



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.

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DECEMBER, 1994

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DATES TO REMEMBER

DEC. 9, 9-11 A.M., WORK AT ARCHIVES.
12, 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING.
25, HAPPY HOLIDAY!!!

DECEMBER 9 AND 12 MEETINGS WILL BE AT THE OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN, UPSTAIRS.

CORRECTION!!!

"A FEW BRIGHTON FIRSTS" IN THE NOVEMBER ISSUE NOTED THAT THE BANK AT KENSINGTON WAS ORGANIZED 12-12-1837. THE CORRECT DATE IS 12-29-1837. THANKS TO JIM VICHICH.

1994 WAS A GOOD YEAR

TO HELP ALL BE AWARE OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES THIS PAST YEAR AN ANNUAL REPORT HAS BEEN COMPILED. IT MAKES FOR ENCOURAGING READING.

FIVE GENERAL MEETINGS WERE PROFFERED. A VIDEO OF THE HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF THE STATE CAPITOL WAS PRESENTED IN MARCH. IN MAY A HOT DOG ROAST AND TOUR OF LYONS SCHOOL AND A SALE WERE HELD. JULY SAW A HISTORIC TOUR OF WEST MAIN AND AN ICE CREAM CONE FROM THE YUM YUM TREE, HOSTED BY THE SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS. A REPEAT TOUR, THIS TIME OF E. GRAND RIVER, WAS OFFERED IN SEPTEMBER. DAVID AND CHARLENE KULL HOSTED THE ANNUAL MEETING AT THEIR HOME IN NOVEMBER. THIS INCLUDED A TOUR OF THEIR RESTORED ITALIANATE HOME WHICH WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING.

MONTHLY ISSUES OF TRAIL TALES WERE PREPARED. THANKS TO ETHEL GEBBEN AND HER HELPERS, FOR FOLDING, LABELING AND MAILING AND TO JOHN LINAHAN FOR DISTRIBUTING COPIES TO LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THE PUBLIC.

WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF NANCY FREDENBURG AND DAVE BARTON, THE SOCIETY'S RESTORED BUGGY APPEARED IN THE JULY 4TH PARADE. SHE HAS ALSO SEEN TO THE MICROFILMING OF EARLY ISSUES OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS AND CONDUCTED SOME ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS. A POLICY RE: ORAL HISTORY HAS BEEN ADOPTED. NANCY CONTINUED AS MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN UNTIL TOM AND AUDRY LEITH PICKED UP THE BALL. (DUES ARE WHAT PAY THE ADMINISTRATION BILLS OF THE ORGANIZATION - THEY KEEP US FREE OF THE RED INK.) PLEASE TURN TO '1994' ON PAGE 2.

1994 MEMBERSHIPS 1994

Bus/Prof: PDQ Ink (94&95).

INDIV/COUPLES: JOE & PAULINE CHENOWETH (95), MICHAEL & BARBARA EMMORY, DAVID & TERRI FISHER (IN 95&96), BILL & HELEN HYNE (95), CAROL KING (TX 95), BOB & SHIRLEY KNIGHT (95), DAVID & CHARLENE KULL (95), RUDY & DOREEN MEFFERT (95), RICH & JUDY PARSONS (95), CHARLES & NORMA JEAN PLESS (95), ALICE SPRAGUE (FL), BUD STEDMAN (FL), ARLA STUHRBERG (94&95), LARRY STURHBERG (95), HORACE & YVONNE TAYLOR (95).

DUES PAYING PEOPLE ARE THE ANGELS WHO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING OF TRAIL TALES. EACH MONTH THE TREASURER WRITES CHECKS TOTALING OVER \$200. TO COVER THIS EXPENSE.

PRESENTLY THE SOCIETY IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION ATTEMPTING TO TELL THE STORY OF BRIGHTON. MEMBERSHIP IS A FINE WAY TO ASSURE CONTINUATION OF THIS ATTEMPT.

IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS RE: DUES OR LABEL DATES PLEASE CONTACT MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402. ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND PROJECT CHAIRMEN ARE VOLUNTEERS - DOING THEIR BEST; BUT ERRORS DO CREEP IN. YOUR PATIENCE IS APPRECIATED AND YOUR HELP MOST WELCOME.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

CHUCK AND NORMA JEAN PLESS FOR THEIR DONATION TO THE LYONS SCHOOL RESTORATION. BILL AND HELEN HYNE AND DON AND SALLY KEEHN FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO THE SIGNATURE QUILT.

LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT THAT THE RECIPIENT WILL ENJOY ALL YEAR? SEND IN PATRON DUES TO THE SOCIETY FOR THEM. YOU CAN'T GO WRONG.

A "GUIDE TO MICHIGAN QUILT COLLECTIONS" BY THE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE MICHIGAN QUILT NETWORK IS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH. IT INCLUDES LOCATION, TYPES OF MATERIAL, PATTERNS, ETC. CONTACT MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402

*I believe that the reason
for Life
is for each of us to grow
in Love.*

- Tolstoy



'1994' FROM PAGE 1.

