

Trail Tales

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

August

2009

Vol. XXVIII

No. 8

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BRIGHTON'S NEW DOWNTOWN MUSEUM

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President/Editor

Jim Vichich

810/227-4840

jvichich@comcast.net

Vice President

Susan Walters-Steinacker

810/229-4483

Secretary

Thomas Reinke

313/295-9326

Treasurer

Mindy Kinsey

248/684-0340

DIRECTORS

Dave Ball

248/894-6057

dball@brightonareahistorical.com

John Fillicaro

810/231-6521

Jim Miller

810/923-8498

IMMEDIATE

PAST PRESIDENT /

EDITOR

Marieanna Bair

810/229-6402

Education Liaison

Judith Coebly

810/229-4608

Sue Skwarski

810/225-0908

If you have been out of town for the past month, you may be unaware that Old Town Hall is in for some positive changes. This classic, red brick building adjacent to the millpond, which dates from 1879, will have new occupants. The Brighton Area Historical Society is one of three nonprofits that will occupy this historic structure. The historical society will have a downtown museum located on the first floor, and your help is needed in its operation.

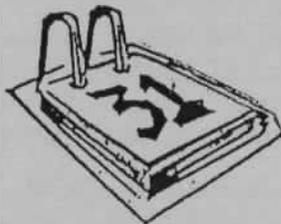
The society needs your help to create those personal displays that reflect earlier days of our Brighton community. Many of you have shared your experiences in visiting museums across the country. It matters little, whether a museum visit occurs in a large city or small town. Frequently those scenes release sounds of the past that resonate in your head as your mind instantly travels back to earlier days.

Do you have personal items to loan that reflect the earlier days of Brighton? How about the "Brighton" sign from the old Pere Marquette Depot Station? Have you seen in your parents' garage the wooden "Western House" signs that once resided at the top of the building next to the railroad tracks? Did one of your grandparents pass down their old menu from the Eastern House or the Canopy Restaurant? The society needs your help to retrieve those mementos from the past.

The Brighton Art, Culture and Historical Center need your help to work the welcome desk. Do you have ability to volunteer for a two to four hour period one or more days per month? Assistance is needed for day and early evening operations. The specific operation schedule has not yet been determined.

Call or email me with suggestions as to how you may help. Volunteers are needed for various roles. The sharing of knowledge, time, or items to loan will be a benefit to our community and will help to preserve the past for the future!

Jim Vichich



Dates to Remember

August

1,15,22,29:	8 a.m.	Society booth at Farmer's Market
*6,13,20,27:	9-noon	Archiving. Welcome
*6,13,20,27:	9-4 p.m.	Open to the public
8,9:	10 a.m.	Society Booth at Art Fair, Main Street
*16:	1-4	Kids' Day Picnic
*25	6:30 pm	Society Board meets. You are welcome

Please call 810/229-6402 for more information.

*Lyon School, 11455 Buno Rd., Brighton Twp.
A Michigan Registered Historic Site

MEMBERSHIPS

BUS/PROF: *Jagielky Bookkeeping

COUPLES/INDIV: Chris Bovid (gift from) Lois Clark both for 2010, *Muriel Kaier, Norma Jean Pless (Roscommon, 2010), *Jonathon & Annie Redditt and *Sandy Schneidewind,

*The Society welcomes Jan, Muriel, Jonathon & Annie and Sandy as new members. Your participation is appreciated.

Volunteers preparing Trail Tales for mailing occasionally inadvertently include 'Complimentary Copy' on your newsletter. Be patient and forgiving. If you have a question, do not hesitate to contact 810/229-6402.

You may wish to follow Lois Clark's lead in paying dues for a friend or relative. This makes a nice gift and more become aware of how they can help with the goals/purpose of the society.

THANKS THANKS THANKS

..... Bert Bair, Ida Bair, and Sue Skwarski for help in mailing the July issue of Trail Tales.

..... Tom Niemeyer for delivering the newsletter to in-town recipients. He is delivering about half of all those Anne Stratigos has delivered for some time now.

