
OBITUARY.

John Kaufman was born in Windsor township, Huron county, Michigan, on the 2nd day of July, 1886. At the age of six years, he accompanied his parents to Olive township, Clinton county, and in 1893 the family moved to Dewitt, where the deceased has since made his home. He is survived by his father, four sisters, Mrs. John Johnson of Detroit, Mrs. Albert Lietzke of Olive, Emma and Anna, living at home, and two brothers, Robert of Olive, and Edward, also living at home. He is also survived by a host of other relatives to mourn their loss. His mother passed away on December 24, 1912, and his grandfather, Frederic Mayer of Olive, passed away Thursday, March 26, 1914.

He had an abiding faith in the Savior and he suffered patiently for several years from a lingering illness. He passed away at an early hour on Monday morning, March 30, 1914. He was a member of the Epworth League of the German M. E. church of West Dewitt. The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the M. E. church at Dewitt, Rev. G. T. Fisher and Rev. George Wahl officiating. The remains were laid to rest beside those of his mother in Dewitt cemetery.

Bridal Book

Keck



MRS. MICHAEL SHOOLTZ
... former Michele Keck

Shooltz-Keck

DeWITT—Miss Michele Diane Keck became the bride of Michael Louis Shooltz on Saturday evening in First Congregational Church, St. Johns. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Keck Sr., 311 W. Washington. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Shooltz, 506 W. Washington.

Miss Layne Fisher was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Susan Shooltz, the

bridegroom's sister, Miss Rebecca Bouts and Miss Suzanne Phillips.

Best man was Richard Reust of Lansing. Groomsmen were Richard K. Keck Jr., the bride's brother, Steven Markham, and Thomas Reust. Ushers were Steven Shooltz, the bridegroom's brother, and Duane Shooltz, the bridegroom's cousin.

Flowergirl was Miss Tammy Shooltz, the bridegroom's cousin. Ringbearer was Ritchie Reust of Lansing.

Special guests for the ceremony and the reception which followed at King Arthur's Court were Mr. and Mrs. Caryl Gail of Houghton Lake, the bride's grandparents, and Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Risdale and Mrs. Helen Shooltz, the bridegroom's grandparents.

The Profesional Touch . . .

Louis Edwards
SALON OF HAIR DESIGNS

2225 E. Grand River

484-8423

Keck

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kenyon Keck

request the honour of your presence

at the marriage of their daughter

Michele Diane

to

Mr. Michael Louis Shooltz

on Saturday, the fifteenth of August

Nineteen hundred and seventy

at seven o'clock in the evening

First Congregational Church

100 Maple Avenue

St. Johns, Michigan

Reception

immediately following the ceremony

King Arthur's Court

2201 East State Street

Lansing, Michigan

R.S.V.P.

law, Michael and Michele Shooltz of DeWitt; 1 son, Richard K. Keck, Jr. of Birmingham; 3 grandchildren; Michael, Jr., Christopher, and Kelly Michele Schooltz all of DeWitt, mother-in-law, Mrs. Irene Gall of DeWitt; 2 sisters, Mrs. Richard (Jean) Sandow of Farwell and Mrs. Lois Brinkerhoff of Clare; brother-in-law, Frank Richmond of DeWitt; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. at the DeWitt Community Church with The Rev. Frederick C. Nose and The Rev. Earl Eastman officiating. Military services will be conducted by the DeWitt V.F.W. #671. Interment will be held in DeWitt Cemetery. Casket bearers will be Mr. Keck's nephews. The family will receive their friends at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel Sunday, 12-4 and 7-9 p.m. and Monday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. where the Masonic Service will be conducted by the DeWitt Lodge #272 F.& A.M. Monday at 7:30 p.m. Contributions may be made to the DeWitt Community Church or to the Hospice of Clinton County.



KECK, RICHARD K.

DeWitt

Age 62, died March 20, 1987 in DeWitt. Born November 15, 1924 in Clinton County, Mr. Keck was a member of the DeWitt Community Church. He was employed at Culligan Water Conditioning of DeWitt for 36 years. He was a member of the DeWitt Lodge #272 F.& A.M., past Patron of DeWitt Chapter #30 O.E.S., and the V.F.W. DeWitt Post #671. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II aboard a cruiser in the Pacific Theatre. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy of DeWitt; 1 daughter and son-in-

June 11/64

Keel

Troth Announced



MISS MARGERY ANN LEE

Mr and Mrs Avery Lee of DeWitt announce the engagement of their daughter, Margery Ann, to Ronald Ray Keel, son of the late Mr John Keel and Mrs Melvin F. Howse, of DeWitt. The prospective bridegroom is presently stationed in Norfolk, Virginia with the United States Navy.

DeWitt

Furgason's 50th wedding anniversary captured on film

Lived in the old Williams home at the corner of Washington and Scott

By KEN COIN

Several years ago I was fortunate enough to purchase a large quantity of vintage photographs of an old DeWitt family from a St. Johns antiques dealer.

Before donating them to the DeWitt Library, I did a little detective work and found that they had once belonged to Floyd and Olive (Averill) Furgason who lived in DeWitt many years ago.

Some were of easily recognizable scenes but most, such as the one pictured here, were group pictures, family pictures.

I did my best to put names to the old faces but a few, including this one, eluded me. I knew that the older couple seated in the center of the picture were James and Ellen (Keeney) Furgason; but the other folks? Ellen's sporting a sizable corsage so I figured it was some special occasion.

Well, I hadn't done anything further with the photographs for several years when the story behind this picture found me. It's true what they say: "The easiest way to find something is to stop looking for it."

I was recently at the Library of Michigan going through reels of microfilmed county newspapers, looking for something else completely, when I spotted a write-up regarding a 50th wedding anniversary celebration of the Furgasons.

I discovered this picture was taken on that occasion and includes Ellen's siblings; Carrie (Keeney) Groger, Joseph, James, Nicholas, Alanson and Edward Keeney (plus a few sister-in-laws to round it out). Besides being her 50th anniversary, the day was also Ellen's 72nd birthday.

