

125 Year Anniversary Edition

Brighton

1869 - 1994

News.



View of School Building from Northwest.

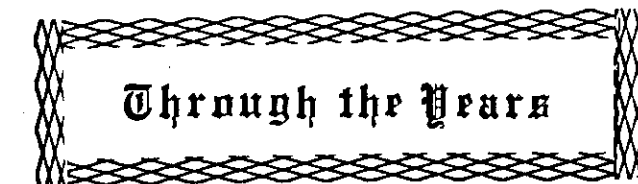
1904

THE DODGE SCHOOL

FOR CORRECTING ALL DEFECTS OF SPEECH
STAMMERING, STUTTERING,
HESITATING, ETC. : : : : :

The only Institution of its kind in the U. S. where the stammerer is received,
cured, boarded, and is asked to pay nothing unless satisfied with his cure. &

Brighton's
125th. Anniversary
1869 - 1994
First Edition



BRIGHTON HERITAGE GROUP

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Luella Cravens, Vice Pres.
Virginia Dawdy, Secty.
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THROUGH THE YEARS

By June Wilderman

This is the 125th anniversary of Brighton's incorporation and we felt that it was appropriate for the Brighton Heritage Group to print some kind of written document to commemorate that important occasion.

We've tried to condense some of the history of Brighton, mixed with advertisements from old newspapers. One of the newspapers was 1887. Also mixed in with the ads are a few pictures. On the ads are printed the dates they appeared. We think you will find them interesting.

The history has been gathered from old papers, books, letters, personal interviews etc., but a great deal has been from Martha Bentley Hart's book "There the Heart Is".

Some time ago she told me that she didn't mind me using any of the information, as long as it stated where it came from. We have her to thank for all the years of research, and all of the important information she found. With out her book, much of the history of Brighton would be lost.

We now have a Museum to hold some of the very history that she tells about. For that reason this book is dedicated to her. She has helped us a lot over the last few years.

In the back of the book are ads paid for by those interested in supporting our Museum. It will help pay for our printing and we appreciate their support.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us in any way in creating the Museum and for supporting it.

All of the proceeds of this book will go to the Museum.

All of Dr. D. Jayne's Family Medicines are sold here.

LOVELAND & GRANDALL,

Brighton, Ills. 1860

WHO HAVE JUST PURCHASED IN PHILADELPHIA & NEW YORK
a new and extensive stock of goods, consisting of

STAPLE & FANCY DRY GOODS

Of the finest and newest styles. Also, a large assortment of

Family Groceries, Drugs, Medicines, Hardware

QUEENSWARE, DYE-STUFFS,
Woodenware, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Ready-Made Clothing,
UMBRELLAS, PARASOLS, NAILS,

And in fact, most articles usually kept in country stores, all of which have been carefully selected and will be sold at fair and regular prices.

The oldest house and the only
strictly Dry Goods Store in town.

MERRILL AND CHASE

Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, and
Shoes, Hats and caps
Goods first class and prices low
All Goods guaranteed

1887

1887

Items from our Town

*There's a spirit among us
taking notes, and faith, he'll
hint 'em.*

- 17 days till 1888.
- 11 days till Christmas.
- The roads are very bad.
- Nice dolls at Froelich's.
- Toilet cases at Froelich's.
- Autographs at Froelich's.
- Plush albums at Froelich's.
- Read our Christmas poem.
- Drama, Friday, Dec. 30th.
- Hats and caps. at Butler's.
- 120 new subscribers this fall.
- Brighton never had a cyclone.
- Brighton has six mails per day.
- The Masens meet once a month.
- Sour Krout, at Keas & Gillham's.
- New lamps, at Keas & Gillham's.
- Ask for the Black Spanish Cigar.
- Elastic starch, at Dickerson & Son's.
- Mince meat, at Keas & Gillham's.
- Good brooms only 20c, at Butler's.
- Read Mr. Amass' article on finance.
- Al. Whitfield was in town yesterday.
- Wool blankets at Keas & Gillham's.
- Fine woolovershirts. Merrill & Chase.
- Prices reduced on coffees at Butler's.
- Extra fine fancy candy at Froelich's.
- Boys' knit caps only 35c, at Butler's.
- This office will soon have a type writer.
- M. E. sociable at the Parsonage to night.
- Boon's eye hominy, at Dickerson & Son's.
- Toys and other holiday good, at Butler's.
- The Odd Fellows meet once in two weeks.
- Rev. Harry Smith will preach at the Presbyterian church next Sunday morning.

I. Elworthy,

MERCHANT TAILOR.

A Practical Cutter and Fitter.
All Work Guaranteed.
Patronage Solicited
Shop, One door east of the mill.
Brighton, 1887

IN THE BEGINNING

Back in the days when buffalo roamed the prairies and Indians crept silently through the tall Prairie grass, this area was part of a vast stretch of land, with very little activity. Then in the year 1826, things began to change. Our Governor was Edward Cole and our President was Thomas Jefferson. Suddenly in February of that year there was the sound of trees falling and a cabin was in the making. Oliver Brown with the help of his nephew, William Cowan, was making his home in the area that is now Betsey Ann Park. In fact it was where the band stand is now located. This was Brighton's beginning, but it still had a ways to go.

After Oliver, others started to arrive including another nephew of Oliver's, Michael Brown, and it became known as a little settlement on Brown's Prairie. In 1829, Oliver went to Madison county and filed on his land. Before that he had squatters rights. As more families moved here, there became a need for a school and Oliver made his smoke house available for that. Charlotte Sherman was the first school teacher. They also had a need for a Meeting House, for religious purposes. They had been meeting in the homes. Then in 1836, a building was erected. It stood where the north parking lot of the Municipal Building is located. It actually was the Methodist Meeting House. Of course it was used for many things, including at one time a school. The Baptist church was built up in the area of Schneider Park. It was the first church edifice built here. Later the church was moved to a lot across from where the Catholic Church is now. A little log cabin church, in Asbury Cemetery north of town, was built by the Andrews and the Miles. Alex Miles was a Methodist circuit rider. Asbury is one of our oldest cemeteries.

By now Palmer House was established, it and Hill House were very busy as stage stops. In the area of Schneider Park, Nathan Scarritt built a store and in it put a post office. Daniel Blodget was the first Postmaster at a salary of \$6.00 a year.

South of Brown's Prairie was Scarritt's Prairie and a little later just north was Simmon's Prairie. Medora was then called Rhoads Point and Piasa was Mt. Pleasant. By this time more families had moved here, some because of the high water in Alton. Some of the families were the Browns, Pincards, Griggs, Blodgets, Jones, Barbers, Chases, Palmers, Martins, Hilliards, Gilsons, Lovelands, Miles, Andrews, Clarks, Johnsons to name a few.

Oliver Brown had started a peach orchard and Amos Hilliard had an apple orchard. As more families made their home here, Oliver though maybe he should lay out a town, since he was the one with so much land. Before he could do it, a group of men got together and offered to buy 40 acres from him for the same purpose. He agreed and in 1836, they laid out a town and called it Bristol. It started near where Vine Street is now and went south where our business section is located. These men had heard that the Terre Haute R.R. was coming through Brighton and they thought it would be a good investment. Herman Griggs heard about it too and he laid out a town just a short distance north of Bristol and named it Brighton. The lots in both towns were auctioned off the same day. It was a good idea, but it didn't work because the Terre Haute R.R. fell through with and the lots weren't selling. Those in the Bristol area eventually sold their whole plot of land to Mr. Gilson. Since a store and a Post Office were built in the part called Brighton in 1837 and the fact that there was already a Bristol in Illinois, the little town of Bristol was doomed and the two were merged

1887

F. W. FRÖELICH

has a large and fine lot of

HOLIDAY GOODS

Choice groceries, dried fruit, fine candies, cigars, tobacco and notions, fresh bread, cake and pies always on hand.

1887

**NEW MILLINERY
EMPORIUM,**

At Fröelich' Old Stand.

Mrs. C. J. Flanagan & Daughter,

Respectfully invite ladies of Brighton and vicinity, to examine their new and fresh stock of Millinery and Notions.

Stamping neatly done.

Cash Paid for
Hides & Pelts.

1887

PHILLIP LAUCK.

DEALER IN
—FRESH CUT AND SALTEMENTS—
SAUSAGE, ETC.
BRIGHTON, ILLINOIS

You Havn't Time.

To wade through a lot of useless reading matter, so we will just ask you to call at our store, and convince yourself that we will sell you

1887

Groceries,

Hardware.

Provisions,

Notions, etc.

Just as cheap as any one.

French & Bean.

1887

NEW BAND INSTRUMENTS HERE.

The much talked of and much looked for band instruments arrived from Grand Rapids, Mich., last Thursday morning and in the evening at the regular band practice hour they were distributed. They are here on ten days trial and if accepted the money, nearly eleven hundred dollars, is ready for them. Of this amount the band is allowed over three hundred dollars for their old instruments. Concerts will start in a few weeks, probably the first Saturday in June. The instruments are well liked by the boys and are certainly something Brighton has never had before. Just think of two big bass horns costing \$135 apiece and 4 cornets at \$60 per, 4 Buffet clarinets, the best on earth, at \$45 per and the others just as good and you will then realize a little just what your old town has.

1917

YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE TO RIDE IN It.

Hunt & Robings have purchased a new hearse, the same arriving via boat to Alton Saturday evening. Its a dandy and you'll have to die to ride in it. The old one will remain in their possession in case of necessity, so if you are getting ready to go why don't be afraid that you won't be taken care of. The old one is at Jule's stable and the small boys stay shy of that habitation after dark.

into one town. From then on the little village had it's up and downs but still managed to exist.

At first there was just the Methodist Meeting House and the Baptist Churches and then in 1847 the Presbyterians built a small brick church just south of where the present one stands. The cemetery that was started around the little Baptist Church was our first city cemetery. It later was used as the Black Cemetery after our present one was started.

Actually the ones who were responsible for spreading religion through the new country were the Methodist Circuit Preachers. Peter Cartright was over the district that included our little settlement. He was one of the "hell and brimstone" preachers. He preached in the little Methodist Meeting House using a pulpit that still exists and now belongs to the St. Paul Methodist Church. Alex Miles was the Circuit Preacher I mentioned before. He lived just north of the Asbury Cemetery. We have in our Museum the Bible that was used in the log church and also the Bible that Alex took with him on his Circuit. It's dated 1834. When I was young the little log building was still there at Asbury but it was used as a corn crib.

The early business's that they had were mostly in the original part of Brighton. Mr. Griggs had a store in the front of his home where Robings Manor now stands. There was a store in a building where the Catholic Church was finally located and there was a small store on North Main where the Stanley's live now.

In 1847, Dr. Thomas Brown, moved into the community. He was a man who was to make an important mark in history. Besides being a Doctor he was a great humanitarian and was to prove it time and time again. Since we lived so close to the slave states there was much activity with slaves trying to make their way to Canada. Dr. Brown's home became one of the main depots on the Underground Railroad. His house stood on the corner of Brown and School Street and is still there. The slaves would come up through Brown's woods to the Doctor's house and he would hide them in the attic. His little daughter would climb the stairs and read Bible stories to them. The slaves were then taken to Hill House in the night and then on up to Palmer House. Some say there was a tunnel from Hill House up to Palmer House, but I'm a little skeptical of that. Any way they were then taken to a home north of Brighton owned by John Hart. He would take them on to Carlinville where with the help of others they would hopefully get to Canada. That is if everything went as planned. These men did this at the risk to themselves and their families. It was against the law to be found with a slave. They had to be very careful because even in this small town there were southern sympathizers who would turn them in.

By 1851 the event happened that was the salvation of the town. The Chicago and Alton R.R. was built through our village. The first train went through in 1852 and made all things possible.

Mr. Griggs built a steam mill on the corner of Center and Main and Col. Miles already had a mill in Miles Station, which was called Providence at that time.

In 1853 the Methodist had built their little soft brick church on the site of the present one. By 1854 they had sold their little Meeting House on South Main and oddly enough the deed still said that it was located in the village of Bristol. So I suppose that part of town was called Bristol for some time.

In 1857 the Country Store was built and the main part of town began moving down towards the R.R. tracks. The buildings on the west side of Main Street were built and Daniel Blodget ran a Grocery Store and Post Office

GEO. A KEAS.

