

# FRANKLIN SQUARE LIBRARY.

COMPANY.

[Copyrighted 1884, by C. B. Page.]

No.

Mrs. Irene L. Starmont,

LIBRARIAN,

AT THE

POST OFFICE.

DEWITT, MICHIGAN.

DECEMBER 7, 1885.

82

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

The DeWitt Public Library was established in 1934 by Mrs. Mildred Carris, with the books donated by members of the now defunct DeWitt Civic Club. The first home of the library was in the back of the old Post Office.

Mrs. Carris served as the first librarian without pay. The Civic Club later took on the library as a project and provided funding for new books and shelving.

In 1940 Mr. & Mrs. William Roguson donated land on West Washington for the site of the new library. They later agreed the land could be used for a Community Building as long as it contained the Library.

Following World War II the DeWitt Memorial Building was built and the library moved into its new room in 1949.

In the 1960's when the present meeting hall was added the library moved into its present quarters.

The library became a district library in 1962 when the City and Township agreed to support such an establishment. Funds for the Valley Farms Branch Library Building and the stocking of the library were provided by the existing library in the City of DeWitt.

The Township provided the land and sewer connection for the building.

The Valley Farms Branch moved into its new quarters in the DeWitt Township Hall previously the (Valley Farms School) in December of 1981.

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
FOX  
FILE



No. B 00004

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES

This certifies that Mrs. Mildred Carris  
has submitted evidence which meets the requirements of the  
STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES, and is hereby granted a

**Certificate of Library Experience, Grade Two**

in accordance with the regulations of Act 315 of the Public Acts of 1937, as amended by Act 244  
of the Public Acts of 1941 and by Act 109 of the Public Acts of 1943.

STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES

Loleta B. Fyan

Secretary

Valid until June 30, 1947

Date July 1, 1945



KIM SIGLER  
GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES  
STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
LANSING 13

May 27, 1947

JOSEPH W. FLANK  
LANSING, CHAIRMAN  
MRS. GEORGE G. HUNTER  
ST. JOHNS, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
MRS. FLORENCE H. DEARING  
BAYTOWN  
MRS. DOROTHY T. HAGERMAN  
GRAND RAPIDS 7  
MISS HELEN WARNER  
BATTLE CREEK  
MRS. LOLECA D. FRYAN  
LANSING 16, SECRETARY

Mrs. Mildred M. Carris, Librarian  
DeWitt Public Library  
DeWitt, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Carris:

The State Board for Libraries encloses a check as final payment on the General Library Fund grant for which your library qualified this year according to the requirements of the State Aid Law. The amount of this check is as follows:

<u>Population</u> <u>1940 Federal Census</u>	<u>Per Capita</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Final</u> <u>Payment</u>
DeWitt twp. 3,210	\$0.0619	\$198.70	
Less: first payment		<u>64.20</u>	\$134.50

Due to an increase in the population served by the libraries qualifying for the General Library Fund this year, the per capita rate is slightly lower than last year.

May we remind you that the grant should be spent promptly. It may be used for any purpose except the erection or remodeling of a building, purchase of sites or the payment of principal or interest charges on any indebtedness.

An annual appropriation for aid to local libraries for 1947-48 is being favorably considered by the Legislature, now in session. After the appropriation is made, the application blanks for the 1947-48 General Library Fund grants will be sent. We trust your library will qualify again for a grant from this fund.

Will you please arrange with your local newspaper to announce the receipt of this grant and include any item of particular interest as to how you plan to use the money or other news about your library. We shall greatly appreciate it if you will send us a clipping of the news release.

Sincerely yours,

*Eudocia Stratton*  
Eudocia Stratton, Director  
State Aid to Public Libraries

ES:hg  
Enc.

MICHIGAN STATE LIBRARY  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
LANSING 13

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS  
GOVERNOR

MRS. LOLETA D. FVAN  
STATE LIBRARIAN

February 9, 1949

Mrs. Mildred M. Carris, Librarian  
DeWitt Public Library  
DeWitt, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Carris:

Congratulations on the opening of your new library.  
I know a lot of planning and work has gone into the  
finished product and hope that it meets all your  
expectations.

I am sorry I will be unable to attend the Open  
House, but will be looking forward to seeing the  
library the first chance I get. Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

*Grace A. Burgett*

Grace Ashby Burgett (Mrs.)  
Public Library Consultant

GAB:GB



G. MENNEN WILLIAMS  
GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES  
STATE AID FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES  
LANSING 13

June 20, 1949

MRS. DOROTHY T. HAGERMAN  
GRAND RAPIDS T. CHAIRMAN  
MRS. FLORENCE H. DEARING  
HARTLAND, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
MISS HELEN WARNER  
BATTLE CREEK  
MRS. GEORGE G. HUNTER  
ST. JOSEPH  
JOHN J. FORTYER  
EAST JORDAN

MRS. LOLETA B. FRYAN  
LANSING 13, SECRETARY

Mrs. Mildred M. Carris, Librarian  
DeWitt Public Library  
DeWitt, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Carris:

The State Board for Libraries encloses a check as final payment on the General Library Fund grant for the year ending June 30, 1949, in accordance with the requirements of the State Aid Law. The amount of this check is as follows:

<u>Population</u> <u>1940 Federal Census</u>	<u>Per Capita</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Final</u> <u>Payment</u>
DeWitt Twp. - 3,210	\$0.0598	\$191.96	
Less: first payment		<u>96.30</u>	\$95.66

The slight decrease in the per capita rate for the General Library Fund is due to an increase in the population served by the libraries qualifying for the General Library Fund this year.

A grant from the General Library Fund is to help a library increase and extend its services. It may be used for any purpose except the erection or remodeling of a building, purchase of sites or the payment of principal or interest charges on any indebtedness. The grant should be used promptly.

As you know, the 1949 legislature passed amendments to the state aid to libraries law which make important changes in the qualifications required during the coming year. As soon as the amended law becomes effective, we will send you full information.

There is every indication that an appropriation for grants for the year 1949-50 will be available. It is expected that the amount will be slightly less than for the present year.

Sincerely yours,

*Loleta B. Fryan*  
Secretary

LDF:hg  
Enc.

December 28, 1949

Mrs. Mildred Carris  
DeWitt, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Carris :

Recently the members of the library board for DeWitt's Public Library sent in their resignation. A new board was appointed and the first meeting was held December 27, 1948 at the Memorial Building. At this meeting, a new librarian and assistant librarian were hired. They were notified and have accepted the positions.

This letter is to express our appreciation as representatives of DeWitt and surrounding communities for your many years of loyal service to the people as Librarian.

We would like, in the future, to be able to call on you for your assistance. As we are an inexperienced group, we are going to need help. We want to continue, in the same degree, the excellent service which you have founded.

Thank you again for your many years of loyalty.

Yours sincerely,



LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE



No. A 00188

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES

This certifies that Mrs. Gladys Walker  
has submitted evidence which meets the requirements of the  
STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES, and is hereby granted a

**Certificate of Library Experience, Grade One**

in accordance with the regulations of Act 315 of the Public Acts of 1937, as amended by Act 244  
of the Public Acts of 1941 and by Act 109 of the Public Acts of 1943.

STATE BOARD FOR LIBRARIES

Loleta D. Ryan  
Secretary

Valid until Sept. 1, 1950

Date January 6, 1949



# Librarians

Mrs. Blanche Eldridge  
 " Sadie Trumbull  
 " Mildred Carris  
 " Augusta Smith  
 " Gladys Walker  
 " Alice Hewitt  
 " Dorothy Miller  
 " Rhoda Pierson  
 " Naomi Tenney  
 " Mamie Archer  
 " Faye Hanson  
 " Pat Parker  
 " MARGARET ROBERTS  
 Student Helpers #1/ma  
 #2/sabin

Ruth Overholt  
 Beatrice Goetz  
 Joan Pike  
 Phyllis Lee Eberle  
 Carol Crum  
 DeeAnne Hill  
 Judy Parker  
 Nancy Ackerman  
 Linda Vermillion  
 Mary Anna Dee  
 Doris Morrow  
 Marilyn Rossow  
 Sandra Balderson  
 Janet Porter  
 Jo Ann Savage  
 Jean Proper  
 Sandra Howard  
 Pat Benton  
 Beverly Bollinger  
 Dorothy Shultz  
 Ivi's Brooks  
 Robert Bowling  
 Linda Chapel  
 Eddie Smith  
 Donald Roberts  
 Lissa Dinstbier  
 Elaine Dinstbier  
 Sheila Smith  
 Brent Baute  
 David Couling

# Library Board

Mrs. Elsie Woodruff  
 " Leona Campbell  
 " Florence Murray  
 " Florence Surratt  
 " Hazel Kimball  
 " Beatrice Fuerstenau  
 " Gladys Walker  
 " Evelyn Cutler  
 Mr. Francis Brainerd  
 Mrs. Alice Hewitt  
 " Geraldine Brainerd  
 " Ella Blizzard  
 " Marjorie Ward  
 " Wilma Reed  
 " Erdine Phillips  
 " Geraldine Phillips  
 " Jane Vermillion  
 " Helen Mac Gregor  
 " Marjorie Heil  
 " Wanda Richards  
 " Lois Mershon  
 " Mabel Lee  
 " Rhoda Pierson  
 " Dorothy Keen  
 " Jessie Armstrong  
 " ZADA BUYS  
 " PAT SMITH  
 " JOAN BURKE  
 " PAT PARKER  
 " JANET WOODRUFF  
 " HAZEL MORRIS  
 " MAMIE ARCHER  
 Mr. Oliver Angell  
 Mrs. Fern Wellington  
 " Shirley Keck  
 " Norma Berkimer  
 " Mary Woodruff  
 Mr. Kenneth Weaver  
 " Alfred Smith

## Know Your Library (Part 2)

### Know Your Library

This is the first in a series of articles pertaining to the DeWitt Public Library and its functions.

