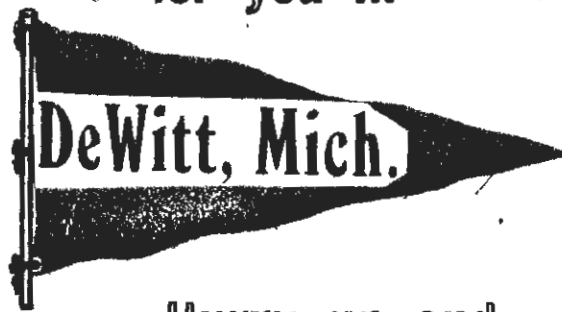


# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

1/2/75

There's a girl waiting  
for you in

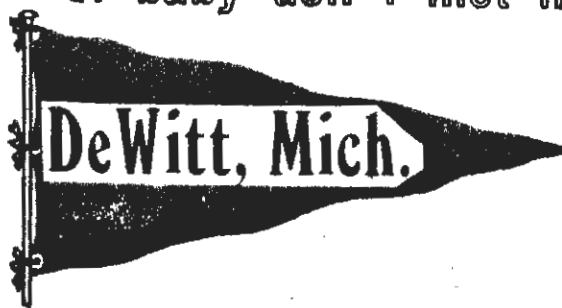


Hurry up and  
don't disappoint her.

091.



This ain't the kind  
of baby doll I met in



They're the real thing.

091.

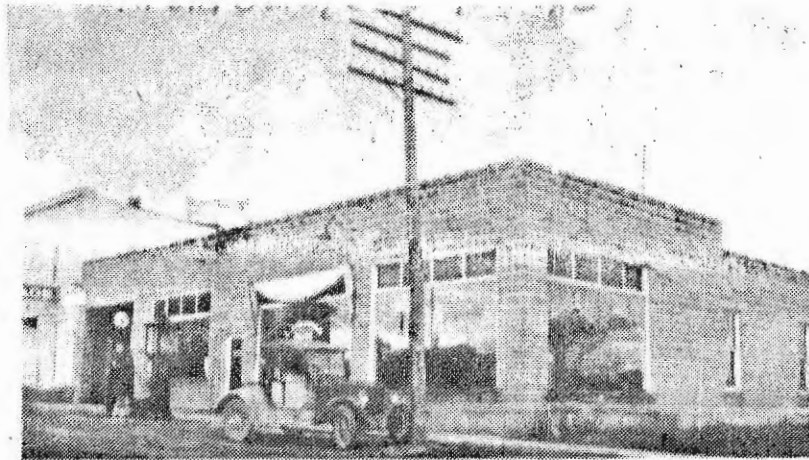


These are two postcards that were sent  
from DeWitt before World War One and show  
the type of cards that were in vogue at  
that time. The cards were loaned to us by  
Mr. and Mrs. Burl Dieter.

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

1/9/75



THE FORD GARAGE on the northeast corner of Bridge and Washington Streets, the last owner L. J. (Pete) Griswold. Terranova's Thriftway now occupies the building. Picture given to the library by Joyce Cary Miller.

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

1/16/75



HERE IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF CHRISTINE BERTHA DYER who was born in 1908 and grew up in DeWitt. Her home was at 206 East Dill and is now owned by William O. Rice. She married a pharmacist by the name of Dere and they lived at 610 DeWitt Road. After he died she married a man by the name of Deatsmay and now lives in Lansing. In this picture she is 5 years of age. Picture loaned to the library by Mrs. Carl Grinold.

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

1/23/75

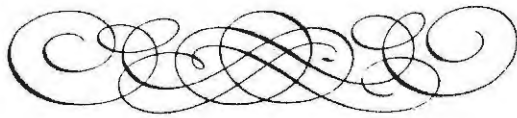


LOOKING FROM ACROSS THE RIVER TOWARD DEWITT - This spot is in the vicinity of where Ralph Woodruff's house now stands and shows the old school which burned in 1936 and the hotel, "The Clinton House" which burned with half of the business district in 1930. Picture taken by the late Bert Moon and loaned to the library by Eleanor McKinney.

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

THE ADVERTISER  
Thursday, February 13, 1975

By Faye Hanson



THIS IS A CLIPPING FROM AN 1891 PAPER: Wednesday May 22, about 75 friends and neighbors of Mrs. Levina Simmons called at her home in Riley (house still standing on the corner of Airport and Chadwick Roads) to celebrate her eighty fourth birthday, and though it was not a surprise party, it was really surprising to see a lady of her age with the apparent health and vigor of half her number of years. Her first home in Clinton County was on the farm where she now resides and where she has been a continuous resident for fifty-three years. (She and her husband, Atwell, were the first settlers in Riley Township). A nice rocker was presented as a token of friendship; also a silk handkerchief and a shoulder shawl by Seth Hunt and lady of St. Johns, other handkerchiefs by friends, an apron by Mrs. Cook (her daughter) and some very beautiful lace by Mrs. Ida Knapp. Music and dancing, in which Mrs. Simmons joined, helped to pass away the afternoon which all declared, had gone too soon. As usual a bountiful repast was provided and partaken of with relish after which all returned to their homes, hoping to meet again on her next birthday.

