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, grains, fruits, and livestock," and "Barns 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 hard 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 kept 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 3E 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, 1858). 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.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

TRAIL TALES
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.

WE ENJOYED AN EVENING IN ITALY!
Thanks to Carolina Deluca and her committee chairmen the recent Spaghetti Supper was the most successful of these events. The enthusiastic support of so many is much appreciated.

Don and Ricci Bandak made arrangements for the use of the facility: Marian Carney took care of the tickets.

Mary Jo Del Verko entertained beautifully. Jaime Green and Ruby Herrmann saw to it we had good signs and that they were set up. Bob and Shirley Knight and Carol McMacken organized the servers and cleanup crew. Joe and Irene Mike added to the historical context of the evening with a presentation of sketches. Shirley Ritter accomplished her usual fine results in salad preparation. Anne Stratigos can be thanked for arranging for some wonderful desserts, and last, but not least, Cook Mike Witt did yeoman's work in the kitchen.

When this event is planned for 1996 join in the fun by volunteering early. Couldn't make it that night? A donation is always welcome.

BRIGHTON ARGUS - 1939

SEWER PLANT BIDS ARE 'LET' BY BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND WINS FIRST PRIZE

Deluca buys Brighton Sweet Shop Razing of Art Boylan's barn

Nov. 9-11: Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, Gaylord, P.O. Box 89053, Lansing 48808-0537. They 'Didn't All Go West' * 202 W. Main. upstairs, welcome. **See related article.