



P.O. Box 481  
Vol. XI No. 4

Brighton, MI 48116  
April, 1992

*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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Gary McCririe	229-2191
V.P.	Cahty Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Anne Stratigos	229-5689
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Marieanna Bair - Archives	229-6402
Ricci Bandkau - Oral History	227-7664
Dave Barton - Historic Resource	229-5213
Michael Cuthbert - Resource Comm.	229-6728
Doris Petersen - Oral History	960-1723
Penny Szczechowski - Editor	229-7324
Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100

EDITORIAL

Support of the Society's goals and projects comes in many forms. Pictures and artifacts are donated or loaned. Raffle prizes, labor and merchant contributions all are encouraging signs that the community cares.

All in the area should be aware that this continued support is needed and that it must assuredly increase.

The railroad depot is gone, the Union School is gone. Many old barns and homes have been dismantled or remodeled without regard for architectural integrity.

Little by little the Society is gaining in credibility and visibility. And little by little the history of the area is being revealed because many are willing to help.

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AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES TO MEET

The spring meeting will be hosted by the Plymouth Historical Society, Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 at the Museum, 155 S. Main St., Plymouth. The program will include a speaker on organizing genealogical materials in archives and libraries of local historical societies.

This 'Cluster' meeting takes place twice a year and gives societies an opportunity to compare notes and learn from each other. Contact a member to attend with us.

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We have to accept a certain amount of old age; we're not all beautiful forever.

GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 14

Beginning with a pot luck @ 6:30 for those who wish, the General Meeting of the Society will be Tuesday, April 14, at the Miller Intergenerational Center, 850 Spencer Rd. (Entrance at the far end of the parking lot.)

At 7:30 Lyle Herbst will give a short talk on how Brighton got its name, etc. Lyle has been a lifelong resident of the area and has a good memory. The meeting is open to the public. Bring a friend.

BOARD MEETING, May 14

The Board of Directors' next meeting will be Thursday, May 14, beginning at 7 p.m. Meetings are held upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Open to the public, members are especially encouraged to attend. The Board regularly meets the second Thursday of the month.

Bus/Prof: Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Warner's Orchard and Cider Mill.

Patron: John & Win Allen, Fred & Bonnie Corrigan, Lois Krausman (FL), Colton Park.

Couple/Indiv: David Apps, Wayne & Sally Baldwin (Gr. Rapids), Chuck & Janice Beach, Jean Bethea, Richard & Elaine Blight, Florence Chase (Fowlerville), Lois Clark (Midland), Leslie Healy, Merrill & Ruth Herbst, Carol Hills, Marty & Lee Pawlak, Celia Schaffer, Fred Schiller, Dan & EmmaJean Schmidt, Ina Shannon, Ed & Connie Sherman, Richard Smith, Gerald & Gwen Swann.

Those able to be more actively involved with the Society appreciate the support of dues paying members. If 1992 dues haven't been tendered please consider pulling your share. Address changes should be sent the Society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

To Wally and Marilyn Jollitz: two velvet covered albums (no pictures); several older containers including: veterinary (Dr. Blatchford), a snuff tin, bottle with "Leland Drugs" label, etc.; a small box with gold "Key to the City of Brighton"; several Brighton Country Club Plat maps; several early issues of Trail Tales; Bill Pless clippings; Howell Centennial Edition of the Livingston County Press, 1962; Brighton Argus 75th Anniversary Edition and other paper ephemera.

To Old Kent Bank for the original 1915 Livingston County Atlas, folders of clippings, etc., of the history of Old Kent Bank (Brighton State Bank).

These items are all important to the research going on of the history of the area. Those who might have other items, pictures, directories, histories, etc., etc., etc., may donate them to the Society or lend them for copy making.

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Sincere condolences are extended to Jim and Penny Szczechowski on the death of Penny's father.

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## YOU ARE NEEDED

## TWO HOURS A MONTH

Each month approximately 200 issues of Trail Tales are hand delivered to 35 locations in the area. These include real estate offices, medical facilities, banks, etc. - all places where people who may not know about the Society can pick up a copy. Many of them become members and active supporters. Needed are one or two people to make these deliveries each month. It takes approx. two hours. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

## RESOURCE COMMITTEE

## Tiles

The 1991 ceramic tile, featuring the former State Police Post at Grand River and 23, is available at Jarvis Men's Wear store and Uber's Drug store. This is the 9th in the series which is sponsored by the Society.

Limited editions, these are fast becoming collector's items. Earlier issues are available.

## SIGNATURE QUILT

Signatures to be embroidered on the quilt are steadily being received. A \$10. donation ensures that your signature, or that of a friend or family member, will be on the quilt. This quilt will remain in the Society archives. All proceeds from this or any other fund raiser are used for historic preservation and restoration.

## 1993 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is beginning its search for members to serve on the 1993 Board of Directors. People that care about the Society and the goals it's pursuing are needed to guide its activities. Please note on your membership form or contact a board member that you'd like to help. You are needed!