Direct descendants of Mrs. Simmons living in the DeWitt area now are Neil Cutler, Gerald Pike, Martha Reed and Bonnie Ward. - Clipping loaned by Mrs and Mrs. Burl Dieter and photograph from my collection purchased from the late Maud Cutler Estate.

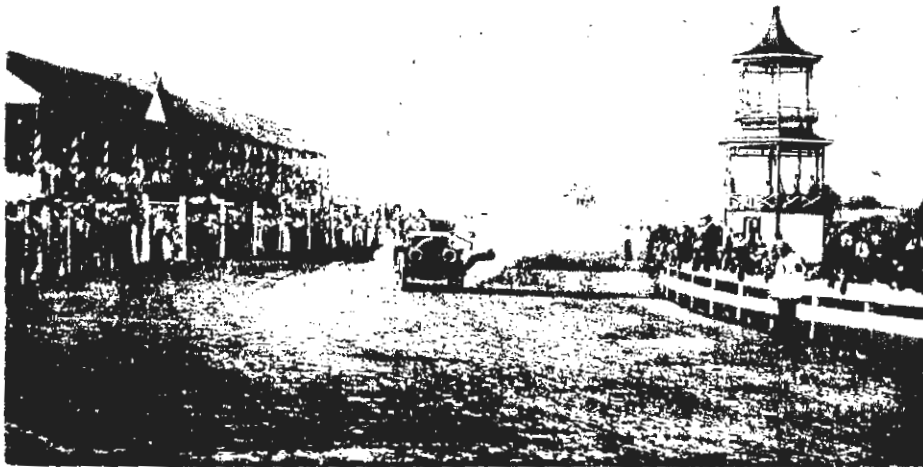
# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

2/24/75

By Faye Hanson



Clinton Co. Fair, ST. JOHNS, MICH.

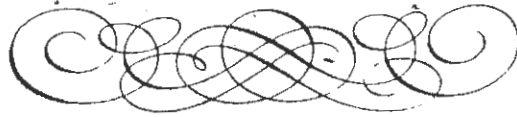


THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE GRANDSTAND at the old Fair Grounds just south of St. Johns about 1909. This land was purchased by the Clinton County Agriculture and Horticulture Society in 1865 for a Fair Ground and encompassed 15 acres. There was a trotting course, a floral hall, an agriculture hall, a grand stand and dining hall. Everyone in the county attended the annual fair and many exhibited live stock and produce. This picture was loaned to the library by Mr. and Mrs. Burl Dieter.

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

3/6/75



THIS IS A PICTURE OF Bernice Minler, Kenneth Reed, Lulu Mae Rice and Stanley Lennaman in front of the old Reed's Grocery Store which stood where Terranova's parking lot is. Probably taken during World War II because the sign on the window says "Soap no limit" and soap was hard to come by during the war. - Picture loaned to the library by Lulu Rice.



# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson



PICTURE OF THE DEWITT MASONIC TEMPLE taken 40 or 50 years ago. This building was recently remodeled and is still in use by DeWitt Lodge #272 F & A M and DeWitt Chapter #30 Order of Eastern Star. The shrubbery is now gone and part of the lawn is used for parking for American Bank & Trust. Picture loaned by Don Reed.



# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

## DEWITT BUSINESS DISTRICT PERILED BY \$22,000 BLAZE

### First Methodist Church Razed, Grange Hall Damaged Saturday Night

(By The United Press)  
DEWITT, March 12.—Losses of more than \$22,000 were estimated Monday to have resulted from a fire which totally destroyed the First Methodist church of DeWitt,

damaged adjacent buildings, and threatened the entire business district early Saturday evening.

The blaze started from an overheated furnace in the basement of the church, it was believed Monday. The fire was discovered shortly after 5 p. m. Saturday and DeWitt fire apparatus responded. Before the department and a volunteer bucket brigade could swing into action a strong south wind had fanned the flames beyond control. Fire trucks from St. Johns and Lansing responded to appeals for aid and succeeded in saving surrounding buildings.

About \$1,000 damage to the Grange hall, next door to the church, was estimated while sparks carried by the wind ignited the roof of the home of Carl Van Fleet, a short distance away. Sparks also ignited the roof of a barn belonging to Willis McLoster near the scene of the blaze.

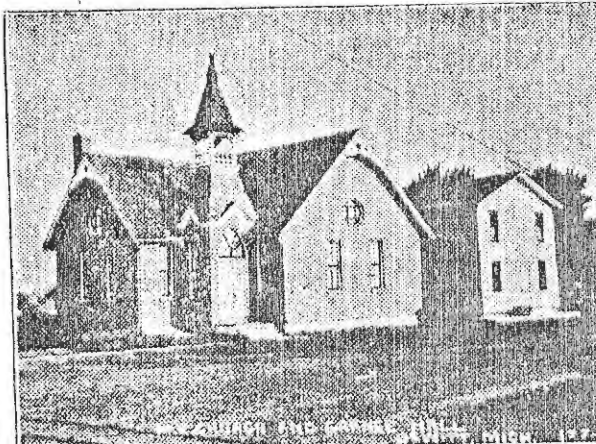
The church, a brick veneer structure more than 30 years old, was burned to the ground. Furniture and equipment were totally destroyed.

