

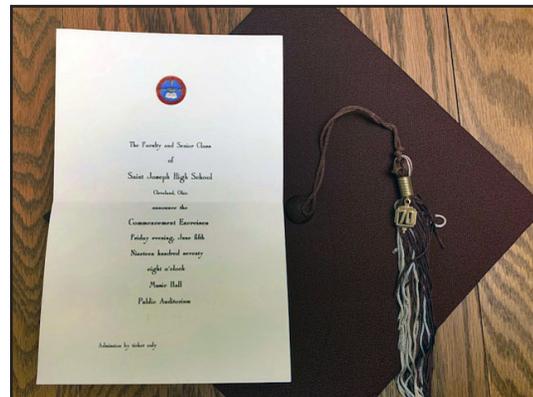
## June 1-14, 1970

By Tom Bodle

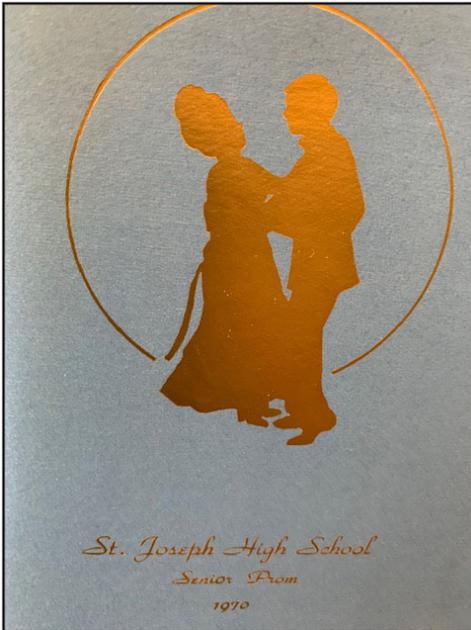
It finally arrived, June, 1970! The final entertainment awards ceremony, the Emmys, endowed Robert Young as best actor and his series, "Marcys Welby, M.D." best drama to highlight the 1970 list. The final leg of the Triple Crown in horse racing, the Belmont Stakes was won by "High Echelon." The final Beatles' album, "Let It Be," rose to number one. It would reside there for one month.

At St. Joseph High School, it was the grand finale for the class of 1970. Final exams were completed in the first several days of the month. For some of us it would be our final finals. These days marked our final time sharing the hallowed halls of the Viking village.

On Thursday, we picked up our graduation package. A maroon cap and gown with a maroon tassel, laced with light blue and featuring a block 70. That evening we gathered in the parking lot of St. William parish in Euclid. The administration chose St. William as the site of our Baccalaureate Mass, for the church building had recently opened. It was beautiful and had a capacity to hold our graduating class along with family and friends. It offered a much more reverential space than our school's auditorium. The evening was warm and humid, with rain in the forecast. At 7:30 the sound of the St. Joseph concert band could be heard. Class officers Bob Biscup, Ed Bestvina, Ralph Troha and Jim Urbas led us down the aisle into our seats. School chaplain, Fr. Ken Sommers greeted us as chief celebrant and homilist. Student Council officers Phil Herrick and Dennis Minichello read the scripture passages for the "Mass of the Holy Spirit," while John Beran served as student emcee. The St. Joseph Glee Club provided the choral music. Classmates Gary Branstein, Joe Klements, Bob Pestak and Bob Somrak were featured as cantors. The Mass was an integration of expressions of faith which were part of our time at St. Joe. Following the final blessing, in unison we sang the alma mater and processed out.







One final weekend remained in our lives together, prom weekend. The class officers had led fundraising drives throughout the year to help defray the cost of prom weekend. A high percentage of our classmates did attend. On Friday June 12th, a formal dinner dance was held at the prestigious Statler Hilton hotel main ballroom on East 13th and Euclid. The renowned Al Sarafine orchestra provided music and Br. Aaron soloed our theme song "People." In the wee hours of the morning, after the prom, Eastgate's Coliseum provided bowling, swimming, billiards and arcade games for our enjoyment from 12:30-5:00 a.m. Saturday afternoon more swimming, picnicking and music was enjoyed by our class and their dates at Pioneer Lake Park. Sunday, after Mass in the school's chapel, prom revelers boarded busses for a day at Cedar Point. Throughout the day, we dodged thunderstorms to get on rides when we could. After a day of fun, we boarded our busses and returned in a storm to the St. Joe parking lot. In the midst of this late spring storm the class of '70's Viking saga would come to its conclusion.



In times of political and social unrest our final time together was prideful with hope in our future. As we moved on it seemed appropriate that the number one song on the hit list was from Ray Stevens, "Everything is Beautiful." To a St. Joseph graduate, it was a beautiful time...in its own way."

## Epilogue

In a chronicle filled with finals, this is the final Norseman Chronicles. It has been fun for me researching, remembering and sharing the times and events of our senior year. I hope you have enjoyed reading these and perhaps they will spark renewed interest in the friendships you had and the legacy of our Alma Mater. God willing we may all meet again, hopefully at our 50th reunion. The committee has been working diligently to provide an enjoyable set of events. Whether you can come or not, please keep in touch, we are Vikings and our years together are sewn into the fabric of our lives. "We are St. Joe and we are one!"

