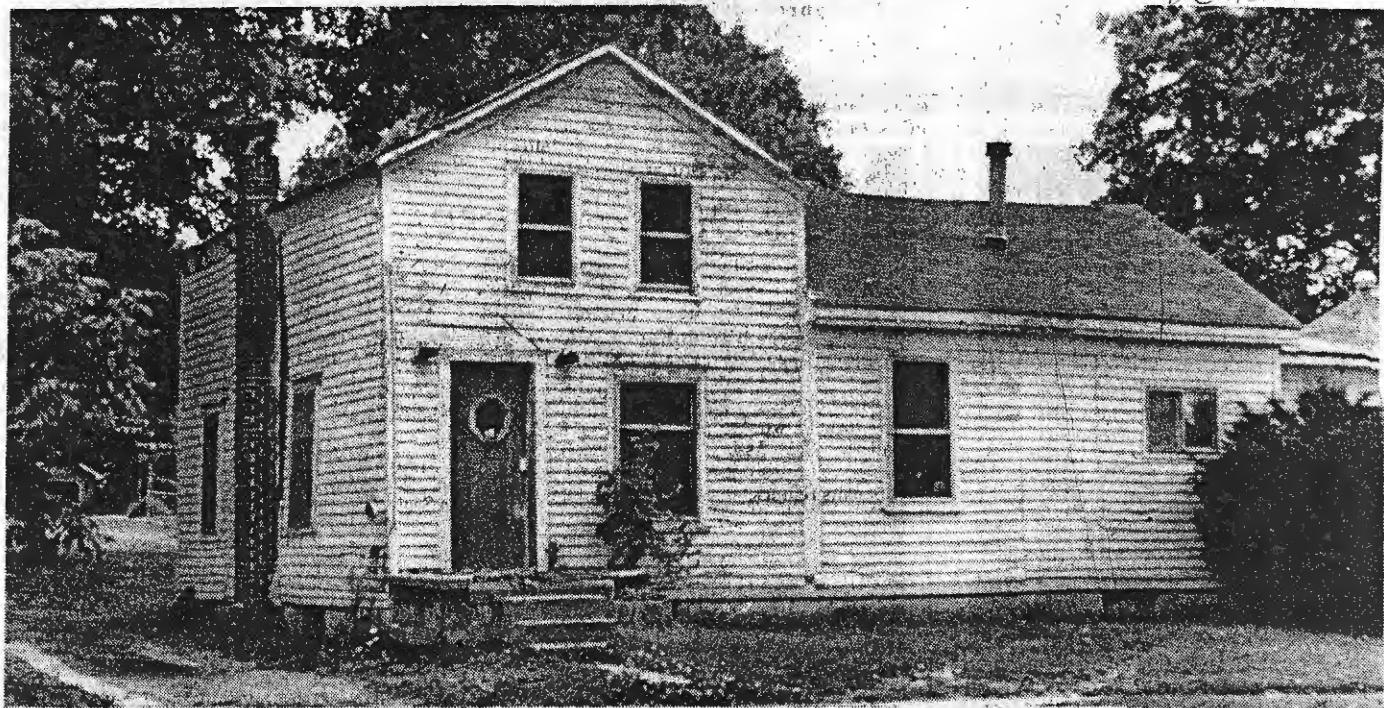


## DeWitt remembered:

Bement



MRS. BEMENT'S "Select School, 207 E. Main in DeWitt. Photo by Al Wilson.

## Coin sketches lives of historic DeWitt couple

By KEN COIN

I was rather disappointed when I heard of the plans to tear down this old structure. Always an optimist, I still saw potential in the 150-year old building. Historic sites don't just grow on trees and I'm still in mourning over the loss 15 years ago of its former neighbor to the west, the old "Boston House" hotel. But even I must concede that the structural problems of the two-story section of the building are more than I could remedy even in my wildest of historic pipe-dreams.

The little one-story section, however, with its vernacular Greek Revival styling, now that's a different story. I thought it would be great to move it and add it to my own house as a family room. I asked my wife if she'd like to look into it; she asked if I'd like to look into a divorce.

When it was built in the early 1840's by Andrew J. Bement, DeWitt, as we know it, was only a few years old. Bement made a good choice in the site for his home and shop. The block to the west had been set aside as a "Public Square" with the intent of someday raising a courthouse in its center. Prime building lots at that time encircled the square and his, aside from its close proximity to the square, was also advantageous in that it faced the main street, then the freeway of the frontier, the Pontiac-Grand River Trail.

Bement was a native of Ontario County, NY, born in 1815. Prior to his emigrating to Michigan in 1842, he achieved the title of "master" boot and shoe maker. A letter from him to fellow cobbler George Cook, dated 1848, has survived to the present and gives much insight into the importance of DeWitt's early shoe industry. (But, that's another story.)

Andrew Bement offered the frontier community much needed boots and shoes but, boots and shoes soon deteriorate. The legacy to the community which originated in this house was knowledge and the quest thereof. When she arrived in DeWitt on Oct. 2, 1842, Caroline Bement, Andrew's wife of two years, brought a satchel of books, an ability to teach, and a gift for

encouraging children to thirst for knowledge.

Caroline was born in Waterbury, Conn. in 1818 and perhaps it was the tradition of the New England finishing schools which inspired her in later years to transplant that ideal among transplanted New Englanders here in DeWitt.

She is recorded as one of the early teachers when the public school in the village was organized in 1842 (the same year as her arrival — coincidence?). But, public schooling in DeWitt at the period offered education only to an eighth-grade level. Hence a need for higher learning.

Clues to as when she struck out on her own with a private school to teach beyond the grade eight are scant and can only be pieced from scraps. The obituaries and biographies of the early residents who list her "Select School" among their credentials pushes the date back to the early 1860's. It is known that Andrew had closed his boot and shoe shop by 1863 and it is my belief that in the early 1860's she took his vacant shop (the 2-story section of the present house?) and converted it into a classroom. Appreciative parents from near and far were only too happy to pay the tuition and the students found room in the households of family friends or relatives in which to board during the weekdays of the school terms.

