

IT'S FAIR TIME!!! (CONT.)

IN HIS MICHIGAN MEMORABILIA BILL PLESS WRITES, "ONCE A YEAR, DURING THE HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS, (C. 1895) EVERYONE IN THE VICINITY ATTENDED THE BRIGHTON FAIR. MANY BOUGHT A FAMILY TICKET AND BROUGHT THEIR FOOD IN PICNIC BASKETS, OR PURCHASED IT FROM STANDS OPERATED BY LOCAL CHURCH OR LODGE WOMEN. THE FAIR GROUND WAS LOCATED JUST WEST OF TOWN NORTH OF THE BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL ON BRIGHTON ROAD. THERE WERE BUILDINGS TO DISPLAY FARM PRODUCTS SUCH AS: VEGETABLES, GRAIN, FRUITS, AND LIVESTOCK." AND "BARNES TO HOUSE LIVESTOCK AND RACE HORSES. NEEDLEWORK, CANNED FRUIT, BAKED GOODS AND CRAFTS WERE ALSO DISPLAYED, AND PRIZES WERE AWARDED.

"FARM MACHINERY, BUGGIES, CARTS, CUTTERS, SLEIGHS, WHEELBARROWS, AND HAND TOOLS WERE DISPLAYED BY LOCAL DEALERS AND BLACKSMITHS. SEVERAL HORSE AND BICYCLE RACES TOOK PLACE EACH DAY ON A HALF MILE TRACK IN FRONT OF THE GRANDSTAND.

"A SORT OF 'LITTLE WORLD'S SERIES' OF BASEBALL GAMES WERE PLAYED ON A DIAMOND, LOCATED INSIDE THE RACE TRACK, BETWEEN THE BRIGHTON TEAM AND TEAMS FROM HOWELL, PINCKNEY, HOLLY, FENTON OR MILFORD.

"THE BRIGHTON 'BRASS' BAND MARCHED IN THE GRAND PARADE AND GAVE CONCERTS IN THE EVENINGS...A WELL KNOWN BARBER TOOK A REAL INTEREST IN THE FINE ARTS, ESPECIALLY MUSIC AND SINGING. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE NEWLY ORGANIZED BRASS BAND THAT HAD BEEN PRACTICING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TO PLAY IN PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE BRIGHTON FAIR. HE HAD TO KEEP HIS SHOP OPEN AND COULDN'T GO TO HEAR THE BAND, SO THE FIRST MAN HE SAW COMING DOWNTOWN FROM THE FAIR HE STOPPED, AND ASKED, 'HOW DID THE BAND SOUND?' THE FELLOW SAID, 'OH, ABOUT LIKE SIXTEEN HORSES 'TOOTING' IN A BARREL.' WHEN THE MAN MOVED ON THE BARBER EXPLODED. 'THERE YOU ARE, LITTLE DOES HE CARE ABOUT THE FINER THINGS OF LIFE OR THE HOURS OF WORK THOSE FELLOWS PUT INTO BRINGING A LITTLE CULTURE AND REFINEMENT INTO OUR LIVES.'"

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT MANY FARMERS FROM THIS SE $\frac{1}{4}$ OF THE COUNTY WERE MEMBERS OF THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. AMONG THEM WAS K.W. BINGHAM, SON OF KINSLEY S. BINGHAM (MICHIGAN'S GOVERNOR 1855/1858). KINSLEY W. MARRIED FRANCES WOODRUFF, DAUGHTER OF EVERT AND RUBY WOODRUFF (WHO BUILT WOODRUFF MILL, 1838). HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT, 1867, AND DIRECTOR, 1869, OF THE SOCIETY IN WHICH HIS FATHER HAD BEEN A CHARTER MEMBER. AT THE FIRST FAIR, 1853, IN BRIGHTON, HE HAD ENTERED CATTLE, SHEEP, HORSES AND FARM MACHINERY. (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

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