

"THE TOWPATH" – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER - 1990

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 73 – New Bremen, Ohio 45869
Marjorie Lietz, Editor

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"The Towpath" brings you some history of New Bremen - your article is welcome.

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JOHN BLASE'S STORE
LATER BLASE & (MILTON) GIESEKE
THEN HEINFELD & GIESEKE
SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET – NEW BREMEN, OHIO



Frances (Ruese) Kuenning (clerk) — John Blase (owner)

It must have been Christmastime when the above photo was taken. There are big tissue paper accordion-pleated bells hanging from garland on the ceiling of this store. The ceiling was made of tin, which at one time was very popular. The floor does not have a covering, only bare wood covered with oil as one can see the many footprints of the customers.

Starting on the left side of the store, some familiar name-brands meet our eyes such as Davis baking powder, Aunt Jemima pancake mix, Laurel cookies and crackers and Snyder's kraut. The apples are spread on white paper and further along the shelf is a large display of shoe polish. Since it was the Christmas season, there would also be California navel oranges, large size – 5 cents each.

On the right side, the familiar round boxes of Mother's Oats are on the top shelf. The bread, unwrapped, is in the glass case to the front of the store. The scale, the shiny cash register, the ball of twine and butcher wrap, the pot-bellied stove and the light bulbs overhead, all make the old fashioned store of the early twenties very complete.

NEW BREMEN NEWS – 65 YEARS AGO (from *The New Bremen Sun*)



OCTOBER 1925

New Bremen merchants are planning a big masquerade carnival for October 31st and are announcing a large number of prizes to be given away on that date. More than thirty of the local merchants are cooperating in this event which is to mark the first attempt at a community Halloween celebration. A FARM PRODUCE EXHIBIT also is being arranged in connection with the carnival. Any number of entries may be made. Prior to the parade THE NEW BREMEN-MINSTER BAND will play in a concert at 7:00. The band will lead the parade from The Arcade corner. Those who are making the carnival possible include the following :

Laut Brothers
Kellermeyer & Rabe
F.G. Wint
Klanke & Co.
A.J. Friemering
James Taylor
E.H. Nieter
J.M. Brucken
New Bremen Hdwe. & Supply Co.
Schulenberg Brothers
Mrs. Dan Houtz

Erhardt's Dry Goods Store
I. H. Koeper
Mueller Brothers
A.H. Albert
Huenke's Garage
Rabe's Store
Gust Wissman
H.W. Rairdon
The Arcade
Schwieterman's Drug Store
I. J. Speckman

Grover Wissman
Herman J. Laut
The Home Printing Co.
The First National Bank
Lewis Poppe
The First City Bank
Emil Hirschfeld
The Kuenzel Mill Co.
W.B. Patterson
John Blase
Mel H.J. Laut

DECEMBER 1925 - OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

New Bremen is going to celebrate the Christmas season with a community program to be held Friday evening, December 25th, at the corner of Main and Monroe Streets. The program, arranged by the ministers of the local churches of New Bremen, is being sponsored by The New Bremen Business and Professional Men's Association.

A large Christmas tree donated by John Hespe and put in place by Street Commissioner Landwehr will furnish the proper setting with its brightly-colored lights, its glittering tinsel and gilded ornaments. And then too, SAINT NICK will be there to greet the children whose hearts will be gladdened by gifts of Christmas candies!

The program is being offered for the older people as well as for the children. Mayor C.V. Huenke has consented to preside and will be assisted by A.M. Steinebrey, former teacher of music in the local schools, who is to lead in the singing of popular Christmas carols.

The main address is to be given by Rev. Melchert of St. Paul Church, Rev. Rickard of Christ Church, who will deliver the invocation, the scripture reading will be by Rev. Klutey of St. Peter's Church, and Rev. Vitz of Zion's Reformed Church will pronounce the blessing.

This is not the first time that a community Christmas program has been attempted in New Bremen, but special efforts are being made to arouse a greater interest than has been manifested in former years.



