

A BROKEN HEART

44

Is What Caused the Death of Catherine Bohmett

WHO PASSED AWAY AT THE COUNTY POOR FARM FRIDAY.

Her Dependent Condition was the Source of Great Grief.

Mrs. Catherine Bohmett, an old German lady aged 76 years, who has been an inmate at the County Poor Farm for the past three years and over, died Friday last and was buried Sunday afternoon. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Blanchard of the Baptist church, and the remains buried at the farm cemetery.

The story of the old lady's life is a sad one. She was taken to the Farm on Dec. 12, 1892, by Supervisor Courtright of DeWitt, in which township she had long resided, living near the southern border. In earlier days her husband had been a prosperous and well-to-do farmer, but Mr. Courtright explained when he left the old lady with the Overseer that her husband had been a drinking man and whiskey was responsible for it all, having caused the loss of their home and had made them paupers. In conversation with THE NEWS relative to the old lady Mrs. Service, wife of Overseer Service, said:

"I am satisfied that the old lady died of a broken heart. She grieved constantly over her reduced condition which seemed extremely humiliating to her. She had three children living, Christian Bohmett, who lives in Ovid township, Mrs. Herman Deelman, who we were told lived in Montana, but our letters to her were re-

turned marked 'no such person.' There was also another sister who lived I believe in Indiana." Whether they were unable or not disposed to take care of their mother is not known." She is said to have faithfully read her bible each day and Mrs. Serviss assured THE NEWS that she always tried to do right.

How little thought is given nowadays to the unfortunate who "travel their weary way over the hills to the poor house," men and women, many of them, who in younger days were merry boys and girls; happy young people who looked upon the world with as bright and cheerful anticipations for future success as might be wished.

Not so many of that kind in a county like Clinton perhaps and yet it has had a share and 'tis safe to venture that the interior walls at the old poor farm school of St. Johns have witnessed many pitiful sight and could they but speak would tell hosts of stories on the shadowy side of life. They have seen the quiet, determined countenance of some old man or woman who had decided to be brave under trials, loose its resolution when no one has been about they have noticed a tear trickledown the aged wrinkled face, as memory brought to view the scenes of happy days and the lived over just for a moment some pleasant event in the life of long ago. Melancholy indeed are the lessons taught by such events, and yet they are full of suggestions and preach a sermon in themselves. Cold hearted and cruel indeed must be he who allows a mother, father or any near relative to be taken to a poor house, if its prevention is a possibility.

Bohmett

June 1964

Boice



MRS. ROBERT A. DUNIGAN

Miss Alice Elaine Boice Married in Lutheran Rites

Miss Alice Elaine Boice wore a silk organza and French lace wedding gown overlaid with a matching draped skirt, for her Saturday afternoon marriage to Robert A. Dunigan in Our Savior Lutheran Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn N. Boice of DeWitt, and the parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dunigan of 313 Mosley St.

Alice's gown featured a scal-

loped bateau neckline and cathedral slim sleeves.

A full bouffant veil fell from her crown of seed pearls and crystal teardrops, and she carried white mums with pink sweetheart roses and ivy.

Mrs. Marvin Witt of DeWitt was matron of honor, dressed in a floor length semi-sheath of aqua shantastic.

She carried white mums and pink sweetheart roses with ivy.

Richard Dunigan assisted his brother as best man, and ushers were Richard Howard and Marvin Witt of DeWitt, brother-in-law of the bride.

Following their wedding reception in the church, the newlyweds left for a northern Michigan honeymoon.

Upon return they will reside in DeWitt.

The mother of the bride selected a powder blue ribbon knit sheath with white accessories, and the mother of the bridegroom chose a floral print jersey dress with white accessories.



Boice

ALICE ELAINE BOICE

DATE SET — Miss Alice Elaine Boice of DeWitt and Robert Dunigan of Lansing have chosen June 6 for their wedding date. Announcement is made by parents of the bride elect, Mr and Mrs Glenn Boice of 1160 Webb road, DeWitt. The parents of the bridegroom-to-be are Mr and Mrs Roy F. Dunigan of 313 Mosley St., Lansing.

Boice

BOICE, ELONORE A.

DeWitt 12-29-84

Age 82, died December 27, 1986. Born May 20, 1904 in Indiana. Mrs. Boice was a thirty year DeWitt resident and formerly of Elsie. She taught for many years in rural schools in the Wacousta, Elsie, and DeWitt areas. Surviving are 2 daughters, Mrs. Marvin (Carol)

Witt of DeWitt and Mrs. Robert (Alice) Dungan of Eagle; 3 grandchildren, James Dungan of Elsie and Diane Witt and Denise Witt, both of DeWitt; 1 niece and 2 nephews. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with the Rev. Philip L. Brown, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Grand Ledge, officiating. Interment will be in Mt. Rest Cemetery, St. Johns. The family will receive friends at the Funeral Home Monday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Those desiring may make contributions to the American Heart Association.

Boichot

1985

Obituaries

Pauline Boichot

Pauline Boichot, 101, of East State Road, DeWitt Township, died Wednesday, Oct. 30, in Lansing.

Mrs. Boichot was born April 20, 1884, in Saginaw to Frederick and Willimina (Pohlmann) Borck. She was a charter member of the Valley Farms Baptist Church and a life member of the Order of Eastern Star, DeWitt Chapter No. 30.

Survivors include a niece; cousins; and many dear friends in DeWitt Township.

Funeral services were held at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel Nov. 1 with the Rev. James Bowden, Jr., of the Valley Farms Baptist Church, officiating. Interment was in the DeWitt Cemetery.



LOUIS J. BOICHOT

Louis J. Boichot Dies in Florida

Helped to Develop South County Area

Services were held Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at St. Therese church in Lansing for Louis J. Boichot, 73, president of the Boichot Ready-Mix Concrete company and a lifelong resident of the south Clinton area.

Mr Boichot died last Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Lake Worth, Fla.

Father William J. Koenigs-knecht officiated at the final rites and burial was in Mt. Hope cemetery, Lansing.

MR. BOICHOT originally had extensive farming interests in southern Clinton county. In 1925 he started the Boichot Gravel company on the family homestead. Later he became active in real estate development. He developed the ready-mix concrete firm in 1941.

Mr and Mrs Boichot observed their golden wedding anniversary in 1957. They were married in Howell.

