



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. 6

Brighton, MI 48116
June, 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

- June 10, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 12, 9-11 a.m. Archives Committee, 202 W. main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 27, Log Cabin Day, Waterloo Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Munith Rd., Three miles north of Waterloo Village. 517/596-2254.
- July 4, Hooray for the U.S.A.!
- 8, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 10, 9-11 a.m. Archives Committee, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 13, 7:30 p.m. General meeting; Cemetery Research with Milt Charboneau.
- 17, Picnic outing to a local cemetery.
- Aug. 14 & 15: Society booth at Art Fair.

EDITORIAL

Your president had the pleasure of speaking to Carol McMacken's third grand class last month. After reading a booklet compiled by Great Lakes Bancorp the children asked questions. Almost each had a query and not always were we able to answer. What is a Quackenbush? Where was Brighton Mills located? Why were there two hotels? When did electricity first come to Brighton? What kinds of houses were built? What's a toll house? The list goes on. A comprehensive book on the history of the area is needed. Contact the Pres. with your offer to help book chairman, Heidi Newman.

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RECAP OF MAY GENERAL MEETING

"It was wonderful!" was a comment heard often. The program offered by Scott Kinst included a slide presentation. Discussion centered on American gardens and plants from the early days of our nation and the manner in which they evolved from the east to the midwest.

Suggested techniques to recreate early garden styles included the various types, the time period, and the wide variety of displays. We learned about the use of fencing in gardening, authentic walkways and drives and how to restore and preserve in the most appropriate manner. Stone fencing, wire fences into which intricate patterns were woven, wood fencing with fancy knobs, etc., were described. One might find early examples of plants in old cemeteries.

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JULY 4th PARADE

The Society will have an entry. Your presence would be encouraging. This is a fine opportunity for publicity for our organization.

Patron: John & Roslyn Conely (Cheboygan, Harold & Esther Jarvis (94)

Couples/Indiv: Bob & Marie Carr, Gene & Judy Dahlin, Lois Krausman (94), Bill & Nadine Messner-Loebs.

New members are always welcome. It is especially gratifying when members renew and show their faith in the Society.

The year for which dues have been paid is noted on the label. No date or earlier than 93, please consider renewing or becoming a member. All administrative expenses, which include the printing and mailing of Trail Tales, are covered by dues. Also supplies (paper, labels, envelopes), annual P.O. box fee, non profit mailing permit, postage, etc. Donations can be made to this General Fund.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

Nancy Hackney for the framed needlepoint picture of a stream, woods, and mountains all in blues and greens, as a raffle item. Your work is very well done.

Mal Shaffner for his assistance with the Society's display during the HURONriver Fest '93.

Richard Smith for the several boxes of books, many relative to the history of Michigan.

THE GAGE MUSEUM

The Gage family arrived in Green Oak in 1837. The evolution from the first two rooms to a typical Green Oak farm can be seen at the Gage Museum, 6440 Kensington Road, $\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Grand River. Green Oak Township Historical Society opens the museum for visitors weekends, 1-4 p.m., during the summer. Twelve rooms of artifacts related to the history of the area include a display of ladies' hats (51) and a medicine table. One can also view maps, documents and a clown display for the children. "Yesteryears of Green Oak - 1830-1930", \$27.75, is available from GOTHs, P.O. Box 84, Brighton.

MUSEUM WORKSHOP

"What Do We Want to Say?" was the first question and "How Do We Do It?" the next. Offered by the Hartland Historical Society the mental and the practical aspects of preparing a museum exhibit were thoroughly covered. Two Society board members attended.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Most of the Society's archival material comes from donations: books, magazines, pictures, directories, diaries, letters, abstracts (or copies), records and minutes of organizations and political entities, etc. Also early Michigan History magazines and some of the Michigan Pioneer Pioneer Collections to complete our aggregation. Due to lack of space only paper-type items can be accepted. An index of items, magazines, books, etc., is being prepared. This will be of help to researchers. All contribute to the continuing historical inheritance of the Brighton area. At the next meeting June 12, 9-11 am folders in the file cabinet will be sorted properly to facilitate research.

