HELLO! CENTRAL! (Cont.)

In the 30 years, since direct distance dialing (DDD) was established, communication needs forced a change in area codes, locally, from 313 to 810 December 1, 1993. So we've come from a single phone in the Judson Brothers grocery store, to the exchange in the Angus printing office, to the switchboard on the second floor of the Brighton State Bank, to large telephone exchanges with computerized phone banks. The telephone has developed from a primitive instrument used by a few people to a community utility that allows each of us to communicate with anyone else on the earth. (A valid criterion indicating change?) The business directory pages were replaced with a computerized directory. The 1981 issue was half full of the "yellow" pages, whereas today the whole phone book is yellow. These have become a means by which one may locate a needed product or service.

Before WWII Dick Tracy wore a wrist radio. (Surely the writer is not alone in remembering that cartoon.) Many felt the cartoonist's imagination was quite accurate. Today personal 'beepers' have replaced Dick's wrist radio. This writer's grandchildren make light of the study necessary for her to fully utilize the many possibilities of her telephone. Touch one button to converse, another to relay recorded messages, another instantly connects with an often called number without dialing, etc., etc. A recently purchased piece of telephone equipment is near obsolescence by the time it's installed.

Late local historian Bill Ples's writes of several anecdotes concerning early telephone use such as the farmer living on his father's farm. The farmer didn't want the telephone installed and complained mildly when the son and wife had one installed. Thinking to quiet his complaint they finally got him to call his friend, Seth, who lived a mile away. After shouting, "Hello, Seth!" the old man stepped back. The son encouraged his father to continue. "I'm just waiting for that hello to get down to Seth's." Another story concerns a self-made successful farmer and his sister who were enjoying the fruits of their labor and wanted everyone to know. A telephone and a furnace were installed and a car purchased; at a time when few had such luxuries. He came to town and called his sister from several stores where other customers could overhear his part of the conversation. "Did the telephone ring loud enough?" he asked. "Is the furnace operating all right? Did you adjust the chains to the draft and dampers? Is the house warm enough?" Then he'd tell her the car was running splendidly and made every hill in high gear. Frequently seen wiping dust off the windshield and fenders and openly admiring the vehicle, neighbors would often cause him some concern by deliberately parking close to his car. (By Marianna Bair with thanks to Bill Ples's writings, clipping from the Brighton Argus and Livingston County Press, Olive Smith Griffin, Alice Newcomb, Jane Tomlinson, Janice Field and Theresa Swedick.)

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

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OFFICERS
PRES. & EDITOR         MARIEANNA BAIR 229-6402
V.P.                   RON MOREY 227-7281
SECRETARY              GARY MCGRORIE 227-5688
TREAS.                 MARIEANNA BAIR 229-6402
DIRECTORS
RICCI, BANDKA - HOME TOUR 227-7564
DAVE HARTON - HIST. RES. SURVY 229-5213
CHRISTIE BEACH - ART FORMS 229-6378
CAROLINA DELUCA - SPAG. SUPPERS 229-6518
NANCY FREDERBURG - ORAL HIST. 229-5100
JAYNE GREEN - RESTORATION RES 227-8941
JIM VYCHICH - LINUS SCHOLL 227-6840
JAN LINAHAN - PERS. DILIV. 229-6777
GARY MCGRORIE - OLD TOWN HALL & SCHOLARSHIP 229-2193
ANNE STRATTONS - HOSPITALITY 229-5683
HERB WARNER - LINUS SCHOLL 227-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER
JUNE 10 - 9-11 A.M. ARCHIVES WORK.
16-17 - MICHIGAN ARCHIVAL ASSOCIATION MEETING, HOPE COLLEGE,
        HOLLAND, MI. 229-6402 FOR INFO.
22 - HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE.
23-24 - 46TH ANNUAL U.P. HISTORY CONFERENCE, NEWBERRY.
        RESV. BY JUNE 4. 313-769-1828.
* 26 - 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING.
JULY 22 - 9 A.M./5 P.M. ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP, BAY VIEW.
        517-321-1748.
SEPTEMBER 16-17 - 121ST ANNUAL MEETING AND
        STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE,
        MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION FALL CONV.,
        MEADOW BROOK HALL, ROCHESTER
        HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICH.
        2117 WASHTENAW AVE.,
        ANN ARBOR 48104.

HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE FORMED

At a May 1 meeting it was decided to consider the preparation of a book detailing the history of the Brighton area.

Carol McMacken volunteered to be chairman: Shirley Knight will be her assistant.

However, MUCH MORE HELP will be needed; many committees to be formed; much research to be done, etc., etc.

The fourth Thursday of the month has been established as a meeting date of the book committee. Persons wishing to offer help, pictures, documents, etc., should call Carol, 231-2957, or Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

A name for this book will be needed. Any suggestions?

E. Reed Fletcher was an avid local historian of the area in the 50s and 60s. Is a collection of his writings available?

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE FLOAT?

The Society should be recognized as a viable organization in the community with representation in the parade. What can you do to help? Call a board member.

SEPTEMBER 16-17 - MILFORD HOME TOUR.
23-24 - QUILT SHOW/FOLK ART FAIR.
        RICHARDSON CENTER AT OAKLEY
        PARK AND S. COMMERCE RD.
        COMMERCE TWP., 810/353-0939.
         OCT 14 - MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION FALL CONV.,
        MICHIGAN HISTORY CENTER, 717 W. ALLEGAN,
        LANSING, 517-321-1748.

*At 202 W. MAIN, UPSTAIRS. WELCOME.