

**"THE TOWPATH" – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER – 1987**

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY  
 THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
 P.O. Box 73 – New Bremen, Ohio 45869  
 Marjorie Lietz, NEW EDITOR

Yearly membership dues are payable in January - \$2.00/Adults, \$1.00/Students. Life Memberships are \$50.00.  
 MEMBERSHIP in the New Bremen Historic Association is open to all persons interested in the history  
 of New Bremen and the surrounding area. Donations, either material or monetary, are also always welcome!

This publication keeps you up-to-date on happenings at the Museum  
 and also brings you some interesting history of our little town.

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LOCK NUMBER ONE Looking North  
 Schwieterman Drug Store and American Budget

**CONTRIBUTION PLAQUES**

**Memorial Donations - \$100.00**  
**Room Plaque - \$2000.00**

WELCOME TO OUR

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 6, 1987  
 12:00 noon - 6:00 P.M.

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION  
 OPENS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON  
 WITH THE "CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL"

Come to the Museum and enjoy the holiday displays,  
 hot cider, Christmas cookies and coffee.

Musical groups will entertain you and  
 SANTA CLAUS will be there for his annual visit.

Be sure to bring your Christmas list along!

Our theme this year is

**"I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS "**

suggested by Edith Wissman.

If you have a holiday display or music to offer,  
 please call KARL AND ETHEL MESLOH - 629-2453  
 or FRED AND KAY HARMON - 629-3539.

**ENTERTAINMENT IS COMING SOON!**

March 1988 at the "Opera House"  
 (now the American Legion Hall)

Co-chairmen are : Jacqui Kuck - 629-2566  
 and Wayne Ziegenbusch - 629-2030.

If you would like to be an actor in the play,  
 call one of these numbers.

**MAY YOUR MEMORIES OF THIS CHRISTMAS BE  
 ESPECIALLY WARM AND DEAR.**



### AUTUMN DAYS IN NEW BREMEN

The bright leaves of red and gold are falling to the ground and in New Bremen, folks are busy raking - every day! The leaves are piled high along the curb, waiting for the leaf truck to come and gather them. It has been a long time since we were allowed to burn the leaves. It is fall clean-up time and we cherish each nice day until winter sets in. Most of the little gardens are clean now, the vegetables have all been canned, frozen or dried, and the perennial flowers are bedded down for the winter. Some folks say the 1987-88 winter will be early and cold, because one extreme follows another and the past summer has been very, very hot.

### HURRAH FOR THE PUMPKIN PIE

Picture the pioneer mother, bending low over the cooking utensils in the fireplace, stirring the pumpkin for the evening meal. Pumpkins were a very staple food for the early settlers, sometimes a life-saving food! We inherited the pumpkin from the American Indian who taught us how to cut the pumpkin in small squares and string the squares on stout cord just as if you were stringing beads. The long strands were then hung from the rafters of the small cabins, close to the fireplace so they could dry. Even John Greenleaf Whittier wrote about the lowly pumpkin:

WHAT MOISTENS THE LIP AND BRIGHTENS THE EYE?  
WHAT CALLS BACK THE PAST LIKE THE RICH PUMPKIN PIE?

The land stretched far from the rugged shore, like a painting etched in years,  
Where the Pilgrims stood in silent thanks, and christened the ground with their tears.  
*[J. Carson]*

### Excerpts from The New Bremen Sun

#### NEWS FROM YESTERYEAR – 1912

WANTED: an experienced cabinet maker - apply at the office of KLANKE FURNITURE COMPANY.

LOUD PRAISE for Al Huenke, Jr., whose pitching has won for him the sobriquet "strike out wonder of New Bremen"! Huenke pitched seventeen (17) games for New Bremen, won eleven (11) and lost six (6).

SUPT. GARMAN is organizing a movement to install a public library in the Grothaus block opposite the Post Office. Let any and all organizations who want to boost the interest of New Bremen get busy with plans to help finance it!