TWO NEW MEMBERS HAVE JOINED THE BOARD. JAIME GREEN, RECENT RECIPIENT OF HER MS DEGREE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION, HAS ASSUMED A PRESERVATION COORDINATOR POSITION - RECOMMENDING REFERENCE MATERIAL TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THE RESTORATION OF THEIR PROPERTY. CAROLINA DELUCA, RECENTLY RETIRED FROM TEACHING, WILL COORDINATE THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI SUPPER IN 1995, AND CONTRIBUTED IN MANY OTHER WAYS.

DAVE BARTON IS CONTINUING WITH THE HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY OF BRIGHTON. THE SMITH/MCIPHERSON, LEE AND DUTCHER ADDITIONS AND "LOWER" TOWN AND "UPPER" TOWN TERMS ARE ALL BECOMING MORE FAMILIAR. DAVE CAN USUALLY HELP OWNERS DISCOVER THE BACKGROUND OF THEIR HOME OR ASSIST IN FINDING THE INFORMATION.

JANICE FIELD AND JOAN BROWN HAVE PROVEN THEIR DEDICATION TO THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES. MAKING ARCHIVAL DONATIONS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH IS A SLOW PROCESS BUT THEY STICK WITH IT.

SECRETARY RON MOREY AND TREASURER, MARGE WHITE, KEEP MEETING RECORDS COMPLETE AND ASSURE THAT FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS ARE COMPLETED AND PROPERLY RECORDED.

BECOMING REAL PROS AT HANDLING THE SOCIETY'S BOOTH AT THE ART FAIR EACH YEAR ARE CHUCK AND JANICE BEACH. INITIALLY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLICITY FOR THE SOCIETY THE SALE OF SOCIETY ITEMS AND DONATED REFRESHMENTS HAS TRANSFORMED THE EVENT INTO A INCOME PRODUCER.

THE POSSIBILITY OF RESTORING THE LYONS SCHOOL IS BECOMING VERY REAL. JIM VICHICH HAS BEEN SEEING TO THE MANY DETAILS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE. PLUMBING; ROOFING; HEATING; DOOR, WINDOW AND SHUTTER INSTALLATION; REPAIR OF DAMAGED GLASS BLOCKS AT THE REAR; REPAIRS AND CHANGES IN THE FENCING AROUND THE SCHOOL ARE MAJOR ITEMS WHICH ARE BEING COMPLETED.

PRESIDENT BAIR EXTENDS SINCERE THANKS TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND PROJECT CHAIRPERSONS FOR THEIR CONSISTENT DEDICATION. REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING.

1995 - THE BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS READY FOR YOU.

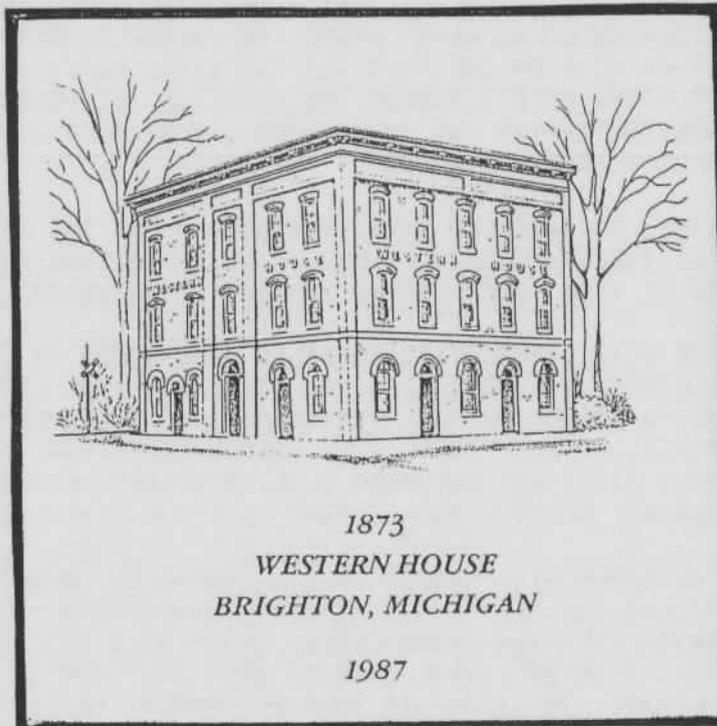
FINANCIAL RESOURCES

AFGHAN: WITH SCENES OF BRIGHTON WOVEN IN, THIS HAS BEEN A WELL-RECEIVED FUND RAISER. UBER'S HAS THEM OR CALL NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100. IF SUFFICIENT ORDERS ARE PLACED THESE CAN BE REORDERED.

