

## SPECIAL HELLO

To the DANA CORPORATION, Atlas Division, Lansing. We wish to welcome you folks to your company picnic and the DeWitt Ox Roast. We hope you enjoy yourselves and have a very pleasant day at our annual event.

## Thank You

The 1973 DeWitt Memorial Association Board would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every individual who so unselfishly donated their time to work in the OX ROAST. Only a close-knit community like ours, working together, could ever make an event like this a success year after year.

We would also like to thank the service clubs, VFW, American Legion, DeWitt Vets, Lions Club, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. Other organizations such as St. Judes Ushers Club, DeWitt Merry Mixers square dancers, DeWitt City Police Department, DeWitt City Fire Department, Lake Geneva Association, DeWitt School P.T.A. and the Masonic Lodge for their active parts in making each and every annual OX ROAST a success.

Special thanks to the 144th Military Police Company, Owosso, of the 146th M.P. Battalion. These men are our traffic controllers, we appreciate having you here.

We also would like to thank the merchants of DeWitt for their part in this day and in helping us produce this program, making this another great year for the OX ROAST!

Signed,

DeWitt Memorial Board

### 1973 MEMORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Douglas B. Twiss, Pres.	William Drouin
David B. Franzmeier, V.P.	Kevin R. Decker
Joan B. Overway, Sec.	Darwin Rose
Robert G. Klan, Treas.	Harold Birgy
	William Weston

### PROGRAM EDITORS

Douglas B. Twiss, DeWitt Memorial Board, Pres.  
Charles A. Root, Spartan Duplicating & Printing, Inc.

1973

## PROGRAM

SATURDAY AUGUST 18th

DEWITT,

MICH.

27th

## DeWitt Ox Roast

DeWitt Ox Roast

# Spartan

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DeWITT



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206 W. MAIN ST.

DeWITT

## PROGRAM

Also see the center of this booklet !!

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>HOURLY PRIZES</u>
10:00 . . . . .	Parade . . . . .	
11:00 . . . . .	Mid-Way Opens . .	
12:00 . . . . .	BINGO . . . . .	\$ 25.00 Prize
1:00 . . . . .	Pony Pull . . . . .	\$ 25.00 Prize
2:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
3:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
3:30 . . . . .	Variety Show . .	
4:00 . . . . .	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize . . . . .	\$ 200.00 Prize
5:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
6:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
6:30 . . . . .	Variety Show . .	
7:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
7:30 . . . . .	Variety Show . .	
8:00 . . . . .	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize . . . . .	\$ 300.00 Prize
	Square Dancing	
8:30 . . . . .	Variety Show . .	
9:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
10:00 . . . . .		\$ 25.00 Prize
11:00 . . . . .	GRAND PRIZE . . .	\$1,000.00 Prize
11:05 !!!!!	FIREWORKS !!!!!	Grand Finale

Good Food

ALL DAY LONG

Good Beer



Art Show

Bingo

H. O. Wilbur Rides

PABST Beer Tent

Games and Pony Rides - Fun for the Whole Family

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DeWITT

### DEWITT HISTORY

#### Happy Birthday

December 14th will mark the 120th birthday of the DeWitt Community Church. It was on this date back in 1853 that the building was dedicated. It did not begin, however, as a Community Church but as the First Baptist Church.

About 25 years after its founding, in the spring of 1928, fire destroyed the M.E. Church of DeWitt. Its people were invited by the Baptist Church to worship with them. The two congregations formed a Federated Church which lasted a year and then they incorporated into the DeWitt Community Church.

The building itself has undergone changes too. In 1948 it was moved back from the sidewalk over a full basement. They installed a new heating system and inside plumbing. They enlarged the sanctuary and installed a new organ and equipped rooms for Sunday School.

We salute you, DeWitt Community Church, and wish you many years of happiness.

Submitted by Mrs. Thomas Mauro

Source of information: newspaper article

### FAMILY BARBER SHOP

BILL LONIER

8:00-6:00

TUE-FRI.



124 WEST MAIN

BILL FELL

8:00-5:00

SATURDAY

DeWITT

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## DEWITT HISTORY

### Through The Years

The city of DeWitt has a history of near misses. The quiet little village on the Looking Glass River had its chances to go "big time" in the past, but progress always seemed to pass it by. In the early 1840's, the village became the seat of government for Clinton County, until 1857, when people voted to move it to St. Johns.

Then in 1869 the railroad incorporated the village as one of its stopping points on the Lansing, St. Johns, and Mackinac railroad line. Tracks, however, were never laid.