A library to serve the needs of DeWitt families and the surrounding community was deemed a worthy project by the members of the DeWitt Womans Club. At their fall meeting in 1933, Mrs. P. J. Carris was appointed chairman of the library committee. Under her direction, a house to house campaign for donations of books was conducted and many interested residents responded generously. Among the books received were such favorites as Zane Gray's "Riders of the Purple Sage", "Call of the Wild" by Jack London, Harold Bell Wright's "Winning of Barbara Worth" as well as the Louisa May Alcott series.

Library Quarters were secured in the rear of the old post office building which now houses the LaVerne Beauty Shop.

Mrs. Sadie Trumball and Mrs. Carris volunteered their services as librarians, and with the assistance of other members of the Womans' Club, the DeWitt Public Library loaned its first books on February 9, 1934. Extra duties of the librarian, in addition to loaning books, included dusting of the books and shelves, tending to the stoking of the heating stove (in which Mr. Carris had started the fire during his noon hour), and sweeping the library and the walkway.

Thus came about the establishment of the DeWitt Public Library, opened to the public two afternoons each week, with a collection of 400 books, a staff of two librarians and 40-50 registered borrowers. — Mrs. Rhoda Pierson.

The DeWitt Public Library continued functioning in the rear of the Post Office building until it outgrew its quarters. A new location was found on the second floor of the old fire hall, a building then located between the DeWitt Pharmacy and Reed's Foodland. The approach to the library, a steep flight of steps on the outside of the building, made a hazardous climb for older patrons and children. However, the library continued to grow. Mrs. Max Smith succeeded Mrs. Trumball and Mrs. Gladys Walker and Mrs. Alice Hewitt were added to the library staff.

In 1943 an arrangement was made with the General Telephone Company whereby the DeWitt Public Library might use their vacated quarters, the building now known as Bob's Barber Shop. Acting on the suggestion of consultants from the Michigan State Library, a library board was organized. Funds were provided by the Village Council and the librarians were granted a wage of 25 cents per hour. New books were purchased and the number of borrowers more than doubled. A provision was made enabling rural teachers to borrow books on a six-weeks loan.

With the sale of this building, the DeWitt Womans Club again faced the problem of providing a new location for the library. By coincidence, word was received from the National Federation of Women's Clubs suggesting that organizations desiring to honor the local service men provide a living memorial. It was decided that a building to be used as a meeting place for clubs and societies and to provide a recreation center for the people was a much needed facility for the community.

Through the cooperation of the clubs and organizations in DeWitt, funds were raised through private donations and yearly homecomings. In 1948 the Memorial Building was erected and the library was moved to its present location. — Mrs. Rhoda Pierson.

Friday, February 8, 1963

## Know Your Library (Part 3)

Since its inception in 1934, DeWitt Public Library became an integral part of the DeWitt community. Being located across from the High School has made it a major source for reference material as well as recreational reading for the students and teachers.

A program for servicing schools outside of the village was started in 1951, whereby loans of 30 books per room was delivered to each school in DeWitt township. These books were exchanged every six weeks and new loans provided throughout the school year.

Ministers and members of religious societies have found valuable help from a large collection of religious books owned by the library, including a set of the Interpreter's Bible.

Every summer children of elementary school age look forward to a program of reading and games provided by the Story Hour program.

A record collection has been established by the library that is loaned to the public on the same basis as a book loan. The latest addition to this collection is a set of Shakespearean dramas. Magazines are also a part of the loan system.

By special request, books not owned by the DeWitt Library may be procured from the Michigan State Library as well as records, films and pictures.

An art exhibit of local talent was sponsored by the library in August of 1960. It has since become a part of the annual Ox Roast and Homecoming.

With all of these free services available, are you missing out by not taking advantage of them? If you are a resident of DeWitt Township, you are eligible to become a registered borrower, or for a fee of \$1.25, library cards may be secured by families residing outside of the township.

— Mrs. Rhoda Pierson.

Friday, February 15, 1963

## Know Your Library (Part 4)

The DeWitt Public Library has grown in exceptionally large strides in the last 12 years. In comparing statistics of the 1962 annual report to the State Library with those of the 1950 report, the following facts were ascertained:

	1950	1962
Township Pop.	4000	7627
Reg. Borrowers	840	1384
No. of Volumes	2578	8197
Circulation	10,792	28,119
Income	\$897.24	\$3355.73
Expenditures	\$1085.75	\$3413.75

This comparison shows a decided increase of registered borrowers per capita of township population. The number of volumes owned by the library has increased from four to six volumes per registered borrower. The greatest contrast is noted in the circulation figures which show an average of 12.8 books loaned to each registered borrower in 1950 as compared to 20.3 volumes in 1962.

The DeWitt Public Library was originated as a civic project with donated books, quarters provided by the Village and a volunteer staff. Eventually the library outgrew the resources of its sponsor, and the Village and Township were asked to assume the responsibility of financing the library.

Inasmuch as the library has become a necessary part of the community and because the sponsoring organization was disbanded in 1952, it became apparent that the library must become a part of a governmental unit which would assume responsibility for its operation. An appeal to establish the library as a District Library was made in 1962. The proposition was rejected. Therefore, a petition has been filed with the Township Clerk for a proposition to be placed on the April ballot that the DeWitt Public Library be established as a Township Library. — Mrs. Rhoda Pierson, publicity chairman.

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

12/30/59 "Mrs. 'Arris Goes To Paris" by Paul Gallico is a story for every woman who ever wanted the most beautiful dress in the world and for every man who ever wanted to give it to her. Mrs. 'Arris, a respectable London Charwoman, spent many hours gazing at her employer's glittering wardrobe. Then Mrs. 'Arris goes to Paris with money to buy a Dior gown. This book is on the top ten list for this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Goddard gave us another box of books this week; Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Salisbury Jr. gave us several commercial text books; and Rev. A. M. Carson gave us several history books. We wish to thank all of these people.

Now that the weather is down around the zero mark, it might be a good time to take a second look at your house plants. "Indoor Plants" by Eigil Kiaer lists and gives the care of all house plants and might make you want to try some of the new more exotic house plants along with your old favorites.

Faye Hanson, Librarian.

DEWITT LIBRARY 1954  
MAKING PROGRESS

More Than 400 Books Are Available and 125 Have Filled Out Applications

Special to The State Journal:  
DEWITT, March 16—According to reports the progress of the DeWitt Community library has been very satisfactory due to the interest and cooperation of the community.

The library has been open for five weeks. During this time 125 people, over half of whom are children, have filled out application cards. They have access to approximately 350 books which were donated and 80 which were loaned by the state library. A group of juvenile books was recently added which will take care of pre-school and primary children.

The library will be open every Friday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30 and from 7:30 to 8:30 in the same evening. Anyone in the village or surrounding territory may borrow books.

PERRY

DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

With Lent starting this week, our thoughts should turn to re-evaluation and self-examination. We have many inspirational books at the library that you might like to read. Among them are: "The Art of Meditation" by Joel S. Goldsmith which deals with inward prayer and meditation. It is not concerned with theory or theology, but with man's need of prayer.

"The Answer Is God" by Dale Evans and Roy Rogers is the true story of heartbreak, failure, success, domestic tragedy and a miracle — a story that will move and impress every reader.

"Try Giving Yourself Away" by David Dunn is another inspirational book. When you put this plan into practice, you will find that, surprisingly enough the returns per minute from giving are far greater than the returns from receiving.

"Love One Another" by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen offers an inspirational solution to the problem of intolerance among men — one of the most distressing evils in a modern world. The solution of the problem is not the carrying on of the anti-hate campaigns for, unless there is love, how can hate be abolished?

Our hours are 12:30 to 4:30 — Monday thru Saturday, 7:00 to 9:00 Friday evenings. 2/13/59

Faye Hanson, Librarian.

DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know that you might borrow magazines from the Library? We take Popular Mechanics, Sports Illustrated, Outdoor Life, Time and the American Girl. We also have some copies of Holiday, Life, Better Homes and Gardens, etc.

The Library was presented with a number of books this week by Mr. and Mrs. Clare McGhan, who are leaving soon to make their home in California. Our best wishes go with them.

Henrietta Cushman, Gertrude Dague, Diane Brainerd and Mary Reed also made donations recently. Thanks to them.

Nov. 14, '58

DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

"Barbara, a Prologue" by Willard Abraham, is a touching and practical book of advice written in memory of his daughter by a father to other parents of mentally retarded children. Such a baby can be born to anyone — and it is a responsibility that must be shared by the entire community. Mr. Abraham is a Professor of Education at Arizona State College.

Clinton County now has started a school in St. Johns for such children and all organizations in the County are asked to help support the school. Let us all get behind this project as it is the first of its kind in the County. Remember but for the Grace of God, you might have had a mentally retarded child.

Mrs. Ted Ward gave us the book "The Bible In Pictures" this week. Thank you, Marcella.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian.

DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

With the cold air stinging our nose and biting our toes, our thoughts begin to turn to Christmas. The Library has three new Christmas books:

"Christmas Is Always" by Dale Evans Rogers. Dale Evans searches the Scriptures and looks at life, and finds Christmas everywhere. One of the most popular inspirational books of all times, for all ages 7 to 70.

"Christmas With Robert E. Lee" by Helen Topping Miller is the story of the General's first Christmas after the surrender at Appomattox, showing the Lee family reunited after hardships and separations of the Civil War. The Lees had little in worldly goods, the spirit of Christmas and the undying courage of the South, made this a never-to-be-forgotten holiday.

"Christmas and It's Customs" by Christina Hole tells the fascinating story of Christmas the world over, from the beginning to the present day. Aside from religious observances, we Americans take Santa Claus, presents, holly, trees, carol singing, and all the other pleasant Christmas Customs very much for granted. How intriguing it is to follow Christina Hole as she traces them to their origins.

We also have the 1958 Copy of Christmas Ideals.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian.

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

### DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

Are you giving a party, — or having a shower?

