



To have and  
to hold from  
this day forward,  
for better, for  
worse, for  
richer, for  
poorer, in  
sickness and in  
health, to love  
and to cherish, 'till  
death us do part.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Ransom  
request the honour of your presence  
at the marriage of her daughter

Traci Anne Dagenais

to

William Wendal Maier  
on Sunday, the twenty-fourth of August  
Nineteen hundred and seventy-five  
at two o'clock in the afternoon  
Hope Lutheran Church  
380 West Herkison Road  
Dewitt, Michigan

*In the spirit of Christian joy*

*Mary Jane Pede*

*and*

*LaVerne A Davenport*

*will vow their lives to one another forever  
on Saturday, the twenty-sixth day of June  
the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-two*

*Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Pede*

*and*

*Mrs. L. A Davenport*

*joyfully invite you to witness  
the covenant of marriage between our children  
and to join in asking  
God's blessing upon this holy union  
three o'clock*

*Westminster Presbyterian Church*

*743 North Logan Street*

*Lansing, Michigan*

*Reception immediately following*

## And a happy anniversary to . . .

**Raymond and Irene Davis** of St. Johns will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 2.

A buffet reception will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13980 Schavey Road, DeWitt.

Friends are invited to stop in. The party is being hosted by the Davises' nieces and nephews.

Irene is a retired school teacher and taught in Clinton County and the DeWitt and Waverly public schools. Ray is a retired farmer and Michigan Farm Bureau employee.



**Raymond and Irene Davis**

## DAY, JOYCE E.

Lansing



Age 67, our loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister, died November 24, 1997, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born January 19, 1930, in Dorr, MI,

Joyce retired from Meijer's on West Saginaw after 12 years of service. She was a member of the Women's Auxiliaries of Eagles F.O.E. #1039, DeWitt Moose #2291, Edwin Leyanna V.F.W. Post #671, American Legion Post #12, Hasting Elks #1965, and the 40 et 8 Club. She was preceded in death by her sister, Beatrice Baker, and brother, Robert Herp. Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Arthur C.; children, Darwin (Sheila) Day, Barry (Julie) Day, Arthur, Jr. (Rebecca) Day, Karen (Michey) Meahl, Sharen (Lyle) Root, Sue (John) Dyer and Cheryl (Stuart) Willard; 26 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; sisters, Betty Orr and Anna Lou Partipilo. Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and Friday with services 11 a.m. Saturday, November 29 in the Tiffany Funeral Home, 3232 W. Saginaw, with Fr. Robert McGraw of St. Michael Church officiating. Interment in Deepdale Memorial Park. Contributions to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.



## The Days

Arthur and Joyce Day of Lansing will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a surprise party 4 p.m. Saturday at DeWitt VFW Post 671 on North U.S. 27. All friends are invited.

He owns Arthur Day Income Tax and Accounting. She retired from Meijer in 1994.

The couple met at a dance at Bradley Hall. They were married Aug. 16, 1947, in East Lansing, and have seven children, 26 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.





**DeGEER, EDWARD R.****DeWitt**

Born November 9, 1941 in Flint; died September 13, 1995 at the age of 53. Mr. DeGeer was a veteran of the Cuban conflict, having served in the U.S. Navy; and was employed at the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury for the past 22 years. He was a member of the Edwin J. Leyanna V.F.W. Post #671, DeWitt, the DeWitt Lodge #2291 Loyal Order of the Moose and the Laingsburg American Legion Post #0248. Mr. DeGeer was preceded in death by his father, Edward B. DeGeer. Surviving are his wife, Janis; 2 daughters, Lisa Ann DeGeer and Amy (Jimmy) Nemcik, both of DeWitt; 2 grandchildren, Bobby and Dustin Nemcik; mother, Dorothy DeGeer of St. Johns; 1 brother, Ernest David DeGeer (special friend, Judy Thompson) of DeWitt; 4 sisters, Barbara (Donald) Richmond of Flint, Pat (Max) Barrett of McMillen, Liz (Ron) Ruvolo of St. Johns and Jackie (Phil) Stonecipher of Waldron, IN; special friend and mother-in-law, Dortha White; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held **Friday, September 15, 1 p.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt Chapel, 111 S. Franklin St., DeWitt**, with the Rev. Frederick C. Nose, Pastor, DeWitt Community Church and Claude Murdock, Chaplain, Edwin J. Leyanna V.F.W. Post #671, officiating. Interment will follow in DeWitt Cemetery, DeWitt, with military graveside services being provided by the Edwin J. Leyanna V.F.W. Post #671, DeWitt. The family will receive friends Thursday from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. Those desiring may make contributions to Hospice of Clinton County, P.O. Box 260, St. Johns, 48879, in memory of Mr. DeGeer.

