



P.O. Box 481 Brighton, Mi. 48116  
 Vol. V. No. 11 November, 1986

Grand River Trail TRAIL TALES

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.
- .V.P. Gary Cole 227-6116.
- .Sec. Gloria Spencer 229-5839.
- .Treas. Marieanna Bair 229-6402.

\* DIRECTORS \*

- \* Dick Davis 229-8356 \*
- \* Floyd Fuller 231-2415 \*
- \* Rudy Herrmann 229-7923 \*
- \* Alice Krupa 227-2516 \*
- \* Mae Schmadtke 227-7969 \*
- \* Marieanna Bair, Imm. P.P. & Editor .....

ANNUAL MEETING

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Society will be at the Miller Community Center 850 Spencer Road, Tuesday, November 11. A pot luck at 6:30 will be followed with a 7:30 business meeting. Approval of the 1987 budget, annual reports on the Society's activities and election of members to the Board will be included.

The following nominees will be presented: Marieanna Bair, Zara Graham, Shelagh Klein, Mary Mathias, Peg Siford and Mel Skeman. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

November 30: Open House at the Chamber.

December 11: Board Meeting at the Old Town Hall, 7:30.

+ + + + +

The Society is planning its Sixth Annual Open House at the Chamber of Commerce building, 131 Hyne St., Sunday November 30, time, program, etc., to be announced. Plan to drop in for fun and refreshments. Watch the Argus for more information.

EDITORIAL

That is how it is with many old places. Old buildings have often blended in so well, so long, they become a part of our lives. We look at them every day without seeing them, but we feel their presence. We feel a sense of security from having something familiar, substantial and well established existing beside us.

New functional concrete, steel and glass structures can be erected, but let's always leave room for the old buildings. In different ways they speak to us. In different ways we need them. They provide visual pleasure, a setting for the present and a heritage for the future. They are gifts from the past. (Karen Griffiths, Pres., Douglas Co. Hist. Soc., Sedalia, Colorado. Jan/Feb. 1980 Historic Preservation magazine.)

+ + + + +

MEMBERSHIPS

Since the last issue the following have paid 1986 dues: Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Amrhein, and A.J. & Helen Southwell.

1987 dues have been paid by: Ken & Zara Graham, Nancy Hackney\*\*, Martin & Rae-Lynne Lerner, Kathleen Lowry\*\*, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, A. Colton & Dorothy Park\*\*, Rev. John G. Park, and James & Doris Petersen. \*\* Patron membership. WELCOME to all and thanks for your support.

1987 memberships are due and payable from now until April 30, 1987. It is hoped the membership chairman won't have to send reminder letters at that time. The address label on Trail Tales will indicate for which year dues have been paid.

+ + + + +

FOR SALE....

.....the case in which the buggy, donated by Michigan Bank-Livingston, was displayed. It is in the Lyons School yard, 11455 Buno Road.

Contact a board member if interested.

+ + + + +

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

...Brighton Chamber of Commerce for the use of three spaces for the Trash and Treasures Sale, October 25, at the Farmers' Market.

...donors and purchasers for the Sale.

...Jollitz, Beach, Bairs, Krupas, etc., etc. who helped with the Sale.

...Mildred Harrington for picking up the leftover from the Sale.

...Lois Cole for making signs.

...Ethel Gebben and her crew for organizing the bake sale that same day, those that donated items and those who sent cash donations.

...John and Charlene Dunkelberger for the sleigh remnants they donated for the Society's use.

...Bob Herbst for displaying the rocking horse in Uber's window, the tiles also.

...Citizen's Insurance Co. for printing the tickets for the rocking horse raffle.

...Jack Conely for supplying the dumpster for use at the Lyons School.

...Corrigans for contributing to the heating bill at the Lyons School.

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

+ + + + +

LIV. COUNTY PLANNING DEPT. HOLDS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING FORUM

Several members of the Society attended this forum recently.

A proposed preservation program for the county is being drafted. Possible goals include the establishment of a County Historic Commission; preparation of educational and promotional materials; a historic structure survey program; the support of preservation activities in the county and an Archeological Sites Survey.

The next Preservation Planning Forum will be Thursday, November 6, 7:30 in Howell. The Society Board meets that evening. Is there anyone else who might represent the Society? Contact Director Alice Krupa, 227-2516.

+ + + + +

HISTORIC COMMISSION DAY

Presentations and Workshops on "Making the Sesquicentennial Work" (the 150th anniversary of statehood) filled the day. The celebration began in June, 1986 and will continue through December, 1987 to commemorate the year and a half between the drafting of the State's Constitution and the recognition of statehood by the U.S. government January 26, 1837.

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

needed...

...people to call Dick Davis, 229-8356, willing to spend three hours on a Saturday during November and December selling raffle tickets.

...donations to the fuel bill at the Lyons School this winter.

...someone to pay the monthly electric bill at the Lyons School.

...help for the Open House November 30.

...help on the Finance Committee.

...someone to attend the County Planning Department Historic Preservation Forum November 6, 7:30 in Howell.

...a Membership chairman.

To answer any of the above contact any Board member.

+ + + + +

LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Under the direction of the Building Trades teacher, Bill Miller, the Brighton High School class has been working on the roof. Plywood has been added to give a sturdier base for the shingles. By the first week in November both sides of the roof should be finished.

+ + + + +

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sept. 1, 1986 TOTAL NET WORTH \$7419.29

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$ 62.00
Fund Raising: Tiles	260.00
Lyons School donation	100.00
Interest	<u>39.14</u> <u>461.14</u>
	\$7880.43

DISBURSEMENTS

Historic Pres./Rest.	
Lyons School Utilities	17.80
" " Rest.	4000.00
Historic Res. Survey	<u>20.15</u> <u>4037.95</u>

October 1, 1986 TOTAL NET WORTH \$3842.48

Sav. Acct. Bal. 10-1-86	\$3841.30
Chk. Acct. Bal. "	<u>1.18</u>
	\$3842.48

Marieanna Bair, Treas.

