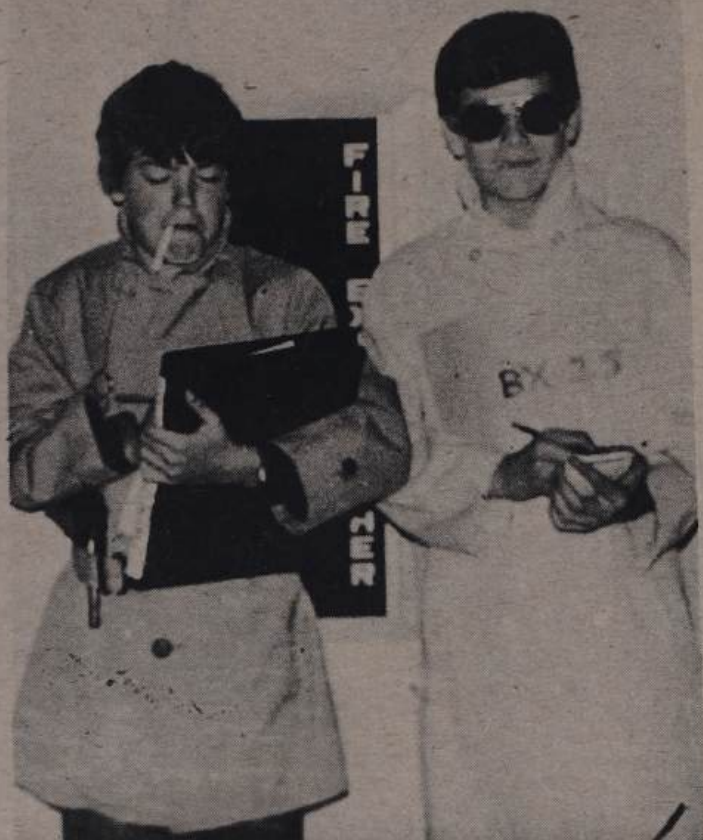


# 2 The Messenger

C.B. Vernon Middle School



RON LIVINGSTON AND JASON TAYLOR, VERNON'S "PROFESSIONAL" SPIES, WON A PRIZE.



MR. RUSSELL DISCUSSES HAM RADIO OPERATION WITH MRS. CHADEK'S CLASS.

## Collins Engineer Demonstrated Ham Radio To VMS Students

Courtesy of Mrs. Chadek

Mr. Steve Russell demonstrated his ham radio for Mrs. Chadek's science class. He explained the meaning of the terminology used in radio operation, and located on the globe places he was able to contact during the demonstration.

Mr. Russell explained that he has little trouble understanding operators around the world, since Europeans are more proficient in foreign

languages than Americans--most speak English. Mr. Russell speaks several languages. He also did some communicating with an operator in California using Morse Code.

Arrangements for the demonstration were made through Mr. Russell's daughter, Tracy, who attends Vernon Middle School. (The program was video-taped and can be borrowed from the NMS Media Center).

## Letter From Our Principal, Mr. Fowler...

I feel that this school year is off to an extremely fine beginning. The students seem to be very enthusiastic about Middle School, the programs that we have to offer, here and, in the most part, are working well in the classrooms. The new sixth grade class has adjusted very well, and seems to be getting along just fine in the Middle School environment.

Our enrollment has decreased about fifty students from a year ago, so the slightly crowded conditions that existed last year are not in evidence this year. We presently have 473 students enrolled at Vernon. Of this number, 168 are in eighth, 146 in seventh, 135

in grade six, and 24 in our special education classes.

If things continue during the three remaining quarters as well as they have during the first quarter, and I see no reason why they should not, we have a fine and rewarding school year ahead of us.

Mr. Fowler

## Halloween Dance And Costume Party Are Fun

By Roxi Port

On Monday, October 29, the Student Councils Halloween Dance was held. People who attended could dress in costumes if they desired; prizes for certain costumes were to be awarded.

Rhonda Cieslek, an elf, won the girl's best costume, while Ron Livingston and Jason Taylor, the detectives, grabbed the best boys'. Tami Meister and Carol Brekke dressed up as Siamese twins and collected their prize.

I have talked to several people who attended and they all seemed to enjoy themselves.

## COMING VOCAL EVENT...

December 6, 7:30 p.m., vocal (and band) Christmas Concert



STUDENTS SHOW HOW IT'S DONE AT THE HALLOWEEN DANCE.

