

## St. Timothy School – Trenton, Mich.



St. Timothy School in Trenton, Mich., opened in September 1957 for 154 children in grades one through three.

The school added one additional grade each year until 1962, when 679 students had enrolled in grades one through eight. A few of its early activities, such as Santa Claus arriving by helicopter each December, St. Patrick's Day program, May procession and separate First Communion days for the second grade boys and girls, turned into traditions the school maintained until it closed.

St. Tim's athletic program also started early in the school's history. The convent chronicler notes the "St. Timothy Tigers," a baseball team for the third grade boys, went undefeated in the spring of 1958. Boys' basketball, baseball and football teams (the teams had changed their nickname to the Hawks) were established during the 1961-62 school year. Girls' basketball started in 1964, and softball began in 1965. The school instituted a formal physical education program in 1966. According to the convent chronicler, "Uniforms for Phys. Ed. were optional. Participation was a MUST..."

Students at St. Tim's felt a great responsibility for others. They raised money for the missions and collected canned goods for those in need. The chronicler reports that, "A collection was taken up...for the restoration of the Trenton Jewish Temple...[which] was severely damaged by vandals." Students also worked hard to help themselves, raising money to buy books for their school library.



In addition to the ongoing academic and athletic activities at St. Tim's, students also took part in the annual science fair, art exhibit and spelling bee; worked on the school newspaper; participated in the Shared Learning Project with Pingree Elementary School in Detroit; and were active with the Service Squad Girls and Safety Patrol Boys.

Enrollment reached its zenith in September 1966, with 909 students in grades one through eight and declined only slightly through the rest of the 1960s. St. Tim's saw the importance of educating the public on the value of Catholic schools as early as 1967 and began an informational campaign outlining the tax savings people experienced as a result of the local Catholic schools.

At the start of the 1970-71 school year, "Proposal C," a proposal banning aid to parochial schools in Michigan, loomed large. The children of St. Tim's held car washes, bake sales, bingo games and a raffle to raise almost \$1,650 to help defeat the proposal, but it was passed.

Tuition at the time was \$100 per family, and the school could not survive financially. Nonetheless, parents, students and faculty were determined to make St. Tim's last year a good one. Innovations, such as flexible scheduling for the junior high students, as well as the many holiday-centered traditions, continued. The girls' basketball team won its tournament game. At the student-faculty basketball game, the students won a decisive victory: 77-35. An all-school program marked the closing of St. Timothy School – Trenton in June 1971.

## **In 1971**

President Richard Nixon ended the United States trade embargo against China.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that busing of students may be ordered to achieve racial desegregation.

Anti-war militants attempted to disrupt government business in Washington, D.C. Police and military units arrested as many as 12,000, but most were later released.

In Super Bowl V, the Baltimore Colts defeated the Dallas Cowboys 16-13. Other Baltimore teams were less successful that year. The Orioles lost the World Series in seven games to the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Bullets were swept in the NBA Championship with the Milwaukee Bucks. It took seven games, but the Montreal Canadiens defeated the Chicago Blackhawks for the Stanley Cup.

J.C. Penney and Igor Stravinsky died.

Simon and Garfunkel did well at the Grammy Awards. "Bridge Over Troubled Water," written by Paul Simon, won Record of the Year and Song of the Year. *Bridge Over Troubled Water* was named Album of the Year.

*All in the Family* received Emmy Awards for "Outstanding New Series" and "Outstanding Series, Comedy."