



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 Brighton, Mi. 48116
Vol. VIII, No. 2 February, 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

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| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
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| V.P. | Bob Richmond | 229-6268 |
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| Lyons School | Herb. L. Warner | 229-6504 |
| Old Town Hall | Shelagh Klein | 229-6571 |
| Penny Szczechowski | editor | 229-7324 |
| Cathy Qualls | editor | 229-8656 |

Editorial

The Historical Society bonds people with a common interest in the past and strives to preserve the best things for the future. As new co-editors, we would like to commend Marieanna Bair for her many contributions to Trail Tales in the past. We will strive to preserve her spirit and enthusiasm in future issues. We are also pleased that Marieanna will continue to write the last page of our newsletter. Her interesting adventures into the past help us understand how our town used to be.

We invite suggestions or items you would like to convey in the newsletter. Contact Penny or Cathy and we will try to do our best to put them in.

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1989 Membership

The following have paid their dues since the last issue:
Business/prof. P.D.Q. Ink.

Couples/Ind.: Betty Adams, Erwin & Dorothy Bandkau, Elizabeth Bindenael, Richard & Elaine Blight, Susie Braund, Marian Carney, Charles & Doris Case, Robert Clark, Bill & Marianne Comisky, John Curry, M.M. Emil Engel, John & Ethel Gebben, Ken & Zara Graham, George & F.D. Hacker, Mildred Harrington, Lyle & Dorothy Hartman, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Rudy & Virginia Herrmann, Mary Hubert, Wm. & Helen Hyne, Genevieve S. Kampe, Steve & Kathleen Lowry, Daniel & Jeannette Madigan, Sharron McDerrmitt, Frances & Helen Michaels, Bruce & Janet Owens, Colton & Dorothy Park, Greg Park, Floyd & Lorena Pearson, John & Dorothy

General Meeting

The first general meeting of the year was held on January 17. Bill Amrhein, a winner in the Old Town Hall raffle, presented his video of the helicopter ride to Detroit and back. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

The next general meeting will be Tuesday, March 21, at Lindbom School. A potluck at 6:30 will be followed by the general meeting at 7:30. Doris Johnson will give an oral history on her life in Brighton since moving here in 1945. The public is invited to attend.



Thanks...Thanks,,,Thanks

to all the people who volunteered for chairmanships:

- Ethel Gebben - hospitality
- Herb Warner - Lyons School
- Audrey Leith - membership
- Marian Carney- correspondence
- Gary McCririe- program
- Rae-Lynne Lerner-public relations
- Tom Leith - publicity

- Bill Amrhein for the video
- P.D.Q. Printing for copying of labels
- Old Kent Bank for printing of Trail Tales
- Singer Press for printing Lyons School Brochures
- Tom Leith and Ethel Gebben for seeing that the newsletters are delivered

Help...help...help

We need:

- ...workers for the spaghetti supper
- ...workers for the home tour
- ...finance committee members
- * * * * *

Membership (cont.)

- Pennala, Marshall & Je'Mel
- Perdue, Doris Petersen, Mike & Cathy Qualls, Jerry & Judy Porman, Tedd & Linda Potter, Joan Rice, Andrew & Lila Robertson, Lovisa Seger, R. Smith, Margaret Squire, Jim & Penny Szczechowski, Anna Westin, Pat & Marge White, Alice Wilson, Mary Mathias,

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Spaghetti Supper

The Spaghetti supper will be held on Friday, April 7 at the Fire Hall. A chairman is needed to coordinate the many jobs that go with the supper. We need volunteers the day before to prepare food. The day of the supper we need people to work in one hour shifts starting at 5:00 to serve food, clean up, sell tickets. We also need people who can be there at 1:00 to help decorate and set up. Also needed is someone to get the best deal on supplies: lettuce, bread, celery, radishes, carrots, drink mix, etc.

Please call Dick Davis, 229-8356, Shelagh Klein, 229-6571, or Marge White, 227-3968 if you can help with any of the above.

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resource and will compliment the Society's Historic Resource Survey. The program will cover procedure for taking these types of photos including camera angles, time of day, etc.

He will meet with a small group of interested persons to discuss this project. Contact Mariana Bair 229-6402 if you are interested

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|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
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| BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY | | | | |
| Treasurer's Report | | | | |
| General Meeting - January 17, 1988 | | | | |
| 11-1-88 | TOTAL NET WORTH | | | \$56202.66 |
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| Dues: 1988 - | 4 @ \$ 5. = \$ 20. | 1989 - | 24 @ \$ 5. = \$ 120. | |
| | 3 8. = 24. | | 23 8. = 184. | |
| | 2 25. = 50. | | 32 25. = 800. | |
| | | Total | | 1198.00 |
| HISTORIC PRESERVATION & RESTORATION FUND | | | | |
| Finance Comm. Proj.: | | | | |
| | Bake Sale | \$142.25 | | |
| | Nine Patch Quilt | 503.00 | | |
| | Post cards | 6.00 | | |
| | Signature Quilt | 120.00 | | |
| | Tiles | 417.50 | | |
| | Trash & Treasures Sale | <u>436.15</u> | \$1624.90 | |
| | Lyons School Comm. - Donations | | 170.00 | |
| | Old Town Hall Comm. - | | | |
| | Dinner/Dance | 1307.00 | | |
| | Donations | <u>46.00</u> | 1353.00 | |
| | Dcnations | | 405.00 | |
| | Interest - 11-30-88 | | <u>435.13</u> | 3988.03 5186.03 |
| | | | | \$41388.69 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | | |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| | Administration | 23.51 | | |
| | Ann. bulk mailing fee | 60.00 | | |
| | Bonding fee | 134.00 | | |
| | Hist. Soc. Michigan dues | 20.00 | | |
| | Newsletter | <u>167.21</u> | 404.82 | |
| HISTORIC PRESERVATION & RESTORATION FUND | | | | |
| | Finance comm. Proj: Tiles | | 1052.84 | |
| | Lyons School | | | |
| | Utilities | 30.16 | | |
| | Window construction dep. | 1090.29 | | |
| | Brochure postage | <u>38.00</u> | 1158.45 | |
| | Old town Hall | | | |
| | Adm. | 10.83 | | |
| | Dinner/Dance | <u>1211.00</u> | 1321.83 | 3533.12 3937.94 |
| 12-31-88 | TOTAL NET WORTH | | | \$37450.75 |
| | Sav. Acct. 11-30-88 | \$15622.70 | | |
| | Chk. Acct. 12-31-88 | 1828.05 | | |
| | Two C.D.s | <u>20000.00</u> | | <u>\$37450.75</u> |
| Marieanna Bair, Treasurer | | | | |
| * * * * * | | | | |

