

THE JOURNAL

Dec. '56



BASKETBALL

(DOUBLEHEADER)

AFTON GYMNASIUM

SAT., DEC. 22, 1956

7:00 P.M.

VALLEY HIGH GIRLS vs. TINGLEY GIRLS

Valley girls were a State Tournament Team in '56.

BLACKTON BOYS vs. TINGLEY BOYS

Blackton boys are undefeated this Year.

OFFICIALS:

Sam Huzar, Des Moines; Bill Sears, Creston.

ADMISSION

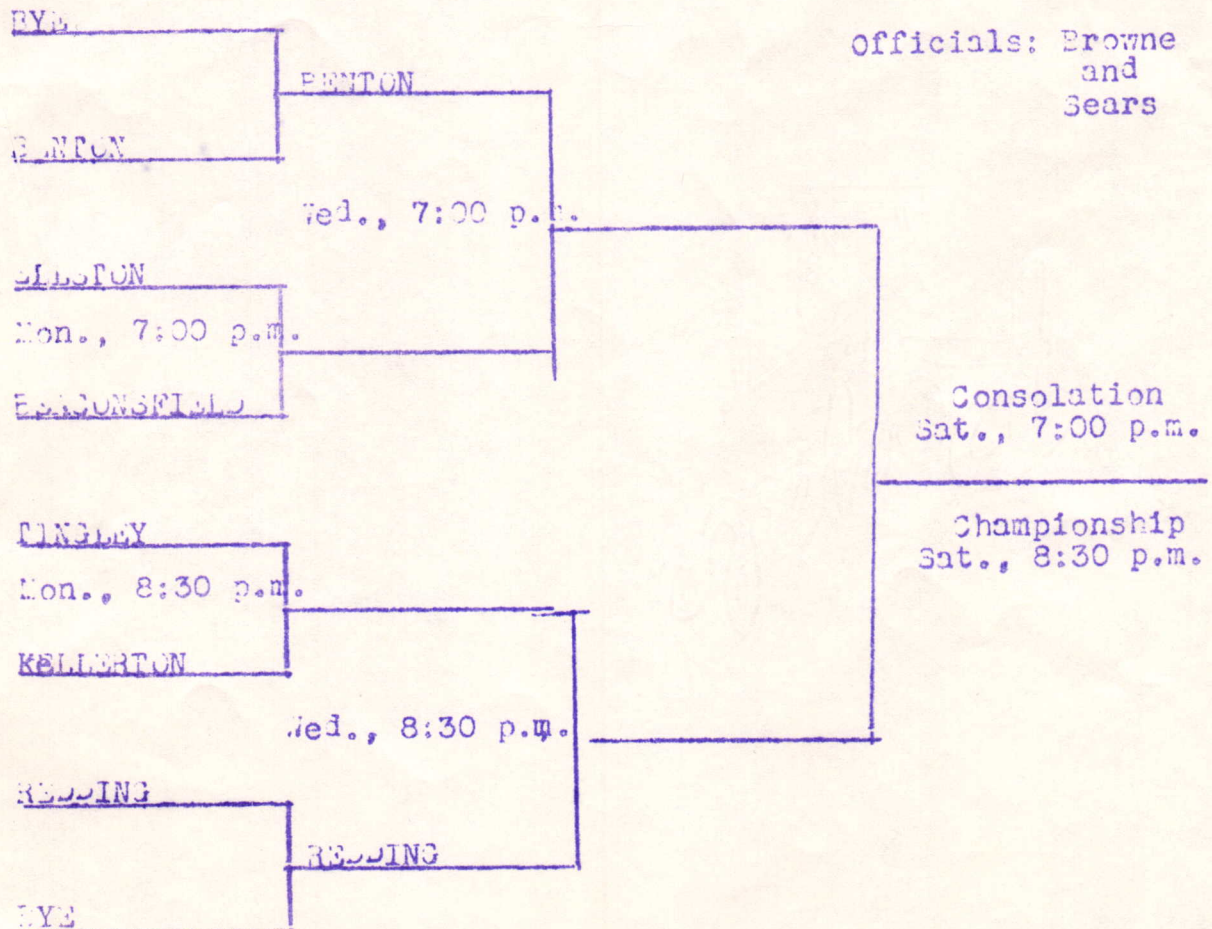
25¢ and 50¢

"We would like to see a good crowd out Saturday night as we have gone to alot of extra work and expense to schedule two good ball games during the holiday season!!"