Surviving are his wife, Anna; a son, Donald, and a daughter, Josephine, both of Lansing; a sister, Mrs Marguerite Stevens of Detroit; and four grandchildren.

Boichot

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
FILE
BOX

Landmark Goes DeWitt Bank Becomes 'A Branch'

By FAYE HANSON
State Journal Correspondent

DeWITT—A DeWitt landmark took on a new look Monday when the American Bank and Trust formally took over the reins of the Woodruff State Bank.

Sixty-five years ago on Jan. 1, 1904, brothers Clayton C. and Mark Woodruff, as equal partners, opened the Woodruff Brothers Bank on the east side of the 100 block of S. Bridge Street in a building long since torn down.

Until then Clayton had been a farmer just outside of the village and Mark was a merchant in the town.

Their forebears were among the first settlers in the DeWitt area.

Lawrence Woodruff, son of Clayton, shortly before World War I, replaced Mark as partner following war service, he remained in the bank until his death in 1951.

A second son of Clayton, Ralph, was admitted to partnership in 1923 and was president of the bank at the time of the merger.

The bank in 1953 was chartered by the State Banking Department and incorporated as Woodruff State Bank, at the same time it became a member of Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

The bank was closed in February 1933 by the National Bank Holiday, but opened its doors to the public again in 10 days, one of the few banks in the state to do so.

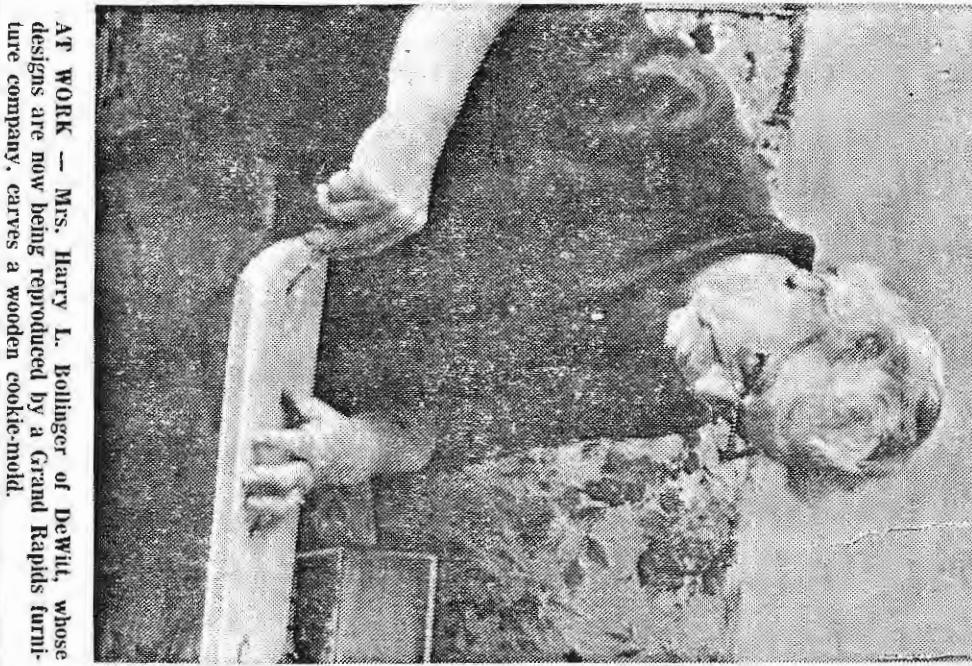
Another member of the Woodruff family, Howard, son of Lawrence, became affiliated with the bank in 1950.

In a statement, Ralph Woodruff said, "A small bank cannot provide the electronic equipment, attract capable officer replacements when necessary, or provide the funds and services to which the community is entitled."

The new operation will be known as the Woodruff Office of the American Bank and Trust; Ralph will be a Vice-President in charge of the Woodruff Office and Howard will be an assistant vice-president.

Ralph's son, Russell, is with the Community National Bank in Pontiac.

Ralph says that 1968 has truly been a year for him to remember, on January 1 he celebrated 40 years in banking, he signed the merger on August 12 and on September 16 the bank experienced its first holdup when two bandits made off with several thousand dollars. They were later apprehended.



AT WORK — Mrs. Harry L. Bollinger of DeWitt, whose designs are now being reproduced by a Grand Rapids furniture company, carves a wooden cookie-mold.

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION BOX FILE

'Happy' Cookies Her Specialty

By FAYE HANSON
State Journal Special Writer

DeWITT—"Where there's a will there's a way" . . . at least with Mrs. Harry Bollinger of 124 W. Jefferson St.

Take for example the case of the antique cookie molds.

Search as she might, Mrs. Bollinger could not find antique cookie molds that were cheerful.

"They were all of grotesque figures or frightening animals," she said. "And I didn't want to make cookies that would frighten my grandchildren."

So her husband bought a set of chisels and some soft pine and said, "O.K., make your own."

The couple was living in Newark, Del., at the time Mrs. Bollinger launched her wood-carving hobby, and, after several years, she continues to work with pine, walnut, cherry and mahogany.

Carving a mold, she explained, takes from six to 12 hours. Then it is stained and waxed.

An antique-lover, Mrs. Bollinger finds her hand-carved molds of fruit, animals and nursery characters blend well with early American settings.

Now a Grand Rapids furniture company is reproducing her molds for sale.

C-6 THE STATE JOURNAL Wed., April 6, 1966
Lansing, Michigan

Family Planning
in MID-MICHIGAN

Bollinger

The Twenty Third Psalm

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for His name's sake..
Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me. Thou preparest a table
before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup
runneth over.. Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life: and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever.....*

In Memory of

HARRY L. BOLLINGER

Date of Birth

March 15, 1906

Vestaburg, Michigan

Date of Death

January 19, 1975

Traverse City, Michigan

Services at

LEE R. RUMMELL, FUNERAL HOME

DeWitt, Michigan

Wednesday January 22, 1975

2:00 P. M.

