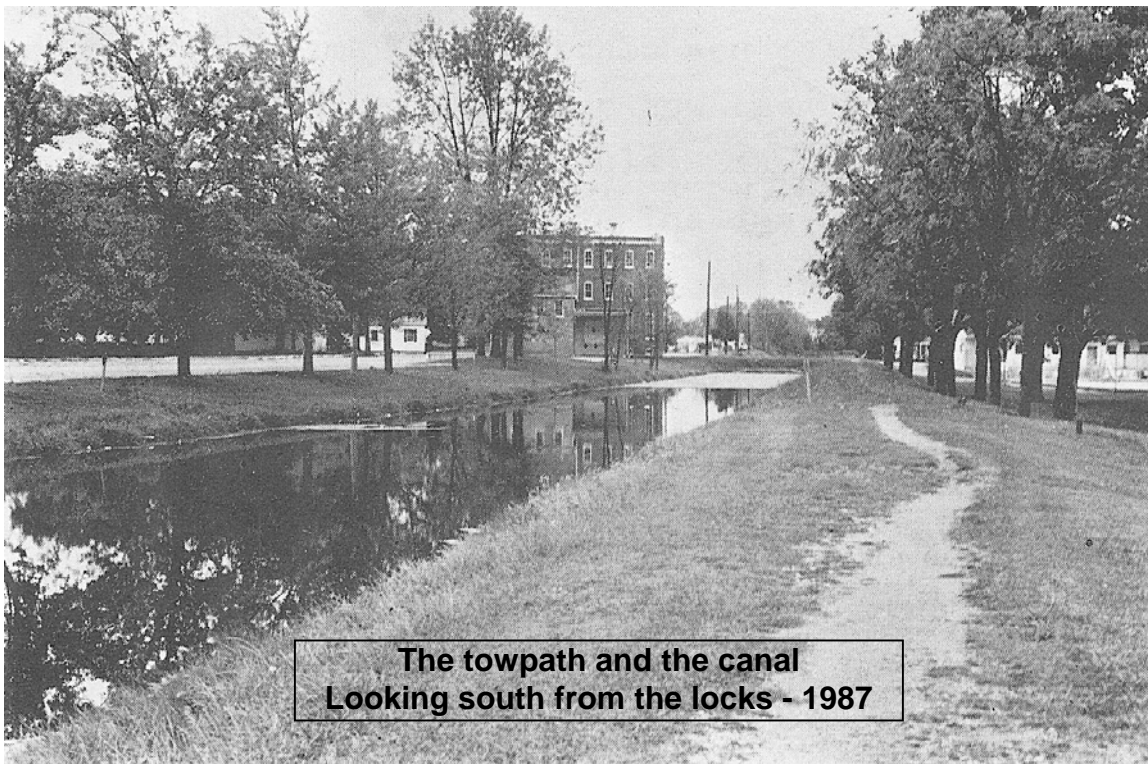


"THE TOWPATH" - APRIL, MAY, JUNE - 1989

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 \$3.00 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.



The towpath and the canal
Looking south from the locks - 1987

In the distance one can see the old LONG PACKING CO. (brick building) and the swimming pool center on the right.

1989 SLATE OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

Carol Stauffer -----	President
-----	Vice Pres.
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-----	Co-Curator
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Marjorie Lietz -----	"Towpath" Editor



MUSEUM NEWS: If you have some spare time and would like to help paint and do some small repairs at the museum this summer, your help would be most appreciated. The museum will have summer hours for visitation. Please watch your local newspaper for information. Mrs. Bud Scheer (Vernita) has kindly accepted the job of co-curator. Now we need one more person to work with her. We also need one more trustee. if you enjoy this kind of work, please feel free to call Mrs. Stauffer and volunteer for the job!



SPRING MEMORIES OF LONG AGO

MOM LOOKED AT THE KITCHEN CURTAINS AND KNEW IT WAS TIME TO HOUSECLEAN! THIS WAS A BIG JOB AND NO CORNER WAS LEFT UNTOUCHED. DAD HAD THE GARDEN TO PLOW, THE LAWN TO RAKE, SEEDS TO BE PLANTED, AND BIRD-HOUSES TO REPAIR. CHILDREN'S THOUGHTS TURNED TO GAMES OUTDOORS - MARBLES, JUMP-ROPE, FLYING KITES, SCOOTERS AND ROLLER SKATING!