PLANS are being made for a Halloween Fest to be held on the schoolyard. Instead of celebrating this event in the "time" way, that of taking away wagons, gates, door steps etc., a more civilized means of celebration will be instituted.

THE FOOTBALL PLAYERS of New Bremen High School went to St. Marys last Friday afternoon to vie their strength and ability with the high school lads of that place. However, the St. Marys boys were the victors of the day, the score resulting in twenty one to five (21 to 5).

WILLIAM TOSTRICK on Tuesday morning at daybreak succeeded in bringing down one of the largest chicken hawks that has perhaps ever been seen here! The bird measured seven (7) feet and one (1) inch from wing tip to wing tip.

FROM THE BARBERS UNION OF NEW BREMEN: a new schedule of rates has been adopted effective January 1, 1913. Only one change - the shave will be 15¢ instead of 10¢.

FROM THE CHURCH CIRCLES: St. Paul and St. Peter's Churches will hold their German service at 9:30 A.M. Zion's Church and Christ Church will hold their German Service at 10:00 A.M. .

#### NOW FOR A LOOK AT THE LOCAL MARKET in November 1912

(Posted at the Arcade Department Store)

Flour -----	\$1.45 per sack
Flour -----	\$.75 per small sack
Old wheat -----	\$1.00 per bushel
New corn -----	\$.50 per 100 pounds
Eggs -----	\$.35 per dozen
Turkeys -----	\$.09 per lb.
Fowls -----	\$.09 per lb.
Geese -----	\$.07 per lb.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

### A CHRISTMAS-TIME REMEMBRANCE, NEW BREMEN, OHIO – 1909

*[Written in 1986 by Marguerite (Koop) Künning]*

The first feeling that the long awaited pleasures of Christmas were growing near came when at school, on an early December day, I heard that “the toys are out at the Arcade”. This would be a display in the department called “the bazaar”. Ordinarily it sold tools, kitchenware and dishes, but in December the toys were brought out. Many of them had been displayed other years, and one of these was a black iron toy kitchen stove. I always looked for that first and felt happy that it was still there. Then there were the dolls. They covered one wall, all hung on wire netting. They were beautifully made German dolls. Most had fine kid bodies and dark and blonde wigs of natural hair. They were not clothed. Our mothers did that part - underwear, dress, coat and hat - sewn in secret for the Christmas morning joy. My “MARVEL” is still a part of my antique family doll collection. Some time ago, I read in *The Towpath* that there was a black iron toy cookstove on display at the Historical Museum. Is it possible that it might be the “Arcade Christmas Stove”? What an appropriate resting place that would be for it !

*[Editor's note: The Arcade was a department store located at 40 South Washington Street.  
The building is now owned and occupied by Crown Controls. - mll]*

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

*[The following memory was written especially for this newsletter by Beatrice Young, retired second grade teacher.]*

I like to remember how exciting the days were before Christmas vacation at school. It's amazing how construction paper can decorate a classroom - fat red candles aglow at the window, red and green chains on the tree and looped along lockers and chalkboards, bells of red, Santa mobiles twisting to and fro from the light fixtures, holly wreaths made from circles of green with big red paper bows and clusters of berries, Christmas trees cut from emerald green paper, each decorated with treasures from the scrap box, bouquets of scarlet poinsettias in black bowls. There was no limit to the clever ideas seen in halls and classrooms.

Cut in half and folded, the construction paper became Christmas cards for parents, the superintendent, the principal, teachers, cooks, custodians and the school nurse. Each child decorated his card with crayons and printed his special message inside.

We made booklets telling about Christmas customs in different lands using that old stand-by, construction paper, for covers. The big event was the Christmas program. We learned new songs and practiced on the stage. Then came dress rehearsal for the elementary students and finally the BIG DAY when parents and friends came to see the performance. It was great!

