



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. 9 September, 1991

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SOCIETY NEWS

The FALL GENERAL MEETING which was originally scheduled for September has been rescheduled for October. A definite date has not been set. Look for specific information in the October newsletter.

The FALL GENERAL MEETING will feature antique dealers who will answer questions about antiques and collectables that the members bring to the meeting.

Select one or two of your favorite items or something you don't know about and bring it with you.

It should be a fun evening. Bring a friend and plan to attend. Remember- this is the new format. No business will be conducted at the meeting.

Workers are needed for the Spaghetti Supper on Friday, September 13.

Audrey Leith (313) 229-6165, and Kathy Grove (313) 229-7876 are chairing this fund raiser. They could use your help. Please call and offer your help.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Mark your calendar! Friday, September 13, 1991 is the date for the annual Brighton Area Historical Society Spaghetti supper. It will be held at the Brighton Fire Hall on Grand River, from 5 until 7 p.m.

It is an all you can eat spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverage supper for \$3.00 adult, \$2.00 children.

Proceeds are used for historic preservation projects: Old Town Hall and Lyons School.

Plan to attend. Bring your hungry friends, and enjoy the evening.

2nd Sunday Old House Clinics

Sunday, Sept. 8, the program will cover Faux Finishes. Sabra Briere, a Self-taught faux finisher, will do a hands-on demonstration of marbling and show various samples of wood graining.

Sunday, Oct. 13, Adding On will be the subject matter. Dick Mitchell, principle of a local architectural firm, will present slides of Bayview in northern Michigan, showing several examples of additions that retain the original integrity of historic homes.

Tickets are \$4, on a first-come, first-served basis. Send a check or money order payable to Ann Arbor Area Preservation Association with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: A3PA, P.O. Box 7938, Ann Arbor, 48107. Questions? call 665-2112.

Clinics are held at 310 S Ashley, Ann Arbor, between William & Liberty, 2-4:30.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY?

To be included as a 1991 member of the Society please send 1991 dues. A membership form is included in this issue. If you've been a member in the past, the mailing label can be checked to see if you've paid '91 dues. If you've never paid dues consider supporting the Society and its goals in this manner. If your address has changed, let us know.

SIGNATURE QUILT

Over 100 signatures have already been embroidered on the quilt. For a \$10. donation yours, or another's, can be added. This fund raiser for the preservation projects of the Society will remain in its possession as a part of its archives. Be sure your name is included. Send to the Society.

A signature of C. T. Hyne, who at one time owned the grist mill at the north west corner of W. North and S. West streets in Brighton, is available. It seems appropriate to include it on the quilt. A donation would do it.

TILES OF BRIGHTON SCENES

Since 1984 the Society has annually prepared a tile depicting a scene from the area's history. These are available at the Jarvis' Men's Store in town. These make a fine display and indicate your caring for the Society.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

November will see election of officers and directors of the Society. Please earnestly consider serving in one of these position. Contact any board member. If the Nominating Committee contacts you accept the challenge. You have much to contribute.

SOCIETY ART FAIR BOOTH

Many thanks to all who served in the booth August 10 and 11. Many more people are now aware of the Society and its goals. Thanks to McDonalds for the use of their drink igloos, to those who contributed cookies and those who helped set up and take down the tent. We even made a little money. See you next year!

? 1992 HOME TOUR ?

Homes for next year's home tour are being recruited. These do not have to be very old (many enjoy seeing what can be done by way of restoration), nor in town (many very nice homes are in the townships). Contact a board member for information or if you'd like to be considered.

AUTUMN LEAF CIRCLE

The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, is sponsoring a circle tour of southern Michigan from Detroit to Port Huron through the base of the thumb, October 19 and 20. For more info contact Marieanna Bair, 229-6402 or P.O. Box 296, Royal oak 48068, 399-7963, 272-5848. Adults \$54, Children 5-16 \$39.

