



Grand River Trail

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  
Vol. VI, No. 11

Brighton, Mi. 48116  
November, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OFFICERS

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EDITORIAL

Does the Brighton Area have a future? Yes, of course. The real question is what will be the quality of that future? A knowledge of the rich heritage of our area is basic to develop a future with a purpose.

Books and pictures give us some inkling of those who preceded us. Being able to enjoy the structures in which these predecessors lived, worked, learned, laughed, worshipped and died, brings a more complete understanding of our heritage. By preserving the many good things we still have, we can acquire the strength to ensure a fulfilled future for our posterity. (M. Bair, Ed.)

ANNUAL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

In room 22 at the Brighton High School, 7878 Brighton Road, the Society's 6th Annual Meeting will begin with a pot luck at 6:30.

About 75 pictures of early Brighton Area scenes will be on display. Come and see if you can help identify some of them. If you have some pictures, bring them so we can all enjoy them. The public is welcome.

The business meeting will include acceptance of the 1988 budget and the revised bylaws. (A copy should have been received by each member. If not, contact Sec. Klein.) Election of members to the Board of Directors is also on the agenda. Annual reports will be available and a Booklover's Birthday Book will be raffled as a fundraiser for the Old Town Hall restoration project.

See map for location of meeting, on inside page.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Finance Committee, Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- 4, 7:30 Brighton Area Schools Alumni Assoc., Brighton High School.
- 7, 6:30, "Brighton's Yesterdays" benefit, Road House at Oak Pointe.
- 9, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall Comm. Old town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- 10, 6:30 Annual Meeting, pot luck. Room 22, Brighton High School, 7878 Brighton Road.
- 18, 7:30 Lyons School Committee. Old town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- 23, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall Comm. Old town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- 29, 1-5 p.m., Open House, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 131 Hyne.
- Dec. 3, 7 p.m. Society Board Meeting, Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.
- 19, Christmas raffle drawing.

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

...donors and helpers at the Trash & Treasure Sale.  
...Old Kent Bank for printing TRAIL TALES.  
...PDQ Printing for label copying for TRAIL TALES.  
...Bake sale workers and donors.  
...the Joe Chenoweths for the hand made wood sled for the annual Xmas raffle.  
...City of Brighton, Sharon Hayne & Milltown Questers chapter #831 for donations to the Old Town Hall restoration.  
...people who have sent in their \$10. donation and their signature for the quilt.

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Couples dues have been paid by Jerry & Judy Porman, Don and Alice Wyland. Much obliged.

The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the TRAIL TALES mailing lable. If '87 dues have not been paid, consider including them with the '88 dues. Support for the Society is essential for headway to be made. If it is impossible to actively participate - consider patron dues.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION

This committee meets twice a month. Besides guiding the restoration process, fund raising is also a major item on the agenda. Have you noticed the sign on the side of the Old Town Hall? Community support must continue. For a \$25. donation you will receive a mug as a gift; \$50. will get you a tote bag; \$75. a set of leather coasters and \$100. a pewter candy dish. These items are on display at the Brighton Public Library. A plaque, to be permanently placed in the Hall will include the names of all who have donated \$100. or more.

Old fashioned oil lamps will be used as table decorations at the "Brighton's Yesterdays" benefit Nov. 7. Call Sandy Bansbach, 231-1637 if you have one to lend.

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The Editor is willing to receive comments on the contents and set up of TRAIL TALES. All suggestions will be considered. (Except to stop publishing.) Guest editorials are also permitted.

HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP  
we need....

...ticket buyers and sellers for the Christmas raffle, the wood sled.  
...people to come to the 7th Annual Open House, Nov. 29.  
...donations to the Lyons School Insurance bill.  
...someone to repair the buggy.  
...Donations to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.  
...anyone interested in working on a crazy quilt or a nine patch quilt.  
...signature quilt signers.

Contact any board member regarding the above.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

|                       |                 |                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 9-1-87                | TOTAL NET WORTH | \$25442.16        |
| RECEIPTS              |                 |                   |
| Dues                  | \$10.00         |                   |
| Fund Raising: Sesqui  |                 |                   |
| Flags, 118.81; Signa- |                 |                   |
| ture quilt, 190.; Old |                 |                   |
| Town Hall Rest., 325. | 633.81          |                   |
| Interest:             | 90.52           |                   |
| Payment error:        | 5.48            | 739.81            |
|                       |                 | <u>\$26181.97</u> |
| DISBURSEMENTS         |                 |                   |
| Administration        | 52.92           |                   |
| Fund Raising          | 131.10          |                   |
| Hist. Pres. & Rest.   |                 |                   |
| Old Town Hall         | 463.26          |                   |
| Lyons School          | <u>758.92</u>   | <u>1406.20</u>    |
| 9-30-87               | TOTAL NET WORTH | \$24775.77        |
| "                     | Sav. Acct. Bal. | 22688.22          |
| "                     | Chk. " "        | <u>2087.55</u>    |
|                       |                 | <u>\$24775.77</u> |

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

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CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The 7th Annual Christmas Open House will be Sunday, November 29, 1-5 p.m., at the Brighton Chamber of Commerce Building, 131 Hyne St. The public is invited to refreshments and to learn about the Society.

The special display of the day is being finalized. Watch the local press for more details and in the meantime plan to stop and see what the Society is up to.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION

A history of the school is in the works. Florence Chase and Doris Prieskorn are researching the records. A complete list of alumni of the school is being compiled. Be thinking about this and send names and addresses to the committee c/o the Society.