ALONG ABOUT GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY, IF THE WEATHER WAS FAVORABLE, WE WATCHED FOR KITES FLOATING IN THE AIR OVER NEW BREMEN. PAUL ESCHMEYER, WHO LIVED ON THE NORTHEAST EDGE OF TOWN, CLOSE TO THE CANAL, WAS ONE OF THE FIRST BOYS TO FLY A KITE IN THE SPRING! IT WAS A THRILL TO WATCH THE COLORED KITES DIP AND SOAR THROUGH THE GENTLE BREEZE. SPRING WAS ALMOST HERE! MAYBE IF YOU BEGGED LONG ENOUGH, MOM MIGHT LET YOU WEAR KNEE SOCKS TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.

YOU WERE LUCKY IF YOU INHERITED A SACK FULL OF GLASS MARBLES FROM YOUR DAD OR GRANDPA. THE COMMON CLAY MARBLE WAS THE KIND THAT MOST KIDS HAD PURCHASED FROM THE ARCADE DEPARTMENT STORE OR SMITH'S VARIETY STORE. THEY COST 1 CENT FOR 20 MARBLES. SOME OF THE MARBLES WERE SO LOPSIDED, THEY HARDLY MADE IT TO THE FINISH LINE! THE VERY BEST PLACE TO PLAY A GAME OF MARBLES WAS UNDER THE EAST FIRE ESCAPES AT THE OLD CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING. THERE WAS ROOM FOR TWO TO SIT ON THE SILL OF THE BASEMENT WINDOW AND THERE YOU WERE ALSO SHELTERED FROM THE WIND.

AS FOR ROLLER SKATES, SPRING AND SKATES WENT TOGETHER LIKE ICE CREAM AND CAKE! YOU WORE THE MAGIC KEY ON A BLACK SHOESTRING AROUND YOUR NECK AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, STOPPED LONG ENOUGH TO TIGHTEN THE CLAMPS A BIT MORE FIRMLY TO THE SOLES OF YOUR SHOES. IT WAS SMOOTH SKATING IN TOWN WITH ALL THE SANDSTONE SIDEWALKS. MOST OF THE STORES HAD PLAIN WOOD FLOORS, SO VERY SELDOM DID YOU TAKE THE SKATES OFF IN A STORE. THOSE SKATES WERE HARD ON SHOE SOLES!

NO MORE RUMBLE ... NO MORE WHISTLE ... NO MORE DINKY

Someday your children or great-grandchildren will ask you "Whatever became of the train you called 'The Dinky'?" Those same children will want to hear how the dinky brought the coal cars to New Bremen and how you could hear the coal cars unloading their cargo during the night. The next question will be, "What is coal, Grandpa?" Here is a little help.

YES, I REMEMBER THE DINKY. It wasn't always on time, but its whistle was a welcome sound to folks in New Bremen. It meant their freight was coming in and soon the draymen would deliver to the houses. The draymen that I can remember were the Thompson Brothers and sometimes Clyde Schellenberger would help them. In the earlier years draymen used a wagon and a team of horses. In later years they had a truck.

According to an article in *The Evening Leader* (February 1, 1989) the spur that runs from St. Marys to Minster will be abandoned sometime this summer. I am sure the first thought that comes to mind will be "What becomes of the land when the tracks are torn out?" Wouldn't it be great if this land could be made into a walking trail? With no cars, no cement sidewalks to contend with, one could be close to nature, enjoying the out of doors.



THE DINKY OFF THE TRACKS (RIGHT PICTURE) – PHOTO BY HOVERMAN & SON, NEW BREMEN



DOC SCHMIDT'S BARN – NORTH WALNUT ST.

THREE GENERATIONS OF VETERINARIANS

IN 1856, DR. HENRY J. SCHMIDT STARTED HIS VETERINARY BUSINESS IN OUR LITTLE TOWN. WITH NEW BREMEN BEING A FARMING COMMUNITY AND A PORK CENTER, IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE A VETERINARY CLOSE BY.

