

graphos

February 1976

New Ulm, Minnesota 56073

the



Mr. Fred Nehls stokes up his rustic wood-burning stove that has kept his house warm through many cold winters.

Fred Nehls: a simple life

by Renee Buck

What time is it? "Half past kissin' time, time to kiss again!" As the old clock on the kitchen shelf struck 5:00, Mr. Fred Nehls recalled that saying from his younger days. It only goes to show not everything from those days is outdated.

As I stepped into his house, it was as if I were stepping 80 years into the past. I was led into the kitchen where a woodburning stove, purchased in 1915, burned for the sole purpose of keeping the house heated. Later it was used for cooking supper. There was a wooden table against the far wall and a few wooden chairs scattered about the room. The only source of light was a kerosene lamp attached to the wall near the stove. A pile of wood stood in the corner behind the door from which Mr. Nehls occasionally fed the fire as we talked. On the stove stood one pan and a coffee pot. Above, on the stove's shelf, stood two old-fashioned flat irons. As my eye caught sight of the 1976 calendar hanging on the wall above the table, I was abruptly brought back to the present and to the attention of my business at hand.

Mr. Nehls was born in New Ulm in July of 1896. He has lived all of those 80 years in the house he still lives in; the house his father built, located on 11th S. and Summit Avenue. He and his brother, Carl, (now deceased) had their playground in what is now Flandrau State Park, which runs adjacent to the Nehls land. There were few other children or other families living in the area. "We never thought there would be many houses up here on the hill, but after W W II, they built buildings like crazy up here. New developments everywhere."

Mr. Nehls, by the way, is not just a true New Ulmite, but is a German through and through. His grandparents and father came to New Ulm in 1874 from Germany. His mother was born in America in 1861, one year before the Indian Wars, but her parents had moved here from Germany also.

To this day, Mr. Nehls still sells pumpkins in the fall and rhubarb in the spring. He also grows corn and oats to feed his animals.

There was a twinkle in his eyes as he remembered the walks to school with his

friends. The children living south of Fred and his brother would come by and pick them up, and they in turn picked up more friends along the way, and by the time they reached school, they had a whole gang.

"But we didn't walk side by side like they do now. No, when the snow blocked the roads, we'd go one in front of the other. The oldest in the group always got to lead and all the little ones after him would step in his footprints."

Each of the four different schools that he had attended are torn down now. "We had two classes in one room in them days. There were four rooms — eight grades. We sat on long benches, not like they do today."

Mr. Nehls lives without electricity, phone, or automobile. When I asked him why he didn't want electricity, he replied, "Oh, my dad didn't want electricity. Yah, the power company was always after us when they were puttin' in electricity all over, but my dad didn't want it. Electricity is dangerous ya know." He recalled a few instances in which people had been killed or severely burned by an electric-powered machine or by a power line. It seemed he'd

seen enough of what electricity could do and wanted no part of it.

Mr. Nehls feels no need for an automobile. He walks wherever he needs to go, which is usually a trip to Gibsons or Hy-Vee for groceries or an occasional walk to the post office for stamps. His horse died in 1961, and he has been walking ever since. He looks at it as almost as blessing in disguise, for he commented that without the exercise he might not even be alive today.

During the winter Mr. Nehls keeps himself busy cutting and storing wood for his stove. He enjoys listening to his radio. He's very up on the news and seems to know what's going on around him. Mr. Nehls proudly showed me his radio that he received last spring from Topp Electronics, a radio manufacturing company in Florida. After seeing the article that was run on Mr. Nehls in the May 18 issue of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, in which it was mentioned that he spent much of his time listening to his radio, the company sent him a new radio.

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editorial



by Lisa Dotzenrod

"Another party! Is that all you kids do anymore? Why don't you do something worthwhile for once?"

Sound familiar? I'm sure most of us have heard these same lines many times from our parents, teachers or anyone else who feels that we are wasting our time. They think that if we tried a little harder, our spare time would be filled with something other than parties and dances.

Maybe they have a point. But if we look closely at the situation, do they? Does our school and town offer us much choice in the way we spend our spare time?

I really don't think so.

Admittedly, we are provided with a wide variety of athletic events in our school, but there are many people who don't really care if our team throws the ball through the hoop the most times. For those who enjoy attending games, there always is the knowledge that they, just like some before them, have the chance of getting kicked out of the game and school for acting in a way the administration feels is too rowdy.

Midwinter blues

by Kathy Rathmann

The way in which the blahs came to get you does not matter; what does matter is the fact that they are here. They prevent anything exciting from happening. No such things as MEA conventions, Thanksgiving break, or Christmas vacation occur. There is nothing to look forward to. We seem to be lost in a daze of listlessness.

The blahs make their presence known by turning every day of school into a monotonous routine. The creaky buses repeat their routes at the same time each day. The halls in school bear drab posters that were mounted months ago. The walk to the Annex gets longer and colder. The cafeteria food becomes colorless and unvarying. A striking change is definitely needed.

graphos

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Except for athletics, there just isn't much for the average person to do. School dances are practically non-existent at NUHS. The basic feeling with most students is that if you want to have fun, you have to make it yourself. Considering this, it isn't surprising that parties and dances at George's provide us with most of our excitement.

Already quite a few students are making plans to attend state basketball tournaments. Needless to say, this isn't a favorite idea with some teachers and parents. If this year is like last, those who do go will get unexcused absences from school. Maybe if NUHS sponsored a senior class trip like many other schools, a person wouldn't have to use tournaments as an excuse to leave the daily grind of school and go away someplace with class members. But it looks like there will be some empty desks toward the end of March.

I'm not saying if we were offered more choices and activities New Ulm would suddenly become trouble-free or everyone would be following the straight and narrow. Nor do I feel that our town is the only one in this situation. Most communities are in the same shape we are.

If those doing the complaining about student activities will just look at the other side, they might be better able to understand what little choices we have, and why we choose the way we do.

There is no sure way of beating the winter blues. But we can hope for a snowstorm. Or maybe we should have a two-week Ground Hog's Day vacation.

The winter blahs have got us again. They've captured the school and put everyone into a melancholy gloom.

The big, bad blahs came rather quietly at different times to different people. For some of us, the dismal creatures made their grand entrance just as we finished oohing and aahing over our last Christmas present.

Others felt the winter weariness while trying to exchange the "gift they always wanted" to a clerk who had lost the jolly Christmas spirit.

Still others were greeted by the boring blahs on the morning of Jan. 1, as a result of too much New Year's Eve cheer.

Perhaps the most crucial and common time to meet the winter blues was on the cold, clear morning of Jan. 5. Something had to be wrong with the alarm clock because it rang four hours earlier than the usual waking time. Then the awful realization came to mind that the alarm clock meant something called school.