Clergyman

Rev. Richard Clark
Redeemer United Methodist Church

Bearers

Lawrence Keek	Oria McGuire
Ray DeWitt	John Hiatt
Arthur Newman	Lloyd Berkimer

Burial

Chapel Hill Memorial Garden
Lansing, Michigan

BOND

POPULAR ST. JOHNS YOUNG COUPLE WED

MISS MARY BOND AND LLOYD
MARZKE SPEAK VOWS AT
ST. JOSEPH'S SATURDAY

Miss Mary Bond and Lloyd Marzke, popular St. Johns young couple, were united in marriage on Saturday morning, August 26, 1933 at an 8 o'clock ceremony at St. Joseph's Catholic church. Fr. H. W. Rosebrook, local pastor, performed the ceremony in the presence of the immediate families. The bridal march was played by Mrs. Leo Snitgen, and Miss Elizabeth Parish sang "Ave Maria."

The bride, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Bond, was attractively attired in a navy blue crepe gown with matching accessories and her corsage was of pink rose buds, bachelor buttons and stock. Her maid of honor, Mrs. John Martin, wore a frock of slate grey with accessories of matching shade. Mr. Martin assisted the groom, who is the son of Mrs. Edith Marzke of this city, as best man.

The bride graduated from St. Johns high school with the class of 1929 and was employed in Detroit and Stockbridge for a year before accepting her present position as bookkeeper in the D. L. Hunt insurance office, where she has been three years. She expects to continue her work.

After attending the local high school Mr. Marzke held a position in Lansing for some time and is now employed in the F. C. Burk department store.

Out-of-town people who attended the wedding were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dunashack and children and Mrs. Roman Stump and daughter of Lansing.

Bond

Engaged



Mr. and Mrs. James A. Perry of Perry, Michigan, announce the engagement of their daughter, Greta Bell, to A/3c Ernest E. Bond, son of Mrs. Edna Bond of DeWitt.

Miss Perry is attending Alma college and is affiliated with the Kappa Iota Sorority. Her fiance recently completed training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas, and is now located at Chanute Field, Illinois.

No date has been set for the wedding.

BORON

A service of unusual interest took place at St. Joseph's Catholic church this morning at nine o'clock when High Mass was sung by Rev. Fr. Lynch in honor of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Boron of Olive.

The little church was simply but prettily decorated in yellow and white ribbons and flowers in honor of the event. The service was beautifully solemn, the extraordinary occasion lending impressiveness to the mass. Following the mass Fr. Lynch made a few fitting remarks congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Boron on their fifty years of well spent life together. The short address was followed by the benediction.

Following the church service, relatives and immediate friends to the number of one hundred went to the pleasant country home of Mr. and Mrs. Boron where dinner was served and the day given over to merrymaking.

Many beautiful gifts, expressive of the love and esteem in which this father and mother are held were bestowed upon them by their sons and daughters, grandchildren, nieces nephews and friends. A beautiful solid gold cross and chain were given to Mrs. Boron by her children, while the father received an easy chair in which to rest at the close of the day.

In these many years of life together Mr. and Mrs. Boron have suffered the privations incident to all pioneer life, and have gratefully noted the development of the country from almost a wilderness to the garden it has become. And while these changes have slowly but steadily taken place they

have been doing their share early and late.

Mr. and Mrs. Boron were natives of France, Mr. Boron having been born in Belfort on June 28, 1837, and Mrs. Boron at the same place in November the following year.

When Mr. Boron was nine years of age his parents left France and coming to America settled in Ohio where he remained until after his marriage to Miss Celestine Brya which occurred in Canton on July 11, 1857, the latter having come from the mother country when but a little girl seven years of age.

Forty-one years ago Mr. Boron and his family moved to Michigan, and with the exception of one year in DeWitt they have been constant residents of Olive, living for the past thirty-four years on the farm that is still their home. Mr. Boron is known far and wide as an auctioneer of ability.

Five sons and two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Boron, all of whom with their children and grandchildren are at the old home today assisting in making the golden anniversary an occasion that will live for years in the memories of all those participating in the festivities. The children are Mrs. Byron Tripp of St. Johns, Augustus, Frank and Louis, Jr. all of Olive, Mrs. C. E. Caskey of Chicago, Eddie F., who is head clerk in the dry goods store of G. H. Chapman and Fred A., cashier of the Dollar Savings Bank of Akron, Ohio. There are thirteen grandchildren in the Boron family and five great grandchildren.

BORON

ST. JOHNS NEWS, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 11, 1901

Golden Wedding Anniversary

CELEBRATED BY MR. AND MRS. LOUIS BORON TODAY.



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have been doing their share early and late.

Mr. and Mrs. Boron were natives of France, Mr. Boron having been born in Belfort on June 28, 1831, and Mrs. Boron at the same place in November the following year.

When Mr. Boron was nine years of age his parents left France and coming to America settled in Ohio where he remained until after his marriage to Miss Celestine Brya which occurred in Canton on July 11, 1857, the latter having come from the mother country when but a little girl seven years of age.

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BORON

WEDDING TAKES PLACE AT AN EARLY HOUR TUESDAY

COUPLE WILL MAKE THEIR FUTURE HOME ON MCCONNELL ST.

Miss Kathryn Fay and Edward F. Boron were united in marriage at an early hour Tuesday morning, August 7, at St. Joseph's church. Rev. J. T. Lynch performed the ceremony.

The bride wore her traveling suit of dark blue and was attended by Miss Anna Ryan, who was gowned in dark green. Louis Boron, brother of the groom, acted as best man. After a short lake trip, Mr. and Mrs. Boron will reside at 207 McConnell street.

Guests from out of town, who witnessed the ceremony, were Mrs. Chas. Caskey and son, Kenneth, of New York City, N. Y., Mrs. Elmer Appleman of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Miss Marie Burke of St. Louis, Mo., Miss Grace Ryan of Portland, and H. B. Ryan of Harbor Beach.

OLDEST IN MICHIGAN

AUCTIONEER BORON HAS HAD A
LONG AND BUSY CAREER

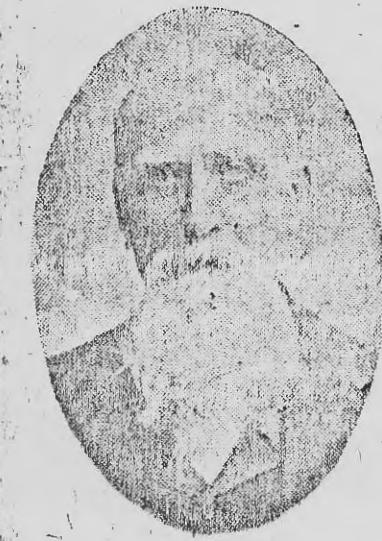
Forty-three Years of Continuous Auctioneering—Over 3,000 Sales and Never
Missed a Date.