The yard has been cleaned and regular mowing is done. A sign, telling of the restoration project, will soon be in place. Take notice when driving by. In cooperation with the Building Trades class of the Brighton High School, new windows are being made.

At a recent bake sale over \$190. was earned. This kind of cooperation is absolutely essential to successfully complete this project.

This committee will meet again Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 at the Old Town Hall, 202 E. Main. You are welcome to participate.

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WOMEN IN BRIGHTON'S HISTORY

Your editor would like to prepare a program on the history of women in the Brighton area. (She needs a lot of help.) If you have a story to tell about women who have lived (or are living) in the Brighton area, please contact the Editor.

Don't be concerned as to whether or not it might be of interest - she'll decide. Just let her know.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Sesquicentennial Flag - One remains. A \$25. donation means an unusual keepsake.

Post Cards - Sets of post cards with scenes of Brighton of years past are to be prepared for sale.

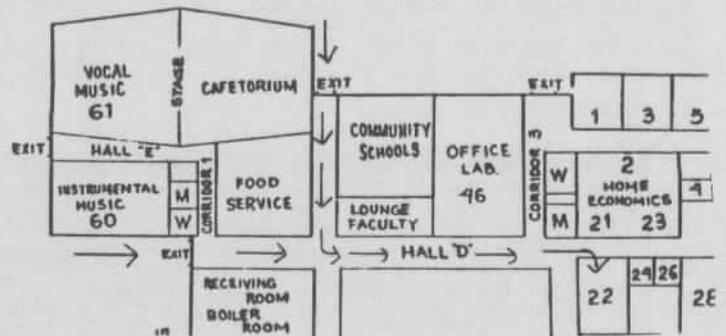
Signature Quilt - Remember to send in your signature or those of your relatives with a \$10. donation to be included on the quilt.

Raffle - Joe Chenoweth has done it again - made an item for the annual Christmas raffle ...a wood sled. Now it's up to us to make his efforts worthwhile. Help with the sale of tickets and by buying also. Thanks also to Citizen's Insurance for printing the tickets.

Tiles - The Pere Marquette railroad tile and the Union School tile can be purchased at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store and Citizen's Trust for \$7. Need a special Christmas gift? 1987's tile of the Western House will be ready soon.

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Brighton High School, 7878 Brighton Road



1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

1988

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

New ( ) Renewal ( ) Please send a copy of Society Bylaws ( )

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- ( ) Bake Sale                      ( ) Help with spec. events                      ( ) Newsletter publication                      ( ) Research
- ( ) Board Member                      ( ) Hospitality                      ( ) Oral History                      ( ) Restoration
- ( ) Fund Raising                      ( ) Meeting Programs                      ( ) Photography                      ( ) Video Taping
- ( ) Genealogy                      ( ) Membership Committee                      ( ) Publicity                      ( ) Other work

I'd be willing to do: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$25. Patron                      Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society  
           25. Business/Professional                      P.O. Box 481  
           8. Couple                      Brighton, Mi. 48116  
           5. Individual

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

Before the coming of the railroad (the Detroit, Lansing and Northern) through Brighton Village, Main Street (Fitch Street) was a muddy street west of West Street. A bridge crossed Ore Creek but the street then went through a low, marshy area with the mill pond on the north side. One could count on soiled boots if it was necessary to walk. Wagon wheels dug deep ruts in the mud.

Anticipating the economic benefits the railroad would bring, a wooden foot bridge about 300' long was built. It extended from West Street to where the D. & C. Store (314 W. Main) is located. At the time a livery barn and a blacksmith shop stood there, on wood pilings with the mill pond water beneath. About 7-8' wide, the timbers and planks of the bridge were also on wood pilings with a 3-4' railing on each side. On the south side a row of weeping willows formed a canopy along the way. It was after 1900 before the south edge of the pond was filled in and a concrete sidewalk built in its place. Not long after, the area where the Preview Properties is now located (306 W. Main) was also filled in and the Brighton State Bank (now Old Kent Bank, 300 North Street) was built. (The telephone company switch board was upstairs.) The one story addition came still later.

On the south side of Fitch Street, across from the mill pond was the flouring and grist mill with its two raceway ponds, dam gates and two bridges below the mill on North Street. (All but North Street now beneath the city parking lot.)

On the southeast corner of Fitch and West stood a red barn surrounded by new farm machinery in bright paint. (Singer Press is located there now.) In later years the Leith Ice House was in the middle of the block on West between Main (by then it was no longer Fitch) and North Street.

Located west along Fitch were hardware stores, barber shops, milliners, liveries, the Post Office, grocery stores, dry goods stores, furniture stores, a bank, and the Western House.

Along Grand River Road were more grocers and general stores, a shoe store, ice cream and candy store, jeweler, meat market, a tin smith, the Opera House, a school, restaurant and Eastern (Brighton) House. On North Street one could find a law office, blacksmith shop, restaurant, dry goods store and a clothier. Here and there one could also find the opportunity to quench one's thirst in the company of fellow quaffers. License fees paid by saloon keepers paid for most of the concrete sidewalks in town until "local option" closed the taverns. Until about 1900 these walkways were comprised of boards, flat stones or bricks. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by William Pless.)

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Printed courtesy:  
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