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 22: Valley and Elckton at Afton.
 Dec. 24: Christmas vacation begins.
 Dec. 27: Christmas vacation ends.
 Dec. 28: Villisca there
 Dec. 31- Jan. 4: Semester tests.
 Jan. 4: Kellerton there.
 Jan. 7-12: Girl's County Tourney.
 Jan. 8: Ellston (boy's) there.
 Jan. 14-19: Boy's County Tourney.
 Jan. 15: Ellston (girls) there.
 Jan. 18: Seymour (girls) there.
 Jan. 22: Shannon City there.

RINGGOLD COUNTY GIRL'S BASKETBALL



HONOR ROLL

We have received our report cards for the first two six weeks of school. Listed below are the names of those who had grades which counted 28 points or more. Points are determined as follows: A's count 10 points, B's-7 points, C's-4 points, and D's-1 point.

First Six Weeks

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Sue Richards | 40 |
| Myrna England | 40 |
| Mary Sue Pritchard | 37 |
| Jeanetta Saltzman | 34 |
| Patricia Hill | 34 |
| Ruth Grout | 34 |
| Brenda Brown | 34 |
| Melvin Richards | 31 |
| Janet Richards | 31 |
| Sharon Kinney | 31 |
| Jerry Jobe | 28 |
| Doris Giles | 28 |
| Larry England | 28 |

Second Six Weeks

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Sue Richards | 40 |
| Myrna England | 40 |
| Jeanetta Saltzman | 37 |
| Sharon Kinney | 37 |
| Patricia Hill | 37 |
| Ruth Grout | 37 |
| Mary Sue Pritchard | 34 |
| Betty Hill | 34 |
| Norma Southerland | 31 |
| Melvin Richards | 31 |
| Janet Richards | 31 |
| Rita Miller | 31 |
| Jerry Jobe | 31 |
| Doris Giles | 31 |
| Hugh Ferguson | 31 |
| Robert Grout | 28 |
| Larry England | 28 |
| Brenda Brown | 28 |

ODDS AND ENDS

The girls' basketball team attended a clinic in Lenox, Dec. 1st. Mr. Obermeier, Ellen Eighme, and Vienna Richards furnished cars.

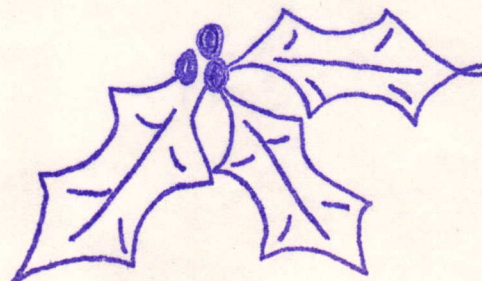
Hugh Ferguson, Don Richards, Gary Bear, and Larry Giles saw a film on "Unidentified Flying Objects" in Bedford, Sat. night. They made a report to physics class concerning the film.

A representative from Josten's met with the Junior class Dec. 18th. The pattern they chose for their rings was "The Prevue" style.

The senior class voted unanimously to wear robes for their commencement exercises. West point gray was their color choice.

Nov. 30th, the 9th and 10th grades put on three one-act plays for the benefit of the activity fund. Mrs. Beaman did the directing.

The annual Christmas program was presented by the grades for their parents, Thursday afternoon, Dec. 20th at the schoolhouse.





"FIELD SPORTS"

By Mary Jane Minnick

Girls Fall To Blockton

The Tingley squad had to hustle but weren't able to overtake their opponent. Mary Jo Skinner, post forward, scored several times and by the end of the first period the score was 2 to 11.

Blockton continued their scoring pace during the second period and on into the second half. Tingley couldn't quite keep up with the pace so when the final ~~score~~ of the final buzzer was heard, Blockton's score was 37 and 8.

Myrna England was the highest scorer of the evening with 12 points while Mary Jo Skinner lead her team with 19.

Tingley Wins By Five Points

November 16th was the event of Tingley's first victory for this season. The scores were pretty nearly matched throughout the game.

At the half, Kellerton trailed by only four points, the score being 22 to 26.

In the fourth quarter Sue Richards, Tingley's guard left the game because of fouls and was replaced by Janetta Saltzman.

The determined girls managed to keep their lead. The final score being 35 to 45.

Myrna England scored nineteen points closely followed by Brenda Brown with eighteen. Diane McDowell was Kellerton's highest scorer with 17.

Arispe Edged Tingley

The Tingley vs Arispe game proved to be very exciting but also disappointing for the Tingley squad.

Although the Tingley team trailed by seven points at the half, they made a great come back and came within one point of their opponents score.

With seconds left to play, Mary Jane Minnick left the game with five fouls and was replaced by Janetta Saltzman.

One point difference. Could we do it? A few seconds later at the sound of the buzzer everyone knew that the final score was 52 to 53.

