



BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 481, Brighton, Mi. 48116

Issue No. 14 November, 1984

The purpose of the Brighton Area Historical Society is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton Area.

The membership is composed of people who feel the above purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.	Charles Beach	229-9678
Treas.	Kay Flynn	229-9380
Sec.	Clara Healy	229-9367
Cor. Chr.	Marian Carney	229-4554
<u>Directors</u>		
Imm. Past Pres. -		
	Mary Messerschmidt	227-7433
	Bert Bair	229-6402
	Janice Beach	229-9678
	Gary Cole	227-6116
	Richard Davis	229-8356
	Wally Jollitz	229-9832

ANNUAL MEETING - POT LUCK

Tuesday, November 13, 7 p.m., the Annual Meeting will begin with a pot luck dinner. Bring a dish to pass and table service. Beverage will be provided. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 200 W. St. Paul Street, is allowing the use of the fellowship hall.

At 8 p.m., the business meeting will commence. Election of Directors will take place and Officers' Annual Reports will be available.

Gerald and Judy Porman will present a program on election memorabilia and will have examples on display. Those in attendance may bring items of that category to add to the exhibit that evening.

The public is welcome. 1985 membership dues can be paid at that time.

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Board meetings are held each 2nd Thursday, 7:30, upstairs in the Old Town Hall (former Library) 202 W. Main. Visitors welcome.

General Meetings are each 2nd Tuesday, 7:30. Usually in the same place as Board meetings. Visitors are welcome.

EDITORIAL

More and more opportunities for action arise in which the Society may take an active role.

The compiling of the history of the Area, the taking of pictures of present day sites in the Area, the taking of oral histories from long time residents, the designation and marking of historic sites. The list goes on....

In order to accomplish these project warm bodies are needed. People who will not wait until contacted. People who will be there when paint needs to be scraped, research needs to be done, tickets to be sold, sales to be manned, programs to be presented, committees to serve, positions to be filled. Historically speaking, good old American type volunteers are needed.

The Society has active, loyal, time and energy contributing people to accomplish its purpose. Let's not let them have all the joy of the effort necessary. Don't let these few take all the credit for the Society's accomplishments. Our readers are given opportunity to realize this fun in their lives also.

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NEW MEMBERS

since the last issue - Dr. Robert Chesky, Don and Shirley Jenks, and L. Mark Linstid.

WELCOME to these folks. The Society needs your support as a member. If you'd like to help with its goals please use the form you'll find in this newsletter. Your membership is essential. A receipt and membership card will be sent.

Names of those who might find this newsletter of interest may be given to any member of the board...we'll add them to the mailing list.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Brighton State Bank for the printing of this newsletter. This is a great help to our treasury. Many compliments have been received on its appearance. (Thanks to Singer Press.)

...DuQuet Jewelers for the donation of a watch as first prize for the drawing.

...Domino Pizza for lunch for the workers at the Lyons School.

...donors, helpers, purchasers at the Farmer's Market sale.

...St. Paul's Epis. Church for use of the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Meeting.

...D.W. and Guyla Doumanian and Chuck and Norma Pless for their cash donations toward the Lyons School.

...Chamber of Commerce for copying.

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SALE AT FARMER'S MARKET

A sale of donated items was held at the Farmer's Market, October 13. Wally Jollitz, Chairman, had helpers who braved the cool weather. Over \$260. was earned that day. Many thanks to those who helped and to those who donated items. Without support this kind of sale would not be possible.

Next spring another sale is planned. It may be conducted at the Lyons School site, 11455 Buno Rd. There'll be room to hold it inside and will not make it necessary to transport the sale items.

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DRAWING NOVEMBER 30, 1984

Financial Chairman, Gary Cole, has made arrangements for a drawing fund raiser. DuQuet Jewelers has donated a watch for either a lady or gentleman winner, for first prize. Member Joanne Mars has donated a silver-rimmed bowl as second prize.

Arrangements are being made to have a ticket table in the Mall during the month of November. Gary will be contacting people to man the table during that time. (Surprise Gary, 227-6116. Call him and tell him when you'd like to help with the tickets.)

The drawing will take place at the Brighton Chamber of Commerce Building, 131 Hyne Street, Friday, November 30, during the Annual Historical Society Open House.

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

We need...

(desperately) people willing to work on Saturday mornings (or whenever possible) to get the Lyons School, 11455 Buno Road, ready for winter. (The 2 and 3 regulars could become discouraged.)

...someone to develop a cross stitch kit of a local site. We feel this could be a valuable fund raiser.

...a Publicity Chairman.

...someone to do research on the history of the old Town Hall, its bell and the Lyons School. Also Brighton High School history. (The High School will be celebrating its centennial in 1986. Research is being conducted in preparation for a publication next year.) Also other local sites, mills, merchants, medical and legal professions, Mellus Hospital, etc.

...someone to open their home for a tour. (Perhaps Christmas), exhibit a hobby or collection, etc., as a fund raiser.

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SHAKERS AND MOVERS

Dick Davis, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society, has lived all his life in the Brighton Area. The State Highway Department orders his day but his spare time is spent succumbing to his personal sense of responsibility to his community.

