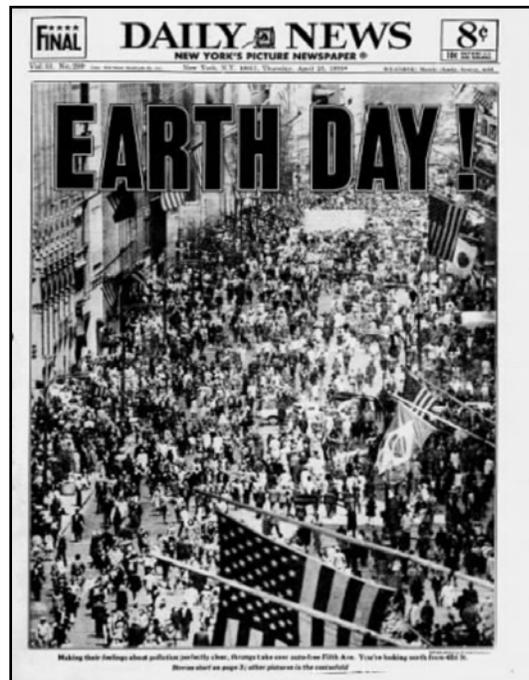


April 20-April 25, 1970

By Tom Bodle

Earth Day Birthday! The 1960's was a decade of activism. The Civil Rights movement, anti-Vietnam War protests, college students seeking reforms on campus and educational change dominated world news. Parallel with these topics was an increasing concern about planet Earth itself. Throughout the 20th century the expansion of industrialization and the growth of the population put a stress on the global environment. Air and water pollution was ever increasing as industries were negligent in their disposal of waste. Mining and farming often scarred the landscape. The growing population required more resources to feed and provide for Earth's inhabitants. In 1970, the population of the world was 3.7 billion, doubling the number of people from 1900. A variety of disparate organizations from left wing anti-industrial activists to mainstream conservationist groups all sought changes, but were muted behind the larger movements. In January, 1969 an oil spill off the Santa Barbara, California coast was so devastating that it drew the attention of Wisconsin Democratic Senator Gaylord Nelson. He recruited Republican representative Pete McCloskey to create an across the political spectrum committee to bring attention to ecological concerns. Forming a committee of 85, they harnessed the energy of college age Americans to prepare for a day to be educated on environmental issues and to help save the Earth. April 22, 1970 was the date chosen. It provided for a year's time to plan and to organize rallies and forums across the cities and campuses in the United States. Spring, a time of renewal, was the appropriate time for the event. Mid-April played to the college age, for it was after spring break and prior to final exams. On the initial Earth Day, over 20 million marched in parades and attended rallies on the streets and in the public spaces across America. Colleges offered special presentations, invited speakers versed in topics on the environment and were the core of Earth Day activities. Spawning from Earth Day, the United States began efforts to change the status quo. By the end of 1970, the Environmental Protection Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Clean Air Act had been passed with bi-partisan support