The library has the following books that might help you:

"The Cokesbury Shower Book",  
"Showers for Brides and Babies",  
"The Cokesbury Game Book",  
"Let's Have a Party",  
"A Complete Book of Games",  
"Handbook of Games",  
"Games for All Occasions", and  
"How To Run a Successful Party".

We also have many Cook Books that might give you some ideas for refreshments.

Have you read "Miracle Bridge At Mackinac" yet? We have it!

Mr. and Mrs. William Hewitt gave the library two beautiful pictures of the American Flag, — "Symbols of Strength", a picture of the American Flag flying before the National Capitol and "The Lope of a Nation" showing the American Flag and an open Bible with a stream running in the background. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt, who left the first of the month to make their home in Florida. They shall be missed by the village, and by us in the library, as never a week went by that they didn't pay us a visit.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian  
10/24/58

### DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

With the close of 1958, the library lost a true and trusted friend in the person of Mrs. Rhoda Pierson. Mrs. Pierson has retired after fifteen years as head librarian. She will be missed by us all and especially by the children. She has answered thousands of questions for the students who have come and gone over the years; she was never too busy to take a personal interest in each one. We'll miss you, Rhoda, do drop in on us often.

The library board is planning a tea in honor of Mrs. Pierson. Check this column next week for date and time.

Mrs. Faye Hanson has been appointed by the board to replace Mrs. Pierson as head librarian and Mrs. Princess Parker is the new Assistant Librarian. Miss Patricia Benton is our student helper this year.

1/9/59 Faye Hanson, Librarian.

### DEWITT ADVERTISER

### DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know that your library receives all Civil Service Examination Announcements for Civil Service jobs? It gives all information pertaining to these jobs and lists the qualifications necessary. At present there are openings for Alphabetic Bookkeeping Machine Clerks, Store Clerks, Psychophysiology Research Technicians, Motor Vehicle Operators, Crime Laboratory Technicians, Adult Corrections Trainee, Highway Surveyors, Weighmasters, Insurance Examiner Trainees, Economic Research Assistant, Radio Technicians, Architectural Engineers and Prison Record Executive. If you are interested in any of these positions, come into the library and see about them. Announcements of new openings are received here at least once a week.

Don't forget the tea this Friday afternoon for Mrs. Rhoda Pierson. It is at 2:00 o'clock at the Memorial Building. All are welcome.

Faye Hanson, Librarian.

### DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been a virtual bee hive for the past two weeks as we have been readying 600 books for the township schools. The books to the schools are replaced every six weeks. We have copies of books stacked in every available corner, but by Tuesday we should have them delivered.

The library board is having a tea in honor of Mrs. Rhoda Pierson Friday, January 23rd, at the Memorial Building. The time is two o'clock. All of Mrs. Pierson's friends and any of those interested in the library are invited to attend.

Faye Hanson, Librarian.



## DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

Dec. 12, 58

Do you have a den of Cub Scouts or a Troop of Brownies or Girl Scouts? The library might be able to help you with your arts and crafts. We have the following books: "A Book of Little Crafts"; "Make Your Own Outdoor Sports Equipment"; "Kites"; "Fun With Wire"; "First Joiner Crafts"; "Indian Beadwork"; "First and Second Steps In Ballet"; "Fun for Young Collectors" and others.

We in the library are greatly saddened by the untimely death of Mrs. Ambra Rasmussen. Never a Friday evening went by that she didn't come into the library. We will miss her quiet ways and her friendly smile. Our deepest sympathy go to the members of her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Goddard and family of Valley Farms gave us four books; Mrs. Ruth Archer gave us two, and Mrs. Henrietta Cushman gave us the last six issues of the McCall's Magazine. Our thanks to these people.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian.

## DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

Nov. 31, 58

A good many men and quite a few ladies of the village are in the north woods stalking deer this week, and many of them will be successful. The library has the book "THE VENISON BOOK". It tells about skinning, halving, quartering, packaging for the freezer, pressure canning, curing with salt, etc. There are also many recipes on preparing venison, such as this one:

### VENISON GOULASH

- 2 lbs. Venison (cut in cubes)
- 3 tablespoons of Flour
- 3 tablespoons of Fat
- 2 cloves of Garlic
- 1 large Onion (chopped)
- 1 tablespoon of Paprika
- 1 quart of boiling water
- Salt
- 1 can Tomato Paste

Roll pieces of meat in flour. Melt fat in skillet and cook onion until golden. Add meat, browning well. Add seasonings and liquid. Stir well and cover. Cook slowly until meat is tender (2 to 3 hours). More water may be added as it boils away.

If using a pressure pan, melt fat and brown onions and meat in pan, adding only one cup of water. Cook 25 minutes at 15 lbs. pressure.

Buttered Noodles (the broad kind) go well with this.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian.

## DEWITT ADVERTISER

Dec. 58

## DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

The year of 1958 is drawing to a close; in many ways it has been a good year, especially for us here in the library. We loaned a total of 19,490 books during 1958, and 673 magazines. We had 157 new borrowers, bringing our total of borrowers up to 1207. We added 546 new volumes during the year, bringing our total of books to 5148.

Our circulation increased over the previous year by 1300 books; so we are growing along with our community.

Why don't you make a New Year's resolution to get acquainted with your Public Library?

We are open 12:30 to 4:30 Monday through Saturday and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Friday evenings.

A blessed and prosperous New Year to each of you. May we continue to grow and prosper together.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian.

## Thank You Note

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Library Board for the lovely tea they gave me and for the beautiful glass ring and spring bouquet presented me on my retirement as librarian. I feel the honor bestowed on me for my many years of service at the library should be equally shared by the many workers who have aided in the establishment and maintenance of our Village Library of which I am proud.

I've watched our library grow from its first few donated books, circulated to the public from the back room of the old Post Office Building to our present collection of 6500 books in our present location in the Memorial Building.

Those first members of the Woman's Club who decided there was a need of a library in DeWitt, and who started the book collection by a house-to-house canvass to secure donations of books, should certainly be remembered — among them, Mrs. Blanche Eldridge and Mrs. Sadie Trumbull.

One of the most ardent workers for the organization and expansion of our library, the past librarian, Mrs. Mildred Carris, must surely be commended for the years of service she gave to the library. Under her guidance, the Library Board was formed, our library became affiliated with the Michigan Library Association, our librarians became certified, — we maintained close relations with the Michigan State Library and became eligible for State Aid. Her high standards for the selection of good literature has set a precedent, which I feel, is one reason we have always been a growing library.

Not to be forgotten are other diligent workers who have given many hours of their time either on the library staff or as a member of the library board.

I've enjoyed many pleasant associations with the members of the board and staff, and am sure I will miss them. However, I have confidence that the library will continue to grow and prosper under the guidance of the new staff members, Mrs. Hanson and Mrs. Parker.

Rhoda Pierson.

## DEWITT LIBRARY NEWS

"Peacetime Uses of Atomic Energy" by Martin Mann, is a book that tells, in the simplest terms, about changing one metal into another, producing power to do the world's work without exhausting its natural resources and showing the way to increase the earth's capacity to support its increasing population. In Medicine and Agriculture, radioactive tools now give us improved cancer treatment and new plant fertilizers and insecticides. Power to generate electricity has been produced by an atomic furnace for more efficient than by conventional fuels. There is now an atomic engine for ships and one is being developed for planes. The atomic age is changing our whole way of life.

We also have the book "Bucks and Bows" by Walter Perry. This is a book about bow and arrow hunting.

Faye Hanson,  
Assistant Librarian.

...the  
art of Ap-  
to a c.  
lice officer  
it murder.  
result of a  
er Ingham  
Maiville

g Maiville  
his badge  
s compan-  
e gun bat-  
45, was

Mauch re-  
sentences  
s before  
sh faced  
vinegar.  
first de-  
hearing  
e court

Donald  
to the  
denied  
earing.

...the  
last month but he didn't notice  
the tools were missing until  
Thursday.

## Lawn Mower Injures Man Near DeWitt

DEWITT—Brother Theordic Szendi of the Franciscan Friary here was injured severely today in a lawn mower accident on the retreat house grounds.

A spokesman at the friary said Brother Szendi's feet somehow became entangled in the mower, pulled by a tractor.

The blades severed one foot and partly severed the other. The victim was taken to St. Lawrence Hospital where a report on his condition was not immediately available.

## DeWitt Public Library

The DeWitt Public Library is displaying the first Village Charter along with DeWitt's new City Charter as part of a display for Heritage Day of Michigan Week. There are also many old photographs of the DeWitt area being shown.

At the library board meeting last Thursday evening, Mrs. Fern Wellington was elected President; Kenneth Weaver, Vice-Pres; Mrs. Lloyd Berkimer, Sec'y; and Alfred Smith, Treas. Former board member, Mrs. Lawrence Keck, is a member of the County Library Board; Mrs. Rex Archer has retired after serving nine years on the board. The Library says "many thanks" for long and faithful service. — Faye Hanson.

CLINTON COUNTY NEWS, St. Johns, Michigan

notes from

## the bookshelf

By FAYE HANSON

Librarian

DeWitt Public Library



(Editor's Note: Mrs. Hila Bross, librarian at the Belmont Public Library, is on vacation. Mrs. Faye Hanson, librarian at the DeWitt Public Library, guest writes this week about the big job of moving into new facilities.)

Some of the things in the new library were purchased with a \$3,000 legacy left to them by the late Eva Cole who was civic minded and always interested in her public library.

Two weeks ago I, my assistant, Mrs. Margaret Roberts, the library page and two teen-age boys began moving books. We are finding books we haven't seen in some time. After all the books were stacked in piles in the new library one of the boys said—"Man, Mrs. Hanson, how did you get all of those books in that small library?" Well, it wasn't easy. They were piled in boxes, piled under the reading table and desk and piled just about any place that there was a vacant space.

