

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON, Mi. 48116

Issue No. 13

October, 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

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	Bert Bair	229-6402		
	Janice Bea	229-9678		
	Gary Cole	227-6116		
	Richard Da	229-8356		
	Wally Jol1	229-9832		

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:30 at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main Street.

Jerry Roe, member of the Michigan Historical Commission, will be the guest speaker. His enthusiastic concern for the preservation and restoration of events and items of historic value to Michigan have taken him to many locations in Michigan, several other states and across the ocean. Jerry's infectious interest will encourage and guide those who have a similar interest.

Jerry's expertise and experience is invaluable. He is anxious to share these with us. The Society can make good use of his visionary nature in determining our goals, setting our priorities and determining how to accomplish them. Fund raising is a particularly successful activity of Jerry's. He is no stranger to Brighton. He attended the historic marker dedications of the Old Town Hall and the St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

As usual the public is welcome.

Next General Meeting, open to the public, is Tuesday, November 13, 7 p.m. This will be the Annual Meeting beginning with a pot luck dinner. Business meeting, the election of officers To ensure programs of interest to the members and a program will begin at 8. The place has not been determined.

#### EDITORIAL

The support of members of the community is a most vitally needed responce to any volunteer.

This support must evidence itself with words, actions and funds. Yes, most volunteers will keep on struggling no matter what. But the development of a cohesive community is not a result of a few lone strugglers.

And how long can one expect this struggler to continue before exhaustion sets in, discouragment takes over and a new undertaking is considered? A project which promises more return in the form of people attending general meetings people offering to help with special events, people serving on the board; people taking photos, helping with nitty-gritty restoration, publicity, fundraising.....

The active members of the Historical Society are determined the goals and purposes of the Society shall be accomplished. It would be good if more local residents joined in this determination. (Ed. M. Bair)

# + + + + PAID MEMBERS 1984

Since the last issue the following have paid 1984 dues:

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Boylan, Dale & Doris Clixby, Citizen's Trust, Kathryn Hodgin, Rudy & Virginia Herrman. WELCOME, WELCOME.

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.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS

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and residents of the area, the Program Commite wants to know what you'd like. Contact Marian Carney, 229-4554; she'll relay your message.

...Brighton State Bank for the printing of this newsletter. This support is much appreciated.

...Warner Cider Mill for the cider at the September 11, General Meeting. ...Dick Davis for providing covers

for our flags.

- ...Dorothy and Barney Ewald for several boxes of record books c. 1900 from the Ratz Hardware.
- ... Bob Hotaling for our back page story.
- ...Domino Pizza for lunch for the workers at the Lyons School.
- ... Mary Jane and Robert Sturwald for the maniquin and stand.
- ... Chamber of Commerce for copying.
- ... Alice Newcomb serving as nomination chairman.
- ...Joe and Pauline Chenoweth for cash donation to the Lyons School heat bill. ...those who have sent addresses to whom to send this newsletter.

+ + + + + + + FLEA MARKET, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

8 a.m. to closing, the Society will hold a Flea Market at the Farmer's Market. Some really neat items have been donated already. To be a really successful event (one worthy of our volunteers' time) lots more items are needed. There will be NO facilities for selling clothing but almost any other items will be welcomed.

Please call Wally Jollitz, 229-9832, or any member of the Board if you have any questions or need help to move anything. He will welcome your help that day also.

#### BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL SOON

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Students at the High School are beginning research into the history of the 9-12 grade educational facilities in Brighton. The next school year will see the publication of a book commemorating this centennial.

It is hoped complete community support will be given this venture. The students will need help with research, pictures, historical facts and various interesting memories of those who have attended good old BHS in the past.

Call Lyle Powers, Principal, 229-5000, with your support.

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We need ...

HELP

- ...someone to develope a cross stitch kit of a local site. We feel this could be a valuable fund raiser.
- ...a newsletter chairman.
- ...a publicity chairman.
- ...someone to do research on the history of the old Town Hall, the bell, and the Lyons School. And other local sites, mills, merchants, medical and legal professions, Mellus Hospital, schools, etc.
- ...someone to open their home for a tour (perhaps Christmas), hobby or collection, etc., as a fund raiser.

# SHAKERS AND MOVERS

John and Mari Lynn Korte are charter members of the Society. John served as Treasurer and Newsletter publisher until this past February; a labor of love and dedication. With their two children they came to the Brighton area in 1971 from Livonia.

John's ancestors came from Germany in the mid 1800s; he's attempting research as to the area from which they came.

When not working for ATT as a datacenter coordinator, the Brighton Band Boosters takes up much of his attention and energy. Playing saxaphone in the Livingston County Concert Band brings enjoyment and helps satisfy his love of music.

Living in Hamburg Township, John is interested in learning more of the history of an early community called Campbell Town. Can anyone give him any history on this?

## LYONS SCHOOL

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We've got the paint and several hardworking prople to work on the project of getting the outside of the building protected from the weather this winter.

