



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 Brighton, Mi. 48116
Vol. X No. 12 December, 1991

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OFFICERS

Pres.	Gary McCririe	229-4550
V.P.	Cathy Qualls	229-8656
Sec.	Anne Stratigos	229-5689
Treas.	Marge White	227-3968

DIRECTORS

Marieanna Bair	229-6402
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Ricci Bandkau	227-7664
Rudy Herrmann	229-7923
Leota Mason	546-4159
Doris Peterson	960-1723
Penny Szczechowski	229-7324

Finance Comm. Mike Cuthbert	
	229-6728
Editor-Penny Szczechowski	229-7324

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.

Room F, at the Miller Intergenerational Center, 850 Spencer Rd., will be the site of the Society's Annual Meeting. A pot luck will begin at 6:30. The business meeting at 7:30. Come for the pot luck or later for the meeting.

The election of officers and Board of Directors will take place. The Nominating Chairman presents the following slate: Pres.: Gary McCririe, V.P.: Cathy Qualls, Sec.: Ann Stratigos, Treas.: Marge White, Board members: Marieanna Bair, Dave Barton, Ricci Bandkau, Michael Cuthbert, Doris Peterson, Penny Szczechowski. Nominations from the floor will be welcomed.

A crazy quilt made in 1912 by neighbors of Evelyn Schroeder, in the Cunningham Lake area, has been donated to the Society by her estate. Several embroidered signatures are on it. It will be on display.

OLD HOUSE LECTURE SERIES

The Livingston County Historical Society continues its Old House Lecture Series in January with:

BED AND BREAKFASTS on Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Ron Gibson, from Victorian Villa will discuss establishing a Bed and Breakfast, and will answer questions.

Ron opened his B & B in Union city ten years ago. Tickets are \$3.00 and can be bought at the door, room G-12 in the Howell High School. The series begins at 7:30.

The program will give everyone an opportunity to share a holiday memory or tradition i.e. food, family, trips, church/school activities, Christmas tree cutting, etc.

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 12, 1991, 7 p.m.

In Room L at the Miller Intergenerational Center, 850 Spencer Rd. To conduct business a quorum is necessary. All members of the Society are invited.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION/RESTORATION

Lyons School

Take a drive to 11455 Buno Road in Brighton Township and have a good look at the Lyons School. The windows are in, it has a new paint job and a fence appropriate to the site.

Thanks to Ray Potter, Dave Nauenberg and his sons Chad and Allen for the painting. Jerry Dilloway helped chairman Herb Warner with getting the area ready for the installation of the fencing. The cooperation and support of the school's neighbors is much appreciated. The Society is counting on their continued attention to the site to help keep it in good shape.

The Lyons School Restoration Fund can always use any cash donations one might want to make. Send to the Society noting Lyons School.

Old Town Hall

Agreement on a lease between the Society and the City Council regarding use by the Society of a portion of the second floor for a research facility, archival storage and meetings is in the works.

Historic Resource Survey

After researching proper procedure Dave Barton is planning to conduct a general survey of buildings in Brighton. Basic guidelines re: type of architecture, date of construction, location, ownership, pictures, etc., will be followed. Dave is continuing the project initiated several years ago by Alice Krupa.

Oral History Project

Getting off the ground. Ricci Bandkau and Doris Petersen are getting together on this. They will be happy to hear from you and set a date for an interview. Their phone numbers are on page 1.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADDS TWO

Doris Singer Peterson and Dave Barton have become members of the Board of Directors of the Society. Doris will be working on the Oral History project and Dave on the Historic Resource Survey.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

conducts

One Room School House Research

The HSM is collecting information about Michigan's one room school houses.

Trail Tale readers are asked to help with this. The name, location, is it still in existence, date/type of construction, present use, etc., would all be helpful. Whatever help you can give, even if the building no longer exists, will be appreciated. Drop a note to the Society or call Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

SIGNATURE QUILT

A gift for someone with everything? Send the Society their signature, with a \$10 donation, and it will be added to the Signature Quilt.

This quilt will remain with the Society's archives as a reminder to future beholders that this person once existed and had a connection to the Brighton area.

All proceeds go to the Historic Preservation and Restoration projects of the Society: Oral History, Historic Resource Survey, Lyons School, Old Town Hall, etc.

1991 CERAMIC TILE

This tile will be available in time for Christmas giving. The site is the former State Police Post. Built in the 1930s, this structure represents a style typically used by the state. One could easily recognize the Post wherever one traveled in Michigan. Jarvis Men's Store and Uber's Drug Store will have these available soon.

