

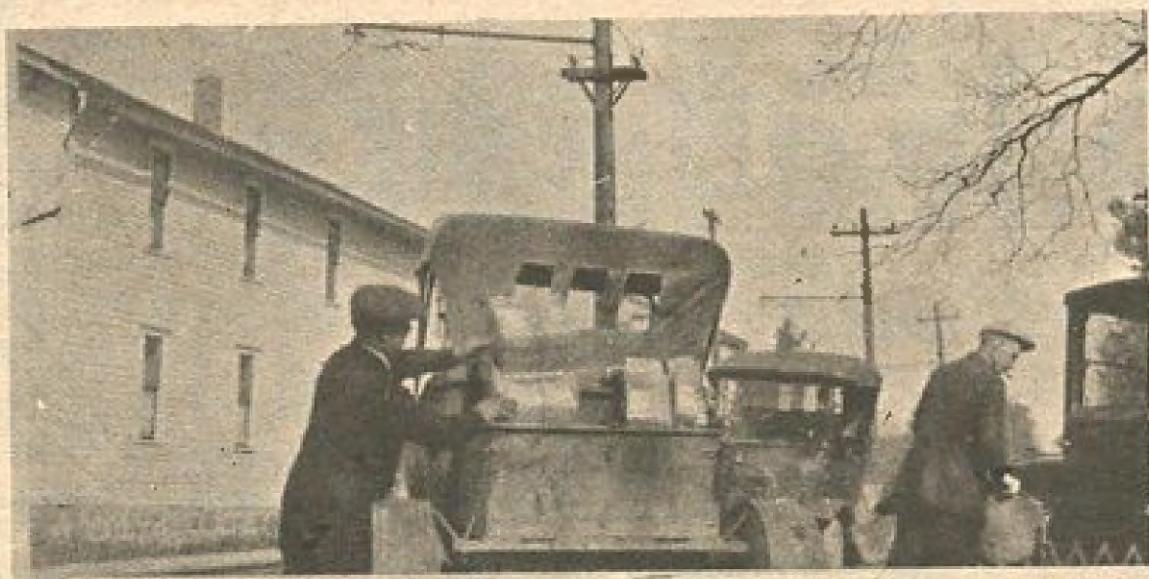
# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

THE ADVERTISER, Thursday, May 23, 1974

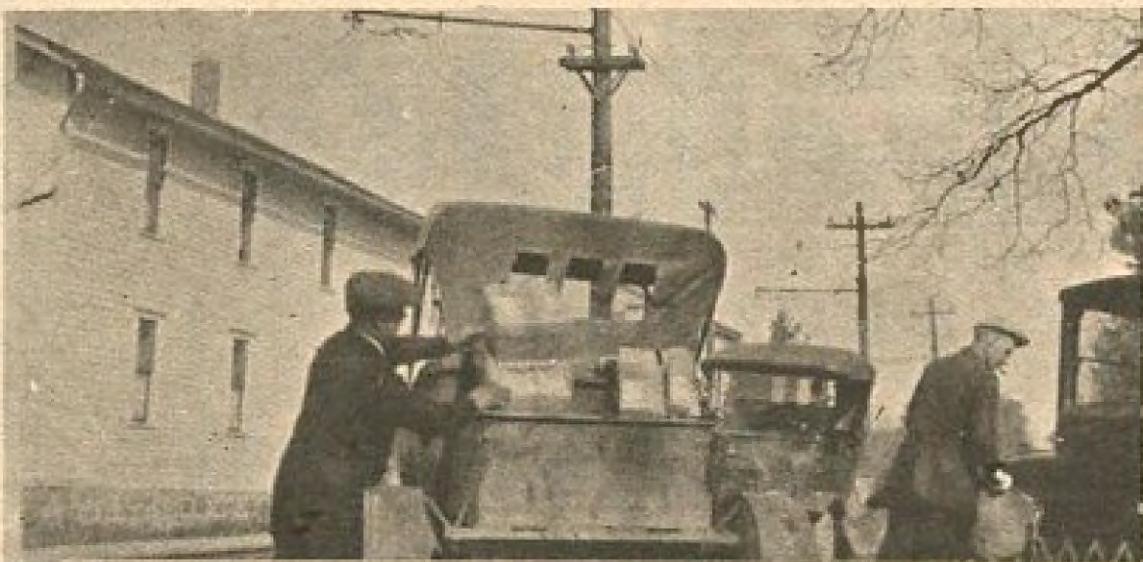


MAIL CARRIERS: LEW DRAKE, CHARLIE REYNOLDS, CARL VanFLEET. POSTMASTER F. HAZEL AND CARRIER LEVI S. SIBLEY



LEW DRAKE AND C. REYNOLDS LOADING THEIR MAIL TRUCK

F. HAZEL AND CARRIER LEVI S. SIBLEY



LEW DRAKE AND C. REYNOLDS LOADING THEIR MAIL TRUCK



POSTMASTER FRED HAZEL AND WIFE BLANCHE IN FRONT OF  
POST OFFICE AND DEPOT

THIS IS HOW THE MAIL WAS CARRIED IN THE 1920's. The depot on Franklin Street was also the Post Office for many years. Fred Hazel was the postmaster assisted by his wife, Blanche. Their home was at 113 Wilson Street, now owned by their granddaughter, Virginia Ackerman.

Rural mail carriers were Lew Drake, Charlie Reynolds, Carl VanFleet and Levi Sibley. They gathered each morning at the depot to load up their Model T trucks and cars to carry mail into the countryside around DeWitt, often the roads were almost impossible.

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Thursday, May 30, 1974



THIS IS A TEACHING CERTIFICATE issued to Miss Josie Holmes in January, 1881. Miss Holmes was in charge of intermediate education for DeWitt School from 1870 until the turn of the century. Can you imagine teachers of today standing still for a phrase in their contract reading "of good moral character"?

In 1880 the DeWitt School District (all of DeWitt Township) was divided into one fractional and five whole districts (DeWitt, Hurd, Lott, Gladden, Gunnisonville and the sixth district escapes me) with the following board of directors: Robert McConkey, James Hath, A. A. Woodruff, Christian Kraus, A. S. West and Edgar Hurd. The value of school property in DeWitt Township at that time was \$11,900, embracing one brick and five frame buildings. Three male and eleven female teachers were employed, 326 scholars resided within the township.

The certificate was given to the library by Helen Kraas, daughter of the late Merle Walker Burns, daughter of early DeWitt pioneers.