



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  
Vol. VII, No. 2

Brighton, Mi. 48116  
February, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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Sec.	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
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Dick Davis	229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner	227-1148
Mel Skeman	229-6351
Editor Marieanna Bair	229-6402

RECAP OF JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Memories of growing up in the Brighton area as recounted by Tom Leith brought smiles of recognition from many who attended. Tom also brought memorabilia of the Brighton Ice business and pictures. These were supplemented by Marian Comiskey's collection of Brighton postcards. Much discussion was prompted by these recollections.

The next General Meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 pot luck; business meeting 7:30, at the Lindbom Elementary School, 1010 State St. at the west end of the building. Public is invited. Five General Meetings are held each year. A host to make coffee, hand out name tags, etc., is needed. Call Pres. Rudy to help.

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

The following have paid dues since the last issue:

Patrons: David Barton, Burton Davis, Lillian Davis, Richard Davis, Val & Kathy Jacoby and Paul & Kay Spangler.

(cont.)

EDITORIAL

If this Society is to do the job for which it was organized a lot of people are needed who will volunteer for various activities and projects.

All board members and committee chairpersons are busy people (just like you) but somehow make the extra effort necessary to keep this thing going. (They get off their posteriors.) Try to say "Yes" when they call. (Better yet, you call them.) (M. Bair, Editor.)

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(Memberships, Cont.)

Bus/Prof.: Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Citizens Trust, Old Kent Bank and Dr. & Mrs. G. E. Whalen.

Couple/Indiv.: Paul & Alene Anderson, Bert & Marieanna Bair, Erwin & Dorothy Bandkau, Richard & Elaine Blight, Rae Carmack of California, Charles & Doris Case of Florida, Ula Davis, Homer & Evelyn Dothager of Illinois, Tim & Kay Flynn, Ken & Zara Graham, Mildred Harrington, Mary Hubert, Don & Shirley Jenks, Genevieve Kampp, Don & Carolyn Kerr, Shelagh Klein, John & Mari Lynn Korte, Mary Layton, Don & Pat Lueker, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, Herb Munzel, John & Dorothy Pennala, Celia Schafer, Elbert Seger of Arizona, A.J. & Helen Southwell, Franc Stokes and Jerry & Gwen Swann of Florida, Anna Westin and Virginia Zureki.

Many thanks to those who have paid '88 dues. Trail Tales is distributed to a broad audience beyond our paid membership, including those assumed to be interested in the Society's goals and projects. Their concern will prompt them to unite with the paid members and helping when possible.

The date after your name on the mailing label indicates your membership status. If there is no date it means someone else is footing the bill.

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

...Joe & Irene Mike for their donation to restoration of the Old Town Hall.

...Val & Kathy Jacoby for their donation to restoration of the Lyons School; a memorial to Jennie & Jerry Jacoby.

...Burton & Lillian Davis and Home & Evelyn dothager (of Illinois) for their donations to the Historic Preservation & Rest. Fund.

...E. Stegenga for her donation of several pictures of early Brighton; a Brighton Centennial book, picture album and special issue of the Brighton Argus; a Victory Homecoming book, a 1961 Homecoming book and a 1970 Sunday News story of the death of Anna Dodge.

...those who responded to the Volunteer Survey form. (each membership form also gives you opportunity to volunteer.)

...PDQ Printing for copying of labels for Trail Tales.

...Membership Chairman Audrey Leith (and hubby, Tom) for her fine work.

...Tom Leith for the program he presented at the January General Meeting.

...Old Kent Bank for the printing of this issue of Trail Tales.

Brighton Area Schools for use of the room for General Meetings.

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OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION

The committee is researching the proper paint colors for the building. To assure sufficient funds for completion, contributions are continually necessary. Donation incentives are: a mug for \$25., a tote bag for \$50., a set of leather coasters for \$75., and a pewter dish for \$100. These can be seen at the Library. The names of \$100. + donors will be included on a permanent plaque.

This committee needs a few more members. On the 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7 p.m., meetings are held. Call Pres. Rudy.

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LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION

The Brighton High School Building Trades Class is constructing the new windows, in the original style, to be placed in the school.

The committee is making plans for a fund raising project. More details as they get worked out. This group will next meet Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7:30. Call Chairman Jerry Dilloway, 227-2678, for location.

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

we need....

...a host for General Meetings.

...a Chairman for the Nine Patch Quilt proj.

...more people on the Old Town Hall Restoration Committee (2nd & 4th Mon., 7 p.m.)

...more people on the Finance Committee. (1st Monday, 7 p.m.)

...spaghetti eaters.

...Spaghetti Supper helpers.

...House tour people.

...donations to the Old Town Hall or Lyons School restoration projects.

... donations to the Lyons School insurance buill and fuel bill.

Contact a board member if you can help with any of the above.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

12-1-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$25612.77

RECEIPTS

Dues: 194.00

Fund Raising: Signature Quilt, 10.;

Sept. Raffle, 11.;

Xmas Raffle, 279. 300.00

Hist. Pres. & Rest.

Lyons School: Bell donation, 75.;

Insur. dona, 100.;

Fuel dona, 50.

Old town Hall: Bene-

fit dinner ref., 27.06;

Donation, 25. 277.06

Undesignated 15.00

Interest 103.85

889.91

\$26502.68

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm: Memorial, 25.;

Postage 43.20 68.20

Officers: 4.40

Fund Raising: 1987

Tile artist, 58.79;

Nine Patch quilt

material, 43.66 102.45

Hist. Pres. & Rest.