The oldest auctioneer in Michigan is the title to which Louis Boron has the undisputed claim. Clinton county's veteran auctioneer can point to a record of forty-three years of continuous auctioneering, a record equaled by no other man in his line of business in Michigan. During this time he has cried over three thousand sales in Clinton county and other Central Michigan counties, at which two or three million dollars worth of property has been knocked down to the highest bidder. Most remarkable of all, is that he has never yet missed an appointment during the whole forty-three years.

Mr. Boron is a Frenchman by birth, having been born in Belfort in Alsace in 1837. When seven years old he came with his parents to America, settling in Stark county, Ohio, near Canton where he remained till his majority. From there he removed to Wayne county near Worcester and soon after started in the auctioneering business with a man named Miller, one of the foremost auctioneers in the state of Ohio. He was with Miller for three years acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business that served him well in later years.

during the sixties. His skill as an auctioneer is well known, and he still enjoys his full share of the business. His health has always been robust, and, in spite of all the hardships incident to the work of auctioneering in all kinds of weather, he never failed to be on hand at the appointed hour. In fact illness never interfered with his work at all until last spring, when he suffered severely with grippe and was obliged to have some assistance at several sales, though he was always on hand to start the sale, even in the face of his doctor's orders.

BORON



LOUIS BORON.

Michigan's Oldest Auctioneer.

He came to Michigan forty years ago, first living two miles west of DeWitt and afterwards moving to his present farm on section 3 of Olive. From that time to the present his name has been familiar to every inhabitant of Clinton county. When he first came here there was a considerable number of French settlers in the county, and Mr. Boron's knowledge of French, which he spoke as readily as English, was almost indispensable. He also speaks German equally well, and as the German population of the country increased this proved of even greater value in his work. He is believed to be the only auctioneer in Michigan who ever paid a license, the law having required this for a number of years.

BORON

CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING



MR. AND MRS. AUGUSTUS BORON

COUPLE HONORED ON ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Boron
of St. Johns Spoke Vows
February 28, 1882

The home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Boron of Olive township, presented a joyous scene on Sunday, Feb. 28, when 70 friends and relatives assembled to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. Boron's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Boron of St. Johns. The honored couple, with their son and his wife, received the guests.

The house was tastefully decorated with gold and white streamers and wedding bells. A basket of yellow roses occupied the center of the dinner table about which were seated Mr. and Mrs. Boron and their brothers and sisters. A huge golden wedding cake was one of the attractions of the feast.

C. E. Caskey of Akron, O., in behalf of the relatives and friends, presented Mr. and Mrs. Boron with a purse of gold. Other gifts and letters and telegrams of congratulation were received.

Mr. Boron was born in Ohio in 1860 and came to Clinton county at the age of five. He attended the rural school and later went to a select school conducted by Mrs. Eement at Dewitt.

(Continued on page 7, column 7)

Mrs. Boron, the daughter of John and Luan Austin, was born in Cattaraugus county, N. Y., in 1864 and came to Clinton county at the age of four. She attended the Rheubottom school a short distance from her home.

Mr. and Mrs. Boron were married in Lansing at the Chapman hotel, which stood on the site now occupied by the Vandervoort Hardware Co. Frank and Emma Boron, now Mrs. C. E. Caskey of Akron, O., and Frank Merribew and Hattie Hamilton of Olive, witnessed the ceremony. The weather on that eventful day was very bad and the journey home was made by horse and buggy, four hours being required to cover the 14 miles back to the farm in Olive.

Two sons were born to the young couple, Willie M., and Alvin, who died in 1922. The older son now lives on the farm and his two sons Gale and Louis represent the fifth generation of the family residing on this same farm.

Relatives from Akron, O., Detroit, Lansing, Laingsburg and St. Johns were among the guests at the wedding celebration. Both Mr. and Mrs. Boron enjoy good health and take an active interest in community affairs. They reside at 511 South Clinton avenue.

DEATHS OF MOTHER AND BABE SADDEN THIS COMMUNITY

MRS. EDDIE F. BORON AND INFANT DAUGHTER PASS AWAY.

Not in a long time has the community been so shocked and saddened as it was early Saturday morning, July 24, 1915, by the death of Mrs. Eddie F. Boron at the family home, 207 McConnell street, w. A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Boron Friday night, the mother passing away a few hours later. The life of the babe, named for its mother, Carrie Adella, wavered by a thread until Sunday noon when it too, passed away and the tiny form was laid in the arms of her, who gave her life for it.

Carrie Adella Henderson, second daughter of the late John D. Henderson, for many years a prominent miller here, and his wife, was born in the old Henderson homestead, Morton street, n., September 14, 1875, and spent the entire thirty-nine years of her life in St. Johns. She attended the St. Johns high school and March 4, 1896, was married to Eddie F. Boron of this city. After ten years of married life a daughter, Frances, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Boron. Devoted to her home and domestic in all of her tastes, Mrs. Boron was never so happy as when doing something for the happiness of her family and a companionship existed between her and her young daughter to an unusual degree. In her young womanhood, Mrs. Boron was baptized in the Methodist Episcopal church and was an active member in the Sunday school class of Mrs. Clemmie Crossman.

The services were held Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home and were attended by a large assembly of relatives and friends, many of whom came from a distance. Rev. C. J. Kruse, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, officiated and Misses Mayme Fedewa and Stella Schoendorf sang favorite hymns of Mrs. Boron, "Somewhere the Sun is Shining," "Face to Face" and "Abide with Me." The floral offerings were beautiful and profuse, mutely testifying to the esteem in which the family is held in the community. Interment was in Mt. Rest cemetery. Out of respect to Mr. Boron, the store of George H. Chapman, of which he is manager, was closed during the services.

Besides the bereaved husband and little daughter, Mrs. Boron leaves her mother, Mrs. J. D. Henderson, of this city, a brother, John E. Henderson of Detroit, and four sisters, Mrs. W. H. Burke of St. Louis, Mo., who is spending the summer here, Mrs. D. L. Johnson of Detroit, Mrs. B. F. Schaeubals and Mrs. E. J. Corkin of St. Johns.

