

The wet August weather may be just the trick that turns the autumn leaves a brilliant red for DeWitt's Bicentennial Home Tour October 4 from early morning until early evening.

The homes will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and the price of the tour is \$2.

Beginning with DeWitt's early history, the tour is arranged to bring visitors through the life of the city, from its very founding to the latest modern homes built in the last few years.

In addition to the tour, of course, there will be music, food and crafts. Gale Foerch will be playing the Hammond Organ, Don, Pat and Jack will play organ, electric guitar and banjo, and Marilyn and Earl will play accordion and fiddle. The Sweet Adelines have also scheduled some sweet harmonies for the occasion.

Hope Lutheran Church at 380 Herbison Road is celebrating the day with an Oktoberfest from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. German potato salad, bratwurst and a sauerkraut plate will be for sale, along with apple strudel, sausages on a bun, soft drinks, and beer. A bazaar at the church features handicrafts, candy, baked goods, cookbooks, plants and terrariums, as well as a tour of the new church and a film on Lutheranism.

The Community Church at 505 Webb Road is planning an old fashioned luncheon from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. White tableclothes and napkins, kerosene lamps and chicken pie with homemade biscuits will be enough to make anyone feel at home. Cole slaw, coffee, tea and assorted desserts--boston cream pie, floating islands and tarts--will also be available. Sunbonnets will be for sale.

On North Bridge Street, the Community of St. Jude will be selling shaved ham sandwiches, salad, hot dogs, pie, punch and coffee for tourers. Their bazaar features homemade candy, baked goods, a white elephant sale and a quilt raffle. They will be offering a tour of their new church and will be displaying vestments.

Christmas gifts and other hand-crafted items and baked goods, will be on display at Redeemer United Methodist Church at 103 North Bridge. They will have homemade soup and desserts for sale for lunch.

St. Anne's Episcopal on Webb Road will be giving a complimentary tour of the church complete with free coffee and cookies.

The Order of Eastern Star has a salad smorgasboard planned at 126 North Bridge during the lunch hour from 11 to 2:30 with homemade jams and jellies for sale. A tour of the Masonic Temple, one of the oldest buildings in town, is also planned.

The VFW Auxiliary, 128 North Bridge will be selling sloppy joes and cold drinks or coffee, and are offering tours of the VFW Hall which was originally built as a church in 1853.

The homes in history tour begins with the modified Greek Revival structure known as the Lankford-Hill House at 402 West Main. The house is built entirely of oak and its basement beams are hand-hewn. It was built about 1841-43 as the home of Lewis Lankford.

The Coin House, 109 North Scott Street, is a saltbox built in the 1850's by Dr. G.W.

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DeWitt Birthday Festival

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Topping as an office. It was moved from the northwest corner of Scott and Main Street to its present site in 1910. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Coin, who have furnished it with antiques.

The two story frame house at 103 West Main Street built by Dr. Richard Simmons about 1899 is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Myers.

Brent Newman and his family now live in the two story frame house built by Peter Halterman in 1908 on the site of Scott's first Public House. Mr. Newman is the great grandson of Mr. Halterman.

In 1915 Ernest Scott built the two story frame house now occupied by Lt. Colonel and Mrs. Charles Ferfuson at 211 Jefferson. They purchased the house in 1955 and have furnished it with their collection of antiques.

The charming bungalow recently remodeled and redecorated by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mulford at 407 West Washington Street was originally built by Charles Lorenz in 1915. The Mulford have owned it since 1955.

The Stone House at 407 Webb Road, now empty, will contain a showing of works by the local artist Madeline Brockway. This unusual house is built entirely of native field stone and was constructed for A.D. Rose in 1937. It has no stairs, but ramps instead throughout.

The modern brick ranch house of Ralph Woodruff and his wife built in 1958 at 210 West Dill Drive brings the tour into the realm of recent modern homes in an elegant one-level style.

The last two homes on the tour are newly constructed in Millbrook Meadows. Featured will be the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Powell, builders, at 841 Andover Drive. This house was built in 1974 at a cost of \$97,000 and features a walnut paneled library, master suite with bed-sitting room and fireplace.

Also in Millbrook Meadows is a contemporary duplex pictured.

STONE HOUSE UNIQUE FEATURE OF TOUR

The Stone House was built for A.D. (Del) Rose by Harvey Butler; it was begun in 1936 and finished in 1938. A stock floor plan, modeled in clay was made by Rose's son, Frank, as a guide.

Construction featured reinforced concrete floors and ceilings throughout. Well over 100 barrels of cement was used and mixed in a one wheel-barrel mixer. Stones were hauled from as far as 50 miles away, all stones are whole and the walls are four feet in thickness in places. There is tile and cinder block inside stone. Stones were raised by block and tackle.

There is an air conditioner constructed by C. Brenner of Lansing which takes air from an old cistern. Canvas drops with a spray took the dust from the air.

Total cost of building was \$5,000. Top laborers received \$1.00 per hour and more than 75 ac. and had a large barn which burned during the 1960's. The old homestead that was on the site was moved 2 houses to the East and is still in use.

The first slaughter house in the area was southwest of the house and hauled water from Prairie Creek to wash the meat. The slaughter house furnished cans to DeWitt homes to collect garbage to feed the hogs. This was the beginning of Rosevale Packing Company which has now become Michigan Beef Company. □

