

"THE TOWPATH" – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER – 1988

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

SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM: Membership dues are \$2.00 per year. Life Membership is \$50.00
 Donations, either material or monetary, are always welcome!

"The Towpath" brings you some history of New Bremen - your article is welcome.

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**Another view of the canal & towpath
 Standing on Plum St., looking north**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

"HOLIDAY MAGIC" IS THE THEME THIS YEAR FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

THE DATE SET FOR THIS HAPPY EVENT IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1988 FROM 12:00 NOON TO 6:00 P.M. WE HOPE YOU WILL COME AND ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT. HOME BAKED CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND HOT SPICY CIDER WILL BE SERVED TO YOU IN THE SUMMER KITCHEN AT THE MUSEUM. AND, MOST OF ALL, SANTA CLAUS WILL BE THERE TO HEAR WHAT YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING A CHRISTMAS DISPLAY TO THE MUSEUM FOR THE FESTIVAL? IF SO, CONTACT ONE OF THE TRUSTEES - YOU ARE WELCOME!

LONG RANGE NEWS - ANOTHER "FOLLIES" IS BEING PLANNED FOR AFTER THE NEW YEAR! HURRAY!

IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT "CHRISTMAS SHOPPING". PERHAPS A FRIEND OR RELATIVE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO "THE TOWPATH", KEEPING THEM UP-TO-DATE ON HAPPENINGS IN NEW BREMEN AND ALSO REMINDING THEM OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

**IF YOU HAVE PAID YOUR DUES IN ADVANCE, ENJOY!
 ANNUAL DUES WILL BE \$3.00 PER MEMBER AS OF JANUARY 1, 1989.**



Congratulations

SERENDIPITY NURSERY SCHOOL CELEBRATES TWENTY FIVE YEARS

THIS HAPPY LITTLE SCHOOL IS OPEN TO CHILDREN AGES THREE THROUGH FIVE. ANN KUHN, WHO JUST TURNED "GRANDMA" FOR THE FIRST TIME IN JANUARY 1988, IS THE HEAD TEACHER, OWNER AND OPERATOR. HER FULL-TIME ASSISTANT IS MARGIE KEIFER AND PART-TIME HELP ARE DIANE PAUL AND DIANE KEIFER. THROUGHOUT THE CLASSROOM ARE CENTERS OF INTEREST BECAUSE A SMALL CHILD NEEDS TO TOUCH, HEAR, SEE, TASTE, AND FEEL. ANN AND HER STAFF KEEP BUSY WITH ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ART, MUSIC, READING, LISTENING, HOUSEKEEPING, SCIENCE, NATURE STUDY AND SPEECH.



STORY TIME



A VISIT WITH SANTA CLAUS



I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS

This is a picture of one of the Christmas displays at our 1987 Christmas Tree Festival. This tree was decorated by Anna Mae Hudson, using the Swiss-German technique of scissor cutting, better known as "Scherenschnitte."



Happy Holidays!



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

When I was a child and Christmastime came,
It seemed so enchanting, like some wondrous game!
The old fashioned tree, standing tall in the parlor
All laden with popcorn, looped like a collar
That mingled with tinsel and peppermint canes,
Ornaments hanging by slim little chains.

Lillian R. Schwartz



THE LARGE BRICK BUILDING NEWLY RENOVATED
BY CROWN CONTROLS / EQUIPMENT CORP. IN 1988.



THE SAME BUILDING AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.
NOTE THE NAMEPLATE AT THE TOP AND THE STREET LIGHT
IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER.

RENOVATION CONTINUES IN NEW BREMEN BUSINESS DISTRICT

SOME OF YOU WILL REMEMBER WHEN HENRY SCHWABEROW OWNED THIS STORE! AND SOME OF YOU WILL REMEMBER WHEN IT WAS "SMITH'S VARIETY STORE". MOST OF US REMEMBER IT AS THE WESTERN OHIO HARDWARE STORE BECAUSE THE KUENNINGS HAVE JUST RECENTLY MOVED FROM THIS BUILDING TO THEIR NEW BUILDING OUT ON ROUTE 66 SOUTH.

THE BIG BRICK BUILDING, NOW A LANDMARK IN NEW BREMEN, HAS UNDERGONE EXTENSIVE RENOVATION. THE BRICKS HAVE BEEN CLEANED AND THE TRIM ON THE BUILDING HAS BEEN PAINTED IN THREE SHADES OF TAN AND THEN EDGED WITH A BRILLIANT RED. THE BUILDING IS OWNED BY CROWN CONTROLS / EQUIPMENT CORP. AND RENTED TO AUTO PARTS.

NOW WE ARE GOING TO GO BACK A FEW YEARS WHEN HENRY SCHWABEROW OWNED THE STORE. REMEMBER THE CANDY COUNTER! IT WAS AT THE FRONT OF THE STORE AND MR. SCHWABEROW BUILT A STURDY BENCH IN FRONT OF THE COUNTER SO LITTLE ONES COULD STAND ON IT AND LOOK DOWN INTO THE CANDY CASE. HE HAD AN EXCELLENT SELECTION OF PENNY CANDY - ALL KINDS. THERE WERE ROOT BEER BARRELS, FOUR FOR A PENNY; PEANUT BUTTER KISSES, EIGHT FOR A PENNY; LONG BLACK LICORICE STICKS, THE TWISTED KIND WITH A RING ON EACH ONE, ONLY ONE CENT; SUGAR BABIES COATED WITH GRANULATED SUGAR; JAW BREAKERS AND GUM BALLS. *(by Marge Lietz)*

