



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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September, 1994

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- *SEPT. 10: 9-11 A.M. WORK ON ARCHIVES.
- ** 9,10,11: HERITAGE DAYS, WYANDOTTE 313/246-4520
- 13: 6:30 GENERAL MEETING. HISTORIC WALK. SEE RELATED ARTICLE.
- 17,18: MILFORD HOME TOUR.
- ** 22/25: FORGED FROM IRON CONFERENCE MARQUETTE, MI 906/475-7875.
- * 26: 7:30 BOARD MEETING.
- ** SEPT. 29/OCT 1: ANNUAL MEETING AASLH.
- **OCT. 9: 20TH MICH. ANTIQUARIAN BOOK & PAPER SHOW, LANSING.
- 16: 4:30/7P.M. SPAGHETTI SUPPER. BRIGHTON FIRE HALL.

*202 W. MAIN, UPSTAIRS. MEMBERS WELCOME.
**CALL 229-6402 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER???

THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 4:30/7:00. THE FIRE HALL, 615 W. GRAND RIVER IS THE SITE. A FUN TIME FOR EVERYONE - VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

- A. TO REQUEST DONATIONS OF CASH AND/OR FOOD.
- B. A COOK AND KITCHEN HELP.
- C. DECORATING AND SET UP HELP.
- D. CLEAN UP, GREETER, TICKET SELLER, PUBLICITY, ETC.

A MORE EXTENSIVE LIST WAS IN THE AUGUST TRAIL TALES. CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402 WITH YOUR OFFER OF HELP. BOARD PERSONNEL ARE ALL INVOLVED WITH A PROJECT(S). VOLUNTEERS MUST COME FORWARD TO PROCEED WITH THIS 13TH SPAGHETTI SUPPER.

1995 BOARD AND DIRECTORS

SEVERAL OF THOSE ON THE BOARD ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE SERVING ANOTHER YEAR. HOWEVER IT IS VITAL THAT NEW (OR OLD) FACES BE INCLUDED ON THE BOARD. CALL A BOARD MEMBER AND TELL THEM OF YOUR DESIRE TO HELP THE SOCIETY IN THE PURSUIT OF ITS GOALS. THE VARIOUS PROJECTS AND FUND RAISING EVENTS NEED YOUR SUPPORT. READ THIS ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES AND SEE WHERE YOU FIT IN.

GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13

ANOTHER WALKING HISTORY TOUR IS PLANNED FOR A GENERAL MEETING. THIS WILL GO DOWN SOUTH GRAND RIVER, VIA WEST STREET, TO BRIGHTON LAKE ROAD. WE'LL MEET 6:30 (DRESS FOR THE WEATHER) AT THE VETERANS' ROCK BY THE MILL POND AGAIN. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A MEGAPHONE OR PORTABLE MIKE. REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED; BRING A FRIEND.

COUPLES/INDIV: CHARLES & JOAN BROWN, M/M MARK CLARK (S. LYON), FLORIAN & CLETA LUX, RUDY & DOREEN MEFFERT, RANDY & KYLE WILSON (95).

EACH MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY BOARD HAS A TASK FOR WHICH THEY'VE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY. MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS ARE ONE MEANS OF LETTING THEM KNOW THEIR EFFORTS ARE WORTHWHILE.

PLEASE CHECK THE YEAR NOTED ON THE MAILING LABEL. IF IT'S NOT '94 (OR MORE) IT'S NECESSARY TO PAY DUES TO BE ON THE 1994 MEMBERSHIP LIST. IF YOU THINK THERE IS AN ERROR CALL 227-5375 OR 229-6402.

IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A MEMBER AND HAVE BEEN RECEIVING TRAIL TALES IT IS HOPED YOU WILL CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE SOCIETY'S GOALS.

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

...KATHERINE HAMPTON AND ALICE NEWCOMB FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. CALL NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100, TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT.

...MILTON CHARBONEAU FOR A COPY OF THE BOOK HE HAS PREPARED OF OBITUARIES FOUND IN THE BRIGHTON ARGUS ISSUES OF 1919.

...DAVE BARTON FOR SEEING TO THE STORAGE OF THE BUGGY.

...ROSEMARY ULMER FOR THE OLD RATZ HARDWARE RECORD BOOK.

...CHUCK AND JANICE BEACH FOR CHAIRING THE ART FAIR BOOTH AGAIN THIS YEAR.

...BILL & JACQUE ARMSTRONG, ELAINE BLIGHT, MARIAN CARNEY, BONNIE CORRIGAN, RICH & JUDY PARSONS AND JANE TOMLINSON FOR THE DONATIONS FOR THE COOKIES SOLD AT THE ART FAIR BOOTH.

LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA - PLEASE TAKE NOTE

IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREPARE A HISTORY BOOK OF THE AREA A PLEA IS BEING MADE TO ALL OF YOU TO CONSIDER WRITING SOME OF THE MEMORIES YOU HAVE OF LIVING, WORKING, PLAYING IN THIS COMMUNITY. IF YOU PREFER AN ORAL HISTORY MAY BE TAPED. CONSIDER:
 A. ARE YOU THE FIRST GENERATION TO LIVE IN THIS AREA? B. FROM WHERE DID YOUR PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS COME? C. IN WHAT KINDS OF OCCUPATIONS WERE YOU/THEY INVOLVED?
 D. WHAT KINDS OF SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS, BUSINESS, ETC., RELATIONSHIPS? E. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES/HOLIDAYS? F. DESCRIBE PLACES WHICH NO LONGER EXIST: BRICK YARDS, MILL, FARMS, MERCHANTS, ETC., ETC.

PRESERVATION & RESTORATION PROJECTS

ARCHIVES: THE 12 ISSUES OF EARLY ARGUSES ARE BEING SENT FOR MICROFILMING, THANKS TO NANCY FREDENBURG'S EFFORTS. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BILL WOULD BE A FINE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR YOU.

WE'LL BE WORKING IN THE ARCHIVES 9-11 SAT., SEPT. 10. YOU WOULD BE MOST WELCOME TO HELP OUT.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: DAVE BARTON IS BEGINNING RESEARCH ON THE NOBLE PLAT. HE'S ALSO REVIEWING NAMES FOUND IN A RECORD BOOK FROM RATZ HARDWARE, DONATED BY ROSEMARY ULMER.

LYONS SCHOOL: THE NEW ROOF WILL BE COMPLETED THIS MONTH. ALSO THE REALIGNMENT OF THE FENCE. THE PLUMBING, PHONE AND HEATING ARE ALL UNDERWAY. A LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD REQUESTING TO BE ON THE AGENDA AT THE SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING. YOUR PRESENCE WOULD SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIETY'S EFFORTS.

OVER \$13,000. HAVE BEEN (OR SOON WILL BE) SPENT ON RESTORATION THIS PAST SUMMER. THE TREASURY SHOWS A STEADY DECLINE IN THE SOCIETY'S TOTAL NET WORTH. DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE LYON SCHOOL FUND TO KEEP THE SOCIETY AFLOAT. THE INSURANCE BILL WAS OVER \$600. CARE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT CHARGE?

ORAL HISTORY: NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100, WOULD LIKE TO CONDUCT ORAL HISTORIES WITH LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA. THESE TAPES WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE ARCHIVES. CALL HER TO FIND WHEN YOU CAN GET TOGETHER. OR IF YOU CAN HELP BY TRANSCRIBING TAPES.

ART FAIR: THE BEACHES SENT THE FOLLOWING NOTE: "WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO MADE THIS YEAR'S ART FAIR BOOTH A SUCCESS: DAVE BARTON, NANCY FREDENBURG, JANE TOMLINSON, ERV & DOROTHY BANDKAU, MARIANNE COMISKEY, AGGIE SULLIVAN, BOB AND SHIRLEY KNIGHT AND BILL & JACQUE ARMSTRONG." RECEIPTS INCLUDED \$1323 FOR THE AFGHAN, \$170 FOR TILES, POSTCARDS, ETC. TOTALED \$53.50 AND COOKIES, LEMONADE AND DONATIONS CAME TO \$274.75.

ON THIS MONTH'S BACK PAGE IS AN ARTICLE ABOUT WHEAT HARVESTING. THE WRITER IS ANXIOUS FOR ANY COMMENTS IN ORDER TO MAKE A MORE COMPLETE/CORRECT RECORD. WRITE OR CALL MARIEANNA BAIR, 810/229-6402.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

AFGHAN: We've paid for them. Now receipts will go into the treasury to cover the costs of the several preservation projects in which the Society is involved. Nine local scenes are woven into the Afghan. Many are purchasing more than one. These make fine gifts. Call 229-9100 to reserve yours or see them at the Farmer's Market. Only 114 red, 36 green and 22 navy colors remain. Don't be late getting yours.

TILES: For 1994 the 1928 school on the Hill has been selected. Earlier tiles are available at Uber's Drugs, Society Bank and somewhere in time.

PICTURES OF THE MILL POND: Also at Uber's. They also have postcards of local scenes as does the Book Nook. Needlepoint kits of the Old Town Hall are on sale at the Quilter's Shoppe. Or call 229-6402.

SIGNATURE QUILT: This record of your signature, and that of others, will be preserved in the Society's archives. A \$10. contribution will assure its memory in the distant future.

