The next time we drive down Main Street or Grand River try to imagine it’s 1920. Yes, there are concrete sidewalks but the road surface is of earth with a little clay, sand and gravel on it. Can one imagine the mud of rainy weather or the dust of dry? Seventy years ago, January 7, 1924, to be exact, the Brighton Village Council caused a special election for the purpose of issuing $70,000.00 in bonds for the paving of portions of Grand River and portions of Main Street from Grand River to 7th Street, including storm sewers. Yes, 373; no, 36. Total cost estimated $84,704.60.

The Brighton State Bank was awarded the handling of $70,000 in bonds redeemable at the Bank on maturity. Bailey Construction Company was awarded the contract to install the storm sewers. Bennie & Dibble would pave Main Street. February 26, 1924, the Council contracted with Detroit Edison for ‘boulevard’ lighting to be installed. Livingston Mutual Telephone Company was requested to remove poles from Grand River to 2nd Street.

During the celebration of Brighton’s Centennial, 1967, the Argus-Dispatch carried a story about the “vinbrollitk” pavement on Main Street. According to author Reed E. Fletcher, the ‘city slicker’ convinced the city fathers of the benefits of a vinbrollitk pavement over concrete. The pavement was laid in a most impressive manner. After pouring the concrete in the usual way the vinbrollitk machine was put to work. It was reportedly a flat platform about 6’ wide and twice as long, constructed of 2x12 timbers. Mounted on this platform was an iron frame work which supported a Model 7 Ford engine with an eccentric fly wheel. This rig was placed on top of the fresh concrete and the engine started. It has a very small muffler which would go off with a roar causing the entire rig to “...shake the living bejebus out of the concrete.” Fletcher, a man with a highly developed sense of humor felt the entertainment value provided the villagers by this piece of equipment was well worth the cost of paving Main Street.

The picture shows West Main Street, Rollison Hardware on the left, the Old Town Hall in the distant right.

Other than the above noted article your writer has no other reference to the vinbrollitk machine in connection with the paving of Main Street. It is reported here with tongue in cheek. Perhaps some of our readers can corroborate or elaborate on Fletcher’s story. (Marieanna Bair with thanks to Alice Newcomb and E. Reed Fletcher.)

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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.

1995 BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT
Nominees for members of the Board of Directors and Officers are requested. Suggest people you believe would like to become members of the Society board, or offer your own services. Currently we are meeting the fourth Monday at 7:30 p.m., upstairs in the Old Town Hall.

Those interested in the continuation of the Society’s activities and believing in the goals of preservation and restoration of the area’s history are logical candidates. Board members are involved with various projects: membership, fund raising, archives, publicity, Lyon School, historic resource survey, oral history, newsletter, etc., depending on the interest of the board member and the needs of the Society. (Is that asking too much?) You are needed! Contact a board member indicating your interest.

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 12
Rain or shine, members of the Society Board invite you to join in for a walking, historical tour of Main Street in Brighton. We’ll meet at 6:30 at the Veteran’s Memorial at the mill pond. Ice cream will be served on completion of the tour. Invite a friend too.

DATES TO REMEMBER
JULY 4: 10 A.M. We’ll be in the parade with our newly restored buggy. Join us.
*JULY 9: 9-11 A.M. Archives project, welcome.
**12: 6:30 p.m. General Meeting. Welcome.
* 25: 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting.
** 29: 9-3 p.m. Oral History Workshop, at Alben, M. “Echoes From the Attic.” $25.00, call 616/731-6583 or 517/371-1746.
**AUGUST 17/18: 10 A.M./5 P.M. Art Fair, help at Society booth - east side of Old Town Hall.
*At Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main. Members welcome.
** See realted article. For more information call M. Bair. 229-6402.
1994 MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Harold & Esther Jarvis (95), Jer-ri & Mary Joseph, Lila Robertson (co. 96), Richard & Barbara Smith (95).

COUPLE / INDIV: John & Win Allen (FL), Bill & Betty Arminhein, Bob & Marie Carr, James & Judy Murray (Dexter).

THANKS: THANKS. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THANKS TO... MAX FISHER, OUR FAITHFUL TISSUE PROVIDER FOR SO MANY YEARS. SHE FINDS IT NECESSARY TO RESIGN. A REPLACEMENT IS NEEDED NOW.

...Dave Bartol, Chuck Beach, Nancy Freden-berg, Marlene Baux & others for pre-paring the Society's July 4 parade entry - the newly restored buggy.

...Uber's Drugs, the Quilter's Shoppe, the Book Nook, Somewhere in Time, and Society Bank. They offer Society tiles, needlepoint pictures, pictures of the Mill Fund, postcards, and the new afghan.

