

DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

1776.

PROGRAMME.

1886.

GRAND 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

—AT—

DEWITT

The Patriotic citizens of DeWitt and Vicinity have decided to Participate in a
Genuine Old-Fashioned Fourth of July, on

SATURDAY, JULY 3rd, 1886

And to which everyone is cordially invited.

MUSIC BY THE DEWITT CORNET BAND

ORATOR OF THE DAY:

Mrs. Martha Strickland of St. Johns

PRESIDENT OF THE DAY:

SENATOR O. G. PENNELL OF DEWITT

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Hon. John Fedewa, St. Johns; Hon. J. F. Clemons,
Bath; Hon. James W. Randall, Wacousta;
Hon. Sid. Edson, North Lansing; Hon.
Dr. Geo. W. Topping, DeWewitt.

READER-

Bath; Hon. James W. Randall, Wacousta;
Hon. Sld. Edson, North Lansing; Hon.
Dr. Geo. W. Topping, DeWewitt.

READER:

T. P. BANTA.

CHAPLAIN:

JAMES M. HATH.

MARSHAL OF THE DAY:

CAPT. E. BEDELL.

ASSISTANT MARSHALS:

Chas. Walker and Chas. Andrus, Wacousta

Captain of Fusileers--Milan Gardner.

Captain of Cow Boys--"Buffalo Joe" Stickles.

EXERCISES OF THE DAY:

NATIONAL SALUTE AT SUNRISE

Line of March form at 10:30 a. m., thence to Gardner Grove, where the following program will be carried out:

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| 1. Music by the Band. | 6. Music by the Band. |
| 2. Welcome Address by the President. | 7. Oration. |
| 3. Singing by the Glee Club. | 8. Singing by the Glee Club. |
| 4. Prayer by the Chaplain. | 9. Music by the Band. |
| 5. Reading Declaration of Independence. | |

AFTERNOON EXERCISES:

- 1:30 p. m.—Grand Parade by the Fusileers and Wild West Cow Boys, under direction of Capt. M. Gardner and "Buffalo Joe" Stickles; 1st prize \$3, 2d \$2, 3d \$1.
- 2:00 p. m.—Wheelbarrow Race; 1st prize \$2, 2d \$1.
- 2:30 p. m.—Sack Race; 1st prize \$2, 2d \$1.
- 3:00 p. m.—Egg Race; 1st prize \$1, 2d the eggs.
- 3:30 p. m.—Catching the Wild West Pig; valued at \$1.
- 4:00 p. m.—Glass Ball Shoot; shake purse.
- 4:30 p. m.—Running Race; 1 mile; open to all; best two in three; 1st money \$4, 2d \$4, 3d \$2. Four to enter. Entrance fee 5 per cent.
- 5:00 p. m.—Trotting and Pacing Race; open to all. Shake purse.
- 5:40 p. m.—100 yard Foot Race; open to all; best two in three; 1st \$5, 2d \$3, 3d \$2. Entrance fee 5 per cent.
- 6:30 p. m.—Great Sham Battle between the Fusileers and Cow Boys—a special attraction and well worth seeing.

Anyone taking part in the sports will report to the Secretary on or before July 3d, and the entrance fee in the Horse and Foot Races must be paid before starting.

COMMITTEES:

Executive—Geo. H. Simmons, M. T. Woodruff, A. Starmont, A. Rouse.
Sports—Mark Pennell, S. Moon, F. D. Butler.

Bowery dance both afternoon and evening. Good accommodations and plenty of refreshments at the Clinton House, also at Bennett's G. A. R. hall. Grand opening ball at Clinton House Friday evening, July 2. A cordial invitation extended to all.

WILLIS McLOUTH, Treas.

M. S. OSGOOD, Sec.

Republican Steam Print, St. Johns.

THIS IS HOW THE FOURTH OF JULY WAS CELEBRATED
IN DEWITT 88 YEARS AGO. THE NAMES OF WOODRUFF,
MOON AND PENNELL ARE STILL TO BE FOUND IN DEWITT.

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7/18/74

By Faye Hanson

THE OLD DEWITT MOTHER'S CLUB was organized in 1913. They worked with mothers and children and sometimes sewed for needy mothers; at one time they made an entire layette. They also sponsored an annual teacher's reception, the first one held at the home of Mrs. C. C. Woodruff. They also presented a framed picture to the High School.

