



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
Vol. XII No. 2

Brighton, MI 48116
February, 1993

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Marieanna Bair	229-6402
V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Ricci Bandkau	227-7664
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Dave Barton - Hist. Resource	229-5213
Chuck Beach	229-9678
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191
Ron Morey - Program Chairman	227-7281

Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr.	227-5375
John Linahan - Pers. Deliv.	229-8777
Heidi Newman - History Book	995-2613
Anne Stratigos - Oral History	229-5689
Herb Warner - Lyons School	229-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 9, 7 p.m. "Hearts and Flowers", Valentine program - Jerry Wingerter. Brighton Area District Library, 202 N First St.
- Feb. 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- Feb. 13, 9-11 a.m. Archives Committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- Feb. 20, 8:30-noon. Fading Photos Workshop. Holland, MI.
- Feb. 27, 9:30-1 p.m. Community Fair, Brighton High School.
- Mar. 9, 7:30 p.m. General meeting. First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River. Antiques appraisal - Gary Kuehnle & Eric Lund.
- Mar. 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting.
- Mar. 13, 9-11 a.m., Archives Committee.

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED

If you can carry it you can bring it for appraisal, antique that is Gary Kuehnle and Eric Lund of G.B. Kuehnle Co. will present a program on evaluating antiques and appraisal. The First Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River will be the place and 7:30 will be the time.

Besides small antiques, the partners will also appraise fine arts. You can bring a picture of a larger item. There is no charge for this service. Coffee and cookies will be available (also no charge). Public is invited.

HEARTS AND FLOWERS

Jerry Wingerter of the Bon Ton Shoppe will present a program on the development and evolution of valentines, sponsored by the Brighton Area District Library Tuesday, February 9, 7 p.m.

Local Quester groups will display antique examples of valentines during this program at the City Council chambers, 200 N. First Street. All age groups are welcome. No fee charged. Need a ride? Call 229-6571.

GREAT AMERICAN HOMES AWARDS

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Sears Roebuck Co announce the 1993 competition. For entry requirement and application form, send a SASE to: Home Awards, NTHP, 1785 Massachusetts Ave. NW. Washington, D.C. 20036.

The competition promotes restoration, research and commitment to preservation. The restoration of one home or business owner can encourage entire neighborhoods to do the same.

Patron: Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Bob & Betsy Herbst, Emil & Joan Engel, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Tom & Audrey Leith, Doug & Carol Rearick.

Bus/Prof: Adler Homes, Advance Craft, Colt Park Agency, Keehn Funeral Home, PDQ INK.

Students: Jason Arnold, Timothy Herbst.

Couples/Indiv: Bert & Marieanna Bair, David Z. Barton, Jean Bethea, Norm & MaryAnn Catrell, Lois Clark (Midland), Ken & Bernice Chappel, Hazel Cole (Dexter), Bernardine Cusick, Jerry & Ann Dilloway, Al & Kay Dunk, Tim & Kay Flynn, Jack & Ethel Gebben, Fred & Phyllis Gruezke (94), Katherine Hampton (Plymouth), Dorothy Hartman, Jo Hyne, Bill & Helen Hyne (Howell), Dave Lehman (94), Jack & Jeannette Linahan, Barbara Lorence (94), Jeannette Madian, Mark & Carol McMacken, Tim & Leslie McMacken, Patrick McMacken, Mike & Helen Michaels, Herb & Ruth Munzel (94), Mr. & Mrs. Charles Norris, John & Deb Oberpeul, Rev. John & Sandra Park (Union Lake), George Prieskorn (94), Lucille Prieskorn (94), Marshall & Je'mel Purdue, Bud & Janet Schopp, Mel Skeman (94), Margaret Squire, Franc Stokes (FL), Gerald & Gwenn Swann (FL), Rosemary Ulmer, Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen (Frankenmuth).

