

"THE TOWPATH" – APRIL, MAY, JUNE - 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.

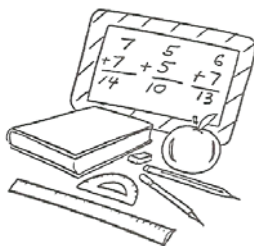
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THE OLD CENTRAL SCHOOL BUILDING 1877- 1957

THIS ISSUE OF THE TOWPATH IS DEDICATED TO ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN STUDENTS IN THE NEW BREMEN SCHOOLS, TO ALL TEACHERS WHO HAVE TAUGHT THERE, AND TO ALL WORKERS WHO HAVE WORKED THERE, ESPECIALLY FOR ONE OF OUR ALUMNI, MRS. ELMER (CLARA) KELLERMEYER, WHO GRADUATED FROM NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL 80 YEARS AGO - CLASS OF 1910. CONGRATULATIONS!



ANNUAL DINNER MEETING OF THE N.B.H.A.

The Happy Cookers of Zion's Church in New Bremen served an excellent steak dinner on March 27th to 110 members and guests of the New Bremen Historic Association. Carol Stauffer, President, gave the welcome address and Rob Stauffer presented the fundraiser information for the museum. Mailings will include all of New Bremen and surrounding area as well as subscribers to *The Towpath*.

Lois Siferd and her brother, Ed Quellhorst (*children of Paula Vogelsang Quellhorst*), presented a cornet to the museum originally owned by Otto Mesloh, who was a member of the John Phillip Sousa band for some years. Otto, in turn, sold the horn to Aaron Vogelsang and it stayed in the Vogelsang family for years. It is an instrument with history and will be on display at the museum.

THE RESTORATION AWARD went to Crown Controls / Equipment Corp. this year for their fine work in restoring sturdy old buildings in New Bremen. Jacqui Kuck retired as a Trustee and the new Trustee is Mrs. Curtis (Betty) Schroer who will also serve as Treasurer. Entertainment followed with a fabulous history and rendition of ragtime music with GUY BISHOP at the piano. It was great!

THERE WILL BE SUMMER VISITING HOURS AT THE MUSEUM ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS. COME AND VISIT!



MR. & MRS. CHARLES F. LIMBACH

THE YEAR IS 1906 - On your left is the wedding picture of Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Limbach. Mr. Limbach served the New Bremen Schools from 1906-1909.

"Charles F. Limbach, PH.B., our able and esteemed Superintendent, has been in charge of the New Bremen Schools since September 1906, during which time he has discharged his duties in an able and admirable manner. The schools have made a great forward stride under his supervision.

He is a graduate of the University of Wooster and for several years has been an instructor at that place during the summer term.

Besides his regular work, Supt. Limbach assists in the instruction work of the High School, having charge of mathematics and Junior and Senior Latin."

[from the 1909 NBHS yearbook, 'MIRAGE']

A YOUNG MAN LIVES IN THE FUTURE
AN OLD MAN LIVES IN THE PAST.
FOR YOUTH, TIME IS MOVING TOO SLOWLY
FOR AGE, IT IS MOVING TOO FAST.
TODAY IS THE TIME TO BE HAPPY
NO MATTER HOW YOUNG OR HOW OLD.
IT'S ALWAYS TODAY THAT MUST BRING US
THE BLESSINGS OUR FORTUNES UNFOLD.

(Lawrence Hawthorne)



A group of teachers during the noon hour at the old Central Grade School building.

Mr. Herman Ludwig

Miss Margaret Shaw

Viola Schultz

Miss Enola Huenke

Miss Nettie Loy

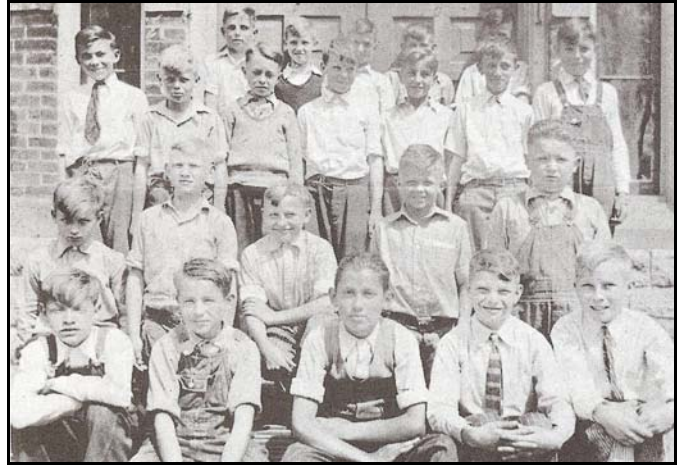
Norma Stienecker

Miss Alberta Collins

Mr. Lester Blanke, principal

[Photo courtesy of Lois (Kuest) Wenning.]

