AREA FARMS C. 1900

This section of a series of notes on farms and the names given them, will be
concerned with the Ernest M. Crippen farm, Springdale Farm. Located just north
of the Charles Jacobs farm, which was described last month, it was also on Ore
Creek.

Ernest was born in the home on Hacker Road, 1/8 mile north of Grand River, April
14, 1842, the youngest son of Anscl and Mariella Crippen. His parents had settled
in that SW of Section 18 in Brighton Township a few years earlier. By the time
he reached maturity he had served in the Civil War - 9th Michigan Volunteers.
Co. I. Ernie married Helen Luce, July 4, 1870. (127 years ago this month.) They
farmed there until moving into Brighton in 1904. Ernest Crippen died in Brighton
March 15, 1920. (Helen died in 1912.)

How might the farm have acquired the name Springdale Farm? The barn was located
at the top of a steep hill above Ore Creek. A small shallow pond (locally called
Moss Lake) lay just below. One night, during an unusually heavy rainfall. An
enormous gully was formed in the hill below the barn. The next day a large spring
was discovered flowing from the gully. This spring, undoubtedly, was the source
of Moss Lake. The lake's water level was greatly lowered and never resumed its
former size. The spring ran strongly for years providing an abundant supply of
water for the live stock and for cooling cans of milk-in preparation for shipment
to the dairy for bottling. The dam on Ore Creek, which formed Woodland Lake, has
obliterated all evidence of the spring.

At that time Grand River continued north on Hacker Road, making a sharp left turn
(at Berdix) to skirt a large hill, before continuing west toward Howell. More
research is necessary to note when the cut was made through the hill providing an
easy curve instead of the original sharp turn. (Surely some of our readers can
help with this date.)

During the '30s, perhaps earlier, Crippen's barn became a clubhouse for a real
estate venture. High school proms and other parties were held there. The barn burned
in the mid 1950s. (7) The house still stands.

Ore Creek now quietly flows under I-96, under Grand River (south of Cross Street)
and into Brighton's downtown where another dam forms the Mill Pond. (Compiled from
Bill Fless' Memories; Mrs. Myron Vest's scrapbook, 1915 Livingston County Atlas.
Marianna Bair, 810/229-6402)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MOVES
OUT OF THE OLD TOWN HALL TO?

JUNE 16, 1997, 7:30 A.M., ENDED THE
SOCIETY'S 15 YEAR SOJOURN AT THE OLD
TOWN HALL ON WEST MAIN.ALTHO' ONLY A
SMALL PORTION OF THE UPSTAIRS WAS USED
IT SERVED AS A CONVENIENT HEADQUARTERS.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE HELD
HERE AS WERE MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS TO
WHICH THE PUBLIC WAS INVITED. ARCHIVAL
FILES WERE DEVELOPED AND LOCATED IN THAT
PLACE. EQUIPMENT FOR USE AT VARIOUS
EVENTS (SPAGHETTI SUPPERS, HOME TOURS,
ART FAIR, JULY 4 PARADE, ETC.) WERE LOCATED
HERE. ALSO FUNDS RAISING ITEMS: FILES,
COVERPEPS, POST CARDS, NOTE PAPER, ETC.

IT WAS A DRY, COMFORTABLE SITE FOR THE
MANY ITEMS RELATED TO THE AREA'S HISTORY
WHICH WERE DONATED AND COLLECTED BY
THE SOCIETY.

WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE BRIGHTON CITY
MANAGER, FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIVE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL, HELP IN MOVING WAS PROVIDED.
A STORAGE LOCKER HAS BEEN RENTED FOR A
SHORT TIME.

THANKS TO THE LABORS OF JOHN AND JANICE
FIELD AND JOANNE CERU, MUCH OF THE MATERIAL
HAD BEEN PACKAGED IN STRONG, COVERED
BOXES; CONTENTS IDENTIFIED AND Taped IN
PREPARATION FOR THE MOVE.

WHILE MOST FILES AND ARCHIVES ARE IN THE
STORAGE LOCKER, THOSE ITEMS RELATED TO
VARIOUS PROJECTS ARE WITH THE SEVERAL
CHAIRMEN. LISA CAVE IS STORING ART FAIR
EQUIPMENT AND NANCY FREDENBURG IS STORING
SPAGHETTI SUPPERS MATERIALS. HISTORY BOOK
CHAIRMAN, CAROL MCMACKEN, HAS THE MICRO
FILM AND READER.

(please turn to page 3)