



P.O. Box 481  
Vol. XI No. 6

Brighton, MI 48116  
June, 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

##### MEETINGS

BAHS Board: Thursday, June 11, 7 p.m., at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. All members are welcome.

Archive Comm: Saturday, June 20, 9-11 a.m., at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Any one welcome.

Livingston County Genealogical Society:  
1st Thursday, 7 p.m., at Cultural Hall, LDS church, 1041 W. Grand River, Howell.  
If you're preparing your family tree this is the group with which to meet.  
P.O. Box 1073, Howell.

Archives 101 Workshop: Saturday, June 20, 9-3:30, Hope College Campus, Holland, MI 49423. Will cover all aspects of preserving archival materials: collection, appraisal, processing, legal considerations, storage, photographs, etc.

#### EDITORIAL

Do you realize your support of the Society helps to keep the Brighton Area's memory alive?

As residents we share a common heritage, a collective memory of our past. Buildings in the area embody much of that memory. They remind us of who we are and from where we've come.

But memory is not forever. How quickly we forget what a building looked like, or even that it was there, once it's gone. Each time this happens a little of our heritage is gone also.

The Society would encourage local developers to be aware of the long term benefits in the preservation and rescue of older buildings. The charm and integrity of the area owes much to the presence of these structures.

Local planning commissions are urged to incorporate preservation in their designs.

All readers of Trail Tales are prompted to support the preservation of the Brighton Area memory. Membership in the Society is an appropriate way to demonstrate your approval of its goals and objectives.

+ + + +

#### BRIGHTON'S MEMORIAL DAY

We take this opportunity to thank the armed services organizations which conduct the annual Memorial Day observance in such an appropriate manner. The wreath laying services at Fair View and Calvary cemeteries are especially moving and fitting. It is our hope more spectators will be able to participate in these 'post Main Street' services in the future.

Our thanks also to the Brighton High School Marching Band for their customary presentation and fine performance.

Patron: Joe & Pauline Chenoweth, Harold, Jr. & Esther Jarvis (93), Tom & Audrey Leith, Marie O'Dell (92 & 93).

Couple & Indiv; Bill & Jacquie Armstrong, Jeannette Bailey, Ted & Doris Carmack, (Dearborn), Esther Clark (Howell), Laurence & Jean Clark (Milford), Frances Clore, Libby Eisenhardt, Millie Harrington, Richard & Helen Leitz (Dearborn), John & Jeannette Linahan, Fred & Mary Messerschmidt, Charles & Marion Norris, Cliff & Shirley Ritter, Sherrel Rutter (Detroit, 92&93), Bill & Charmaine Zink.

The receipt of so many Patron dues during the year is very encouraging to Board Members. They are aware many are unable to make a contribution of time and/or energy. Patron dues is a good way to show support to the Board and Committee Chairmen.

+ + + +  
THANKS THANKS THANKS

Rev. John Park for the picture post card, postmarked 1942, of the beach at Burroughs Farms (Oak Pointe). It will be included in the archives.

Velma Farmer for touring with Marieanna Bair and for her memories of an earlier Brighton.

+ + + +  
HELP HELP HELP HELP

In May a volunteer called to offer to deliver Trail Tales to various businesses in the area. The name and phone number were misplaced. Please contact Marieanna Bair (229-6402) again. Your help will be appreciated.

Data on Dr. Boylan is needed. He was active in the community early in this century, we believe. Someone remembers him. Please contact Marieanna Bair 229-6402, with your information

Do you have pictures of one room schools which were located in Brighton and Genoa Townships? A copy will be made and the original returned. The lack of these pictures results in a large gap in the archives. Contact Marieanna Bair. 229-6402.

+ + + +  
"Cities that go through rapid change lose their identities if they don't preserve their historical buildings." Denver Mayor Federico on the demolition of the Central Bank Building, 1990.

Janice Field, Leslie Healy and Marieanna Bair met for two hours Saturday, May 16, to begin the cataloging and proper storage of archival materials which have been given to the Society. We'll meet again Saturday, June 20, 9-11 a.m. We'll find something for you to do. Join us. Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 if you have questions.

Many of you are 'clippers' (people who clip newspaper articles of a particular interest). Many of you have been considerate and sent us some of them. Among these donations is a series of articles titled "A Short History of Livingston County" by William Pless, printed in early 1978 issues of the Livingston County Press. We have #s 1-6 except for #4. (There may be more.) Do you have a one? A copy can be made and the original returned.

Early issues of Trail Tales are available. Let us know if you want some.

+ + + +  
ORAL HISTORY.

Two attended the Oral History Workshop last month in Novi. The resource materials received and the program presented will prove valuable to our historians. Earlier tapes are being transcribed.

+ + + +

CLUSTER MEETING AT PLYMOUTH MUSEUM

Listening to experiences of other historical societies of the area, touring a well run museum and learning about the kinds of research resources local societies and libraries could share made for an evening well spent. Novi Historical Society has invited this group to meet with them this fall.

+ + + + +

A. COLTON PARK  
Members of Brighton Area Historical Society extend sincere sympathies to the family of Colt Park. Over 40 years ago he moved to Brighton and served the community well. Colt was generous with his support of the Society and its purpose. He will be missed.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE - Mike Cuthbert, 229-6728

BAKE SALE: Jane Tomlinson, or a member of her committee, will soon be contacting you for your donation of baked goods or a contribution of cash. Your support is vitally needed.