How many nights did Caroline sit by the flickering light in the modest parlor of this home working on study plans and correcting papers? We'll never know but her obituary states that she taught for 56 consecutive years in DeWitt, "more than any other teacher in the United States."

In a time when much of the world remained unexplored, most of nature unexplained and the majority of Michigan uninhabited, with the few tools she had at hand, Caroline Bement taught the eager teen-agers of DeWitt that the best classroom was experience and the most profound lesson was to seek one's own answers.

In 1901, Caroline retired from her life-long career. Perhaps it was the success of

the County Normal system (and if you don't know what "Normal" was, that too is another story) that made her form of education obsolete. Perhaps it was the opening that same year of the interurban which offered DeWitt students easy access to the high schools of St. Johns and Lansing. Perhaps it was merely that at the advanced age of 83, she knew it was time to rest and leave it to another generation to take up the reins.

She went to live with her son, Dr. Benton Bement, a dentist in Locustport, NY. She died Sept. 8, 1906, at his home but was brought back to DeWitt and buried alongside her pioneer companion who had died 30 years prior. Her funeral was among the largest ever recorded in DeWitt; a tribute to her enormous contribution to the community.

Perhaps someone will now step forward and contribute to the community by saving this old structure. Perhaps it's an appropriate project for the DeWitt School System. But if Caroline's old home and school can no longer stand as a monument to her efforts, we have only to look at the present school system which she helped form or to the young faces of the hundreds of descendants of her former pupils who now learn by methods and in classrooms unimaginable in Caroline's time. And if these are too abstract, there's the Bement Public Library in St. Johns which was founded in 1939 following a bequest from the estate of the Bement's son and daughter-in-law, Edward and Louisa (Huston) Bement.

So, before it's gone from the landscape, drive by it once more. Point it out to your children and tell them that once, long ago, when the Indians still migrated along the river valley, when black bear and wolves were common neighbors and to walk straight north of DeWitt meant not seeing another farm or town until you reached the Straits of Mackinaw, a very wise lady named Mrs. Caroline Bement lived in this little house. She taught the youth everything she knew and did her best she could with what she had and that was enough.

Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian.

## MRS. CAROLINE BEMENT DEAD

### PIONEER CLINTON CO. TEACHER BURIED AT DEWITT.

Among the early pioneers of Clinton county, few figures stand out more prominently than Mrs. Caroline Bement, who passed away at the home of her son, Dr. Bement of Lockport, New York, September 8.

Mrs. Bement came to this county with her husband, Andrew J. Bement, in 1842, locating at DeWitt, where she engaged in teaching a private school. She followed that vocation continuously until 1901, when she took up her residence with her son in Lockport, New York.

During her long residence in DeWitt she witnessed the gradual transformation of the wilderness into the present thriving community. For many years she enjoyed the acquaintance of nearly every person in the county, and many of the prominent citizens now will remember her as having at one time been their teacher. Her character was such as to win friends among all classes and her departure from life will be sincerely regretted by a large circle of friends.



MRS. CAROLINE BEMENT.

Her birth place was Waterbury, Connecticut. When she was two years of age her father removed to Batavia, New York, where she lived until her marriage in 1840. At the time of her leaving DeWitt she enjoyed the distinction of having taught school more consecutive years than any other teacher in the United States, having fifty-six to her credit. The immediate cause of her death was apoplexy. Her age was eighty-seven years.

She leaves two sons, one of whom, E. G. Bement, of Windsor, Ontario, was for many years engaged in the mercantile business in St. Johns. The other, Benton Bement, at whose home she spent her last days, is a practicing dentist in Lockport, New York. Both were present at her burial in DeWitt Monday.

Bement

## E. G. BEMENT DIED IN LANSING NOV. 4TH

WAS PROMINENT MERCHANT IN  
ST. JOHNS AND MAPLE RAP-  
IDS FOR MANY YEARS.

E. G. Bement died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Golden in Lansing, Nov. 4th, after a comparatively brief illness, although he had not been well all summer. Had he lived to the 10th of the month he would have been 80 years old.

Mr. Bement was born in New York state, Nov. 10th, 1840. He came to Dewitt as a young man, where his mother conducted a private school for many years. He clerked for John Hicks, and later was a member of the firm of Hicks & Bement in St. Johns, conducting a general store on the site of the present John C. Hicks store, in an old wooden building that was afterwards used by A. T. Smith as a blacksmith and wagon repair shop. He was united in marriage with Louise Huston, sister of Mrs. M. A. Kniffin and the late Mrs. John Hicks, and in the early seventies removed to Maple Rapids, where he conducted a general store for many years, accumulating a comfortable fortune. One child, Jennie, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bement, April 5th, 1868, who passed away May 31st, 1892.

Mr. Bement gave up his mercantile business in Maple Rapids a number of years ago, and since that time has spent considerable time in the south winters and his summers were divided between his large farm in Gratiot county, Windsor, Ont., and Lansing.

Mrs. Bement died about three years ago.

Mr. Bement was highly educated, a keen business man who possessed the strictest integrity. Judge Lee Potts, of Ithaca, was named in his will as executor. The bulk of his fortune was left to a niece, Mrs. Montfort C. Holley, of Lockport, N. Y., who, with her husband, was here to attend the funeral and were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hicks.

Benedict

Clinton Express

Nov. 19th 1853

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19 1853

DIED,

In Essex, on the 14th inst., HIRAM BENEDICT, in  
the 76th year of his age.

