



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 Brighton, Mi. 48116  
 Vol. VII, No. 10 October, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

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Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Following the pot luck and short business meeting, Al Dunk from Brighton Township related some of his memories of life before the X-ways came to the area.

His father purchased the land on Pleasant Valley Road in 1916, where Al still lives. At one time milk was delivered from Puritan Farms in a Model T Ford, door to door. Many thanks Al, for an interesting time.

Tuesday, November 14, the Annual Meeting will be held at Lindbom School, 1010 State Street. Annual reports will be available, Directors elected, the '89 budget presented and a short program offered. The public is welcome.

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The donation form enclosed is for the convenience of those interested in the purposes and goals of the Society. All donations are income tax deductible. The Society is dependent on contributions from a community dedicated to the premise that a knowledge of where we've been is vital to knowing where we're going.

EDITORIAL

Are the goals of the Brighton Area Historical Society important to you?

Many are convinced the Society is an organization necessary to the well-being of the community. Many are certain the goals and purposes of the organization are worth working to accomplish.

Again...Are the goals of the Brighton Area Historical Society important to you?

Then go to work to assure the outcome. Work with the restoration committees? Become a member of the Board of Directors? Purchase tickets? Pay dues? Fund raising? Newsletter? Publicity? Oral History? Surely something appeals. Decide what you want to accomplish.

A number of active members are gaining a lot of satisfaction from working on projects they think are worthwhile. Don't let them have all the fun! Join them! (M. Bair, Ed.)

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Patrons: Dr. E.S. & Viola Berchert, Jr., (Ann Arbor) and Doug & Carol Rearick.

Couple/Indiv: Rita Altenberg, Jack & Bev LaBelle, Mike & Jenny Hill, Richard & Michelle Hyne (Williamston), Mike & Jan Woodford. WELCOME!!!

Many thanks to those who have caught up on 1988 dues. Look at the address label on this issue of Trail Tales. If you find no date following your name, 1988 dues have not been received. If you wish to continue knowing what the Society is up to, please help with Trail Tales' mailing costs. Dues cover all of the Society's administration expenses. Any other income is allocated to historic preservation and restoration. Payment of dues is an indication of support for the Society, its purposes and goals. If you do not wish to receive Trail Tales, notify the Society.

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

...K-Mart Discount Store for donating paper, notebooks and file folders for the copying, compiling and filing of local historical information from long time residents.

...Chamber of Commerce for their support with copying.

...Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales.

...PDQ Printing for copying of labels.

...(belated) to Kathy Grove and Genevieve Kamps for their cookies and help at the Society's booth at the Art Fair.

...Purchasers of helicopter ride raffle tickets.

...Donors to the Trash and Treasures Sale.

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PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

This committee is compiling information regarding the cost involved in various aspects of the restoration of this 1885 school. Window frame details are being researched as is also the replicating of the belfry. When details are complete, a fund raising drive will be organized.

The committee will meet 7:30, Wednesday, October 19, at Bonnie Corrigan's, 3700 Flint Road. Those interested in this project are invited. More information? Call L. Herb Warner, 229-6504.

OLD TOWN HALL

Stabilization of the foundation for the bell tower prior to its installation is being investigated. This committee is also busy with the November 5, dinner/dance fund raiser at Lakelands Country Club. The public is welcome. The donation is \$25. per person. Ronnie St. Charles will provide music. Please call Shelagh Klein, 229-6571 for your reservation. The deadline is October 28. Historic dress is optional.

The drawing for the October 15, helicopter ride resulted in the following winners: Betty Amrhein, Marieanna Bair and Lisa Crunkilton.

This committee meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7 p.m. Your help is requested. Please call Klein for more information.

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

...people to donate items to the Bake Sale and the Trash and Treasurers Sale October 28.

...people to work at the above.

...people to be on the Finance Committee, the Lyons School and Old Town Hall Restoration Committees.

...People to do Oral Histories.

...people to transcribe oral history tapes.

...a transcription machine.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

8-1-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$33630.70

RECEIPTS

General Fund: Dues	89.00	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:		
Finance Committee	383.50	
Lyons School	2417.94	
Old Town Hall	180.00	
Interest	<u>148.59</u>	
		3219.03
		<u>\$36849.73</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund:	44.50	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:		
Finance Committee	274.63	
Lyons School	611.82	
Old Town Hall	<u>196.87</u>	
		1127.82

8-31-88 TOTAL NET WORTH \$35721.91

Sav. Acct. Bal. \$35050.98  
Chk. Acct. Bal. 670.93 \$35721.91

General Fund Bal. \$ 2873.83  
HPR Fund Bal. 32848.08 \$35721.91

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

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FALL CALENDAR

- Mon., Oct. 10 & 24, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall Committee, Lindbom School, 1010 State.
- Thurs., Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Board meeting, Lindbom School, 1010 State.
- Wed., Oct. 19, 7:30, Lyons School Committee at Corrigan's, 3700 Flint Rd.
- Sat., Oct. 29, 8-1 p.m. Trash & Treasurer Sale and Bake Sale at Farmers' Market.
- Mon. Oct. 24, 7 p.m. Regional Historical Societies meet at Wixom.
- Sat., Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Old town Hall Restoration Dinner/Dance at Lakelands Country Club.
- Mon., Nov. 7, 7 p.m. Finance Committee at Whites, 10400 E. Grand River.