The Furgasons were married in 1864 following James' return from the Civil War. They lived for a time near Ellen's family homestead at Cambridge, Lenawee county and in 1880 came to South Riley where several of Ellen's siblings had previously migrated.

By 1885, medical problems resulting from his war service forced James' to retire from farming and the couple moved to DeWitt.



A meeting of the Keeney Family - The 50th wedding anniversary of James and Ellen (Keeney) Furgason, taken at the Furgason home at 215 S. Scott St., August 21, 1914.

Photographer unknown, courtesy of the DeWitt Public Library.

They purchased the old Williams home at the corner of Washington and Scott (see Feb. 27, 1995) where they remained until their deaths in 1915.

While I could find no one living who remembered James and Ellen Furgason, the names of their eight children and spouses should ring familiar with some of our older residents: Finis (married Francis McArthur and Lola Miller), Feron (married Grace Baldwin), Floyd (married Olive Averill), Effie Ellen (Mrs. Clark Lankton), Edith (Mrs. Clarence Lankton), Ettie (Mrs. Cash Baldwin), Charles and Elsie (the later two died young).

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

Keeney

Kellogg

Former Riley Man Dies.

Benjamin P. Kellogg, who was formerly a resident of the township of Riley, died at his home in Detroit December 31, of cancer. Mr. Kellogg was 71 years of age, and is survived by his sister, Mrs. Egbert Miller of Riley township, a son, Roland, of Detroit, besides a host of friends in Detroit and St. Johns. The body was brought to St. Johns for burial and the interment was made in the Bray cemetery, in the township of Riley on January 2.

Kellogg

OBITUARY OF MELVINA
KELLOGG

Mrs. B. P. Kellogg passed quietly away at the home of her sister, Mrs. Egbert Miller, in Olive township, last Sunday night at 7 o'clock after many months of great suffering.

Melvina Ann Withersell was born in Moreville, Washtenaw Co., in the year 1856. At 2 years of age she came with her parents to Clinton county, to live in Bengal and Riley townships where she spent the most of her life.

She was married to B. P. Kellogg April 17, 1873. To this union one child was born, Thomas LeRoy, of Detroit. She is survived by her son and one sister, Mrs. Egbert Miller of Olive.

Funeral services were conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon, Rev. G. S. Northrup officiating, and she was buried in Bray cemetery.

Northern Honeymoon for Mr. and Mrs. Hansen

Kennedy



MR AND MRS THOMAS E. HANSEN

In a lovely candlelight ceremony at the First Methodist church in St. Johns Saturday evening, August 5, Miss Judith Leora Kennedy became the bride of Thomas E. Hansen. The church altar was adorned with white and shrimp colored glads and candleholders were attached to the pews, also decorated with white glads and bows.

The Rev Averill Carson of the DeWitt Community church officiated at the double ring ceremony at 8 p. m. before about 250 wedding guests.

THE BRIDE is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Gerald Kennedy of 1037 Webb road, DeWitt, and a graduate of the DeWitt high school in 1961, and the Melba Beauty Academy. Her bridegroom is the son of Mr and Mrs Clyde Hansen of 2172 E. Main street, DeWitt, and a 1957 graduate of the DeWitt high school and is now attending Lansing Community College.

For her nuptials, Judith chose a white nylon taffeta and chantilly lace gown, designed with scalloped neckline trimmed with pallettes and seed pearls. A bustle back bow was followed by a chapel length train and a white nylon taffeta rose secured her bouffant veil of illusion. She wore cultured

green accessories, and a corsage of chartreuse glameillas. The bridegroom's mother wore dusty pink embroidered silk organza with pink accessories and a pink glameilla corsage.

THE BRIDE'S grandmother, Mrs Charles Robbins of rural St. Johns, wore black and white with yellow mum corsage, while Mrs Hannah Parks, of DeWitt, grandmother of the bridegroom, wore a floral print dress and an orchid mum corsage.

A reception in Niles Hall followed the ceremony. The lovely 4-tiered wedding cake trimmed in white and shrimp color, was baked by the bride's aunt, Betty Baker. Those assisting in the serving were Liz Ohn, Muriel Farr, Dorothy Miller, Joyce Batdorf, Coral Leiter, Betty Baker, Tone Baker, Linda Leiter, Mr and Mrs James Barger, Dan Stambaugh and Mrs Forest. Joyce Miller of Grand Rapids attended the guest book.

WHEN THE newlyweds left on their tour of northern Michigan, the new Mrs Hansen was wearing an orchid print suit, with white and orchid accessories and the corsage from her bridal bouquet. Upon their return they will be living in their new home on Green Road, Has-

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MARIBETH Johnson of Mason served as maid of honor while Bonnie Locher of DeWitt and Carolyn Miller of Grand Rapids were bridesmaids. They wore identically styled gowns of shrimp silk organza with bustle back and satin streamers of the same color. Matching veils fell from a rose shaped headpiece of the same material. They carried crescent shaped bouquets of white and shrimp colored glamelias and ivy. Their shoes matched the gowns and their gloves were white.

Cindy Baker of Lansing was flower girl and David Miller of Grand Rapids acted as ring bearer.

MIKE HOLBROOK of Mason served as best man, while groomsmen and ushers were Bob Kennedy of DeWitt, David Steadman of East Lansing, Jim McGoveny of DeWitt, Keith Adams and Larry Foy of Lansing.

Carolyn Nickel was organist for the service and accompanied Michael Scofield of Flint when he sang "Because," "Hour of Golden Promise" and "The Lord's Prayer."

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organza with pink accessories and a pink glamelia corsage.

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WHEN THE newlyweds left on their tour of northern Michigan, the new Mrs Hansen was wearing an orchid print suit, with white and orchid accessories and the corsage from her bridal bouquet. Upon their return they will be living in their new home on Green Road, Hallett.

Wedding guests were present from Detroit, Ithaca, Alma, Lansing, St. Johns and DeWitt.

Kettles

Ex-Lansing Major Wins High Medal

Maj. Charles S. Kettles, 38, formerly of Lansing, has received the Army's second highest combat award — the Distinguished Service Cross for action May 15, 1967, as a helicopter pilot supporting infantry operations near Duc Pho, Vietnam.



