



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
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Brighton, MI 48116
FEBRUARY, 1997

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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DATES TO REMEMBER

- FEB. 6, 7 P.M. LIVINGSTON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, LDS CHURCH, 1041 W. GRAND RIVER, HOWELL. "LET'S CHECK THE INTERNET".
- 12, 5-8 P.M. & FEB. 25, 1-5 P.M. GENEALOGICAL HELP AT THE LIBRARY.
- * 18, 1-3 P.M. WORK IN ARCHIVES. COME.
- * 24, 7:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING.
- * 27, 7:30 P.M. HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE.
- MAR 3, 7 P.M. GENERAL MEETING AND COURTHOUSE TOUR.
- ** 6, 7 P.M. LCGS. TOUR COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE. "AVAILABLE RECORDS AND HOW TO USE." 227-1760.
- 16, GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL TOUR MICHIGAN HISTORICAL CENTER, LANSING. JOIN THEM. 229-6402 OR 486-9113.

*OLD TOWN HALL, 202 W. MAIN. WELCOME.
**SEE ITEM THIS PAGE. PUBLIC WELCOME.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE TOUR

MONDAY, MARCH 3, 7:30 P.M.

HOLDING THE FIRST TERM OF COURT IN THE NEW SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE FALL OF 1836 IS REGARDED AS A STEP IN THE FIRM ESTABLISHMENT OF HOWELL (LIVINGSTON CENTER) AS THE COUNTY SEAT (INSTEAD OF ORE CREEK [BRIGHTON]). THE ARRIVAL AND SETTLING OF THE FIRST ATTORNEY IN THE COUNTY ALSO CONFIRMED HOWELL'S CLAIM.

WITH INCREASING DIFFICULTY AND INCONVENIENCE THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS MET IN TEMPORARY QUARTERS FOR THE NEXT 12 YEARS. ELECTIONS TO RAISE TAXES TO CONSTRUCT A COUNTY BUILDING WERE REGULARLY DEFEATED BY THE BRIGHTON AREA VOTERS. THIS FIRST COURTHOUSE WAS REPLACED WITH THE RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE STRUCTURE IN 1889 WHICH STILL STANDS. AGAIN IT WAS SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE THE VOTERS IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTY WERE DEFEATED IN THE BALLOTING FOR IT TO BE BUILT IN HOWELL.

IT WAS 1975 WHEN CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO POSSIBLE PRESERVATION/CONSERVATION OF THE POORLY MAINTAINED COURTHOUSE. THIS TIME THE REFERENDUM WON ON THE FIRST BALLOT; ADMITTEDLY BY THE BAREST OF MARGINS, 142 VOTES. THE END RESULTS OF THE RESTORATION ARE SPECTACULAR, INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR.

THE GUIDED TOUR, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, WILL CONFIRM THE PRIDE ONE FEELS IN THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE BUILDING. THIS TIME THE PRESERVATIONISTS WON AND HAVE BEEN VINDICATED.

NEED A RIDE? 810/229-6402 MARIEANNA.

PATRON: ERV & DOROTHY BANDKAU, BOB & TILLIE BITTEN, MARK & CHARLOTTE GODIN, VAL & KATHY JACOBY (FL), WHITNEY & JUNE KIMBLE, DENNIS & MARIA LITTLEWORTH, DOUG & CAROL REARICK, BOB & RUTH WATSON (HOWELL).

COUPLES/INDIV: BOB & DIANE ASSENMACHER, BERT & MARIEANNA BAIR, DAVID BARTON, JEFF & DIANA BARTON, LEON & MARILYN BONNER (NRTHVL), MARILYN CAMPBELL (IN), LOIS CLARK (MIDLAND), BILL & MARIANNE COMISKEY, JOE & IRENE ELLIS, DOROTHY HARTMAN, BOB & BETSY HERBST, MERRILL & RUTH HERBST, JEANETTE JOHNSON, BOB & SHIRLEY KNIGHT (98), JACK & JEANNETTE LINAHAN, RUDY & DOREEN MEFFERT, JAMES & JUDY MURRAY (DEXTER), DORIS PRIESKORN, DAN & EMMAJEAN SCHMIDT, DORIS MARY SINGER (GRAND RAPIDS), ALICE SPRAGUE (FL), MARGARET SQUIRE (98), ARLOA WASHBURN, PAT & MARGE WHITE (98), DON & ALICE WYLAND.

RECORDS FOR 1996 ARE BEING COMPILED FOR FILING. AS A PART OF THE HISTORY OF THIS ORGANIZATION THE MEMBERSHIP LIST IS INCLUDED. YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NECESSARY FOR THE SOCIETY TO CONTINUE ITS PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS. IT IS HOPED YOU CAN BE COUNTED ON. THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON PAGE 3 CAN BE USED.