Finally, shortly after Michigan became a State, congressmen considered the area for its new State Capitol. DeWitt again missed its opportunity.

Today, subdivisions are springing up all around the area. There's talk of putting in a new golf course, and new homes and apartment complexes are slowly emerging over the landscape. Eager new families are buying homes before they can be put on the market, and superhighways are under construction, again promising to pull 1,000's of people out of the big impersonal cities into fresh air and clean water.

So for over 100 years DeWitt remained a small town with a bank, white churches, blacksmith shops and small businesses. Today the town is growing, yet it still offers people the solitude of peaceful living, a clean environment and privacy.

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DEWITT' MICH.



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Doris DeYoe	St. Johns	\$1,000.00
Lucille Wilcox	DeWitt	300.00
Georgia Hagreen	Lansing	200.00
Flo Hartman	DeWitt	25.00
Doris Secord	DeWitt	25.00
Cash Kiebler	DeWitt	25.00
John Paluch	Lansing	25.00
Leo Pohl	DeWitt	25.00
Katie Wurm	Laingsburg	25.00
David Peck	DeWitt	25.00
Darlene Lawrence	St. Johns	25.00
Ray Rice	St. Johns	25.00

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U.S. 27

DeWITT, MICH.

## DEWITT HISTORY

### A Real Mover!

The DeWitt Library is on the move. It was scarcely 40 years ago that the ladies of the DeWitt Woman's Club began collecting and organizing their 635 volumes in the rear of the old post office building. Later, however, they moved to quarters over the old fire hall and then into the former General Telephone building.

Expanding and growing with thousands of volumes, the library is housed in the DeWitt Memorial Building, with a branch in the Valley Farms area.

We can be very proud of the growth of our library and perhaps we can look forward to a fully independant building of its own.

Submitted by Mrs. Thomas Mauro

Source of information: newspaper article



## CLAYTON CORPORATION

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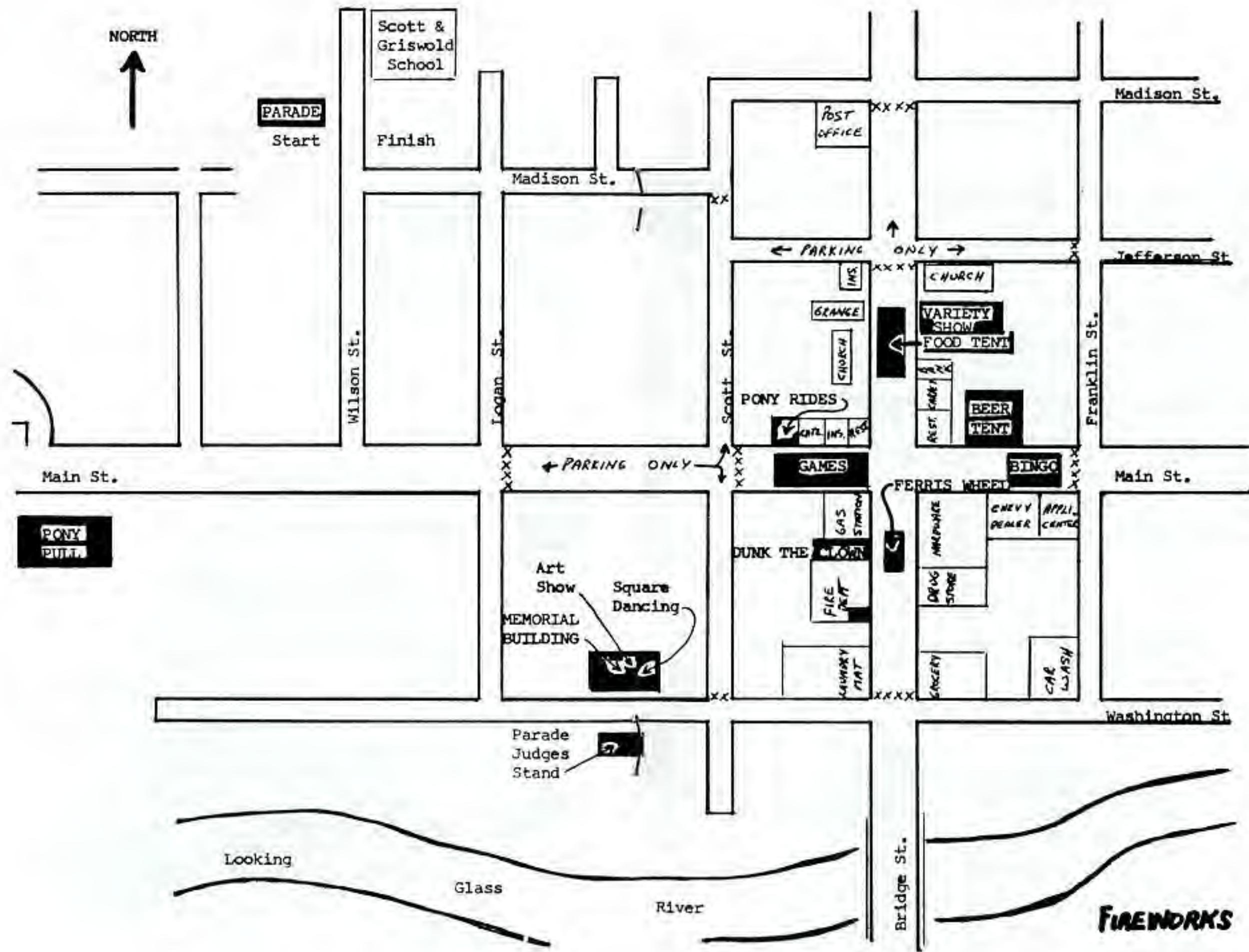
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DeWITT, MICH.

