

EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

The horse is trotting through the early evening chill of autumn. Now we know why there is a dashboard on the front of the buggy - most of the mud thrown up from the hooves is deflected before it lands in our laps. We're still glad a covering was brought to place over us.

"I'd slow down but we might get stuck in this swampy area." (Much lowland in the area makes most trails even more difficult after a rain.) We're on our way to Section 8 in Brighton Township for an evening of work and fun. Ears of field corn have been pulled from the stalks and piled in the barn. Now begins the husking bee, where the men will try to outdo each other in the number of ears they can strip of their leafy cover. And the ladies will each have brought their best covered dish to the pot luck. After the corn is stored out of the way, the cleared area will become a dance floor.

The NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 was 'taken up' in 1835-1836. Seth Bidwell of Orleans, N. Y. acquired the N $\frac{1}{2}$ in September, 1835. Charles Spencer, Wayne, Mi., the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ six months later and William Clark of NYC the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ in September, 1836. By 1859 Charles T. Hyne had bought Clark's piece. Clark had died in 1842, but large tracts still remained in the family including Clark Lake on Hacker Road. In 1870, Nathaniel Tompkins Osborn's name was on Spencer's SE $\frac{1}{4}$. By 1875, Bidwell, Hyne and Osborn were recorded as owners of Section 8 - Osborn Lake Estates and Lake Village Shores, which came into being about 100 years later.

By 1895, A. J. McClements had bought out Bidwell. At that time the lake was called Bidwell Lake. That area remained in the McClements, Osborn and Hyne hands until the 1920s.

Much of that land was swampy and difficult to cultivate. However sheep and cattle pastured there had a bountiful water supply. If the residents of Section 8 close their eyes and meditate they can probably still see the hay, corn, wheat and oats, all staples for a farmer's needs, still growing with the animals grazing. Can still envision the farmer walking behind the plow. A different crop is being raised there today; young families developing into productive, responsible citizens. (Marieanna Bair, Editor)

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