

"THE TOWPATH" – JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH - 1990

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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THE NEW BREMEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
 IN ITS "HOLIDAY DRESS" - DECEMBER 1989
 GREEN FIR WREATHS - RED VELVET BOWS

OVER 500 PERSONS VISITED THE MUSEUM DURING THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The rooms were resplendent with the displays of silver, gold, red and green. The theme was "O Tannenbaum" and German Christmas songs filled the air!

A BIG THANK YOU to the Zion singers and to Santa Claus and to all the willing helpers who gave of their time and talent to make this annual event a success!

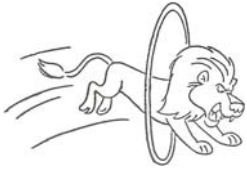
The prize winners were: Christmas centerpiece, Peggy Henschen, New Bremen; Christmas ornament, Ann Kuck, New Knoxville; Christmas ornament, Carolyn Pape, New Bremen; Christmas towel, Kathy Meyers, New Bremen; Christmas towel, Kelly Knapke, New Bremen; Pothead, Frances Ahlers, New Bremen; Pothead, Marge Beckman, Minster; Apron, Orville Ruedebusch, New Bremen.



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ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

WHAT'S NEW? MARCH 27, 1990 IS THE TENTATIVE DATE SET FOR THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING. IT WILL BE A DINNER MEETING AT 6:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY A PROGRAM OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! PLAN TO ATTEND - TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE MARCH 1ST AT SCHWIETERMAN'S DRUG STORE AND THE CORNERSTONE SHOP. WATCH YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION .



HERE WE ARE! NATURAL GAS COMES IN LIKE A LION AND FAIRLY SHAKES THE TOWN WITH ITS TREMENDOUS ROAR JULY 6, 1888

For the first time in the history of our town have we the pleasure of witnessing the burning flame of Natural Gas to span the streets of our beautiful little village. The bowels of the earth pour out their voluminous contents and lend to people of New Bremen the right hand to successful business, manufacturing and industrial progress. No more is this town called an out-of-the-way corner, having customs and methods hanging like a "mill stone around its neck". We are now able to compete successfully with any town in America!

There is a prevailing joyous spirit here and if you had been in New Bremen on the evening of July 3rd, you would in an instant acquiesce to it. The streets were lined with solid masses of people and the din occasioned by the deafening roar of gas, the booming of the cannon, the cheering of the people, the beating of muffled drums and the cracking of the firecrackers was enough to throw any person into a wild state of astonishment!

OUR NATURAL GAS PLANT

1888: Our well, 4 miles north of town, will supply New Bremen for years to come. It will warm our stoves, light our rooms and brighten up our town! It will run our factories, cook our food and save our timber. It will fill the town's pocketbook. This great natural resource, whose utilization can be applied in so many ways, is going to revolutionize the business of our town and before long, New Bremen will stand at the pinnacle of her compeers and kindly beckon them to follow her in her triumphal way.

EDITOR'S NOTE: THANK YOU to Mrs. Paul (Alice) Wissman for this page about New Bremen. Alice spent many hours during our Sesquicentennial Year (1983), researching interesting facts about our town. This article was published by *The New Bremen Sun*, at one time our local newspaper.



