HELLO! CENTRAL!

If one can correctly tap in the many numbers required, it is possible to talk to someone on the other side of the world within a few seconds. From many locations or from one's vehicle a conversation can be held in which the message comes through loudly and clearly. It is also possible for several persons to speak together or not to answer the phone at all - just record the message. New innovations are being constantly offered; even as we write.

'Twas not ever thus. Telephone service was established in Detroit in 1877. Only six years after its invention we find the telephone in Brighton. It was 1882 when the Judson Brothers' store (NW corner of Grand River and Main St.) became the site of the first pay station in the area. A call could be made to Detroit or Lansing on a line recently installed between these two cities. Since it is necessary for another to have a phone before a connection can be established it was not a very busy location.

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When sufficient funds had been acquired the Argus office, 430 W. Main, was the site of the switchboard and the first telephone off that switchboard. The Argus was assigned the number 10.

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

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Gary McCreight - Old Town Hall & Scholarship 229-2191
Anne Stratigos - Hospitality 229-5689
Herb Warner - Lyons School 229-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER
Feb. 8, 1-4 p.m., Marg Wilcox at the Library to assist with genealogical research.
**11, 9-11 a.m. Archives work, welcome.
**11-13 Algoma Central Snow Train.
27, 7-9 p.m. Board Meeting, Welcome.
**March 14, 7-9 p.m. General Meeting. Public welcome.
April 2, 10-4 p.m. Genealogy & History Book Fair, Lansing Center, 555 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.
**At 202 W. Main, upstairs.
**See related article.

BRIGHTON BUSINESSES
An attempt is being made to compile a history of the buildings and/or sites in the business section of Brighton City.

A notebook listing street addresses is in preparation. The advent of electricity resulted in the assignment of numbers to buildings. (How else could the bill be accurately charged?)

This is a follow up of the two walking tours offered last summer.

Research in early issues of the local newspaper and other publications tell of these businesses. Usually the location is noted as "next to the bakery" or "across from the Post Office." It would help to know just which street address each site was designated.

In a February, 1921 issue one finds: The Gove Motor Car Company, Bidwell Realty, the Post Office, Dr. C.W. Hill (dentist), City Meat Market, The Bakery, the Argus office, Clines-Boylan Clothing Co., etc. Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, if you can help pinpoint these.

GENERAL MEETING, PUBLIC INVITED

Tuesday, March 14, 7:30, board member Jaime Green, historic preservationist, will be presenting a 20 minute program on restoration and preservation. Her presentation will be concerned with what can be done to keep and/or enhance the historic quality of your buildings, whether they be your home or business.

You have questions? Jaime may be able to help.

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1995 MEMBERSHIPS 1995

Bus/Prof.: BRIGHTON BAR & Grill.
Church/Ind.: Heiti Banduk (Allendale), Ken & Bertha Chapple, B10 Clark (Shepherd), Frances Clore, Homer & Evelyn Bothagener (LL), Libby Eisenhard, Joe & Irene Ellis, Fred & Paukis Gruzieke.
Dorothy Hartman, Rudy & Virginia Herrman, Helen Leitz (Dubin), Mark & Carol McMacken, Mr. & Mrs. Pat McMacken, Mr. & Mrs. Tim McMacken, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Pawlak, Marty & Lee Pawlak, Ray & Linda Potter, Margaret Squire (97).

The Society extends sincere condolences to the families of Joseph Voorheis and Elva Singer. Both were long time residents of the area.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHIVES: The second batch of early issues of the BRIGHTON NEWSPOER. A total of 17 years, has been microfilmed. The Bill ($40.00) has been paid for the original and one copy. Another copy is being made (another $25.00). Cost to cover this cost would be most welcome. The Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Income tax deductible. A microfilm reader is still needed. The original papers will be returned to our files.

An index has been prepared for the 1880 History of Livingston County reprint in our files. The research into the history of the town of BRIGHTON is continuing. A self guided tour can be developed from this research. An atlas of Livingston County, 1974, 1985, 1910 is needed for our files. The reprints are no longer available. Do you have one to donate?