Lyons School: Fur-

nance rep., 148.58

Utilities, 1.33

Old Town Hall: 4. 153.91

328.96

12-31-87 TOTAL NET WORTH \$26173.72

" Sav. Acct. Bal. 23987.75

" Chk. " " 2185.97 \$26173.72

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

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The 6th Annual Spaghetti Supper will be Friday, February 19, 5-7 p.m., at the Brighton Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River. (Parking and entrance in rear.) Adults \$4., Children under 12 \$2. All you can eat. Cindy Ritz will be providing music again. Anyone else to help with entertainment?

This is an annual fund raiser for the projects underway. Be sure to come and bring a friend. Call Dick if you can help for an hour.

The 1987 Tiles, Western House, are available from Jarvis' Men's Store, Uber's Drugs, Poor Richard's Book Store, Brighton Public Library, Citizen's Trust and Chamber of Commerce.

Some 1985 (Pere Marquette Depot) and 1986 (Union School) tiles are still available. All are issued in limited editions of 300.

The Signature Quilt project is going well. Kay Spangler transfers the signature to the material and Mary Pat Layton has begun the embroidery. We need more embroiderers; please, Mary can't do it all. We have room for about 260 more signatures. At \$10. each, you, your family, a neighbor, etc., can be immortalized (?) on this quilt which will be a part of Brighton's history. How can you resist? The signatures should be about 1" tall.

The Nine Patch Quilt is waiting for someone to love it. This will be raffled. Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, if you're willing to help on either of these projects.

Two Michigan Sesquicentennial Flags remain. This keepsake of Michigan history can be yours for a \$25. donation.

The Antique Sale in August and the Trash and Treasures Sale in October are annual fund raising events. Begin now to consider what you'd like to donate. Call if you need a place to store your items.

The Christmas Raffle sled was won by a delighted Eleanor Linsenmeyer, the wreath by Phil Walsh and the candy cane by Joanne Bellmard. (All local people.) Congratulations and thanks to all who participated.

The Post Card project has a chairman, Mary Richmond. When she calls on you for help, don't let her down. Pictures of early Brighton Area sites and people will be featured. These can be framed or used for messages for your friends. They'll be delighted.

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GROUP TOUR PLANNED

The Plymouth Historical Museum is a fascinating place to visit. A group is planning a tour, Sunday, March 13, noon to 4 p.m.; \$1. Call Bill Amrhein, 227-7282, if you'd like to join the group or ride along. Any of our readers may join the tour.

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"REAP THE WHIRLWIND"

Bernice Chappel, local historical writer, has done it again. Her new book is ready. A documentary novel of life in the Michigan Territory, 1795-1866. Great Lakes Books, P.O. Box 164, Bri. Prepaid - \$10.95.

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. Bus/Prof.	P.O. Box 481
8. Couple	Brighton, Mi. 48116
5. Individual	

## EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISIONS

It's a sunny, Sunday afternoon in 1875, and we're going to visit the W.T. Tunis family who live about 2½ miles NE of town on the north line of Section 28 in Brighton Township. The sleigh in which we're riding east out of Upper Town of Brighton Village, takes Noble Street for two blocks then continues on Spencer Road past the Lee Addition, past Mud Lake. Driving E/NE 1½ miles brings us near the NW corner of the property. If we continued north another ¼ mile our trail would connect with the Flint Road. (This road came out of the village's northern end and, skirting marshes and steep hills, connected with the road known as Hilton before continuing north.) Instead we turn a short way down a road coming from the east (Buno Road) where Grandpa Tunis' house is located. We are warmly greeted and the horse put in the barn. The wood stove is glowing and the hot cup of coffee encourages Jack Frost to leave our fingers and toes.

Much of the area through which we've come is low and wet during the summer. We have crossed a stream which drains swamps for 8-10 miles north, continuing its flow in a SE direction through Tunis' acres. (This stream is dammed just inside the southern border of the township and provided power for the Woodruff Mills and the Pleasant Valley Mills.) Wm. Tunis built a home for his family shortly after arriving in Michigan Territory from New York City in 1835, and buying his land from the U.S. government.

By the time we take our leave it is getting dark. The bells on the horse's harness warn other sleighs in the intense dark and equally intense silence of the night. Few of us today will ever know such an intense dark or quiet. In 1892, his descendents sold to James Hamilton who then sold to Frank Foland in 1907, a farmer from New York state born of "Mohawk Dutch" in Pennsylvania. Frank died in 1948 and his widow, Mary sold the remaining land to Alvin Thompson the following year.

The advent of the auto and increased speed created the necessity for removing the sharp right angle turns which, in 1875, could be easily navigated. The road we know as Old 23 was constructed in the 1930s, bypassing the village through which the road to Flint once ran. Prior to that time the road between Ann Arbor and Flint, as most major roads, followed a circuitous trail; sometimes straight, along settlers' property lines, and sometimes following the path of least resistance when confronted with steep hills or wet area. In the early 1960s another improvement came off the drawing boards and the new 23 expressway was built through the west half of what had been the Tunis farm and blocking Buno Road's intersection with Old 23.

All of this road building made it possible for new settlers. The resulting demand for homes brought on a building boom. Contractor Wm. C. Long answered some of that demand by constructing Colonial Village Subdivision in the mid to late 1960s. During the next few years a crop of homes grew on the acres which had been laboriously cleared in order to grow farm crops and a garden. Today that crop of homes brings forth people who care as much about their community and work as hard as their predecessors. (From the Liv. Co. Register of Deeds office and with the help of Mae Foland Schmadtke.)

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