

## Featuring Our Lady of Lake Huron School



In 1924, four IHM Sisters made a 12-hour trip ("by trolley, boat and auto," according to the convent chronicler) from Monroe to Our Lady of Lake Huron (OLLH), Harbor Beach, a tiny community in Michigan's "thumb."

The convent chronicler reported that the sisters started the school year with 148 students in grades one through eight, but by year's end, that number had increased to 192. In September 1938, 16 students began ninth grade at OLLH, "but 10 went over to the public school." The 10th grade was added for the 1939-1940 school year; the 11th in 1940-41 and the 12th in 1941-42. A total of 67 students were enrolled in the high school.

The chronicler made special note that in February 1942, "The sophomores and freshmen presented the school with four new electric clocks & We moved our clocks one hour ahead and followed what is known as War Time." That June, the 13 graduates were outnumbered by the 15 priests who concelebrated their graduation Mass.



The chronicler closely followed the OLLH athletic teams through the years. In 1946, she noted that "the fall baseball season closed today. Our team played three games. They won two games and lost one." In 1947, "Our basketball team this year achieved the finest record in the history of the school," and when the team lost during the semi-finals that year, she wrote, "Our boys were tired and lost to Haslett 41 to 29."

Whether the teams won or lost, the IHM Sisters' pride in the school and in the students was evident. "We lost our Homecoming Game, but were well represented by a hardy team, a lovely 'Queen's Court,' refined cheerleaders and a courteous student body,"

the chronicler wrote in 1961. And in 1966, "A most remarkable event occurred on the evening of Feb. 20. OLLH defeated Ruth at a basketball game and won the League Championship."

By 1970, the featured class year, six IHM Sisters taught 144 students. Because of financial difficulties,



this was to be the last year the high school was open. Students made the most of it.

They held "Moratorium Day" on Oct. 15, voicing their feelings about the Vietnam War and concluding with a peace march. Mark Schmalz ('70) won the American Legion Oratorical Contest for his speech about the Constitution. Gordon Essenmacher ('70) qualified to participate in the state track meet. (The chronicler pointed out that in other sports, "the school did not enjoy outstanding success this year.") On May 31, 43 seniors graduated.

The high school closed in June 1970; the grade school (K-eight) is still open.

## Trivia - 1970

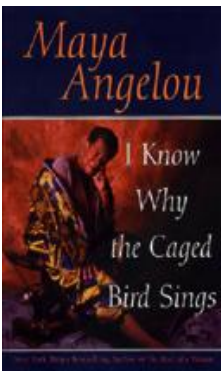


Richard Nixon was president of the United States. Anwar el-Sadat took office as Egyptian president. An earthquake killed more than 50,000 people in Peru.



Bar codes were introduced for retail and industrial use in England; IBM introduced the floppy disk; and the LCD (liquid crystal display) was invented by Hoffmann-La Roche (Switzerland).

The New York Knicks defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in seven games for the NBA Championship. Boston defeated St. Louis in four games for the Stanley Cup. *Monday Night Football* made its debut on ABC, with Howard Cosell, Frank Gifford and Don Meredith giving play-by-play.



*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, by Maya Angelou, was published. *Marcus Welby, M.D.* won an Emmy for "Outstanding Dramatic Series;" *My World and Welcome to It* was voted "Outstanding Comedy," and the classroom "dramedy" *Room 222* was the "Outstanding New Series."

George C. Scott gave an Oscar-winning performance in *Patton* but refused to accept the award. The musical group Blood, Sweat and Tears won an "Album of the Year" Grammy for its second album, *Blood, Sweat and Tears*. The group Crosby, Stills and Nash was named "Best New Artist."