1961 Joy Hanson  
one of Dewitt Gold Stockard  
was living Sparta N.J.  
Dewitt at time of accident

S t. J o h n s B o y  
D i e s I n C r a s h

EARL BENSON, 20, Killed in  
California Plane Wreck;

Funeral services for Earl Harry Benson, A. R. M. 3-c, former St. Johns boy who was killed in an airplane crash near Salton Sea, California, on Jan. 30, will be held Saturday afternoon. A prayer service at the home of his brother, Harold Benson, east of Elsie, at 1 p. m. will precede the funeral service at the fairfield church. The Rev. Salsbury, of North Star, will conduct the services and burial will be at Ithaca.

Born near Flint on May 12, 1924, young Benson spent his early boyhood in Gratiot county after the death of his mother in 1931. Later he lived for a number of years with Mrs. Margaret Beinstedt, near St. Johns. He graduated from the Rodney B. Wilson high school with the class of 1942. He was active in school affairs here and well liked by his fellow students. In recent years he had made his home with his brother, Harold Benson, and family, formerly of Dewitt

Benson

After his graduation here he worked for a time at the Willow Run bomber plant and later transferred to the North American Aviation Corporation at Inglewood, Calif. In April of 1943, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy, taking his boot training at Farragut, Idaho. He specialized in radio-gunnery and radar and in June, 1944, earned his wings as an air crewman. At the time of his death he was enroute to a torpedo plane squadron on maneuvers in California.

While on leave last June he became engaged to Miss Mary Lou Gulick of Breckenridge.

Surviving are his father, Ray Benson, of Lansing; two brothers,

Harold of Elsie, and Pat. Gerald of Camp Fannin, Texas; two sisters, Mrs. Royce Howd, of Lansing, and Miss Arlene Benson of North Star.

## Bingham Girl And Victor Township 1928 Young Man Wed

Delos VanBurger of Victor, and Miss Marie Russell of Bingham, well known young people, were married at the Methodist parsonage in St. Johns Friday, Dec. 30, 1927. The ceremony was performed by Rev. S. W. Large.

A wedding supper was served at the home of the grandparents of the bride, Mr. and Mrs. Watson Benton of Riley. After spending New Year's day at the Russell home in Bingham the newlyweds were the guests of honor at another supper served at the Abe VanBurger home. A party of friends and relatives from St. Johns, Ovid and Lapezsburg were present during the evening.

Berkimer.

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE OF

ELIZABETH ANN BERKIMER

and

BRUCE WAYNE KOSLOSKI

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Lansing, Michigan

6:00 p.m.  
September 7, 1974

THE OFFICIANT

The Rev. James A. Schalkhauser

THE ORGANIST

Mrs. Bayard Benfield

THE MATRON OF HONOR

Linda Secord

THE BEST MAN

Thomas Kosloski

THE BRIDESMAIDS

Janet Smith  
Dawn Berkimer  
Carla Kosloski  
Robin Risk

THE FLOWERCLOUD

Wendy Kosloski

THE RINGBEARER

Patrick Berkimer

THE USHERS

Daniel Kosloski  
Randal Berkimer

THE GROOMSMEN

Jeffrey Kosloski  
Richard Sebrell  
Keith Berkimer  
Gordon Hyde

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

The Organ Prelude

The Processional

The Invocation

The Hymn

No. 443 (vs. 1, 2)

The Shared Word

The Marriage Rite

The Scripture for Marriage

The Marriage Promise

The Marriage Vows

The Blessing

The Prayer

The Lord's Prayer  
(congregation prays)

