

Bob's Beat

It's pleasant, as Jack Frost moves center stage, to think ahead to Summer '77.

Thoughts of summer in Michigan City inevitably lead to the lakefront. It's that choice acreage which makes Michigan City a distinct locale... a Summer Place.

And a prime question about Michigan City's lakefront in '77 is whether the community's one enduring Bicentennial project — the Performing Arts Amphitheater — will be a reality seven months from now.

A small but dedicated group of people have been working persistently for many months to achieve that laudable goal. Their effort is at the crucial phase now — the one in which they seek support from the people and friends of Michigan City.

It's a selfless endeavor in which they've been engaged. The Amphitheater, once built, will become park department property. No individual or organization is going to profit financially from its existence. It will be a facility for the community.

The building of the Amphitheater, if it happens, will be a modern-day chapter in the story which has made Washington Park truly a people's park — citizen involvement in its evolution.

Hard work and generosity by the people of Michigan City transformed a once-ugly and remote part of town into a showplace front yard. People planted trees and flowers. They invested time and labor and money when they had it in the construction of facilities. They dreamed — and worked hard to make the dreams come true.

Over the years, their investments have provided premier examples of involvement.

In recent years, that spirit has not been so evident. Consequently, the lakefront today has some problems and blemishes that ought not be there. But the basic beauty and the priceless value of the shoreline acreage still is there — and there are at least some indications of new progress toward their preservation and enhancement.

One of the most important is the effort to build the Performing Arts Amphitheater — as a place where band concerts, choral programs, plays, shows, lectures, films and other events can be presented.

It's not a case, merely, of something that would be nice for Michigan City to have. It's a case of something Michigan City urgently needs.

The Municipal Band, of which the community is deservedly proud, has too long had to perform without a facility which — in the words of director Guy F. Foreman — "would permit full justice to a musical work and permit an audience to hear everything including the softest passages in proper balance."

In this day of noise (some of it emanating from lakefront sources), and pressures, and the rush-rush ratrace pace, there is a lot to be said for being able to hear "the softest passages in proper balance."

It's not difficult at all to picture the Amphitheater in its natural dune setting as the stage for any number of spring-summer-and-fall events...ranging from cultural to religious to just plain entertaining.

It's even possible, if there's optimism in your nature, to see such a facility helping to generate some of the other actions so needed and overdue at the lakefront and its proximity — from removal of the Smith Bros. building foundation to resolution of the former Tonn & Blank building problem, to a gutsy municipal assault on the Sheridan Beach problem.

Michigan City is building a library, improving its downtown and zoo, uniforming its high school bands, and in other ways demonstrating a positive, building spirit by its people.

The proposed Performing Arts Amphitheater fits logically into this community chronology. It's a \$100,000 project. More than \$10,000 has been raised. Those who want to help may send a check, made payable to Bicentennial Amphitheater, to P.O. Box 1776, Michigan City Ind. 46360.

A few dollars now would be an investment in some pleasure next summer...and for many seasons to come.

— Bob Kaser

Escape foiled

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (AP) — Turnkey Michael Milliken heard strange sounds in the cellblock of the Hamilton County jail Tuesday. When deputies investigated, they found a hacksaw blade and a four-inch cut in the wall in one of the cells.



Under the watchful eye of William Wicke, two Central School students prepare a science project.



A nurse checks Robert Rumsey's blood pressure before Rumsey donates blood in a recent Red Cross Bloodmobile visit.

5 who take time to do a bit more

Recognizing school employees who give extra effort in service to students, school Supt. James Wagner today announced the names of five teachers for this year's *Second Mile* awards.

The award was instituted last year along with the *And Then Some* Wall of Fame. *Second Mile* plaques are given to current school employees and the *And Then Some* award is given to former employees.

The winners this year are: Library director Helen Center for her efforts to establish a library in every school; Del Lonzo, for outstanding teaching and service to Rogers High School; Robert Rumsey, for outstanding community service through the blood bank; Charles Stephens, for outstanding leadership and service through the Coolspring Tumblers and William Wicke, for outstanding leadership to members of the Central School 55/68 Club.

Mrs. Center has been the school system's library director for nine years. When the Park School library opens soon, every school will have its own library.

Lonzo, a teacher in Michigan City schools for 26 years, has been social studies and government teacher at Rogers since that school opened.