1887

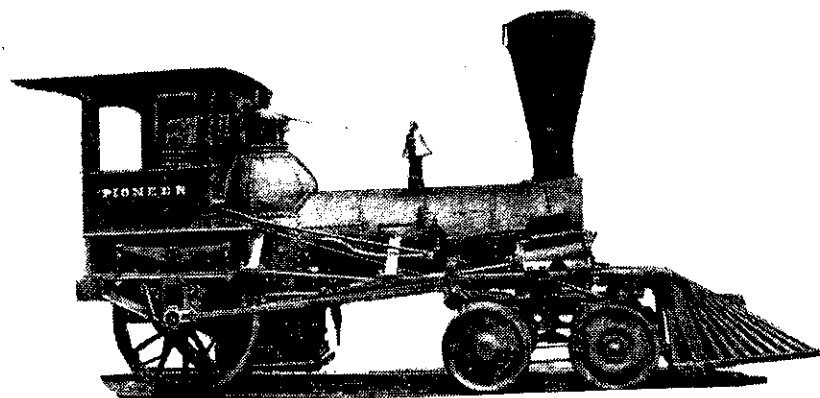
WM. I. GILLHAM.

KEAS & GILLHAM.

Dealers in

Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Hardware, Tin
Ware, Wooden and Willow Ware.**HATS, CAPS, BOOTS and
SHOES, A SPECIALTY.**Goods sold at lowest prices for cash, or
country produce.

William Brandt's Cooperage, 1871. George Hillard shipped
his cider in these barrels, the Old Mill, its flour and
Bruno Franz, his apples.



First Engine to Run Over the Burlington

1907

JOHN C. HEYER,**Custom Grist Mill.**Prices Right. Satisfaction
Guaranteed.**BRIGHTON, ILL.**

1887

When in Want of any Goods,
call on**C. W. HEIDEMANN**

Dealer in Genera Mdse.

CLOTHING, BOOTS & SHOES
a Speciaty.

1907

Mrs. Rosa Isenberg

- DEALER IN -

Dry Goods, Groceries,

Boots and Shoes,

and a complete stock of

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

there. Taylor Chase was the Postmaster. Mr. Waldo and Mr. Stratton had businesses there and later the News Office was located upstairs. These were the buildings that were located where the Laundramat is now. These buildings were at a later time destroyed by fire but were rebuilt.

Mr. H.C. Clark went to California during the gold rush and when he came back he built his home on the north edge of town (Heather Farm). By this time more of the beautiful homes were being built, Dr. Johnson's (Day Care Center), the Humes (Buscher's), Taylor Chase's, Hilliard's, the Gilson's, Albro-Butler's (Schneider), and Andrews. There were a number of other homes also built, so we were becoming a growing community. Mr. Alfred Gifford built the four houses that had cupolas. Later his son was a doctor here in town.

In the begining, Brighton was all English and in the early 1850's, there was an influx of German immigrants that moved into the area. Some of them bought farms west of town. They needed money to pay for those farms so they got jobs on the R. R. They cut ties, cut firewood and worked on the section gangs.

They were not warmly welcomed by the English settlers. They tried every way they could think of to get rid of them. Some of the Germans opened saloons and the English were horrified. They had a strong Temperance Society here in town.

Over the years I had understood that a man named Gottlieb Lippoldt was the main one in the incident with Lincoln, but just recently I learned that there were two Gottlieb's. There was Gottlieb Lippoldt and Johann Gottlieb Oertel.

During the Panic of 1857, the country was in a financial crisis and the railroads were not paying their workers. Since most of them were the German immigrants, the English stopped their credit in the stores. They finally told them that the only way to get their money was to stop one of the trains. By then the Germans were in a frenzy and not knowing what else to do they did stop a train. Unfortunately it was a mail train and the U.S. Marshalls were sent for. Even though the men hid, they were finally rounded up and taken to Springfield to jail. In Springfield Gottlieb Oertel was able to get away from the marshall. He was the only one who could speak english. He had \$10 in gold with him, so he bought a suit for \$5 and went to find a lawyer. He went to the firm of Lincoln and Herndon and hired Abraham Lincoln. When Mr. Oertel told him what had happened, he was very upset with the R.R. and he told the men to go home, he would take care of it. Gottlieb paid Lincoln \$5.00. They took the train home and when it stopped at Carlinville, they got off. Gottlieb's great grandson, Leland Oertel, told me that he though that because most of them couldn't speak or read any thing but German, they just got off at the wrong place. Anyway they decided to celebrate and when they ran out of money they had to walk back to Brighton. When Mr. Lincoln became president and needed volunteers for the Civil War, these men were so grateful to him that they were among the first to enlist. Gottlieb's home he built west of town is still there and is lived in by his great great grandson, Frank, and his family. They have managed to keep much of the original building, with a few additions, but touring it you can tell that over the years the Oertel Family has taken very good care of it. You can see Johann Gottlieb Oertel's initials, JGO, on one of the doors in the kitchen. He put them there himself. Frank's children, Jason and Jennie, are the sixth generation of Oertels to have lived there. Three generations still work on the farm.



The First Postoffice, 1837



Daniel Blodgett, the First Postmaster, appointed on March 11, 1837

1887
New Butcher Shop.
BRUNO FRANZ

Will supply you with



Fresh cut and salt
MEATS.

WHEAT WANTED!

1887

Having taken charge of the financial department of the

Brighton ROLLER Mills

We will pay the **HIGHEST** market price for milling wheat.

Choice Family Flour always on hand.

AMASS & BROWN.



Dr. Thomas Allen Brown, an Underground Railroad Station (Alma Roettgers)



The First Blacksmith Shop, about 1849. William Sarius, assisted by his sons, William Jr. and Gustav. (tintype)

Some of the German families built log cabins on the East side of town, along what is now Seminary. There were the Jacobi's (Jacoby), the Hanold's, the Kramer's, and the Demler's to name a few.

The German saloons still were causing a lot of problem for the Good Templars, just by being there. At one time they went into the saloons and confiscated their liquor. They threw it into the streets and for a number of years there were no saloons in Brighton. So you can see that the Germans had a pretty hard time here. Many of them finally moved into the south part of Brighton and called it Jug Town. They had their own little village there. There were several saloons and Mr. Tilghman had his brick yard and also Mr. Paddock had a brick yard. There was a blacksmith and a German Presbyterian Church. The church was blown down in a bad wind storm and was not rebuilt. Some of the members built the German Methodist Church (Bramley's house) and later some of them went to the St. John's Evangelical, founded in 1870. Bott Cemetery is the burial place for many of the German families.

Brighton was greatly effected by the Civil War. Many of the young men that left to fight joined the 27th Infantry or the 122nd. The principal of the school, Mr. Gooding enlisted with the boys in the class going with him. Of those who left to fight most of them came back. George Finch and Samuel Peter were killed at Parker's Crossing by the same shell and when their remains were brought back to Brighton, they were buried in a common grave. John Eberman died in Andersonville Prison and Mr. James Palmer drove a wagon down to bring back his son, Jame's, body. I'm sure there were others that we have not named, but they all honored the town of Brighton.

Since we lived so close to the slave states many refugees filtered in and the town was very busy. There were many rumors saying that because of importance of the Underground R.R. here that the slave owners of Missouri planned to come to Brighton and burn the town. A wagon shop did burn, which fueled the rumors but it was mostly just talk.

In 1863 a harness race track was built on the north corner of Main Street and Bunker Hill Road. It was built in that field just as you turn to go to North Grade School. It was at the same time that De Kalb and Decatur got their race tracks. In later years when that field was being plowed, they ran into some tiles and did not know why they were put there. They finally learned that they were put there when the race track was built.

Around 1868, the town learned that another R.R. was coming this way, the Burlington. They were outraged when they learned that it was to cross at Miles Station instead of Brighton. They promised to pay the R.R. \$25,000 to put the crossing in Brighton. They thought it would bring more business into town. Well it worked, the crossing was put through Brighton, but it didn't help business. In fact, it made it worse. Little towns sprung up around the track taking business away from Brighton. When it came time to pay the money to the R.R., the town said, "No", because the R.R. had not built the repair shop and other building here in town like they promised. It was taken to court and Brighton ended up paying three times as much over the years and it wasn't until 1926 the they finally got out from under the debt.

In May of 1869, our village became incorporated, primarily to control the flow of liquor. By then we had already had our first Drug Store, which was run by Mr. Bean and Mr. Merrill. It only lasted four years and was located just north of where the Mercantile used to be. After the Drug Store it became the City Hall. Next to that was Mr. Palmer's Watch Repair store, and next to that was Mr. George Munday's Grocery and Hardware Store and later

1887
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
For the News,
Most respectfully inscribed to its many friends.

By Mrs. G. G. Reiniger.
A "Christmas Song" was asked by him,
Who publishes our paper,
Thanks to you, sir, if it would gleam,
Fair—as a shining taper,
I'd love to weave a garland bright,
And have it beam with Christmas light.

It is the Holiest day on earth,
That dawns to bless the high and low,
The rich, the poor, yes—all are blessed
With the enquiring glow.
Its bells ring forth all clear and strong,
O'er all the earth o'er right and wrong.

Sweet Christmas bells! enchanting sound,
They raise dull earth to Heaven,
And as they echo round and round,
All thoughtful minds are given
A few bright hours of precious rest,
And many souls are truly blest.

Even when the days are cold and rough,
And the brown earth is clothed in snow;
What a transition then appears
To feel the warm angelic glow
That comes so lovely and so free,
In lighting up the "Christmas tree."

Bright little children all are glad,
They hail the happy day,
When gifts float in so charmingly
In such a mysterious way,
They stop a moment—sweetly pause,
And wonder—it 'tis "Santa Claus".

The manly husband through the year
Of busy earnest life,
At Christmas time is pondering o'er
What will he get for wife,
Something to suit her that she'll prize,
His dearest one beneath the skies.

The patient loving wife so true,
Is arranging too for him
Whose strong right arm is shielding her,
Till life's bright star is dim,
Loves radiant beams o'er their way,
And both get presents Christmas day.

Young manhood too whose heart beats
With hope and prosperous days,
Begins to feel at "Christmas tide"
That this is time to praise
The loved one in a gift so rare,
That it may please the friend so fair.

Sweet girlhood with the sparkling eye,
Enchanting every one,
Is also in an anxious search,
For she has fairly won,
A loving friend and will express,
Thought in her gift his heart to bless.

The aged too whose weary soul
Has lived through many a year,
Still will revive at this bright time,
When from loved friends they hear
In some sweet token, it will lift
Sad hearts to joy—"A Christmas Gift."

Oh glorious is "Christmas tide,"
When earth and heaven meet,
The angels almost seem let down
To bless the hours so sweet,
The soft white whistling of their wings,
Seen almost here 'mong earthly things.

Maple Hill, Brighton Ill., Dec., 1887.

Meredith Wilson's
Grandmother

1911
D. Newton Blodget, President
Established 1868
Edwin Amass, Cashier
Reorganized 1892
BANKING HOUSE
OF
Blodget Bros. & Co.
Brighton, Illinois

This Bank has been directly identified with the
mercantile and financial interests of Brighton for
forty-two years, and with its ample capital, con-
servative management and convenient location, is
equipped to satisfactorily handle new accounts
and to accord them that same courteous attention
which has been a vital factor in its steadfast and
continuous growth.

The Bank That Grew Up With Brighton.

3 per cent allowed on time deposits.



Julius Schmidt Livery Stable, Jule with his Starr car. The cars
eventually crowded out the horses.

HARNESS SHOP.
VISIT
FRED. VOELKEL
FOR
ALL KINDS OF HARNESS.

Repairing of Harness and Shoes, neatly and quickly done.
ALL WORK GUARANTEED.
1912
PUT UP AT THE "HOME HOTEL."
FRED VOELKEL, PROP.

became Martin's Store. On the corner where Brighton Plumbing stands was a large building with a hall upstairs. It was built by Rev. Loveland. He had belonged to the Methodist Church and when they bought an organ he left the church saying it was the sound of the devil. So he built a building and used the upstairs for his Free methodists to meet. He rented the down- stairs to Dr. Dickerson for a Drug Store. Later the upstairs became known as the famous Dickerson Hall that saw entertainment of all kinds including debates, singings, dramas, graduations, dances, etc.

Mr. Stratton and Mr. Amass had opened the first Bank in the little building behind Hill House. They later moved over to the buildings on the East side of Main Street in the part that became a number of other things including Gordon Lampert's Insurance Office. Miss Illa Lynch had her book store where the Auto parts store is now. She had a circulating library, which I guess was our first library.

Michael Brown's son, M. Spenser Brown, organized the Grain Dealers Association which enjoyed state wide success for eight years and two of his brothers, established a grain business and built a warehouse, which still stands along the Rail Road track. Joseph Howell had an Undertaking and Furniture business on Main Street and Gus Sarius had a blacksmith shop where the Bee Hive is located. Sarius Hall was above the shop. Asa Potter was an attorney and the Larue Brothers built the building where the Municipal Building now stands. It was a rooming house, a Temperance Hotel, a saloon and in 1900 it became the Home Hotel.