NORTH MAIN ST. IN NEW BREMEN – LOOKING NORTH

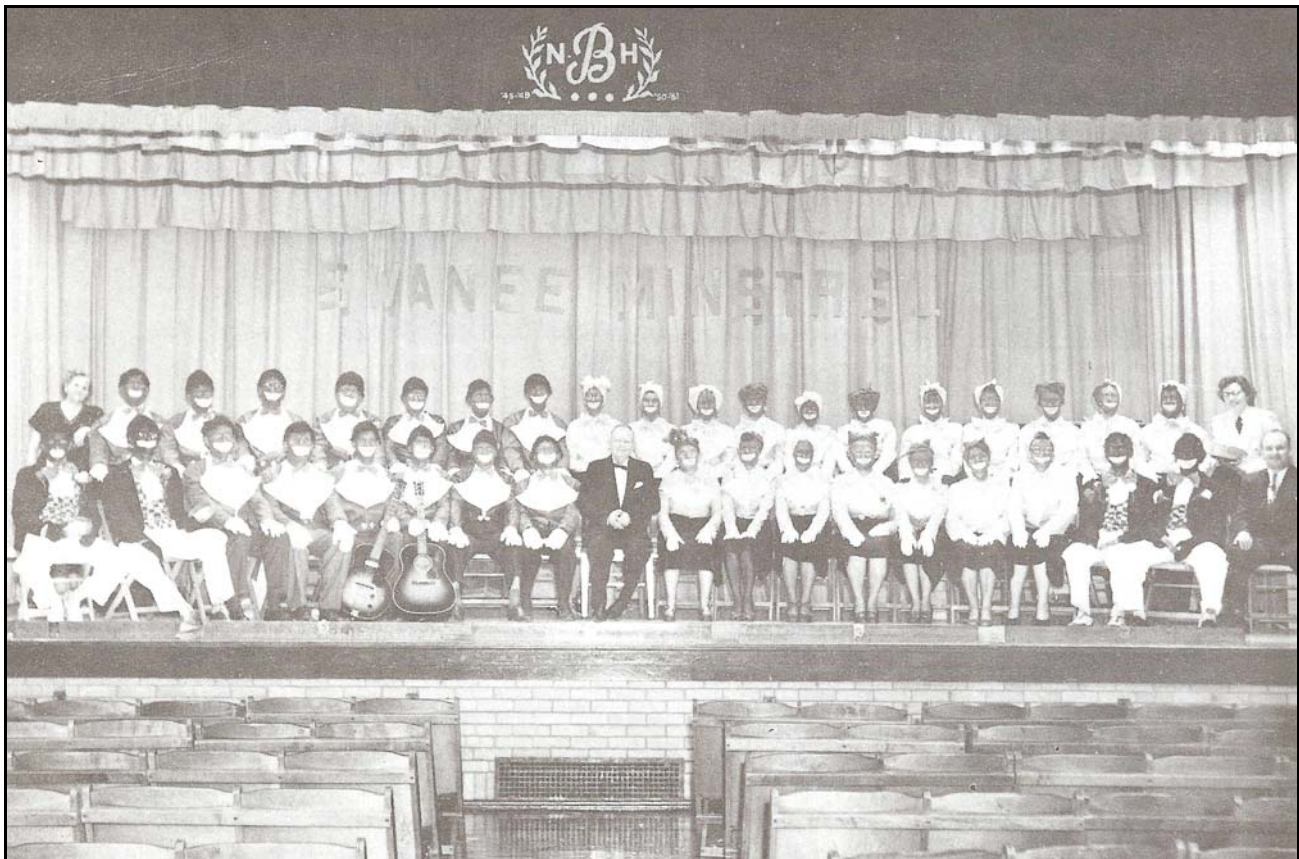
The "street car" (interurban) provided transportation in New Bremen from 1902-1932. In the distance is the former Zion's Church. The building is now owned by John and Merrily Hoffman.

Starting on your left, the third building is now owned by Crown Controls / Equipment Corp. It was recently vacated by Plattner's Ceramic Shop. This building housed quite a few business enterprises over the years. Some of them were: Weinberg Brothers Grocery, Friemering Grocery, Tip Top Grocery, Irvin Fark's Bakery, Harry Joyce Restaurant, Mrs. Roettger's Kiddie Clothes Shop, and the Ceramic Shop.

ORVILLE RUEDEBUSCH remembers working part time at the Friemering Grocery and later at the Tip Top Grocery. Leaving the high school, then at Poplar and Herman Streets, he walked to the grocery and worked the noon hour shift. Then back to school for classes, only to return to the store at 4:00 P.M. to work some more. Folks called in their grocery order, so Orville was delivery boy after school and Saturdays. Groceries were delivered as far as Clover Four Road. Orville also remembers "At some homes, a cookie and a cup of coffee was the reward."

PAUL LIETZ remembers the iced peanut butter rolls that Irvin "Footy" Fark baked.

