



Grand River

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. 2 February, 1986

EDITORIAL

Local, state and federal governmental agencies sometimes, in various ways, support the historic preservation and restoration efforts of a community. To depend on government funds means various regulations must be observed and it seems the local citizens lose control of the project; it never becomes quite what a community expects. In any event, a community should not depend on the government to preserve its history.

That the Brighton area has sufficient volunteers ready, willing and able to protect our historical treasures is certainly obvious.

The Society urges all to become active in whatever manner is possible to make their contributions to this preservation. (Ed. M.Bair)

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS

Elizabeth Bindenagel (patron), Susie Braund, James & Pauline Buchanan, Donald Carney, Marian Carney, Joe & Pauline Chenoweth (patron), B.T.O. Clark, Eula Clark, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Ethel & John Gebben, Mildred Harrington, Albert Hazard, Clifton Heller, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, John & Marilyn Homan, Genevieve Kampe, Carol King, Don & Pat Lueker, Rudolf & Doreen Meffert, Edna Peach, Doris Prieskhorn, Nellie Pullen, A.W. & Lila Robertson, Celia Schaffer, Mae Schmadtke, Bill & Gloria Spencer, Gerald & Gwen Swann, Pat & Marjorie White. WELCOME, WELCOME.

An '86' will be on the mailing label if your 1986 dues have been paid. Dues are the means by which the administrative expenses of the Society are compensated, this includes the newsletter. Thanks go to all who pay their dues and especially to those who express special support with the payment of patron dues.

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warded. Notify us of any change of address. Addresses of former residents who might care to receive Trail Tales can be sent to us.

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- BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ·
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS ·
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- Alice Krupa 227-2516 ·
- Mae Schmadtke 227-7969 ·
- Allen Walblay 227-9101 ·
- Marieanna Bair, Imm. Past Pres., Editor ·

RECAP-- JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Those in attendance at the General Meeting January 14 at the Miller Community Center, enjoyed the usual great Pot Luck. President Sara Graham, conducted a short business meeting which was followed by a slide show encouraging the preservation of significant structures. This term includes not only large important buildings but also can include a milk house, a smoke house, granery, etc. Jim Dennis, our speaker, encouraged responsible preservation and restoration. He urged us to be more aware of architectural styles and to be aware of how renovation can either enhance or destroy the original construction.

Alice Krupa, outlined her plans to conduct a historic resource survey of the city of Brighton. (See elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The next General Meeting will be March 11, 1986; Pot Luck at 6:30.

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Because of the bulk mail rate for Trail Tales, those with addresses other than Brighton usually receive this newsletter the third week of the month. If you'd like it sooner let us know; we'll send it first class. The newsletter is not for-

THANKS,....THANKS....THANKS....THANKS

...Old Kent Bank for their continuing to support the printing of this newsletter. An honorary membership has been bestowed by the Board in gratitude.

...Questers Plank Road Chapter #236 for donating a piece of the original Plank Road to the Society.

...Helen Hyne for the 1971 Livingston County telephone directory. (The last small one.)

...Norma Pless, Wally Jollitz, Bert and Marieanna Bair for properly storing the leftovers from the garage sale at the Lyons School.

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SPAGHETTI SUPPER, FEBRUARY 7

Friday, February 7, 5-8 p.m., the Society will be sponsoring its fourth Annual Spaghetti Supper. It will be held at the Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River, parking in the back.

Chairman Shirley Ritter and her committee are contacting members to solicit their support in furnishing items and working at various jobs. Tickets are available at Du Quets, Ubers Drugs, the Chamber of Commerce and at Jarvis' Men's Store. They may also be purchased at the door. Bring your friends, have fun and join in a good cause. All proceeds will go to the preservation and restoration fund. Adults, \$3., Under 12, \$1.50 donation. All you can eat, desert inc.

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ANTIQUA SHOW, MARCH 22

Charlene Kull, 227-9393, chairman of the Society's booth at the antique show, Saturday, March 22, at the Brighton High School, is forming a committee to oversee the collection of antiques for the booth. Charlene can use your assistance; give her a call if you'd like to help.

Members will be contacted to donate at least one item to make a nice booth. Start poking around in your attic or basement for something you can contribute. Contact either Charlene or Jack and Ethel Gebben, 227-5375, who will store it for you until the show if you wish. This will be a mixed booth so be assured your contribution will be welcomed. Income tax deductible receipts will be given. Proceeds of the sale will go to the Society's preservation and restoration fund.

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

we need...

...people to attend the Spaghetti Supper, February 7, 5-8 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

...donations of antiques to sell at the Society's booth at the Antique Show, 3-22.

...cooperation to do the historic resource survey in Brighton.

...people to work with Lyle Powers, 229-2149, on the High School Centennial.

...someone to restore the buggy.

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TILES AVAILABLE

Remember, 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 \$6 donation.

