

"THE TOWPATH" – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER - 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.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

IT DOESN'T MATTER MUCH,
 BE ITS BUILDINGS GREAT OR SMALL,
 THE HOME TOWN, THE HOME TOWN,
 IS THE BEST TOWN AFTER ALL.
 THE CITIES OF THE MILLIONS
 HAVE THE SUN AND STARS ABOVE,
 BUT THEY LACK THE FRIENDLY FACES
 OF THE FEW YOU'VE LEARNED TO LOVE
 AND WITH ALL THEIR POMP OF RICHES
 AND WITH ALL THEIR TEEMING THROGS,
 THE HEART OF MAN IS ROOTED
 IN THE TOWN WHERE HE BELONGS.

The above lines were taken from the poem, The Home Town, by Edgar A. Guest. It sounds as if Mr. Guest was thinking about New Bremen when he wrote this poem, because we have a very special town and wonderful people. We are rich in history, and so every three months, we try to bring you a little news about New Bremen's past history and the people who helped build New Bremen.

THE MUSEUM TAKES ON A NEW LOOK!

That's right – there are so many fine things of years ago that you kind readers have donated or loaned to the museum. Our co-curators, Vernita Scheer and Dottie Boesel, started their work in the little room at the top of the stairs and furnished a children's toy room. Dolls, little cupboards, toy dishes, games, ice skates and even an electric train fill the room. Amongst the toys is an original NEW BREMEN JIGSAW PUZZLE made by BERTRAM AND HEIL during the big depression of the early thirties. Their company was small, but times were hard and a living had to be made.

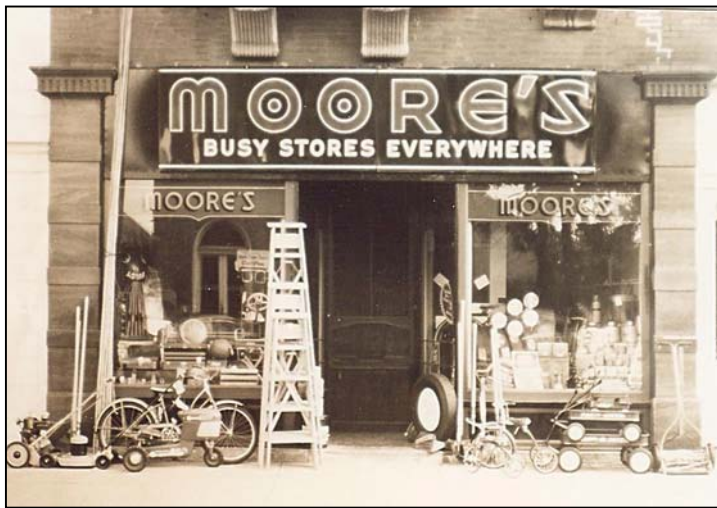
From the children's room, the working crew moved on to the next room upstairs and work continued. Our carpenters - Bud Scheer, Stan Hertenstein and Paul Lietz - built shelves, installed clothes rods and did the necessary repair work.

IT WAS TWO STRONG YOUNG MEN, namely Kris Kuck and Rob Stauffer, who so willingly moved furniture and carried heavy items up and down the stairs. Rob Stauffer is going to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Fred Harmon. The Harmon family is moving to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin soon. We wish them well in their venture. Kris Kuck has enlisted in the military and will be leaving soon. GOOD LUCK, Kris!

NOW, GOING OUTSIDE, we find the museum is wearing a fresh coat of white paint. There were some folks who came on a Saturday morning and helped scrape the old paint, and your work was much appreciated.

And – We are very grateful for all the monetary gifts that have been given to help maintain the museum. It is through your donations and interest in posterity that New Bremen history can be preserved. The museum is a vital part of our little town and best of all – it belongs to you!

IN DECEMBER 1989, THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD AT THE MUSEUM.
 OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS " O TANNENBAUM " (This is the German name for the song, "Oh Christmas Tree.")
 WATCH YOUR LOCAL PAPERS FOR THE TIME AND DATE OF THIS EVENT.



Delmar Hickman of Wapakoneta, Ohio found this picture of the Moore's Store among his collection of pictures. Can you find the location of this store? I am sure you can.

