



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.

EDITORIAL

The Brighton Area is in need of Historical Commissions. The townships and the city need the guidance of such Commissions, to answer some of the environmental issues of today.

Is there anyone who would argue that growth is inevitable?..that building is necessary?.. that development should be guided in a direction that takes into account the resources of the area and considers the generations to come?

How will this growth affect the economy, stability, energy self-sufficiency and cultural identity of the Area? It would seem the appointment of Historic Commissions would be a beginning to answer the questions.

We would urge local governmental bodies to seriously consider such an appointment. We would urge the local citizenry to request such appointments soon. This is a logical means to avoid the toppling of still useful buildings or the destruction of irreplaceable open space.

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MEMBERSHIPS 1985

Since the last issue the following have paid 1985 dues:

Kenneth & Bernice Chappel, Harold & Eleanor Davis, Zara Graham, Richard & Helen Leitz, Gregory & Linda Mable, David & Mary Lou Miller, Don & Kathleen McDevit, Richard & Toni Mullany, Cliff & Shirley Ritter, Don & Carolyn Selby, Eugene & Liz Shehan, Frank & Alice Seger, James & Shirley Wenzel. Ina Shannon has already paid her 1986 dues. WELCOME. WELCOME.

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Want to write an editorial or have other comments? Be our guest. All comments are welcome.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

DIRECTORS

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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER REPORT

Thanks are extended to all who showed their support of the Society by attending the Spaghetti supper, May 24.

The next one is already being planned. Again it will be an "all you can eat" event with desserts also. (The sauce will be a little less spicy.)

The following are among those who contributed time, lots of effort and groceries: Paul & Aline Anderson, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Chuck & Janice Beach, Marian Carney, Gary & Ruth Ann Cole, Dick Davis, Jack & Ethel Gebbens, Clara Healy, Wally Jollitz, Judith Peck, Shirley Ritter, Mae Schmadtke, Jim & Penny Szczechowski, Jane Tomlinson and Virginia Zureki.

They've promised to help again (and you might also be invited to participate.)

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

- ...the Gary Coles for furnishing the hamburger for the spaghetti supper.
- ...Wally Jollitz for furnishing the cabbage and carrots for the slaw.
- ...Sefa's Food Store.
- ...Bill Pless for his "Sights and Sounds" of Brighton.
- ...those who made a cash donation to the bake sale.
- ...Chuck Beach for filling in as Director for the remainder of the year.

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BAKE SALE

The Bake Sale at Farmer's Market June 1, was a great success. Thanks to all of you who donated baked goods that day, as well as those who donated money.

Jane Tomlinson is always there as Co-Chairman and always stays till everything is wrapped up. Her daughter, Mary Jane, also helped us sell. Thanks to Wally Jollitz and Chuck Beach for delivering signs and tables.

Ladies who made calls were: Shirley Ritter, Susie Braund, Ial Fuller, Bev LaBelle, Ethel Gebben, Libby Eisenhardt, Kay Flynn, Jane Tomlinson, Gloria Spencer and Mary Pat Layton. We couldn't do it without all of you.

We left market that day with a profit of \$189.25. We may be calling on you again during the summer for a couple more bake sales. Thanks again. Janice Beach-Chairman.

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SENIOR CENTER -- HUMANITIES PROGRAM

The organizational meeting for a discussion group of Older Americans will take place Wednesday, September 25, 10 - 11:30 a.m., at the Community Room at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer, 229-5000, Ext. 127.

A discussion leader will have as a topic "Exploring Local History." There is no fee.

This discussion group will be co-sponsored by Brighton City Library, Brighton Area Senior Citizen's Center, Brighton Area Historical Society and Brighton Community Education.

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HELP...HELP...HLEP...HELP.....we need...

- ...a picture of the Lyon School. The committee is considering a tile for 1986 of the school but needs a picture.
- ...your tale of Sights and Sounds or other reminiscences of the past. (It can be of more recent years.)
- ...donations of antiques to be sold at the Society's booth at the Antique Show during the January, '86 Brighton Winterfest. Receipts indicating your tax-deductible donation will be given upon request.
- ...someone to chair the above mentioned booth.
- ...flea market donations and helpers.

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FLEA MARKET, AUGUST 17

Beginning in early spring, garage sales, yard sales, etc., are a means of eliminating items from our households which are no longer needed. However there are always those things which remain unsold which one doesn't want to keep but would prefer not to add to the rubbish. What to do???????

Bring them to the flea market planned for Saturday, August 17. It will be held rain or shine at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road. Prepare a list of the items you donate (no clothing please) and a receipt will be prepared.

Chairmen Wally Jollitz, 229-9832 and Chuck Beach, 229-9678, will arrange for pick up if necessary.

Not having a garage sale? Then collect your unused items and donate to the Society.

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What's the story about the dam that was constructed which caused Brighton Lake to be formed?

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Who was your favorite teacher and why?

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How did you spend July 4th 20, 40, 60 years ago?

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LYON SCHOOL

The Society is very fortunate to have the support of the Old Kent Bank which continues to donate the printing of 650 copies of this newsletter each month by Singer Press.

Work on the Lyon School will begin soon again. Please watch for notices in the Brighton Argus. Lots of willing hands are necessary to begin the restoration process.

About 135 are delivered by hand. To keep postage expenses under control mailings have been limited to 500. Mailing by bulk rate has the advantage of less expense but some disadvantages also: (a) it is not forwarded or returned. Thanks to those who have sent address changes. (b) it is received by local addresses within a few days, out of town takes several weeks. Notify us if you wish your newsletter sent first class.

The application for registering the Lyon School as an historic site is being prepared. After that we can consider the acquisition of a Michigan Historic Site Marker.

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ACTIVITIES OF AREA SOCIETIES

We are glad to include names of those you feel might be interested in receiving the newsletter. To stay within the 500 mailing limit, it is sometimes necessary to arbitrarily revise the mailing list. If you don't wish to receive the newsletter, contact a board member.

Green Oak, P.O. Box 84, Brighton, is sponsoring a visit to Botsfore Inn, Saturday, July 13; lunch at 12:30, \$7.25.

Green Oak Day will be Saturday, August 10. A family picnic is planned at the Gage house Museum, 6440 Kensington Rd. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. during the summer.

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Donations to the Society booth at the Winterfest '86 Antique show may be given to Jack & Ethel Gebben, 227-5375. They will help track and provide storage if needed.

Milford Historical Society is sponsoring Mill River Days, July 3, 4, 5, 6. The schedule shows something for everyone.

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"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."Edmund Burke.

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:

- () Meeting programs
- () Interior decoration
- () Help with special events
- () Board member
- () Membership committee
- () Photography
- () Genealogy
- () Restoration
- () Cleaning
- () Other work I'd be willing to do _____
- () Newsletter
- () Publicity
- () Research
- () Video taping
- () Fund RAising
- () Bake Sale
- () Hospitality
- () Oral history

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

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS IN BRIGHTON VILLAGE

It's July 4, 1871, and lots of celebration is on the schedule. Not only are Brightonites celebrating the 95th anniversary of the United States but also the completion of the railroad to Brighton from Detroit. Farm folks from miles around join the townspeople in their merrymaking for this long awaited occasion.

For the first time the sound of the locomotive whistle and bell are heard. These signalled an end to the long trips in horse-drawn wagons to Detroit, to sell the produce grown on area farms. The proximity of this vastly improved means of transportation also meant an automatic doubling in the value of an acre.

For several years, at the intersection of the tracks and Main Street, a crossing guard sat in a small shanty ready to stop traffic at the crossing. In his spare time he cultivated a flower garden between the shanty and the water tank. Passengers on the train and pedestrians on the walk very much enjoyed the sight of a lovely garden in such an improbable setting. Since the crossing guard became well acquainted with the local residents, and with the young telegraph operators at the depot, he often played the role of cupid. It is reported that within a few years at least 10 marriages had been consummated between the local girls and the "depot men".

Each locomotive whistle had its distinctive 'voice' which was soon recognized by the citizens of the entire community. Whether it was the whistled warning at a crossing, the long, piercing, wailing sound as the engine approached the station or if the train 'high balled' right on through the town.

Steam locomotives needed to replenish the water supply regularly. A whole cacophony of sounds emitted from this activity: the constant ringing of the bell; the hissing steam and chugging of water being injected into the boiler; the clanking of the steam water tank cover, the loud, high-pitched voices of the train crew; sharp toots signaling departure; thudding sounds of freight car couplings being engaged one at a time in a manner similar to dominos falling; all of which resulted in disturbing the peace and quiet of a sleeping (?) neighborhood.

Cars of lumber, coal and other merchandise coming into Brighton had to be switched with cars of grain, potatoes, apples and livestock leaving. All of this activity was accomplished with whistling, bumping, screaming of steel wheels on steel rails, and the addition of the bleating, bellowing and squealing of farm animals which had been penned in the rail road stockyards nearly all day before being loaded for shipment.

With 'progress' came an end to steam engines which were replaced by the diesels with their air horns. "A bell and horn that are driving me crazy" supplanted the crossing guard. Subdivisions superceded productive farm lands. As with all other changes we eventually accept these as normal (ready to scream at the next change.) (Edited and condensed from memories of Wm. Pless. The second of his "Sights and Sounds of Brighton Village.")

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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BRIGHTON, MI. 48116

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