



P.O. Box 481
Vol. XI No. 5

Brighton, MI 48116
May, 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

Originally a part of Brighton Township, the residents of portions of Sections 30 and 31 decided to become a village March 7, 1867. Daniel C Marsh, Brighton's first attorney, was named president, and Benjamin T. O. Clark, clerk.

August 20-26, 1967, the City of Brighton celebrated its centennial with the theme "At The Cross Roads". The week long event included everyone who wished to participate: service clubs, churches, businesses and industries. A time capsule was placed, a pageant presented for four nights during the week, and the carnival was in town. There were contests galore (everything from beauty to beard growing to watermelon eating), fireworks, a giant parade, music/dancing, old car exhibit, etc., etc., etc. Dr. W. W. Madden was Mayor and Harold Jarvis, Jr. was chairman of the jubilee.

In 1992 Brighton City is 125 years old. Not perfect but still trying. It would be appropriate to note this anniversary in some fitting manner.

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP, MAY 9

"Echoes From The Attic", an Oral History workshop teaching the techniques of the tape-recorded interview will be held Saturday, May 9, 10-3. It is offered by the Michigan Oral History Council. The \$25. registration fee includes lunch, materials, etc. Contact Anne Stratigos, 229-5689, and join us in Novi.

RECAP OF APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Those who attended April 14, had lots of pictures and other memorabilia of earlier Brighton to examine. The speaker, Lyle Herbst, also brought many fascinating bits of information regarding the area's past. Everyone was glad to be in attendance. Many thanks, Lyle.

There are others among us who have a story to tell. Please contact a Board member with your offer to help with a General Meeting program.

BOARD MEETING, May 14

The Board of Directors will meet Thursday, May 14, 7 p.m. The meetings are held upstairs in the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Open to the public, members are especially encouraged to attend.

GREEN OAK TWP. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The General Meeting will be held Sunday May 17, 4-6 p.m., Green Oak Township Hall, 10789 Silver Lake Rd. Gary Kienley, antique appraiser will speak and appraise one item per family.

Bus/Prof: Brighton Bar & Grill, Timberlane Homes (93).

Patron: Emil & Joan Engel, Steve & Kathy Lowry, Joan Rice.

Couple/Indiv.: Mildred Bender (94), James & Emily Brown, Mildred Harrington, Dave Lehman, Barbara Lorence, Rudy & Doreen Meffert, Susan Meyers & Jack Smith (93), Jill Morey, George Prieskorn, Lucille Prieskorn, Andy and Lila Robertson, Alice Seger, Margaret Siford, Jerry & Vickie Sprague, Gerald & Peggy Williford.

A sincere attempt is made to keep address labels up to date. If yours doesn't read "92", or later, please consider renewing or beginning a membership in the Society.

If you have a change of address please include the Society in the list of those notified. Each time a newsletter is returned it costs the Society .29¢. Many thanks to those who remember.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

To Eve Bell: excerpts from the book "Pioneer Women of the West"; information on Rickett School and Burt Miller, long time one man police force of Brighton; and newspaper articles of local history written by Bill Pless in 1978, '79.

We would remind our readers who have items relating to the history of the area to donate them or lend for copying.

FREEBIE FREEBIE FREEBIE

Some time ago the Society accepted the donation of 10 boxes Gestetner stencils and 25 bottles of ink for Gestetner duplicators. We have no use for these any more. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

1850 CENSUS AVAILABLE

The Livingston County Genealogical Society has a 300 page book containing all the information available of the 1850 Federal Census of Livingston County. Pre-published price is \$20.00 pp if ordered before May 31. Other publications cover three cemeteries in the County, the 1840 Federal Census of Livingston County, etc. Write Dept. F, P.O. Box 1073, Howell 48844-1073.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Society participation is planned for the annual Brighton Art Fair this summer. The annual Spaghetti Supper is in the works. You'll be needed.

Still room on the Signature Quilt for your name or that of another. A \$10. donation will see it embroidered on the quilt. (And you will be immortalized?) We have several signatures of earlier residents of the area. You could have one of them included. Seems appropriate.

Tiles of various local sites make a nice gift, or to add to your collection. The most recent site is the former State Police post. These are available at Uber's Drugs or Jarvis' Men's Wear.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Archival storage materials are being ordered. The committee will next meet Saturday, May 16, 9-11 a.m. Feel free to join in. Your help is needed.

Until the archives are properly organized the preparation of a local history book is difficult. This is one of the Society's goals.

HISTORIC RESTORATIONS

Lyons School: Now that the exterior is in good shape, consideration will be given to restoring the inside. Decisions as to future uses of the building will be in order.

Old Town Hall: Construction of the new balcony and window (replacing the door) should begin soon.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Chrmn. Dave Barton is continuing extensive research into the relationships of the agricultural history of the surrounding townships to the city of Brighton and its development.

DR. BOYLAN?

Last year a series of articles "Is There A Doctor in the Area?" were included in Trail Tales. The writer has since found evidence of a Dr. Boylan. The readers of Trail Tales who have information about Dr. Boylan are asked to please contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402. Our records should be as complete as possible.

