



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.9 September 1989

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

* * * *

OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------|---------------|----------|
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| Sec. | Shelagh Davis | 229-8494 |
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| Finance Comm. | Dick Davis | 229-8356 |
| Lyons School | Herb, L. Warner | 229-6504 |
| Old Town Hall | Shelagh Davis | 229-8494 |
| Penny Szczechowski | editor | 229-7324 |
| Cathy Qualls | editor | 229-8656 |

Trash and Treasure Sale

Here is your chance to get rid of all those unwanted items and benefit the community, as we will be having our sale at the farmer's market again. The sale is Saturday, October 28 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We are in need of people to work. Please contact chairperson Mike Qualls at 229-8656. He is anxious to hear from you. The Szczechowskis have allowed us the use of their carriage house as a gathering point for all the items for the sale. Contact them at 229-7324 when you wish to drop off your goodies. If you are unable to drop off your items, please call Mike. He will try to arrange something. Also, if possible, please have your items priced before dropping them off.

Mark Your Calendar

| <u>date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Chairman</u> | <u>Volunteers needed</u> |
|--------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| September 12 | General Meeting 6:30 potluck 7:30 general meeting | | Everyone is urged to attend |
| 23 | Millpond Park Renovation Kickoff | | See Old Town Hall Article, page 2 |
| October 28 | Trash and Treasure Sale | Mike Qualls 229-8656 | 8 |
| 28 | Dinner Dance | Shelagh David 229-8494 | Everyone is urged to attend |

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

SEPTEMBER 23, at 10:00 a.m., has been set for the kick-off of the Mill Pond Park renovation project. Highlighting the morning will be a ground-breaking ceremony, the installation of the bell tower reproduction on the Old Town Hall, and the start up of the new fountain in the Mill Pond. The event will be sponsored by the Brighton Area Historical Society, the Downtown Development Authority, Merchants Association, and the Chamber of Commerce. All Society members are invited to attend and participate in the ceremony. Coffee and donuts will be served at 9:00 a.m. The present Old Town Hall Restoration Committee, made up of Society members Jack and Bonnie Bean, Gary Cole, Dick and Shelagh Davis, Gary McCririe, Val Potts, and Jon Stoppels, would like to give thanks and recognition to past members of this Committee who worked hard on the plans for reconstructing the bell tower: Sandy Bansbach, Jim Dennis, Rudy Herrmann, and Zara Graham. In addition, the Committee also thanks Drew Parrish, the local carpenter who built the bell tower reproduction: Ed Landry, for installing the lightning rod; William Green, for reinforcing the bell tower foundation; Mt. Brighton, for erecting the bell tower; the City of Brighton's D.P.W. for storing, painting, and transporting the bell tower; Dick and Katie Chrysler for their financial support; and the Brighton Lions Club, for their donation of \$2600 toward the bell tower reproduction.

The third annual DINNER-DANCE, sponsored by the Old Town Hall Restoration Committee, is planned for October 28, 1989, from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., at the Lakelands Country Club. Tickets are \$25.00 each, and are on sale at Brighton Public Library, Four Seasons Florist, and the Chamber of Commerce. They may also be purchased by mail: make checks payable to Brighton Area Historical Society (\$25.00 x the number of people attending), and mail to Old Town Hall Dinner Dance, c/o Brighton Public Library, 200 North First Street, Brighton, MI 48116. Included with this year's ticket is a chance to win one of many door prizes, donated by area merchants. Along with many gift certificates, there will also be a chance to win a pair of tickets to the University of Michigan vs. Purdue football game, on November 4, donated by State Representative Susan Grimes-Munsell. You must be present to win the door prizes! A number of guests have indicated they will wear historic dress for the dance. This is optional! Please feel free to wear either a historic costume, or your Sunday best! For more information about the dance, call Shelagh or Dick Davis, 229-8494.

WE'RE BACK AT MILLER!