They sponsored a circulating library which was in the home of Caroline Smith for two years. (This was the forerunner of the present DeWitt Public Library which was established in 1934 by this club which was then called the DeWitt Civic Club).

They joined the Federated Women's Club of Clinton County and entertained them at the old Methodist Church.

The club was discontinued in April, 1917, because of the war. Members voted unanimously to disband and become members of the DeWitt Red Cross. They turned their treasury of \$14.00 over to the Red Cross. They had one more formal meeting when they decided to sponsor a teacher's reception at the home of Mrs. McLouth.

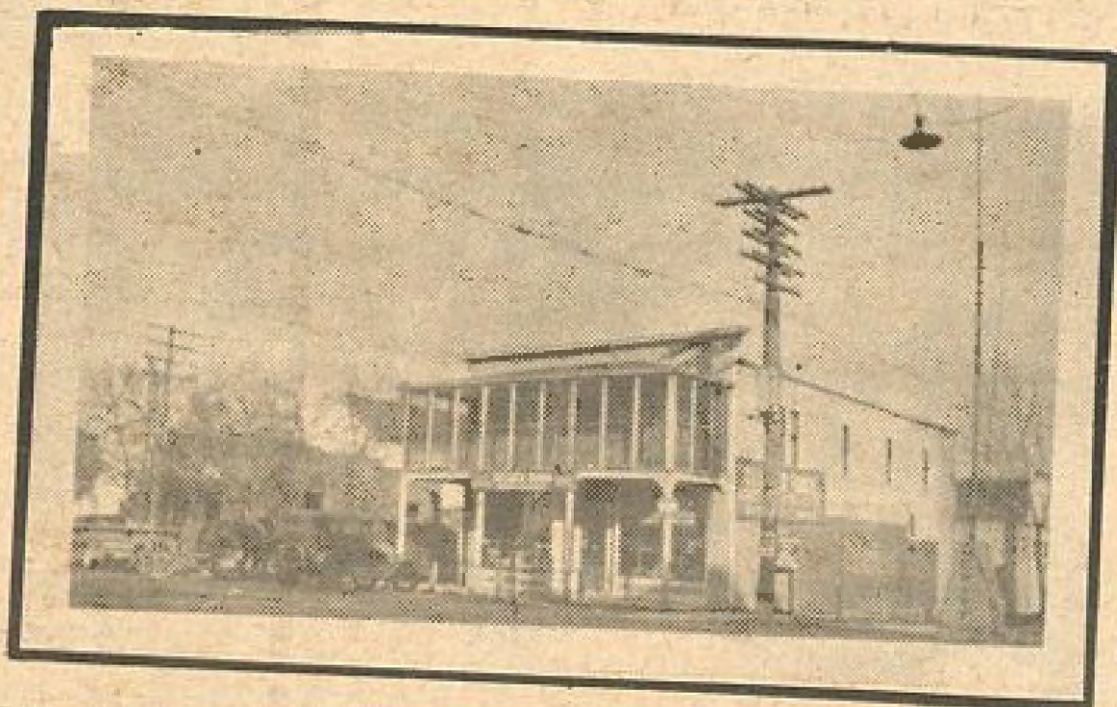
Near spring of 1919 several members met at the home of Mrs. Viola Thompson to talk about reorganizing the Club. In two weeks they met at the home of Mrs. Grace Coon where they reorganized and elected officers. After much discussion it was decided to call this Club the DeWitt Womaen's Club. It was later called the DeWitt Civic Club and went out of existance during World War Two.

In 1934 Mrs. Mildred Carris, with the help of this club, established the DeWitt Public Library. It had many homes, the only one surviving is the Family Barber Shop, until Mrs. Gerda Rogerson gave the land that the library now stands on to be used for a Public Library.

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7/25/74

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THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BRIDGE AND MAIN STREETS. This building did not burn in 1930 when most of the downtown area went up in flames. Homer Bra-zee had a business in this building and later M. E. Towne had a drygoods and grocery store here, it now houses the Shingle Shack and has just been remodeled. Notice the hitching rail in front to tie horses to, also the street light with DeWitt painted on its base.