THEN THERE'S THE LOUNGE...



What happened to...

by Scott Simkins

Things come and go in life constantly; events are news one day and old the next. Below is a list of popular topics of discussion in the recent past which seem to have been forgotten. Where did they go and what happened to them?

The Christmas Spirit? Just a month and a half ago shopkeepers and clerks were busy as bees making sure the customers were helped — even with an air of politeness. For a couple of weeks around Christmas, all the usual crassness of the salespeople was driven out by that mystical power called "The Christmas Fever for Money." But now that the shoppers have doled out their paychecks for presents, the salespeople have soon grown accustomed to their usual impolite ways. Seems that money works in strange ways.

The Pollution Problems? The only pollution problems you hear is of today are those of Reserve Mining and only because that company is dumping 67,000 tons of material into Lake Superior every day. Some Duluth residents say that asbestos fibers really help make the water taste good though. What happened? Was ecology only a passing fad? It's comforting to know we live in a country where pollution has been wiped out; at least it would seem that way because no one is really bothering about it anymore. I guess we have to see the pollution before we believe it.

The Energy Crisis? Just a year ago, ads, brochures, pamphlets, and what not were distributed across the country in a desperate struggle to save us from an impending energy crisis and the end of the automobile as a means of transportation. Thermostats were dropped to 68 and lights were turned off when not needed. Compact cars were big business, but their prices were raised so much that they cost almost as much as the gas hogs.

The same people who brought up the business of consumers wasting energy wasted a lot of our money on a topic which no longer seems to be in the news — inflation. About the only good the energy crisis did was to raise prices and drive people to the comfort of their quilt-laden beds.

The Anti-Abortion Groups? It was just a short while ago that abortion seemed to be the thing to debate. Anti-abortion groups sprung up as the state legislature adopted a bill making abortions legal in Minnesota. The biggest of these is the Minnesota Citizens Concerned For Life (MCCL). Their views firmly opposed the law which enabled women to dispose of unwanted children before birth. But what has happened to this once-boisterous organization now that the law has been in effect for a few years?

One of the anti-abortion groups was charged with misrepresentation in its brochure. The controversial picture was of a mass of aborted babies supposedly in a wastebasket, but actually it was in a container no bigger than a coffee can. The

picture was supposed to show the enormous number of aborted babies. You may still hear of them and see people wearing wrist bracelets, but their voices sure seem to be quieter. Maybe abortion is o.k. when it's legal.

School Vandalism? In a recent article in The Journal, high school officials said they "probably spend less than a hundred dollars a year" for repairs due to vandalism in the school. They seemingly have proclaimed that students at NUHS are exceptionally fine students and wouldn't attempt in any way to deface their beloved school. Could you tell my why then that the senior lounge was closed twice for repairs and cleanup? Why they repaired the ceiling tiles by the locker room this past summer, and why there are holes shot in some of the windows in the Annex?

The Rec. Complex Supporters? Now that a recreation complex has been decidedly defeated in New Ulm, no one dares bring the subject up anymore. We would rather spend our money on more useful things like Kiesling Park and a glockenspiel. But isn't praise from Barbara Flanagan more important than the well-being of New Ulmites?

Just because the voters rejected a recreation complex doesn't mean we don't need a similar center for activities. Maybe we can't afford a multi-million dollar rec complex, but a town our size should at least consider an indoor pool or an ice arena as important priorities. Barbara might even like it.

To The Hockey Opposers? While we're on the subject of ice arenas, a note should be made to all those who laughed at the thought of interscholastic hockey. Many of the same people who downgraded hockey two or three months ago are now sitting in the stands of many hockey games. Their mouths are no longer open in opposition but are now cheering for the team. Hockey fever seems to be spreading fast in the school. After the band attended the Chaska game, a girl exclaimed that she thought "hockey would become the attendance leader in sports in a couple of years." Many fans feel it could become a leader in sports at NUHS.

To Interesting School Events? Maybe the reason people are going to hockey games is because there's nothing else to do. To many, drinking takes high priority, but even that gets boring. Outside of sports, there is not much to school.

Just think about it for a minute. What has happened in school in the past year that you can really remember? Outside of last year's state tournament basketball team, not much has happened here at NUHS. You have to admit that drinking is more fun than hearing about a new scheduling system, one of the big thrills of the year.

Take a look through this paper itself. There is not much school news in it outside sports. Sports are the thing at NUHS and "jocks" get the recognition. Other than sporting events, nothing goes on here.

In the meantime, drinking seems to lead everything, even sports. Maybe awards should be given to the best drinkers.

The Guide Post

by Mr. Jim Zetah, Counselor

Procrastination: "to put off from day to day; to defer; to postpone."

Procrastination is something that many of you may be familiar with. If not, let me use myself as an example. I had known for more than one week the deadline date to submit this article but the often used procrastination route took effect and I delayed writing this article until the day before the due date. Then I found myself compelled to put something together under pressure.

Students, how many times do you take the same route? When did you begin writing the term papers due at the end of the semester or start studying for the quarter exams? How many contributors to this issue of the Graphos delayed until the very last possible moment? Are the results as good as they could have been? Perhaps you are much like me, who works best under pressure and then hopes a lot.

On January 13 the staff of District 88 had an opportunity to hear Dr. Zack Clements discuss our responsibility in making New Ulm Schools a better place for students to

learn and grow. Dr. Clements urged us to appreciate the uniqueness of each and every person. He also encouraged us to be aware that students come from different backgrounds and with different needs and expectations. Being aware is the first consideration. Once we are aware we must develop a willingness to do something about it. Dr. Clements challenged the staff to work to help make our schools more human and loving.

This was the challenge he gave to the staff, but I believe he meant it for students also. I want to extend that same challenge to our senior high student body. Positive student to student and student to teacher relationships would be a beginning to enhance the learning climate of New Ulm Senior High School. Wouldn't it be beautiful if the prevailing theme of our school could be one of living and loving life — where learning is a part of living and people are a part of learning. What it really means is that we would all care about each other so that we would respect and help each other in the process of living and loving.

Driver ed, salary cuts may help loosen budget squeeze

by Mr. Tom Wilson, Principal

The New Ulm School District is facing some tough decisions on how to deal with an anticipated budget deficit of several thousand dollars. It is not yet possible to predict the size of the shortages, but it seems obvious that it will be substantial.

Why is this problem upon us? There are several reasons. Inflation has taken its toll, and neither state aid nor local tax receipts have been able to keep up. This same situation exists in nearly every school district in the state, and many "high spending" suburban schools are in much worse condition than New Ulm.