IN 1990, THE 50-YEAR "HONOR CLASS"



"CLASS OF 1940"

BETTY BLOCK
JANE BLOCK
LOUISE DICKE
LEOTA FARK
BILL FREVERT
DELMAR HICKMAN
EARL HUCKRIEDE
BEVERLY HUENKE
ANNABELLE JUNG
ROBERT KOENIG
DICK KOEPER

DOROTHY KOMMINSK
LOIS KUEST
PAUL LIETZ
FREDERICK LUEBKEMAN
LETA NEUMAN
MARY ELLEN PAPE
CARL POPPE
TED PURPUS
MARY QUIST
LAVERTA ROETTGER
LEOTA ROETTGER
NORMAN RUEDEBUSCH

BOB SCHNELLE
CATHERINE SCHROEDER
BONNIE SCHULENBERG
PAUL STUEVE
MARY JANE THIELKER
FREDERICK TOPP
HOWARD WELLMAN
LOIS WESTERBECK
DORIS WINT
VIRGIL WITTENBRINK
WILLIS WITTENBRINK

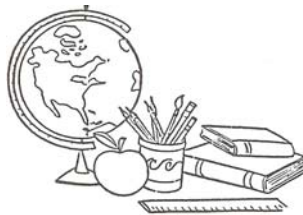
The above pictures were taken in one of the lower grades.

Thank you to two of the classmates, Lois (Kuest) Wenning and Leota (Fark) Busse for the loan of the snapshots.

1940 CLASS MOTTO: "The elevator to success is not running; take the stairs."

CLASS COLORS: Bronze and Green

CLASS FLOWER: Yellow rose



FROM THE CLASS OF 1909

OUR CLASS MOTTO: Tonight we launch; Where shall we anchor?

CLASS COLORS: Purple and Gold

CLASS FLOWER: Cream rose

ERNEST MARCELLUS BOTKIN was known as the class poet. From his class poem in the MIRAGE:

"IN THE HARBOR GRADUATION, OUR SHIP IS MOORED AT LAST,
AND TO US A SIGHT OF BEAUTY IS WADING FROM HER MAST."

ERNEST MARCELLUS BOTKIN was chosen president of the class. "Mr. Botkin has always been a leading factor in the class, with his cheerful ways, his striking ingenuity, and peerless originality." In the Junior year, Ernest Botkin wrote the High School song. The melody used for the song is "There are many flags in many lands".

THERE IS A NAME WE ALL HOLD DEAR, WE WILL LOVE IT 'TIL WE DIE;
IT IS THE NAME OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL, THE DEAR NEW BREMEN HIGH.

CHORUS:

*THEN HURRAH FOR OUR SCHOOL, OUR DEAR HIGH SCHOOL, HER HONOR WE'LL UPHOLD,
AND TO THE END WE WILL DEFEND THE CRIMSON AND THE GOLD.*

AS WE STRUGGLE HERE NEW STRENGTH TO GAIN, OF MYSTIC KNOWLEDGE STORE;
'TWEEN HER CLASSIC WALLS EACH DAY WE LEARN TO LOVE HER MORE AND MORE.

WHEN OUR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS HAVE GLIDED BY AND THE TRIALS OF LIFE WE MEET,
MID OUR TOILS AND CARES SCHOOL DAYS SHALL RISE IN FOND REMEMBRANCE SWEET.

MAY YOU EVER LIVE, DEAR N.B.H.S., MAY YOUR SONS LIVE NOBLE LIVES,
AND MAY YOUR DAUGHTERS FAIR CONSENT TO BE THEIR NOBLE WIVES.