The Benediction

The Recessional

+ + + + +

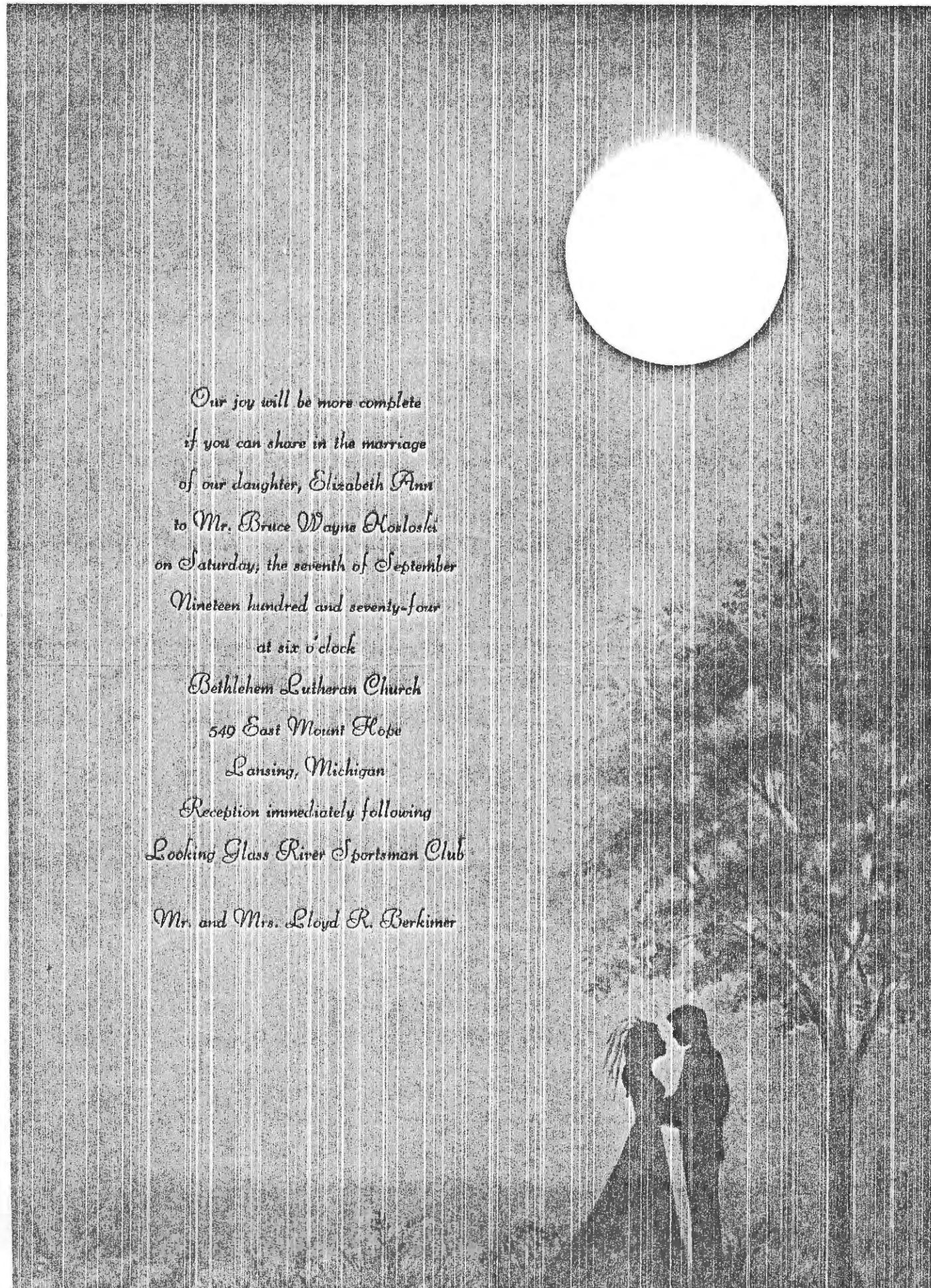
TO THE MARRIAGE GUEST

The bride and groom are honored by your presence. They invite you to share in this, one of the happiest and holiest moments of their lives.

Marriage is ordained by God and God is to be worshipped in all we do here today. Let there be joy and thanksgiving for the blessings which the Lord of the Church has bestowed upon His people.

Will you offer a prayer that God's blessings may rest upon those who are at this time being united in the holy estate of matrimony.

Berkimer



Our joy will be more complete  
if you can share in the marriage  
of our daughter, Elizabeth Ann  
to Mr. Bruce Wayne Korloski  
on Saturday, the seventh of September  
Nineteen hundred and seventy-four  
at six o'clock

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

549 East Mount Hope

Lansing, Michigan

Reception immediately following

Looking Glass River Sportsman Club

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Berkimer

Berkimer

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Berkimer  
request the honour of your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter  
Linda Kay

to

Mr. Richard Marshall Secord  
Saturday, the twenty-second of April  
Nineteen hundred and seventy-two  
at six-thirty in the evening  
Calvary Baptist Church  
14769 Wood Street  
Lansing, Michigan

Reception immediately following  
at Prairie Creek Country Club  
DeWitt, Michigan

Berkimer



There is never a life without sadness,  
There is never a heart free from pain;  
If one seeks in this world for true solace,  
He seeks it forever in vain.  
So when to your heart comes the sorrow  
Of losing some dear one you've known  
Tis the touch of God's sickle at harvest  
Since He reaps in the fields  
He has sown.

IN MEMORY OF  
CHARLES W. BERKIMER

DATE OF BIRTH

July 31, 1954  
Hillsdale, Michigan

DATE OF DEATH

August 23, 1978  
Clinton County, Michigan

## SERVICES

DeWitt Community Church  
Friday, August 25, 1978  
1:00 p.m.

## OFFICIATING

Rev. Jerry Cole

## INTERMENT

DeWitt Cemetery  
DeWitt, Michigan

## BEARERS

Greg Minshall	Ronny Wilcox
Gary Bouts	John Sharp
Dan Davis	Bob Sharp

**BERKIMER, LLOYD R.**  
**"BERK"**

**Lansing**



Age 64,  
died July  
30, 1995.  
Born Janu-  
ary 16, 1931  
in Jackson;  
Mr. Ber-  
kimer  
graduated  
from Jones-  
ville High  
School in  
1948 and

went directly into the U.S. Navy,  
and was a veteran of the Korean  
Conflict, discharged in 1952. He  
worked for his father until 1959 and  
then accepted a position with Stan-  
dard Oil as an agent in DeWitt until  
retirement in 1975, then went to  
work for the Clinton County Sher-  
iff's Department until 1978. From  
there he worked for Grower's Ser-  
vice, Inc. until retirement in 1993.

One  
walk: Mr. Berkimer served with the  
DeWitt City Fire Department for 25

As years; enjoyed visiting family, golf,  
fishing and traveling. He was a  
him, member of F.O.E. #1039, Masons  
of foot #272, DeWitt Moose #2291; and at-  
tended Miller Road Bible Church.  
He was preceded in death by his  
there first wife, Norma E. Berkimer  
(1981) and son, Charles W. (1978).  
bother Surviving are his wife, Ruby;  
Lord, daughters, Linda K. (Rick) Secord  
of East Lansing, Elizabeth (Burce)  
Kosloski of Waters; step-daughter,  
me all Denise Grams of Charlotte; daugh-  
one se ter-in-law, Dawn Marie Wilcox;  
sons, Randy (Jackie) of Arizona,  
trouble Keith R. and Patrick L., both of Lan-  
"My p sing, and Gregg A. Berkimer of  
would Howell; step-sons, Wallace (Lynn)  
times Pugsley of Lansing and Dennis A.  
Pugsley of New Haven, IN; 21  
see on grandchildren; brothers, Byrl  
(Sandy) Berkimer of Kalispell, MT;  
then I brother-in-law, John Tackett of  
Pampa, TX; sister, Marjorie  
(Frank) Anderson of Norfolk, VA.  
Funeral services will be held  
Wednesday, August 2, 2 p.m. at the  
Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt  
Chapel, 111 S. Franklin, DeWitt,  
with the Rev. Dr. William Barber of  
Miller Road Bible Church, officiating.  
Interment will follow in DeWitt  
Cemetery. Friends may call at the  
Chapel beginning Monday, 7 p.m.  
where the family will receive  
friends from 7-9 p.m. and Tuesday,  
2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Those desiring may  
make contributions to Visiting  
Nurse Home Care and Hospice,  
4801 Willoughby, Suite 7, Holt,  
48842, or the American Cancer So-  
ciety, 416 Frandor, Suite 104, Lan-  
sing, 48912, in memory of Mr.  
Berkimer.