TO BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TO THOSE WHO ARE SUPPORTING MEMBERS IT IS NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE ADDRESSES TO WHICH TRAIL TALES IS SENT. CONSIDERATION WILL HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO REMOVING THE LABEL IF THE MEMBERSHIP DATE ON YOUR LABEL ISN'T 97 OR HIGHER. PRINTING AND MAILING CHARGES (OVER \$200. PER MONTH) FORCE THIS UNPLEASANT ACTION.

YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED BY THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS AND THE SEVERAL PROJECT CHAIRS. THEY NEED TO KNOW OTHERS ALSO AGREE WITH THE SOCIETY PURPOSES AND GOALS.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

...BERT BAIR, NORM CATRELL, JOANNE CERU AND JUNE KIMBLE FOR PREPARING THE JANUARY ISSUE OF TRAIL TALES FOR MAILING.

...HEARTLAND HOUSE, NAUGHTY 'N NICE, WOOD 'N THINGS, NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES AND THE BOOK NOOK FOR STOCKING SEVERAL FUND RAISING ITEMS. (SEE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.)

ARCHIVES: EACH 3RD TUESDAY, 1-3 P.M., AT THE OLD TOWN HALL. SURE CAN USE HELP IN IDENTIFYING PICTURES, SITES, DATES, ETC. A COPY MACHINE, LEGAL SIZE FILING CABINET, PAPER, ETC., WOULD BE A BIG HELP. AND SO WOULD SOME WARM BODIES. NOT A GOOD DATE FOR YOU? CALL 229-6402; A DATE WILL BE SCHEDULED.

HISTORY BOOK: CAROL McMACKEN, 231-2957, THANKS THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN MATERIALS (PICTURES, STORIES, ABSTRACTS, ETC., ETC.) FOR POSSIBLE USE IN THE AREA HISTORY BOOK. THIS COMMITTEE MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY, 7:30. CALL CAROL TO LET HER KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST. THE MORE ITEMS FROM WHICH TO CHOSE THE MORE COMPLETE THE BOOK WILL BE. DON'T BE LEFT OUT.

HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION: THIS YEAR WILL SEE COMPLETION OF THE RENOVATION OF 132 E. GRAND RIVER, THE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICE. THE 2ND FLOOR IS READY FOR LEASING. WHEN WARM WEATHER ARRIVES, WORK ON THE EXTERIOR WILL BE FINISHED. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE SOCIETY AND ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

LYONS SCHOOL: NOT FORGOTTEN - WARMER WEATHER WILL MEAN MORE ACCOMPLISHED.

ORAL HISTORY: IT SEEMS THAT SUDDENLY THE LONG TIME RESIDENTS OF THE AREA ARE GONE - IT'S THAT WAY TOO WITH OLDER RELATIVES. GET THEIR STORIES ON TAPE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. HOW TO BEGIN? CALL 229-6402 AND GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED.

NEEDED NEEDED NEEDED

...A TREASURER, NEWSLETTER CHAIR, FUND RAISING CHAIR. THE JANUARY ISSUE SOMEWHAT DETAILED THE RESPONSIBILITIES.

...SPAGHETTI SUPPER HELPERS, HOME TOUR HELPERS, SALES CHAIRS (DISTRIBUTE SALES ITEMS, KEEP TRACK OF STOCK, ETC), ART FAIR CHAIR, RAFFLES, ETC. CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER OR MARIEANNA BAIR, 229-6402.

...COPY MACHINE, FILE CABINET (LEGAL SIZE PREFERRED) FOR USE AT OLD TOWN HALL.

APR. 6, 10/4:30 P.M. GENEALOGY AND HISTORY BOOK FAIR, LANSING CENTER, 333 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING. 517/332-0123.

11,12, MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK, 17TH ANNUAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE, BAY CITY. 313/998-6248.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

(PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP + 4 DIGIT)

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

work I would be willing to do: _____

DUES: \$25. Patron \$2. Student (K-12, College)
 \$25. Business/Professional Brighton Area Historical Society
 \$12. Couple P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116-0481
 \$ 7. Individual

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

TILES: 6"x6" WHITE CERAMIC TILES, WITH LOCAL HISTORICAL SCENES, CAN BE PURCHASED AT NOSTALGIA ANTIQUES, 116 W. MAIN. \$8.00 OR 3 FOR \$21.00. PROP. CLARENCE HINES HAS TILES FROM 1986 IN STOCK. THE 1996 TILE, SEE RIGHT, IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