Kettles

According to the award citation, Maj. Kettles volunteered to carry reinforcements to a hard-hit airborne infantry unit and to evacuate casualties. He led a flight of helicopters into the landing zone through a savage barrage, returning twice until all but eight men were picked up. His third trip into the battle area was in a second helicopter, after his own was heavily damaged. Although that aircraft also was badly damaged, he flew it to safety with its evacuees.

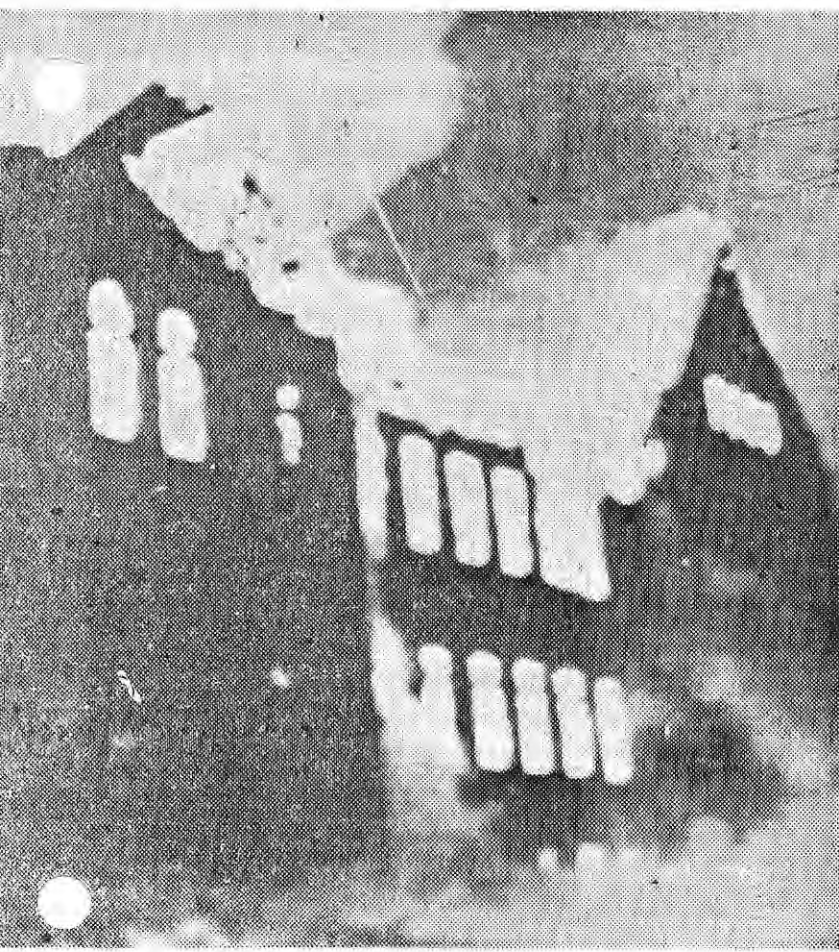
Maj. Kettles served in the Army 1951-56, was a partner in a Ford dealership in DeWitt from 1956-62, and returned to the service in 1963.

He also has received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and six awards of the Air Medal.

Maj. and Mrs. Kettles now live in San Antonio. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Kettles, formerly of Lansing, live at Bruce Mines, Ont., and two brothers, James and Richard, live in Lansing.

FOR THE
CONFIDENTIAL
JAN 14 1968
JAN 14 1968

Kiebler



from the historic Big Rapids, at which de-
p uoqun

for the day when the fire of undetermined origin was discovered. The school was founded 66 years ago by Michigan's late U. S. Sen. Woodbridge M. Beardsley.

TAX TIPS

(Special to The State Journal)

BIG RAPIDS, Feb. 22 —

Ferris institute made plans Wednesday to carry on its trade and business schools after fire, caused possibly by defective wiring, raged through its two main buildings and damaged a third late Tuesday afternoon.

Leveled by the flames were the commerce and pharmacy buildings, causing damage estimated at between \$700,000 and \$800,000 and injury to four students, including Lansing and DeWitt youths. The loss was partially covered by insurance. Injured by falling bricks and metal while aiding firemen were: Robert Andrews, 21, of 1610 S. Genesee dr., Lansing; Richard Kiebler, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Kiebler, DeWitt; Kenneth Kocher, of Niles, and James McEvoy, Bay City. Most seriously hurt was young Kiebler. He was caught under the



main fall of metal Robert Andrews and bricks and the three others were hurt rescuing him from the debris. All four students were



taken to Big Rapids hospital, where Kiebler was reported to be in "serious" condition. He suffered from back and leg injuries, possible internal injury and shock. Young Andrews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Andrews, 1601 S. Genesee dr.,

Richard Kiebler suffered severe cuts on the head and about the hands, and shock. He was attracted to the aid of young Kiebler by screams that could be heard distant from the scene.

Other Lansing students and faculty members at the school pitched in to aid firemen in battling to bring the fire under control and to save the alumni building. Among them were Dennis I. Cassilman, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis I. Cassilman, 2000 Harding ave; Homer Garrison, a student, and Bob Sherman, coach.

Fire departments from Big Rapids and Midland made valiant efforts to save the two structures. Hampered by near-zero temperatures, high wind and snow and low water pressure, the firemen battled the flames for more than three hours before bringing them under control. Walls of the two buildings still were standing but they will have to be torn down.

