

1970-1979

Mansfield Independent School District celebrates a century of education

The Mansfield Independent School District celebrates its 100th anniversary this year with a look at the past century. Each month the Mansfield News-Mirror will print a decade in the life of the district.

The first decade, 1909-1919, appeared in the Oct. 23 edition, 1920-1929 ran Nov. 20, 1930-1939 was in the Dec. 18 paper, 1940-1949, ran Jan. 20, the 1950s ran in the Feb. 24 and the 1960s ran March 31. Go to www.mansfieldnewsmirror.com to see all of the past decades.

This week features the 1970s.

1970

Jan. 1: The Texas Longhorns win the national championship with a 21-17 victory over Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl.

■ "Bridge over Troubled Water" by Simon and Garfunkel is a hit record. Fleetwood Mac, the Carpenters and Elton John are some of the new music groups. "Airport" is a hit movie. "Love Story" is a best-selling book.

■ Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Betty Ford, Shirley Chisholm, Bella Abzug, Robin Morgan, Kate Millet, Elizabeth Holtzman and many others lead the movement for women's equality.

Jan. 17: La Raza Unida Party is organized in Crystal City, Texas. Its main goal is to help the causes of the Mexican Americans in better housing, jobs and educational opportunities. Jose Angel Gutierrez and Mario Compean are the organizers.

Jan. 27: Martin Hearne is promoted to vice principal of Mansfield High School.

Feb. 10: The Rev. L.E. Billingslea appears before the Mansfield school board to talk about purchasing the Willie Brown School. The board decides to board up the building and clean it.

March 18: The postal strike, involving 180,000 strikers, becomes the United States' largest public employee walkout, lasting two weeks.

March 31: Ernest Ray's contract as high school principal is discussed and the board decides not to renew the contract. Consideration is to be taken for another position for Ray as recommended by Willie Pigg.

March 31: Trustees discuss and approve a girls drill team if enough girls are interested for a regular squad and there will be no discrimination involved.

March 31: The school board votes to rehire Harley K. Reed with the stipulation that he will keep his shop in better condition.

March 31: Trustees vote to rehire R. L. Anderson as high school counselor.

April 1: A bill banning cigarette advertising on radio and television, effective Jan. 1, 1971, is signed by President Nixon.

April 3: The school board decides to employ legal counsel and hires J. A. Gooch as school attorney.

April 10: Dorothy Phillips and James Wynn are elected to the school board. J. L. Boren is elected president, Bill Brittain is elected vice president and William Gardner is elected secretary.

April 13: At 9:08 a.m., liquid nitrogen tanks rupture on Apollo 13, which is on its way to the moon. NASA aborts the mission and figures out how to get the three astronauts home. Apollo 13 splashes down in the Pacific Ocean on April 17.

April 22: The first Earth Day is celebrated as an environmental concern.

April 28: The board votes to require diphtheria, polio, tetanus, rubella and smallpox immunizations for all new students prior to admission and the same of all present students within two years and to require tuberculosis skin tests for first- and seventh-grade students.

April 28: Trustees vote to create another secretary position in administration.

May 1: Cambodia is invaded by U.S. troops.

May 4: National Guardsmen kill four students at Kent State University in Ohio as the students protest the expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia. The war seemed to be winding down in 1969 as President Nixon had promised in his election campaign.

May 8: The Beatles release their final album, "Let It Be."

May 26: The school board votes to approve student dances at the high school with rules to be submitted for final approval by the principal and trustees.

June 30: Trustees vote to give the old shack behind the Rendon School to the Boy Scouts with the understanding that it will be cleared up by the time school starts. The board votes to employ James Icenhower as the high school principal at \$2,000 above scale for a two-year contract.

July 10: Trustees set the 1970 tax rate at \$1.55 per \$100 valuation.

■ Tarver Rendon, a consolidated school in Rendon that had housed grades 1-8, joins the Mansfield school district and becomes the third elementary school in the Mansfield school district.

July 28: The board added to the board policy: "There shall be no smoking by students on any school property and by faculty in only those places designated by the principal."

July 28: Willie Pigg approves Leon Stewart to teach vocational agriculture.