Myrna England scored twenty four points for the Tingley squad while Kay Werner scored twenty seven.



Tingley Defeats Redding

The game got off to a good start as the Tingley forwards started and continued their scoring pace throughout the game. The Redding girls kept in the game and tried to even the score.

The half time score was 23 to 17. Redding made a come back in the last half and came within five points of their opponents score. Tingley kept their lead however; the final score was 45 to 50.

England scored twenty five while Wilson and Olney scored fourteen each.

Grand River Downed By Tingley

On December 7th, Tingley traveled to Grand River to make their second consecutive win. Again the Tingley forwards got off to a good start, each exchanging baskets.

Grand River's forwards trying to keep up, making most of their points on free throws.

By the half time the score had advanced to 37 to 21. Early in the third quarter, Betty Greenland, Grand River's forward, fouled out having 10 points. Shortly after her absence from the game, Tingley's guard, Mary Jane Minnick, left the game with foul.

Tingley continued their lead and the regular players were replaced by the substitutes. Tingley still continued their pace however, and the final score became 68 to 32.

England scored her highest score of the season which was 43 while Daughton scored 15 points.

Ellston Tripped By Opponent

Last Saturday night was the event of the Ellston v. Tingley which turned out to be another victory for Tingley. The Tingley squad lead all the way and at the half the score was 35 to 7.

In the fourth quarter substitutions were made and Tingley continued their lead.

The highest scorers for Tingley were Brown and England. Linda Wood had 14 points for Ellston.

Fourth Consecutive Win For Home Team

The evening of December 18th was a happy event for the Tingley squad for they brought home their fourth consecutive win downing Truro.

By the end of the second quarter the score was 29 to 14. The Truro forwards, however, gained more field goals during the second half. Tingley kept their lead and the final score became 63 to 39.

England scored 39 points while Brown followed with 24. Freeburg and Patterson each having 14 for Truro.

Is This True With Your Team?

Most teams have a mascot as their good luck charm. Are you superstitious? Believe it or not!!!! The Tingley girls think that they are more likely to win if they take two skunks. What do you think? Any connection? Why not?

DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSION

'BOYS SPORTS'

Tingley Boys Lose in Opening Round

The Tingley boys were defeated in their opening round game at Blockton on November 13 by a score of 44-58.

The Tingley "five" were following at the end of the first quarter 15-18. At the half Tingley was still following 26-36. At the third quarter Blockton led 28-50. The final score was 44-58.

Hugh Ferguson was high scorer with 23 points for Tingley and Doyle Saville was high scorer for the winners with 20 points.

Tingley Boys Bring Downfall to Kellerton

The Tingley boys won their first game of the season Nov. 16 over the Kellerton "five" 36-45.

Kellerton led the first quarter 15-9. At the half Tingley got within 2 points of the Kellerton team. The score was 12-24. Tingley took over during the third quarter and led at the end of the third quarter by a score of 33-28. At the end of the game Tingley was on top by a score of 36-45.

Hugh Ferguson was high score for Tingley with 27 points. McDowell led the Kellerton squad with 15 points.

Arispe Defeats Tingley Squad

The Tingley boys were defeated for the second time at Arispe, Nov. 23. The score was 38-49.

Tingley was leading at the end of the first quarter 14-9. By half time Arispe captured the lead by 15-23. At the third quarter Arispe was still in front 24-39. The final score was 38-49 in favor of Arispe.

Tingley Brings Game Averages Up By Defeating Beaconsfield

The Tingley boys defeated Beaconsfield by a large margin, Nov. 28 when Tingley won by a score of 73-43.

Tingley was ahead by a large margin at the end of the first quarter by a score of 12-4. At the half time Tingley was still in front 35-30. The final score was 73-43.

Ferguson had high scoring honors with 29 points. Lion was high point for the Beacon squad with 18 points.

Tingley Boys Defeat Redding at Mt. Lyr.

The Tingley boys swamped Redding at Mt. Lyr on Dec. 5 by a score of 61-38.

At the end of the first quarter Tingley led 16-10. At half time Tingley was still in front 34-22. At the end of three quarters Tingley led 52-34. The final score was 61-38.

Ferguson was high scorer in the game with 28 points for the Tingley squad while Gene Mercer was point for the Redding squad with 13 points.

Tingley Loses to Grand River in Overtime

Tingley lost to Grand River in an overtime 56-50.

At the end of the first quarter Tingley was ahead 17-16. At half time Tingley was still in front 30-28. At the end of three quarters Tingley was leading 48-44. But in the last quarter Grand River scored to tie up the game at the of regulation time 56-56. Grand River scored 4 points during the overtime. Tingley was unable to score, making the final score Grand River 60 and Tingley 56.