Berkimer

**Lloyd R. Berkimer "Berk"**  
**Lansing, Michigan**

**BORN**

January 16, 1931  
Jackson, Michigan

**DIED**

July 30, 1995  
Lansing, Michigan

**SERVICES HELD AT**

Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel  
Wednesday, August 2, 1995  
2:00 P.M.

**OFFICIATING**

Rev. Dr. William Barber, Pastor  
Miller Road Bible Church

**MUSIC**

Nancy K. Baker - Organist

**INTERMENT**

DeWitt Cemetery

**CASKET BEARERS**

Art Newman  
Larry Keck  
Don Seyfried

P. R. Wilcox  
Bob Sharp  
Gary Bouts

Berlin

WEDDING IN RILEY.

A very pretty home wedding occurred Thursday, March 28, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Hamilton in Riley, when their only daughter, Lulu M. Hamilton was united in marriage to Mr. Albert F. Berlin also of Riley.

The ceremony was performed at 12:30 p. m. by the bride's pastor, Rev. G. S. Northrup of this city.

The parlor was tastefully decorated in green and white with red decorations, the bridal party standing under a large white bell. After the ceremony and congratulations an elaborate three course luncheon was served to about sixty invited guests.

The bride wore a beautiful gown of brown silk and was unattended. She is well known in this city where most of her school days were passed. She is a graduate of the St. Johns high school of the class of 1900 and has since been a successful and popular teacher. The groom is well known in Riley and Watertown where he has resided and is most highly esteemed. They were the recipients of many beautiful presents including cut-glass, hand painted china, silver and linen.

Mr. and Mrs. Berlin went immediately to their new home just west of St. Johns where they have already begun housekeeping.

Berlin

## GRADUATE OF LOCAL SCHOOL IS BRIDE

**ALBERTA BERLIN AND ARNOLD  
HUHN SPEAK VOWS  
ON APRIL 20 1936**

Miss Alberta Berlin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Berlin of Riley township, and Arnold Huhn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Huhn of Westphalia township, spoke their nuptial vows Saturday, April 20, at 2:00 p. m. at the rectory of the Church of the Resurrection in Lansing. Fr. John Gabrieles performed the ceremony.

The bride, who graduated from the local high school with the class of 1931, was gowned in white satin and lace with which she wore a white hat and a shoulder corsage of pink rose buds. Miss Brownie Berlin, her sister and attendant, wore a gown of pink taffeta with white accessories. Her corsage was like that of the bride. The groom was attended by his brother, Raymond Huhn.

Dinner was served to the bridal party at the home of the bride's parents, after which a wedding dance was given in the evening in Fowler, with a large number of friends and relatives in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Huhn will reside in Lansing, where he is employed at the Olds Motor Company.

Berry

## Steppey-Berry

A double-ring ceremony at the DeWitt Community church Saturday united in marriage Miss Carole Ann Steppey, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Steppey of DeWitt, and Paul Berry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Berry of Grayling.

The bride is a graduate of the Sparrow hospital school of nursing, and the bridegroom is a junior at Michigan State university.

Carrying a white Bible topped with a white orchid, the bride repeated her vows in a gown of cristalette designed with a scalloped bateau neckline and brush train. A Swedish crown held her veil.

Mrs. Dwayne Wheat, sister of the bride, from Detroit, was honor matron and bridesmaids were Mrs. Dennis Semrau of Wayne and Miss Lois Kahres.

Steve Jorgeson of Grayling was best man and ushers included John Opel of Kalamazoo, cousin of the bridegroom, and Lloyd Steppey of DeWitt, brother of the bride.

A reception in the DeWitt Memorial building for 250 guests followed the ceremony.

The newlyweds will return to their home at 1445 Vine st.

Biergans

Mrs. Emiel Biergans of Lansing  
passed away Sunday, July 5th. She  
was a former resident of Riley be-  
fore moving to Lansing about six-  
teen years ago. Sympathy is ex-  
tended to the family.

1831

Black

CCR News  
11-21-1929

## DEATH CLAIMS AGED VETERAN

Edward Black, 93, Succumbs  
Tuesday; Clinton Resident  
Since Civil War

Edward Black, 93, Olive township Civil War veteran and Clinton county resident since '65, died of heart failure at the home of his son Peter Black of Olive, Tuesday, November 19, 1929. He was the father of 12 children, 11 of whom survive; also 22 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be conducted at the home by Rev. Arthur Gay of Ovid, this (Thursday) afternoon and burial will be made in the Wilsey cemetery.

Edward Black was born in Sussex county, New York, in 1836. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in Co. A, New York Engineers and served with the Union Army for four years. After the war he came to Michigan and settled in Olive township, Clinton county, and has lived there and also with his son Wesley in Ovid almost continuously since that time.

The children who survive are: Aaron Black of Albion, John of Bath, Mrs. Emma Maher, Mrs. Herman Koonter and James of Victor, Leonard of Battle Creek, William of Lansing, Mrs. Eliza Doyen of Round Lake, Peter of Olive, Wesley of Ovid, and Perry of Grand Ledge. He was well known and respected and will be greatly missed.

Bleiss

## THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ARE PRESENT AT RILEY WEDDING

### ELMER IRER AND MISS ELLA A. BLEISS UNITED IN MARRIAGE.

The biggest wedding of the season was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bleiss in Riley township, Wednesday, September 29, when their daughter, Ella, was united in marriage to Elmer H. Irer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Irer, of Riley. Three hundred and fifty guests were present.

