

WELCOME
to
Historic
DEWITT
founded
Oct. 4, 1833

DATELINE: DeWitt

January 14, 1985

Photos and Stories by Kitty Marriott

Kitty Korner

Let's hope we can say goodbye to the ice age--and good riddance!

While a day, or maybe two, of indoor camping around the fireplace-stove and roughing it without electricity or water can be a novelty, stretching things beyond that point reaches hardship proportions. Five days minus modern conveniences was enough to make me breathe a sigh of relief and a silent prayer of thanksgiving almost every time the light switches on, or water flows from the tap.

The ice storm was no repeater of ages. We had a son-in-law, daughter and grandchild spend two days with us, until their utilities came back on; then we reversed the procedure and went south from DeWitt to Holt for the next three days.

only for post-high school adults.

Support the DHS marching band as they continue to raise money for their Florida trip during spring break. They're sponsoring tasty chili suppers - and this is just the right weather for chili - from 5 to 7 p.m. before boys' home basketball games on Tuesdays and Fridays, January 18 - 25 - 29, February 1 - 5 - 22. You can stop in at the high school cafeteria for chili or hotdog, even if you don't happen to be attending the BB game.

And be sure to get a \$5 ticket for a chance on the \$500 Shopping Spree, which the Booster Club is sponsoring at DeWitt Shop-Rite on Saturday, January 26. Contact a band member parent or Band Director Jeff Kressler 669-2240.

Lioness Club Volunteers



The conference room in DeWitt Memorial Building boasts a new coat of paint, thanks to hard-working members of DeWitt Lioness Club who met Saturday, January 5, to handle that chore. Wielding paint brushes, left to right, are Vi Pennington, Marilyn Boyd, Fran Graves, Donna Gartside and Lorna Gillespie.

ALONG THE LOOKING GLASS

'Main Street' Invitation

Anyone interested in DeWitt's downtown development and revitalization is invited to attend a 'Main Street' slide presentation and program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, at Prairie Creek Clubhouse, 800 E. Webb Rd.

The city's Downtown Development Authority and DeWitt Business Association are sponsoring the program, which the Michigan Department of Commerce will present. The Main Street program is dedicated to making downtown come alive again by creating an appealing place for shoppers and business people to work, browse, relax and transact business.

Main Street is a cooperative effort between a community's public and private sectors to enhance the downtown business area both economically and physically. As such, it focuses on four elements - organization, design, promotion and marketing - to achieve the desired total image improvement. It is designed, not as a planning program, but an implementation of numerous small changes over a period

Bath Resident New Director

Jean Cook, who lives with her husband and two children in Bath Township, has accepted the new DeWitt Charter Township part-time position as Parks and Recreation Director and Senior Coordinator.

uties came back on; then we reversed the procedure and went south from DeWitt to Holt for the next three days.

Numerous grandparents, who lost their heat, moved to childrens' homes during Ice Week, and grandchildren were enchanted to have them in such close proximity for that length of time. One, in fact, invited her great-grandmother to "live here forever." However, more than one set of grandparents admitted afterwards that it was great to get back home to "peace and quiet" again.

A brief stint like that helps us to realize how dependent we are upon gas, electricity and our utilities. Candlelight may be romantic, but give me a light switch any day. What rotten pioneers we would have made!!!

Open Gym will be held at DeWitt High School from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday of January and February (except January 23, when the play "West Side Story" will be presented).

The charge will be \$2 per person and \$10 for a season pass with proceeds going to the DeWitt athletics program. These open gym sessions are available

Club is sponsoring at DeWitt Shop-Rite on Saturday, January 26. Contact a band member parent or Band Director Jeff Kressler 669-2240.

* * *

On behalf of the board of the DeWitt Memorial Association, President Lee Hodges would like to extend a special Thank You to Commander Roger Brown and members of the American Legion post and DeWitt Lioness Club for painting the interior of the Memorial Building's lower level and conference room during the holiday season. Both areas look much fresher and more attractive with their new coats of paint.

* * *

DeWitt Cooperative Preschool board will meet Tuesday, January 15, at 7 p.m. in the Shamrock St. home of Karen Gordon.

* * *

Wallace Watt, W. Stoll Rd., will serve as treasurer of the Michigan Senior Advocates Council for 1985. The council is a statewide group of senior citizens, which develops legislative positions on aging issues. Active in retirees affairs, Watt retired at 70 from the Michigan Mental Health Department.

ALONG THE LOOKING GLASS

Faye Hanson Memorial Library board of trustees will be taking sealed bids for a large round oak table (cut down and painted) and an antique desk through January 30, 1985. The items may be seen at the library during regular library hours.

Bids may be sent to the library, 206 W. Washington, DeWitt 48820. The library board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

DeWitt Lioness Club will hold a Euchre Card Party as a fund-raiser Saturday, February 2, in DeWitt Memorial Building. Tickets will be \$10 per couple. Contact Fran Graves, 669-9143 or Vi Pennington, 669-3587, for information.

SERVICES AID LOCAL CITIZENS

Carroll D. Lee, chief of DeWitt Township Police Department, reminds residents that a variety of services are available to them.

Neighborhood Watch, a community-based program which emphasizes "keeping an eye out for your neighbor", now has more than 24% township participation. In conjunction with the Health Department, the police provide infant/toddler seats to township residents as part of the Child Safety Seat Program.

Structures and grounds can be inspected to identify security weaknesses and recommend improvements under the Residential Business Survey. Engravers can be used to mark property to reduce risk of theft and increase recovery of stolen goods, under the Operation Identification program.

The police also handle Youth Fingerprinting, whereby minors with parental permission are fingerprinted to aid in the investigation of missing children.

