

## BLACKSMITHING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

When the railroad came to Brighton in 1871, the Smith/McPherson Addition was platted, well promoted and lots sold. Hiram H. Smith, President of the Detroit, Lansing and Lake Michigan Railroad and Edward G. and Wm. Jr., McPherson, Howell businessmen, purchased land west of Ore Creek from Elizabeth Cushing and Elijah Fitch (who originally settled there in the early 1830s.

Among the many who took part in this development of the west end of town, along W. Main, were John Becker and Wm. Pipp, who built the Pipp & Becker Hardware Store, c.1871 (SE corner W. Main & Hyne St.). Pipp lived on the SE corner of Grand River and Beaver and Becker on the SW corner of E. Main and East St.

A few doors east of the Pipp & Becker Hardware Store, Henry Herbst built a blacksmith shop on W. Main. He also built a house behind it facing North St. (Opposite the present Post Office site, 315 W. North.) Herbst, whose father lived on Euler Road, a quarter mile east of the Henry Ratz farm (corner Grand River/Kellogg), married Theresa Behrens, sister of Mary Behrens (Mrs. George B.) Ratz. Lots of family connections, which often helped local businesses survive.

George B. Ratz and Henry both worked in that shop and George B. continued to operate there after Herbst bought a farm out Brighton Road, near Lime Lake.

Other blacksmiths known to have worked in the "Henry Herbst and George B. Ratz Wagon, Carriage and General Blacksmith Shop" were: Arthur Lanning, Robert Phillips, Wally Cook, Will Shannon, and brothers Conrad and Adam Weber.

The Weber Brothers owned the business at one time followed by the "Cook & Shannon Wagon, Carriage and General Blacksmithing" c.1895. The building just west was Charles Cushing's harness shop and next was Alice Jolly's millinery shop, and then the George B. Ratz Hardware Store which he bought from Pipp and Becker in the late 1800s.

At this same time one could find on the north side of Main Street, west of the mill pond, Charles Belding's Livery and Dray Barn and Henry Rohn's Blacksmith Shop. Further west, Pipp and Bitten's saloon, with the Macabee's Lodge upstairs, and a blacksmith shop behind it on First Street. (This series on "Blacksmiths in the Brighton Area" will conclude next month. These installments were written from writings of Wm. Pless and S. B. Jacobs, materials available to the author. In order to compile a more complete record anyone with more information on the subject should please contact Marieanna Bair. Also anyone with information on the earlier articles which related to saw and grist mills.)

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