



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. 11

Brighton, MI 48116
November, 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 - Art Fair	229-9678
Chris Fazekas - Oral History	229-8772
Nancy Fredenburg - Membership	229-9100
Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall	229-2191
Ron Morey - Program Chairmah	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

EDITORIAL

Do the goals and purposes of the Society mean anything to you? Have you considered how much time and energy you might want to give? How much you want to participate?

It is obvious that an organization, such as the Society, can contribute a great deal to the quality of life in the Brighton area. The Society is limited only by the number of those who are willing to help in some manner.

The Finance Committee, overseeing the several fund raisers, is in need of some one who can keep these projects underway. All proceeds are put to preservation use.

The Archives Committee is the recipient of books, pictures, early Brighton newspapers, abstracts, and other memorabilia. To promote their use in research they must be properly filed. Have you got two hours a month? If Saturday a.m., is not good another date can be set.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Nov. 6, 9 a.m. Board Workshop
- ** 9, 7:30. Annual Meeting.
- * 11, 7 p.m. Board meeting.
- * 13, 9-11 a.m. Archives Comm.
- ** 13, 9 a.m. Mi Oral History Council, Hickory Corners, MI 517/321-1746.
- 28, Christmas Open House. Watch the Argus for time and place.
- * Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, upstairs
- ** See realated article.

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LOST AND FOUND

AT THE SPAGHETTI SUPPER....

- 1 aluminum 9x13 cake pan and
- 1 Rubbermaid plastic 9x13x5 covered plastic container. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

ANNUAL MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 7:30 p.m.

Victorian Christmas decorations will be the theme. Bring yours and tell us about them. Election of officers will take place and there'll be refreshments. Hope you can make it, 7:30 1st Presbyterian Church, 300 E. Grand River.



MEMBERSHIPS

Indiv/Couple: Marilyn Campbell (IN, '94), Joe & Pauline Chenoweth (94), James & Barbara Kovitz, Jack & Beverly LaBelle, Shiela O'Grady (94), David Pomerville, Madalyn Rosen (94).

1994 is waiting in the wings. Dues can be sent at any time. Your support is what empowers the Society's existence. Administrative expenses, including this newsletter, are paid for by dues income. Individual/Couple dues are most gratefully received. Over 500 Trail Tales are mailed each month. Averaging .27¢ each we're cutting it close with the dues structure. It is easily seen that Patron and Business/Professional dues are a fine expression of support. Thanks to ALL members for their encouragement.

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THANKS.....THANKS.....THANKS

Celia Schaffer and family for veterinary supplies and equipment which had been in use by Dr. George Schaffer for many years. Bert Bair for moving these items. Jane Tomlinson and her crew of callers for their recent bake sale at the Farmers' Market. Thanks also to those who are making cash contributions in lieu of a baked item. The following businesses and groups who donated to the Society's Spaghetti Supper expenses: The Fence Spot, Smith's Motel, Corrigan Oil Co., Brighton-Kiwanis, George Moses Co., Lil' Chef, Smith Barney Shearson, Haviland Printing and Graphics, World-Wide TV Appliance, The Party Planners, State Farm Insurance, Little Professor Book Store, The Quaker Shop, Help-U-Sell. Jean Lietzau for a picture of students at Lyons School c. 1939.

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MICHIGAN ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE ASSOC.

Formed May 14, 1993, this is a nonprofit group dedicated to a deeper appreciation and understanding of one room schools in Michigan; continuing the inventory of these schools and cooperating with individuals and organizations in promoting a general interest in the history and preservation.

Annual membership fee, \$10., can be sent to Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association, 2117 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor 48104-4599 313/769-1828.

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PRESERVATION & RESTORATION

ARCHIVES COMM: Will be meeting Nov. 13, 9-11 a.m. at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. If you'd like to help but can't that day contact Marieanna Bair.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Be sure to welcome Dave Barton and Alice Krupa when they contact you in the preparation of a survey of existing houses in Brighton 1840-1940.

LYONS SCHOOL: With a graduate student in Historic Preservation at EMU, we are attempting to prepare a grant application for funds to continue restoration. The historic marker fund can still use donations.

ORAL HISTORY: Beginning at 9 a.m., the Mi Oral History Council's Annual Meeting will offer; a panel of 4 discussing "Reliving Life on a Farm". Sessions on Oral History projects will include county fairs, farm life, Afro-Americans in the Mecosta area, Germans of Clinton County, Jews in No. Michigan, history of barns, Rural Electrification Administration, and a workshop on Oral History techniques complete a full day.