Now some order is coming out of chaos and the DeWitt Public Library plans on having a public opening on Sun., Jan. 8, from 2 to 6 p.m.

The move is almost accomplished but there are a couple of harried librarians who were able to do very little Christmas shopping this year!

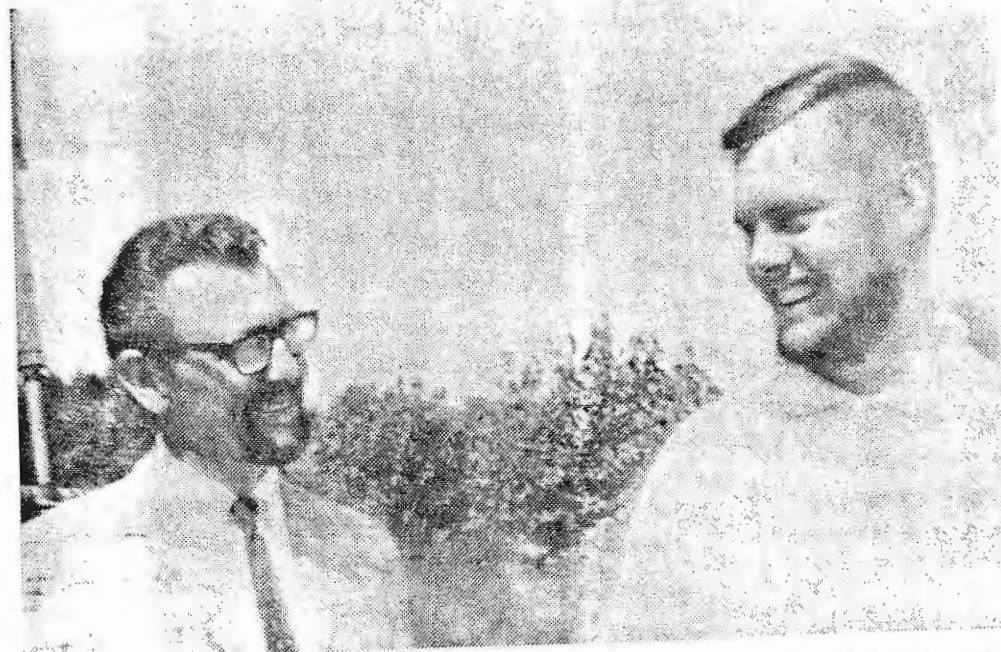
Moving 14,000 books at anytime is a chore, but doing so at Christmastime is nightmare!

This is the problem now being coped with at the DeWitt Public Library. For several years the library has existed in inadequate quarters in the Memorial Building; then the Memorial Association decided to add a two-story addition to the building and to turn the existing structure over to the library. The library board gave the Memorial Assn. \$5,500 from their general fund to help with the new addition.

THE ORIGINAL part of the building was then remodeled with lowered ceiling, new lighting, new paint job, some new furniture and wall-to-wall carpeting.

FLOWERS

1¢ JK



A NEW LOOK — Men experiment with beards as much as women do with hairdos. And this summer DeWitt Superintendent of Schools James Ritchie added a goatee and mustache to his appearance. DeWitt Junior High Principal Jack Enderle had a similar idea and grew a full-sized beard. The shoe's on the other foot now, and when asked how their wives felt about the new look, both replied: "No comment!"

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX  
FILE

## From the DeWitt Library

I know that it has been a long time since there has been a library column, but when you stop to think that we loaned almost 3000 more books than the St. Johns Public Library last year (St. Johns 24,012; DeWitt 26,984) you know that we are very busy. We have less space and less help than they have, and about half of the budget (St. Johns \$6,911.00 - DeWitt \$3,206.00) — so you see we are doing a king-sized business in a pint-sized space.

While our books do not have the Dewey decimal numbers on them, they are all catalogued and are arranged in Dewey-decimal order. This in accordance with the State Library because they say that this is simpler and saves throwing out our card catalogue and starting all over.

There is a certified public librarian in attendance, who has all charge, assisted by assistant librarians. This means she has completed the workshops prescribed by the State Library and has college credits in Book Selection.

The DeWitt Public Library is neither fish nor fowl, it is like Topsy, — "It just grew." So we have petitions out to establish us as a township library; technically we are already this and are so listed by the State Library as we receive the lion's share of our operating funds from the township (\$3,000) and \$1000 from the Village. This money comes out of the general fund of both village and township, so village people really pay twice. So we are also asking that a tax, not to exceed one mill on a dollar, be levied for the establishment and support of a township library. When it comes to mills, I am not very bright, but it was explained to me thus: this would mean about \$2.50 on an assessed evaluation of \$5,000, so it would cost the average family about \$1.25 to \$1.75 a year for library support. Most families spend more than this on cigarettes or amusements in a week, so it seems little enough to contribute to your public library. It also means that village people would pay only once.

Perhaps you would like to know a little of the history of the DeWitt Public Library. In the early 1930's Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Carris and their two small daughters moved into our village. They came from Detroit and were used to having a public library close. Mrs. Carris called together several women who were members of the now defunct DeWitt Civic Club, among them Mrs. C. H. Fuerstenau, Mrs. William Hewitt, Mrs. Lawrence Woodruff, and Mrs. Howard Walker, and asked them if they would pool their books and she would take charge of loaning them so that the people in the village would have a wider variety of books to read. Thus the DeWitt Public Library was born. It became affiliated with the State Library in 1934. It has had several homes, the first in the rear of the



general fund of both village and township, so village people really pay twice. So we are also asking that a tax, not to exceed one mill on a dollar, be levied for the establishment and support of a township library. When it comes to mills, I am not very bright, but it was explained to me thus: this would mean about \$2.50 on an assessed evaluation of \$5,000, so it would cost the average family about \$1.25 to \$1.75 a year for library support. Most families spend more than this on cigarettes or amusements in a week, so it seems little enough to contribute to your public library. It also means that village people would pay only once.

Perhaps you would like to know a little of the history of the DeWitt Public Library. In the early 1930's Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Carris and their two small daughters moved into our village. They came from Detroit and were used to having a public library close. Mrs. Carris called together several women who were members of the now defunct DeWitt Civic Club, among them Mrs. C. H. Fuerstenau, Mrs. William Hewitt, Mrs. Lawrence Woodruff, and Mrs. Howard Walker, and asked them if they would pool their books and she would take charge of loaning them so that the people in the village would have a wider variety of books to read. Thus the DeWitt Public Library was born. It became affiliated with the State Library in 1934. It has had several homes, the first in the rear of the old post office building on Main St. — next in the building now housing Bob's Barber Shop; next, up over the old fire hall on Bridge St., which was torn down a few years back; and finally in the Memorial Building. There have been many librarians over the years including Mrs. Mildred Carris, Mrs. Gladys Walker, Mrs. Rhoda Pierson and Mrs. Dorothy Miller, who is now a librarian in the Documents Dept. of the State Library.

To get these two proposals on the ballot to establish us as a township library and levy a tax not to exceed 1 mill, we need 50 signatures, so if you use and enjoy your library, be sure and support us.

— Faye Hanson, Librarian.

## From the DeWitt Library

The Township gives us \$2,000 a year instead of \$3,000 as stated in last week's column.

There is a Library Board with 8 members, six are elected from the village for 3 year terms, and two are appointed by the Township Board. If we clarify our status and become a Township Library, in actuality as well as fact, this will have change, and they will be elected through township election. At present our board consists of a President, Mabel Lee; Vice Pres., Janet Woodruff; Secretary, Lois Mershon; Treasurer, Rhoda Pierson; and trustees, Zada Buys, Princess Parker, Erdine Phillips and Mamie Archer. At the March village election, two trustees will be elected. Trustees may hold office for no more than two consecutive terms. Mabel Lee will not run for re-election and Rhoda Pierson will run. Barbara Dinstbier and Hazel Norris are also running. The board meets in the Memorial Building the 1st Thursday of every month at 1:45 p.m. The librarian is an ex-officio member of this board and presents a monthly statement of library affairs and the bills to be paid.

Among this week best sellers we have "The Agony and The Ecstasy" a biographical novel about Michelangelo by Irving Stone; "Daughter of Silence" by Morris L. West; "To Kill A Mocking Bird" by Harper Lee; "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" by Wm. Shirer; The New English Bible; "My Saber Is Bent" by Jack Parr; "Living Free" by Joy Adamson; "A Nation of Sheep" by Lederer; "Spirit Lake" by Mackinley Kantor, and "The Judas Tree" by A. J. Cronin.

We also have several other new books, among them Emily Kimbrough's "Pleasure by the Busload", "The Winter of Our Discontent" by John Steinbeck, "The Master of Geneva", a novel based on the life of John Calvin by Charles H. Barr, "Kidnap", the story of the Lindberg case, and many more.

We wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Edward Rasmussen for the books they gave us this past week, and all those who have given us books and magazines over the past few months. We truly appreciate them.

— I'ave H---

## DeWitt Library Gets \$2,000; Fails to Win Official Status

By JERRY MOSKAL  
(Journal Staff Writer)

DEWITT, April 3—Library officials were told by the DeWitt township board Monday night to keep their going book-lending business operating without the legal status they seek.

Board members placated the library, which has no official status, by doling out another \$2,000 to keep it functioning for another hoped-for year.

They fought off a charge by two of the seven-woman board by promising to study the question of forming a district library with the village of DeWitt, which already has agreed to the plan.

### THE STATE JOURNAL

FOUNDED APRIL 28, 1855

Published weekdays afternoons and Sunday mornings by FEDERATED PUBLICATIONS, INC., from the office of The State Journal, 120 E. Lenawee st., Lansing, Mich. Second class postage paid at Lansing, Michigan.

