HELLO! CENTRAL! (Cont.)

The June 26, 1911 issue of the Brighton Argus carried this list (n.) 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 Brazic, Dorothy Roberts Foster, Bea Jarvis Gould, Mildred Taylor Jarvis, Virginia Polkow, 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, Concord 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 bring the party called. Our long distance calls were routed through a trunk line in Howell. Elva Singler was a trunk line operator in Howell. There were rural party lines with more than one subscriber, number 65F1 would be four rings and 65F71 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 ‘Taylors Barn’ or ‘Stedman’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.)

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

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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CHARLES MISCH 72-2172
CHARLIE PRICE 136
CRYSTAL ICE CO. 85-3650
REV. G.C.H. REID 103
FRANK KING 92-2151
EARL ANDERSON 159
ELL KNIGHT 91-1551
LYNDE SALKELD 70-155
RUS. SAMUEL McCLELLAN 20-56
MARVIN ROCHESTER 88-54
VINCENT MANG 76-2158
JULIE BRADSHER 135
REBE ODELL 65-55
GEORGE PEACH 92-3514
J.J. VALENCOU 88-2131
P. WHEELAND 135
J.M. SUTHERLAND 108
J. D. RUSSELL 88-1151
HELLO BEACH 14
GEORGE GLASSON 131
ROY McBRIDE 90-155
J. B. Jones 85-33
CLAIR BICKETT 185
JOHN INNABY 24

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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.* ** Jan. 9-11 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, 3504 Whitmore Lake Rd. 27, 7:30 Board meeting. Welcome. April 2, 10-4:30 Genealogy & History Book Fair. Lansing Center. Lansing. 3/7-3/1/52 Board meeting. Welcome. At 202 W. Main, upstairs. See related article.

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 the preservation is worthwhile and should be promoted.

EDITORIAL

*Regrettably, there lingers in some quarters a perception of preservation as prigulous 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 hodgepodge 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.


ETHEL SEBBEN

Sincere sympathies 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.