The ceremony was held at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon, with Rev. El. Heinecke of the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran church officiating. At 6:00 o'clock a wedding supper was served. Long tables were spread in the house and on the lawn, groaning under the weight of 80 fried chickens, 30 pounds of roast beef, hundreds of cakes, pies, cookies, with jam, fruit, preserves and other good things to eat galore. After supper a wedding dance was held at Merle Beach, which was largely attended by the guests.

Mr. Irer is a graduate of the St. Johns high school and the Clinton County Normal. He taught rural school for six years and at present is bookkeeper at the State Bank of St. Johns. The young couple will reside at their home on Lansing street in St. Johns.

Among those who attended the wedding from St. Johns were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thorpe, Asa Gillson, Mr. and Mrs. John Luecht and Mr. and Mrs. Will Luecht.

Bleis

## DEATH CLAIMS RILEY RESIDENT

Henry Bleis, Sr., 73, Dies At  
Daughter's Home in St.  
Johns June 2nd

Henry Bleis, Sr., 73, well known Clinton county resident for nearly 45 years, died Sunday night, June 2, 1929, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Emma Bliss of St. Johns. Funeral services were conducted at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning at the old Bleis home in Riley township. Rev. H. Wohlert, pastor of the Riley Lutheran church officiated, and burial was made in the Lutheran cemetery.

Henry Bleis was born in Otamsdorf, Germany, April 10, 1856. At an early age he was confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Otamsdorf and on September 19, 1882, was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Witt of Mochling, Germany.

In October, 1884, Mr. and Mrs. Bleis came to America and settled in Westphalla township, Clinton county, Michigan. Later they moved to Dallas where the family resided until moving to Riley five years ago. Mr. Bleis was a successful farmer and made many friends.

He is survived by his widow, six daughters, Mrs. Freida Widmayer, Mrs. Louisa Martin, Mrs. Ella Irrer, Mrs. Elsie Witt, Mrs. Emma Bliss and Miss Anna Bleis; two sons, Herbert and Henry Bleis, Jr., five grandchildren, one great grandchild and a sister in Germany.

SIDNEY J. BLISS ONE OF  
RILEY'S EARLY PIONEERS

Sidney J. Bliss was born in Dorset, Vermont, September 2, 1839, and departed this life December 9, 1921, in Long Beach, Calif. He was the youngest of a family of 12 children of David and Samantha Bliss, who moved to Michigan with their family in 1848 and settled on section 9, Riley township, Clinton county, then a dense wilderness. Here he grew up to manhood and helped clear away the forest and endured the hardships of the early settlers. At the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted in Co. G, 23d Michigan Infantry. He was wounded in action, but joined his regiment as soon as his wounds were healed and served with distinction to the end of the war and was honorably discharged in May, 1865. He came home and settled on his farm on section 9, Riley. In 1867 he was married to Helen Jones of the same place. Five children were born to this union.

In the spring of 1890 the family moved to Lansing, where the mother died in the fall of 1896. In October, 1907, he went to Long Beach, Calif., where he taught music until his age no longer permitted. He was a leader in Long Beach social circle and lead many a grand march at social halls in that city. After leaving his farm in Riley he devoted his time to music. His home was always an attraction to lovers of music for the entire family of seven were musicians. The family will be well remembered by the music loving public of Lansing.

The remains will be brought to Lansing where short funeral services will be held at the home of a niece and husband, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Davenport, Walnut street south. Interment in Mt. Hope.

Mr. Bliss is survived by his five sons, Dean, Irvin and Earl of Detroit; Roy of Toledo, O. and Herman of Long Beach, Calif. and one brother, Henry W. Bliss of Riley, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Bliss

W. A. Co. Rep. News

12-15-1921

Died at his home in Olive, Wednesday, February 14, 1900, after an illness of only three hours, Wm. Blizzard, aged 78 years. He was an old pioneer of Clinton County. He has been a sufferer for years from neuralgia, but otherwise was as well as usual on the day of his death. He partook of a hearty supper Wednesday evening, going out doors soon after, when the family heard him call. He was suffering from so severe a pain in his shoulder that he could not help himself. He was helped in the house and every effort put forth to relieve him, but of no avail. Deceased was born in Willsshire, England, January 15, 1822. He married Catharine Bradfield and to them one child was born. Mrs. Blizzard survived the birth of the child only 6 months April 3, 1851, he married Charlotte Clemmons and moved direct to Medina county, Ohio. In 1855 he moved his family to Olive, Clinton county, on the farm where he died. The farm was then a wilderness, but through his industry and self-sacrifice is now a finely improved farm with good buildings where once stood the mighty forest. Six children were the result of the second union, three of whom have passed away. May 11, 1872, his second wife died. In May, 1873, he was married to Margaret Bowman, two children being born to them. Mr. Blizzard is survived by a widow, six children, eight grandchildren, one brother and one sister, who mourn the loss of a kind husband, father and friend. Mr. Blizzard was drafted for the civil war, but owing to circumstances could not go, hiring a substitute in his stead. Forty-five years he has lived in our midst and how much he was respected and loved by all who knew him was shown by the large attendance at his funeral, which was held at his late home Saturday, Rev. Tripp of the U. B. church of Bingham, officiating, interment taking place at Dewitt cemetery. He was for many years a member of the Dewitt M. E. church, and was ready and willing to go where pain and sorrow never come.

He has gone to join the loved ones,  
In a world that's free from pain.  
Though we miss him, sadly miss him,  
Yet our loss is his great gain.  
He has met a joyous welcome,  
Crowns immortal on his brow,  
Yet we're weeping, sadly weeping,  
For we have no father now.