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Delivered by carrier in Lansing, East Lansing and adjacent territory, per week 50c, per year \$26.00. By mail on R.F.D. routes in counties of Barry, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Livingston, Montcalm and Shiawassee, where NO carrier service is maintained, payable in advance per month \$1.50; three months \$3.50; six months \$6.50; one year \$12.00. Other mail subscriptions in Michigan payable in advance, per month \$1.75; three months \$4.75; six months \$9.50; one year \$18.00. Mail subscriptions outside of Michigan, payable in advance, per month \$2.25; three months \$5.75; six months \$11.00; one year \$22.00.

#### MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper as well as all A. P. news dispatches (April 30, 1947). Also served by United Press International, Inc., etc.

PHONES—Dial IV 5-3211 for all departments: Editorial, Advertising, Circulation, etc.

### Hyde's ROCK-SHOP

721 West Saginaw  
Open Daily 11 a. m. - 8 p. m.  
Sat. 10 - 6  
Phone 487-6223

Mrs. Zada Buys said official recognition would permit the library that operates from quarters in the Veterans Memorial building here to share in justice of the peace collections to the tune of about \$5,000.

#### ARGUMENTS OFFERED

But board members pointed out that the \$5,000 would be taken from school districts in the township; the library is not centrally located; and the village would get off cheaper than it has in the past under the plan.

The village last year donated \$1,000 to the library's operation.

Mrs. Buys told the board that if the township entered the agreement and authorized 3/10 of 1 mill on the \$13,550,771 township valuation (including the village) the state will subsidize it at 5 1/2 cents for each of the 7,649 population.

To meet the formula requirements, the township would pay 54 cents per person on the 6,411 township population (\$3,461.94) and the village on its 1,238 population (\$668.52).

Mrs. Buys explained this would give the district library full state subsidy, while the simple legal status would allow it to collect the \$5,000 in legal fines even without township or village contributions.

#### VILLAGE BENEFITED

"DeWitt (village) would get the biggest benefit and pay the least," Fred Culy, township supervisor, retorted. "What's going to happen when you need a new building?"

The library, started in 1939 when a few women met in a small room in a village building and exchanged a few books, has grown to its present size.

Land for the Veterans Memorial building was donated with the understanding the library would always have quarters available there. A resident left \$3,000

in her will to the library that was invested in bonds and the interest used to purchase gardening and religious books.

The library is now open four hours a day, Monday through Saturday and two hours on Friday night. The new plan would permit it to be open 40 hours a week.

Mrs. Buys and Mrs. Mabel Lee, retiring board president, said the library may now be forced to cut back to a three-day week operation. The librarian is paid \$1.25 an hour and the assistant librarian \$1 an hour.

#### HAS 12,000 BOOKS

The library now has 12,000 books and a monthly circulation of 3,500, serving DeWitt township and village and parts of Watertown and Olive townships.

"We beg from the village and we beg from the township," Mrs. Lee said. "It's a donation affair. We'll have to continue as we are, neither fish nor fowl. We won't be open six days a week, that's for sure."

"Bring it up for a vote, let the people decide," Warden Keyes, township clerk, offered.

"We can't give away something we haven't got," said trustee Ronald Kiebler in moving to offer the \$2,000 and to give the question further study. The board unanimously passed the motion.

Mrs. Buys said the board had to act this week in order to have the library share in the upcoming split of penal fines by the state.

#### OPERATED BY BOARD

The village and township would each appoint two members to the board under the plan. The library is now run by a seven-member board appointed by the two governing bodies.

Oliver Angell, a township trustee, said he objected to equal representation on the proposed board with the village since the population of the township is six times that of the village. He said he didn't like taking away money from the school districts, three of which objected to the proposal.

The board agreed to consider aiding the Valley Farms school district in sharing in the about \$1,500 cost of setting up a blinker system for school children at State rd. and Brooks st., to reduce speed from 35 to 25 miles per hour; approved a barn dance permit to Emery Howe if he obtains a zoning O. K. for the property at US-27 and Round Lake rd., and said Wood rd., from Webb to Clark rds., would be widened and improved.

You'll Like Your Next  
New Chevrolet Even  
Better When You  
Buy at ---

**Bud Kouts Chev. Co.**

2801 E. Michigan

IV 9-6533

## DeWitt to Vote on Funds For Addition to Library 1963

Voters in DeWitt Township will be asked Monday at the biennial spring election to provide elbow room for an overcrowded library.

The "ballots for books" issue is in the form of a special millage proposal which would allow a levy of up to one mill over the next three years in the township, which now is experiencing heavy residential growth.

If the population passes, the library automatically transfers from village to township status, becoming eligible for funds which are distributed to libraries from court fines.

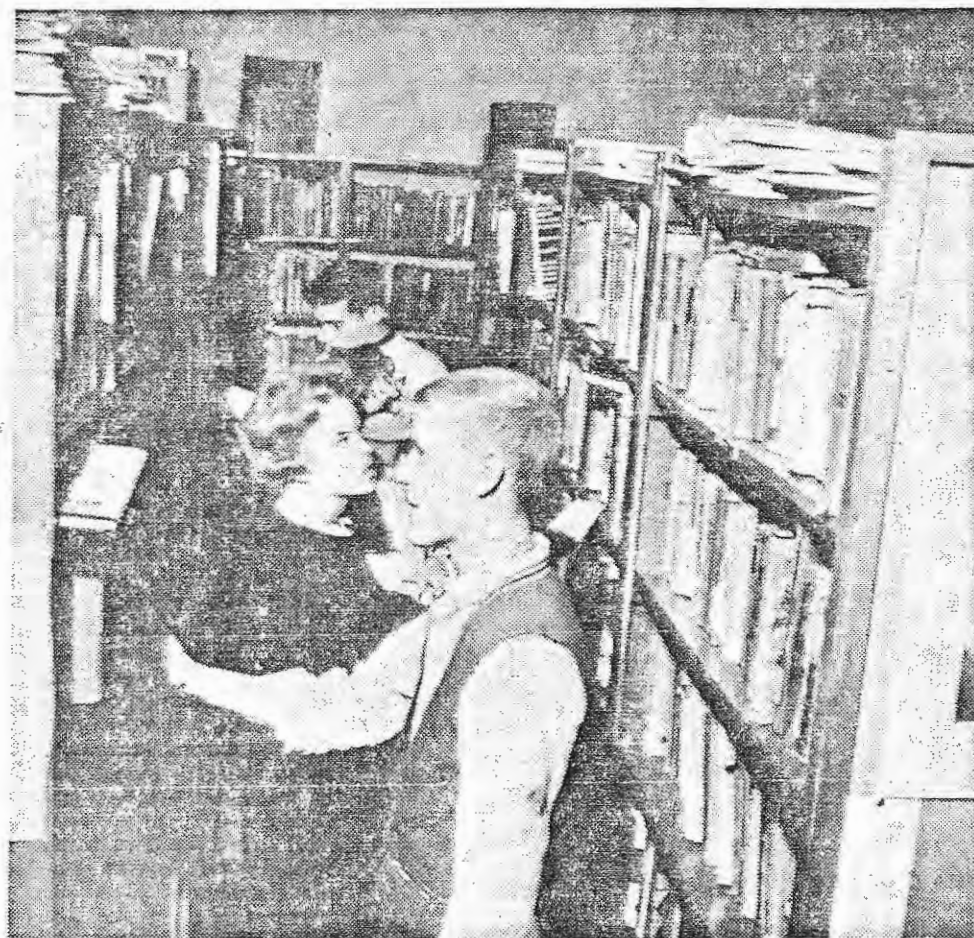
Mrs. Leo Hanson, DeWitt li-

brarian, sees a need for about \$5,000 to expand the library, and she estimates that a levy of 3/16 mills would provide the necessary income. After that, fine money would furnish revenue to maintain an expanded library operation, she said.

A few years ago a DeWitt resident bequeathed the library \$3,000 which would also be used to enlarge the one-room, cramped operation, if the plan is approved at the polls.

Located in a corner of the DeWitt Memorial Building, the library could be extended out into vacant property with an addition.

Mrs. Hanson says the library last year circulated more books than did the St. Johns Public Library, with 1,384 borrowers taking 28,119 books. Operation has been on a part-time basis, which also would be changed under the proposed plan. Library hours currently are 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. daily except Sunday and on Friday evenings.



**CRAMPED QUARTERS**—Overcrowded conditions in DeWitt's cramped, one-room library are the reason behind a special election issue facing DeWitt Township voters Monday. On the biennial spring ballot will be a millage proposal for levying up to one mill over the next three years to modernize and expand facilities and change status of the library from village to township operation. (State Journal Photo.)

# AGREEMENT

The DeWitt Library Board agrees to pay the DeWitt Memorial Association \$115.00 per month (\$1,380.00 per year) in return for full use of expanded quarters in the Memorial Building.

This agreement is to be put in force as of January 1, 1975, and covers a one-year period.

The DeWitt Memorial Association agrees to provide heat and lights during this period.

Future arrangements are to be negotiated by common agreement of both parties at the end of the one-year period.

DeWitt Library Board

Linda Schable

Karen J. Williams

Charlotte E. Hudson

Kenneth S. Weaver

DeWitt Memorial Association

Gerald Thiel

President Gerald Thiel

Harold Birgy

Vice Pres. Harold Birgy

Joan Overway

Secretary Joan Overway

Jerry Cole

Treasurer Jerry Cole

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

Feb-4-66



**NOT MUCH ROOM**—DeWitt's librarians aren't untidy housekeepers, as this picture may suggest. It's just that there isn't enough room in the small room, and Mrs. Faye Hanson, librarian, must stack magazines on desks and chairs, and sometimes the floor. But relief is in sight, as soon as the addition is completed on the Memorial Building, the library will have larger quarters. (State Journal Photo)

### Stacks Near Ceiling

## Library Space to Grow

DEWITT—The DeWitt Public Library probably could claim the record for having the most books per cubic feet.

But Mrs. Faye Hanson, librarian, and Mrs. Margaret Roberts, her assistant, are not boasting about the overcrowded situation. Their dilemma increases as new volumes come in and must be stacked closer to the ceiling or on the floor.

