



Grand River Trail

TRAIL TALES

Brighton Area Preservation News

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.

P.O. Box 481
Vol. VII, No. 8

Brighton, Mi. 48116
August, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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Treas.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

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Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

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.)

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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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DATES

- Mon., August 1, Finance Committee, 7 p.m.
- Thurs, August 4, Board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Mon., August 8 & 22, Old Town Hall Committee, 7 p.m. All at 202 W. Main St.
- Sat., August 6, 10-4, Antiques and Collectibles Sale, Chamber/Commerce parking lot.
- Wed. Aug. 10 Lyons School Comm, 7:30
- Sat., August 13, Booth/Summerfest, Main St.

1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

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

Couple/Indiv: David Apps, Wayne & Sally Baldwin (Grand Rapids), Dr. Hardee & Jean Bethea, Jim & Polly Buchanan, Ted & Doris Carmack, Milton Charboneau, Dale & Doris Clixby, Frances Clore, Michael Cuthbert ('89), Elmina Prosser Ellis (Florida), Joe & Irene Ellis, John & Janice Sutton Field, David & Donna Gee, Elouise Gibson (Okemos), Margaret Goldstein, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Tim & Helen Hurst, Lois Huschke (Saginaw), Elenor Navarre Knaus (Indiana), Ray & Jean Lanning (Florida), Tom Longworth, Nancy Lyons, Leota Mason, Dorothy Musch, Susan Meyers & Jack Smith, Dominic & Dorothy Palarchio, Rev. & Mrs. John Park (Union Lake), Edna Peach ('91), George Prieskorn, Lucille Prieskorn, Cliff & Shirley Ritter (Howell), Bob & Pauline Schaffer, Margaret Siford, Mel Skeman, Horace & Yvonne Taylor, Ray & Marge Wilcox. Next column please.

THANKS.....THANKS.....THANKS.....THANKS
 ...Old Kent Bank for printing Trail Tales.
 ...PDQ for printing address labels.
 ...Trustcorp for printing of brochures.
 ...Antique Sale donors and cookie bakers.
 ...Frances Clore, Nancy Hackney, Lyle & Ila Herbst, Dr. Kim Kinsley, Tom Manning, Peaker Services, George Prieskorn and Lucille Prieskorn for donations to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.
 ...Hazel Cole, Tom Longworth, Mel Skeman, 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 Chrysler for donating 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.
 ...Rotary for their invitation to speak about the Society at a recent meeting.
 ...Nancy Hackney and Kay Spangler for their continued help with the quilts.

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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 Corrigan 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.

OLD TOWN HALL

Raffle tickets (\$10 for 10) for the mid October helicopter ride, donated by the Richard Chryslers, are available at Uber's, the Chamber of Commerce and the Library.

Plans for the Nov. 5 Dinner-dance at Lakeland Country Club are in the final stages. This will be a fun fundraiser for the restoration of the Old town hall. Tickets will be \$25. An enjoyable way to contribute to the cause. Ronnie St. Charles will provide dancing music. >

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

we need...
 ...donations for purchase of fabric for nine-patch quilt.
 ...cookie bakers for Summerfest booth, August 13.
 ...you to set aside November 5, for the dinner dance for the Old Town Hall Fund.
 ...you to get your helicopter ride raffle tickets.
 ...donations for Antique/Collectible Sale, August 6, and then come buy one.
 ...Lyons School insurance bill donations.
 ...officers' bonding bill donations.
 ...signatures for Signature Quilt.

See page 3 for more information on above activities. Contact a board member if you can help.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

6-1-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$35622.26	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$ 80.00		
Hist. Pres. & Rest.			
Fund Raising:			
Bake sale, 20.;			
Sig. Quilt, 20.;			
Tiles, 21.;			
Other, 5.	66.00		
Misc.	7.51		
Interest	<u>154.08</u>		
		<u>307.59</u>	
			\$35929.85

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm.: Memorial, 30.;			
Officers, 10.;	Trail		
Tales, 84.50		124.50	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.			
Fund Raising: Home			
Tour, 7.06; nine			
patch quilt, 13.17;			
Tiles, 50.		70.23	
Lyons School:			
Utilities		13.14	
Old Town Hall: Bell			
Tower, 1585.; Ext.			
painting, 1050.	<u>2635.00</u>		<u>2842.87</u>

6-30-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$33086.98	
"	Sav. bal.	32739.30	
"	Chk. bal.	<u>347.68</u>	<u>\$33086.98</u>
M. Bair, Treas.	(For a more detailed report please contact the Treasurer.)		

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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 Shelagh Klein, 229-6571 for more information.

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Third Annual Antique & Collectible Sale, Saturday, August 6, at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 10-4p.m. Last year's sale earned about \$800. your donations of antique furniture, appliances, linens, kitchen gadgets, dishware, artifacts, toys, puzzles, books, etc., will assure the sale reaching that goal again. Call Chrmn. Davis or Shelagh Klein, 229-6571, telling them you're donating some things. Arrangements can be made for pick up if necessary. Tax deductible 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 Melon Patchers quilt show at the Rec Center in Howell. Call Marieanna Bair, 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 \$10. donation to the Society.

Tiles. '85 (Pere Marquette Depot), '86 (Union School) '87 Western House) are available at Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drug Store, Brighton Library and Trust-corp. All proceeds from these 6" ceramic tiles to go the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. Each year a different scene of early Brighton area is portrayed. Limited editions of 300 assure a desired collectible for the future. These make fine gifts (\$7.) and you support the Society and its goals.

Post Card Project. Two different sorts of early area scenes are packed in a set of six card each for \$3. A short description is on the back of each. There's nothing else like them available. Mary Richmond has them at Ubers, Brighton Library, Chamber of Commerce, Poor Richard's and Jarvis'. Other locations are being surveyed. Only 300 sets of each were made. These would make a nice inexpensive gift to send a former Brightonite.

The Nine Patch quilt is underway. The strips have been stitched together and the nine patches are being formed. We'll be setting a date for tying this quilt before long. Then it'll be quilt raffle ticket time.

The Trash & Treasures Sale will be October 29, at the Farmers' Market. Things that won't go into the Antique & Collectible Sale will surely sell here. No clothing or large items please. When you clean your basement, attic, garage, etc., set aside the things the Society can use. Had a garage sale? Save the leftovers for the Society.

All proceeds from these projects are placed in the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. Thank you for your support.

Your help is needed on the Finance Committee. Call Chairman, Dick Davis.

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WITH OTHER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Michigan Archival Association's 30th Annual Conference-"Facing the Future" will be held at the Detroit Public Library, Fri., October 28 AND the Annual Michigan Oral History Conference will be in Grand Rapids, Nov. 22. Contact Mike Smith, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State Univ., Detroit 48202 - (313) 577-4024 for both above.

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: \$25.00 Patron	Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
25.00 Business/Professional	P.O. Box 481
8.00 Couple	Brighton, Mi. 48116
5.00 Individual	

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 mown 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 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 bunches 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 car on rollers 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 deeply 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 sweating 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. (Thanks for cooperation of Liv. County Register of Deeds office.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481

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Printed courtesy:

OLD KENT BANK

300 W. North Street

Brighton, Mi. 48116