Ernest M. Botkin - 1909

FROM THE EDITOR OF THE 1909 "MIRAGE":

The class of 1909 is the largest class that was ever graduated from the New Bremen High School. Our class has the reputation of possessing a prettier and wittier collection of the fair sex than any other class or organization in the community. Public opinion is seldom wrong.

The Senior Latin class finished the required six books of Virgil's Aeneas on February 17, 1909. This record has never been surpassed in our High School and likely will not be.

WE ARE THE FIRST CLASS TO PUBLISH AN ANNUAL.

Notwithstanding these things, we are not void of fault. Like all things human, we have a certain number of weak points and faults.
(E.M.B. - 1909)

DECEMBER 2, 1926

GRADE CHILDREN IN OPERETTA

Two Performances Of "The Princess Of Poppyland"

More than 75 pupils of the New Bremen grade schools will appear in "The Princess of Poppyland", a fanciful operetta in three acts, which is to be presented Friday and Saturday evenings at the opera house. The operetta will be offered under the direction of Miss Laura Niederhaus.

Helen Scheer as the Princess who is threatened with being forced into an unwelcome marriage with Baron Insomnia, played by Paul Taylor, has one of the leading roles. Prince Wideawake, who becomes enamoured of the Princess, will be played by Thomas Laut while Jack Garmhausen will take the part of the King.

The story of the operetta is centered about the love affair between the prince and princess and the plottings of the baron to get the princess into his power. Two attendants of the baron, Pip-pip and Honk-konk, steal the magic casket containing the fortune and welfare of Poppyland but in the end the casket is recovered by Prince Wideawake who then is rewarded with the hand of the princess.

The complete cast follows:

Honk-konk—Robert Weinberg.
Pip-pip—Paul Eschmeyer.
King—Jack Garmhausen.
Baron—Paul Taylor.
Dozey—Walter Frey.
Prince—Thomas Laut.
Princess—Helen Scheer.
Columbia—Emma Marie Dickman.
Chrysanthemum—Louise Haines.
Rose—Mary Archer.
Fairy Queen—Louise Henning.
South—Louis Komminsk.
North—Adrian Greber.
West—Harold Wissman.
East—Eugene Jordan.
Pages—Vernon Greber,
David Koenig



Japanese Group—Catherine Luelleman, Bernice Roettger, Carabell Kuhlhorst, Irene Topp, Louise Waterman, Helen Harjehausen, Helen Kellermeyer, Gladys Adell Schwieterman.

Gipsies—Dottie Schmidt, Mary Belle Block, Mildred Roediger, Mary Louise Wissman, Marjorie Gieseke, Betty Weinberg, Minona Snyder, Helen Hoffman.

Red, White and Blue—Robert Hirschfeld, Jean Roettger, Vernon Topp, Laverta Hirschfeld, Dale Longworth, Catherine Heil.

Flower Girls—Dorothy Sunderman, Eloise Blanke, Dorothy Gieseke, Phyllis Nussmeyer, Hilda Garmhausen, Helen Doenges, Elizabeth Streine, Lucille Fark, Betty Burk, Grace Quellhorst, Selma Hoffman, Alma Kuest, Helen Topp, Betty Gast, Charlotte Knost, Drucilla Fark.

Fairies—Rachael Poppe, Dorothy Block, Virginia Gast, Ruth Rabe, Dorothy Schroeder, Marjorie Scheer, June Scheer, Juho Hartman, Margaret Henning, Lucille Buckloh.

Indians—Verlin Hirschfeld, Robert Schroeder, Harold Tangeman, James Sunderman, Gregore Gast, Richard Wissman, Richard Pape, Milford Greber, Robert Bienz, Neale Behm, Ernest Strohmeier, Arthur Heil, Earl Meckstroth, Everett Koenig.

Pages—Chester Quellhorst, James Dietrich.

TIME FLIES! The grade school children who were in the school operetta above are now SENIOR CITIZENS! Their thoughts now turn to golf, fishing, travel and Buckeye cards.

Over a month before the Operetta, there was practice for the children after school was dismissed for the day and sometimes even at recess time. There were songs and dances to learn.

