



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
Vol. XII No. 10

Brighton, MI 48116
October, 1993

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------|
| Pres. | Marieanna Bair | 229-6402 |
| V.P. | Cathy Qualls | 229-8656 |
| Sec. | Ricci Bandkau | 227-7664 |
| Treas. | Marge White | 227-3968 |

DIRECTORS

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Dave Barton - Hist. Resource | 229-5213 |
| Chuck Beach - Art Fair | 229-9678 |
| Chris Fazekas - Oral History | 229-8772 |
| Nancy Fredenburg - Membership | 229-9100 |
| Gary McCririe - Old Town Hall | 229-2191 |
| Ron Morey - Program Chairman | 227-7281 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Ethel Gebben - Cir. Mgr. | 227-5375 |
| John Linahan - Pers. Deliv. | 229-8777 |
| Heidi Newman - History Book | 995-2613 |
| Anne Stratigos - 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 Historical Society. Early American Demonstrations. Noon to 5. 517/596-2254.
- 12, "Mulling Over Michigan II" Teachers' Conf. Grand Rapids. 313/769-2490.
- 13, 7:30 Regional Historical Societies' Meeting. Article page 3.
- * 14, 7 p.m. Society Board meeting.
- 30, 10-4 p.m. Cromaine Library, Hartland Hist. Soc. antique appraisal program. DuMouchelle Galleries. Oral appraisal \$5., written \$7 up. Appointments preferred. Walk ins C.K. 632-5200.

* at Old Town Hall, 202 W. Main, Upstairs. WELCOME!

GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Thanks to Ron Morey for a fine program on how one conducts research of people, things and events. Ron also included tips on making your research time more productive.

If you were unable to attend but would like to have the prepared handouts, including a list of resources, call 229-6402.

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MICHIGAN HISTORY DAY 1994

is an educational competition designed to encourage students in grades 6-12 to explore historical subjects and develop entries around Michigan topics, thereby making use of rich state and local history 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 favorable looked upon by college admissions offices.

Questions? Contact Gina McNeely, 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.

RESOURCE COMMITTEE

A Bake 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 n.w. corner of W. North 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 Rialto Theater for use on a future tile.

Signature Quilt: Signatures of very 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, grandparents included, can be found on the quilt. This is a memorable means of donating to the Society's preservation projects.

REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

TO MEET

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 Marianna 229-6402 for information and ride sharing.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board Meeting, September 9, 1993 - Treasurer's Report

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|------------|
| August 1, 1993 | Beginning Balance | | \$2712.80 |
| RECEIPTS | | | |
| General Fund: Dues | | \$71.00 | |
| Historical Preservation & Restoration Fund | | | |
| Resource Committee - Folk Art Fair | | \$363.35 | |
| Lyons School Donations | | 28.00 | |
| Interest | | | |
| Savings (7/26/93) | 2.32 | | |
| Checking (7/30/93) | .78 | | |
| C.D.s | 71.05 | 74.15 | 465.50 |
| | | | 536.50 |
| | | | \$33249.30 |
| DISBURSEMENTS | | | |
| General Fund: | | | |
| Administrative (Bank ser.Chg.) | | 7.50 | |
| Newsletter Printing | 155.00 | | |
| Postage | 51.87 | 206.87 | 214.37 |
| Hist. Pres. & Rest. Fund | | | |
| Scholarship | | 1000.00 | |
| Old Town Hall Utilities | | 187.94 | |
| Lyons School Utilities | | 12.81 | 1200.75 |
| | | | 1415.12 |
| August 31, 1993 | TOTAL NET WORTH | | \$31834.18 |
| Sav. Acct. | 251.81 | | |
| Check. " | 582.37 | | |
| C.D.s | 31000.00 | | \$31834.18 |
| Marge White, Treas. | | | |

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

work I would be willing to do: _____

- 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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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 grew 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 the horse at the barn and walked up the hill to Union School. (Located on Rickett Road across from St. Patrick's Catholic Church north of the railroad.)

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 Marieanna Bair from Bill Pless' "Michigan Memorabilia")

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