Brighton was not the only community in which the world of technology caught up with the formerly vital mills; they were closed. Immediately following WW 1, and continuing for more than 20 years, Henry Ford began purchasing old mills in some of the smaller towns, planning to convert them into water powered plants that could supply his River Rouge complex with small automobile parts. His intentions were to provide work during the winter months for those living in rural areas and small towns. Perhaps because of lack of community cooperation, high prices on adjacent land, etc., Mr. Ford dismissed plans for the local mill.

In the summer of 1953, the sluice dam, which enclosed a quiet pond of stagnant, odorous, mosquito-infested water (across Main Street from the Old Town Hall) was disturbed by a neighbor’s shovel. Later that night, with a deep rumble and the “dreaded racket you ever heard”, the mill pond was no more. Huge trees which grew in the cool, moist hollow which was the sluice way, came crashing down; a result of the suddenly released water. The pond on the north side of Main was again merely Little Ore Creek. The surrounding shallow, marshy area soon made itself known to the nostrils in the warm sun. This objectionable condition forced local politicians into action. Before long the property was purchased and a small control dam built on the north side of Main, the following year. A large culvert was installed to carry Ore Creek under the street to the south side of North Street. The hollow was filled in and a parking lot constructed.

Various community organizations have endeavored to enhance the millpond and its surroundings through the years, making it a unique and desirable addition to the town and community. Brighton Kiwanians built a gazebo to commemorate the nation’s Bicentennial. Sunday evenings, during the summer, hundreds enjoy concerts and the indescribable ambience which comes as a result of people playing, working and living together. It has become a gathering place for the community just as the old mill was in its center of activity.

However, at the closing of the old mill, local farmers were not without a mill to grind their grain. A. C. Stewart & Son had, c. 1900, leased an elevator by the tracks behind the Chilson Store in Genoa Township. After two years, he leased the elevator by the rail and in 1917-18 this business was sold to a cooperative and he bought the building on Main Street (now Mill Pond Pub) where an electric motor drove the grinding equipment. During the 20s, 30s and 40s, wagons and trucks could be driven down the alley behind the elevator. Ears of corn and other grains were dumped into the grated chute to be ground. After Stewart sold the business, those with grain to grind had to go to Howell. Today the family can visit the restored Greeno Mill in Green Oak Township on Ruhston Road between 9 and 10 Mile Roads. A living, working mill will give them a taste of yesterday and a glimpse of the energy of those who preceded us. (Compiled and edited by Marianna Bair from: “Michigan Memorabilia” by Wm. Pless, 1880 History of Liv. Co., Mary Mathias and Charlene Kuhl. Corrections and additions are most welcome.)

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**OFFICERS**

Pres. 229-7923
V.P. 229-6268
Sec. 229-6571
Treas. 227-3968

**DIRECTORS**

Bill Amrhein
Marieanne Bair
Chuck Beach
Dick Davis
Audrey Leith
Rae-Lynn Lerner
Leota Manos
Gary McKinzie
Finance Comm. Dick Davis
Lyons School Herb. L. Warner
Old Town Hall Sheilah Klein
Penny Szczesniski editor 229-7324
Cathy Gualisi editor 229-8656

General Meeting

The next general meeting will be Tuesday, May 16. Potluck at 6:30 followed by the meeting at 7:30 will be held at Lindom School.

We would like to thank Doris Johnson for her interesting talk on Brighton at the last meeting.

1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989

Bar/Prof.: Munzell Engineering, Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen.
Patron: Rae Carmack (Calif), Betty Herbst, Val & Kathy Jacoby (Fl), Joan Pinney-Rice (Calif)

Take a "Stroll" in the Past

The 1989 Brighton Historical Home Tour is quickly approaching. The Home Tour Committee is very enthusiastic and anticipates a very successful tour this year. If you haven't already done so, please mark your calendar for May 13th, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

We have expanded our tour this year to include six homes and two local churches which were built in the 1800's. One of the homes featured will be a "designer" home which will be furnished and decorated by several of our local merchants. There will be special events planned throughout your stroll to the homes.

To make your trip to the past more enjoyable, we have planned a drawn carriage rides available, which will be traveling down the residential Main Street area. All participants in the tour will be dressed in period clothing. We are also asking that anyone living in the areas where homes are on tour to please get into the spirit by hanging out your American flags. Get into the true spirit by dressing in period clothing and sit on your porch or walk through town.

There is still time to volunteer to become a part of this Historic Community Event. We are in need of people to work as tour guides and ticket sellers for three shifts. We had great fun last year. Ask the people who volunteered! No previous experience necessary - we will train! Please contact Ethel Gebbie at 227-8566. Do your part to preserve Brighton's past! Rae-Lynn Lerner, chairman 1989 Brighton Home Tour
White Lake Historical Meeting
The White Lake Township Historical Society is holding a semi-annual Regional Historical Societies meeting on April 27, 1989.
Beginning at 7:30 p.m. there will be a tour of the Fish Farm House and outbuildings at 9180 Highland Road (M 59 at Fish Rd.). At 8:00 the meeting will be held at the historic Town Hall Community Center at 7500 Highland Rd.
Refreshments will be served with entertainment to follow.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Brief Definitions of Items on the Membership Form
So you are aware of just what each item means on the form you fill out when you become a member, here are brief descriptions of each area.

Newsletter Publications: Prepare monthly newsletter, publicizing the Society's goals and the efforts being made to reach them.

Oral History: Oral or video presentations of the recollections of area residents.

Photography: Photographing local scenes to serve as an historical research resource.

Publicity: Publicizing the Society's goals, activities, and accomplishments.

Research: Develop an historical research resource for newsletter articles.

Restoration: Research on accurate restoration procedure of structures, sites, etc. toward preservation and registration as Michigan Historical sites. Serve on restoration project committees, and promote the establishment of an Historical Commission and Districts.

Video Taping: Development of Society archives by the taping of general meeting programs, social events, etc. Work with Oral History committees.

(continued on page 3)
The White Lake Historical Society is holding a semi-annual Regional Historical Societies meeting on April 27, 1989.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. there will be a tour of the Fisk Farm House and buildings at 9180 Highland Road (M 59 at Fisk Rd.). At 8:00 the meeting will be held at the historic Town Hall Community Center at 7500 Highland Rd.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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