Among the relatives and friends from away, who attended the services were: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Burke and daughter, Marie, of St. Louis, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. John E. Henderson and Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Johnson and daughter,

of Detroit; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Caskey and son, Kenneth, of New York City, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Brya and mother, Mrs. A. Brya, of Laingsburg; Mrs. Dora E. Boron and son, Harold, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Tallmadge, Mrs. Henry Tallmadge, Harry Tallmadge and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clavey and two daughters, Mrs. Helen Keiser, Mrs. Burr Cushman and Mrs. S. A. Post of Lansing; H. Glenn Henderson of Kalamazoo, Mr. and Mrs. Will Sowles and Miss Mary Burke of Ionia; Mr. and Mrs. Dick O'Neill of Grand Rapids; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Brya, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Falvor, Mrs. Adeline Boucher, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard of Dewitt; William Shulters of Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Rowe of Detroit, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy V. Henderson of Lansing; Ed. Burke, Ionia, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lorenz, Dewitt.

BORON

BORON

**Mrs. Mary Boron,
80, Died Today
In Lansing Home**

Mrs. Mary Boron, 80, died this morning in Lansing at a convalescent home. She was the widow of the late August Boron and had been ill for some time. She was born May 8, 1863 in New York state and had long been a resident of this community. Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the Osgood funeral home with burial in Mt. Rest.

BORON

MARRIAGES

Monday afternoon at Catholic priest's
house, Rev. J. T. Lynch united in mar-
riage Miss Lena Boron of Olive and
Vernon Drake of Bengal. The couple
was attended by Lewis Boron, an un-
cle of the bride, and Sibyl Boron, a
sister of the bride. Mr. and Mrs.
Drake will make their home at Merle
Beach.

BORON

DEATH TAKES OLIVE TOWNSHIP RESIDENT

MRS. JENNIE MARY BORON, 68,
SUCCUMBS TO BRIEF
1938 ILLNESS JAN. 7

Mrs. Jennie Mary Boron, well known Olive township resident and widow of the late Frank Boron, succumbed to a brief illness Saturday, Jan. 7, at St. Lawrence hospital, Lansing. Had she lived until Jan. 26 she would have been 69 years old.

She was a life long member of the St. Joseph Catholic church at St. Johns, where funeral rites were conducted at ten o'clock Tuesday morning, Jan. 10, Fr. W. G. Bath officiating. Burial was made at Mt. Rest cemetery.

Jennie Mary Sonier was born in Starr county, Ohio, Jan. 26, 1870. She came to Clinton county with her parents, Victor and Josephine Sonier, at the age of 13 years and settled on a farm in Olive township.

On Sept. 6, 1893, she was united in marriage to Frank Boron of Olive, who died Aug. 31, 1937. She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Vernon Drake and Mrs. Grandville Wade of Lansing, Mrs. Ben Gillison of Olive, and Mrs. Raymond Parkhouse of Riley; two brothers, John Sonier of Owosso, and Charles Sonier of Ionia; two sisters, Mrs. Lucy Armbruster and Mrs. Anna Spears of Lansing; also 11 grandchildren and a host of friends and relatives to mourn her passing.

BORON

Well-Known Olive Resident Dies On Monday ¹⁴ _{3/3}

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday from the Vincent Funeral Home in DeWitt for Mrs. Grace Boron, 68, who passed away at her home Monday morning following a long illness. Mrs. Boron is the wife of William Boron, Olive township farmer.

She is survived by the husband, two sons, Gale and Louis of Laingsburg, R.R. 1; a brother, Frank Rice of Francisville, Ind.; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Rev. LaVerne Bretz, of the DeWitt Community church, will officiate at the funeral services and interment will be in Mt. Rest cemetery in St. Johns.

Pall-bearers will be Jake Keck, Herman Keck, Charles Flynn, Louis Rayman, Ward Miller and Lloyd Carpenter.

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
BOX FILE

BORON

OLIVE FARMER BURIED TODAY

Frank Boron Came to This
County in 1865; Taken
By Death Aug. 31

Frank Boron, well known Olive township farmer and a resident of Clinton county since the close of the Civil War, died at his home Tuesday morning, Aug. 31, at the age of 74 years, 10 months and four days. He had been in failing health for about five years.

He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic church of St. Johns where funeral rites were conducted at 10 o'clock this (Thursday) morning. Fr. W. G. Bath officiated and burial was made in Mt. Rest cemetery.

Frank Boron was born Oct. 27, 1862, in Wayne county, Michigan. He came to Clinton county with his parents, Louis and Celestine Boron in 1865 and had since resided in Olive township. On Sept. 6, 1893, he was married to Jennie May Sonler. They spent all of their married life at the present residence.

He is survived by his widow, four daughters, Mrs. Vernon Drake and Mrs. Granville Wade of Lansing, Mrs. Benjamin Gillison of Olive, and Mrs. Raymond Parkhouse of Riley township; two brothers, Augustus and Edward F. Boron of St. Johns; a sister, Mrs. Charles E. Caskey of Akron, O.; 10 grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

2164

Boss

HONEYMOON AT NIAGARA FALLS

Ivey-Boss Rites Performed

DeWITT—Miss Carol Ann Ivey and Roger Vernon Boss were married Saturday evening in the Wacousta Methodist Church.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ivey of rural DeWitt and Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Boss, also of rural DeWitt.

For her nuptials the former Miss Ivey chose a chapel-train gown of silk organza and re-embroidered Alencon lace over taffeta. Deep scalloped lace formed the wide portrait neckline.

A crown of lace and pearls

secured her triple bouffant veil of French illusion. She carried white carnations with yellow sweetheart roses.

Miss Donna M. Ivey was her sister's maid of honor, and another sister, Miss Helen M. Ivey, was bridesmaid.

Flowergirl was Miss Patti Perry, and Allen Lee Ivey was ring-bearer.

Robert Schafer, brother-in-law of the bridegroom, served as best man, and Ronald

Boss, brother of the bridegroom, was groomsman. Guests were seated by Russel Sutton; John Gard, uncle of the bride; Lewis Babbitt, uncle of the bridegroom; and Roger Perry, brother-in-law of the bridegroom.

A reception followed in the church hall.

After a wedding trip to Niagara Falls, the couple will live in DeWitt.



