NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

V.P.                     ROY ROUSE
SECRETARY                MARTA MAGEE
TREASURER                MARIEANNA BAIR
DIRECTORS

Ricci Barksdale  Home Tour
Dave Bartley  Hist. Res. Survey
Chuck Beach  Art Fair
Carolyn Delucia  Spalding Bottle Catalog
Nancy Fredericks  Haw. Hist.
Jaime Green  Restoration of Dr. M. Halsey
Jim Vichtig  Old Loan School

DATEs TO REMEMBER
Mar. 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18 See "Cobb" at the Millpond Theater.
8-5 P.M., Marge Wilcox at the Library to assist with genealogical research.
11-9 A.M. Archives work. Welcome.
14, 7:30 General Meeting. Public welcome.
19, 4-5 P.M. Green Oak Township Historical Society presents program on the Farmington Museum. Fire Station.
27, 7:30 Board meeting. Welcome.
April 2, 10-4:30 Genealogy & History Book Fair.

EDITORIAL
"Regrettably, there linger in some quarters a perception of preservation as frivolous and expensive, of preservationists as elitists concerned solely with aesthetics and nostalgia. "Challenging the mistaken notion that preservation is a frill is one of our most important tasks. We must persuade people...that preservation makes good sense in terms of economics as well as aesthetics. "There is compelling evidence of preservation's effectiveness as a tool for building economic vitality. Commerce Department data show that $1 million spent on rehabilitating an older building creates five more construction jobs and three more permanent jobs than $1 million spent on new construction. "Preserved buildings and neighborhoods are important elements in heritage tourism, the fastest-growing portion of the huge tourism industry. Travelers don't seek out communities that have transformed themselves into a hedgehog of cookie-cutter housing tracts, cluttered commercial strips and bleak downtowns...Communities that have saved their souls by saving their heritage convey a sense of being somewhere, not just anywhere." Condensed from an editorial by Richard Moe, Pres., National Trust for Historic Preservation.

ETHEL SEBBEN
Sincere sympathy of the Society are extended to Ethel's family. Ethel has, for many years, served as Circulation Manager of Trail Tales. Folding, labeling, mailing were always carried out promptly and with a smile. Ethel, you are missed by many.
PUBLIC INVITED TO GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 7:30

Those interested in restoration of older buildings will be especially glad they attended. Society member Jaime Green, who has received her Master's Degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University, will present a program on restoration and preservation.

Learn what can be done to keep and/or enhance the historic quality of your building, whether they be your business or home. She will try to help you find answers to your questions.

The meeting will be held in the Large Motor Room at Miller Intergenerational Center, 830 Spencer Road, Brighton.

The public is invited. Being a friend has its rewards.

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

...Fr. Walter Sherman, of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, for allowing copies of various historical records from the archives.
...Ms. Janice Brown and Alice Newcomb, for helping with the editing.
...Mr. and Mrs. Greg Park (O.B.), for their help in mailing the newsletter.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ARCHIVES: With the help of Joan Brown, Janice Field and Alice Newcomb, historical references of each business location are being compiled. Directories (old and new), ads in early issues of the Argus, pictures, long time residents' memories all help to prepare a directory, as complete as possible, of the area. Research is presently centered on the city. Your input is needed - don't wait to be contacted. Contact Marieanna, 229-6402. If the scheduled 2nd Saturday, 5-11, is not convenient, Donations for the microfilming bill are welcome. Also an Atlas of Livingston County, 1875, 1895 or 1915 is needed. Pictures, maps, abstraction and other paper-type memorabilia are welcome. These can be copied.

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY: Dave Barton, persistent searcher, has ferreted out (with thanks to Melton Charboneau) the plat map of Livingston, prepared by surveyor, J. Farinsworth, June 1, 1856, it was recorded May 12, 1857. Livingston was located on the east side of Pleasant Valley Road (named the Ann Arbor and Shinamasee Road on the plat), just north of Grand River. The 136 lots, 54' x 125', are drawn along with the sketches of three buildings. One wonders how many lots sold by Dixon, in the lot where he went back to New York City with his plat of Livingston.

AFGHAN: Ten coverlets, with local scenes, are still available at Uber's Drugs. These are cranberry color. If you didn't get them, call Nancy Frederburg, 229-9100. When sufficient orders are placed the Society will order more.

SIGNATURE Quilt: This quilt, which will remain with the Society, is filled with embroidered names. Linendon PTO paid for Carl Londrom's. Helen is including her husband Francis Michael's name and Dave Barton has selected Grant Broadmore, a merchant on West Main for many years, who sold furniture, pianos and monuments. A $10.00 donation will assure the name you select, or let us select one for you, will be included.

HBA BUILDING PERMIT ISSUED

The plans for restoration of the building at 132 E. Grand River have been found satisfactory by the City of Brighton. In early March it is anticipated that renovation work on the upper floor and basement will begin.

MEMBERS of the Home Builders Association of Livingston County have been pledging funds and the donation of materials and labor. These contributions are made through the Society which encourages restoration of the few early buildings remaining in the area. The public can also contribute. Checks, payable to the Society, should be sent to Box 1605, Brighton 48116-1605.

LIFE IN AN OLDER HOME

Do you need help on how-to's or styles? Carol Lee N. Koll, 227-9935, and Ricci Banda, 227-7654, are organizing a gathering of homemakers or interested parties to share ideas, information, etc. Interested? Contact either of them.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

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 box 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.

