EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

"It looks like rain today," the young man said to his father as he and his brother are driving the team pulling two wagons. They are on their way, returning the help given by their neighbor earlier in the week, to get the new cow hay into the barn before it gets wet and loses its nutritional value for the live stock. Extra wagons are brought so as to get the hay off the ground and into shelter should it rain.

"Don’t rush the horses. This is a long pull up Van Amberg Road. They shouldn’t be worn out before we get to the hay field."

Reaching the top of the hill they pass the small Lyons burial ground on the east side. This 8x10 rod plot had been set aside by Richard and Martha Lyons from the 160 acres in the SW¼ of Section 22 in Brighton Township purchased in 1835 from the U.S. government. A glance at the small cemetery reminds them the site of the Lyons School on Buno Road was given by the Lyons in 1842. The log school has since been replaced with a Greek Revival style building. (Still standing.) Daniel O. Van Amberg bought the property from the Lyons and then sold to Art Carpenter. This was later purchased by Helen Parker in 1919.

At the top of the next rise the long driveway east to the Parker’s house and barns comes into view. Before long all the menfolk are gathered in the hay field where the loose hay, cut two days before with a mower and then turned with a hay rake, is now cured sufficiently to be harvested. On the wagon bed is placed a rope and wood sling. The men vie with each other to pitch the largest fork full up on the wagon where one of them is hurrying to place the banches so the wagon is evenly and fully stacked. It takes a strong arm to pitch a fork full of hay high over one’s head when the wagon is nearly loaded.

At the barn the horses are driven through the large doors onto the wide plank floor of the haymow. High overhead, on a metal track running the complete length of the barn, is a haylifter with pulleys attached. Ropes fastened to a large two-pronged fork go through the pulleys. Another allows the men to move the car along the track. The hay fork is lowered to the hay on the wagon, pushed into the hay as deep as possible and a lever is tripped which forces two hooks into the hay at the points of the fork. A horse, hitched to another rope, raises the heavy fork of hay, it is pulled into position over the haymow, another rope retracts the hooks and the hay drops to be evenly distributed by the awaiting men in the hot mow. When the major portion of hay has been removed, the ends of the sling are brought together, attached to the hay car and similarly deposited in the mow.

In 1926, John Henry and Bertha Young purchased 120 acres from Parker. Ellen Jean Cooper and Lois Bird, children of the Youngs, began development of Pleasant View Hills Subdivision in 1964. The many comfortable homes built on the Lyons’ original purchase are proof that Richard Lyons knew a good piece of land when he saw it. His contributions to the community are being equalled by today’s residents. The people living there are still as industrious as the farmers of earlier days in Brighton Township. (For cooperation of Liv. County Register of Deeds office.)

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

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

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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 this purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

OFFICERS
Pres. Rody Hermann 229-7923
V.P. Bob Richmond 229-6268
Sec. Shelagh Klein 229-6671
Treas. Marianna Bair 229-6402

DIRECTORS
Bill Amrhein 227-7282
Chuck Beach 229-9678
Dick Davis 229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner 227-1148
Mel Skoman 229-6351
Editor Marianna Bair 229-6402

1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Patron: Roberta Estes, David & Charlene Kull, Fred & Bernice Hyne (Oscoda), Elsa Stegenga (Arizona)

Couple/Indy: David Apps, Wayne & Sally Baldwin (Grand Rapids), Dr. Hardee & Jean Bethke, Jim & Polly Bachman, Ted & Doris Carmack, Milton Charbonneau, Dale & Doris Claxby, Frances Clare, Michael Cuthbert ('89), Elmina Presser Ellis (Florida), Joe & Irene Ellis, John & Janice Sutton Field, David & Donna Gee, Eloise Gibson (Owosso), Margaret Goldstein, Bob & Betsy Herbert, Tim & Helen Hurst, Lois Hushner (Saginaw), Elena Navarre Knaus (Indianan), Ray & Jean Lanning (Flordia), Tom Longsworth, Nancy Lyons, Lecia Mason, Dorothy Masch, Susan Meyers & Jack Smith, Dominic & Dorothy Palachio, Rev. & Mrs. John Park (Unison Lake), Edwin Peach ('91), George Priestkorn, Lucille Priestkorn, Cliff & Shirley Ritter (Howell), Bob & Pauline Schaffer, Margaret Siford, Mel Skoman, Horace & Yvonne Taylor, Ray & Marge Wilcox

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EDITORIAL

Have you ever wondered why some members of the Society put in a lot of time and energy to keep it a viable organization?

Several reasons are obvious. They are convinced the Society is a worthwhile organization and important to the well being of the community in which they live. They are convinced the quality of life in this community is somehow dependent on them and the Society's goals. They have accepted the responsibility and plan to see it succeed.

They've decided to work for it and do it now. (Not "When I'm not so busy." Not "When I have more time." Not "When all the long time residents of the area are members.") They really believe it will work!

A less obvious reason might be they want a clear conscience. They will know that when 2038 rolls around they will have done what they could to leave a visible, tangible heritage to those who follow. (M. Bair, Ed.)

