

## Superintendent to Retire After 43 Years as Educator

# DeWitt Honors School Head with Special

By FAYE HANSON  
State Journal Special Writer

DEWITT — Today is "C. H. Fuerstenau Day" in DeWitt and townspeople will gather this afternoon to honor the man who has been their school superintendent since 1932.

City Council has officially proclaimed Sunday, June 5, in Fuerstenau's honor and from 2 to 5 p.m. an open house will be held at the junior high school where the retiring educator will meet friends, former students and teachers. A program has been arranged for 3 p.m.

Fuerstenau is retiring after 43 years in the education field, most of it in DeWitt. He will be succeeded by Hobart Jenkins, who has been assistant superintendent since February.

Born on a farm near Richmond, Fuerstenau graduated from Richmond High School and received a degree in business administration from Albion Col-

lege in 1923. He received a masters degree from Michigan State University.

In the summer of 1923 he was hired as superintendent of the then 10 grade school at DeWitt. He left in 1928 and went to Laingsburg for three years and then spent one year in Flint, returning to DeWitt in 1932.

Fuerstenau was superintendent when the school was destroyed by fire in 1936. After the building was rebuilt, the 11th and 12th grades were added.

He has watched the DeWitt school's grow from four teachers with a high school enrollment of 25 to the present system with four buildings, including the new high school, an enrollment of 1,200 and a budget of \$488,000. Fuerstenau recalls depression days in the 1930's when the budget was \$6,000 and the system ended in the black.

His formal name is Clarence Henry, and to generations of students he has been "Mr. Fuer-

stenau," but behind his back and in the hallways he has been known to the student body as "Clancy."

Student affection for the superintendent was evident even in the early years when the classes were dismissed for the arrival of the first child born to Fuerstenau and his wife, Beatrice. When the time arrived for

the baby, the students left the classrooms and lined up to cheer Mr. and Mrs. Fuerstenau as they chugged out of town to the hospital.

The Fuerstenaus have three children, Mrs. Duane Davis of St. Johns; Mrs. Donald Nelson of Summit, N.J.; and Rev. William Fuerstenau of Wilmington, Del.

In addition to his school work, Fuerstenau has been active in the community. He was an organizer of the Community Church after fire destroyed the old Methodist Church, and for years was chairman of the village caucus and was twice a member of the village council.

He has been active in the DeWitt Masonic Lodge and served as master in 1929 and secretary from 1933 to 1965.

Faculty members and non-teaching personnel honored the retiring superintendent and his wife Thursday with a luncheon at the school. The Fuerstenaus



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were presented a table model radio by the 60 staff members.



C. H. FUERSTENAU



6/6/66

# DeWitt Names School For C. H. Fuerstenau

DEWITT — The DeWitt Junior High School Sunday afternoon was officially renamed the "C. H. Fuerstenau Junior High School" in ceremonies marking the retirement of the long-time school superintendent here.

With the presentation of his last check, for payment through

July 1, Fuerstenau concluded 43 years in education, the last 39 as DeWitt superintendent.

Some 300 persons attended the ceremonies.

Fuerstenau has purchased a mobile home, and said he plans to live part-time in Florida and part-time in DeWitt. Former Board of Education member Harry Bollinger presented him with an air-conditioner for his trailer.

The teachers and student body presented Fuerstenau with a portable television and table model radio. Mayor Pro Tem Allan White presented a scroll expressing appreciation from the City Council.

Retiring PTA President Jake Lenik unveiled an oil portrait of Fuerstenau done by local artist Joe Wheat, which will be hung in the school.

And, with appropriate ceremony, the coverings were taken from the new name on the front of the school. The school pep band provided music for the occasion, and Archie Moore was master of ceremonies.



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C. H. FUERSTENAU

## *Educators Asked to Aid Pupils*

# New DeWitt High School Dedicated

By FAYE HANSON  
State Journal Special Writer

DeWITT — A State Department of Education official Sunday in dedicating the new DeWitt High School called on teachers, parents and the board of education to strive for the best possible in the education of the pupils.

