



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 the Central Michigan Library System—whose headquarters are in Mason—it is eligible for federal aid.

With 'Bucket Brigade'

2/26/67

DeWitt to Honor Volunteer Fireman

By FAYE HANSON
State Journal Special Writer

DEWITT — More than fifty years ago, Glenn "Dutch" Halterman, then 16, bought himself a bucket and became a volunteer fireman with DeWitt's "bucket brigade."

On Sunday, this community will honor him for a half century of service as a fire fighter, including the last 20 years as fire chief.

It will be Glenn "Dutch" Halterman Day, with the firemen holding open house at the Memorial Building from 1 to 5 p.m.

Dutch is retiring as chief, but the position will not leave his fire fighting family. He will be succeeded by his son-in-law, Arthur Newman.

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Halterman's immediate plans call for a two-weeks vacation trip to Florida.

But like the proverbial fire horse, he likely will be on his way again whenever the fire siren sounds after he returns from his vacation.

Dutch will still have a fire-phone in his home and barber-shop, and will continue to issue burning permits.

Halterman has seen the DeWitt department grow from a bucket brigade to an organization with a \$35,000 fire truck.



GLENN HALTERMAN

It also bought one of the first inhalators in the area.

Halterman moved to DeWitt when he was five weeks old and has resided here ever since. His father, Peter, was a barber, who began teaching his son the trade when "Dutch" was only 12.

The family lived over the now torn down fire hall until 1915 when the elder Halterman built a home at 203 S. Bridge St., where the fire chief now resides.

The Haltermans operated a barber shop for some years in the old hotel on the corner of Bridge and Main Streets. They moved next door two weeks be-

fore the 1930 fire in which they lost their shop.

In the October, 1930, conflagration more than half of the business district was destroyed. Other major fires over the years included the DeWitt School, DeWitt Elevator and a tavern.

With "Dutch" it has been always fire duty before business. Many a time the fire alarm sounded while Halterman was shaving or shearing a customer.

On such occasions, "Dutch" quickly cast aside his razor or shears and ran hell-bent to the station or the scene of the fire. Quite a number of his old customers still joke about the times "Dutch" left them with lather on their faces.

Halterman is a past-president of the Alert Fireman's Association, a member of the Fire Chiefs' organization, the Michigan State Fire Association, the DeWitt Masonic Lodge and Order of Eastern Star.

His hobbies are hunting, fishing and floriculture. The large front window of his barber shop is full of house plants, many of them in bloom.

Chief Halterman has one daughter, Mrs. Arthur Newman and a grandson, Brent Newman, who is also a fireman.

7/67

Follows Footsteps Of Brother

DeWITT — Darrel Reed has become the first member of Boy Scout Troop No. 77 here to attain Eagle Scout rank in 17 years. The last previous recipient was his brother, Douglas, in 1950.



Darrel

Darrel received the rank Monday night at a court of honor dinner at which Lawrence Keck, mayor pro tem, represented the city council. Lloyd Berkimer, an Eagle Scout since 1944, represented DeWitt Lions Club, which sponsors the local troop.

Two other Eagle Scouts were present—Darrel's uncle, Willard Reed (1948), and Lee Rummell of Ovid (1939).

A personal letter of congratulation was sent to the new Eagle Scout by Joseph A. Brunton Jr., national chief executive of the Boy Scouts.

Darrel, 16, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Reed, 303 W. Washington St. He has been a scout five years.

He received his award from Jake Kirchen, former scoutmaster. Lewis Haley is current scoutmaster of Troop No. 77, made up of 50 boys.