BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

Early on a sense of dependable continuity developed in the perceptions of the patrons of Brighton State Bank. Besides the fact that all shareholders and members of the Board of Directors were local people (many descendents of early settlers), it was also noted that successive generations continued their representation on the board. Van Winkle, Blythe, and Case are a few of the names which should be noted. One also was aware that the faces behind the counters were the same each time one went into the bank. This writer's memory includes, Roy Newcomb, Alice Newcomb, Emma Westin, Carmen Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson stated at an interview in 1975, that when she first went to work at the bank, "We had two windows, shelves and a stool. The facilities were outside, but it was air conditioned inside, after a fashion...we had a large fan that blew the papers around." She also told of an attempted bank robbery in the early 1920s. "He broke in from the back into what we laughingly referred to as the directors' room. Actually it was the cloakroom, the room for examining safe deposit boxes, the lunch room and the conference room."

However the would-be robber had not considered the small town integrity of Brighton at that time. The town's telephone switchboard, "Central", was located on the second floor of the building. The night operator heard the break in. From the myriad of wires, lights and sockets she activated the burglar alarm. The ringing of bells awakened Mr. Hackethorn, the superintendent of Greenville Gravel Company (later American Aggregate), who lived across the street. He jumped out of bed, pulled on his pants, got into his car and gave chase down Grand River. But the robber had too much head start and he made his getaway down Rickett Road. An acetylene torch was found at the scene of the break in but the thief was never heard from again.

(By Marleanna Bair. To be continued.)

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

TRAIL TALES
Brighton Area Preservation News

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area. The membership is composed of people who feel this purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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DATES TO REMEMBER
Feb. 9, 7 p.m. "Hearts and Flowers", Valentine program - Jerry Wingerter, Brighton Area District Library, 202 N First St.
Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
Feb. 13, 9-11 a.m. Archives Committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
Feb. 20, 8:30-noon. Fading Photos Workshop, Holland, MI.
Feb. 27, 9:30-1 p.m. Community Fair, Brighton High School.
Mar. 9, 7:30 p.m. General meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River. Antiques appraisal - Gary Kuehle & Eric Lund.
Mar. 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting.
Mar. 13, 9-11 a.m., Archives Committee.

GREAT AMERICAN HOMES AWARD

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Sears Roebuck Co. announce the 1993 competition. For entry requirement and application forms send a SASE to: Home Awards, 4991, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

The competition promotes restoration, research and commitment to preservation. The restoration of one home or business owner encourage entire neighborhoods to do the same.

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED

If you can carry it you can bring it for appraisal, antique that is Gary Kuehle and Eric Lund of G.B. Kuehle Co. will present a program on evaluating antiques and appraisal. The First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River will be the place and 7-9 p.m will be the time.

Besides small antiques, the partners will also appraise fine arts. You can bring a picture of a larger item. There is no charge for this service. Coffee and cookies will be available (also no charge). Public is invited.

HEARTS AND FLOWERS

Jerry Wingerter of the Bon Ton Shoppe will present a program on the development and evolution of valentines, sponsored by the Brighton Area District Library Tuesday, February 9, 7 p.m.

Local Quilter groups will display antique examples of valentines during this program at the City Council chambers, 200 N. First Street. All age groups are welcome. No fee charged. Need a ride? Call 229-6571.

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