

P.O. Box 481 Vol. VII, No. 6 Brighton, Mi. 48116 June, 1988

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.

### BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
V.P.	Bcb Richmond	229-6268
Sec.	Shelagh Klein	229-6571
Treas.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
	DIRECTORS	
Bill Amrhein		227-7282
Chuck Beach		229-9678
Dick Davis		229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Mel Skeman		229-6351
Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

## RECAP MAY 10, GENERAL MEETING

Did you ever fall asleep in the grainbin of a feed store? As a child, born of early settlers in the area, Mary Mathias told of this event and other episodes of growing up in Brighton. An active and inquisitive youngster of the early 1900s, Mary's terrific memory took us back to a less hectic and chaotic time. Thank you Mary, for your captivating recital.

Tuesday, September 20, is the date for the next General Meeting. A pot luck at 6:30 will begin the evening, a short business meeting at 7:30 will be followed by another narration by a Brightonite. Who will it be? Let us know if you would like to take your turn or have someone in mind you'd like to hear. Public invited.

### DATES

Finance Comm: June 6, 7 PM.
Old Town Hall Rest. Comm: June 7,21, 7 PM
Board Meeting: June 9, 7 PM
Above - at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main.
Lyons School Comm: June 22, 7PM at Lyons
School, 11455 Buno Rd.

### ELITORIAL

Many members of the Society are people who have lived in the area for many years. There is also a large number who are more recent arrivals. The Society does not differentiate between old timers and newcomers. All have a great deal to contribute; all have the same needs and all have a desire to support the Society in its efforts to fulfill its purpose as stated in the masthead.

We feel this support is based on a deep seated awareness of the sacrifices made by one's predecessors (wether in this area or elsewhere) and a need to gain a sense of permanence and stability that comes with the knowledge of the history of the area.

This sense of permanence and stability can be conveyed to those who follow (no matter where they live) only if the unique historical character of the area is accessible. (Editor: M. Bair)

1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

<u>Patron</u>: Robert Clark, Norman & Mary Beth Guest (Lewiston).

Couple/Indiv.: Bob & Marie Carr, Larry & Jean Clark (Milford), Dorothy Roberts Foster (California), Harry & Mary Griffiths Kathryn Hodgin, Elenor Hornung (Howell), Bruce & Janet Owens, Mary Pearsall.

Sincere thanks to all who have paid 1988 dues. The label on this issue of Trail Tales notes the year for which dues are paid. (If there is no date but you wish to continue receiving the newsletter and demonstrate support for the Society and its goals, please consider some form of membership.)

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THANKS....THANKS....THANKS HOME TOUR CONNECTED:

Home owners: Marty & Rae-Lynne Lerner, Mike & Cathy Qualls, Larry & Rita Schillinger and Jim & Penny Szczechowski.

<u>Churches</u>: First Presbyterian, St. Paul's Episcopal and St. George Lutheran.

Tour Chairman: (superb) Rae-Lynne Lerner.
Ticket printers: Citizens Insurance Co.
Guides Chairmen: Ethel Gebben and Ial
Fuller.

<u>Guides</u>: A lot of people who did an outstanding job!

Lumber for signs: Pine Lumber.

<u>Sign Painter</u>: Ruth Dolman. <u>Publicity</u>: Marketeer, Brighton Argus, Station WHMI.

<u>Displaying fliers</u>: Many local merchants. <u>Flowers</u>: Country Lane, Bloomers, Clores and Four Seasons.

<u>Pried arrangements</u>: Rita Altenberg.

<u>Pre tour tickets</u>: Uber's Drugs, Somewhere
in Time, Brighton Chamber of Commerce
and Brighton Public Library.

Organizing the lunch at St. George: Connie Zaske.

Runners and 'gofors': Joe & Irene Mike. Everyone who came and supported all the efforts of this fund raiser.

Old Kent Bank for the printing of Trail Tales. Chamber of Commerce for their support.

Katherine Hodgin and Celia Schaffer for their contribution to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.