Then one day, the teachers decided it was time to practice on the stage at the OPERA HOUSE. This splendid building was leased by the Board of Education in September 1920 because the school needed an assembly room. The Board continued to rent the second floor of the Opera House until 1930 when a new High School was completed and ready for occupancy.

There are many fond memories for the "school kids of yesteryear" and the Opera House. The stage looked so big to the first graders and they marveled at the rows of highly varnished seats fastened to the slanting floor. Everybody was comfortable and everyone could see the performances.

Once known as the Boesel Opera House, the building is now (1990) owned by Crown Controls / Equipment Corp. It is located on the south side of Monroe Street between Main and Water Streets – ready to undergo restoration.

THE HOMETOWN PAPER

Talk about our literature and papers up-to-date,
About the legislature and doin's through the state –
To me they ain't comparin' though I look the world aroun'
To the little newsy paper from the old home town.

There's somethin' brewin' in the air the day the paper comes,
Ma, she goes about her work and either sings or hums –
But I get just so restless 'til the postman brings it down,
And I'm first to grab the paper from the old home town.

Ma comes into the settin' room and lets the dishes go,
And listens while I read about the folks we used to know -
For births and deaths and land deals and weddin's too abound;
All are mighty interestin' from the old home town.

I know it ain't so classical as these big "dailies" are,
That tell about the prize fights and latest movie star,
But just for my enjoyment there's nothin' I have found,
Like the little newsy paper from the old home town!

by Effie Crawford –1925



LET IT SNOW – LET IT SNOW (1884)

On May 21, 1884, New Bremen and the whole of Northwestern Ohio was covered with 18 inches of snow according to Henry J.C. Laut, who is observing his 78th birthday anniversary today. A few days before the storm, he says the best of balmy spring weather prevailed. The morning of May 21st, however, the residents were awakened by the howling of the wind accompanying a blizzard the likes of which never before or since was experienced here so late in the season. Snow fell for several hours but melted quickly away later in the day when the sun suddenly broke through the storm. The weight of the melting snow broke many trees and played havoc with vegetation in general.

(The New Bremen Sun - May 1931)

CHRISTMAS SEALS (1922)

The recent sale of Christmas seals in New Bremen totaled \$87.53. The canvass of the business district was made by the members of the local post of the American Legion, while the Boy Scouts undertook the work in other sections of the town. The money secured from these sales was surprisingly large, considering the present conditions.

(New Bremen Sun - January 1922)

TIME TO BUY YOUR LICENSE! (1930)

New Bremen's number series for passenger cars starts with 215-601. Licenses for all passenger cars under 25 horsepower will cost \$4.00; between 25 and 35 horsepower, \$6.00; and more than 35 horsepower, \$10.00. Cost of truck licenses will be based on weight

(New Bremen Sun - November 28, 1930)

SMALLPOX SCARE (FEBRUARY 1931)

More than 225 children in the New Bremen public schools were vaccinated for smallpox when two pupils in the lower grades became ill with the disease. Dr. F.F. Fledderjohann and Dr. L.A. Kleinhenz were in charge of the vaccination work and were assisted by Dr. Hunter and Mrs. Ethel Oeschner, county health nurse.

THE NEW BREMEN SUN reaches upward of 1200 families every week, missing only about every 4th family in the entire New Bremen area. Just think what a "power" for advertising the SUN must wield!

(October 11, 1923)



FIRST GRADE CLASS 1899-1900

SOME OF THE CLASS PICTURES that had been given to the museum are in excellent condition, while others had faded over the years. The first grade class of 1899-1900 as pictured above appeared some years ago in *The Evening Leader*. All the children have not been identified, but following are the names we know:

**FIFTY EIGHT CHILDREN WITH THEIR TEACHER, MISS MAUD STONE,
AND THE SUPERINTENDENT, GEORGE O'TOOL**

In the top row there are 10 boys: Ivan Koeper, Elmer Speckman, Omer Moeller, Willie Laut, Willie Hirschfeld, Howard Hoffman, Adele Stern, Clarence Wehrman, Forest Greber and Felix Jung.

In the second row some of the children are not identified, however here are the names we have, hoping you will know some of them (names are not in order). This row has 16 children - all standing: Luther Schroeder, Clifford Gast, Carl Purpus, Pearly Heinfeld, Milton Boesel, Harry Flack, Lawrence Heitman, Arthur Kellermeyer, Ferd Sunderman, Chester Kunning and Harry Rempe.

