

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

In 1946 I was born in the Mellus Hospital on Grand River Avenue in Brighton Michigan. For the next twelve years I lived within a few blocks of the place of my birth in an apartment above the family store in the 100 block of West Main Street. The store was known as DeLuca's Sweet Shop.

Living and growing up in such a location had its advantages and disadvantages. We were in close proximity to the Five and Dime store that sold toys and the Mill Pond where I spent time and learned to fish. On the other hand I was known by many of the residents on sight and my activities were quickly reported to my parents.

While other students rode their bikes to school at St. Pats I was not permitted to do so by my parents. On a warm spring or early summer day I was riding one of my classmates on the handle bars of his bike down the hill on Grand River near the Hospital, near Dr. Rice's house and not far from Dr. Wilkinson's office. Unfortunately, there was a large dip in the sidewalk and, due to our speed we crashed. Since we lived in a small town, passersby stopped to render aid. I was relatively unscathed since I only sprained my thumb and wrist, but my companion suffered a broken arm. The Samaritans took my friend to Dr. Wilkinson's office for treatment and I continued to the store where my mother promptly put me to work.

I mentioned nothing about the accident, of course. Later that evening I was called to the store by my parents only to be confronted by them and David Lehman the Physician's Assistant from the doctor's office who had treated my friend. He had come to the store to check on my well-being and was surprised to learn that my folks knew nothing of the incident. He examined my hand right then and there and prescribed a treatment.

Such was life growing up as a Main Street kid in Brighton at that time.

I haven't lived in Brighton or near it for over 50 years but I will always claim Brighton as my "home" and will forever be a Bulldog.

(This story was submitted by BAHS member Frank J. DeLuca. Frank graduated from St. Patrick's Elementary School and Brighton High School, Western Michigan University and Detroit College of Law. He was employed by the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office and practiced law privately before being elected Lansing District Judge where he served for 18 years. He and his wife Madeline live in the Lansing area. They have two children and two grandchildren. Thank you Frank for sharing.)



To our members/readers, we are always looking for memories of Brighton. If you have a story and would like to share it on Page 4 of the newsletter, please send it to our P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116 attention Jerry Damon.