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, 1900, 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 Byrne Street, on the North side of Main, from which he sold some groceries, candy, etc.)

After graduating from Brighton High School in 1918, 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 Berkensstock, Sylvia Bitten, Maldee Brady, Ruth Carter, Hazel Phillips, Geneva Pitkin, Mae Rollison, Mary Rose, 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. (Thank to Andy and Lila Robertson for this information.)

(Correction: the correction phone number for Bob Horaling re: "Labadie Site" is (313) 685-1565, ext. 938)

BRIGHTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI. 48116

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres.  Merleanna Bair  229-6402
V.P.  Charles Beach  229-9678
Treas.  Kay Flynn  229-9380
Sec.  Clara Realy  229-9367
Corr.  Marj Chapter  229-4959
Directors
Im. Past Pres.  -
Mary Nescherachiat  227-7433
Bert Bair  229-6402
Janice Beach  229-9678
Gary Cole  227-6116
Richard Fortis  229-8356
Wally Jollitts  229-9382

ANNUAL MEETING - POT LUCK

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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 Pormer 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.

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EDITIAL

Editor

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 waltz 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 so fun is in their lives also.

+ + + + +

NEW MEMBERS

since the last issue - Dr. Robert Cheesky, Don and Shirley Jenks, and L. Mark Linatid.

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

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.)

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

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

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

St. Paul's Episc. 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.

SALE AT FARMER'S MARKET

A sale of donated items was held at the Farmer's Market, October 13. Walt Jollitz, Chairman, had helpers who braved the cold weather. Over $200 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 RUNO 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. Ducaet Jewelers has donated a watch for either a lady or gentleman winner, for first prize. Member Joanne Maks has donated a silver rimmed bowl as second prize.

Arrangements are being made to have a ticket table in the Hall 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 ticket table.)

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, Nov 24 wherever possible to get the Lyons School, 11455 RUNO Rd, ready for winter. (The 2 and 3 regulars could become discouraged.)

...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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SNACKS AND MOVIES

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 yearning 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. We sincerely appreciate 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.

+ + + + +

NON-PROFIT MAILING

The Society has set 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 so 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.

+ + + + +

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME ________________________________

ADDRESS ________________________________

PHONE ________________________________

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

( ) Meeting Programs

( ) Interior Decoration

( ) Help with special events

( ) Board member

( ) Video tapes

( ) Other work I'd be willing to do.

Dues: $ 5.00 per couple Send to:

5.00 per individual

25.00 business/professional

25.00 patron

Brighton Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 48

Brighton, MI 48116

"WHAT WILL 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 Chamber and also 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 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.)
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V.P. Charles Beach 229-9678
Treas. Kay Flynn 229-9380
Sec. Clara Realy 229-9367
Cor. Chr. Marian Carney 229-4594

Directors
Imec Past Pres.
Mary Mesesrachadt 227-7433
Bert Bair 229-6402
Janice Beach 226-9678
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Richard Pavlis 229-8566
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P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

November, 1984

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

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