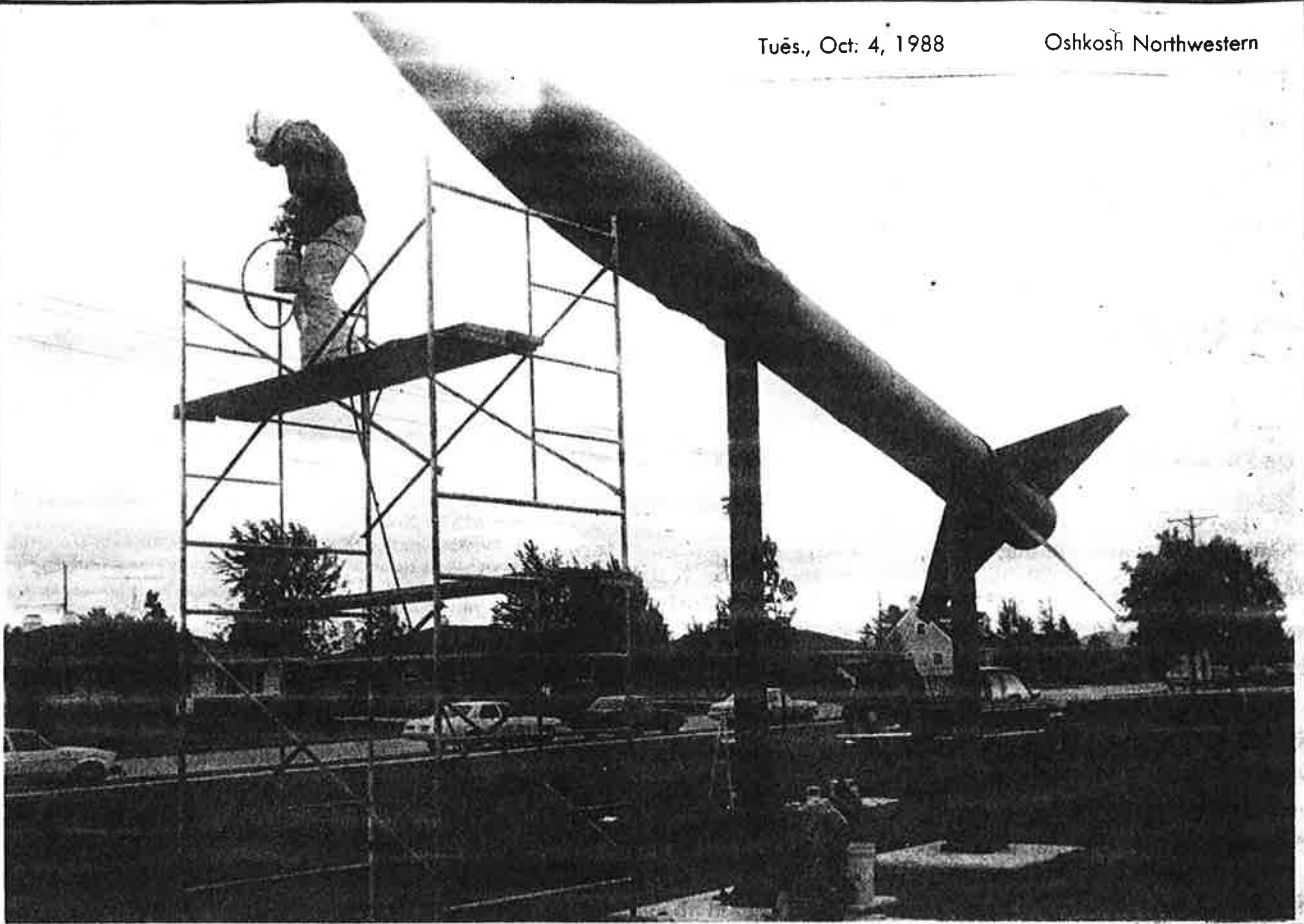


Neenah-Menasha / Regional

Tues., Oct. 4, 1988

Oshkosh Northwestern



Northwestern photo by Natalie Johnson

'Honest John' in place at Neenah High

Marty Papesh of Azco-Hennes, Inc. works on the base of the legs that hold Neenah High School's new

mascot, "Honest John," while Brad Reitzner of the Davis Painting Co. begins to transform the rocket by

painting it white. The project will be completed in time for this weekend's homecoming festivities.

'Honest John' has landed

Crane moves rocket into place at Neenah High

By NATALIE JOHNSON
of the Northwestern

NEENAH — "Honest John" has landed on Neenah High School's center courtyard.

The 30-foot-long rocket with fins spanning eight feet will stand as a mascot for the Neenah "Rockets."

The rocket, weighing 6,000 pounds, was brought to the school and set up by a crane on Monday morning.

The project is the result of efforts by the Neenah High School Student Congress to gain a mascot for the school. The nickname for the school has been the "Rockets," since 1928 when the school held an essay contest to replace the former "Reds" nickname.

The Student Congress obtained permission to search for a rocket in April of this year from the school board. By the middle of July with the help of Sen. Robert Kasten, R-Wis., "Honest John" was found.

The rocket was formerly located at the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Fort Riley, Kan. It was donated to the school by the Center for Military History in Washington, D.C.

Transportation, materials and labor costs were all donated by businesses and individuals in the Fox Valley.

"It didn't cost the school anything," said principal Larry Lewis.

"We had more offers than we could handle," said Lewis.

Neenah Foundry helped transport the rocket to Neenah. Azco-Hennes, Inc., made the steel standards that hold the rocket, which had actually been stored at the company since Sept. 1, according to Lewis.

P. G. Miron Construction Co. Inc. constructed the underground footings and cement work. Cummings Electric worked with the lighting. The Davis Painting Company is painting the rocket white and lettering the words "Neenah Rockets" in red on both sides of the rocket. The Ben G. Ganther Co. provided the architectural design.

Parents of the Neenah High School Class of 1988, Neenah

High School Class of 1933 and Robert Hering, a Neenah dentist, donated money for the project.

Lewis explained that the rocket is a symbol of the force behind the high school. "It is a symbol of propelling us to excellence and discovery of new horizons," he said.

One goal of the project, which has been met, was to have the rocket in place in time for this weekend's homecoming festivities. The final painting and lettering should be completed by Wednesday.

Lewis said the students, especially those involved in the Student Congress, are excited about gaining a new mascot.