* * *

The reason most of us don't live within our income is because we don't consider that living. - California Highway Patrolman

the new DeWitt Charter Township part-time position as Parks and Recreation Director and Senior Coordinator.



Jean Cook

Cook, who earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in Recreation and Youth Leadership, was Valley Farms Park supervisor last summer and taught township cooking class for children in the fall.

The new director also taught pre-school and children's classes for Lansing Parks and Recreation. She has resided in the Bath area for eight years, enjoys photography, cross stitch, softball and sailing as hobbies.



improvement. It is designed, not as a planning program, but an implementation of numerous small changes over a period of several years.

PTO MEETS

Waverly School teachers Connie Wolfe and Judy Kestenholz will be guest speakers Monday, January 21, when DeWitt Parent Teachers Organization meets in Scott School Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. They will discuss Waverly's Gifted and Talented Program, how it was started and its ensuing development.

First grade teacher Diane Jones, who is the elementary representative for development of a gifted program in DeWitt, will be the guest teacher.

All parents and teachers of students in grades K-5 are urged to attend. For further information, contact Denise Baird, 669-5656.

Hang on to your Kellogg's box tops. DeWitt Parent Teachers Organization is sponsoring collection of the box tops at Scott and Fuerstenau Schools.

Kellogg's will donate one cent to the "Save the Statue of Liberty Foundation" for each box top collected. Certificates will be awarded to the schools, citing the number of box tops collected.

TOWNSHIP PARKS/RECREATION DEPARTMENT OFFERS CLASSES

Parks and recreation classes begin tomorrow in DeWitt Charter Township. Although registration was held last week, some classes will still have openings. Classes will be offered at the township hall, 4700 Brooks Rd.

For information about the following classes, contact Jean Cook, Parks and Recreation Director, 482-1291.

The following classes will be offered this term:

SHADOW APPLIQUE QUILTING \$4.00
Wednesday, January 23, 1985 One Week
Instructor: Pat Gunsell 7 - 9 p.m.

A new method of quilting fabric together by hand or machine which gives a soft appearance as if looking through a window. This method is a quick and easy way to construct a quilt in one day.

CUTTING-IT-UP-VEST \$6.50
Wednesday, January 30, 1985 Two Weeks
Instructor: Pat Gunsell 7 - 9 p.m.

Cutting-it-up is a revival of a decorative fabric shashing that dates back to Renaissance days. Multiple layers of fabrics are grid marked and quilted together by machine to make a fashionable vest.

LOG CABIN QUILT \$8.00
Wednesday, February 13, 1985 Three Weeks
Instructor: Pat Gunsell 7 - 9 p.m.

A quick and easy method of constructing a quilt by machine, using the pillow case style to achieve a puffy dramatic experience.

DIMENSIONAL STAR \$4.00
Wednesday, March 6, 1985 One Week
Instructor: Pat Gunsell 7 - 9 p.m.

A technique of folding squares together, sewing by machine, and achieving a dimensional quality to the star. Makes a dramatic quilted wall hanging.

FOLDED STAR \$4.00
Wednesday, March 13, 1985 One Week
Instructor: Pat Gunsell 7 - 9 p.m.

A technique of folding fabric squares together, sewing them by hand or machine, and creating a striking "Flower of the Sky". Can be



ADULT BASKETBALL

Friday, January 25

12 weeks
7 - 10 p.m.

Co-ed basketball for persons 18 years and over. Bring your own basketball

ADULT VOLLEYBALL - (Recreational)

Wednesday, January 23

12 weeks
6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

Play easy co-ed non-competitive volleyball. Meant only for relaxation and entertainment. A time for those who wish to get some exercise with no competition involved.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL - (Competitive)

Wednesday, January 23

12 weeks
8:30 - 10:00 p.m.

A more rousing evening of volleyball meant for those who enjoy a good contest.

Police Department At Full Strength



DEWITT HIGH SCHOOL CAST READIES ANNUAL MUSICAL

This is the month of the musical! Drama instructors and students at DeWitt High School are in high gear for the next week's performances of "West Side Story."

Directors Penny Rypstra, Jeff Kressler and Lyn Kressler have been overseeing rehearsals and are excited about the production.

"We have been doing musicals here for 11 years," Rypstra remarks, "and have put off 'West Side Story' much as we loved it, because it is such a challenge for high school actors."

"We're so proud of these kids," she continues. "They have put lots of extra time into making this play work."

Under the tutelage of dance instructor Bobby Boling who is now appearing at the Lido in Paris, the youthful actors have been rehearsing since September, because of the intricate dancing which the show requires. There are five to seven dance scenes in "West Side Story."

Once again, the directors say, "fantastic vocal talent" has been found in the student body. "Tonight and "I Feel Pretty" are among the familiar well-loved musical numbers in the play. The pit band under the Jeff Kressler's direction will provide music for the show.

Costumes are coming from New York and most of the students have ordered professional dance shoes. Students from the high school's advanced art classes are working on black and white drawings, depicting the lives and times of the period (late 1950's and early '60's), which will be on display in the lobby for intermission viewing.

Joyce Bordui has researched hair styles of the period, because she and her Hair Drop staff will be handling hair arrangements for both male (ala Jimmy Dean) and female performers (very bouffant). Since some 58 students appear in the play, that will be a king sized task.

Graphic arts instructor Ray Unger and his students will again design programs and tickets for the production.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, Thursday, January 24, Saturday, January 26, and a 2:00 p.m. matinee

FOLDED STAR \$4.00
Wednesday, March 13, 1985 One Week
Instructor Pat Gunsell 7 - 9 p.m.

A technique of folding fabric squares together, sewing them by hand or machine, and creating a striking "Flower of the Sky". Can be used in anything from a potholder to a quilt.

