



P.O. Box 481
Vol. VI. No. 1

Brighton, Mi. 48116
January, 1987

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. | Alice Krupa | 227-2516 |
| • Sec. | Mary Mathias | 229-6900 |
| • Treas. | Marieanna Bair | 229-6402 |

DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| • Rudy Herrmann | 229-7923 |
| • Shelagh Kline | 229-6571 |
| • Peg Siford | 227-6056 |
| • Mel Skeman | 229-6351 |

GENERAL MEETING COMING UP

Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 p.m., the first General Meeting of the year will begin with a pot luck at the Miller Community Center, 850 Spencer Rd. Following a short business meeting at 7:30, the program will feature Marlia Jenkins, Director of the Livingston County Planning Commission. This county body is responsible for the planning, zoning, information collecting and economic development. The Commission is in the process of developing a historic preservation plan for Livingston County. Ms Jenkins will help us understand the importance of a County plan and particularly the importance of a historic preservation plan for the county.

Residing in Howell, Marlia has been County Planning Director since April, 1986. Previously a member of the Saginaw County Planning Commission she has experience in preparation of state and national register nominations, historic district ordinances and educational materials and administration of two local historic districts. She has experience in the preparation of grant applications and historic sites surveys. Participation in the Michigan Historic District Network and owning a historic home reaffirm her concern for historic preservation.

The public is invited.

EDITORIAL

What is significant about the present?

What is significant about the future?

Only with a good understanding of the past; people, events, architecture, etc., etc., can we gain a better perspective on the present and future.

But there is more to it than just the preservation of a building, a skill, a vocation or a way of life.

It is based on a rather slippery concept, one that has to do with values, identity and the spirit of the people of our community and our country. People deprived of a cultural past have no frame of reference on which to base values, either social or spiritual.

The Society exists to help develop this frame of reference. The support of the residents and commercial interests of this community make the existence of the Society a possibility. While financial support is a most necessary entity, human resource is what makes the Society thrive. (M. Bair, Editor.)

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MEMBERSHIPS

Since the last issue the following have paid 1986 membership fees: Willard & Frances Heinig, Herbert Munzell and Dan Schmidt. 1987 memberships include: Bill & Jackie Armstrong, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Mr. & Mrs. John Cartwright, Charles & Doris Case, Homer & Evelyn Dothager, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Fishbeck, George Hacker**, Willard & Frances Heinig, Randal & Doris Hoadley**, Kathryn Hodgkin, Bill & Helen Hyne, Mary Mathias, Jere & Kay Michaels, Herbert Munzell, Roland & Jane Owens, Marty & Lee Pawlak, Andy & Lila Robertson, Randall & Gail Samuels, Mae Schmadtke, Gene & Dorothy Schutz, Mildred Shannon & Margaret Goldstein, Dan Schmidt, Laura Thompson. **Patron Memberships. WELCOME to all and many thanks for this expression of confidence in the efforts of the Board.

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THANKS....THANKS....THANKS....THANKS....
 ...Moses Printing for raffle publicity in the Marketeer. Also the Brighton Argus and the Livingston County Press.
 ...the Brighton Mall (esp. DuQuets Jewelry and Little Professor Book Store) for their help and support with the Saturday raffle ticket table.
 ...to the above merchants and to Ubers Drugs, Jarvis Men's Store and the Chamber of Commerce for having tickets available to the public. Also to those individuals who distributed more than their share of tickets.
 ...those who helped at the raffle ticket table.
 ...Lyons School Restoration Project donations: Jack Conley for providing the trash pickup service; Ray and Jean Lanning for their donation to the fuel bill' Joe and Irene Ellis, Bill and Jackie Armstrong (in memory of Harold and Esther Armstrong) and Klein Real Estate for donations; and the Brighton Township Board for waiver of building permit fees.
 ...Trail Tales' addressees who send in changes of addresses and/or corrections.
 ...Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales.

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CHAIRMEN APPOINTED FOR 1987

General Meetings Hostess: Kay Flynn
 Program: Sandy Bansbach
 Finance: Dick Davis
 Publicity: Shelagh Klein
 Newsletter: Marieanna Bair
 Parliamentarian: Mae Schmadtke
 Sales (Magazines, stationery, etc.): Ethel Gebben
 Corresponding Sec.: Marian Carney
 Tile Sales: Jane Tomlinson

Many thanks to these members for their active participation.

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ROCKING HORSE RAFFLE RESULTS

The rocking horse was won by J.R. Fox of the Area. The ticket was drawn by a high school cheerleader.

Thanks to Joe Chenoweth for donating the Horse and to Citizens Insurance for printing the tickets, the raffle proceeds amounted to almost \$400. This was the most profitable raffle the Society has ever conducted.

What shall be raffled next?

