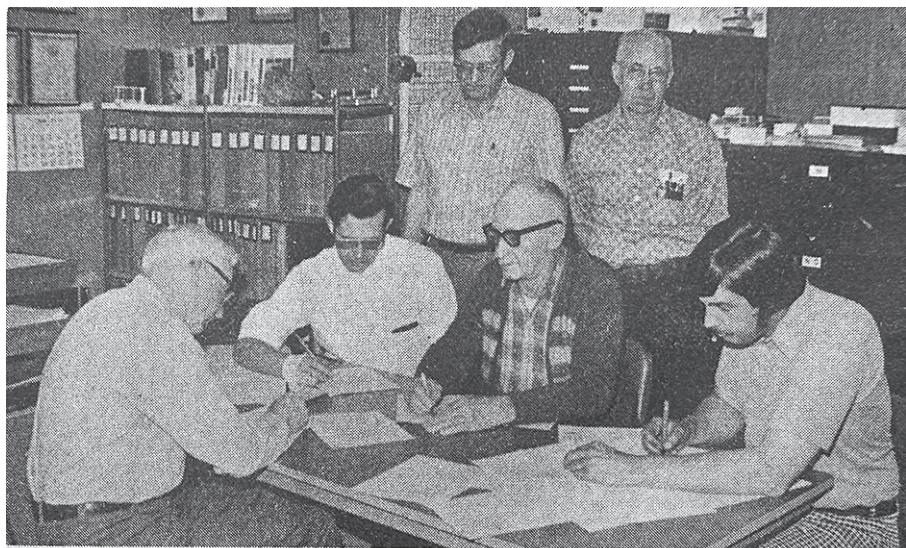


TWICE TOLD TALES



50 YEARS AGO: The sponsors of the Little River Watershed met at the Soil Conservation Office, April 28 for the purpose of signing the agreement to the Work Plan for the watershed. Sponsors signing were Soil Conservation District, Board of Supervisors, County Conservation Board, Cities of Leon and Decatur. This was the final step before the Work Plan went to Washington, D.C. Signing were (seated) Lee Hewlett, Board of Supervisor; Phil Metcalf, Decatur County Conservation Board; Lloyd Howell, mayor; Decatur City; Harry Graves, RC & D member. Standing, Harvey Campbell and Vere Dale, supervisors.

20 YEARS AGO (May 3, 2006)

Dee Lukenbill was pictured with the \$20,000 and a 1956 Ford Thunderbird the Decatur County Hospital had won, after Lukenbill entered a contest on behalf of the Decatur County Hospital. Thad Larsen (husband of Judy Miller of Leon), senior product manager of Quill Corporation, presented Dee with the keys and check.

Darrell Johnston, a graduating senior of Central Decatur High School and son of Jim and Mary Johnston of Leon, was accepted to go with Teen Missions to Australia. The team of 30 teens with leaders was using their specialized training in drama to reach out in God's love to the people in Western Australia as they gave gospel presentations in schools, churches, kids' clubs and parks.

An Open House was held at Don's Woodworking and Crafts, located 2 1/2 miles east of Leon on Highway 2 and 2 1/2 miles south on Lineville Road, then 1/4 mile east on 230th Street at 27154.

A Card Shower was held for Doyle Martin of rural Leon, for his 75th birthday.

Members of ROCCS (Restoring Our County, Commu-

nities, and Schools) donated some of their granting funds and proceeds from their fundraiser dance to support the Decatur County Hospital and food pantries. Funds were used to continue the Boo Boo Bag project providing care packages of crayons, coloring books, games and toys to children staying at the hospital. Additional funds were used to purchase non-perishable food items for the Leon and Lamoni food pantries.

CD Senior spotlights were Shawnie Marie Noel, daughter of David and Wanda (Noel) Robinson and Ransom James Whitham, the son of Jim and Tina Jensen.

50 YEARS AGO (May 6, 1976)

Max Ellis, John Burton and Miles Judd, county employees were pictured in the courthouse yard placing the Statue of Liberty back on its pedestal. The Statue had been removed for cleaning and repair for the re-dedication ceremony.

Charles Barker, Don Forman (Central Decatur), Bill Hullinger (Grand Valley); C.J. Helin, Wyatt Hoover and Lowell McGahuey (Mormon Trail) were among 40 principals and superintendents from Area XIV who attended a work shop in

Creston on improving management skills.

The Decatur County Democratic Central Committee met at the courthouse with Bill Russell as chairman. The following committee was elected: Bob Smith and Madoline LaFollette, Center; Mary Jean Heintz, Grand River; Joy Helton and Bob Leeper, Hamilton and Mike Courtney from Leon II. The decision was made to have four "meet-the-candidates" nights in Leon, Lamoni, Grand River and Garden Grove.