Decreasing enrollments are another factor, since state aid money is based upon the number of students enrolled. Again, some suburban schools are in much worse shape since families are having to seek jobs elsewhere, and the post-war baby boom is moving on to vocational schools, colleges, and the job market.

In New Ulm the School Board is studying ways to reduce expenditures without hurting the quality of education for young people. The Board is considering combining grades at Lafayette and Hanska to reduce the number of teachers. Each time the faculty is reduced by one, there is a savings on salary, insurance, social security and sometimes rental space, which totals \$10,000 to \$15,000 or more. Hopefully these reductions can be made with resignations and retirements, so no teacher will lose his job.

A second cost reduction being studied is in equipment purchases. If you consider the labs in science, home ec., music, industrial arts, and athletics, it becomes obvious that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment that must be maintained and replaced periodically. Failure to do this would cause rapid deterioration and would cost more in the long run.

A third method of cost reduction that would affect the senior high very much is in the area of driver education. Presently, the cost of driver ed exceeds \$100 per student while the fee is only \$20 per student. Since there is absolutely no state aid for driver ed, the district must make up the difference. The Board is considering raising the fee considerably or turning the program over to a commercial firm which would charge a fee of \$80 to \$100. Either way, the cost to the student would be much greater.

Decisions on these problems and others, including whether summer school can continue, will be coming up in the next few months. Watch *The Journal* for timely articles on School Board action.

Reaching an "adult" decision

by Dave Mildenberg

Is 18 the proper year for teenagers to become adults in a legal sense? This question and others are being asked by people all over Minnesota as they evaluate the successes and failures of the 18 year old "rights" laws.

Eighteen year olds have been fighting wars for our country ever since 1776, yet it was not until 1970 that they could vote for national elective offices. The right to vote on the state level came even later, but this is one facet of the question that has rarely been disputed. Perhaps it is the apathy and failure to vote as a bloc on the part of the young voters that there has been such little controversy.

Only in college towns such as Marshall have students made much of an impact on legislative bodies.

Other 18 year old rights such as marriage and divorce without parental consent, ownership of property and accumulation of a debt have also not raised much of a stir.

A question that has raised much commotion, however, is whether 18 year olds should have the right to buy and drink liquor. It is a virtual certainty that the

Minnesota Legislature this session will debate this issue very seriously.

School officials and law enforcement officers have been the most vocal opponents of the 18 year old age level for drinking. School officials contend that because of so many 18 year old seniors in high school there has been increased peer pressure on younger students to drink.

Another argument has been that those in extra curricular activities are having to go by a double standard. State law says 18 year olds can drink while state high school law says they can not if they are participating in a league activity.

Law enforcement officers have cited growing alcoholism and traffic fatalities among youth and are making a direct correlation between these increases and the 18 year old law. They also contend that the 18 year olds are making the liquor accessible to still younger people, causing even greater problems.

The opposition to these arguments has come mainly from college and high school students. One of their arguments is that 18 year olds can be killed in war so they should be able to buy liquor. That would seem like faulty and foolish reasoning to me. A much more logical argument that

has been used is whether moving the limit up one year will really make a difference. After all, at what age can a person actually "handle" liquor? This reasoning has been countered by the fact that if the age limit were 19, the problem would be taken out of the high school.

In talking with a New Ulm attorney on the matter, he used an old cliché to make his point: you can not legislate morals. He admitted that there has been a rise in the problems caused by young people using alcohol. Yet he felt it was more than just a law causing the problem; it was a failure on the part of our society to encourage students that there is more to life than depending upon liquor to provide entertainment and recreation.

I would have to agree with him. Although the law should be changed to 19 year olds and most likely will be — Governor Anderson has said he is for the change — a law being passed is not enough. The belief that one needs alcohol to have fun must be changed.

Even the *Graphos* is a part of this mentality. Nothing personal against the man, but what was the owner of a bar doing in our school newspaper when there are so many others worthy of acclaim.



Mr. Nehls checks his pony before returning to the house for supper.

Nehls

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Not only has Mr. Nehls been written about in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, but of course, *The Journal*, which first ran a story about him. Soon after, Mr. Nehls appeared on KSTP Television News.

Public interest in Mr. Nehls started back in 1966 when a request for a water main and sewer along Summit Avenue from 10th South to the Country Club was initiated.

The Nehls brothers were assessed over \$6,000 for water and sewer which they did not want. In short, they refused to pay the assessments and property taxes on the three outlots which front on Summit Avenue. These 12 acres were forfeited to the state 1½ years ago for non-payment of these taxes and assessments. The city of New Ulm had the first chance to buy the land, under state law, provided it is always used for public benefit. The city did buy the land in December.

Proposed plans for the use of this land are to have it made into a children's playground named Nehls Park. Mr. Nehls, however, will be allowed to live on this land for as long as he wants. He favors the idea of a park and is proud that it is to be named after him.

Mr. Nehls said that once he could have

gotten \$80,000 for his land, "But what would I do with the money?"

And with that, I ventured outside to explore his yard, which was filled all kinds of interesting objects and buildings. After inspecting the old vegetable wagon Mr. Nehls had mentioned earlier, my eye caught the windmill that he had built only a year ago for grinding corn and sharpening axes. Tools of every kind hung on the outsides of his many buildings. From the sounds within, I soon discovered which buildings housed his chickens and geese. The yard is fenced in so that Mr. Nehls' pony may run free about the land.

If any of you are like me, you may have wondered what the three walled stone structure is that stands to the right of the house. Mr. Nehls' brother, Carl, built this and was going to make it into a Blacksmith's shop, but when WWII started, supplies were so hard to come by that it was never finished.

My meeting with Mr. Fred Nehls was an experience I shall never forget. He is truly a remarkable man. From him I learned that you don't need a television, or a telephone, or any everyday modern convenience (with the possible exception of a radio) to get along in life and to be able to appreciate what life can offer.

His life holds such simple rewards, yet they are the most important of all: happiness, contentment, and life itself.

arts



The Unsung Holiday

by Julie Hulsey

Quick! Don't think! Don't check those holiday notes! What does Monday, February 2nd mean to you? Nothing, you say? Just a typical Monday? That's where you're wrong! It's Ground Hog Day! Yes, that's right; it's that one day of the year when that furry little ground hog either casts his shadow, dooming us to six more weeks of Arctic weather, or blesses us with an early spring by showing no shadow.

But are we being truly fair to this faithful annual patron? What kind of day is Monday on which to have a holiday? Christmas never seems to be on Monday; Thanksgiving is traditionally on Thursday.

Mondays are the one day of the week when even the most life-loving people seem to drift through aimlessly. And what would the dieter do without Monday? Mondays were just made for the dieter. Why should the ground hog be saluted on such a disregarded day?