DATES
Mon., August 1, Finance Committee, 7 p.m.
Thurs., August 4, Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Mon., Aug. 8, 52nd Old Town Hall Committee, 7 p.m.
All at 202 W. Main St.
Sat., August 6, 10-4, Antiques and Collectibles, Chamber of Commerce parking lot.
Wed. Aug. 10 Lyons School Comm., 7:30
Sat., August 13, Booth/Summerfest, Main St.
THANKS...THANKS...THANKS...THANKS
Old Kent Bank for printing Trail Tales.
-POO for printing address labels.
-Trustee Corp for printing of brochures.
-Antique Sale donors and cookie bakers.
-Frances Clore, Nancy Hackney, Lyle & Joanne Herbst, Dr. Kim Walley, Tom Manning, Peakser Services, George Frieskorn and Lucille Frieskorn for donations to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.
-Haou Collo, Tom Longsworth, Mel Sheman, Pat & Marge White, and Mrs. O.C. Wilkinson for their donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration Fund.
-Bonnie Corrigan for her donation to the Lyons School Restoration Fund.
-Dick & Katie Christel for paying the helicopter ride to the raffle for the Old Town Hall Restoration Fund.
-Herb Warner for chairing the Lyons School Committee.
-Jerry Dilloway for his past service as chairman of that committee.
-Notary for their invitation to speak about the Society at a recent meeting.
-Nancy Hackney and Kay Spangler for their continued help with the quilts.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS
LyonS SCHOOL
The resignation of chairman, Jerry Dilloway, has been accepted with regret. Many thanks for his past efforts. The new chairman is Herb L. Warner with Bonnie Armstrong Corri- gian as assistant chairman. Ellen Goodchild Hill is continuing as secretary. The committee is preparing a brochure telling of the restoration plans and fund raising program for the one room school on Buno Road, to be sent to alumni and other interested persons. The preparation of the sketch for the Society's 1988 tile is proceeding. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 10, 7:30 at the school, 11455 Buno Road. You are invited.

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROJECTS
CHRON., DICK DAVIS, 229-8596

Third Annual Antique & Collectible Sale.
Saturday, August 6, at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 10-4 p.m. Last year's sale earned about $800. Your donations of antique furniture, art, paintings, kitchen gadgets, dishes, antiques, toys, puzzles, books, etc., will assure the sale reaching that goal again. Call Chuck Davis, 229-6567, telling them you're donating some things. Arrangements can be made for pick up if necessary. Tax deduction receipts for your donation will be given upon request.

If you make some nice big cookies, to sell individually, that would be a big help.

Signature Quilt. The recently received signatures are being embroidered on the fabric. August 20, we've been invited to display it at the Mellon Patches quilt show at the Rec Center in Howell. Call Marianna Boll, 229-6402, if you can sit for a few hours that day.

Don't delay sending in your signature. We want to complete this project soon. Send it with a $1.00 donation to the Society.

TILES '85 (Pere Marquette Depot), '86 (Curtis House) (Western House) are available at Jarvis Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store, Brighton Library and Trust- corp. A few tiles from these 6" ceramic tiles to go the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. Each year a different scene of early Bright area is portrayed. Limited edition, 600 available, desired, collectible for the future. These make fine gifts ($7.00) and you support the Society and its goals.

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1988 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1988

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

New ( ) Renewal ( )
Please send a copy of Society Bylaws ( )
To individuals 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
( ) Historian ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Publicity ( ) Other work

Dues: $25.00 Patron Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
25.00 Business/Professional P.O. Box 481
8.00 Corporate Brighton, MI. 48116
5.00 Individual
Third Annual Antique & Collectible Sale
Saturday, August 6, at the Chamber of Commerce
parking lot, 10-4 p.m. Last year's sale earned about $800. Your donations of antique furniture, appliances, kitchen gadgets, dishes, artifacts, toys, puzzles, books, etc., will assure the sale reaching that goal again, Call Charm Davis or Shelly Klein, 229-6541, telling them you're donating some things. Arrangements can be made for pick up if necessary. Tax deduction receipts for your donation will be given upon request.

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Treasurer's Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL NET WORTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
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DISBURSEMENTS

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<th>Old Town Hall: Bell Tower, 7; 60.23</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lyon School Utilities 13.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 2635.00 2842.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8-30-86 TOTAL NET WORTH $33086.98

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

Come and help paint the bell tower prior to its ride to the Old Town Hall roof this month. Local media will give the exact date or call Shelly Klein, 229-6571 for more information.

1988 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1988

NAME  PHONE

ADDRESS

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

- Base Sale ( ) Help with spec. events ( ) Newsletter Publication ( ) Research
- Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoration
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5.00 Individual
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Grand River Trail
TRAIL TALES
Brighton Area Preservation News
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[Membership cont.] Response to the renewal invitation has been good. Many thanks to all. There are still some folks who haven't renewed. We surely do need your support, both financially and in person. The Society's goals are good for the community, without you there is no Society. Without your encouragement the board begins to feel as tho' it's spinning its wheels.

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12/2/99