Aug. 3-5: Hurricane Celia hits Corpus Christi. The storm kills 32 in Cuba, Florida and Texas and damages downtown Corpus Christi.

Sept. 21: Monday Night Football debuts on the ABC network with the Cleveland Browns defeating the New York Jets 31-21.

Nov. 14: A plane carrying the Marshall University football team, coaches and residents crashes short of the runway in Huntington, W.Va., killing all 75 aboard.

Nov. 24: The school board decides pantsuits are in order if they are a tunic type, not form fitting or bell-bottoms.

Dec. 22: Willie Pigg requested that two commodores be installed at the junior high gym and probably cost \$200.

Dec. 23: The North Tower of the World Trade Center opens in New York City. The South Tower is completed in 1972.

1971

Jan. 12: "All in the Family" depicting the Archie Bunker family begins its eight-year comedy run.

■ The Rockets move to Houston and become the first NBA franchise in Texas.

Jan. 18: A stock scandal erupted at the Sharpstown Bank in Houston.

Feb. 5: Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell walk on the moon. Stuart Rosa accompanies them as the largest amount of lunar material is returned to Earth.

April 6: Ira Kimbrough and David Anderson are elected to the school board. Bill Brittain is elected president, Wayne Wilshire is elected vice president and W. R. Gardner is elected secretary.

■ Hit movies are "Fiddler on the Roof," "Diamonds are Forever" and "The French Connection."

April 27: Board members read two letters from parents at the Alice Ponder School who were opposed to the use of a paddle on children. Willie Pigg reads a letter that states that the district must employ minority groups in a ratio substantially the same as the population. He will immediately work out a program to comply with this request.

May 11: An announcement was made to have the baccalaureate May 31 and commencement June 1.

June 29: Trustees votes to raise the tax rate to \$1.70 on 60 percent of market value on \$23,443,000 valuation.

July 1: The voting age is

lowered from 21 to 18 when the U. S. Congress ratifies the Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the Constitution.

July 15: The board votes not to allow the merger of the Kennedale school district with Mansfield.

July 27: Bids will be advertised for the sale of one school bus at the next regular meeting and one bus will be converted and used for hauling trash.

July 30: James Irwin and David Scott walk on the moon and propel a lunar rover. Alfred M. Worden accompanies them on Apollo 15.

Sept. 22: The Washington Senators announce that they will move their Major League Baseball team to Arlington.

Sept. 28: Bids are opened for a 1951 Chevrolet pick-up for \$37.99, \$42.75 and \$32.75. It sold to the highest bidder at \$42.75. Bids are opened for a 1956 bus for \$326, \$378, \$303.01, \$156 and \$301.99. The highest bidder got the bus.

Oct. 1: Disney World opens in Orlando, Fla.

Oct. 24: The \$35 million Texas Stadium opens in Irving as the home of the Dallas Cowboys. The Cowboys defeated the New England Patriots 44-21 on opening day.

Nov. 23: Trustees vote to amend school policy to delete the smallpox vaccination as a requirement for entrance to schools effective Jan. 1.

Nov. 24: D.B. Cooper jumps out of Northwest Airlines Flight 305 somewhere over Washington State with \$200,000 after hijacking the plane. Neither he or the money has been found.

1972

Jan. 16: The Dallas Cowboys become the Super Bowl VI champions with a 24-3 win over the Miami Dolphins.

Jan. 25: The school board votes to purchase two 72-passenger school buses with power steering and automatic transmission.

Jan. 25: Shirley Chisholm is the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where she will serve for seven terms. She was the first major party black candidate. She is the first woman to run for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

■ "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" and "I'm OK, You're OK" are No. 1 best-selling books. "The Godfather" is a major movie hit and "Grease" is a hit Broadway musical.

Feb. 3-13: The Winter Olympics are held in Sapporo, Japan, amid unrest over the terms of amateur and paid amateurs participating in the Olympics. Norway's Magne Myrmo becomes the last athlete to win a cross-country skiing event using all-wooden skis. The Soviet Union continues to be at the top of the Winter Games standings.