HISTORIC SURVEY: Dave Barton has learned it was 1843 when Sherman Dix (or Des) prepared a plat for a village. Livingston, to be located at Pleasant Valley Road and the Grand River Trail. It was to soon rival the growing settlement on the Creek in Sec 31, BRIGHTON Township. Ten years earlier Everett Woodbuft built a mill on Woodbuft Creek just across Pleasant Valley from the proposed village site. Very few records exist. The writer of the 1880 History of Livingston County notes Dix returned to NYC and sold property to speculators. Drive by the site and you'll be reminded of land schemes in far off places in the 20th century.

LYONS SCHOOL: Two new gates are being installed. The former opening for a large gate on the South Side has been closed. It is believed appearance and accessibility has been improved.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

SIGNATURE QUILT: From the Brighton Fair Association file we have the signatures of Carter and Meyer. By 1857 both owned 200+ acres in BRIGHTON and Genoa Townships respectively. In 1887 Carter was President and Meyer, Secretary of the Brighton Fair Association. These two names should be on the Quilt. A donation of $10.00 to the Society with the name you prefer is all that's necessary. (In 1875 and 1876 these men represented their Townships in the State Legislature.)

Treasurer still needed

Marge White is continuing yet doing this job. It's only fair that she be given a break. She's been at it a long time. If you have some experience in keeping financial records and are willing to spend several hours each month be sure to contact a Board Member. We must be fair and not take advantage of Marge's efforts. Maybe it's time for you to consider pitching in.

In Uber's Drugs the following fund raising items of the Society may be purchased: Covers, Ties, 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.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME __________________________ PHONE __________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

Activities in which I would like to participate:
( ) Bake Sale ( ) Help with Special events ( ) Newsletter ( ) Research
( ) Board Member ( ) Hospitality ( ) Oral History ( ) Restoration
( ) Fund Raising ( ) Programs ( ) Genealogy ( ) Membership Committee
( ) Photography ( ) Video Taping ( ) Publicity ( ) Other

$2. Student (K-12, College)

Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481

When constructed this building contained all the elementary classes and the High School. It served the community for 60 years. It was removed to make way for the St. Patrick's Catholic Church School, located at 710 Rickett Rd.

HBA: In support of our agreement with HBA Jaime Green, historic preservationist has met with the construction Committee. Waterproofing the lower level (132 E. Grand River) is of prime importance. Ron Morey has accepted the responsibility of handling the administrative paperwork.
1995 MEMBERSHIPS 1995

Bus/Prof: Brighton Bar & Grill.

Patron: Erv & Dorothy Bandkau, Don & Ricci Bandkau, Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Roland & Jaime Owens, Mr & Mrs Richard Smith.

Copies/Indy.: Heidi Bandkau (Alldale), Ken & Berrie Chappel, B10 Clark (Shepherd), Frances Cloe, Homer & Evelyn Bothagen (IL), Libby Eisenthal, Joe & Irene Ellis, Fred & Polly Grueneke.

Dorothy Hartman, Rudy & Virginia Herrman, Helen Leitz (Drum), Mark & Carol McMacken, Mr & Mrs, Pat McMacken, Mr & Mrs Tim McMacken, Mr & Mrs Brian Pawlak, Marly & Lee Pawlak, Ray & Linda Potter, Margaret Squire (97).

Continued support of the Society is vital to efforts to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Brighton area. Many volunteer hours are logged, but from somewhere cash must come to pay for administration expenses, the newsletter, postage, etc. Fund raising events and donations help pay for preservation projects but the other items are paid by memberships. Every level of membership is important. Without you the Society will cease to exist.

RUTH VREELAND

In a series of articles in late 1951, early 1952, issues of the Brighton Argus, Mrs. John Strick wrote of earlier days of the area. She notes that much of her information came from scrapbooks of newspaper clippings collected by a Mrs. Ruth Vreeland. Is it possible these scrapbooks still exist? These should be copied for the Society Archives. In a 1900 issue Charles Vreeland advertised for eggs and 2000 bushels potatoes. In 1907 Mr. & Mrs. P. Vreeland hosted out of town guests. Long time residents of the area put in your thinking caps and consider where Ruth Vreeland's scrapbooks might be. Contact a board member or call 810/229-6402.

BLUE WATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Steam train trips to the Algoma Central Snow Train, Feb. 11-15; Holland Tulip Festival, May 19 & 20; Railroad Days, Durand May 20 & 21; and more are scheduled. Call 810/399-7963 for more info.

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1868 - UNION SCHOOL- 1957
BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN 1886

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