THE TEN CENT BARN

Valet parking has been around for a long time. Leo J. McQuade was doing it around the
turn of the century. In an article written for "The Good Old Days" (Brighton Argus) in
1975, he reminisced about his Saturday job as a youngster in Brighton. He worked
at the Eastern House, n.e. corner Grand River and Main Street, helping collect the
10¢ charged to people using the Ten Cent Barn. Leo's pay was the tip given him by
those whose horse he brought to the hotel entrance. For female customers this was, of
course, the usual procedure.

The barn was located behind and east of the hotel. A large structure, it could house
15 rigs at one time plus individual horses. For their dime, owners of horses knew their
animals would also be fed. Before they left for the drive home Leo made sure the horses
had a long drink from the large water tank located outside the barn door.

During good weather the shopper usually tied up to the hitching rail running between
the dirt street and the board sidewalk. However during fall, winter and spring local
customers didn't want their animals and rigs waiting, during inclement weather, without
shelter. So Saturdays, when everyone did their week's shopping, the 10¢ barn was an
especially busy place if it was cold or wet.

Milady, as her purchases accumulated, had the packages delivered to the rig at the
barn, or she drove to the various stores and retrieved them from the shopkeeper who
had put them aside (in lay away?). Not too many items were of the perishable variety;
the farmer usually gave sufficient meat, dairy products and produce to supply the table.

More often than we like to admit the farmer came to town Saturday a.m., left the team
and wagon at the barn and completed his shopping. After storing these items safely in
the rig he would walk to the saloon (one of several in town). Several hours later the
horse and wagon were delivered to the saloon, where the bar keeper bundled the tippler
into the wagon or sleigh, cover him with the buffalo robe and, heading the horse for
home, got him on his way. The horse knew the route and after stopping at the kitchen
door the inebriated farmer was helped inside by his patient wife.

On week days during the school year the barn was occupied by the horses and buggies of
high school students who lived outside the limits of the Brighton School District.
(Female students usually boarded with a family friend or relative who lived in town
and went home to the farm on weekends.) Each morning the student rode to town, left
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Following the burning of the Brighton House in 1926 and with the advent of the Model T
the barn was torn down. Its usefulness at an end. (By Marileana Bair from Bill Pless' "Michigan Memorabilia")

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 481
BRIGHTON, MI 48116

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Anne Straitigos - Oral History 229-5689
Herb Warner - Lyons School 229-6504

DATES TO REMEMBER
*Oct. 9, 9-11 a.m. Archives Comm. HELP!
10, Pioneer Day, Waterloo Area Histori-
cal Society, Early American Demon-
strations, noon to 5. 517/996-2254.
12, "Pruning Over Michigan II" Teachers'
13, 7:30 Regional Historical Societies'
Meeting. Article page 3.
14, 7 p.m. Society Board meeting.
30, 10-4 p.m. Cermak Library, Hartland
Hist. Soc. antique appraisal program.
DuMouchelle Galleries, Oral appraisals.
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* at Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, Upstairs.
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Thanks to Ron Money for a fine program on how one conducts research of people,
things and events. Ron also included tips on making your research time more
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If you were unable to attend but would like to have the prepared handouts,
including a list of resources, call 229-6402.

MICHIGAN HISTORY DAY 1994
is an educational competition designed to encourage students in grades 6-12 to
explore historical subjects and develop entries among Michigan topics, thereby
making use of rich state and local his-
tory found close at hand.
The 1994 Theme - "Geography in History: People, Places, Time" presents students
with an opportunity to investigate how the landscape has been utilized and the
impact of geographic realities on events and people.

District contests, the first level of competition, will be held on or before March 19, 1994. National History Day, June 12-16, 1994, Washington, D.C. is the culmination of competition for cash
awards and the benefits of research skills and discipline learned. History Day
participation is favorite looked upon by college admissions offices.
Questions? Contact Gina McNees, Dir. of Educational Programs, Historical Society of Michigan 313/769-2074

NOMINATIONS
It is vital that persons convinced of the importance of preserving the history of the area join the Board of Directors. Tell a
Board Member of your interest.
MEMBERSHIPS


It is hoped members believe the Society is a worthwhile organization and that one would want to help in accomplishing its purposes.

Check the date on the mailing label. If there isn’t a ’93 or ’94 recent dues have not been received. If you have a question about dues please contact Nancy Fredenberg, 229-9100.

