



TRAIL TALES

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 Brighton, MI 48116
Vol. VI, No. 10 October, 1987

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OFFICERS

- Pres. Zara Graham 229-2240
- V.P. Alice Krupa 227-2516
- Secy. Shelagh Klein 229-6571
- Treas. Marieanna Bair 229-6402

DIRECTORS

- Rudy Herrmann 229-7923
- Mary Mathias 229-6900
- Peg Siford 227-6056
- Skeman 229-6351
- Editor Marieanna Bair 229-6402

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 10

Revised Bylaws will be mailed to all members in October for perusal prior to the vote at the Sixth Annual meeting. If you haven't received your copy by October 27, request one from Secretary Klein, 229-6571.

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1987 MEMBERSHIPS 1987

1987-88 dues have been paid by Jessie McDonall. Thanks. The year for which your dues are paid is noted on the mailing label. Check it out-you could include 87/88 dues in one mailing.

It is time to review TRAIL TALES' mailing list. Monthly postage expenses are nearing \$45. In fairness to dues paying members, this review must be regularly conducted.

If you have been receiving the Newsletter for over a year and have shown no support (interest in the Society's activities (such as having paid dues, contributed to projects, attended meetings, etc.) it will be necessary to consider deleting your address from the mailing list.

EDITORIAL

A group of people willing to contribute time and energy make up the Brighton Area Historical Society. Guided by its Board of Directors, the Society can accomplish much with support from the community. Many opportunities are provided in which the community can confirm the goals and aims of the Society.

Only by joining forces will we be able to make a concerted effort to control what happens to our community economically, socially, and esthetically. This area does have unique architectural assets to be preserved and sustained for our enjoyment and that of generations to come. The cooperative assistance of the community is indispensable. (Editor: M. Bair)

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Oct. 4, Lyons School outdoor clean-up.
- 8, 7 p.m., Board Meeting.
- 9, Brighton Area School Alumni Assoc. Annual Meeting-Brighton Homecoming.
- 17, Lyons School Rest. Committee Bake Sale at the Farmers' Market.
- 31, Trash & Treasures Sale, and Bake Sale at Farmers' Market.
- Nov. 5, 7 p.m., Board Meeting.
- 10, 6:30 p.m., Annual Meeting.
- 29, Annual Open House.
- Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Board Meeting.
- 19, Christmas raffle drawing.

It is hoped non-members will wish to continue receiving information about the Society and will remit dues soon. Any dues received after October 1 will be for 1988 unless instructed otherwise.

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

- ...people who bought Sesquicentennial flags.
- ...people who have sent in their signatures and \$10. for the signature quilt.
- ...Zara Graham, Marian Carney, Mary Lou and Ed Sajewski, who also helped at the Arts Fair booth in August. (We neglected to mention them in last month's listing.)
- ...George Moses for his continued support in providing publicity for Society events and projects in the MARKETEEER.
- ...Old Kent Bank for printing TRAIL TALES.
- ...PDQ Printing for label copying for TRAIL TALES.
- ...Pam Gereck for donations to the Antique Sale August 1.
- ...Lynn Todd who donated lemonade for the Antique Sale.
- ...people who furnished cookies for the Antique Sale and the Art Fair booth.
- ...Lyle and Dorothy Hartman, Steve & Kathy Lowry, and Francis and Helen Michaels for donations to the Old Town Hall restoration.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Exterior paint has been removed from the brick and the woodwork of the Old Town Hall. Now the woodwork and trim will soon be re-painted. Stop and inspect the work being done.

The Committee and Honorary Chairmen Dick and Katie Chrysler are extending an invitation to all to attend the "Brighton's Yesterdays" benefit dinner. It will be at the Roadhouse at Oak Pointe, 5341 Brighton Road, Saturday, November 7. Cocktails will be served 6:30 - 7 p.m., and dinner immediately after. Diners will have a choice of chicken, steak, or fish.

Reservations are requested by Monday, Oct.26. Please prepare your check to the Society; \$25. per person, \$45. per couple. The public is welcome! Call Secretary Klein, 229-6571, or President Graham, 229-2240, with your reservation.

Old fashioned oil lamps will be used as table decorations. If you have one to lend, please call Sandy Bansbach, 231-1637.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Welcome to Chairman Jerry Dilloway. To continue the restoration begun last year will be the top priority for this Committee. Brighton Township has donated \$5000. to confirm support for this project. Ronnie Powers, a teacher at Hawkins School, in cooperation

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

- ...we need...
- ..."Brighton's Yesterdays" Old Town Hall benefit dinner attendees.
- ...donations to the Trash & Treasures Sale, and plenty of buyers, too.
- ...new Board members for 1988.
- ...donations to the Lyons School insurance bill (\$724.balance.)
- ...anyone interested in working on a crazy quilt or a nine patch quilt.
- ...someone to repair the buggy.
- ...donations to Historic Preservation and Restoration fund.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

8-1-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$20875.40
RECEIPTS

Dues	\$109.00	
Fund Raising:8/1 Sale,		
\$856.10; 8/8 sale, 85.		
Quilt,30; flags,200.	1171.10	
Friends of Society	6020.50	
Interest	<u>98.03</u>	<u>7398.63</u>
		28274.03

