



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
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DIRECTORS

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GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1985

The program will be the "History of American Quilts" by Susie Braund. Local quilter, collector and historian she will bring many quilts from her collection and will inform us of the significance of quilts in our past and present.

We'll meet upstairs in the Old Town Hall (over Poor Richard's Bookshoppe), 202 W. Main at 7:30 for a short business meeting. Refreshments will be served. If you have a quilt to show us, please bring it. (and a friend.) As usual, the public is welcome to this meeting.

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TILES FOR SALE

Six inch ceramic tiles, picturing the Old Town Hall as it appeared originally, are available for \$6. In black and white, they can be displayed on the wall or used as hot plate holders. Tiles can be purchased at Citizen's Trust Bank, the Senior Center Gift Shop at Miller School and at Jarvis' Store on Main Street.

The first of a planned series, it is anticipated these will be collectables. The Board has determined the railroad station to be a suitable subject for this year.

EDITORIAL

The recent Winterfest brought many to the Brighton area who were interested in the history of the area. It would be good to put together a driving tour of the Area or a walking tour of the City.

Pamphlets and maps regarding local farms, businesses, transportation, cemeteries, churches, schools, buildings, etc., could be prepared for our visitors and be a modest fund raiser for the Society. It would seem that many local residents would also make use of them. (Ed. M. Bair)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:
 Erv. & Dorothy Bandkau, Susie Braund, Don Carney, Marian Carney, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Richard Davis, Ula Davis, Barney & Dorothy Ewald, Doris Fay, Jack & Ethel Gebben, Will & Katherine Hampton, Madelene Hathaway, Clifton Heller, Josephine Hyne, Bill & Helen Hyne, Tom & Audry Leith, Don & Pat Lueker, Bill & Barbara McCririe, Joe & Irene Mike, Jere & Kay Michaels, Rosemary Moon, Sherry Nyhus, Gerald & Judy Porman, Lyle & Joyce Powers, Celia Schaffer, Horace & Yvonne Taylor and Joe & Norma Voorhis. WELCOME.

By virtue of their extensive donations the Board of Directors has decided to give memberships to Old Kent Bank (Brighton State Bank), DuQuets Jewels, and Wendy's. The Society extends its thanks.

THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Rita Altenberg for managing the Antique Show.
 ...Sr. Citizen personell, for cooperating with us on the show.
 ...Dick Davis, Ethel and Jack Gebben, Clara Healy, Mark Linstid, Isabella Milburn, Alice Newcomb and Mae Schmadtke for helping with the show.
 ...Mary Messerschmidt for selling chili at the show.
 ...Floyd Fuller for making some permanent signs for use with Society activities.
 ...Pine Lumber for donation of materials for above signs.
 ...Libby Eisenhart for putting together the lap robe kit.
 ...Wendy's for donating chili sold at the Antique Show.
 ...Lois Cole for lettering membership certificates for business/professional members.
 ...K-Mart for 12 frames for the membership certificates.

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JANUARY 19, 1985, ANTIQUE SHOW

Fools tread where angels fear to go. With no experience in a venture of this nature, the Society, in cooperation with the Brighton Senior Citizen's Center, decided to host an antique show and sale in connection with the recent Brighton Winterfest.

Without the support and guidance of Rita Altenberg, putting together a show like this would have been very difficult. The cooperation of the Center staff was most essential and very much appreciated. This first show can be considered a success. We made a profit.

Already plans for next year's show are being put together. It will be bigger and better than ever. The Thanks Column lists those who were able to help that day.

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RECAP, JANUARY 8, GENERAL MEETING

Those who attended did not remove their coats. There was a malfunction of the heating equipment, which is operating properly now. But we all still learned a great deal about local architecture. The slides shown by Emma Casterton should prompt someone in our Society to get out their camera before leaves block the view and take pictures of Brighton AREA buildings.

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HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

We need...
 ...ideas for next year's programs.
 ...a person to help with publicity for this organization.
 ...people to write us with the sights and sounds they remember from the Brighon Area.
 ...people to help put together a scrap book for this Society.
 ...a descriptive name for this newsletter.
 ...people to write their memories of the Depression, trains, school days, church picnics, etc.

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HAVE YOU PAID 1985 DUES?

If you're getting this newsletter but haven't paid 1985 dues, perhaps you'd like to show your support of the Society and its goals. Membership costs are listed on page three. Your caring will be greatly appreciated. (If you don't wish to receive the newsletter, please contact a member of the board.)

