

DeWitt's Bertha Lenneman rewarded for all her service

By SHEILA SCHIMPF
Journal Correspondent

DeWITT — The people of this town just couldn't forget all those Christmas baskets.

For about 25 years, Bertha Lenneman, who just turned 80, worked to fill baskets with canned goods, clothing and toys donated by the community to give to needy families.

THE DEWITT widow has just been named the city's first Citizen of the Year.

"I was so surprised," she said. "I never dreamed."

"We were swamped with letters in Bertha's behalf," said Marleen Matson, a member of the three-person citizen committee appointed by Mayor Lynn Thayer to pick a winner.

Jean Newman, another committee member, said most of the letters praised the widow for her work at St. Jude's Catholic Church. Lenneman said she used to do the altar linens for the church until younger people started taking over. She still does the linens for the Franciscan Retreat House.

"I LIKE to be busy," she said. "I like to do for others what I can."

Lenneman and her husband, John, a painter and interior decorator who died in 1976, had four children.

"What we were after is a person who has served the community in a number of ways," said Newman. "She's a very willing volunteer. I'd call her to work and she'd always work on what we wanted her to work."

Lenneman will receive a plaque and a city council resolution at a dinner May 17.



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR — 80-year-old Bertha Lenneman was surprised to find out she had been named DeWitt's top citizen. Her community and church work are some of the reasons she was picked. — Staff Photo by BRUCE CORNELIUS

Personality Profile

Bertha Lennemann is DeWitt's top ci

By DAVID THOMAS

DeWitt Mayor Lynn Thayer was concerned that there would not be enough time to select a Citizen of the Year before the presentation ceremonies on May 17. He didn't have to worry. It was an easy choice.

As soon as the word was out that DeWitt was looking for its outstanding citizen, the suggestions began to arrive. Five different people received nominations, but there was really only one choice for the three-person selection committee to make — Bertha Lennemann.

"I really was surprised. I didn't even know my name was in," Mrs. Lennemann said. "When I read they were going to choose the top citizen, I was sure it would be Orla McGuire (DeWitt's city engineer). He's done so much for this city."

It is hardly necessary to interview Mrs. Lennemann to find out what she has done for DeWitt. Her "file" at city hall contains 15 letters from DeWitt residents attesting to her enormous contributions to the community.

"Bertha is a very sincere and giving person . . . a great example for all of us to follow," DeWitt Lioness Club President Audrey Fabus wrote.

Other letters mentioned Mrs. Lennemann's many activities with the St. Jude's Women's Association, her role in coordinating the packing and distribution of Christmas baskets for the needy (the work is all done in her basement) and her activities with area senior citizens. Some of the letters also mentioned the contributions of her late husband, Jack Lennemann, to the DeWitt community.

"She is good and gentle and has a kind word for everyone," another letter read. "She always has a smile on her face."

Mrs. Lennemann, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday, was born in Maple Rapids and has been a resident of the DeWitt area for 70 years. She has spent the last 40 years in her two-story, white house on Scott Street.

Somehow, Mrs. Lennemann makes room in her day for a host of other activities in addition to her volunteering. She spends as much time as possible with her three children — Stanley of DeWitt, Phyllis of Lapeer and Bill of Ionia — and carefully keeps track of the birthdays of her 18 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

She also does embroidery, takes one-day bus trips with other DeWitt residents to interesting Michigan places and tends her flower garden.

"I don't grow vegetables anymore, but I know what farming is all about," she admitted. "We lived on a farm for a good many years."

Mrs. Lennemann is no stranger to living the life of an

honored citizen. Two years ago she was chosen "Queen for a Day" at St. Jude. She prefers to avoid the limelight, however.

"Personally, I would rather be in the background," she said.

Staying in the background in the days ahead may be

difficult for Mrs. Lennemann. The Mayor's Exchange Day dinner will designate her as DeWitt's outstanding citizen.

Does she have an attitude?

"Oh my. Do you think I would be speechless?"



ty Profile

LENNEMANN

Lennemann is DeWitt's top citizen

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"Personally, I would rather be in the background," she said.

Staying in the background in the days ahead may be

difficult for Mrs. Lennemann. At the May 17 Mayor's Exchange Day dinner, Mayor Thayer will officially designate her as DeWitt's outstanding citizen.

Does she have an acceptance speech written?

"Oh my. Do you think I should?" she asked. "I'll probably be speechless."



