In the January/February, 1992, issue of Michigan History Magazine we learn: "On February 14, (1933) Michigan Governor William A. Comstock closed every bank in the state for eight days. (But banks were not allowed to open until February 23.) The country was suffering the devastating effects of the Great Depression and Michigan’s banks were at the brink of failure. After attempts to obtain loans from the federal government and private donors had failed, Comstock closed the banks, which set off a tidal wave of bank closings in other states. Ultimately, only 207 of Michigan’s 436 state banks and trust companies reopened." To top it off, two days after his March 4, 1933, inauguration President Roosevelt declared a national banking holiday for a week.

Brighton State Bank was one of the successful banks. It reopened under the conservatorship of its cashier, Mr. Roy Newcomb. (Not only were businesses and individuals critically affected by this catastrophe, but also governmental bodies and schools. Vacation time for Brighton students started April 21, 1933. There were no funds with which to pay school bills.) Assets were liquidated and a new bank formed with new stock the following January.

It was six years before the area had sufficiently recovered from the effects of the Depression to enable bank officers to decide it was time to authorize the opening of an Industrial Loan Department; June 1, 1939.

Following WWII the American industry turned again to peacetime production. Local economy was stimulated and business increased with the area’s growth. In 1951 it was determined that a 20’x59’, one story addition would be made to the building. Total remodeling included changes which completely obliterated all vestiges of the old, familiar 1911 architectural details.

By Marianna Bair. To be continued.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
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DATES TO REMEMBER
9, 7:30 p.m. General Meeting. First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River. Antiques appraisal - Gary Kuehne & Eric Lund.
11, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W main, upstairs. Welcome.
13, 9-11 a.m. Archives Committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.

April 3, 9-11 a.m. Board Workshop. Interested? Contact Marianna Bair, 229-6402.

May 15, HURON RIVERFest. See related article.

HURON RIVERFest
Several governmental, non profit organizations and businesses are planning a week long "Celebration of River Communities," beginning May 15. A flotilla of 30 canoes will put in at Proud Lake Recreation Area and ride the Huron River to Lake Erie.

Communities along the way will host celebrations including concerts; history/nature and cultural programs; and other Huron River related displays and events; all to highlight the importance of the river in our lives.

Day long festivities are planned for Sunday, May 16, at Livingston Conservation Club on M-36 on the Huron. Fishing, music, entertainment, craft show/sale, food, etc.

BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES
Bromfield House Center for Local History, 312 S. Division, Ann Arbor, (313-761-4889) has scheduled 10 Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m., on historic preservation and restoration. Beginning March 10 with "Quilting: Past to Present" continuing with "Wish You Were Here" a collection of antique Ann Arbor postcards; "Interiors of the Late 1800's"; "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly"/what makes a successful restoration?; "Painted Tin From the Early 1800's"; "Antique Tools: Form and Function"; "The Early Ann Arbor Railroad"; "Early Private Hospitals"; "Hills Along the Huron River"; and concluding with "More Painted Period Details", more interior design detailing.

March 13-14, 1-4 pm they will be holding their annual quilt show. Includes antique and modern quilts and demonstrations. $1. Questions? Contact Marianna Bair, 229-6402.