Ferguson was high score with 28 point for the Tingley bunch while Rod Boles led the Grand River team with 19 points.

Tingley Defeats Truro Boys by Large Margin

The Tingley "five" defeated the Truro boys December 18 by a score of 59-31.

The score at the end of the first quarter was 14-10 in favor of Tingley. At half time the score was 33-18 in favor of Tingley. At the end of 3 quarters Tingley was leading 42-24. The final score was 59-31.

Ferguson had highscoring honors with 29 points. Larry Giles had 12 points and Jerry Jobe had 11 points for the winners while Jordan and Greger each had 11 points for the losers.

The Ringgold County Boys' Pairings

BROOKING

ELLINGTON

TINGLEY

BENTON

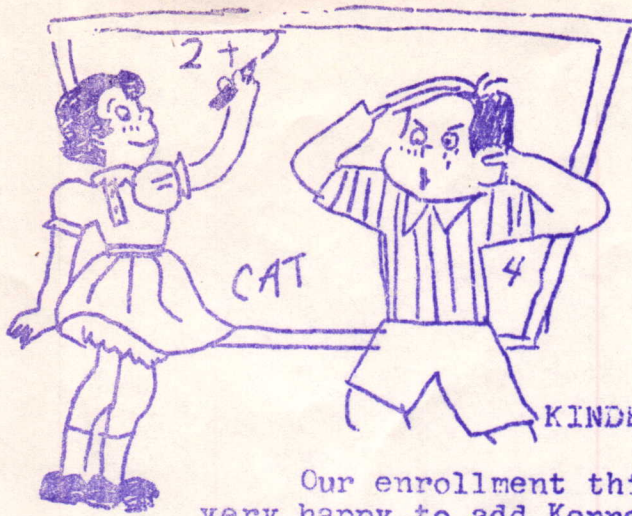
DIAGONAL

HELLERTON

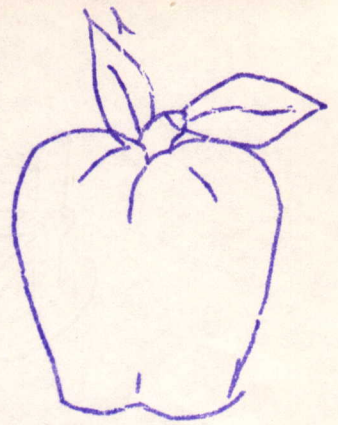
BEACONFIELD

BEACONS.

BYE



Grade News



KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

Our enrollment this fall was 25. In November we were very happy to add Kenneth and Richard McKay to our roll. Then we lost Kathy Duffield, which leaves us twenty-six.

We have shared many happy experiences since school began, and I am convinced that the Kindergarten pupils are becoming well adjusted to school because they don't come forth with as many jokes as they did.

After an epidemic of Chicken pox, we are now being bothered with colds. It is very difficult to plan much for a Christmas program, because each day there are many absences.

We are certainly looking forward to a great deal of excitement next Friday. I think our vacation will be welcome.

Some of our jokes during the year might be worthy of repetition.

Carla Riggs said, "In a few years I'll either be in High School or else I'll be a lady."

Virginia Jobe remarked, "We have six in our family because Chuck is half ours since he married Betty." Curtis Lininger retaliated,

"That's nothing. I'll bet we have more than you do because Judy Reynolds belongs to us."

It didn't do Carla Ann Ford any good to have a good Thanksgiving dinner. She said, "All of my front teeth are out. I couldn't bite the chicken and when I tried, it just slipped right on through the holes."

When Don Ibbotson started to take the Chicken pox he seemed extremely tired. I started towards him with the thermometer in my hand. He looked up, smiled, and said, "No, thank you. I feel better."

If anyone would like to visit our room please feel free to come.

2ND AND 3RD GRADE NEWS

We began the school year with 16 pupils present. In September Leroy Buchanan moved so we now have 15---eight second graders and 7 third graders.

In reading the second graders used these review readers, "I Know A Secret", "Down the Road", and "Round About". We will soon finish "New Friends and Neighbors". The second semester they will begin, "More New Friends and Neighbors" and also read "Friendly Village".

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(Continued)

The third graders in reading have read, "The Story Road" and will soon finish "New Streets and Roads" and "People and Places", a work type reader. Next semester we will use "New More Streets and Roads" and "If I Were Going".

In arithmetic I'll give only some of the topics studied so far in second grade.

1. Relating one object to more than one, as 1 to 10.
2. Basic facts relating to groups of 10.
3. Grouping objects by 10's and 100's.
4. Introducing the standard units; inch, foot, quart, and pint.
5. Recognizing coins; cents, nickles, dimes, quarters. Counting coins by tens, fives, and ones.