Mr. Brandt had a cooperage where Sandy's Video Store is now. He manufactured barrels that Mr. Hilliard bought for his apples, cider and flour; Mr. Bruno Franz for his apples; and the Brighton Mill for their flour. In 1869, the Methodist Church in Miles Station was built, and in 1868 the Congregational Church in Brighton was built. It was made up of members that pulled away from the Presbyterian Church. In 1869 the present Presbyterian Church was built and is now the oldest church building in town. It like Brighton celebrates it's 125th anniversary this year.


In 1868 a school was built on the corner of Vine and Main and the students were able to be under one roof and our Mayor was John Ash Sr. By 1869 Our organizations were the O.P. Lovejoy Grand Army of the Republic, the Hibbard Lodge No. 249 A.F. & A.M., and The Brighton Lodge No. 366- Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Our first artist was Henry Boulter, the first pianos were in the Gilson Mansion, Dr. Johnson's beautiful home and in the Hilliard Mansion. Our first music teacher was Mrs. Stall and Mrs. Gilson had the first sewing machine. In 1869, the ladies in Brighton did their first fruit canning in tin cans and sealed them with sealing wax. These are the things that were happening in and around the year 1869.

AFTER OUR INCORPORATION

By 1870 we had our first newspaper with Dr. Meacham the editor. He was the great grandfather of Meredith Wilson, "The Music Man". This is taken from an early book, "The History of Brighton" written in 1875 by Dr. Meacham: "Brighton can boast at this present time of nine stores of goods-- common merchandise, including dry goods and groceries; one hardware store, one stove and tin store, one bakery, one cigar and tobacco store, one news depot, one watch maker and jeweler, three wagon and carriage makers, one household furniture and two agricultural warehouses, three blacksmiths, one photographer, four painters, four grain dealers, four houses of entertainment, three masons, one bank, one hygienic and watercure


1912



An Iron Clad Guarantee

accompanies every purchase of tailored-to-order clothes made from us. Linings are guaranteed to wear for *one year* and coat fronts never to break.

These and other equally strong features insure your entire satisfaction with the clothes tailored to your measure by



whose local agency we have.

The Leader

Brighton, - - Illinois

Railroad Time Card.

CHICAGO & ALTON

SOUTH 1912

No. 15.....9:33 a. m.
No. 3.....4:30 p. m.
*No. 5.....8:41 p. m.

*Stops on Sunday nights only.

NORTH

No. 14.....6:43 a. m.
No. 6.....4:38 p. m.
No. 76.....10:48 p. m.

BURLINGTON

SOUTH

No. 52.....5:13 a. m.
No. 48.....3:41 p. m.

NORTH

No. 47.....9:17 a. m.
No. 51.....10:45 p. m.

THE HUSTLER.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

1907

THE BEST

OF

EVERYTHING.

institution, about a dozen carpenters, one Masonic Lodge, one Odd Fellow's Lodge, one lumber merchant, one flouring and custom mill, one milliner, one tailor, one meat market, one harness maker, two boots and shoe makers, one barber, two lawyer (one only in practice), eight physicians (One out of practice), seven houses of worship, and nine persons of Christian ministerial Orders. The whole number of firms of public business is fifty seven."

In an early ordinance book it states that no train could travel over 6 miles an hour through town or it could be fined \$10.00 for every mile over the limit. Too bad that isn't still in the ordinances.

Around this time an organization called the Grand Order of the Harugari was started. It was made up of the German men in Brighton. It was a very social society and met twice a month. They held dances and met in two halls, there were so many attending. The dancing was in Dickerson Hall and the dinner in Sarius Hall over the blacksmith shop. It did very well financially. Over the years the members began to die and there were no new members to replace them. In 1933 when the last two members, Fred Voelkel and Gus Sarius, died the organization was discontinued.

The brick buildings on the East side of Main Street were built by Asa Potter in 1874. They housed Mr. Potters Law Office upstairs and a Post Office downstairs. Stratton and Amass House of Banking was in one of the buildings and Dr. Gifford used another one of the shops. Attached to the Country Store on the north side was a little shop in which Mr. Kramer sold hand rolled cigars. At that time the Country Store was run by Mr. Heideman. He later sold it to the Isenbergs. Just north of there Bruno Franz had built a home with a shop in the front for selling meat. Farther down Market Street past where the Bee Hive stands was Franz's Ice House. Mr. Franz had the first meat Market in town.

A little later Phillip Lauck built the building on Main Street across from the bank and used it for a Meat Market and he also had a meat and egg delivery service through the country. He served three counties and would carry as high as 1400 dozen eggs at a time, with very little breakage. They were carried in the wagon on a bed of wheat with bran between the layers. Later that building was a Ford Garage, Marston's Grocery Store, Marsh's Drug Store, Orban's Cleaners and even a school cafeteria for a while.

In 1875 the building that later became the First National Bank was built by Merrill and Chase for a Dry Goods Store. The second floor was used by the Masonic Lodge and a tailor named Stewart. Iron shutters were put on the building supposedly to protect against the groups of marauders, that were still roaming after the Civil War,

The brick building that now houses the Caberet was also a number of things but the most interesting, was when it belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Froelich. The store was in three parts, the front part being the Bakery and the Candy Store. The second room was in the summer an Ice Cream Parlor with marble tables and on the wall were long mirrors. This is where the people came after the entertainment at Dickerson's Hall for refreshments. People from Alton and St. Louis attended these funtions. In the winter this second room was turned into a Toy Store and the children in the village loved it. In the third room were the ovens for baking. This was a very unique store and especially so because Mr. and Mrs. Froelich loved the children and welcomed them into their store. When Mr. Froelich died in 1924 he left a legacy of \$1,000 to be used when a new community High School was built. The rest of his estate was divided among the churches in Brighton.

1903

WALTER G. HUNT.

DEALER IN

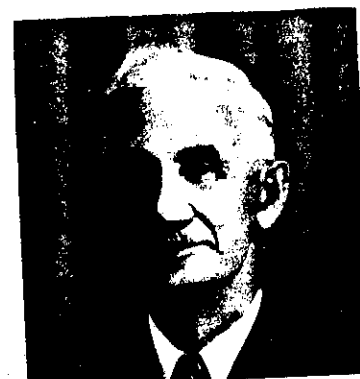
HOUSEHOLD FURNISHING GOODS,

CARPETS, OIL CLOTH, WINDOW SHADES,
MATTRESSES, PICTURES & PICTURE FRAMES

Undertaking and Embalming a Specialty.

Certificate No. 120—Established 1898.

Phones : Office, Central; Residence, 46.



Walter G. Hunt, Mayor, Mortician,
Furniture Business

1930 Fly with Robertson

over the Betsey Ann picnic in a Ryan cabin monoplane, sister ship of the Spirit of Saint Louis.

Airplanes will be at the Brighton airport, one mile south of the village, on both days of the picnic.

See your merchant about a free ride in one of these planes.

Sight-seeing trips over the
Betsey Ann Picnic
for \$1.00

Robertson Air Lines
Lampert St. Louis Airport

ICE! ICE!! ICE!!!

Don't you remember how cool
we kept you last summer?

Please try us again.

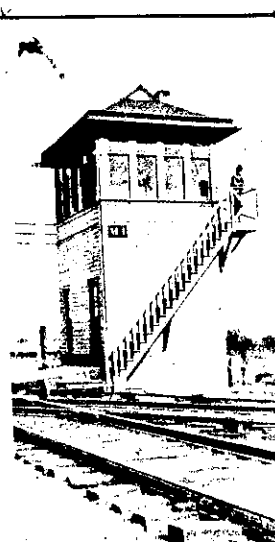
Our Service is the Best.

Our Prices are Reasonable.

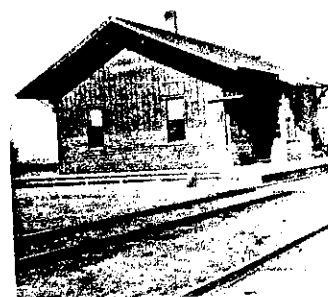
Established
1875

E. C. Franz, Mgr.

RAILROADS



Switch Tower Erected in 1906



Burlington Station

**SEE
M. SPENCER BROWN,
FOR
INSURANCE.**

— 1911

Fire, Lightning and Tornado.

In 1892, the Stratton and Amass Bank was sold to the Blodget Brothers. It later became the State Bank and was located in the building that holds the Auto Parts Store. The First National Bank did not start until 1909.

Ed Huebener's Confectionery was a great place to go, with the ice cream table and chairs; Ed's homemade ice cream; the ice cream sodas; and the roasted peasnuts. It was the kind of an ice cream parlor that you read about, but that hardly exists anymore.

Between Huebener's and Froelich's was a two story building that at first had Mrs. Flanagan Millinery Shop downstairs and a Meeting Hall upstairs where the Moderna Woodmen met and the Prairie State Band practiced. It later became a creamery. The Prairie State Band was very important to the community. There were new members coming and going all of the time, but they always had enough for their band and performed all over. There was also a women's band for a while but it did not last as long.

Mr. Fred Voekel had A Harness Shop on Ransom Street which was later operated by Ed Keuhnel. On the corner where the Medical Building stands was our combination Telephone Office, Undertaker and Furniture Store. It was first run by Joseph Howell and later by Walter Hunt Sr. and Bill Robings. Ransom Street was also the street held three saloons. At that time it was called the Pike. There was also one shamefully enough in the former Methodist Meeting House on Main Street. It belonged to Mr. Thole and later to Gottlieb Lippoldt, one that I mentioned earlier.

The area where Nutter's Mill stood and later burned (corner of Main and Center) was in the early 1900's a park with a band stand. In the summer they had band concerts every Saturday night.

At one time George Pullman came to Brighton to check the possibility of locating a shop here to build pullman cars for the R.R. Apparently it fell through, because it never materialized. General Sherman and his wife at one time came here to look for a farm to buy. They stayed at Hill House when they. He was looking at the farm that later belonged to the Gotters. Obviously he left with out buying.

HOTELS

The hotels were not here until the middle 1870's. There were boarding houses but not hotels. Some of the business men in town thought that if they built one they could attract some of the rich people coming over from St Louis. They built a three story frame building where the Masonic Lodge is now (old school). It didn't work but it did attract some young doctors who wanted to make a "water cure" out of it. They tried it for a while, but that failed too. Professor Hill, from the East, bought it and made it into a Brighton Academy, but it only had one graduating class. The building seemed doomed to failure until the public school took over. They hired Professor Hill to teach and they finally had something that worked. The Professor only stayed a short time, but it continued on as a school and when the new Community High School was voted in 1906, the old building was torn down and the present brick building was erected. It continued to house our school for many years.

Around the middle 1870's Mr. Demler and Mr. Tilghman built the El Dorado Hotel, later called the Commerical Hotel. It was a magnificent three story building that stood where Mrs. Burk now lives, across Main Street from the Museum. In 1903 Mr. Dodge in partnership with Asa Potter bought it and started the Dodge Stammering School. A picture of it is on the cover. It was the only school like it in the United States and of course in those days it was just for young men. They taught the students how to stop

For Two Days

1933

Friday and Saturday

Elberta free stone peaches, pound	06c
Celery, crisp, blanched, bunch	10c
Cucumbers, large, 2 for	05c
Egg-plant, firm, large, each	14c
Tomatoes, fresh, ripe, pound	05c
Night & Day coffee, per pound	19c
Shredded wheat, 2 packages for	25c
Kellogg's Rice Krispies	10c
Campbell's tomato juice, 4 cans for	25c
Red beans, fine quality, 3 cans for	25c
Root beer extract, will make 49 pts.	19c
Picnic plates, 9 inches, 2 doz for	10c
R & W cleanser	05c
Oil cloth, per yard	21c
Linoleum rugs	09c

Brighton Merc. Co.

BRIGHTON, ILLINOIS



Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Froelich, Merchants
Their store was a child's delight

1911

DO YOU KNOW

That
Your Buildings Are In
Danger of Being
Struck by
LIGHTENING.

.....

They will not be if they
are protected by
**Struther's
Lightening
Rod**
Made of
40 Copper Wires
.....

All Work and Material
Fully Guaranteed.
Phone or write-
ELROY M. JONES,
AGENT,
BRIGHTON, ILL. R. R. 19.



Same Band under "Hank" Heideman's direction. (Standing, left to right) Sam Blodgett, Henry Heideman, Louis Kramer, Henry Bott, Arthur Bohn, Elliott Long, (Greenfield Member) Frank French, Albert Moehle, Howard Drew, Ernst Harnisch, Walter Myers, William Hoyer, (Seated) Allen Penning, John Tenhibben.