MR. SCHWABEROW HAD A SMALL GROCERY COUNTER ALONG THE WEST WALL OF THE STORE AND CARRIED A SMALL LINE OF ON-THE-SHELF GROCERIES. HOWEVER, THE MAIN STOCK OF THE STORE WAS CHINA, GLASSWARE AND ORNAMENTAL PIECES AND HIS WIFE WAS IN CHARGE OF THIS DEPARTMENT. HER FATHER WAS A BUSINESS MAN IN CINCINNATI AND NO DOUBT HELPED HER IN PURCHASING. THE GLASSWARE WAS A COLLECTION OF BOWLS, LEMONADE PITCHERS, WINE GOBLETs, BEER MUGS AND VASES. THERE WAS ALSO FINE CHINA, INCLUDING DINNERWARE, LARGE PLATTERS AND SERVING BOWLS. THE MOUSTACHE CUPS ALWAYS ATTRACTED ME FOR MY SISTER BOUGHT ONE FOR OUR UNCLE WHO HAD A HANDLE-BAR MOUSTACHE.

ON THE EAST WALL WAS A LARGE CASE WITH GLASS DOORS FILLED WITH LARGE AND SMALL DRESDEN FIGURINES WHICH WERE USED ON MANTELS. I CAN REMEMBER A LARGE BEAUTIFUL PAIR - A BOY AND A GIRL THAT STOOD ON THE MANTEL UPSTAIRS IN THE LIVING ROOM OF THE SCHWABEROWS. THE SCHWABEROW STORE DID NOT CARRY TOYS. *[by Marguerite (Koop) Kunning]*



A SCENE FROM YESTERDAY. HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW ?
SOME OF THE LAST NAMES ARE ROETTGER, HAINES, KNIPPLE, MUELLER.

THANK YOU! During the summer months the museum has had visiting hours on Sunday afternoons. Those hosting were:

Rose Wehrman and Jim Gray, May 1
 Dave and Marie Anthony, May 8
 Merlin and Susie Hirschfeld, May 15
 Curtis and Betty Schroer, May 22
 Willis and Helen Dicke, May 29
 Karl and Ethel Mesloh, June 5
 Tom and Doris Kuenning, June 12
 Donna Conradi and Amelia Conradi, June 19
 John and Merrily Hoffman, June 26
 Paul and Marjorie Lietz, July 3
 Paul and June Schott, July 10
 Katherine Knost and Annabel Wagner, July 17
 Adrian and Lois Moeller, July 24
 Roger and Vernita Scheer, August 7
 Rosemary Heitkamp and Dorothy Dicke, August 14
 Dorothy Hertenstein and Bea Young, August 21

ALSO - THANK YOU to those of you who swept the rooms, dusted the furniture, mowed the lawn, trimmed the lawn and "took care" of the museum this past year!



Our little museum on North Main Street represents New Bremen's past and the articles that are stored there are for your enjoyment now and also for posterity. Your donations, whether material or monetary, are always welcome!



YESTERYEAR – It is Christmas morning and Santa Claus came during the night.

AUGUST DIERKER, TINSMITH

by Mary Louise (Quist) Wallace, granddaughter

My grandfather, August Dierker, came to New Bremen as a young man with his bride, Wilhelmina (Volp). He was the town tinsmith and roofer. He had various names such as "Skinny", "Peanuts", etc. He was, in his older days, sort of a town "character", however, I feel as a young man, he was highly respected. I do know that he "did well" and had a large brick home built at 14 South Main Street. Later, he added a porch around the front and sides. I used to roller skate there on rainy days. The house must have been built around 1900. My mother, Minnie (Quist), was raised there.

In 1913, Grandpa purchased a Reo touring car and my mother would drive them around in it on Sunday afternoons. This Reo was still around when I was a child and Grandpa had it propped up. I recall it had an American flag sticker on the passenger side of the windshield.

We lived with Grandpa from about 1928 (after Grandma died) until he died in September 1939 at the age of 85. Dierkers had the first bathroom in New Bremen and people came from miles around to see his tin bath tub and "indoor plumbing". He put on all the slate roofs in and around New Bremen.

In his tin shop, he carried wood-burning Garland ranges, stove pipe and hundreds of other items. His shop was located next to (west of) the Hotel Hollingsworth (in 2005, "The Grille"). He had a pot-bellied stove (see accompanying pictures) in his workshop where the old men would gather around. He was a red-hot Democrat and an avid Cincinnati Reds fan.

Grandpa Dierker told me that when he was 12 years old, he "clumb a tree" so he could view Abe Lincoln's body. The body was transported by train through the Midwest so the people could view him lying in state. Piqua, Ohio (where Grandpa was raised) was one of the stopping points for this famous train.

I must add that life with Grandpa was never dull. I was (sadly) the one who found him lying on the floor at the back of his shop. He had died with his boots on.
Mary (Quist) Wallace

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Dierker was born January 29, 1854 at Piqua. Left an orphan at the age of 3 through the death of his father, he started working at a tender age. He was little more than 13 years old when he entered the tin shop operated by Mr. Geier, but quickly became adept at his trade.

Mr. Dierker also found time to interest himself in civic affairs. He completed two terms as a member of the Village Council and was also a Trustee of St. Paul Church at the time the present edifice on North Franklin Street was erected.

(New Bremen Sun – 1927)