MRS. ROGER BOSS

Bowker

6-DeWitt-Bath Review/April 11, 1994

DeWitt remembered:



THE WINTER HOME of Winfield and Ella Dills, 504 Biscayne Ave., Miami Florida. Photo courtesy of the DeWitt Public Library.

By KEN COIN

Greetings from Florida!

Undoubtedly this post card set a few jaws agape when it arrived at the DeWitt Post Office some 90 years ago. It's an impressive house by any standards. I doubt however if it's still standing - Biscayne Avenue is now Highway 1 which runs right along the beach. The house was probably replaced years ago by a big Art Deco hotel; some pink stucco thing with the work "Hibiscus" in the name.

Winfield "Scott" Dills came to the DeWitt as a young lad in the 1852 with his parents William and Maria Dills. The parents were the original owners of the large brick house at Cutler and DeWitt roads. In 1878 he married Ella Bowker, whose family had moved down to DeWitt from Isabella County in 1871. For some years they operated a farm a mile north of DeWitt (later O.K. White's farm) and in 1893 moved into the village. His business in DeWitt was livestock, buying and

shipping, and he had a lively interest as a horse dealer.

The notion of "wintering" in Florida caught on early among DeWitt's upper crust. By the late 1890's many area couples were congregating at Orange Heights and Orlando. The Dills wintered at and ultimately retired to Miami where, early in this century, they were able to dabble in the real estate boom of that area.

While I'm here, I don't think I'll be tempted into Miami to see if the Dills' home is still standing, but, being the history junkie that I am, I secretly packed a few old photographs and addresses of some homes my great-great-grandfather built in Orlando 90-odd years ago. Maybe after Mickey and Minnie are done showing me around their place, I'll take them for a ride into downtown Orlando.

Ken Coin is a DeWitt resident and the area's primary historian. His column appears here twice monthly.

Boyd

DeWitt's 'Grandma Moses' Paints Way to Quiet Fame

By FAYE HANSON
State Journal Special Writer

DEWITT — Back in 1876, a Mt. Vernon, Ill., girl of 12 began painting in oils.

Mrs. Nellie Boyd, DeWitt's version of Grandma Moses, is still at it — all 96 pounds of her.

Her talents extend to sculpture, when she isn't busy with the housework, gardening and shopping, although she admits she's given up mowing her own lawn.

"I live pretty much as I always have," she says.

Actually, Mrs. Boyd, who resides at 302 N. Bridge St., began painting somewhat earlier than age 12. She started out with pastels.

If she has any particular painting technique it is that of being letter-perfect, both as to detail and authenticity. She'll spend hours on a leaf or flower, and she'll make certain that plants and animals in her work are native to the part of the country she's depicting.

Over the years, Mrs. Boyd has given away more than 100 paintings, both oils and pastels.

"My biggest problem is never having any of my recent work on hand. Someone's always talking me out of it," she twinkles. "Every time I do a new one, I tell myself I'm going to keep it, but it never turns out that way."

Mrs. Boyd's sculpturing efforts include a World War I soldier monument on the lawn of the American Legion hall at Effingham, Ill., and an angel monument marking the grave of her only son in DeWitt Cemetery.

She has a grandson, Durwood Boyd of East Lansing, and three great-grandchildren. After the wedding of one of the latter, recently, she came home and sketched the corsage she wore for the occasion. She painted it

and presented it to the newly-weds as a momento.

"I may not be here to carry out the plans, but I believe in quite simple; Plan ahead one being ready," she says.



Mrs. Nellie Boyd; She's DeWitt's 'Grandma Moses'

DeWitt's 'Grandma Moses' petite dynamo of energy

BY MRS LEO J. HANSON

DEWITT--DeWitt has its own answer, and we think a superior one, to Grandma Moses, in the person of Mrs Nellie Boyd.

At 88, Mrs Boyd is a 96-pound bundle of energy. She is not only a very talented artist and sculptress but does all her own housework (she lives alone), has a garden and beautiful lawns and flower beds.

SHE DESIGNED and sculpted the World War I soldier Monument on the lawn of the American Legion hall at Effingham, Ill. It is a 6-foot figure of a kneeling soldier holding the flag staff of an American Flag. She also sculpted an angel monument to mark her only son's grave in the DeWitt cemetery. She has done many smaller pieces of sculpture which have been used for lamps, bookends and other items.

Mrs Boyd was born in Mt. Vernon, Ill. and started painting in oils at the age of 12. She had painted in pastels long before this.

WHEN I called on her she was



Mrs Nellie Boyd does a little reminiscing as she stands before a picture she painted when she was 15 years old--73 years ago. The canvas shows its age with checkmarks but the picture is still colorful and attractive.

busily sketching pictures of Mule-deer that she plans on using in a painting she is doing of Colorado. Her last painting, an 18 by 24 inch scene of Arizona has been purchased by Mr and Mrs Lee Rummell. It took 166 hours to finish.

Every detail in a Boyd painting must be perfect. She spends hours on one leaf or one flower and she constantly uses reference books to be sure that the animals in her pictures are native to that part of the country and that every detail is correct.

OVER THE years, she has given away 123 pictures in oils, pastels and plaques besides the many she has sold. Her biggest problem is that of never having any of her later work on hand as someone always talks her out of it. Of each new painting she always says "This one I am going to keep for myself." But it never happens.

Mrs Boyd lived on a farm in southern Illinois with her husband, John, until they retired 16

years ago. They came to DeWitt to live because their son was an instructor at Lansing Business University and they wished to be near him. Both Mr Boyd and the son died several years ago. Mrs Boyd has one grandson, Durwood Boyd, of East Lansing and three great-grandchildren of whom she's very proud.

SHE IS A faithful member of the DeWitt Methodist church and many of her paintings are of a religious theme.

She finishes many of the frames she uses on her paintings herself.

When I left her she was making plans to plant turnips, parsnips, radishes and rutabagas in the full of the moon.

Mrs Boyd is truly one of the "Grand Little Ladies" of DeWitt.

Boyd

Funeral Cards from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon

Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

Gratten E. Boyd- Sept. 23, 1894 Opdyke, Illinios
Nov. 4, 1952 Dayton, Ohio

DeWitt Methodist Church, Fri. Nov. 7, 1:30 p.m.
Rev. Harry Moon DeWitt Cemetery
Pallbearers: A. Dalman, E. Klaver, V. Volz,
A. Newman, E. Hendrix, J. Henning.