## DEWITT HISTORY

### Over a Hundred Years of Service

The old white framed building at 119 N. Bridge Street is now an Upholstery Shop offering the people of DeWitt an opportunity to learn how to refinish their old furniture. Newcomers to the Community, however, would never guess the significance that this establishment holds in the historical annals of DeWitt.

Old Grange Hall was first the Woodruff carpentry shop before Grange Local 459 bought it as their permanent headquarters in 1875. The hall was a unique center for Michigan hospitality as it served as a hall for wedding receptions, a temporary shelter for classes when the old DeWitt school burned in 1936, and a place for summer Bible school classes as it was loaned out to various church organizations.

The edifice saw its share of improvements through the years. New stables were added so members and guests of Grange could "park" their horses on meeting nights or when the building was used for various functions. Gas lamps illuminated the halls at first, but in 1914 electricity became the source of power.

Grange sold the building in 1966 because membership had dropped and it began to take on added expenses. Tanner's Clothing and Shoes replaced the old name of Grange Hall. Later it took on a new sound when DJ's Record Shop replaced the clothing store.

Today the Upholstery Shop occupies part of the building and a Center for Teens shares the other part. Whatever the future holds for old Grange Hall, memories will still hold dear for this Grand Old Site in DeWitt, Michigan.

## MEMORIAL BUILDING

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DeWITT

**DEWITT MEMORIAL BUILDING**

Early in the spring of 1946, club ladies and interested residents of DeWitt decided the village needed a building which could be a living memorial for all veterans of all wars. This building would be used by all civic organizations as well as the library.

Two city lots were donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Rogerson, these lots being where the present Memorial Building stands. To begin with, money for the building fund was raised by personal donations and from various organizations.

In April, 1946, delegates and leaders of clubs met to find a way to raise more money. They decided on a street carnival, which was a very successful three day event, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most all prizes and articles for booths were donated with expenses being less than \$100.00. Later the event was cut to two days, Saturday and Sunday, and at present is a one day event, being held the second Saturday before Labor Day weekend of each year. From this street carnival the present 27th annual Ox Roast has grown.

In September, 1965, an addition to the Memorial Building was started. This addition gave DeWitt the needed room for its Library and community events. This addition, which is still unfinished to date, calls for a lounge, snack bar, and two more restrooms, the dance floor, paneling and ceiling are completed.

The DeWitt Memorial Association, a non-profit organization, sponsors the Ox Roast each year to help maintain the Memorial Building. Rent paid by the Library and weekend rentals from the two halls also help to defray costs.

Nine DeWitt residents, volunteering their time, make up the Memorial Association Board. Three members are replaced at each annual board meeting, which is held in January, giving each member a three year term to fill.

Public meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month, at 8:00 P.M., in the Meeting Room, adjacent to the Library, in the Memorial Building.

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DeWITT, MI.



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COIN OPERATED

50¢—25¢

113 E. WASHINGTON DeWITT

## EARLY HISTORY OF DEWITT

BY FAYE HANSON

Captain David Scott, a veteran of the War of 1812, was one of those Daniel Boone types who didn't hanker to have neighbors "too close" that is within a dozen miles or so, which is how DeWitt came into existence.