Bertha Lennemann spends much of her time helping other people. She still finds time, however, to pursue activities such as embroidery, tending her flowers, traveling and enjoying her family. On Monday, she will be honored as DeWitt's outstanding citizen at the Mayor's Exchange Day dinner. (Photos by David Olds)

LENNEMANN, JOHN J.
(JACK)

303 Scott, DeWitt

Age 79, passed away July 29, 1976. He was a member of the St. Jude Catholic Church, also a member of the DeWitt Lions Club and the St. Jude Ushers Club, the Third Order of St. Francis and auxiliary member of the Legion of Mary. Survived by his wife, Bertha; 1 daughter, Phyllis Jones of Lapeer; 2 sons, Stanley of DeWitt and William of Pleasant Lake; 18 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters, Mildred Staub of Sarasota, Fla., Mary Spanogle of Lansing and Laura Gregg of Lakewood, Ohio; 1 brother, Al Lennemann of Battle Creek. One daughter, Audrey Flannery, preceded him in death. Funeral services will be held at the Mrs. Dingman died at a St. Jude Catholic Church, local hospital July 29, 1976. Monday, Aug. 2 at 11 a.m., Arrangements will be announced by the Estes Cemetery with Rev. Fr. Mi- Leadley Funeral Home.

chael Murphy officiating. Rosary will be at 8 p.m. Sunday evening at the DeWitt Area Chapel.

COOK, ARCHIE F.

905 S. Sheldon St.

Charlotte

Age 80. Funeral services for Mr. Cook, who died at a local hospital Thursday, July 29, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 31, 1976 at The Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. Burial in the Maple Hill Cemetery.

DINGMAN, PAULINE B.

1732 Donora

service, Phone 487-4704

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN J. (JACK) LENNEMANN

DATE OF BIRTH

July 18, 1897
Westphalia, Michigan

DATE OF DEATH

July 29, 1976
Lansing, Michigan

SERVICES

St. Jude Catholic Church
Monday, August 2, 1976
11:00 A.M.

OFFICIATING
Fr. Michael Murphy

INTERMENT
DeWitt Cemetery
DeWitt, Michigan

CASKET BEARERS

Bob Ballard Jerome Schafer
Alan Foy John Reust
Francis McKenna Robert Drouin

HONORARY BEARERS

Ralph Woodruff John Hiatt
Jim Ritchie Don Schaible
Art Newman Don Reed

ETENKA - Series

LENNEMANN

Barker-Lenneman Rites Read Saturday

A bouquet of white gardenias was worn by Phyllis L. Barker of Lansing with her white tailored suit with white lace hat and navy shoes when she became the bride on Saturday of Stanley C. Lenneman of DeWitt.

The double-ring service uniting in marriage the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Barker, 721 West Hillsdale street, Lansing, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Lenneman, of DeWitt, was read at nine o'clock by the Rev. Fr. Charles Smith at St. Therese church in Lansing.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, was attended by her sister, Mrs. Howard J. Burgess, of Eaton Rapids, whose pink tailored suit was worn with navy accessories and pink roses tied with accenting navy ribbon. Albert C. Klingenmaier of Grand Rapids was groomsman and Howard and Charles Wohlscheid, of Portland, ushered the 50 wedding guests.

For her daughter's wedding, Mrs. Barker selected an aqua dress with navy accessories. Brown accessories were worn by the groom's mother with her dress of yellow. Both had corsages of pink roses.

Instrumental mass was sung and played

by Julian DeSmith. The altar was decorated with bouquets of white gladioli and lily of the valley.

Two hundred persons congratulated the newlyweds at a reception in the DeWitt Memorial building following the service. Assisting in serving were Mrs. Bob Spagnuolo, Mrs. Eugene Cain, Mrs. Nick Panesidi, Mrs. Don Taylor, Mrs. Walter Merriott, Mrs. Ella Jane Merriott and Miss Phyllis Lennemann. A six-tiered wedding cake topped with three white bells centered the table. Flanking the cake were crystal candelabra.

The groom's grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Lenneman, attended the wedding, coming from Lakewood, Ohio. Other guests were from Lansing, DeWitt, Portland, Holt, Eaton Rapids, Detroit, Perry, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Standish, Reed City, Big Rapids, Cleveland and Finley, Ohio.

For traveling the bride changed to a pink ensemble with navy accessories and her white gardenias. Following a wedding trip to Chicago they will be at home at 721 West Hillsdale in Lansing. The bride graduated from St. Mary's Cathedral in Lansing in 1959 and the groom in 1947.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Barker
would be honored with your presence
at a Reception

honoring the marriage
of
their daughter
Phyllis Lucille
and

Mr. Stanley C. Lennemann
on Saturday, May the third
Nineteen hundred and fifty-two
one to four o'clock in the afternoon
DeWitt Memorial Building
DeWitt, Michigan

LENNEMANN

*Newlyweds Honored
At Reception Held
Saturday Evening*

DeWitt—Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Jones were honored at a wedding reception at the Memorial building, DeWitt, on Saturday night. Nearly 150 guests were present, bringing best wishes to the young couple. They received many fine useful gifts.

Miss Nancy Spanogle, cousin of the bride, had charge of the guest book. A lovely wedding cake was served with ice cream and coffee. Miss Mary Weier, Dolores Lenneman and Mary Lou Shinevar, classmates of Phyllis, served the cake and ice cream.