I AM SURE DR. HENRY J. SCHMIDT (1ST GENERATION) WAS GLAD WHEN HIS SON, DR. H.J. SCHMIDT (2ND GENERATION) GRADUATED FROM VETERINARY SCHOOL AT THE AGE OF 19 YEARS IN THE YEAR OF 1886 AND WAS READY TO START PRACTICE. AFTER TWO YEARS OF WORKING IN THE NEARBY AREA, DR. H.J. SCHMIDT CAME TO NEW BREMEN TO HELP HIS FATHER. IN 1924, DR. LEONARD SCHMIDT (3RD GENERATION) GRADUATED FROM OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY AND WAS SOON TO COME TO NEW BREMEN TO HELP HIS FATHER.

THANK YOU TO MRS. JACOB BOESEL (DOTTIE SCHMIDT) AND MRS. PAUL WISSMAN (ALICE SCHMIDT) WHO LOANED ME THE PICTURE OF THE BARN AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FOR THIS ARTICLE.

IN 1989, AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, FERD WINT, OLGA PAUL, AND HELEN SCHROER ARE A FEW OF THE HOMEOWNERS ON THE SITE THAT AT ONE TIME WAS THE HOME OF DOC SCHMIDT'S BARN.



A FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH OF THE HENRY SCHMIDT FAMILY
 Dr. Henry J. Schmidt Jr., Dr. Leonard Schmidt,
 Mrs. Henry J. Schmidt, Goldie Schmidt, Marguerite Koop
*[Margaret Koop Kunning was a niece of the Schmidts
 and was raised in the Schmidt home.]*

I REMEMBER DR. H.J. SCHMIDT'S OFFICE AND BARN - ABOUT 1909

Where North Walnut Street ends, there was about an acre of land owned and used for Dr. H.J. Schmidt Jr.'s Veterinary Office and Hospital, known to most as Dr. Schmidt's office and barn. I liked to go there in the summertime to play with other children who somehow seemed to gather there. There was always much coming and going and interesting things to watch, like horses getting their teeth filed.

"Doc Schmidt", as young and old called him, liked children, but if there were important operations to take place, we were all sent to the office rooms and ordered to stay there, in no uncertain terms. This was interesting, too, for the medicine room was lined with shelves of beautiful

colored bottles of various drugs used when Dr. Schmidt so skillfully prepared medicine for waiting farmers to take home with them. In the front office, where the captain chairs were lined along the wall, there was a shelf filled with preserved oddities, such as the embryo of a two-headed calf.

The barn was very large, made up of many standing-stalls, three large box-stalls and a wall ladder to a huge haymow. In the fenced-off area north of the barn, where chickens, geese, ducks, and guinea fowl roamed, there were fruit trees of apples and green gage plums for all to enjoy. Is it any wonder that Doc Schmidt's office and barn attracted both young and old?

After Dr. H.J. Schmidt Jr.'s lifetime was over (1934) the same genial spirit and accommodations went on under the practice of his son, Dr. L.H. Schmidt, D.V.M., who was the third generation to practice veterinary medicine in New Bremen since the founding of the town in 1833.

[by Marguerite (Koop) Kunning]

And from another member of the New Bremen Historic Association

I REMEMBER NEW BREMEN WHEN #1

In the early 1900s, when I attended what was our grade and high school all together, Mr. Charles W. Limbach was our superintendent. At that time we did not have indoor plumbing.

Our Post Office now, in 1989, was the location of the New Bremen Fire Department, strictly all volunteer. We lived on the corner of First and Water Streets, and at the first ringing of the fire bell, my father was always one of the first volunteers there. It did not take him long to run through our garden and what at that time was the garden of Henry Schwepe, just across the street from the Fire Department.

My father never missed a fire and when the furniture factory burned down, my father was so overcome with smoke that Dr. Fledderjohann would not let him fight fires thereafter. At that time they had hand pumpers to get the hose to work properly.

Now that Wint's Restaurant is out of business, I will tell you of my first remembrance of that business. Mr. Kamman was the owner at that time and it was known as Kamman's Saloon. Now women were allowed in the saloon, but there was an area in the rear for women, where they served fried rabbit and fried oysters in season, for now what I consider almost give-away prices. I also remember the first night that we had movies on Saturday and Sunday nights.