THE JOURNAL

The Weather

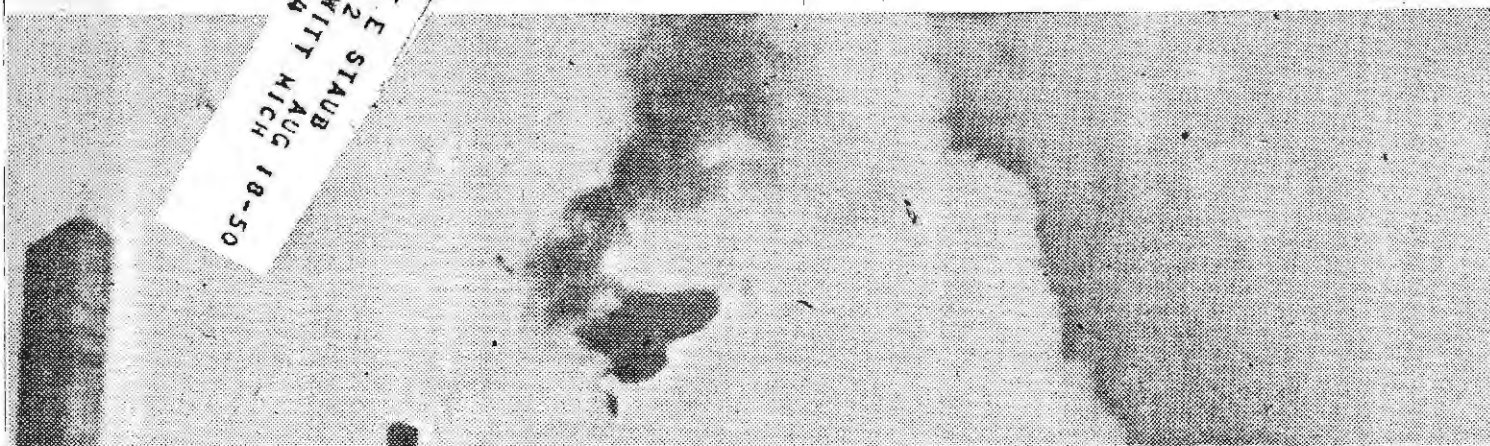
(U. S. Weather Bureau, East Lansing)
Cloudy and cold tonight and
Thursday. Low tonight 10, high
Thursday 25.

MICHIGAN, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1950

26 Pages—234 Columns

PRICE—FIVE CENTS

\$700,000 Loss in Ferris Fire; Six Hurt; Two Buildings Razed



Lansingite, DeWitt Boy Are Injured

School Plans to Carry on
Despite Costly Blaze;
Students Aid Firemen

DeWitt food firm owner dies at 52

Funeral services for Richard J. Kiebler, executive officer of Kiebcos Foods, DeWitt, were scheduled at 1 p.m. today in the DeWitt Community Church.

Kiebler, 52, of 1106 E. Geneva Dr., DeWitt, died unexpectedly Friday of an apparent heart attack while at his cottage near Grayling.

"No one will ever know how many people Dick Kiebler helped," Paul Tate of DeWitt, a long-time

friend, recalled Monday. "He was a very generous person to people who needed help."

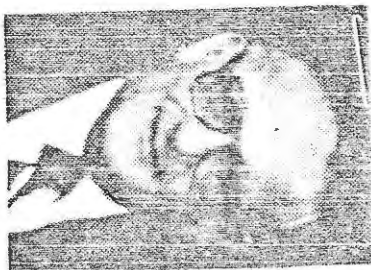
Miles Merrill, a business associate for over 20 years, called Kiebler "all bluff on the outside. He was all mush inside. Many he helped never knew it."

Kiebler, who founded Kiebcos, a meat processing firm, with his father LeRoy and brother Ron in 1958,

was a member of the DeWitt Business Association, DeWitt Masonic Lodge and very active in Alcoholics Anonymous.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy; three sons, Christopher, Cash and Chip, all of DeWitt; a sister, Gretchen Coco of Wilmington, Del., and his mother, Helen Kiebler of DeWitt.

Arrangements are by the DeWitt Area Chapel.



KIEBLER, RICHARD J.

1106 E. Geneva Dr.

DeWitt

Passed away May 30, 1981 in Grayling at the age of 52. He was owner and (Chief) executive officer of Kiebcos Foods, Inc. which he founded in 1958 with his father LeRoy and his brother Ron. Dick served his country in the U.S. Army. He attended Ferris State College. He was a member of the DeWitt Business Association, DeWitt Masonic Lodge, an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous and very active and generous in community affairs. He is survived by his widow, Nancy; 3 sons, Christopher, Cash and Chip all of DeWitt; 1 sister, Gretchen Coco of Wilmington, Delaware, and his mother, Helen Kiebler of DeWitt. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tues. at the DeWitt Community Church with Rev. Muri Eastman officiating. Interment will be in the DeWitt Cemetery. Visitation will be at the church from 9:30 a.m. Tues. until service time. Memorials may be made through the funeral home to the DeWitt City E.M.T.'s or the DeWitt Senior Citizen's Community Room. Arrangements by DeWitt Area Chapel Funeral Home.

Kiebler

One of the most shocking tragedies known in this part of the state for many years was enacted in the township of Riley Tuesday afternoon. John R. Kimball, an old and well known resident of that township, in a fit of temporary insanity murdered his aged wife, Betsey M. Kimball, and then cut his own throat with a jackknife, dying a few hours later.

The Kimballs lived a mile and a half south of the Jason schoolhouse on a farm of 78 acres which belonged to Mrs. Kimball. The first that was known of the horrible deed was when their little grandson, Valentine Kimball, a boy of eleven years, came to the house at about 5:30 p. m. Tuesday. He is a son of Charles L. Kimball, who lives at one corner of the farm, and came to do his chores which he was in the habit of doing for his grandparents.

Body Blocked the Door.

As the boy started to open the door he found it held by something, and on hearing no response to his call he attempted to enter. The door was blocked by some heavy object, and when the lad pushed it partly open a ghastly sight met his eyes. His grandfather lay against the door in a pool of blood, still breathing, with his throat horribly mangled by repeated thrusts of a large jackknife which he still clutched in one hand. Not far away lay the dead body of his grandmother, her neck half severed by a gaping wound from which a stream of blood had flowed entirely across the room.

In terror the lad ran to his parents' house and summoned his father and Merville D. Smith, who lives across the road, and they returned to the scene of the tragedy.

over the motionless body of the old man and entered the room. They found the body of Mrs. Kimball lying not far from the stove where she had been at work baking when she was struck down by her insane husband. She had been baking pies and two were standing on the table, while another lay at the very edge of the open oven with the holder nearby on the floor, indicating that she had been struck while in the act of withdrawing the pie from the oven, or just as she started to rise. The first blow had been struck with the back of an axe and fell upon her forehead, knocking her backward to the floor; the second blow was dealt with the edge of the axe, severing the cords and jugular vein and doubtless causing speedy death from loss of blood. The bloody axe was found leaning against a chair. The body when found was cold and the fire had burned out, leaving the stove cold, so that it is probable that the crime was committed at least two or three hours before it was discovered.