+ MICHIGAN WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION

215 W. Main, Lansing, 48855-2151. "...is the only organization in the state working to retrieve the history of Michigan women and make their achievements visible to the people of our state and nation." This group fosters self esteem in young people, most especially young women. To learn more about this group, write, if a check can be in- cluded it will help balance their budget.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: the hot weather interfered with work. In the meantime contact has been made with Lyons Township Library to compare, combine and share printed histo-ric resources.

Two students of Madonna University have been assisted in their research of local history. Copies of various early Arooses are being made and transformed into book form. These make for easier research, once they are indexed and eliminates the need to use the originals.

LYONS SCHOOL: application has been made for a restoration grant. If awarded, the grant will help balance the budget for the many restoration projects underway at the school: window/door replacements, shutter construction, heating unit, new roof on back portion, gas line installation, rest room facilities, walk/ramp, etc., etc., and then we can begin to make some headway on completion of the interior. Lawn mowing is being done on a regular basis.

The preferred wording on the historic marker has been sent to the Bureau of Michigan History. It is planned to read:

LYONS SCHOOL
BRIGHTON DISTRICT # 8

This 1 room school site has served the people of Brighton Township from 1892 to 1956. This frame structure replaced the log building in 1885. It also served as a church for Methodists of the area.

Richard Lyons gave land from his farm that neighborhood children would have an education. Township government was located here from 1961 to 1934.

The following are sincerely thanked for their contribution to the Marker Fund: Ted Carmack, Lois Lark, Bonnie Corrigan, Val Jacoby, Keelin Funeral Home, Harold Leitz, Norma Jean Pless, Elsa Stegenga. These are either alumni, former teachers, connected to the Lyons family or interested in preservation. Approx. $900.00 more is needed to cover the cost. Contact President Bair re any questions.

AFGHAN (THROW): This double woven cot-ton throw is the latest fund raising effort of the Society. It comes in red, green or blue with the various scenes as shown. Contact Nancy Furedenberg, 229-9100, to obtain yours. ($49.00) Many are purchasing these for birthday and Christmas gifts. It is hoped you will buy yours soon and not be disappointed.

A short historic sketch is included.

ART FAIR: Contact Chuck Beach, 229- 956/8, and find out for which hours he will need your help tending the Society Booth August 13, 14. Again, you are needed.


BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME ___________________________ PHONE ___________________________

ADDRESS ___________________________

NEW ( ) GENERAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:

( ) Bake Sale

( ) Board Member

( ) Fund Raising Program

( ) Genealogy

( ) Newsletter

( ) Hospitality

( ) Oral History

( ) Photography

( ) Membership Committee

( ) Research

( ) Publicity

( ) Other

DUDES: $25. Patron

$25. Student (K-12, College)

$25. Bus/Professional

$12. Couple

$7. Individual

The Eastern House was built in 1864 by Benjamin Cushing, one of the area's first settlers. It was located on the northeast corner of Grand River and Main. Located mid way from the Detroit Immigration line to a convenient stage coach stop - Later Greyhound stopped also.

Each year the Society prepares a new tile in time for holiday giving. Let us know which scene you would like. All are available at Uber's Drugs, Society Bank and Somewhere in Time.
1994 MEMBERSHIPS 1994

PATRON: Harold & Esther Jarvis (95), Jerold & Janet Joseph, Lila Robertson (90), Richard & Barbara Smith (95).
COPPLE/INDIV: John & Win Allen (FL), Bill & Betty Amrheim, Bob & Marie Carr, James & Judy Murray (Dexter).

THANKS. THANKS. THANKS. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THANKS ALSO TO...

...Margie White, our faithful treasurer for so many years. She finds it necessary to resign. A replacement is needed now.
...Dave Bartol, Chuck Beach, Nancy Fredenberg, Marianne Baine and others for preparing the Society's July 4 parade entry - the newly restored buggy.
...Usher's Drugs, the Quilter's Shoppe, the Book Nook, Somewhere in Time, and Society Bank. They offer Society tiles, needlepoint pictures, pictures of the Mill Fund, postcards, and the new afghan.

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION
215 W. Main, Lansing, 48892-2315...
...is the only organization in the state working to retrieve the history of Michigan women and make their achievements visible to the people of our state and nation. This group fosters self-esteem in young people, most especially young women. To learn more about this group, write. If a check can be included it will help balance their budget.

JOHN B. SWAINSON
1925/1994
Native of the Brighton area and life long resident.

SINCERE SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THEIR FAMILIES ON THEIR LOSS.

