



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.

P.O. Box 481, Brighton, Mi. 48116  
Vol. V, No. 4 April, 1986

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· BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ·

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· ..... ·

EDITORIAL

The Historic Resource Survey of Brighton City, being conducted by the Society, will be a valuable tool in the planning of future changes. For a preservationist to chain oneself to a bulldozer is not an effective way to preserve the significant architectural and historic characteristics of a structure for the future.

The survey can help develop a more objective perspective of a building or a neighborhood. To remove a building or all decorative evidence of its past is to be avoided when possible. It is agreed very few would wish to go back to living exactly as was done 100 years ago. Inside bathrooms, running water, fire safety standards, electrical facilities, etc., in our homes and work places are very desirable. With proper planning, area structures can be brought into the 20th Century in a gentle manner. Once the surface of a historic building is disturbed, it can never be retrieved.  
(Ed. M. Bair)

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Since the last newsletter the following can be included as members: Jeannette Bailey, Leon & Marilyn Bonner\*\*, Ula Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Engel, Joe & Bonnie Fennell, Zara & Ken Graham (not Tom as we erred in the March newsletter), Lyle & Dorothy Hartman, Barton & Catherine Hellmuth, Harold & Esther Jarvis \*\*, Bob & Shirley Knight, Tom & Audry Leith, Mary Mathias, Richard & Toni Mullany, Roland & Jane Owens, Chet & Irene Paquette, Mary Lou Partridge, Mary Pearsall, Lola Reetz, Ed & Connie Sherman, Steve Sherman, Jim & Penny Szczechowski, J.M. & Vicki Vichich, Bob & Ruth Watson, Garald & Peg White. \*\* Patron Members. (Cont. on page 2.)

RECAP - MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Those in attendance at the meeting not only had a good meal (pot luck) but also an interesting description of Jo Labadie, his family and the site on which their summer home stood. Bob Hotaling, a naturalist at Kensington Metro Park, which encompasses the Labadie site, illustrated his program with slides of the area and of early pictures of the family.

Board meetings, open to members, are the 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:30, upstairs in the Old Town Hall (Over Poor Richards Books).

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50th ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

The children of Al and Hazel Cole will be hosting an open house Sunday, April 20, 2-5, in honor of their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. It will be held at the Brighton Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River.

The Coles have long been residents and deeply involved with the life and well-being of the Brighton community.

The only gift Al and Hazel request is the pleasure of your company.

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

...Charlene Kull, her family and committee for organizing, etc., of the Society antique booth at the sale, March 22.  
...the many persons who were so generous with their donations to the booth.  
...the many customers who purchased from the Society booth.  
...Judy Dahlin for auditing the treasurer's records from 1985.  
...Old Kent Bank for the printing of this newsletter  
...Uber's, Citizen's Trust, Jarvis' and the Chamber of Commerce for taking tiles on consignment.

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(MEMBERSHIP cont. from page 1.)

Domino Pizza of Brighton, Dr. Craig Hawker and Herrmann Funeral Home have paid business/professional dues. MANY THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Within the next month the Membership Chairman will be contacting 1985 members who have not renewed their membership. 1986 dues are payable now. Please help save postage and renew soon. It is hoped all will want to renew and continue their support of this organization. A buoying up of the spirit is felt by the active members when they see others in agreement with their efforts.

As a gift, several have purchased memberships for children or parents. We think this is a very appropriate gesture.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

2-13-86 Total Net Worth \$6735.94

RECEIPTS

Dues : \$126.  
Fund Raising: (Tiles, 19.;  
Spaghetti Supper, 15.;  
Donations, 30.) 64. 190.00  
\$6925.94

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: (Officers) 26.99  
Fund Raising: (Tiles, 14.85;  
Spaghetti Supper, 68.72) 83.57  
Preservation/Restoration:  
(Lyons School, 1.49; Hist.  
Resource Survey, .96; Old  
Town Hall, 43.33) 45.78 156.34

3-13-86 Total Net Worth \$6769.60

" Sav. Acct. Bal. \$5446.35  
" Ch. " " 1323.25 \$6769.60

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HELP.....MELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP

we need...

...another file cabinet.  
...a dictaphone to speed up typing off of tapes.  
...pictures of Lyons School.  
...interested persons to attend the Lyon School Committee meetings. Please call Norma Jean Pless, at the Township Hall, 229-0560, for the date in April.  
...a Financial Chairman. Someone to plan fund raising events and appoint chairmen to conduct each. (Our many projects need funding.)  
...a Program Chairman.

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LOCAL TOUR PLANNED FOR AUGUST

Chairmen Jim and Penny Szczechowski, 229-7324, are making plans for a walking tour of sites in Brighton City during the Art Fair, August 9 and 10, 1986. The tour will be only on one of those days.

Ticket seller, tour guides, etc., will be needed. Research must be prepared and sites selected. Jim and Penny are hard workers but they can't do it all. (If we work them too hard this year they might not want to do it again.) Call them with your offer to work on the committee.

Profits will be placed in the historical preservation and restoration fund.