The Brighton Band Stand stood where our old city hall does now. A little "ice-cream park" surrounded it and the "Saturday Night Band Concert" was the most enjoyable occasion of the entire week. It was good to have 15¢ to spend in "those days" for that amount you could buy an ice-cream cone, a box of Cracker Jack, and a bottle of soda water.

stuttering and stammering or they were not obligated to pay. It was quite a school and of course the building being as magnificent as it was made it seem more important. In 1905, it caught fire and burned. There were only about 40 students there at that time and there were no fatalities, but there were a few narrow escapes. The building burned for two days and Mr. Dodge never rebuilt the school. He moved to another part of the country. It was at this time that the town decided that they needed a fire bell to call all of the volunteers in, but that will be in another part of the book.

The Brightwood Hotel was built not far from there. It was in the vacant lot north of where the Dodge school was located. It was later called the Cottage Hotel. It was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Storry. Later when there was no longer a need for hotels here in town it was made into apartments. Mr. Storry not only helped at the hotel but was also a barber and a horse trainer.

Mr. Yancey operated My Old Kentucky Home. It was located in a building where the Southwestern Journal is now. It was a place for politicians to get together and there were many heated arguments. He also had a Post Office in his hotel. The building was later a barber shop and a restaurant.

The Home Hotel was started by Ma and Pa Voelkel in the early 1900's, it had been the old Temperance Hotel before that and as I mentioned before, a rooming house and a saloon. These three Hotels were close to the tracks so it was very handy for the people coming in on the trains. They could walk and carry their luggage or there were several men who had drays and would gladly haul any thing for you.

There was also a Moore House but we have never been able to find where it was located, maybe on Moore Street.

The hotels in the early days were so important because the town people had no cars at first and then very few. Even if they did have a car the roads at times were impossible, and a horse and wagon or horse and buggy were more practical. So most of the shopping was done in each little town. They needed salesmen to come in to sell their wares. The salesmen and visitors needed a place to stay, so thus the need for hotels. They came in on the trains which at that time ran quite often, and were the most dependable means of travel. The hotel dining rooms were also the place for people to eat, although families very seldom went outside the home to eat, only on very special occasions. Usually some of the merchants in town went east in the spring to the eastern cities to buy clothes for their stores.

EARLY FIRES AND BETSEY ANN

Over the years Brighton like many of the little town across the country had a number of disastrous fires. One of the early ones was caused by a lamp blowing up in the Brighton News paper office that at that time stood above the store that use to be the Brighton Mercantile. The stores at that time were owned by Lemuel Stratton, Daniel Blodget and N.W. Waldo. The News Office was lost as was all of that group of buildings. They tore down Miss Illa (Illinois) Lynch's stationary store to save Nutter's Mill, which was really a useless task because about a year later the Mill burnt. All but the mill were rebuilt later and the News Office was moved over across the street to the building that now houses the Odd Fellows Lodge.

One of the biggest fires, happened in 1921. It was a night when everything was covered with a heavy layer of ice or the rest of the town would have probably burned. It started in Dickerson's store, by then called

THE AMUSE-U THEATER

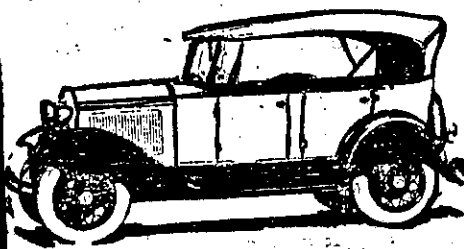
The management announces a special feature for Saturday evening, April 20, when Vanity Fair will be put on. Thackeray's masterpiece has been dramatized and is said to be the greatest triumph in motion picture art. The staging, scenery and costuming are said to be very beautiful. Those who have read the book will enjoy seeing the different characters in action, and those who have not yet read the book, which is called one of the best six novels in the English language, will do well to read up. But whether one has read the book or not, the pictures will tell the story Saturday evening, April 20. Admission 10c and 20c.

1911

BOX SOCIAL

The junior class of the Brighton High School gave an entertainment in the school house last Friday evening which proved to be a social and financial success, despite the unfavorable condition of the weather. A musical and literary program was presented which was highly entertaining. Recitations, vocal and instrumental music, a dialog and a pantomime made up the program. After the program an auction of boxes was held and more than \$19 was realized from the sale of about 25 boxes. Jerome W. Long, the local auctioneer, cried the sale. The proceeds will be expended in the library.

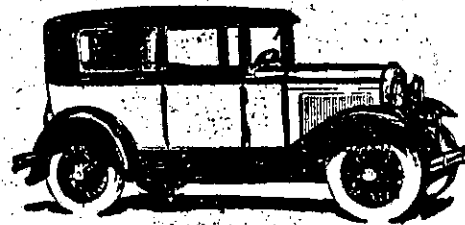
1930



NEW FORD PHAETON

A sporty open car at an unusually low price. Windshield folds flat. New compact top can be raised or lowered quickly and easily. Finished in a variety of beautiful colors.

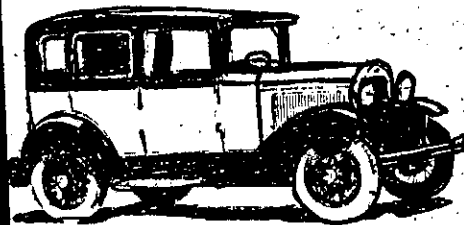
\$440



NEW FORD TUDOR SEDAN

A splendid family car because of its beauty, safety, comfort, power, speed, ease of control, economy, reliability, long life, and low first cost. A matchless value at

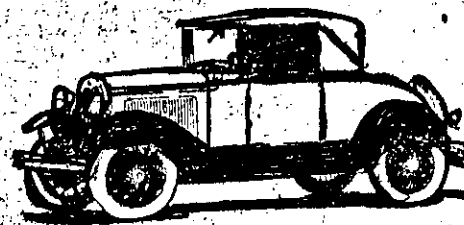
\$500



THREE-WINDOW FORD SEDAN

A beautiful sedan, with graceful flowing lines. Richly appointed and finished in a variety of colors. Generous room is provided in both front and rear compartments.

\$625



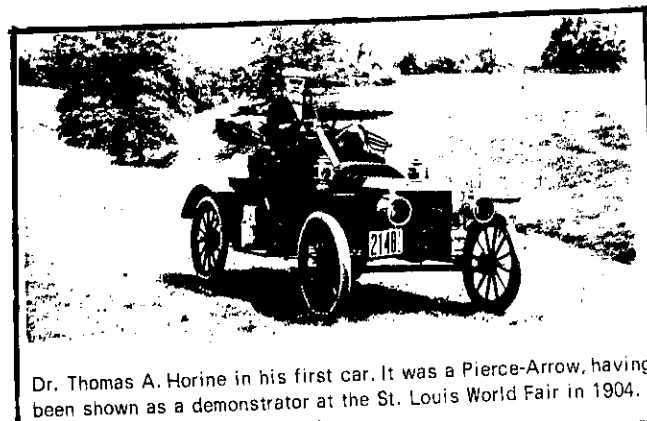
CONVERTIBLE CABRIOLET

A particularly good choice for the woman motorist because it combines the smart, youthful dash of the roadster and the snug comfort of the coupe. Equipped with rumble seat.

\$645



Old Reliable Meat Market. Emil C. Franz, son of Bruno Franz.



Dr. Thomas A. Horine in his first car. It was a Pierce-Arrow, having been shown as a demonstrator at the St. Louis World Fair in 1904.

the Hustler and took that building with the rest of those buildings just to the south of it, Martin's Store, Mr. Palmer's Watch Shop and the City Hall.

I told you about the Stammering School burning, but what I didn't tell you was that that particular fire was the start of Betsey Ann. After the fire the men in town decided that they needed a bell to call the volunteers in when they needed them. They bought a bell and hung it in a tall tower that was located in the parking lot just south of Brighton Plumbing. They decided that they needed a name for the bell so they held a contest and our young switch board operator, Nell Flanagan, won and named it Betsey Ann. They christened it and there was a big town celebration. At the Museum, we have part of the bottle that they christened the bell with. That was the beginning of the Betsey Ann Picnic a tradition that has lasted for many years. It wasn't until a few years later in 1911, that Betsey Ann was incorporated. Their main purpose was to help take care of the country roads. It you wonder why the colors red and yellow are used a lot in the buildings at the park, it's because that's what Nell Flanagan picked, so those are Betsey Ann's colors. The money was at first for the roads and then later it went to the fire department.

We now have a beautiful Fire House and an excellent Volunteer Fire Department, thanks to a lot of dedicated people and a lot of hard work. From the fire bell we went to a siren mounted on the tower and now we have gone to beepers and the old bell is hung in a permanent home in a place where it should be near the entrance to Betsey Ann Park.

At a later time the Town Picnic was started so that now we have two picnics a year. Our Betsey Ann Picnic has continued over the years and is known far and wide. It's a place for those who no longer make their home in Brighton to come back to renew old memories and old friends. There were only a few years during W.W.II when they did not have the picnic, but outside of that it has been around for many years and hopefully will continue.

The Town Picnic was started during the few years when Betsey Ann did not have theirs. At first it was held on the streets in town and later moved to the Betsey Ann grounds. The Town Picnic gave a percentage of their profits to the Civic League to help build the library. It now goes to a number of organizations.

The Catholic Church burned in the early 1920's and was rebuilt by Lucas Pfeiffenberger. The Assembly of God Church was built in 1954 and later it also burned and was rebuilt.

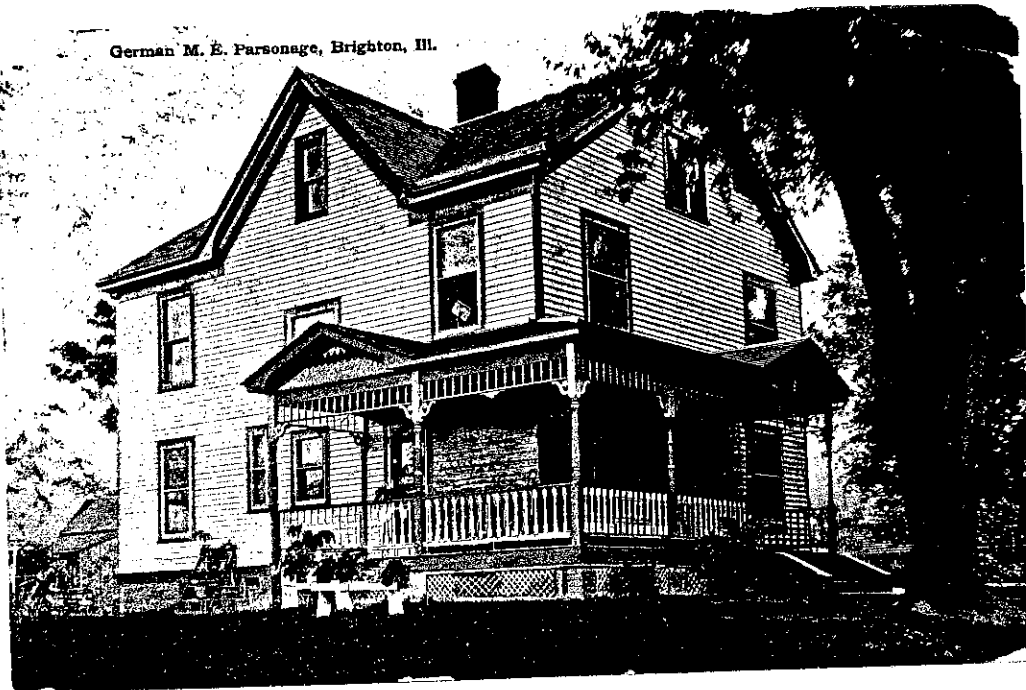
The Brighton Lumber Yard was located on Oak St. near the Burlington commons. It was first managed by Mr. Lowe, who built the house next to it where Mrs. Fenton used to live.

This is not the same lumber yard that Harry Jones had at a much later time. His was on Burlington Street. Another lumber yard, was the Farmer's Lumber Yard and it was located where Kay Hanson later had his. During the first few years that it existed it burned about three times. Bill Gillham had it for a while and also Lucius Jones.

