BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1960 (concluded)

DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF MILKING COWS IN A HERD AT A GIVEN TIME, A STAINLESS STEEL TANKER IS driven to the dairy farm each 24-48 hours and, after testing for purity, drains off the milk which has been accumulated by the farmer. These tankers, ranging in size from 15,000 to 20,000 gallons (3.98 per gallon), transport the milk to a distant milk processing facility. Much of the milk produced in the county is delivered to the Michigan Milk Depot in Plymouth.

IT IS OBVIOUS MANY CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE FARMING BUSINESS IN THE COUNTY. In 1967 there were 284 dairy farmers; by 1971, 191. In 1994 that total is down to 32. Already in 1967 there were no dairy farms in Green Oak and Brighton Townships. Most dairy farms are now found in the northern tier of townships. Herd size has also changed, ranging from 20-500 head they average 96 head of cattle - up from an average of 30 in 1960. The need of costly equipment is there whether for 30, 60 or 100.

SIMPLE ECONOMICS decrees that the more cattle the lower the unit cost. The capital investment involved in starting any farming business precludes all but those who are beguished by a farm by parents. As more people move into the area the farmer finds his land assessed at higher rates. Most find it financially unfeasible to continue.

Perhaps to ensure that a farmer’s life is not without a few disturbing features, Mother Nature stirs the pot. One such time was March, 1973. A severe snow storm closed roads for days and caused some to lose electrical power. Unless one had a generator handy, this was a double whammy. Without electricity cows had to be milked by hand (they must be milked regularly): dozens of them. However, after all that work, the milk had to be dumped for several days until the tanker could get through to pick it up. Nor could the milk be properly cooled or pumped from the bulk tank to the milk truck. Even those who had power to continue normal milkings (2-3 times daily) also had to dump several milkings down the drain because of the snow blocked roads.

On the lighter side: the story is told of the old farmer who hoarded his milk checks, not cashing them for several months. This bothered the bookkeeper at the milk factory, so he decided to lend the farmer an arm. A neighbor heard about it and told the bookkeeper he could get him to cash them because the farmer listened in on the party telephone line. That neighbor and another feigned a conversation, "Have you cashed your milk check yet?" "No." "You better not waste time. Because I heard in town that the factory might not have the money in the bank for all the checks." The old farmer was waiting at the bank door before it opened the next morning. (Compiled from "Michigan Memorabilia" by Bill Pless.)

Practical Home Veterinary, 1913. David Roberts, DVS: interviews with Mary Taylor, Clarence Taylor, A.L. Southwell, Alice Newcomb, Fred Catrell and John Leech, County Agricultural Agent. Also newspaper articles by Andrew and Claudine Jackson and Duane Girbach.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 48
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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DATES TO REMEMBER
* Apr. 9, 9-11 a.m., A.R.C. Archives.
** 16, Stained Glass Tour.
* 25, 7:30 P.M., Society Board Meeting.
May 13, 2nd Annual Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Conference, Lonia.
** 25-26, Michigan Archival Association Meeting and Workshops.
* at Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main St.
See related article, for more information on any of the above, call M. Bair, 229-6402

TRAIL TALKS
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.

EDITORIAL
Altho’ the Society enjoys an active board, volunteers are necessary to fulfill the purposes of the organization. A membership person to keep records in order: a publicity person to promote the various projects and events: newsletter editor or co-editor: A fund raising chairman: Lyons School helpers, etc., are just some of the places you can fill. Contact Pres. Bair or any board member, you’ll find it satisfying and rewarding.

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MICHIGAN STAINED GLASS SURVEY
The Survey of architectural stained glass, sponsored by the Michigan State University Museum, is presenting two programs and tours April 16, Detroit Historical Museum, May 7, in Clinton.

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MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM SEeks YOUR HOME MOVIES
Looking for a larger audience to screen your home movies? The Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing is searching for certain older home movies to include in its 20th century exhibits. Home movies portraying life in the 1920s have the potential to make the 1920s more personal and the museum exhibits more engaging for visitors. Opening in January, 1995, this exhibit will complete the story of Michigan from the Ice Age to the present. Movies showing towns, vehicular traffic, various activities and social movements, the arrival of immigrants, delivery vehicles, etc., are especially desirable. Contact: Denise Yockey, 517/375-2520
1994 MEMBERSHIPS 1994
Patron: Bennie & Bonnie Corrigan, Whitney & June Kimble, Tom & Audrey Leith, Joan Rice (CA).
Couples/Indiv: Don & Ricci Bandka, Heather Bandka, Heidi Bandka, Florence Chase (FL), Homer & Evelyn Dethage (IL), Nancy Fredenberg (NY), Dorothy Gartman, Rodney & Dorothy Jones, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Bill & Barbara McGrath, Ron & Jill Morey, Dorothy Misch, Alice Newcomb (NY), Irene Paquette, John Park (Berkley, MI), Fred Schiller, Margaret Sidor (NY).
The fine record of renewal of annual dues makes the Society Board feel they’re doing something right.
Payment of Patron dues helps assure the Society’s continued existence. Dues pay the administrative expenses of the Society — therefore ALL donations can go into the preservation and restoration fund.

MICHIGAN ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATION MEETING AND WORKSHOPS
Meeting at Mackinac Island, workshops will include:
1. Introduction to Archives.
2. Audio Recordings in Archives.
Contact M. Bair, 229-6402, for more information. Deadline is May 5.

