

# "THE TOWPATH" – JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER - 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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**Other days and hours by appointment.**

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WASHINGTON STREET – NEW BREMEN, OHIO - 1923

## COMING EVENTS FOR 1990

SEPTEMBER ••• QUILT SHOW  
DECEMBER ••• CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

WATCH YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER FOR DATES AND TIME. COME AND VISIT. REMINISCE OF DAYS GONE BY.  
THERE ARE 8 LARGE ROOMS OF FURNITURE, BOOKS, CLOTHES, DISHES AND SPECIAL DISPLAYS.

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have so generously responded to our 1990 FUNDRAISER! Through "THE TOWPATH" we will keep you informed as to how your donations are being used. Following is a current list of the donors:

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## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:



THERE IS A BIG BACKYARD AT THE MUSEUM. BUD SCHEER IS KEPT BUSY TRIMMING BUSHES AND NED PODOLL MOWS THE LAWN.

VINTAGE CLOTHES CAME POURING IN AT THE MUSEUM SO STAN HERTENSTEIN AND PAUL LIETZ BUILT A LARGE DISPLAY CLOTHES RACK IN THE SOUTHWEST ROOM ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR. NOW THE CURATORS ARE BUSY FILLING THE RACK. COME AND VISIT AND ENJOY THE "STYLES" OF YESTERYEAR.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY AND FINDING YOUR "ROOTS", THERE ARE NOW TWO OBITUARY BOXES IN THE NORTHWEST ROOM ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR. ANNABEL WAGNER HAS BEEN SAVING NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS OF DEATHS AND ALSO THE FUNERAL NOTICES FOR OVER 10 YEARS FOR THE MUSEUM. INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTION ARE SOME NOTICES FROM YEARS AGO. THEY ARE FILED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER AND ARE EASY TO USE. YOU ARE WELCOME - JUST CALL A TRUSTEE.

WE HAVE SOME NEW "OLD" PICTURES ON THE WALL OF SCENES IN OLD NEW BREMEN - ALSO SOME PICTURES DRAWN IN COLORED CHALK BY THE LATE ALMA REISELT, A LOCAL ARTIST. PAUL LIETZ BUILT SOME PICTURE FRAMES AND FRAMED THE PICTURES. THEY ARE FOR YOU TO ENJOY!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST - A SQUIRREL FOUND HIS WAY IN THE MUSEUM ATTIC, READY TO SET UP HOUSEKEEPING, BUT THANKS TO TRUSTEE STEVE PATTERSON, THE SQUIRREL WAS ASKED TO MOVE ON.

VOLUNTEER WORK IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED AT THE MUSEUM. JUST CALL A TRUSTEE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED! COME AND VISIT.

### FROM THE COLLECTOR'S CORNER A FEW OF THE MANY NEW BREMEN TOKENS ONCE USED



NEW BREMEN TOKENS WANTED - JON BELTON, LIFELONG RESIDENT OF NEW BREMEN, IS MAKING A CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO LOCATE ANY TYPE OF MERCHANT TOKENS THAT WERE ONCE USED IN NEW BREMEN BUSINESS PLACES SUCH AS SALOONS AND CIGAR STORES. THESE TOKENS WILL GIVE THE NAME OF THE PERSON ON THE FRONT AND ON THE BACK WILL USUALLY SAY, "GOOD FOR 5¢ IN TRADE" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. THEY ARE MADE OF EITHER BRASS OR ALUMINUM AND COME IN A VARIETY OF SHAPES AND SIZES. IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE TOKENS, PLEASE CONTACT JON AT 629-3185, OR WRITE TO HIM AT 308 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST. - NEW BREMEN, OHIO. HE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION FROM THEM

-SUBMITTED BY JON BELTON - NEW BREMEN, OH 45869

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE TOKENS MENTIONED ABOVE LOOK LIKE LARGE COINS. JON HAS COPIED SOME OF HIS COLLECTION FOR US TO SEE. WHERE CAN YOU FIND THEM? TRY THE SEWING MACHINE DRAWERS OR PERHAPS THE BUTTON BOX OR MAYBE AN OLD CIGAR BOX STASHED AWAY ON THE GARAGE SHELF. TOKENS ARE SOME OF NEW BREMEN'S HERITAGE TO US. (ML)

## HARTWIG'S GROVE

IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER AND THE SUN CAME UP EACH MORNING BRIGHT AND HOT! THE WHEAT WAS ALL IN SHOCKS, WAITING FOR THE THRESHING TO BEGIN. THE LADIES WERE KEPT BUSY WITH THEIR CANNING AND PRESERVING (PUTTING UP) AND ALSO HELPING OUT IN THE FIELDS.