Maybe you think Groundhog Day is an unworthy, useless holiday. I mean, we don't get out of school for it; nobody says "Happy Hog Day!" without being sent to the looney bin, and there has never been a drive for Ground Hog Seals!

And so, the ground hog remains the unsung hero, casting his lone shadow to a cold, unfeeling world. Why, I wouldn't blame him if he would just decide to let us fend for ourselves without his wise and generous assistance.

This year, why don't we make an all-out effort to salute this brave little creature for breaking his hibernation for our benefit. Let's start a movement toward moving the day.

I have a suggestion. Perhaps next year we should honor the ground hog on a more appropriate, worthy day. What if he really would tell us where to hang it and not show up? Oh, horrors! My suggestion is we have February 2, 1977, on some other weekday. Tuesday, perhaps?

When smoke gets in your eyes

by Johanna Johnson

I was sitting in class one day, day-dreaming, when suddenly, a voice brought me back to reality.

"Johnson, get us some paper towels please," the teacher requested.

I got up immediately and left, only too happy to get out of class. I was half-way down the hall before I fully realized what this assignment would involve. I would have to go to the bathroom!

Well, I must confess, I lost my head. I ran back, shouting hysterically and pleading with him not to make me do it. My teacher showed no mercy and told me to "make it snappy" besides. I knew it was useless to argue with him — he had always been heartless — so I slowly sulked off.

There was no question that I had to prepare myself. I would have to use my emergency kit. I went to my locker and checked off each item: gas mask, flashlight, fire extinguisher, oxygen tank, and protective clothing. Yes, it was all there.

I donned my armor and made my way to the door of the bathroom. Reluctantly, I

plunged in and was immediately engulfed in a cloud of smoke. It was so thick that I couldn't see. I tried to wave some of it off with my arms, but there was just too much. I walked on, blindly, straining my eyes to see something, anything!

Off in the distance, a faint red glow came to my eyes. I walked on toward it, getting closer and closer. I finally reached it and was very dismayed by what I discovered. It was just a lighted cigarette!

This was just too much! I quickly grabbed the paper towels and fled. Once in the hall I fell to my knees, gasping for air. The sudden light hurt my eyes and I was lightheaded from inhaling so much smoke. I managed to get to my feet and stumbled back to class. When I returned, I threw the towels at my teacher and fell into my desk, numb. To this day, I haven't fully recovered.

Now, making use of the wisdom that comes from experience, I will save some of you people the agony that I went through. If you're instructed to bring paper towels, get them from the Chemistry Lab. You'll be glad you did.

The Soldier

A stately monument — gray and cold
 Surrounded by wilted and decaying roses.
 A silent testimonial
 To a silenced young man
 Who gave his life for an unknown cause
 In an unknown land —
 In the strategic game they've labeled as "War."
 And I can't help but wonder —
 "What would he have become?"

SJF

Today

Life is a story, just a mere play.
 I am an actor and today is the day.
 Yesterday has left me.
 Tomorrow is my dream,
 But I do have today to live life supreme.

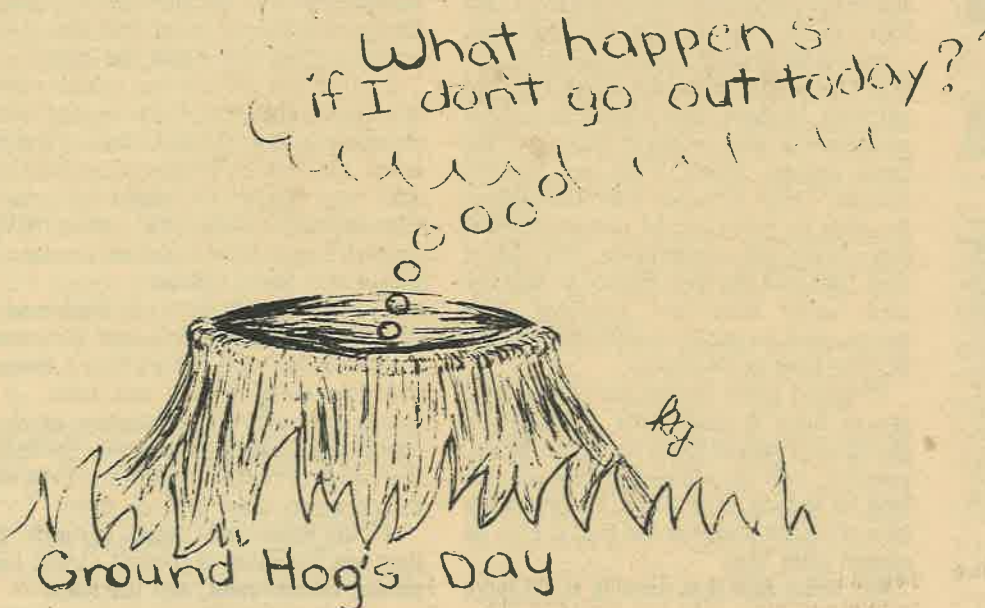
by Kirsten Mickelson

The Athlete

Sometimes you wonder,
 Is it all worth the effort,
 the frustration, the dedication?
 You ask yourself does it really matter,
 Is the ultimate goal of success so important?
 Do your accomplishments really mean that much
 to those who encourage you?
 Sometimes it feels like you're being pushed
 Beyond the point of physical endurance,
 Why do they force you and drive you until you
 fall strangled and out of touch with your emotions?

And then one day you're number one,
 And you realize that your success is partly theirs,
 but yours alone in a special sense,
 Because for every three drops of sweat you shed,
 They shed one trying to put you where you are.
 And somehow,
 Knowing that someone had enough faith to back you,
 The number one feels that much bigger.