Mrs. Matie Staub and Mrs. Mildred Staub had charge of coffee. Mrs. Audrey Flannery, sister of the bride, and Joyce Jones, sister of the groom, were at the gift table. Music was by Joe Ozanich, Sr. On Friday, Aug. 1, Arnold will return to duty with the Navy at Norfolk, where he will receive a new assignment. Guests were present from St. Johns, Wacousta, DeWitt, Lansing and Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Lennemann
would be honored with your presence
at a Reception
honoring the marriage
of
their daughter
Phyllis Marie
and

Mr. Arnold D. Jones
on Saturday, July the twenty-sixth
Nineteen hundred and fifty-two
at eight o'clock in the evening
DeWitt Memorial Building

DeWitt, Michigan

LENNEMANN

Lennemann

County

DeWitt-Bath Review

Bertha Lennemann

Bertha M. Lennemann of DeWitt died Oct. 15, 1995 at the age of 93.

Bertha attended L.B.U. and was DeWitt's Citizen of the Year in 1982. She was a charter member of St. Jude Catholic Church, DeWitt Lioness Club, Women's Association of St. Jude, Third Order of St. Francis and the Legion of Mary.

She was captain of the Ladies Retreat and a promoter of the Miraculous Medal. She was preceded in death by her husband, John, one daughter, Audrey Flannery and one brother, Thomas Staub.

Surviving are one daughter, Phyllis (J.D.) Baxter of Lapeer; two sons, Stanley (Phyllis) of Florida and William (Judi) Lennemann of Ionia; 18 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; one brother, James Staub of Florida and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 19, 1995 at St. Jude Catholic Church in DeWitt with Rev. Michael D. Murphy, Pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church officiating. Interment was at DeWitt Cemetery.

Those desiring may make contributions to the American Cancer Society, 416 Frandor, Suite 104 Lansing, 48912 in memory of Mrs. Bertha Lennemann.

LENNEMANN

*You are cordially invited to attend the
wedding reception honoring the marriage of*

Phyllis M. Jones

and

Mr. J. D. Baxter

on Saturday, the sixth of November

nineteen hundred and seventy-six

at six-thirty in the evening

Lapeer County Center Building

425 County Center

Lapeer, Michigan

Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Lennemann

The Lennemanns

DeWITT—John and Bertha Lennemann, 303 N. Scott, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m. at the DeWitt Memorial Building.

They were married June 20, 1923. He was employed by the Michigan School for the Blind until his retirement in 1962 and is a member of the DeWitt Lions Club. Both are active members of the community of St. Jude.

The Smiths

1923

1973

In honor of the
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary
of

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Lennemann
their children request the pleasure of your
company on Sunday, June 24, 1973

Open House
two until five o'clock
DeWitt Memorial Building
206 Washington Street, DeWitt, Michigan
No Gifts

LENNEMANN

Community

Bertha Lennemann was one of DeWitt's "Grand Old Ladies"

By Ken Coin

Last week DeWitt lost one of its finest assets with the passing of Bertha Lennemann; truly one of the last of DeWitt's "Grand Old Ladies". Now, I know she would protest at such a pretentious title but grand old ladies and fine old gentlemen being somewhat of a rare commodity these days, it would do us well to take note of them whenever possible.

We did take note of Bertha Lennemann in 1982, when the City of DeWitt proclaimed her its first annual "Citizen of the

Year". Though barely five foot tall, Bertha came through head and shoulders above all others. Having spent the better part of her life behind the scenes of community affairs, she was genuinely surprised that anyone had taken note of her contributions. That was her mode of operation - do what you can, when it's needed, without recognition.

Bertha was born on a Maple Rapids farm in 1902. Her parents, Carl and Minnie Staub spent many years as tenant farmers until the winter of 1912 when they purchased

the old Norris farm two miles north of DeWitt on Chadwick Road. After a March snowfall they moved their belongings down from Maple Rapids to DeWitt with two teams of draft horses and two bob sleighs - two trips for all their household furnishings, livestock, tools and grain. Her father drove one team while Bertha's two older brothers, Jim and Tom drove the other.

For several years Bertha attended the one-room Brown School north of town, followed by two years at DeWitt, graduating (10th grade) with the

class of 1917 and later attended Lansing Business University.

In 1923 she was married to John "Jack" Lennemann who died in 1976. For over fifty years she made her home on Scott Street, raising four children and contributing what she could for the betterment of her church and community.

I had the very great pleasure of knowing Bertha as a neighbor, an aunt and a friend. If you did not know her I would hope that in your own lifetime you would know at least one person equally kind, gentle and optimistic. The sheer joy of her conversations is what I'll remember most for it was ingrained deep within her to continually seek out the good and leave fault where it lay, for others to find.

Of history, local and family, she was not much of a storyteller but she could add such clarity to scenes and events of long ago and personal details of people long passed away. Bertha constantly reminded me that as family and community change, life remains the same. We are all part of a continuing spiral where little children go full circle to become elderly grandparents. And along the way, it is the blessing of life, for those who are able, to help others struggling with that journey.

The last time I talked with Bertha she told me that she had lately been thinking about a childhood friend. When she was about eight years old this girlfriend took sick and died. Bertha was naturally upset that her playmate had died, but numbed

when she was told that she was to be one of the pall bearers.