LET'S COOK \$10.00
Monday, February 4, 1985 4 Weeks
Instructor: Jean Cook 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Young cooks ages 8 - 11 years will be shown how delicious food can be made using everyday ingredients. Featured menu items are: orange smoothie, egg noodles, thin pancakes, little puffs, and ice cream (cone) cupcakes.

OIL PAINTING \$5.00 at session
Tuesday, January 15, 1985 8 weeks
Instructor: Pat Preston 7 - 9 p.m.

Explore this versatile medium by learning basic painting skills. This course is geared to beginners or experienced painters. Participants will work from flowers, landscapes, seascapes, and still life subject matter. Students will provide their own materials.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

AEROBICS \$12.00
Tuesday and Thursday, January 22 8 Weeks
Instructor: Candy Laughlin 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Dance exercise program designed to strengthen the cardiovascular system.

If the first class is filled, an attempt will be made to schedule a second class from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The following activities require a waiver form signed by the participant, and an activity card. Activity cards must be brought to each session for admittance. Exercise walking cards are free, but volleyball and basketball activity cards cost 50¢.

EXERCISE - WALKING FREE
Mon, Wed, Fri Ongoing
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Walking in the gym for good exercise. 25 laps around equals one (1) mile. Signed waiver form required to participate and an activity card.



Police Chief Wendell Myers congratulates Mike Ferland, who assumed full-time officer status on January 1 in DeWitt's Police Department.

Mike Ferland, whom DeWitt Police Department sponsored at the Michigan Law Officers Training School, has just become a full-time officer in DeWitt.

One of the candidates selected through the Michigan Municipal League testing service, Ferland completed requirements for his associate's degree in law enforcement at Lansing Community College upon graduation from the police academy. He has been on the DeWitt police force part-time for about a year.

A DeWitt High School 1979 graduate, Ferland captained the AAU-sponsored United States' karate team in California for two years, competing internationally. Involved with karate for the last nine years, he has taught self-defense classes for children and likes weight training/body building.

Ferland's aims are to complete his education and "be the best police officer I can." A Lansing resident, he is the son of Dave and Mary Ferland, Idylcrest Avenue. He was also Chief Myers' paper boy some years back when Myers lived in Idylcrest subdivision.

"This is the first time DeWitt's Police Department has been at full strength since 1977," Myers says. He cited budget restrictions and expiration of the CETA program for the department's subsequent decrease in size.

Sgt. Albert Van Steenkiste and officers James Wilson and Charles Janeski complete the roster of full-time policemen. Part-time staff includes officers Jon Priebe, Joe Dionise, Matt Ramsey and David Biergans and secretary Marjean Pelkey.

in the play, that will be a king sized task.

Graphic arts instructor Ray Unger and his students will again design programs and tickets for the production.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, Thursday, January 24, Saturday, January 26, and a 2:00 p.m. matinee performance only, Sunday, January 27 in DHS auditorium.

Tickets are \$3.50. Advance ticket reservations may be made by calling 669-2240, Ext. 23, between 10 a.m. and noon.

CITY COUNCIL NOTES

The long-promised public hearing on special assessment costs for the DeWitt Road-Bridge Street Project should occur in February, city Aide Bob Peterson estimated, following the January 7 council meeting.

Mayor Lynn Thayer will give a report at the January 21 meeting, covering special assessments and information in the local share of costs, as well as his recommendations to council. Although federal assistance covers some 77% of the project's costs and city/citizens bear 23%, the government excludes certain items which it does not deem part of the project. Said items, totalling about \$45,000, include numerous piecemeal curb and gutter, street repaving, storm sewer and portions of sidewalks and ramps on W. Dill Rd., E. Washington, Webb Rd. and Bridge Street.

Peterson reported that a Consumers Power check had pinpointed several blocks of deteriorated lineage on Main Street, which is the cause of insufficient power to program Channel 29. Unless the recent ice storm causes setbacks, Consumers Power had mentioned possible replacement of the line in February.

In response to a complaint from Jim and Myrna Greer about heavy traffic turning the corner of their property on W. Webb St. at Turner, council asked Police Chief Myers to review the situation. Council approved a resolution between the city and Clinton County DPW, applying for a grant under Clean Water Act 329, which recoups losses incurred in closing older sewage plants, and granted approval of a liquor permit for Prairie Creek Golf Course.

WELCOME
to
Historic
DEWITT
founded
Oct. 4, 1833

COMING EVENTS

DeWitt Masonic Lodge No. 272 will honor life member Marshall C. Warren as "Mason of the Year" Wednesday, January 23, at a 6 p.m. potluck dinner at the Masonic Temple. The dinner is open to the public. A DeWitt Mason since 1941, Warren has been master, secretary and is now marshall of the lodge.

A friend is someone who can see through you and still enjoy the show.

Farmers Almanac

Kitty Korner

"It will be a fun evening for all," Ginny Martlew promises, as she talks about the upcoming old time Euchre Card Party, which DeWitt Lioness Club is sponsoring Saturday evening, February 2, in the DeWitt Memorial Building.

Euchre cards 10

DATELINE: DeWitt

January 21, 1985
Photos and Stories by Kitty Marriott

Shopping Spree Set For Saturday

TODAY is the last chance to get a ticket for the \$500 Shopping Spree, which the DeWitt Booster Club is sponsoring to benefit the DHS marching band.

The drawing for the shopping spree winner will be held tomorrow morning, Tuesday, January 22, at DeWitt Shop-Rite. Contact a band member parent or Band Director Jeff Kressler, 669-2240, today to purchase a \$5 ticket.

The time set for the winner to redeem his purchase on the \$500 or five-minute shopping spree is Saturday, January 26, at 10:30 a.m. No cigarettes or alcohol may be purchased and there will be a limit to five of any particular item.