Also a Den Leader for Cub Scouts and an Assistant Scout Master for a Scout Troop, this participation translates into many meetings.

Dick's jovial attitude makes it pleasant to work with him. When participating in an activity, it is done capably and in good cheer. When the opportunity arises, he finds coin collecting to be a satisfying hobby.

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WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE OCTOBER GEN. MEET.

Unfortunately our planned speaker, Jerry Roe, had to cancel at the last minute. A short slide presentation of recent activities of the Society was substituted.

Jerry is planning to attend the Annual Meeting (see related article) and will be prepared to answer questions relating to historical society related activities.

CERAMIC TILES TO BE SOLD

Research as to a detailed picture of the Old Town Hall (former Library) is complete. Most sincerely appreciated is the interest already shown. We are encouraged this will be a profitable fund raiser for the Society.

Also for sale are Society stationery and cards and the Michigan History Magazine issue relating to the Court House restoration. These items are available at all General Meetings or call Ethel Gebben, 227-5375.

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NON-PROFIT MAILING

The Society has met the requirements of the Postal Service and can now send bulk mailing of its newsletter, etc. This will greatly reduce the postage costs.

This bulk mailing is not forwardable. If you're heading for warmer climes and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, please inform a board member in order that first class postage can be applied.

Persons with a Brighton address will not experience much delay with bulk mailing. Other addresses may have several days delay. This causes an inconvenience please contact a board member so other arrangements can be made.

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AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES TO MEET

November 7, 7:30, in Novi, representatives of historical societies in the area have been invited to an idea exchange type of meeting. Opportunity to brag and complain will result in an exchange of suggestions and support. Contact a board member if you'd like to attend with us.

"WHAT'LL WE DO WITH ALL THIS...?"

So often we hear, "Oh, we didn't know what to do with that stuff Auntie had when she died so we..." disposed of it as quickly as possible. May we respectfully submit that when an elderly member of your family dies and no one is interested in those items, boxes of old papers, cards, pictures, etc., which remain, that contact be made with a historical society member. These are usually a fine source of an aesthetic and cultural element which should not be lost. It is hoped the aid of the Society will be enlisted to help make a determination as to final disposal of these remnants of a person's life.

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NOVEMBER 30, ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Society will hold its 4th Annual Open House at the Chamber of Commerce Building, 131 Hyne Street, Friday, November 30, 5:30-9 p.m. This will be in cooperation with the local merchants who are also planning Open Houses at that time.

An exhibit of doll houses is planned. Bring your child or grandchild. Society board members will be in attendance and refreshments will be served. Public is invited. This event will take the place of a December meeting.

Anyone who has a doll house to exhibit or is willing to help with refreshments, please contact Chr., Ethel Gebben, 227-5375.

Finance Chr., Gary Cole, will conduct the drawing of prize winners in the fund raiser that day. (See related article.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- Meeting Programs
- Interior Decoration
- Help with special events
- Board member
- Video taping
- Photography
- Genealogy
- Restoration
- Cleaning
- Other work I'd be willing to do _____
- Newsletter
- Publicity
- Research
- Membership
- Fund Raising
- Bake Sale
- Hospitality
- Oral History

Dues: \$ 8.00 per couple Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
 5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481
 25.00 business/professional Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 patron

PERSIS COOK

A Brighton native and resident for seventy-eight years, Persis Cook died Tuesday, October 4, 1983, in Clearwater, Florida, where she had been living since retiring from her second teaching career in 1968. She was 93 years old.

Miss Cook was born March 11, 1890, the only child of Wallace G. and Belle (Russell) Cook. (The Colt Park Insurance Agency, Main Street, is located on the site of a house built by her father. This house has been moved to North First Street, just beyond the new building housing the Police Department. He had a small shop the second door east of Hyne Street, on the North side of Main, from which he sold some groceries, candy, etc.)

After graduating from Brighton High School in 1909, and Ypsilanti Teaching College (now Eastern Michigan University) in 1912, Persis began a 30 year teaching career at elementary schools in Brighton, Mason and Petoskey, Michigan.

She retired in 1943 to care for her aged and widowed mother, who, at that time lived on Washington in Brighton. After her mother's passing, she attended Wayne State University and in 1947 began her second teaching career at the Oakland County Home for Juvenile Delinquents in Pontiac, Michigan.

A member of the Les Amies Club which met regularly for bridge, her name is linked to other early 20th century residents of the area. Fae Berkenstock, Sylvia Bitten, Haidee Brady, Ruth Carter, Hazel Phillips, Geneva Pitkin, Mae Rolison, Mary Ross, Mary Snow and Angie Weeks are a few that quickly come to mind. (It is hoped our readers can complete the list.)

In Clearwater, Florida, Persis was an active volunteer for the Red Cross, a remedial reading program and a member of the Skycrest Baptist Church.

Graveside services were conducted October 8, 1983, at the Fairview Cemetery in Brighton, with the Reverend William E. Brown of the First Presbyterian Church, Brighton, officiating. Arrangements were made by the Herrmann Funeral Home. (Thanks to Andy and Lila Robertson for this information.)

(Correction: the correction phone number for Bob Hotaling re: "Labadie Site" is (313) 685-1561, ext. 438)

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