## 7th-8th Graders Held Fall Skating Party

By Cris Decious

The 7th and 8th graders held their fall skating party October 11. With the help of Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Chester, and Mrs. Tanner, the following selections of students have been made.

Couples: Paul Colton and Colleen Darrah, Bruce Ribble and Ann O'Rourke, Mitch Anderson and Jana Helgens  
8th boy: Pat Butz, Bob Webber  
7th boy: Scott Andrew, Kevin Heeren, Bob Glick  
8th girl: Karleen Heeren, Tammy Butler  
7th girl: Carol Brekke, Jana Helgens  
Backwards: Jerry Speaker, Brian Oldenburger  
The most embarrassing fall: Roxi Port  
The hardest fall: Ron Livingston  
Reckless skater: Bob Glick, Kevin Kacena  
Best teacher: Mr. and Mrs. Cahalan  
Most falls: Tong Uk Yi  
Fastest: Curt Huhndorf, Bob Glick  
Road Hogger: Becki Supple, Shane Barske  
Cutest skater: Jimmy Thomson  
Best trying to learn corners: Erik Ervin, Mark Horstman  
Best trio: Pat Butz, Mrs. Chester, Kevin Kacena  
Best teacher fall: Mrs. Martin  
Fanciest skater: Brian Oldenburger, Tammy Butler, Karleen Heeren  
Slowest: Mr. Gallagher, Chris Sieck  
Teacher with most endurance: Mr. Singer, Mr. Fowler  
Tried the hardest: Donna Prosser  
Most expense to a non-skater: Jeff Wilkinson

## December Birthdays

By Julie Andersen

December

- 1-- Lisa Cruz
- 5-- Tim Peyton, Jeff Pollock, Pete Christiansen
- 6-- Holly Hoffman
- 7-- Teresa Achey
- 9-- Mike Brandt, Sherry Heister
- 11-- Pam McKibben, Beth Blair
- 14-- Tom Cammack
- 15-- Amy McComas, Todd Fuller
- 17-- Joe Sondag
- 20-- Richard Sloan
- 21-- Roxie Knapp
- 24-- Dennis and Duane Turner, Misty Ensley
- 25-- Gary Chalstrom
- 28-- Jim Hultquist



LARRY GROCE EXPLAINS USE OF DULCIMER.

## Larry Groce Was A Pleasant Guest

By Brad Robertson

Larry Groce, 27, a versatile performer who sings and plays the dulcimer, guitar, and mandolin, recently visited Vernon Middle School as "artist in residence." The Iowa Arts Council made it possible, along with our own district, to spend a week with the 6th grade students, broadening their musical awareness by helping them write original songs. Mr. Groce is noted for this, and he has worked with such people as Helen Reddy, Crystal Gayle, Captain and Tennille, and Seals and Crofts. He has appeared on many programs including Johnny Carson, the Midnight Special, and American Bandstand. He has made 11 albums; the idea for one of his most famous songs, "Junk Food Junkie," came from his 14-year-old brother.

Mr. Groce, a Dallas native started his career in high school, singing for the "Raggy Sometime Band." After receiving a degree in literature, he recorded his first album. Most of his original material is quite unique in that it uses such topics as frogs, bumper stickers, and everyday life. Perhaps this quality and his concern for students, have made him one of this country's most famous student entertainers and helped him to be recognized early in life by the National Endowment for the Arts.

After completing his stay here, he will return to his home in West Virginia to record another album and to continue making himself available for further concerts, such as the one he presented at the Marion High School which culminated his work here and showed off some of Vernon's students' songs.



## 7th Grade Football

(Courtesy of the Coaches)

October 11: Marion "A" 20--Prairie "A" 8  
Touchdowns: M. Blick, 30-yard run; V. Nguyen, 49-yard run; S. Andrew, 11-yard run  
Conversion: V. Nguyen  
Halftime score: 12-8  
Marion "B" 0--Prairie "B" 6  
Touchdown run by T. Landuyt called back because of clipping penalty  
Punting of J. Holderman kept Prairie deep in its own territory  
Prairie completed long touchdown pass on last play of game.

