



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
Vol. XI No.

Brighton, Mi. 48116
February, 1992

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Officers

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

Directors

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

BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting of the Brighton Area Historical Society will be held at the Old Town Hall on Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

SPRING MEETING

The Spring meeting of the Brighton Area Historical Society needs a chairman and a speaker or activity. A date has not been set yet. We need your help.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a new feature to Trail Tales the Board thought that our members would like to hear from the President, Vice President or some other officer on a current issue or topic of the Society. I am introducing the new feature, as well as making the first contribution.

At this time of year, we look back and reflect on the things that our group has accomplished and those things that we have not. As with all organizations, we have a lot of great ideas and projects, but never enough time to do them all. But, we hope that we can at least make some dent in the long list. I think that you will agree that we have made progress this year and have made inroads to accomplishing more.

As of the first of the year, we will finally have a legitiment "home" for the Society in the upper level of the Old Town Hall. We secured a 3 year lease for the space and should be moving and organizing there soon. As with everything else, we need help from our members setting our space

(continue on page 2)

PATRON: Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Bob and Tillie Bitten, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Fred & Bernice Hyne (93), Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Jere & Kay Michaels, Doug & Carol Rearick

COUPLE/IND: Pat & Josie Arnold, David J. Barton, Eve Bell, Mildred Bender, Susie Braund, Kenneth & Bernice Chappel, Ben T.O. Clark, Don & Lois Cole, Hazel Cole, Bill & Marianne Comiskey (93), John & Roslyn Conley, M/M John Curry, Homer & Evelyn Dothager (IL), Joe & Irene Ellis (93), Loretta Farley (93), David & Terrie Fisher, Tim & Kay Flynn, Dorothy Foster (93), Mary Beth Guest, Nancy Hackney, Katherine Hampton, Dorothy Hartman, Bill & Helen Hyne, Roydon & Dorothy Jones, Whitney & June Kimble, Lois Krausman (FL), James & Judy Murray, Roland & Jane Owens, Scott Owens, Dominic & Dotty Palarchio, Greg & Pam Park (O), Rev John & Sandra Park, Doris Petersen, Betty Polaske, Ted & Linda Potter, Marshall & Jemel Purdue, Janet Rohrabacher, Bob & Pauline Schaffer (93), Bud & Janet Schopp, Alice Sprague, (FL), Margaret Squire, Horace & Yvonne Taylor, Bill & Jane Tomlinson, Arloa Washburn, Bob & Ruth Watson, Anna Westin, Pat & Marge White, Mike & Janet Woodford.

The fine support of all the above is a real boost to the Board of Directors. It confirms there is caring.

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December 1, 1991	BEGINNING BALANCE		\$42582.57
<u>RECEIPTS</u>			
General Fund: Dues	3 @ 7.	21.00	
	8 @ 12.	96.00	
	3 @ 25.	<u>75.00</u>	192.00
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Finance - Signature Quilt		10.00	
Lyons School Donation		3.00	
Interest earned		<u>170.30</u>	<u>183.30</u>
			375.30
			42957.87
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>			
General Fund:			
Hist. Soc. Mich. dues	25.00		
Newsletter	192.72		
Bulk Mail Permit, etc.	<u>76.00</u>		293.72
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Lyons School Utilities		<u>11.07</u>	<u>304.79</u>
December 31, 1991	TOTAL NET WORTH		\$42653.08
Savings	17024.04		
Checking	1498.79		
Kemper Fund	<u>24130.25</u>		<u>42653.08</u>
Marge White, Treasurer			

up and making it a place to be proud of. Additionally, any persons that have been waiting to donate items to us can now be assured that they will now have a 'place'. Also, those that have already donated to us and are wondering when it will appear, it looks like it will be soon. We are going to be showing off our treasures and setting up an archiving system for preservation. More to come on this subject soon.

Work on Lyons School on Buno Road is progressing with the outstanding work of Herb Warner. Herb has seen to it that the entire exterior was resided and painted. Further, Herb saw to the grading of the area around the school and the installation of a plank fence for security. We came close this last year to losing the school to Brighton Township because of unfulfilled promises we made when the building was given to us. With the great cooperation of the Brighton Township Board and the hard work of Herb Warner, we have resolved those concerns and the project is progressing. Anyone from the past Lyons School committee and those that are willing to serve on the committee are urged to please give Herb a hand on this project.

