



FAMILIAR SIGHT—A familiar sight to DeWitt residents is Glenn "Dutch" Halterman, shown here in his helmet and coat and about to enter a pumper truck. Halterman has been a DeWitt fireman for more than 50 years and the department chief since 1936. (State Journal Photo)

DeWitt Chief Furnished Own Bucket in 1915

Halterman Fireman 50 Years

By FAYE HANSON
State Journal Special Writer

DEWITT — Glenn "Dutch" Halterman bought himself a bucket and became a fireman in 1915.

Now, over a half-century later, Halterman, 65, is still fighting fires in the DeWitt area where he has been chief of the department since 1936.

Halterman was just 15 when

he joined the DeWitt bucket brigade. Each fireman then had to furnish his own bucket, but eventually the department could afford a hand-pulled chemical wagon.

Today, the DeWitt department has two modern pumpers, a water tanker and an inhalator. Last year a \$2,000 two-way radio system was added.

Through the years Halterman has fought some of the town's

worst fires. There was the blaze in 1930 that destroyed much of the business district, and one in 1928 that razed the Methodist Church. After that came the 1936 fire that ruined the high school, and in May of 1955 the roaring fire that destroyed the elevator at the edge of town.

He became assistant chief in 1926 and chief in 1936. If you want to be technical you could say he has been chief of the DeWitt department only since January, because on that date the organization changed from a township to a city department. But it has the same manpower, same equipment and still serves half of the township.

Halterman has no monopoly on fire fighting in his family. He is the oldest of three generations on the department. His son-in-law, Art Newman, is an assistant chief, and his grandson, Brent Newman, is a regular fireman. Louis Nabberfeld Jr. is the other assistant chief.

The chief is a barber and his shop is within sight of the station. Many of his customers have been left half-shaved or half-barbered when the siren sounded. The late Fred Tucker once remarked he had never been left in the chair by "Dutch," but within four months after making that remark he was abandoned three times when the sound of the siren turned the barber into a fireman.

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Mrs. Loretta Sharp: 38 Years a Teacher

DeWitt Teacher Quite Versatile

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DEWITT—During 38 years as a teacher, Mrs. Loretta Sharp has earned a reputation for her versatility and has gained the respect of pupils and parents for two generations.

Mrs. Sharp has been a teacher at the DeWitt Junior High School for 29 years. Prior to

coming to DeWitt in 1937, she taught three years at Allen School in Gratiot County, and six at Wheeler.

While at Wheeler she began demonstrating her versatility by serving part time as principal, and coaching the girls' basketball team.

DIRECTS GLEE CLUBS

And for 25 years in DeWitt she directed the junior and senior high girls' glee clubs, in addition to her classroom activities.

Throughout her career, fellow teachers have noted the respect Mrs. Sharp has received from her pupils and their parents, and the orderly atmosphere of her classroom, despite the fact her students are active teenagers.

Mrs. Sharp never kept count of the number of students she has taught, but figures there have been "several thousand." She is now teaching second generation pupils in DeWitt.

When not in the classroom, Mrs. Sharp keeps busy at her home, 416 W. Main St., where she lives with her husband, LaVern. She finds relaxation knitting, playing the piano or on the golf links, and with her three grandchildren, twins Marsha and Martha Brainard and their brother, Ladd. Their mother, Mrs. Richard Brainard, is secretary at Bath High School.

Township OK Given Budget Of \$203,483

By FAYE HANSON
State Journal Special Writer

DeWITT — A budget of \$203,483.41 was adopted for DeWitt Township Saturday night at the annual township meeting.

The financial action was part of a two-hour meeting that also saw residents complaining about road conditions, particularly on Webb Road.

The fact the township showed a balance last year, along with brought some protests from residents who felt more money should have been allocated for road repair.

The budget breakdown is as follows: contingencies \$112,783.41; supervisor \$7,000; clerk, \$6,000; board meeting expense,

\$1,500; clerical hire \$3,600; office equipment \$1,000; supervisor expense \$1,000; highway contracts \$21,600; road repair \$10,000; cemetery \$11,000; fire department and water \$13,500; police department \$8,500; library \$2,000; delinquent tax return to the county treasurer \$4,000; and miscellaneous \$4,000.

The clerk's report showed a balance of \$68,483.41 and when residents questioned this, they were advised the money is a "cushion" in the event of unanticipated expenses.

After hearing the budget, particularly the amount set aside for repair, citizens questioned the new items of clerical hire and supervisor expense. Some speakers said more money should have been allotted for road repair, where \$10,000 was earmarked.

At the last regular meeting, residents complained that Webb and Dill Roads were in poor shape. They were told there was not enough money available to surface them and anything short of reconstruction would only be temporarily effective.

This was repeated Saturday when Supr. Oliver S. Angell said the roads should be reconstructed. He also reminded residents that septic tanks flow into a drain field which goes along Webb Road, causing muddy conditions.

Dale Hines of the Lake Geneva Subdivision complained of rubbish being dumped in a gravel pit near the subdivision. He said papers from the pit are blowing into the yards of homes at Lake Geneva.

The citizens were advised that under the new fire ordinance, burning permits will be needed. Residents south of Clark Road may obtain their permits from the township fire department at Valley Farms, and those north of Clark Road from the DeWitt city department.