



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. 11 November 1989

Brighton Area Historical Society
 Board of Directors

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 V.P. Bob Richmond 229-6268
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Finance Comm. Dick Davis 229-8494
 Lyons School Herb L. Warner 229-6504
 Old Town Hall Shelagh Davis 229-8494
 Penny Szczechowski editor 229-7324
 Cathy Qualls editor 229-8656

Annual Meeting

The Society's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 1989, at Scranton School Cafeteria. A potluck supper, at 6:30 will precede the meeting.

The Nominating Committee (Bill Amrhein, chairman) has prepared the following proposed slate of officers for 1990:

President	Gary McCririe
Vice Pres.	Cathy Qualls
Secretary	Kathy Grove
Treasurer	Marge White
Directors	Bill Amrhein
	Marieanna Bair
	Chuck Beach
	Rudy Herrman
	Audrey Leith
	Leota Mason
	Suzanne
	Sittaro
	Penny
	Szczechowski

Nominations may also be received from the floor. Noone may be nominated without his/her prior approval.

Annual reports will also be submitted by the Board and Committee Chairmen.

See information under "1990 Calendar" for location of Scranton School Cafeteria.

A listing is also included, of 1990 meeting dates. The General Meeting dates are the second Tuesday in January, March, May, September, and November. Call any Board member if you need additional information about the meetings.

We hope to see a big turnout for the annual meeting.

1990 CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS: pot luck dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Business meeting and program, 7:30 p.m. General meetings will be held in the Cafeteria, Scranton School, Church/Main Streets. As you look at the front of Scranton, to the right is the name of the school. The Cafeteria is located on the lower level of the right-hand side of the school.

General Meeting dates: January 9
March 13
May 8
September 11
November 13 (Annual Meeting)

BOARD MEETINGS: 7:00 p.m., Media Center, Scranton School. The Media Center is directly above the Cafeteria.

Board Meeting dates: January 25 July 26
February 22 August 23
March 22 September 27
April 26 October 25
May 24 November 29
June 28 December 27

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Lyons School Restoration Committee, the Old Town Hall Restoration Committee, and the Finance Committee, also hold regular meetings. Contact Herb Warner, 229-6504 if you would like to help on the Lyons School Committee; Shelagh Davis, 229-8494 for the Old Town Hall Committee; and Gary McCririe, 227-9370 if you can help on the Finance Committee.

1990 COMMITTEES

The Society has a number of Committees, all of which can use volunteer help. These Committees are: Budget, Correspondence, Finance, Hospitality, Lyons School, Membership, Newsletter, Nominating, Old Town Hall, Program, Publicity, and Tile.

See above for the contact person for Lyons School, Old Town Hall, and Finance Committee. Let Rudy Herrmann, or Gary McCririe know if you can help with any of the other Committees. The Finance Committee also is responsible for most of the Society's fundraisers. These SubCommittees also need volunteers: Antique Sale (need a Chairman, and volunteers, for this event, which is held in conjunction with Brighton's Sidewalk Sales, in July); Bake Sale - call Jane Tomlinson, 229-6435, to help with these two events, held the opening day of Farmers' Market, and the last day of Farmers' Market; Budget Committee - meets once or twice a year, in the Fall, to prepare next year's Society Budget; Folk Art Fair, held in August; Home Tour - contact 1990 Chair, Cathy Qualls - 229-8656 - to help; Spaghetti Supper, planned for February 23, 1990 - need Chairman and volunteers.

If you can help in any way on these Committees, please contact the Chairman of each Committee, or Rudy Herrmann, or Gary McCririe.

OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION COMMITTEE
Shelagh Davis, Chairman 229-8494

Seventy-five supporters of the Old Town Hall Restoration had a wonderful time Saturday, October 28, at the Lakelands Country Club, for the Committee's third annual Dinner Dance. Thanks to Bonnie Bean, more than thirty-five door prizes were donated by area merchants and businesses. The three top door prizes were won by: Colleen Auld, \$75.00 gift certificate from Erb Lumber; Peggy Goff, a \$100.00 certificate from Church's Lumber; and the two tickets to the Michigan vs. Purdue football game (donated by Representative Susan Grimes-Munsell) were won by Barbara and Bill McCririe. Other door prizes included gift certificates or merchandise from most of the Main Street merchants, and the Brighton Mall merchants. Many, many thanks to all of you for your donations.