SJF



Getting a kick out of "foos"

by Denise Simonson

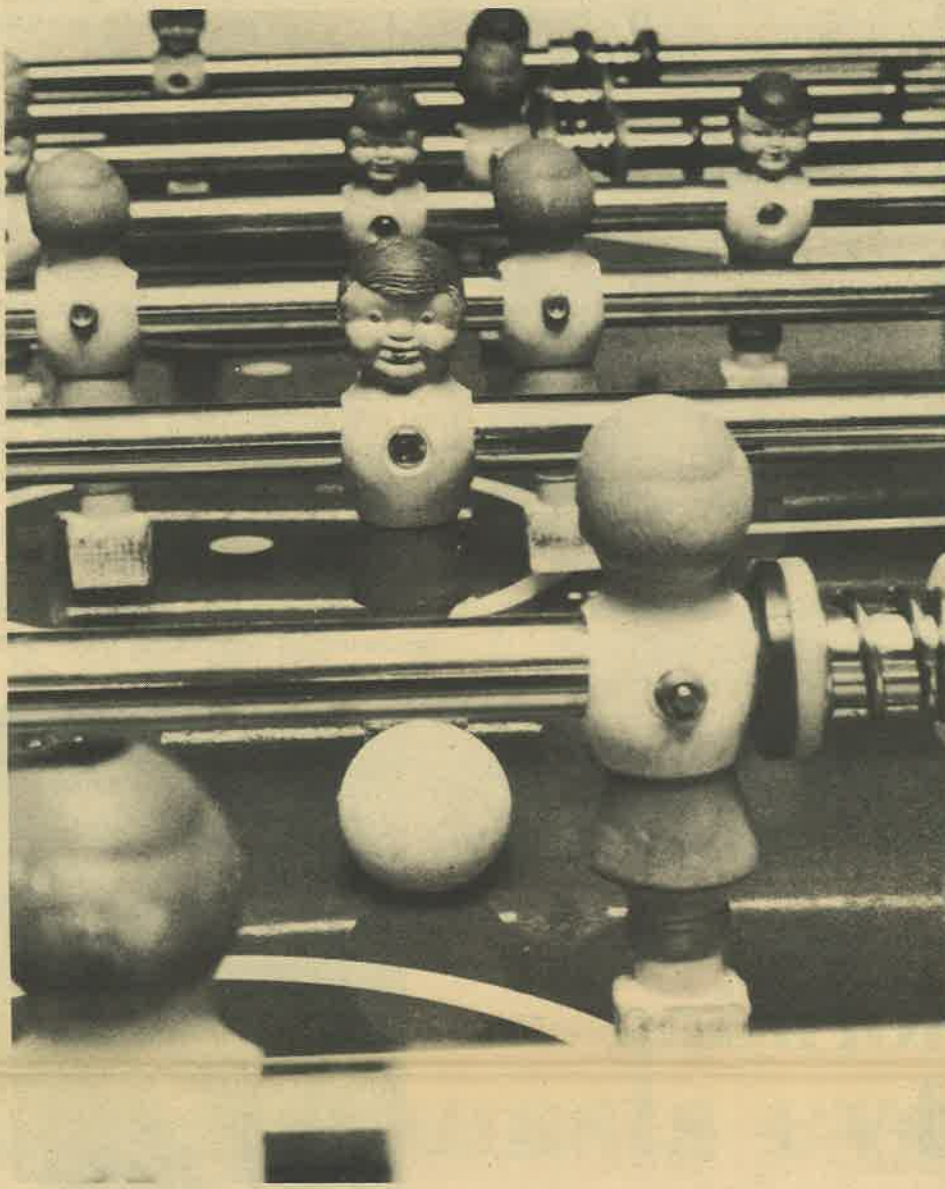
It was a dreary October morning in the year 1974. At 8:10 a.m. I quietly slipped into the senior high building. I wanted to get there early because I wanted to see for myself the stories the other sophomores told. The stories of how all of the seniors gather to play a game unknown to me. A game called "foosball."

I have often passed the senior lounge hearing screams of victory and groans of defeat thinking it was just someone trying to outsmart the candy machines. Not until a month later did I learn the truth; my friend told me what really happens in the senior lounge. His stories about foosball aroused my curiosity. I still remember that October morning when I came to school early and quietly slipped into the senior lounge, unnoticed, to see for myself...

As I stood by and watched, I found myself fascinated with this strange game. When I stopped to think about what actually takes place in foosball, I couldn't understand what was so intriguing. What's so exciting about 22 men, 11 on each team, kicking a "ping pong like" ball into two wide holes? Yet I couldn't tear myself away. I began to go into places I never dreamed I'd ever enter just to watch a single game of foosball.

Soon watching was not enough. I had to play; I must play foosball!

After days of waiting I decided to make my move. I had my plan carefully laid out. Tying a catsup-stained rag around my head, I staggered into the lounge. Luckily, only three seniors were present. Six eyes were upon me as I pretended to collapse in agony. They ran to my side full of compassion and questions as to the origin of my injury. I mumbled something about being mugged in the boys locker room. Two of them ran to get help while a third remained behind to comfort me in my last moments. I stated that my one last request was to play a single game of foosball. With his eyes full of tears, he pulled a quarter out of his pocket and led me to the table. I



beat him three out of five, tipped my hat, and went to my next class.

Soon one game was not enough. There

had to be more and more and more. I sold my brother for nine quarters. The meaning of life, I thought, was not

measured by richness and fulfillment but in the number of quarters you owned.

One afternoon when I opened my locker, an avalanche of "sure grip" cans clanged onto the hall floor. I was tense and shakey. Eating or sleeping without seeing a little white ball dart to and fro was impossible. Soon I was up to 15 games per day. Yes, I was addicted.

My mother tried to help by locking me in my room and taking away my foosball glove. It didn't work. I always found a way out. My grades dropped drastically. No longer had I an interest in family life. All I thought about was pull shots, push shots, angle shots and rolls.

Then it happened. The horrible dream I had feared became a reality. I was in one of those places where I shouldn't have been to play foosball. Since I hadn't played for five hours, I felt a cold clammy sweat appear from my fastly graying skin. My pupils began to dilate. I could feel warm slimy white balls crawling up and down my body. I fell on the floor in convulsions. I blacked out.

When I awoke, the first thing I saw were pretty people in nice white uniforms standing over me. They were ready at a moment's notice to tighten the straps that bound me to my bed. Only one hope was before me if I wished to survive. I must join the F.A. (Foosers Anonymous).

That day was the turning point in my life. Thanks to the F.A., I am now a useful, productive citizen in society. I believe it was my calling to live through that ordeal in order to warn others about the perils of foosball.

Once again I can walk down the hallways proudly, knowing that I'm cured. Just the other day my friend and I were sitting in the hall laughing at how anyone could become so infatuated with a silly game, when we overheard some seniors talking. They were discussing a strange new game that roused my curiosity. A game called "Air Hockey"...

Everyone's ski crazy

by Thor Mickelson

There is only one name for maniacs who actually enjoy zipping down a hill of snow at tremendous speeds on narrow slivers of wood — skiers. And the number of maniacs has grown to make skiing one of the most popular sports in America. Every year from Thanksgiving until Easter, millions of skiers go out to risk their humble bodies on a pair of skinny sticks on ice and snow.

At New Ulm skiing has become increasingly popular. The high school introduces students to skiing in their sophomore phy-ed classes. If students manage to avoid breaking a leg or colliding with "bomber" Cliff Anderson, they may risk their lives again in the junior and senior phy-ed ski trips.

Many students are now going on their own ski trips. Bob Barck, Steve Polzin, and Jim and Paul Skoglannd's ski trip to Spirit Mountain at Duluth for several days of skiing is a recent example.

