



#### 1976 DEWITT MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Top Row - left to right, Willis Fuller, Terry Gartside, directors, Rev. Jerry Cole, Treasurer. Bottom row - left to right, Fred Grove, Director Gerald Thiel, President, Joan Overway, Secretary, William Hayner, Director.

(not pictured) Mrs. Sam Russell, Booking Agt., Mrs. David Bordul, Custodian.

## Thank You

The 1976 DeWitt Memorial Association Board of Directors takes this opportunity to thank sincerely, each and every individual who, so unselfishly, has donated his or her time on the 30th Annual Ox Roast. We are very proud of our close-knit community which works so well year after year to produce one successful ox roast after another.

We also express our sincere thanks to the many local service clubs, groups and organizations which have cooperated so fully once again, helping us to bring you Ox Roast, 1976.

We thank, in particular, the DeWitt Businessmen's Association, who support the Ox Roast in hundreds of ways. To mention a couple, they are largely responsible for the production of this souvenir booklet, and they also close down their businesses to allow the ox roast to go on.

A special thank you goes to the Dana Corporation for bringing their annual picnic to the ox roast.

Other major supporters of the Ox Roast year after are the DeWitt Lions Club, DeWitt Vets Club, DeWitt Post of the American Legion, St. Judes Ushers Club, Lake Geneva Association, Merry Mixers Square Dance Club, St. Judes and Bank Boosters Bingo Committees, DeWitt Library Board, DeWitt Education Association, DeWitt VFW and their Auxiliary, Masonic Lodge, Blue Star Mothers, others DeWitt church groups, the DeWitt City Police Department, Fire Department, DPW, City Council and Mayor, members of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Little Leagues and their leaders and countless of other individual supporters.

A Big Thank you to all of them and to each of you for contributing so generously of your time and effort in putting on and supporting the 30th Annual Ox Roast. All proceeds go to improve the DeWitt Memorial Building, which exists to serve the needs of our community and its organizations and to house the DeWitt Library.

# 1976

# PROGRAM

## Saturday, August 21st

## DeWitt Mich.



# 30th

# DeWitt Ox Roast

# Spartan

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DeWITT

PICTURES OF EVENTS



## PICTURES OF EVENTS



## DEWITT OX ROAST 1976

10:00 a.m. Parade - beginning at Scott School - reviewing stand at Fuerstenau School by Memorial Building - passing through and around town.

10:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m. WITL RED WAGON broadcasting live from driveway by bank.

11:00 a.m. til 11:00 p.m. **OX ROAST OFFICIALLY OPENS**  
Food Tent - (located on Bridge St. just north of light) Oxburgers still only 75¢ each  
Games Tent - (located on Main St., just west of light) Run by local clubs, groups, other organizations  
Beer Tent - (Located on O'Shaughnessy parking lot off East Main St.) Run by St. Judes' Ushers Club.  
Merchants Tent - (Located on North Bridge at intersection of Jefferson) run by DeWitt Downtown Merchants Assoc. Souvenir program booklets available here.  
Bingo Tent - (located on East Main at intersection of Franklin (volunteers from St. Judes and Band Boosters)  
Lottery Booth - (located on SE corner of Bridge/Main intersection. Run til 7 p.m. by Merry Mixers and ten by ox roast personnel) Tickets on sale all day for cash and other prizes.  
Midway - B.J. McDonagh Co. Ticket booth located on SW corner of Bridge/Main intersection. 50¢ per ticket.  
Art Show - sponsored by Mrs. Hansen, Library Association (located in Memorial Building by Fuerstenau School)  
Bath Equestrian (Square Dance on horseback) (also in parade)  
Pony Pulling - sponsored by Clinton County Pony Pulling Association (located by city DPW at McGuire Park)  
NOTE: Riverside Park - ball diamond and park are reserved for the entire ox roast for the Dana Corp. picnic.  
Prize - Schwinn 27" 10-speed bikes, His and Hers (all prizes announced from main lottery booth stand and over radio - need not be present to win.)  
Prize - \$100.00 cash.  
Garden Tractor Pull - organized by George McGinnis (located at city DPW - McGuire Park) Rules at Terranovas and the public is invited to participate as well as watch.  
Prize - \$100.00 cash  
Prize \$100.00 cash  
Prize - Suzuki TX-125 Duster Motorcycle  
Square Dancing - DeWitt Merry Mixers - Dave Crissey calling (located on parking lot between VFW Hall and Masonic Temple. Dancing continues in the Memorial Building after demonstration. Also event will be held in Mem. Bldg. if it rains  
Prize - \$100.00 cash  
Prize - \$100.00 cash  
Prize - Sunfish 14 foot Sailboat  
All Ox Roast Events close - games, beer, food, bingo, merchants exhibits and midway games and rides.  
11:00 p.m. til 11:20 p.m. **GRAND FINALE** - Fireworks display - by bridge at Riverside Park (run by Bruce Angell and assistants)

Note: There may be some additions to this schedule - some events may be added currently in the planning stage.