Still Breathing.

On examining the prostrate form of Mr. Kimball it was found that he was still living. He gasped and stirred from time to time, and his hands were at first found clenching at his throat, but they afterwards relaxed from his increasing weakness, the knife which he still held in one hand dropping to the floor. His throat was terribly mangled and his long beard tangled and bloodsoaked. He had evidently stabbed and cut his throat again and again in his fierce determination to end his life. He lived for about two hours after his body was found.

Leaving the bodies where they were found, the party hastily left the house and summoned Dr. P. H. Banta of Westphalia and Dr. S. E. Gillam of this place, also notifying Prosecuting Attorney Smith and Sheriff Schavey. The officers started at once to the scene of the tragedy, but Mr. Kimball died just before they arrived.

The Inquest.

The acting coroner, Justice Adelbert H. Burns of Riley township, at once proceeded to hold an inquest over the remains, summoning the following jurors: Robert Landers, Arthur Schultz, James L. Hamer, William A. Westmoreland, Ransom W. Parkhouse and Martin A. Hill. The jury sat in one of the rooms of the Kimball house, where they had an opportunity to examine the situation in which the bodies were found. The inquest lasted over three hours, extending until a late hour at night, and a large number of witnesses were examined by Prosecuting Attorney Smith who desired to bring out the facts.

of a murderer. The following witnesses were examined: Valentine Kimball, Mrs. Caroline G. Smith, Merville D. Smith, Frank Robison, Dr. S. E. Gillam, Dr. P. H. Banta, John Coffman, William Mahar, Martin V. Reed, Charles L. Kimball, Mrs. Charles L. Kimball, Elton Kimball, John Speerbrecker, Claude Smith and Tunis Terwilliger. Most of the testimony was in relation to the habits and temperament of the deceased, the physicians and those who first discovered the crime being also sworn as to the situation and circumstances under which the bodies were found.

The Verdict.

The jury found the following verdict in the case of Betsy M. Kimball, her case being taken up first because her death occurred first: "That the said Betsy M. Kimball came to her death at her residence in the township of Riley, Clinton county, Michigan, on April 29, 1902, by being struck upon the head and upon the neck with an axe held in the hands of her husband, John R. Kimball, and that in the judgment of the jury, said John R. Kimball was in a fit of temporary insanity at the time he killed said Betsy M. Kimball with said axe as aforesaid."

The verdict in the case of John R. Kimball was similar in form except that it recited that he came to his death "by his own hands and by cutting his throat with a knife then and there held by, and in his own hand and that he was then and there temporarily insane."

The affair created great excitement in the community, and all the neighbors for several miles around visited the scene of the tragedy or attended the inquest. It was generally recognized that the deed was the act of a madman and no foul play was suspected.

Well Known and Respected.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kimball were well known and respected by all their neighbors, Mrs. Kimball in particular being highly esteemed. They were old residents, having come from Erie county, Pa., about 50 years ago and having lived on the farm in Riley for 32 years. They always lived happily together, being in comfortable circumstances, living on a good farm and owing no debts. Mr. Kimball was 78 years old and his wife 72 years. For some time Mr. Kimball had been in feeble health, resulting partly from old age and in part from a severe rupture which at times caused him great pain. At such times he would become despondent and morose, often praying to die and wishing that some one would put him out of his misery. He was also given to worrying, in his latter years, over possible poverty, and although they had

Kimball

and Speerbrecker about his sheep. One of them wanted to sell 50 of them for \$110, saying that he feared they would starve for want of feed. Speerbrecker replied that if he really wanted to sell the sheep he would take them, but on seeing Mrs. Kimball shake her head significantly at him he went away without taking the sheep. Several other neighbors recalled that he acted strangely at times, and often when spoken to he would wear a wild and startled look in his eyes.

The deceased left four children, Charles L. Kimball of Riley, 46 years old; John A. Kimball of Bengal, 43 years old; Maggie M. Utter of Idaho, 35 years of age, and Irma B. Terwilliger of DeWitt, aged 26. The bodies were taken charge of by Osgood & Osgood of this city, but the arrangements for the funeral have not yet been made. The interment will be in South Riley cemetery, about a mile and a half south of the Kimball home.

present except Mrs. Maggie Utter of Idaho, from whom nothing has been heard in response to telegrams sent.

Mrs. Kimball left a will and her son, Charlie E. Kimball, has filed a petition to admit it to probate. The will was made in 1894 and gave her husband all her personal property and the use of all her real estate for her lifetime; after that the farm was to be divided among the four children. The will specified the parcels that were to go to each, which were approximately equal. The children now will take the portions allotted them, and the personal property, amounting to about \$400, will be divided equally among them. The farm contains 78 acres of good land.

LAI'D SIDE BY SIDE

FUNERAL OF VICTIMS OF RILEY TRAGEDY.

Many Strangely Affected by Sight of the Dead—Interment Made in the DeWitt Cemetery.

A peculiarly sad funeral was that which was held Saturday over the remains of the victims of the Kimball tragedy, full details of which were published by The News last week. A morbid curiosity had drawn together a large crowd, and after filling the house, chairs were placed on the lawn for those who could not find places inside. The services were conducted by Rev. Bard of Lansing. All in attendance viewed the remains and many gratified their curiosity by examining them very closely. A strange sensation seemed to possess many at the sight of the bodies, doubtless due in large measure to their violent death under such strange and tragic circumstances, and the faces and actions of the people as they viewed the remains were a curious study. One woman in particular was seen to bend over the open coffin of Mrs. Kimball and pass her fingers over the face and upon the bit of court plaster that covered the wound upon the forehead. Others seemed moved by horror or profound pity, while others hastened by, giving barely a glance at the coffins.

A very large procession followed the remains to DeWitt cemetery, where the interment was made.



