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 Peach 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 Wollenhaupp kept equipment and trucks in running order. Four huge ice houses on the east shore were filled to capacity, approximately 2600 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 3000 each. (Prepared by Marieanna 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

RECAP OF APRIL GENERAL MEETING

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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.
RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Society participation is planned for the annual Brighton Art Fair this summer. The annual Brighton 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 if you so desire.

Titles of various local sites make nice gifts, 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 meet next Saturday, May 16, 9-11 a.m. Please be sure 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

Chmn. 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 Marianna 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 a bit for the Society. Contact Marianna Bair, 229-6402.

A quick perusal of the Treasurer's Report shows that each issue of Trail Tales costs $1.45, for printing and mail 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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 258-6468 (or M. Bair, 229-6402) for more information.

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.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

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 ( ) Sponsorship ( ) Phar

work I would be willing to do:


Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society P.O. Box 481 Brighton, MI 48116
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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report
Board Meeting, April 9, 1992

March 1, 1992

BEGINNING BALANCE

General Fund: $25,000.00

March 31, 1992

GENERAL EXPENSES

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY

CHMN. $126.63

MARCH 1992

RENEWAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- Bake Sale
- Help with Special events
- Newsletter
- Research
- Board Member
- Hospital
- Oral History
- Fund Raising
- Programs
- Genealogy

Membership Committee

Phone:

MAILING ADDRESS:

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

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JOIN THIS COMMITTEE:

Actively ( )

Memorabilia ( )

Publicity ( )

PHOTOGRAPHY ( )

TOWN ARCHIVES ( )

RESOURCES ( )

INFORMATION ( )

SAND:

$25. Patron

$25. Business/Professional

$12. Couple

$7. Individual

$25. Patron

$25. Business/Professional

$12. Couple

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SEND TO: Brighton Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116
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May 1992

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 board game to watermelon eating, fireworks, a giant parade, music/dancing, old car exhibit, etc., etc., etc.)

Dr. W. W. Hadden 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.

GREEN OAK TWP, HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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