Third grade arithmetic can be put in two main topics.

1. Learning the meaning of numbers and fractions.
2. Learning addition and subtraction of easier facts, harder facts, and zeros.

Since the language and science worksheets did not come this year, we have been using supplementary material that we have in the library. Also some material from the Continental Press, Inc.

The third graders are using "Building Your Language" and the main topics are:

1. Talking together
2. Letters
3. Reports
4. Descriptions
5. Stories

These topics include sentence structure, verb usage, sequence, and capital letters and punctuation.

The third graders found "The Wonderland of Science" a little hard to read silently, so we are using the "Adventure of Science" with Paul and Jand.

We combined our Social Studies after the third graders studied Indians. Since then we have been studying community and home life.

In spelling Sally and Joleen have had perfect tests on Friday. Gwen and Dianne have each missed only 1 word.

We have 3 who have a perfect attendance for the year. They are Merry Ann Nichols, Doris and Mary Eichme.

Our visitors so far this year are:

Mrs. Nells Crow and Isle Elaine
Mrs. Frank Eichme
Mrs. Franklin Nichols
Mrs. Russell Petersohn
Mrs. Lucius Eichme
Mrs. Billy Breckenridge and Billy Ray
Mrs. Lloyd Reynolds

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE NEWS

Our school year began with 20 eager girls and boys attending the fourth and fifth grades. They are Billy England, Sharyn Giles, Ellen Ibbotson, Dickie Hill, Jean Kinne, Dennis Miller, Linda Minnick, Connie Reynolds, Craig Riggs, and Nancy Weeda in fourth grade. In fifth grade there are Rhonda Clymer, Ricky Farrell, Danny Ferguson, Ann Ibbotson, Allan Kinney, Quita Lininger, Karen Reasoner, Doyle Richards, Raymond Shields, and Rayna Stewart. Since this time the fifth grade has welcomed a new member to their class. Delores McKay entered school here increasing the enrollment to twenty-one.

On November 17th Billy England celebrated his tenth birthday by being treated to a surprise birthday given by his mother. Those present were Ricky, Danny, Allan, Doyle, Raymond, Dickie, Dennis, Craig, Arthur Allen, Kennie and Ellen Eighme. The afternoon was spent playing games. The outstanding feature being a Bingo game during which everyone won a prize. After Billy had opened his gifts refreshments of hotdogs, ice cream, cake, and punch were served. Everyone had a very good time.

We have had several visitors this semester. They are Mrs. Kieth Lininger, Mrs. Carl Riggs and Kathy, Mrs. Russell Shields, Mrs. Vienna Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Miller, Mrs. Ira Ferguson, and Mrs. George Ferguson.

In science this semester we have studied many interesting things. The outstanding subject has been "Rocks and How They are Formed". During the time we were on this subject we made a very interesting rock collection. After we studied the rocks for sometime each child took his contribution to the collection home.

In geography this semester the fourth grade has studied about Our Great Round World, Living In Hot Wet Lands, Living In Hot Dry Lands, Living In Mediterranean Lands, and are now studying about Living In Temperate Lands. The fifth grade has studied Exploring America, Living In The East, Living In The South, and are now working on Living In The Middle West.

Both fourth and fifth grades have finished their first readers and have started in their new books. The fourth grade is now reading The New Times and Places. And the fifth grade is reading More Days and Deeds.

Raymond Shields has had a perfect score in spelling on Friday so far this year. Others in the room have made good records but we have only the one perfect score.

We have several with perfect attendance for this semester. They are Billy, Sharyn, Linda, Connie, Rhonda, Quita, Karen, and Raymond. We hope these people can keep up their good record.

We have been very busy the past week getting ready for Christmas. On Thursday we made Santa in art. We did this using a locker carton, construction paper, crepe paper, and cotton. We thought they were very---handsome? and enjoyed making them so much. We also made some things to be used in our Christmas play.

December 17th, Mr. and Mrs. Miller brought us our Christmas tree. It is a very pretty tree and we have it decorated with colorful ornaments, a shiny rope, a star, and long shiny silver icicles. The outstanding decorations on our tree seems to be the red and white delicious looking candy canes which must remain where they are until bus time Friday.

Right now we are hoping that we will have all recovered from illness by the time for our Christmas Program, Thursday.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

We have been studying learning to live together, developing civilizations, and we are now studying about living around the Mediterranean in history.

In arithmetic we have been studying about making sure of whole numbers, making sure of fractions, learning more about fractions, and now studying learning about decimals.

