



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.

P.O. Box 481
Vol. VII, No. 9

Brighton, Mi. 48116
September, 1988

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

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Dick Davis		229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner		227-1148
Mel Skeman		229-6351

Editor	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
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1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988

Couple/Indiv: Leon & Marilyn Bonner, Marie Borst, Charles & Joan Brown, Doug & Clarice Brown, Irene Conely, Al Dunk, Merle & Loretta Farley, William & Betty Fishbeck, Karen Goss, Barton Hellmuth, Mildred Jarvis, Elisabeth G. McCausey, Margaret Muir, Jerry & Vicki Sprague. 1989 Memberships: Steve & Evelyn Hucal, Bill & Jane Tomlinson. This evidence of support is much appreciated.

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FALL CALENDAR

- Thurs., Sept. 8, 7 p.m. - Board Meeting.
- Mon., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. - Old Town Hall Comm.
- Tues., Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. - General Meeting. Public invited. Helicopter Ride Raffle drawing.
- Wed., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Lyons School Comm. at Lyons School, 11455 Buno Rd.
- Mon., Sept. 26, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall Comm.
- All meetings at Lindbom School, 1010 State, except as noted.
- Sat., Oct. 29, 8-1 - Trash & Treasures Sale and Bake Sale at Farmers' Market.
- Sat., Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Old Town Hall Fund Dinner/Dance at Lakelands Country Club.

EDITORIAL

An historical society is an inanimate entity. Only the attention and consideration of people who care about its aims and goals give it life.

There are many who are certain this Historical Society is worthy of their concern and they want to be a part of its accomplishments. They become an element of its very survival, ensuring that more than mere survival will be the outcome.

The result is an almost undefinable mood, or atmosphere, of the area. One that confirms the validity of those who preceded, respects their uniqueness and reaffirms one's own reason for being. It is a productive and rewarding effort. (M. Bair, Editor)

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GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

The land encompassing Lake Moraine Sub-division was purchased in 1917 from Willard Beach by Al Dunk's father. Al and Madge moved permanently to 'Puritan Farms' in 1950. At this meeting Al will be our speaker. He's seen lots of changes come to the area and will try to answer questions we might have.

Lindbom Elementary School, 1010 State Street will be the site of the meeting. We'll meet at the far west end of the building. A 6:30 pot luck will be followed by a short business meeting. Al will chat with us about 8 p.m. Public is invited. (Whom would you like to hear at a future meeting? Call a board member.)

The drawing for the Old Town Hall Helicopter Ride will take place that evening. Tickets, 10 for \$10., are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Uber's Drug Store and the Brighton Public Library.

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

...Lois Cole for lettering on signs.
 ...Rae-Lynn Lerner for designing the helicopter ride fund raiser poster.
 ...Kathy Militzer for post card project posters and Bob and Mary Richmond for packaging 600 sets of postcards.
 Valerie Potts for donating an antique pump organ; Larry and Jean Clark for the antique clock; Ina Shannon and Ken and Salley Everett for their donations to the Trash & Treasures Sale.
 ...Marian Carney, Dick Davis, Jack & Ethel Gebben, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Alice Newcomb and Shelagh Klein (she also donated cups and napkins) for working at the Society booth at the Art Fair. And Heritage Quilters (Cissy Anderson, May Bajcz, Kay Dennis, Jean Scanlon, Jeri Spamer, Kay Spangler), Teresa Bachelor, Jeannette Bailey, Elenor Davis, Mary Davis, Janet Owens, Marie Vervait and Marge White for cookies.
 ...Bert Bair. Dick Davis. Carol Kern and Shelagh Klein for transporting sale items for storage.
 ...Frances Clore, Elmina Ellis, Margaret Muir, George & Lucille Prieskorn for their donations to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund.
 Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales.
 And PDQ for printing address labels.

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PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

A brochure is being prepared describing the restoration plans including the cost of the windows and of the belfrey. This will be sent to alumni and others asking for personal and financial support. The tile with a sketch of the Lyons School should be ready in time for Christmas.

This committee meets the third Wednesday of the month. You are invited. Contact Herb Warner, 229-6504 or Ellen Hill, 227-7693 for more information.

OLD TOWN HALL

The raising of the bell tower to the top of the Old Town hall has been delayed pending the report of the structural engineer on the solidity of the foundation on which the tower will be placed. Keep tuned for further developments.

Tickets, 10 for \$10., for the mid October helicopter ride raffle are available at the

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

we need...

...someone to repair the grillwork on an antique organ recently donated. The pieces need to be glued in place. Also a wood table leg needs to be reglued. This should be done in the next six weeks so these items can be offered for sale at the Trash & Treasures Sale.

...donations (\$40.) to pay for purchase of fabric for nine patch quilt.
 ...Lyons School insurance bill donations. (Over \$500. this year.)
 ...officers' bonding cost (\$145.) donations.
 ...signatures for the signature quilt.
 ...you to set aside November 5, for the Dinner/Dance for the Old Town Hall Fund.
 ...you to get your helicopter ride raffle ticket for the Old Town Hall Fund.