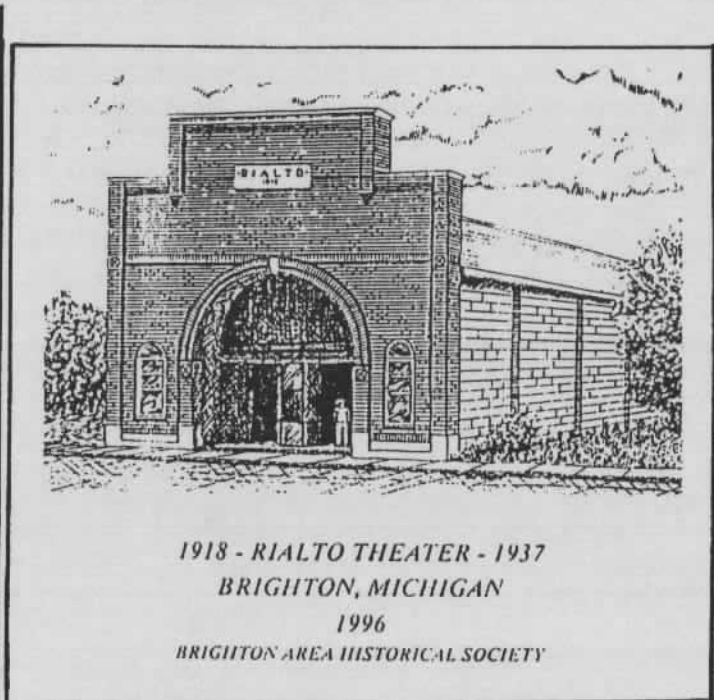
COVERLETS: WOVEN COTTON WITH NINE LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES, ARE STOCKED AT NAUGHTY 'N NICE, 412 W. MAIN, WOOD 'N THINGS, 200 HYNE STREET AND HEARTLAND HOUSE, 124 W. MAIN. \$49.00.

POST CARDS: AT THE BOOK NOOK, 322 W. MAIN, SHARON STEINHAUBER, PROP.

SIGNATURES: TO BE EMBROIDERED ON THE SIGNATURE QUILT FOR THE ARCHIVES, \$10.00;

NEEDLEPOINT KITS: THE OLD TOWN HALL; 10x14"

PICTURES OF THE MILL STREAM DAM; CALL 229-6402.



1918 - RIALTO THEATER - 1937
 BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
 1996
 BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN MEMORIAM

SINCERE SYMPATHIES
 OF THE SOCIETY ARE
 EXTENDED TO THE FAMILIES OF

ESTHER FITZPATRICK

LEOTA MASON

ELSIE FEE WEST

ALL WERE TEACHERS IN THE
 AREA AT ONE TIME

THE RIALTO THEATER, BUILT IN 1918 ON WEST MAIN STREET ACROSS FROM THE MILL POND, WAS THE FIRST MOVIE HOUSE BUILT ESPECIALLY FOR THAT PURPOSE IN BRIGHTON. THE SILENT MOVIES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A PLAYER PIANO AND OFTEN WITH LOCAL PIANISTS. IT WAS ALSO THE SITE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXERCISES, LOCAL STAGE PRODUCTIONS (INCLUDING MINSTREL PLAYS), AND MUSICAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE BRIGHTON CONCERT BAND. IN 1937 THE RIALTO WAS REMOVED FOR USE AS A BOWLING ALLEY. IT WAS AFTER WW II THAT THE BUILDING WAS DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR A PARKING LOT.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P O BOX 481
BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

"HOLIDAY GREETINGS": FROM THE BRIGHTON ARGUS, 1898

MORE FROM A BOOK OF POEMS BY FRED A. BUSH

CALEB K. COLLETT ROOFING, ETC.

IF YOU WANT A ROOF THAT'S LASTING
AND A ROOF THAT'S WATER TIGHT,
C. K. COLLETT CAN SUPPLY YOU
WITH A ROOF THAT IS ALL RIGHT.

IN STEEL OR IRON OR GALVANIZED,
IN COPPER OR IN TIN,
HE'LL PUT A ROOF ON YOUR BUILDINGS
SO THAT WATER CAN'T GET IN.

AND PAINT IT WITH STEEL ROOFING PAINT
THAT LASTS UNTIL IT'S BURNED.
HE DOES ALL KINDS OF WOOD WORK
IN FANCY SCROLL OR TURNED.

LOCATED ON GRAND RIVER STREET,
YOU WILL FIND HIS PLACE WITH EASE,
AND HE WILL GIVE YOUR WORK ATTENTION
AND GUARANTEE TO PLEASE.

C. H. WILLIAMS JEWELER & OPTICIAN

IF THERE'S ANY PIECE OF JEWELRY
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY,
OR UP-TO-DATE ENGRAVING,
THERE'S ONE PLACE YOU SHOULD TRY.

FOR C. H. WILLIAMS DOES IT RIGHT,
IN HIS GRAND RIVER STORE,
HE'LL MAKE YOU WHAT YOU'RE WISHING,
IF YOU'LL LOOK HIS FACTORY O'ER.

HE IS A GOOD WATCH MAKER,
AND FIXES WATCH OR CLOCK,
AND FITS YOUR EYES WITH GLASSES,
AT PRICES DOWN TO ROCK.

JUST GO AND VISIT WILLIAMS
FOR ANYTHING IN HIS LINE,
AND YOU WILL HAVE YOUR WORK DONE
IN A STYLE THAT'S GENUINE.