



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. X No. 10

Brighton, Mi. 48116
October, 1991

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GENERAL MEETING

The Fall General Meeting of the Brighton Area Historical Society has not yet been finalized at the time of printing of Trail Tales.

Snags in obtaining antique dealers to come to do appraising of our member's antiques have occurred.

Work is progressing and this meeting will be held at the end of October. You will receive a flyer in the mail advertising this interesting and informative meeting.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Brighton Area Historical Society would like to welcome Doris Peterson to the Society Board of Directors. We look forward to working with her.

Ricci Bandkau is this year's chairman of the nominating committee. She will be looking for members who wish to run for office or be part of the Board of Directors. Please call her if you would like to be part of the board or if you know of someone who wishes to be nominated. The Society needs active, interested members who are willing to put in that extra time and effort to make the Society a success. We want you to be that person.

The HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY of BRIGHTON (one of the Society's projects) is being resumed. Dave Barton has offered to chair this project. Local planning commissions need this kind of information, i.e. age, style, history of various buildings in an area, when considering changes and additions. The four townships in this southeast corner of Livingston County could also make use of a survey like this. If you need more information on how this is done contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

MEMBERSHIP

PATRONS: Fred & Bernice Hyne

BUSINESS: The Fence Spot

INDIVIDUALS: John & Win Allen (Davison); Bill & Betty Amrhein (1992); Jean Bethea; Bob & Tillie Bitten; Chas & Joan Brown; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Carr; Norman & Mary Ann Catrell; Ken & Bernice Chappel; (92); Joe & Pauline Chenoweth; Bill & Marianne Comiskey; Harold Crane & Sharon Donoghue; David & Terrie Fisher; Floyd & Ial Fuller; Steve & Kathy Grove; Fred & Phyliss Gruezke; David Hacker; Leslie Healy; Betty Herbst (92); Genevieve Kampe; Nancy Kern (91,92); Elnora Knaus (Ind.); David Lehman (90,91,92); Tom & Audrey Leith; Harold & Mary Ann Leitz; Brenda McCarty; Gary & Sara McCririe; Dorothy Musch; Alice Newcomb; Ted & Bev Olson; Doris Prieskorn (92); Mike & Cathy Qualls; Bob & Pauline Schaffer; Fred Schiller; Arla Stuhrberg; Marilyn J. Weeks; Don & Alice Wyland

This kind of support is much appreciated. It is good for board members and committee chairmen to know their efforts are recognized.

Thanks also to those who remember to send change of address.

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SPAGHETTI SUPPER A HUGE SUCCESS

The annual Brighton Area Historical Society Spaghetti Supper was a huge success. Thanks goes to all the members who volunteered their time and effort toward this fund raiser.

Thanks also goes to the following who donated items for the supper:

Marv's Meats; Marv's Bakery; Sefa's; Uber's Drug Store; Wendy's; Kroger's; and V.G.'s. Your support of our Society is greatly appreciated.

OLD HOUSE LECTURE SERIES

The Livingston County Historical Society is continuing its Old House Lecture Series. All programs take place in room G-12 at the Howell High School, at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$3. Register with the Community Education Department at the high school or at the door.

October 3 - Historic Wallpapers

November 11 - Christmas Decorations with Denise Down. Trim in the Victorian fashion, especially the tree. Applicable techniques will be demonstrated.

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LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The Society has been given snap shots of local sites and people. Can someone donate the making of duplicates?

Also needed is comparative photography. The area is changing daily. Old landmarks are removed, to be replaced with new ones. Before long we forget what the area previously looked like. Make it your project to take pictures of road signs, buildings, rural areas, etc. so comparisons can be made later on. You know best what kinds of changes are taking place in your neighborhood.

EARLY PLAT BOOK?

A plat book of the area of 1875, 1895, and 1915 is available. Do you have one from 1857 or 1859 from which research can be conducted? Contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402.

