



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. 7

Brighton, Mi. 48116
July, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

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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

Many changes are taking place in the topography of the Brighton area.

Some changes are innovative in the use of existing buildings. Some seem determined to make the area look like another plastic, uninspiring suburb of which there are already too many. Part of the historical character of the area, which is part and parcel of its charm and a reason for its appeal to many, is being destroyed.

Which of the recent constructions are being built to last 100 years? How can a sense of stability be created under such a temporary atmosphere? Will our children be able to point out "That's where I went to school" (or shopped or worked or played)? Can the collective good equal the collective bad which accompanies these changes?

Without any kind of watchdog, such as an historic commission in each of the various townships and the city it won't be long and we'll be as innocuous and forgettable as any other area which has forgotten its past. Historic preservation, guided by a Historic Commission, can be of benefit to residential and commercial owners alike. (M. Bair, Ed.)

[The Editor is taking a leave of absence for two years at the end of 1988. Trail Tales has become a vital communication vehicle to the Society. Someone or several someones will be needed. Contact the editor or a Board Member if you are interested in helping.]

1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Couple/Indiv: Jeannette Bailey, Wally & Marilyn Jollitz.

Dues are the sole income for administration expenses of the Society. All donations (and any left over from administration expenses) are placed in the Historic Preservation and Restoration fund.

Renewals are a demonstration of support of the Society's goals and purposes. A very important aspect of renewals is the moral support given the board and committee members.

The Membership Chairman will be reviewing the list and sending reminder notes soon. A lot of postage (administration expense) can be saved if you check the label on this issue of Trail Tales for the year for which dues have been paid. Renew soon if there is no '88' on the label. Almost 2/3 of the membership have renewed for 1988. That kind of support is encouraging.

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

...Helen (Herbst) Rau for her donation of a graduation picture of the Brighton High School class of 1897, and pictures and memorabilia of the 41st, 44th and 50th anniversary of that class. She also included several original issues of early local newspapers. ...Old Kent Bank for printing Trail Tales. ...PDQ for printing of labels. ...Chamber of Commerce for its support. ...Ethel Gebben and Elenor Tabb for their continued help with folding, labeling and sorting Trail Tales for distribution. ...Nancy Hackney for her help with the 9 patch quilt.

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PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

This committee meets the 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 PM; Jerry Dilloway, Chrmn. 227-2678. Repairs, etc. will be made to get the school ready for winter. Support will be given the Society's Antique Sale and Trash & Treasures Sale this summer and fall.

Elizabeth Bindenagel of S.D. and Lois Clark of Midland, descendants of Richard Lyons, donor of the land for the school in 1842, visited the Brighton area recently. The school was toured and a mutual interest in local history was shared.

OLD TOWN HALL

Construction has begun on the bell tower for the Hall. An opportunity to help paint the tower before it's placed in position will be announced to the public. It sounds great to be able to say "I helped paint the tower."

The Dinner/Dance, November 5, at Lakelands Country Club will feature Ronnie St. Charles and band. This promises to be a fun fund raiser. Note the date on your calendar. This committee meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, 7 PM, at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Call 229-8356 or 229-6571 for more information.

August 1, tickets will be available for a helicopter ride raffle fund raiser for the continuation of restoration work. The ride is donated by Honorary Chairmen Dick and Katie Chrysler. An hour ride will be taken in mid October, color season time. The drawing will be September 20, at the General Meeting. Three winners will be selected and each can take a guest. The donation is \$10. for 10 tickets.

Donors to the Old Town Hall Restoration Fund will receive a gift from the committee: \$25. will get a mug; \$50. will get a tote

HELP.....HELP.....HELP.....HELP..... we need...

...donated items for the antique sale August 6. See article page 3. ...homebaked cookies for the Antique Sale and for the Society's booth at the Fair, August 13, See article page 3. ...Independence Day Parade participant in the Society's entry to push, pull, ride or carry an implement which might have been used in the early days. Don't forget the hot dog roast at Lerner's, 623 W. Main, for Society members after the parade. Call Rae Lynne Lerner, 227-1148 or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, so we know how many hot dogs, etc. to buy. ...Trail Tales Editor by January 1, 1989, or before. See article page 1. ...Board nominees for 1989.

Contact a board member if you can help.

TREASURER'S REPORT

5-1-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$34183.29
RECEIPTS		
Dues		\$94.00
Hist. Pres & Rest.		
Bake Sale	126.50	
House tour	945.00	
Signat. Qlt.	217.00	
Lyons School	25.00	
Old Town Hall	25.00	
Donations	30.00	
Interest	<u>145.41</u>	
		<u>1553.91</u>
		<u>1647.91</u>
		\$35831.20

DISBURSEMENTS

Adm. 7.65; Trail Tales		
postage 42.50	50.15	
Hist. Pres. & Rest.:		
House tour	148.41	
Lyons School	<u>10.38</u>	<u>158.79</u>
		<u>208.94</u>
5-31-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$35622.26
"	Sav. Acct.	32449.49
"	Chk. Acct.	<u>1733.80</u>
		<u>\$35622.26</u>

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

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bag; \$75. a set of leather coasters; \$100. a pewter dish. The names of \$100+ donors will be included on a permanent plaque in the Hall.