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ANTIQUe SHOW - SOCIETY BOOTH

A big bushel of thanks to Charlene Kull and her committee who conducted the Society's antique booth sale March 22. It was well prepared and displayed the many items donated by members of the Society and others. The support of the community helped make this venture a success. (Again next year, Charlene?)

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BRIGHTON CITY HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Alice Krupa, 227-2516, has received some of the survey sheets sent out several months ago. If you'd like to have one, please contact her or write the Society. The future planning for this area can be better developed when planning commissions, etc., are made aware of our historic resources.

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BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL PLANS

At last count the year 1914 is the earliest for which a list of graduates from Brighton High School has been located. The committee which is compiling names and addresses (Pat King, Liz Johnson and Alice Newcomb) are still in need of addresses for the years 1915/1920, 1922 & 23, 1937 & 38, 1940, 1948, 1952, 1954, 1956/59, 1962 & 63, 66/68, 1972, 1974, 76/80. If you have addresses of graduates for these or any years please contact the Community Education Office, 7878 Brighton Road, 227-7450, as soon as possible. Invitations will be sent to all.

Transportation discounts on Republic Air Lines and Trailways and Greyhound Bus lines are being finalized to encourage those living some distance away to attend. Various activities are being planned to enable former classmates lots of opportunity to renew acquaintances and see the changes which have taken place through the years.

This committee will next meet Monday, April 7, 7:30 at the Community Edu. office. We can use all the help you can give.

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SOCIETY ITEMS AVAILABLE

Ceramic tiles picturing the Pere Marquette Railroad depot are available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug store, Citizen's Trust and the Chamber of Commerce, \$7. donation. A few of the 1984 tile, of the Old Town Hall, are still available at Uber's for \$6. donation.

Postcards and stationery, showing the Old Town Hall are available from Ethel Gebben, 227-5375. Also issues of the Michigan History Magazine showing the renovation of the County Courthouse.

OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Livingston County Hist. Soc. - A group will be forming for anyone restoring or interested in restoring an old house. The "Old House Group" met in March. For information call the Zagars, 546-6390 or the Beyrles, 546-0272.

Novi Hist. Soc. - April 17, 7:30, Novi Library, will present "Down Memory Lane" with LaRita Roder who will model and display pieces from her collection of historic costumes.

Northville Hist. Soc. - will host a meeting of area societies, Wed., April 30. A tour of Mill Race Village is planned and an opportunity for exchange of ideas. There is room for more people in the group planning to attend. Call the President or Treasurer if you wish to join us.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION COMMITTEE

will meet in April. Call Norma Jean Pless at the Brighton Township Hall office, 229-0560 for information as to date. You are needed.

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Have something to contribute to Trail Tales? Your editor will be pleased to receive it.

Someone you know who might like to receive Trail Tales? Send us their address.

1986 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 event         |
| ( ) 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

## BRIGHTON 1907 HOMECOMING

The Brighton Argus, August 28, 1907, reported: "The 1907 Homecoming Was The Biggest Time We Ever Had" & "Friends Who Had Not See Each Other For Years Were Brought Together to Laugh and Weep For Joy".

Visitors arrived each day by railroad, by horse and buggy and by horse and wagon. Many had not been back for years and came from as far as California on the West, New York on the East, and from several states in between.

They reminisced in small groups, at a picnic, at gatherings in churches and at family reunions. The latter were scheduled so visitors could attend other reunions where they had relatives. Residents in the village and surrounding area provided food and lodging for their visiting relatives and friends. Even total strangers were treated in a hospitable manner.

The 'Old Opera House' couldn't begin to hold anywhere near the more than 600 visitors plus the residents who wanted to attend the mass meeting. (This building was located on the east side of Grand River between Main and North Streets. A one story building, with a fine dance floor, in which school plays and commencement activities were held. The big stage had a large canvas curtain which Ansel Townsend, by hand, rolled up and down at the appropriate time.) In addition to a prepared program, several old timers were called upon to recall incidents and events of early days in Brighton.

Among those who spoke was Henry S. Fitch of Chicago, who had been away fifty-seven years. His father built the first frame house in Brighton. (Where the Canopy is now located.) Henry spoke of his boyhood days in the area and of the emotion that came over him when he clasped the hands of the few of his boyhood friends who remained and were in attendance. Henry said, "My mother's death occurred March 4, 1844, and in September, 1846, my father married Julia Hess, of Hamburg, who was a charming and beautiful woman. While I lived with her only four years, she was all that a mother could be to me. In 1850 my father went to California, via the Isthmus of Panama, and died at sea within a few day's sail of San Francisco.

"That summer I lived with a man named Jasper Buck, who had been a cooper in Brighton; and then I lived on a farm near Bogue Lake. The memory of my lonesomeness and homesickness is still fresh. I cried myself to sleep to music of crickets, treefrogs, and Whippoorwills. Next I went to live with my cousin, Adolphus Williams, in Lansing. Spaulding M. Case of Brighton and Ralph Fowler of Fowlerville were members of the Legislature and were instrumental in my appointment by Lieutenant Gov. Wm. M. Fenton, as a messenger in the Senate. (To be cont. Edited from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless with contributions from Jessie McDonnell.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, Mi. 48116

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