Observers question the sanity and reasons of people who ski. Some skiers enjoy the freedom found in the sport. They like to let go, with no limitations, except the bottom of the hill.

Others find pleasure in trying to perfect their skills. The skiers attempt to develop complete control. Like the writer of this

story, they find a sense of accomplishment and development in skiing.

Skiing is also relished as an out-of-door sport. They enjoy skiing because of the exercise it provides. Any doubting Thomas learns the morning after skiing the number of muscles he used. He feels aching muscles he didn't know existed.

Still others enjoy the art of "hotdog" skiing. When hotdogging a skier lets loose and performs acrobatic stunts.

Some skiers like skiing because of the social status it represents. Skiing in some areas has become exceedingly expensive. At Vail, Colorado, the average skier spends 50 dollars a day, excluding equipment costs. And the cost of equipment is rising faster than the popularity of the sport. Because of the cost, skiing is gaining the stigma of being a rich man's sport. Thus some enjoy the exclusiveness skiing provides.

However, in Minnesota the cost of skiing is not as exorbitant. Many ski areas offer special ski rates to encourage people to risk their necks for a fun-filled weekend.

Skiing will continue to be popular. Although there are many skiers, skiing is basically an individual event. Participants can do their thing, whether it is learning how to snowplow or hotdogging. Skiing will most likely remain popular as long as people have money to spend, legs to break, and time to enjoy life.



Enjoying the sport that has become popular with so many, Jane Franta heads up the hill during a phy. ed. ski class.

Library receives new cover



The newly built New Ulm Public Library is scheduled to open next Monday, February 9.

by Roxana Peterson

The New Ulm Public Library will soon be changing its location. The new library is nearing completion and is expected to open February 9th.

The new library's greatest asset is more space, something which was definitely lacking in the present building. The library is divided into different levels, each for different types of materials. The lower section will hold most of the children's literature while the upper level will contain the non-fiction materials and all the magazines. Since this area will be the one most used by students, space for studying has been provided, along with individual study carrels. This level will be a valuable work area, where research can be done with little disturbance.

Since the area libraries joined together to form the Traverse des Sioux Library System, the New Ulm Library has been able to offer much more to its patrons. For instance, the number of recordings,

microfilms, tapes, not to mention books, has been greatly improved. Eight mm. films can also be obtained, ranging from the informative type to more amusing offerings such as Paleface, Abbot and Costello, and Dracula. Beginning in April, the New Ulm Library will be holding part of this collection of films for three months.

The policies of the new library will remain unchanged, and after the moving period of thirteen days when the library will be closed (Jan. 26-Feb. 7), things will return to normal. Nothing will be different except the location and the improved facilities.

With the increased space, our library will be better able to serve a community of New Ulm's size. As high school students, we'll all find the new library a welcome source of information, a good place to study, and even a place to enjoy yourself. The motto of the Traverse des Sioux System seems to sum it up: Your library — the place to go when you need to know.

sports

Eagles performing as expected

by Kevin Wilner

The New Ulm High School basketball team has passed the midway point in its 20 game regular season with about as good a record as was expected. They were 6-4 after ten games but this record could easily have been 8-2. There were two one point losses to Hutchinson and Mankato East.

For the last few years, the Eagles have been known particularly as a defensive team, giving up somewhere between 43 and 45 points a game. This year the defensive average is slightly higher, around 53 points a game. This increase is due to several reasons. First, the Eagles are playing a running game on offense instead of the slow-down, ball control offense of the past few years. The running game results in more shots at the basket for New Ulm, but the opponent also gets the ball more and has more chances to score.

Another factor is that this year's team is much shorter than last year's which had 6'7" Ken Hagg and 6'5" Tom Schrader. This year, the opposing teams are sometimes able to get second and third shots at the basket since the tallest Eagle is only 6'3".

A third possible reason is the abundance of running teams in the South Central Conference this season. Every single team will fast break if they have the chance, and a few such as St. Peter rely on the fast break for their whole offense.

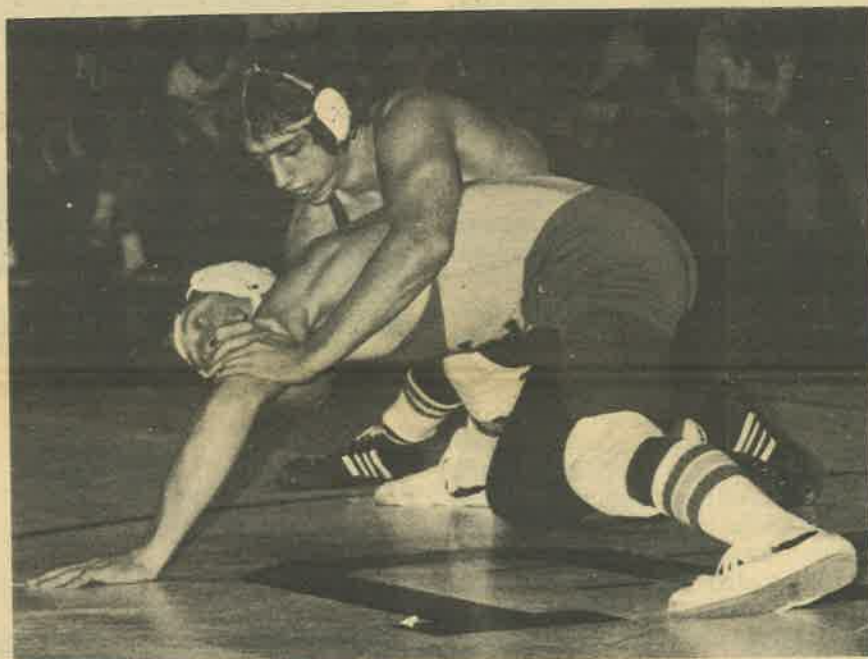
Probably the Eagle's main asset this year has been their shooting. A good shooting percentage for a game is 45 percent and the Eagles have surpassed this mark in most their games and have even been over 50 percent in several games. The only game in which New Ulm has shot poorly was with Blue Earth, where they lost.

The leading scorer for the Eagles so far has been forward Dave Miller who is averaging 19 points a game in conference play and 14 points a game overall. His 28 points against Fairmont is as high as any Eagle has scored in the last few years.

If New Ulm can show a little improvement on defense and maintain their high shooting percentage, they could be fairly tough by sub-region time early in March.



Dave Miller, 51, puts his jumping ability to good use in New Ulm's victory over St. Peter.



Steve Kraus applies a cross face cradle on his Wells opponent.