It was in the late forties and early fifties that Mr. and Mrs. MacNamara came to New Bremen and managed the Moore's Store. Their home was one of the first "National" homes to be built in New Bremen and was located just north of the Auglaize School (former Sun Printing building). The home is no longer there and the land is occupied by the school.

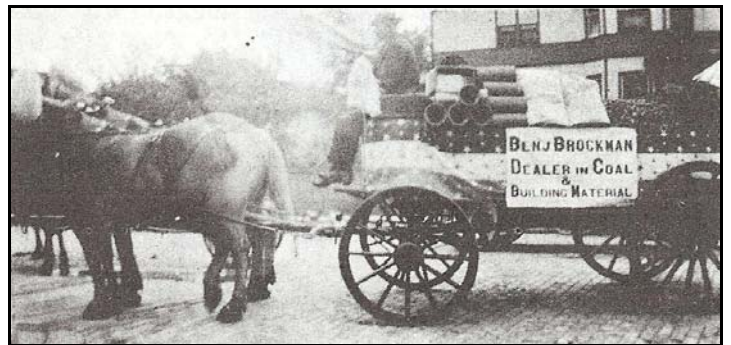
A very interesting custom of the Moore's Store was to empty the shelves of all their standard products at Christmas time to make room for all the Christmas items, especially toys!



THE OLD WOODEN LOCKS IN LOCK TWO

I have fond memories of Lock Two, because I was born there and lived there until I was sixteen years old. We lived along the canal. Times were very hard and my Dad was given permission to tear out the old lock from where the little village got its name, LOCK TWO. All the men in town helped. They brought the lumber in an empty field near our house. Then Dad hired a "saw machine" and all the men helped to cut up the wood. We had enough wood to heat our home for two years! My sister and I had to help stack the wood in the woodshed as my Dad split it. So that's where Lock Two went - we burned it to keep warm.
by Bernice Dilger

Thank You, Bernice, we all enjoy hearing memories of the past and also a big Thank You to Vernita Scheer who furnished the photo of the old wooden lock.



BERNARD BRADY, A HELPER - BENJAMIN BROCKMAN, OWNER

IN 1908 OR 1909, BENJAMIN BROCKMAN BOUGHT THE FRANK WIERTH COALYARD LOCATED WEST ON FIRST STREET - BY THE RAILROAD TRACK. RAYMOND WIERTH WAS HIS FIRST HELPER AND CHARLES RUEDEBUSCH WAS HIS SECOND HELPER. COAL WAS DELIVERED WITH A WAGON AND A TEAM OF TWO SORREL HORSES. A LITTLE LATER, BEN ADDED CRUSHED STONE, SAND, CEMENT, SEWER PIPE AND DRAIN TILE TO HIS BUSINESS. AFTER CHARLES RUEDEBUSCH LEFT, BERNARD BRADY TOOK OVER AND COAL DELIVERY WAS THEN DONE WITH A TRUCK.

BEN'S DAUGHTER, GOLDIE, WORKED IN HIS OFFICE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. AT THAT TIME SOFT COAL WAS SELLING FOR \$5.00 A TON AND HARD COAL WAS \$7.00, SOMETIMES \$8.00 A TON. C.P. GRESS WAS ALSO A COAL DEALER ABOUT THE SAME TIME.

THE PICTURE ON THE RIGHT WAS TAKEN DURING A FOURTH OF JULY PARADE IN NEW BREMEN. CHARLES RUEDEBUSCH WAS THE DRIVER. THE PICTURES ARE FROM GOLDIE BEICKMAN'S PHOTO ALBUM.



SANTA CLAUS IN NEW BREMEN

ONE SANTA CLAUS I REMEMBER IN NEW BREMEN WAS MR. A.H. ALBERT. HE DIDN'T WEAR A RED VELVET SUIT TRIMMED WITH WHITE FUR AND HE DIDN'T HAVE A LONG WHITE BEARD, BUT HE WAS SANTA CLAUS TO THE GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS.

IT WAS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE IN SCHOOL AT CHRISTMAS TIME. OUR SPARE TIME WAS SPENT IN DRAWING AND COLORING BELLS, TREES, CANDLES AND STARS TO DECORATE THE WINDOWS AND WALLS IN OUR HOME ROOM. LATE AFTERNOONS WE PRACTICED OUR READINGS AND MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TO BE GIVEN RIGHT IN OUR ROOM.