Still needed are more workers, funds to pay for the paint, heat and electric bills. (Can you donate \$50. to these expenses?

Come in your work clothes. Pizza will be donated by Domino Pizza for lunch. Beverage provided.

Work dates: 9-1 p.m. every Saturday in October. Call Bert Bair, 229-6402, Gary Cole, 227-6116, or Wally Jollitz, 229-9832 if you want to work another day.

#### CERAMIC TILES TO BE SOLD

Attempts to acquire a detailed, accurate picture of the Old Town Hall to be used on tiles have caused some delay in getting as fundraiser completed. Be assured it's being researched and as soon as possible these items will be for sale. The interest already shown indicates these will sell quickly.

ALSO FOR SALE are Society cards and stationery 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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## HISTORIC FALL TOUR REPORT

Recently fourteen from the Society joined a group for a bus trip to Elora, Ontario, Canada. We stayed at the restored five-story historic grist mill, Elora Inn, located by the water fall and the Elora Gorge of the Grand River. Eight members of a local Scottish dance group caused toes to tap after the prime rib dinner.

re representatives of the Welland County mistoric and Research Society took time from their Sunday evening to speak with us and exchange ideas on our mutual interest in historic preservation and restoration.

Next morning after a sound sleep, soothed by the sound of the falls, a "Miller's Breakfast" was consumed. Pauline, a charming Mennonite lady joined the group for a tour of the surrounding Mennonite country. Upon arriving home we all hoped more could join us next time.

### WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

A one-room school, a church, a Greek revival home, a two-story Victorian home (with ginger-bread, etc.) and a modest cottage have all been moved to an area called Mill Race Village in Northville. A blacksmith shop is being reconstructed and a gazebo, in which weddings often take place, are included. We learned that when caring people decide to restore and preserve a great deal can be accomplished.

During the short business meeting amended bylaws were accepted. Copies are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Society or at the Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce, 131 Hyne.

## I.R.S. TAX EXEMPT STATUS.

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The Internal Revenue Service has recently recognized the Society as an income tax exempt organization. Funds or items donated can now be considered a deductable on one's income tax return.

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THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is presenting a Family History Seminar, Saturday, October 27, beginning at 9 a.m. Held at the Red Barn restaurant, 1140 Pinckney Rd., Howell, the charge, including lunch, is \$15. per person, \$25. with spouse.

Janet Rohrabacher, Joanne Harvey, Cliff Heller and Dawn and Clyde Chamberlin are each presenting a program.

Reservations are to be sent to the LCGS, P.O. Box 922, Brighton, by October 17. For more information: Marge Wilcox, 229-8556 or Diane Wrobleski, 231-2694.

## BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME_			PHONE	
ADDRESS				
Activities in which I'd like ( ) Meeting Programs ( ) Interior DEcoration ( ) Help with special events ( ) Board member	to participate: ( ) Photography ( ) Genealogy ( ) Restoration ( ) Cleaning	( ) Mewsletter ( ) Publicity ( ) Research ( ) Membership	( ) Fund Raising ( ) Bake Sale ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History	

Dues: \$8.00 per couple

5.00 per individual

25.00 business/professional

25.00 patron

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, Mi. 48116

#### THE LABADIE SITE - KENSINGTON METROPARK

Occasionally, history is revealed by chance. In early 1983, I happened upon the Anderson family of Glen Echo, Maryland, walking along one of our nature trails. Mrs. Carlotta Anderson was searching for the former site of her grandfather's summer home, called "Bulling Waters." Her grandfather was Jo Labadie (1850-1933).

Several stone foundations along Aspen Trail were, at the time, shrouded in mystery. Mrs. Anderson, upon viewing the location, believed it to be the object of her search. A subsequent visit to the Livingston County Courthouse to examine land records verified her supposition. With this information the site acquired a new significance.

Jo Labadie summered at "Bubbling Waters" from 1912 until 1933. Charles Joseph Antoine Labadie - known as "jo" - was a prominent Detroiter active in the labor movement. Labeled the "gentle anarchist" because of his opposition to violence, he was an influential and prodigious writer. A huge collection of his work is in the possession of the University of Michigan.

In 1945, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks obtained the land from the family. What remains? Today, can be found two separate building foundations and a living legacy of domestic flowers that continue to flourish. The site, largely overgrown, has been partially opened up by selective cutting of brush.

There remains much to be learned. Can anyone augment our limited knowledge of Jo's residence at Kensington? Perhaps someone visited there or knew the family. In addition, we would also like to learn more of Jo's brothers - Francis, Hubert and Oliver - who were involved in the production of silent movies in the local area. What do you know of them?

Mrs. Anderson is currently researching a book on Jo Labadie and his work. She needs assistance from us. Please contact me if you have anything to contribute or to share. (Bob Hotaling, Kensington Nature Center, (313) 1561 x438)

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