Team effort may pin down tourney trip

by Jim Henning

With the wrestling season in full swing, Coach Rich Peterson is becoming optimistic. "We're much better than our record indicates. A few breaks here and there might have helped us considerably," Peterson said. Also, New Ulm hasn't wrestled its top grapplers in the same meet yet. Injuries, illness and ineligibility have sometimes provided opponents the winning margins in some close matches.

New Ulm's record stands at 5-6. The Eagles also have two unbeaten wrestlers, Terry Kral and Rocky Bernard. Kral is 13-0 while Bernard is 12-0.

The South Central Conference holds its wrestling tourney February 7. "With St. James being the only undefeated squad, they would have to be rated as the top team," Peterson noted. "But all of their

matches have been real close, so I can see three or four teams contending for the championship." Those four teams are New Ulm, St. James, St. Peter, and Blue Earth.

On February 10, the Sub-region will be held at Worthington. Worthington, Marshall, Fairmont, and New Ulm will wrestle dual meets. The winner will advance to the Region meet on February 14.

"We have an excellent chance to compete in the State tourney, but the guys really have to bear down and wrestle just super in the preliminaries. With a healthy squad and a good team effort, I feel we have a chance."

New Ulm also has an opportunity to advance individuals as well as a team to the regional meet, which begins on February 21. The top two wrestlers in each weight class will advance to the state meet.

Girls gymnastics: a new twist

by Lisa Knutson

Everyone knows that a million-selling record has two sides to it. There is the side with the hit song that is played and memorized by the fans of the totally terrific top ten tunes. There is also the side with the song that will never make it to the top of the charts, a song that few people even realize is there. The song on the flip side.

Gymnastics is much the same. There is all of the grace and poise and suspense and excitement that everyone sees at a gymnastic meet, but does anyone outside of the team realize all that goes into the routines that make up a meet? When it comes to a top gymnastic team like ours, what is on the flip side?

Most obvious are the long hours of hard work and concentration that are part of every week. Our girls practice about ten hours a week, and all this effort is spent for an approximate five minutes per week of actual performance time.

Also on the flip side of this "record" is FRUSTRATION. It is upsetting to a dedicated gymnast who has spent weeks working on a particular trick or movement and still can't get it quite right. Tears are not an uncommon sight at a meet or practice.

To the average spectator, gymnastics might not seem too much like a team sport because all of the meet's participants do



Jane Spelbrink displays the form on the balance beam that has impressed judges throughout the girls gymnastic season.

their own routines and work for their own placings and are tied to a team only by the matching leotards. Not so! The girls function very much as a team. They are continually helping each other with new moves or spotting each other. The won and loss record of the entire team depends on each and every member of the squad, and because of this dependence, the girls work hard so as not to let the rest of the team down when meet time comes around.

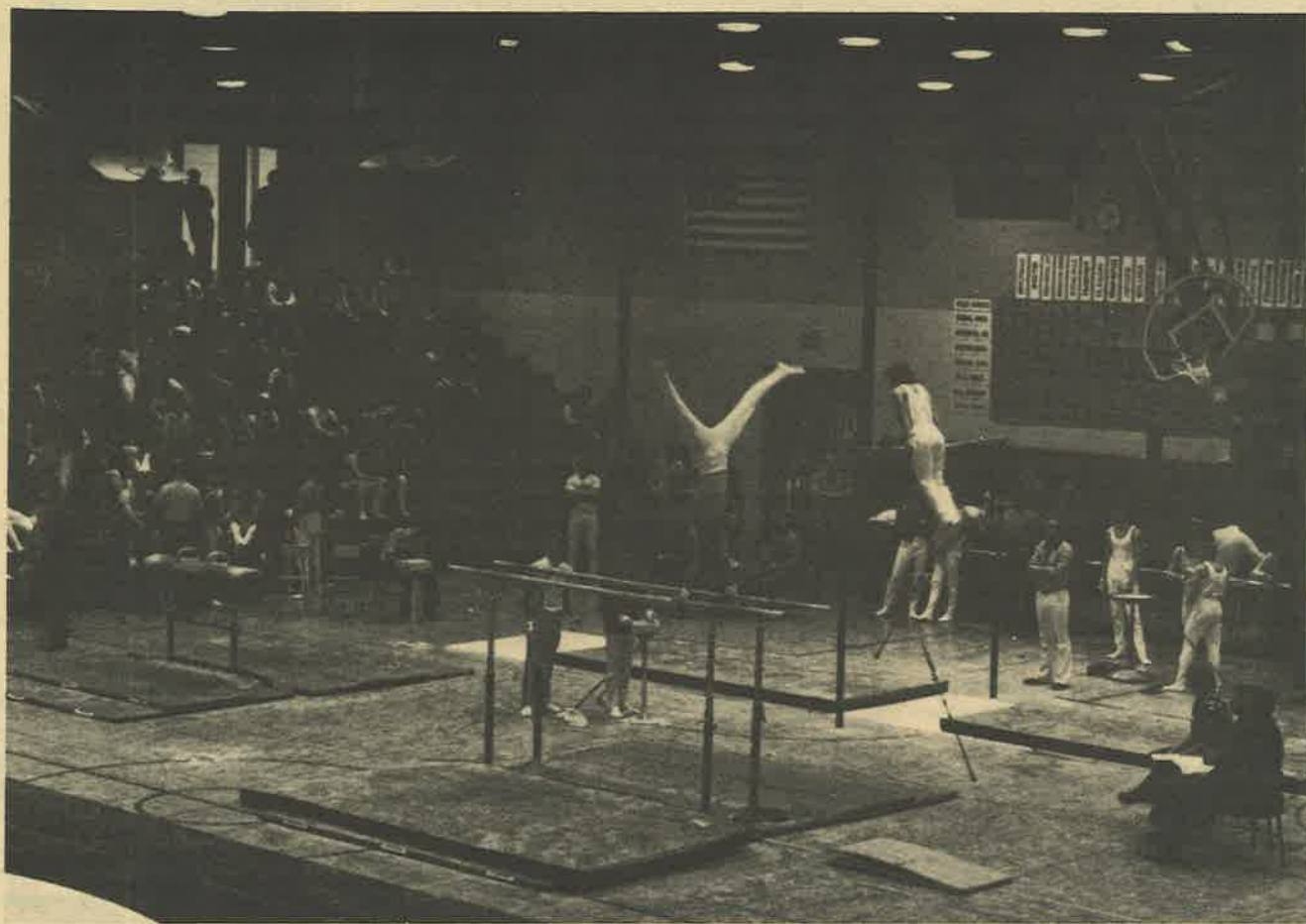
At the first meet of the season one girl became so nervous that she went all the way through a routine on the uneven bars before realizing that she had forgotten to remove her warm-up suit.