Bulk non profit mail is not forwarded. We must receive your change of address.

THANKS....THANKS....THANKS

All of you who patronized the spaghetti supper. It didn’t happen without you. Andy Barton for his help and truck to move sale items from Lowry’s barn. Brighton Fire Department for their usual full cooperation in regards to the Society’s annual spaghetti supper. Janis Fredenberg and all those who helped with the spaghetti supper. Also those who contributed desserts, etc. and the many businesses which donated funds.

Nancy Fredenberg for locating the used file cabinets for Society archives. Dave Lehan for snapshots of Brighton of 50 years ago. Steve and Kathy Lowry for the use of their barn for storage of sale items. Anne & Peter Stratch for making arrangements for having appraisals. 25 years of early issues of the Brighten Argus microfilmed.

* * * * *

...assistance in newsletter preparation.

...information re: Barton Miller, for whom the school preservation office was named, pictures and more info about the 106 barn.

...rural free delivery and post offices of the Brighton area.

* * * * *

CONGRATULATIONS TO HARRIE LAUREN MCCONNIE

born to Sara and Gary, September 9, 1993. Gary is a past president of the Society and serves on the Board of Directors.

PRESEVATION & RESTORATION

ARCHIVES: Little by little materials donated to the Society are finding their proper place in the archival files. If someone would like to purchase file folders, etc., they will come in handy. From 9-11 a.m., each second Saturday of the month, your help will be welcome to continue the proper categorizing and filing of materials.

HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY: Along with the other P.A.R. projects undertaken by the Society (Lyons School, Old Town Hall, Oral History, etc.) the survey is important to the compiling of a recorded history of the area. Presently Dave Barton and Alice Krupa are working on the identification and documentation of the buildings and properties in the city of Brighton, constructed 1840/1940, for the purpose of preserving the history of those buildings and properties.

It is hoped there will be an elevation of awareness of residents of the area regarding the historical significance of these buildings.

Dave and Alice will be in touch with residents who have homes dating to the period. These properties are a part of the Brighton area’s history and should not be neglected. Questions? Contact Dave Barton 229-5213.

LYONS SCHOOL: It is good to learn that Chairman Herb Warner came through in good shape from recent carotid artery surgery. He’s still hoping to complete installation of bathroom facilities this fall.

The historic marker fund is still in need of more money in order to get it put up before long.

* * * * *

SHPO FALL WORKSHOP

Society President, Marisssa Bair and Director, Dave Barton, attended the recent Michigan State Historic Preservation Office Fall Workshop.

Devoted to protecting Michigan’s historic resources, workshop they learned how Section 106 of the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966 both protects and guides federal, state and local agencies in planning for historic preservation.

Dave and Marisssa will be glad to discuss with interested persons what they learned.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A Dave Sale will have been held before the receipt of this newsletter. Many thanks to all for the donation of baked goods. Jane Tomlinson and her crew have made their contacts. If you were unable to provide a sale item you might consider a cash donation.

The Spaghetti Supper was a delicious success again. Thanks to all who supported with their presence. Thanks also to the many who made a cash contribution because they were unable to attend. If you wish this can still be done.

Tile: The site selected for the 1993 tile will be the old mill which stood at the w.e corner of N. Worsth and S. West Streets. Built in 1840 the mill was the center of activity in the town for almost 100 years.

The tile committee is still looking for a picture of the Bialo Theatre for use on a future tile.

Signature Quilt: Signatures of early Brighton area residents are available in the archives for inclusion on this quilt top. Your donation of $10 will ensure these people are remembered for a long time.

The signatures of entire families, grandparent included, can be found on the quilt. This is a memorable means of donating to the Society’s preservation projects.

REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The meeting of the Regional Historical Societies will be held in Farmington, Wednesday, October 13, beginning with tours of the Warner Mansion at 5 p.m. Dinner will be on our own.

7:30 meeting at the Spicer House in Heritage Park. (The house will be open from 6 p.m.)

This is an opportunity to learn what other societies are doing, followed by a short program. These meetings are always of interest and value. Anyone can attend. Call Marisssa 229-6402 for information and ride sharing.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME ____________________________________________ PHONE _____________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________ ____________________________________________

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

DUES: $25 Patron $25. Business/Professional
$12 Couple $7 Individual

$2. Student (K-12, College)
Brighton Area Historical Society P.O. Box 481, Brighton, MI 48116
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