In language we have been studying talking together, making and using good sentences in discussions, using words correctly in discussions, making reports interesting, using books in preparing reports, and making reports accurate.

In geography we have been studying about exploring your world, industrial western Europe, Living in Scandinavian Europe, living in central Europe.

We have been studying physically fit, the adventure of living, millions of tiny enemies, happy housekeeping, and digesting our food in health.

Those who have had birthdays this semester were: Jane Kinnie, Patricia Werner, and Patty Grout.

Those who have read the most books this semester are: Janet Tull, Patty Grout and Gary Duffield.

Those with perfect attendances are: Patricia Werner, Reta Dukes, Pat'y Grout. and Harla Stephens.

Reporters-Jane Kinnie and Patricia Werner

SEVENTH GRADE SEMESTER NEWS

On August 27, 1956, eight seventh graders trudged into the schoolhouse, ready for another school year of work. There were three boy's, Bob Allen, Dennis Petersohn and Eddie Ford; and five girls, Kathy Buchanan, Nancy Nichols, Violet Scott, Darlene Saltzman, and Lynn Obermeier. Since then our class has decreased in number. Kathy moved to Gilman, Kowa, and the end of the first month of school.

Our Halloween Party was held in the basement of the Methodist Church. We children divided into classes and went all over town on a scavenger hunt. The seventh grade leader was Donald Grout. We got back with eleven articles, and won the container of gum.

A surprise party was held for Mrs. Ashenburt in honor of her birthday one Friday. Most of our mothers came and we had ice cream and cake in the lunch room.

Our room has been very busy these past two weeks getting ready for the P.T.A. Christmas Program upstairs. It is called "The Star of Bethlehem"

Nancy is leading the race in book reading with 24 books read. She has made ten book reports, Lynn has made nine, Bob has made eight, Violet has made four, and Eddie has made two.

Four mothers have visited school this year. They are: Mrs. Carl Ford, Mrs. Franklin Nichols, Mrs. Melvin Obermeier, Mrs. Russell Petersohn, Mrs. Russell Shields, Mrs. Orville Bear, and Mrs. Benno Baker.

Nancy Nichols has a perfect spelling record with all of her words right on Friday. Violet Scott, and Lynn Obermeier have missed one word each.

Reporters-Lynn Obermeier and Nancy Nichols

Eighth Grade News

Those with perfect attendance in the eighth grade were: Ronald Shields, Robert Reasoner, Gay Lou Ferguson, Bobby Baker, and Phillip Lotter.

Those who have had birthdays so far this year are: Marie Miller-September eighteenth; Linda Kinne-November fourteenth; Ronald Shields-November fifteenth; Robert Reasoner-November twenty-second; Marvin Kinne-December fifth; and Gay Lou Ferguson-December Fifteenth. Visitors at school were Mrs. Bear, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Shields, and Mrs. Werner.

The champion in the eighth grade on reading books is Glee Bear and second is Robert Reasoner.

The pupils in the Junior High Room have used brown wrapping paper and tempera paints to develop the Bethlehem picture for their Christmas Program. Gay Lou Ferguson, Marvin Kinne, and Robert Reasoner of the eighth grade and Bobby Allen and Nancy Nichols of the seventh grade had charge of the drawing and painting and hanging.

Reporters: Gay Lou, Linda K., and Glee

"INTERVIEW"

Mrs. Bloomstrand: I think the school paper is a fine thing and should be issued monthly.

Miss Fighme: The THS Journal is a good deal, but it will be a lot of work to issue it every week so I suggest that it is published once a month.

Frank McCreary: A school paper should be issued to acquaint our patrons with the work of the school. Of the paper is distributed once each six weeks and reflects the school and individual achievements, a real need will be met. A school paper is a great deal of work and if not complete and a credit to the school should not be encouraged.

Russell Boyd: I would suggest the paper be printed every three weeks and include grade news, sports, general news of high school classes, tattler's rage, and a calendar of coming events. The publishing of the THS Journal is a good idea and will furnish good training for the high school students. School activities will be put before the public eye.

Mrs. Beaman: Since we do not have a regular journalism class in our school, I think a school paper should reflect our activities at least once a month. By these frequent reports, the patrons can learn direct of our individual aims and objectives. I'm highly in favor of this school journal if it will help to cement a better understanding between parents, teachers, and students, and be an adequate reflection of the pulse of our every day school life.

By Don Richards

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Education is what a man gets when he sits in his living room with a group of teenagers!  
Sandwich spread: What you get from eating between meals!





### TINGLEY TATTLES

Isn't it nice the way Larry F. Carries a chair to physics class for Judy?

Reserved for Myrna and Jerry the Math Room during noon!

Brenda doesn't study in school time. Just have her mind on W.V.T.