THE SIGNATURE QUILT HAS TWO MORE NAMES: F.T. HYNE AND EMIL KEEHN. A \$10. DONATION WILL ADD YOUR NAME OR THAT OF ANOTHER TO THIS ADDITION TO SOCIETY ARCHIVES. BY 1875 THERE WERE PITKINS IN BRIGHTON. DRUGGIST, MORTICIAN, FURNITURE DEALER, GARAGE OWNER, BUILDER, POSTAL WORKER, LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER - ALL WERE ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE PITKIN NAME. G. RICHARD PITKIN'S SIGNATURE IS AVAILABLE FOR INCLUSION ON THE QUILT. SEND A \$10. DONATION TO THE SOCIETY TO DO IT.

POST CARDS AND STATIONERY WITH THE OLD TOWN HALL AND PACKETS OF POST CARDS WITH EARLY BRIGHTON SCENES CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE BOOK NOOK OR UBER'S. LARGE PICTURES OF THE MILL POND ARE ALSO AT UBER'S.

TILES: OF THE WESTERN HOUSE AND OTHER SCENES FROM BRIGHTON'S PAST ARE AT UBER'S, SOMEWHERE IN TIME AND AT SOCIETY BANK.



JULY 4, 1871, THE RAILROAD CAME TO BRIGHTON. TO ACCOMMODATE THE TRAVELERS AND 'DRUMMERS' WHO NEEDED A MEAL AND PLACE TO SLEEP THE WESTERN HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE CORNER OF WEST MAIN AND N. FIRST STREETS. RESTORED AND RENOVATED IN 1985, IT PROVIDES OFFICE SPACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND LIVING QUARTERS ABOVE.

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 48116-0481

GROWING WHEAT IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (CONT.)

BARNs WERE OFTEN BUILT VERY NEAR THE ROAD. IN ORDER TO SET THE SEPARATOR SO THE STRAW STACK COULD BE BUILT WHERE THE FARMER DIRECTED THE ENGINE HAD TO BE PLACED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD AND THE LONG, HEAVY BELT STRUNG ACROSS THE ROAD. THE FARMER PROVIDED ACCESS AROUND THE BARN FOR THE HORSE DRAWN TRAFFIC OF THE TIME AND NO ONE SEEMED TO MIND THE DELAY. THE COMING OF THE AUTOMOBILE PUT AN END TO STRINGING THE BELT ACROSS THE ROAD.

A BIT OF FRIENDLY RIVALRY ENSUED AMONG THE FARMERS' WIVES AS THEY PREPARED MEALS FOR THE THRESHING CREW. USUALLY TWO MEALS WERE PREPARED FOR UP TO 20 MEN FOR AS MANY DAYS AS IT TOOK TO FINISH THE THRESHING. A HIRED CREW RECEIVED BREAKFAST ALSO.

THE MEAL PREPARATION ENTAILED MANY HOURS IN A HOT KITCHEN (IN HOT WEATHER) PEELING, COOKING, ROASTING, BAKING, TABLE SETTING, TABLE CLEARING, DISH WASHING; AND IT WOULD BEGIN AGAIN FOR THE EVENING MEAL. THE FARMER'S WIFE ENLISTED THE AID OF FEMALE RELATIVES, IF SHE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH DAUGHTERS, TO HELP WITH THE WORK. AS WITH THE MEN, THIS FAVOR WAS RETURNED IN LIKE MANNER. HER CUSTOMERS WERE ALWAYS APPRECIATIVE AND HUNGRY. WORKING FROM 7 A.M. TO 6 P.M. THEIR APPETITES MATCHED THE GENEROUS MEALS.

THE THRESHERS, GARBED IN BIB OVERALLS, LONG SLEEVED SHIRT, RED BANDANA HANDKERCHIEF AROUND THE NECK IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP OUT ITCHY, PICKY CHAFF, AND HEAVY SHOES WERE READY WHEN THE DINNER BELL BY THE BACK DOOR WAS RUNG. A WASH BENCH WAS SET UP OUTSIDE WITH PANS OF WATER, BARS OF SOAP AND SEVERAL TOWELS. THE THRESHERS APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE FROM THE SWEAT, GRIME AND CHAFF WHICH HAD ACCUMULATED. THE YOUNGER CHILDREN KEPT THEM SUPPLIED WITH FRESH WATER FROM THE CISTERN AS THEY CLUSTERED NEAR THE CHATTING, AND OFTEN TEASING, MEN. THE FRESH WATER BUCKET, WITH ONE DIPPER FOR ALL TO USE, WAS WELCOMED BY THE THIRSTY WORKERS. USUALLY A MIRROR WAS HUNG IN A HANDY PLACE AND A COMB COULD BE RUN THROUGH WET, TOUSLED HAIR. AFTER ALL, ONE OF THE YOUNG LADIES SERVING MIGHT BE A SPECIAL SOMEONE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OCCASIONALLY WORKERS BROUGHT THEIR LUNCH AND WENT HOME FOR SUPPER BECAUSE OF THAT PARTICULAR FARMER'S WIFE'S LACK OF CULINARY SKILLS. (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

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