The basket with the cooked chicken did you pack?" "Ya, und der jug of cider from the Keller auch." "Karl, I thought the last jug at the Christmas party was drunk. August some of that gut wine for the ladies will have."

It's 1885. Thankful for the bright moon which makes driving horses much safer at night, we're riding in the buggy with a Genoa Township neighbor of August Westphal on the way up Beiler's Hill (Brighton Road, west of Bauer Road). We're going to the barn dance and pot luck held in celebration of the new barn August has recently built. Constructed of pit sawn beams with the most modern technology available it is the first steel and addition to the rough hewn timber barn built in 1868. It will hold all the feed needed by the sheep and cattle being raised on the 160 acres August bought in 1855 from P. Donley, Charles Joseph, from Washtenaw, had originally purchased the property (NW¼ of the NE¼, Section 35) from the U.S. government in 1837, when Indians, wolves and other wild game were plentiful.

August Westphal was 11 when he came to Genoa Township with his parents in 1844 from Germany. Nov. at 52, he was a prosperous farmer with two big barns and a house built to last many years. A small house, in which 10 children were raised, had been built in 1868. The second, much larger house, still standing, had been built in 1875. (The home of David & Charlene Kull, 1986.)

Most settlers were quite young when they arrived in the township (25-50). A large percentage were children, of course. Coming from countries which had been in existence for hundreds of years, they brought with them their skills and customs. Having no one but each other on whom to depend, the settlers helped and supported each other. The door pictures one views of early settlers in the area conveys one had no sense of humor and certainly didn't enjoy life. Yes, hard work was a fact of life, but when it was time to have fun that was done wholeheartedly also. The completion of a new barn called for a celebration in which all would join. Can't you hear the fiddles, the wind instruments, the drums, the dancing feet and the laughter rolling over the hills of Prairie View Subdivision?

Just prior to WW I, Conrad Seim acquired the Westphal place. The steeply rolling hills caused some of his buddies to good-naturedly tease him about his hilly Charles Weatherly, aware of the natural attractiveness of the landscape, purchased the property from Conrad's descendents and began construction of Prairie View in 1972. Now instead of sheep grazing, lovely homes wander up and over the old Westphal place. (Edited from "Michigan Memorabilia" by Bill Piess; "First Land Owners, Livingston County" by Milton Charbonneau and conversations with Charlene Kull and Helen Concorde.)

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 the above purpose is worthwhile and should be preserved.

This semi rural area, with it's sense of history and stability draws newcomers looking for that feeling of a refuge from the perils of today's world. Most realize they have a responsibility to perpetuate the qualities that drew them here. By paying membership dues individuals interested in the Society's goals and purposes show their support. Many also are willing to help in other ways.

Merchants, professionals and service providers followed. They must also realize their responsibility to the community from which they drew their subsistence. One obvious way is to generously support the Society in its Historic Preservation and Restoration projects.

Several business and professional persons are very supportive. The Society would find it very difficult to function without them. But, of course, many more are needed.

We all need each other. Let's work together.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The Lindcom Elementary School, 1010 State Street will be the site of the meeting. The room we'll use is at the far west end of the building. The public is invited.

The Society would like to hear from any others with reminiscences of the area they'd like to share. Or is there someone you'd like to Call a Board member.


All meetings at the Old town Hall, 202 W. Main, upstairs.

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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

The following have paid dues since the last issue:

Patrons: Marlene Fonseca from California, Bob & Ruth Watson of Howell.
Buses/Prof.: Kitchen Suppliers, Inc., Lakeview Skateland.
Couple/Ind.: Chuck & Janice Bible, Eve Bell, Mildred Bender, Ken & Bernice Chappel, Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Harold & Eleanor Davis, Janet & Anne Dilloway, Doris Fay, Jack & Ethel Gebben, M/W Mill Hampton of Dearborn, Lyle & Dorothy Hartman, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Ellen Hill. (Memberships continued on next page.)