BUGGY: Altho' in temporary storage, a more permanent place is needed. Investigation into insurance costs are shocking. Anyone with another solution?

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Pictures of buildings in the area are to be taken. A volunteer is doing the city. Genoa and Brighton Townships also have early structures. Film and processing expenses can be reimbursed. Call if you can help.

LYONS SCHOOL: Two desks have been purchased for \$50.00. Perhaps an alumnus, or other reader might wish to make a donation.

OLD TOWN HALL: The balcony and railing have recently been painted.

Oral History: Persons to conduct oral histories are needed. A tape recorder is available and so are many long time residents of the area. The tape will always be here - the older residents will not. Need a little help? Materials with suggested procedure are available.

SCHOLARSHIP: Several applications from Phoenix School have been received. Interviews will be conducted shortly and awards made soon.

For information or to help with any of the above please call 229-6402.

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MEET IN NOVI

It was held in the restored Novi Twp Hall which had been moved to its site near the new library. A museum has been developed in the lower level. The program described the life of Gene Stratton Porter, author and naturalist c. 1900. This group meets twice a year. Three members of the Society board attended.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

ART FAIR: August 14-15. Main Street. Call Nancy Fredenberg, 229-9100, to tell her which 2-3 hours you can help at the booth. Society items will be sold but the main purpose will be to let people know we're here and our purposes and goals.

HOME TOUR: Need a chairman.

NOTECARDS, STATIONERY & POSTCARDS: Note-cards show the old Town Hall and the post-cards have pictures of early street scenes and early transportation of the area.

RAFFLE: One item has already been received as a raffle item - a 16x20 framed needle-pointe from Nancy Hackney. Any others? Can you contribute a hand made item or merchandise from a local retailer?

SALES: Many items listed last month are still available. Next month any left over will be listed.

SIGNATURE QUILT: The Society has signatures of early residents of the area. It would be good to include them on the quilt, which will remain with the archives. Several entire families are recorded. A \$10.00 donation will get yours, or another's signature on this unique record.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER: Friday, September 17. Jennie Fredenberg, 229-9100, and Marian Carney are chairing this annual event. Every

year this gets bigger and better. Plan to attend for a good meal and/or to help with hosting, serving, cleanup, etc.

TILES: Available at Uber's Drugs, Society Bank or 229-8494, these 6" tiles, depicting scenes from early Brighton, can be used as trivets or decorations. A picture of the Rialto Theater is still needed. It is planned that this historic site will be on the 1993 tile.

YARD SALE: Need a chairman.

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When cleaning house and you don't know what to do with those old papers, pictures, etc., give the Society first refusal. Have you considered the Society in your will?

Brighton Area Historical Society
Board Meeting May 13, 1993

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|--|----------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| | | | 37731.26 |
| April 11 1993 | | | |
| Receipts | | | |
| <u>General Fund Dues</u> | 2@ 7.00-14.00 | | |
| | 4@ 12.00-48.00 | | |
| | 2@ 25.00-50.00 | 112.00 | |
| <u>Historical Pres. & Rest. Fund</u> | | | |
| Interest | | | |
| Checking 3/31/93 | 1.19 | | |
| C.D.'s (7) | 95.58 | 96.77 | |
| Donation Spencer School | | 25.00 | |
| | | | 233.77 |
| | | | 37965.03 |
| Disbursements | | | |
| <u>General Fund</u> | | | |
| Newsletter Printing | 155.00 | | |
| Postage | 51.20 | 206.20 | |
| <u>Historical Pres. & Rest. Fund</u> | | | |
| Old Town Hall-Windows and Balcony | 4,050.00 | | |
| Lyons School-Edison | 13.02 | 4063.02 | 4269.22 |
| Marge White Treasurer | | | 33695.81 |
| | | | Total Net Worth April 30, 1993 |
| Savings | 2351.18 | | |
| Checking | 344.63 | | |
| C.D.S(7) | 31000.00 | 33695.81 | |