+ + + + +

Some of the major events planned are the National Governors' Conference, the Michigan Water Festival featuring the tall ships regatta, a tour Michigan Bicycle race, a Michigan Picnic, a two-week observance of Michigan at the Summer Folk Life Festival at the Mall in Washing, D.C., Michigan Family Reunion, etc. (cont. Page 3, please.)

RAFFLE DRAWING DECEMBER 20

Tickets for the raffle of the Rocking Horse donated by Joe and Pauline Chenoweth will be on sale at the Mall November 15, 22, 29 and December 6, 13, 20. The drawing will be held December 20.

Help will be needed with the sales at the mall. Make it easier for the Finance Committee and contact Dick Davis, 229-8356 to let him know which date you prefer.

Until mid November the horse can be seen and tickets bought at Uber's Drug Store. Tickets are also available at Jarvis' Men's Store and other businesses yet to be selected.

Two tickets are also included with this issue of Trail Tales. We hope this is not looked upon with indignation. The Finance Committee's goal is \$500. With everyone's support this can be easily accomplished. Those who wish to help with sales may contact any board member for a book of tickets. All proceeds go to the Historic Preservation Fund.

+ + + + +

HISTORIC COMMISSION DAY (cont.)

One of the many long term memorials of the Sesqui will be the \$40 million Michigan Heritage Center. Located in Lansing it will house a museum, archives and a library.

It was learned there are at least 150 ways to be involved in the Sesqui.

1. Host a community reunion with a picnic and fireworks.
2. Honor the community's longest residing citizen.
3. Organize a historic home tour.

4. Honor babies born in 1987 with a special birth certificate.
5. Inventory historic sites and organize a tour.
6. Place historic site markers.
7. Plant a white pine in a public garden.
8. Establish a nature trail.
9. Have a statehood day at school with period costumes.
10. Arrange a debate on the statehood dispute between Michigan and Ohio 150 years ago.
11. Use Sesqui patches on athletic team uniforms and special sesqui trophies for sports events.
12. Find sites of one room school buildings.
13. Sponsor a school art contest on a Sesqui theme.
14. Live a weekend like a pioneer.
15. Talk to parents and grandparents about childhood memories.
16. Do your family history and genealogy.
17. Establish a sesqui business archives. Write your business history.
18. Sponsor a "Best Store Window" contest with Sesqui theme.
19. Conduct tours of farms 150 years old.
20. Research origins of town and county names.

If none of these strikes your fancy and gets your Sesquicentennial juices flowing contact the Brighton Library or your Editor. We have 130 more suggestions.

Many Michigan communities are organizing to celebrate the Sesquicentennial. It is regrettable the Brighton area seems to be ignoring the event, the 150 birthday of our state.

+ + + + +

1987 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1987

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 spec. 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

THE BRIGHTON AREA AND THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF MICHIGAN (Cont.)

Altho' the French king had abandoned his nation's forts at the southern ends of Lakes Michigan and Huron in 1698, it was but three years later, 1701, that Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac received permission to establish Fort Pontchartrain as the first permanent French settlement in the Lower Peninsula. The fort was to serve as a means of defending the French-claimed territory against the British; promote friendly trade with the Indians and organize a colony of farmers.

Altho' persuaded by the British to attack Fort Pontchartrain in 1704, Chief Pontiac, leading the Ottawas, failed. Again, in 1712, the Fox Indians tried in vain to capture or burn the fort by shooting flaming arrows. In general the French treatment of the Indians encouraged their support and until 1760 Fort Pontchartrain remained in French hands. During these years Robert Navarre established the first civil jurisdiction in the area, and the town of Detroit was inaugurated. Numerous farming grants were made of narrow strips of land fronting on the river and running back as far as the owner wanted. Detroit prospered and the Indians were satisfied and felt secure with their hunting grounds in the interior.

During these same last 71 years (1689/1760) the French and British were engaged in wars in Europe and elsewhere all in the name of their respective empires. In 1757, England determined victory would be hers in North America. Capable generals, large numbers of soldiers and the alliances of her American colonies, enabled England to capture Quebec in 1759; Montreal and Fort Pontchartrain in 1760. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 sealed the fate of French rule in the New World. All other French outposts in Michigan (including those at the Straits of Macinac and Sault Ste. Marie), the Great Lakes and all of French Canada came under British control.

After having been treated as friends by the French and having come to depend on European utensils, cloth, ammunition, etc., harsh treatment meted out by the British soon caused the Indians, under Chief Pontiac, to engage in open warfare in 1763 with the whites. When a surprise attack on Detroit failed, a lengthy siege was begun. While unsuccessful in the siege, Indian warriors attacked white settlements from the Great Lakes to Virginia. Ft. Michilimackinac fell to the Chippewas in June when the soldiers were tricked into allowing the Indians into the Fort to retrieve a ball. The entire Ohio Valley was in the process of being laid waste by Pontiac's troops until he finally received word of the Treaty of Paris of 1763, and realized he could no longer depend on his French allies. The siege of Detroit was lifted, British troops again occupied Ft. Michilimackinac and a peace returned to the frontier. The Indian during the next 30 years developed a cooperative relationship with the British. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless: "A Short History of Michigan" by John Kern and "War 1812" by George S. May.)

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

Printed courtesy:  
OLD KENT BANK  
300 W. North St.  
Brighton, Mi. 48116