Quester Plank Road Chapter #236 for their contribution to the Lyons School and Old Town Hall Restoration Funds.

Bake Sale Chair, Jane Tomlinson and clerk for the day, Shelagh Klein.

RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION PROJECTS

## LYONS SCHOOL

Interested in the preservation of one of the last one room schools in the state? This committee will meet Wednesday, June 22, 7 p.m. at the school, 11455 Buno Road in Brighton Township. Call Chrmn. Jerry Dilloway, 227-2678 for more information.

### OLD TOWN HALL

Painting trim and windows began May 24th. The dinner/dance benefit will be November 5. Plans are proceeding with a raffle; a helicopter ride. Winner will be selected at the September General Meeting. When the date is set for the installation of the bell tower, members will be invited to help apply a paint brush to the tower. Then you can tell your kids how you helped.

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

...parade participants looking for a good time.

...people to call committee chairmen, willing to help.

...more names for the Signature Quilt.

... Antique & Collectibles Sale and Trash & Treasures Sale donations.

... someone to cut the fabric for the nine-patch quilt.

Contact a board member if you can help.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

4-1-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$33611.13

RECEIPTS

Dues 226.00

Hist. Pres. & Rest.: Old Town Hall 200. Lyons School 30.

Donations 60. 290.00

Misc. & Interest 161.83 677.83 \$34288.96

### DISBURSEMENTS

Adm. 58.70 Hist. Pres. & Rest.:

Old Town Hall 16.10 Lyons School 14.87

Fund Raising 16.00 46.97 105.67

4-30-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$34183.29

" Sav. Acct. Bal. 32449.49

Chk. " " 1733.80

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

SOCIETY'S ENTRY IN JULY 4 PARADE

Members, dressed in vintage clothing, pushing, pulling, riding or carrying an early implement of farming, housekeeping, gardening, etc., are urged to join in our entry in Brighton's annual parade.

Propel or ride a bicycle, wheelbarrow, wagon, cultivator or planter. Carry a milk bucket and stool, kerosene lamp, lunch bucket, buck saw, churn, or blacksmithing or carpenter tools. Jog your creative juices. Include the kids too.

Call Rae-Lynne Lerner, 227-1148 or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, if you're coming.

Following the parade the Society will be hosting a hotdog roast at the Lerners, 623 W Main for parade participants in the Society's entry. (Not a member yet? Join up and join us in the parade.) We had a lot of fun with the home tour; this will be fun too.

Bake Sale - The sun was shinning and members brought donations to the bake sale all morning, May 21. Several were thoughtful and listed ingredients. A number of members, undable to donate a baked item, sent in cash donations. Many thanks to all. The next sale will be October 29.

Signature Quilt - There's still room for your signature. This quilt will be kept by the Society as a type of directory of those who cared about the Society and supported its objectives. A donation of \$10. will assure inclusion of your signature on this unique record.

Several signatures of deceased persons who were local residents have been received. These memorial signatures will be identified in a special manner.

Post Card Project - the cards are at the printer. Call Chairman, Mary Richmond, 229-6268 and offer your help with sorting and packaging.

The Nine Patch Quilt needs someone to cut the fabric into strips. Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, if you can help.

The Antique and Collectibles Sale - Saturday, August 6, at the Chamber of commerce parking lot. Call Chrmn. Davis or Shelagh Klein, 229-6571, with your donated items. They will make arrangements for pick up if necessary. Be thinking now what you'd like to donate.

It has become a custom of this sale to have HOME BAKED cookies (oatmeal, molasses, peanut butter [most popular] and chocolate chip) to sell by the piece. Cookies and lemonade are a good fund raiser. The next

8. Couple

5. Individual

The Trash & Treasures Sale, October 29, at the Farmers' market. Your garage sale leftovers can be donated. No large items or clothing please.

Is the Wrapping Paper Project going to stall? A means of enlarging early township maps to 20" sq. is needed. Any ideas?

