



*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. 5

BRIGHTON, MI 48116-0481  
May, 1995

### BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### SPAGHETTI SUPPER MEETING

Thursday, May 18, 7:30, 202 W. Main, upstairs. Carolina DeLuca, chairman of the Spaghetti Supper, will hold a planning meeting to get the ball rolling for this worthy fund raiser.

Consider helping with publicity, set up, decorations, serving, clean up, kitchen, tickets, etc. If you can't come to the meeting call Carolina, 546-4518 to let her know how you'll help.

### STUFF IN THE ATTIC?

If you, or your family have been in this area for a while, there are many articles of local historical value in your basement or attic. These locations are NOT conducive to preservation of these materials. Contact the Historical Society for info on safer storage.

The archives committee is organizing a means of compiling, in a preservation environment, any items available. Donations will be gratefully accepted or copies made.

### ARCHIVE WORKSHOPS

The Michigan State Historic Records Advisory Board is sponsoring workshops throughout the state. The focus will be on basic archival principals, program self-assessments, and application for grant funds. Saturday, June 3 a workshop will be held at Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn. (Register by May 19) The \$25. fee includes lunch. Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 for information. Thanks to John Curry for relaying this to us.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 10: 5-8 p.m. Genealogical help with Marge Wilcox at the Brighton Area District Library.
- \*May 18, 7:30 p.m. Spaghetti Supper Committee meeting. See related article.
- \*May 20: 9-11 a.m. Work at the Archives. Note date change. WELCOME!
- May 21: 3 p.m. Tour the Governor Fred Warner mansion in Farmington with the Green Oak Township Historical Society. Call 229-6402 or 810/486-9113 for directions and/or reservations at Bill Knapp's nearby restaurant by May 14.
- \*May 22: 7:30 p.m. Society Board meeting. Welcome.
- \*at 202 W. Main. Upstairs.

PATRON: John & Win Allen, Bernie & Bonnie Corrigan, Al & Kay Dunk, Fred & Bernice Hyne, Peter and Anne Stratigos (96).

COUPLES/INDIV: Mr & Mrs John Curry, Bernadine Cusik, Janice Field, Dr. D.H. and Barbara Folkman, David Pomerville (96), Gerald & Gwenn Swann.

It is time to close the books on the 1994 Membership List. Many thanks to those who have 'caught up'. It is hoped the aims and goals of the Society are considered worthy of your support and that you'd like to be included in the 1994 listing.

The number on the label on this newsletter will tell you if you're up to date. If the number is less than 94, or no number at all, please consider sending your dues. Board members thrive on knowing you confirm their efforts.

Dues go to the General Fund which pays for the newsletter, etc. The General Fund is in the hole.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...Anne Stratigos' 6th grade class at Maltby Middle School who folded, labeled, sorted, counted and stamped the April issue of Trail Tales.

...Jo Hyne for the picture of the Brighton Girl Scout Troop c. 1947. And all identified!

...Carol McMacken for her donation to the General Fund; an honorarium for having participated in a panel discussion.

...HBA for display space in their booth at the Home Show last month and at the Table-Top Night. (Associate members displayed products and services.)

...Lyons School donation from Florence (Warner) Chase.

NEED NEED NEED

...an embroiderer for the Signature Quilt.

...people to assist in construction of the proposed history book.

ARCHIVES: All of the original issues of the Brighton Argus, which have been microfilmed, have been returned to the shelves. Help with the \$800.+ bill for microfilming is sorely needed. Janice Field, Alice Newcomb and Marieanna Bair continue working on identifying photos, preparing a history of structures in Brighton City (need someone to do this in Genoa and Brighton Townships, too) and indexing. The Archives can always use your pictures, diaries, maps, books, records, etc. Copies can be made of originals if desired.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION: Demolition and reconstruction of the top floor of the building at 132 E. Grand River, home of the HBA of Livingston County is proceeding. Income tax deductible contributions to this restoration effort are being made through the Historical Society. Check out the architect's rendering of the planned restoration in the front window. Ex. Dir., Carol Kull, would be pleased to have you stop for a look at what's going on.

The Society has 501(c)3 status with the I.R.S. That makes contributions Income Tax deductible. Might you consider the Society in your will?

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF  
MARY BETH (PHILLIPS) GUEST

A life long resident of Brighton,  
a member of the local commercial realm,  
a member of the Society.

WITH OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

May 16, 7:30 p.m. South Lyon Historical Society will offer a program on Perennial Gardens with Master Gardner Getchen Boyle. At the Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy Street, South Lyon.

May 17, 12-4 p.m. Wixom Historical Society Ice Cream Social. Wixom-Wire House, corner W. Maple & Wixom Rd.

May 21, 1-6 p.m. Wyandotte Historical Home Tour. Wyandotte Museum, 2610 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte.



## HELLO! CENTRAL! (cont.)

It was in the rural area where the 'party' line was in use for the longest period. A private line would have been impossible or too expensive. Local historian, the late Bill Pless, writes that (living on Grand River) they were on a party line with every farmer between Brighton and Howell on the same line. One turn of the crank would get the Howell operator - two, the Brighton operator. With about 18 on the same line one can imagine the combination of rings (cranks) necessary to call the correct neighbor. (And one had to be quick to even get the line.) This would ring in every party line member's home. Occasionally one could be sure the neighbors were also privy to the conversation. 'Central' would ring one long ring and when all the receivers came down, the weather report or other exciting news relayed. There are stories told of alerting the entire neighborhood to an emergency by calling only one person.

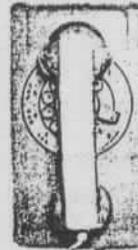


1954 "500" Type Color Desk Set. Basic colors - white, beige, green, pink and blue - made phones fit modern decor.

By c. 1952, it was fashionable to purchase telephones in a color which was coordinated with one's decorating scheme. Also promoted was the suggestion that more than one phone in a home would be a great convenience. Also about that time the male telephone operator came into being. You can be sure more than one caller quickly hung up the phone, upon hearing a man's voice, thinking an error had been made in dialing. Operators could always tell when school was out. Students, arriving home, found it necessary to call friends with whom they had been all day and the switch board lit up like a Christmas tree. Some things never change.

For many years a building just off Cedar Street, near the mill pond, housed the telephone exchange until it became too crowded and obsolete. The city eventually acquired the building and local dramatists have made good use of it in its guise as the Mill Pond Theater.

The February 9, 1972, issue of the Brighton Argus pictures an architect's rendering of the new exchange building proposed to be built at 1701 E. Grand River. It was April, 1974, right on schedule, when Michigan Bell officially opened the communication center and treated area merchants and officials to a lunch and a short program as part of a tour of the facility. Today that building is for sale, having outlived its usefulness. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. Additional comments and stories are most welcome.)



1956 Wall Telephone. A convenient extension phone in many basic colors for kitchen, basement, patio and garage.

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