SIGNATURE QUILT: As a Father's Day gift to husband, Bob, Betty Herbert is having the signatures of her parents, Robert and Mildred, included on the quilt. Lila Robertson is including her name and that of Persis Cook, which will be placed by Andy Robertson's father. Lillie by little the quilt is filling up. Be sure you and yours are included. A $10.00 donation with the signature of your choice can be sent to the Society and it will be embroidered on the quilt, which will remain in the Society's Archives. Signatures of early residents are in the files. Donations are needed to get them on the quilt also.

PRESEVATION AND RESTORATION
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BRIGHTON DISTRICT # 8

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FINANCIAL RESOURCES

ARE PURCHASING THESE FOR BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS GIFTS. IT IS HOPEFUL YOU WILL BUY YOURS SOON AND NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.

SHORT HISTORIC SKETCH IS INCLUDED.

ART FAIR: Contact Chuck Beach, 229-9956, and find out for which hours he will need your help tending the Society Booth August 15, 16. Again, you are needed.

THE EASTERN HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1846 BY BENJAMIN CUSHING, ONE OF THE AREA'S FIRST SETTLERS.

IT WAS LOCATED ON THE Northeast corner of Grand River and Main. Located mid-way from Jackson to Detroit it made a convenient stage-coach stop. Later Greyhound stopped also.

Each year the Society prepares a new tile in time for holiday giving. Let us know which scene you would like. All are available at Uber's Drugs, Society Bank and Somewhere In Time.

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NAME ________________________________
ADDRESS ________________________________
PHONE ________________________________

NEW ( ) GENERAL ( )

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

DUES: $25. Patron
$25. Business/Professional
$12. Couple
$7. Individual

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481
The next time we drive down Main Street or Grand River try to imagine it's 1920. Yes, there are concrete sidewalks but the road surface is of earth with a little clay, sand and gravel on it. Can one imagine the mud of rainy weather or the dust of dry?

Seventy years ago, January 7, 1924, to be exact, the Brighton Village Council caused a special election for the purpose of issuing $70,000.00 in bonds for the paving of portions of Grand River and portions of Main Street from Grand River to 7th Street, including storm sewers. Yes, 373; no, 36. Total cost estimated $94,704.60.

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481

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Chuck Beach - Art Fair 227-5076
Chris Fazekeas - Oral History 227-5772
Nancy Fredenburgh - Oral History 229-9100
Gary McCarrie - Old Town Hall 229-2191
Jim Vichich - Lyons School 229-4840

ETHEL GERBER - CLERK
John Lemaan - Pers. Deliv. 229-8777
Heidi Newman - History Book 955-3613
Anne Stratigos - Embroidery 229-5889
Herb Warner - Lyons School 229-6509

DATES TO REMEMBER
JULY 4: 10 A.M. WE'LL BE IN THE PARADE WITH OUR NEWLY RESTORED BUGGY. JOIN US.
*JULY 9: 9-11 A.M. ARCHIVES PROJECT WELCOME.
** 12: 6:30 P.M. GENERAL MEETING. WELCOME.
* 25: 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING.
* 29: 7-9 P.M. ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP AT ALDEN. M. "ECHOES FROM THE ATTIC." 9:00, CALL 916-731-6583 OR 517-321-1746.
**AUGUST 19-21: 10 A.M./5 P.M. ART FAIR. HELP AT SOCIETY BOOTH - EAST SIDE OF OLD TOWN HALL. "At Old Town Hall. 202 W. MAIN. MEMBERS WELCOME.
** SEE REALTED ARTICLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL M. BAIR, 229-6402.

1995 BOARD MEMBERS SOUGHT
Nominees for members of the Board of Directors and Officers are requested.
SUGGEST PEOPLE YOU BELIEVE WOULD LIKE TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY BOARD, OR OFFER YOUR OWN SERVICES. CURRENTLY WE ARE HAVING A MONDAY AT 7:30 P.M., UPSORIOS IN THE OLD TOWN HALL.

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES AND BELIEVING IN THE GOALS OF PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE AREA'S HISTORY ARE LOGICAL CANDIDATES. BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED WITH VARIOUS PROJECTS: MEMBERSHIP, FUND RAISING, ARCHIVES, HISTORY, PUBLIC SCHOOL, HISTORIC SURVEY, ORAL HISTORY, NEWSLETTER, ETC. DEPENDING ON THE INTEREST OF THE BOARD MEMBER AND THE NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY. (IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH?) YOU ARE NEEDED! CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER INDICATING YOUR INTEREST.

GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 12
RAIN OR SHINE, MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY BOARD INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN FOR A WALKING TOUR OF MAIN STREET IN BRIGHTON. WE'LL MEET AT 6:30 AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL AT THE MILL POND. ICE CREAM WILL BE SERVED ON COMPLETION OF THE TOUR. INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN US.