Scott found New York state too confining after the War of 1812, so he moved on to Ann Arbor, a brand-new frontier town, in 1825. Ann Arbor, in turn became "too civilized," and in the spring of 1833, Scott picked his way up the Grand River Trail (parts of which still exist as Round Lake Road) until he came to a Chippewa Indian village named Wabwahnasupu on the Looking Glass River.

The high ground overlooking the Looking Glass was to be had at little cost from the federal government. Scott returned to Ann Arbor for his wife, Eunice, and children David and Charles. In September, they loaded oxen-drawn wagons with household goods and headed west and north, taking a horse and 17 head of cattle. They forded rivers and drove through swamps, axle-deep, pitched their tents wherever night overtook them.

On October 4, 1833, they arrived at their homesite, to establish the first permanent settlement in Clinton County, an event memorialized on a huge boulder in the old part of DeWitt Cemetery.

Three families of Indians welcomed the Scotts, loaning them on to their wigwams until the newcomers could build a log cabin on a site directly behind the present Municipal Building in Block 41, Section 8, DeWitt Township.

While the Scotts were dwelling in this primitive bark habitation, a party of English travelers sought shelter while enroute to the village of Grand River, later Portland. One of the members became ill and died. He was buried in a coffin made of bark taken from the wagam. This was the first recorded death of a white person in Clinton County.

## THE HEN'S NEST

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THE QUALITY SHOP PH. 669-6265

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112 WEST WASHINGTON DEWITT

## EARLY HISTORY OF DEWITT (CONTINUED)

Scott's acreage was considerable, even for that day. He had acquired 1,426 acres. However, like the early cattlemen of the plains, he had "open range." There wasn't a fence between his holdings and the Shiawassee River on the east and the Grand River on the south, with the result that his "pasture" comprised parts of what later became Eaton, Ingham, Clinton and Shiawassee counties.

Roundup time was just about any time for Captain Scott. He spent a few interesting days seeking out and rounding up cattle which had strayed south to a particularly dense section of forest in a big bend of the Grand River to the south of his homestead, where there was no evidence of habitation.

Less than a decade later, the place where he found his cattle would become the site of Michigan's capital.

During the early years in DeWitt, the Scotts had to return to Ann Arbor periodically for supplies. Then, in 1839, he erected a frame building for a storeroom and grocery and a "public house" or tavern. This landmark was known simply as "Scott's" but it led, in 1840, to the little community being singled out as the governmental seat of Clinton County. The first court session here was held October 2, 1840. This structure was on the southeast corner of Bridge and Washington Streets.

Sometime between 1840 and 1842, Scott built a large hotel, the "Clinton House" on the southeast corner of Bridge and Main Streets. It became the social center of the community and is remembered by many living residents, having burned in 1930.

The boom in emigration up the Grand River Road from southeastern Michigan added up to boom times for the little village in the 1840's. The Grand River Road was a main-traveled highway between Detroit and Grand Rapids, leading through DeWitt and Ionia, where the federal land office was located. Money from the Ionia office, where settlers deposited cash for land, was carried to Detroit via DeWitt in a wagon drawn by horses and guarded by soldiers. At DeWitt, the money boxes were unloaded and stashed away in a barred room of the hotel, with the soldiers sleeping within easy range to prevent possible pilfering.

Like many other Michigan communities, DeWitt put in its bid for the state capital in 1847. But, unlike most, DeWitt missed out by only one vote.

Then, in 1857, the county seat was removed to the newer village of St. Johns, after heated controversy.

There are still traces of the pioneer village. At 102 Webb Street is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klaver, a pioneer hostelry in the olden days, and the building that was the county jail still stands at 206 East Washington Street. It became a dwelling in 1862.

## ELECT CULLIGAN FOR SOFT WATER



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SAT. 9:00AM-6:00PM



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CITY OF DEWITT**

----- A VERY NICE PLACE TO LIVE -----

**CHURCHES.....**Several churches of various Faiths and denominations to meet your needs.

**SCHOOLS.....**A complete, well planned and balanced, school system to meet your children's educational requirements through the 12th Grade.

DeWitt High School is accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and by the University of Michigan.

DeWitt Middle School is one of only six Middle Schools in the State of Michigan to receive such a credit.

DeWitt Schools were the first Class C System in Michigan, in over 30 years, to be accredited.

**BUSINESSES...**You will be assured of that personal Home Town service.

Come live and grow with us. You will like our Parks, our beautiful Looking Glass River that runs through the center of our City and our Home Town attitude.

DeWitt, Michigan - A Sensibly Planned Community