John L. Boyd- Nov. 5, 1869 - May 26, 1958 88 yrs. 6 mths. 21 days
Vincent Funeral Home Wed. May 28, 1958 1:00 p.m.
Rev. C. Harry Moon, Lansing, Mi.
Rev. Richard Barker, DeWitt, Mi.
DeWitt Cemetery
Pallbearers: Ernest Shafley, William Dalman, Chester
Raby, Frank Richards, Sheral Tingay, Clare McGhan.
Mrs. Christine McGhan, Soloist
Mrs. Wanda Richards, Organist

Bradley

**Mrs. Harry Bradley Dies At
Home Here August 30th;
To Hold Rites Friday**

Mrs. Harry Bradley, esteemed St. Johns woman, died at her home on North Clinton avenue at 2 a.m. Wednesday, August 30, 1933, after a long illness. Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday by Rev. W. R. Prescott at the residence with burial in Mt. Rest cemetery.

Mrs. Bradley was an active member of the Methodist church, the O. E. S. and the Ever Ready Circle of King's Daughters. She served as president of the latter organization two years and gave much of her time to charitable work as long as her health permitted. She had been a resident of Clinton county all her life and had many friends.

Grace Exelby was born in Olive township April 5, 1884, the daughter of James and Louis Exelby. In 1903 she was united in marriage to J. Sauvageot of Olive, and to them one daughter, Neva, was born. Her husband died about a year later and in October, 1907, she married Harry Bradley of this city. They became the parents of five sons, all of whom reside here. Two years ago Mrs. Bradley's health began to fail and she had been seriously ill since February, 1933. Besides her husband and father she is survived by her six children, Mrs. Neva Herriott of Lansing and Lynn, Lyle, Leonard, William and Robert Bradley.

Brainard

Vernon Cutler and Evelyn Brainard Wed on May 13th

Two well known Clinton county young people, M. Vernon Cutler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marc D. Cutler of Riley, and Miss Evelyn L. Brainard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brainard of DeWitt, were united in marriage by Rev. G. S. Northrup at his home in St. Johns Sunday afternoon, May 13, 1928. They were attended by Roy L. Butler of Lansing, and Miss Myrtle Brainard, sister of the bride.

Mr. Cutler, who is principal of the Eureka schools, has been re-engaged for the ensuing year and the young couple will make their home in that village.

June 14 1964

Brainerd



MRS. CHARLES E. STRONG

Diane Brainerd Is Saturday Bride of Charles E. Strong

Now en route to a New York honeymoon where they will visit Niagara Falls and the World's Fair are Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Strong, who were married Saturday afternoon in the Michigan State University Alumni Memorial Chapel.

The bride, the former Miss Diane Priscilla Brainerd, attended MSU and completed the secretarial course there.

Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Brainerd, 2222 Byrnes Road.

The bridegroom is a June graduate of MSU, where he was affiliated with Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Durward Strong of Lake Odessa.

Diane's floor length gown featured an appliqued organdy bodice and a modified sheath linen skirt.

She carried a bouquet of white roses and carnations with pink rosettes intermingled.

Mrs. Judy Ballantine of Wichita Falls, Tex., sister of the bride, was matron of honor.

She wore a floor-length semi-sheath of aqua shantastic with a floating back panel. A matching pillbox hat with short veil completed her ensemble.

Identically gowned bridesmaid was Miss Marilyn Belknap of Lansing.

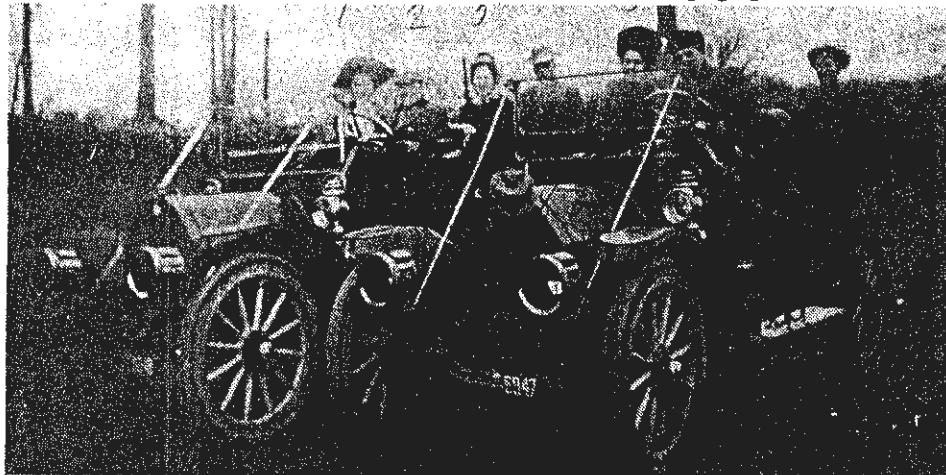
Dick Ford of Franklin served as best man, and ushers were Jerry Beers, David Martens and Robert Robinson.

A reception in the chapel lounge followed the ceremony.

Upon their return June 20, the newlyweds will live in Lansing.

Bray

DeWitt remembered:



ROAD TRIP - Ca. 1915. Dyle Linn photographer.

1910 Reva's
Model T

Photo courtesy of Don Harnish

The automobile changed DeWitt like nothing else

KEN COIN

Among the hundreds of photographs recently donated to the library by Don Harnish, this one stands out among my personal favorites. It is a perfect illustration of a new generation embarking on a new age; the age of the automobile. Nothing had an impact on the structure of DeWitt which matched the introduction of automobiles.

Dyle Linn, the photographer, is generally regarded as DeWitt's first auto dealer. He opened his Ford garage about 1914, possibly in conjunction with his father's livery and feed barn. He remained in business until 1920 when he sold out to a partnership under the name of Pennell and Coverdale.

But let's not spend any more time talking business history - let's gossip a minute about the names and faces. The big hat identified as #1 in the picture rests atop Reva Treadwell, the original owner of this picture. She's the one responsible for writing the numbers on the face of the picture. A daughter of Charles and May Dunham) Treadwell, she later married a DeWitt fellow, Jack "Ray" Derham, a young lawyer from Corunna who had come to DeWitt to practice law but worked at the post office to earn a living. He later distinguished himself in two world wars and was, for a time, a state legislator. Not wishing to remain big fish in a little pond, they followed the bright lights to become littler fish in a much bigger pond.