Kimball

• PLOW FOR NEIGHBOR—Seven farmers turned out to ready a field for wheat planting for one of their neighbors north of DeWitt Tuesday. The work was done for Ray Kimball, who is recovering from surgery in Edward W. Sparrow hospital in Lansing. (State Journal photo)

* * *

Neighbors Go to Aid Of Ill Man

By KENNETH HARKNESS
(Journal Staff Writer)

DEWITT, Sept. 24—Ray Kimball, rural DeWitt farmer who lives a mile north of here, was resting a little easier in Edward W. Sparrow hospital Wednesday, recovering from surgery knowing that 15 acres of winter wheat were being planted on his farm on Cutler rd. through the help of neighboring farmers.

Seven farmers, led by Donald Seyfried, living in the area north of here found out that Kimball had the operation last week and immediately offered to see that the 15 acres of wheat would be planted.

Tuesday the neighbors with seven tractors pulling five plows and two drags readied the field for planting in two hours time.

While drilling the wheat was scheduled for Wednesday, Seyfried said that the weather would determine if the actual planting took place.

Seyfried, who grew up next door to Kimball, said, "It's part of the policy around here to help one another when sickness hits a person.

"When my father was sick couple of years ago, they came to help him," Seyfried said.

Those helping Kimball on Tuesday were Floyd Hamer, Earl Miller, Seyfried, Loren, Lietzke, Russell Sibley, Victor Volz and Leo Hanson.

Arnold Blizzard, another neighbor, and Virgil McGinnis, hired man of Seyfried, will drill the wheat.

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
BOX

Kimball

7-3-59

A mother-daughter veterinarian team

Helen Everett Wood, 91, will be celebrating the Fourth of July with her daughter, Dr. Margaret Everett Kimball, and her granddaughter, Dr. Edie Kimball Earl.

Edie has just completed her first year in the small animal veterinary business. Edie and her mother are the only mother-daughter veterinarians in Michigan.

Helen retired from the State of Michigan several years ago. Some may remember that Helen was the editor for the "Michigan History" magazine during the 1950s.

Kindel



DEWITT—The engagement of Miss Patricia Marie Kindel to Gary Lynn Newcombe has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Kindel of DeWitt. Mrs. Muriel E. Newcombe of DeWitt and Maynard E. Newcombe of 1314 N. Larch St., Lansing, are parents of the bridegroom-to-be.

Society

Kilts



MRS. LLOYD JAMES STEPPEY

Miss Eloise Kilts Becomes Bride of Lloyd J. Steppey

Alternating ruffles of Chantilly lace and chiffon accented the gown worn by Miss Eloise Irene Kilts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Kilts of 15902 Turner rd., for her wedding Saturday to Lloyd James Steppey, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Steppey of DeWitt, in the DeWitt Community church.

Further accents of the gown were a scalloped Sabrina neckline and a chapel train. Her veiling fell from a Swedish crown of seed pearls and crystal tear drops, and she carried a white orchid atop a white lace-covered Bible.

Mrs. Robert Serrels, Jr., sister of the bride, was matron of honor wearing a street-length dress of mellow satin styled with a portrait neckline. Her flowers were white mums.

Miss Lela Wardell and Mrs. Larry Farr of Eden, cousins of

the bride, were bridesmaids. They wore mint green satin dresses and carried green and white mums.

Russell Woodruff of DeWitt was best man and ushers were Douglas Holstein of DeWitt and James Olmstead.

A reception in the church parlors followed.

Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Chester Buxton and Mrs. Jenny Kilts, grandparents of the bride and Mrs. Edith Schmlege, grandmother of the bridegroom.

The bride's mother wore a sheath of beige and brown satin and the bridegroom's mother came in a brown and beige jersey sheath. Their corsages were white carnations and yellow rosebuds.

June 63

King



MRS. ROBERT R. DEW

Frances King, Dr. Robert Dew Exchange Vows

DeWITT—A colonial cascade of white roses was carried by Miss Frances Ann King of Detroit for her marriage Saturday to Dr. Robert R. Dew of Kalamazoo, in the Dixboro Methodist Church near Ann Arbor.

Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence King of DeWitt.

Dr. Dew is the son of Paul E. Dew of Tucson Ariz., and the late Mrs. Dew. He was graduated from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, and from the college of medicine at Western Reserve University. The bride graduated from Bronson Methodist School of Nursing.

The bride's gown of silk taffeta mist was banded with Venice lace and featured a high bateau neckline.

Miss Bonita King of DeWitt served as her sister's only attendant.

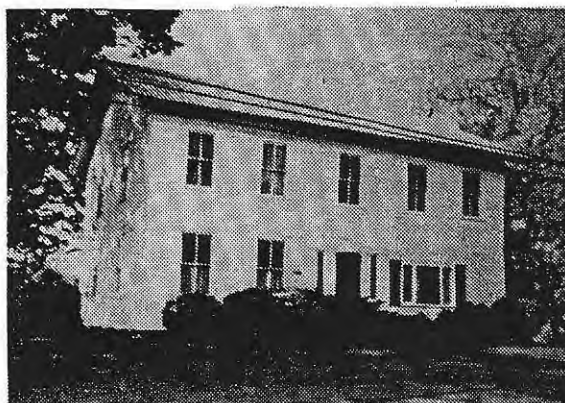
Dr. Paul F. Cooper of Kalamazoo was best man and guests were seated by Robert, Ronald and Clarence King Jr., brothers of the bride.

A reception was held on the lawn of Miss Ida Freeman of Plymouth, aunt of the bride.

After a honeymoon trip northern Michigan, the new weds will make their home Kalamazoo.

Klaver

Historic hotel building up for sale in DeWitt



BY KEN COIN

While I don't intend for this column to become a glorified classified ad, the "For Sale" sign which recently sprouted in the yard of the Klaver house has caused an amazing amount of interest. The DeWitt community may well want to sit up and take notice for a very unique historic landmark is at stake and the fact that it is located in our own "Historic DeWitt" makes us all a little responsible for its future.