Photographic Inventory Program

Sam Breck of Peaker Services in Green Oak Township has offered a program teaching how to make a photographic inventory of our community. This inventory will become an archival

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is the fund-raising arm of the society. This committee coordinates and oversees the various fund-raisers planned by the society throughout the year. These fund-raisers include:

- April - Spaghetti Supper
- May - Bake Sale, in conjunction with the opening of the Farmers' Market
- August - Folk Art Festival Antique Sale, in conjunction with the Sidewalk Sale Days
- October - Bake Sale and Trash and Treasure Sale in conjunction with the last day of the Farmers' Market
- December - Raffle

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The fund-raisers are not limited to the above events. However, these events are now well established and require minimum overseeing. It is necessary to appoint a chairman for each of the events, who will recruit the necessary volunteers for each event

The Restoration Committ (Lyons School and Old Town Hall) also hold fund-raisers throughout the year. These events are coordinated through the Finance Committee to avoid conflict of dates among the various committees. A regularly held fund-raiser is the Annual Dinner Dance, to benefit the Old Town Hall Restoration, which is held in early November.

At the present time, the Finance Committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Committee members are still needed. If you are willing to help, please call Shelagh Klein.

Lyons School

Lyons School Brochures have been printed compliments of Singer Press. They are being folded for future distribution in February.

Old Town Hall

The Bell Tower is finished and is ready for painting. Contact Shelagh Klein for more information and your offer to help on this committee

News from Other Chapters

My Quester Chapter, Ruggles Mill-Milford, is presenting a program on cradles. There is not a great amount of information on this topic available. Would there be any member in the historical society that has collected them or has materials about cradles? We would appreciate any help. Thank you. Contact: Linda Sturgeon, 655 Burns Rd. Milford, Mi. 48042
685-8806

----- 1989 ----- BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM ----- 1989 -----

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 Pub., etc. | () 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: _____

- ues: \$25. Patron
- 25. Business/Professional
- 8. Couple
- 5. Individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Mi. 48116

EARLY GRISTMILLS OF THE BRIGHTON AREA

The advent of gristmills eliminated the tedious hand grinding of grain which had been necessary to have flour, or the labor and expense of several day's travel to bring it from Detroit or Ann Arbor. Today it is difficult to decide which cake mix or which of dozens of types of bread to select. Following the cutting of trees the now open fields were planted to corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, etc. During the 1830s several gristmills were built in the area.

Altho' the village was centered, in 1840, on the hill where Spencer Road and Rickett Road intersect the Grand River Trail, "Upper Town", Orson Quackenbush selected vacant land in "Lower Town" to build the Brighton Flouring and Gristmill. The site was located on the north side of W. North Street; a strip about two blocks wide extending north (on the west side of S. West Street). The parcel included the area to be flooded by the millpond, and the high ground now occupied by the Old Town Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the village cemetery. After securing the plot, water rights also had to be obtained before building the dam. In those days this mill saved farmers a long trip to Woodruff's Mill on Pleasant Valley Road.

Altho' presently the city parking lot, the location was low and marshy ground. Moving dirt with a small slip scraper with one h.p. to construct the dam and spillway and form the raceway ponds north of the mill required considerable time. (It seems likely the lumber for the mill was cut by the Maltby Sawmill just a few hundred feet down stream.) During the years of the mill's operation there were two bridges on W. North Street; one over the stream from the water that turned the water wheel, the other over the water from the spillway. The dam was built on the south side of Main Street.

Quackenbush operated his mill for a few months and then sold the mill, including all the property and rights to Rev. Wm. A. Clark. He died in September, 1841, and his heirs sold the mill back to Quackenbush. However, the Clarks donated the high ground east of the mill pond as a future site for the Episcopal Church and the Village received the land where the cemetery and the Old Town Hall are now located.

In 1847, Quackenbush sold the mill to Evert Woodruff who, in 1849, sold the Brighton Mill to Lyman Judson, who owned a large farm on Grand River Road, just east of the village limits. Judson enlarged the mill, removed the old breast water wheel and installed a French turbine type of water wheel. In 1856, he sold the mill to Egbert F. Albright and Chester Thomson. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair from: "Michigan Memorabilia" by William Pless, 1880 History of Livingston County. Corrections and/or additions to this or any other subjects of local history are most welcome by this writer.) "Early Gristmills" to be continued next issue.

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

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