



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. 1 January, 1991

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Finance Comm. Mike Cuthbert	229-4550
Town Hall Restoration Shelagh Davis	229-8494
Lyons School Editor Penny Szczechowski	229-7324

GENERAL MEETING

The first meeting of the Brighton Area Historical Society for 1991 will be held on January 8 at the Miller School Intergenerational Learning Center on Spencer Road. A potluck will be held at 6:30. The meeting will begin at 7:30.

The program will feature Dave Navenburg, a Brighton native of many years. He will be speaking on artifacts of Brighton.

Please come and enjoy the program and company. Bring a friend.

PEOPLE AND PLACES ALONG THE TRAIL

The Historical Society is made up of many different and interesting committees and projects. Each of these is striving to achieve the purpose of the Society to preserve, advance, and disseminate knowledge of the history of Brighton and the surrounding area.

It is hoped that each of you feel this purpose is worthwhile and should be promoted. If so, perhaps you will volunteer your time and help on one or many of the projects during this new year.

The committee chairmen for this year are:

Finance: Mike Cuthbert
Home Tour: Cathy Qualls
Hospitality: Leota Mason
Program: Audrey Leith
Publicity: Tom Leith
Town Hall: Shelagh and Dick Davis
Tile: Shelagh and Dick Davis
Membership: Shelagh and Dick Davis
Newsletter: Penny Szczechowski
Mailing: Ethel Gibben
Nominating: Leota Mason
Lyons School: vacant

Each of these chairmen would love to have you call and volunteer your time.

1990 TILE ON SALE

The 1990 Historical Society tile of the Mellus Hospital is on sale. It is a limited edition of 300. Once these are gone, there will be no more reproduced.

The Society has been printing tiles of historic buildings in Brighton since the first tile of the Old Town Hall in 1984. This tile is sold out. Many others are in short supply.

These tiles sell for \$8.00 each. They can be purchased at Uber's, Jarvis Men's Wear, Society Bank, or contact a board member.

The new tile will be of the Opera House and Theater. If you have any pictures or information on this historic building, please contact Shelagh or Dick Davis.

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HOME TOUR COMMITTEE

The 1991 Home Tour Committee is currently being organized under the chairmanship of Cathy Qualls.

This will be the fourth annual tour. This has become a very popular and worthwhile fundraiser for the Society. Each year it seems to grow in events and activities.

Volunteers are needed for this committee. Suggestions for homes to view are also needed.

If you are interested and excited to participate on this committee, please call Cathy Qualls or Penny Szczechowski.

TOWN HALL RESTORATION

The Carillon in the tower of the Old Town Hall is under repair. It could not be done in place so it had to be removed and sent in for the needed repairs. These will be done and the carillon should once again be chiming for all to enjoy.

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Two large cake tins were left at the spaghetti dinner last September. Please contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402, if they are yours.

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LIVINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY OLD HOUSE LECTURE SERIES

The Livingston Historical Society Old House lecture series was a big success. Plans are under way to schedule new lectures in the new year. Some of the topics will be painting your Victorian home, and herbs.

More information will be coming in future Trail Tales. If you want information now, you can call the Livingston County Historical Society or the Howell Community Education office.

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SIGNATURE QUILT

The Signature Quilt was on display at the last Society meeting. The names are of great interest to anyone living in Brighton.

Become part of Brighton's history and add your name to this quilt.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

LYONS SCHOOL

It is 1991. If the mailing on this issue of Trail Tales does not have a 91 (or 92) , it means your membership check has not yet been received. The Brighton Area Historical Society is depending on your continued support and encouragement toward the completion of its projects and the attainment of its goals for the benefit of the community.

If you have been receiving Trail Tales but have never paid dues, it is hoped you will help assume some of the responsibility for the Society's activities. The Board of directors will be reviewing the mailing list. To be responsible to members it will be necessary to consider whether or not it is wise to continue this service at the expense of dues paying members.