U.S. Congressman Tom Harkin co-sponsored a bill in congress that was to preserve small town postal services and at the same time allow the Postal Service to trim its operating deficit.

Glen Manchester of Davis City received his Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from Lubbock Christian College.

Leon Girl Scout Troop 469 planted a tree on the east side of the courthouse. This was part of a county wide program.

Winners of a drawing at Grahams for Mojudo hosery were Myrtle Coy, Julie Hughes, Mary Leonard, Ruth Wooderson, Melba Purdun, Elizabeth Maasen, Louise Redman, Myra Parkhurst and Sheila Andrew.

75 YEARS AGO (May 3, 1951)

The Leon high school marching band, under the direction of L.V. Foley won first place at the Drake Relays in Des Moines. The Leon band was in competition with twenty-six other bands from various places in the state. According to several from Leon who viewed the parade, the Leon band was peppier, they marched better, they played better and they were in perfect dress compared with competing bands. Gordon Bird, director of the Drake University

Leon Chamber Member Business of the Week



E&M Auto AC Trailers, LLC is steadily building its presence in Leon, offering affordable vehicles and hands-on service to area residents.

Owned by Eli and Megan Smith, the business opened a couple years ago and is located at 1403 S. Main St. Specializing in buying, repairing and selling used vehicles. Their inventory, typically priced from \$3,000 to \$10,000, meets the needs of local drivers, and they also offer trailers for sale. All repairs and

sales are handled by the owners themselves, emphasizing a personal, hardworking approach.

The Smiths chose to operate in the Leon area to serve a regional market that values reliability and affordability. Their business supports the community by providing accessible transportation options and honest service, helping residents stay mobile without leaving the area.

What sets E&M Auto apart is its hands-on model. By managing every step of the process, the Smiths

maintain quality and build direct relationships with customers. A Chamber Coffee event about a year ago welcomed them to the community and highlighted their commitment to connecting with local residents.

Looking ahead, the Smiths continue to work to expand their services based on their customer needs. While based in Leon, they remain connected to the broader Decatur County area, where they live and raise their family.

As their business grows, E&M Auto continues to focus on practical service and strong community ties.

Leon Chamber Member Business of the Week

Leon Golf & Country Club

The Leon Golf & Country Club continues to serve as a longstanding hub for recreation and community connection in Decatur County.

Established in 1958, the club offers opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy golf in a welcoming setting. Membership options include full, student and social tiers, along with day-use access for occasional players. Beyond the course, the clubhouse features a full kitchen and bar and is available for events of various sizes, making it a versatile gathering space.

The club's pres-

ence in Leon reflects a commitment to providing accessible recreation in a rural community. Members and guests benefit from affordable green fees, rental equipment and a friendly atmosphere. The facility also supports local engagement by hosting events such as a high school golf invitationals as well as state-qualifying cross country meets in the past years.

What sets the Leon Golf & Country Club apart is its strong sense of community ownership. Ongoing improvements — including new lighting, updated tee markers and additional amenities like a slushie

machine — demonstrate continued investment by dedicated members.

Club representatives note that the most rewarding aspect is seeing families and individuals come together to enjoy the course and clubhouse. Positive feedback from visitors reinforces the club's reputation as a welcoming destination.

Looking ahead, the club plans to continue enhancing its facilities and expanding its role as a community gathering place. With steady support from local members, the Leon Golf & Country Club remains a place where recreation and connection go hand in hand.

band presented Leon with the first place trophy. Second place went to West Des Moines high school.

Five hundred eighty-one pupils of Decatur County were regularly transported to schools during the school years according to Walter Petty, county superintendent of schools. The average cost per pupil was \$67.61 for the years. The total cost of the transportation program of the county year was \$31,179.14.

Rev. E.J. Harkin reported a total of \$1507.54 was collected for the American Red Cross.

Marshall Warren, owner of the Leon Concrete and Building Supply set up machinery for ready-mix for small jobs. He had a two-yard mixer.

Thirteen rural schools journeyed to Van Wert to participate in the sixth annual grade field day sponsored by the seniors of Van Wert high school. All of the rural schools in the county were invited to attend. In

spite of the early morning rain, the field was dry by noon and 201 pupils began competing. At 2:00 a torrential rain fell. Everyone rushed to the school house. The rural standings at that time were Center school, first; East Eden, second;

PopCorn, third. At a dinner meeting of the Leon Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) held in the Decatur County State Bank club rooms, hosted by Pauline Warren and

(continued on page 12)



MAY Drink Specials

- Churro Breve
- Banana Foster Latte
- Dubai Chocolate Mocha
- Strawberry Shortcake White Chocolate Mocha

Sip Into Something Sweet

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5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

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