WINTER ACTIVITIES OF AN EARLIER TIME IN THE AREA

The winter of 1930 was especially good for the ice harvesting business in the area. In March it was still thick enough to support men, horses and machinery. Spring would come before long, but the unusually cold winter enabled local farmers, who were relieved of the toil of planting and harvesting crops, to earn some cash during the winter; hard cash was always hard to come by.

Very early on, farmers who had lakes on their property often harvested ice and stored it in their own ice houses for use by the family. By utilizing a saw with handles on each side, which could be gripped with two hands, ice was cut into manageable blocks. Sawdust from the saw mill and marsh hay was crammed into the closely placed blocks and covered over the top. (Marsh hay was considered by some to be a better insulator than saw dust.) If sufficient ice had been harvested house crank or ice cream would be made for the Independence Day celebration. The ice helped cool food during the summer months.

Between 1832 and 1855 employment in the area was limited to farming (or clearing land), sawyers, millers, tavern keepers, general and dry goods stores, blacksmithing, foundry workers, distillers, masons, carpenters, teachers, doctors, lawyers and politicians. In the winter months some found work at fitting a huge ice house at Warden Lake.

Truman B. Warden came to Genoa Township from Wayne County in the spring of 1835. Among the property he purchased were 40 acres in Section 25, most of which was covered by the lake which bears his name. Warden, who had a house on Grand River on top of the hill in town, was the first death in the village in November 1837 and the first buried in the village cemetery. (Rather dubious distinctions.)

Eastern House, built in 1850, got its ice from Warden Lake. Others in the village used ice from the mill pond. (Who the harvesters were we don’t know.)

The advent of the rail road to the county was, beyond doubt, a major contributor to the proliferation of commercial ice businesses after 1870. Large ice houses, many stories high, located at Inland Lake, Whitmore Lake and Warden Lake, were all near the tracks. These ice companies serviced homes and markets in cities such as Detroit and Toledo, where rail road connections were in place pre 1870. The Toledo Ice house at Whitmore Lake burned c. 1930. It was located near the northwest shore of the lake. (Prepared by Marianne Bair. To be continued. To make 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

GRAND RIVER TRAIL
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 McCrerie 229-2191
V.P. Cathy Qualls 229-8656
Sec. Anne Stratigos 229-5649
Treas. Marge White 227-3968

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

GENERAL MEETING SET

The next General Meeting of the Brighton Area Historical Society is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14. A potluck supper will be held before the meeting. If you would like to attend this, please bring a dish to pass and enjoy the company of other Society members. The General Meeting will begin at 7:30. A local speaker will be talking about recollections of Brighton.

The meeting will be held at the Intergenerational Center at Miller School. The Society hopes to see you there. Come and enjoy the evening and bring a friend too.

SOCIETY NEWS

Those members who have been storing photos and other archival materials for the Society can now bring them to the Old Town Hall for storage in our new archives in the upstairs of the building.

As the upstairs project for restoration begins, the Society is now able to accept historical photos and reference materials dealing with Brighton and the surrounding area. If you have something you think the Society may be interested in please call Marianne Bair who is currently working on this project.

The next Board Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday, March 12, at 7:00. The meeting will be held at the Old Town Hall. You are invited to attend.

Brighton has many historic sites which should be protected. Applications for the Michigan Historic Site Registration are available through the Society. If you are interested, please contact a board member.

Did you know? Brighton is celebrating its 125th year in 1992.
SIGNATURE QUILT  
Little by little the quilt is filling up. The quilt will remain in the Society archives as a testament to those who are listed. It will be used for display in the future and as a resource for future historians. Send the signature you'd like to have included (yours or someone else) and a donation of $10. Fifty years from now we'll be remembered and gain a bit of immortality.

TILES  
Keep your collection up to date. These attractive tiles of various scenes in the area are available from Jarvis' Men's Store and Uber's Drugstore. A donation of $8, or 3 for $20 will make it yours. And the Society can continue with its preservation and restoration projects.

CARRIE CUSHING HACKER  
The Society has the signature of Carrie Cushing Hacker, the wife of Frank Hacker who ran the filling station at the corner of Grand River and Flint Road for about 25 years. Carrie and Frank have been gone for about 50 years. Will someone send a donation to include her signature on the signature quilt?

OLD HOUSE LECTURE SERIES  
The Livingston County Historical Society is again sponsoring a lecture series at Howell High School in room G-12, at 7:30 p.m. Cost is $3.00 payable at the door.

March 19 - What Color Was Your House? Robert Switzer returns to discuss original color.

April 7 - Painting Vs. Siding Brian Conway

May 4 - Turn of the Century Landscaping Scott Kunz

PERE MARQUETTE RAILROAD  
Detroit to Grand River 1919  
Following are the stops on the railroad from Detroit to Grand Rapids in 1919. Do you know where all these stops are?

- Detroit - mile 0
- South Lyon - stop 36
- Island Lake - stop 42
- Brighton - stop 45
- Canwell - stop 51
- Ann Pere - stop 53
- Howell - stop 54
- Plemon - stop 58
- Fowlersville - 63
- Webberville - stop 68
- Grand Rapids - stop 152

Ann Pere is the junction of the Ann Arbor and Pere Marquette Railroad crossings.

ORAL HISTORY  
Doris Petersen, chairman

Help your family keep track of their photos for the future by dating and marking each picture on the back using a #2 lead pencil.

Did you know?
- 6 ducks were purchased from Harry Gibson in April of 1920 by the newly formed Brighton Board of Commerce to be displayed on the Mill Pond for the enjoyment of the townspeople. This Board of Commerce held its first meeting on March 25, 1920. Dues to belong were $2.00 per year.

MEMBERSHIP  
BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL: Keen Funeral Home; Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen

STORIES OF THE TILES  
The 1991 tile is available. Pictures is the Old Brighton Police Post which is an historic building in the area. These are limited and some of the years tiles are already sold out.

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 ( )
- Restorations ( )
- 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
$12. Couple
$7. Individual

HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
Dave Barton, chairman

Dave is currently building a list of resource people in the area.

He is working on Green Oaks township historical sanitation systems and discovered that the first drain in the county was built near Kensington Road on October 6, 1882. This drain spilled into the Huron river.

See page 2 for a list of stops made by the Pere Marquette Railroad in 1919.

THANK YOU  
The Society would like to thank Marianna Bair for making new labels and Tal and Floyd Fuller for helping with folding, labeling, and stamping the newsletter.

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PATRONS: Ellouise E. Gibson; Marlene & Pat Fonseca; Dr. Gerald Pelkey
COUPLE/INDIVIDUAL: Alice Anderson; Marianne & Bert Bair; Marian Carney; Dr. & Mrs. Harry (Carol) Davis; Janice Field; Nancy Fredenburg (93); Mr. & Mrs. Sebbon; Arlene Jacob; John Korte; Mr. Wm. Seger.

The Historical Society appreciates everyone’s effort to keep their membership status current. As a reminder, if your label does not reflect a ‘92 date, it is time for you to renew.

HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY
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