THEN CAME THE MAGIC DAY OF DECEMBER 23RD WHEN SCHOOL WOULD DISMISS FOR THE HOLIDAY VACATION. ON THIS SAME DAY, USUALLY AFTER THE SECOND RECESS, WE HEARD THE KNOCK ON OUR CLASSROOM DOOR. SURE ENOUGH, THERE IN THE HALL STOOD MR. ALBERT AND HIS HELPERS WHO WERE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS. THEY CARRIED IN TWO BUSHEL BASKETS - ONE FILLED WITH BROWN BAGS OF CANDY, ONE FILLED WITH SHINY RED APPLES! THE CANDY WAS THE HARD MIXED VARIETY COMMONLY CALLED HARDTACK. THE CANDY WITH THE FRUIT AND PEPPERMINT FLAVORS WAS BRIGHTLY COLORED AND THE CENTERS WERE POURED TO RESEMBLE A FLOWER, A BELL OR SOMETIMES THE AMERICAN FLAG. SOME OF THE KIDS ATE THEIR CANDY RIGHT AWAY WHILE OTHERS CARRIED IT HOME TO SHOW THEIR PARENTS AND THEN PLACE IT BENEATH THE CHRISTMAS TREE. OUR TEACHER PROMPTED US TO GIVE MR. ALBERT A BIG THANK YOU IN UNISON. AND WE DID! THIS IS ONE OF THE HAPPY MEMORIES FROM THE GOOD OLD DAYS. (ML)

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I FOUND A LITTLE ARTICLE TO GO ALONG WITH THE ABOVE MEMORY. IT WAS IN A 1930 ISSUE OF OUR NEWSPAPER, *THE NEW BREMEN SUN*: "A.H. ALBERT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON PLAYED SANTA CLAUS FOR NEARLY 400 CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE NEW BREMEN GRADED SCHOOLS, GIVING EACH CHILD A BAG OF CHRISTMAS CANDY AND AN APPLE. THE DISTRIBUTION WAS SUPERINTENDED PERSONALLY BY MR. ALBERT AND HIS ASSISTANTS. AFTER VISITING THE SCHOOL HERE, THE PARTY WENT TO FORT LORAMIE TO HAND OUT MORE THAN 150 BAGS OF CANDY AMONG THE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THAT VILLAGE."

NOTE: MR.& MRS. A.H. ALBERT LIVED AT 28 SOUTH MAIN ST. MR. ALBERT'S FUNERAL PARLOR WAS LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF MAIN AND MONROE STREETS. NOW, IN 1989, THE GAZEBO IS ON THIS SITE.



TO ALL TOWPATH READERS:

Do you remember the "Great Depression" of the 1930s? If so, perhaps you have a particular memory you would like to share with others. Times were hard in our little town too. We wore hand-me-down clothes and shoes that were re-soled, but we had plenty to eat! Please write of your memories of the 1930s.

Send it to M.L. Lietz - 34 South Herman St. - New Bremen, OH 45869.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!





A FIRST GRADE CLASS IN THE EARLY '20s WITH THEIR TEACHER, MISS ESTHER VORNHOLT

THIS GROUP OF GIRLS AND BOYS WILL WELL REMEMBER THE CHRISTMAS CANDY AND SHINY RED APPLES FROM MR. A.H. ALBERT! WHO ARE THEY?

STANDING: Phyllis Nussmeyer, Helen Topp, Lewis Kommink, Alma Kuest, Helen Doenges, Margaret Roettger, Dorothy Gieseke, Eugene Jordan, Elodie Lanfersieck, Lucille Fark, Miss Esther Vornholt.