"Can you imagine it?", she asked me, still surprised 85 years later. "Six little girls no older than ten carrying her coffin." She said that throughout her life she had occasionally reflected on that childhood incident, always puzzled by why she was asked and how she managed to do it. "Her folks asked...so, I did it." she concluded.

That could well sum up Bertha's philosophy of life: regardless of the circumstance, do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, without thought of recognition. Well done, Bertha... a very fine piece of work.

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



A sleepy-eyed little girl - on her grandmother's lap - life would come full circle. Bertha (Staub) Lennemann will

y productive years later her grandparents, William and

Lerg

RURAL GROWTH

U.S. 27

First leg of St. Johns bypass starts soon



The Lerg family of Olive Township north of DeWitt will lose their farm when the new U.S. 27 is constructed through their land. Roger Lerg, holding 16-month-old Andrew, has lived at the farm all his life. With him are his wife, Kim, and their daughter Ashleigh, 5.



Lansing State Journal/CHRIS HOLMES

Family must yield to freeway

Wheels start turning for U.S. 27 road project to bypass St. Johns

By JOHN B. ALBRIGHT
Lansing State Journal

ST. JOHNS — Freeway surveyors roamed Roger and Kim Lerg's corn field on Round Lake Road this week to stake out a route for traffic to skirt St. Johns.

Kim Lerg, 32, watched them from the kitchen window of her 125-year-old brick house.

Appraisers will come Friday, she said, to figure the state's offer price for the 70-acre gut of the Lerg farm, including the house, milking parlor, barns and silos.

Next year, the Lergs, their two children and 110 milking cows will be gone from the 243-acre farm in Olive Township that Roger Lerg's grandfather began to work 56 years ago.

"They told us this would be our last planting year — don't put any winter wheat in because we won't be able to harvest it the next summer," Kim Lerg said.

Five miles to the north, construction will start this month on a first leg of a bypass for U.S. 27 traffic. It will cut through farmland east of Williams Road.

Roger Lerg, 41, who grew up on the Round Lake Road farm with three brothers, will take

up dairy/crop production elsewhere. "We're hoping to go north, away from this expressway."

The Lergs are anxious about leaving their debt-free operation to start over, possibly borrowing money for land, buildings and equipment. State payment for their present acreage and buildings may not be enough for a debt-free start.

Michigan Department of Transportation officials are mindful of the relocation woes which the Lergs foresee, said Monty Norris, real estate project development manager.

Independent appraisers will set a fair market value for the state's offer, which the family may contest in court, Norris said.

Dislocation of the Lergs and others along the new route is a public necessity, Norris said.

The new highway will relieve long-suffered traffic delays in St. Johns, a city of 7,300 located 16 miles north of Lansing. Travel through Clinton County's developing areas will be safer and easier.

Perhaps by the late 1990s, officials said, the whole 18 miles of relocated U.S. 27 freeway will make a straight shot between an I-69/U.S.

127 interchange near Clark Road, southeast of DeWitt, and U.S. 27 north of St. Johns.

The first 4.6 miles will be carved through farmland east of Williams Road in Olive and Bingham townships — between Price and Wildcat roads.

This \$19 million segment will cross Center Line, Taft, Parks and Townsend roads. Detours will be set around those roads at times during the next two years.

A second phase may be started this year: A 1.7-mile segment between Wildcat and Walker roads.

By late 1996, the bypass may be open from Price to the northern outskirt of St. Johns.

The traffic shift may dent business for restaurants and motels along present U.S. 27 at the south border of St. Johns, Sun-Set Motel operator Steve Rapp said.

To reach St. Johns, future freeway travelers will have to use exits to M-21 and roll more than a mile west to the heart of town.

"Unless you can actually see the restaurant or motel right from the ramp, you don't get off, you keep going," Rapp said.

Lerg

Couple Speaks Vows in Church Ceremony

The marriage of Miss Mildred Lerg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lerg of Dewitt, to S-Sgt. Lyle I. Rosekrans of Harlingen, Texas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Rosekrans of Riley, was solemnized Wednesday morning, May 5 at St. Joseph church. Fr. Lewis M. Dion officiated in the presence of about 100 guests.

"Ave Maria" and "Because" were sung by Miss Brunetta Mazzolini, accompanied by Mrs. Herman Smith at the organ.

The bride was gowned in white satin and lace, made with high neckline, and long sleeves which came to points over her wrists. The full skirt extended into a train, and her full-length veil of illusion and lace fell from a beaded crown. She carried a bouquet of red roses and white snapdragons.

The bridesmaids were Miss Margaret Blanchard and Mrs. Rosemary Ornkovich of Detroit. Their dresses were blue and lavender chiffon, respectively, fashioned with sweetheart neckline, long sleeves and gathered skirts. They carried yellow roses and snapdragons, and

wore a floral arrangement in their hair, which matched their bouquets.

Lavern Lerg of Dewitt, brother of the bride, and Lloyd Rosekrans of Greenville, twin brother of the bridegroom were best man and groomsman. The ushers were Lawrence Kramp and Daniel Lerg of Dewitt.

Following the service a wedding breakfast was served the bridal party and immediate relatives at the home of the bride's parents. The table was centered with a lovely wedding cake with a miniature soldier atop, and decorations were carried out in pink, blue and white.

