

Decatur Daily Review

Local Report

Trinity must seek own moving money

By Al Miller

Representatives of Trinity CME Church were told today that any fund-raising effort to move the church would be the church's responsibility.

"We'll do anything we can to help, but fund raising is your job because it's your church," said Dick Westbrook, chairman of the Decatur Historical and Architectural Sites Commission.

Commission members told the church representatives they had made inquiries with the Archer Daniels Midland and Caterpillar foundations to see if funds were available to aid in moving the church. Both foundations indicated they would be interested in such a project if community-wide interest was shown.

The church building at 345 N. Jackson St. must be moved or razed sometime this month to make way for a parking lot for the Decatur Civic Center.

Al Dobbins, a church representative, suggested a citywide "Trinity Day" to encourage churches throughout Decatur to help Trinity CME raise the \$200,000 estimated cost to move the building.

Such a day would help determine whether there is community support for the project, Dobbins said.

The commission said it would support Dobbins' effort to get other churches' aid but it could do nothing more.

Commission members also have

asked the Historical Sites Division of the Illinois Department of Conservation about availability of funds to move the building. However, a department official said she knew of no governmental funding sources.

The short amount of time available in which to secure the funds would make it difficult to obtain federal aid, she said.

Members of the Decatur Civic Center Board told Westbrook only a small amount of the funds earmarked for demolition of the church could be used to move it.

Local Report Continues...

The U.S. 51 freeway remains in question as the Illinois General Assembly flounders with the state's road building programPAGE 29

Racing bathtubs? That's right. It happened Wednesday during Fourth of July activities in Decatur.....PAGE 30