



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. 5 May, 1991

#### BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THANKS, THANKS, THANKS,

The Brighton Area Historical Society would like to say thanks to Rudy Herrmann as he steps down as a director of the Society. Rudy has been active in the Society not only as a board member but as president for many years. He will continue to give support and help to Society projects and services, as always. The Society is truly honored to have someone with Rudy's willingness and concern as a member. Much of the Society's success has been because of Rudy. We all say THANK YOU!

The Society has appointed Ricci Bandkau to fill the board vacancy. Ricci is a longtime Brighton person and will be a wonderful addition to the Society. She has volunteered to work on membership and oral history activities in addition to her work on the board. We all say WELCOME!

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#### FOLK ART FAIR PLANS

The Society will have a booth at the Summer Folk Art Fair, August 10, 11. People are needed to work at the booth. Call Mike Cuthbert, 229-4550, to volunteer your time. Plan ahead for this event.

#### GENERAL MEETING MAY 14

The next general meeting of the Brighton Area Historical Society is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14. A potluck at 6:30 will take place before the general meeting at 7:30. The meeting will be held in the Miller Intergenerational Center on Spencer Road.

The program will be a discussion by the membership regarding future meeting. A survey will be taken on scheduling of meetings, how many to have a year, and ideas for programs that will interest people and get them to attend.

We hope you will come and give your input regarding this important matter.

Remember- the Society is only as strong and valuable as its membership allows it to be. We need your help to make this an important part of the Brighton community.

PATRON: Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Rearick; Elsa M. Stegenga ( AZ); Timberland Homes;

COUPLE/INDIVIDUAL: Alice E. Anderson; Lois Bird; Florence Chase; Helen & Tim Hurst; Helen & M. Richard Leitz (Dearborn); Margaret Muir; Mr. & Mrs. Greg Park ( Ohio); Mr. & Mrs. M. Pawlak; Bud & Janet Schopp

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OLD TOWN HALL

The Old Town Hall Renovation project continues to progress. Bids are going out for work to begin on the first floor which will be made into city offices.

The Brighton Area Historical Society has begun developing plans to use the second floor as a museum and archives.

Ideas and suggestions are encouraged from the membership in regards to developing the museum and archives.

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COMMERCE VILLAGE HISTORIC TOUR

The Commerce Township Historical Society will sponsor a tour of historical buildings and sites in Commerce Village to celebrate Michigan Week on Saturday, May 18.

The tour will run from 10:00 until 4:00 and will begin at Commerce Elementary School on Farr Street. Tickets are \$4.00.

For information call 363-0594.

Mr. Duane Zemper of Zemper Photographic Studio of Howell, spoke to the Brighton Historical Society Board of Directors at its last board meeting. He talked about how to go about setting up an archives to preserve historical written information and materials.

As plans proceed on development of the Old Town Hall museum and archives , his information and help will be a very valuable tool.

A helpful hint he passed along:

Always identify photographs for future historical reference. Use a #2 soft lead pencil and write names, dates, and places on the back of the photo.

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The new Howell Library is now open for business. The Livingston County Historical Society archives is housed in the basement of the library. It is open to public use for research on Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 1:00 until 5:00. If you are researching family or your home, this is a good place to begin.

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NORTHVILLE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The Northville Historical Society will be offering a series of educational workshops this spring and summer.

Scheduled workshops include: Walking tours of Northville; Local history; Genealogy; Herbs; Victorian hat-making; Victorial costume preparation; and Period dance.

If you wish information, write to: Northville Historical Society P.O. Box 71 Northville, Mich. 48167

All classes will be held at the Mill Race Village.

ANN ARBOR KEMPF HOUSE MUSEUM

SECOND SUNDAY OLD HOUSE LECTURE SERIES

The Kempf House Center for Local History is located at 312 South Division Street, Ann Arbor. It is open to the public on Wednesday from 10:00 until 2:00 and Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 until 4:00 in May. During June and July, hours are Saturday and Sunday 1:00 until 4:00. Admission is \$1.00. The Kempf House is a beautiful example of Victorian house-building. Restoration work has been done and it is set up with furnishings of the period.

The 1991 Second Sunday Old House Lecture Series continues with the following programs for May and June:

May 12: Ceramic tile, Silvio DeCola will talk on installing tile the old-fashioned way.

June 9 - Painting, Ken Lussenden

Tickets are \$4 each and are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. To order, send a check or money order to:

A3Pa  
P.O. box 7938  
Ann Arbor, Mi. 48107

Enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope. Tickets will be sent to you in this envelope. Please provide home or work phone number in case they need to contact you.

All clinics begin at 2 p.m. at 310 S. Ashley, between Liberty and William Streets.

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Old Town Hall was built on the Millpond in 1879, 12 years after the village was incorporated. Originally the lower level was the fire department

Special events at the Kempf House include:

Sunday, May 12: Garden Party from 1 to 4 p.m.  
Slide show and demonstrations on Victorian clothing and millinery

Sunday, June 2: tour of stained-glass windows in the State Street area

Saturday, June 16: Summer Sing-Along and Salute to Dear Old Dad; barbershop singers

The Kempf House Brown-Bag Lecture series is scheduled Wednesdays from noon until 1:00. Each week a different speaker gives a talk or demonstration while you eat your brown bag lunch.

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.)

After the first quarter of the 1800s many schools of medicine were founded in the mid west; and many floundered into oblivion after teetering on the brink of insolvency for a few years. Compatible facilities, teachers, research equipment, etc., all had to be reimbursed by the tuition paid or the in-kind contribution of the student. Add to that the cost of room and board and one is amazed that there were so many in the medical profession.

As the seminal 'medical schools' proliferated, it was realized that a study of the human body would have to be a necessary part of learning how to restore health to a patient. Why did a healed bone often result in a crooked limb? Why did a break in the skin result in a frequently fatal infection? Was there a connection between drinking water from a stream in the meadow where the cattle were grazing and the high, incapacitating fever? Why did formerly healthy pioneers develop the 'ague'?

The lack of understanding of how the human body works, the paucity of the understanding of the complexity of diseases, necessary sanitation, etc. all conspired to make it possible to promote a mélange of cures. (the patient of today will also attempt any cure when desperate.) A medley of 'irregulars' and 'quacks' proliferated. There were those healers who promoted the use of steam systems, roots, herbs, water cures, the reading of the bumps on the skull, Indian cures, eclecticism, the inclusion of religion and morality with medical research - all made for a countless variety of possible cures for the Michigan pioneer. The inclusion of calomel (mercurous chloride), alcohol, human waste, blood letting, etc., in the little black bag their doctor carried makes one marvel that any of the pioneers survived and were able to do the work of settling the area. Small wonder that "Dr. Chases' Receipts" sold over 4,000,000 copies. Similar health care books would be found next to the bible in the home library.

Some medical instructors realized that to learn how the human body was constructed might reveal some clues. To accomplish this the dissection of corpses presented the only answer. Even today there is a natural aversion to the dissection of the human body. It is not difficult to imagine the terror, superstition and fear of people 150 years ago to that idea. It was not easy to sustain a dependable stock of cadavers. Often inventory was maintained by the use of professional body suppliers who not occasionally visited the local Potter's Field under cover of darkness. Knowledge of this practice was rather widespread, all of which added to the mistrust the pioneer had of the medical profession. The length of time a student spent at his studies varied with the school attended. Then, as now, 'diploma mills' were flourishing. (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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