

# THANK YOU

The 1974 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-net 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 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.

A special welcome and thank you to the newly formed J. C.'s of DeWitt for their active part in the community and this event.

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.

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

## 1974 Memorial Board Members

Douglas B. Twiss, Pres	Darwin Rose
David B. Franzmeier, V. P.	Harold Birgy
Joan B. Overway, Sec.	Gerald Thiel
Robert G. Klan, Treas.	Jerry Cole

## PROGRAM EDITORS

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

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION  
BOOK B FILE 033

FAYE HANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
DEWITT, MICHIGAN 48820

# 1974

# PROGRAM

SATURDAY AUGUST 17th

DEWITT,

MICH.

# 28th

# DeWitt Ox Roast

# Spartan

DUPLICATING AND PRINTING

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489-4330

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DeWITT

TIME	EVENTS	HOURLY PRIZES
10:00	Parade	
11:00	Mid-Way	
12:00	B I N G O	\$ 25.00 Prize
1:00	Pony Pull	\$ 25.00 Prize
2:00		\$ 25.00 Prize
3:00	Country Music Show	\$ 25.00 Prize
4:00	3rd Prize	\$ 200.00 Prize
5:00		\$ 25.00 Prize
6:00		\$ 100.00 Prize
7:00		\$ 25.00 Prize
7:30	Country Music Show	
8:00	2nd Prize	\$ 300.00 Prize
9:00	Square Dancing	\$ 25.00 Prize
10:00		\$ 25.00 Prize
11:00	GRAND PRIZE	\$1,000.00 Prize



- \* Food & Refreshments ALL DAY LONG
- \* BEER TENT
- \* BINGO TENT
- \* SQUARE DANCE - 8PM  
Dave Crissey - Caller
- \* PONY RIDES

\*ART  
SHOW





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## CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE HOURLY PRIZE WINNERS OF

Ox Roast 1973

Fred Grove	1,000.00
Gerald Lankford	300.00
Ric Buys	200.00
Mildred Paipke	25.00
Kay Kleve	25.00
Nellie Whitney	25.00
Jean Wolthuis	25.00
Jami Maynard	25.00
Anson McNait	25.00
Vi Hill	25.00
Linda Greenfield	25.00
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US-27 at 0111 Road, DeWitt, Mich.



The above picture is the "Clinton House" built by Captain David Scott, a veteran of the War of 1812, and first white man to settle in DeWitt area. This large Hotel was built between 1840 and 1842, the main Ballroom was on the third floor, which also housed the Clinton County court room until St. Johns became our County Seat. The "Clinton House" burnt down in 1930.



The union 76 Gas Station now rests on the very same spot that the "Clinton House" rested on years ago. This Station is now run by William Ackles.

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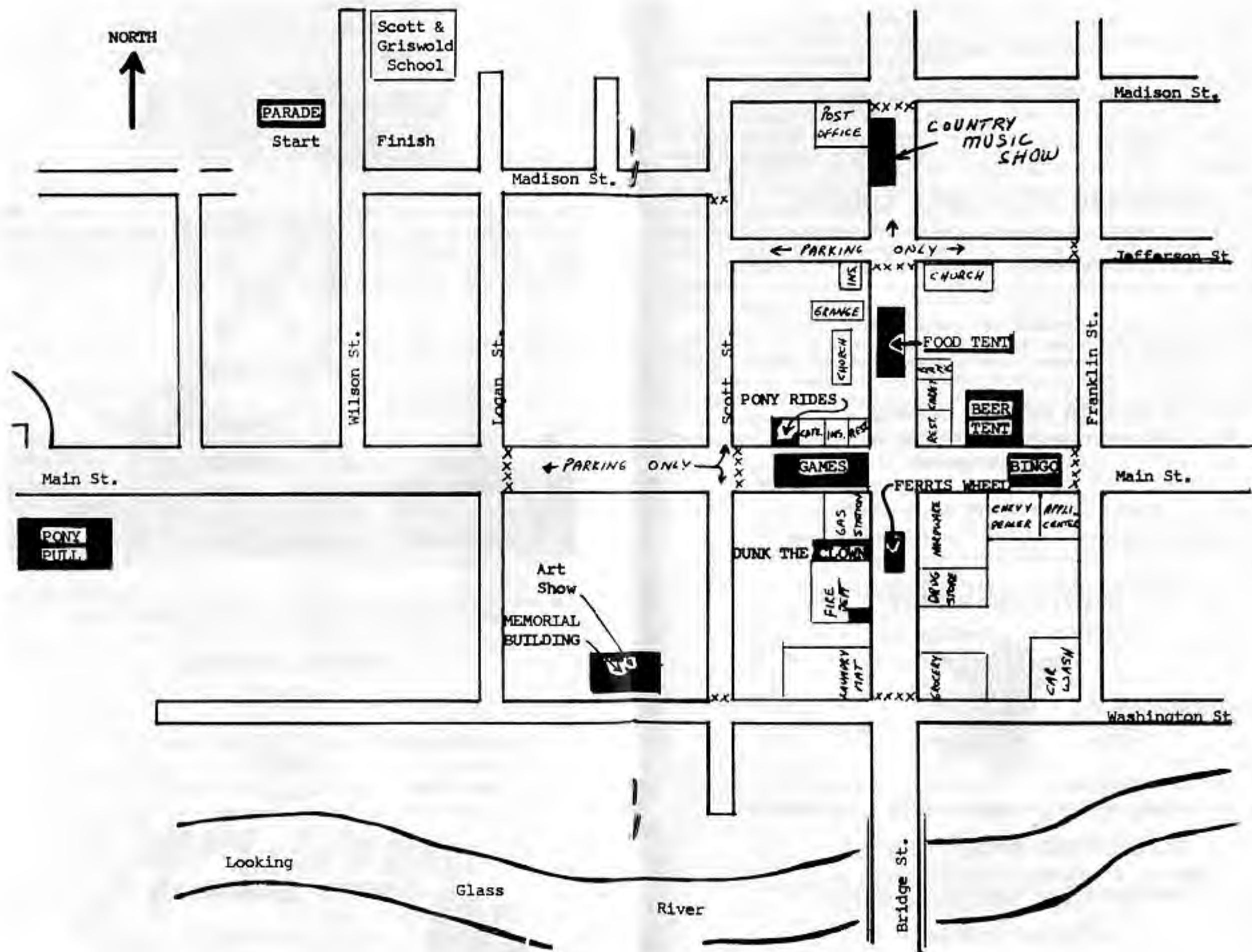


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DeWITT, MICH.



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DeWITT, MICH.

## 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 wigwam. This was the first recorded death of a white person in Clinton County.

(TO BE CONTINUED ON LAST PAGE)

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NORTH U.S. 27

DEWITT MICH.

## 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.

## THE HEN'S NEST

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TUE-FRI.

124 WEST MAIN

BILL FELL

8:00-5:00

SATURDAY

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.

## DEWITT AUTO BODY

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