The bride was graduated from St. Mary's high school, and for some time has been employed in the Farm Bureau office in Lansing. The bridegroom who attended the local high school, was inducted into the Army Air forces in March, 1942, and is stationed at Harlingen Army Gunnery School, Harlingen, Texas.

A reception and dance will be held at Olive Grapge hall on Saturday evening, in their honor. On May 11, S-Sgt. and Mrs. Rosekrans will leave for Texas, where they will reside.

Lewis

COUPLE UNITED 50 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lewis of
Middleton Observe Golden
Wedding Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Lewis of Middleton were married 50 years ago Tuesday. On Sunday they were honored with a celebration, which numbered 48 persons. The event was planned by their grandson, Ernest Langdon and wife of Lansing and Mrs. Lewis' sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Arctic of St. Johns.

The dinner was a bountiful pot-luck, special feature being a three-tier white wedding cake, covered with gold colored frosting and made by their granddaughter, Mrs. Roland I. Leslie of Detroit.

After the dinner Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were presented with a white and gold bedspread, bed blanket, table and bath room linens, glass ware, beautiful bouquets of gladioluses and \$60.00 in cash. The grandson, Ernest Langdon, gave his grandmother an orchid for a corsage, and his grandfather, a white chrysanthemum for a boutonniere.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were married in St. Johns Oct. 5, 1893. For over 20 years they have lived in Middleton. Twin daughters died in infancy. There are two other daughters, Mrs. Beulah Husted of Carson City and Mrs. Raymond Clayes of Middleton. There are five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Both are able to work. At present Mr. Lewis is doing mason work but until retirement he was employed for many years as section worker on the railroad.

The group came from Detroit, De Witt, Lansing, Clare, Portland, St. Johns, Carson City, Perrinton and Middleton.

Lewis

Lewis-Mahar.

At three o'clock Thursday afternoon, Dec. 30, occurred a very pretty wedding at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mahar, of East Dewitt, when their oldest daughter, Gladys Ruth, was united in marriage to Fred Morton Lewis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Lewis of St. Johns.

The house was decorated in pink and white carnation. The bride wore white crepe de chine and carried an arm bouquet of lilies and carnations. The ring service was used, the Rev. G. S. Northrup officiating.

After the ceremony dinner was served by Miss Kathryn Losey, after which Mr. and Mrs. Lewis departed for Grand Rapids and Grand Haven. After Jan. 10 they will be at home at 406 Church street, St. Johns.

Only the immediate families were present. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lewis graduated from the St. Johns high school with the class of 1917. Mrs. Lewis is one of Clinton county's most successful teachers, while Mr. Lewis is a city mail carrier in St. Johns.

Lewis

Married in Lansing, Oct. 26th, 1888, Charles Cole of Riley and Jennie Vanfleet of Olive; about the same time and place, Major Lewis of Bingham and Ida Beadle of Riley. The happy couples returned to the residence of Dey Vanfleet about five o'clock P. M. where they were met by about thirty five relatives of Mr. and Mrs. C. Cole and tables loaded with the choicest kinds of eatables in great abundance, to which all were invited to partake and did so in a manner highly complimentary to the eatables judging by the amount of empty plates soon to be found. Mr. and Mrs. Cole were the recipients of the following articles: Mr. and Mrs. Dey Vanfleet, set silver knives and forks; Eva Vanfleet, table cloth, fruit dish and pair towels; Mr. and Mrs. Knight Vanfleet, pair towels; Mr. and Mrs. A. Whitaker, pair cotton flannel sheets; Mr. and Mrs. Varney Pearce, large parlor lamp; Brooch Altie Pearce, glass butter dish; Josie Pearce, glass pickle dish; Vinnie Pearce Jr., gold band dishes; Mrs. S. A. Pearce, gold band bread plate. The relatives of Mr. Cole did not understand there were to be presents brought or there would have been more but probably there will be more and will come just as acceptable. About 9 o'clock Capt. Myers marched up with his Co. of 40 volunteers (none had to be drafted but went freely) well armed with three guns and two milk pails and one cowbell. They played a few tunes and gave three rousing cheers for the blushing bride, then departed for their homes feeling much better I presume for their fun.

E. L. Cole.

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
- 0X FILE -

Lewis

Funeral Services Held Friday For Mrs. Major Lewis

Dewitt—Corista Hagadorn of Levering, was united in marriage to Major Lewis in August, 1921. The following year Mrs. Lewis was stricken with her first stroke of paralysis from which she never fully recovered. A second stroke followed a few years later. For the past year she had been confined to her home most of the time.

Wednesday morning, Jan. 22, about 7 o'clock she suffered from another stroke, passing away a short time afterward, aged about 60 years old. Besides her husband she is survived by step-son, Earl Lewis, and step-daughter, Mrs. Agnes Lewis Wyman who had taken care of her for the past year, and one brother, Harold Hagadon of Detroit, and two aunts in Battle Creek and Hastings.

