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 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 bought 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, dismay 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.)

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

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300 W. North Street
Brighton, MI 48116

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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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 McDonald. 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 of 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.

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.

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 Rent-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.
25, 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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