



Grand River Trail TRAIL TALES

P.O. Box 481,
Vol. V. No. 8

Brighton, Mi. 48116
August, 1986

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.	Zara Graham	229-2240
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Sec.	Gloria Spencer	229-5839
Tres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

DIRECTORS

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Floyd Fuller	231-2415
Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
Alice Krupa	227-2516
Mae Schmadtke	227-7969
Marieanna Bair, Imm. P.Pres. & Editor	

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, September 9, a Society General Meeting will be held at the Miller Community Center. A pot luck will begin the meeting at 6:30.

Tuesday, November 11, the Annual Meeting will take place. Keep these dates in mind when scheduling your calendar.

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Since the July issue the following have paid 1986 dues: Lois Clark, Bob Gardella & Mary Ann Gardella*, Rev. John Park.

* Patron membership. WELCOME, WELCOME. The above are all new members. The support of all in the community is vital.

Check the mailing label on this Trail Tales to ascertain if you have paid 1986 dues. If no date or '85' is included your '86 dues aren't paid.

EDITORIAL

Of the hundreds who visited the Memorabilia Room at Miller Community Center during the Brighton High School 100th Anniversary celebration, many returned for a second (and third) viewing that weekend. Planned renovation to that building made it necessary to remove the exhibits and put them into storage.

The need for a permanent display facility is evident. The work of Lyle Powers, Peg Siford and Karen Goss (to name a few), in pulling the memorabilia together must somehow convert into some form of a definite berth for these artifacts.

It would seem logical for the School system, the newly formed Alumni Association, the Historical Society and other interested parties to determine such a display facility must be arranged. To keep this memorabilia in storage will not allow anyone the opportunity to view them, does not permit today's students to become aware of past accomplishments nor give them goals to set for themselves.

The community must become aware of the desirability of a display area and make the effort necessary to see that it is accomplished.
(M. Bair, Editor)

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Over 200 addresses on the mailing list are dues paying members. We're pleased with that. Several hundred Trail Tales are mailed to those who we feel might be interested in the Society's activities. If you do not wish to become a member, an annual donation might be appropriate in order to continue receiving Trail Tales. If you know of someone who might enjoy receiving Trail Tales please contact the Editor.

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

...Carol Adams of the Register of Deeds office and Alice Newcomb for their invaluable assistance to Alice Krupa who is conducting the Historic Resource Survey of Brighton City.

...The Society members who helped host at the Memorabilia Room during the Brighton High School 100 year celebration in July. (Special thanks to those who volunteered.)

...to those who served on the 100 year anniversary celebration committee.

...Old Kent Bank for the printing of this issue of Trail Tales.

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DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Chairman Mae Schmadtke and the Nominating Committee will consider persons volunteering to be nominated to a Director's position on the Board. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting, November 11. Please call Mae at 227-7969.

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RURAL SCHOOL DAYS MEMORIES

Whenever your Editor sees and smells lil' lies of-the-valley, thoughts of school vacation come to mind. The middle of May meant another school year was over. The flowers were in bloom along Skeman Road which we walked to Bethel School at School Lake. Did you attend a one room school? Record some of your memories, send them to us and we'll try to find a means of preparing a publication. Young people of today should have the opportunity to learn of some of these experiences.

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???? SESQUICENTENNIAL ????

The Brighton Area is not engaged in any Michigan State Sesquicentennial celebration plans.

Contact your local government officials if you feel the 150th anniversary of our state should be observed locally.

The Society could be prevailed upon to support such an endeavor. Is there a person or group willing to take on this project?

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

we need...

...financial donations to pay the insurance bill of \$665.00 for the Lyons School due this month.

...a librarian to sort and record the Society's reading material. (Recently purchased was the new "Hartland Memories and Milestones."

...a donations chairman to record the many items donated by generous persons.

...residents of the Area who will write what they can remember of the past. One doesn't need to be aged. Record what you remember of the 40s, 50s, 60s etc. There is a dearth of information regarding those late years also. What can you write about school days, winter activities, transportation, etc?

... a finance chairman.

...a program chairman.

...people to help with an oral history project being developed.

Contact the Editor or any Board member regarding the above.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

5-30-86 Total Net Worth 8339.00

RECEIPTS

Dues:	\$ 88.00	
Fund Raising: Tiles:	485.00	
Lyons School Rest. Fund:	65.00	
Donations: (Inc. Lyons School Ins. fund)	51.00	
Interest:	42.07	731.07
		9070.07

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration: Newsletter, 30.; Books, 20.45; Postage, 1.67; Stationery, 310.;		
Misc., 17.	379.12	
Officers: Mbrshp Chr.	11.99	391.11

6-30-86 Total Net Worth \$8678.96

Sav. Acct. Bal. 6-30-86 8076.02

Chk. Acct. Bal. 6-30-86 502.94 \$8678.96

(Note: \$1000. trans. from Chk. acct. to Sav. Acct., 6-7-86.)