See page 3 for more information on the above. contact a board member if you can help.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

7-1-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$33086.98
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RECEIPTS

General Fund:		
Dues		\$385.00
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:		
Finance Comm:Quilt,		
100.; tiles 35.		
Lyons School, 20.		
Old Town Hall, 365.		
Donations, 197.		
Interest, <u>167.55</u>	<u>884.55</u>	<u>1269.55</u>
		\$34356.53

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund: Adminis., 19.:		
Newsletter, <u>84.16</u>	103.16	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:		
Lyons School, 15.39		
Old Town Hall, <u>607.28</u>	<u>622.67</u>	<u>725.83</u>
7-31-88	TOTAL NET WORTH	\$33630.70
" Sav. Bal.	32904.67	
" Chk. Bal.	<u>726.03</u>	\$33630.70
" HPR Bal.	30846.37	
" Gen. Fnd.	<u>2784.33</u>	<u>\$33630.70</u>

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

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Chamber of Commerce, Brighton Library and Uber's Drug Store. The drawing will be at the General Meeting, Tuesday, September 20 at Lindbom School, 1010 State.

The enclosed flier has information on the Dinner/Dance November 5. Be sure to watch that October 28 deadline for reservations.

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Sets of six post cards (\$3.) of early Brighton area street scenes and modes of transportation will be a delightful way to communicate with your friends AND support the Society's projects. The Chamber of Commerce, Uber's Drugs and Jarvis' Men's Store has these available.

The Signature Quilt still has room for your signature. For a \$10. donation you can have your name included for posterity as one who cared about the Society's purpose and goals. Signatures of deceased persons with a Brighton connection can also be included. They will be designated in a special manner. Send to P.O. Box 481, Brighton, 48116.

The 1988 Tile will depict the Lyons School and will be ready in time for Christmas giving. Three of the earlier tiles are still available - Pere Marquette Depot, Union School and Western House - at Jarvis', Uber's, Poor Richard's, Trustcorp, Brighton Library and Chamber of Commerce. Suggestions on the 1989 tile?

The Trash and Treasures Sale, October 29, at the Farmers' Market can't use clothing or large items. Doing some fall cleaning? Donate your unused items to the Society for this Sale. Pick up can be arranged.

The Nine Patch quilt will really be a beauty. The colors chosen add to its antique appearance. A tying day will be announced soon. Then raffle tickets will be available.

The Society's booth at the recent Arts & Crafts event was a hot bed of activity. Lemonade and nice big homemade cookies all sold out. Many visitors learned about the Society and its activities.

All proceeds from these projects are placed in the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund. Thank you for your support. For more information about any of the above or to help on the Finance Committee, call Chairman Davis, 229-8356.

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The heartfelt sympathy of the Society is extended to the family of George Hacker, especially to his daughter, Dr. Deborah Oakley. George's family had been residents of the Brighton area; his ancestors having settled on present day Hacker Road.

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WITH OTHER HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

The Pioneer Memorial Assoc of Fenton & Mundy Twps is hosting Pioneer Day, Saturday, September 10, 10-5, 11429 Main Road, Fenton. On tap are Buffaloburgers, tour of Pioneer House and Museum, craft and bake sales, historical and genealogical displays and other entertainment.

The Michigan Oral History Council will feature a history of Michigan governors at its annual meeting, November 11, in Grand Rapids. Archivists, oral historians and authors will be in attendance and a workshop on video taping interviews will be featured. For more information write the Council, 5580 West State Road., Lansing, 48906.

The Milford Historical Society is sponsoring its 13th Annual Home Tour, September 17 & 18, \$5. Pre tour is \$4. Send your check to the Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, 48042.

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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 Publication | () 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. Couple	Brighton, Mi. 48116
5. Individual	

EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

Fishbeck, Suhr, Conrad, Dorr, Buek - the names of early settlers in Genoa Township surrounding Big and Little Crooked Lakes read as tho' one were in Germany. (Most of Genoa's settlers were German speaking immigrants.)

Altho' one might enjoy the beauty of a lake and appreciate the change of diet fresh fish could bring, these hardy settlers knew that one didn't build a home on its shore. Everyone knew that fevers and ague, rife in this state of marshes and swamps, were caused by the rising mists and vapors.

However, by 1878, when "Uncle" Henry Schoenhals bought the old Carpenter farm on the west side of Little Crooked in Section 28, a swimming hole on that shore had been used for some time by local youngsters.

Uncle Henry would let you drive your wagon with camping supplies down his lane. "Ach, be sure to lock the gate gut, so Uncle Henry's cows don't get in the corn." "I want to do the next one too, Papa." "Yah, und let deiner kleine brother help." It wasn't necessary to haul fire wood because the old tamarack swamp nearby furnished fallen trees and roots. "The big bon fires Papa builds at night are so exciting!" Drinking water was pumped from the well old Henry put in and milk and eggs could be bought from him also. Bread, meat and other staples were purchased from Bogan and Brogan's Store in Chilson.

Around the turn of the century sparse frame structures called 'camps' began to be built by various owners of land around the lake. The train, with a station at Chilson, brought parties of young people for a week or so of camping, decorously chaperoned by their elders.

World War I; changing economic conditions; the auto industry; roads being graveled to meet the demands of the thousands of new auto owners who wanted to get out of the cities and go places at the breakneck speed of 25-30 mph; all created a tremendous interest in the lake as sites for summer homes. As shore property was sold this meant the end of camping at the old swimming hole.

In 1927, the Burroughs Adding Machine Company purchased the property on Brighton Road as a place of recreation for their employees, building dozens of small cottages scattered over the hills.

In 1981, "Burroughs" was purchased by a group with plans to continue the recreational appeal of the "Farms". The development of Oak Pointe into a place of desirable living quarters was put into action. The small cottages are no more and in their place one finds attractive condominiums and homes well suited to the 1980's lifestyle of having one's privacy while enjoying pleasant surroundings. (Edited and Condensed from "A Scrapbook of Michigan Memories" by William Pless and assistance of Rory McDonald.)

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P.O. Box 481
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