Fortunately, relief is in sight.

The library now is housed in a 25 by 30 foot room in the Memorial Community Building, where a two-story addition is under construction.

When the project is completed this spring, the books and magazines will be moved to the original structure, which will give the library about four times as much floor space.

The library was established in 1934 by the DeWitt Civic Club with Mrs. P. J. Carris as the first librarian. It had three locations before it moved into the present building.

Two years ago, it became a district library and now serves all of DeWitt Township. The 1960 census for the township was 7,726, but this figure has almost doubled since because of the

great number of new homes built in this area.

Library circulation has grown from 500 volumes the first year to 29,500 the past year.

Funds are supplied by the city, township, federal government and penal fines. By joining the Central Michigan Library System last year, the library became eligible for federal aid. This aid consists mainly of books and technical services.

DeWitt Public Library is governed by a board composed of two members from the city and two from the township. They are Mrs. Rex Archer, president; Mrs. Leonard Wellington, vice president; Mrs. Lawrence Keck, secretary, and Kenneth Weaver, treasurer. The board meets the first Tuesday of every month.

## DeWitt

Mrs Leo Hanson  
Telephone 669-9384

---

### Public library of DeWitt joins library system

DeWITT— This fall the DeWitt Public Library joined with the Ingham County and East Lansing libraries to form a Library System.

The libraries will all be run as separate units, as in the past, with their own individual boards. However, as a system, they purchase books together to get a larger discount, they are eligible to pick up federal funds for books when they are available, they may interloan books among the libraries in the system and call upon the services of Renwick Garypie, librarian of the Ingham County Library, which is the master library of the system.

\* \* \*

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE



*The DeWitt  
Public Library*

*Sunday, January 8, 1967*

Member of the  
Central Michigan Library System

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

Library established 1934

by the DeWitt Civic Club.

*First Librarian - Mrs. Percy J. Carris*

\* \* \*

The carpet in the library is a memorial to

Mrs. Eva Cole, who passed away in 1956

leaving the library \$3,000.00.

The money has been invested in government

bonds and is now being used for building  
improvements.

\* \* \*

The Central Michigan Library System consists

of the libraries in Ingham, Eaton and

Clinton Counties, with headquarters in  
Mason.

By belonging to the System, we buy books at a  
greater discount, have technical help  
when necessary, and receive a Federal  
Grant in the form of 36 magazine sub-  
scriptions.

Present Library Personnel -

*Librarian - Faye E. Hanson*

*Assistant Librarian - Margaret Roberts*

*Page - Linda Chapel*

*Maintenance - Ilah Kosht*

\* \* \*

Present Library Board -

*President - Mrs. Rex Archer*

*Vice President - Mrs. Fern Wellington*

*Secretary - Mrs. Lawrence Keck*

*Treasurer - Kenneth Weaver*

\* \* \*

New Furniture from -

Michigan School Service - Demco and  
Adriandack Chair Company.

Carpet - Bautel, Inc.

Ceiling - D. C. Laraway, Incorporated

Lighting - Fox Electric.

Heat duct work - Lawrence Foy.

Interior Decorating:

Jack Rice and Ben Harris.

Mounted Children's Mural -

given by Mr. & Mrs. Avery Mershon



IN NEW LIBRARY—The Youth Section of DeWitt's new library gets plenty of use by the younger element these days. At the table are Martha Botke and Chris McNeilly; standing are Susan Shooltz and Tom Ashley.

## At DeWitt

# Library Gets 'Elbow Room'

DEWITT—Order is coming out of chaos and books that haven't seen the light of day in some time are turning up.

That's because the DeWitt Public Library has moved into new quarters at 206 W. Washington St., and the public is invited to inspect the facilities any Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For 20 years the library operated from a room only 28 feet by 17 feet.

It wasn't easy. Books were stacked in every available corner and the librarians were often frustrated in their search for a book. Nevertheless, the library loaned out as many as 30,000 books a year.

Then, several months ago the library board was given four times as much space when the DeWitt Memorial Assn. began a two-story addition to the Memorial Bldg. and turned its existing quarters over to the library.

The board consists of two persons appointed by the township and two from the city. Present members are Mrs. Rex Archer and Kenneth Weaver from the township; and Mrs. Lawrence Keck and Mrs. Fern Wellington from the city. Librarian is Mrs. Faye Hanson.

Next came remodeling of the new space. New lighting was in-

stalled; the interior was redecorated; wall-to-wall carpeting added in all areas except the lobby; and new furniture purchased.

A legacy of \$3,000 left to the board by Mrs. Eva Cole—affectionately known to everyone in the town as "Auntie Cole"—helped.

Shortly before Christmas the "stupendous job" of moving several thousands books was begun. That's when some long unseen books were uncovered.

The DeWitt Civic Club established the library in 1934 and appointed Mrs. P. J. Carris as the first librarian. It has had three previous homes.

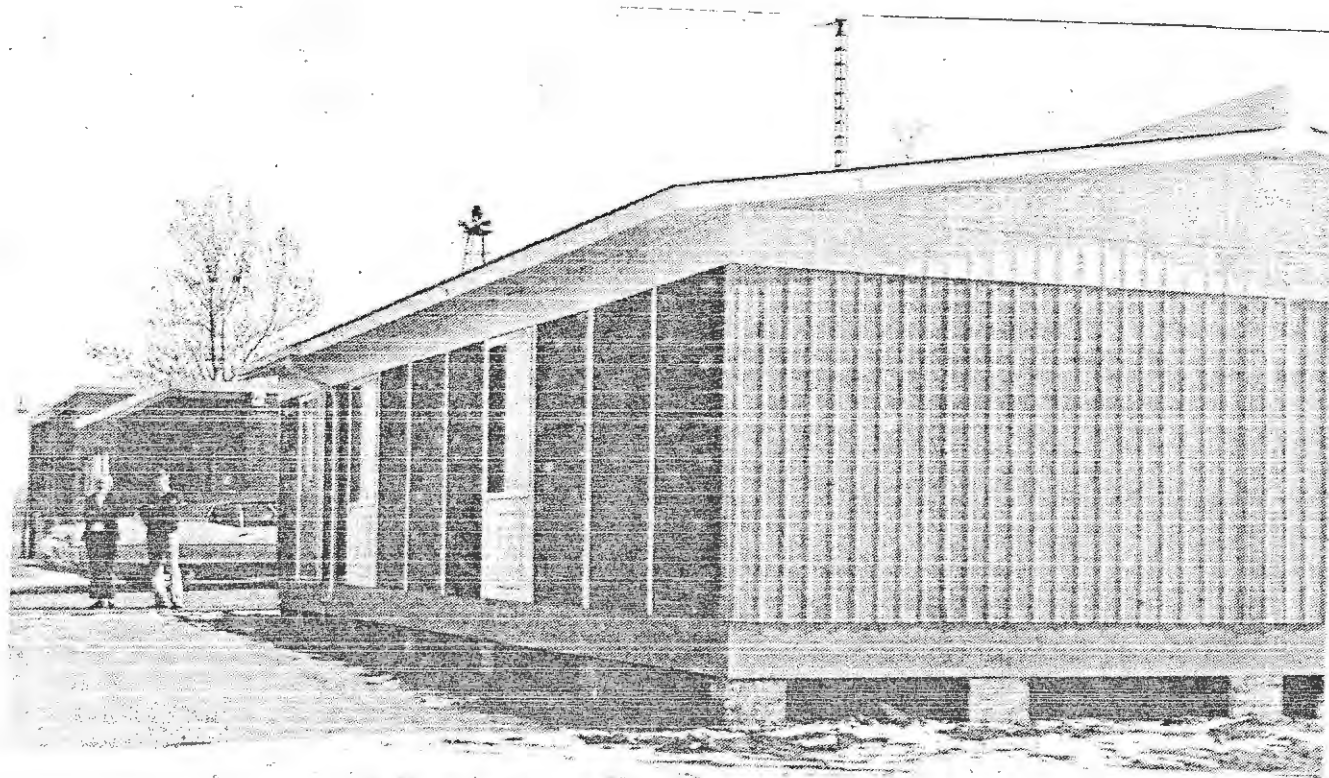
It became a district library two and one-half years ago and encompassed all of DeWitt Township. As a member of Central Michigan Library system — whose headquarters are in Mason—it is eligible for federal aid.

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE



**OX-ROAST MAKES IT POSSIBLE**—Librarian Faye Hanson has another busy day at the DeWitt Public Library in the Veterans Memorial Building. The community center was enlarged last spring to provide space for a larger library. The annual Ox-Roast is being held in DeWitt on Saturday to raise funds to pay off the mortgage. (State Journal Photo)

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE



DeWitt Township's new library building is taking shape as township supervisor Dale Emerson and clerk, Donna Syverson inspect the progress of the new facility. Announcement of the opening of the library will be made at a later date.



# DeWitt library fights battle of the budget

By Patrice Hornak  
Staff Writer

If there were more crime in DeWitt City and DeWitt Charter Township, there would be better services available at DeWitt Public Library.

Now, maybe that doesn't make much sense, but to librarian Faye Hansen, that's just about how the system works. You see, libraries receive penal fine money.

"All librarians in Michigan are for bigger and better crime," chuckled Mrs. Hansen who went on to say that Michigan is the only state in the Union that uses its penal fines to support its library system.

Money is becoming a real problem for the DeWitt Public Library which services DeWitt City, DeWitt Township, Bath and Watertown townships and half of Olive and half of Riley townships. Come December, the library will lose many services provided by the Capital Library Cooperative (CLC) because there isn't enough money.

To belong to the CLC, a library must have three-tenths of a mill of state equalized value (SEV) designated for its use. "The SEV of the district is now \$18,636,455 for the city and \$61,228,851 for the township so we need a guaranteed minimum local support of \$23,959," explained Mrs. Hansen.

Penal fines net the library about \$9,000. The city is contributing \$4,000 and the township is giving \$3,000 a year to support the library. That totals \$16,000, about \$8,000 short of the money needed to allow DeWitt's library to stay in the CLC.