Her funeral was held from her late home on East Jefferson street Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. G. S. Northrup of St. Johns officiating. Burial in Dewitt cemetery. She was a member of Dewitt Chapter O. E. S., Dewitt Rebekah lodge and Dewitt Royal Neighbor Camp. Mrs. Leslie Gibson from near St. Johns, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lewis of Bingham were friends from a distance.

CR. 11-21-1929

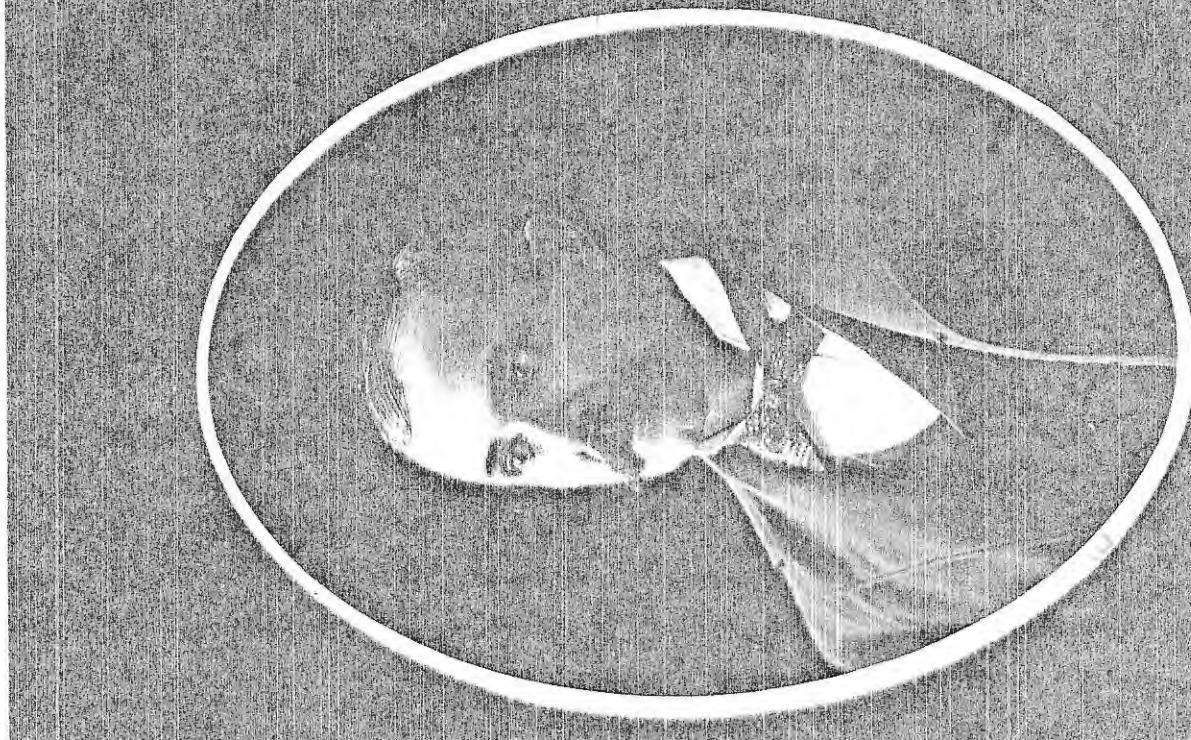
Dewitt Resident Many Years Sells Home, Goes West

Dewitt—Mrs. Irene Lewis Starmont, widow of the late Adolph Starmont of Lansing, has sold her property on the corner of Bridge and Jefferson streets to Earl Tucker. Mrs. Starmont with her mother the late Mrs. D. C. Smith had lived in Dewitt since 1885 until in the '80's. After Mrs. Starmont's marriage they lived in Lansing several years then they moved west where they resided until about 14 years ago. They purchased a farm near Williamston. While on this farm Mr. Starmont was taken suddenly ill and only lived a short time. Mrs. Smith had always expressed the wish she could spend the remainder of her life in Dewitt among her old friends. Mrs. Starmont purchased the home she recently sold and moved in this village where she and her mother have lived for 11 years. After her mother's death this Fall Mrs. Starmont made arrangements to go back west and reside with her son, Leon Starmont and family of Spokane, Wash. Mrs. Leon Starmont came from Spokane a few weeks ago and assisted Mrs. Starmont in closing up her business affairs here and last week they left for Chicago where Mrs. Leon Starmont left for her home and Mrs. Starmont left for Kansas to visit relatives and friends at her home town in Utah. Then she expects to reach Spokane about Thanksgiving time. Her many friends here wish her years of happiness in her new home in Spokane.