Feb. 8: Trustees vote to change to the handbook to read: "Hair must be kept above the eyebrows. It must be trimmed in the back to look neat and trim and off the collar. Hair must be well kept at all times. If sideburns are worn they must not be longer than the lower part of the ear and must be neatly trimmed at all times. Boys will be clean-shaven; no beards are permitted. Pant suits: a pantsuit is described as a dressy outfit with pants and a tunic top. Tunic here is intended to mean that the top to the pantsuit must come down to the wrist (covering the hips) when the arm hangs to the side. Jeans and hip-huggers are not acceptable as the pants of the pantsuit. No overly tight slacks or blouses. Keep it tailored, neat and take a good look in a full-length mirror before coming to school."



The Dixie Dolls (from left) Carol Hollifield, Jeri Gartman, Cathy West, Vicki Vowlin in the late 1970s.

Feb. 21-27: President Richard Nixon traveled to Communist China in a historic eight-day visit.

April 6: Dick Parsons is elected to the school board, and Wayne Wilshire is re-elected. William Gardner was elected president, Wayne Wilshire is elected vice president and David Anderson is elected secretary.

April 15: The new Texas Rangers baseball team loses its first game against the Angels 1-0 in Anaheim, Calif.

May 15: Democratic presidential candidate George Wallace is shot Laurel, Md., by Arthur Bremer. Wallace is paralyzed from the waist down.

May 23: The school board names Rogene Worley in the new position of assistant to the superintendent, at an annual salary of \$11,000. The contract is to be one year in duration.

May 26: The SALT I agreement is signed by the United States and the Soviet Union.

June 17: Five men who are employees of Nixon's campaign re-election break into The Watergate complex housing the Democratic Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

June 26: Nolan Bushnell and Ted Dabney create Atari.

July 25: The school board votes to hire Kenneth Davis as principal at Tarver-Rendon Elementary.

Aug. 26-Sept. 11: The Summer Games of the XX Olympiad were held in Munich, West Germany. Mark Spitz sets seven world records and wins seven gold medals in the same Olympics in swimming events. A Black September terrorist group kidnaps 11 Israeli athletes and coaches from the Olympic Village on Sept. 5. Two were killed and nine were taken hostage. The nine hostages are killed in a botched rescue attempt. Of the eight terrorists, five are killed in the rescue attempt. Two are hunted down and assassinated. One is still at large.

Sept. 4: Bob Barker hosts his first episode of "The Price Is Right." He will retire in 2007.

Sept. 19: A motion is made by James Wynn and seconded by Dorothy Phillips that the school board be authorized to take a loan from Mansfield State Bank to meet the payroll needs for September. The motion carries.

Oct. 24: The school board votes to give Willie Pigg the

authority to employ a temporary typist to prepare study guides for the teachers.

1973

Jan. 16: Dolph Briscoe became the 41st governor of Texas after defeating incumbent Preston Smith in the November elections.

Jan. 20: President Richard Nixon is sworn in for a second term.

Jan. 22: The Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade legalizes abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy.

Jan. 27: South Vietnam and the United States sign a peace agreement with North Vietnam in Paris. A ceasefire takes effect at 8 a.m. Jan. 18.

■ "The Sting," "The Way We Were" and "The Exorcist" are hit movies.

April 10: Walter Overstreet and Jack Odum are elected to the school board. Wayne Wilshire is elected president, William Gardner is elected vice president and David Anderson is elected secretary.

April 24: Trustees vote to raise the tuition for out-of-district transfer students to \$20 per month for the 1973-74 school year. The school board votes to hire Ken Ozee from Arlington High School as head coach/athletic director for a two-year contract at \$3,600 above the pay scale.

May 17-Aug. 7: A Senate Select Committee held hearings to investigate the Watergate cover-up that are televised to the nation.

July 31: The school board votes to raise the price of lunches to 40 cents in elementary, 45 cents for grades 6-12 and 55 cents for teachers.

Sept. 25: Trustees announce that work finally begins on the play area at Alice Ponder Elementary.

October: Israel is attacked by Arab states. A ceasefire is imposed after five weeks of fighting.