I remember reading this article in my mother's scrap book about Weinberg's grocery that was printed in *The New Bremen Sun* circa 1916: "There was some excitement in Weinberg's grocery yesterday afternoon. While waiting on a customer, Miss Vera Weinberg suddenly announced the presence of a tarantula in a bunch of bananas, but upon close investigation it proved to be but the remains of what once was a tarantula. Further investigation developed the fact that a real live specimen still inhabited the fruit bunch. A number of bold courageous men soon congregated on the scene, but no one had ever encountered such a thing as either a live or dead tarantula, until Arnold Gieseke came along who had much experience along that line. He superintended the job. The bananas were taken out on William Klanke's lawn and given a thorough shaking when Mr. Tarantula fell down and soon became the prey of expert hands. Louis is keeping the giant spider as an interesting trophy, alcohol being the preservative." -by Marge (Gieseke) Lietz



1951 MINSTREL SHOW

Only some 130 tickets still are available for the PTA MINSTREL SHOW to be given October 30th and 31st. REHEARSALS are being directed by MISS HELEN SPROUL, High School Instructor and JAMES D. TAYLOR of New Bremen. Those appearing in the cast will include:

MRS. WILSON BRAUN
 MRS. PAUL GILBERG
 MRS. REUBEN WISSMAN
 MRS. BOBBIE EZELL
 MRS. LAMBERT CONRADI
 MRS. STANLEY KUENNING
 MRS. DON MORRIS
 MRS. HAROLD OPPERMAN
 MRS. DAVID POULSON
 MRS. CARL WATKINS
 MRS. ROBERT TREON
 MRS. LOUIS KOHL

MRS. HARRY GILBERT
 MISS DONNA GREBER
 MISS BARBARA PAPE
 MISS DELORES WISSMAN
 MISS MARY ANN BRADY
 MRS. U.J. SCHWIETERMAN
 VIRGIL AMSTUTZ
 ROBERT CASEBOLT
 ADRIAN EVERSMAN
 HAL HOWARD
 ARNOLD LUEDEKE
 ED LUEDEKE

DON MORRIS
 LARRY SCHWARTZ
 FRED SOLLMAN
 WALTER TOPP
 FRED TOPP
 LOUIS KOHL
 BOB WILSON
 V.C. MEYER
 MAURICE BOERGER
 PAUL RITTER
 WALLACE HIRSCHFELD

THE ABOVE ARTICLE IS TAKEN FROM *THE NEW BREMEN SUN*. THE PICTURES WERE FURNISHED BY MARY ELLEN (TAYLOR) BELTON OF COLUMBUS, DAUGHTER OF JAMES D. TAYLOR.

THANK YOU, MARY ELLEN.

JAMES D. TAYLOR

[by Mary Ellen (Taylor) Belton]



My father, James D. Taylor, born July 9, 1890 in New Bremen, Ohio was the son of Ohio Waterman Taylor and Mary Caroline Hayes. He was the second youngest of seven children. They were one of the few non-German families living in New Bremen.

When Dad was in his teens, he worked for Mr. Roy Hoverman, then the photographer in New Bremen. When he was 17-18, Mr. Hoverman decided to sell his business, and Grandfather Taylor bought it for Dad.

In 1911, my father married Rhea Riley, who had come to New Bremen with her mother and her brother, Clair (about 1908). Grandmother Riley had accepted the position of manager of the kitchen in the Hotel Hollingsworth and Mother was a waitress in the dining room. Mother and Dad had two children, Paul L. Taylor, now deceased, and myself.

Dad's photographic studio, named the Taylor Studio, was located on the second floor in the old Boesel building on the north side of Monroe Street across from the Hotel. The first entrance was an enclosed staircase, then in the '30s, Dad added two rooms downstairs with display windows. In 1946 he moved from that location to the southeast corner of Monroe and Main Streets, where he was in business until his death in 1952.

Dad did all phases of photography. He photographed portraits, weddings, family groups, and for years did the graduating classes in and around New Bremen. He did commercial photography for the Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company and also the Minster Machine Company. He was always ready with his camera, anytime, anyplace or for anything. I remember how busy he was during the centennial parade in 1933 when he photographed the entire day's events.

