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What Do You Remember About The Canopy? — Here's What Local Folks Say.

The following are excerpts from an article in the July 4, 1999 issue of the Brighton Argus regarding local memories about the Canopy Restaurant and Hotel. The CoBACH Center at 202 W. Main Street in downtown Brighton currently has a display about the Canopy.

Check it out!!

"We weren't sure what to expect when we asked people to send in some of their memorable recollections of the Canopy. Ultimately we were overwhelmed with responses. The Canopy, it appears, has transcended into the realm of timelessness. It has become a place from a past period where food, spirits and celebration were part of the definition of good times and a good life."

"Here's a host of memories from local residents for whom the journey to 130 W. Grand River Ave. was a special event and who helped establish the great tradition that was the Canopy Hotel and Restaurant." (Brighton Argus)

"The Canopy was truly one of the best restaurants in Michigan if not the finest. The owner Mr. Jack Wright was committed to excellence and that reflected in the way he ran the Canopy. From the live lobster to the custom made cigarettes, the Canopy was first class. I grew up with the restaurant and my highlight moment was in my senior year of high school and took a date to the restaurant. Needless to say, she was impressed," (Lawrence J. LaVeque)

"I worked there for about a year washing dishes when I got my drivers license, I remember Mother's Day was the worst day of the year. The place was really hopping on Mother's Day. There was no rest. It was certainly high class. Women would walk in wearing minks and the lot would be filled with Cadillacs...." (Dale Arnot)

"My fondest memories of the Canopy are at Christmas time. I was born in 1961, and, as far back as I can remember, the Keehn family always had Christmas Eve dinner at the Canopy." "We always had our own private room. This was located off the bar area. It was a wonderful time for family and, of course, we knew most everyone that worked there. It was very festive." (Claudia Keehn-Bennett)

"I was a Camp Fire Girls and did a project that required me to go to the Canopy and do an interview on cooking. I was able to talk to the cook and have a tour of the kitchen. I don't have any information from the interview, but what I received in return was an original menu from the Canopy, which I still have." (Tammy Yeagle)

"If you made dinner reservations a day or two in advance, they would have matchbooks printed up with your party's name on them. My mom would come in and visit for vacations or on the weekends and she really enjoyed fine dining so we would always go to the Canopy. My mom always appreciated the art of a long lunch. They had the best sticky buns with the meals and the best lunch was the lobster salad..." (Philippa Robinson)

"Brighton was my dad's town. Some may remember my dad. His name was Ed Parrish and from about 1969 to 1976, he was part owner of Leland's Pharmacy which was located in downtown."

"We had several meals at the Canopy, but the special one was having our rehearsal dinner there. The Canopy had such class. You felt at home as you were greeted by the hostess and the piano played old tunes in the background. Sometimes dad would make a request or sing along. The memories my dad gave me of this little town called Brighton live on as if nothing has changed at all and the Canopy remains a classic." (Kathy Boyda)

The first meal was served in the newly built hotel on New Year's Day 1926 and the last Canopy meal was served in June 1989. Memories of dinners and special occasions lived on in many residents of Brighton and the surrounding areas.