N.I. in Cedar Falls.

Holden enjoys hunting and fishing. He thinks music and 7th graders are quite interesting.

Some may ask why he chose to teach

science. It's because his first job was as a scientific researcher (for anyone who doesn't know, a scientific researcher is someone who wears white coats and runs around with test tubes full of bubbly stuff.)

When asked how he liked Vernon Junior High, he said, "I enjoy Vernon very much, and the teachers and kids are great!"

### MISS PLONSKY LIKES TO TRAVEL AROUND

By Cami Kemp

Who's in Room 110? It's Miss Plonsky, the new language arts teacher. Miss Plonsky teaches four classes of 8th graders and one class of seventh graders. In addition, she advises the Jr. High cheerleaders and assists Miss Ebersole with dramatics.

Miss Plonsky grew up and went to school in Cedar Falls. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa there. Traveling around the United States, doing crewel work, reading, playing tennis and softball, and roller skating are some of her interests. She enjoys being in an apartment of her own. One day she would like to live out West for awhile; she would also like to travel in Europe.

Miss Plonsky enjoys teaching in Vernon and she especially likes the kids; that's why she teaches. Good luck, Miss Plonsky!

### MR. DOLINAJ GREW UP IN CHICAGO

By Jane Huber

This year at Vernon Jr. High, we have two new 8th grade English teachers. One is Joe Dolinaj, formerly a psychiatric therapist and Jr. High teacher from California. He grew up in Chicago.

Dolinaj occupies his spare time with several interesting hobbies, which include snow skiing and nature hiking in local and surrounding areas. He also has a large stereo outfit and enjoys listening to various types of contemporary music, of which he has quite a large collection. Mr. Dolinaj tapes these from records.

This year he is coaching part of the football team. He will also be involved in various other sports, including track in the spring.

He is married, and his wife's name is Kathy. He and his wife live in Cedar Rapids. We wish him lots of fun and good luck.

## 239 Parents Attend Vernon Open House

About 239 parents attended the Vernon Junior High open house on Thursday, Sept. 26. The evening began with brief opening ceremonies. Afterward, the parent followed his child's school schedule. Each teacher explained the curriculum.

Mr. Fowler felt that the evening was very successful. All seemed to have an enjoyable time. He received many good comments. He said that an open house like this provides a good means of communication between the parents and the teachers.

The average number of parents in attendance for the last 5 years has been around 230 to 240 parents. Mr. Fowler wishes that more could attend.

## Vernon Is Undergoing Renovation Project

By Robert Herreid

As most of you know, Vernon Junior High is undergoing a renovation project. There are many improvements being made including a new gym, industrial arts shop, girls' and boys' locker rooms, wrestling room, kitchen, library, and art and music rooms. There will also be renovation done in the Science, Social Studies, and English departments. Some of the work will be done on student-aid areas, including



Digging a Hole For the New Gymnasium

and on the excavation for the new gym, which put them about four weeks behind schedule when they hit a layer of rock. But the contractor promises to have the work completed by the beginning of the 1975 school year, barring any other setbacks.

One of the main worries of the students and faculty at Vernon is the arrival of the boilers for heating in the school. The boil-

ers will be shipped from Illinois about October 16. If everything goes as planned, the boilers will arrive and be installed by about October 23.

Meanwhile, the Junior High classes are meeting in two churches in the area which have offered their facilities to the Junior High. This change is planned to last two to three weeks if everything goes well.

## Science Club Starts Projects

By Shawn Johnson

So far, there are about 15 members interested in Science Club. Members may still join.

Projects for this year will include dissection of small animals such as worms, frogs, toads, etc. They will also involve testing for water, and working on fair and club projects.

Some specific projects this year are animal anatomy, pollution, rockets, erosion, electronics, and hovercraft.

The meetings may be held on the second Monday of every month, possibly twice a month.

The club members may ask Mr. Holden about projects and work on these after school.

The first Science Fair is to be held at C.B. Vernon Junior High. The finals will be at Cedar Rapids, also in the spring. If you are qualified for the Science Fair, you will keep the same projects.

To quote Mr. Holden: "I know I will enjoy working with the Science Club."

