



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. XI No. 3 March, 1992

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Officers

Pres.	Gary McCririe	229-2191
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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

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 Marieanna 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 Sweitzer returns to discuss original color.

April 7 - Painting Vs. Siding Brian Conway

May 4 - Turn of the Century Landscaping Scott Kunst

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
- AnnPere - stop 53
- Howell - stop 54
- Fleming - stop 58
- Fowlerville - 63
- Webberville - stop 68
- Grand Rapids - stop 152

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

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting February 13, 1992

January 1, 1992	Beginning Balance		\$42653.00
RECEIPTS			
General Fund: Dues			
1991	1 @ 7. = 7.		
1992	12 @ 7. = 84.	14 @ 12. = 168.	5 @ 25. = 125.
1993	2 @ 7. = 14.	2 @ 12. = 24.	
		Total Dues=	410.00
	Misc.		6.00
	Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:		416.00
Resource Comm.			
	Tiles 21 @ 3/20 = 140.		
	28 @ 8 = 224.		
	donation 3.	367.00	
	Signature Quilt		
	(Zapor 20, Meffert 10)	30.00	
	Post cards 3 sets	9.00	406.00
Interest earned			
	Sav. Acct. 12-31-91	62.97	
	Chk. " "	4.85	
	Kemper " "	113.42	181.24
	Undesignated Donations	24.00	611.24
			1027.24
			\$43680.32
DISBURSEMENTS			
General Fund:			
	Adm: Safety box rent	20.00	
	Check printing	37.84	
	Postage	.52	58.36
	Officers: Membership Chrmn.		71.53
	Newsletter: Printing	145.00	
	Postage	151.49	296.49
			426.38
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Resource Comm.			
	Tiles (1991)	1151.79	
	Sp. Supper	30.00	1181.79
	Lyons School: Fence	1350.00	
	Bldg. Supplies	13.35	
	Utilities	11.07	1374.42
	Old Town Hall: 3 yr. lease	3.00	2559.21
			2985.59
January 31, 1992	Balance on Hand		\$40694.73
	12-31-91 Sav.	14587.01	
	" Chk.	1864.05	
	" Kemper	24243.67	\$40694.73
	Treas Pro Tem: Marieanna Bair		

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 home cranked 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, black smithing, foundry workers, distillers, masons, carpenters, teachers, doctors, lawyers and politics. In the winter months some found work at filling a huge ice house at Worden Lake.

Truman B. Worden 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. Worden, 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 Worden 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 Island Lake, Whitmore Lake and Worden 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 Marieanna Bair. To be continued. To make a more complete record for Society files comments, corrections, additions gratefully accepted. 229-6402)

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