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MEETING OF AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Alice Krupa, Dave Barton and Marieanna Bair attended the recent meeting in Farmington Hills. Several things were accomplished:

1. viewed a slide presentation of area mansions and their histories. (A video of our local sites would be valuable.)
2. interchange of ideas with societies from a 50 mile area.
3. opportunity to discuss, one on one, how others "do their thing" re: moving buildings, writing books, archiving material, fund raising, etc.

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BOARD WORKSHOP, NOV. 6, 9 a.m.

Society Board members will set aside several hours that morning to discuss next year's program and fund raising. (Obviously this board is a dedicated group!) Ricci Bandkau, 920 State St., will have coffee, etc., for all who attend. Ricci said to invite all members of the Society.

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RESOURCE COMMITTEE

TILES of scenes of early Brighton area are available from Uber's Drug Store and Society Bank. The 1993 tile showing the old grist mill is planned to be ready for Christmas gifts.

SIGNATURE QUILT: In 1879, the man whose signature is below, established the Brighton Argus. Altho' only 19 he had experience in working in newspapers in South Lyon and Pinckney. In 1897 he sold to Town and Jacobs with Seth Jacobs buying out Town in 1902. A \$10. donation will do it. His signature would be most appropriate.

C.E. Placeway

POST CARDS with pictures of early Brighton are available. Also note paper. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

Brighton School Facilities - 1907



"Yesterday's rural America
built the country....
be proud of it and
enhance it."

Preservation News.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY			
Board Meeting, October 8, 1993, Treasurer's Report			
September 1, 1993	Beginning Balance		\$31834.18
RECEIPTS			
General Fund:			
Dues		69.00	
Donation		10.00	
Refund Bank Service Charge		7.50	86.50
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund			
Resource Comm.			
Spaghetti Supper	1149.80		
Tile Sales	34.30		
Signature Quilt (Jenks)	10.00		
Sales	10.00		1204.10
Lyons School			
Marker Donation	25.00		
Donation	10.00		35.00
Interest			
Checking Acct.	1.04		
C.D.s	63.85		64.89
			<u>1390.49</u>
			\$33224.67
DISBURSEMENTS			
General Fund:			
Newsletter printing	155.00		
postage	77.73		232.73
Mi One room School House			
Membership	10.00		
St.Mi Nonprofit fee	10.00		252.73
Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund			
Resource Comm.			
Spaghetti Supper Mailing	13.40		
" " Supplies	255.17		268.57
Lyons School Utilities	12.71		
" " Insurance	618.00		630.71
			<u>1152.01</u>
September 30, 1993	TOTAL NET WORTH		\$32072.66
Sav. Acct.	2046.59		
Chk. "	2026.07		
C.D.s	28000.00		<u>32072.66</u>
Marge 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

BRIGHTON AREA FARMERS: FROM BEEF TO DAIRY c. 1900

The establishment of the Borden's Condensed Milk Factory in Howell just before the turn of the century marked the beginning of a new era in Livingston County.

Shorthorn beef had become a major source of income. The railroad enabled the farmer to ship his product cheaply and easily. In addition to the beef cattle a farmer often had a herd of Jerseys, because of the high butter fat content of the milk. After separating out the cream the skim milk was often fed to calves and pigs. The cream was churned into butter and traded in town for groceries or sold. Now with a handy, ready market for milk the cattle one saw in the fields changed from beef to the black and white Holstein milk producer.

Enterprising men traveled to Holland, in the old country, and brought back thoroughbred, registered Holstein cattle with a reputation as milk producers. The bulls were cross bred with local cattle and in a few years the county became known as the foremost market for Holstein cattle. Buyers from all over the U.S. came to buy cows and bulls at the sales arena in Howell.

The farmer now had a nearby market for surplus cows. Several neighbors combined their saleable stock and drove them to the market; five or six men herding them along the way and out of other farmers' fields.

The Registered Holstein Breeders Association held regular auctions. Out of state buyers made their selections from approximately 100 head, paying up to \$1200/\$1500 each; averaging \$400/\$500. A very good price in those days. Bill Pless' Uncle Freeman Fishbeck was known as a pedigree expert of Holstein and Shorthorn cattle. Buyers often requested his aid in locating and selecting good buys.

To convert to dairy farming involved many changes. Farmers found that besides the different breed of animals they also needed to convert their farms; the method of farming; their equipment. The very manner in which they had been conducting their enterprise was altered. In addition, the procedure in connection with the cooling and storing of milk and the manner of shipment of the product called for changes.

Whole milk, a bulky product, presented a problem: how to get the milk from the farm, 8-10 miles out in the country, to the factory in Howell? Milk routes stretching in every direction from the factory were established and a new business came into existence. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless' "Michigan Memorabilia". to be continued.)

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