The third row are 11 girls, seated (not in order): Bernice Suelter, Amber Neuman, Marie Dicke, Frances Fricke, Alma Heil, Clara Wehmeyer.

The fourth row are 10 girls (5 named, 5 unknown - not in order): Viola Mueller, Goldie Schmidt, Ora Gilberg, Hazel Rabe, Meta Boesel.

The bottom row shows 11 children (incomplete - names not in order): Cyril Kussman, Irma Elbert, Agnes Heinfeld, Hermina Pape, Hugo Woehler and Oscar Schneider.

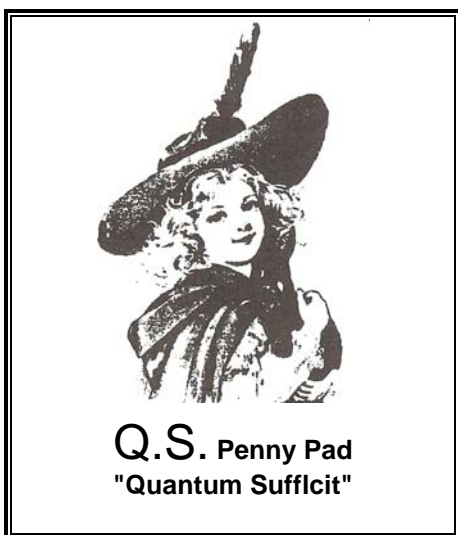
The Central Grade School building was only a little more than 20 years old when these children started school. There was no central heating system in the school in 1899 - the furnace would come in later years. A woodpile was in the back of each classroom, handy for the teacher to fire the large round heating stove located in each room.

It is interesting to note that many of the little girls wore pinafores, an apron with ruffles to cover the woolen dress. On this picture most of the little boys had short jackets to match their trousers. Black stockings and high-button or laced shoes were in style.

It is interesting to note that on May 11, 1893 the school board decided to dispense with gentlemen teachers for the first and second grades. Miss Della Murch of Granville, Ohio and Miss Augusta Grothaus of New Bremen were the first lady teachers in the New Bremen Schools.

ADMIT ONE TO OPERA HOUSE
NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT
CLASS OF 1923
FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 18th, 8 O'CLOCK
ADMISSION 25c

Eighth Grade Class Play
"IN CHERRY TIME"
Friday Evening, April 27, 1928
Opera House - 8:00 o'clock
Seats reserved at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 25
at New Bremen Hdwe. & Supply Co. Store
Admission 25 Cents



THE CLASS OF '37

Fifty-one young men and women,
Strong of body, rich in mind;
Twelve years of youthful life
Have given learning all there is to find.

A part of all that we have met,
We played a game of take and give;
Exchanging traits of character
Which we'll keep as long as we live.

We thank the teachers and the school
And all who helped us on our way,
But most of all our heritage
Which blossoms forth commencement day.

We've liberty, we're young, we're free!
We're thankful for the blessedness
Of being what we want to be;
We'll make New Bremen proud of us.

-Georgia Fenneman



BACCALAUREATE SERMON: MAY 24
CLASS DAY: MAY 28
CLASS FLOWER: PINK CARNATION
CLASS MOTTO: "TO BE, RATHER THAN SEEM TO BE"
WILLIAM A. SCHLUETER, PRESIDENT
CHARLES R. GROTHAUS, VICE-PRESIDENT
WALDO W. BOESEL, SECRETARY
WILLIAM A. LANGHORST, TREASURER

CLASS ROLL (1914)

LETHA M. HEIL
EDITH S. HOUSER
FRANCES S. COOK
ELIZABETH C. HOLTkamp
HULDA L. SOLMS
MATILDA L. MECKSTROTH
LEORA M. BEHM
ESTHER E. KUCK
GLADYS E. NEUMAN
LYDA E. LANGHORST
ELMER E. KATTERHEINRICH
REINHART W. KUCK
REUBEN J. BOESEL
LEVI W. EGBERT
ALBERT W. BEREND
WILLIAM C.F. OBERWITTE