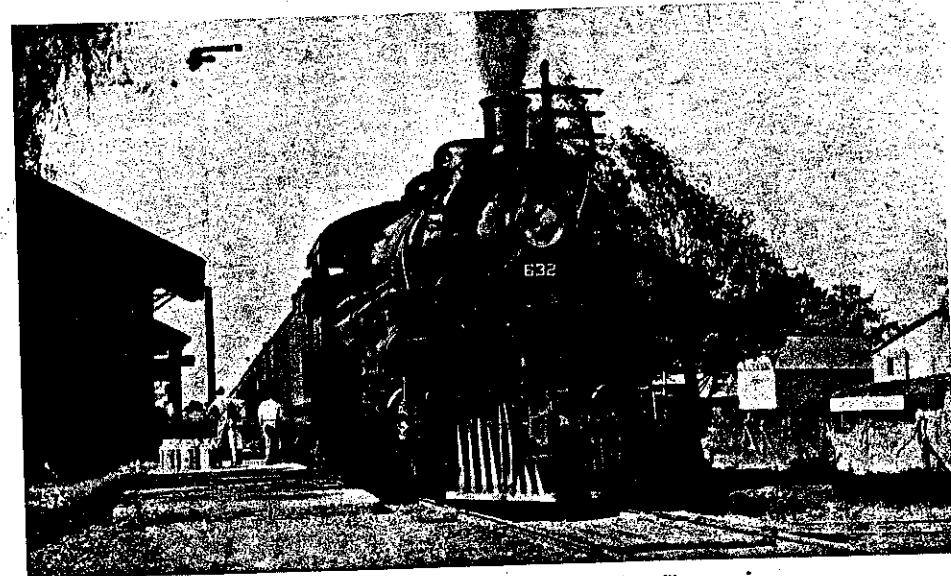
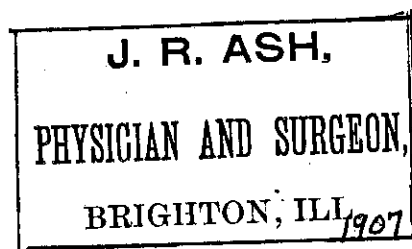
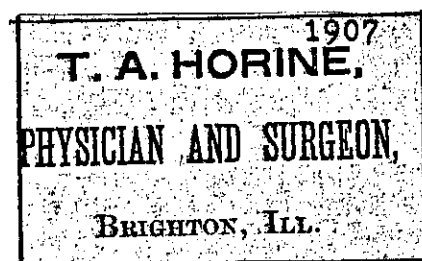
It burned for the final time in 1949 when Kay Hanson had it, and was not rebuilt. Harry Jones still had his and Mr. Cain built one across from the Beehive. At a much later time Mr. Beckham had a lumber yard on Ransom Street.

In the 1950's the Brighton Elevator that stood down where the fire house is now, burned and a few years later another of the buildings in the same area, that was used by Joe Melbourne as a machine shop burned when a truck near it blew up.

German M. E. Parsonage, Brighton, Ill.



Built for the German Methodist Parsonage. Now the home of the Elmer Bott family.



C. and A., "Prairie State Express," at Brighton, Ill.

Farewell Dear Friend

(By Evelyn Cardinal)

BRIGHTON — Monday afternoon at Brighton cemetery a goodly number attended the final rites for Ethel Robins Franz to bid a last farewell to an old and dear friend who died Friday, June 11, and to pay their respects to her family.

A truer, more loyal Brightonian than Ethel Franz could not be found. She and her husband, the late Walter B. Franz, both born and reared in Brighton, after their marriage made their home in St. Louis where Mr. Franz was highly esteemed in the business world.

Brighton always beckoned them back. Every Memorial Day, Betsey Ann picnic day, High School Alumni Banquet and other special occasions here found them in attendance. They took great pride and interest in any activity Brighton had and both were more than generous to the churches and various fraternal and civic organizations in the village. They instilled this same pride in their three children for all the old and fine things of this Brighton they loved so well. To many she was thought of as a relative and being a member of an old Brighton family made them almost thus — so keen was her interest in the joys and sorrows of the Brighton families.

She was certainly so much portrayed in the familiar old poem, "Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend of man". Her going is a great loss to the friends and relatives left behind, but what rejoicing there must be in Heaven as she greets her loved ones there. 1971

In November of 1989, the Methodist Church burned. They were planning to celebrate the hundredth year of the church building the following year. They also rebuilt and now have a new church in which to worship.

Our beautiful fire station burned a couple of years ago, and they now have another one almost identical to replace it.

Over the years we have had many fires as most places have, but the good part of it is that most of these buildings through a lot of hard work and determination have been rebuilt.

There will always be fires unfortunately, and they are very devastating, but thank goodness we have firemen and firewomen to help prevent it, as much as possible.

DOCTORS

We have had a number of doctors over the years, our early ones being Dr. McKee, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Dickerson, Dr. Brown, Dr. John Ash Sr. and a number of other ones. In the late 1800's and the early 1900's, there was Dr. Hall, Dr. Horine, Dr. Annie Gillham (Our first woman doctor) and Dr. Roscoe Ash. Just think we had 4 doctors in Brighton at one time. Also Dr. Pfeif-fenberger would come up on the train when needed. When Dr. Roscoe Ash died Dr. Orr came in to town and then Dr. Gingelbach (who stayed only a short time). Dr. Murphy, the dentist came in shortly after that. Dr. Orr was here for a good many years. When he was still here, if needed he would come to your house. Can you imagine that now. The small town country doctors are now few and far between, but wouldn't it be nice to have one here in Brighton again?

ENTERTAINMENT

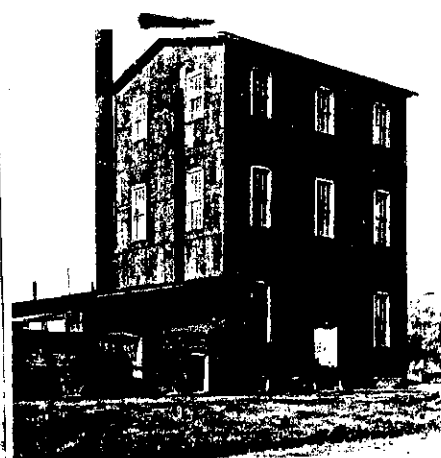
I mentioned before about Dickerson's Hall, which was one of the main places for entertainment. Many of the graduations were held there and later some in the churches. In the early 1900's they had the Amus-U-Theater. It stood where the B & K Restaurant is now. They had silent movies and Mrs. Robings and Mrs. Bess Turner use to alternate playing the piano. Dorothy Jones sang occasionally.

They used the theater for other things too. At one time they used it to teach women how to vote. It was getting close to the time when women would get the right to vote and they wanted to know how to do it intelligently. Some of the business men in town talked to them.

The Congregational Church which by then was the Baptist, was purchased by the Catholic Church. The steeple was removed and the building became known as the Catholic Hall and also the Lincoln Hall. It stood on the south east corner of Cummings parking lot.

In 1917, the Village Hall on the corner of Main and Center was built and between that and the Catholic Hall they took care of most of the entertainment, sports, plays, dinners, dances, card parties and anything else that was needed. When I was growing up the Post Office was where the Cleaners is now and on Saturday night they showed silent movies on the north side of the building. The seats were blocks with boards over them. At that time the building that is now Brighton Pharmacy was not there yet. They also showed movies sometimes on the north side of the old First National Bank building. We thought it was great and never missed one if we could help it.

When Mr. and Mrs. Brands started having them inside the Village Hall, we thought we had every thing and when they started having talkies, that was



Flour Mill, owned and ran by a stock company. The original mill of Nutter Bros., stood where the Band Stand was and Old City Hall is now.



The "Welcome" Entrance to "The Grounds"



The First Burgoo Tent



Heubener's Restaurant in the early years.



Algernon Thompson Stewart,
Affectionately known as "Guerney"
He clerked in many of Brighton's
Stores

The Frank Stewart Home, called
Magnolia Park (Otis Wolf)



"Guerney" Stewart's Home.

really the ultimate. We were afraid to miss because they would have serials and we had to be there the next week to see if the hero was shot, or went over the cliff or what ever. I don't think any of the young people today get the enjoyment that we had, excitedly watching those serials. We would boo the bad guys and clap and cheer for the hero. Some times we got a little too carried away and had to be settled down, but we couldn't wait until the next Saturday night to see what happened.

A couple of times a year we had dog and pony shows come to town and everyone went to that. They were very small circus's. There was usually some ponys and dogs and maybe even a monkey and sometimes a few other animals.

I remember one time when they had a little bigger one come in and they even had elephants and aerial acts. It was just great. Some of the boys in town got jobs watering the elephants and got free passes. They even had a parade through town and a Calliope. We really thought it was something. Watching it on T.V. today is nothing like really being there

COMING OUT OF THE DARK AGES

In the early years of Brighton, you used candles for light and if you went any place after dark you used a lantern. Our first street lights were here by 1874. They were kerosene lamps on a pole and of course by then they had kerosene lamps in there homes. To us today that doesn't seem like much light and it really isn't compared to what we have now, but it must have been wonderful back then.

The street lamps had to be lite every evening, so there was a lamp lighter, one of them being Mr. August Myers. He was a familiar sight at dusk carrying his little ladder as he walked down the street, smoking his meerscham pipe.

We had our first electicity in 1916. Mr. Arthur Farrell owned and operated the first light plant. It was in a block building located kind of in between Market and Center. It was almost behind the Beehive. The Village Board granted the franchise which stated the the company would furnish light every night from fifteen minutes before dusk until 11 P.M. and from 5 A.M. until daylight. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the lights were left on until 11:00 A.M. so the house wives could get their ironing done. In the event of an emergency you could get permission for the light to stay on later.

We've come a long way with our electricity, but I think that we kind of take for granted how dependent we are on it. I'm not sure that we appreciate it as much as those Brightonians who were the first ones to enjoy it.

CHURCHES

I've talked about the early churches that were here before the incorporation. The first little Methodist Meeting House, the Baptist Church, the Asbury Church that was built in 1837 and the first St. Paul Methodist in 1853 ,where their present church stands. In 1863 the German Methodist was built.

The first Presbyterian Church formed in 1847 in the Baptist Church, and then built their little brick church located where the present one stands. The present building was built in 1869. It, like I mentioned before, celebrates it's 125 years this year. In 1868 the Congregational church was built and in 1870 the Miles Station Methodist and St John's Church. St



Main Street Looking North, Brighton, Ill.

Main Street-Left-Buildings that later housed the Mercantile, Martin's Store, Dickerson's Drug Store, and the old Bank. Also Betsey Ann Bell.

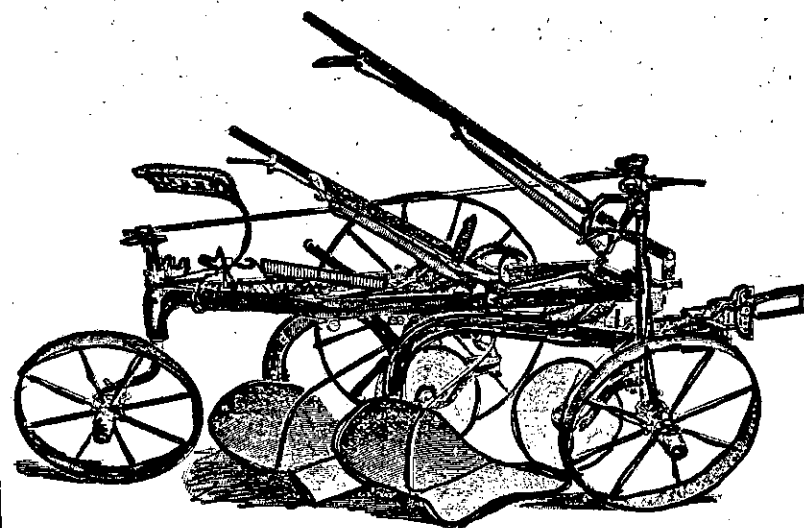


Nell Frances Flanagan

When Miss Flanagan died in 1912, Thomas A. Jones, then Mayor of Brighton, tolled Betsey Ann to announce the coming of the cortege of the girl who had named the bell.

Rock Island Gang No. 8

With C. T. X. Bottoms 1911



A full history of the C. T. X. bottoms used on Rock Island Plows would be very interesting reading, but it's too long. What appeals most to you is what they will do and how they will do it. Stop in and we will show you.

Great Western and Litchfield Manure Spreaders.

F. W. Schroeder & Son

Brighton, Illinois

Alphpnus Church was built in 1881 and the second St. Paul Methodist in 1890. In 1959 the Southern Baptist Church was built and in 1961 the Assembly of God and the Covenant Presbyterian (Christian). The Cornerstone Church is our newest.

Brighton has never been short of churches. At the present time we have seven just about the same amount they had in the 1880's. Starting with the little Methodist Meeting House in 1836 to the present time we have had continued religious services. That is one hundred and fifty-eight years of religious faith. If you count the time that the first settlers came here and met in the homes to worship, it makes it even longer. I'd say that's a pretty good record.

Actually like I mentioned earlier, the ones that really started the whole thing were the Methodist Circuit Riders. They had miles and miles to cover in all kinds of weather without any protection and through all types of terrain. They did it because of their strong religious faith. They got very little pay and if they were fortunate enough to be near a cabin, they might get a hot meal and a place to sleep. Otherwise they were on their own.

