

DeWitt's Lumber Yard
Krass Lumber/Walker Lumber/Ballard Home Center
by Ken Coin

In 1905, during one of DeWitt's biggest building booms, Luther Sibley of Olive Twp. Established a lumber yard along the Interurban where it crossed E. Washington. Mr. Sibley, with the assistance of other family members, built this successful venture from the ground up. He also built a coal yard on the north side of the street.

William Krass bought out Sibley in 1917 and operated the business until his death in 1924 at which time his widow, Merle (McLouth) Krass took over the management of Krass Lumber Co. In 1931 she was remarried to Mr. Vern Walker. The name of the company was then changed to Walker Lumber and Coal Co. and Mr. Walker was active manager until his death in 1961 when the business was sold.

The Ballard family, the current owner, have enlarged and remodeled the business which is now known as Ballard Home Center. No longer stocking lumber, the Ballards have redesigned the inventory and now specialize in interior building and decorating products as well as standard building materials.

Written c1980