



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. 10 October, 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

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OFFICERS

Pres.	Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
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Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

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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

People Along the Trail

If you didn't come to the last general meeting, you missed a very interesting and entertaining speaker. Sam Breck, an "Old Railroads" expert, who works for Peaker Services in Greenoaks Township, a company which repairs diesel engines, gave a talk on the history and development of railroads in Michigan. He also showed slides and discussed the architecture of old depots across the country, and the restoration of these. Many of the grand old depots such as the Michigan Depot built in Detroit in 1914, stands vacant. However, many are serving a variety of uses such as museums, restaurants, banks, businesses and shops and boutiques.

We want to encourage each and everyone of you to attend the general meeting and enjoy the speakers and programs offered.

We want to thank Sam Breck for a very enjoyable evening.

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Mark Your Calendar

<u>date</u>	<u>event</u>	<u>chairman</u>	<u>volunteers</u>
October 17	Lyons School Restoration Committee Meeting	Herb Warner 229-6504	interested people
28	Trash & Treasure Sale Farmers Market 8:00-1:00	Mike Qualls 229-8656	6
28	Dinner Dance Lakelands Country Club	Shelagh Davis 229-8494	everyone is urged to buy a ticket and attend
November 14	General Meeting election of officers 6:30 potluck 7:30 meeting		

Trash and Treasure Sale

The Historical Society needs your used household articles and what nots for our annual sale, at the Farmer's Market Oct. 28. Here is a chance to clean out the attic, basement, and garage!

Bring your items to Penny and Jim Szczechowski or call Mike Qualls 229-8656. He will make arrangements to have your goodies picked up. Last year everyone had a grand time working the day of the sale. This year should be fun too. Please call Mike. He needs lots of helpers. Also, please have your items priced before you drop them off. (Thanks).

Just remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! Hope to see you there.

Mike & Cathy Qualls 229-8656
Jim & Penny Szczechowski 229-7324

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1990 Membership

The following have paid their dues since the last issue:

Couples/Ind.: Alice Clark, Milton Charboneau, Carol Hills, David & Shirley Hood, Richard & Michelle Hyne, Wally & Merylyn Jollitz, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, Dominic & Dorothy Palarchio, Wayne & Sally Baldwin, Kenneth & Bernice Chappel, Leon & Marilyn Bonner, Audrey & Tom Leith, Bernie & Bonnie Carrigan, Melvin Skeman, Marty & Lee Pawlak, Gene & Judy Dahlin, Tim & Helen Hurst, Bob & Shirley Knight, Phil & Alice Krupa, Elisabeth McCausey, Leota Mason, Thomas Longsworth, Kay & Paul Spangler, Harold & Eleanor Davis, John & Janice Field, Floyd & Ial Fuller, Robert & Pauline Schaffery, David Apps, Evangeline Bell, Esther Clark, Jack Smith, Susan Myers, Don & Pat Lueker, Bruce & Janet Owens, Cliff & Shirley Ritter, Mae Schmadtke, Charles Norris, Fred & Bernice Hyne, Lois Huschke, Roberta Estes, Hazel Cole

Election of Officers

At the November 14 general meeting we will be electing officers for the 1990 year.

The slate of officers at this time are:

President: Gary McCririe
Vice President: Cathy Qualls
Treasurer: Marge White
Secretary: open

Directors:

Bill Amrhein
Marieanna Bair
Chuck Beach
Audrey Leith
Leota Mason
Rudy Herrmann
Rae-Lynne Lerner
Penny Szczechowski

We need someone who is interested in running for secretary. If you know someone who would enjoy this job, call Bill Amrhein 227-7282 and let him know.

Nominations will be accepted at the general meeting.

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Lyons School

Herb Warner chairman 229-6504

The Lyons School needs a new furnace. The belfry should be ready by September or October of this year. The committee is currently getting prices on a furnace and a picket fence.

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Genealogy Classes

Genealogy classes are being held at Genealogy, Etc. in Brighton. They will help you begin to trace records and sources for information on your history. Classes are limited and there is a fee.

Interested people should call 227-1760 or 229-8556.

Old Town Hall Restoration Committee
Shelagh Davis, Chairman - 229-8494

The Bell tower is finally up! It was dedicated on Saturday, September 23, along with the kickoff for the Mill Pond Park Project. A number of hardy Society members bundled up to participate in the dedication, on a cold, very windy day. Our thanks to all of you.

Plans are progressing on the third annual Dinner-Dance, to be held at Lakelands on October 28. See separate flyer insert for more details. Bonnie Bean, of this committee, has done a super job of getting door prizes, including two tickets to the Michigan vs. Purdue game, Savings Bonds, silk flower arrangements, lunches at some of the local restaurants, and at least a dozen gift certificates, including a \$50.00 gift certificate from Somewhere In Time, and another \$50.00 certificate from Ewing's Furniture. To win one of these wonderful prizes you have to buy a ticket to the Dinner-Dance! Contact any committee member for tickets. They are also available at the Library, the Chamber of Commerce, Uber's, and IV Seasons Florist.

Finance Committee
Dick Davis, Chairman - 229-8494

The Folk Art Fair was a success. \$200.00 was brought in from the sale of lemonade, cookies, and the Old Town Hall embroidery kits.

The Antique Sale on July 29 made \$788.96. Lillian Davis did a great job of chairing it and it turned out to be very successful.

Trash and Treasures Sale will be held Oct. 28. Mike Qualls is chairing this. Penny and Jim Szczechowski will store items in their carriage house.

The 1989 tile proof should be here by the end of the month.

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:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with spec. events | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Pub., etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

To commemorate the recent progress in the restoration of the old building, it was felt that a summary of the work of the Society's Old Town Hall Restoration Committee and a short review of the building's history was appropriate.

The Society has been conducting fund raising projects to restore the Hall for future use as a place to display the many artifacts donated, relating to the history of the Brighton area, and a meeting place for that organization. To expedite these efforts the Old Town Hall Restoration Committee came into being.

In 1984, the building was listed on the Michigan Historic Site Register and a marker installed. October, 1987, saw the stripping of red paint from brick and trim, which had been applied to conceal alterations were made to accommodate those using the building: removal and changing of windows, doors, etc. Caulking and repainting of trim was accomplished in 1988, also the building of a replica of the tower. September 23, 1989, the tower was dedicated following its raising to its original position atop the Hall.

The Restoration Committee is a dedicated group, not resting on their laurels. Plans for future fund raisers are underway. The support of the entire area is vital to complete the task.

Several small communities, with a post office, blacksmith shop, mill and small stores were scattered throughout Brighton Township at the time of its organization in 1837. However, many of those in the southwest corner of the township felt they'd get a better allocation of tax moneys and under that aegis a charter for Brighton Village was prepared March 7, 1867.

Within three weeks the village council was formed: president, clerk, treasurer and trustees. For 30 years the council met in rented rooms; some at .50¢ per month, some at the cost of lighting (candles and oil lamps.) The treasurer was bonded, record books and, eventually, some chairs with "wood bottoms" were purchased. These village officers did their best to conduct the business of the community in a manner which would be in the best interests of the residents and merchants.

Early ordinances regarding the treatment of riotous persons were written, as were those prescribing no liquor on Sundays, no shooting, no ball playing on village streets, animals were not to be hitched to trees, livestock was not allowed to roam the streets.

Other concerns the council encountered included selection of fire fighting equipment and storage space for this equipment. A village lockup was needed and a permanent place to meet. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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