



P.O. Box 481,
Vol. V, No. 7

Brighton, Mi. 48116
July, 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

EDITORIAL

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A recent Brighton Argus editorial by Rich Perlberg reemphasized our oft repeated plea, that long time Area residents be interviewed in order to record the history which only they can repeat. When these folks are no longer with us, their memories go with them.

Many area communities (most recently the Hartland and Whitmore Lake areas) have published various historical records. We believe there are persons willing to give of their time to work on such an undertaking. Needed are people to guide such an endeavor. Will we wait until another of the "old-timers" is gone?

LYONS SCHOOL

The Lyons School Preservation Committee has sent invitations to alumni of the school on Buno Road to participate by the donation of funds. Others may also contribute. Some donations have already been received. Please send to Brighton Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton.

Phil Walsch, a Scout working for Eagle rating has assumed the task of finishing the painting of the exterior of the school. Until the restoration can take place, a coat of paint will make the building presentable to the community. Phil, 227-7083, is at the school every Friday morning. He can use all the help he can get.

Elizabeth Bindenagel and her sister, Lois, great granddaughters of Richard Lyons, who donated the land on which the school is located, were in Michigan recently (Elizabeth is from South Dakota) and visited the site.

In the meantime, let us again encourage those of you who have lived in the Area for a while to begin writing your own story. To help you get started may we suggest recalling: winter activities, parties, transportation, school days, farming, special holidays, organizations, other occupations, etc.?

Don't be limited by our suggestions. Be assured whatever you write will be welcome. Eventually these can be compiled and we'll have our history book also. Send to the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton. (Ed. M. Bair)

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1986 MEMBERSHIPS 1986

Since the June issue the following have paid 1986 dues: Bob & Marie Carr, Ken & Bernice Chapel, Lawrence & Jean Clark, Shelagh Klein, John & Mari Lynn Korte, Jere & Kay Michaels, Greg Park, Bob & Pauline Schaffer, Gene & Dorothy Schutz, Melvin & Ila Skeman, Ruby Templeton and **Alice Wilson.

**Patron member. Many thanks to all. Your support is vital.

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

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

...Brighton Argus and Station WHMI for their support with publicity.

...Aline Anderson for pictures of: 1912-1913 school children/teachers; 1924

Brighton High Football team with names; a newspaper picture of the Brighton Band; a Brighton Centennial flag and a book of poems by Will Carlton, a Michigan poet.

...people who are helping in the memorabilia room during the High School Centennial celebration.

...Milton Charboneau of Pinckney, for the additional pages which will be added to the book of local obituaries he had given the Society in the past. He also gave a listing of local birth and death records he recorded from the Bently Library.

...Mel and Ila Skeman for their donation toward the Lyons School insurance bill. (Donations are still being accepted.)

...Joe and Pauline Chenoweth for the hand made rocking horse which can be used as a raffle item.

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SOCIETY LIBRARY

The Society has purchased Hartland's new history book and Milton Charboneau's book on the First Land Owners of Livingston County. Issues of the Historic Preservation Magazine have been donated.

We have Michigan History magazines, the Michigan Historical Society Chronical and the Michigan Historical Review, among others.

These are all printed materials which members can take home for interesting reading. Located at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, upstairs, they can be obtained at a Board meeting, 2nd Thursday, 7:30, or by calling the President or Treasurer.

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BRIGHTON TOUR

Obstacles such as insurance coverage considerations and lack of support from the powers that be in the community are making it difficult for the committee to accomplish its task of developing a tour of City historic sites. Various alternatives are being considered. The chairmen, Jim and Penny Szczechowski, 229-7324, are continuing their efforts. Call and give your support.

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

we need...

...people to serve on the program committee, the finance committee, the Alumni Band, the July 5th parade, buggy restoration, Lyons School Restoration committee, the Farmer's Market bake sale committee. (People are willing to contribute but need someone to run this worthwhile fund raiser. A list of callers is available.)

...ideas for programs.

Call Zara Graham, 229-2240, to help with the bake sale, program committee and/or finance committee.

Call Dick Davis, 229-8356, to be in the July 5 parade.

Call Leo Sullivan, 227-2590, to help with the buggy restoration.

Call Norma Pless, 229-4719, to help with the Lyons School Restoration committee.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

3-13-86 Total Net Worth \$6769.60

RECEIPTS

Dues::	899.00	
Fund Raising: Tiles,		
207.; Raffle, 10.; An-		
tique show, 691.20;		
stationery, 9.50; Ly-		
ons School Rest., 50.;	967.70	
Donations	31.00	
Det. Ed. refund	34.32	
Interest	105.62	2037.64
		<u>\$8807.24</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration: News-		
ltr, 115.56; P.O. box		
rent, 22.; Books, 42.50;		
supplies, 11.97	192.03	
Officers: Pres. 5.; Treas.		
13.59; Mbrshp Chrmn,		
44.91	63.50	
Projects: Lyons School		
utilities, 34.62; Old		
Town Hall, 9.; Hist.		
Resource Survey, 34.74.	78.36	
Fund Raising: Tile		
artist, 50.; Antique		
show, 84.35	134.35	468.24

5-30-86 Total Net Worth \$8339.00

Sav. Acct. 5-30-86 \$7038.88

Chk. Acct. 5-30-86 1300.12 \$8339.00

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

BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL PLANS

Friday, July 4, 1-4 p.m., registration for the events planned for this celebration will take place at Sloan Field. (East of Scranton Middle School.) The packet alumni receive will have all the information relative to other activities. The local press and radio station will also apprise one of what's going on.