Rumsey, a counselor at Rogers, has organized students to donate blood during the monthly visits of the Red Cross bloodmobile. He has been in the Michigan City School system since 1964.

Stephens has been principal of Coolspring School since 1958, before that school became part of the Michigan City school system. His Coolspring Tumblers have performed at several area events in recent years, including the Home and Sports Show.

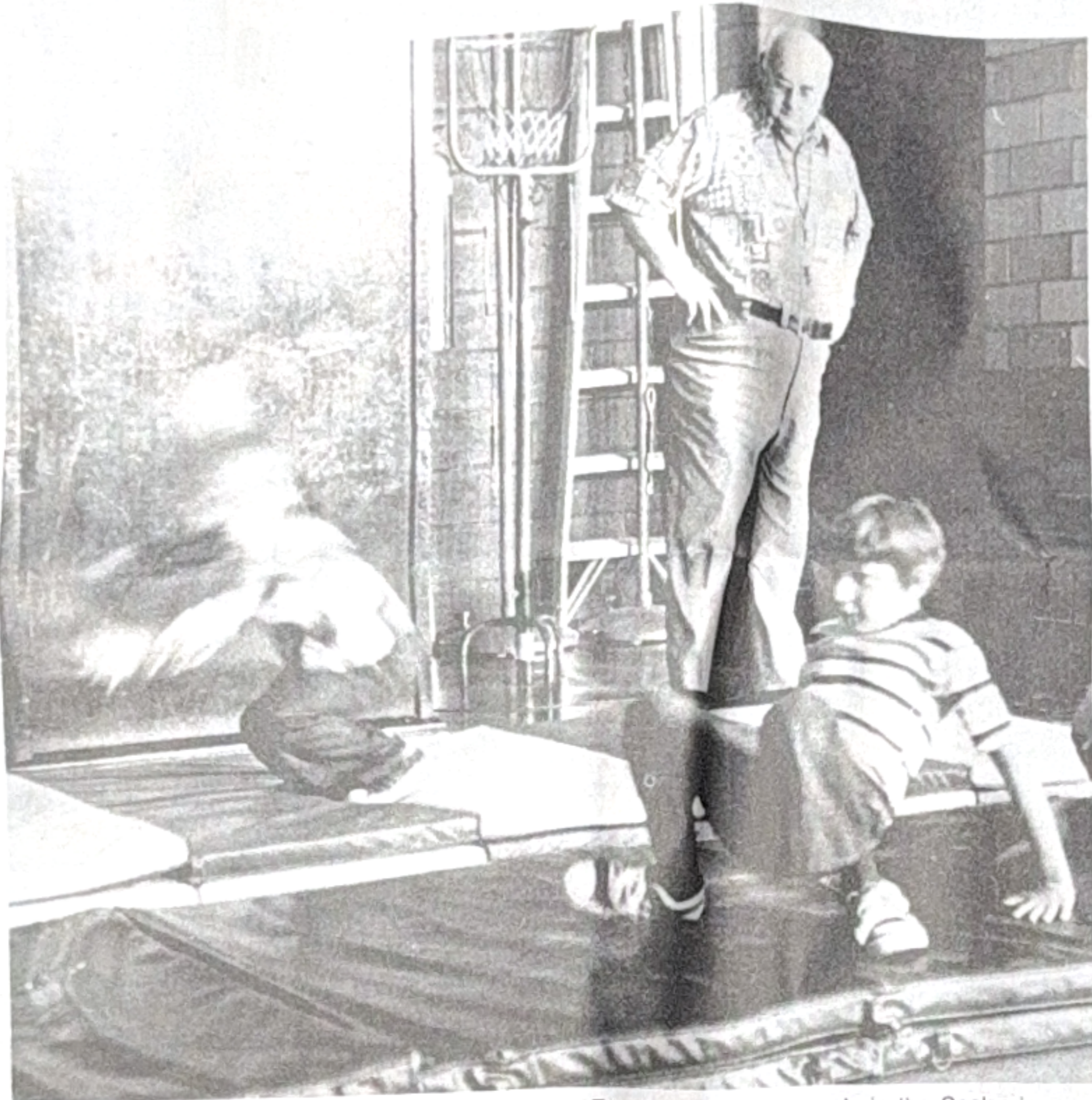
Wicke, a teacher here for four years, organized the 55/68 Club at Central School to get the students more involved in conservation and nature study.

