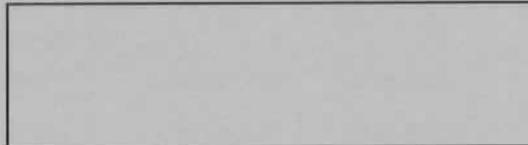


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ore Creek (Part 4)

The nation's Bicentennial celebration was observed in grand style in the Brighton area, and the millpond on Ore Creek took front and center stage. Local service groups (Brighton Fire Department, Garden Club, Jaycettes, Jr. Women's Club, Kiwanis, Livingston Players, Rotary, Senior Citizens, Women's Club, et al) each put forward an extraordinary effort.

The area west of the millpond and north of the 300 block of W. Main, Millpond Park was the staging area for displays and exhibits of early arts, skills, crafts, games, contests (fishing, stone skipping, frog jumping, tobacco spitting) and clothing fashions.

In the Scout Building (present site of City Hall), one participated in square dances, in addition to the street dances. The Garden Club planted flowers along the edge of the millpond. The Jaycettes held a fashion show there. A bazaar took place in the Millpond Theater hosted by the Livingston Players. The need for better care of the Old Village Cemetery east of the pond became evident.

At 2 pm, July 4, 1976, every local bell was rung for two minutes commemorating the hour on which the Liberty Bell was rung following the announcement of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776.

The Brighton Kiwanis built a gazebo on the east side of the pond. The official Michigan Bicentennial Band, Livingston County's own 5th Regiment Band, inaugurated the first of concerts, which continue to the present day. Their foresight has contributed immensely to the 'friendly community' atmosphere valued by so many.

A carnival, hosted by the Brighton Fire Department, took place in the North Street parking lot, under which Ore Creek flows. The BFD provided a spectacular display of fireworks, which surpassed all expectations. They also organized the hour-long pa-

rade, which proceeded from Church Street, down W. Main past the reviewing stand in front of the Fire Hall at 202 W. Main and the millpond on July 5, 1976.

Throughout the 1990s, volunteers regularly cleaned debris from and around the pond. The Imagination Station, a safety-oriented playground for children was built, by volunteers in 1995, on the west side of the pond. This site is regularly refurbished and enthusiastically enjoyed.

The following year, the Tridge was constructed to give unique access to either side of the pond. The Tridge soon connected to a walkway extending from Main Street to Ore Creek's passage under Grand River on the north.

Although Ore Creek flows for less than a mile in the southeast corner of Genoa Township, a dam built in 1927 by Charles Howell as a Boy Scout reservation formed Brighton Lake. Now constituting a quarter section of water, surrounding residences create a valuable addition to the local economy. Benjamin Blaine, Rev. Wm. Clark, Aaron Kelley, Almon and Maynard Maltby all knew a good creek when they saw it.

Compiled by Marieanna Bair from the Society's Historic Resource Survey; maps and clippings. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.

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Web Site Updates

We have been making updates to our web site, including recent BAHS news and more historical articles and maps from our archive. We also now have a Facebook page. In the near future, we will be adding old Brighton area photos and cemetery information. If you haven't visited our web site, recently, now is a good time!