CHRISTMAS REVERIE

As twilight hovers over Christmas in the silent hush of day,
The busy cares and tension are laid aside to rest and play.
It's relaxing now to ponder o'er our Christmas yesterdays
With their happy joys and laughter, way back home our memory strays.
Popcorn balls and strings of popcorn, paper chains and garlands too,
Little homemade bags of goodies trimmed the tree each year anew;
But it's true the order changes and we live new realms today,
But our hearts go back home on Christmas to our own dear yesterday.

(E.M. Helstern)





ANNA CAROLINE SCHWEPE (1882-1963)

ANNA CAROLINE SCHWEPE, born in the year 1882, lived in the large two-story house at 112 North Main Street across from the present (1990) Post Office. Her sturdy brick home was at one time a rooming house managed by her parents, William and Margaret (Wuebbeling) Schwepe.

Anna was a semi-invalid since childhood and never married. Many of you will remember her brother, Harry Schwepe, who lived in Wapakoneta with his wife and daughter Violet. Two brothers died in infancy.

Anna was the St. Paul Church organist for over 25 years. I remember one time as I walked with her through the old city park from her home to the church, she said "If I had a nickel for every time I have walked though this park, I would be a very rich lady."

Anna was rich in talent - not only in music, but she was also a good news correspondent. She started her news career in 1907 and resigned in 1958. During those fifty years, Anna wrote for *The Minster Post*, *The St. Marys Evening Leader*, *The Sidney Daily News*, *The Wapakoneta Daily News* and *The Dayton Journal*. In the early years, Anna wrote the newsletters for *The Minster Post* in the German language.

When the newspaper boys delivered the daily paper to the homes in New Bremen, it was only natural to turn to Anna's column first and read what was going on in our hometown. Every kind of news item was there – births, birthday parties, card parties, trips, injuries, surgeries, deaths, folks moving, and all things of interest that tie a community together.

Anna enjoyed her work and had many friends. There was a large slate board hanging by her telephone, ready to take messages for the newspaper - also a list of names she could call for extra news articles... Our heritage! (ml)



GIRLS' QUARTET – EARLY 1900s
 Standing: Grace Boesel, Myrtle Kunning
 Seated: Luella Fledderjohann, Fannie LaDow



THE NEW BREMEN (CENTRAL) SCHOOL ON SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET (1877-1957)

by Marguerite (Koop) Kunning

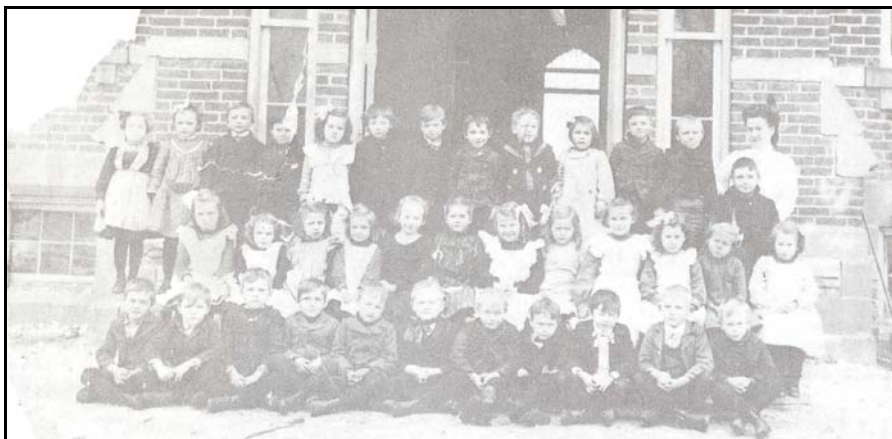
Never having had any of the traits of a natural scholar, I do not remember ever being anxious to start school, nor do I recall being enthusiastic about my school years. Yet, the memory of this old building urges me to recall it.

On the first floor, there were six grades. The rooms were large and had many windows. The walls in the hall were lined with black wrought-iron hooks where we hung our wraps. A large playground surrounded the building and it was edged with huge shade trees where in the fall the girls built leaf-houses at recess. In the middle of the first-floor hall were two beautiful walnut staircases, left and right. Their banisters were polished by a thousand hands of New Bremen students who were going to the second floor. On that floor, the rooms were for the seventh and eighth grades and the high school.