WE STILL NEED...

Someone to make about 35 stops in the area delivering approximately 200 issues of Trail Tales each month. Banks, real estate offices, medical facilities, etc., are on the list. This is an opportunity for those who don't know about the Society to learn.

It may take two hours each month. Try it, you might like it - and you'll know you're doing your bit for the Society. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

A quick perusal of the Treasurer's Report shows that each issue of Trail Tales costs \$145. for printing and well over \$50. for postage. Business which might care to donate toward the printing and/or postage for a month would be noted in the newsletter. Checks to the Society should note it's for Trail Tales.

CLUSTER MEETING, MAY 12

The Plymouth Museum, 115 S. Main St., Plymouth, is the setting for the spring meeting of representatives of historical societies of the area. The program begins with a speaker on organizing Genealogical materials in archives and libraries of historical societies, 7:30. A tour of the museum begins at 6:30. Join us and hear the exchange of ideas and projects. Contact a board member.

PALMER PARK TOUR, MAY 16

A guided walking tour of six interiors as well as Palmer Park's fabulous exteriors will last approximately two hours. The area is a significant part of Detroit's rich architectural heritage.

The Detroit Area Art Deco Society is the sponsor of the tour. Call Ann Duke (313) 541-1352 or 258-6848 (or M. Bair, 229-6402) for more information.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Board Meeting, April 9, 1992

March 1, 1992	Beginning Balance		\$40380.64
RECEIPTS			
General Fund: Dues 1991=	1 @ 12.		
	1992= 9 @ 7.	9 @ 12.	5 @ 25.
	1993= 1 @ 7.		315.00
Historic Preservation & Restoration Fund:			
Resource Committee			
Signature Quilt (Case)		10.00	
Interest earned			
Sav. Acct. (2-25-92)		47.83	
Chk. Acct. (2-28-92)		4.53	
Kemper Acct. (2-25-92)	83.76	136.12	146.12
			<u>461.12</u>
			\$40841.76
DISBURSEMENTS			
General Fund:			
Newsletter printing	145.00		
" postage	50.28	195.28	
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund:			
Lyons School Utilities		11.47	
			<u>206.75</u>
March 31, 1992	TOTAL NET WORTH		\$40635.01
Sav. Acct. (2-25-92)	14692.66		
Chk. Acct. (2-28-92)	1543.73		
Kemper " (2-25-92)	24398.62		<u>\$40635.01</u>
Marieanna Bair, Treas. Pro Tem			

PHOTO POLICY ADOPTED

The Board of Directors adopted a policy: Photos of the Brighton Area. "To develop a pictorial continuing history of the area and to make available for historic research, the gathering and indexing of early photos of the area is to be undertaken."

The Board is anxious for the support of those who have pictures of Brighton Area history. It is hoped that these pictures be donated or allow copies to be made. Proper archival storage is being developed and responsible use of these photos is ensured.

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 (continued)

The harvesting of ice was a substantial business before the age of mechanical refrigeration. Transportation of fruit and other perishables called for lots of ice during warm months. Dozens of laborers were employed during the winter and many had work all year long at the ice houses filling railroad cars. Care had to be taken in moving the ice in order to keep the cakes undamaged. It often was a significant part of the local economy.

Sources which serviced local businesses and homes especially were the mill pond in town, Silver Lake in Green Oak Township and Lime Lake in Genoa Township. In these instances hand saws and later gas powered saws were used. Resorters living on Silver Lake were the main customers, rowing their boats to the Peach Ice House on Silver Side Drive. The Peaches preferred marsh hay to saw dust for insulation. Local farmers sold marsh hay to all ice companies (a spin-off industry?)

Lime Lake was considered to be an especially pure source of ice. Charlie Priestly was probably among the first to harvest ice commercially, beginning about 1915. However many others had cut ice there for years. In 1926, Don Leith, Sr., bought the ice business on Lime Lake from Ed Standlick and Floyd Chamberlin. Foreman Bill Holderness and mechanics Carl and Bill Wollenhaupt kept equipment and trucks in running order. Four huge ice houses on the east shore were filled to capacity, approximately 2000 tons, each year. These ice houses were built and owned by the people leasing the property. Pulled by teams of horses, properly shod, a large gasoline powered circular saw on runners cut the ice into blocks approximately 36" square by 12" deep. Each weighed 150-175#. The Leith children were introduced to the ice business when very young, usually by helping with the marsh hay insulating process. Don Leith, Sr., is reported to have said, "They cut their teeth on ice tongs." As each boy turned 14 he was given his own delivery route.

Until WW II, the population of the area multiplied many times each summer by the cottages and resorters, each of which had an ice box in need of ice. Deliveries were also made to taverns, markets and camp grounds. High school boys had a job all summer long. The winter of 1934 was very mild and little ice formed. To be sure of an adequate supply for his customers Leith contracted with the Detroit based City Ice and Fuel Co. A small ice house had been built in town about two years earlier, on S. West Street behind present day Singer Press. The ice was brought to Brighton, from Detroit, in semi trucks holding 133 chunks at 300# each. (Prepared by Marie-anna 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