Number 2 Lawrence Woodruff and his sister Lorna (#5) were children of Clayton and Clara (Lorenz) Woodruff. Their father was the town banker, so nice auto's quickly became a way of life. I don't have any good gossip about Lawrence or Lorna, (they've got too many relatives in the area for me to repeat it if I did) but I do have one "pearl" relating to Lawrence's wife, Elsie. Years ago DeWitt's social scene consisted of town dances. At one particular dance at the Grange Hall my grandfather, who evidently had not been told that there was national prohibition on alcohol, had about two too many. He asked Elsie for a whirl around the floor but imagine her surprise when he began teaching her how to do the Black Bottom! What an unfortunate situation. Poor Elsie: How could she ever explain this spectacle next Tuesday at the DeWitt Women's (and molded Jello) Club. Poor grandpa: don't think for a minute that grandma wouldn't hold this little social faux pas against him for the rest of his life.

Number 3 Hazel Bray is one of those people who could probably be noted as "ahead of her

time". That is unfortunate because I think she was right on cue. She was a professional woman who never married and had a career in Lansing. She lived in a big house on the corner of Madison and Franklin and day after day, smartly decked, she would drive to her office in Lansing. For years DeWitt housewives with four loads of laundry already on the line and a sink full of greasy breakfast dishes to wash would look out their windows with the corners of their mouth turned down and say to themselves, "There goes Hazel, poor woman, hasn't got a living soul to be subservient to." About 40 years ago she retired and moved to Lansing. She died only a few years back, over 100 years old.

Number 4 Fred Vail went into partnership with Del Rose prior to 1920 to form the Rosevale Packing Co.

Number 6 John Hunt's family owned the drug store at the southeast corner of Main and Bridge prior to the Brooks family.

Number 7 Bessie Webb was among the last of Capt. Scott's descendants to live in DeWitt. After her marriage to Dyle Linn, they began building the house on Scott street which is now owned by Ted and Cathy Mitchell. (It was, coincidentally, only a few feet from where her great-grandparents had built DeWitt's first log cabin in 1833.) But the Linn's left DeWitt to follow their dream to Hollywood. Dyle's dream was not to become a movie star but to become a furnace man to the stars with his brother-in-law Bert Scott. It was the Linn's twin sons Carroll and Traverse who had visions of stardom. Billed under the singular (and clever) stage name, "The Linn Twins", their short career consisted of a bit part (actually two bit parts, if you'll pardon the pun) in an RKO western that I had never heard of and forgot the name anyway. Ralph Woodruff saw it and told me he liked it, but only because it had Andy Devine in it.

Who would have ever imagined, Capt. David Scott's offspring sharing the silver screen (if only for a moment) with Andy Devine. Just goes to show what the automobile age has done for DeWitt history.

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

BRAY

BRAY, HAZEL B.

Lansing

Age 99, passed away March 25, 1988 in Lansing. She was born in Clinton County, MI February 15, 1889 and had been a resident of Lansing since 1949. She attended Central United Methodist Church, was a member of the A.A.R.P. State Employees Retirement Association, and the National Travel Club. She was employed with the State of Michigan for 46 years, retiring in 1962 as a Secretary to Justice George Edwards of the Michigan Supreme Court. Survivors are a niece, Josephine Bray-Moore; nephew, Dale L. Bray of Dania, FL; grand-niece, Nancy Bray-Palesch of Jenison, MI; grand-nephew, William C. Bray of Lansing; and several cousins. Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel, with the Rev. Sidney A. Short of Central United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will be in Deepdale Memorial Park. There will be no visitation.



House divided - The home at 510 W. Main in DeWitt (left) was formed by combining two wings that were removed from the home at 506 W. Main (right). Photo by Jennifer Vincent.

DeWitt house was home for lawyer DeWitt C. Chapin in mid-1800's

By KEN COIN

Among the earliest lawyers to make their appearance in the frontier settlement of DeWitt was a father and son team, Theodore and DeWitt C. Chapin. They came from Lockport, N.Y. in 1839 and established a successful practice here in the village. The location of their office or residence from this early period had not been found.

DeWitt Chapin was elected county clerk in 1842, a position he held for two years. Soon afterwards, he and his father moved to Ionia and later still to Allegan when the elder Chapin died. About 1853, DeWitt C. Chapin returned to DeWitt with his young family and reestablished his successful practice here. It was recorded that although he was not a "profound lawyer", he was "an excellent pleader before a jury". In 1856 he was again elected county clerk, a position he held until 1862.

Upon his return to DeWitt in the early 1850s, Chapin purchased some acreage on the west side of town, just outside the platted village, on the north side of Main Street. Here, around 1854, he built a large home in keeping with his professional status. The main two-story por-

tion of the house (currently 506 W. Main) was flanked on both the east and west sides with one-story wings (currently the house at 510 W. Main). These wings were somewhat set back from the main structure to allow for porches which faced the street.

Many structures by this date were being constructed with "balloon framing" but Chapin's home was built in the older post and beam method. The entire building was finished in the then popular Greek Revival styling. The main portion of the house undoubtedly had a large formal entrance set to the side and facing the street. Behind this would have been an entrance and stair hall.

Although situated outside of the village itself, this home was never part of a farm. It sat on three acres of land which would have contained a garden plot, fruit trees, stable, chicken coupe and other outbuildings necessary for an efficient home.

In the mid-1860s the Chapin family left DeWitt again and moved to Gratiot County where DeWitt set up another law practice and again entered local politics. He died there in 1874.

By 1860 the Chapin home had been purchased by George W. Cook, a

retired farmer. Little is known of Cook besides the fact that he lived in this house for 25 years with at least three different wives: Loretta, Clarissa and Electa. Born in Massachusetts in 1803, he died at this home in 1885.

At the turn of the century the house was purchased by Homer and Carrie Braze. Braze, in partnership with Willis McLouth, was both a miller at the DeWitt mill on Prairie Creek and a general merchant for a number of years at the northeast corner of Bridge and Main.

During their ownership the Brazees, who had no children, extensively altered the old home by removing the wings, raising the house onto a modern basement and adding a two-story addition to the west side. The two detached wings were moved to a lot west of the house and joined together to form the long, narrow, one-story house at 510 W. Main.

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