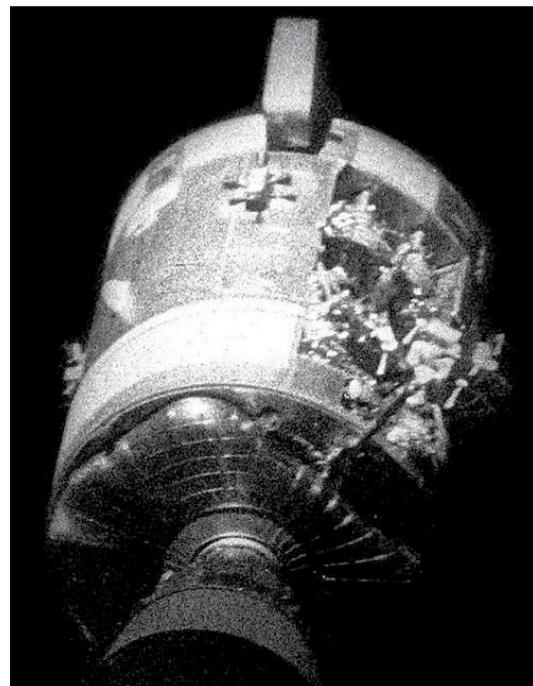


April 12-April 19, 1970

By Tom Bodle

“Houston, we’ve had a problem!” This memorable quote from Apollo 13 commander Jim Lovell transitioned a routine mission to the moon into a historic journey about heroism and ingenuity within the American space program. On April 14th, 56 hours after launching and 210,000 miles from Earth, Lovell and his Apollo team of Jack Swigert and Fred Haise witnessed strange readings on their monitors concerning oxygen levels. Shortly after, the spacecraft was jolted by an explosion. A routine mixing of the oxygen supply experienced a short in the electronics. The result was catastrophic damage to the Service Module. The astronauts were stymied at first, unsure of what had happened. Monitors on the craft and at Houston’s mission control registered a rapid loss of oxygen to the command module. The mission quickly turned into one of survival and rescue. The lunar landing module had independent systems. It would become the “lifeboat” for the crew. As the three astronauts crammed into the lunar module, meant for two, they sealed off the command module to preserve what they could for a re-entry to Earth. On the ground a frantic effort was made by engineers, mathematicians and scientists to find a way to maneuver the craft on a return trajectory to Earth. In the next three days the entire world watched and prayed. Mission Control theorized and experimented with means for the astronauts to survive in the craft as well as methods to propel them home. Using the gravity of the moon, Apollo 13 orbited and then was “sling-shot” toward Earth. Fighting an increasingly colder environment and a depleting oxygen supply, the crew withstood the time it took to return. Worldwide over 70 million people watched the six hour television broadcast of the re-entry. A collective sigh could be felt as the capsule passed through the clouds. A rousing cheer followed later as rescue divers from the U.S.S. Iwo Jima safely pulled





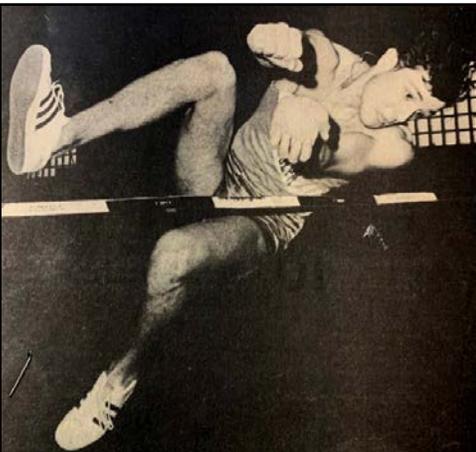
all three astronauts from their craft. In a world beset with turbulence and unrest, this one week in April brought all together in concern for the crew of Apollo 13.

The second weekend of April offered the first of the four major golf tournaments, the Masters. The 34th rendition of this annual event held in Augusta, Georgia would prove to be classic. Entering the final round, Billy Casper held the lead over Gene Littler. Littler was able to notch a 70 to Casper's 71 in round four to tie. Rules required that an eighteen hole tie-breaker was to be held the next day. On Monday, April 13th the two competitors met face to face. Casper was on his "A game". Littler struggled. Casper defeated Littler 69-74 to capture the \$25,000 purse and to don the coveted "green jacket."



In mid April play-offs were heating up in both the NBA and the NHL. The L.A. Lakers swept the Atlanta Hawks in four games. The New York Knicks overcame rookie of the year Lew Alcindor and the Milwaukee Bucks four games to one. The Lakers and the Knicks were about to enter into the championship series. In semi-final hockey action, the Chicago Blackhawks were in the midst of their series with the Boston Bruins. At the same time the Pittsburgh Penguins were facing off in competition with the St. Louis Blues.

Much attention in music was paid to the breakup of the Beatles and their "Let It Be" single maintained its rank on the top of the charts. However, country music was making headlines with the fifth annual Country Music Awards on April 13th. Winners as top male and female vocalists were Merle Haggard and Tammy Wynette.



This mid-April week was relatively ordinary in the halls of St. Joe. Baseball, tennis, track and golf were well into their regular seasons. With students involved in fourth quarter work, the end of the school year was not quite in sight. Student Council, the individual classes and organizations were finalizing upcoming events for May and June. Elections, proms, band concerts and the production of "A Man For All Seasons" were still to come. Of special note during this time was a Cleveland Plain Dealer article describing a film produced by our classmates, John O'Hara and Pat O'Dea. It was an eighteen minute documentary on pollution in the Cleveland Flats. The film would be used in school during "Earth Week" programs April 20-24. A second item of note printed in the Lake County News Herald acknowledged a new school record in track. High Jumper Henry Penko was having



a very good spring in track competition. With a jump topping 6'2', Hank became the school's record holder this week.

The Student Council continued to bring diverse events to our campus. Our student body was composed of many ethnic backgrounds. Our auditorium had a large stage and ample seating for concerts. Through the efforts of junior Wayne Wlodarski and the Folk Art Association of Cleveland, the Student Council was asked to partner and sponsor an International Folk Festival for northeast Ohio. A celebration of the heritages of our student body was well warranted. This first ever event was held on Sunday April 19th. Music and dance troupes featuring Lithuanian, Croatian, Argentinian, Slovenian as well as other nationalities performed for an audience of about 500.

Mid April had passed. Income tax forms were filed with the April 15th deadline. The community lived, prayed and breathed relief through the drama of Apollo 13. Spring weather was blossoming. The Viking Village was preparing for exciting events to conclude the school year.