October 16: Marion "A" 14--Linn-Mar "A" 8  
Touchdowns: V. Nguyen, 40-yard run; M. Blick, 20-yard run  
Conversion: Pass from D. Jackson to M. Blick (LM's T. Camerson intercepted D. Jackson pass to score)  
Marion "B" 0--Linn-Mar "B" 8  
Touchdown: Egan scored and ran extra point for LM with about one minute left



THE 7TH GRADE FOOTBALL TEAM IN ACTION.

## 8th Grade Football Wrap-Up. . . .

(Courtesy of the Coaches)

October 11: Marion "A" 48--Prairie "A" 6  
Touchdowns: J. Sondag 5, M. Simpson 2 (1 on a 30-yard pass from T. Fuller)  
Conversions: J. Sondag 2  
Safety: D. Folkers  
Cited players: T. Andrews, R. Clark, D. Folkers, T. Fuller, K. Herren, C. Kalous, R. Knapp, D. Plond, B. Schultz, M. Simpson, J. Sondag, M. Taylor, Mark Walls and B. Webber  
Cited for kicking: G. Chalstrom  
Marion "B" 6--Prairie "B" 14  
Touchdown: K. McCleary (recovered a blocked punt in the end zone)  
Defensive work: E. Ervin, Greg Bodecker, G. Chalstrom, R. Zier, S. Barske and the whole defense  
Passing: M. Anderson to T. Tharp  
Running: P. Christiansen

October 16: Marion "A" 18--Linn-Mar "A" 6  
Touchdowns: J. Sondag 2, R. Knapp 1  
Defense: D. Plond recovered a fumble on the LM 40-yard line

(This game capped an undefeated season. Coach Meggers congratulated the team and their parents. He added that the young men he has worked with this year should really benefit the already-successful high school football program. He also thanked the Booster Club for purchasing a 2-man blocking sled for the program.)  
Marion "B" 6--Linn-Mar "B" 0  
Touchdown: 40-yard run by Mitch Anderson  
Defense: G. Chalstrom, T. Tharp, B. Perkins, G. Bodecker and R. Zier  
(The defense held LM to three first downs.)

Hal Hapgood, Associate Editor

Vernon's 8th grade football squad chalked up another win on September 25. They defeated Monticello 30-0. Coach Meggers said that it was a great team effort, with the defense holding Monti to only two first downs. Joe Sondag led the scoring with four touchdowns and two extra points; he had a total of 264 yards. Mike Simpson had one touchdown to end the game 30-0.

## Band Members Participate In Honor Festival

(Courtesy of Mr. Shultz)

Five students from Vernon Middle School have been chosen to participate in the NE Iowa Bandmasters' Honor Band Festival on Saturday, December 1. They will perform in one of two 125-piece bands made up of students from over 70 schools in the northeast area of Iowa.

The students will rehearse all day Saturday and then present a concert at 7 p.m. in the Oelwein Sr. High Gym, Oelwein, Iowa. The

bands will be under the direction of Ron Toering from Luther College and Dick Jenkins from Humboldt Jr. High. Tickets for \$1.00 may be purchased at the door.

The following instrumentalists from Vernon were selected for this honor: John Van Gorp, tuba; Mark Swanson, baritone; Paul Colton, trombone; Bob Mead, cornet; and Sherry Heister, clarinet. Congratulations!

## Vocal Music

(Courtesy of Ms. Silver)

Once again 7th grade students are "on the air" with their disc jockey presentations in music. To give you an idea of what this project is all about, one is published here for your reading enjoyment. (The following is by John Doyle.) "This is the Master of Midnight coming from N.I.T.-E. In sports yesterday, Tom Landry, in the Dallas-Pittsburgh game finally smiled, but Roger Staubach was sacked and threw the ball into Tom's face and knocked out his two front teeth. The follow-up report to this tragic accident will be told tonight on our 6 p.m. news. This is radio station 1200 broadcasting to you

from high above the city in downtown Cedar Rapids. We will be back in a stroke of the clock with more of your favorite music. First, this announcement: This is Mark, at the Used Car Park. We sell Buicks to Zephyrs. Come on and buy and save. All cars on our lot are for sale, at half-price and less. The next song is "Sure Know Something", and is rated #10 and climbing. It was written by KISS and sung by Paul Stanley, from the record "Dynasty". (Record). Did you know that the Western Snake Hawk unlike other species of hawks, who kill with the beaks and claws, stuns its prey with its breath. It's fond of onions and garlic. Well, that's all for today--this is your Master of Midnight on station NITE saying, "Good Morning!"