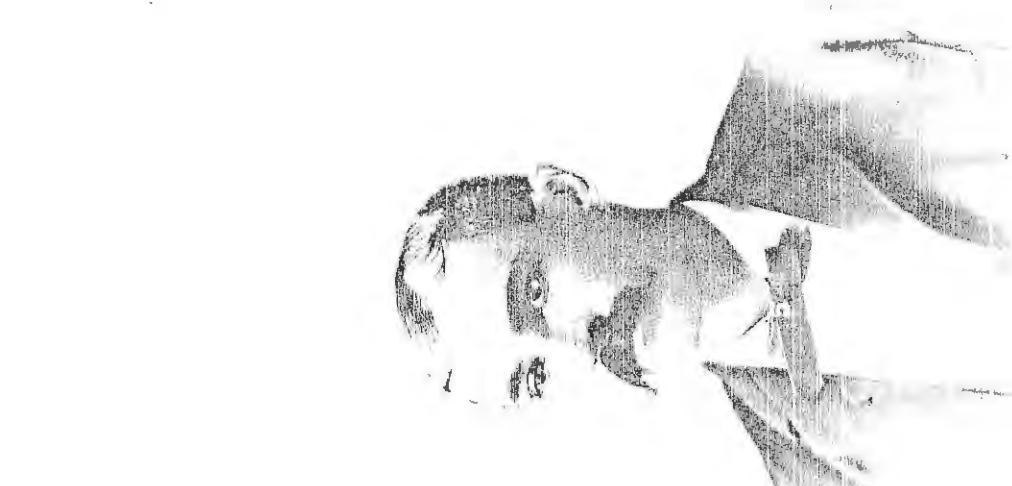
LINN

A very pretty wedding occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Linn November 27th, 1913, when Bessie only daughter of B. S. Webb, was united in marriage to their son, Dyle J. The bride was beautifully gowned in white crepe meteor draped in lace and carried bride's roses. She was attended by Mrs. Byrl Scott, sister of the groom. The groom wore the conventional black and Bert Scott, his brother-in-law, acted as best man. A bower was formed in one corner of the room decorated with foliage and pink tra roses over which was suspended a rapid which held the flowers draping the corners.

The bridal party took their places at 8 o'clock p. m. and the ring ceremony was read by Rev. G. T. Fisher of the M. E. church in the presence of only the very immediate relatives, after which very dainty refreshments of which the wedding cake was prominent, was served. The bride is a talented musician and a very popular and much respected young lady of this place. The groom is a partner of the Scott & Linn hardware, dry goods and the hardware factor on West Main St. The happy couple made a trip to the Grand Hotel, Chicago, on their蜜月.