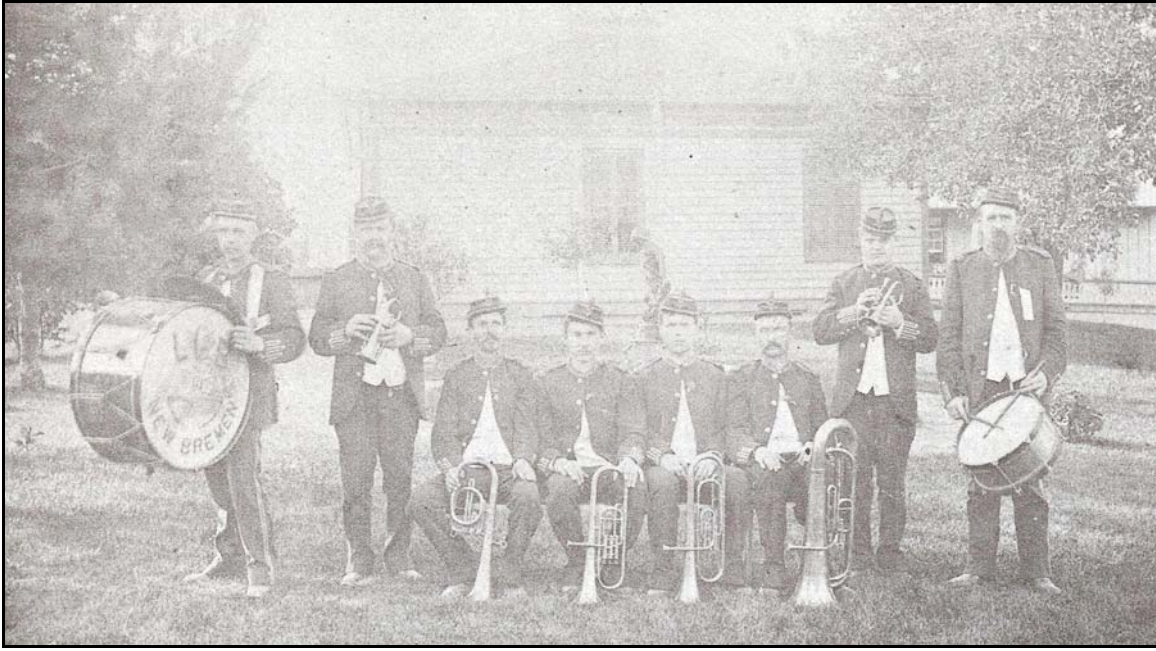
MIDDLE: Druscilla Fark, Otis Longworth, Rosemary Wissman, Lois Maurer, Betty Gast, Norma Heinfeld, Kenneth Fark, Edgar Egbert, Franklin Topp, Mabel Moeller, Charlotte Knost.

FRONT: Reuben Varno, Reuben Thiesing, Elmer Wietholter, Ernest Strohmeier, Clifford Scheer, Frederick Gilberg, Virgil Hirschfeld, Karl Block, Richard Weinberg, Victor Koenig, Vernon Roediger, Everett Koenig.



GROCERY PRICES AT THE E.H. NIETER STORE IN JANUARY 1922

Rolled Oats - 5¢ / lb, Large Post Toasties -15¢, Octagon Laundry Soap - 2 for 15¢, Small Light Karo -13¢ can,
Bulk Rio Coffee - 18¢ / lb., Bread - 8¢ / loaf.
(from the New Bremen Sun)



THE LITTLE SIX BAND

A big "Thank You" to Mrs. Rose Wehrman of New Bremen and also to Mrs. Alberta Steinebrey of Dayton, Ohio for furnishing us the above picture of the band that was famous in and around the year 1888. It is true, they had eight members! John Laut (died 3/1/1942) and August Mueller (died 11/14/1950) were the last two survivors. They were a fine musical organization with John Laut as leader. Members were August Wehrman (father of Clarence "Molly" Wehrman, Henry Weinberg, Christ Laut, Ferd Laut, Theobald Steinebrey, Herman Mohrman, John Laut (father of Melville "Plucky" Laut) and Fred Pape.

An interesting letter recently came from Mrs. Bernice Dilger of New Bremen: "The Little Six Band played for my Mom and Dad's wedding and they led the wedding party from the house to the dance hall in a hard snowstorm! The wedding couple was Theodore Doenges and Emmeline Schwetter and the wedding was October 13, 1898. At that time, my dad, Theodore Doenges, had the dance hall in Lock Two."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Names live on... At this writing in 1989, we have a Fred Pape and a Herman Mohrman living in New Bremen!