The Brighton Area Historical Society will be raising its dues as of February 1, 1991. As costs of printing and mailing increases, it is necessary to meet these increases with a raise in dues. Couples will now pay \$12.00 a year. Individual dues will be \$7.00. Patrons will continue to pay \$25.00. You can still pay the old price if you mail your check to us before February 1.

Herb Warner, the longtime chairman of the Lyons School Committee, will be resigning as of January 1. The Society would like to thank him for his dedication and hard work on this restoration project.

The Society is looking for a volunteer to chair this worthy project. Much work is still needed. If you are interested in chairing this committee or would like to work on this project, please call Gary McCririe.

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OLD BRIGHTON PICTURES WANTED

The Society is looking for pictures of Brighton from the '50s, '60s, '70s. and '80. They are interested in homes, buildings, and outdoor scenes.

The Society is building a collection that shows the growth and changes that have taken place in Brighton.

If you have any pictures that you are willing to let the Society have, or borrow, please contact an officer.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

New () Renewal () Please send a copy of Society Bylaws ()

Activities in which I'd like to participate:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| () Bake Sale | () Help with spec. events | () Newsletter Pub., etc. | () Research |
| () Board Member | () Hospitality | () Oral History | () Restoration |
| () Fund Raising | () Meeting Programs | () Photography | () Video Taping |
| () Genealogy | () Membership Committee | () Publicity | () Other work I'd |

be willing to do: _____

- Dues: \$25. Patron Send to:
25. Business/Professional
8. Couple
5. Individual

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IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE AREA?

By the middle of the 19th century the patent medicine craze was in full bloom. The inadequacy of medical training and the lack of confidence in that training led many to self prescribe for their ailments.

As more people were able to read they were sure they suffered from the symptoms which Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy would cure. The hypochondriac of today is not new. The local physician usually had little time to spend catering to those who convinced themselves they were in ill health. These patients provided fertile ground for the proprietors of Townsend's Sarsaparilla, Dr. Adam's Wart Cure, Dr. John Hooper's Female Pills, etc. As the pioneer moved west these curealls were fetched along. Why call on Dr. Bingham when Roadway's Ready Relief was in the cupboard? Sour stomach, foul breath, indigestion, colic, dyspepsia, all, and more, were guaranteed to be cured by Dr. M. A. Simon's Liver Medicine.

Altho' the female settlers often worked beside the male in the clearing of land for a home and crops (as victims of hot flashes, prolapsed uteri, irregular and painful menstruation, ulceration of the womb, headaches, etc.) that gender was usually considered to be delicate. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which included 18% alcohol which made it "Pleasant to the taste", was strongly recommended as efficacious and as a good help in pregnancy and relieving pain during labor." (It is now strongly recommended that pregnant women eliminate all alcohol to help assure a baby's good health.) "Dry" states often sold as much of the compound to men, as to women, to ward off chills, snake bite and stomach trouble.

Madam Dean's French Female Pills could be taken for "Suppressed Menstruation". Married women who were pregnant were warned that a miscarriage would probably result if the French pills were taken. (Was this another means of birth control?) Of course the many perils to which settlers of both genders were subject - dyspepsia, tuberculosis, typhoid, 'general weakness' and other ailments related to their sex might cause anyone to turn to laudanum, alcoholic tonics, morphines, opium and cocaine.

Lest the impression is given that the female was the only vulnerable sufferer, we hasten to add that men apparently experienced poor blood, debility, kidney and liver complaints, exhausted nervous vitality, mental depression, trembling, sleeplessness and constipation to note a few symptoms. With an alcohol content high enough to keep it from freezing, Paine's Celery Compound usually relieved all these symptoms and more. A multitude of miracle workers appeared for those who felt the necessity for one. The male who suffered 'lost manhood' and its accompanying complications, or the lady who wished to become 'more of a pleasure to her husband' were early dupes for the huckster with elixers, pads, elastic belts, packs, salts and glandular extracts from various animals. One doubts if the public has changed. It seems only the means of advertising has been refashioned and supplemented to make use of modern commercial capabilities. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)

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ADDRESS
CORRECTION
REQUESTED