Historical Perspective: Brighton’s Altruistic Fire Department (Part 6)

Following the donation of property by the Robert Grahamis in 1948, a 40’x60’ cement block building, located on the south side of 209 W. Main, was constructed in 1956. Members of the Department donated labor equal to half of the $60,000 cost. The engines and other equipment were on the ground floor with a kitchen and dining room on the lower level. All this was at no charge to the city’s tax payers.

In 1951, the Jr. Auxiliary was reorganized. Instruction in the use of ladders, hose lines, first aid and resuscitation (the resuscita-
tor had been purchased previously) were given to 20-40 boys, ages sixteen to twenty years old. In addition, each applicant had to pass the physical. The vision test was the most string-
ent; through thick smoke, fire and a masonry wall, the fireman must be able to see his civic duty.

Throughout the 1950s, in addition to the many events arranged by the firemen, a fire prevention program was inaugurated and an extension to the rear of the fire hall was built. The purchase of tankers for an improved water supply, in combination with high pressure pumps, utilized the enlarged hall.

1960 brought many improvements in communications between fire dispatch, identification and location of apparatus.

In 1962, the opportunity was seized to purchase land on West Grand River as a site for recreation. Many baseball games were played on Firemen’s Field. By 1966, Fireman’s Field was outfitted with lights for after dark events.

In October 1965, a Fire Prevention Week parade was sponsored by Farmington, Michigan. Gene Felty, Fred Muller, Leo Sattin and Terry Watts brought home a blue ribbon for the oldest and most distant vehicle, the 1936 fire truck.

The city hired Ivan ‘Ike’ Damon to service the equipment full time on January 13, 1969. He was the first paid member of the department and took great pride in work he'd already been doing. Also, service awards were given to twenty-two volunteer firemen.

The spring of 1969, a very dry one, kept all area fire depart-
ments on the run. On March 31, a spark from a passing train near the 700 block of Advance Street set off a blaze. High winds pushed the fire through the Mt. Brighton area and north to I-96. In its path, over 10,000 seedlings, owned by the Michi-
gan Landscape Nursery (located north of Cross Street), were destroyed.

That year, Harold Jarvis Jr. retired after fourteen years as fire chief, having followed his father’s term of 1940 - 1954. John Dymond, who joined in 1943, became chief until 1972 followed by Mel Sanch.

New Year’s Eve, 1971, will be remembered as the day 431 W. Main (Wolverine Brush) was consumed by fire. Even with the help of about 50 firemen from five departments, it took five hours to bring it under control.

Compiled by Marianna Bar from newspaper clippings and ‘From Settlement to City-Brighton 1832-1945’. Addi-
tions/corrections requested. 810/729-6402.

Opening Day For Visitors At CoBACH Center

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Thank you!
Jim Vichich

Election Of 2010 BAHS Board Of Directors

On November 15, the BAHS held the 28th annual membership meeting at Lyon School. The elections for the 2010 Board of Directors were held after a tasty potluck luncheon, which included pleasant conversations among friends.

Thanks are given to the 2009 Directors for continuing with their donation of time and energy. We are fortunate to have these dedicated members who allocate so much of their personal time toward our goals.

I am grateful to our new board members, Sue Garcia and Larry Lawrence, for choosing to join the board. Their participation will bring new energy and fresh ideas to our group.

Directors: Dave Ball, Jim Miller, Larry Lawrence and Sue Garcia

Some points of interest:
- Learn about the early history of the Brighton Fire Department and the ways they helped our community.
- See Park 4
- It is time to renew your BAHS membership. We need your continued support.

"History is a guide to navigation in perilous times. History is who we are and why we are the way we are."
David C. McCallough
Author of 1776; Winner of two Pulitzer Prizes

Insider this issue:
- Brighton and Future Happenings
- Recogniton and Thanks
- BAHS Gift Shop
- BAHS Leadership
- More about BAHS
- Historical Perspective
Recently and Future Happenings

Dates to remember - December 2009
Dec 3, 10, 17: 9am-12nn
Lyon School is open to the public. Archiving will take place. Your help is needed.

Dec. 13: 1pm-4pm (Sunday)
Children's open house at Lyon School. Program includes Christmas crafts, a visit with Santa, cookies and hot chocolate.

Oral History
Each week, older members of the Brighton area die. Their memories of Brighton's earlier days are a valuable historical resource. To preserve this great asset, we have started an oral history project to record their memories. Help is needed to contact older members to schedule interview. Please contact us if you can help with this project.

Area Historical Organizations
Dec 6: 12nn-4pm
Cobblestone Farm: Country Holiday Celebration. www.cobblestonefarm.org

Dec 6: 2pm-5pm

Dec 12: 12nn-5pm
Saline Area Historical Society: Christmas at the Rentschler Farm Museum. www.salinehistory.org

Jan 16: 8am-4pm

Jan 18: 6:30p
Wixom Historical Society: Pot luck and Barbershop Quartette. (248) 524-4557.

The Archives
Information of the history of the area from agriculture to businesses, to churches, to education, from government to the military and residential, etc., is being compiled in a retrievable manner. Your memories, photos, maps, directories, etc., will improve the quality of the Society's archives. These can be copied or donated. Your assistance in compiling these resources is invaluable. Each Thursday, 9-noon, several members work in the archives at the Lyon School, 114SS Buno Road. You are invited to help.

