



# Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 481

Brighton, MI 48116

[www.brightonareahistorical.com](http://www.brightonareahistorical.com)

# Trail Tales

January 2007

Vol. XXVI No. 1

Preserve, Advance and Disseminate Knowledge of the History of the Brighton Area

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

President/Editor  
Marieanna Bair  
810/229-6402

Vice President  
Jim Vichich  
810/227-4840

Secretary  
Thomas Reinke  
313/295-9326

Treasurer  
Mindy Kinsey  
248/684-0340

## DIRECTORS

John Fillicaro  
810/231-6521

Susan Walters-  
Steinacker  
810/229-4483

Dick Weaire  
810/229-4066

## CHAIR PERSONS

John & Janice  
Field, Archives/  
Cemeteries  
810/599-6195

Questers #236  
Lyon School Open  
House Hosts  
810/231-3067

Education Liaison  
Judith Coebly  
810/229-4608  
Sue Skwarski  
810/225-0908

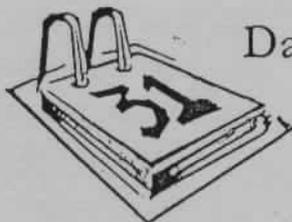
## WHAT'S THE VALUE OF AN OLD BUILDING?

The mission of the Brighton Area Historical Society as noted above, promotes the preservation of the area's past and its dissemination in various ways and by various means. Artifacts are collected and displayed; the written history is compiled; archives are developed for research, public programs are held at the Lyon School.

This one room school, the headquarters of the Society, also provides elementary students with exposure to early Michigan education in the form of a day long visit. This building, owned by the Society, is one of the 'comfy' buildings so vital to preserving the harmony which comes with the passage of time.

In an interview of Stewart Brand, founder of the 'Whole Earth Catalog' in Preservation magazine he speaks of what can be learned from old buildings. "One of the attractions of being in a building more than 100 years old is that it represents a longer frame of reference than your own lifetime. And as you get comfortable taking hold of that much time past, you become more comfortable with thinking of at least that much time forward - and the consequences of your own actions. If a building has been around for 150 years, maybe it'll be around for another 150 years. The scale of civilization is part of a longer time frame, so an older building invites you to participate in the longer stories and to take history seriously. A more recent building just isn't up to this, although it may aspire to it."

Keeping the character and atmosphere of early Michigan rural areas, combining with the history made each day, ensures a unique environment and promotes the real value of the Brighton area.



## Dates to Remember:

- Jan. \*11, 18, 25: 9 a.m./noon. Archives filing. Welcom. 810/229-6402 to confirm.
- \*22: 6:30. Society board meets. Welcome.

\*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton Twp.

## MEMBERSHIPS

PATRON: Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Whitney & June Kimble, Tom & Mindy Kinsey and Jere & Kay Michaels.

COUPLES/INDIV: Pat Anderson,\*Douglas Bidwell (FL), Elaine Blight, Pat & Mary Fonseca (AZ), Nancy Fredenburg (08), Sue Newman (Saline), Roland & Jane Owens, Rich & Mary Ray (08), Margaret Siford, Horace & Yvonne Taylor, Arlene Warner and Bernon Young (FL,09).

\*Welcome to new member Doug Bidwell. He has many long-standing ties to the area. Thanks to all who have renewed.

Review of newsletter mailing labels is underway. A 'Complementary Copy' stamp on the front of this issue reminds one dues for 2007 have not been received.

The Society exists on memberships. It has no manufactured product to sell as income. Its product is that which adds to the quality of life in the Brighton area. How pleasant it would be to be able to deliver Trail Tales to all. Reality precludes this ideal.

---

THANKS      THANKS      THANKS

...Bert Bair and June Kimble for help to mail the December newsletter.

...Sue Newman (Saline) for donation with dues also donation of a 1907 Homecoming ribbon from her parent's attic and Hicks family genealogy.

...Judy Coebly and Susan Skwarski for serving as Society liaison to area schools promoting visits to the Lyon School and delivering newsletters to teachers.