After the various blazes had been extinguished a small building in the rear of the Grange hall burst into flames. Serious damage from this blaze was prevented by David Babcock, who single-handed succeeded in putting out the fire.

The DeWitt fire department, under direction of Frank Todd, kept a vigil over the ruins until late Saturday night to prevent further outbreaks.

No plans for rebuilding the church have been made as yet. Rev. W. C. Colman, pastor, said Sunday. The loss was partially covered by insurance. Services for the congregation, numbering more than 150, were held in the Baptist church Sunday night. Directors of the ruined church plan to meet early this week, according to Colman.

### DeWitt Church Burned



Special to The State Journal:

DEWITT, March 12.—The DeWitt Methodist Episcopal church was totally destroyed and the Grange hall was badly damaged by flames which Saturday night threatened the entire village. Absence of a wind averted the fire sweeping north from the church into a number of residences and aided the firemen in saving part of the Grange hall.

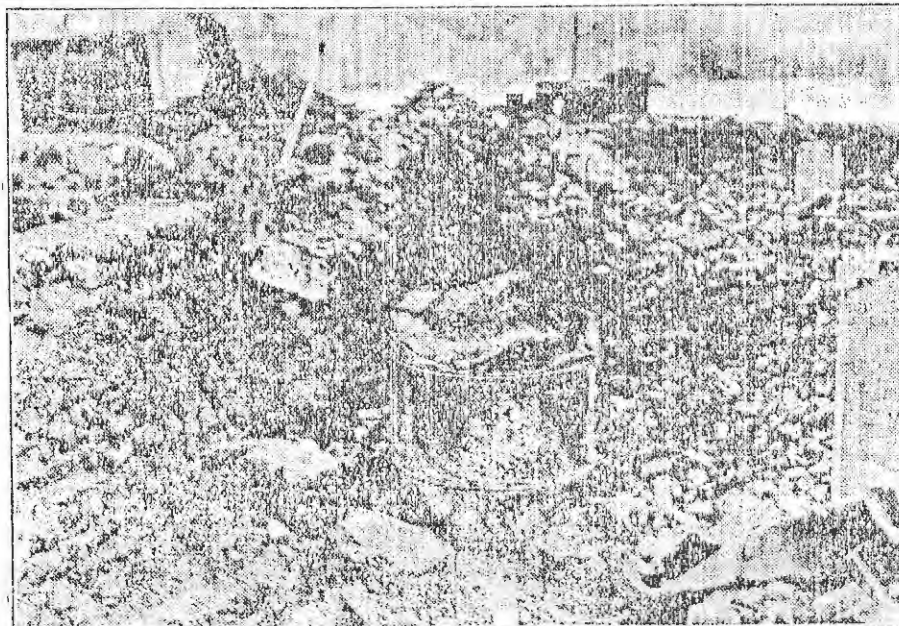
The fire started in an unexplained manner in the church a short time after the janitor of the building had built up a fire to heat the building for choir practice,

schedule for Saturday night. After starting the fire, he left the building and the blaze was not discovered until it had gained a start that periled the building despite the work of the DeWitt Community Fire Protection association equipment which was on the scene soon after the blaze was discovered.

Thirty tanks of chemicals were used in fighting the church blaze and saving part of the Grange hall.

Sunday evening services were held in the Baptist church by the congregation left without a church by the fire.

### HOW FIRE LEFT DEWITT METHODIST CHURCH



The furnace, thought to be the cause of the \$22,000 blaze, is shown amid the debris of the basement which was all that remained of the First Methodist church of DeWitt after the flames finished their work early Saturday evening and threatened the entire business district.

—Photo by East Photo Service

(Show on Page Three)

9/11/75

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson



WEST MAIN STREET, DEWITT, NORTH SIDE showing Harry Moon's Grocery (now Olde Country Caterer's); the Post Office, now torn down, and the telephone office now the Family Barbershop. Picture taken by Mark Norris probably in 1931 as Moon's Store has been rebuilt after the big fire of October, 1930 and the two end lots are still vacant. Picture loaned by Don Reed.

# DeWitt-- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

12/11/75

*NE corner DeWitt before fire*



Northwest corner of Bridge and Main before the fire, showing E.E. Lankton's Grocery, Smiley's Variety Store, Harry Moon's Grocery, the Post Office and Telephone Office. Picture taken in the 20's. The first 3 buildings burned in the fire. The Post Office was torn down in 1969. The Telephone Office still stands and houses The Family Barber Shop.

# DeWitt- Yesterday and Today

By Faye Hanson

12/18/75



A snapshot taken in the 1920's looking down West Main Street on a cold winter morning with unbroken snow covering the street. The picture was taken by the late Mark Norris and shows Della Cowan's house on the right and the house that stood on the lot now owned by the telephone company.