

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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“Simpler Times”

We thought it might be fun to look back at the headlines for 1951 of things that happened and subsequently did not happen in the Brighton area. Thanks to Mindy Kinsey for collecting these.

The following is a snapshot of “Simpler Times” in Brighton, per the Brighton Argus, 1951. Headlines from that year included:

Social Security is now Available for Farmers. Who knew it took that long for them to obtain that.

Black Topping a Route from Brighton to the GM Proving Grounds became a big story in 1951. “Brighton was losing residents settling here, due to a decent route being built from Pleasant Valley Rd. to GMPG.” Several routes were investigated with a final route being Dawson and Jacoby being black topped and improved with funds from Livingston County Road Commission, Brighton Township and General Motors.

GMPG adding 1,000 acres for Military Proving Grounds.

GMPG has 25-year Members. 12 men were given 25 years of service watches at GMPG. GMPG (who had been in area since 1924) were very involved in community. Their activities of social picnics, ball teams and Christmas parties were always published in paper. Their involvement in raising funds for community projects was also always published.

Parking Meters Pay for Street Repairs. Over \$1,500 produced from meters.

Brighton People Take 1st Prize at Farmers Week for sheep and eggs. Farming was still a factor.

Graham Hotel Robbed Again. Thief had dinner and then robbed cashier. “Two men take to chase and catch thief at theater next door.”

Graham Hotel sold to Ann Arbor Men. Ralph Monk, head of corporation will be manager.

Green Oak Farmers Ban Hunting on their farms. Brighton and Hartland followed suit. Finally Governor Williams urges legislature to ban rifles for deer hunting.

Island Lake Area May Incorporate into Village. We know that did not happen.

City Mill Pond Drained at Dam Crumbles. “Embankment lets go late Monday night.” Mill owners, Eppinger Land Co., not interested in rebuilding. The City was to decide what to do.

Supreme Court Upholds Andrus Conviction. “William and Dan Andrus may yet go to prison in brutal killing and robbery of 88 year old Frank Cline. “Peanut Cline, owner of Cline Clothing store was found bound and lying on floor. Living long enough to identify Dan.” They received 13-15 year term.

80 Barracks Built for 80 Prisoners. This was on the ground of Brighton Recreation Area. They developed trails and buildings for the park.

Sam Genn Killed in Fireworks Explosion on 4th of July. Fireworks he was lighting-off exploded at the Drive-in Theater.

City of Brighton Water Well Desperately Low. New well had to be drilled.

J. A. Brady Retires. Brady’s Market closing. Inventory sale to ensue.

Friday Night is ‘Bargain Night’ on Main Street. Special bargains from 6-8. 3rd week in July.

Death Cheats Mrs. Sarah Hutchins from achieving goal of living to be 100 years.

\$20,000 Trailer Park at Woodland Lake. Park at Pine Lodge Ranch to be a model park.

4H Club Plants 20,000 Trees in area with over 65 participants.