Call Chrmn. Davis if you have questions. +

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' ACTIVITIES

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Livingston County Area Chapter, Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc. Your interest in embroidery and quilting will get a real boost from this organization. Lessons, demos, shows. Barb Bates 227-6941.

Blue Water Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society - a trip to Cincinnati (celebrating its bicentennial) July 15-17. Also June 4 trips to Flint and Saginaw. Tickets or info: Bluewater Michigan Chapter, P.O. Box 296, Royal Oak, 48068 or call (313) 272-5848, 264-4418 or 229-7963 between 1:30 - 8:30.

The Historical Society of Michigan is planning a 'Colonial South' cruise November 4-12. The Cruise Society of Bloomfield Hills, 1-800-543-SHIP, will send more complete info. Barbara McGrew is making arrangements.

In the past several months the Society has lost several members. Condolences are extended to the families of the following: Elenor Linsenmeyer, Max Musch, Dorothy Park, Don Reetz and Gertrude Wahl. Their previous participation is much appreciated.

They are missed.		
1988 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL	SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 1988	
NAME	PHONE	
ADDRESS		
New ( ) Renewal ( ) Please send a copy of Activities in which I'd like to participate: ( ) Bake Sale ( ) Help with spec. events ( ) Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Fund Raising ( ) Meeting Programs ( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee I'd be willing to do:	( ) Newsletter publication ( ) Research ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoration ( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping ( ) Publicity ( ) Other work	
Dues: \$25. Patron Send to:	Brighton Area Historical Society	

Brighton, Mi. 48116

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

Struggling through the wet area in the south east corner of Genoa Township (at that time the north half of Hamburg Township) around the lake (Lime Lake), it was with relief Henry Earl arrived on higher ground. But what a steep hill to climb! Not only was it higher ground in Section 26, it was very high and very rolling. Henry Earl examined the 160 acres he had purchased from the U.S. government for \$400 in July, 1836.

Henry and his wife, Nancy, lived in Saline, as did Nathaniel and Abigail Carr, who purchased an adjoining 120 acres. Within three years, Carr had acquired Earl's interest and by 1844, the tax records indicate John & Nellie Weichers paid taxes on 233 acres purchased from the Carrs.

The Weichers built a small house (log?) on the very top of the hill on the section line along which most roads were eventually built. To add to the difficulties of life, the well was located at the bottom of the hill for many years. Most settlers did not build on the low ground because of the "Michigan fever" or ague which was prevalent among the settlers. It was thought to be caused and spread by the miasma and vapors of the lakes and low lands.

The Weichers were one of the many German families which early settled in Genoa Township. These diligent pioneers soon felt a need to resume the corporate worship they had known in their homeland. John Weichers is listed as a charter member of the "Evengelical Congregation of St. George in Genoa," organized in 1845.

By 1859, John Weichers was also a merchant, owning a building and business on the southwest corner of Grand River and Main in town. This building was torn down after WW II.

In 1905 Emil Bauer owned the Weichers property which, by then, had a typical farmhouse of two floors with slanting ceilings in the upstairs bedrooms. That same year Henry Webber appeared on the records to be followed within a few months by Henry Herbst and, in turn in 1907, John Herbst. The property was in the Herbst family for almost 80 years. Can one imagine the changes which, until 1986, when Weichers' Hill was made less steep, the huge oak trees along Brighton Road must have had pass beneath them? The settlers' oxen gave way to horses. The Model T could be put into neutral and one could coast all the way around Lime Lake. The advent of electricity created an entirely different world. Presently there is not a cow, sheep, chicken or barn (or the old house) on Weichers' Hill.

Withinthe past 2-3 years, Rolling Meadows subdivision has made good use of those hills on Brighton Road, west of Bauer Road. When standing on top of Weichers' Hill one sees many fine homes being built for the industrious 1980 settlers of the Brighton area. (Compiled and edited from "Michigan Memorabilia" by Bill Pless; County Register of Deeds Office; conversation with Helen Herbst Rau.)

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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