THE STORE AT 334 WEST MAIN STREET

In 1871, Grant S. Burgess had been working for William McPherson & Sons in their general merchandise store in Howell. In partnership with McPherson he opened a dry goods, household, general store in Brighton, 1874. This was one of the very early businesses built west of Ore Creek at 334 W. Main. Originally the building included 332 W. Main. When Burgess bought out McPherson in 1879, the archway between the two buildings was closed to become separate stores. A large ad in the 1896 Brighton Argus Weekly noted "Stylish Dress Panties for $1.84." Fabric included "Fancy wool suiting, a yard wide. Imported French serge in all the popular plain colors, 46" wide, navy, brown, tan and black." One should also buy "New Winter Silks at 224, 334 and 394 a yard". Call for Spring. The early 1900s experienced a bicycle craze. Burgess & Company had coats, pants, belts and hose in order to be properly attired for a bicycle outing. In 1905, W.H. Rich opened an undertaking business in the store.

In 1910, John and Lois Hicks Strick (John born in England, Lois in Brighton) purchased the business at 334. She had met Strick in 1903 when he served as Sergeant in Co B, 174 Michigan Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, training at Island Lake National Guard Camp. After their marriage in 1900, they lived in Ironwood, Michigan, moving back to Brighton in 1910. John advertised often in the Argus, placing a half page Easter ad for apparel for men: "Shirt, $1.94; Ties in beautiful material", etc. "Ladies and Misses spring coats - $16.51." Also "Ladies walsite in lawn, voile and linen also silk. An especially attractive assortment of new white dresses." Boys and girls were not forgotten: hats, gloves, neckwear, shoes, all at "Popular prices".

In 1910, the newly formed Brighton State Bank leased space in the building until construction of a new bank, 306 W. Main, was completed. During the time John Strick was serving in France in WW I, Lois ably conducted business, raised her family of three, served in church and maintained membership in several local organizations. John died in 1935. However, Strick’s Store continued operations.

At Lois’ death in 1955, her sister, Sadie Hicks, who had been active in the workings of the store, followed the same business ethics as the Stricks had. In 1953 Sadie was an insurance agent with an office in the store. In 1938, Mr-Lady’s Beauty Salon with Gretchen White was in a room in the rear of the store, followed by 1943 by Virginia Bamber Disspain, who had Virginia’s Beauty Shop. A c. 1960 photo included employees of the time. Maudeline Pauline Baker, Dorothy Ernst, Marjorie Garwood, Mary Johnson and the Mines Esther Green and Sadie Hicks were ready to serve you. Twenty others are listed who were employed during earlier years.

Wanda Partridge bought the store in 1963, and it became an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, decorated in the 1900 period. At the August 10 grand opening, one sat on a stool at the counter or in a booth sipping a ripple cream soda or slushing a banana split.

Hobbyville, with a complete assortment of hobby and craft supplies and kits, was in business at 334 in 1972. By 1987, Betty Golden owns the popular Golden Gallery of picture, framing and display units.

In September 2001, Mona’s can be found conducting business. In February 2006, the Michigan Candy Company prepares to open. At the present time, 334 is vacant, awaiting a new enterprise.

(Compiled by Marianna Bair from Historic Resource Survey records; William Plens‘ Old Village Cemetery Supplement; census records and "From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan, 1833-1945" by Carol McMacken. Additions/corrections requested - 810/220-6402.)
MEMPERSHIPS

PATRON: Marge Wilcox.

COUPLES/INDIV: Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bovid, Jerry & Lisa Cave, Lois Clark (9 Midland), Joe Collins (99), Jim DeJohn, Sherrel Rutter, *Sandra Hill Withfield (FL).

*Welcome to Sandra and the Bovids and thanks to renewing members. The Bovid’s membership is a gift from Lois Clark. (Others might consider such a move.)

The membership list is for Society purposes ONLY. It is not shared or sold. The Society respects its members' privacy.

The year for which membership dues have been paid is noted on the mailing label. If there is no date, you are receiving a Complementary Copy. If the date is 08, or higher, your support is keeping the Society on its feet.

Any change of address notification is appreciated. It costs the Society .57 cents for each returned issue.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Ida Bair, Judy Coebly and Sue Skowarski for helping prepare the June issue of Trail Tales for mailing.

Kevin & Margaret Fritz for a school desk, inkwells and early pens for use and display at the Lyon School.

Carroll Cook for donating an early F.T. Hyne ledger for research and archiving.

Peg Siford for help in indexing collected obituaries for reference.

Jerry & Lisa Cave for a donation with their dues.

Lois Clark and Jim DeJohn for their friends of Lyon School membership.

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Dan Bowen, Mike Kinaschuk, Ronald Rempka, Dorry Lezovich, Stan Schafer, Shawn Kitzman, and Jeremy Jones for help with scanning the archives.

Brad Neal for sharing his CD of Brighton pictures at the June Open House.

Heidi L’Esperance for the album of photos of the restoration of the Kenney Hyne house.

FARMERS’ MARKET SUPPORT NEEDED

Contact Jim Vichich, 810/227-8084 with your offer to help with the Society booth at the Market on Saturdays.

PRESERVATION / RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: The Society archives include histories of local places of worship; transcriptions of local cemeteries; histories of early education in the area; early newspapers on microfilm; genealogical references to early families; histories of area land use including places of businesses; etc. The more records are compiled the more large gaps realized. You are encouraged to allow the Society to copy your early photos, 19th and 20th century, of area events, buildings, transportation, families, etc. Contact 810/227-4840 or 810/229-6402.

LYON SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

July 13, 1-4 p.m.

Bring the kids. Early children’s games will be played: hoops, hop scotch, rope jumping, stilts, etc. Bring your old games. Refreshments will be available.

The open house in June brought several local alumni to tour, share memories, see displays. Hosted by Mindy Kinsey, Jim Vichich and Sue Walter Steinacker, albums were shared.

2008 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders; **Lawrence Autobody; **Patrick Financial Group, LLS; **Promax, Inc.; Bonnie M. Corrigan. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainer of the Society.

** Life Member

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax deductible organization. Help out the Society and yourself with your contribution.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481
www.fbrighthousehistorical.com

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE: ___________________________

ADDRESS: ___________________________

(Include Zip and 4 digit)

New ( ) $500.00 Life ( ) $5.00 Patron

Renew ( ) $25.00 Couple ( ) $15.00 Individual

Dues: ( ) $50.00 Patron ( ) $20.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) S 2.00 Student

Send Membership Card yes ( ) no ( )

Friend of Lyon School: ( ) $10.00 ( ) $20.00 ( ) $25.00 ( ) Other S__________

Donation to Society Project Needs: ( ) S__________

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$5 $5 FUND RAISING PROJECTS

BOOK: ‘From Settlement to City – Brighton MI 1832-1945’ by Carol McMacken, Brighton’s own history. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. Members, $60.00, non-members $65.00, plus shipping. Second edition at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, Brighton.

TILES: 6” sq. ceramic titles, black/white. 13 local scenes. $8, 3 for $21.

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS: 5/XL - $12.


TRANSCRIPTIONS of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery – $15, and the Old Village Cemetery – $25 are available.

For more information, call 810/229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:


INTERESTING STUFF

In the 1460’s a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have “the rule of thumb.”

Coca-Cola was originally green.

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer.

The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

In Shakespeare’s time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes, when you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase “goodnight, sleep tight.”
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