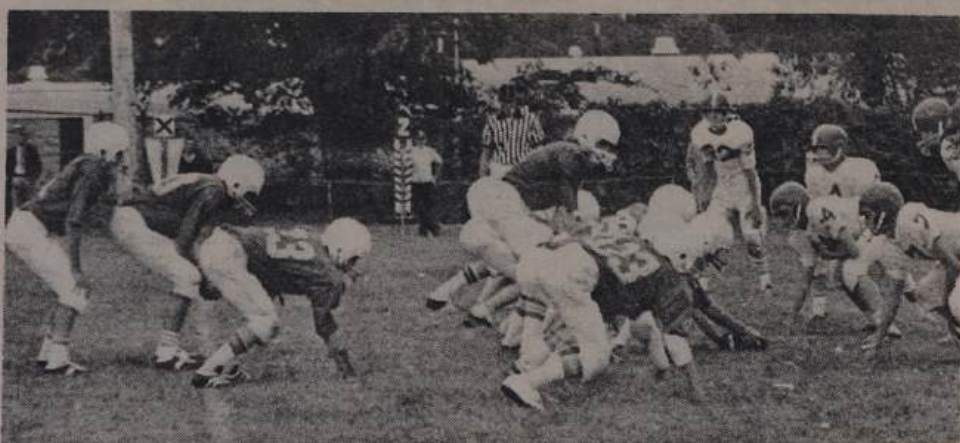
## Lots of Bumps, Bruises & Burns At Skating Parties

By Regina Barth

One-hundred and six people turned out for the 8th grade skating party. It was said to be a very good number. There were no injuries, but it was thought that there were many bumps, bruises, and burns.

Two-hundred and fifteen was the number turning out for the 7th grade skating party. It was very good--larger than the 8th. Like the 8th before us, we were all sore in all places. These events were fun for both the students and the faculty. Sponsors for these parties were Mrs. Borg, Mr. Cahalan, Mr. Meggers, and Mr. Schley.





GO, TEAM, GO!!!

## 8th Graders Open With A Boom!

By Kim Ryan and Mark Prouty

On September 17, the Vernon Junior High's eighth grade football team started the season with a booming victory against Manchester, with a total score of 44-16.

Cary Smith started off the tallying with a pick-up of a Manhawk fumble; then he chugged for 42 yards, resulting in the first touchdown of the game. He added a second by scooting around his left end, then charging for 47 yards.

Steve Schone, Marion's quarterback, took part in two TD's. Schone ran for 8 yards for a touchdown; then later in the game he passed to RJ Warner, who ran for a 48-yarder.

Frank White and Scott Rouse also assisted in improving the team's score, as did Brian Wiest. White ran 29 yards around right end, Rouse hustled for 25 yards left end, and Weist ran for 10 yards. All three of these plays resulted in Marion tallies.

Coach Meggers remarks, "Though they had to hustle, it was a great game won by great team effort."

September 24, Vernon Junior High's eighth grade football team highlighted the week with a second triumph. The slam was against Monticello, who totaled no points next to Marion's 30.

Quarterback Steve Schone and RJ Warner worked together for two touch-

downs, both successfully received by Warner, who chugged 32 yards for the first and 53 yards for another. Schone also ran 15 yards for a TD of his own.

Brad Albaugh helped in the tallying by scampering 17 yards for a third Little Indian score.

Frank White added 4 extra points while Schone ran for 2 more. Said Coach Meggers "Our Little Indians have worked hard and it shows. Both defense and offense are much improved over last week against Manchester. Now we're going to see what practice and hard work really is!"

The eighth grade team blanked Anamosa, 16-0, on October 1. Steve Schone connected with Cary Smith on a 42-yard pass play for one touchdown. Frank White ran 5 yards around the end for the other score.

The extra points were scored by White and Schone.

Coach Meggers commented, "This was our hardest hitting game so far. We played against a very good Anamosa team."

On Tuesday, October 8, Marion defeated Prairie's 8th grade 24-8. The first Marion touchdown came when Brad Albaugh ran off a tackle for 35 yards. Steve Schone went around the end for another touchdown. Brad McAreavey intercepted a pass and ran 22 yards for another score. Frank White and Schone scored the extra points.