BUT TODAY WAS DIFFERENT! TODAY WAS GOING TO BE A DAY OF FUN, A PICNIC IN TOWN AT HARTWIG'S GROVE. IT WAS TIME OUT TO REST AND EXCHANGE NEWS WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

HARTWIG'S GROVE WAS AN IDEAL PLACE FOR PICNICS, LOTS OF BIG SHADE TREES AND ROOM FOR THE CHILDREN TO RUN AND PLAY! A BIG DANCE FLOOR MADE OF WOOD, AN ENVY OF MANY DANCE FLOORS TODAY, WAS SHELTERED BY LARGE TOWERING TREES AND FACED THE ROAD (EAST).

IN THE OLD SECTION OF TOWN ONCE KNOWN AS VOGELSANGTOWN, ONE LEFT PLUM STREET WHERE IT CROSSES FRANKLIN STREET AND HEADED SOUTH ON FRANKLIN TOWARDS THE PICNIC GROUNDS. THERE WAS A CREEK TO CROSS SO MANY FOLKS LEFT THEIR HORSE AND BUGGY AT WHAT IS NOW THE 200 BLOCK, TIED THE HORSE SECURELY TO A SHADE TREE AND THEN, GATHERING THEIR BASKETS OF FOOD, WALKED THE REMAINING DISTANCE TO THE PICNIC GROUNDS.

I WOULD THINK THE PICNIC TABLES WERE SMOOTH BOARDS FROM THE SAWMILL, LAID ACROSS SAWHORSES AND THEN COVERED WITH WHITE TABLECLOTHS. LEMONADE WAS A FAVORITE DRINK. THE LEMONS WERE SLICED PAPER-THIN, RIND AND ALL, COVERED WITH SUGAR AND THEN MASHED WITH A WOODEN POTATO MASHER. COLD WELL WATER AND SOME ICE WAS ADDED TO THE MIXTURE IN THE HUGE 10-GALLON CROCKS. ALL ONE NEEDED THEN WAS A BIG DIPPER AND CUPS!

IT WAS CUSTOMARY FOR FAMILIES TO SPREAD THEIR TABLECLOTH ON THE GROUND, GATHER THE FAMILY TOGETHER, AND THEN SIT IN A BIG CIRCLE TO EAT, SOME KNEELING THE WHOLE TIME. LADIES WERE DRESSED IN LONG BLACK CALICO OR PERCALE DRESSES WITH LONG SLEEVES. MOST OF THEM WORE A SUNBONNET TOO! THE MEN WORE DARK TROUSERS, LIGHT COLORED SHIRTS, BLACK HATS, SUSPENDERS, AND A WATCH IN THEIR WATCH POCKET WITH A FANCY FOB. THE CHILDREN WERE PERHAPS MORE COMFORTABLE - LITTLE GIRLS IN LONG DRESSES, BOYS IN STOVEPIPE PANTS, AND BEST OF ALL - BAREFOOT!

THERE WAS MUSIC DURING THE DAY AND MANY KINDS OF GAMES FOR YOUNG AND OLD. WHEN THE SUN STARTED TO SINK IN THE WEST, THE FARMERS KNEW IT WAS TIME TO FEED THE LIVESTOCK AND MILK THE COWS. IT WAS TIME TO WEND THEIR WAY HOME. IT WAS THE END OF A PERFECT DAY! (ML)



A 1990 LOCATION PICTURE.

A MINI STORAGE AND 9 APARTMENTS NOW OCCUPY THE SITE ONCE KNOWN AS HARTWIG'S GROVE. MR. HARTWIG'S FIRST NAME WAS WILLIAM AND HE WAS THE GRANDFATHER OF RICHARD AND DUANE HARTWIG WHO BOTH HAVE MADE NEW BREMEN THEIR HOME.