Beginning in September, the Society will be holding its Board Meetings, General Meetings, and Old Town Hall Restoration Committee meetings, at the (former Miller School) Intergenerational Center, 850 Spencer Road. We will be meeting in the Senior Citizens' part of the IGC. When you face the building, the meeting rooms are at the far right. The meeting dates for September, 1989 through the school year are: GENERAL MEETINGS: pot luck supper, 6:30 p.m.; business meeting and program, 7:30 p.m.; September 12, November 14 (Annual meeting and election of officers), January 9, March 13, May 8. BOARD MEETINGS: 7:00 p.m. September 28, October 26, November 30, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24. (The December Board Meeting will be at the Old Town Hall). OLD TOWN HALL RESTORATION COMMITTEE: 7:00 p.m. September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dick Davis, Chairman - 229-8494

The Society's booth, at the Folk Art Fair, was a great success. We sold lots of lemonade, postcards, and a needlework kit of the Old Town Hall. Many thanks to Rae-Lynne Lerner for chairing this event, and to her workers: Marty Lerner, Nancy Hackney, Marge White, Kathy Grove, Alice Newcomb, and Cathy Qualls. Thanks also to the Lerner's for donating the lemonade.

The 1989 tile, of the Eastern House, should be here soon, in time for the October 28 Trash and Treasures. The tile will be \$7.00. Tiles are still available for 1988 (Lyons School), 1987 (Western House), 1986 (Union School), and 1985 (Pere Marquette Depot). The 1984 tile, of the Old Town Hall, has been sold out for a couple of years. The Depot tile will soon be sold out. The tiles are issued in a limited number of 300. The Society will not reproduce the same tile, after the current supply is gone. To avoid being disappointed, purchase your tiles now. They are available at the Brighton Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce, Jarvis', Ubers, and during any Historical Society fundraiser.

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
- 25. Business/Professional
- 8. Couple
- 5. Individual

Send to:

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

BLACKSMITHING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Conc.)

In 1910, Adolph Martin and his bride, Bertha Young, came to Brighton from Dortmund, Germany. A brother and other relatives were already located here. An expert blacksmith, he realized "there were greener pastures in Brighton" so they moved from their Clark Lake residence after only six months.

The Stuhrberg blacksmith shop on Grand River (where the Canopy is now located, 130 W. Grand River) was rented by the Martins. In 1914, they purchased the blacksmith shop on the northwest corner of North Street and Grand River (Champs Pub, 140 E. Grand River) from Norm Rosburn. Their living quarters were upstairs.

About 1926, this building was replaced with a cement block building, which had a bar in front and his shop in the rear. It was at this time the Rolison Hardware (111 W. Main) was built by the same builder. (His daughter remembers his irritation that his building was not completed first.) Their home then was across the street on the site of the North Street Professional Building, 121 W. North St.

Customers would bring cars in to him for repair. He often had to devise the repair from his experience and knowledge of metal. One customer subsequently acquired a patent for himself on Martin's repair job. As most blacksmiths, he was also a ferrier, going to the horse barns when necessary. At the time he located in Brighton, seven smiths worked in the area; he outlived them all. When he retired he was the last smith in town. By then he had gone into the farm implement business. In the 1946 "Victory Home Coming" book an advertisement "Compliments Adolph Martin, Implement and Repair Shop" can be found.

In 1915, he became a U.S. citizen. Aware of the benefits of living in a country where thrift and industry resulted in a satisfactory living for himself and his family, he often extended a helping hand to others. An example of his generous nature is depicted in a story a daughter relates - During the depression of the 1930s she encouraged him to try to collect from the many who owed him. "Do you have enough to eat?" "Yes." "Are you going to school?" "Yes." "These people may be having a harder time than we are." She replaced the box of unpaid invoices back on the shelf.

Many of the area's smiths were people, who like Martin, had learned the trade in Europe and emigrated from their homeland. An appreciation for the opportunities in the U.S. seems evident in the responsible manner in which many conducted their business. The Martins, the Beckers, Hartmans, Dorrs, Herbsts, Webers and others (including wives) changed the wilderness into farm lands and towns. Today this area is home to new settlers who are also trying to be trustworthy citizens so those who follow can be proud too. (Compiled and edited by Marieanna Bair from the Argus-Dispatch Centennial Issue, 1967 and with the aid of Elsa Martin Stegenga.)

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