Brighton's Main Four Corners

After the destruction of the Eastern House on the northeast corner of Main and Grand River in 1926, a variety of enterprises attempted to establish themselves. Among the earliest were a brick store, a restaurant and gas station hoping to continue serving the local and traveling public. These failed during the Depression of the 1930s and were torn down.

The resulting clearing seemed an ideal location for a car sales business. Walker Chevrolet appeared in 1935. This was followed by Leech Motor Sales around 1940. Bev Smith Motors (1944-1947) later became John Weise Ford, the last car dealership before the site was cleared. A strip mall with A&P grocery was constructed in 1960.

Uber's Drugs located there from their West Main location in 1963, staying 33 years until 1996. A Former Jack store succeeded the A&P in 1971, to be followed in 1977 by Seta's Grocery. Seta's had moved from 9810 E. Grand River. They had been in that location since 1962. Their business was open for 20 years before closing in 1997.

The site then became the Brighton Shopping Plaza in June 1997. After Seta's closed, Arbor Drugs opened in 1997. Others in the plaza included a laundry, photo shop, computer shop, etc. Most recently, tenants include CVS Pharmacy, O'Reilly's Auto Parts and Sushi Zen.

The 1967 Brighton Centennial issue of the Brighton Argus records Malcom Fitch as the first timer in town with a tin shop in a two-story building on the corner. By 1893 it was described as the Conley Tin Shop. When brothers Will & Fred Stahlberg owned the Eastern House, this site across E. Main was used as a storage house for carriages. They likely also stored other horse-drawn conveyances and equipment there. Our archives hold a photo of George Smith and his team in front of the building in 1906. Another photo shows the north side of the building. An exterior staircase indicates apartments were rented there. An 1898 ad publicizes that C.E. Cushing, with Oscar W Babcock and Henry Sowe, made and sold harnesses here.

Research has not so far revealed when the frame building was displaced. A 1921 reference, including a photo, tells us E.L. Bollare sold meats at the store in a one-story building. At some time, the Stahlbergs also had meat available there. A February 1931 clipping states "K.J. Lehman took over the Stahlberg meat market on the 4th." In April 1931, it states "Lawrence Navarro became a partner of K.J. Lehman in the meat business."

During the 1930s, a Pastry Shop and Watson & O'Leary Dairy sold dairy, eggs, etc. In the early 1940s, Mabel Herbist opened a Malt Shop. Lunches and hamburgers were a specialty that many high schoolers swooped from the school on Church Street to enjoy. Mabel's daughters often helped their mother; maybe that had something to do with the many male customers.

Recent and Future Happenings

Dates to remember - April 2010
Apr 28: 6:00 pm BAHS board meeting at CoBACH
Apr 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 9am-12nn Archiving at Lyon School
Apr 7, 14, 21, 28: 2pm-8 pm Society hosts at CoBACH
Apr 13, 18, 25: 5pm-8 pm Society hosts at CoBACH

Lyon School Maintenance
We need volunteers to help paint the Lyon School. This includes all the prep work, such as washing and scraping, as well as painting. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us. Also, if you would like to help cover the costs, you can donate to the Friend of Lyon School fund using the coupon on page 3.

Thanks and Recognition
THANKS TO...
The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time and energy to support the BAHS.
- Judith Coebly and Sue Skwarski for delivering 99 copies of the newsletter to teachers, administration and PTOs for the Brighton and other schools, each month. Parents should be aware that they may schedule visits with their children to the historic Lyon School, our fully restored one-room school house.
- Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Esther Jarvis, and new member John Kluk for their donations to BAHS projects in addition to their annual dues.
- Mary Ann Catrell, Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ), Margo Metzger and Delores Yackley for their Friends of Lyon School 2010 donations in addition to their dues.
- Bert Bair, Ida Bair and June Kimble for helping prepare the March issue of Trail Tales for mailing.
- Alice Wyland for donating a portable school writing desk with slate and slate pencils and sketching samples, dated 1875. You'll find it in the school items display at Lyon School.

Memberships
We would like to thank the following members for their annual memberships:
Patron:
- Margo Metzger

Individual:
- Pete & Coral Black
- Jim and Christine Birney
- Mary Ann Catrell
- Pat & Marlene Fonseca (AZ)
- Esther Jarvis
- John Kluk
- Jonathan Redditt
- Henry & MaryLou Vinegar
- Delores Yackley

*New Member—Welcome!

Addendum To BFID Series
As we continue our salute to volunteer in the Brighton Fire Department, we add Peter Fay, Luther Frink, John Hutchings, William W. Penfield, Henry Rohr, William Stanfield and Thomas Williams as members to Hook and Ladder Company 1, 1879. A photo, circa 1885, has another 21 local men in uniforms with a large "1" in a shield on the front of the jackets. These men include J. Anderson, John Raker, William Becker, William Bitten, Art Roylan, George Broadmore, Charles Campbell, Steve Jones, Le Roy King, Ed Miller, Robert Parks, George Potkin, Avery Proudt, R. Roberts, Bill Robins, E. Rosencren, Gene Sweet, Ansel Townsend, Felt Wenham, Lou Westphal, with Will Winkelhouse holding the trumpet he uses to shout instructions.

Support BAHS - Become a Member or Donate

The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become a member, please visit our website at www.brightonareahistorical.com or mail in the following form below.

Mail check or money order payable to: Brighton Area Historical Society P. O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116-0481

Name: __________________________ Phone: _______
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______
E-Mail: __________________________

Membership Plan:
New Business $500 Life $15 Individual $10 $100
Renewal Personal $50 Patron $2 Student $25 $250
$25 Family $50 Other $ $50 Other $ $250

BAHS Projects Fund:
$10 $100 $100 $100

The Brighton Area Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) Tax Deductible Organization.

BAHS Gift Shop

The Brighton Area Historical Society maintains an inventory of commemorative and Brighton history memorabilia for sale as society fund raisers. 100% of all sales proceeds go to fund ongoing organization budget needs of BAHS, including local history projects and Lyon School maintenance.
Our product offering includes BAHS apparel (shirts, hats, etc.), home décor (pewter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like. To see in detail our full offering, please visit our online gift shop on our website at www.brightonareahistorical.com.

Product Spotlight
From Settlement to City: Brighton, Michigan 1832 - 1945 by Carol McMacken
450+ pages Over 300 pictures $65.00

BAHS Leadership

Executive Board
President: Jim Vichich
Vice President: Marianna Bair
Secretary: Thomas Reinke
Treasurer: Mindy Keyes

Directors: Dave Ball Jim Miller Sue Garcia Larry Lawrence Education Liaison Judith Coebly Education Liaison Sue Skwarski

More About BAHS
The Lyon School is located at 11455 Bono Road west of Pleasant Valley Road.
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Watch for more names next month.

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by Carol McMacken

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Over 300 pictures
$65.00

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By 1950, the sign outside read Walker's Grill & Malt Shop. By 1955, it was Haller's Grill, followed by the Brass Lantern in 1969. In 1973, the Brass Lantern acquired a liquor license, transferred from 132 E. Grand River. By 1994, it became the Cap & Cork liquor store. In 2007, this site was cleaned and a new building now houses Rottemer Jewelry.

Compiled by Marianne Bair from Brighton Argus clippings. Additions/corrections requested. (810) 229-6402.