

**BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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*The following is Part 3 of the story of the Musch Family of Brighton. Thanks to Bob Musch who submitted this story to the Brighton Area Historical Society as well as the Brighton Alumni Association.*

**The Musch Family of Brighton, William “Bill”**

As mentioned, Max and Dorothy had three sons, William, Richard, and Robert. They all started their careers working at Burroughs farms (Oak Pointe) while attending college and prior to moving on to the service and their lifetime careers. The days at Burroughs farms resulted in memories that are still talked about by many even today.

Bill started school while living on the Musch family farm past Chilson. He and his cousin Jerry Musch walked (over 2 miles) to the Beurmann one-room schoolhouse (located past Oak Pointe by Clifford Road). Note this was for grades one through four when they were only five to ten years old. Their teacher was their Aunt Irene Musch. Some of Bill's memories from that time in his life include being asked to light the stove to warm the room and having to learn to get along with about thirty students ranging from five to eighteen years of age (K-12) in the one-room schoolhouse. In the early 1950's the school systems consolidated, and Bill finished his elementary and secondary school education at Brighton Consolidated Schools for 5th grade and then on to Brighton High School for grades six through twelve. Bill's graduating class had 72 students, whereas the entire school district at that time had ~400 students.

One of the more memorable events for Bill while at the county school was the fire drills (all but one liked the fire drills). Since the school didn't have a phone, the oldest, George Prieskorn, had to ride his bike one-quarter mile to the nearest house (Denkhaus) and then ride back to the school. The rest of the kids were on the playground and could see his progress, encouraging him to take his time!

Following high school Bill went on to study for two and a half years at the University of Michigan, he then joined the Army from 1964-66. In his last 5 months of service, he was stationed at the New York City Induction Center where over 780 potential candidates were evaluated

for service each day. Bill remembers the days after basic training while stationed at Fort Irwin CA when his commanders were looking for anyone that could type to work in the office. Bill volunteered which allowed him the ability to see transfer orders. He volunteered for the NY assignment to stay in the states, but in retrospect it wasn't the best of times. He had to go to and from work in civilian clothes due to all the hate speech and protests against those in or associated with the military due to the Vietnam War. After serving he moved back to California where he continued his education at the Northrop Institute of Technology and graduated as an Aero-Space Engineer. Bill worked on the DC 9 and DC 10 aircrafts while at Douglas Aircraft (McDonald Douglas) for over 30 years. Aerospace was always his passion, back in high school it wasn't uncommon to see him light off several homemade rockets in the backyard.

Bill has been married for 55 years to Polly Ann Sanborn. They have two children.

*(We will be publishing the remainder of the story in the next several issues of Trail Tales.)*