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HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....
 we need...
 ... a chairman for the Spaghetti Supper February 20.
 ...a dues records keeper.
 ...donations to the fuel bill at Lyons School.
 ...a place to store donated items for auction.
 ...someone to assume the Edison bill at Lyons School for six months.
 ...help on the Finance committee.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

| | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| 11-1-86 | TOTAL NET WORTH | \$4488.91 |
| Receipts | | |
| Dues: | \$ 288.00 | |
| Fund Raising: bake sale 23.; Lyons School Rest. 25.; Fuel Fund 75.; Raffle 132.; | 255.00 | |
| Other donations | 33.00 | |
| Interest | 26.12 | 602.12 |
| | | <u>\$5091.03</u> |

Disbursements

| | | |
|--|-------|--------|
| Administration: Open House 18.85; Mailing Permit 50.; supplies | 13.57 | 82.42 |
| Newsletter | | 53.54 |
| Hist. Pres. & Rest. | | |
| Lyons School Utilities 10.99; Hist. Resource Survey 22.45; Oral History Proj. 9.50 | 42.94 | |
| Fund Raising Proj. | 2.57 | 181.47 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 11-30-86 | TOTAL NET WORTH | \$4909.56 |
| Sav. Bal. 11-30-86 | 4236.04 | |
| Chk. Bal. 11-30-86 | 673.52 | <u>\$4909.56</u> |

M. Bair, Treas. (For a more detailed report contact the Treasurer.)

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The January Board meeting is Thursday the 8th, 7:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members invited.

The Finance Committee will meet Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. at the same place. Interested members welcome.

Spaghetti Supper, Friday, February 20. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT

Driving past the Lyons School, 11455 Buno Road, one sees visible restoration progress.

The front entry has been removed, interior walls, ceiling and floors are being removed and research is under way as to the size, style and location of original windows.

The Township Board waived all building permit fees in cooperation with the restoration project.

Donations to the restoration of the Lyons school may be made in honor or memory of a loved one or just to know you helped make the restoration happen. Please send to the Society.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION PROJECT

With the cooperation and support of the Brighton City Council the Society has undertaken the restoration of the Old Town Hall as a celebration of the State's 150th birthday and the City's 120th birthday. The project is registered with the Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission.

The efforts of the restoration committee are beginning to show fruit. The committee is confident and hopeful the community will see this project through to its completion.

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OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Novi Historical Society: Thursday, January 15, will host Dr. Weldon Petz, noted authority on Abraham Lincoln. Call 349-4953 for more information.

Green Oak Township Historical Society: Tuesday, January 6, 7:30, Township Hall, wants you to bring the oldest letter, picture, news clipping or document and share it with the group.

Plymouth Historical Society: Sunday, January 25, will hold Open House at the Museum, 155 S. Main, to commemorate the Michigan Sesquicentennial with a birthday cake and more. Call 455-8940 for more information.

The Society extends its sympathy to the family of Laura "Scheidie" Thompson. Scheidie was one of those people who realized her responsibility to the community in which she lived. A vibrant, live person, Schiedie passed away very suddenly Christmas Day. She will be missed.

Too often, while attempting to preserve the history of the area, a society will neglect its own beginnings. Your Editor has been attempting to compile a complete file of Society newsletters. The missing issue, #5, has been located and these archives are complete.

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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 dc

Dues: \$ 8.00per 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.)

In 1805, when Gen. Wm. Hull was appointed Michigan Territorial Governor, the area encompassed included part of Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin. How to govern a city still smoldering from the devastating fire shortly before his arrival was not Gov. Hull's only problem. He was confronted with French Canadian residents resisting the code of laws he initiated (they'd been living without organized law and order); they objected to the registration of land titles (most had received land as feudal grants from France's king some time earlier); and defied a uniformed militia. Also Indian resistance to treaty negotiations was very evident.

Somehow by November, 1807, Hull brought together some of the chiefs of several of the Indian Nations who held all the lands except for the towns of Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac and Detroit. They were paid \$10,000 and future promises for a large portion of southeastern Michigan. However not all Indians agreed to the plan and agitated against the white man.

Americans charged Indians were receiving guns, ammunition and encouragement from British agents across the Detroit River. Altho' at war with France on the Continent, England interfered with American shipping which caused concern for industrious, established merchants everywhere. By June, 1812, the culmination of national and international events caused President Madison to declare war on England. Altho' the provocation was great, the young nation was unprepared to wage another war.

Gov. Hull, named commander of the Western Army, was unable to prevent the capture of Ft. Mackinac nor that of Detroit August 16. Ft. Dearborn (Chicago) was abandoned to the British the day prior. This left the upper great lakes entirely in the hands of the British again as they planned the next phase of the war against the Americans with the push into Ohio. Hull became the scapegoat for the nations' shortcomings and was relieved of his Governorship to be replaced by Wm. H. Harrison. A decisive defeat was inflicted on American forces at the River Raisin by the Indians who broke a pledge of protection after the British left the area, January, 1813.

The outstandingly deplorable conduct of the war in the west is incomprehensible. The Canadian Gen. Brock found it not difficult to press his course at his own discretion. The lack of military training of the American soldiers and insufficient supplies and provisions was constantly displayed in every battle. Not until Gen. Harrison held Ft. Stephenson in Lower Sandusky (Ohio) in 1813, was there any indication of a possibility that the British might not win the war. (The war was not going well in the east either where the nation's Capitol was burned.) (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.)

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