Nervousness plays a big part in a gymnastics meet. There is one girl on the New Ulm squad who cannot make it through a routine unless she makes a quick trip to the bathroom just before her performance.

Some funny things happen during gymnastics in spite of the long hours of work. Take, for example, the freshman gymnast (who will remain nameless at Beth Rasmussen's request) who walked proudly onto the floor-ex mat, shoulders back, head held high with the judge's purse strap caught around her ankle.

Next time any of you are fortunate enough to see a gymnastic meet, notice the pride with which each routine is given and then appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into the making of New Ulm's fine team.

Gymnasts, gymnasts everywhere



Constant activity could be seen at the New Ulm Invitational. Some of the state's top gymnasts were in action during the meet.

by Darv Turbes

If any of you had a chance to sneak into the New Ulm Invitational, you probably saw some very unusual sights.

First of all, warmups looked like a mass

jungle with over three hundred gymnasts standing in line to get their turns on the various pieces of apparatus. The warmups, however, did not look at all like it, but then that is what an invitational is all about, a large group of athletes all striving

for the same thing: perfection.

The 1976 New Ulm Invitational had a total of twenty-five teams ranging from state champion Armstrong to Waseca. Spectators got to see some very good and very bad gymnastics.

Gymnastics is very different from most sports. It is already mid-season and we have had a grand total of three meets. You might ask, "Why only three?" Well the answer is quite simple. It takes a gymnast eight or nine weeks of hard practice to prepare routines for an event. For that reason gymnastics is just into practice when other winter sports are already competing. Sometimes the hard work pays off, and, of course, sometimes it doesn't.

After all of his hard work, a gymnast has about thirty seconds to perform a routine and prove himself and to those watching that he is a good gymnast. One single mistake wrecks a routine. There are no second chances in gymnastics; those thirty seconds have to be perfect. So next time you get an opportunity to see a gymnastic meet, appreciate all of the hard work that has preceded the meet. Also, realize all of the pressure that exists when the head judge nods at the next gymnast to give his all.

Armstrong, with 125.117 points took an easy first place with St. Louis Park behind by 9 points for second place. All of the top gymnastic schools in the state were at the meet. New Ulm, improving greatly after scoring in the low 60's in their first two meets, had a total of 79.00. Top scores for New Ulm were a 5.5 on Floor ex. by Jeff Hildebrandt; 5.9 on Pommel Horse by Darv Turbes; 4.8 on High Bar by Kevin Iverson; 5.2 on Vaulting Horse and a 4.5 on Parallel bars by Jeff Wesselmann; and a 4.0 on the Still Rings for Dale Thorson.

The Eagles last home meet was on February 2 against Mankato West.

Eagles hold foes in "check"

by Brian Shay

The first-ever New Ulm High School hockey team has become one of the hottest hockey teams in the state of Minnesota in just two months. With a perfect 10-0 record, the Eagles were one of just three remaining undefeated, untied teams in the entire state.

Surprisingly, that perfect record has come about rather easily. The Eagles have whipped the majority of the teams they've played. Combining an extremely potent offense and a steel-curtain defense, they have come out the victors by five or more goals in several games, including a couple of ten-point bulges.

New Ulm's first line, consisting of seniors Doug Gulden and Tom Hengel, along with junior Tim Steinbach, has provided most of the offensive scoring punch, while Dohn Pagel, Mike French, and Bryon Dahl anchor an almost perfect defense.

Fan support hasn't been overwhelming yet, but with talk of a state tournament berth circulating around the school, it probably won't be long before the fans come out in full force.

As for the players, they're extremely optimistic, and the schedule of upcoming games should be tough enough to sharpen up the Eagles, who would like nothing better than to go into sub-region play



Dohn Pagel (in dark suit) falls to his knees to cut off a possible break away.

undefeated.

There are several contributing factors in the Eagles' success, but the one factor that stands out as most important is the aggressive forechecking. The Eagles seem to be able to keep the puck in the

other team's ice and continually take shots. A good example of this forechecking was in a recent game with Waterloo, Iowa, in which New Ulm outshot Waterloo 28-9 and scored a 6-1 victory.

If you haven't attended an Eagle hockey

game yet, you've really missed some action. New Ulm plays a rough, aggressive brand of hockey, which is exciting to watch and well worth the short trip to St. Peter, but make sure you dress warm because Gustavus's Lund Arena isn't well heated.



Left: Bryan Meyer wins a faceoff from an opposing player. Above: Tom Hengel and the LeSueur goalie look on as New Ulm scores another goal. The Eagles romped over the Giants 15-2 and 17-0 this season.

Paul's Sports Parade



by Paul Wyczawski

Coaches today often prescribe pre-game meals for their athletes because they are worried about what their "horses" eat before an athletic contest. Not wanting

them to get stuffed or full so as to hamper their performance they simply tell them to eat lightly.

Basically, as long as a well-balanced meal is chosen, specific foods will not hurt an athlete's performance. What might affect his performance though is the amount of time before the activity that the athlete eats his meal. It is generally recommended that athletes should eat about three hours before competition starts so as to allow time for proper digestion.

By eating a well-balanced meal, I mean a meal including the four basic good groups: milk, meat, bread-cereal, and vegetable-fruit. This food should be well salted and cooked without extra fat. Food should be salted because extra salt is needed to compensate for loss of salt

through perspiration. Excess fats should be avoided because fat tends to slow digestion, and empty stomachs are better for playing.

Also, at least two or three cups of water or another beverage are essential in the pre-game meal to replenish water lost in perspiration and to prevent dehydration.

The NUHS hockey team is on their way to having a fantastic year in their first season of inter-scholastic high school competition. Through ten games the Eagle pucksters are undefeated with three wins registered at St. Peter (home arena), and the other seven wins were on the road. Leading scorers thus far are Tim Steinbach with 28 goals and 23 assists for a total of 51 points, followed by Doug Gulden with 27 goals and 21 assists for 48 total points.

Tom Hengel leads the team in penalty

minutes with 20½ for ten games. This includes seven one and a half minute minor penalties and one ten minute major. Hengel also ranks third in scoring with 14 goals, 18 assists for 32 team points. Scott Fischer is second in penalty time, serving thirteen minor infractions for a 19½ minute total. Team penalty minutes add up to 65½, compared with the opponents' 132 minutes.

Goals per game average for New Ulm is a robust 8.8 and goals against average is three. Bryon Dahl, sophomore goaltender, has recorded 171 saves to lead the Eagles in that category.

In wrestling, two NUHS grapplers were undefeated through fifteen matches. Rocky Bernard at 180 is 13-0 while another senior wrestler Terry Kral is 14-0-1 at 145 pounds.