School employees — teachers or other staff — who resigned or retired before the 1973 are eligible for selection to the *And Then Some* Wall of Fame.

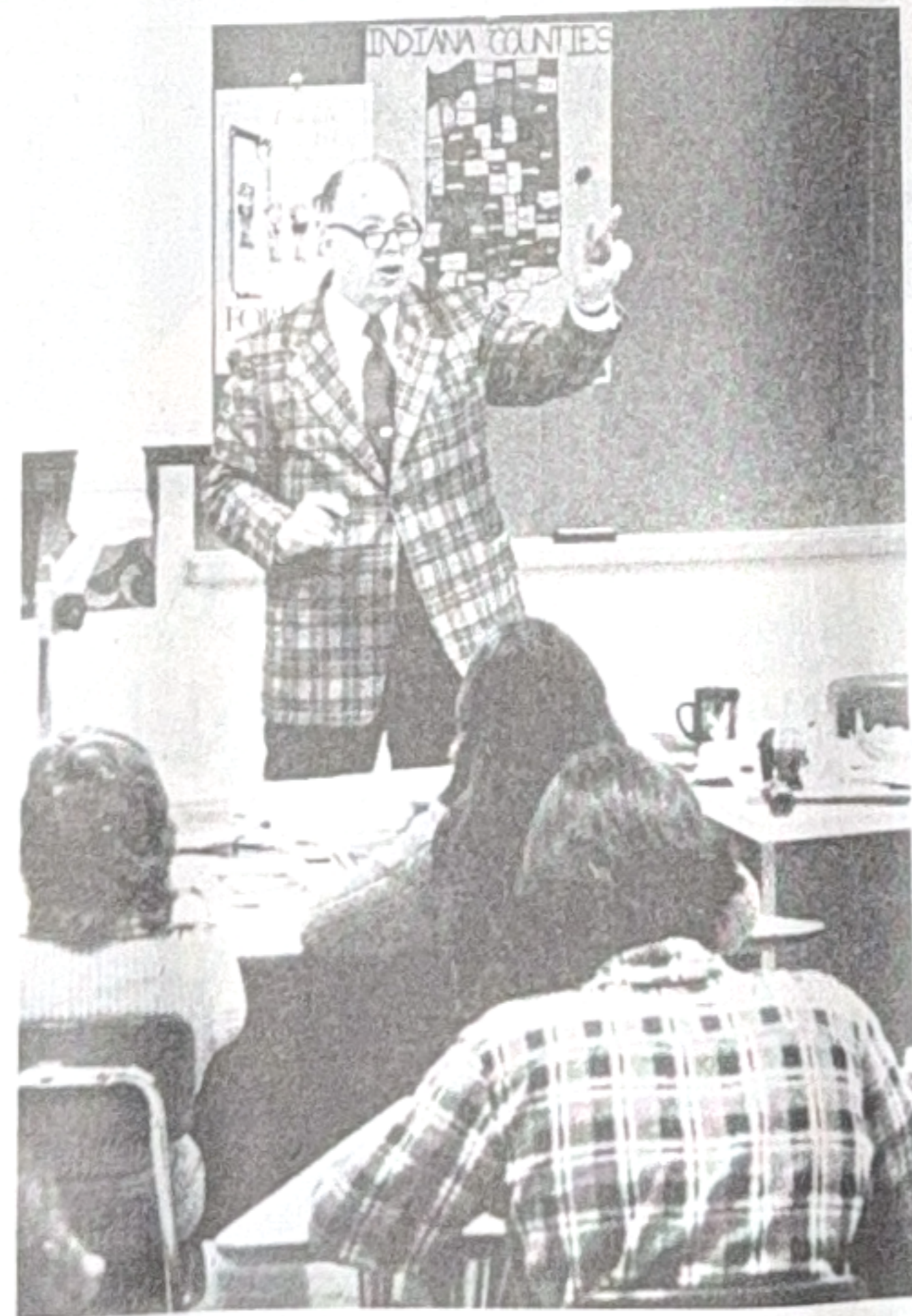
A school system committee has been established to gather nominations for the *And Then Some* award from the community.

Persons who wish to nominate a former employee have been asked to write to the Wall of Fame Committee, Michigan City Area Schools, 609 Lafayette St. Nominations should include reasons why the nominee should receive recognition, the name and address of the person making the nomination and how that person knows the nominee.