OUR LIBRARY

Our library was built by the ladies of the Civic League, almost brick by brick, they worked so hard for it. This organization is one of the oldest if not the oldest, women's organization in the state. They started in 1914 and first organized to learn how to vote. From there they decided to start a library. They collected books from any place they could and the library had many homes. It finally ended up in the little brick building on the east side of Main, that now houses a beauty shop. That's where I remember it so well. My sister and I were there at least once and sometimes twice a week. Those were the days when there was no T.V. and you read a lot of books. The last home before their own building was the stage of the Village Hall.

Miss Phoebe Andrews was the first librarian and Mrs. Cora Amerine was the first one to be paid. This was through the WPA. Over the years these ladies had banquets, luncheons, style shows, sold cook books and many other things to get money to build the library. At one time they gave two trees to every house in Brighton on the condition that they would plant them. This was to help beautify Brighton.

By 1958, they moved into their beautiful new Memorial Library. Their years of dedication and hard work had paid off. A few years back it was moved to the present location to make room for the new bank. It has now been made a City Library, operated by the Village of Brighton, but it is still a part of the Civic League and to the older members it will probably always be. When you go into the library to get a book or to do research, just remember that it's there because of the ladies of the Civic League.

We have always had and still have a number of organizations and they have done a lot for the town. All of the members work hard to help in whatever effort they are working for and none of the small towns could exist without them.

OUR SCHOOLS

As I said before our first school was in Oliver Brown's smoke house. Education had many homes through the years and finally found a home in the large brick building where many of us attended classes. We not only had that building but also the "sheep shed". I'm not sure where it got its

1986-Meredith Wilson leading the band, playing "76 Trombones", at Betsey Ann Park.



name. In 1938 our new High School was built, which is now Brighton West. During that time Brighton, Medora, Shipman and Piasa, had their own schools. Then in 1947 those schools all became Unit #9 and we had buses to pick up our children. For a while each town kept their own High School, then in 1957 all High School students went to Medora High for that year. In the spring of that same school year they moved to the new Southwestern High for graduation. With the increase of student over the years there has been an addition to the original building.

Because of the number of students in the Brighton Grade Schools, a new school, Brighton North, was built on the Brighton Bunker Hill Road and the school on the highway became Brighton West.

The classes are so much bigger in the High School now that each class has it's own reunion. Those who graduated from Brighton High School have an Alumni Association that meets every year and all of the living graduates are invited. Over the years the numbers have decreased because there are no new ones coming in, but we still have a large group that meets and enjoys reminiscing and meeting old classmates.

The "sheep shed" ended up on the corner of Market and East Center. It has housed a number of things over the years, but at present it is Dennis Heating and Cooling.

THE TELEPHONE

The first phone was in Dr. Horine's home and one was put in the Dickerson's Drug Store and one in the bank. They were all privately owned phones. This was in 1890.

The first telephone switchboard was home made and was put in the building on the corner of Ransom and North Street where the Medical Building is now. At that time it belonged to Walter Hunt who had a Undertaking and a Furniture business there. At first his wife operated it while she took care of her baby, but the switch board was not so busy. You must remember that there were very few phones at that time. Alberta Simmons was the first one hired as a full time operator. Later Nell Flanagan was the girl at the switchboard. One of the rules to the telephone subscribers was not to call after 10:00 P.M. Chances were the operator would be in bed. The office was later moved to a new building that stood where the Drug Store is today and many of us remember Marie Yost, Ruth Reynolds, Ida Oertel and many more that worked there over the years. Brighton got it's dial phones in 1958.

HOMES OF THE POST OFFICE

As I mentioned before the first Post Office was located in Nathan Scarritt's Store in Schneider Park in 1837. It moved to a lot of places from there. It was in the Merrill and Chase Store for a while and then in Asa Potter's Building on the East side of Main.

It was later located in Mr. Yancey's "Old Kentucky Home" and when he was told he had to move the Post Office out of the hotel he moved it to a building on North Street that had been a former saloon on Ransom and had been relocated on North Street. This building later became Milton Zeigenbein's store and later yet, Cal's Market.

From there the Post Office went to the building where Miss Illa Lynch had her book store. I mostly remember it where Brighton Cleaners is now and it was there for a number of years. It later moved to the building where Robert Watson's law office is and finally to the building on North Main where it is at the present time.



Memorial at Brighton Cemetery.



Final home of the Betsey Ann Bell.

THE LONE STAR WAY

A few miles northeast of Medora stands a cast iron highway marker along a country road. It was called the Burlington Way and was put there some time before 1910. It marked an automobile route that extended from St. Louis to Chicago and St. Paul. The sign is quite large and gives the distance to the different cities. The route was marked by a yellow stripe between two white stripes around telephone poles. According to today's standards it was very inadequately marked and the principal roads were hardly larger than the small side roads. You must remember though this was when the automobile was just starting to appear in this part of the country, and the roads even the Burlington Way were not that good for traveling. The pole markings were a half mile or more apart so many a motorist made a turn and traveled a ways before he realized he was on the wrong road. Of course at night the motorists couldn't see the stripes on the poles so he had to stop every so often, get out of his car and use his flashlight to check the poles and see if there were stripes on them. This didn't make traveling very fast.

The Lone Star Route was established in 1920 and it crossed the Burlington Way and became the shortest way to Alton. A few weeks ago the Warners gave the Museum, a charter for the Lone Star Route in Brighton. Dated 1921. None of us knew what it was all about. Then by chance I read a clipping in an old newspaper explaining the whole thing.

These methods may seem very crude by today's standards, but at that time it was a break through by men with a vision of things to come.

THE HARD ROAD

In the old days Main Street came straight down through town like it does now but it didn't have the curve on North Main going around the business district. Of course at that time the roads were just dirt and when it rained it was plain mud, some times impassible even in a horse and buggy. W.H. Robings, Edward Stubblefield and Walter Hunt Sr. were responsible for getting our pavement through town, becoming Route 111 in 1930. They really wanted it to come straight down Main Street to the R.R. Crossing. They wanted it to go through the business district, like the old road went, but that wasn't to happen. At least we ended up with a hard road. The only thing was that it made it easier for people to go to Alton, so it really did not help our businesses. In fact it hurt them.

We lived in the country when the road started through Brighton and walking home from school we would watch those big machines smoothing the concrete. We moved to town that year to a house along the highway and it was very exciting watching the road materialize.

They had a little train, I think they called it a "dinky". It ran along side of the road carrying supplies. We always had some of the workers boarding at our house so we learned everything that was happening. It was very exciting.

MEMORIAL DAY AND THE WARS

In the old days, it was called Decoration Day, and was for many years. The Civil War Veterans made it such an important day. They worked for weeks getting things organized. Their uniforms and medals had to be just so. They had to organize their parade. They also had to gather the flowers to put on the graves. They were mostly iris's or flags as we called them, and peonies. There were the early roses too. They would tie them in bunches and

BRIGHTON NEWS-From a 1930 Paper-Editor A. William Amass
The population of Brighton in 1880 was more than 1000
Businesses in 1880 were-

DR. JOHN ASH- Physician.	THOMAS L. BEAN-Decorator
G.H. AYLWORTH and HENRY BOULTER-Grain and implements. (Successors to S. ACKERMAN, who died recently)	
MRS. A. E. BEAN-Millinery	D.P. BERRY-Carpenter
BLODGET BROS, NEWTON & SAMUEL-General Merchandise	
BRIGHTON CITY MILLS-Harrison & Charles Nutter, Proprietors.	
THE BRIGHTON NEWS-Holly R. Glenny, Editor.	E.P. GILSON-Reporter
BRIGHTON HOUSE-Henry Heideman, Proprietor.	JOHN HEAD-Carpenter
BRIGHTWOOD COTTAGE-Mrs. Kate B. Glenny, Proprietress.	
J. W. BRUMMER-Drayman.	FRED E. BRUNE-Tailor
BURLINGTON RAILROAD-Zac T. Kemper, Agent.	WILLIAM BRANDT-Cooper
GEORGE A BROWN-Grain	MRS. E. BUTLER-Dry Goods
GEORGE E. CAMP-School Teacher	L.H. CHAPIN-Sewing Machines
DR. F. A. CLEMENT-Physician	C.W. COBLEY-Livery Stable-gist
CHICAGO & ALTON RAILROAD-H.G. Stall, Agent	GEORGE CLEMENT-Mason
E. J. DAIN-Livestock	JOHN W. DARLINGTON-Threshing
JOHN P. DAVIDSON-Carpenter	DR. J.T. DICKERSON-Physician & Drugs
ELDORADO HOTEL-August Bloemer, Prop.	AUGUST HEIDEMAN-Saloon
BRUNO FRANZ-General Mdse & Livestock	JOHN GEILER-Carpenter
FRENCH & BEAN-Groceries & Hardware	JOHN C. FRITCHIE-Boots & Shoes
F.W. FROELICH-Bakery & Confectionary	DR. ALFERD GIFFORD Jr.-Physician
ALFRED GIFFORD Sr.-Carpenter	RANSOM HOLLOWAY-Mason
C.W. HEIDEMAN-General Mdse	SAMUEL JUSTISON-Carpenter
JOSEPH HOWELL-Furniture, Implements, Undertaking	
THOMAS L. KEAS-Blacksmith	KEAS & CARTER-General Mdse
KENTUCKY HOME-C.J. Yancey, Prop.	PHILIP LAUCK-Meat Market
C. W. KRAMER-Cigar Maker	JOHN KRAMER-Florist
GEORGE W. LASH-Grain	HERMAN LIPPOLDT-Threshing
ILLINOIS LYNCH-Books, School Supplies, & Notions	
EDWARD LIPPOLDT-Saloon	CHRIS LEAHR-Teamster
BREWER MARTIN-Dairy	CHARLES A. MAXEINER-Blacksmith
MERRILL & CHASE-Dry Goods	S.S. MILES-Dry Goods & Groceries
J. B. MOORE-Carpenter	BEN MOSBY-Barber
WILLIAM C. MOORE-Blacksmith	AUGUST MYERS-Threshing
MOORE HOUSE-Mrs. William Moore, Prop.	MRS. HATTIE MORRIS-Seamstress
A. W. OBERMAN-Brickmaker	R. H. PETER-Groceries
ASA POTTER-Postmaster & Attorney	AMBROSE ROBINGS-Mason
AUGUST ROETTIGERS-Harness	GUSTAV SARIUS-Blacksmith
J. A. SCARRITT-Tin Shop	FRED SCHWAB-Meat Market
DR. S. A. SMITH-Dentist	WALLACE SMITH & CHARLES BLISS-Dry Goods
FRANK STEWART-Wagon Maker	STRATTON & AMASS-Bank
PROF. J. P. STRONG-School Teacher	JOHN THOLE-Furniture & Undertaking
EDWARD W. WALTON-Veterinarian	FRED VOELKEL-Boots, Shoes, Harness
N. V. WALDO-Groceries	FRED WARR-Blacksmith

GORDEN B. WEST-Carpenter

put them in tubs of water so they would last longer. They did this in the hall over Martin's Store the day before the big event.

On Decoration Day there were a number of people in the parade including the Modern Woodmen and the Prairie State Band. The veterans would march in a group. They would march to the Cemetery and put the flowers on the graves of other veterans. Over the years the veterans of WWI joined them. Gradually the number in the Civil War group diminished until at last there were only two of them left, John Darlington and Mr. Sams. At last it was Mr. Sams who marched alone. It was a very important day back then and with buggies and wagons they went to the other cemeteries.

We have by now been through a number of wars, too many really. After WWI the American Legion was formed and through trials and tribulations over the years they are finally again a working organization. We again have the marches to the cemetery and a program there to remember those departed. The first entrance to the cemetery was off of Brown Street. It went back to what we now call the old part.

One of the special things that the Legion has done is to place a beautiful Memorial Monument in the circle of the cemetery. It is dedicated to those men and women of all the branches of service who served their country and it was paid for by contributions from those in the community. Also some of the legionaires placed the flag pole, the sign and the cannon, up at Schneider Park.

After WWI Brighton had only one Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Annie Kruse. Her son, Charles was killed in France. She had planned to have him brought home to be buried, but changed her mind after seeing the beautiful cemetery he was buried in in France. The government paid for all of the Gold Star Mothers to go to France to see where their sons were buried.

In WWII we lost more young men Nelson Stewart, Delbert Whitaker, Joy Kortkamp and Harry Loy. In the Korean War we lost William Burk and in Vietnam, Val Meyers and Gene St Peters. The wars took their toll and many of our young men had a hard time adjusting after coming home. Fortunately, even though we had a number of young men and women in Desert Storm, we had no fatalities, but many of them are still suffering the after effects.