CENTER FOR TEACHING MICHIGAN HISTORY
The Best of Teaching Michigan Contest resulted in the publication of "Immediatley Michigan" a 100 page collection of over 50 K-12 lesson plans. Available from the Historical Society of Michigan for $1.25.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

NEEDLEPOINT KITS: Pattern only or with yarn, of the OLD TOWN HALL, can be purchased from the Quilter's Shoppe, 213 M. Main at $5 & $.85.
PICTURES: Enlarged, mounted photos of the mill pond, one from the north c.1940, one of the mill race c.1935, are at Uber's Drugs. When you see them you'll want one of each.
POST CARDS: Packets of 6, two sets; of EARLY BRIGHTON SCENES, are also at Uber's and at the Book Nook, 322 M. Main.

SALE: A SPRING YARD SALE IS PLANNED AT LYONS SCHOOL. ITEMS OF AN HISTORICAL TYPE ARE MOST WANTED. WE CAN'T ACCEPT CLOTHING OR BOOKS. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE SCHOOL RESTORATION FUND.


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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: ____________________________
ADDRESS: _________________________
PHONE: __________

NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:
( ) Bake Sale ( ) Help with Spec. events ( ) Newsletter ( ) Research
( ) Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoration
( ) Fund Raising ( ) Programs ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping
( ) Genealogical ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other


Located on the hill overlooking the mill pond, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was built in 1881, patterned after a church in England. Worship services, conducted by Rev. Wm. A. Clark, D.D., of New York, have been held since 1872, making St. Paul's one of the earliest congregations. Meetings were held in members' houses. A Parish Hall has been added as well as major renovation in 1991-1992.
1994 MEMBERSHIPS 1994

Patron: Bennie & Bonnie Corrigan, Whitney & June Kimble, Tom & Audrey Leith, Joan Rice (CA).

Couples/Individuals: Don & Ricci Bandak, Heather Bandak, Heidi Bandak, Florence Chase (Flav.), Homer & Evelyn Dothager (IL), Nancy Fredenberg (95), Dorothy Hartman, Roden & Dorothy Jones, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Bill & Barbara McKirriee, Ron & Jill Morey, Dorothy Musch, Alice Newcomb (95), Irene Paquette, John Park (Berkley, MI), Fred Schiller, Margaret Siford (95).

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CENTER FOR TEACHING MICHIGAN HISTORY


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Apologies for the lateness of this month’s Trail Tales. Your Editor has been winning the battle against pneumonia. She’s well on the road to recovery. Thanks to all well wishes. Marianna Bair

ARCHIVES: Each 2nd Saturday, 9-11 A.M., and several other days during the month, you’ll find us reviewing and deciding how best to file the letters, books, pictures and similar memorabilia. Archival filing materials have been purchased. Join the group on call Marianna Bair, 229-6402. If you’d like to come at another time.

Microfiling of 1-1800/12-25-1918 and 1-7/1900/12-11-1929 issues of the Brighton Argus is completed. The bill was $816.18. Donations can be made to cover this cost. Newspaper does not have a long storage life. It is appropriate for the Society to create this archival resource.

Thanks to Anne Stratigos for her donation of picture and paper memorabilia.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Years ago the Baptist Church was located at the corner of Madison and 2nd Street in town. Contact Dave Barton, 229-5213, or Marianna if you have anything which might help. Or to get started on a survey of your road or area.

LYONS SCHOOL: Neighbor Jim Vichich has accepted the position of "Supervisor" regarding the many physical phases of restoration on the school. 11455 Bung Rd. Jim is checking with contractors regarding getting bids on providing heat, plumbing, electricity, etc. To provide security for the new school exterior shutters are planned. Estimated costs exceed $2000. Herb Warner is the historic resource person who is advising on the restoration. Free physical labor will help contain costs. Contact Marianna Bair, 229-6402, with your offer. Wishing for the marker is finalized. It’s on its way along the proper Michigan History Division channels prior to the casting of the marker. A wall mounted marker is being considered — approx $1200. A dedication program is planned. Wouldn’t it be nice to hold a reunion of alumni at that time? Donations to the marker fund can still be sent to the Society. Also donations to the restoration. Wish List: early style beds, recitation bench, lightning fixtures, etc.

TRIVIA:

The area’s first bank was organized in Kensington, December 12, 1837. Brighton’s first bank was organized by B.H. Lawson, 1871.

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FINANCIAL RESOURCES

NEEDLEPOINT KITS: Pattern only or with yarn. Of the Old Town Hall can be purchased from the Quilter’s Shoppe, 213 M. Main at $3 & $8.

PICTURES: Enlarged, mounted photos of the mill pond, one from the north c.1940, one of the mill race c. 1935, are at Uber’s Drug. When you see them you’ll want one of each.

POST CARDS: Packets of 6, two sets of early Brighton scenes, are also at Uber’s and at the Book Nook, 322 M. Main.

SALE: A Spring yard sale is planned at Lyons School. Items of an historical type are most wanted. We can’t accept clothing or books. All proceeds will go toward the School restoration fund. Donations are income tax deductible.

Call Ricci Bandak, 227-7604, with your questions, need of transportation, etc. The date will be set soon. Keep the Society in mind when cleaning or moving.

SIGNATURE QUILT: One signature缜er. Dave Barton has included his friends. Andy Robertson, as a memorial. Signatures of other early Brighton residents are available while you have one of your own. All receipts: $10. go into the restoration fund for preservation purposes.


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1881
ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN 1992

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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( ) Fund Raising ( ) Programs ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping
( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other

WORK I WOULD BE WILLING TO DO:

DUES: $25. Patron $25. Student (K-12, College)
$25. Business/Professional $2. Student (K-12, College)
$12. Couple Brighton Area Historical Society
$7. Individual

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481
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