



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. XIV, No. 4

BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481
April, 1995

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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GENERAL MEETING REPORT

March 14, Jaime Green, historic preservationist, presented a slide program illustrating successful and not so successful effort restoration efforts of area homes. It was learned that research on style, color, materials, etc., can enhance the historic quality of a building; residential or commercial.

We are pleased to have Jaime serve on the Society Board. She can be contacted for recommendations on plans you may have for your structure.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORY BOOK?

If you believe one should be prepared attend the Monday, May 1, 7:30 meeting. It will be held at the Bair's, 11700 E. Grand River.

It will be a brainstorming session to determine basic layout: geographic area, time span, subject matter, etc.

It is a given that pictures, journals, oral histories, etc., will be needed.

If you'd like to be involved call Marieanna, 229-6402, or if you can't make the May 1 meeting but want to help, call.

BRIGHTON'S TOWN PUMP?

When installed, where, why, who used it, when was it removed, etc.? Answers to any or all of the above and other information regarding this subject will be gratefully received and added to the files.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ***April 7-8: Michigan Oral History Association Local History Conference, Wayne State University.
- April 7-9: Society with Home Builders Association at Howell Home Show.
- *April 8: 9-11 a.m. Archives work. Welcome.
- *April 24: 7:30 p.m. Board meeting. Welcome.
- **May 1: 7:30 p.m. Brighton Area History Book Committee.
- **May 3-7: Imagination Station construction.
- August 26: 75th Anniversary 19th Amendment.
- * At 202 W. Main, upstairs.
- ** See related article.
- *** Call 229-6402 for more information.

PATRON: Doug & Carol Rearick, Joan Pinney-Rice (CA), Peter & Anne Stratigos (96).

COUPLE/IND: Paul & Alene Anderson (Charlevoix, 2000), Richard & Elaine Blight, Florence Chase (Flrvl.), Larry & Jean Clark (Mlfrd.), Bill & Marianne Comiskey, Arlene Jacob (Mason), Elnora Knaus (IN), Ron & Jill Morey, Charles & Marion Norris, John & Dorothy Pennala, Betty Polaske, Bud & Janet Schopp, Ed & Connie Sherman, Alice Sprague (Fl. 96), Bill & Charmaine Zink.

STUDENTS: Tim Herbst (KY), Nichole Gierer, April Gornick, Sarah Hamilton, Sarah Reaume. (The last four are students at Scranton Middle School.)

As noted above the Andersons have paid dues through 2000. They are the first members to have reached that year. Their confidence in the Society is inspirational.

Dues go into the General Fund. Trail Tales' expenses, over \$200. per month, are the major drain on that fund. Patron and Business/Professional memberships go far in paying those bills.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Fence Spot for labor for changing of gates, etc., at Lyons School.

...Celia Schaffer for 1880 History of Livingston County and other resource material.

...Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Libby Eisenhart, Jeannette Johnson and Florence Keenan for their help in mailing of the newsletter.

...Doris Singer Petersen for donating pictures of local sites, early baseball teams, 1934 Brighton Centennial observance, etc.

...Anne Stratigos for her dependability as Hospitality Chairman at General Meetings.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...scrap books, journals, diaries, pictures, directories, ect., of early Brighton area people, structures, activities, businesses, etc.

...people interested in working on a history book of the Brighton area.

ARCHIVES: A microfilm of all the early issues of the Brighton Argus, in the Society's possession, has been prepared. A microfilm reader is needed. The Board felt that it was important to preserve these issues. The paper is deteriorating. A copy of the micro film has been donated to the Howell Carnegie Library for the use of all researchers of the history of the area.

Janice Field, Alice Newcomb and Marieanna Bair meet regularly at the Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, the 2nd Saturday, 9-11 a.m. and at other times convenient to interested persons. Sorting, identifying and filing of pictures, maps, books, etc., continue. Have you something that should be in the Society Archives? Can you help with any of the above? Contact Marieanna, 229-6402.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Work is continuing on the preparation of a complete history of sites in Brighton City. A survey of this nature is needed for both Brighton and Genoa Townships to compile a complete history of the Brighton Area. Information, pictures, directories of: area homes, farms, businesses, commercial, educational, recreational facilities, etc., will ensure the history encompasses every aspect of life in the area. Needed are people who have this information or are willing to find it. Contact Pres. Bair or a board member.

The Society extends sincere condolences to the family of
 Mae Foland Schmadtke
 Mae was a native of the area, served as Clerk of Brighton Township, was an early member of the Society, and served on its board, 1985/86.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

AFGHAN: TEN COVERLETS, WITH LOCAL SCENES, ARE STILL AVAILABLE AT UBER'S DRUGS. THESE ARE CRANBERRY COLOR. IF YOU DIDN'T GET YOURS, CALL NANCY FREDENBURG, 229-9100. WHEN SUFFICIENT ORDERS ARE PLACED THE SOCIETY WILL ORDER MORE.

SIGNATURE QUILT: Three more signatures will be added: Roy Newcomb by daughter Alice and G. Richard Pitkin and Ernest N. Pitkin by daughter and granddaughter Janice Beach.

The actual signatures of these people will be embroidered on this quilt. The quilt will remain with the Society Archives as a testimony of existence. Society files hold many more signatures which should be added to the quilt. Be certain your signature or that of another is included. As you send in relatives' names family groupings are being created. A \$10. donation will see the name is added and you've made a contribution to the Society's projects.

