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P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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  229-6402
- Nick Davis
  229-8356
- Floyd Fuller
  233-2415
- Jack Gehnen
  227-5375
- Rae Schmidt
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APRIL 9, GENERAL MEETING

We've been invited to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Grandke to view their collection of doll houses. The buildings are set up to depict a street with homes interspersed with a school, church and grocery store.

Phyllis and Fred made the buildings, some of the furniture and decorated appropriately.

A Mission will be by ticket only, for which there is no charge. Meet at the Old Town Hall (former Brighton Library) Tuesday at 7:30 to register. After a short business meeting, you will be given a ticket and directed to the Grandke home. The public is welcome.

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TILES OF THE OLD TOWN HALL FOR SALE

Jane Tomlinson, tile sale chairman, has less than 100 tiles remaining to sell. These would make welcome gifts to children or others who have moved from Brighton, parents who still remember the building as it appeared years ago; or use them as decorative and useful items in your own home.

These are available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Senior Citizen's Gift Shop and Citizen's Trust, $3.00 + tax.

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EDITORIAL

Occasionally the Society is described as the "hysterical" Society. While that charge cannot be completely denied (hardly a good use of time and energy) one must give credit that the Society is trying to work towards its goals: the creation of an awareness of those who have preceded us; of their contribution to the Area (may ours be as valuable); of the attempts to restore a depleted building to its former status; of making visitors to our area aware that we know from where we've come and know where we're going. The stability of neighborhoods will be enhanced, our self-sufficiency reaffirmed and cultural identity reinforced through these efforts.

All of us know of incidents of toppling of still useful structures in the area. Members of the Society are trying to make others aware of the need to preserve the physical, social and human fabric of the community. Members of the Society can be confident we are making an effort to restore, not destroy. (ed. M. Bair)

MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:


WELCOME, WELCOME.

Herrmann Funeral Home and Kehnn Funeral Home are now corporate members. Many thanks for your support.
RECAP, MARCH MEETING

David Finney, historian, photo memorabilia collector and Civil War buff had a fascinating display of early photos and slides to illustrate his talk.

Old pictures can be quite accurately assigned a date if one knows for which clues to look. Did you know a Civil War tax of 2c was applied to each picture sold?

Photographers, aware of the fact that change is always present, muddled over our US taking pictures in the 1860s-70s, which are now a vital link in our country's history. They braved the elements and made a record of the occupation in order to record how we lived at that time.

Several members of the audience brought pictures of sites of early Brighton.

100 YEAR OLD HOMES SOUGHT

We are looking for information and locations of the many Centennial Farms and homes in our four townships area in the SE portion of Livingston County. If you'd like to share historical events and pictures of your homestead with us, contact: Max Schmitke, 227-770-B. The Society feels this is a project long overdue.

1985 TILES - RAILROAD DEPOT

To be authentic as possible the search is on for an early picture of Brighton's railroad depot. Brighton was 3-85 to be dependent on area residents to help make this tile as attractive as the one produced in 1984. Please call him as soon as possible if you have or know of a picture he could borrow.

While researching this subject it would be beneficial to get some history of the railroad in the area. Who made use of this mode of transportation?...What was shipped?...how was the railroad of importance to the development of the area?...what are some of your memories of the sights/sounds which accompanied the railroad? Don't let these questions limit your thoughts. Write them down and send to the Society, P.O. Box 481.

THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS

...Anna Westin for her donation.
...Cars & Concepts for offer of 'squirrel cage' when drawing raffle tickets.
...Quoits Jewelers in the Mall for handling the selling of tickets to the Meadow Brook presentation April 19.
...Lois Cole for printing signs, etc., for us.
...HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP....

We need...
...someone to gather materials (which are already available) into a Society scrap book.
...someone to help put together a driving tour of the area, giving details and highlights of past and present sites, activities, events...
...ideas for programs. What would interest you?
...person to help with publicity.
...a name for this newsletter.

MEADOW BROOK PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTATION COMING TO BRIGHTON

Friday, April 19, 7:30, the Meadow Brook Performing Arts group will present 'Taking Steps' by Alan Ayckbourn at the High School Auditorium.

Several London newspapers described the play as a "Farce of riotous delight"..."Hilarious"..."Wonderfully funny."

One thing is certain - Taking Steps is a delightful situation comedy, wherein much action (frequently all at the same time) takes place in rooms, passages and stairways of an old Victorian house, once a brothel.

The cast includes a frustrated dancer, hard-drinking tycoon, a finnacee shut in an attic cupboard and other equally unusual characters. Never a dull moment.

The Society and the Brighton Senior Citizens are cooperating in the selling of the tickets. This can be a profitable fund raiser for the Society. Quoits Jewelers in the Mall is handling the ticket sales 977...for the Society. If we each take a friend along there'll be Standing Room Only.

LYONS SCHOOL

To restore the Lyons School, Huno Rd. (between Van Amber and Pleasant Valley) pictures of disappearance of years ago are necessary. Surely there are some pictures in the area.

Contact a board member or write the Society if you can lend the committee a picture. Historical research on the building is to be done in order to apply for designation as a Michigan Historic Site.

The annual Spaghetti Supper is in the works. Planned for a Friday in May, the location is still being determined. Watch for more information in the May newsletter.

The program committee is planning the programs at the General Meetings for the next several months. Ideas and suggestions are always most welcome. Please contact a board member.

CORRECTING... A typing error in the first line of the March issue article on the Eastern House put the hotel across the street. It was, of course, located on the NE corner of Main and River and Main.

Director Fuller's phone number on the first page is finally the correct one. Sorry, Floyd.

BRIGHTON AREA'S GHOST TOWNS?

When one looks at old maps of the area one can find names of communities which don't exist any longer. Those of Green Oak Township have been well described in the "Early Years in Green Oak 1830-1930" ($22.50 + tax and shp $1.50, Green Oak Township Historical Society, P.O. Box 84, Brighton.)

Genoa, Brighton and Hamburg townships also had their share of these long gone communities. Who were the settlers and why were they gathered into a community...why are they no longer in existence?

The need to record and consolidate the answers to these and other questions is obvious. Collect your thoughts, write them and send to the Society, Box 481.

Survivors of an older parent, or relative, often are puzzled as to what to do with the pictures, books, letters, papers, items of a bygone day.

We respectfully suggest these not be discarded. The Society may be able to display these in a pleasing manner or use them for historical research. A lasting gift in memory or honor of a loved one may be a historic research book for the Library (they'll help with suggestions) or a donation to the Society's memorial fund.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

New ( ) Renewal ( ) Please send a copy of Society Bylaws ( )

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

( ) Meeting programs ( ) Photography ( ) Newsletter ( ) Fund Raising

( ) Interior Decoration ( ) Genealogy ( ) Publicity ( ) Bake Sale

( ) Help with special events ( ) Restoration ( ) Research ( ) Hospitality

( ) Board member ( ) Cleaning ( ) Video taping ( ) Oral History

( ) Membership Committee ( ) Other work I'd be willing to do

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5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481

25.00 business/professional Brighton, MI 48116

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OLD KENT BANK

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Issue No. 19
April, 1981

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.

SUGGESTIONS

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