

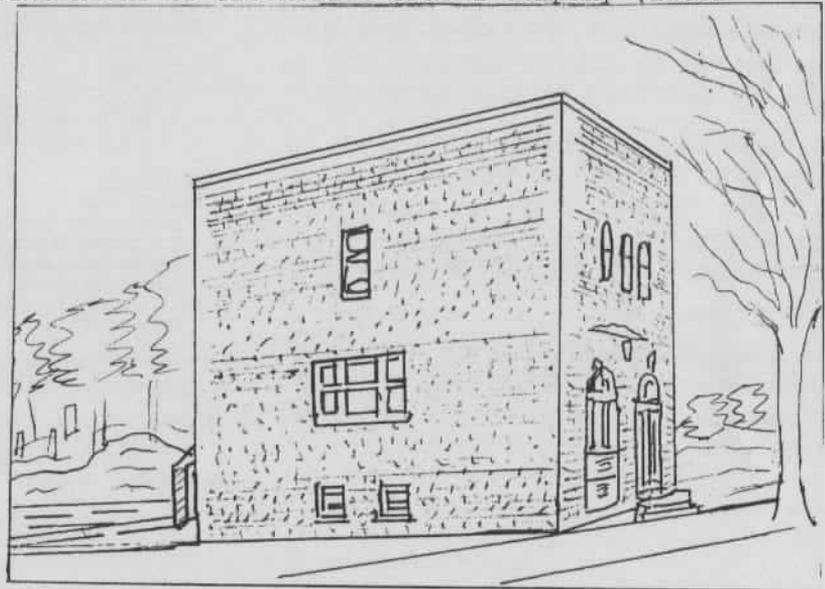
## BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

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 descendants of early settlers), it was also noted that successive generations continued their representation on the board. Van Winkle, Hyne, 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. Heckathorn, 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 Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)



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