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; and Cards of  
ection.

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## DeROSE, TERESINA

Lansing



Age 75, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother passed away February 27, 1997. Born March 16, 1921 in St. Ippolito, Italy. Mrs. DeRose was a long time Lansing resident;

a member of Holy Cross Church and was employed at Michigan National Bank for 21 years. Surviving are her husband of 56 years, Antonio; daughters, Julie Benvenuto, Eva (Nick) Spagnuolo, and Mary DeRose; sons, Frank and Tony DeRose; grandchildren, Gabriella and Stefania Spagnuolo, Christopher (Elizabeth) DeRose, and David Benvenuto; brothers, Ippolito (Jenny) Belsito, and Frank (Esther) Belsito; many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday with a 7:30 p.m. Vigil service Sunday at Tiffany Funeral Home, 3232 W. Saginaw, and the Funeral Liturgy **10 a.m. Monday, March 3, at Holy Cross Church**, with Fr. Cyprian Uline. Rite of Committal at St. Joseph Cemetery. Contributions to Visiting Nurse Hospice.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Desprez were hosts to about 300 friends and relatives at a reception in honor of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Doyle Desprez, Thursday evening, June 25, at Birmingham grange hall. Before her marriage in May, Mrs. Desprez was Miss Cleo Moinet, daughter of Mrs. Cora Moinet of Olive, and the late Leo Moinet. The young couple received many lovely and useful gifts. Music and dancing were the diversion of the evening, and refreshments of ice cream and cake were served by Misses Betty Moinet, Rozella Desprez, Mildred, Genevieve, and Dorothy Bissell, Dorothea and Irma Eaton, Marjorie Peck, Alma Plumsted, Beatrice Hiebeck, Mrs. Dorothy Bullard, and Miss Angeline Ingersoll of Lansing.

At the home of Mrs. LeRoy in St. Johns, December 9, Miss Patience Huttoon and Fred Devereaux were united in marriage. They left for Fenton, where they spent a week with his brother. Mr. and Mrs. Devereaux are highly esteemed young people of this vicinity and their many friends, wish them much happiness.



GREG DeRUITER/Lansing State Journal

**Change for the better:** Sixth-graders at DeWitt Middle School count pennies Friday that will go to the Leukemia Society of America. The students took part in a 'Pasta for Pennies' fund-raiser Feb. 10-27 sponsored by the society and The Olive Garden restaurant. The event encouraged students to bring in spare pennies. The top fund-raising class in each school won a spaghetti luncheon. Schools also received gift certificates. Counting their cash in the photo above are Zac Ferguson (left), Jenelle Chandler and Larry Benson. At right, Tiffany Olsen, a DeWitt sixth-grader, enjoys an apple as she watches teacher Kari Lusty add up the amount students raised. The school collected \$3,014.36.

3-1-92



## GEORGE SWAGART, 86, LOCATES LONG LOST GRAVE



This group of St. Johns, Ionia and Bengal people gathered last Sunday morning on the Fred Mohnke farm. George Swagart, 86, in the center, is pointing to the spot where Riley Dexter was buried in May, 1833. From left to right: Robert Padgett, Patrick Gallagher, Tyler Hill, Lyle Padgett, Verne Padgett, John Gallagher, Editor Fred D. Kiester, George Swagart, Ed G. Hulse, Fred Mohnke, Mrs. L. P. Brock, Robert Irrer, Mrs. Kiester and Herman Mohnke. (See story.)

### Find Resting Place of First White Child Buried in Clinton

#### Body of Riley Dexter Buried In Bengal Township 98 Years Ago

George Swagart, bowed under the weight of 86 years, but with a memory clearly recording the scenes of his boyhood of 70 years ago, pointed out with his cane, to a group of Ionia, St. Johns and Bengal residents, Sunday morning, the last resting place of Riley Dexter, a grave made 98 years ago.

This incident took place on the farm of Fred Mohnke in South Bengal. It was at this point in 1833 that a band of colonists who settled Ionia stopped, half-starved, nearly exhausted and discouraged, and buried little Riley Dexter, one of the children of Judge Dexter. B. O. Williams of Shiawassee and the young Indian, Mackatepenace (Blackbird), son of the Saginaw chief, who were guiding the party across the uncharted area, stood in the background while the grief-stricken Dexter lifted his face to

An interesting sidelight of the Dexter colony lies in the fact that the child, Riley Dexter, was a first cousin of Mrs. William Jennings Bryan, Mrs. Bryan being the daughter of Judge Dexter's brother. The grandmother of both, Judge Dexter's mother, was a member of the colony which crossed Clinton on their way to Ionia in May, 1833.