## 60 Members In Library Club

By Mike Harris

The Library Club has approximately 60 members this year, 28 seventh graders and 32 eighth graders. Officers were elected at the first meeting, Thursday, September 12. The president is Cheryl Twachtman, the vice-president is Annette Foege, and the secretary is Linda McCormack. Volunteers were selected to decorate the bulletin board in the library. If any one wants to be a student librarian, he or she must be a member of the club. Mrs. Raasch comments that at the next meeting, we will attempt to think of some money-raising ideas.

## 7th Grade Football Team Smashes Manhawks

By Linda McCormack, Ray Hefel, Ken Waters, and Ronna Chase

What a game!

The 7th grade "A" squad football players scored a smashing victory, 24-0 over Manchester Tuesday, September 17.

Dennis Burns made the first touchdown with a 45-yard punt return. With a Little Indians' 6-0 lead, Tom Ford ran for the two extra points.

Then with an 8-0 lead came the next two touchdowns by John Gagliardi, one for three yards and the other for one. John also ran both conversions after his TD's.

Now with the score 24-0 and most likely the game, the defense moved in to hold Manchester. The entire defensive team played well. They were led by Dan Cook with 7 tackles. David Rae, Mike Olson, Roger Yirkovsky, Gary Vosberg, Scott Dolley, and Kenny Adams did fine jobs, as did Roger Wassmer, Steve Tranmer, and Tom Panek.

The offensive line also blocked well to help get our 24 points. They were led by Mark Lembke, John Warner, Brian Touro Robert Armstrong, and David Edwards, followed by Kenny Waters, Tom Ford, Jim Parker and Dale Wallace.

The first game was complete with first-game mistakes, all that a football team can make. But they improved as the game progressed.

They've done it again! The seventh grade "A" squad football team won for the second time in a row on Tuesday, September 24. At the end of the four quarters, the score was 12-0 in favor of Marion over Monticello. Some of the Marion plays that were most effective seemed to be their passes, reverses, and a stinger, plays that Mr. Brain-

## 18 Members In Camera Club

By Jim Lewis

The Camera Club has 18 members. It includes six seventh graders--Todd Washburn, Kris Johnson, Dan Huerter, Charles Nove, Shelley Smith, and Linda Strubhar. The eighth grade has 13 members--Tim Henderson, Ron French, Chris Whitlatch, Robert Herreid, Mary Binner, Joe Robinson, Lori Lambert, Allen Herren, Jim Ottaway, Dennis Stainbrook, Todd Price, Randy Floyd, and Jim Lewis.

The club members have taken pictures of the football teams and are selling them for 50¢ (they are 8 x 10's). Club members develop their own film and make prints.

The darkroom is in Mr. Vaske's room. It has an enlarger which the students use to make pictures. The kids do all of the work but get help when needed from their advisor, Mr. Vaske. They have one camera to use.

## Girls' Softball Team Makes Big Improvement

By Kim Kemp and Barb Dollinger

The softball season opened with about 66 girls participating. Their coach, Mrs. Moore, says she really enjoys softball, although it's hard to give everyone individual tips with so many girls playing. "The kids have made a big improvement this year," Mrs. Moore commented.

In their first game with Springville the eighth grade team lost, with the score 20-4. Hits were made by Kelly Matthews, Cheryl Barker, Lori Freilinger, Janice Kincheloe, Debbie Piet-sch, and Diane McPherson, all with one-base hits. Jane Huber got two one-base hits.

The seventh grade team got off to a good start, winning their game with a score of 24-6. Roxanne Jackson led the game with two homers and a two-base hit. Mary Moeller, Shawn Johnson, and Julie Harriman all got home runs. Michelle McAreavey and Michelle Kos had one-base hits.

The eighth graders also lost their second game with Springville, 8-6. Mrs. Moore thought that the team might have won if they had played longer. Runs were made by Michelle McAreavey, Dawn Moser, Janice Kincheloe, Mychelle Kos, and Diane McPherson.