DeWitt Booster Club offered the shopping spree as a supportive effort, to assist marching band members in raising money for their trip to Florida during spring break.

PATRIOTIC ESSAY

Freshman Jason Brewer won a \$50 U.S. savings bond for the following essay entered in the Voice of Democracy annual essay contest:

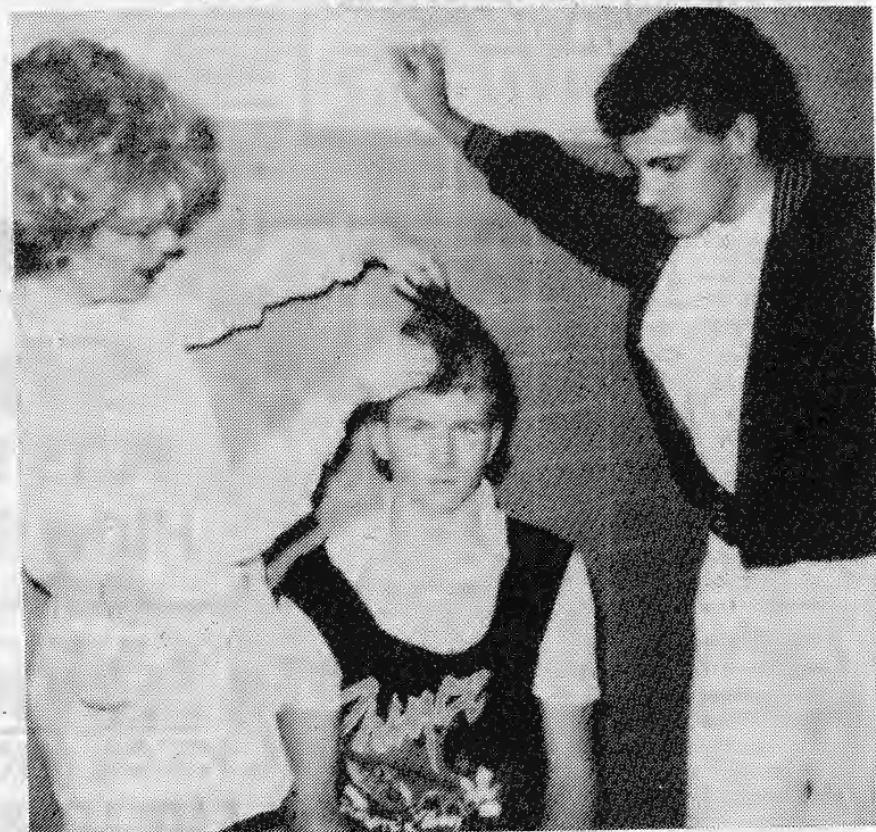
MY PLEDGE TO AMERICA

By Jason C. Brewer

What good has apathy ever done? The Jews, Roman Catholics, and the blacks were persecuted and few said anything. Governments have been put up and governments have been torn down and still very few said anything. Apathy may be the death of this mighty nation of ours.

The word apathy comes from the Greek word "apatheia" which means "insensibility." That's exactly what many people in the U.S. are today, "insensitive" with the attitude of "why should I care? It doesn't concern me." But it

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



'WEST SIDE STORY' ON STAGE HERE

Denny Brya, center, learns a little about hair styles of the 50's from cosmetologist Joyce Bordui, left, while Jeff Croley, right, looks on. Both lads will appear this week in the DeWitt High School production of "West Side Story." Hair stylist Bordui and her Hair Drop staff will be doing hair arrangements for the show.

The four performances of the musical will be given at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, January 23-24-26, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 27, in DHS Auditorium.

Tickets are \$3.50. For ticket reservations, call 669-2240, Ext. 23 between 10 a.m. and noon.

A tamed biologist spoke to some ninth

MAIN STREET PROGRAM AIMS TO ENHANCE DOWNTOWN SECTION

Enthusiastic response to last Wednesday night's Main Street program has encouraged members of the Downtown Development Authority and DeWitt Business Association to continue looking into the idea for this area.

"The end result of a program like this is to involve the community in sprucing up downtown, making it more attractive with a hometown flavor," said DBA President Paul Tate.

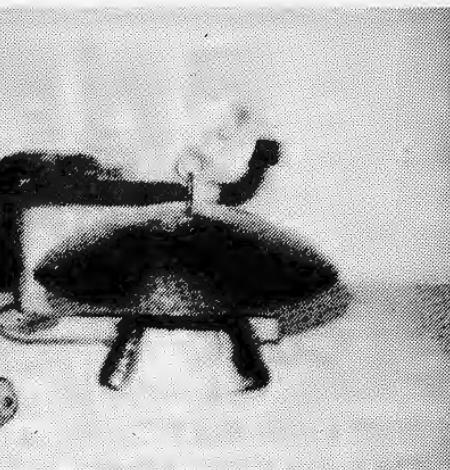
Wednesday's program included a presentation by the Michigan Department of Commerce on designing a successful "Main Street" revitalization program. Mason and Williamston are nearby communities which have been working on Main Street Projects.

Advance letters from the DBA and DDA inviting local community and civic leaders to attend the program, included the following information:

Over the last three decades thousands of towns have made an effort to revitalize their central shopping areas. The DeWitt Business Association and Downtown Development Authority have decided to initiate such a revitalization effort in our town.

Today "Main Street" cannot compete on the same terms with the commercial developments, simply because it does not have all the features that make for immediate success of other well planned shopping alternatives. Yet "Main Street" is a place in people's mind as well as a physical entity. For decades it was the town's central place of commercial and social activity. It was the backbone of the marketplace in cities and towns across the country; the place where most goods and services people needed could be found.

When someone said they were going into town or going downtown, everyone knew where they were headed: Main Street.