Both Dad and Mother were well known in the community. They were very active in all school events, holding several offices in the P.T.A. between them. Dad was also an amateur magician and presented a two-act show in and around New Bremen. I remember the shows so well because I was his assistant.

It was always a treat when dad entertained other magicians in our home. The conversations and demonstrations were always fascinating. He was active in presentations and plays given in New Bremen. He was also an active participant in the Knights of Pythias, a fraternal lodge, and was the interlocutor in a minstrel given at the high school. The accompanying picture of the "Swanee Minstrel" cast might be of interest to a lot of the readers. He was so congenial and had a wonderful sense of humor.

Dad had many friends in and around New Bremen. He cared about the community and the people who lived there.

Mary Ellen (Taylor) Belton

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember "Princess Red Feather", a petite little Indian lady in her deerskin dress decorated with beadwork? There were moccasins on her feet and her beautiful long dark shiny hair was held in place with a beaded head band decorated with a large red feather. Her husband, Chief Long Wolf, was a striking figure in his many-feathered Indian headdress.

The medicine show was in town, the wagon parked by Rairdon's garage across from Schwieterman's Drug Store. Along about dusk, the people started gathering - men, women, and children. Soon Chief Long Wolf would make his appearance, welcoming the visitors, introducing his lovely wife who would sing.

Tan-a-wa, the magic elixir, compounded from herbs, roots, and berries, was then brought out to the folks watching. Tan-a-wa was good for everything from colic to liver complaints and only \$1.00 a bottle. There was also Snake Oil, a wonderful rub. Princess Red Feather and a helper would make their way through the crowd to sell these medicines.

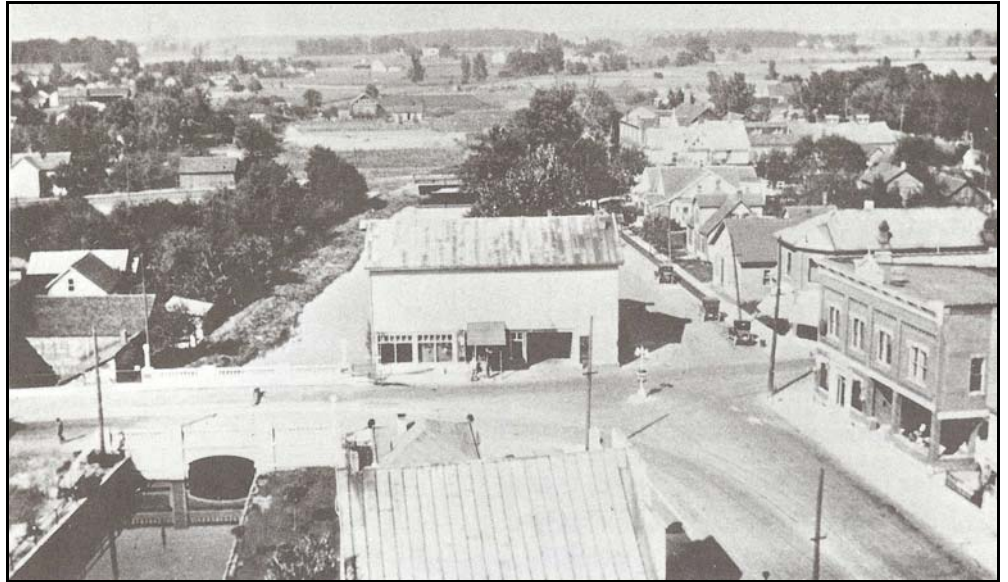
My father bought some of the Snake Oil because I had a wart between my thumb and index finger. I faithfully rubbed it on every night and lo, it was gone in about a week. I also was a believer about the wonders of Snake Oil.

The show always ended with more entertainment and an invitation to come back the next evening. How we enjoyed their stay in New Bremen and looked forward to seeing them the next year. They were our friends.

by Dorothy (Gieseke) Kah - Sidney

Editor's note: These Indian shows were in New Bremen in the middle twenties. Their great Indian herbs were advertised under the name of Ka-no-tak. Then one year Princess Red Feather came alone with only a helper. Chief Long Wolf had gone ice fishing, became ill with pneumonia and died. Our mother kept their picture (next page) for many years.