No more he'll watch us from the window,  
No more meet us at the door,  
But we always shall remember  
Smiles of welcome that he wore,  
And at parting from the loved ones  
Never more his tears shall flow,  
But our hearts shall ever cherish  
Though we have no father now.

Blizzard

What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.



Blizzard

GEORGE W. BLIZZARD

Slowly, fall the snowflakes,—like the seasons upon the life of man. Life is but the germ of death, and death the development of a higher life. Higher in the sense of immortality, what are the rushing, howling waves of man's life in comparison with the calm ocean of eternity. Thus our friend and neighbor has passed on, even as golden autumn,—sinks slowly into the tomb of winter, knowing full well, the sahest clouds of sorrow have silver linings.

George William Blizzard was born in Medina county, Ohio, July 1, 1853, and was one of a family of eight children, whose parents were sturdy English people, who came to Michigan in 1855, locating in Olive township, Clinton county, and as George W., then a child, grew to manhood he experienced the life of a pioneer, in helping to clear away the forest for the benefit of mankind,—thus leaving a worthy heritage to those who may follow.

On March 16, 1878, he was united in marriage to Miss Martha Brink of Olive, and during all these 43 years they have traveled life's pathway happily together, each sharing the joys and sorrows of the other. Four years ago they came to reside in this village. During the past few years Mr. Blizzard had been in failing health, and on Friday, Dec. 16, 1921, at 11 o'clock a.m., surrounded by the family, his life passed away forever. Like the swaying of pendulum, like the fading of a shadow on the floor.

The deceased was a charter member of Olive Grange, a member of Clinton County Pioneer society, and an esteemed member of Dewitt Camp, No. 947, Modern Woodmen of America, in which society he was an earnest and faithful member and very active in the camp activities until the condition of his health prevented.

He is survived by a devoted wife and two daughters, Mrs. Gust Martzke and Mrs. Albert A. Yanz and four grandsons of Olive; two sisters, Mrs. William Phillips and Mrs. Elizabeth VanDyke and a step-sister, Mrs. Frances Mann of this village; three brothers, Thomas Blizzard of Lansing, Byron and Oliver Blizzard of Olive.

Thus closes the last chapter of

an upright and well-spent life. Though the voice be stilled, and the silence continueth forever, yet we will not forget him. His kind acts and his pleasant words will be treasured in our hearts as priceless gems, upon which our minds will love to dwell in fond and sacred recollections.

Funeral services were held at the home on Madison street Sunday at one o'clock p.m. and from the First Baptist church at 1:30 p.m., the pastor, Rev. G. S. Northrup, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Marc D. Cutler sang. Mrs. W. F. Kraas, pianist. Six nephews, George and Jay VanDyke, Louis, Winnie and W. Loy Phillips and Lyle Blizzard, acted as pallbearers, a nephew, Bert H. Neller of East Lansing, was funeral director. The Royal Neighbors and Modern Woodmen of America attended in a body. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful. Burial was in Dewitt cemetery.

—Mrs. Henry N. Webb.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to extend our most sincere thanks to the friends who assisted us in the death of our loving husband and father, also for the beautiful flowers, the singers and the minister for his comforting words.—Mrs. George W. Blizzard, Mr. and Mrs. Gust Martzke and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. Yanz and Family.

West Olive

BLIZZARD REUNION.

The second annual reunion of the Blizzard family was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Martzke of Olive, Saturday, June 18th. There were 103 in attendance. After dinner the meeting was called to order by the president and officers were elected for the coming years as follows: President, Maybryn Phillips of Olive; vice president, Martha Blizzard of Dewitt; secretary, H. A. Offlew of Nashville; assistant secretary, Mrs. Francis Burns of St. Johns; treasurer, Lottie Martzke of Olive. The guests came from Ohio, Nashville, Riverdale, Maple Rapids, Middleton, Lansing, Detroit, St. Johns and Dewitt.

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Blizzard

## MAPLE RAPIDS

Harriet Blizzard, the daughter of Oliver and Mary Blizzard, was born in England, Feb. 24, 1847, and died June 20, 1913. At the age of four years she came with her parents to Ohio where they resided five years, afterwards moving to Olive, Clinton county, and later to Maple Rapids where Mrs. Cook resided 49 years. In 1865 she was married to Thomas Cook, who passed away 42 years ago. She leaves to mourn their loss one son, Charles, and the following brothers and sisters—Mrs. Kate Miller and Oliver Blizzard of Maple Rapids; Enos Blizzard of St. Johns; Mrs. Amelia Dunting of Gladwin county; Mrs. Clara Payne of Middleton; Thos. Blizzard of Detroit and Charles of Sickels.

Blizzard

## *Young Couple Wed March 2nd; Will Make Home on Riley Farm*

1938

Martha A. Norris, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Norris of Dewitt, became the bride of Arnold B. Blizzard, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Blizzard, of Dewitt, at a quiet ring ceremony at the Baptist parsonage in Lansing on Wednesday, Mar. 2, at 2 p. m., performed by Rev. Thomas Toy. They were attended by Brownie Berlin and Raymond Locher.

The bride was attired in a turquoise blue gown, with dark blue ac-

cessories, wearing a corsage of tailman roses and white hyacinths. Miss Berlin was attired in an Alice blue gown, with navy blue accessories, wearing a corsage of American Beauty roses and white hyacinths.

A wedding dinner was served to the immediate family, at the home of the bride's parents. Both young people are well known and have many friends. They will be home to their friends on a farm in Riley.

Blizzard



MRS. BRUCE BLIZZARD  
the former Susan Wickerham

bridegroom attended Northern Michigan University. He has recently returned from service with the U. S. Army in Vietnam.

### *Blizzard Wickerham*

DEWITT—First Congregational Church, St. Johns, was the setting for the Friday evening wedding ceremony when Susan Marie Wickerham became the bride of Bruce Lynn Blizzard.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wickerham, 7590 Airport, and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Blizzard, 10430 Norris.

