



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. 5

Brighton, MI 48116
May, 1993

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Pres.	Marleanna 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
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Nancy Fredenburg - Membership & Chair of Art Fair Booth	229-9100
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall Scholarship Chair	229-2191
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Jennie Fredenburg - Spaghetti Supper	229-9100
Marian Carney - Co Chairman	
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

- May 1, 9-4 p.m. Museum Planning Workshop in Hartland. (See Page 2)
- 2. 10-5 p.m. Genealogy and History Book Fair, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing 48901.
- 11, 7:30 p.m., General Meeting, Victorian Gardening; 1st Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River. Bring a friend. (see page 1)
- 13, 7 p.m. Board meeting, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Welcome.
- 14, 8:30-6:30 p.m. One Room Schoolhouse Conference, E.M.U. (page 2).
- 15, 10-3 p.m. "Echoes From the Attic", Oral History Workshop - techniques of the tape-recorded interview. Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mi Rd.

VICTORIAN GARDENING

Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m., the General Meeting will be held at 1st Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River, Brighton.

Scott Kunst of Old House Gardens in Ann Arbor will speak on Victorian Gardens c. 19th century.

Mr. Kunst will present a slide program and have written materials for us.

He owns his own landscape business and teaches landscape preservation at Eastern Michigan University.

This meeting is open to any interested persons.

SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

In an effort to respond to the fine support of the people of the Brighton area the Society Board decided to fund a scholarship for the continuing education of Phoenix High School graduates.

A \$1000. award will be offered to graduates who have been accepted into an approved institution of higher education with emphasis on scholastic achievement, personal qualities and financial need.

For more information contact Gary McCririe, 229-2191 or write the Society.

Altho' the Society is involved with preserving the past, it is felt this is an appropriate means of preparing for the future. A Victorian style Christmas ornament will be offered in time for the holiday season to fund the scholarship.

May 15 & 16 - HuronRIVER Fest '93.
(See page 2)

19, 7 p.m. Meeting of area societies, Novi Town Hall Museum, Novi (Pg 2.)

Patron: John & Win Allen (White Lake).

Couple/Indiv: Elizabeth Bindenagel (S.D.) (94), W. Charles & Joan M. Brown, Janice Sutton Field, Tim & Helen Hurst, Horace & Yvonne Taylor (94).

It is gratifying that almost 3/4 of the members have renewed. In addition, 22 new members have joined. Hopefully there will soon be 100% renewal. Board members and committee chairmen find this very encouraging.

HURONRIVER FEST '93

The Brighton area is part of the Huron River watershed. To celebrate the Huron, learn of the needs of the river and discuss the problems and our hope for the river, everyone is invited to participate in the HuronRIVER Fest '93.

Beginning May 14, a week long canoe trip is planned from the headwaters to the mouth of the river on Lake Erie. The 30-canoe flotilla will stop each day and join local residents in celebration and discussion of the river. You may join for the entire period or a day. Your canoe will be provided, also food and camping space. Bring your sleeping bag.

Locally, May 15, a stop is planned at Kensington Park and May 16, at Livingston Conservation Club, Hamburg. Various events for everyone are planned each day. Other communities on the river will also receive the canoeists. For more information call 313/769-5123.

SOCIETY BOARD WORKSHOP

At the recent workshop discussion centered on how to raise funds for the Society's projects. Considered are: raffles (anyone donate something?), spaghetti supper, home tour (needs chairman), tile sales (need picture of the Rialto), Art Fair, bake sales and outright donations. A Victorian Christmas decoration is being planned.

Income from fund raising projects goes to the Preservation and Restoration Fund: Old Town Hall and Lyons School (including insurances), oral history, microfilming early issues of the Argus, developing the archives, historic resource survey, buggy restoration (inc. insurance and storage), attendance at workshops, programs, etc., are some of the items included.

For more information on any of the above contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

Tom Leith for phone books - 1950 (14 p.), 1961 (23 p.), 1965 (25 p.). Also newspaper clippings describing Eula Clark's 100 birthday and pictures of 15 older area homes which Mill Town Questers researched and photographed in 1982.

Nancy Hackney for a needlepoint picture she has made for a raffle item.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

Lyons School: With better weather, the bell tower will soon be placed and an exterior security light will be installed.

Old Town Hall: with better weather, the painting of the new balcony on the 2nd floor can soon take place.

Historic Resource Survey: No answers yet on where Deweyville was located. Give Dave Barton, 229-5213 a call.

Archives Comm: Will not meet in May.

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES TO MEET

Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m. at Novi Town Hall Museum. Special guest will be Margaret Schmidt, who will speak on the life and influence of Gene Stratton Porter. This is a semi-annual opportunity to hear what other societies are about and tell about ourselves.

MUSEUM PLANNING WORKSHOP

Will be attended, May 1 in Hartland. From 9-4 attendees will follow the "life course" of an exhibit from the initial idea to opening reception; presented by William Mulligan, Jr., Ph.D.

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan and the College of Education, E.M.U., this conference will be held at McKenny Student Union, Ypsilanti May 15. Subjects will include preservation, restoration, adaptive use, research, heritage tag and interpretation, teaching programs, etc. Registration by May 5. \$25. fee includes lunch. 313/769-1828.