Treas. Marieanna Bair.

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SOCIETY TILES AVAILABLE

1985 tiles (Pere Marquette Railroad) and 1986 tiles (Union School) are available for a \$7. donation at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store and the Chamber of Commerce.

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40th NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

October 15-19, Kansas City, Mo., 2000 Community leaders, citizen activists, restorationists, rehabilitation practitioners, developers, investors and others will mark the 20th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act as they gather for the 40th National Preservation Conference.

Sessions reflecting broad areas of interest within the preservation movement will include: Historic Sites, Interior Preservation, Neighborhood Conservation, Organizational Development, Preservation Education, Real Estate Development, Rural Conservation, The Old House, and Urban Preservation Planning and Design among others.

Special events including local and regional tours are also being planned. For more information contact your editor or write Nat. Pres. Conf. Registration, Nat. Trust for Hist. Pres., 1785 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 673-4100.

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ISSUES 4 & 5 ?

The Library of Michigan in Lansing has requested a copy of the entire run of Trail Tales for archival purposes. Issues #4 and 5 are not in the Society's archives. (It was not titled Trail Tales at that time.) If anyone has these in their files please contact the Editor, 229-6402, so copies can be made.

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ACTIVITIES OF OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Green Oak Township Historical Society will celebrate annual Green Oak Day with a Quilt Show at Oddfellows Hall, 288 Warren, South Lyon. Held Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a donation of \$1. is asked for admission.

Tickets will be available for a drawing at 3:30 for a Log Cabin Quilt. Dozens of quilts, old and new, many locally made will be on display. Those wishing to display a quilt should contact Edna Peach 437-1271 or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

The Museum, 6440 Kensington Road is open Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m.

Heritage Hill Association of Grand Rapids' Annual Tour of Homes, October 4 & 5. At least six historic homes will be open. A Frank Lloyd Wright home, the Victorian Voight House and four other significant and distinctive homes will be featured. Advance sale tickets \$6. (\$8. day of the tour) may be purchased from Heritage Hill, 126 College S.E., Grand Rapids 49503 (before September 26.)

Plymouth Historical Society will be holding their Second Annual Museum Yard Sale Thursday and Friday, September 25 & 26, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth.

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1986

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

1986

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

5.00 per individual

25.00 patron

25.00 business/professional

send to Brighton Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, Mi. 48116

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE c. 1919
(Conclusion)

"In case any owner or driver is drunk or intoxicated, or in a racing contest ...thereby causing an accident...the company shall not be liable for any claim of damages..." So read a standard provision in your 1919 insurance policy. Other No-No's included the cancellation of your policy if you moved to Detroit or Grand Rapids or out of Michigan. (Based on an insurance policy issued by the Citizens Mutual Automobile Insurance Co., dated 26th of April, 1919)

There were a number of automobile operation No-No's not related to insurance coverage: Never have your thumb on the same side of the crank as your fingers, (a 'kick-back' could dislocate it); don't go for a drive without your ankle-length Duster Coat and your goggles to protect your clothes and eyes from the dust and dirt of the unpaved roads; don't forget to caution lady passengers to secure their wide brim hats by a scarf tied over the top and beneath the chin; if it looked like rain, better stay home because your roadster probably didn't have a top, or if yours was a "touring car" you'd be thoroughly wet by the time you got its movable top in place and the side curtains buttoned on; and never, never overtake a horse and buggy until the horseman had time to get off the road and hold his horse in tight control.

The good old days? Perhaps 1919 wasn't so great after all. But a \$7.50 auto insurance premium seems pretty nice, doesn't it? (Altho' it could take a week's pay to pay that premium.) That must be one of the really pleasant things about those "good ol' days of yesteryear." (Condensed and edited from material supplied by Colt Park. M. Bair, Editor.)

And the history of the first automobile agency in Brighton? The sister, Mamie, of George H. Ratz, son of the G. B. Ratz & Son Hardware had married Will Ryan who had become the General Sales Manager of the Ford Motor Co. This resulted in George H. being the first to have the franchise for Ford Model T cars in the Brighton area. He sold Ford cars like "hot cakes" directly from the Ratz store for several years. (The store was located on the S. E. corner of Main and Hyne Streets.) But the agency was given up when Henry Ford insisted that all Ford dealers maintain a showroom and repair shop. (Condensed and edited from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Bill Pless. M. Bair, Editor.)

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