Miss Cindy Smith of St. Johns was the maid of honor. Other bridal attendants were Mrs. Dale Blizzard, the bride's mother's sister-in-law; Miss Cheryl Rumzek, the bride's cousin from Lansing; Miss Jan

Bullard of St. Johns and Miss Betty Wohlfert.

Lyle Greenfield of St. Johns was his cousin's best man.

Groomsmen were the bridegroom's brothers, Dale Blizzard and Larry Blizzard, Ron Phinney of St. Johns and Roger Wickerham, the bride's brother.

Gary Locher of Ypsilanti and Leslie Warner of St. Johns ushered.

Stacy Stone of St. Johns was flowergirl and Jeff Dieter of DeWitt was ringbearer.

Following a reception at the Bingham Grange Hall, St. Johns, the couple left for a honeymoon in Canada and the Upper Peninsula.

They will live in DeWitt.

Blizzard



DEWITT — A May 8 wedding is planned by Miss Kathryn Ann Grove and Dale Allen Blizzard. Miss Grove is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grove of rural DeWitt who announce her marriage plans. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Blizzard of rural DeWitt are parents of the prospective bridegroom.

Blizzard

**BLIZZARD, ELLA M.**

**Formerly of DeWitt**

Age 91, died August 19, 1995. Born April 13, 1904 in Galt, IL, the daughter of William and Edna (McDowell) Baird. Mrs. Blizzard was a graduate of DeWitt High School and Central High School in Lansing; attended Eastern Michigan University; and taught school at Lott School in Clinton County. She married Leon Blizzard in 1926 and lived in DeWitt where she was active in the DeWitt Community Church, was a 4-H Leader, and a member of Thursday Afternoon Club and Eastern Star. Mrs. Blizzard moved to Higgins Lake in 1965 and returned to the Lansing area in 1980. Predeceased by her husband, Leon (1991), Mrs. Blizzard is survived by 1 daughter, Beverly (Verneil) Varney of LeRoy; 1 son, Keith (Brenda) of Charlotte; 7 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; 1 brother, George Baird of DeWitt; 1 sister, Evelyn Curren of Lansing. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 22, 11 a.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman Co. DeWitt Chapel, 111 S. Franklin, DeWitt, with the Rev. Leicester Longden of Trinity United Methodist Church officiating and special services provided by Eastern Star. Interment will follow in DeWitt Cemetery. Friends may call at the Chapel beginning Sunday, 2 p.m., where the family will receive friends from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. In remembrance of Mrs. Blizzard, those desiring may make contributions to Hospice of Lansing, Inc., 6035 Executive Drive, Suite 103, Lansing 48911.

Blizzard

## FOOTPRINTS

One night a man dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. As scenes of his life flashed before him, he noticed that there were two sets of footprints in the sand. He also noticed at his saddest, lowest times there was one set of footprints. This bothered the man and he asked the Lord, "Did you not promise that if I gave my heart to you that you'd be with me all the way? Then why is there only one set of footprints during my most troublesome times?" The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and would never forsake you. During those times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints it was then I carried you."

### Bruce L. Blizzard

4900 W. Pratt Road  
DeWitt, Michigan

#### BORN

July 13, 1946  
Lansing, Michigan

#### DIED

April 14, 1992  
Cleveland, Ohio

#### SERVICES HELD AT

Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel  
Saturday, April 18, 1992  
11:00 A.M.

#### OFFICIATING

Rev. Rodney J. Kalajainen  
Redeemer United Methodist Church

#### MUSIC

Bryan J. Grinnell - Organist

#### INTERMENT

DeWitt Cemetery

#### MILITARY SERVICES

Edwin J. Leyanna V.F.W. Post No. 671  
DeWitt, Michigan

#### CASKET BEARERS

Jim Wedel  
Kevin Kirk  
Kevin Thayer  
Leslie Warner

Terry Powell  
Donald Graff  
Clare Boughton  
Lyle Greenfield

Blonde

## DEATH TAKES YOUNG MOTHER

**Mrs. Paul Blonde Succumbs  
To Tuberculosis At Ann  
Arbor Hospital**

Dewitt—Iva, youngest daughter of Charles and Louisa Farrier, was born Feb. 3, 1910 in the village of Dewitt. At the age of 10 she suffered the loss of her mother, but was cared for by her father and sister, Hazel. Iva graduated from the Dewitt high school with the class of 1926 and is the second of her class to pass on. Her chum and classmate, Dorothy Ryckman Scrim preceded her by 2 years.

On June 25, 1928 Iva was united in marriage to Paul Blonde of Burnside. To this union two sons were born, Paul Jr., and James Edward. Since July, 1930, Mrs. Blonde has been suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, but in April came home from Muskegon county sanitarium much improved in health, but it was of short duration. August 26 she entered the U. of M. hospital at Ann Arbor where she passed away early Friday morning, Sept. 4, 1931, aged 21 years and 7 months.

To mourn her passing on are her husband and two young sons, Paul, Jr., and James Edward; her father, Charles Farrier; two sisters, Hazel at home, and Mrs. Edna DuBreuil of this place, besides a host of other relatives and friends. Her funeral was held from St. Mary's church at Burnside at 10 o'clock Monday morning, Sept. 7, with burial in St. Mary's cemetery. Rev. Fr. McGuiness said the Mass.

The following relatives who attended her funeral from here were here sisters, Miss Hazel Farrier, Mr. and Mrs. DuBreuil, Mr. and Mrs. McConnell, Mrs. Bertha Kla-  
ver of Dewitt, Mrs. Lizzie Forest of Owosso and Mrs. Frank Herblet of Lansing. The floral offerings were many and very beautiful. Mrs. Blonde was a member of Dewitt Camp No. 432, Royal Neighbors of America.