In Memorial
The BAHS would like to extend sympathies to the family of:

Donna Smith
Brighton Area Historical Society member

Thanks and Recognition
THANKS TO...
The BAHS recognizes the following people for volunteering their time and energy to support the BAHS.

• Bert Bair, Judith Coeby, Jackie Dam and Sue Skwarski for helping in mailing the November issue of Trail Tales.
• Gabrielle Denis Currin for her "My Life on Ore Creek" memoir.
• Nancy Russell Cardle for copies, photos and the interview describing her family home at Island Lake c. 1925.
• Margaret Bowland, Charles & Evelyn O'Donnell and Ted & Linda Potter for their donation with dues to the Friends of Lyon School fund.
• Libby Eisenhardt, Tom & Ute Niemeyer, Lois Tobias, and the Yum Yum Tree for their donation with dues to BAHS Projects.
• Jane White for allowing a tour of the Hyne house, built 1904, on Flint Rd.
• John Cord for noting that Lloyd Pear- sall (born March 12, 1910) is the oldest living Brighton fire fighter, joining in 1931.

2009 Business / Professional Members
The support of our professional members is deeply appreciated. We encourage our members to patronize these local, independent businesses who are supporters of the BAHS.

• Advance Craft Home Builders, Inc.
• Archer-Huntley Financial Services*
• Jagselby Bookkeeping
• Lawrence Autobody*
• Masonic Lodge #247*
• Patrick Financial Group, LLC*
• Promex*
• Yum Yum Tree (Member!)

*Special thanks to these Life Members Memberships We would like to thank the following members for their annual memberships:

Patron:
• Margaret Bowland
• Emil & Joan Engel
• David Schower & Janice Ames

Individual
• Bert & Marleanna Bair
• Nancy Russell Cardle (Trenton)*
• Evelyn Dothager
• Elizabeth Eisenhardt
• Tim Hurst
• Jack & Shirley Jarvis
• John & Deanna Linenberg*
• Charles W. & Evelyn McConnell
• Tom & Ute Niemeyer
• Roland & Jane Owens
• Iva Louise Pettit
• Ted & Linda Potter
• Margaret Siford
• Lois Tobias (NE)

*New Member—Welcome!

BAHS - Become a Member or Donate
The BAHS relies on participation of its members and the generosity of its patrons. If you would like to make a donation or become member, please visit our web site at www.brightonareahistorical.com or mail in the following form below.

Mail check or money order payable to:
Brighton Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

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BAHS Gift Shop
From Settlement to City
Brighton, Michigan 1832 - 1945

The Brighton Area Historical Society maintains an inventory of commemorative and Brighton history memorabilia for sale as society fund raisers. 100% of all sales proceeds go to fund ongoing organization budget needs of BAHS, including local history projects and Lyon School maintenance.

Our product offering includes BAHS apparel (shirts, hats, etc.), home decor (pwter items, afghans and pillows, decorative ceramic tiles, etc.), postcards, craft items, and the like. To see in detail our full offering, please visit our online gift shop on our web site at www.brightonareahistorical.com.

Product Spotlight
From Settlement to City
Brighton, Michigan 1832 - 1945
by Carol McMacken
450 pgs:
Over 300 pictures:
$65.00

BAHS Leadership
Executive Board
President
Jim Vichich
Vice President
Susan Walters-Steinacker
Secretary
Thomas Reinke
Treasurer
Mindy Kinsey

Director
Dave Ball
Director
Jim Miller
Past President
Marianna Bair
Education Liaison
Judith Coeby

More About BAHS
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US Mail:
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P. O. Box 481
Brighton, MI 48116-0481

The Leicester-Brighton School was located at 11455 Buno Road west of Pleasant Valley Road.

The BAHS is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization. Help out the BAHS and yourself with a contribution.

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Name: ____________________________ Phone: _______
Address: __________________________
City: __________________ State: ________ Zip Code: _______
E-Mail: ____________________________

Friend of Lyon School: _______ BAHS Projects Fund: _______
New ______ Business ______ $500 Life ______ $10 ______
Renewal ______ Personal ______ $15 Individual ______ $100 ______
$50 Patron ______ $2 Student ______ $25 ______
$25 Family ______ Other ______ $250 ______
$50 ______ Other ______ $100 ______

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Product Spotlight
From Settlement to City
Brighton, Michigan 1832 - 1945
by Carol McManen
456+ pages
Over 300 pictures
$65.00

Description: This large volume hardcover book contains a beautifully detailed history of Brighton from its earliest days until the mid-1940s. It also contains over 300 pictures and illustrations. This item is a must for any book collection on Michigan and its rich history.

BAHS Leadership

Executive Board
Director: __________________________
Dale Ball
Vice President: _______________________
Past President: ______________________
Susan Walters-Steinknecht
Past President: ______________________
Marieann Bair
Secretary: ___________________________
Education Liaison: __________________
Thomas Reinke
Judith Coeby
Treasurer: ___________________________
Education Liaison: __________________
Mindy Kinsey
Sue Skwarski

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Featured in photo: Members of the CoBACH board. Left to right: Phil Gibson (Brighton Art Guild), Barb Brower (Livingston Playe), James Miller (BAHS), Pam Day (Brighton Art Guild), Jim Vichich (BAHS).

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- Step back in time to the early days of the BAHS.

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2010 BAHS Board

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Vice Pres: Mariannen Bair
Treasurer: Mindy Kinsey
Secretary: Tom Reinke

Directors:
Dave Ball, Jim Miller, Larry Lawrence, and Sue Garcia

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