Heaven in the gathering gloom and prayed to God to care for the soul of his little son.

Two years hence, in 1933, the city of Ionia plans a centennial. Mrs. L. P. Brock of that city, a local historian, headed the Ionia party, consisting of Editor and Mrs. Fred Kiester, who came to St. Johns Sunday morning for the express purpose of locating the grave of the Dexter child. Mr. Swagart is the only living person who remembers its location. When a boy he worked on this farm which was a part of the section of land owned by Judge Courtland Hill, one of the first

settlers in Bengal. "They used to keep a fence around the spot," said Mr. Swagart. "I remember it well—right here by the bank of the creek and just off the road which those pioneers cut through the woods."

The story of the trip of Judge Dexter and his colony is one of the most interesting of this section. Mr. Williams, who guided them to the Indian village on the Looking Glass and who enlisted the services of the Indian, Mackatepenace, left the following account of the trip and burial of the Dexter child:

"Having in vain tried to get Beauben to pilot them, Messrs. Dexter, Yeomans and Winsor came to us for help. I left our planting, taking my blankets and a small tent, and in six days landed them at Ionia looking out the route and directing where the road was to be. (The road was cut through heavy timber.)

"This was the first real colonizing party we had ever seen, myself never having been further west than Dewitt (the Indian village). I there induced Mackatepenace (Blackbird), son of Kishkako, the chief of all the Saginaws, to pilot us past Muskrat creek, and from there I proceeded with the party. At that point a child of Mr. and Mrs. Dexter, a son of two years, died of

scarlet fever.

"We buried the child by torch and candle light in a box improvised by the party. The road we opened was next year followed by other emigrants and was substantially the Grand River road through Shiawassee and Clinton counties, and was travelled for many years after."

Harriet, a daughter of Joel Guild, head of one of the families in the Dexter party, was 20 years of age at the time of this pilgrimage. In a history of Grand Rapids where she later lived, this lady left an even more graphic account of the sickness, death and burial of the child:

"It was raining when we reached the Looking Glass river and that night the boy was so sick that we sat up all night holding umbrellas over him.

"The next day we soon entered a heavy timbered land (Riley Twp.).

That night the boy grew worse and his mother and I sat up nearly all night with him.

"Our provisions were nearly gone and we could not stop, but about noon Mrs. Dexter called a halt, noticing a change in the child. In a few minutes the little sufferer was dead. We could not tarry but we went sadly on and camped early. My mother furnished a small trunk used for carrying food and dishes, which served for a coffin. By Muskrat creek as the sun was going down, the little one was buried.

"A large elm by the grave was marked. Logs were put over the mound and fastened there to protect it from wolves that were plenty in that vicinity. The only service over the grave was a prayer by Mr. Dexter. The mother seemed broken-hearted and all were grieved but we could not tarry there.

"We had reached the point where we had to use meal father bought at Pontiac for the horses. We let the horses pick their living as best they could from grass and twigs along the way. (These colonists had with them some 20 cows.) We made log heap fires, filled a large brass kettle with water, placed it on the fire, stirred in the meal and made hasty pudding. This, with the milk from the cows was our only food."

Starting just a few rods southeast of the point where Mr. Swagart located the grave, is the beginning of an augling road which continues several miles in a northwesterly direction. It is now a highway but was the original Dexter Road cut through the timber by Judge Dexter and his party of colonists. The road passes about two miles south of the village of Fowler and is now a good gravel road.

Another account of the scene at the burial of the Dexter child by one of the party reads, "Never shall

I forget that scene! The whole family, if not all others, were in tears. The gray-haired sire (he was 46 years of age) after visiting the heads of other families to lead the exercises of the mournful occasion, with tears streaming down his cheeks, read a burial service amid the sobs that nearly drowned his voice in that deep, dark and gloomy forest—the gloomiest spot of the whole route. The grave was made and can still be seen on the farm of Judge Hill on the bank of Muskrat creek." (Judge Courtland Hill was the grandfather of Tyler Hill and was at one time probate judge of Clinton county.)

# *Leroy Miller Takes Geraldine Diehm As Bride April 12 1941*

A quiet wedding occurred at the home of Rev. Thomas Toy, in Lansing, when he united Miss Geraldine Diehm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Diehm of Dewitt, and Leroy Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Miller, also of Dewitt. The single ring ceremony took place at 12 o'clock Saturday, April 12. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Diehm, twin brother of the bride.

The bride was attired in a navy blue afternoon dress, complemented by a lovely corsage.

They will be at home to their many friends and relatives on a farm north of Dewitt.

## **DOAK, BEATRICE M. "BEA"**

### **DeWitt**

Born March 14, 1932 in Elsie, MI; died January 31, 1997 at the age of 64. Surviving are her husband, Jack H.; 2 daughters, Carleta A. (Bon) Fleming III of Lansing and Roxann (James) Buck of DeWitt; 1 son, Rick (Fawn) Doak of Sunfield; 7 grandchildren; 2 great grandchildren; 1 brother; 1 sister; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, February 4, 2 p.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt Chapel, 111 S. Franklin, DeWitt. Interment will follow in the DeWitt Cemetery, DeWitt. Friends may call at the Chapel beginning Sunday, 7 p.m. where the family will receive friends from 7-9 p.m. and Monday from 7-9 p.m.

## **DOLL, MARIE C.**

### **DeWitt**

Age 57, died December 6, 1996. Born December 8, 1938 in Pittsburg, PA, Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph F. Doll. Marie is survived by 3 daughters and 1 son, Lynn (Pete) Nachazel of St. Johns, Kris George (Ralph Ely) of Lansing, John Doll (Jeanette VanWormer) of Lansing and Nikki Doll (Byron Jubeck) of DeWitt; 3 grandchildren, Zachary and Zane Nachazel and Joshua VanWormer; 1 brother, Matthew Guarino of Pennsylvania; 1 sister, Josephine (Sam) Ursida of Pennsylvania; niece, Santa Waller of Maryland; nephew, Joseph Ursida of Pennsylvania. Marie was a provider of love and care for many children who will dearly miss her. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated **Monday, December 9, 1 p.m. at St. Jude Catholic Church, 801 N. Bridge Street, DeWitt**, with the Rev. Bernard L. Reilly, Pastor officiating. The Rite of Committal will follow in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Bath. Friends may call at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt Chapel, 111 S. Franklin, DeWitt, beginning Sunday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. and the Vigil service will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Those desiring may make contributions to Sparrow Hospital Regional Cancer Center, 1215 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 48909 in memory of Marie.

## Joins Brides



MRS. EVERETT B. ARNOLD, JR.

\* \* \*

### *Demaris Dotson Becomes Bride In DeWitt Church*

DeWitt Community church was the scene of the wedding of Miss Demaris Margaret Dotson, daughter of William B. Dotson, R. 4, and Everett B. Arnold, Jr., Saturday afternoon. Rev. LaVern Bretz officiated at the double-ring ceremony.

Mr. Arnold's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Everett B. Arnold, 1215 N. Grand River ave.

The bride's gown was candlelight slipper satin with a fitted bodice, mandarin collar, and caps over Chantilly lace sleeves. The full skirt swept into a full cathedral length train.

Her imported French silk illusion fingertip veil was held in place by a wreath of pearly orange blossoms. She carried a colonial bouquet of white roses and gladioli.

Miss Greta Perry, maid of honor, wore yellow marquisette over taffeta. The gown, fashioned with a front skirt panel of ruffles, also had a hoop skirt. Her mitts and picture hat were matching. Her flowers were yellow gladioli and Talisman roses.

Mrs. Milton Stevens, bridesmaid, wore an orchid gown styled like that of the maid of honor and carried pink gladioli blossoms and pink roses.

Anne Folan, niece of the bride, was flowergirl and wore a green dress with yellow sash.

Doyle Smith was groomsman.

Norman Balmer, soloist, was accompanied on the organ by Miss Helen Moon.

Reception assistants in the church parlors were Miss Norma Decker and Miss Janet Lankford.

The couple will be at home after Aug. 19 on DeWitt rd. following a wedding trip to Gleason, Tenn.

# FIRES BUILDINGS, ENDS OWN LIFE

## CHARRED BODY OF CHAS. DRISKILL FOUND IN BARN EMBERS

### Insane Youth Destroys Home of Parents in Olive May 18; Inquest Held

What the workings of a disordered mind may bring forth was tragically revealed Saturday afternoon, May 18, when Charles C. Driskill, 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Driskill of Olive township, fired his parents' farm home and buildings and then ended his own life with a rifle bullet. The charred remains of the unfortunate young man's body were found in the ruins of the Driskill barn which, like all other buildings on the place, was burned to the ground.

Last summer, after he had been working in Pontiac for a short while, Charles Driskill was committed to the Pontiac State Hospital where an examination proved him to be mentally unbalanced. Three months later, on October 17, 1928, he was allowed to leave the institution and returned to his parents' home four miles south of St. Johns. Testimony given at coroner's inquest Monday by members of his family showed that at first his mind seemed disordered but that recently he had appeared rational and there was little warning that he might commit such a deed as that which shocked the whole community Saturday.

Shortly before 2 p. m. on that day Mr. and Mrs. Asa Driskill drove to St. Johns to do some shopping. Charles remained at home where he had been helping his father shingle the chicken house in the morning. At 2:15 p. m. Forest Smith, who lives just a short distance west of the Driskill place, discovered that the house was on fire. He ran to the scene where he was joined by another neighbor, Leon Ormes. They entered the front door and Forest called "Charles," but received no answer. Thinking that the young man had gone to town Forest and Mr. Ormes, aided by many others who had been attracted by the fire, succeeded in saving most of the household goods on the first floor.

In the meantime the barn, tool shed and chicken house were burning with nearly all contents. It became known that Charles had not left the place with his parents and a search for him, or his remains, was started. The body, burned beyond recognition, was finally found on a pile of burning hay in the ruins of the barn. After it had been removed the barrel of his father's 32-caliber rifle containing

an exploded shell, was discovered near the spot on which the body was found.

In all probability as soon as his parents had driven to town young Driskill set fire to the house, then the tool shed and chicken house and finally the barn, after which he shot himself with the rifle. Before firing the barn he turned out the horses that were in their stalls when Mr. Driskill left home. It is reported that the youth had put the well out of commission so that there would be no water with which to fight the flames.

When the body was found officers were notified and Coroner C. E. Lamb impaneled the following as a coroner's jury for the inquest which was held at the court house in St. Johns, Monday morning: Fred and Lee VanVleet, Arthur Gage, Burr Eaton, Ed Magner and Floyd Taber.

Asa Driskill, father of the unfortunate youth, was the first witness called by Prosecutor G. G. Hunter, who conducted the hearing in the presence of Coroner Lamb. Mr. Driskill said that his boy was in good health and in a rational state of mind Saturday morning and at the time Mr. and Mrs. Driskill drove to St. Johns Saturday afternoon. He said Charles enlisted in the U. S. Army in December, 1927, at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was stationed at a Texas army post. Three weeks later the boy left the service, writing his parents that he "didn't like it" and telling them he was using an assumed name. Through letters, Mr. Driskill later learned that his boy spent some time in southern states and then came back to Michigan and worked in Pontiac where he was committed to the hospital as related above. Mr. Driskill stated that the boy never wanted to be crossed in any way and about 10 days before ending his own life told his father, in a fit of rage over some small matter, "I would like to dope you to death or kill you." Neither Mr. Driskill or any of the other witnesses knew of any trouble the boy had had with neighbors or acquaintances or his own family.

Others who took the stand at the inquest were Leon Ormes, John Sonier, Ernest Rall and Forest Smith, all of whom arrived early at the fire; Mrs. Howard Walker, sister of the deceased, and Deputy Sheriff Percy Patterson, who told of inspecting the rifle with its exploded shell.

After deliberating briefly the coroner's jury found that Charles Driskill came to his death by his own hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Driskill are living with a neighbor temporarily and have not made definite future plans. The loss of their buildings is partially covered by insurance.

A report that the Driskill boy was in state prison last summer instead of at the Pontiac hospital is false. The records show he was at Pontiac.

Charles Clinton Driskill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Driskill of Olive township, was born May 19, 1907, near Hillsboro, Clinton county, Ohio.

His early life was spent in Ohio and Indiana.

About ten years ago he came with his parents and sister from near Grover Hill, Ohio, to Olive township, Clinton county, Michigan. He attended school at the Merrihew school and went two years to the St. Johns high school.

He passed from this life May 18, 1929, just one day before his twenty-second birthday. Besides his parents he is survived by one sister, Mrs. Howard D. Walker of St. Johns, and many relatives and friends in Ohio and Indiana.

The funeral was held Tuesday p. m. at 1:30 at Ebert's and 2:00 o'clock at the West Bingham U. B. church, Rev. Montgomery officiating. Burial at the West Bingham cemetery.