NEEDED ... NEEDED ... NEEDED ...

...A Circulation Manager. This person picks up the newsletter from the printer, labels, stamps and delivers it to the post office. Help is always available (2-4 people) to complete this task in an afternoon.

...A Treasurer. This person should have some knowledge of financial recording or be willing to learn. Marg White has filled this position for years and deserves an accolade and a break. Writing checks, receipts, depositing funds: recording these transactions and preparing a monthly report involve several hours each month. It is certain a Society member can assume this position with little difficulty.

Call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, to volunteer for either of these positions if you have questions.

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

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
**1995 MEMBERSHIPS 1995**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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Do you need help on how-to's or styles? Charlene Kull, 227-9365, and Ricci Bandak, 227-7654, are organizing a gathering of homeowners or interested parties to share ideas. Information, etc., interested? Contact either of them.

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THANKS...THANKS...THANKS

...Fr. Walter Sherman of St. Paul's Episcopal Church for allowing copies of various historical records. These are considered a valuable addition to the Archives being developed.

...Components: Notes, cooperation and support from many for the efforts of the Society board. This we welcome encouragement. 

...Bert Bair, Normann & Marian Catrell, Libby Eisenhardt, Jaime Green, Florence Keenan, and Rosemary Ulmer for their help in mailing of the newsletter. (It is hoped you'll say "yes" when your help is needed.)

**BUS/PROF: Dr. Gerald & Eva Whalen (Franckenthul)**


**COUPLE/INDIV: Bob & Diane Assenmacher, Bert & Marianne Bair, David L. Barton, Leon & Marilyn Bonner (Northville), Jaime Green, Kathryn Hampton (Northville), Bob & Betsy Herbst, Brenda McCarty, Helen Michaels, Mr. & Mrs. Greg Park (O'Hi), Gene & Dorothy Schutz, Alice Seiger (96).**

Only by continued membership support can the Society continue to exist. However merely existing is not sufficient reason for being. Society board members give much time and energy to fulfilling the Society's goals. Fund raising receipts are delegated to the Preservation Fund to pay for the Lyons School, and Old Town Hall projects, the expenses of Oral History, Archives and microfilming projects. Due's must cover administration expenses. Including: P.O. Box fee ($40). Annual Nonprofit mailing permit ($75), newsletter expenses ($200+ per month) etc.

Due's receipts are what keep the wheels of this organization humming. Extra contributions to the General Fund enable the board member to concentrate on their special projects.

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ADDRESS: ____________________________

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HELLO! CENTRAL! (Cont.)

The June 24, 1911, issue of the Brighton Argus carried this list (r.) of telephone subscribers. Growth was not slow in developing. Not long after establishing the switchboard in the Argus office the growth of the system made a move to larger quarters necessary. In 1911 lease arrangements were made with the Brighton State Bank, which was under construction, to place the switchboard on the second floor.

In that long ago time it was always ladies who were engaged in working the switchboard. Julie Bergin Brady, Pauline Allen Chenoweth, Pearl Dracig, Dorothy Roberts Foster, Bea Jarvis Gould, Mildred Taylor Jarvis, Virginia Polson, Clara Smith Sutton and Flossie West, who worked at night, were among those who answered "Central."

We quote Olive Smith Griffin as she recalls her memories of those days: "My father, George Smith, supervised the Brighton facility which was located over the Brighton Bank just west of the millpond on Main Street. He did all the repair work traveling to Pinckney, Cothman and sometimes Fowlerville. Also he covered the office, sent out bills, hiring and paying the switchboard operators. My sister, Clara, and I also learned to be operators. The switchboard had 200 numbers with two rows of cords; one to answer 'Number please' and the other to hanging two party calls. Our long distance calls were routed through a trunk line in Howell. Elva Singer was a trunk line operator in Howell. There were rural party lines with more than one subscriber. Number 65F1 would be four rings and 65F11 would be one long and one short. When the fire sirens rang everyone called in and all the operator could do was plug in and say 'Taylor Barn' or 'Steidman's house'. No time for 'Number please'."

During those early days Maude Seymour was the person in charge. In the winter, to keep the night operator from freezing during a cold spell Roy Newcomb, bank cashier, would see that the furnace was properly filled for the night. (By Marianne Bair. To be continued. Additional comments and stories would be welcome.)

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pres. & Editor Marianne Bair 223-6402

V.P. Secretary Ron Morley 227-7283

Treas. Margaret White 227-3568

DIRECTORS

Ricci Bardak - Home Tour 227-7864

Dave Barton - Hist. Res. Surv. 227-2713

Chuck Beach - Art Fair 227-9678

Carolyn Deluca - S.P.A.S. 982-9598

Marilyn Dobranac - U.P. Hist. 227-1300

Janine Green - Preservation Res. 227-8541

Jim Vichich - Lyons School 227-8590

John Lisahn - Pers. Dev. 223-8777

Gary McCarrie - Old Town Hall 223-2193

Anne Stretten - Hospitality 223-5689

Herb Warner - Lyons School 223-6504

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** At 202 W. Main, upstairs.

** See related article.

**THE 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 the purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted.

**TRAIL TALES**

**EDITORIAL**

"Regrettably, there linger in some quarters a perception of preservation as pious and expensive, of preservationists as elitists concerned solely with aesthetics and nostalgia."

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