During Desert Storm we had a Support Group here in Brighton. It was for any one who had a relative or friend in the war. At Christmas time we put up a tree, on the north side of the Museum. On it we tied a yellow ribbon with the name of each of our relatives or friends who was in the service. The tree was pretty full.

We also had a large Desert Storm Parade after the war was over and it was a huge success. After the parade there was a program up at Southwestern High School. It was during that time that we put up yellow ribbons all over town. The ribbon was paid for by private donations and we had enough to buy a large flag that was placed on top of the water tower.

During Desert Storm, Brighton got their beautiful flags that they put up along the streets during Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veteran's Day. They will have them up during our three day picnic the last of June celebrating our 125th anniversary.

During WWII, a young man, named Russell Dunham, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. He actually was from Fosterberg, but enlisted from Brighton. He now lives in Jerseyville and has worked a number of years for the Veteran's Administration. His job took him to a number of different countries.

BRIGHTON BUSINESS-1930

From the Brighton News-Editor, A William Amass 1930

The following mercantile establishments, shops, and professions make up the list of business activities in Brighton in 1930-

J.T. AMERINE-Barber	Dr. ASH-Physician & Surgeon
JOHN A. BAUER-Blacksmith, Feed Mill, Saw Mill, and Threshing	
N. R. BENTLEY-Carpenter	JULIUS H. BOHN-Insurance
MRS. LUCY R. BOREN-Millinery	ARNOLD A. BOTT-Groceries & Notions
BRIGHTON BAKERY-Frank Miller, Prop.	BOTT & COMPANY-Coal
WALTER E. BOTT & WIFE-Hatchery	BOTT'S GARAGE-H.G. Bott, Prop.
BRIGHTON FARMERS COOPERATIVE ELEVATOR CO-J.T. Hauter, Manager-Grain,	
Flour, Feed, Implements, Tractors, Coal, Limestone	
BRIGHTON GARAGE-H.C. Chase, Prop.	BRIGHTON STATE BANK
BRIGHTON MERCANTILE CO.-William H. Robings and Fred Scheffel, Owners-General Merchandice, Cream, Butter, Eggs	
BRIGHTON NEWS-A. William Amass, Editor.	LINDLEY O. CHASE-Carpenter
BRIGHTON TELEPHONE CO.-J.H. Bohn, Pres.; W.G. Hunt, Manager	
BURLINGTON R.R.-R.A. Simmons, Agent	COTTAGE HOTEL-Mrs. L.C. Storry, Prop.
CHICAGO & ALTON R.R.-Louis E. Sheary, Agent	FIRST NATIONAL BANK
JOHN H. DOTY-Painter	E.C. FRANZ-Meat Market
FARMERS LUMBER CO-William L. Gillham, Manager	ALBERT GENT-Mine Timbers
DR. ANNIE M. GILLHAM-Physician	LOUIS HANOLD-Meat Market
DR. T. H. HALL-Physician & Surgeon	FRED E. HARTMAN-Decorator
R.E. HAYCRAFT-Trucking	DR. T.A. HORINE-Physician & Surgeon
WILLIAM J. HEYER-Livestock	HARRY E. JONES-Carpenter
HOME HOTEL-Fred Voelkel, Prop.	FRANK T. HUEBENER-Draying
E.J. HUEBENER-Restaurants and confectionery	GEORGE KEAS-Insurance
W.G. HUNT-Furniture & Undertaking	GEORGE E. KRUSE-Threshing
ILLINOIS POWER & LIGHT CORP.-George Kruse, Rep.	B.L. MARICLE-Barber
ISENBER & COMPANY-Milk, Cream, Butter	JEROME W. LONG-Auctioneer
EDWARD T. KUEHNEL-Harness & Shoes	CHARLES E. LAMPERT-Blacksmith
WILLIAM O. MARSTON-Groceries & Notions	HENRY MAXEINER-Carpenter
H.A. MYERS-Barber & Publisher	FRED SCHEFFEL-Auctioneer
POSTOFFICE-R.S. Brown, Postmaster; H.S. Bentley, Deputy	
GEORGE E. SARIUS-Insurance, Daily Papers	HARRY A. TULLIS-Trucking
VICTOR W. SCHROEDER-Implements & Hardware	YOST & COMPANY-Concrete
SHELL SERVICE STATION-Chris C. Schmidt, Gasoline, Kerosene, Motor Oil	
SCHMIDT'S GARAGE-Julius Schmidt, Prop.	JAMES WELSH-Decorator
STANDARD OIL CO.-Robert H. McAfee	
WEB WEE RESTAURANT-Coleman Utterback	
MILTON H. ZIEGENBEIN-Groceries, Shoes, Notions	

OUR NEWS PAPER

As I mentioned before, Dr. Meacham had our first newspaper which was called the Advance. After that it was called the Brighton News and some of the editors were Holly Glenney, Edwin Amass and William Amass. After Mr. Amass, a number of people had it and was later called the Area News and not made up here. Our newspaper now is the Southwestern Journal and is located on the east side of Main, not far from where the old office was.

The editor that I remember most was Bill Amass. His office was on the bottom floor of the Odd Fellow's building and he was always glad to have you stop by. Actually his place was quite an attraction because he was a great collector of Indian artifacts. He would search the creeks and the woods of the farms around town. I'm not sure where his collection went after he died, but it would be nice to have it in our Museum. Mr. Andrews from north of town also had a wonderful collection of Indian artifacts and I have no idea where it finally went.

MEREDITH WILSON

Meredith Wilson, writer of the play, The Music Man, and a number of others, had roots in Brighton. His great, grandfather, Dr. Meacham, who was our first news paper editor, came here to make his home. In the house next to him on Brown Road was the house that his daughter, Mrs. Reiniger, lived in with her children. It was called Maple Hill. The old original house was taken down just a few years ago and a little farther back is a new home built by the Jerome and Carolyn Wooldridge.

Mrs. Reiniger was a widow with five children. She wrote poems and gave lectures to help with her finances, but in those days they brought in very little. All she had besides that was a check for \$15 every month from her brother. It had to be stretched a lot for five children. Her children all became quite talented and each made their mark on the world.

Meredith's mother, Rose, was married in the Congregational Church here in Brighton. He grew up in Mason City, Iowa, but he always had a warm feeling about his mother's home town. She told him so many stories about her days here. Several times Meredith came back here to visit his mother's school mate and long time friend, Mrs. Ruth Kelsey.

When we had our Centennial, just 25 years ago, Meredith was our Grand Marshall. He even got to lead the band at the park playing "76 Trombones", a song he had written for the Music Man. He said that that was one of his greatest thrills.

We all felt a lost at the news of his death. Wouldn't it be nice to have been able to have him here for our 125th celebration? Warren Strohbeck will take his place in the parade this year.

OUR MUNICIPALITY

Our first Mayor was Lemuel Stratton in 1867 and the first one after the incorporation was John Ash Sr.

The Village got it's city water in 1950 and it's sewer and natural gas in 1963. It was also in 1963 that the Jaycees put numbers on the houses.

Our old Village Hall is gone and we now have a beautiful Municipal Building that houses the Mayor's office, Clerk's office, Water department and the Police department. The building was dedicated in 1969 during the Centennial.

Our Fire Department and our Ambulance Department are volunteer and are housed in the new Fire House.

FARMER'S ANTI-AUTO PROTECTIVE SOCIETY

In 1909 the Farmer's Anti-Auto Protective Society took a dim view of the so-called horseless carriage and proposed a program to the State Legislature. Now you must remember that there were very few cars in the state at that time. Brighton had it's first automobile that year. It belonged to Dr. Horine and they called it the Green Dragon. So you see why the farmers were afraid that these new fangled contraptions would scare their horses.

This is the program that they proposed:

1-Automobiles must be seasonably painted-that is, so that they will merge with the pastoral ensemble and not be startling.

2-On discovering an approaching team, the automobilist must stop offside and cover his machine with a tarpaulin, painted with the scenery.

3-In case a horse will not pass an automobile, not withstanding the scenic tarpaulin, the automobilist will take his machine apart as rapidly as possible and conceal the parts in the grass. (Can you imagine that?)

4-In case an automobile makes a team run away, the penalty will be \$50.00 for the first mile, \$100 for the second and \$200 for the third mile, etc, that the team runs, in addition to the usual damages.

5-On approaching a corner where he cannot command a view of the road ahead, the automobilist must stop not less than 100 yards from the turn, toot his horn, ring a bell, fire a revolver, yell "Hallo" and send up three bombs at intervals of five minutes.

6-Automobiles running on the country roads at night must send up a red rocket every mile and wait 10 minutes for the road to clear. They may then proceed carefully blowing their horns and shootings rockets. (That would scare anybody)

7-The speed limit on country roads this year will be secret and the penalty for violation will be \$10.00 for every mile and offender is going in excess of it.

Thank goodness this bit of legislature did not pass.

IN CONCLUSION

I've talked about the history of Brighton and I know that there are things that I have missed. I'll probably think of a number of things that I should have put in after this book has been printed, but for now this is it. Since this is a condensed history of our town, I'd like to add a little of the things that I remember as I grew up.

When I was small we lived in the country where we had no electricity and no telephone. Our way of travel was mostly horse and buggy or wagon. We used coal oil lamps for light and an old cook stove for cooking. We used some wood, but we also used coal. On Saturday night the old galvanized tub was brought in by the stove and we would each take our bath, in the same water. Well, we did add a little as it was needed. We had never heard of deodorants, I don't think they even made them. We did use a lot of talcum powder. We didn't have many clothes so we had to wear the same ones several times before they were washed. I don't remember thinking any one else smelled bad. I suppose that we all smelled alike. Mom only washed once a week, on Monday. The washing of course was done on the washboard and on Tuesday she ironed with flat irons that were heated on the stove.

We had to use an outside toilet and catalogues came in handy. It was rather cold in the winter. We had a battery radio that you listened to with ear phones, the big heavy kind. We had two or three sets, so we had to trade them around.

When we moved to town, alas, we had electricity. It was great. Mom could even iron with an electric iron but she still for a while washed on the washboard. We kept our food cool in a bucket in the well. The bucket was tied with a rope so we could raise and lower it. It was usually milk and butter that we kept there. Some times we would drop the bucket into the well and then for a while the water wasn't too good. Then there was oleo. When you bought it, it was white instead of yellow. There was a little packet of dye included and you had to mix it so that it didn't look like lard. In cold weather it was hard to do and didn't always get mixed evenly and in the summer it would get runny. My Dad use to call it "lubricating oil". It did look like it. Peanut butter was another thing. When you opened the jar, that on top would be real dry and in the bottom it was oily. You had to mix it and it didn't always mix well. It was nothing like the smooth peanut butter you get today. Be grateful. Mom made her own maionnaise and it was good, but I don't think that I appreciated it back then. We finally got an ice box and the ice man would come by in his truck and deliver ice. We though that was great and we couldn't wait to run out to get pieces of ice off the truck. There was nothing like chewing on a piece of ice on a hot day in summer. The icebox was a great help, but you had to remember to empty the pan under it. Some times you'd forget and you'd have water all over the floor.

Most of the houses had porches and on a summer evening everyone would sit there and visit with the neighbors and any one else that walked by. There were not many cars back then and people walked every place. It was sure a good way to meet people.

In those days there were no air conditioners and we didn't have a fan so the summers got pretty hot. We didn't know any better because it had always been that way. I'm so glad I now have air conditioning, but you know you miss a lot that way. When you're in your house with everything shut up, you don't hear the birds sing and you don't see neighbors walking by. That's what was so good about the porches. You really used them to sit on



1st CITY HALL-PALMER'S WATCH REPAIR-
MARTIN'S STORE-CORNER DICKERSON'S
DRUG STORE.



TELEPHONE OFFICE (MEDICAL BLDG). ED
HEUBENER TELEPHONE REPAIR MAN.

and to catch up on all the things happening. I always envied the people who had porch swings. I thought those were just great.

In those days you had to be in pretty bad shape to go to a hospital. The women had their babies at home, some with a midwife and some with a doctor. When you got a childhood disease, the public health officer, Dr. Ash, would come and tack a sign on your house. It remained until you were no longer contagious. If you had scarlet fever no one could leave the house. Groceries were brought and put on your porch. After the contagious period was over, they would fumigate the house.

Dr. Ash was our doctor and also a friend of the family. If you could not come to his office he would make a house call. I use to watch him open his little black bag. It was full of vials of pills of all colors. When it was time for my sister, Anne to be born, he came to the house and after telling the family that the baby would be born soon, he picked up the Alton Telegraph, sat down in a rocking chair by the stove and quietly waited until he was needed.