Continuing with the series, the Society has approved the Union School to be the site on the 1986 tile. Dick Davis, 229-8356, is chairing this committee.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

12-12-85 TOTAL NET WORTH \$5674.06

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$165.	
Fund Raising (Tiles)	146.	
Wm. Pless memorial	25.	336.00
		<u>\$6010.06</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

Administration	94.07	
Hist. Proj. (Lyons Sch. Ut.)	11.99	106.06

1-9-86 TOTAL NET WORTH \$5904.00

Sav. Acct. bal. 1-9-86	\$5384.04	
Ch. Acct. Bal. 1-9-86	519.96	<u>\$5904.00</u>

Those wishing a more detailed report please contact the Treasurer, 229-6402.

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WHO WERE THEY???

The Bush Whackers, Whisker Twisters, Bottle neckers? Do you know a Cameo Bell, Dum' Belle, Bonnets & Belles, Northern Belle, Chapel Belle, Fire Siren, Mac's Bar Belle?

Write us about them.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As fellow members of the Society a deep and abiding interest in the past, present and future of the Brighton area is shared. It is with that in mind that we request your assistance - much of which can be done from your most comfortable easy chair when the moment suits you.

The history of an area and its development is that of the people who have chosen to put down roots; to work, live and raise their families in that given area. Their occupations, their churches, their families and the homes in which they lived were central to their lives. It is with these thoughts that the task of chronicling the history of the homes of the area has been undertaken. We will concentrate in the City including the business district and churches and in the future include structures outside the City.

A survey has been prepared which may not completely cover all the questions/information that should be asked and answered but which forms a basis from which a start can be made.

The purpose of this survey is to compile as much accurate data as possible and through the Society provide a central source of information to the Community. It is hoped that in so doing we may also heighten the awareness of the community and encourage the preservation of this rich source of history.

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Word has come to us that the state historical site designation application for Lyons School has been received and is being processed. We should soon know if this has been granted.

It is our hope many of you will consent to be interviewed and will be able and willing to complete the survey on other homes including your own. Some will have only sketchy information but like detectives, we have to start somewhere and find the pieces of the puzzle that will make up the whole picture. Your assistance is very necessary.

We encourage you to discuss this survey in whatever gathering you find yourself and urge others to contribute to our information bank. Remember, no home is too humble, no information too trivial. Also needed will be old City maps and photos of structures. (We'll copy from your original.)

Alice Krupa, 227-2516
(Ed. note. A survey is included with this newsletter for those living in the Brighton Area. Those wishing a copy of the survey, please contact Alice.)

Activities of other Societies

A fundraiser for the Chesaning Area Museum is being sponsored by the Chesaning Kiwanis Club for the local historical society. A traditional square dance with music by Rusty String Band, and caller, John Freeman of Ann Arbor, will be held at the Chesaning Middle School Gym, Fourth Street, Chesaning, Saturday, February 8, at 8 p.m. \$4. single, \$7. couple. (313) 845-6420 for more info.

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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.C. Box 481
Brighton, Mi. 48116

DR. ERNEST ADOLPH BUEK, A BRIGHTON PIONEER (cont.)

In 1838, the well-educated Dr. Buek and his family arrived in Hamburg Township to build a new home and future for themselves. Unable to practice his profession as a lawyer because of the language barrier, the family endured a precarious existence. Dr. Buek paid for the land and for the first supplies for his family out of his dwindling store of German gold. Receiving in change "wild cat" currency,, much of which was practically worthless, his money soon vanished and their only visible means of support was his garden. The love of gardening, inherited from his father and grandfather now stood them in good stead. This supplied the family with many necessities of the table. In winter the daily fare was usually "Schwarzbrod, Speck und Pelkartoffel", with molasses in place of butter. Once a week, on Sunday, they treated themselves to white bread and butter.

But the woods were full of wild game and the lakes teemed with fish and hunters and fishermen among their neighbors always remembered that German family with all those little children, living there on the north side of the lake. Wise and motherly Susan Galloway, who lived down the road on the way to Brighton, was an ever present help in time of trouble. Like most pioneer women, she was more than generous with advice, sympathy and something to eat.

Dr. Buek knew both French and Italian in addition to his native German, but lacked a **speaking** command of English. He had come to America to practice his profession but found there was no law business for such as he. Instead he pursued his inherited passion for horticulture. Cultured and wealthy guests of Major and Mrs. Edwin Cust, nearby neighbors, marveled at the doctor's formal beds of flowers and the artistic manner of landscaping, faithful to that left behind in his native Hamburg. His pioneer neighbors, who by tremendous toil, had cleared their land solely for the purpose of raising crops of wheat, corn and potatoes, viewed his efforts as a waste of good land. Not content with the products of his craft, Dr. Buek transplanted colonies of the various wild flowers, found everywhere in the woods, to a certain spot at the edge of his garden. It is said that in memory of him who forsook the courts of law, with their unpredictable ways, for the gentle art of gardening and the happy ways of flowers, they bloom annually.

Probably the little mother, Lisette, often wondered where their next meal was coming from but the children were frolicsome and happy and like the young wild creatures of marsh and woodland, grew to be sturdy and reliant. In spring and summer they helped in the garden or tramped the virgin forest for wild flowers. A daily evening's chore was going for the cows that, in an almost wholly unfenced country, strayed afar, often seeking some distant swampland where finding them was a real adventure. (Condensed and edited from "A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Ernst Adolph Buek, compiled by Robert Lee Watson". To be continued.)

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