Many thanks to all who have renewed for 1993. Response to the inclusion of dues envelopes in the January issue has been very positive. The many patron and business/professional memberships is very heartening. Renewals, and new memberships, encourage board and committee members to keep trying to accomplish the goals of the Society.

The year for which dues have been received are noted on the mailing label. Question? Call the Membership Chairman.

No year noted on the label? It is hope you would want to support the Society with your dues remittance.

COMMUNITY FAIR - FEBRUARY 27

This is the first annual event to bring together local organizations and clubs that strive to improve the community's quality of life. Various demonstrations will be presented and one can tour many of the new Brighton High School facilities.

The Society will have a booth in order that the public can learn what we are about. Can you come and sit an hour with a board member to assure that visitors will know the Society exists? Call 229-6402, please.

Richard Smith for original issues of 17 volumes (Vol. 1-6,9,11,14,20,30,34,36-38 and two indexes, 1890-1906) of the Michigan Pioneer Collections. Begun in 1876, perhaps as a Centennial project, these are invaluable histories and research material. If others have some of the missing volumes, consideration could be given to donate them and complete this addition to the Society Archives.

Rev. John Park for his comments re: his great grandfather's (Gustav J. Baetcke) bank. Observations or remarks from other readers on any subject of the area's past would be valued.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

At the January board meeting Chuck Beach was inducted as a Director. His help and cooperation are welcomed.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

Historic Resource Survey: Dave Barton is acquiring lots of information on the farming/soil/water conditions and problems with which the rural community had to contend when this was a farming economy.

Dave has also made arrangements to have the Society's buggy restored. It is hoped this can be useful at various community events such as the July 4 parade.

Archives Committee: will meet Saturday, February 13, 9-11, at the Old Town Hall. Lots of help can be used sorting, filing and recording.

IN SYMPATHY

Society condolences are expressed to the family of Dr. Gerald J. Pelkey. Long time Brighton resident and dentist for 50 years, he was a veteran of WW II. Dr. Pelkey was supportive of the Society and its goals.

Another Society 'booster', Andrew W. Robertson II has died. For 33 of his 65 years in Brighton he was a rural mail carrier, one of those really caring ones. Condolences of the Society to the family.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A person to serve as chairman of this committee is needed. That person would promote various fund raising projects, such as raffles, spaghetti supper, home tour, tiles, stationery sales, etc. There are chairmen already in place for some of these projects. The Society needs a person to keep these projects on track and report to the board. The Society has found its members and others are generous. They only need to know what's needed and when and a name to call to volunteer their services. The president of the Society needs that kind of assistance.

A SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP

A recent board/chairman workshop shows very positive results.

Plans for five General Membership meetings were drafted. Ron Morey has scheduled the first for March 9. Anne Stratigos, refreshment hostess may call you for 3 dozen cookies sometime. She also gets the newsletter to Social Studies and History teachers in the schools.

Heidi Newman is forming a committee to determine what sort of Brighton history book to publish. Write her, c/o the Society, with your offer to help and/or suggestions.

The next workshop will be 9-11 a.m. Saturday, April 4. You can attend. Contact a board member to let them know of your interest.

FADING PHOTOS WORKSHOP

A workshop designed for all persons interested in: handling/storage of old photos; identifying period in which taken; how early photos were made; which albums/scrapbooks could destroy photos; etc., is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 8:30-noon, at the Van Wylen library, Hope College Campus in Holland. Registration - \$20. Call 229-6402 for more information.