Oct. 10: Vice President Spiro T. Agnew resigns after information and charges of income tax invasion surface.

Sept. 25: The school board votes to refuse the de-annexation request by the Saddle-ridge addition.

Oct. 30: Trustees vote that a woman who is or has been married is not qualified for the Miss Mansfield Contest because she is classified as a Mrs. and not a Miss.

Nov. 27: Willie Pigg reports that the school district is running short on gasoline to

run the buses on routes and to special events.

Nov. 27: The school board votes to authorize Willie Pigg to cancel all bus trips except the transporting of school children to and from school, as it becomes necessary.

Dec. 6: Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as vice president, the first appointed under the rules of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment.

Dec. 11-13: Astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt bring back 250 samples of rock and soil on Apollo 17, the last manned craft to the moon.

1974

■ The population of Mansfield is 5,000.

■ The worst recession in 40 years is recorded.

■ The word "amateurism" is removed from the Olympic Charter. This has no immediate effect on Olympic policy, but paves the way for future changes.

■ The Sears Tower is completed in Chicago and becomes the tallest building in the world at 1,450 feet and 108 stories.

March 10: The last Japanese World War II soldier surrenders in the Philippines.

March 26: The school board raises the transfer fee for incoming students to \$30 per month for the 1974-75 school year.

April 8: Henry "Hank" Aaron passes Babe Ruth's home run record with No. 715 against the Los Angeles Dodgers. He finished the season with 733 home runs.

April 9: Board members either re-elected or elected to the board are Don G. Baker, David Anderson and William Gardner. Wayne Wilshire is elected president, Gardner is elected vice president and Anderson is elected secretary.

April 30: The school board names Vernon Newsom as an assistant coach at the high school.

June 25: An open house is set for the new Mansfield High School building for Aug. 25. Trustees ask Congressman Milford to speak.

July 27-30: A House Judiciary Committee recommends to the House that President Nixon should be impeached. Nixon resigns rather than face the impeachment.

July 31: The school board amends the student handbook to read, "Students must be clean shaven and their hair

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shall be clean and neat."

Aug. 9: Vice President Gerald R. Ford is sworn in as the 38th president in the East Room of the White House after the resignation of President Nixon.

■ The new Mansfield High School campus is completed at 1520 N. Walnut Creek Drive. The 1963 campus that had housed grades 9-12 becomes Mansfield Middle School and houses seventh- and eighth-grade students. The original Mansfield School houses sixth grade students.

Sept. 8: President Gerald Ford grants an unconditional pardon to Richard Nixon.

■ "The Godfather Part II," "Chinatown" and "Blazing Saddles" are hit movies. "Centennial" is a top-selling book.

Sept. 14: The city charter is amended, changing the name aldermen to City Council and two more positions are added.

Oct. 15: Five of Nixon's aides are put on trial for their involvement in the cover-up of the Watergate scandal. Three would spend time in prison: John Mitchell, John D. Ehrlichman and H. R. Haldeman.

Nov. 21: Congress passes the Freedom of Information Act over President Ford's veto.

Dec. 19: Nelson Rockefeller is sworn in as the new vice president of the United States, the third person for this term.

1975

Jan. 28: The school board votes to name the new vocational center the Ben A. Barber Career Center. Trustees also decide that if it is agreeable with the principal a smoking area will be set up outside the high school for students to smoke at designated times.

■ Congress guarantees equal educational access to the handicapped with the Education of All Handicapped Children Act of 1975.

■ "Jaws," "Funny Lady" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" are hit movies.

April 5: Mayor Pro Tem Glenn White takes over as mayor prior to swearing in of council and then is chosen mayor by the new council.

April 8: Dick Parsons is re-elected to the board and Gene Strause is elected. David Anderson is elected president, Jack Odom is elected vice president and William Gardner is elected secretary.

April 8: W. R. Gardner announces that the high school newspaper, *Bengal Beat*, won first place in state competition.

April 29: The Special Olympics team is headed to the state meet in Austin. Three sponsors and 12 students will attend and expenses of \$100 are requested.

April 29: Gene Strause suggested that candy and Coke machines be replaced with fruit juices and health foods at the high school before next year.

April 30: South Vietnam falls to Communist North Vietnam.

May 26: Willie Pigg opens bids for a 1967 school bus. Bids are \$40, \$125 and \$150. The school board accepts the highest bid. Pigg states that in all upcoming elections ballots will have to be printed in English and Spanish.

July 10: Trustees set the tax rate at \$1.35 based on \$61,000.

July 25: "A Chorus Line" opens on Broadway and becomes the longest-running musical in the United States.

July 30: Former Teamsters Union leader Jimmy Hoffa disappears. He is last seen outside a restaurant in Bloomfield Township, Mich.

Oct. 11: NBC airs the first episode of "Saturday Night Live," which is hosted by George Carlin.

Nov. 26: "Rocky Horror Picture Show" debuts.

1976

Jan. 18: The Dallas Cowboys lose 21-17 to the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl X.

Jan. 27: The school board

votes to make reduced-price lunches available to families who qualify according to a scale of income, in addition to free lunches that are available at this time. The Board votes to name the district's auditorium Willie Pigg Auditorium in appreciation of Mr. Pigg's many years of service to public education and to the Mansfield community. A plaque will be ordered.

Feb. 4-15: The Winter Olympics are held in Innsbruck, Austria. Ice dancing is introduced as a new competitive event. Dorothy Hamill of the United States wins a gold medal in figure skating. Russia's hockey team wins the gold medal for the fourth straight time.

Feb. 17: Trustees vote to employ Harold Teal as head coach at Mansfield High School.

Feb. 24: The school board authorizes Rogene Worley to purchase a truck with a tilt bed with the cost not to exceed \$4,000.

March 11: Walt Disney releases the animated film "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh."

March 22: Filming begins on George Lucas' "Star Wars" science fiction film. In one of the best business decisions in film history, Lucas cuts his directing fee by \$500,000 in order to gain ownership of merchandising and sequel rights.

March 30: The board votes to buy new band uniforms for \$11,473.

April 6: Jack Odom is re-elected and Martha Cannon is elected to the school board. David Anderson is elected president, Jack Odom is elected vice president and William Gardner is elected secretary.

April 27: The school board accepts a bid from Bethlehem Baptist Church for the sale of Union Baptist Church for \$16,000. Trustees accept bids of \$503 for a 1961 GMC bus and \$25 for a 1951 Ford truck. The board accepts a bid for seats for Willie Pigg Auditorium for \$68,970.

April 27: The student council and administration from Mansfield High School propose that a painting be made by the art teacher and art department for a display in the entrance hall of Mansfield High School. The board approves this painting.

May: Loyd Seeton is elected mayor of Mansfield.

■ "Rocky" and "A Star is Born" are hit movies.

June 17: The American Basketball Association and the National Basketball Association merge.

June 29: The school board votes to buy a 16-passenger bus to be used for kindergarten, at an approximate cost of \$7,200 through the State Board of Control.

July 4: The spectacular Bicentennial Celebration nationwide commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

July 17-Aug. 1: The Summer Olympics are held in Montreal, Canada. Nadia Команeci, a 14-year-old gymnast from Romania, scored seven perfect 10's and won five medals, including three gold medals. No one had ever scored even one 10 before this. Five American boxers are awarded gold medals including Leo Randolph, Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael Spinks and Leon Spinks, who would all become world boxing champs. American Bruce Jenner wins the gold medal in the decathlon.

July 27: Willie Pigg recommends increasing the charge to the City of Mansfield for the contract of assessing-collecting taxes to \$8,000. The board votes to present the city with an increase of 2 percent for assessing and collecting of a minimum of \$8,000.

Aug. 31: The question is raised as to whether coaches can work on Sunday. Coaches are to be informed that there will be no work done on Sunday.

Sept. 5: President Ford escapes an assassination attempt in Sacramento, Calif.

Oct. 4: Barbara Walters became the first woman co-anchor of the evening news at the national level on ABC.

