EVOLUTION IN THE BRIGHTON AREA - FROM WILDERNESS TO SUBDIVISION

Flischbeck, 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 they feared and awoke, 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 out, 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 ion 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 Bregan'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 graded to seem; 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 so was this area 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 Pleas and assistance of Bory McDonald.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116

Printed courtesy:
OLD KENT BANK
300 W. North Street.
Brighton, MI 48116

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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.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Pres. \( R.\) Herrmann 229-7923
V.P. \( B.\) Richmond 229-6268
Sec. \( S.\) Klein 229-6571
Treas. \( M.\) Bier 229-6402

DIRECTORS

Bill Anhein
Chuck Beach
Dick Davis
Rae-Lynne Lerner
Mel Stoneman
Editor \( M.\) Bier 229-6402

1988 MEMBERSHIPS 1988


1999 Memberships: Steve & Evelyn Hucl, Bill & Jane Tomlinson. This evidence of support is much appreciated.

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, 11453 Baux Rd.
Mon., Sept. 26, 7 p.m. Old Town Hall Comm.
All meetings at Lindon School, 1010 State St., except 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. Bier, Editor)

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

The land encompassing Lake Moraine Subdivision was purchased in 1977 from the farm owned by Al Dusk's father. Al and Madge moved permanently to 'Buritan Farms' in 1950. At this meeting AI will be our speaker. He's seen lots of changes come to the area and will try to answer questions we might have.

Lindon 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. AI 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, at $10 each, are available at the Chamber of Commerce, Uber's Drug Store and the Brighton Public Library.
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 $1,000) are due in 1989.
...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

RECEIPTS

General Fund: $385.00
Lyons School, 20.
Old Town Hall, 365.
Donations, 197.
Interest, 107.55.

$881.55 $269.55 $33086.98

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund: Admins., 13.16
History, Pres. & Rest. Fund: Lyons School, 15.39
Old Town Hall, 607.28 622.67 725.83
7-31-88
TOTAL NET WORTH $33630.70

Sav. Bal. 32904.67
Ck. Bal. 726.03
HFR Bal. 30846.37
Gen. Pnd. 2784.32

$33630.70

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

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CHAM., DICK DAVIS, 229-8356

FINANCE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

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 cares 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. There are the earlier tiles are still available - Pete Marguette 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.

+ + + + +

WITH OTHER HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

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

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.

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 ( )
( ) Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( )
( ) Fund Raising ( ) Meeting Programs ( ) Restoration ( )
( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee ( ) Video Taping ( )
( ) Publicity ( ) Other work ( )

I'd like to do:

Dues: $25.00 Patron

$25.00 Business/Professional

8. Couple

5. Individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI. 48116

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.

+ + + + +

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.

+ + + + +

PRESEVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

LYONS SCHOOL

A brochure is being prepared describing the restoration plans including the cost of the windows and of the belfry. 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, 229-600 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...
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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.

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Grand River Trail

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Sec. Shelagh Klein 229-6571
Treas. Miriam Bair 229-6402

DIRECTORS
Bill Amhein 227-7282
Chuck Beach 229-5678
Dick Davis 229-8356
Rae-Lynne Lerner 227-1148
Mel Slomon 229-6351
Editor Miriam Bair 229-6402

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