What services will be lost once DeWitt doesn't qualify for the CLC?

There are audio-visual services; centralized purchasing and processing, including cataloging; interloaning of library material; delivery service; story hour programs; in-service training and workshops; and professional advisory service.

DeWitt's library is caught in a squeeze. Its population and SEV are growing but

"The timing is not right," she said.

To cut back on expenses, the library has been buying paperback books instead of the hardcover ones. About half of the library books are paperbacks because a biography in hardback, for instance, costs around \$13.

Please see page 13

## Instrumental

Managing a library these days isn't easy. Trying to make ends meet at the DeWitt library are (from left) Milver Brunton, library board president; Faye Hansen, librarian; and Georgianna Griffin, secretary of the library board. (Photo by Patrice Hornak)

penal fines aren't keeping step. Mrs. Hansen pointed out that six years ago the county gave the DeWitt library \$29,000 in penal fines. Traffic offenses and such haven't decreased, but Mrs. Hansen said the method of assessing fines has.

"Where it used to cost \$100 for the penal fine and \$20 for court costs, now it is switched around and it's a \$20 penal fine and \$100 in court costs." It's a tactic for the courts to get a bigger share of the money—to "get their hands in the honey pot," according to Mrs. Hansen.

DeWitt or DeWitt Township have never levied a millage to support their library. If a millage proposal were passed, "Then it (library services) wouldn't be taken away from us," said Georgianna Griffin, secretary of the library board. But, Mrs. Hansen was quick to add that a millage proposal right now wouldn't stand much of a chance of passing.



**Halloween is just around**

**Remember-- lots of ghouls will be on the street**

**DRIVE SAFE**

The agreement was signed by the township's attorney, J. Richard Robinson, and Peter Cohl and Joseph Fink attorneys for ... County.

The issue began in May, and it didn't look like Bath Township had much of a chance. In this case however, patience and persistence paid off.

## Looking ahead

**DEWITT MERRY MIXERS**—square dance club will be dancing Oct. 27 at the DeWitt Middle School on Herbison Road from 8-11 p.m. Guest caller this dance. Refreshments furnished. \$3.50 a couple. All are welcome.

**BOARDSHEAD THEATER**—will kick off its new 1979-80 season Oct. 18 with a production of the off-Broadway hit, "The Passion of Dracula." It will run through Nov. 4. Phone 484-7805 or 373-4636 for information.

## ★ Library

The library spends about half as much money as it used to on books, and it also has had the loan books from the CLC.

the money from those collections to the library.

Small donations from patrons have helped the library along and memorial books, given to the library in the memory of someone who has died, are very much appreciated.

The library board chaired by Mrs. Milver Brunton, is also working to form a Friends of the Library committee. Early in November they hope to have their first meeting and persons interested in joining are urged to call the library and leave their phone number.

DeWitt Public Library's

... high noise levels. This increases the potential for hearing loss, as many farm jobs require long hours on the tractor. Use of hearing protection is highly recommended when using tractors manufactured before 1970 or whenever noise level is excessive.

Gas-powered chainsaws are another contributor to hearing loss. Many models exceed the 90 dB limit and should be used with hearing protection.

Noise control can start at the source. A quieter machine or one with design changes can be the answer. If possible, enclose the source of the noise, or put distance between yourself

current budget is \$25,000. That includes salaries for Mrs. Hansen, who has been with the library for 21 years, assistant librarians Marion Simon and Judith Jerred, and branch librarian at the DeWitt Township Hall library, Joan Smith.

Also serving on the library board are vice president Rudy Dioszegi and treasurer David Whitlock.

The library is open 43 hours a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon; Monday through Friday from 12:30-4:30 p.m.; Monday through Friday, 7-9 p.m.; and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

## Wick Homes Essex Station



## OPEN HOUSE

October 27 & 28

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### Pure prestige...

- Elegant exterior available as shown, also English Tudor and Contemporary styles
- Spacious interior includes private library wing
- Convenient island work area in kitchen
- Master bedroom features full bath, walk-in closet
- Pre-finished oak trim throughout

### Plus practicality!

- Exclusive Energy Saving System\* features 3½" fiberglass wall insulation, 12" in ceilings for R-38, vapor barrier, Styrofoam™, insulated sheathing, triple glazed windows, and more
- The price is guaranteed before you build
- The home is guaranteed when you move in

"FHA & VA  
financing available"

Robert Leonard, Builder/Dealer

WICK HOMES

636 E. Grand River  
Laingsburg, Mi.  
Phone 651-6588

Find out more about ESSEX STATION and 7 other luxurious new Wick Home designs. Ask for our new two-story plans when you visit our model home today!

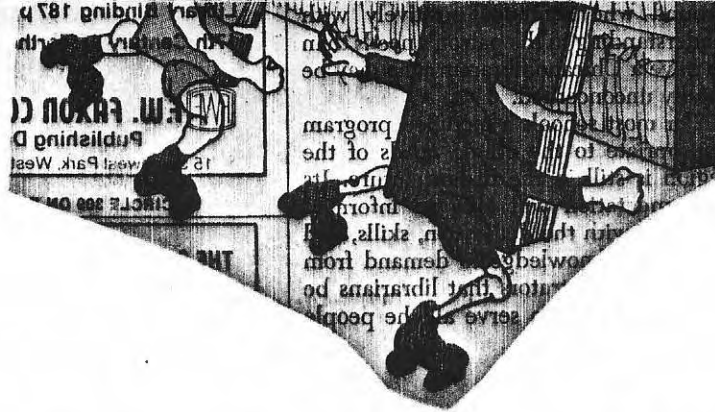
\*Trademark of the Dow Chemical Company



**Wick Homes**  
A product of Wick Building Systems, Inc.

Order now —  
**SAVE \$1,000!**  
Ask us for details!





## **DEWITT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**206 W. Washington Street, DeWitt**

**,Wed.,Fri.. 9:00 to 12:00**

**Mon.through Fri.**

**12:30 to 4:30**

**7:00 to 9:00 P.M.**

**Sat. 12:00 to 5:00**

BOX  
LIFE  
COLLECTION  
JAN 10 1903

## **VALLEY FARMS**

**768 Wieland Road**

**Mon through Fri. 1:00 to 4:30**

**Open to all residents in Bath**

**Watertown, Olive, & Riler Townships**

A black and white photograph of a laboratory or workshop. In the foreground, a person is crouching down, working on a large, light-colored object. In the background, another person is standing near a tall, white, rectangular structure, possibly a piece of equipment or a large container. The room has a grid-like pattern on the walls and ceiling.

DeWitt's Lions are helping spruce up the library by making new shelves to house more books.

## DeWitt

Installation was on a progressive basis to allow room for sorting and regular work. Some of the shelf units were made for specific types of books while other units are the moveable type with a hinged front and back for flexible use as room dividers.

ders.

The DeWitt Lions did all

the work on the project and completed it last week.



# FAYE HANSON LIBRARY



206 W. WASHINGTON  
DEWITT, MICHIGAN

Dear Faye -

At our regular meeting last night, we on the Library Board agreed wholeheartedly with the resolution to name the Dewitt Library, "The Faye Hanson Library".

You were greatly missed at the meeting and you know how we are all saddened by your illness - We so admire your courage -

We love you Faye and we know that God is with you -

All of your friends on the Library Board -

Milner

Marilyn

Sandy Paul

Therese

Ken

Georgeanne

Y9075H JAC0J  
COLLECTION  
BOX 517E

# DeWitt's Faye Hanson honored by community

By SHEILA SCHIMPF  
Journal Correspondent

DEWITT — People in DeWitt can talk for hours about all the good things Faye Hanson has done for the community.

Last week it was DeWitt's turn to do something for her. Monday the city council made the DeWitt Township resident an honorary citizen of the city and recommended that the library be renamed in her honor. Thursday the library board did just that.

"SHE WAS THE library," said Milver Brunton, chairman of the board. "She really worked. She made the library what it is today."

Judy Jarrett, assistant librarian, agreed. "She was born a librarian," Jarrett said. "She was here off and on all the time."

Hanson, DeWitt's librarian for more than 22 years, has been in Sparrow Hospital since Dec. 21, a cancer patient who is not expected to live much longer. The diagnosis came as a surprise Dec. 30.

"I came in after the first of the year," said Lawrence Arbanas, a science and health teacher at DeWitt Middle School, "And she told me right off she was dying. Right in the hospital room she had everything organized. That's just the way she was, the funeral plans, everything. I just couldn't be-

lieve it. I knew this was a powerful person who is leaving us."

ARBANAS PUT into motion the plans that eventually resulted in renaming the library.

"This is what she used to do," said Arbanas, who worked with Hanson on DeWitt's bicentennial plans, local history courses in the middle school, and a filmstrip. "I said, 'I've got the strength. I can do it.' I came out and got all my phone numbers and just started calling everybody. And everybody I called was so enthusiastic and agreed this is what should be done."

Local historians claim Hanson as one of their own. In 1980 she was appointed to the Clinton County Historical Commission.

"She did a great deal of work with every civic group of every

age," said Geneva Wiskemann, chairman of the county commission. Hanson made contributions to the DeWitt Bicentennial publications, the new Clinton County history, and worked with Arbanas on a slide/filmstrip presentation of the history of the Clinton House Hotel.

"SHE WAS AN avid collector of primary sources relating to the local area," Wiskemann said. Hanson stashed old school records, photos, and other local documents in the library. She was working on the Heritage Conservation Survey, assessing old bridges, sites, and buildings for historical value, until her illness intervened.

Hanson, 60, was born in Lansing and graduated from Lansing's Central High School in 1938. She married Leo Hanson that same year and had their first baby the following year.

The Hansons have five children, Linda, Gary, Crystal, Jan, and Herb; 16 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Her husband was a farmer in the early years, keeping a dairy herd for some time and planting field crops. Most recently he was a school janitor and has since retired.