..... Norma Jean Pless for becoming a Friend of Lyon School, 2010.

..... James Paddock, LA, for two early photos of students at Bethel School in Brighton Township.

..... Norma Jean Pless and Carolyn Schmadtke Ayers for copies of photos of Carolyn's father's store and gas station on Old 23 when the west end Buno Road ended there.

..... Evelyn Dothager for a 35mm camera for use with black/white film for special purposes.

..... Sue Walters-Steinacker for donating her wages earned for directing parking at the Balloonfest.

NEED NEED NEED

..... Early telephone directories, especially 1930s.

2009 BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc., Jagielky Bookkeeping, *Lawrence Autobody; *Patrick Financial Group, LLS; and *Promess, Their support is deeply appreciated. You are encouraged to patronize these local, independent sustainers of the Society.

*Life Members

ARCHIVES & HISTOIC RESOURCE SURVEY

Headway is being made on properly filing photos, information, clippings, etc., of local people, businesses, schools, events, organizations, etc. Your help would welcome any Thursday, 9-noon, at the Lyon School, 11455 Buno Road.

Much scanning of photos, post cards, etc. is also occurring. Don't be bashful about joining the several regulars. 810/229-6402 for more information

KID'S DAY PICNIC, August 16, 1-4

Open House at Lyon School

Visit the original one-room school, enjoy early children's games, then have hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and beverage.

BRIGHTON ART FAIR

August 8-9

Look for the Society Booth

Want to learn about the area's early history? Enlarged pictures, early maps, snapshots, and information about the community will be available. Check out the Society booth.

Mindy Kinsey has been scheduling folks for the booth. Thanks to those who've already said they'd be there. There's always a need for more helpers. Contact her, 248/684-0340, if you have a couple of hours to help.

GREEN ENERGY DAY

If you weren't able to attend Green Energy Day in July at the Lyon School, you missed an extensive display of wind and solar energy. Tom Reinke answered many questions and offered suggestions.

SOCIETY TO EXHIBIT AT OLD TOWN HALL

Historical displays are planned for Old Town Hall. These will be changed on a revolving basis. Volunteers will be needed to host during open hours. Contact Jim Vichich, 810/227-4840, for scheduling.

OLD VILLAGE CEMETERY GATE

Check out the new gate at the Old Village Cemetery, provided by the Society. It is located just west of St. Paul's Church. Daylight visiting hours to the cemetery will be set soon.

This fall will be another opportunity to give this resting place of the area's earliest families the respect deserved. Watch for dates. You can help with this and be surprised at the pleasant surroundings.

Recognition of veterans in this cemetery is continuing. New markers can be installed after cleanup.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

P.O. BOX 481, BRIGHTON MI 48116-0481

www.brightonareahistorical.com

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

(Include Zip and 4 digit)

New () Renew ()

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, plus shipping. Second edition at Parent-Teacher Tech, 117 E. Grand River, Brighton.

NOTE PAPER: \$2.50/pkg. TOTE BAG: \$15.00
PEWTER PLATE: \$35. All designed with the Old Town Hall and millpond.

TILES: 6" sq. ceramic tiles, black/white. 13 local scenes. \$8, 3 for \$21.

WOVEN AFGHAN: \$49 - red, green, blue with nine local sites. Washable -- Size 48" x 60".

LYON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS: S / XL - \$12.

TAPESTRY PILLOW: \$14 - shows Pere Marquette depot and engine, ca. 1910.

TOWNSHIP PLAT MAPS: \$1.00 - 1875 maps of Brighton, Conway, Genoa, Green Oak, Hamburg, Hartland, Iosco, Lowell and Oceola. 1915 city maps of Brighton and Howell.

SIGNATURE QUILT: \$10 - Your signature, or another's, to be embroidered on the quilt to remain in Society archives.

For more information, call 810/229-6402

JULY 4th BOOTH

The balcony at the Old Town Hall is graced with red, white and blue bunting provided by the Society for Independence Day. The booth was directly beneath. Parade watchers asked many questions and expressed much support.

