



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. 6 June, 1991

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY NEWS

FOLK ART FAIR- The Society will have a booth in front of the Old Town Hall during the Brighton Folk Art Fair on August 10, and 11. People are needed to man the booth. Please call Mike Cuthbert to volunteer your time.

BUTTONS, both old and new, large and small are needed to make pins to sell at the Folk Art Fair. Donations of buttons can be dropped off at any board members home or call and someone will pick them up.

TREASURE TROVE SALE (formally called Trash and Treasures) is currently being organized. The Society is looking for "good items" to sell at the October fund raiser. As you do your spring cleaning, save those items which would make someone else happy and bring them to the sale. Mike Cuthbert is chairing this fund raiser. For more information call him.

OLD TOWN HALL work has begun. The front windows are being replaced, a brick sidewalk is being put in and the downstairs is currently being worked on.

FINANCE COMMITTEE is looking for some new members to liven up the committee. They seek physical and energetic people who can offer suggestions and are willing to help on projects. Please volunteer some time for this important committee.

GENERAL MEETINGS

At the last general meeting, the Society decided to change the frequency of the general meeting from five per year to three per year. The format of these meeting will also change. There will be no general business meeting. It will be a fun, social event. Meetings will be held in September, November, and in the Spring.

The purpose of the new format will be to experience Brighton's history through activities in and around Brighton.

(continued on page 3)

CAN YOU HELP?

A request has been received as to the origin of the name for Ore Creek. If you can help, write the Society, please.

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A3PA 2nd Sunday Clinics
2:00 - 4:30

June 9 - Painting. Paint and tools selection. Surface preparation and paint application will be discussed.

July 14 - Drywalling. When, where, how, in an older house.

Tickets are \$4. Send check or money order to A3PA with a stamped self-addressed envelope to A3PA, P.O. Box 7938, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48107. Include your phone number. Or call 665-2112.

Clinics are held at 310 S. Ashley, between Liberty and Willian, Ann Arbor.

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SIGNATURE QUILT

More names have been sent in recently for inclusion on the quilt.

The \$10 contribution which accompanies each name goes to the Historic Preservation and Restoration Fund, Old Town Hall and Lyons School restoration, historic resource survey, and oral history project.

This quilt will be part of the Society's archives. A visual reminder of people who have sent their signatures and a \$10 contribution.

This support is much appreciated.

AREA HOME TOUR

Fenton Historical Society will hold a HOME TOUR on Saturday, June 22, from 10:00 until 5:00. Tickets will be sold at the Fenton Historical Museum. Five homes and four Victorian gardens will be shown.

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Salen Area Historical Society will hold a photo exhibit of 10 historic homes in the area in their SALEN SAMPLE OF HISTORIC HOUSES. This exhibit will be on June 14 and 15 at the township hall which is located on the corner of Dickerson and 6 Mile Roads. The hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. An exhibit of antiques and related artifacts will be shown with the photos.

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The Novi Historical Society is planning a workshop for September at which you can learn how to create the historically right look with very little expense. You will learn how to make special accessories to use with what is already in your closet.

There will be a fee. It will be held on a Saturday in September, still to be set. For information, call Kathy Mutch, 349-6774 and you will be added to the workshop mailing list.

GENERAL MEETING (continued from page 1)

Members will be receiving a questionnaire in the mail. Please fill in your ideas and suggestions for activities and programs for upcoming meetings and return it to the Society.

It is hoped that this new format will encourage people to become participating members and will help you experience history in an enjoyable way.

Society business will be conducted at the monthly board meetings. These meetings are held at 7:00 at the Old Town Hall on the second Thursday of each month. The general membership is encouraged to attend and give input into the business at hand.

Be an active voice in your community and help preserve history at the local level. Return your questionnaire and attend meetings.

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MICHIGAN CHALLENGE BALLOON FEST

The Michigan Challenge Balloon Fest is scheduled for June 21, 22, and 23 in Howell.

Hot air balloons, food, booths, games, and lots more will be scheduled all three days.

GREEN OAKS HISTORY BOOK

The Green Oaks Historical Society is selling an historic book called "Yesteryears of Green Oak." It is full of information, pictures, documents, and stories about the township of Green Oaks. It will take you back in time and explain how the township was formed in 1837. It then follows the hardships, and planning up through 1930.

You can order a copy from Green Oak Historical Society; P.O. Box 84; Brighton, Mich. 48116.

The cost of the book is \$27.75. A supplement to the 1st printing with a subject index is also available for \$5.00

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FLINT SLOAN MUSEUM SUMMER FAIR AND ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

Nearly 1,000 antique cars will be on display, sold, and swapped at the Sloan Museum in Flint on June 22, and 23. \$4.00 adult, \$2.00 children. from 8:00 to 5:00.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NEW () RENEWEL ()

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

Send to: Brighton Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 481
Brighton, Michigan 48116

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE AREA? (Cont.)

In the late 1850s the Grand River Trail between Detroit and Lansing was improved from a narrow pathway barely wide enough for a team, to a plank surfaced road on which a buggy, wagon or stagecoach could travel. Before 1900 the state was involved with "modernizing" the Plank Road with the addition of gravel to replace rotting logs. This allowed the residents of the area the services of doctors who had their practice in Detroit and visited Brighton on a somewhat regular basis.

From the Brighton Argus of January 16, 1899....

A SUCCESSFUL PRACTITIONER

The people of Livingston County have become quite familiar with the name of Dr. W. C. Walker, of Detroit, who makes regular professional visits to Brighton at the Western Hotel (corner of Main and S. First. Bair) and whose success is so well known. The Doctor says nearly all chronic diseases are curable if properly understood and treated. It should be remembered that Dr. Walker has given special study to the cause and cure of all such troubles. Those suffering from any obstinate or longstanding disease should consult him without delay. Hereafter the doctor will visit Brighton at the Western Hotel every fourth Friday. Next date is Friday, January 20. Remember the date. Office hours from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Consultation free.

And what were some of those "obstinate" diseases? The "ague" (or 'ager' as spoken locally), a malarial type of fever was one. Often thought to be caused by 'malarial gases' set free by the plowing of the land, residents were encouraged to plant trees near their homes as the gases were believed to adhere to the leaves. An early rhyme goes "Don't go to Michigan, that land of ills; the word means ague, fever and chills."

Also diptheria, typhoid fever, measles, tetnus, scarlet fever, T.B. - the causes of which were still largely unknown. As a result the cures recommended were abundant in number. For coughs, asthma, bronchitis, whooping cough, croup - everyone had a 'sure' remedy. Female (and male) complaints were advertised to be relieved by the galvanic belt which works 'directly on the nerves'.

How the good Dr. Walker got on in Brighton is not known to this writer. (If someone has information please call.) It is probable he had his own elixirs, extracts and combinations of herbs, roots and drugs, including alcohol, opium and morphine. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. Anyone with information regarding the subject matter of these articles is urged to contact her. 229-6402)

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