EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

The 1839 map of Michigan is crisscrossed by Indian trails, mainly for foot travel, often not wide enough for a horse and rider. Within 11 years the Detroit to Howell Plank Road on the Grand River Trail was completed and by 1852 it was planked from Howell to Lansing, the newly located State Capitol.

The plank roadbed was 18' wide, the planks 3" thick. A fine smooth surface was provided for wagons, stagecoaches and carts when the road was new. Toll gates were erected - toll charged.

And so we find ourselves in the last ½ of the 19th century in a horsedrawn sleigh on our way to the Frank Hyne farm (on present day Hyne Road) in Section 18 of Brighton Township for a day of quitting. With a heated stone at our feet and a buffalo robe covering us, it's quite cozy for the five mile ride ahead of us. We're on the trail going north out of town, over Ore Creek, past the brick yard on the east side of the road, stopping at the toll gate (at present day Cross Street).

"They sure have a nerve, charging toll on this road to the local people," mutters our driver. "Now that the rail road goes through town we sure don't need a toll road to haul produce into Detroit. Yeah, gravel has replaced the planks but in wet weather it's still not worthy of a toll. They ought to be ashamed."

"Well, it won't be long and the tolls will end when the gravel franchise runs out", we answer.

"Then each farmer in the township will have to help when the 'Pathmaster' sends the call to work out the road taxes by grading and filling", is the reply.

At the corner of present day Hacket Road the sleigh turns north on the town line between Genoa and Brighton Township. In less than a mile we turn east on today's Hyne Road for about 3/4 mile to the house.

"It'll be fun to visit with the others as we quit. It seems so long since I've seen the ladies. I'm anxious to see Louise's baby."

Ownership of the NE ¼ of Section 18 in Brighton Township has changed several times since being taken up by Wm. S. Conley from New York City in 1837, with Frank Hyne taking possession in 1881. The first owner of the W ½ SE ¼ was Abram Pletch, also from NYC in 1836. The P ½ SE ¼ was sold by the U.S. Government to George Post of Washtenaw that same year. By 1845, Charles Prosser owned the entire SE ¼. By 1895 John Hunter owned the P ½ SE ¼. Their names, along with Hyne, were still on the records by 1915. The difficult times of recession and the Great Depression are reflected in the records at the County Register of Deeds office. (Please turn to page 3.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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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.

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RICEP - ANNUAL MEETING

Elections at the Seventh Annual Meeting resulted with the following board for 1989:
President, V.P. and Secretary will remain the same. Treasurer will be Marge White. Directors will be Bill Amhein, Marlenea Bair, Chuck Beach, Dick Davis, Audrey Leith, Rae-Lynne Lerner, Gary McCreire and Leota Mason. 1989 looks good for the community again with these people on the Society Board. Many thanks to the 1988 Board and to Mel Skoman who is retiring.

The highlight was the showing of the video of the 1988 home tour shown by the Lerners. 1989 plans include: spaghetti supper, home tour, antique sale, Trash & Treasurers sale, continued restoration of the Old Town Hall and the Lyons School. (Lots of work for lots of people.)

EDITORIAL

The announcement of the temporary retirement of the Editor has caused some concerned comments (which are very much appreciated) and deserves explanation. No, we're not moving, just taking on some other responsibilities for a while.

Upon review of the membership list it is obvious this Editor can be easily replaced.

We'd like to try to continue to collect the local history notes on the back page. Let us know what interests you and research can be done in that direction.

How about some guest editorials? (Editor M. Bair)

1989 MEMBERSHIPS 1989


Couple/Indiv.: Jeanette Bailey, Harry & Carol Davis, Mrs. Wm. (Betty Hall) Franklin (Arizona), Fred & Phyllis Gruenke, Clara Healy, Don & Linda Lund, David Possner, Doug & Carol Rearick.

The semi annual review of the mailing list will take place soon. Many issues are sent to those recommended as being interested in its activities (or they should be) but are not members. However there is a limit to the number of copies printed. It will be necessary to remove some of those whom no response has been received so others can be added. Membership will ensure continued delivery.

If there is no wish for Trail Tales to continue being received let us know.

Please consider a membership. Don't let someone else foot the bill. The date on the mailing label indicated the year for which dues are paid. + + + +