

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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In a Brighton Argus editorial, dated January of 1930, action was needed to address the increase in accidents on state highways and the soaring crime rate in Michigan. Reasons for the increase in crimes were thought to be the use of alcohol by children, child labor laws, parental indifference and lack of school supervision. In a 1931 issue of the Argus, it was stated that Brighton was being considered by the state as the possible best location for a new State Police Post. Officials from the city were scheduled to meet with the Governor to discuss the matter.

It was official! The northwest corner of U.S. 16 (E. Grand River) and Old U.S. 23 was to be the site of a newly created Michigan State Police Post.

The State of Michigan rented quarters for the new "Flying Squadron" officers until the funds were acquired and 33 workers were employed for 4 months to construct the building. By December 1936, four State Policemen moved into the new building containing an administrative office and sleeping accommodations.

This traditional two-story brick Works Progress Administration building served as the post and barracks. The familiar design is a hallmark in many communities throughout the state. The building still stands today and serves as a real estate office. You can still see the Michigan State Seal on the front wall of the building.

In 1985, the Brighton Post relocated to a larger, leased facility further north on Old U.S. 23 in Brighton Township. In February 2013 a new Michigan State Police Brighton Post was officially dedicated. The new building, located at 4337 Buno Road, will better serve the Post's needs today since the Brighton and Ypsi-

lanti Posts merged in 2011, the post now includes Livingston and Washtenaw counties.

Please take time to thank our Michigan State Police for their service. Their work is difficult but their job is to enforce the law.

State Police Blotter, 1958

In August of 1958, Deputy U.S. Marshall Allie of Minneapolis stopped at the Brighton State Police Post to ask for assistance in locating two quart jars of nitroglycerin, supposedly buried next to a house behind the Log Cabin Inn by Lake Chemung in 1948. The house was owned by Mrs. Arlene Trabman of Detroit. This nitro tip was given by Alex DeGoode, then a prisoner in North Carolina. He told the U.S. Marshall about breaking and entering crimes and 'safe jobs' committed in the Brighton area. After digging a hole about 10 x 14 feet, 4 feet deep, police doubted DeGoode's story...especially since the inmate also told the U.S. Marshall about a murder and hidden body in Minnesota that couldn't be found.

(Compiled by Tammy Sexton from the book "From Settlement to City" by Carol McMacken, the Brighton Argus, April 23, 1958, Charter Township of Brighton Newsletter, Summer 2013. Additions/corrections welcomed. Call 313-910-3807 or email tammyjosexton@yahoo.com)