The last day of school we took down the decorations in our room. Sometimes we had a sing-a-long. We celebrated the coming vacation with games and a treat. Everybody was full of the holiday spirit, for Christmas was coming and school was out.

**O du fröhliche, O du selige,  
gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!  
Christ ist erschienen,  
uns zu versöhnen,  
freue, freue dich, O Christenheit!**

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

*[by Marjorie Lietz]*

THIS MEMORY IS OF WHEN NEW BREMEN HAD OLD-FASHIONED LIGHT POSTS, BRICK ROADS, AND HERE AND THERE A HITCHING POST! THERE WAS A BIG WATER TROUGH IN FRONT OF DR. FLEDDERJOHANN'S OFFICE, NOW THE RESIDENCE OF PAUL AND RUTH RITTER. HITCHING POSTS AND WATER TROUGHS WERE STILL IN USE FROM THE TURN OF THE CENTURY UP TO THE EARLY TWENTIES. ALL THE TOWN CHILDREN WALKED BACK AND FORTH TO SCHOOL AND WERE DRESSED WARMLY IN THEIR MELTON CLOTH COATS, WOOLEN TASSEL CAPS AND PETER WEATHERBIRD SHOES. IT WAS GETTING CLOSE TO CHRISTMAS AND THE MERCHANTS IN OUR LITTLE VILLAGE WERE CHANGING THEIR WINDOW DISPLAYS, GETTING READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. SOME OF THE STORE KEEPERS EVEN PUT OUT A LITTLE BALSAM FIR TREE IN FRONT OF THEIR PLACE OF BUSINESS AND THEN WE "KIDS" WONDERED IF IT WOULD BE DECORATED WITH TINSEL AND CANDLES LIKE OUR TREES AT HOME. HOWEVER, WE WERE IN FOR A MUCH BIGGER SURPRISE BECAUSE ONE DAY THE LITTLE TREES WORE DECORATIONS OF CANDY LOLLIPOPS - ALL COLORS - AND WE WERE ASSURED THE TREAT WAS FOR US!

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS IN ONE-ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOLS**

*[Written by Lester Blanke especially for the October 1987 N.B.H.A. newsletter]*

The annual Christmas program in one-room schools was not just one of the activities in the school program, but it was THE one event which brought together all parents and children in the school district. To fully understand the difficulty involved in presenting such a program, you must visualize one comparatively large room filled with twenty or thirty desks, in and on which were seated the mothers with small children and grandparents too old to stand during the program. The fathers and young adults were designated to standing-room-only areas, which included the back of the room, the side aisles, and sometimes the cloak halls at the front of the building. This then was the setting faced by the children during their performance.

But let's not get ahead of our story and let's concentrate mostly upon the boys and girls who were expected to entertain and show their ability during the evening's presentations. About the middle of November the pupils would begin asking, "When are we going to begin practicing for the Christmas program?" The teacher, naturally, had for some time been looking for suitable materials to be used. I remember one of the prime sources for a program of this type was Paine Publishing Company in Dayton. This company may still be in business, I'm not sure. Remember, this was not a "one shot" deal. Material had to be assembled so that all pupils, grades one to eight, would in some way participate. This required perhaps five or six skits, some pertaining to Christmas and some humorous ones to liven up the program. I can still see the pupils from the first and second grades with their cards spelling out C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S, with each one reciting a short verse using his or her particular letter. The Christmas songs were usually some of the old favorites which everyone knew, or parodies to songs found in the *Favorite Songs Book*, a book used quite often in the rural schools. Rehearsals were usually conducted during recesses and the noon hour.

Now you ask, "What kind of stage was used for all this?" The stage consisted of a wire being strung across the front, just in front of the teacher's platform. On each end wires were attached, stretching to the blackboard in the front of the room, thus making an exit room and a dressing room. Heavy cloth material was strung on these wires to form a curtain which could be opened and closed as required. These were handled manually and sometimes caused quite a problem. However, in spite of some problems and interruptions, the program continued and judging by the applause after each presentation, was enjoyed by the assembled audience.