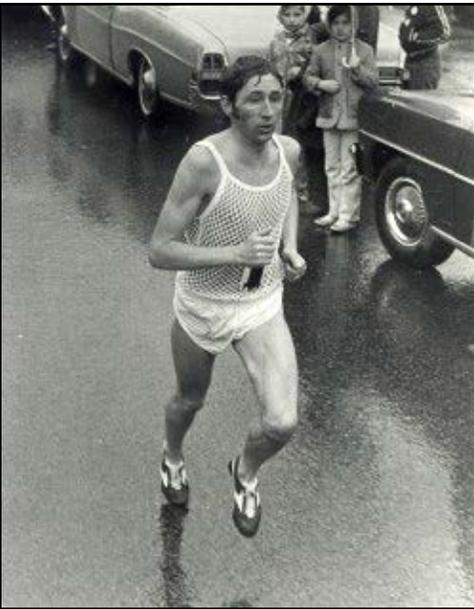




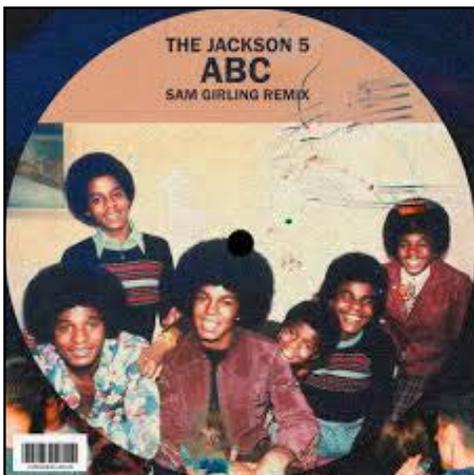
through Congress and became law. This first Earth Day also gave the seeds for future Earth days, which would go international. As we celebrate the golden anniversary of Earth Day, it has become the single most observed secular event in the world with over 190 countries and one billion people commemorating and advocating for the environment of our planet.



At St. Joe's, the consciousness of environmental concerns was also evident. Situated on the shores of Lake Erie, it was easy to see the pollution which was filling our Great Lake, for it washed upon our beachfront. Living in Cleveland, an industrial center, pollution was constantly visible in the Cuyahoga River valley's air and floating in the rivers. In the summer of 1969, the Cuyahoga River even caught fire, becoming the focal point for a need to clean the environment. As the nation prepared for Earth Day, so did St. Joseph High School. April 20-24th was proclaimed "Ecology Week." Bro. Tom Corrigan and Mr. Ralph Wroblewski of the Science and Social Studies departments had their staffs use lessons involving the environment, including student projects and presentations. An 18 minute film by seniors Pat O'Dea and John O'Hara was used as a point of class discussions. A video speech by environmental advocate Ralph Nader was made available for open discussions in designated class rooms. The Student Council Education committee, chaired by Bob Lucas and Tom Bodle, helped facilitate discussion areas. Signs were posted promoting Earth Day activities. A "St. Joe Now" campaign began. This took root from Mayor Carl Stokes' "Cleveland Now" campaign. The purpose was to help clean up our own environment in the halls, classrooms and lockers of St. Joseph High School, as the first step in a universal desire to clean the world. Added waste cans and posters encouraging cleanliness helped students to focus on "St. Joe Now."



Outside of academia, this last week of April was also filled with activities. The golf team continued to do well in dual competition. Tennis had two matches. The baseball team hit the diamonds three times, with a loss to Chanel in Crown Conference play being detrimental to their hopes of retaining the league title. New to activities was a German scrabble competition. 85 students registered to play in the tournament highlighting the skills of German language students. At week's end the track team placed 4th in the prestigious "Blade Relays" held in Toledo.



In national sports and entertainment, the 74th edition of the Boston Marathon was held April 20th. The legendary British marathoner, Ron Hill was first to cross the finish line. The Boston Bruins eliminated the Chicago Blackhawks and awaited their next opponent in the NHL play-offs. Broadway plays "Borstal Bay" and "Applause" won top prizes at the 1970 Tony Awards. "The Aristocats" premiered in movie theaters. In music, reaching the top of the pop charts was "ABC" by the Jackson Five.



A two-day musical extravaganza would top this very impactful week. The music program would end their year with two performances. On Friday evening, a "Pop Concert" was held. The band and its jazz ensemble played classic songs of the day and the past. A mixer followed featuring a local dance band. The evening provided a fun way for attendees to enjoy the sounds of their classmates and friends, then intermix with a dance after. Saturday evening presented the full array of Viking music. In a formal concert setting, the band, freshman band, symphonic band and stage band all performed. Some of the top musicians were highlighted, performing music from state competition. As the lights turned off in the Purple Palace that Saturday evening, the Viking halls had been part of a tremendous week of activities.



Your Reunion Committee still envisions our gathering Sept 24-27 and we are steaming ahead with that in mind.

The good news is anyone planning on flying in should get some pretty good ticket prices!

Tickets, tickets, tickets - the ticket window is OPEN right here: <https://www.payit2.com/collect-page/107656>

***Class Gift** - Thank you once again to all who have pledged and/or given to date. We are now just over 70% of our goal. We ask that you consider visiting <https://vasj.com/sj70> at your earliest convenience to donate and/or make a pledge. Pledges can be over 3 years, which again makes it very attractive for IRA/401K distributions.*