It will be hosted by The Joint Archives of Holland and conducted by Mark Coir, director of the Archives and Historical Collection of Cranbrook. He is the former curator of Photographs of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting - January 14, 1993

December 1, 1992	Beginning Balance			\$39551.77
RECEIPTS				
General Fund				
Dues	3@ 7. = 21.00			
	11@ 12. = 132.00			
	3@ 25. = 75.00			
	1@ 35. = 35.00		263.00	
Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund				
Resource Comm.				
Tiles			321.00	
Interest				
Check.	11-30-92	2.19		
Sav.	11-26-92	13.99		
C.D.s	11-26-92	145.93	162.11	483.11
				<u>746.11</u>
				\$40297.88
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Fund				
News letter, postage			196.53	
U.S. Postal Bulk Mailing fee			75.00	
Mi. State Sales Tax Report form fee			1.00	
Historical Society of Michigan Annual Dues			25.00	297.53
Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund				
Resource Comm.				
Tiles			1097.94	
Lyons School Utilities			12.33	1110.27
				<u>1407.80</u>
December 31, 1992	TOTAL NET WORTH			\$38890.08
Balance: Sav. Acct.	\$ 3751.37			
Chk. "	1138.71			
C.D.s	<u>34000.00</u>			<u>\$38890.08</u>
Marqe 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

\$2. Student (K-12, College)
 Brighton Area Historical Society
 P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116

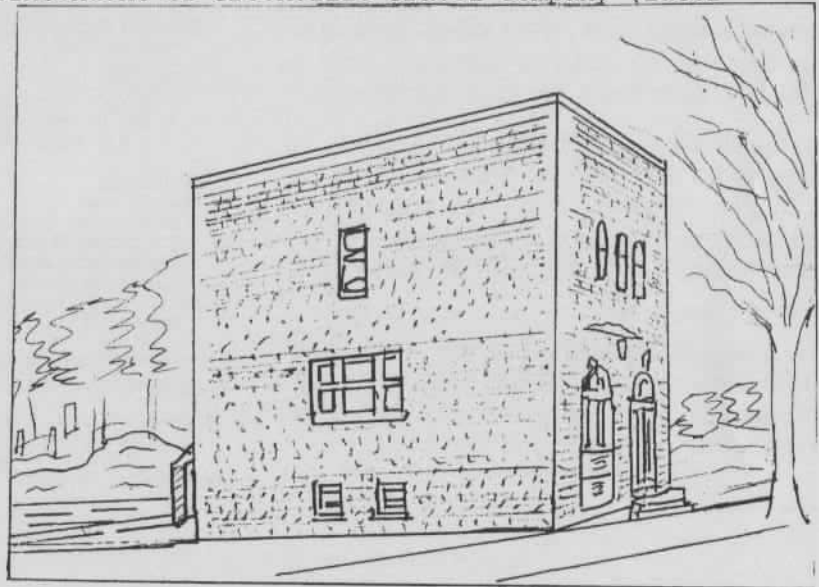
BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

Early on a sense of dependable continuity developed in the perceptions of the patrons of Brighton State Bank. Besides the fact that all shareholders and members of the Board of Directors were local people (many descendants of early settlers), it was also noted that successive generations continued their representation on the board. Van Winkle, Hyne, and Case are a few of the names which should be noted. One also was aware that the faces behind the counters were the same each time one went into the bank. This writer's memory includes, Roy Newcomb, Alice Newcomb, Emma Westin, Carmen Wilson.

Mrs. Wilson stated at an interview in 1975, that when she first went to work at the bank, "We had two windows, shelves and a stool. The facilities were outside, but it was air conditioned inside, after a fashion...we had a large fan that blew the papers around." She also told of an attempted bank robbery in the early 1920s. "He broke in from the back into what we laughingly referred to as the directors' room. Actually it was the cloakroom, the room for examining safe deposit boxes, the lunch room and the conference room."

However the would-be robber had not considered the small town integrity of Brighton at that time. The town's telephone switchboard, "Central", was located on the second floor of the building. The night operator heard the break in. From the myriad of wires, lights and sockets she activated the burglar alarm. The ringing of bells awakened Mr. Heckathorn, the superintendent of Greenville Gravel Company (later American Aggregate), who lived across the street. He jumped out of bed, pulled on his pants, got into his car and gave chase down Grand River. But the robber had too much head start and he made his getaway down Rickett Road. An acetylene torch was found at the scene of the break in but the thief was never heard from again.

(By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)



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