



**WITH THE HELP** of coach Gay Leitner, Madison Macfee (above) jumped from the springboard onto the practice vault. Haylee Hileman (below) got help from Coach Robyn Rouse to do back somersaults at practice Friday.

## Young girls and boys learn how to tumble during gymnastics

Every Friday, Oberlin girls and boys get together to learn somersaults, cartwheels, back bends, round offs, stretching, and the basic vault and balance beam.

This is the first year that Oberlin has had a gymnastics team in recent years. In the past, parents car pooled their sons and daughters to Atwood to classes sponsored by Creative Movements.

This year, coaches and parents found a place to hold gymnastics practice here. The team uses the Old Bohemian Hall at the Last Indian Raid Museum, which gives them room to stretch out their tumbling mats.

Classes start after school and go into the evening.

There are two coaches, Robyn Rouse and Gay Leitner. Mrs. Rouse said they have 50 kids from age 3 to 13.

The Oberlin team now has more kids than the Atwood program. She said they have more than they expected and she hopes they can retain the kids for next year.

Although they are full in the pre-school age group, they could take a couple of older kids. The cost for

gymnastics is \$20 a month for preschoolers and \$25 a month for the older kids.

The kids are learning self-esteem, flexibility, body control and spatial awareness through the sports, she said. They are also having fun.

Mrs. Rouse said the team did a show at a wrestling match in December.

In February, they plan to perform at the Seeds of Hope Telethon and they have a meet in March.

She said they still need some equipment. They have had good luck so far getting equipment because of those who have donated money to the program. Right now, she said, they could use more floor mats.

The classes are mainly teaching tumbling, but they do work on a little bit of beam and beginning vault.

Mrs. Rouse said tumbling helps teach the kids coordination, including hand-eye, and body awareness.



**ON THE MAT**, Albany McDonald took her stance for a front somersault.



Story and photos by Kimberly Davis