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 ¼ of Section 8 was ‘taken up’ in 1835-1836. Seth Bidwell of Orleans, N. Y. acquired the 40 in September 1835. Charles Spencer, Wayne, M., the SE ¼ six months later and William Clark of NYC the SW ¼ 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 Hackett Road. In 1870, Nathaniel Tompkins Osborn’s name was on Spencer’s SE ¼. 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. McCallen had bought out Bidwell. At that time the lake was called Bidwell Lake. That area remained in the McCallens, 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. (Marianna Bair, Editor)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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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-way 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 Lindborn School, 1010 State Street. Annual reports will be available. Directors elected, the 1989 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.

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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.

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.


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 MEMBERSHIP 1988

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

Couple/Indiv: Rita Altenberg, Jack & Betsy Labelle, Mike & Jenny Hill, Richard & Michelle Hyne (Willimington), 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.