TOWNSHIP MINUTES

DeWitt Charter Township approved the purchase of markers, identifying new burial sites in the expanded section of Gunnisonville Cemetery and agreed to the City of Lansing's request for a sewer lift station on Sheridan Road.

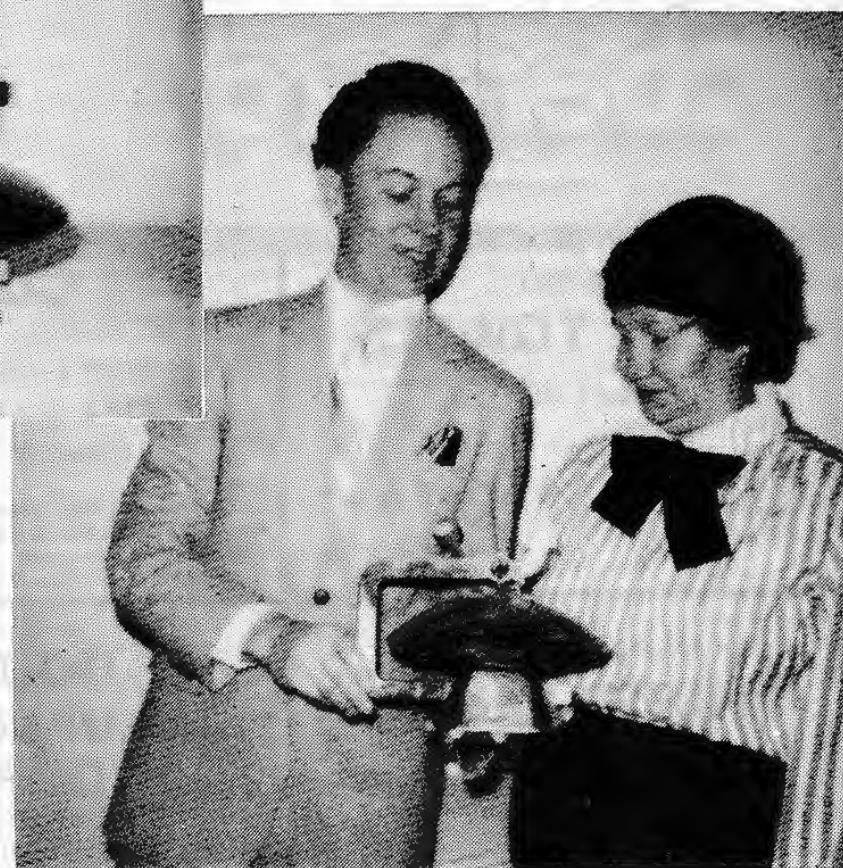
January 14 business also included a second reading of the ordinance rezoning Coleman Road property, on which Granger will erect an office building, from agricultural to light industrial. Patricia Reton has been hired as police department secretary and Candy Laughlin as a aerobics class instructor. The board appointed Bernice Deatsman to the library board, filling a vacancy caused by Jan Everett's resignation. Harry

SCHOOL REPORT

Voters in DeWitt school district will be asked to renew present millage and approve three additional mills for a three year period. DeWitt Board of Education trustees made the decision at their January 14 meeting, setting an April 22 millage election date.

A millage increase

PAIR GIVE CHURCH BELL



The Catholic Community of St. Jude in DeWitt has a permanent reminder of Mark and Kay Zuzelski's trip to Poland and Rome, a handsome brass sanctuary bell.

The Zuzelski's, who live on Grove Road with their five children, went on the two-week tour last fall, during which time Mark met his 93-year-old grandmother and several uncles in Poland for the first time.

In Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, the couple visited a religious goods store and saw the bell, which they decided was just right for St. Jude's. The bell is a welcome addition to the sanctuary, where St. Jude altar boys now ring it during Sunday masses.

town or going downtown, everyone knew where they were headed: Main Street.



Your help is vital to your "Main Street" revitalization. Please do not make the assumption that you and your ideas are not welcome or important. Experience has shown time after time that a successful downtown revitalization takes a community effort.

Dedicated To Making Downtown Come Alive

A Special Thank You

The DeWitt Community Christmas Organization wishes to thank each and everyone who helped in any way with the Christmas Project. This is a community project, and was made possible through the generous donations of money, toys, games, baked goods, mittens, canned goods, groceries, Christmas breads and cookies.

These came from the churches, clubs, organizations, Thrift way Market, Fuerstenau and DeWitt High School students, DeWitt Cooperative Preschool, Hope Lutheran Preschool, the Scout troops and individuals of the community.

It made a joyous and happy Christmas for 29 families, including 59 children, several senior citizens and shut-ins.

We would like the community to know that we give assistance all year long, if the necessity arises in the DeWitt Community.

Thanks again.
The Committee

and Carey Daugherty as aerobics class instructor. The board appointed Bernice Deatsman to the library board, filling a vacancy caused by Jan Everett's resignation. Harry Hunnicutt will serve on the public safety committee for a term expiring in December 1987.

Seventownship residents were appointed to the Lansing school liaison committee. Trustee Bruce E. Angell II, a former Lansing school board member, will serve as chairman. Committee members are Kathryn Gingrich, George Halliburton, Brenda Neal, Barbara Bailey, Shirley Porter and Wayne Miller.

In other business, board members approved purchase of a new \$2900 air compressor for the fire department and tabled for further study the request that part-time township employees share in the pension plan.

A bride, asked why she cut off the ends of the ham before cooking it, said her mother always did; she had never asked why. When she did ask, the mother said her mother had always done it. But Grandma finally supplied the reason: "Because otherwise it wouldn't fit in the pan."

for a three year period. DeWitt Board of Education trustees made the decision at their January 14 meeting, setting an April 22 millage election date.

