



BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, Mi. 48116

Issue No. 27

December, 1985

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.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres. Marieanna Bair 229-6402
V.P. Gary Cole 227-6116
Sec. Judith Peck 227-6491
Treas. Wally Jollitz 229-9832

DIRECTORS

Bert Bair 229-6402
Chuck Beach 229-9678
Dick Davis 229-8356
Floyd Fuller 231-2415
Mae Schmadtke 227-7969

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ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Need it be said? there are a lot of good cooks in this Society. The food table at the Pot Luck displayed a variety to satisfy anyone's palate.

Rudy Herrmann, Alice Krupa and Allen Walblay were unanimously elected to two year terms as Directors, the 1986 Budget was accepted and the drawing for the raffle took place. The afghan was won by Mike Cuthbert.

A movie of the 1967 Brighton Centennial Celebration was shown. Many old friends were recognized and the spirit of cooperation necessary for this event was evident.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, January 14, 1986. The program is to be announced.

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DEPOT TILES ARE HERE

The second in the series of tiles produced by the Society is ready. The Pere Marquette Railroad Depot is pictured. Jane Tomlinson will again be the one to contact to get yours. They may be obtained at the Jarvis Store and other locations to be announced.

A few tiles from 1984, are still available for a \$6. donation. These tiles are a welcome gift to give anyone who has memories of the area. + + + + +

EDITORIAL

Community support of the Society is utterly essential to those who are devoting much time and effort into making some headway toward its goals.

We are often urged to be aware of still another project in which the Society could be involved. It seems to boil down to the fact that many are more aware of the loss of historic sites and a way of life which preceeds us. We are more aware of "what do I want to leave my grandchild of my town?"

Along with that awareness must come a sense of responsibility, a sense that if we don't do what we can, we'll have to look that kid in the eye and say, "No, I didn't save anything for you." (M. Bair, Ed.)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Paul & Alene Anderson, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Pat Borst, Charles & Doris Case, Jim Dennis, Tim & Helen Hurst, Mary Layton, Tom & Evelyn Longsworth, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, Floyd & Lorena Pearson, Laura Thompson, Herb & Arlene Warner. Robert W. Clark, patron. WELCOME. WELCOME.

1986 dues are payable. Dues paying members are vital if the Society is to continue towards its goals. Again many thanks to those paying patron du

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MEETINGS

The Board meets the second Thursday of the month upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 7:30. Members are very welcome. The General Meetings are held the second Tuesday in January, March and May next year. Watch for notices in the Brighton Argus regarding time and place. The public is welcome.

The Board of Directors will be meeting December 10, to select officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) for 1986. If you would like to participate in one of these positions please call a board member. If you are contacted to serve in an office, for the sake of the Society say 'yes' to a one year term.

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

...Myron Serbay for his help with the Michigan Equity Program fund application.

...Rory McDonald for his help with the Lyons School Historic Restoration Committee.

...Don Carney, Harold Jarvis, Tom Leith and Frank Seger for serving as judges at the Brighton High School Homecoming parade in October. (Theme was 100 years of music.)

...Virginia Zurecki for serving as membership chairman for 1985.

...Bert Bair, Dick Davis, Wally Jollitz, and Judith Peck for their service on the Board of Directors. Be assured your support is still necessary.

...Ial Fuller and Ethel Gebben for again chairing the Annual Open House.

...Bert Bair, Gary Cole, Wally Jollitz, and Chuck Pless for moving the buggy given us by the Michigan Bank-Livingston.

...Elizabeth Bindenagel for \$50 donation to the Lyons School Restoration. (She is the Great granddaughter of Richard Lyons who gave the land for the school in 1842)

...Bert Bair, Bob Gillespie, Wally Jollitz, Tom Longworth, Gregory Mable and Bruce Owen for moving the case in which the buggy was stored in front of the bank.

...Alice Krupa for planning to do an historic resources survey of Brighton City.

...Uber's Drugs, Citizen's Trust, Sr. Citizen Center, Jarvis Store and Jane Tomlinson for having the tiles on display and accepting the donations.

...The Warners, - Herbert, Doris (Prieskhorn) and Florence (Chase) - for preparing the Michigan Historic Site designation application for the Lyons School.

...those who bought tickets for the raffle.

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HOUSE TOUR - 1986

Chairmen Jim and Penny Szczechowski will be needing lots of people on their committee in order to plan the Society's first house tour. An event like this can result in the raising of needed funds and a raising of awareness of the historic resources we have in the area - and is a lot of fun.

Plans are not definite yet but people willing to display their homes, or portions of them will be needed. August will probably be the month. Hosts will be needed for each site also. Be considering how you can help.

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Who was 'Peanut' Kline?

Who was Bert Miller?

HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP

We need to organize the following committees to be active in 1986. Read this and see where you might be able to help in some manner.

...Program committee (plan programs for General meetings.)

...Membership committee (send receipts and membership cards to members, record in record books.)

Finance committee (organize fund raising events.)

...Nominating committee (select nominees to directorships.)

...Hospitality committee (welcome those attending General meetings, provide name tags, attendance list and prepare refreshments.)

...Publicity committee (through newspaper, radio, etc., publicize the Society's activities and projects.)

There must be something there with which you can help. It cannot be expected the President for 1986 will be chairman for all these necessary activities. Committees are often maligned as not being productive. An organization cannot exist and accomplish its goals without them. The Board of Directors cannot be expected to cover all the necessary projects which an historical society can be expected to promote.