Chief Long Wolf and Princess Red Feather - Western Historical Musical Indians
147 River Street - Hillsdale, Michigan



The Indians gave their medicine show across from the Drug Store, in the shadow of Rairdon's barn.

The above photo (right) was taken September 25, 1924 from the grain tank of Kuenzel Mills. You are looking north. One can see Schwieterman's Drug Store and the old First National Bank building (now, in 1990, the Marathon station.) The canal flows on the left side of Rairdon's barn under the concrete Monroe Street bridge and the First Street bridge. (Now in January 1990, this location is a busy highway with a stoplight at the intersection. The canal flows under the road.) On the left is a picture of PRINCESS REDFEATHER and CHIEF LONGWOLF. [Photo / Elsie J. Gieseke]

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**HOW DID NEW BREMEN HANDLE THE DEPRESSION OF THE "THIRTIES"?
RELIEF COMMITTEE TO BE HEADED BY HERMAN LAUT
GROUP EXPECTS TO COOPERATE WITH CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**

RELIEF WORK FOR THE WINTER MONTHS WAS DISCUSSED AT A MEETING CALLED MONDAY EVENING BY HERMAN J. LAUT WHO RECENTLY WAS NAMED BY THE STATE RELIEF COMMITTEE TO SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF A COMMUNITY RELIEF COMMITTEE FOR NEW BREMEN. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY MR. LAUT, MAYOR E.R. HAINES, POSTMASTER CADE SCHULENBERG, MRS. E.C. KUENZEL (PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S CLUB), MRS. WILLIAM KLANKE, MRS. JOHN SCHEER, MRS. LOUISE SCHEER, MRS. AUGUST MUELLER, H.H. NUSSMEYER AND C.A. SCHRAGE. INVITATIONS ALSO HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO OTHERS WHO, HOWEVER, FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE PRESENT.

THE MEETING DEVELOPED THAT THE NEEDY HERE PROBABLY CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE VARIOUS CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS ALONG WITH THE AID THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES. FEEDING AND SHELTERING TRANSIENTS ALSO WAS DISCUSSED.

A CENTRAL ORGANIZATION, PLANNED TO COOPERATE WITH THE CHURCHES, WAS EFFECTED BY THE SELECTION OF MR. LAUT AS PERMANENT CHAIRMAN AND H.H. NUSSMEYER, TREASURER. OTHERS TO SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE WILL INCLUDE MAYOR HAINES, POSTMASTER SCHULENBERG, C.A.SCHRAGE, AUGUST MUELLER AND HENRY C. MEYER.

(NEW BREMEN SUN - DECEMBER 3, 1931)

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

I remember Schulenberg's Store, located on West Monroe Street (now Gilbert's Furniture Store) offered free yard goods to the needy if you could sew! There was not too much selection, but plenty of bright green and bright orange cotton material and also bolts of large green and white checked gingham. Mothers sewed aprons, dresses, slips and shirts, regardless of color.

The old Zion's Church dining hall was the station where one could obtain flour for baking. It came in 50# sacks and families used a small coaster wagon to haul the flour to their homes. (Cars and gasoline were scarce.) The dining hall was moved away years ago, but it was located between the church and the parsonage and faced south to the street.

Many new recipes came into use during the depression. Food had to be "cheap" and filling! At our house we ate "mountains" of baking powder biscuits covered with Mormon gravy! Mother, in her teen years, worked for a family that were of the MORMON faith and it was here she learned to make this delicious meal. You need a heavy iron frying pan and bacon or ham grease to start. Dry flour is added to the hot grease and browned to a perfection. Then slowly cold milk is added to just the right consistency and then you have MORMON GRAVY. It was truly "fit for a king" and "good eating" but now in 1990 I cannot vouch for the cholesterol count!

So the word "depression" to me means hard times, men out of work, homes with heat in only one room, hand-me-down clothes. WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ? Please write! (ml)