All the tiles the Society has offered in the past are limited editions. Be sure to keep your set up to date and complete.

THANKS

...to those renewing memberships. Many are combining '91 and '92. This support is needed by the Board members; to remind them others care.
...to Ethel Gebben for mailing Trail Tales and Tom Leith for so many distributed personally.

MEMBERSHIP

LOOKING FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS

INDIVIDUAL/COUPLE: Michael and
Diane Hegerty; Carol King (1992),
Jeanette Madigan, Margaret
Goldstein, Alice Newcomb.

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CHRISTMAS AT GREENMEAD

The Livonia Historical Society is
sponsoring a Christmas celebration
at their historic village.

The village will be open for tours
the four Sundays before Christmas.
Their theme this year is "A Musical
White Christmas."

Tours are \$2 for adults, \$1 for
senior citizens, children free.

There will also be a program in the
Greenmead village church each Sunday
featuring concerts by area groups.

On Saturday, Dec. 7, the annual
Christmas Walk takes place from
10:00 - 5:00. Cost is \$5.00.

For more information call:

313 477-7375

If you are looking for some-
thing special for your family
or friends, the Brighton
Historical Society has some
wonderful and memorable gifts
for you to purchase.

A \$10 donation buys a signature
on our historic quilt for
someone you want to be remembered.

Historic tiles of many of the
past and present buildings of
Brighton are being sold. The
1991 tile of the former State
Police Post will be out soon,
in time for Christmas. Other
tiles from the past years are
still available. However,
already two years are completely
sold out so these are limited
editions and sure to please a
present or former Brighton
person.

Pen and Ink postcards of
historic buildings of Brighton
are also available for purchase.

A few crosstitch kits of the
Old town Hall are also
available.

For more information call
Marieanna Bair 229-6402.

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: _____

FEES:	\$25. Patron	Send to:	Brighton Area Historical Society
	\$25. Business/Professional		P.O. Box 481
	\$12. Couple		Brighton, Mich. 48116
	\$ 7. Individual		

WINTER ACTIVITIES OF AN EARLIER TIME IN THE AREA

When chores were finished the children of the family, tightly bundled against the cold, dragged the Flexible Flyer to the top of the hill and raced each other. Not everyone could afford a sled so Mom's dishpan (if it could be sneaked out of the kitchen), the coal shovel or any other smooth surfaced object large enough to hold a bottom was employed. We can remember turning up the junked fender of a car and finding it worked very well. (The writer still has her wood skis with only a strap into which a booted foot was inserted. No poles were included.)

On a Saturday, when the folks went to town, a youngster might join the town children on the ice of the mill pond. Someone, often a merchant or a member of the volunteer fire department, seemed to manage to have the snow cleared away. The 'big boys' were usually engaged in a vigorous game of hockey which often brought the player within inches of the open water near the dam. This was an added bit of spice to the proceedings. When one got cold, the men around the stove in Ratz's Hardware always made room for a frozen skater. The aroma of drying mittens and socks added its own special odor to that of the store - wood smoke, cigar smoke, fuel oil, etc. Before dark parents and children were reunited under the robes in the sleigh and headed for home. The bells over the horse's back making lots of noise to warn others they were not alone on the road. Often it was necessary to go through the neighbors' fields because much of the snow had blown into the road making it impassable. It took several days after a storm before the farmers had time to take their teams and 'break the roads.'

Among late fall events one might include a husking bee with an unofficial contest to see who could remove the husk off the ears of corn from more bushels than his neighbor. This cooperative activity enabled neighbors to get together for work and fun. When supper time arrived, the ladies put away their quilt frames and the pot luck table was set. The source of the appetite arousing aromas that filled the house all day was evident. These farmers' wives and daughters had spent long hours during the rest of the year, cutting and piecing the tops. If there was space a bit of square dancing could also be enjoyed before the evening came to an end.

The children of the host family might find their bedrooms a little warmer that night than normal after a day like that. However they knew that any water left in the room would be frozen by the time they got up. The next morning, following their parents' persistent calls, it was with dread anticipation that toes hit the cold floor. Taking the clothes they'd wear that day a hurried descent of the stairs was rewarded by being allowed to dress behind the stove. By then Dad, or Mom, had a good fire going and a hot, hearty breakfast waiting. (Marieanna Bair. To be continued. The writer would appreciate additions or comments to this series. 229-6402)

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED