



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

- 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 Bearh 229-9678
- Dick Davis 229-8356
- Floyd Fuller 231-2415
- Mae Schmadtke 227-7969

ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m., the Annual Meeting of the Society will be held at Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer.

A 6:30 Pot Luck dinner will be served. Bring a dish to pass and your table service. Beverage will be provided. At 7:30 there'll be a business meeting with election of Directors for 1986-88. Short reports from Board members will be offered. The proposed budget will be presented for acceptance by the members. There will be opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions or make comments. The 16mm movie of Brighton's Centennial, 1967, given to the Society by the Brighton Library, will be shown. There is no sound track but it is hoped a tape can be prepared, with the help of eye witnesses for use by our posterity.

Nominating Chairman, Alice Newcomb, will be presenting the nominees for Directors' positions. They are Rudy Herrman, Pat Krupa and Allen Walbly. The Society is grateful they have consented to serve. Nominations may be made from the floor.

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EDITORIAL

Before January, 1986, the present board and the newly elected Directors will be meeting to appoint officers for 1986.

To assure the Society will be a growing, vital, organization that can make a difference in the community those presently serving need a well-deserved rest. We cannot expect the same few to continually give so generously of their time and energy.

Most present board members are willing to serve on committees, which will make it easier for the next president to appoint chairmen.

Please don't assume the Society can get along without you. Area members must be willing to participate. The Directors will be calling those they feel will do a good job. Contact a board member with your willingness to serve and surprise them. (Be assured the present board members are as busy as you are yet they are convinced this Society is worth a share of their time and energy. (M. Bair, Ed.)

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MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Lee Burton, James Bayes, Jim Dwyer, William & Betty Jo Fishbeck, Madalene Hathaway, Colt & Dorothy Park, Wm. Pless, Roberta Reeves, Sherrel Rutter, Matthew & Marguerite Wenzel. WELCOME, WELCOME

Society Bylaws, Article II, Sec. 2 - Dues are renewable by December 1 of each year. To be a member in good standing dues are to be renewed by April 1 of any year.

Many thanks to those who find they are unable to participate in any manner in the activities of the Society but who purchase a patron membership in order to demonstrate their support. The finance committee is attempting to cover all administration expenses with funds raised by memberships. It is planned that all funds raised by various projects and any donations will be deposited in the preservation fund.

Heading to warmer climes for the winter? Nonprofit bulk mail will not be forwarded. Please send us your winter address.

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

...the bake sale committee and all those who so generously supported this effort with goodies or cash donations.

...Marjorie J. Bourns of Milford for the copy of her book "Common School to Consolidation." A History of Huron Valley Schools 1832-1946. (In 1880 Physiology and Hygiene were added to the curriculum due to pressure by the SCTU. Parents were to furnish wood for the heating of the school according to the number of pupils they had attending.

...Brighton Library for the 16mm film of the 1967 Brighton Centennial.

...Citizens' Insurance for printing of Society Membership cards.

...Dick Davis for hauling the rake from Mr. Parker's yard.

...Clayton and Ruth Dundas for the 75th Argus Anniversary edition.

...Helen Emery for a Brighton Centennial plate, book and dress, hat and hoop.

Jarvis', Senior Citizens and Ubers Drug for selling tiles.

...buyers of raffle tickets.

...Michigan Bank Livingston for the buggy and case which has been in front of their building for several years.

...Old Kent Bank for printing of this newsletter.

...Wally Jollitz, Bert Bair and Dick Davis for running the Garage Sale.

...Mr. Al Parker for giving us an 80 year old hay rake.

...Paul and Ed Weber for c. 1913 picture of the "Little" (Rickett) School; 1912-13 picture of 3rd and 4th grades at that school; pictures of the 1923-24 Brighton High School baseball and football teams; a picture c. 1919 of boy scouts on the steps of the old Union School. (On Rickett Road south of the "Little" school.)

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BAKE SALE REPORT

Saturday, October 5, was a rainy, windy, cold day and the crowd was smaller than usual, but thanks to our faithful members we had full tables of baked goods for our bake sale. The profit for the day was \$234.25. I want to thank Jane Tomlinson and Chuck Beach for helping set up and sell. Also the callers who contacted all the membership: Evangeline Bell, Pauline Chenoweth, Irene Ellis, Mary Pat Layton, Frances Clore, Dorothy Pennala, Billie Oberstaedt, Celia Schaffer, Karen Wirth, Sandy Bansback and Lola Reetz. We couldn't do it without all of you. Many thanks. Janice Beach - Chairman.

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

we need...

...people to serve on the Lyons School Historic Preservation Committee

...a chairman for a house tour committee for summer of 1986.

...donations of antiques for the Society booth at the antique show March 22, 1986.

...a place to store the hay rake and buggy.

...someone to start a historic resource survey.

...people to serve on the 1986 Board of Dir.

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BUDGET 1986

RECEIPTS

Dues	75 @ \$ 8.	\$600.	
	70 @ 5.	350.	
	15 @ 25.	375.	\$1326.

Fund Raising Proj.

Sales (statnry, etc.)	100.	
Tiles (300 @ \$6.)	1800.	
Bake Sales	150.	
Flea Market	300.	
Antique Show	400.	
Spag. Dinner	500.	3250.

Historic Proj.

Donations (undesig.)	150.	
(design.)	300.	
(Memor.)	200.	650.
		\$5225.

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration

P.O. Box Rent	\$20.	
Mailing Fee	40.	60.
Equip & Pictures	25.	
Membership in Hist. assoc. & reference materials	80.	
Meetings (prog, etc.)	60.	
Officers	270.	
Newsletter/Publicity Labels & Printing	75.	
Postage	400.	
Phone	20.	495. 990.

Fund Raising Proj.

Sales Items	1050.	
Events	50.	1100.

Historic Projects

Hist. Marker	100.	
Lyons School Utilities	135.	
Restoration	1000.	
Marker	700.	1835.
Old Town Hall	1000.	
Hist. Res. Survey	200.	3135. \$5225

Restoration committee formed. Meetings are planned to determine which committees to form and to select priorities in regard to the school restoration. Please call Norma Jean [redacted] ss, Brighton Twp. Clerk, 229-0550, if you'd like to participate.

Application for a grant for restoration of the school, 11455 Buno Road has been made to the State of Michigan. Many thanks to the Brighton Twp. Board for their support. Brighton City Council has also offered to support us in this endeavor. Many thanks to both these groups of community leaders.

The November 1, deadline for the application caused several to do some quick work. Please accept the Society's appreciation for your efforts. (Even if no funds are received we will have learned something about applying for grants.)

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1985 TILE

Thanks to Dick Davis' perserverance and research in railroad records and to the leads given by local residents the year 1968 was confirmed as the year in which the railroad depot was removed from Brighton.

An order for 300, limited edition, tiles with a picture of the depot has been placed. It is hoped to have the tiles available for Christmas gift giving.

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

- When was the Western House built?
- Who built the Weiss Bar-B-Que?
- Where was Woodruff's Mill located?
- How were school sites selected 150 years ago?

An historic resources survey needs to be prepared. Information on procedure is available. The survey is important so that future development can be accomplished with out loss of historic sites. The planning commissions of the area must be made aware of the importance the community attaches to these sites. Lieing down in front of a bulldozer does no one any good; not the community, the developer, the one confronting the dozer, nor the Society's goals. Contact a board member relaying your interest in working on this committee.

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OPEN HOUSE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1985

The Society will be hosting its fifth annual Open House at the Chamber of Commerce building 2-6 p.m., in cooperation with the merchants of Brighton and their promotion that day. When the committee chairman calls, please give whatever assistance you can. Watch the Argus for more information and support the Society with your attendance.

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TRIVIA ANSWER

In 1834, Lawrence Euler built a log store (the Dutch Grocery) at the corner of Euler Road and the Grand River Trail. A two story frame store, with living quarters at the rear and above was built during the 1880s after the log store burned. For over 139 years there was a store, gas station, stage stop, tavern, stable, voting place, service and repair shop on that corner.

Clara Sutton informe us that 'Seims' hill was 'Wickes' hill in her memory with a flowing well on the N. side of the road. The hill was so steep, Sylvia Bitten had to back her car up on occasion.

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 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 patron Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 business/professional

THE GRAND RIVER TRAIL (Cont.)

In the early days the farmer had given of his property in order to provide land for roads. He still, legally, owned the land and paid taxes on the original description on the tax rolls. This meant the only right the traveler had was to journey on the roadway. Occasionally travelers in later years were puzzled by the farmer's objection to their picking fruit and nuts from the trees (planted by the farmer) growing along the roadsides or digging bushes and trees to take with them.

The new century was also the advent of a new mode of transportation, the automobile. By 1903 an occasional car was seen chugging its way over the farmer-built roads in the area. Still maintained locally, the roads were sufficient for the farmers' wagons but autos of that era had little power. It was difficult enough for them to traverse relatively hard, smooth roads. The hills, sand, slippery clay, mud, holes and ruts made a trip between towns a real adventure.

About 1906 some of the buisness people in Howell and Brighton were among the first to buy cars. Around that time, also, a Glidden Tour fleet of about fifty cars left Detroit and following the Grand River Road passed through Brighton. It is assumed their route was to take them to Grand Haven, then south along Lake Michigan to return to Detroit via the Detroit to Chicago Road which is now US 12. The tour took several days and only about half made it without breaking down. Many had so little hill climbing ability that the local boys often ran behind and pushed them up the hill west of the Ratz School. (Corner Kellog and Grand River.)

By 1909, one farmer after another got the car buying fever. George Ratz was a clerk in his father's hardware store in Brighton (S.E. corner Main & Hyne), when he took the agency for the Model T Ford. Salesmanship was not necessary to sell the vehicles (not too much choice anyway) - the telephone was employed to place an order.

After learning to driver the Overland bought by his father early in 1913, Bill Pless and other young men were taken on the train to Detroit and the dealer would have each of them drive a new car back to Brighton. The adventure of the trip was their only recompense, and it seemed sufficient.

As vehicle development improved it seemed the roads deteriorated. As more and more farmers bought cars they suddenly were in favor of better roads on which to drive these new vehicles. With no gasoline tax money and license plates costing only three dollars, the cost of the new roads had to come out of the realestate taxes. Farmers voted at town meetings to issue bonds to build sturdy gravel roads all through the township. (Registration of cars began in 1903. Two dollars bought the registration disk which was placed on the dashboard. In 1909 the Secretary of State directed the County Clerk to give out plates made of leather for the three dollar fee.) (To be continued. Condensed and edited from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. A. Pless and "Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830-1930")

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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