At the time he died there had been an outbreak of influenza and he was so busy taking care of his patients that he forgot to take care of himself. One of the last things that he asked was, "How's the roads"? He always worried about getting through the roads to his patients. He like other country doctors were very special and dedicated people. In some of my research I learned that supposedly Dr. Ash was the first curve-ball pitcher in this part of the state and that he once tried out with the St. Louis Browns. His medical library dated from 1837 up to 1937.

Our policeman in those days was a Constable and the one I remember the most was Pete Dolan. None of us kids were afraid of him. He was a quiet man with a mustache that curled on the ends. He was just one of the town people. Our calaboose was a little brick building that was located in front of where the first town water tower stood. It always looked pretty dirty to me and I think the only ones that were ever in there were drunks and bums.

There were five grocery store at that time and two meat markets. You bought groceries in the store but you bought meat in the meat markets. Emil "Jummie" Franz and Louie Hanold had the meat markets. They had slaughter houses and killed their own meat so it was fresh.

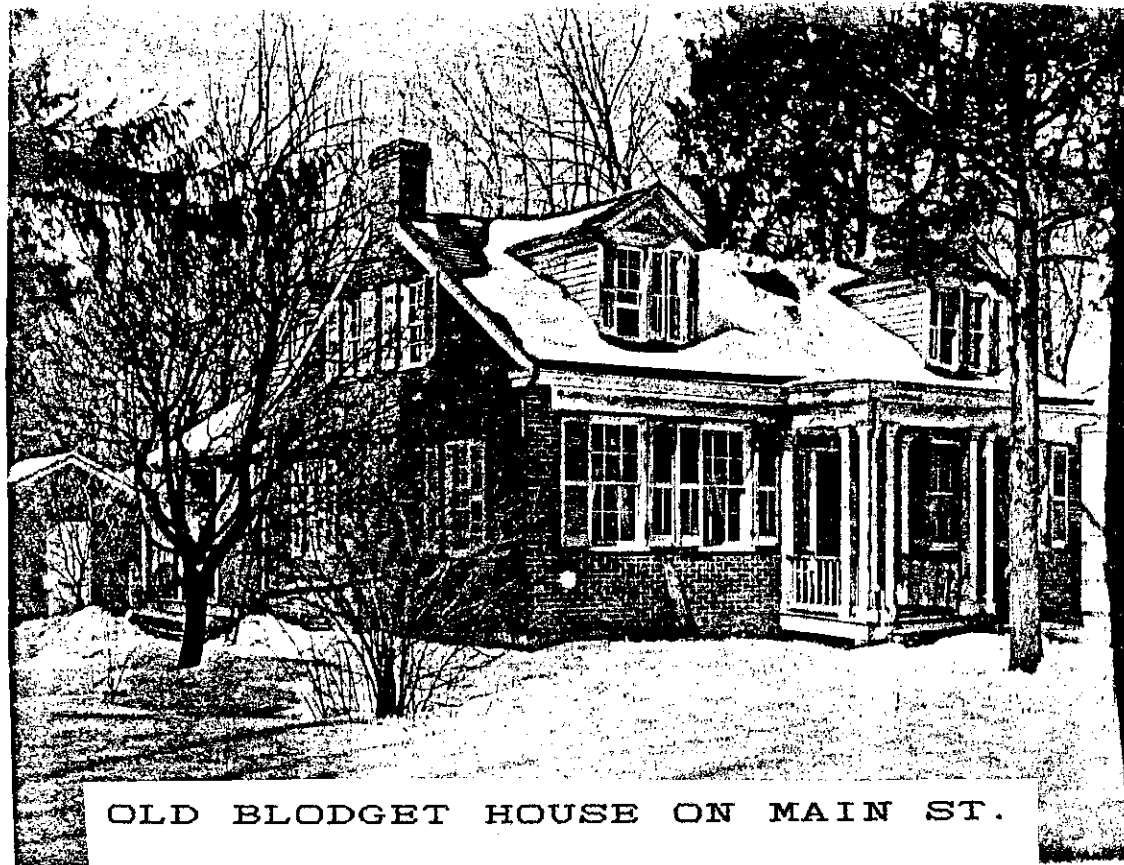
We could go into the store and get a sack of candy for a nickel. A bottle of soda was also 5¢. Of course, most of the time you didn't have the five cents. Mom made pies for Utterbacks Restaurant for 25¢ each.

One of our favorite things to do in the evening was for all of the neighbor kids to get together and tell about movies we had seen or tell ghost stories. Most of the time we scared ourselves. A lot of the time we would talk about the serial at the movie and what was going to happen to the hero.

We loved the radio shows. We would hurry home from school so that we wouldn't miss Jack Armstrong, Little Orphan Annie and Skippy. They were our favorites. I can remember coming in the house after school with the aroma of fresh bread filling the house. I always liked it when it was still warm, but after it got cold, I didn't like it. You know how kids are.

We each had only one pair of shoes, that was used for everyday and Sunday. Dad had a shoe last so that he could repair our shoes. He could put on new soles and heels. We only went to Ed Keuhnel's when we had to have a strap or a buckle sewed on. It usually cost about 5 or 10 cents.

Dad also cut our hair. He didn't do too bad either. I think most families did that. He and his friends from the railroad would cut each



OLD BLODGET HOUSE ON MAIN ST.

Bank Robbery Is Foiled by Bullet- Proof Glass as O. J. Hermes Smiles

1933

The attempt of two young bandits to rob the Brighton State Bank yesterday at 2 p. m. was foiled by the bullet-proof glass and steel partition which separates the outside office from the cashiers' cages.

One of the bandits pointed a .32-caliber automatic pistol at the assistant cashier, O. J. Hermes, and told him to "stick 'em up." Instead of obeying, Mr. Hermes merely smiled and started to retreat into the vault. "Don't you run," the bandit commanded, and fired one shot, which lodged in the glass partition. The bandit exclaimed: "Bullet-proof glass, let's get out of here," and the pair departed. They climbed into a green Plymouth roadster, which bore a California license plate, and sped away toward the southwest.

Hermes was alone in the bank at the time the bandits entered; George Sarius, a customer, had just departed. Many persons in the street saw the bandits stop in front of the bank, get out of their car, and wait outside

until Sarius left the bank. Not until the shot was fired did they realize that a hold-up was taking place. During the noon hour the pair attempted to enter the other bank, but found it closed. Both banks are closed from 12 to 1 to frustrate hold-ups.

Word was telephoned to all of the surrounding towns, and the sheriff's office was notified, but the bandits were still at large at midnite. Both wore blue suits, white caps and colored glasses. Two straw hats which were found on highway 111 south of town are believed by the police to be those discarded by the robbers for the white caps. They probably exchanged these for darker ones after they left town.

This bank was held up by two bandits at 10:20 a. m. on October 20, 1931, and robbed of \$3,661, and during the noon hour on Nov. 28, 1930, a sneak-thief got more than \$1,800. That robber was caught and he confessed and returned the money. The bullet-resisting equipment has been installed since the robbery last October.

other's hair so they didn't have to go to the barbershop. Ben Maricle, John Amerine and Mr. Meyers were our town barbers.

Betsey Ann was a special event and we wore our best clothes. I don't remember having much to spend maybe a dollar, but rides were a dime and the fish pond, my favorite place, was only a nickel. When you caught a celloid fish you got a prize. I spent most of my money there. Hamburgers were a dime and most of the time we just walked around and enjoyed being there. Linger Longer Lane had all kinds of good things going on and Betsey Ann was a special place to be in those days. Of course I got lost a lot, but I'd finally end up over at the Burgoo Stand where my Grandpa, Jim Barber was working most of the time.

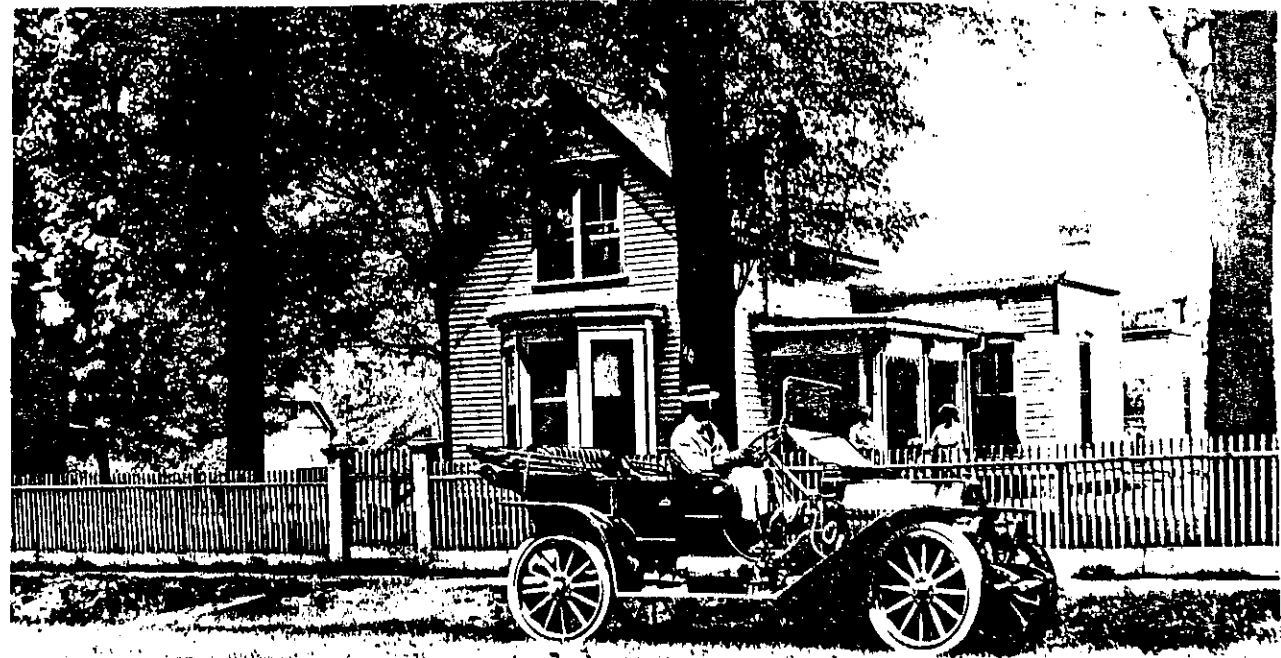
Back then we didn't have T.V., or a car. We read books a lot and visited with our friends and we certainly didn't feel deprived of anything. Even though Mom and Dad worked hard, they still spend a lot of time with us. Mom encourage our friends to come to our house and I'm sure there were times she was sorry. We could get pretty rowdy. She would fix pop corn and pop corn balls and some times in the winter she would make taffy for us to pull. It not only is fun to pull but it's also good to eat. That is if everyone wash their hands nice and clean first. Dad was our story teller and kept us all entertained. I guess we were fortunate to have grown up with the parents we had and to live in this small town where we knew we were among friends.

Brighton has been my home for 72 and a half years and I'm proud of it. When I was growing up the population was around 550 give or take a little. During the 1880's there were about 1500. But that was before they had good roads and cars, to shop else where. We are now close to 2500. Sadly enough we are classed mostly as a bedroom community. We have a number of subdivisions and there are more being added on every day, which is good, but our business district has not grown much. It is building up along the highway and we now have a new bank and there is a new convience store to go up soon. Unfortunately when you have small towns that are close to larger cities you have this happen. Usually the town grows only in population and we need the businesses to keep the town going. We do have Senior citizen housing now and Meals on Wheels. We have a group of women to thank for the Meals on Wheels, Jeanine McNear, Loretta Watts, Verna Lee Johnson and Norma Wirth. They worked very hard to get it. They have a number of hard working women and several men, that work to take care of feeding everyone. They need our thanks. They do a good job.

I wonder what would happen if all of a sudden there were no more private cars. I guess we'd have to ride buses to work and shop in town, an interesting thought.

I am so glad that we now have a Museum. It was opened in May of '93. It's the Brighton Heritage Museum. We are very proud of it and have had 550 people go through it in the year that we have been open. We have a lot on display but we have more to put out. It will grow through the years. At the present we are only open on Sunday 2:00 to 4:00, but with the better weather coming on we will have more hours.

All of the proceeds from this book will go to the Museum.



JONES HOUSE (CUMMING'S PARKING LOT)
MR. JONES IN CAR.

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INTERVIEWS-Over the last few years of-Charles Winslade, Bertha Goetz Kramer, Alma Roettgers, Harry and Esther Jones, Howard Gwilliam and Zora Bauer McAfee. Also through conversations with many others.

OUR THANKS-to the Frank and Bonnie Oertel who let us tour their beautiful 125 year old Farm Home and shared with us the history of the family.



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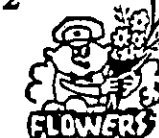
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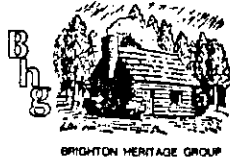
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