SOCIETY TO EXHIBIT AT OLD TOWN HALL

Historical displays are planned for Old Town Hall. These will be changed on a revolving basis. Volunteers will be needed to host during open hours. Contact Jim Vichich, 810/227-4840, for scheduling.

WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

August 16, 1-4: Green Oak Day. 1856 Hall. 248/488-9121

GREEN ENERGY DAY

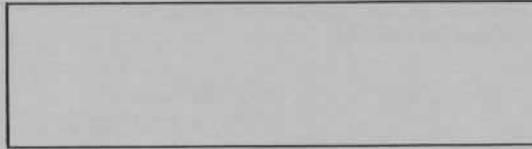
If you weren't able to attend Green Energy Day in July at the Lyon School, you missed an extensive display of wind and solar energy. Tom Reinke answered many questions and offered suggestions.

The Society is a 501(c)3 Income Tax deductible organization. Help out the Society and yourself with a contribution

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 ALTRUISTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT (Part 2)

Consisting of a group of volunteers, the first unofficial Brighton Fire Department was organized, to become the first line of defense against fire for Brighton Village residents. The council of the newly incorporated Brighton Village, March 25, 1867, responded by providing some equipment: hook and ladders, and later a fire extinguisher and buckets, to assist these early fire fighters. By July 4, 1876, in their new uniforms, the BFD participated in the Centennial parade and celebration in Brighton.

Three years later, with the construction of the town hall by builder James Collett (who also built St. Paul Episcopal Church in 1881), the fire fighting equipment had a central storage facility. This building also provided a meeting site, upstairs, for the village council, court hearings, and elections. (For many years township voters, those outside the village limits, also voted here.)

Rubber coats were provided the firemen in May, 1881. More equipment came a year later in the form of a hand pump fire engine #23 seven inch brass cylinder, two inch caliber, suction hose 3 1/2 inch caliber, two streams, "... to be delivered to Detroit for \$700.00 from the Rumsey Company of Seneca Falls, New York". This fire engine was pulled by the men with a long rope.

July 3, 1882, "... Mr. Newkirk, representing the house of C.H. Carleton of Chicago, offered to furnish the village with one \$150.00 hose cart, 600 feet of rubber hose, one of Allen's patent No. 12 Nozzle, and to organize and drill a fire company, all for the sum of five hundred eighty dollars." Village officials voted affirmatively to accept the proposal. (These several pieces of equipment were probably delivered by the railroad.) A piece of equipment of this size would have been pulled by a team of horses for a faster response. The first teamster to hitch up was paid (by 1911) \$1.00.

With all that equipment all that was needed was a handy, reliable source of water. September 11, 1882 the council voted to build ten cisterns throughout the town from which to pump water. Some sources speak of the issues which arose as to these cisterns' location. Everyone wanted one in their neighborhood.

Men, equipment, horses and water are on hand. One more need was that of a means of sounding an alarm. To remedy that, the village fathers, August 28, 1883, ordered a 100-pound bell to be placed atop the village hall. The \$80.00 bell, from the Buckeye Bell Foundry, was installed in the belfry by December 11, 1883.

Following these many major expenses, the village found itself, as well as the rest of the country, unable to continue with these kinds of costly improvements. It was, in fact, in debt. The nation-wide building boom promoted by the excessive railroad construction resulted in an inflated economy. This resulted in a pulling back by the railroad companies, precipitating a national economic depression for the next 15 years. This resulted in a severe reduction in all civic improvements well into the early 1900s.

The first motorized fire engine, a Ford, purchased from a St. Paul concern in 1920, meant the resignation of the old hand pumper. As often happens, progress is not always welcomed by all. The department's older veterans had a difficult time parting with the hand pumper they had used for about 40 years.

(To be continued. Compiled by Marieanna Bair from press clippings; 1880 History of Livingston County; Ned Seger's 1944 History of the fire department. Additions/corrections requested. 810/229-6402.)