Oct. 26: Trustees order a new 72-passenger bus. The highest bid for the old bus was \$250, which the board accepts. Trustees purchase a pickup from lunchroom funds for the use of the lunchroom supervisor for \$2,550. The board also votes to purchase a pickup for the maintenance and transportation departments for no more than \$3,200.

■ Sony introduces the Betamax and the Japanese Victor Co. (JVC) introduces the VHS to America.

1977

Jan. 20: Jimmy Carter is sworn in as the 39th president of the United States.

Jan. 21: President Carter pardons all Vietnam draft evaders.

Jan. 23: The miniseries "Roots" begins on ABC.

Feb. 18: The space shuttle takes its first test flight on top of a modified Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

March 27: Willie Pigg recommends that the school board consider or put in the budget for the next school year a salary increment for a person or persons for public relations. There are persons in the system who can and will do this for a \$500-\$600 increment.

March 27: A bid is received for a 1967 Valiant for \$500, which the school board accepts.

March 27: Willie Pigg reads a letter from Senator Andujar inviting the Mansfield High School band to play on the day that she will be Texas Governor for the Day. The board votes to allow this and encourages the band to make this trip under normal school rules.

■ "The Thornbirds" is a No. 1 best-seller.

March 27: A letter from Mike Moncrief concerning tornadoes is read. Severe outbreaks of tornadoes are predicted for this season. The civil defense unit will have a seminar on tornadoes and urges the school district to be represented at this seminar.

March 27: William Gardner reports on the danger of the train track near Erma Nash and recommends that we contact the County Fire Marshall to get an ordinance from the City Council to get the speed reduced for the trains and to improve the condition of the track in this area. He also requested that a study be made of this problem and then presented to the City Council with recommendations.

April 4: Donald McWilliams is elected to the school board, and David Anderson and Wayne Wilshire are re-elected. Dick Parsons is elected president, Martha Cannon is elected vice president and Jack Odom is elected

April 21: "Annie" opens and becomes a Broadway hit musical.

April 26: The school board votes to purchase lockers from Walnut Creek Country Club for \$700 for the middle school use.

May: Jimmy Stewart becomes mayor of Mansfield.

May 23: Trustees vote to purchase five deep fry sets from White Swan for \$429 each for the school lunchrooms.

May 23: The Planning Committee reports that the priority is for a new elementary school to be built in the Walnut Creek area by the fall of 1978.

May 25: "Star Wars," the first in a series of movies written by George Lucas, opens.

June 11: Seattle Slew wins the Belmont Stakes to become the 10th horse to capture horseracing's Triple Crown.

July 26: Willie Pigg reads a letter from the T.E.A. commending Mansfield High school on an outstanding safety award to the student coun-

cil. Only 44 schools in the nation are recognized.

July 26: The school board votes to re-assign Vernon Newsom as vice principal of Mansfield High School.

Aug. 16: Singer Elvis Presley is found dead at his home Graceland in Memphis, Tenn.

Aug. 30: The enrollment on the first day of school is 3,389. Enrollment is down from last year in all elementary grades except the sixth grade.

Sept. 7: President Carter signs a treaty that would give control of the Panama Canal to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999.

Sept. 27: The open house and dedication of Willie Pigg Auditorium is set for Oct. 2. The Mansfield High School band will play for the program. Senator John Tower will speak and Alton Bowen, deputy commissioner of education-TEA will give the dedicatory speech.

Sept. 27: The school board votes to purchase 10 acres from Walnut Creek Valley on Country Club Road for land to build the new elementary school at a cost of \$35,600.

Nov. 29: President Parsons congratulates senior Larry Wilshire on receiving the Dr. Bobo scholarship.

1978

Jan. 15: The Dallas Cowboys win their second Super Bowl 27-10 over the Denver Broncos.

March 21: The school board votes to allow the senior class to vote for graduation May 23 (with a blank diploma) or graduate as scheduled May 29.

April 4: Dick Parson and Gene Strause are re-elected to the school board. Dick Parsons is elected president. Gene Strause is elected as vice president and Martha Cannon is elected secretary.

April 25: A new development is to begin at Poly Webb Road and FM 157 with homes ranging in price from \$32,000 to \$40,000. Developers state that they will reserve a 10-acre plot for school to be built if it is needed.