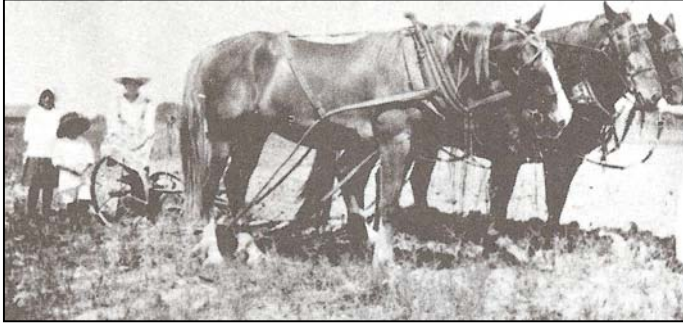
-Mrs. Margaret Buckingham of St. Marys, Ohio

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Buckingham's maiden name was Hoffman and Philip Dinkel of Dinkel's Meat Market was her mother's background.]

THE NEW BREMEN MEN'S GARDEN CLUB ORGANIZED IN 1963 WITH ONLY 6 PERSONS. THEIR FIRST PROJECT WAS THE ISLAND OF PETUNIAS. In 1966, the Garden Club accepted New Bremen's old antique fire bell. The bell was cast in Europe and tolled at the death of Abraham Lincoln. The bell is on display in the heart of New Bremen (in 1989).



PLOUGHING IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS!



This photo comes from our new Co-curator, VERNITA SCHEER. Vernita lives in one of the new homes in Lock Two with her husband, Roger (Bud). The picture is from the album of Vernita's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Cornelius Heinfeld.

In the next issue of *The Towpath*, which will be in late July, we will have some hay-making and harvest pictures.

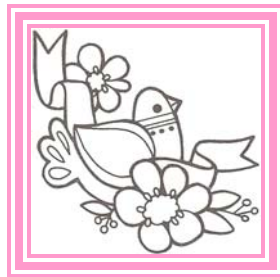
I REMEMBER NEW BREMEN WHEN #2

From a member of the New Bremen Historic Association comes a memory in the form of "THANK YOU"



We were poor - we had a big family with only our mother to take care of us and earn the living. It was the policy of the White Mountain Creamery at that time to give milk to the needy, free of charge. Every morning without fail, two quart bottles of milk were placed on our doorstep, a gift from the Creamery here in New Bremen. Our milkmen making the deliveries were Mr. Herman Blanke and Mr.

Julius Hoeper. They each had a milk wagon, similar to the one pictured. They each had one horse. Their milk routes started very early in the morning, with their customers depending on the fresh milk. It was in the days before refrigerators. In the winter, the wagons were cold and sometimes the cream on top of the milk would start to freeze. The frozen cream pushed the paper cap up, and it looked like a big vanilla Popsicle. We kids loved it with a little sugar and a drop of vanilla. We had a real treat - ice cream! In the "old" days milk was not homogenized and it came in heavy glass bottles which had to be returned. (Name withheld)



ANNUAL MEETING AND MUSEUM NEWS

The New Bremen Historic Association held their Annual Dinner Meeting on March 13, 1989 in the Zion's Church Assembly Room, with 125 members and guests present. Carol Stauffer, President, welcomed the group, followed by the invocation from Rev. Wade Schemmel. The meal was delicious, prepared by the ZION HAPPY COOKERS! Two of our commissioners were with us for the evening, namely Mr. Bob Vogel and Mr. Norville Freymuth. Mr. Vogel gave a short presentation concerning the plans for a new bridge in Lock Two. The entertainment was none other than our DYNAMIC DUO, Ethel Mesloh and Edith Wissman, playing duets on the piano. The music was great and we loved it!

MORE NEW BREMEN was the name of the slide show that followed, given by Paul and Marge Lietz. The slides covered the closing of the canal in 1968 and some historic buildings on North Main Street. There were so many persons who helped to make this a great evening! The tickets and promotional advertising were all done by Marianne Sanders. It was also Marianne who made the little Easter baskets for table decorations, later to be given as door prizes. Marianne's fine stencil work was on each basket! Jay Stauffer designed and printed the programs for the evening, including a brief description of our museum.

Thank You to Schwieterman's Drug Store, The Cornerstone Shop and Jackson Jewelry, who handled the tickets for the dinner.

There was a surprise at the end of the program. Craig Hoffman, Trustee and Secretary, presented the HISTORIAN AWARD to Paul and Marge Lietz! The award is a wooden plaque in the form of Ohio with the following inscription: "Marge and Paul Lietz, presented in recognition for your outstanding contributions in promoting and preserving the history of New Bremen March 13, 1989 - The New Bremen Historic Association."