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PIONEER DAY

Sunday, October 13 is Pioneer Day at the Waterloo Area Historical Society Farm Museum and Dewey School on Waterloo- Munith Road, from 12:00 until 5:00.

A fun day for all ages. There will be early American demonstrations, foods, and other pioneer activities.

Come out and enjoy a real old-fashioned festival.

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? ? CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ? ?

As a fund raiser for the historical preservation and restoration projects of the Society, a Christmas raffle seems like a good project. One catch: a raffle item(s) is necessary. If you have something to donate, contact a board member soon please.

LYONS SCHOOL UPDATE

Herb Warner is again chairing this committee. Much work has been done in the past few months on the Lyons School. New siding has been put on the building and it will be painted; grading has been done around the building; and a 3 tier pasture fence will be put up around the school.

This committee is again active and seeking new members.

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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The ORAL HISTORY project of the Society will soon commence. A good starting point for those considering helping with this will be an Oral History Workshop, October 19, at Lake Orion.

Register before October 10 for \$22 or at the door \$25. Send name, etc. to:

Virginia Block, registrar
2911 Olden Oak Lane #201
Auburn Hills, Mi. 48326
or contact

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: _____

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

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

The construction of Mellus Hospital in 1931, encouraged more medical practitioners to come to Brighton. Among them were Dr. Archibald McGregor (who acquired the hospital upon the death of Dr. Mellus, 1939), and Dr. Duncan Cameron, both of whom came to Brighton in the mid to late 1930s, and practiced at the hospital. Cameron's office was in the Lee house (just south of the First Presbyterian Church on E. Grand River.) By the early 1940s the McPherson Memorial Hospital in Howell was accepting patients. This helped reduce the pressure on medical facilities in other areas of the county. In the late '50s Dr. McGregor retired and sold the hospital to a Dr. Vann. He developed a rather unsavory reputation (involving abortions, drugs, etc.) and during the mid '60s the hospital was sold to the Presbyterian Church for use as office space and educational facilities. From 1979-1989, the Michigan National Bank had its Brighton offices located there. Its newest owners are Leah Gold Confectioners whose corporate offices, candy making factory and retail sales will be in the building. Dr. McGregor is buried at the Pinckney Cemetery; having died at the age of 57 in 1962.

In 1940, Dr. Olin C. Wilkinson moved to Brighton. The Campbell house at 420 E. Grand River had two front rooms; one served as a waiting room and the other was the treatment room. There he hung out his shingle. The doctor practiced osteopathy, the first such doctor in Brighton. (Dr. Shirtzer in Howell was the only other D.O. in the county. He had not been allowed the use of McPherson Memorial Hospital and had to take surgical, etc., patients to Detroit Osteopathic Hospital.) To help break the ice because people were wary of that unfamiliar method of treatment, and to develop his practice, he usually attended the high school football games and offered his services in the event of an injury. For about 10 years he was the school team physician.

When Dr. Cameron went off to WW II he transferred his practice and office to Dr. Wilkinson with "You can have any of my patients you can keep." (After the war Dr. Cameron developed a practice in Detroit as a surgical specialist.) Dr. Wilkinson practiced at the Lee house until 1950, when he built a clinic on the S.W. corner of E. Grand River and North Street. Dr. William Rice, a boyhood friend of his in Bad Axe, came to Brighton at his urging in 1942 and they developed a joint practice.

In the late 1950s to early 1960s, Dr. Wilkinson served as the mayor of Brighton, resigning because of ill health. Under Mayor Wilkinson the first city manager, Bob Beekner, was hired. For three years, the Doctor, and others, instigated and supported efforts to have the I-96 and US 23 interchange cloverleaf situated near Brighton at the time of the construction of those highways. When the McPherson Community health Center was first opened he was its Chief of Staff. December 21, 1969, Dr. Wilkinson died. He is buried at Fairview Cemetery. Dr. Rice retired in the early 1970s and divides his time between Florida and Bad Axe, Mi. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued. Anyone with information regarding the subject matter of these articles is urged to contact her, 229-6402, she needs help.)

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