IN UBER'S DRUGS THE FOLLOWING FUND RAISING ITEMS OF THE SOCIETY MAY BE PURCHASED: COVERLETS, TILES, PICTURES OF THE MILL POND, AND POST CARDS. THE BOOK NOOK ALSO HAS THE POST CARDS. SOMEWHERE IN TIME ALSO HAS THE TILES AS DOES SOCIETY BANK. RECEIPTS FROM THESE ITEMS SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS OF THE SOCIETY. IF YOU WISH TO HAVE ANY SENT TO YOU, CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION PROJECT

In this unique agreement between the Society and HBA 5% of the funds donated to the restoration of the structure at 132 E. Grand River are designated to the Society's Lyons School Restoration Fund. The first phase of the renovation has taken place. Many of the Association members have donated labor, materials and funds to this project. Executive Officer, Carol Kull, would be pleased to have you visit to see the progress being made.

In 1879 Detroit telephone customers were first in the nation to be assigned phone numbers to facilitate handling calls.



MOVING TO A SMALLER PLACE?

Cleaning out old files? items of historical interest may be donated to the Society. Don't throw it out! Instead let the Archives committee decide what should be discarded. Or let a copy be made.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NEW () RENEWAL ()

Activities in which I would like to participate:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with Spec. events | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Oral History | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Taping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

HELLO! CENTRAL! (CONT.)

THIS WRITER'S LIMITED RESEARCH INDICATES EACH TOWN HAD ITS 'HOME' (INDEPENDENT) COMPANY. A MERGER, IN 1913, MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR 'HOME' AND 'BELL' SUBSCRIBERS TO USE THE SAME LINES, ENABLING THEM TO CALL ANY OTHER 'HOME' COMPANY PHONE IN MICHIGAN. PRIOR TO THE MERGER MERCHANTS WERE OBLIGED TO HAVE TWO PHONES.

A NEW RINGING CODE ALSO CAME INTO BEING: NUMBERS FOR CALLING IN PLACE OF LONG AND SHORT RINGS. PARTY LINE SUBSCRIBERS WERE ADMONISHED TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THEIR OWN NEW RINGS. "ALL SUBSCRIBERS MUST LOOK UP AND CALL BY NUMBERS AS THE OPERATOR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PUT UP ANY CONNECTION WITHOUT. NO DIRECTORY WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE OPERATOR. C.G. ROLISON, MGR."

THE ARGUS REPORTER CONTINUES: "THE NEW RULING...RELATIVE TO CALLING BY NUMBER WILL BE STRICTLY LIVED UP TO WE UNDERSTAND, AND YOU WILL NOT BE GIVEN YOUR PARTY TILL THE NUMBER IS GIVEN, SO DO NOT BLAME THE OPERATOR."

AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF '911' CAN PERHAPS BE FOUND IN THE CITY CLERK'S NOTICE IN THE SEPTEMBER 9, 1931 ISSUE OF THE BRIGHTON ARGUS: "A SHORT TIME AGO A NUMBER OF HOUSES IN TOWN WERE PILFERED BY BURGLARS. WE NOW HAVE A NIGHT WATCHMAN IN TOWN WHO CAN BE REACHED ANY TIME DURING THE NIGHT BY CALLING CENTRAL. IN CASE OF FUTURE TROUBLE OF THIS KIND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY CALL CENTRAL, WHO WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR NIGHT POLICEMAN AT ONCE."

EVEN IN THOSE DAYS SOME OF US HAD 'CALLER I.D.' OF OUR OWN INVENTION. WHEN ON A PARTY LINE IF ONE WISHED TO CALL A FRIEND AT 4151, BY DIALING 4155 IT WOULD RING THREE TIMES AND THE PERSON CALLED WOULD KNOW WHO WAS CALLING. THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE PREVIOUSLY MADE OF COURSE.



1910 Desk Set. The traditional black finish makes its first appearance in this pedestal telephone made of cast brass.



1919 Dial Telephone. This new kind of phone required complex new switching equipment.

JUST BEFORE WW II THE SWITCHBOARD IN THE BANK WAS ELIMINATED AND THE BUSINESS OFFICE, WHERE ONE PAID THE BILL, WAS MOVED TO THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE OFFICE OF JAMES R. HAYNOR, 408 W. MAIN.

IN 1955, R.H. ENGLEHARDT, AT THE TIME AREA MANAGER FOR MICHIGAN BELL, POINTED OUT THAT FROM THOSE EARLY BEGINNINGS THE EXCHANGE GREW RAPIDLY UNTIL THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 2800 TELEPHONES IN THE BRIGHTON EXCHANGE. "THE PRESENT AUTOMATIC DIAL SYSTEM WITH TWO-LETTER, FIVE-DIGIT METROPOLITAN NUMBERS IS CERTAINLY A FAR CRY FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF CRANK-TYPE TELEPHONES," ENGLEHARDT SAID. "BUT THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF OUR EARLY BRIGHTON CITIZENS, IN ACCEPTING A NEW IDEA, WAS THE SPRINGBOARD FOR THE TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TELEPHONE SYSTEM HERE." (TO BE

CONTINUED. THE WRITER, MARIEANNA BAIR, IS ANXIOUS FOR READERS TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, STORES, ETC. 229-6402)

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