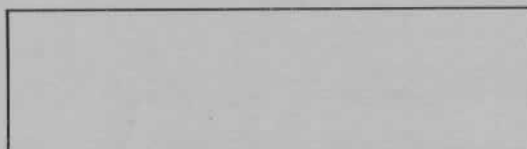


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Brighton's Main Four Corners (Part 2)

"Meet me at Lu and Carl's for lunch." No need to ask the restaurant's location. It is well known. That northwest corner of the Grand River and Main Street intersection has been a place of business for approximately 160 years. However, in that earlier time it was named Fitch Street, not Main.

Elijah Fitch and his family came to Michigan in 1835 from New York. He bought 40 acres in the NW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 31 of Brighton Township (north side of Main, west of Ore Creek; also an adjoining 80 acres in Genoa Township). In 1838 he was school Moderator and Justice of the Peace. The Fitches were not long-term residents; they bought and sold land, as did many other early arrivals. However, Fitch Street is the name given the line dividing Sections 30 and 31. The Fitches "...removed from this place..." by 1850.

Anthony Gale, on June 27, 1834, recorded land east of the creek along the Grand River Trail and Fitch Street. Not long after, on February 20, 1837, William Noble bought Gale's and in a few months recorded 'Noble's Platt' to the Register of Deeds office. Noble's Plat included both 'Upper Town' and 'Lower Town'. During the late 1830s, a number of other buildings were constructed as Noble sold his lots. A blacksmith, Abram & Fralick, was working in his blacksmith shop in 1838 at the rear of the building (occupied by R.J. Lyon Store in 1907) at current address 100 W. Main Street. This structure was a two-story frame. The General Store was on the first floor with living quarters above.

When the telephone first came to Brighton in 1882, the Judson Brothers' store became the site of the first pay phone in the

area. However, the store closes at 9 p.m., when the family retires upstairs.

In 1898, poet Fred Bush prepared a Book of Poems for the Brighton Argus publicizing the various businesses in town. At that time, F.H. Miller & Son run the General Store. The poem closes with "...You get just what you're after at Miller's Corner Store." In 1919, B.M. Earle was selling groceries in the building.

When did Fitch Street become Main Street? On a 1915 plat of Brighton Village, it is Fitch Street east of Ore Creek and Main Street west of the creek. Perhaps the name changed when the street was paved in 1924?

Fast forward to 1933. William Kirchberger operated a drug store on the corner. Two years later Leland and Baldwin, druggists from Howell, bought the store. In early 1937, Bob Leland is sole owner, a soda fountain has been added and two large sugar cones are advertised for five cents. In the mid 1950s Leland builds a new store across from the Old Town Hall, a block west. (Ore Creek now flows through a 4' culvert from Main, under the newly built parking lot, emerging south of W. North Street.) However, 100 W. Main was never vacant for long. A mirror store, photo supply store, the Brighton Bargain Center, Gourmet Café & Patisserie, Perfectly Seasoned Café, a water bed sales, etc., were followed by the aforementioned Lu & Carl's.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the 1880 History of Livingston County; writings of Bill Pless, census records; M. Charboneau's Early Settlers of Livingston County and clipping Additions/corrections requested. (810) 229-6402.