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 \$2. Student (K-12, College)
 \$25. Business/Professional
 \$12. Couple
 \$ 7. Individual
 Brighton Area Historical Society
 P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116

BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Conclusion)

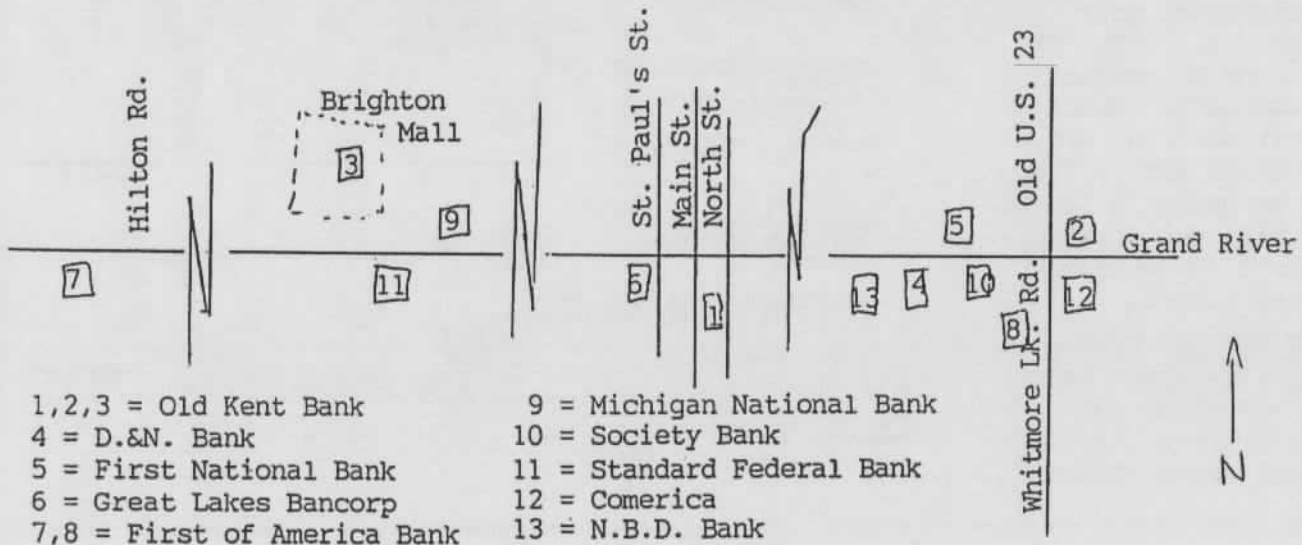
Society Bank, 9948 E. Grand River (formerly Ann Arbor Trust and then Trustcorp) opened for business in May, 1979. It is located where the two story frame house of Victor Clore was standing.

1981 saw the construction and opening of the Standard Federal office at 8516 W. Grand River. Prior to the construction of this building and the several restaurants on either side the land was tilled for many years as a farm.

January, 1991, Comerica installed a branch office at 5678 Whitmore Lake Rd. A home which became a landscape business (English Nursery) and then was Bucky's Pharmacy, was there prior to the construction of the strip mall, Boardwalk, where the bank is located.

The most recent opening of a branch bank is that of N.B.D. Bank, 9858 E. Grand River which held their grand opening February 10, 1993. This site also was part of the same fruit orchard where D.&N. bank is located.

If the number of banking facilities in a community give any indication of its prosperity level it is this writer's opinion the Brighton area is in pretty good shape. (Prepared by Marieanna Bair with many thanks to the congenial personnel of all these establishments for their cooperation and help in the preparation of this series. Information was also acquired from Alice Newcomb, Tom Leith, 1880 History of Livingston County, Michigan History Magazine and Michigan Pioneer Collections. Any who have additional information or corrections are encouraged to call 229-6402.)



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