A millage steering committee is being formed and will hold its first meeting January 29. Voter approval of the millage is necessary in order to maintain the present level of programs, Superintendent Steve Garrett said. A major reduction in both program and staff will be necessary, if the additional millage should not pass.

Elementary principal Don Powell outlined a proposal to provide further diagnosis and remedial instruction for deficient readers in grades 9-12, as well as reading in-services for high school subject matter teachers. Early graduation was approved for Carey Pieters, Lesa Seida and Carmen Telford. Other mid-year graduates are Richard Betz and Gidget DeGeer.

Carol Haag appointed board liaison to the DeWitt Public Schools Foundation and Glenn Tarrant named board representative to the Clinton County Intermediate budget hearing. Staff additions are Kathleen Vaughn, Scott School aide, and Scott Salter, Fuerstenau custodian.

year-old grandmother and several uncles in Poland for the first time.

In Wadowice, the birthplace of Pope John Paul II, the couple visited a religious goods store and saw the bell, which they decided was just right for St. Jude's. The bell is a welcome addition to the sanctuary, where St. Jude altar boys now ring it during Sunday masses.

YESTERYEAR

Clinton County, created by the Michigan legislature in 1831 from Wayne County, which had at first embraced all of the lower peninsula, originally constituted the single township of DeWitt.

DeWitt is the oldest permanent residential community in Clinton County, dating back to Captain David Scott's arrival with his family on October 4, 1833.

Scott first built a log home on the banks of the Looking Glass River. Shortly thereafter, he built a public house to accommodate settlers and travelers. Scott's Place, a popular gathering spot in the 1830s and 40s, was the nucleus for DeWitt, which took its name from DeWitt Township and DeWitt Clinton.

DeWitt was the county seat for a while and county fairs were held there until they were moved to St. Johns.

The only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him.
-Henry L. Stimson

Along the Looking Glass

Senior high school youth will serve luncheon in their Red Checked Country Cafe Sunday, January 27, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at Redeemer United Methodist Church. The annual luncheon is a fund-raising project.

• • •
Roger Overway, Bridge Street, is chairman of Clinton County board of commissioners. He has been on the board 12 years and has served as chairman since 1977.

• • •
Hope Building Fund will be the beneficiary of Hope Lutheran Church's wild game dinner Sunday, January 27.

• • •
Elizabeth Seton Circle of St. Jude Women's Association met Tuesday evening in the W. Stoll Road home of Eleanor Schmidt.

• • •
In Michigan you are never more than six miles from a lake or a stream.

WELCOME
to
Historic
DEWITT
Founded
Oct. 4, 1833

DATELINE: DeWitt

January 28, 1985

Stories and Photos by Kitty Marriott

SENIOR WINS AWARD FOR VFW ESSAY

Senior Matt Elliott won third place award at DeWitt High School and a \$50 U.S. savings bond in the recent Voice of Democracy essay contest, which was sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His winning speech follows.

MY PLEDGE TO AMERICA

By Matthew Elliott

This summer, I had the opportunity to go to Germany. While I was there, I noticed a fierce national pride in the people. This feeling for their country surprised me; in America being patriotic hasn't been very popular. The horror and strife of Viet Nam and the distrust of the government instilled in millions of Americans is just now wearing off. It occurred to me that national pride is a good indication of how happy a person is in that country. If you love your country, the question "Is it better somewhere else?" doesn't come up because you know that here is the best it can be. The Germans love their country and we are beginning to take pride in ours too. I have made a few personal pledges that I think will help perpetuate this feeling of love for America.

When I am 18, I will be asked to sign up for selective service and will be eligible to vote. With the same pen I will register for both. One may seem mandatory and the other voluntary, but I see both as necessary obligations. Although I am not enlisting, I am not afraid to serve in the military if called upon. Secondly, I feel it is imperative to exercise a right that so many have died for and this is to vote.

The next question becomes "Who do I vote for?" I am not campaigning for office or endorsing candidates. I am simply

CUB SCOUTS HOLD DERBY

Cub Scout Pack 277 of DeWitt held its Annual Pinewood Derby January 17 at DeWitt Middle School. There were 56 entries with the following results:

Best Speed - Pack:

1. Karl Wood
2. Kenny Nash
3. Adam Nolen

Best Speed - Wolves

1. Karl Wood
2. Matt Demcrest
3. Zack Peasley

Best Speed - Bears

1. Adam Nolen
2. Gorman Fritch
3. Jason Dew

Best Speed - Webelos

1. Eric Wood
2. Chris Smith
3. Kenny Nash



Best Appearance

1. Gorman Fritch
2. Steven Hane

DBA HONORS PAUL TATE



On behalf of the DeWitt Business Association, Bill Reed presented a farewell plaque to Paul Tate, DeWitt funeral director who is moving to Texas, at Wednesday's luncheon meeting in DeWitt Memorial Building.

The plaque, prepared by calligrapher Dee Robertson, said, "In recognition of his years of dedicated service rendered to the City of DeWitt, the DeWitt Business Association wishes to thank and commend H. Paul Tate."

Reed, who takes over DBA president's reins with Tate's departure, summed up the feelings of the community by concluding simply, "He will be missed."

Along the Looking Glass

The Messengers, a gospel group of six young men from Lansing, will be singing at DeWitt Community Church Sunday evening, February 10, at 7 p.m. The Messengers who originated at Capital City Christian School in

military if called upon. Secondly, I feel it is imperative to exercise a right that so many have died for and this is to vote.

The next question becomes "Who do I vote for?" I am not campaigning for office or endorsing a candidate, but I do feel that everyone should be well-informed voters. To go to a polling place with no knowledge of the candidates or issues is a waste of a person's voting power. This brings me to my third pledge; to always know the issues and candidates in an election. After all, poor leaders are hard to be proud of.