## REMEMBERING HENRY C. GREBER – NIGHT COP 1939-1950

by Donna (Greber) Conradi

My father, Henry C. "Heinie" Greber, was what we called the "night cop" for New Bremen during the period of 1939 until his death in January 1950. Born in 1890, he would have been 100 years of age on May 9th this year of 1990.

We lived in the house on the corner of Water and Second Streets. My Mom, Carrie Roettger, and Dad were married in June 1913 and they had four sons and two daughters. Three boys are deceased - Adrian, Milford, and Henry, Jr. (Butch). Brother Bill is in Virginia, Carol lives in St. Marys and I'm the only one who remained in New Bremen.

My Dad went on duty at 10:00 P.M. and walked the beat, checking every business place, making sure all doors were locked and lights out. His car was parked at Rairdon's Garage, corner of Monroe and Washington Streets. Then he drove around the residential sections, at which time he checked on the street lights, making note of which ones were not burning. In the morning, after his big breakfast, which was really his supper, he wrote all the outages on a slip of paper for me to deliver to our neighbor, John Scheer, who was the head of town maintenance and the light department. John replaced the bulbs daily. I learned the streets of New Bremen quite early!

Heinie furnished his own car and when on duty the front doors of his Pontiac were covered with an emblem of "New Bremen Police", which could be removed when the family took Sunday drives.

Dad received very little for his work. He received some pay from the village and the rest came from the business places of New Bremen. On Saturdays, he walked his beat once more and collected maybe 75 cents and some cigars or \$1.25 if he checked stoves.

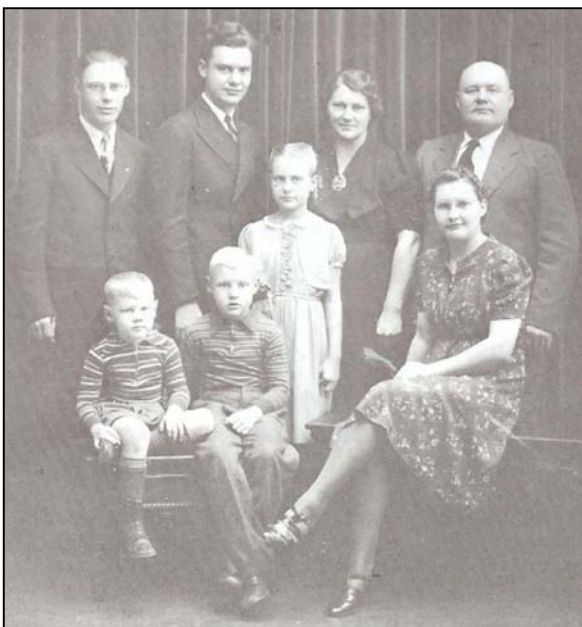
Dad was also the Town Constable. As far as I know he only had to use his authority once to evict a family because of non-payment of rent. That was his most unpleasant job. There was a robbery once at Laut's Jewelry Store and Dad helped "Molly" Wehrman, Chief of Police, apprehend the culprit.

The young lads of the day often received rides home after partying too much. I have had some local ladies tell me that one time they were stranded at Eagles Park (Minster) and got word to my father and he picked them up and delivered them home safely.

Truckers remembered Dad at Christmas time with ties, candy, and cigars for letting them rest in town. They depended on Dad to wake them up. He was a "good old Joe".

He once informed me that if I were caught soaping windows, I would receive punishment just like the rest of the pranksters, but being a typical "Cop's kid", I knew where my Dad was and made sure I was on the other end of town. I had my fun!

Dad faced all weather. He looked like a turtle with the sheepskin pulled up over his ears. I remember him saying, "You best get started to school early, as for every step you take forward, you're going to go back two."



Early morning, Dad would wake "Tooper Top", cleaner at the Hotel, at 6:00 A.M., have a cup of coffee and then head for home.

It was Dad who encouraged me to pursue music. He was always in bed during the day, but insisted I practice the piano. When I missed a beat, he would start counting and get me back on track.