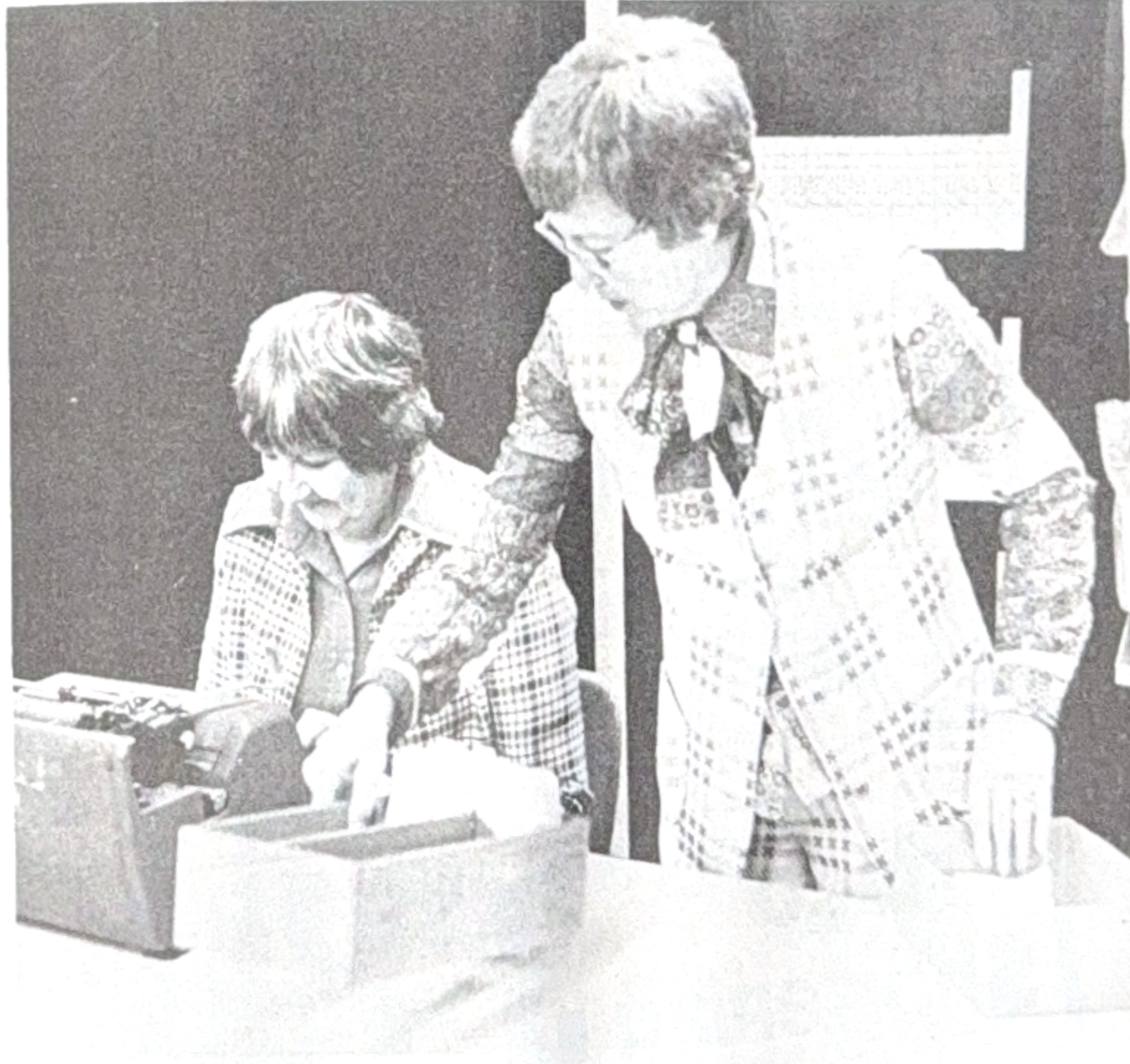
Plaques honoring current members of the Wall of Fame are on display at the school administration building.



Charles Stephens watches two of his Coolspring Tumblers practice on mats in the Coolspring School gym.



A Rogers High School government class listens attentively to Del Lonzo, a teacher in Michigan City schools for 26 years.



Library director Helen Center (standing) assists a library aide at Beverly Shores School.