The Alumni band being formed will have a rehearsal July 3, 7:30 p.m., at the Brighton High School band room (7979 Brighton Road). Another will be just prior to the parade July 5, at 8:30 a.m. at Scranton Middle School. Call Janice Beach 229-9678, she can find room for you and even an instrument if necessary. It is planned to wear white tennis shoes, blue jeans and the 100 Anniversary tee shirt. The band will perform during opening and closing ceremonies and march in the parade July 5. Present and former band members are urged to join in the fun.

Following the celebration an Alumni Committee will be formed to assist in future reunions of classes, preservation of Brighton High School mementos and the myriad other tasks such a group performs.

The Society is planning an open house in the Old Town Hall following the parade. Come see what is on display.

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THE CHILDREN OF BERT AND MARIEANNA BAIR, will be hosting an Open House Sunday, July 13, 2-7 p.m., in honor of their parents' 40th wedding anniversary. It will be held at their home, 11700 E. Grand River.

The only gift Bert and Marieanna request is the pleasure of your company.

BRIGHTON CITY HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Spending many hours photographing the early homes, poring over files at the Register of Deeds office, compiling information and contacting owners of city homes built prior to 1930, Alice Krupa, 227-2516, is always happy to get evidence of a home's past from anyone who has information.

Planning commissions will be able to do a better job of determining adaptive reuse of a structure if there is information available to them regarding Brighton's early homes.

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Green Oak Township Historical Society is sponsoring a "Mystery Trip" in the township Saturday, July 12. Be at the Town Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Rd., at 11 a.m. The day's plans include author Billie Swarthout, the local author of "So Melts the Ice". Call 437-6510 for lunch reservations - \$4.00.(and homemade ice cream for dessert.)

Saturday, August 9, 10-4 p.m., at the Oddfellows Hall in South Lyon, 288 Warren, they are planning a quilt show. \$1. They can use still more quilts, old or new, antique or contemporary. Call 437-1271 or 231-3254. Raffle tickets for a Log Cabin quilt drawing are also available @ \$1.

Commerce Township Area Hist. Soc. is also planning a quilt show, October 11 & 12 at the Richardson Community Center. We'll try to get more information as to location soon.

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 send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
 5.00 per individual P.O. Box 481
 25.00 patron Brighton, Mi. 48116
 25.00 business/professional

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE c.1919

Today one is accustomed to paying several hundred dollars a year for automobile insurance. Today one recognizes the need for liability limits of \$100,000 or more. Today one is aware the purchase of a new and more expensive auto will mean an increase in one's insurance costs and, to top it off, there is the added premium for a teen age son as a principle driver. Ah-h-h for the good ol' days of yesteryear.

If one lived in Brighton, as Walter W. Knapp did in 1919, and owned an Olds as he did, and wished to insure against liability for injury to others or damage to their property, and also to insure the Olds against loss or damage by fire or theft, this could all have been done for an annual premium of \$7.50. How does that compare with premiums paid today?

Knapp's 1918 Olds had an engine of 26 horsepower (premium was .25¢/ h.p. plus a \$1. policy fee.) This policy limited one to \$5000 coverage for bodily injury and property damage, with fire and theft coverage of \$1000. There was also a \$25. deduction for any amounts paid. Wally Knapp and his wife, Amelia (nee Loch) lived in Brighton on West Main Street between Second and Third, until the mid 1950s. (The residence, built over 100 years ago, is now occupied as doctors' offices.) Wally also had to be prepared to pay an assessment if losses paid by the insurance company exceeded the premiums collected, as this was a mutual association of auto-owning individuals and all members agreed to being assessed in the event of deficit operations of the company.

Wally Knapp could have purchased collision insurance for six dollars to protect up to \$400.; for ten dollars he could have coverage to an \$800 limit. His insurance coverage would have been limited to damage only "...if caused by collision with another automobile, vehicle or moving object..." or if "... by being driven off the road to avoid a collision with another automobile, vehicle or moving object...." So if he hit the ditch to avoid a cow in the road, he'd be covered ---if he hit a tree because he paid too little attention to his driving and too much to the lovely lady riding beside him, then it would be to no avail to call his friendly insurance agent. (to be continued. Condensed and edited from material supplied by Colt Park. M. Bair, Editor.)

Brighton Area Historical Society
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Printed courtesy:
OLD KENT BANK
300 W. North St.
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