However, for many of the smaller children, the best was yet to come! After the teacher had thanked parents and friends for coming to the program, a loud knock was heard at the side door. Who could it be? One of the older pupils was sent to open the door, and who could it be but Santa Claus himself. (Santa was usually a member of the school board.) After asking the children if they had been good, Santa reached into his sack and gave to each one of the children a large orange and a Christmas box filled with candy. Preschool children with their parents were also asked to come forward to receive the treat. The gifts presented by Santa was the teacher's way of saying, "Merry Christmas" to the children. By today's standards this may seem like a small gift, but in the era of the country school this was a cherished gift. So there was just one big moment left for the children, and that was presenting the teacher with a Christmas gift. The gift was usually presented by several of the older pupils. Soon all crowded around to watch the teacher open the gift. Looking at the smiling faces and into their sparkling eyes, one realized these children had learned early in life that happiness comes from giving and not always in receiving.

So this is my recollection of Christmas programs in a one-room country school, after having participated both as a pupil and teacher on these occasions. For those of you who also attended a one-room country school, may it bring some fond memories. To those parents, teachers, and pupils who are associated with the educational systems of today, be thankful for all the modern facilities you may have. Living in the world today is much more complicated and even more dangerous than it was fifty to one hundred years ago. Therefore your task of preparing children to live in this world is different than it was back in the one-room school.

**Good luck and a "MERRY CHRISTMAS" to all.**

***Up on the housetop, reindeer pause,  
Out jumps good old Santa Claus!  
Down through the chimney with lots of toys,  
All for the good little girls and boys.***





# WHAT'S NEW?

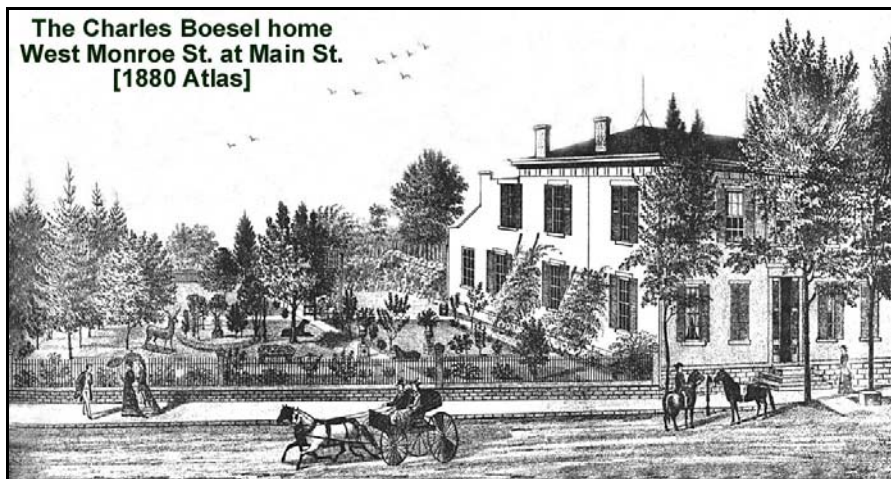


## WE HAVE SOMETHING NEW IN NEW BREMEN!

Right in the heart of town – A **GAZEBO!**

Located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Main & Monroe Streets, this lovely structure is now ready for summer band concerts. Flower beds of multi-colored snapdragons and small shrubs surround the building and lend a pleasing picture to folks traveling through our village.

In the background of the lot there are trees, and we are reminded of the days gone by when the same lot held the Post Office building, with a small park on the east side. THANK YOU, Crown Controls, for making this corner a corner of beauty in New Bremen!



This grand home of the Hon. Charles Boesel later became the “Grothaus block” and held the Post Office, the telephone office, the undertaking business of A.H. Albert, etc.