BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1900 (cont.)

By the end of the 19th century the size of a farmer's dairy herd was limited by the size of the barn, how much feed he could grow, the number of acres of pasture available and how many cows he, his family and hired help could milk (by hand) twice a day.

We find that gasoline engines were used for lighting, powering milking machines, etc., by 1913 in Livingston County. This enabled a dairy herdman to increase the number of milking cows, and therefore, the amount of milk sent to the creamery, condensing factory or milk distribution centers.

The advent of refrigerated railroad cars in the first two decades of the 20th century came about as a result of the insulation of railroad cars and the gas engine powered compressors. In a time dairy products were shipped from Brighton by rail to Detroit and other urban centers.

In order to assure that the milk purchased in the city was clean and pure many regulations related to cooling, pasteurizing, cleanliness and sanitation were imposed. Animals were tested frequently for tuberculosis, undulant fever, etc. As with most governmental regulations not all of these were accepted wholeheartedly.

After WW I trucks replaced the horse drawn wagons which had picked up the milk cans from the farm. (Huge stainless steel tankers do the job now.)

By the mid 1930s electricity was extended from the towns out to the rural areas of Livingston County. Now the farmer could shut down that gasoline driven compressor which was a continual source of concern because of a possibility of a fire.

In Brighton, in 1941, the Detroit Creamery moved into a new building on the S.W. Corner of N. Second and Advance Streets. Here the milk was tested, cooled and the cream separated. The skim milk was sold to the farmers as feed for calves and pigs. The cream was churned to butter and shipped to distribution points. Whole milk was also shipped from here for a time. (The previous location was on N. First between Cedar and Chestnut.) A. J. Southwell, Marie Borst, Fred Richmond, Eldred Bebee worked for the Detroit Creamery in various positions. (Compiled by Marianna Bair. It would be good to include the names of other employees, just for the record. Call 229-6402. To be continued.)

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

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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DATES TO REMEMBER
Feb. 2, 5-8 p.m. LCSK representative at Brighton District Library*
** 12, 9-11 a.m. Filing Society Archives.
** 16, 8:15 a.m. LCSK Church, Howell.*
** 28, 7:30 p.m. Society Board Meeting.
** Apr. 9-10 Local History Conf., Detroit.
** May 13, 2nd Annual Michigan One-Room School House Conf., Ionia.
** May 23-24, Michigan Archival Assoc., Mackinac Island*

Contact related article.
**Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members welcome.
**Contact Historical Society of Michigan, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor 48104.

EDITORS:
Service, religious, social and political organizations, businesses and governmental bodies, etc., need to recognize and appreciate the fundamental importance of the records of their organizations and their preservation.

As with museum artifacts these records are important cultural resources however many organizations, companies, etc., rid themselves of these records periodically or when storage is at a premium. The loss is too often not realized until decision makers, administrators and attorneys need these records and learn, to their dismay, they’ve been destroyed or lost.

Organizations must establish and support archives to maintain and preserve their records. (From “Primarily Archives” by David Johnson, State Archivist, Michigan History Magazine, May/June, 1993.)

The Brighton Area Historical Society is working to develop archives especially related to the area. Before eliminating an organization’s records consider donating the to the Society. (Marianna Bair, Editor)*

BOARD MEETING DATE
CHANGED FOR 1994
(AGAIN!)
Beginning February 28, the Society Board will meet the fourth Monday in 1994.
Meetings will begin at 7:30 (another change) and will be held upstairs at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members are welcome.