MEMBERSHIP

COUPLE/INDIVIDUAL: Harold & Mary Ann Leitz; Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick Muller; Bev Olson; Elizabeth Herbst (1991-92); Alice R. Newcomb; Helen M. Wilkinson;

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VICTORIAN FESTIVAL

The 3rd annual Victorian Festival will be held on Sept. 13-15 at Mill Race Historical Village on Griswold Street in Northville.

A church, gazebo, school, wooden bridge, and several 19th century residents make up the village.

More than 30 festival events will be featured including antique and art shows, dixieland band, carriage rides, a family picnic, and a Victorian costume ball.

For more information, call 313-349-7640.

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Michigan Antique Festival at the Midland Fairgrounds will be held on September 21 and 22.

Call 517-793-8389 for more information.

RAE CARMACK

Remembered by many long time residents of the area, Rae and her husband managed the Grand (Washington) Theater, which was at 222 W. Grand River for many years Our sympathies to Ted and Marlene, her children, on her passing. Rae has been a long time supporter of the Society.

The 19th annual Ann Arbor Old West Side Home Tour will take place on Sept. 22.

Call 313-665-4087 for more information.

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The Michigan Civil War Collectors show will be held at Oakland University in Rochester on Sept. 28-29.

Call 313-286-6462 for more information.

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Heritage Hills Weekend Tour of Homes will take place in Grand Rapids on October 5 & 6. Nine homes will be shown plus two schools. Tickets are \$8.00.

Call 616-459-8950 for more information.

BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

NEW () RENEWBL ()

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 tapping
- () Genealogy () Membership committee () Publicity () Other work

I would be willing to do :

- MS: \$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.)

On a cold February 11, 1931, local residents witnessed the dedication of the new Mellus Hospital in Brighton (north of the First Presbyterian Church). Prior to that date, area mothers always had their babies at home, and those in need of surgery were treated on the kitchen table or in the doctor's home office. The Argus of February 4, 1931, described in detail the arrangement of the various treatment rooms, including the decorating schemes and furniture. "Brighton is very happy to have such a finely equipped building, as the new hospital will be, located here. ...set well back from Grand River Ave., on the crest of the city's predominating hill, where terraced lawns from the street will lead up to the main entrance, ... imposing two story structure of Georgian design. The exterior is of red face brick with stone cornice and entrance motif. A wrought iron railing over the entrance contributes beauty to the imposing facade."

Dr. Horace P. Mellus and his wife, Charlotte, arrived from Detroit in 1914. They lived in a house located on the present site of the building. He soon earned the love and respect of the citizens of the area. Many long time residents remember him as a person who displayed special kindness to children. Nostalgically Mary Mathias says, "During those years Brighton was like a family. Everyone knew everyone else." At that time his office was located in the first house off Grand River on the north side of E. North Street. This house had a beautiful fireplace and the doctor added rooms to the back. Following the death of his wife, March 3, 1925, Dr. Mellus married again in 1929, to Mildred E. Clark of Hamilton, Ontario. He and his bride lived in their newly built home on Spencer Road (2nd house north of Main on the west side).

Following a severe illness, Dr. Mellus would diagnose and prescribe from his recuperative bed upon the report of a patient's symptoms by another doctor. After sufficiently regaining his strength the doctor had Dewey Douglas, a young man who had studied medicine for several years but lacked adequate funds to complete his medical education, drive the doctor on his rounds. Dewey examined the patient and described the symptoms. From his car the doctor diagnosed the illness and prescribed treatment. By this time other doctors practiced with Dr. Mellus at the hospital; Dr. Duncan Cameron and Dr. Archibald McGregor, among them. Dr. Mellus and Charlotte are buried in Fairview Cemetery on Flint Road. The doctor died April 19, 1939, at the age of 52, from a heart attack. As has been noted about other doctors in the area, Dr Mellus cared about the community. In 1936, he became the founder and first president of the Brighton Rotary Club. (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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