HOME TOUR: Ricci Bandkau, 227-7664, and Nancy Fredenburg, 229-9100, are awaiting your call to help with the home tour next spring. They need people to do publicity, tickets, tour book set up, possible other activities, open their home for the tour, serve as hosts or ticket takers, etc., etc. There will surely be something you can do to help.



FOR 50 YEARS A BRIGHTON LANDMARK, IT WAS BUILT AS A WPA PROJECT DURING THE DEPRESSION YEARS OF 1935-1936; LOCATED ON THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF U.S. 23 AND M-16. (OLD 23 AND GRAND RIVER.) A SINGLE STORY ADDITION WAS CONSTRUCTED POST WW II. A NEW POLICE POST WAS BUILT IN 1985, ABOUT A MILE NORTH. FOLLOWING EXTERIOR RESTORATION THE BUILDING NOW HOUSES A REALTY OFFICE. THE SALE OF THIS AND OTHER TILES IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOCIETY'S FUND RAISING EFFORTS.

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

IN 1843 THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY WAS FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THIS IS BARELY TEN YEARS SINCE THE FIRST SETTLERS CAME TO THIS WILDERNESS AREA. IN THAT SHORT TIME LAND WAS CLEARED OF TREES, SWAMPS WERE DRAINED BY DIGGING DITCHES AND THE PRAIRIE WAS FURROWED BY THE PLOW. THE FOREMOST CROP AT THE TIME WAS WHEAT. THIS WAS THE MAIN INGREDIENT IN THE PIONEER'S DIET. WITH OXEN, OCCASIONALLY A HORSE, TREE STUMPS WERE PULLED AND BURNED. PRIOR TO THIS THE TREES HAD BEEN GIRDLED IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE SUN TO REACH THE GROUND. PLOWING THE SOIL ALWAYS BROUGHT STONES OF ALL SIZES TO THE SURFACE. ONE OF THE DAILY JOBS OF THE CHILDREN WAS TO PICK THEM UP INTO PILES.

WITH A PAN OF WHEAT, OR A SEEDER STRAPPED OVER THE SHOULDER, THE FARMER SCATTERED THE SEED. AFTER 3-4 MONTHS AND WARM WEATHER THE RIPE WHEAT WAS READY TO BE HARVESTED. WHEN THE HEADS WERE HEAVY WITH GRAIN THE PIONEER'S ANXIETY GREW WITH EACH PASSING WIND OR RAIN STORM. WOULD HIS GRAIN BE FLATTENED TO THE GROUND WHERE IT MIGHT BE WET AND BEGIN TO ROT? HIS FAMILY, THE CATTLE, SHEEP, ETC., WERE DEPENDING ON HIM.

FINALLY AFTER SEVERAL HOT, DRY DAYS IT WAS TIME TO CUT THE WHEAT. ONE WALKED THROUGH THE WHEAT SWINGING THE CRADLE SCYTHE, LETTING IT FALL IN WINDROWS. FAMILY MEMBERS FOLLOWED, GATHERING UP THE WINDROWS UNTIL THE ARM WAS FULL, THEN TYING IT WITH A HANDFUL OF GRAIN STALKS. SEVERAL OF THESE BUNDLES WERE STACKED, ON THE CUT ENDS, INTO SMALL GROUPS SUPPORTING EACH OTHER.

THESE BUNDLES WERE THEN PITCHED ONTO A WAGON, HAULED TO THE BARN, OR SOME PROTECTED AREA. A CANVAS, OR SOME SORT OF GROUND COVER WAS SPREAD OUT. THE DRY WHEAT WAS SPREAD ABOUT AND THE BEATING OF THE WHEAT WITH A FLAIL BEGAN. SOMETIMES THE OXEN OR HORSES WERE DRIVEN OVER THE WHEAT TO EXTRACT THE GRAINS. INGENIOUS, FARMERS SOON FIGURED OUT A ROLLER TYPE CONTRAPTION TO WHICH THE DRAFT ANIMALS WERE HITCHED, TO THRESH THE WHEAT.

WIND POWER WAS USED TO SEPARATE THE GRAIN FROM ITS HULL. EITHER BY TOSSING IT INTO THE AIR BY HAND OR THE USE OF A FANNING MILL. THIS WAS TURNED BY HAND, WHEREBY AIR WAS BLOWN THROUGH THE GRAIN. THE WINNOWED GRAIN WAS USUALLY Poured INTO GUNNY SACKS. LATER BARNs WERE BUILT WITH A GRANARY OR A SEPARATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTED. THE REMAINING CHAFF AND WHEAT STALKS WERE USED TO REFILL THE FARMER'S MATTRESS EACH YEAR AND AS BEDDING FOR THE CATTLE. (BY MARIEANNA BAIR. TO BE CONTINUED.)

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