DISBURSEMENTS

Administration,	162.00	
Newsletter	<u>68.94</u>	230.94
Officers		23.32
Hist.Pres.& Rest.		
Lyons Sch.Util	10.46	
Old Town Hall	2567.15	<u>2577.61</u> <u>2831.87</u>
8-31-87 TOTAL NET WORTH		\$25442.16
" Sav.Acct.Bal.	\$22604.90	
" Chk. " "	<u>2837.26</u>	<u>\$25442.16</u>

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

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with children from Hawkins and Spencer Schools, collected bottle and can deposits and donated \$645.50 to the Lyons School restoration project. A sign will soon be placed informing the public of the restoration. The Committee will also have a Bake Sale, Saturday, October 17, at Farmers' Market. Bring something to sell and then buy to take home. With community support such as this, the Lyons School project will surely succeed.

This Committee will meet again Wednesday, October 21, at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

TRASH & TREASURES SALE

Saturday, October 31, 8 - 1 p.m., at the Farmers' Market. This annual fund raiser depends on donations from people in the community. Items still useful, but not to you, may be brought to the Market Saturday, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Most anything and everything may be used. Garage sale left-overs? Bring them! No clothing or large appliances can be accepted. For more information call Dick Davis, 229-8356, or Shelagh Klein, 229-6571. We hope to see lots of Society members supporting this sale. One man's trash is another's treasure. You'll surely find your treasure at this sale.

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Joe Chenoweth is at it again - he's making an item for the holiday raffle. This time it will be a wooden sled with wood runners.

Tickets will be in a future TRAIL TALES. \$400. was added to the HPR Fund from the raffle of Joe's rocking horse last year. Can we do better this year?

My thanks to Joe and Pauline for their continued support.

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AREA SOCIETIES TO MEET

This informal semi-annual meeting of Historical Societies of the area will be hosted by Green Oak Township Society, Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 205 E. Lake St., South Lyon. Several members of the Board will be attending. Join us and find out what other Societies are doing. Call the Ed.

SIGNATURE QUILT PROJECT

This signature quilt will be one of a kind, that's for sure. Some are getting all their family members' signatures; some are honoring a neighbor. This quilt will be kept by the Society for display on special occasions. Write the signature on a piece of paper, include a \$10. donation for each and send to the Society. Embroidery of the signatures already received will begin soon. Be sure you're included.

The Committee plans to raise \$3000. for restoration projects. To date 21 have reserved space for their signature; we're on our way! Only 279 more signatures to go!

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SESSQUICENTENNIAL FLAG PROJECT

A dozen flags have been sold. A few are still available. A \$25. donation will reserve one for you; a noble way to commemorate this once in a lifetime event. It seems your children or grandchildren might be proud to own such a memorial of Michigan's 150th birthday. (Still time to order one for Christmas.)

In appreciation for their support (the cost of printing TRAIL TALES) Old Kent Bank was given a flag. The Society also donated a flag to Brighton City and to Genoa Township. (Brighton Township already has one.)

All proceeds from this project go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.

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

I'd be willing to do: _____

- Dues: \$25. Patron
- 25. Business/Professional
- 8. Couple
- 5. Individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Michigan
48116

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

We are reminded that early settlers of the area were, for the most part, mature people from the Eastern States. Many remembered when George Washington was elected president, and not a few had fought in the Revolutionary War. The War of 1812 was certainly raw in the memory of most of them. Early arrivals also included those who had come fresh from the "old country" where they had been ruled by monarchs who did not always have their subjects' welfare in mind. Famine and plagues prompted many to try their fortune in the New World.

While survival was an important factor in the decision to move to Michigan, freedom and liberty for themselves and their families had high priority ratings also. Electing public officials from among themselves they brooked no dictatorial behavior. Zoning laws, building codes, and ordinances relative to their property and/or business were nonexistent. (The number of laws is in direct relationship to the number of people in a community.)

A once a week trip to town was sufficient. (It's a lot of work to hitch up a horse and buggy; and there was little protection against the weather.) Hitching posts were provided, and since the ladies wore long skirts, merchants kept the floors in their establishments clean. The farmer's wife often brought produce, etc. in exchange for the items on her shopping list. Instead of pushing a cart and roaming long aisles with a variety to boggle the mind, milady sat on a stool and made her selections from items brought to her.

National booms and busts were felt by the settlers. Locally, the opening of the Grand River Plank Road from Detroit to Lansing brought increased prosperity for a time. The Civil War and postbellum depression were difficult times for all, even if no battles were fought on Michigan ground. The coming of the railroad in 1871 encouraged a short lived boom. The panic of 1893, the Spanish-American War, World War I, and the great depression of the 1930's all contributed to the lack of jobs in the area, affecting its economy and growth. Many young people had to move to urban areas to find employment.

Other than farming, local jobs were limited to store clerks; telephone and telegraph operators; workers on the railroad; carpenters, etc.; filling the ice house at Worden Lake; bean sorters (women); and working at the grain elevator. The area did produce many professional people and factory workers in the urban areas when industry recognized the people as good employees. (To be continued. Condensed and edited from: "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memorabilia" by William Pless.)

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P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Printed courtesy:
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300 W. North Street
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