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The article on page four prompts some mental meanderings. Driving on paved roads and super highways often insulates us from the surrounding countryside. How many of us are really aware of an upper and lower Brighton? How many of us are aware of the high hills in Brighton Township? the rolling acres of Genoa Township? the swamps in Hamburg Township, the gravel of Green Oak Township?

As a for instance:...as one drives east on St. Paul's St., in Brighton, east of East Street, the street continually drops and the city must fill in the roadway. We've heard stories of quicksand in the area. Can someone write us about this? Or the formation of Brighton Lake? Some background on the Howell Scout Reservation?

RAFFLE SOON FOR LAP ROBE

The lap robe kit which was donated to the Society by Betty Herbst has been finished by Libby Eisenhart. This will provide another opportunity to raise funds for the Society's projects. Much appreciation to both these ladies.

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TRIP TO EDESEL FORD MANSION SOON

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK?

If it's cabin fever you have we have just the prescription for it. Come join us for a delightful tour of the Edsel Ford Mansion in Grosse Pointe Farms, Saturday, March 23. Members of other historical societies will be joining us on this trip.

Lunch will be served in the mansion with appetizers preceding. Price of the tour and lunch, \$29.00 (\$5. of which will be a donation to the Society.)

We will leave from the Brighton City Hall parking lot that morning at 9 a.m. It is not necessary to be a member of the Society to attend.

Registration deadline is February 15. Forms may be acquired at the February 12, General Meeting or from Mary Messerschmidt, 227-7433.

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PUBLIC HEARING ON BRIGHTON HOTEL

A public hearing is scheduled for February 7 at the Brighton City Hall regarding the application for a tax 'break' by the future buyers of the Brighton Hotel for its potential restoration. City residents should be aware of this hearing and be present at the hearing to let the Council members know how they feel regarding this matter.

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We need to develop a book on the history of the Brighton Area. Might we call it "Sights and Sounds of the Brighton Area"?

Needed will be pictures of places (both past and present, showing changes which have taken place at a site), pictures of people (identified if possible), information on organizations, (both social and service) the Depression, trains, industries, activities, events, etc.

Also needed is a committee to coordinate this effort. Contact a board member with your ideas.

What do we want Brighton area residents of 2085 to know of us? Will there be a Brighton area in 2085 might be the first question? What was the Brighton Area of 1885 like?

It will take a lot of cooperation and donation of time and effort to preserve in an accessible manner how we lived and how our predecessors lived. That we were and are blood and flesh people with not too different problems, joys, sorrows and successes.

Supporting the Brighton Area Historical Society is one means of preserving who we are and were.

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Society Board meeting, February 14, 1985, upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

New () Renewal()

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interior Decoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with special events | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning | <input type="checkbox"/> Video taping | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other work 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 business/professional Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 patron

In 1907, Henry Fitch was one of some 800 former residents of Brighton to return from all points of the compass to attend a Home Coming celebration. Henry had been away for more than 50 years, and at a mass meeting at the old "Opera House" (today, Cardona's, on Grand River) reminisced, in part, as follows:

"My early recollection of Brighton was associated intimately with wolves, bears and panthers: and that children were not permitted to be out after dark for fear wolves would get them. In the winter of 1845, my father went to Pine Run (North of Flint) for pine lumber with a pair of horses and democrat sleigh, taking me with him. We left in the forenoon of the next day to return; the snow was deep and the weather cold, and there was not a house for many miles. Just before dark we were surrounded by a pack of wolves, one or two on each side of us yelping, snarling and jumping in the snow. Gradually the number increased and it became dark. There were about twenty of them and they were getting very familiar with the horses; too near for comfort. The horses were put into a run and the last mile from what was known as the Dean Settlement (east of the cemetery on Flint Road) to our house (where the Canopy Hotel now stands)) the horses were on a dead run, the wolves keeping close company until within fifty rods of the house."

In 1985, 140 years later, three apartment complexes and several private homes are located along the 'mile'. One group of apartments is advertised as the "Quiet Place." What commotion, excitement and concern would be generated by the residents along the 'mile' today at the sight and sound of a pack of wolves menacing a man and his boy while riding in a sleigh loaded with lumber and drawn by galloping horses with foam freezing on their wiskers.

Henry's reminiscences don't mention the pleasant sound of sleigh bells worn by the horses on a strap around their bodies. These bells had nothing to do with the Christmas holidays. They served a very utilitarian purpose. Running on the hard packed snow there was not much sound to alert drivers of an approaching sleigh. Nights were DARK. Few of us today can experience that kind of darkness. Horses were usually seen with their ears pointed forward, to better hear the bells on other horses and therefore avoid an accident. (Used by permission of Wm. Pless, Brighton.)

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

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