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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.

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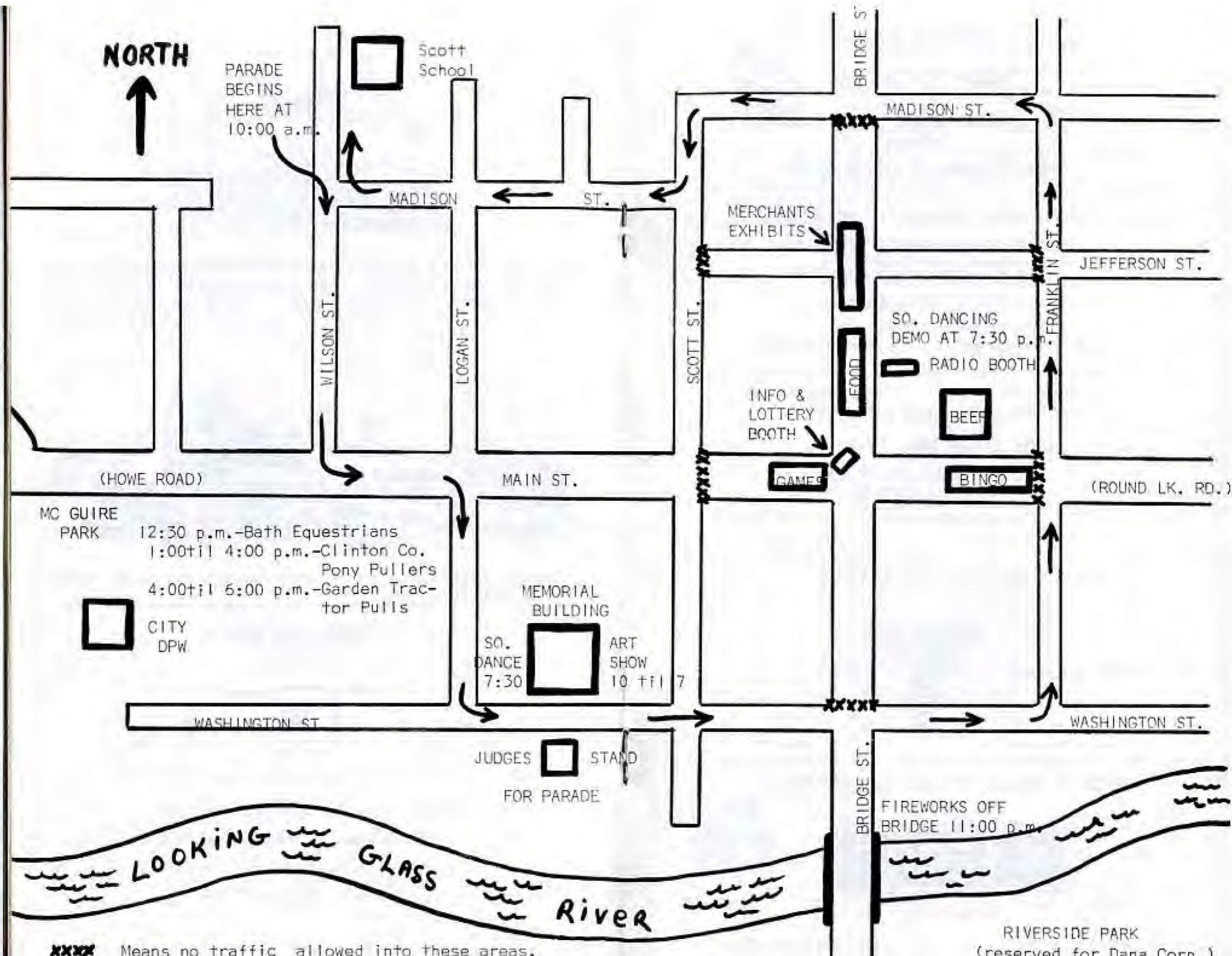
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SATURDAY

DeWITT

## DEWITT MEMORIAL BUILDING

On Oct. 16, 1945, Mrs. Earl Pierson, Assistant Librarian, issued a request to every organization in DeWitt Township to send two representatives to discuss the possibility of building a community building in DeWitt. A piece of property on West Washington Street, where the present memorial building stands, had been donated by Mr. & Mrs. William Rogerson, for the purpose of building a library, but they were agreeable to the construction of a community building, provided a library was accommodated.