And a big thank-you to the Old Town Hall Committee who helped make the Dinner-Dance a great success: Jack and Bonnie Bean, Gary Cole, Dick Davis, Gary McCririe, Val Potts, Jon Stoppels, and our honorary co-chairmen - Dick and Katie Chrysler.

Next year's Dinner-Dance will again be at Lakelands, on October 27. Mark your calendars!

The next project for this Committee will be restoring the balcony, the windows, and installing an electronic bell system. Donations are greatly encouraged! The bell system will cost between \$5000 - \$6000, and will be similar to the recently installed system at St. George Lutheran Church.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dick Davis, Chairman 229-8494

Thanks to Jane Tomlinson, Janice Beach, and all the bakers who contributed to our Fall Bake Sale. The Restoration Fund is \$142.50 richer because of their efforts.

The 1989 Tile is here, and destined to become a collector's item! The Eastern House burned on New Year's Day, 1926. Unfortunately, due to a printing error the date listed on the tile is 1929! These one-of-a-kind tiles may be purchased at the Library, the Chamber of Commerce, Trust Corp, Ubers, and Jarvis Menswear.

The Trash and Treasure Sale on Saturday, Oct. 28 brought in over \$300 for the Society. Mike and Cathy Qualls, chairmen for the sale wish to thank all the workers and the people who donated items for the sale. You helped make it a success.

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: _____

Dues: \$25. Patron	Send to:	Brighton Area Historical Society
25. Business/Professional		P.O. Box 481
8. Couple		Brighton, Mi. 48116
5. Individual		

BRIGHTON'S OLD TOWN HALL LIVES (Conclusion)

Following the coming of the rail road, 1871, the west side of town (west of Ore Creek) boomed with merchants and residents. Friction as to location of the Post Office, construction of sidewalks, amount of gravel on the streets, etc., developed between the "Eastsiders" and the "Westsidiers."

In 1877, the residents petitioned for a building suitable for a village hall, a lockup and fire fighting equipment. A location suitable to both sides was needed. In March, 1874, Godfrey Westphal had been granted permission to build a store, which burned October 28, 1875, on the site of the present Old Town Hall. The city bought the Westphal property for \$350 but no building started because they felt the estimates of \$1673 and \$1850 were too high.

The following year a second petition arrived. Wm. Pipp bid \$2460. James Collett's bid, \$1950, with completion the next year was successful. Collett then found a \$200 error in his bid. Council cooperated and granted him the extra funds. February, 1880, was probably the first time the building was used.

To relieve the conflict of the "East" and "Westsidiers", a fire bell was installed in the Hyne elevator when one was placed in the belfry of the Town Hall. Cisterns to supply water for fire fighting were located on both sides of town.

The first floor accommodated the hand pumper and other fire fighting equipment the volunteer "Brighton Hook and Ladder Company #1" (February, 1876) had acquired. Two large doors opened outward on the front of the building with a smaller entry next to it. The lockup was in the back. The second floor was used by the council as meeting rooms and for elections. Justice was dispensed in this room by the Justices of the Peace or six man juries. For many years the entire township voted in the building. The balcony across the entire front of the second floor held political orators seeking local, county and state positions and was used for special events such as Memorial Day services (begun by the Grand Army of the Republic after the Civil War, 1884.)

In 1927, a small space was set aside for a library upstairs. When the fire department built more spacious quarters across Main Street after WW II, the library moved downstairs until 1957, when the Kiwanians renovated the old Detroit Edison substation for the library's use. Some time prior to the Fire department's move out of the building, the tower and bell had been removed as a perceived safety measure. (The bell has been installed in a prominent position in front of the department's latest building, 615 W. Grand River.)

By 1966, the recently vacated Brighton State Bank building, just west of the mill pond, was purchased and the city moved its offices to that location. The library moved back into the Old Town Hall until 1981, when it was incorporated into the new municipal building. The city then began renting the first floor to a book seller. (Comp/Ed by Marieanna Bair from Pless' "Michigan Memorabilia")

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