

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BOX E FILE 7s

Gift Offer

Brings

\$\$\$ Problem

FAYE HANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
DEWITT, IOWA

Journal Clinton Bureau

DeWITT — The DeWitt Bicentennial Commission has been offered what most every historic group dreams of — an old building that would make an ideal museum. And — for free.

BUT, there is a catch.

The building must be moved, preferably by the end of the year.

Faye Hanson, Bicentennial Commission chairman, has told the city council Dr. Frederick Smith is building a new office and he is willing to give her group his present building because he wants to convert the space to parking.

The building was erected about 1840, she said, as a home. It is structurally sound and it "has not been cut up too badly" by its recent use as an office.

SHE ESTIMATED it would cost about \$6,000 to move the building and construct a new foundation for it.

"I'll put in the first \$100," she said, add-

ing that her group is certain it can raise the money.

"But, we don't have a site — and, we cannot afford to buy land," she said.

HER REQUEST was that the council allow the building to be placed in the city park. She said there would be no cost to the city, except for sewer and water hookup.

Mrs. Hanson said that if the Bicentennial Commission can convert the old building into a museum the group will incorporate and become a permanent organization when the bicentennial year ends next year.

"We could incorporate as a DeWitt area historical society," she said.

THE REORGANIZED group would then take over responsibility for the museum, including expenses, she said.

Commissioners seemed interested, but they said the proposal needs further study.

They told Mrs. Hanson to go ahead with plans to gather more information and indicated they would take formal action in the near future.

FRED SMITH OFFICE

Land sold to Hiram Stowell, first Judge of Probate of Clinton Co., in 1842 by Capt. David Scott for \$50.00. Stowell sold the land in 1847 for \$1,200. so house was probably built in 1842-43.

Have contacted Williams Movers, R#1 S. Bagley Rd., Ashley, phone 838 2526 or 838 2602. He was here and looked at building and said he would move for under \$2,000.00, this was to McGuire Park.

Tom Miller of Consumers Power Company was here and said they could move the electric lines for under \$300.00.

Ron Mull said he would construct a foundation with volunteer labor for about \$600.00.

Have not contacted General Telephone Co., Consumer's man said it costs about \$1,000.00 every time a cable has to be cut.

Committee:

Dan Matson
Ralph Woodruff
Bill Elliott
Edgar Lawrence
Ron Mull
Frank Deak

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BOX E FILE 71
FAYE HANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
DEWITT, MICHIGAN 48820

Special meeting - Monday, Oct. 14 - Library

Present:

Ron Mull
Ralph Woodruff
Edgar Lawrence
Marilyn Cain
Bill Elliott
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Smith

Discussing a possible site for the building donated by the Smiths.

1. Mc Gare Park on Flood Plane
2. Franciscan Fathers - Uncertain
3. Keibler property is desirable next to Municipal buildings

Ralph Woodruff and Edgar spent Mon forenoon cruising the area and inquiring about possible locations. Nothing tangible yet.

Dr. & Mrs. Smith stated the building would be have to be removed by Nov. 15.

Discussing the Keibler property further, it was decided this was the best possibility so Dr. & Mrs. Smith were going over yet this night and plant the seed, to be followed up by Ralph & Edgar tomorrow for an acre of land, hopefully donated to the city of DeWitt.

Oct 15, 1975

Ralph Woodruff contacted the Leiblers and there is no possible way to acquire any portion of that land, so having nothing else to offer the Committee, the meeting scheduled for Thursday night is cancelled.

DEWITT BI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

DeWitt, Michigan 48820

October 24, 1975

Dear Dr. Smith;

In behalf of the DeWitt Bi-Centennial Commission, we wish to thank you for the generous offer of your office building to the city for a museum.

Because we were unable to come up with a suitable site we will have to decline the offer.

We are sorry that this fine old building must be destroyed, but there is no way we could get a site and have the building moved to it by November 15th.

The Bi-Centennial Commission
The Bi-Centennial Commission

Secretary

FAYE HANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY
DEWITT, MICHIGAN 48820

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BOX E FILE 7D