Many capable people live in the area. They can organize their time to enable them to help out in some area.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION COMMITTEE

...has met and is in the process of determining the proper priorities in connection with the restoration of the building. No word yet on the Michigan Equity Program application. The application to designate the school as a Michigan Historical Site has been filed.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESORATION COMMITTEE

...is being formed. Please contact Dick Davis, 229-8356 if you would like to be included.

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??????? TRIVIA ??????

After whom were the following schools named?

1. Miller Elementary
2. Maltby Middle
3. Hornung Elementary

Kathleen Flynn, wife of Tim and mother of three was born in Detroit and moved to Brighton in 1971. Early visits to her Uncle Aunt Roy Murray, who owned Murrey's location on Grand River cause her to have memories of the ice house on S. West St., Ore Creek mill pond on the south side of Main, and Uber's Drug Store when it was located on W. Main by the D & C Store, among others.

A charter member of the Society she served on the board until 1985, as Treasurer in 1984. She has proven to have a keen interest in the history of the area and continues supporting the Society's efforts to accomplish its goals.

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

Again a correction re: "Seim's Hill". That portion of Brighton Road just west of Bauer, to the top of the hill is "Wiecker's" Hill. Continuing west one might call it Seim's Hill. It was named after J. K. Wieckers who owned 283 acres on the north side in 1859. Thanks to several who have cared enough to set the record straight. We'll keep at this 'til we get it right.

Woodruff Mill was located on what is now Ford Road, off Pleasant Valley.

Western House was built in 1872.

School sites were originally selected to make it possible for children to attend without having to walk more than 4-5 miles. Land was often donated by a land owner in the district.

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Locations in the Area? (Can someone do a story for us?)

3. What is the first site in the area to be listed in the National Register of Historic Sites?

It is interesting to learn the house originally built at 623 W. Main Street, was built by Fredrick T. Hyne during the mid 1800s, and burned in early 1915. Later that same year the present Greek Revival styled house was built on part of the foundation and basement of the original house. It was owned and occupied by a member of the Hyne family until 1973.

The Hynes had willed the property to their daughter, Freida (Mrs. Daniel Hodgin) who later sold it to A. Colt and Dorothy (Baetcke) Park in 1951. Dorothy is a granddaughter of Fredrick's late brother Frank. The Park family owned and occupied the home until 1973 when it was sold to the present owners.

Mr. F.T. Hyne was the founder of the F. T. Hyne and Son Lumber Yard. The building and offices were on the east side of the railroad tracks on the south side of Main Street. His son Erwin and later his grandsons, Fred and Bill, carried on the business until 1971 when it was purchased by the Pine Lumber Company. (Information by Hyne and Park families)

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LOCAL SITE LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER

The Westphal Farmstead, 6430 Brighton Road., has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Brighton Area can take pride in that event. It is hoped others who may know of other local sites so listed will contact us so we can announce that also. David and Charlene Kull are present owners and residents. Congratulations.

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????????TRIVIA??????

- + 1. Where were blacksmith shops located in the area?
- + 2. During the winter ice was cut at which

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- () Bake sale () Meeting programs () Photography () Help with special events
- () Board member () Membership committee () Publicity () Video taping
- () Fund raising () Newsletter publication () Research () Hospitality
- () Genealogy () Oral history () Restoration () Other workd I'd be

willing to do

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

THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL (Cont.)

About the time land owners got Grand River Road graveled, the State decided to pave the road with concrete from Detroit to Lake Michigan. In order to widen the right of way to 100 feet the State bought the land and tore out the gravel roads; altho' the farmers were still bonded (for several years to come for the gravel roads they had built). The State regraded for concrete; paid for the fence; cut down shade trees; moved telephone poles, many farmer's barns, houses and out-buildings back off the right of way. Federal aid and prison labor was used for some of the road construction. A cement plant was built and cement mixing equipment purchased, also trucks and steam shovels. This experiment, by the State, in road building resulted in scandals, wide-spread graft and corruption. Because of the political upheaval, shortly after US 16 was completed the State got out of the road building business and put road construction up for bids by private contractors.

One must not omit the fact that the need to move equipment and men from the farms to the train or to ships for transport to Europe during WW I, was probably a major impetus to the evolution of better roads and incidently the development of trucks.

A fleet of privately-owned passenger cars operated over this improved road and provided, for the time, quite fast transportation between Detroit and Lansing. Called "jitneys" they, of course, charged more than the nickel charged by those cars of the same name that operated in the cities in the 1914-1922 period. These were followed by the buses, first the Blue Goose then the Greyhounds, and now the Trailways and others.

During the mid 1950s U.S. 16 was retired with the building of I-96. The old route had served and still serves Michigan citizens well. It now belongs to the counties through which it passes and its maintenance is again their responsibility.

Those who live along this old Indian trail and who receive their mail with that address, still call it Grand River. Its many nicknames include the Plank Road, the Gravel, the Pike, the Grade. Interstate 96, while providing a fast, safe and direct route for the traveler does not have the historically romantic ring to its name. (At least, not yet.)

The original Indian Trail has been witness to many forms of transportation. The people came on foot, horseback, ox cart, freight wagon, stagecoach, jitney, auto, truck and bus to establish homes, occupations, and recreation. At the present, it seems logical that the coming years will mean more and more development along the old Indian Trail until it perhaps becomes one long city stretching from shore to shore across Michigan. Will this development rule the people or will the people control this growth? (Condensed and edited from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. A. Pless and "Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830-1930")

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