

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The current display at the CoBACH Center in downtown Brighton by the Millpond is entitled, "Learning your ABC's in Brighton." When downtown, drop by the CoBACH Center and check out the display and the "Buddy Bench." Hours for the CoBACH Center are posted on the front page of this newsletter.

Interesting Facts About Brighton Schools — 1908—1945

1908: Class Motto: "Make Good." This graduating class was 6 members, entirely female.

1911: Local school boards were informed that Michigan School Law had been sufficiently amended to allow for increased power of the local school boards. The electors of local districts, rather than direct participation, would delegate former decision making to the local school board.

1914: For the first time in the history of the Brighton schools, the district held eighth grade-promotional activities. Another first for education was indicated in the State of Michigan Instruction Manual. The suggested instruction for high schools was four divisions of the high school curriculum. The student would select either College Preparatory, Agriculture, Domestic Arts or Commercial.

1928: A student council had been established to give the students a voice in management and also for the purpose of raising standards of morals, inspiring loyalty to the school, and fostering cooperation between the students and faculty.

1930-1931: Enrollment was 340 pupils. Fifty-eight percent of the high school students were enrolled in vocational-education courses. New classes were offered in bookkeeping, business English, business arithmetic and typing. Men teaching in Brighton received a salary of \$1,825 per year and women were paid \$1,396 per year.

1935: Physical-training course was offered in the fall. This was the first time in the history of the school that this occurred. By spring, it was noted that the girls were having gym every day and that they had a track team.

1938: The school band had grown to 72 members. The musicians performed for the last time in their white capes and white trousers. Later in the month, a concert was held with the band members attired in brand-new orange and black uniforms.

1939: Public Act-54 required that all persons holding a Michigan teaching license were required to file an oath of allegiance that had to be properly notarized in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Teacher organizations in various states opposed the mandated signing of an oath. The swearing of loyalty to the United States continued to be required in Brighton for approximately the next 30 years.

1941: The last class to experience a senior year that would be free of the atmosphere of war.

1944: The nation was three years into the war. The students at Brighton High School demonstrated the patriotic behavior which was obvious throughout the town. Students participated in paper drives, scrap drives, collection of grease and the purchase of savings stamps to support the war effort.

1945: The class graduated one month after V-E Day and two months before V-J Day. The war had lasted almost as long as these students had been in high school.

(The above were taken from the book written by Carol McMacken entitled, "From Settlement to City, Brighton, Michigan 1832—1945. Copies of the book can be purchased from the Brighton Area Historical Society.)