This imposing yet unpretentious structure at the corner of Webb and Bridge in what is now DeWitt was once the old "DeWitt Hotel" of New Albany village. Smothered in early county history, it predates most any building in central Michigan and it's unquestionably the oldest structure in Clinton County.

The "paper village" of New Albany was purchased in 1836 by George T. Clark, a speculator in Albany, New York. In 1838 he took the first steps toward developing his village by hiring, as his resident agent, Milo H. Turner of Rochester, New York, who then came here with a large stock of merchandise and opened the first store. Turner's main purpose, however, was to promote and develop the town of New Albany and sell village lots on Clark's behalf.

During his first year here, Turner leased the newly completed saw mill on Prairie Creek from Hiram Wilcox and began construction of the "DeWitt Hotel". Turner was soon joined by his brother, Jesse Foote Turner, and together they completed the building of the hotel on what was then called "Rochester Street".

When finished, the hotel was a monstrous accomplishment for its time and place. The original two-story portion, a post and beam construction, measures 40 by 32 feet and has a large one story ell to the rear which was added sometime later (perhaps merely 140 years ago!) The simple floor plan features a wide central hall with an open walnut staircase. On the east side were two large parlors connected by wide double doors; the front "Ladies

Parlor" being noticeably more elegant with fine woodwork. On the west side was the tavern room. This hotel, like the later Clinton House, was not a tame "temperance tavern": it was annually licensed by the township to serve "spirituous and intoxicating liquors".

On the second floor were three large "chambers" and three smaller rooms, all connecting. Understand that in pioneer times renting a private room was, if possible, cost prohibitive. Lodgers did not rent rooms, they rented a space, in a bed, often with a stranger. When county court was in session, or when the county supervisors were meeting, bed space in DeWitt was at a premium. It was also recorded that in 1847, when the capital was moved from Detroit to yet-to-be-built Lansing, legislators and state workers swelled DeWitt hotels beyond capacity.

The exterior of the hotel was finished with clapboard siding (an unheard of luxury in the 1830's) with only one architectural element, a finely crafted side-lighted doorway with reeded pilasters, capped by a segmented lintel of Greek-key panels. A similar side-lighted entrance (of more modest design) is located on the south end of the hall.

When the first stage coaches bumped and rumbled through the interior of Michigan in 1839, it was here that travelers stopped for lodging and food. To the pioneers then traveling along the Pontiac-Grand River Trail who were accustomed to crude shanties along the route, this hotel at New Albany must have appeared as a palace in the wilderness when they emerged into its clearing from the surrounding forests.

By 1847, village owner George Clark came to Clinton County, bringing with him his wife Jane and two young children, and took up residence in the hotel. But in May of 1849, both George and Jane Clark died within days of one another. The settling of their estate was by far the largest and most complex undertaking the young Clinton County

Probate Court had yet faced. Appraised, the estate was estimated at excess of \$10,000 (a fortune in 1850!)

An inventory of the hotel, taken at the time, gives an interesting look at how the former hotel must have been furnished during and before the Clarks' residency. Among the outstanding features of the inventory are 45 chairs, seven looking glasses, six beds and a surprising amount of carpeting.

The auctioning of Clark's real estate began on Jan. 22, 1850 at the courthouse steps on East Main street. Milo H. Turner bought much of the property

Continued on page 11

Coin: Preserving hotel's heritage

Continued from page 6

adjacent to the mill complex on Prairie Creek and Caroline Turner (his wife) was highest bidder for the hotel, some village lots in New Albany and some acreage to the south. Although the Turners purchased much of the estate to add to their already substantial land holdings and business enterprises, they had, by this date, all but left the beckoning call of the California gold fields where they eventually became permanent settlers.

In April of 1851, Caroline Turner sold the hotel and surrounding land to Rowland VanScoy, a farmer of southern DeWitt Township. VanScoy moved his family to the hotel but remained only a short time before moving to Maple Rapids. A chance survivor from the VanScoy ownership is a gold-embossed invitation to a grand Washington's Birthday celebration "At the Assembly Room of Rowland S. VanScoy", February 22, 1853. The admission was \$1.75 but it promised "Good Music will be in Attendance".

In 1850, Henry Moon also made the hazardous trip to the gold

fields of California. He remained there three years, returning to his wife and children with, says his obituary, "a snug fortune". In 1854 he purchased the hotel from VanScoy and this commodious building was just what he needed for his equally large family. He had, at the time, six children, plus his wife Susan's four children by her previous marriage. He acquired more acreage in the vicinity of the house, built barns, planted orchards and eventually improved it into one of the showplace farms of Clinton County.

In 1875, Moon retired from farming and sold the home and farm to his son Sylvester who, with his new bride of only two months, (Jennie Harper) moved into the house. Although they had no children to fill it, they continued to make it their farm home for over 30 years, selling it in 1908 to Frank and Pauline "Polly" (Yanz) Klaver. The historic old home has remained in the Klaver family since that time, eventually passing into the ownership of their son Charlie and his wife Mable.

The name of New Albany is now a unique oddity in DeWitt. The names of its streets

have been changed; the mill complex, long vanished and the surrounding land is quickly succumbing to the machines of modern development. Of New Albany in 1838, of DeWitt and all of Clinton County, only the DeWitt Hotel, a chance survivor remains as a silent monument and sole witness to the past 150-plus years of Michigan's transformation from a wilderness territory to a modern state. There aren't many Michigan towns that can boast a 156-year old stagecoach stop. And although it needs a lot of attention it'd be a pity if "Historic DeWitt" didn't know what a gem it

had until after it was gone.