BOOTH AT ART FAIR: August 8 & 9.: The Annual Arts & Crafts Fair will again find the Society in its booth on Main Street.

The various items the Society has a fund raisers will be available, also information about the Society and its goals. Cookies and orange drink will be for sale too.

To accomplish all this workers will be needed. Lots of help will cut working time to 2-3 hours. Get in touch with Mike to let him know when you can help. The screened tent helps keep us dry and shaded. You'll enjoy yourself.

SIGNATURE QUILT: will be at the Art Fair booth. A \$10. donation will insure your signature, or that of a loved one will be on it. Send your check and signature to the Society.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER: is set for September 11, at the Fire Hall, 615 W. Grand River. Financial contributions will help cut the cost of the food. Set the date aside - the blowout crowd of last year suggests you should come as early as possible. Marian Carney and Audrey Leith, 229-6165, are co chairmen.

Many support the Society and its goals in lots of ways. Consideration might be given to remembering the Society in your will, as a memorial or an appropriate honorarium.

We presume to offer another thought - Often, upon the death of a resident of the area the descendants, while completing arrangements, discard pictures, letters, books, directories, etc., etc., etc., because no direction has been left to give these items to the Society. Please give this some serious thought. The dump is no place for the area's history.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY			
Treasurer's Report			
Board Meeting, May 14, 1992			
April 1, 1992	Beginning Balance		\$40635.01
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
General Fund: Dues			
6 @ \$7., 8 @ \$12., 3 @ \$25.=			
			\$213.00
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Title Sales	6 @ 3/\$20.	40.00	
	3 @ 8.	24.00	64.00
Interest earned			
Sav. Acct.	(3-25-92)	44.75	
Chk. Acct.	(3-31-92)	4.08	
Kemper Acct.	(3-25-92)	72.87	121.70
			185.70
			398.70
			\$41033.71
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
General Fund:			
Trail Tales Printing	145.00		
Postage	75.52	220.52	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:			
Lyons School Utilities	11.36		
Oral History Workshop	75.00		
Archives Magazine	20.00	106.86	326.88
April 30, 1992	TOTAL NET WORTH		\$40706.83
Sav. Acct. (3-25-92)	\$14737.41		
Chk. Acct. (3-31-92)	1497.93		
Kemper " 3-25-92)	24471.49		\$40706.83
Marge White, Treasurer			

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  
 P.O. Box 481  
 Brighton, MI 48116

## WINTER ACTIVITIES OF AN EARLIER TIME IN THE AREA

### Ice harvesting (concluded)

After WW II no more record is found of ice being cut from local waters. Mechanical refrigeration replaced the labor of hundreds. In 1946, Tom Leith purchased the ice business from his father and sold ice from the ice house on S. West Street. During the summers he had three and four ice trucks on the road. In 1952 Tom bought a milk delivery business from Marion Bradley. For 11 years Tom was the local milkman also. In 1953 Tom sold back the ice business to Don Sr., and Don, Jr. By that time ice was sold by use of a vending machine located at the ice house. Every grocery store and service station now has ice available in handy plastic bags.

Lyle Herbst began harvesting ice on Lime Lake in 1937. Until WW II called him into service in 1941, Lyle cut ice each winter, employing 25 men working on the lake, the chute and in the ice house. Lyle recalls cutting 1000 cakes of ice, 22"x22"x12", an hour. The rest of the year Lyle was kept busy on the local delivery route. Customers had a square card with 25, 50, 75 and 100 around the outer edge. This was displayed in a front window. Depending on how much one needed, that part of the card was at the top. "When you saw the card you stopped". Lyle's customers were on a route that stretched from Island Lake to Schaffer Road. The Michigan State Sanitarium near Howell usually received a ton at each delivery. He also cut for Burrough's Farms (Oak Pointe, 5341 Brighton Road) for their use during that same time. This ice was stored in the old King barn on Chilson Road.

Accidents and injuries, occurring during the ice harvest were not uncommon nor unexpected. Occasional drownings occurred. Because many on the winter crews of major ice companies were immigrants or itinerants, they were not always missed; only to be discovered by a fisherman the next summer. January 6, 1898, the ice house of the Toledo ice company on Whitmore Lake collapsed. Of the 150 workers inside two were killed and many injured. However by February 19, ice was again being filled at the rate of 40 cakes an hour. The advent of electricity made night shifts possible. But the grim reaper was also awaiting those who worked during the summer loading ice into railroad cars from the ice house. The obituary in the September 27, 1916, Brighton Argus begins "Life sure is uncertain" and continues with the tragic death of Leon Westphal from Genoa Township. A fellow employee reached for a cake of ice, missed and instead the tongs penetrated Leon's hand. Altho' the wound was treated by a physician, blood poisoning resulted. In two weeks Mrs. Pearl Griffin Westphal became a widow.

The war years tolled the bell for the local ice cutting businesses. Commercial artificial ice and home refrigeration dispensed with the ice man's job. The elimination of jobs by automation is nothing new. (Prepared by Marieanna Bair with thanks to Lyle Herbst, Tom Leith, Edna Peach and Edith Sporer. Other sources, 1880 History of Livingston County, Bill Pless' "Michigan memorabilia", "Yesteryears of Green Oak 1830-1930" and Mrs. Myron West's scrapbook. To compile a more complete record for Society files comments, corrections, additions gratefully accepted. 229-6402)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 481  
Brighton, MI 48116