## EARLY BANKING?

Research is being conducted into the early banking practices of the area. Any pictures, written material, etc., will be gratefully received. These can be donated to the Society or copied for the archives. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

ECHOES FROM THE ATTIC

An Oral History workshop teaching the techniques of the tape-recorded interview will be held Saturday, May 9, 10-3. Presented by the Michigan Oral History Council, \$25. includes lunch, materials, etc. Contact Anne Stratigos, 229-5689, before April 15, to join us in Novi.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

A committee is being formed to properly file the reference materials already in the Society's possession. Next meeting Saturday, April 18, 9-11 a.m. at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Your help is needed. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

FROM THE TREASURER

The financial resources are recorded in two separate funds.

All dues are placed in the General Fund. Administrative and newsletter expenses are paid from these.

All donations and proceeds from fund raising projects are put in the Preservation and Restoration Fund. Expenses relative to the Lyons School and Old Town Hall restoration, the Oral History project, the Historic Resource Survey, Archival storage, etc., are paid from these receipts.

A study of the Treasurer's report may imply a fine balance; but projected expenses on the items noted above will account for a major share.

The Society Board is acutely aware of its accountability in regard to the resources in its care.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Board Meeting, March 12, 1992

February 1, 1992	Beginning Balance		\$40694.73
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
General Fund: Dues -1992= 6 @ 7. = 42.	1993= 1 @ 7.		
	2 @12. = 24.		
	4 @25. =100.	173.00	
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Interest Earned			
Sav. Acct. (1-25-92)	57.82		
Chk. Acct. (1-31-92)	6.57		
Kemper Acct. (1-24-92)	<u>71.19</u>	135.58	<u>308.58</u>
			\$41003.31
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
General Fund:			
Adm: P.O. Box Rent	35.00		
Flowers	<u>24.95</u>	59.96	
Off/Chrm.-Secr. postage		29.00	
Newsletter: Printing	145.00		
Postage	<u>50.04</u>	195.04	284.00
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Lyons School - Utilities		11.67	
Old Town Hall - Insurance	<u>327.00</u>	338.67	<u>622.67</u>
February 29, 1992	TOTAL NET WORTH		\$40380.64
Sav. Acct. (1-25-92)	\$14644.83		
Chk. Acct. (2-29-92)	1420.95		
Kemper Acct. (1-24-92)	<u>24314.86</u>		<u>\$40380.64</u>
Marieanna Bair, Treas. Pro Tem			

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- ( ) Bake Sale      ( ) Help with Spec. events      ( ) Newsletter      ( ) Research
- ( ) Board Member      ( ) Hospitality      ( ) Oral History      ( ) Restoration
- ( ) Fund Raising      ( ) Programs      ( ) Photography      ( ) Video Taping
- ( ) Genealogy      ( ) Membership Committee      ( ) Publicity      ( ) Other

work I would be willing to do: \_\_\_\_\_

- DUES: \$25. Patron
- \$25. Business/Professional
- \$12. Couple
- \$ 7. Individual

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society  
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## WINTER ACTIVITIES OF AN EARLIER TIME IN THE AREA

### Ice Harvesting (continued)

A dance program dated 1890 lists the Labadie Ice Co. on Island Lake, which had acquired the Beaubian Ice Co. some time prior to that date. Edwin Labadie's father, from Ecorse, with horses and a crew of men had large ice houses. The one at Island Lake was located near the present bath house and beach in the Island Lake Recreation Area. A railroad siding was built to run the box cars into place for filling. The workers and the Labadie family lived in two houses nearby. The Labadie Ice Co. also harvested ice from the Detroit River. The Island Lake facility was sold in 1918.

The Crystal McFadden Ice Co., also at Island Lake, hired 30-40 laborers each year. Wages of \$1.50 per ten hour day were paid in 1900. This was increased to \$4.00 per day by 1920. The men worked hard during the few months ice cutting was in full swing. The ice house was on the north side of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern railroad crossing of Academy Drive, where the Michigan National Guard Camp was located. The Guard already was making use of the ice by 1884.

When ice was a minimum 8-10" thick, which some years was in December, that was the signal for work to begin. A winter with early snow was cause for concern since it would delay the freezing of the water. Some companies kept the snow cleaned off the ice to ensure deep freezing and others left it on, once it was thick, to lessen the chance of melting during a January thaw. Some considered ice free of snow to be more pure. When horses were used on the ice they were 'sharp shod' to help prevent slipping while cleaning the snow from the ice with a plow.

Cutting the ice in long straight rows to within an inch of the water allowed the men to work and not fall through. A second row was cut which, when the ice (cut in blocks) was removed, formed a channel through which blocks cut farther out on the lake were pushed to the shore. Water filled the channel to the top of the ice and as each block was cut it bobbed up and could be moved by means of spuds and tongs along the channel.

Commercial markets spurred improvement of the process: going from a man powered saw, to one worked by a horse (who had a rope tied around its neck to pull it out of the water if necessary), to a saw powered by a gas engine. The saw also had a 'bobbin' attached for retrieval from the water if necessary. This saw moved so quickly extra care was required by the worker to avoid injury.

The large ice companies built chutes and conveyers, run by a steam engine, up which the ice was raised onto the mounting layers in the ice house. There it was packed with saw dust and marsh hay. Working from dawn to dark tons of ice were harvested each day. During the night one worker periodically pushed a block along the channel to keep it from freezing shut by the next morning. Those who harvested only for themselves tugged and hauled the large blocks onto a stone boat and with much grunting and puffing put each block in place in the family ice house. (Prepared by Marieanna Bair, To be continued. Comments, corrections, additions desired. 229-6402)

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