Memories are not forgotten. Heinie was a loving parent, a jolly fellow and I feel a friend to all who knew him. Dad enjoyed his tenure as policeman and I am sure would really roll his blue eyes at the present police force, the cruisers, the benefits received as public employees, and the beautiful municipal building. *-submitted by Donna (Greber) Conradi*

Standing: Adrian, Milford, Carrie (mother), Henry C. Greber  
Seated: Bill, Henry Jr., Donna, Carol Greber

## SEPTEMBER 1927 - WHAT GRADE WERE YOU IN?

MORE THAN 400 CHILDREN ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THEIR CLASSROOMS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1927, THE DATE OFFICIALLY SET BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE START OF THE 1927-28 TERM.

THE SCHOOLS WILL PROBABLY OPERATE UNDER THE TIME SCHEDULE ADOPTED LAST SPRING WHEN NEW BREMEN WENT ON EASTERN STANDARD TIME. THE FIRST BELL WILL RING AT 8:20 WITH CLASSES STARTING AT 8:45 A.M. FOLLOWING THE NOON RECESS, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RESUME THEIR CLASSES AT 1:00 P.M. AND GRADE SCHOOL AT 1:15. SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE DAY AT 3:45 P.M. FOR GRADE SCHOOL AND 4:00 P.M. FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL.

### ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHERS IS:

FIRST GRADE - MISS ESTHER VORNHOLT  
SECOND GRADE - MISS NETTIE LOY  
THIRD GRADE - MISS BERTHA WIERTH  
FOURTH GRADE - MISS EDNA KAMMAN  
FIFTH GRADE - MRS. PAUL GILBERG  
SIXTH GRADE - MISS AGNES EISEN  
SEVENTH GRADE - MRS. HERMAN LAUT  
EIGHTH GRADE - O.C. DOENGES

### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE:

SUPERINTENDENT: MR. S.M. ARCHER  
PRINCIPAL: MISS ALVINA BURK  
MRS. HAZEL GARMHAUSEN  
MISS ALICE ANDREWS  
O.A. DIEHM  
R.S. MILLER  
MUSIC: MISS LAURA NIEDERHAUS

THE USUAL PROGRAM FOR NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS INCLUDES FOUR UNITS OF WORK EACH YEAR. THE BIBLE COURSE CAN BE ADDED TO THE FOUR.

SCHOOL BOOKS WILL BE PLACED ON SALE IMMEDIATELY AT SCHULENBERG BROTHERS STORE AND ALL PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SUPPLIED WITH BOOKS BEFORE THE OPENING DAY, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>.  
*(from The New Bremen Sun)*



### **MILKING TIME**

When Peter lays his rake away and hurries down the lane,  
Oh, then I know it must be time to go and milk again;  
And so I run and fetch my hat, no matter what I'm playing at.  
Then Peter finds his three-legged stool and pail of shiny tin,  
While I stand just outside the door and never dare go in.  
But wait and hold my little cup, for Peter always fills it up.  
And when the cow has given milk for supper, and some more,  
We give her hay to last all night, And then we bolt the door,  
And start for home, so glad and slow. When Peter milks, I always go.

*Anonymous*





MONROE STREET IN THE EARLY 1900s

THE CANAL FLOWS LAZILY THROUGH THE LITTLE VILLAGE OF NEW BREMEN. MERCHANTS ARE OPENING THEIR STORES, ADJUSTING THE AWNINGS, PEERING AT THE SKY, WONDERING WHAT THE WEATHER WILL BE. ONE CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF THE HORSES' HOOVES CLATTERING ON THE BRICK ROADS MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE AWAKENING TOWN, DELIVERING MEAT AND MILK FOR THE DAY.



THERE ARE MANY INTERESTING PHOTOS AT THE MUSEUM TAKEN BY A LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER, F.W. GREBER. (NOTE THE BACKGROUND OF CARVING AND FLOWERED CARPET.) THE PICTURES ARE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION, BEING SOME OF THE OLD GOLD-TONE (SEPIA) TYPE WITH INTRICATE DETAIL. TODAY WE FEATURE TWO CHILDREN IN A BABY CARRIAGE OF LONG AGO AND ALSO TWO GENTLEMEN WITH THEIR FAITHFUL FRIEND!

DO YOU KNOW THEM? IF SO, DROP A LINE TO P.O. BOX 73 - NEW BREMEN, OHIO 45869.