One of the largest and most visible symbols of American ideals is the Statue of Liberty. After years of neglect, the Lady is finally getting needed renovation. Major fund-raising drives have gotten the restoration started, but there is always a need for more money. It is one of my goals to help save this great monument to America.

All the things mentioned so far are going to take place in no more than five years. But what about the Twenty-first Century the year 2000 and beyond? At the turn of the century, I will be 33 then, and my generation will be near the forefront in world affairs. Just as it is important today, technological superiority and world respect will be musts. Something at least as important will be opening relations with the Soviet-influenced part of the world. If two superpowers are to coexist, cooperation will be needed from both sides. I hope that my future business career will allow me to show the people of the earth how America plans to lead them through the next century. I intend to be the very best I can be in my chosen profession; not only for myself, but for my country as well.

These pledges are what I can do to keep America great. I hope others will make commitments to this nation so that the swelling wave of patriotism in this country will crest, and stay that way for another 200 years. Our country has the best systems of government, the most opportunities, and the greatest people on earth. We have a right to be proud of it. I am.

"Automatic' simply means that you can't repair it yourself." - Mary H. Waltrip

Best Appearance

1. Gorman Fritch
2. Steven Hane
3. Matt Brown

Originality

1. Jamie Houston
2. Eric Reed
3. Mike Pulling

Judges for the event were Al VanSteenkiste and Joseph Ciaramella.

School Report

DeWitt Board of Education adopted a resolution at their January meeting to hold a Lansing Community College millage election March 4. LCC will be asking an increase of one mill in their charter millage.

The board approved interviewing and filling the following 1985-86 coaching positions: two assistant football coaches, a J.V. girls' tennis coach, and freshman, J.V. and varsity coaches for girls' basketball.

DeWitt High School is now developing a procedure to recognize an outstanding student from each grade monthly placing the honorees' pictures in a showcase. Recognition is to be based on class achievement, effort, attitude, responsibility and character.

thank and commend H. Paul Tate.

Reed, who takes over DBA president's reins with Tate's departure, summed up the feelings of the community by concluding simply, "He will be missed."

EUCHRE CARD PARTY SATURDAY NIGHT

Euchre teams will go into action Saturday evening, February 2, when DeWitt Lioness Club members hold their fund-raising euchre card party in DeWitt Memorial Building. Euchre players, age 18 and older, are invited to compete for the prizes.

Tickets at \$10-per couple will be available at the door or can be purchased from a Lioness Club member. First place couple, after 10 games, will win \$100; second place, \$50; door prize, \$25. Snacks, coffee and soft drinks will be served.

For tickets or information, contact June Swann, 669-3660; Fran Graves, 669-9143; or Vi Pennington, 669-3587.

CITY COUNCIL NOTES

A tentative February 21 date was set for a public hearing on the long delayed DeWitt Road-Bridge Street Project at Monday evening's meeting of DeWitt City Council.

Mayor Lynn Thayer presented a comprehensive report on the project, outlining assessment information for both the city and citizens. Costs of the storm sewer, driveway approaches, a portion of sidewalks and curb and gutter were among assessable items Thayer listed, as well as 79% of both preliminary and construction engineering costs.

The city, Thayer reported, will pick up the total sum of purchasing right-of-way, bridge reconstruction, new street widths and portions of sidewalks, and 21% of the preliminary and construction engineering costs.

In additional action, council tabled financing plans for new city facilities until a report is presented from a bond counsel and accepted a bid from Morton Salt of Chicago for 50 tons of road salt at \$1,267.

Church Sunday evening, February 10, at 7 p.m. The Messengers who originated at Capital City Christian School in 1972, have since made three albums and given numerous concerts. The program is open to the public.

DeWitt Memorial Association will meet in the DeWitt Memorial Building library conference room Wednesday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited.

Julie Ruhala from Catholic Social Services in Lansing will speak on "Understanding Your Children" Thursday evening at the monthly meeting of St. Jude's Women Association. Each women attending is asked to bring one item for small infants (clothing, blanket, crib sheet, etc.) which will be donated to Operation Stork. The meeting will follow 7:30 p.m. mass.

DeWitt Booster Club will hold the regular monthly meeting Monday, February 4, in the high school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. A slate of officers will be presented for the March annual meeting and plans for the March 2 Las Vegas Night will be discussed.

Kitty Korner

We planned to see the high school rendition of "West Side Story" on Saturday night because we figured the cast would be sailing along smoothly by the third performance. But reserved tickets went like hotcakes and we got there Wednesday night instead.

The talented young men and women took the stage like seasoned professionals... no opening night jitters, (at least none that showed

on stage). Broadway couldn't have been better.

It would be futile to try to select the outstanding performer. The singers, the dancers, the pit band - all were excellent. Parents and friends were proud, and with good reason. "West Side Story" received a well-deserved standing ovation on opening night.

Congratulations - cast, choreographers, directors - for a great show!!



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch program is progressing well in DeWitt and the police department hopes to have the entire city covered by summertime. Police are currently working with Lake Geneva subdivision west of Schavey Road, Millbrook Meadows, Evelyn Cutler and Viewcrest subdivisions, according to Chief Wendell Myers.

A meeting will be

Neighborhood Watch. Literature on home security, a display of door locks, film presentation and coffee will be on the agenda for the meeting in the high school cafeteria.

Persons interested in having a Neighborhood Watch on their street are welcome to attend. Questions or suggestions may be called in to police department secretary Marjean Pelkey, 660-2201.

Area residents interested in having a Senior Citizen Center at DeWitt Shopping Center are invited to a get-together meeting Wednesday, January 30, at 10 a.m.