Dr. Ferris N. Crawford, assistant superintendent in charge of general education for the state department, spoke at ded-

ication ceremonies in the gymnasium of the \$751,000 school on Herbison Road.

He said he hoped the building would be populated by teachers with compassion who would be able to communicate well with the students and would know and accept the fact no two students are alike and that each must be reckoned with as an individual.

Crawford continued that he hoped the parents, together with the teachers, would recognize a child's worth as a person and his right to be himself. He asked them to develop each child's initiative, encourage curiosity and set a good example of integrity.

### DEMOCRATIC AGENCY

The state official challenged the school board to remember the school is the greatest democratic agency and to see that the school's main purpose is to help the pupils achieve self fulfillment and sufficiency.

He dedicated the building to provide good education for the poor and the rich, the slow as well as the gifted, and for those not going to college and to the homebound.

Crawford also paid tribute to Supt. C. F. Fuerstenau for his

39 years of service to the DeWitt schools. Fuerstenau will retire at the close of the school year.

Fuerstenau welcomed the guests, while Fr. Dominick Dohanyos gave the invocation. Herbert Hardtke, president of the board of education, introduced guests and board members.

The building was formally presented to the board by Richard Snyder, architect for Warren S. Holmes Co., and was accepted by Hardtke.

Hobart Jenkins, assistant superintendent, told the audience a new curriculum is being readied and will include more music, art, foreign language and a guidance director.

Tours of the school were conducted after the dedication.



## MID Michigan NEWS

# Apartment Project Plans Submitted To DeWitt Council

By FAYE HANSON  
State Journal Special Writer

DEWITT — Plans for construction of three multi-family dwellings were submitted Monday night to the DeWitt City Council.

William Fosnight of Lansing presented plans for the proposed development that would face on Bridge and Turner streets. He said he plans two four-family units and one unit of six to eight families.

Councilmen spoke favorably of Fosnight's plans, but could take no action until the plans have been studied by the city planning commission. One item to be checked is the amount of parking space included in the development.

### APPROVAL SOUGHT

The planning commission will meet next Tuesday and councilmen indicated if the commission approves the plans they will also get the council's approval.

Councilman Lloyd Berkimer reported on application for work has been received from a sanitary sewer plant operator who has state certification. He did not identify the applicant.

DeWitt has been without a full-time sewer plant operator for several weeks and it was decided that if the applicant's references are good he should be hired.

However, it was pointed out, the man wants only 31 hours a week employment, which would amount to a weekly salary of \$91. If a full-time operator can be found he will be hired, the council indicated.

Plans to extend the sanitary sewer along Dill and Webb roads were delayed further until the city attorney can study the legal aspects. The expansion, expected to cost \$68,000, could be financed from sewer funds.

Councilman Berkimer said repair work had been done on Cherry Street, where water covered part of the roadway. He said 100 yards of fill dirt and 60 yards of sand and gravel had been applied to the area.

BID SHUNNED

share for operation of the DeWitt Public Library.

Received a report that remodeling and redecoration work has been finished in the clerk's and treasurer's offices and new filing cabinets added.

Learned that Mayor William Buck will visit the city of Coleman in Midland County on Mayor's Exchange Day of Michigan Week. The mayor of Coleman will visit DeWitt.



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On the recommendation of Councilman Allen White, the council declined an invitation to join the Michigan Metropolitan Development Society, which specializes in plant location and development. White said he could see no advantage in joining at this time and Councilman Lawrence Keck said the possibility of joining might be considered later. Membership would be \$125 a year, the council said.

An agreement was reached for a charge for city trucks taking refuse to the privately owned sanitary landfill dump off Wood Road. The city will be charged \$2.50 per truck.

In other action, the council:

Appropriated \$690 as the city's