...John & Janice Field and to Anne Stratigos for delivering newsletters to area and City businesses.

...Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL) for Jacoby genealogical material.

...Mary Griffith for copy of C.E. Burns' ad for Klondike Ice, 1899

...George Allen (Howell) for extensive genealogical history of Lt. Col. John Gilluly. Several years ago the SUVCW dedicated a new marker in the Old Village Cemetery to this local Civil War hero from Brighton.

ARCHIVES: Work on copying the 1967 Brighton Centennial scrapbook is continuing to make it available for viewing. Included are many newspaper clippings and photos of those involved with the planning and execution of the week-long event. Local newspapers from the 50s, 60s and 70s have been donated. These need to be chronologically catalogued in order for microfilming. They are too fragile for research in their present state. Several boxes of photos from the Howell Archives and Livingston County Press need sorting. Call 229-6402 when you can help.

HISTORY BOOK: The 2nd printing is underway and will be here after the first of the year. The price (\$60. for members, \$65. to non members, plus \$4. shipping if necessary) will remain the same as the first printing. Reservations are being received. Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River will be stocking the book locally.

LYON SCHOOL: Application for the granting of official approval is underway for the construction of a small barn near the Lyon School. An early balloon frame structure it will exhibit how many area barns were built.

Recent members of Friends of Lyon School: Pat & Mary Fonseca (AZ), Val & Kathy Jacoby (FL), Tom & Mindy Kinsey, Horace & Yvonne Taylor and Arlene Warner.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS on local history are available for your group - young or old. There is no charge. A donation to the Society is requested.

---

NEEDED      NEEDED      NEEDED

...members to help guide the Society by serving on the board or as a committee chair.

...an Oral History committee chair.

...a home tour chair.

...a cemetery tour chair.

...a summer picnic chair.

...an exhibit chair.

...a newsletter chair.

...a school desk repair chair.

P O BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

New( ) Renew( ) Send Membership Card yes( ) no( ) (Include Zip and 4 digit)

Dues: ( ) \$500.00 Life ( ) \$25.00 Couple ( ) \$50.00 Bus/Professional  
( ) \$ 50.00 Patron ( ) \$15.00 Individual ( ) \$ 2.00 Student

Friend of Lyon School: ( ) \$10.00 ( ) \$20.00 ( ) \$25.00 ( ) Other \$

Donation to Society Project Needs ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax Deductible Organization

## \$\$\$ FUND RAISING PROJECTS \$\$\$

BOOK: 'From Settlement to City-Brighton MI 1832-1945' by Carol McMacken, Brighton's own history. Almost 500 pages, over 300 pictures. Members, \$60.00. Non-members \$65.00, + shpg. Second edition.

TILES: 6" sq, ceramic tiles, black/white. 13 local scenes. \$8.00, 3/\$21.

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS, S/XL \$12.00.

TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS \$1.00, Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, Howell and Oceola. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

NOTE PAPER \$2.50 pkg. TOTE BAG \$15.00, PEWTER PLATE \$35.00. All designed with the Old Town Hall and mill pond.

WOVEN AFGHAN \$49.00, red, green, blue with nine local sites. Washable.

TAPESTRY PILLOW \$14.00, shows Pere Marquette depot and engine c. 1910.

SIGNATURE QUILT \$10.00. Your signature, or another's, to be embroidered on the quilt to remain in Society archives.

2004 CALENDAR \$4.00, with local scenes.

MORE INFO: 810/229-6402

(THANKS cont. from p. 2)

...George Carr of Fifth Third Bank for donating original records of Brighton State Bank (1910/1937) and to Sue Walters-Steinacker for transport to the Society.

...Ruth Mott Foundation for filing boxes and to John Fillicaro for transport to the Society.

## WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

January 16, 7 p.m. Hartland Area Historical Society and Hartland Stagecoach Questers present textile expert Sue Neller on the preservation of textiles including care and storage. Since 1966 Sue has developed a collection of 5000 costumes from 1800/1950. Ask your questions and/or bring a textile. The program will be held at the Cromaie Library in Hartland Village; to assure sufficient seating reservations are necessary. Call 810/632-5200.