From the amount of time Jon spends talking to Janetta at school, you would think he never sees her at NIGHT!

It seems Mary Jane C. is invading Afton along with Norma S.  
Hint: He works at Sheet's Drug Store.

Poor Mary J. Minnick! R.F. has been in the doghouse for 3 weeks.  
How LATE were you out that night (morning)?

Mary Sue is certainly in good spirits. Yes, we realize Jim is here for 2 weeks!

Jim, which is it going to be Ellston or Redding?

As soon as Gerrie and D. K. patched things up, he took off for Des Moines???

I hear Don R. has agreed to go with a girl he has never seen!!

Hugh, why don't you give some lucky girl a break???

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### ATTENTION: MR. CLAUS

Certain members of THS having full faith that the THS Journal will be sent to Santa have asked that their letters to him be printed in this edition.

Dear St. Nick,

Please some how or some way let a certain guy in the Air Force come home for Christmas. I could use some Air Mail stamps.  
JOYCE

Old Man With Whiskers,

Do you have any "live" dolls on hand? I could use at least ONE!

Larry Giles

Dear Santa,

Could you make it possible so we can have our membership in the W.W. (willing and waiting) Club discontinued.

Pat, Ruth, Rita, and Doris

P.S. That means MEN!



(continued)

H1!

I surely would appreciate it if you would tell K. F. (she lives at Ellston) I think about her plenty! I'm bashful around girls!

Your faithful follower,  
LELVIN

North Pole Dweller,

What's the top speed you can get out of those reindeer? Oh yeah, keep main street slick for at least another month! The fun has just began!!

Thanks,

Don, Von, Hugh, Jim, Larry, and R. F.

Dear Santa Claus,

Since I already have a new car, my list won't be as long this year.

1. A new pine
2. Capturing a Girl's District Tourney Title
3. Same for the boy's team
4. Hugh polevaulting 12 feet
5. Gun outlawed
6. Good weather on ball game nights
7. A typing teacher next September
8. The 9th and 10th grade boys being more angelic
9. A compass and detailed road map, PLEASE

Yours truly,  
OBIE

Dear Nicholas,

I would like an Elvis P. guitar to serenade Beautiful Beulah with on week ends.

Elvisly yours,  
Dean Reynolds

(Don't forget me Santa!! I may need protection when this paper comes out.

S. R.

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Question: What Christmas do you remember most?

Gary Bear: When I was 10 I got a bow and arrow so I could go "bear huntin".

Gerrie Scott: I guess it was when I got a baby doll and buggy.

Don Dukes: I must have been 11 years old when Santa brought me a B.B. gun. Boy!!

Judy Jobe: When I was a "little" girl, I got a rocking chair and dolly that cried!

Larry F.: Man, was I thrilled when I got a Christmas card from a GIRL! That was just last year.

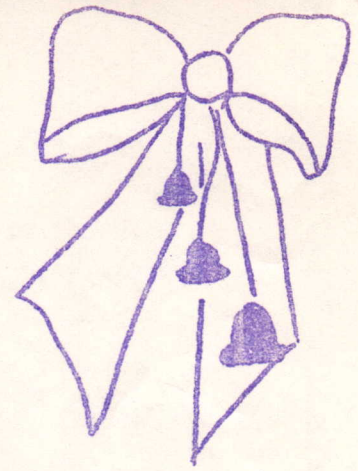
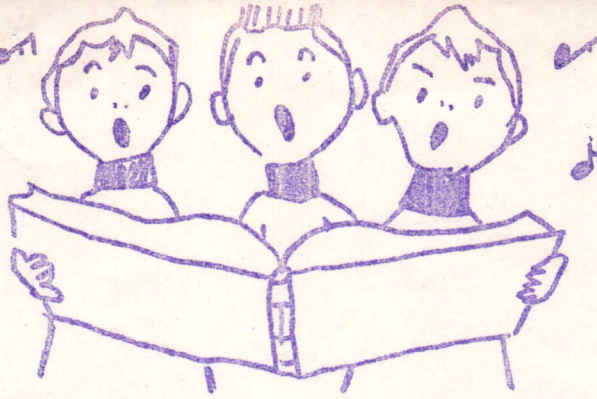
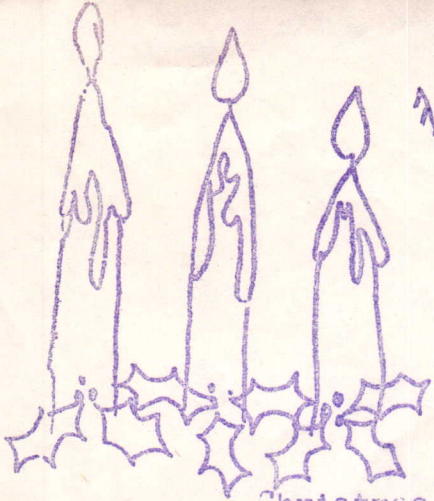
Janet Longcoy: Two years ago for Christmas I got a Teddy Bear and then I named it "Gary".