May: Loyd Seeton is elected the mayor of Mansfield.

May 8: Trustees vote to employ Kenneth Davis as director of maintenance and transportation, Martha Reid as principal at Tarver Rendon and Larry McGough as principal at Mansfield Elementary.

June 6: "20/20" debuts with Hugh Downs and Barbara Walters as the hosts.

June 16: "Grease" is a hit movie.

June 19: The cartoon Garfield makes its debut, eventually becoming the most syndicated comic strip.

June 27: The school board votes to accept a bid contract from Alpine Construction for a bus garage for \$12,866.

July 25: The first test tube baby, Louise Joy Brown, is born in Oldham, England.

Aug. 6: Pope Paul VI dies

in Rome.

Aug. 26: Albino Luciani is elected pope, becoming Pope John Paul I.

Aug. 29: Trustees vote to raise lunch prices to 55 cents for kindergarten through sixth grade, 60 cents for seventh through 12th and 90 cents for teachers.

Sept. 6: President Carter invites President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel to Camp David to discuss the 30-year conflict between the two nations.

Sept. 17: Sadat and Begin end the 30-year conflict by signing the Camp David Accord.

Sept. 21: A pact curbing the spread of nuclear weapons is signed by 15 countries that include the United States and the USSR.

Sept. 28: Pope John Paul I dies in Rome.

Oct. 16: Karol Wojtyla becomes the first non-Italian Pope to be elected in more than 450 years. He takes the name John Paul II.

Nov. 15: American Airlines relocates its corporate headquarters to Fort Worth.

Nov. 18: Cult leader Jim Jones engineers the assassination of California congressman Leo Ryan and four members of his staff and the mass suicide of 913 of his followers before killing himself in the cult compound in Guyana.

Nov. 28: The school board votes to name the new school J. L. Boren Elementary.

Dec. 19: Willie Pigg announces his retirement effective July 1.

Dec. 30-31: Possibly the worst ice storm in 30 years hits North Central Texas.

1979

Jan. 1: Diplomatic ties are established between the United States and the mainland of China.

Jan. 16: William Clements is inaugurated as the first Republican governor of Texas since Reconstruction.

Jan. 16: The Shah of Iran is forced to leave the country after political pressure and extensive riots.

Jan. 21: The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Dallas Cowboys 35-31 in Miami to win the Super Bowl.

Jan. 30: Several parents voice their disapproval of a mural in the boys' restroom at the high school. They ask the school board to remove it. The board discusses it and votes on whether to paint over it, but the vote fails.

Feb. 1: Ayatollah Khomeini, an exiled religious leader, returns to Iran and takes power.

March 15: The school board votes to employ Lee Pennington as superintendent with a three year contract to begin July 1 at an annual salary of \$34,000 with a \$200 per month travel allowance and a life insurance policy premium

of \$1,000 per year.

March 28: A mechanical malfunction at the nuclear generating plant on Three Mile Island in Middletown, Pa. The governor soon closes schools and 80,000 to 250,000 people evacuate.

March 29: A nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island has a radioactive leak.

April 10: Wichita Falls is hit by the worst single tornado in the history of Texas. It causes more than \$400 million in damage, 3,000 homes are destroyed and 42 people die. Several tornadoes hit farther west the same day.

April 10: Martha Cannon is re-elected to the board and Gary Dalton is elected as a new board member. Willie Pigg expresses his appreciation to Jack Odom for his service to the district. Wayne Wilshire is elected president, Gene Strause is elected vice president and David Anderson is elected secretary.

May 4: Margaret Thatcher is elected prime minister of Great Britain.

May 14: Tom Corbin is elected mayor of Mansfield.

May 29: A bond election passes 238 for and 88 against. No record of what the bond is for has been kept.

June 22: "The Muppet Movie" is released.

June 26: William Whitehead is named principal at Mansfield Elementary School.

July 4: The Rodeo City Cafe opens on Main Street.

July 31: Discussion of facial hair is held. Consensus of board is to allow mustaches for teachers and to not use this as discriminatory factor for employment.