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The Finance Committee hopes you will consider using the enclosed donation form and make a contribution.

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Antique and Collectibles Sale, Saturday, August 6, at the chamber of Commerce parking lot. Donations of antique furniture, appliances, linens, kitchen gadgets, dishware, artifacts, toys, puzzles, old books, etc., will be most welcome. Call Chrmn, Davis or Shelagh Klein, 229-6571, with your donated items. Arrangements for pick up can be made if necessary. With your cooperation this will again be a worthwhile fundraiser for the Society's historic restoration projects.

The Society has developed a fan club for our homebaked goods, especially chocolate chip, rasin, molasses, peanut butter and oat-meal cookies. These will be sold individually. Won't you make a few batches of nice big ones, 3"-4", and store in your freezer 'til then?

The Nine Patch quilt fabric has someone to cut it into strips - Nancy Hackney. Can someone give her a hand? Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

The postcards of pictures of early Brighton are being printed. Chairman, Mary Richmond, 229-6268, can use help with packaging. Mary will also handle distribution of the cards. They will be available at \$3. for a set of 6.

Signature Quilt donations for 57 signatures have been received. The funds all go to the historic preservation projects. Have your (or a relative's) name recorded for posterity. There will not be a drawing for the quilt. It will be kept by the Society. A donation of \$10. and a signature can be sent to the Society, P.O. Box 481, Brighton.

The Livingston County Historical Society has prepared a book of historical walking tours of Howell. The Brighton Area has similar historical sites about which a tour publication

The Trash & Treasures Sale, October 29, at the Farmers' Market will be the place to donate your garage sale leftovers and other usable items that are taking up storage space at your place. No large items or clothing please.

The Wrapping Paper project needs some help...someone to make inquiries, locally, to get maps enlarged to 20" square.

Call Chrmn. Davis with ??? or to help.

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WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY - The Gage Museum, 6440 Kensington Road, (south of Grand River) is open Saturdays and Sundays during the summer 1-4 PM.

The LIVINGSTON COUNTY EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF AMERICA will have a needlework exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce, 131 Hyne St., August 13, 14.

FRIENDS OF THE CAPITOL, INC., is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about the historic and architectural values of the Michigan Capitol Building and promoting preservation of the unique qualities of the state house through appropriate restoration efforts. A quarterly publication describes the progress of restoration. Write Friends of the Capitol, Inc., P.O. Box 16067, Lansing 48901.

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could be modeled. One needn't be an 'old timer' to put together something comparable. Research can be done and some 'old timers' are still around.

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. Business/Professional P.O. Box 481
 8. Couple Brighton, Mi. 48116
 5. Individual

EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

Early morning July 4, 1876, finds the neighbors of Lewis Dorr driving past the substantial acreage he owned on the east side of Crooked Lake in Section 22, Genoa Township.

"Papa, I remember Grandpa telling me he knew Herr Dorr already when they lived in Germany." "Ya, many of our friends who have settled in Genoa came, as we did, from the Hessen-Darmstadt locale in the old country." (Many of these early German immigrants who came to the U.S. between 1828-45 were middle class tradesmen, shopkeepers and artisans.)

"Herr Dorr's grandson keeps telling me the first frame house in the township was built by his Opa. Is that right?" "Ya, Lewis was an expert carpenter and joiner. He also was selected to build our church on the land old Richard Behrens donated to the German Society (Evangelical Lutheran St. George's Congregation, Genoa, Michigan) back in '49. Before then the church services and confirmations were held in homes and Dorr's barn at the tavern and store he had on the Grand River Road near your school."

"Papa, let's hurry to get to Brighton in time for the celebration and picnic. The sun is hot here in the surry even with the top on." "Be patient, the horses need a holiday too. We'll be on time for the games and fireworks."

In 1930, a developer by the name of Herndon purchased the old Dorr property intending to develop a golf course. This didn't pan out. Within two years about 100 acres of the land Dorr owned on Crooked lake was purchased by L. Harold Crandall. The Crandalls built a log cabin on the lake patterned after one promoted by Michigan State University. Thousands of pine trees were planted on the rolling, sandy hills. Following the untimely death of Mrs. Crandall, he decided to develop lots for summer cottages - Crandall's Crooked Lake Heights.

Since then, 1945-46, many beautiful homes, with families enjoying the benefits of rural living and access to a large lake also, are testament to Crandall's love of the area and to the hard working initiative of Lewis Dorr and his neighbors. (Compiled and edited from "1880 History of Livingston County", "Michigan Memorabilia" by Wm. Pless, Livingston County Register of Deeds Office and conversation with Mary (Crandall) Griffith.)

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