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

Klaver



**KLAVER,
EDWARD F.**

DeWitt

Age 96, died January 6, 1988. He was born December 9, 1891 in Olive Twp., Clinton County, the son of Frank and Pauline (Yanz) Klaver. He was a life member of the Emmanuel Methodist Church and Redeemer United Methodist Church of DeWitt, being active in the choir and quartet of both churches. Surviving are 1 daughter, Marguerite Dalman; 2 sons, Earl and wife, Esther Klaver, Harold and wife, Betty Klaver, all of DeWitt; 8 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; 8 great great grandchildren; 3 sisters-in-law, Mable Klaver of DeWitt, Dorothy Klaver of Lansing and Gilberta Henning of DeWitt. He was married to Clara L. Henning on February 9, 1916 and she preceded him in death August 9, 1965. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Minnie Kopietz; and 2 brothers, Charles and Dan Klaver. Funeral services will be held Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with Pastors Harry Johnson and Daniel Biteman, Jr. officiating. Interment in DeWitt Cemetery. Casketbearers will be Mr. Klaver's grandsons. The family will receive friends at the Chapel Thursday from 7-9 p.m. and Friday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

*State Journal
1-7-88*

Klaver

DeWitt
Bath Rev.
1-18-88

Obituaries

Edward F. Klaver

Edward F. Klaver, 96, of DeWitt, died Jan. 6, 1988.

Mr. Klaver was born on Dec. 9, 1891, in Olive Township, Clinton County, the son of Frank and Pauline (Yanz) Klaver. He was a life member of the Emmanuel Methodist Church of DeWitt, being active in the choir and

quartet of both churches.

Surviving are one daughter, Marguerite Dalman; two sons and daughters-in-law, Earl and Esther Klaver and Harold and Betty Klaver, all of DeWitt; eight grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-

grandchildren; three sisters-in-law, Mable Klaver of DeWitt, Dorothy Klaver of Lansing, and Gilberta Henning of DeWitt.

He was married to Clara L. Henning on Feb. 9, 1916, and she preceded him in death Aug. 9, 1965. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Minnie Kopietz, and two brothers, Charles and Dan Klaver.

Services were Jan. 9 at Gorsline-Runciman DeWitt Chapel with Pastors Harry Johnson and Daniel Biteman Jr. officiating. Interment was in DeWitt Cemetery.

Casketbearers were Mr. Klaver's grandsons.

Klaver

April 19, 1993

DeWitt remembered: Bertha Klaver celebrates her 90th birthday

By KEN COIN

A new catch phrase of the '90's is "Resource person" and DeWitt is full of them. But a particular group of resource persons which are too often overlooked are our senior citizens who add so much to our character and continuity.

One such resource person is pictured above — Bertha (Tibbits) Klaver who this week will be celebrating her 90th birthday. As DeWitt quickly approaches its 160th year, it is hard to imagine that this young lady has witnessed and been a part of more than half of those many years.

Not technically a native, Bertha was born in St. Clair County in 1903, a daughter of David and Lydia (Scott) Tibbits. Her father died when she was very young and her mother then moved the family back to "her people" in DeWitt. In 1908, Bertha's mother married Jay Bronson, a Watertown Township farmer, and Bertha attended the Harlow School, located at the northeast corner of Herbison and Grove. She later attended DeWitt High and graduated with the class of 1919.

For several years Bertha was one of the DeWitt's switchboard operators; back in the days when you had to "ring-up" an operator to make a call. She was on duty here at DeWitt the day of the Bath School disaster. On Jan. 1, 1929, she was married to Clarence Klaver. Long-time DeWitt minister Rev. G.S. Northrup performed the ceremony and they were attended by Harry and Zelma Green (Zelma being Bertha's sister).

Clarence, a local farmer, was born in DeWitt in 1895, a son of Paul and Anna Klaver who lived east of town and in later years, on Scott street. For the next 20 years after their marriage Bertha and Clarence moved in and out of the area until 1949 when Clarence died as a result of an accident at the Grand Ledge Clay Products where he was then employed. Since that time Bertha has spent most of her years in DeWitt.

Bertha's great-grandparents were among the pioneers of Clinton County. Thomas and Sarah Huggett, both natives of Sussex, England were married in that country in 1825. They came from Schenectady, N.Y. to Michigan in 1849 and settled first in Oakland County, coming to Clinton County in 1852. Their homestead was three miles south of St. Johns just east of DeWitt road



DEAR SISTER — "Dear Sister — I will tell you that I am well and hope you the same. I go to school every day. From Bertha Tibbits," reads the inscription on the back of this old postcard. Courtesy of Bertha Tibbits.

on Yallup. It was here, in 1875, that they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a "grand English dinner of roast turkey, chicken pies and plumb pudding."

Agnes Huggett, Bertha's grandmother, married Hiram J. Scott (a native of Bolivia, N.Y.) in 1861. He had come to Michigan in 1843 as a settler of St. Clair County but later, with Agnes, became a farmer in Olive Township. After Hiram's death in 1898 Agnes came to DeWitt and lived in the house which for many years has been the Penzien home on Dill street.

Bertha had two sisters, Velma (Tibbits) Glassford and Zelma (Tibbits) Green; one brother, Avery Tibbits (who served in World War I) and a step-sister, Grace (Bronson) Witt; all of whom have passed away. For many years she was active with the Grange and the Grand Ledge Patch Club.

In honor of her special milestone Bertha's family scheduled a surprise open house for her April 17 and will have a family gathering on her actual birthday, April 20. She has one son, Lawrence and one daughter, Carol Hutchins, plus five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren who, with a host of friends and acquaintances, wish her a well-deserved Happy Birthday!

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

Klaver

6-DeWitt-Bath Review/December 21, 1987

Obituaries

Florence L. Magsig

Florence L. Magsig, 88, of DeWitt died Dec. 13, 1987.

Mrs. Magsig was born Aug. 22, 1899, in DeWitt and was a lifelong resident of the DeWitt area. She was a member of the Redeemer United Methodist Church, and active in the church and its circles. She was a member of the Blue Star Mothers.

She was preceded in death by her husband Raymond Sr. in 1975, and by two brothers and one sister.

Surviving are two daughters, Gladys Paschke of Lansing and Arlene Schneeberger of DeWitt; one son, Raymond Magsig Jr. of DeWitt; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one brother, Francis Klaver of Dansville; and three sisters, Dorothy Smith of Ovid, Marie Schneeberger of Grand Rapids, and Mable Cass of Lansing.

Services were Dec. 16 at the Redeemer United Methodist Church of DeWitt with Pastors Harry Johnson and Daniel Biteman Jr. officiating. Interment was in DeWitt Cemetery.

Casketbearers were grandsons.

Contributions can be made to the Redeemer United Methodist Church.