January 19, 11-7 p.m.; January 20, 9-5. Saline Area Historical Society will hold its 20th Anniversary Antique Show. Washenaw Farm Council Grounds. 734/429-3164 or 734/944-0713.

## 2007 BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

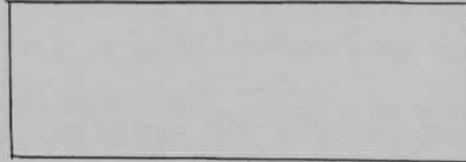
\*\*Lawrence Autobody; \*\*Patrick Financial Group, LLS; \*\*Promess, Inc. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

\*\*Life Member

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #303  
BRIGHTON, MI

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



#### BRIGHTON'S SKI JUMPS

One of this country's earliest ski jumping meets was held at Ishpeming, MI in 1892; the origin of the National Ski Association, 1904. A Norwegian immigrant, Mikkel Hall was living in Ishpeming when the first of six sons was born; Henry, February 27, 1893. At a very early age, on home-made barrel staves, he and all his brothers were inspired with a love of the sport. Henry won jumping records in 1913, World Amateur Champion, Duluth, MN; 1914 National American Champion and 1916 National Professional Champion both in Glenwood, MN. At age of 23 his jumping brought him the world's record, 203' at Steamboat Springs, CO, March 7, 1917. While taking time out for Army duty in WW I, his National Professional crown was won by his best friend Anders Haugen in 1919 and 1920. In 1921 Henry regained the title.

He and brothers, Carl, Clarence, Arthur, George and Magnus began research for the highest elevation in the SE Michigan area. In the fall of 1923 they built a scaffold of 2x6 lumber in Northville at Seven Mile and Edward Hines Dr. Ski Jumping was promoted by building slides and holding contests drawing 1000s of spectators. The Hall brothers organized the Detroit Ski Club.

In 1929, following a search for a satisfactory site in Brighton, the high sand hill one mile NE of Brighton on Trunk Line M-23 (Flint Road) was purchased. In 1935, the Michigan State Ski Club was organized and the building of the Brighton slide began in earnest. A 130' steel tower, the tallest in the country, was erected. The hill was 250' long with a 100' drop. A 50' wood slide and a toboggan slide with a 300 yard runway were planned. Contests were scheduled for February, 1936. The first was thwarted by a snow truck's breakdown; the next week gale-like winds made it impossible. The last weekend was the third attempt to ride the 130' slide. Rochester, Pontiac and Detroit sent skiers. Hall's last jump was late in the day; snow conditions had changed. He fell at the end of the slide. One ski tip lodged in the snow, "...twisting him, snapping his hip at the socket and throwing him forward on his head. One ski...struck him in the chest." At Mellus Hospital in Brighton physicians predicted he'd be in a wheel chair for months. He was later moved to Henry Ford Hospital. Injuries had been incurred in the past but this one ended his competitive career. Four months after a major fall at age 79 Henry recovered to continue skiing and teaching. 1982 was the last time on skis; Henry was honored at the Steamboat Springs Winter Festival skiing the landing slope. Both Henry, d. April 17, 1986, and wife Olga E., d. November 13, 1985, are buried in Loveland Burial Park, Loveland, CO.

The Depression had a firm grip on the country. The construction of the jumps brought employment to local residents. In 1937, the Brighton slide was sold to the Detroit Winter sports Club to be dismantled and set up at the Rochester site; at the end of John R. Road. A number of local teens met Henry Hall and tried out their skiing skills on the jumps with wood slats with a strap for a work shoe and a small strap fastened around the heel. Among the teens were Harold Jarvis (dec.) and Gerry Burgess. Horace Taylor has memories - to properly fit the landing slope snow was gathered and trucked by his father Clarence. These rolling hills and deep valleys are now the location of Old Dominion development. (Compiled by Marieanna Bair, of research by Fay Hall; conversations with Gerry Burgess, Tom Leith and Horace Taylor. Comments, additions welcomed. 810/229-6402.)