Richard P.: I didn't want to come back to school after I got my sled in 1949.

Mrs. Clymer: When I was 10 years old and we went to my Grand-parent's house in a sled.

Mr. and Mrs. Nealis: We certainly had a "White Christmas" in 1935.





## CHRISTMAS - A UNIVERSAL HOLIDAY

Christmas, the birthday of Jesus Christ, is observed by more than half the nations of the world. No other festival brings so much happiness to so many persons, and no other holiday is so widely observed the world around. The ways of celebrating it are varied and interesting.

In the Scandinavian countries the "Jul", or Christmas celebration, starts on Christmas eve and lasts thirteen days ending with a Twelfth-Night party. On Christmas eve the family gather around the Christmas tree and are visited by the Tomte, who are kindly gnomes, like brownies, that bring presents to everyone. On Christmas day everyone goes to church.

Christmas in Holland and Belgium is devoted almost entirely to church services and quiet family gatherings. The children's special day is the Feast of Saint Nicholas, December 6. On the eve of his feast Saint Nicholas, wearing a red robe and cap, calls at each home to ask about the conduct of the children. A white cloth has been spread on the floor and his arrival is announced by a shower of sweets. As the children scramble for them, Saint Nicholas enters accompanied by his black servant, who holds an open sack in one hand and a rod in the other, both intended for naughty children. After speaking a word of warning or praise, Saint Nicholas leaves, promising to return later. The children set their wooden shoes out, or hang their stockings to receive the gifts. And in each shoe or stocking they leave food for the saint's white horse. While the children sleep, Saint Nicholas returns and fills the shoes and stockings with gifts and candies.

In Poland and the Balkan countries, and in other countries where the Eastern Orthodox faith prevails, the people believe that the Christ Child is actually born each Christmas, and they leave an empty chair for Him at the table and before the fire. The Yule log is brought in at sunset and kept burning all night. At night the children go from house to house caroling, and carrying bags to hold the goodies they receive.

France makes a great festival of this season. Midnight mass is celebrated Christmas eve, and afterwards many make merry all night at family gatherings called "reveillons". On Christmas eve the children expect either the Christ Child or Father Christmas, who looks much like Santa Claus, to fill their shoes with candy and toys.

In Italy, and Spain, the merry-makers dance all night in the streets. In Italy, an old woman, La Befana, dressed in rags and riding a broomstick is supposed to leave ashes in the shoes of

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(Continued)

riding a broomstick is supposed to leave ashes in the shoes of bad children and gifts in those of the good. In Spain, it is the Three Kings or Wise Men who fill the shoes with gifts.

Mexicans, like the people of Spain, observe Christmas chiefly as a religious festival. The celebration begins on December 16 and ends on Christmas eve. All attend the midnight mass. Mexican children receive their gifts on January 6. A large earthenware jar called a pinata is hung from the ceiling or in the patio. The young people, blindfolded, try to break the jar with a stick. When a lucky blow shatters it, they snatch the blindfolds from their eyes and scramble for the gifts.

South of the equator in Brazil, Argentina, and Peru, there is no snow, ice, or wool clad Santa Claus at this season, for Christmas is the midsummer holiday there. Festive carnivals are held in the streets.

The Christmas customs of the United States have been contributed from many lands. Houses are decorated with wreaths and greens. A tree is set up and covered with lights and colored glass ornaments. Holly wreaths and poinsettias decorate the windows. On Christmas eve the children hang up their stockings. While they sleep, Santa Claus fills each stocking with toys, oranges, nuts, and candy to be discovered on Christmas morning. After the exchange of gifts the family may go to church; but the remainder of the day is usually spent in happy celebration at home. The Christmas dinner is almost certain to include turkey and cranberry sauce, and pumpkin or mince pie or plum pudding. Churches have special music and beautiful decorations. Many have a midnight service on Christmas eve, and some have plays or entertainment.

Regardless of the differences in the observance of Christmas the message is the same the world over; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Brenda Brown

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#### SNUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

We hope you like our paper. If you do we would appreciate knowing about it. This, or any issue, represents a lot of work. I'm sure the ones who have done the work, getting it ready, have learned considerable. If you know of anyone, who would like a copy of our next issue let us know.

I hope Santa is good to all of you. May you have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Obie

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