

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Uber Drug

“If you lived in the Brighton area in the 1950’s, 60’s or 70’s, you visited this business.”

One ounce of ice cream topped with hot fudge, marshmallow and chopped nuts was not the only “special” served at Uber’s Drug in Brighton following World War II. Patrons were also assured of receiving a smile, a joke or friendly chatter from Chuck Uber who owned the downtown drug store for 24 years. Chuck passed away in July of 1992 at the age of 73.

Chuck Uber was born June 14, 1919 in Howell, the son of Paul and Bessie (Johnson) Uber. He married Margie Barr on August 8, 1968, in Brighton. He was a 1937 Howell High School graduate and a 1941 MSU graduate, earning a degree in Business Administration.

Uber opened the drug store at 300 Main Street in 1946, which was located next to the old Post Office near the dime store. Chuck and his staff served up 5-cent and 8-cent ice cream cones and the “Uber Special,” a favorite among the town folks in 7-cent and 14-cent sizes.

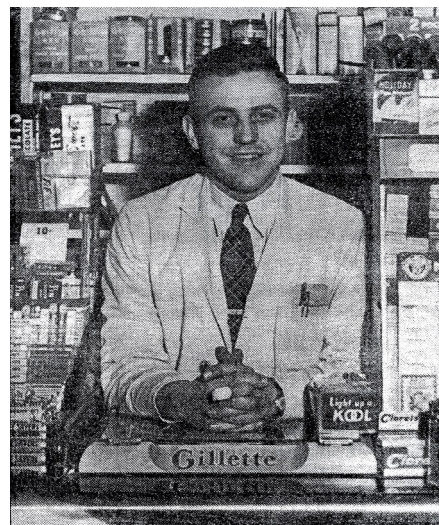
Many remember Chuck as having a very outgoing personality who was always laughing and joking with his customers. He had an amazing ability to get along with people. Chuck never turned away those who were sick, even if they could not pay him until the next week.

I worked for Chuck as a “soda jerk” during the summers of 1958 and 1959 and have many great memories of him and the Uber customers. Chuck loved practical jokes and whenever possible would use them to his advantage. Example, he had issues with salesmen who would come and take up too much of his valuable time. Next to the cash register at the front end of the counter was a glass shelf. On that shelf were many glasses but one was always there alone. It was a “dribble glass.” Chuck would come out of the back room with a salesman, grab that glass, fill it with

water and hand it to the salesman. He would take a big drink and water would dribble down the front of his nice suit. Chuck would laugh and say, “Have a good day!”

The store was located downtown until 1961 when it moved to the corner of Main and Grand River. He sold the store to Bob Herbst in 1970 and moved to Delmar, California. In 1978, he became a co-owner and manager of the Westward Ho Motel in Bend, Oregon that he operated until his passing.

I am certain many long-time Brighton residents have their own memories of Chuck Uber and the drug store he operated.



Chuck Uber founded Uber Drugs in Brighton in 1946

Story submitted by Jerry Damon. Compiled from articles from the Brighton Argus, November 1968 and August 1992 and his own memories working in the store.)