The seventh grade team also lost, by a score of 23-10. Runs were scored by at least 7 seventh grade girls.

On Monday, Sept. 30, the Junior High Girls' Softball Team went to Springville

and mostly runs. The 7th "A" team's record now stands 2-0. Good luck!

Marion does it again! Marion's 7th grade "A" team continued its winning streak with its win over Anamosa. The score was 30-0. Robbie Bolyard scored two touchdowns with runs of 15 and 25 yards; he also carried over two two-point conversions. Quarterback John Warner passed for two touchdowns--a 20-yard pass to Ken Waters and a 15-yard pass to Mark Lembke, who then ran for 50 yards for the touchdown; Warner carried over one conversion try. Players cited for strong defense were Dan Cook, Gary Vosberg, Robbie Bolyard, Scott Dolley, Roger Yirkovsky, Steve O'Connor, Steve Tranmer, Dale Wallace, Dave Rae, Roger Wassmer and Dennis Burns.

On Oct. 8, the Marion 7th grade "A" team blanked Prairie. The team remained undefeated with a 6-0 win. The only touchdown in the game was made by Kenny Adams. He blocked two punts; one he ran back 15 yards for a touchdown.

The powerful defense has gone all season without allowing a score.

## 7th "B" Team Falls To Springville

By Cheryl Barker

Marion's 7th grade "B" squad football team lost to Springville "A" squad 6-2, Thursday, September 19. Steve O'Connor, Tony Perkins, and Craig Welsh of Mr. Cahalan's team, and Rick Boyd, Marlon Tope, Lon Washburn, and Scott Hubener of Mr. Dolinaj's team all did a fine job of running and handling the ball. Our outstanding linemen from the two teams were Jeff Griffin, Tim Taylor, Richard Hartl, Robbie Bolyard, Randy Frazier, Roger Woodsmall, and Teddy Dirks. They all did a fine job of blocking and recovering fumbles on defense. An outstanding last minute play was a 45-yard pass play from Perkins to Scott Jared, which ended on the 6-inch line. Some outstanding punts were kicked by Robbie Bolyard, one 40 yards and the other 25 yards. So if the 7th "B" squad keeps up this great work, they're bound to win some.

## 8th "B" Gridders Lose First Game

By Mark Klopfenstein

The eighth grade "B" team was defeated by Springville's "A" team. This was the "B" squad's first game of the season and it was defeated 18-0. Coach Taylor said that his team did a good job, considering they played a lot bigger team.

The coaches cited Alan Herren and Tom Turner for doing a good job running the ball. Steve Armstrong did a really good job on defense. He intercepted two passes and had many tackles.

## Cheerleaders Always Smiling!

By Renee Barth

Q. Who are those radiant, perky girls in the red dresses (they're always smiling)?

Ans. They are the new Vernon Junior High cheerleaders.

I guess we'd all agree with Miss Plonsky that the cheerleading squad is strictly grade A, but aren't all Indian students (at least) that good.

Some of this year's changes include different uniforms, pom poms, tryouts, organizational meetings, fund-raising projects, and travel to the away games.

To pay for some of the changes, the cheerleaders had a pep chain contest where links in the chain cost five cents. In all about 232 links were sold. The 8th grade sold about 154 and the 7th grade sold approximately 78. This project raised \$23.20.

In my opinion, the cheerleaders will reflect what you see at Vernon--pep and happiness. That will bring warmth, and sunshine into the cold wrestling and basketball seasons. We've got a brand new breed of cheerleaders--let's hope it stays that way.

The events the cheerleaders will attend are football, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and possibly wrestling.

I'd agree with many that with the new cheerleaders there will never again be a dull moment at Vernon games.

Let's cheer them on; they are Kim Ry-

an, Sherri Arnold, Julie Adams, Jo McCoy, Cheri Morgan, Annette Foege, Carrie Lighty, Kim Smith, Kathy Enneking, Donna Grant, Patty Painter, Ann Luzum, Robin Arnold, Peggy Hopson, Sharon Donohoe, Kelly Babcock, Terri Henderson, and Cheryl McCleary.



7th Grade Cheerleaders



ACTION IN GIRLS' SOFTBALL