August: The fourth elementary school is built and opens as J.L. Boren Elementary.

Sept. 7: ESPN, the all-sports channel, launches.

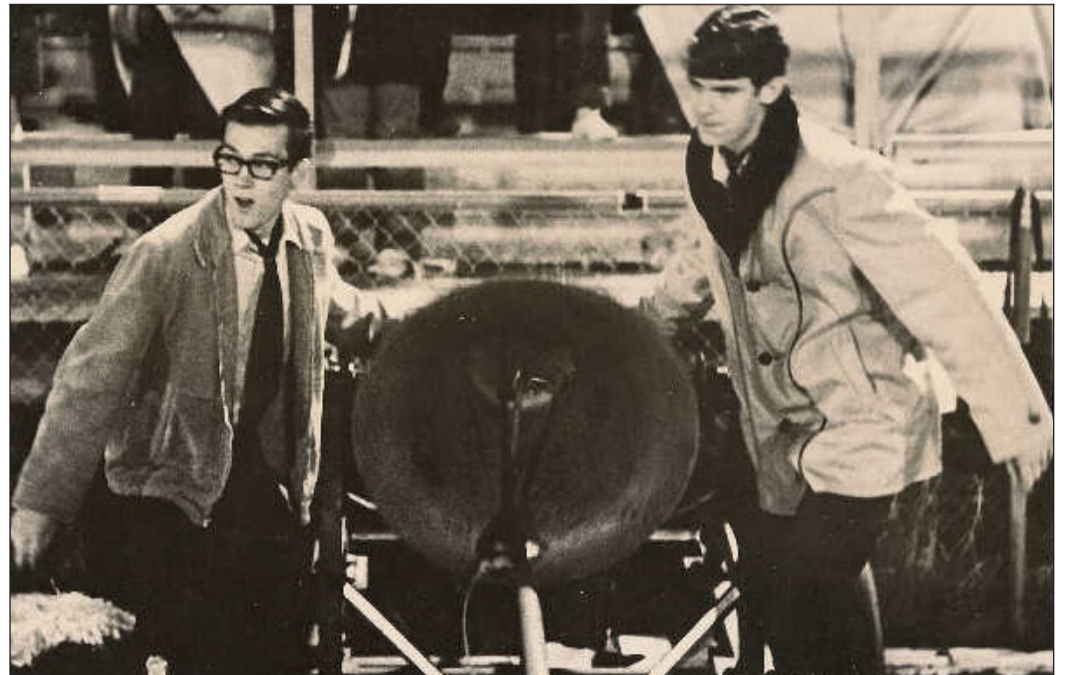
Sept. 25: Lee Pennington reports that Mr. and Mrs. Jim Icenhower donated a copy of Webster's International Dictionary in honor of J. L. Boren to the library at J. L. Boren Elementary. He also reports that the Tiger Booster Club donated the funds for a public address system at Tiger Field.

Nov. 4: The United States Embassy in Tehran is taken over by Iranian students who take 63 people hostage after President Carter allows the Shah of Iran to enter the United States for medical treatment. Female and black hostages are soon released, leaving about 50 in captivity for 444 days.

Dec. 6: "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" debuts at the Smithsonian.

Dec. 18: The school board votes to raise lunch prices to 75 cents for kindergarten through sixth grade, 85 cents for seventh through 12th grade and adult lunches to \$1.20 effective Jan. 2.

Dec. 4: The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.



Bell Guards James Roberts and Allen Wallace ring the victory bell at a football game in 1970.

References: "The History of Mansfield, Texas Mid 1800-1965" by the Mansfield Historical Society; Texas Almanac; Mansfield Independent School District school board minutes; Bartleby.com; National Geographic News; infoplease.com; state master.com; encyclopedia-titania.org; firstworldwar.com; archives.gov; sciencedaily.com; utexas.edu; history.com; absoluteastronomy.com; Star-Telegram archives; city archives; City of Mansfield election register; Texas State Library and Archives; www.wsu.edu; Brief Timeline of American Literature, Music and Movies; factmonster.com; Lone Star College - Kingwood; World Book Encyclopedia; http://www.fact-index.com