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The Trash and Treasures Sale, October 29, at the Farmers' Market will be a success only if sufficient donations are received. When you bring your things, be sure to look over the wares; you'll find just what you need. Clothing and large items cannot be accepted. Pick up of your donations can be arranged. It will be a big help if the items are priced. Lots of goodies are already in. Support the Society by purchasing also.

Two sets of six cards each (street scenes and modes of transportation) of early Brighton are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Uber's Drugs and Jarvis' Men's Store. These are also nice wall decorations.

The 1988 Tile, showing the Lyons School, will be ready for Christmas. Other tiles, Pere Marquette Depot, Union School and Western House, are at Jarvis', Uber's, Poor Richard's, Trustcorp, Library and Chamber of commerce.

Almost 80 signatures are already on the quilt. A \$10 donation will include your name, or anyone you chose, on this quilt which will be retained by the Society. Don't be left out.

The Nine Patch quilt will be ready to be ruffled in time for Christmas. It is hoped you will help when it's time for tying.

A Bake Sale will take place at the same time as the Trash and Treasures Sale - same place. Prepare now so you'll be able to donate when you're called. And be sure to buy too.

All proceeds from these projects go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration projects. Your support is vital. For more information about any of the above call Chairman Davis.

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WIXOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
TO HOST SEMIANNUAL MEETING OF  
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF THE REGION

Monday, October 24, 7 p.m., a tour of the Wixom/Wire House Museum will precede the meeting of representatives from approximately 25 historical societies in the area.

Each will have an opportunity to brag a bit (and perhaps to cry a bit). Much can be learned from the experiences of similar societies. Anyone interested in attending this meeting may call M. Bair, 229-6402.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Livingston County Historical Society, located in Howell, has "A Walk Through Time" available at the Museum Depot, 128 Wetmore Street. Seven walking tours, listing significant and contributing structures, are described. A historic site survey in 1986, determined the sites included. Are there people in the Brighton Area (S.E. portion of Livingston County) who would compile

a similar survey? (Hopefully before all the significant structures have disappeared.)

The Historical Society of Michigan will be holding its 114th Annual Meeting and State History Conference in Kalamazoo, October 13-16. Please call the Editor for more information. 229-6402.

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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 Publi. | ( ) 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

The horse is trotting through the early evening chill of autumn. Now we know why there is a dashboard on the front of the buggy - most of the mud thrown up from the hooves is deflected before it lands in our laps. We're still glad a covering was brought to place over us.

"I'd slow down but we might get stuck in this swampy area." (Much lowland in the area makes most trails even more difficult after a rain.) We're on our way to Section 8 in Brighton Township for an evening of work and fun. Ears of field corn have been pulled from the stalks and piled in the barn. Now begins the husking bee, where the men will try to outdo each other in the number of ears they can strip of their leafy cover. And the ladies will each have brought their best covered dish to the pot luck. After the corn is stored out of the way, the cleared area will become a dance floor.

The NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 8 was 'taken up' in 1835-1836. Seth Bidwell of Orleans, N. Y. acquired the N $\frac{1}{2}$  in September, 1835. Charles Spencer, Wayne, Mi., the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  six months later and William Clark of NYC the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  in September, 1836. By 1859 Charles T. Hyne had bought Clark's piece. Clark had died in 1842, but large tracts still remained in the family including Clark Lake on Hacker Road. In 1870, Nathaniel Tompkins Osborn's name was on Spencer's SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ . By 1875, Bidwell, Hyne and Osborn were recorded as owners of Section 8 - Osborn Lake Estates and Lake Village Shores, which came into being about 100 years later.

By 1895, A. J. McClements had bought out Bidwell. At that time the lake was called Bidwell Lake. That area remained in the McClements, Osborn and Hyne hands until the 1920s.

Much of that land was swampy and difficult to cultivate. However sheep and cattle pastured there had a bountiful water supply. If the residents of Section 8 close their eyes and meditate they can probably still see the hay, corn, wheat and oats, all staples for a farmer's needs, still growing with the animals grazing. Can still envision the farmer walking behind the plow. A different crop is being raised there today; young families developing into productive, responsible citizens. (Marieanna Bair, Editor)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 481  
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