The meeting will take place at the former Country Meadows Shopping Center, in the building on the south side of the complex which was once a book store. Discussions will determine if there is enough interest to have a Senior Citizen Center at that location.

ICE RINK OPEN

The frigid weather has brought at least one benefit to DeWitt - the Bridge Street ice rink across from Riverside Park is now open to the public for skating.

Parks and Recreation Director Diane Szewczyk, in making the announcement, says that the DeWitt Fire Department made the ice rink and the Department of Public Works now maintains it.

The rink, located south of Looking Glass River on the west side of Bridge Street, is lighted for skating at night.

There is this to be said for a world crisis: We learn a lot of geo-

Peiffer Wins College Meet

Doug Peiffer has continued his winning ways in wrestling since leaving DeWitt High School. A junior at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Doug won a first place medal in the six-school invitational which Siena hosted the weekend of January 19.



DOUG PEIFFER

Peiffer pinned his first two opponents in the 190 lb. class, one in 1:02 and won a 10-5 decision in the final match of the invitational. Participating schools were Oakland University, University of Dayton, Defiance College, Findlay College and Heidelberg College.

The son of Terry and Marie Peiffer, Luroma Circle, Doug graduated from DeWitt in 1982. During his high school wrestling career, he was state champion in junior

FOLLIES TO HOLD FEBRUARY TRYOUTS

"What Color is Music?" is to be the theme of the 1985 spring DeWitt Follies set for Friday, Saturday, March 22-23 in DHS auditorium. Director Ruth Ueberroth invites prospective participants to follow the color theme - i.e. Tie a Yellow Ribbon on the Old Oak Tree, My Blue Heaven, The Green Green Grass of Home, Deep Purple, I Dream of Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair - in their musical selections for the program.

The possibilities are endless. You can probably think of a dozen more titles in every type of music from jazz to rock to classical without half trying. Adult performers are encouraged to show off their talents, Ueberroth says, and all ages are welcome.

Tryouts will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 11-12-13. Please mark off the dates on your calendar if you would like to be in the follies. The first evening of tryouts will be reserved for elementary and middle school performers, with February 12-13 for high school and adults.

DeWitt Booster Club is again sponsoring the popular follies. Connie Toune is to be assistant director and Jim Ryan will serve as emcee. Terry Gartside will present an organ prelude to the program; Sandy Rich is handling tickets.

Some 30 acts were presented last year in a fast-paced two hour show. Single, duet or group acts are welcome and Director Ueberroth will be happy to assist you with planning any acts. She can match up one lone singer or performer with another adult, if that should be requested.

Most of the previous years' stage crew and lighting people will be back, but stage directors are still needed. Anyone who is interested in working on the follies in any area should contact Ruth Ueberroth, 669-9591.

Four high school boys, afflicted with spring fever, skipped morning classes. After lunch, they reported to the teacher that their car had a

Road, Milbrook Meadows, Evelyn Cutler and Viewcrest subdivisions, according to Chief Wendell Myers.

A meeting will be held Thursday, February 7 at 7 p.m. to acquaint everyone with facts on

street are welcome to attend. Questions or suggestions may be called in to police department secretary Marjean Pelkey, 669-2821.

lighted for skating at night.

There is this to be said for a world crisis: We learn a lot of geography. - Roger Allen

PRAIRIE CREEK HAS INTERESTING HISTORY



Exterior of clubhouse in August

The DeWitt Development Corporation, a local organization, had its beginning in 1971, when ten local persons decided they would like to build a golf course in DeWitt. Interest was high and the original ten quickly expanded to 25 persons. Del Rose was approached about the Rose farm property (ultimate site of the golf course and several housing developments on surrounding land). The DeWitt Development Corporation purchased the property totaling 249 acres, in 1971.

After the land purchase, a feasibility study was conducted by a firm which confirmed that it was an excellent site for a golf course. The course itself was designed by William Newcomb and Associates of Ann Arbor. (this firm also designed Boyne Mountain's Alpine Course and 18 holes of the Boyne Highlands' courses). Next, the City Council of DeWitt was approached for the zoning changes required.

Marie Peiffer, Luroma Circle, Doug graduated from DeWitt in 1982. During his high school wrestling career, he was state champion in junior and senior years at 105 and 126 pound respectively. He was awarded a wrestling scholarship to Siena Heights, where he is now majoring in computer science.

Ruth Geperroth, 669-3391.

Four high school boys, afflicted with spring fever, skipped morning classes. After lunch, they reported to the teacher that their car had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test this morning, so take seats apart from one another and get out your notebooks."

Still smiling, she waited for them to settle down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"



Grand Opening in early December

In 1975, a group named Joty Corporation approached DeWitt City Council, stating that they were interested in building a bowling alley and ice skating rink in DeWitt. The council expressed a preference for seeing the golf course developed; as a result, Joty Corporation leased the land from DeWitt Development Corporation in 1975 to develop the golf course.

The front nine was built and opened for play in 1979. In 1981, Joty Corporation was bought out by a new corporation, Prairie Creek Golf Course, Inc. and this corporation built the back nine which opened for play in 1983.

In addition, Prairie Creek Golf Course, Inc. built the clubhouse, banquet facilities and lounge which opened December 2, 1984. The current owners are Dee Hamilton, president; Roger Overway, secretary, John Hiatt, treasurer and Don Seyfried and Russ Thornton, directors.

The caterer is Matt Purves, formerly of Country House Catering in Okemos. Buffets are currently offered on Friday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. and on Sundays from 10 a.m. til 2 p.m. The lounge facilities opened on a daily basis January 15. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Monday.

The DeWitt Development Corporation which now consists of 23 members continues to develop remaining corporation land.

* * * * *

"Get-well cards have become so humorous that if you don't get sick you're missing half the fun." - Earl Wilson