"IF YOU WANTED anything done you asked Faye because it would be done with enthusiasm," said Dorothy Keck, one of Hanson's friends.



Faye Hanson



OX-ROAST MAKES IT POSSIBLE—Librarian Faye Hanson has another busy day at the DeWitt Public Library in the Veterans Memorial Building. The community center was enlarged last spring to provide space for a larger library. The annual Ox-Roast is being held in DeWitt on Saturday to raise funds to pay off the mortgage. (State Journal Photo)

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE



## Library gets \$600

DeWITT — About \$600 has been given to the DeWitt District Faye Hanson Memorial Library in memory of Faye Hanson, who died of cancer Jan. 9.

The donations have come from individuals and organizations. Some came with stipulations such as one \$50 check for the purchase of travel books. "She loved to travel," said Milver Brunton, chairman of the library board.

Brunton says in addition to the books the library will be able to purchase a typewriter. "We appreciate what's been given in her name," Brunton said. "We don't have much money." Hanson was librarian for more than 22 years. No librarian has been hired by the board, Brunton said. Judy Jarrett, assistant librarian, is acting librarian.

HANSON, FAYE E.

305 Lancelot Place

Passed away Jan. 9, 1982 at the age of 60. She lived all of her life in the Lansing DeWitt area. She has been the librarian for the last 22 years for the DeWitt City Library. She was also a member of the DeWitt Eastern Star, member of the Clinton County Historical Society, also on the Library Board, member of the DeWitt Community Church. Survived by her husband Leo; 2 daughters, Linda Allen of Florida and Crystal Cournya of Vermontville; 3 sons, Gary of Sunfield, Jan of Indiana and Herbert of Vermontville; 4 brothers, Dewayne Gearhart of Florida, Bruce Gearhart of Florida, William Gearhart of Ithaca and Don of Lansing; also her mother, Lucy Gearhart of DeWitt; 16 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tues., at the DeWitt Community Church with Rev. Murl Eastman officiating, also conducting services will be the Eastern Star. Burial will be in the Gunnisonville Cemetery. Visitation will be at the DeWitt Area Chapel until 11 a.m. Tues. The family will receive visitors Mon. 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. Memorials may be given to the DeWitt City Library, through the funeral home or the library.

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

# CITY OF DEWITT

414 E MAIN STREET

MICHIGAN 48820



RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEWITT  
ADOPTED AT THEIR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 1982

On a motion by Councilman James Boyd, seconded by Councilman Don Steavens and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that be it

RESOLVED that the City Council supports the recommendations of many of the citizens of the City of DeWitt to change the name of the DeWitt Public Library to the Faye Hanson Memorial Library, in honor of Faye Hanson, Librarian.

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE, ACCURATE AND COMPLETE copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of DeWitt at their regular meeting of January 4, 1982.

Dated: January 6, 1982



*Sharon Pierce Ambrose*

Sharon Pierce Ambrose  
Clerk/Treasurer

LOCAL HISTORY  
COLLECTION  
BOX FILE

# Personality Profile

## It's a small world for model building brothers

By DAVID THOMAS

It was the day after Faye Hanson's funeral, and DeWitt Middle School teacher Lawrence Arbanas was on the telephone.

"There's an interesting story related to Faye and the fact that the DeWitt Library will be named after her," he said. "A young man in our school has built a model of the library. It even has Faye's name on it and it looks just like the library will look when the official lettering is in place.

"The young man's name is Russell Pline," Arbanas said. "In fact, the whole family is something quite special."

Arbanas was right. Thirteen-year-old Russell Pline and his family are something quite special. His father is Roger Pline, a well-known carpenter and builder in the DeWitt area.

"Dad's taught me a fair amount about building things. Especially about layout," admits Russell. "But I do my own work.

Russell's "own work" includes such diverse projects as a large model of "DeZwann" (the giant windmill on the island in Holland, Mich.), an assortment of wooden puzzles, games and toys and life-size go-carts powered by gasoline engines.

Much of Russell's interest in model-building can be attributed to Arbanas' seventh grade Michigan history class.

"Each one of us in the class had to have a project," Russell remembers. "I wanted to do a project that no one had done before. The windmill seemed like a good idea."

Russell did a thorough research job before he began construction, including a trip to Holland and a careful study of photographs and postcards. He estimates the final product took approximately 50 hours to complete; it has since won a bevy of awards at local exhibits and fairs.

His model of the DeWitt library was not done for awards and honors, but because he and Arbanas thought it would please Mrs. Hanson. Unfortunately,

Russell and Roger don't spend all their time in the woodshop creating models of Michigan's significant architectural structures. They admit to interests in hockey, cross country skiing, music and a variety of school activities. They also keep their afternoons occupied by sharing a paper route.

Both boys feel their immediate family is probably the most important thing in their lives. Sister Rene is 18 and is looking forward to next year when she will be attending the University of Michigan in hopes of someday becoming a writer.

The "younger Plines" are Rachelle, who is 9, Ronda, 5, and Ryan, who is 11 months old.

Their mother, Ruth (that makes eight family members whose first name begins with "R"), is immensely proud of her family.

"It's nice that kids today can get some attention for something besides sports," she says.

Russell and Roger have no immediate plans for any new "construction" projects.

"I don't have anything new in mind," Russell admitted. "But if someone comes up with an idea, I'll build it."



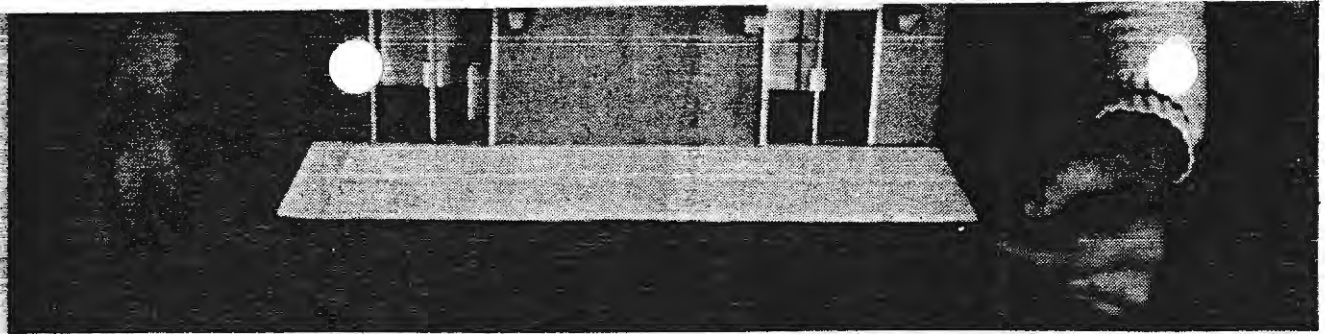


Russell isn't sure where the final location for his library model will be, but he thinks it might look pretty good on display somewhere in the "real" Faye Hanson Public Library.

"They (the library board) haven't asked for it," he said. "But if they want it, I'll give it to them."

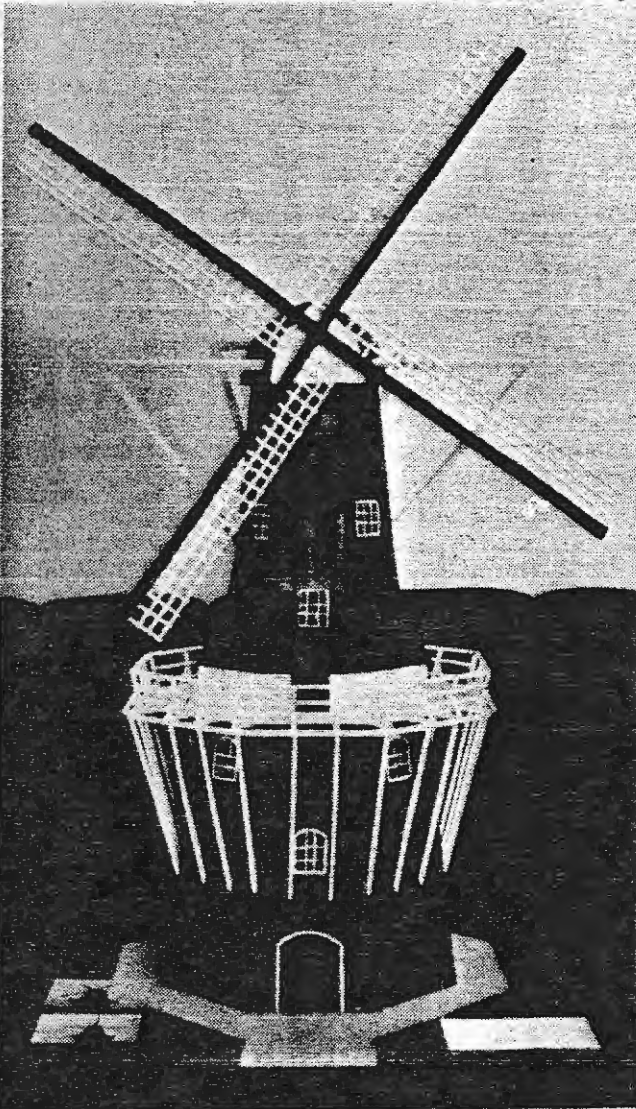
One Pline project that is already on display at the library is a model of a section of the old Interurban line that used to run between Lansing and DeWitt. Built by Russell's 14-year-old brother, Roger, it was also born in Arbanas' Michigan history class.

"I probably spent twice as much time researching the project as I did building it," said Roger. "I was very fortunate to have access to Ford Caesar's (a well-known local historian who is writing a book on the Interurban) research information."



Russell (left) and Roger Pline show off library model that was built in honor of Faye Hanson. (Below left) "DeZwann" was built by Russell as a project for his Michigan History class. (Below

right) Russell, Ryan, Rene, Ronda, Roger and Rachelle Pline sit in their living room on a Friday evening.



Photos by David Olds