APRIL TRAIL TALES CORRECTION

The correct address of the Livingston County Genealogical Society is P.O. Box 1073, Howell, MI 48844

R E S O U R C E C O M M I T T E E

ART FAIR: August 14 & 15. Main Street. Chairman Nancy Fredenberg will be needing people to assist in the booth. This is an opportunity for the Society to get some much needed publicity. Offer to help, call 229-9100, or say 'yes' when she calls.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER: Friday, September 17 is the date. Jennie Fredenberg, 229-1900, and Marian Carney have agreed to chair this event. Please schedule your time to help when asked and be sure to come to dinner that day.

The SIGNATURE QUILT is half completed. Add your signature to finish off this unique archival record of your connection to the area. The quilt will remain with the Society.

Consider including a signature in the memory of another, especially to commemorate Memorial Day. The Society has signatures of earlier residents of the area if you need a name.

The \$10 donation helps keep the Society on the way to its goals.

Remember, TILES are available at Uber's Drugs, Society Bank or call the Davises at 229-8494. A picture of the Rialto Theater is still needed for the 1993 tile.

SALES: Leftovers from donations to a sale the Society held some time ago have been stored in a barn: buffet with matching table with 3 leaves in a box (1 leg needs repair), 8-10 picture frames, 4 boxes books, a box of records (mostly 78s), grain cradle missing its arm, organ, metal drag approx. 20"x30", metal school desk (attached arm), cobbler's stand with several shoe forms, old style paper holder for store counter, curved-top trunk. These items are for sale; make an offer. Anyone interested in any of these please contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY				
Treasurer's Report				
Board Meeting - April 8, 1993				
March 1, 1993	Beginning Balance			\$37320.78
RECEIPTS				
	General Fund: Dues: 1993 = 2 @ 7., 2 @ 12., 1 @ 25.			\$ 63.00
	Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund:			
	Resource Committee:			
	Tile Sales	479.00		
	Post Cards	<u>3.00</u>	482.00	
	Interest earned			
	Chk. Acct. (2-26-93)	2.98		
	Sav. " (2-25-93)	7.95		
	" (3-25-93)	9.33		
	7 CD's	87.24		
	Donations		<u>107.50</u>	
			<u>641.50</u>	<u>704.50</u>
				\$38025.28
DISBURSEMENTS				
	General Fund:			
	Newsletter Printing	155.00		
	Postage	<u>50.59</u>	205.59	
	Program calendar		<u>75.00</u>	280.59
	HPR Fund: Lyons School Utilities			<u>13.43</u>
				<u>294.02</u>
March 31, 1993	TOTAL NET WORTH			\$37731.26
	Balances: Check Acct.	975.66		
	Sav. Acct.	5755.60		
	7 CD's	<u>31000.00</u>		<u>37731.26</u>
	Marieanna Bair, Treas Pro Tem			

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.)

One other bank located in the Brighton Area early in the 20th century was the First National. It was housed in the building most recently known as the Canopy. This structure, on the southeast corner of W. Grand River and St. Paul's St., was built in 1927 by Thomas S. Leith, a mayor of Brighton during the 1950s. It was originally constructed to serve as the Lincoln Hotel and included space for the bank.

This two story building had rooms to rent on the upper floor, a restaurant on the south side with the bank on the north side of the first floor. The bank closed in 1932 before the state and national bank closings referred to previously in this series. This writer assumes the bank went into receivership, from which it never recovered. The building has been vacant for several years and was in a rapidly deteriorating condition. Preview Properties' recent remodeling and renovation retained most of the original exterior design characteristics of the building. (For which they are to be commended.)

The potential of the development of the Brighton area into a vibrant and commercially progressive place in which one would enjoy living made it a desirable community in which a bank could prosper. The construction of nearby interstates were a major factor. Beginning in the 1960s branches of other state and national banks began locating in the area.

D & N Bank, formerly First Federal, has been at its site, 9880 E. Grand River since 1960. The site is on a former orchard.

A branch of First National first appeared in 1972 in a mobile office on E. Grand River. Since June, 1975, they have been at 9911 E. Grand River in a permanent structure. A two story frame house was originally at that location.

At 205 W. Grand River Ann Arbor Federal SAVings appeared in 1974. This branch is now titled Great Lakes Bancorp. During the last half of the 19th century Fred Stuhrberg had a home and blacksmith shop on that corner.

First of America appeared as a branch of McPherson Bank in 1977 at 8130 W. Grand River. A second branch was opened in 1991 at 10014 E. Grand River. During the 30s 40s a Standard Service station was located on the corner there prior to the construction of the strip mall, Brighton Gate Commons, where the bank is located.

At one time, 1981, Michigan National Bank operated from three offices in the area. Coming first in 1979 to a site on Hilton Road then for several years in the former Mellus Hospital, 218 E Grand River (presently occupied by Leah Gold Confectioners). A branch was also located for several years at 10816 E. Grand River. Their only branch is now at a new building at 8661 W. Grand River, where they've been located since 1989. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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