## Know Our Mystery Students?

By Kevin Miller

The 8th grade mystery person is a girl and lives on 6th Street. She has sandy-brown hair and blue eyes. Her locker is in the south corridor, and it is red. She is also on the basketball team.

The 7th mystery person has brown hair and blue eyes. He lives on Orchard Road. He doesn't wear glasses but he does wear braces. His locker is in the north corridor (1st floor), and it is yellow.

The mystery person in 6th grade has blond hair and brown eyes. He lives on Orchard Road. He doesn't wear glasses or braces. His locker is on the second floor, on the south side. His house is green.  
(Answers will be published in the December Messenger.)



TAMI MEISTER SHOWS SUPER CONCENTRATION AND FORM.

## Gymnastics Season Was A Good One!

By Joe Sondag, General Editor

1979! What a year for Vernon Middle School gymnastics! This year's 8th squad had a 4-0 record; the 7th were also 4-0. With an overall record of 8-0, this year's squad had the first undefeated season ever.

This year's eighth squad was the smallest ever. They received very tough competition from Tipton. Throughout the season, the team improved. The scores proved it--81.75, 100.27, 82.0 and 105.25.

"This year's 8th graders developed more leadership and the better-skilled gymnasts helped out with others", Mrs. Thornton said. The strongest events this year for the 8th graders were the vault and bars.

"The 7th grade had many fine gymnasts and were strong in all events," commented Mrs. Thornton. The 7th gymnasts also improved. They received scores of 78.5, 80.23, 71.20, and 80.10.

In this year's gymnastics, there were four Olympic events--beam, bars, vault and floor exercises. One event used only in Iowa was tumbling. There are six competitors in each event. The top four scores from each team are totaled together for a team score. The final team score is the total from each event.

Mrs. Thornton says that to be a good gymnast, you must be mentally aware, you must have good strength, and you should have some flexibility.

A new coach, Mrs. Moeglich, helped out this year. She has a background in gymnastics.

Mrs. Thornton added, "If you like a sport and don't go out for it because you don't think you're good enough, that is wrong. You should participate if you like it."

Congratulations to the gymnastics squad for a fine year.

## Instrumental Music

(Courtesy of Mr. Shultz)

On Friday, October 26, 1979, the Vernon Marching Band gave their annual marching demonstration at the varsity football game with Independence. This was the first experience for the students marching and playing at the same time. I felt they did quite well considering six-foot boys are marching along side boys under four feet, and all

are expected to stay abreast of each other. The lines may have been a bit bent, but I liked their sound as a band.

Other dates for our year's program include: Thursday, December 6, the vocal and band groups will present their Christmas concert. On Saturday, February 23 of next year, the band will take part in the Solo and Ensemble Festival sponsored by the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters. On March 11, 1980, Vernon will host the Parade of Bands Concert. This will exhibit the entire band program in our district, as the 5th, 6th 7th, and 8th, and High School bands perform. Our finale for the year will be our Spring Concert on Thursday, May 8.

The public is cordially invited to all events--there is no admission charge.

## 6th Grade Band

Instruments will accompany some numbers.

Band selections (Mr. Wright, Director)  
"Christmas Carol Suite" (arr. McLin)  
(Deck the Hall, O Little Town of Bethlehem, We Wish you A Merry Christmas)  
"Jolly Ole St. Nicholas" (arr. Gathaway)  
"Reindeer Paws" (arr. Conley)  
"All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth" (Gardner/Balent)  
"Jingle Bells Ole" (Pierpont/Ployhar)

Band and Chorus Combined  
"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

(Courtesy of Mrs. Carstens and Mr. Wright)  
Date: December 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Chorus Selections (Mrs. Carstens, Director)  
"Kids Are Music" (Artman)  
"A Bush Carol" (Evans, arr. Connor)

"Follow" (Wilson and Knox)  
"A Spiritual Quodlibet for Christmas" (arr. Walker)

"If There's a Song" (Ydstie)  
"The Man with a Hundred Names" (Whorf/Aquino, arr. Ades)

Student accompanists: Ellen Huber, Julie Andersen, and Beth Jennings

## Home Ec

By Roxi Port

As part of the home economics "Child Development" unit, 8th grade girls and boys were to make a toy, a child could play with. Many students made stuffed animals or footballs. Mrs. Borg was pleased with the projects that were handed in, even though she expected that more might have been made.