The first donation was a pledge of \$1,000 given by Mr. & Mrs. Verne Walker. All of the organizations agreed to raise money for this purpose. They formed a non-profit organization to erect and maintain a building, and named their group the "Memorial Association."

In April, 1946, delegates and leaders of clubs met to find a way to raise money. They decided on a street carnival, which was a very successful three day event, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most 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 29th annual Ox Roast has grown, and it has become an annual event to provide funds for the operation and maintenance of the Memorial Building. Jack Lenneman and Don Reed were the principle chefs and became known as the "Barbecue Kings" of Central Michigan.

The original building incorporators were L.J. Griswold and J.B. Vincent, Leo Spayde, Leon Blizzard, Mildred Carris, Hazel Norris, Verne Walker and Mr. & Mrs. William Rogerson.

This building was dedicated to all veterans of all wars. It has been the meeting place for all local organizations and is quite unique in its inception and use.

The building was opened for partial use for the 1947 Ox Roast and was dedicated at the annual event in 1948. A bronze plaque placed in the lobby of the library by the DeWitt Blue Star Mothers, reads, "Lovingly dedicated to the men and women who served in all branches of military service, and to those who gave their lives to their country." The plaque also lists the eight names of local boys who gave their lives in World War II.

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.

Our building now houses one of the most modern libraries in the state, for an area of this size. It is a member of the Central Michigan Library System. There is currently a meeting room with complete kitchen facilities for use by the public and also a second level also for use by the public.

## EARLY HISTORY OF DEWITT

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.

Jail House

General Store



Site of the First Jail and Sheriff's residence in Clinton County. The cells were located in the basement. Built by Wm. Utley for the County in 1837 for \$1078. The jail was discontinued in 1857 when the County Seat was moved to St. Johns.



On October 4, 1833 Capt. David Scott and his wife and two of their sons arrived in what is now DeWitt to make the first permanent white settlement in Clinton County. A bronze plaque was erected in DeWitt Village in 1913 by the Clinton County Pioneer Society making note of this fact. After the fire in 1930 the plaque was rescued by the late Agnes Steinhardt Forbes who later gave it to Howard Courtland. He returned it to the DeWitt Bicentennial Commission who replaced it on its original stone on a foundation donated and set by Ted Powell at 223 S. Bridge St. It is along one of DeWitt's main highways where all may drive up and read the inscription from their cars.

The Bicentennial Commission also erected three other historic markers within the city as permanent reminders of DeWitt's colorful past.

There is one at the south east corner of Locust and Dill that commemorates the site of the first grist mill in Clinton County. It was built in 1844 by Jesse and Milo Turner and was burned in 1901. Timbers from the mill are incorporated in the Home of O.E. McGuire who lives at 310 Dill Road.

Another is at 206 East Washington, this building was the first Clinton County Jail, and the only original County building remaining. On October 12, 1840 the following resolution was adopted: "That four hundred dollars be appropriated in erecting offices for the following county officers: treasurer, clerk, register of deeds; also that sufficient amount of money be appropriated in erecting a jail and dwelling house attached thereto, for the use of the jailer; the offices to be completed by the 15th of September, 1841, the jail on or before October 15th of the same year. "The Board of Commissioners convened Dec. 3, 1841, and awarded the contract to William H. Utley he being the lowest responsible bidder. The contract for the offices was four hundred and thirty nine dollars, and for the jail and residence one thousand and seventy-eight dollars. The buildings were not completed at the specified time, and in March, 1842, Seth P. Martin was appointed by the commissioners to attend to the completion of the jail. The building is still four-square and is the home of the Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tilford and family.

The other is at 110 East Webb Drive and is the site of the first General Store in the county. It was built by Milo Turner in 1838. The remodeled white house is the original store building. Milo and his brother, Jesse, did much building in and around DeWitt but left for the gold fields of California in 1850. The house is now owned by A.E. McIntire.

All of these new signs are mounted on huge boulders found in the DeWitt area and are so located that you can drive up and read them from your car. It is our hope that one day soon DeWitt will have an area Historical Society to perpetuate the heritage and history of the area and work toward a DeWitt Museum.

Faye Hanson 7/13/76