The Society needs to solicit help from those members who can spare a few hours each month to carry out the worthy projects of the Society. We are expanding several of the areas that have been put on hold in the past including oral history, historical resource survey, among others. We would like to thank those who have contributed time, funds, or (continue on page 3)

anything this past year (and before) and hope that they don't feel that their hard work has gone unnoticed, because it hasn't.

Myself and the entire Board of Directors look forward to our best year ever in 1992. We think that we are on the right track and hope that anyone with comments or suggestions will share them with us.

GARY T. McCREARY, Pres.

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A THANK YOU to the Fence Spot for donating toward the purchase of the fence at Lyons School.

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1992 DUES ARE DUE

As we begin the new year, our annual Historical Society dues need to be renewed.

All you need to do is fill out the form at the bottom of this page and send it in with your check.

Your support helps make possible all the Society projects.

HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY
chairman Dave Barton is seeking sources where data is kept on the area. He has already contacted the Department of Agriculture in Howell, Michigan State University, and the Extension Office. He is currently working on a historical study of the area and researching historical materials.

ORAL HISTORY chairman Doris Petersen is doing interviews with people who have spent their lives in Brighton and the area. She will be coordinating oral history with physical history. She is currently working on a photo identification project of local people and places to broaden our overall identification of this area.

A PROGRAM CHAIRMAN IS NEEDED to plan future programs for the Society. If you are interested, please let the Society know. If you know of anyone who would like to present a program, also contact the Society.

The 1992 tile is now available. It depicts the Old Police Post located on Old 23 and Grand River. Tiles are 3 for \$20 or \$8 each. A display of all the tiles can be seen in the showcase at Uber's Drugstore.

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	Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
\$25. Business/Professional	P.O. Box 481
\$12. Couple	Brighton, Mich. 48116
\$ 7. Individual	

WINTER ACTIVITIES OF AN EARLIER TIME IN THE AREA

Hurrying from a warm bed (in a room where the temperature was near freezing) downstairs to the kitchen where the cook stove was already hot, the three children of the family quickly dressed. Oatmeal (or pancakes, potatoes, ham, eggs, etc.) were already cooking this morning of February, 1900.

Carrying the oil lanterns to push away the early morning darkness the children dashed to complete their chores. Altho' dressed warmly every seam which might admit it was found by the chill wind. Warm water was taken to the chicken house to fill the water fountains. These had been emptied the night before to prevent freezing and breakage. The hens shrieked and scattered if one moved too quickly raising a fine dust. However they soon regrouped around the water fountain (an upside down jar over a dish which allowed air to replace the water as the chickens drank). Occasionally a frozen egg, which had been laid after the last gathering the night before, was found. After thawing the egg could be used in cake batter. The yolk was likely to be rubbery if fried or boiled.

The sheep and calves also needed to be fed and watered before the children started for school. Next month many of the ewes would be lambing and a few days of school might be missed while helping with this event. Sometimes a ewe needed help with the birthing or if triplets were born another ewe, with perhaps only one, needed to be convinced she had twins in order that the odd lamb would not starve. Children were often given lambs for which they were responsible until they were shipped to market and then received the proceeds; or when the wool shorn in the spring was sold.

Calves, for several weeks, had to be fed a mixture of milk and finely ground grain from a bottle until they could be taught to drink from a bucket. Not all calves were cooperative. It was necessary to feed them by hand since the milk from the cows was used by the family, or shipped to the milk factory. Pens were cleaned and fresh straw pitched in. This kept the calves warm and healthy.

Daylight was beginning to show and the lanterns were extinguished on the way back to the house. Following breakfast, the children gathered their books and lunch buckets and began the $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile trek to school. Hopefully the teacher had the fire in the big stove going well. The students' parents supplied the fuel. They could look forward to the unforgettable odor of drying mittens and socks. (Not all children had sufficient clothes to change from those worn to the barn.) Today they'd make Valentines to give each other and their parents. The Gettysburg Address would be learned and the story of the Father of our country heard again. (Prepared by Marieanna Bair from various resources including "Michigan Memorabilia" by William Pless. Comments and suggestions re these articles are welcome.)

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