↑ Wesley LINN



LOCAL HISTORY
FOX COLLECTION



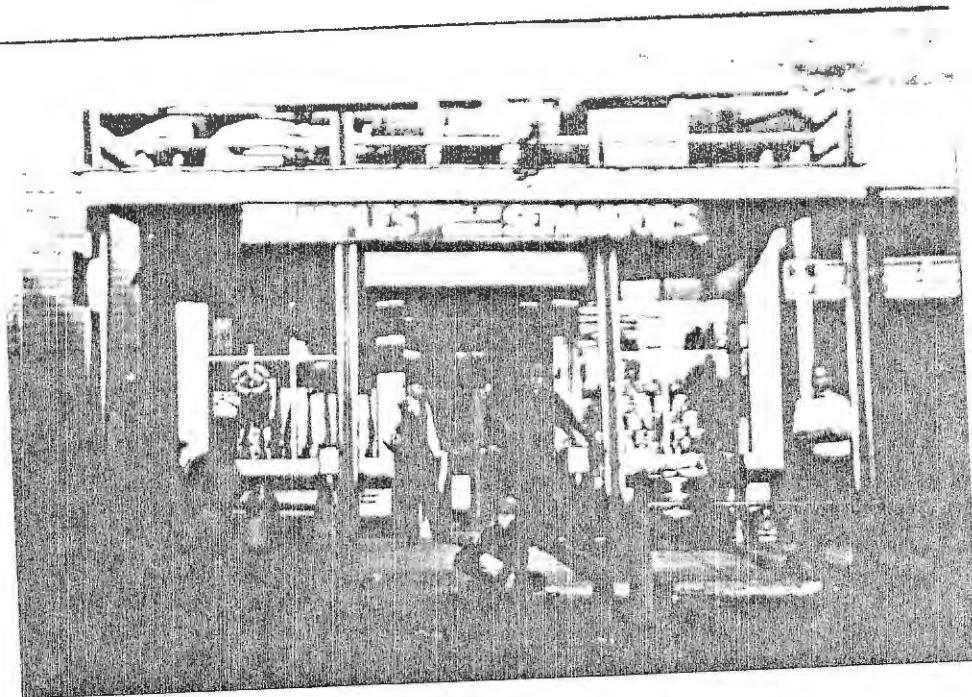
LINN



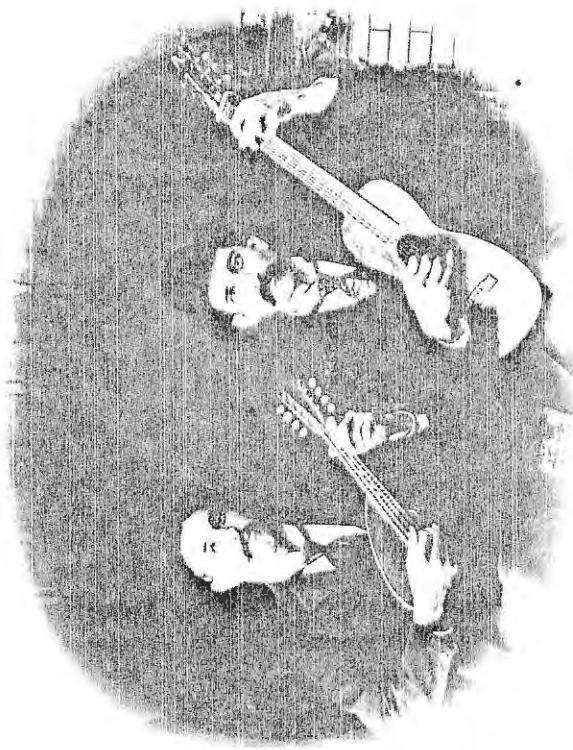
LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
FILE



To Gra -olina - Wesley L. & L. L. L. L.
CASSEY & WHITNEY, L. L. L. L.



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LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
BOX 116

Development is covering the real old stuff in DeWitt

By KEN COIN

Who would've ever thought we'd live to see cross-walk signals at the intersection of US-27 and Clark Road? And a mall? And five (count'em, five) traffic lights between Clark and Round Lake roads?

I can't handle it.

So what did we give up in exchange for this progress at the four corners? Well, not too much in recent years, but it's the old stuff, the very oldest, which concerns me. What time and nature have been so carefully burying over the past 150 years is now being plowed away by earth movers.

Some of DeWitt's oldest residents will remember when Clark and US-27 was known as Livermore Corners. That was a rather recent name, given after US-27 was opened in the 1920's and a gas station sprung up. Prior to the turn-of-the-century, it was not a four corners at all. What is now US-27 was only open between Webb and Clark. The mile and half south of Clark Road, though the marsh, was merely a section line on the map. And north of Webb Road, the road did not pick up again until north of Round Lake Road.

DeWitt Road was the main thoroughfare and stage route which connected Lansing to St. Johns, via DeWitt. That is why it is called "DeWitt Road." A few of the earliest settlers to this intersection

commented (without giving any detail) that Indians used the northeast corner for a camp. This was somewhat substantiated 20 years ago by the extraordinary amount of stone and pottery artifacts which were unearthed when the highway department was kind enough to carve out the road bed for US-127. Whatever may have been left at the corner itself has now been pretty much hauled away or paved over by the mall's parking lot.

I believe the Samuel Smith family were the first settlers to occupy that corner. Later, and for nearly 100 years, it was known as the Livermore farm.

The southwest corner was first settled about 1850 by the Hockenbury family. Their house and barns faced Clark Road and were located on the small rise just west of the corner. This was later to be the Edwin Hewitt farm before it was split into small parcels. Later still came the Northway Sporting Goods store which remained in business until recent years.

Both the northwest and southeast corners were settled in the 1840's by Edward A. Gunderman. The southeast corner offered little except a sharp decline into the marsh. The northwest corner, come to think of it, didn't offer much better prospects. Perhaps that's why it took the federal land office nearly 20 years to unload it.

The property on the southeast corner eventual-

ly became part of Paul Dunham's substantial (albeit untrillable) farm. His house and barns were actually much further east on Clark Road near Gunnisonville. The old four-square house currently at the corner (in front of the mobile home park) was built about 70 years ago and became the Bradley filling station after US-27 was put through.

Gunderman's property on the northwest corner was eventually split into smaller parcels and perhaps 40 years ago, a motel was built on the corner. This went through several ownerships and under several names. All traces of it, including the old Gunderman homestead, were removed several years back.

A one-time feature of this intersection was a cemetery. Its exact location I have not been able to pin-point, but Alta Gunnison Pierce mentions in her 1939 essay of the area: "There was once a cemetery at Livermore corner, across from where Bradley's Oil Station is now..." This would indicate the site where the old Northway store is now, but as there was no road there in pioneer times, I would tend to shove the location a bit further north to the vacant area between the former store and Clark Road.

Those graves which could be identified were dug up probably 90 years ago and some were moved to the Gunnisonville Cemetery and others

to DeWitt. (But that's another story.)

And so, the reality that time races on. Though we humans tend to build things with the idea that it will last forever, like the cars which fly through that intersection a mile a minute, nothing remains the same - gone in a heartbeat.

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



Courtesy photograph

I recognize some of the people but I can't place the house. Perhaps you can identify the location. Postmarked Sept. 30, 1911, it is a meeting of sorts of the DeWitt Rebekah Lodge No. 20 I.O.O.F.

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Livermore

Funeral Cards from the Scrapbook of C. Harry Moon

Now owned by Eleanor Moon McKinney (1984)

Marie Livermore- Oct. 5, 1883 - Oct. 29, 1945

Vincent Funeral Home Nov. 1st 1945 2:00 p.m.

Rev. C. Harry Moon Gunnisonville Cemetery

Pallbearers: Amos Cheney, Adam Rupp, David Stenzel,
Abraham Smith, Fred Fairbanks, Charles Henning.

Livingston