The Freshman and Sophomore classes used Room B and the Junior and Senior classes used Room A. It was in Room A where the piano was kept. The first thing in the morning, the whole high school gathered there (two in a seat) for what was known as chapel. The worn brown and green songbooks were passed out and we could suggest songs we would like to sing while the music teacher conducted. These books contained traditional and classical songs and were well-worn from the use of many New Bremen High School students who had sung from them. There was always a girl who played the piano well, for there was much musical talent in New Bremen. I occasionally hear some of these songs on the air today and it takes me back to that old school on South Franklin Street. This part of the school day was the best part for me - perhaps because I was hearing Dick Kunning's fine bass voice in the Senior section!

We happened to be in New Bremen when the school was being razed (1957). It held many fond memories for both of us and my husband carried away one red brick which was a door-stop in our home for many years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rooms changed over the years, especially when the first little high school was built on the northwest corner of the school grounds (1920).



GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Our only clue to the above picture is that in 1893 the school board dispensed with men teachers for the first and second grades and allowed women to teach. This photo is very old and the class has a lady teacher. Do you have a relative on this picture? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please write to P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869. Thank you !



WORKERS AT THE NEW BREMEN BROOM CO. FACTORY – NEW BREMEN, OHIO

FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN

JANUARY 13, 1894:

Have patience, New Bremen may experience its long looked for revival after all. Another manufacturing concern has or will soon hitch itself to our industrial well-being. It is a BROOM FACTORY. Messrs. William Bruns, Louis Huenke, Fred Vogelsang and Henry Dierker form the lucky four-leafed clover and have resolved to undertake the enterprise. We hope they will succeed. They will occupy the old lantern factory and if success crowns their venture, our lantern factory wild-cat enterprise will terminate all right anyhow. We should not condemn anything until the final gig is up.

APRIL 14, 1894:

The New Bremen Broom Company is on a fair way to success. The spring season has given them a good start. They now have a capacity of 50 dozen brooms per day and ship stock as soon as it is manufactured. They have some 75 customers scattered all over the state. Their brooms are first class and sell readily. Wide awake and keen business management is at the back of it all. The firm looks forward to the day when they will manufacture 100 dozen brooms per day. This would give employment to 30 or 40 men.

JANUARY 1, 1904:

Don't fail to see the 100 pound broom and elaborate decorations at the Masked Dance to be given on Saturday evening, January 30, 1904 by the International Broom makers Union Local No. 73 at Krueel and Kamman's Hall, New Bremen, Ohio.



Harvest time - our thoughts pay homage to the resourcefulness of the American Indians. Among their contributions to American life are corn, squash, pumpkins, potatoes, tomatoes and turkey. We are grateful for the wise relationship with nature of these first Americans and for the heritage which they have passed on to us.

THE QUILT SHOW AND BAKE DAY - SEPTEMBER 15, 1990

The above date fell on a Saturday and it was just the kind of fall weather one dreams about. Not too hot, not too cold, but just right.

The quilt show was held in the St. Paul Church auditorium. Upon entering, a myriad of colors were on display. The quilts were displayed on tables and also hung from the large pegboard dividers. Each quilt had a small history of its origin neatly typed and pinned to the quilt. Some were wedding gifts, others were made especially for children and grandchildren. Some quilts were very old and some new. It was a very delightful collection. Beautiful embroidery, small quilting stitches and tiny pieces of material all pieced together made one realize all the hours spent working on a quilt!

The New Bremen Historic Association sponsored the show with Mrs. Steve Patterson (Sue Podoll) as chairman. Sue says "It was fun and very educational. I enjoyed visiting with the quilt owners and writing the history of their quilts. The quilts are all from the New Bremen area and hopefully we can have another quilt show in a year or two."

THANK YOU, SUE – IT WAS GREAT!

A short walk through the old city park which is now the St. Paul Church parking lot and the backyard of the Post Office and bank, and we are at the front door of the NBHA museum. Some folks were inside the building looking at the displays, but most of the activity was in the back yard. The old outdoor oven had not been used for several years, so Stan Hertenstein, Willis Dicke and Earl Meckstroth gave it a trial run the day before. IT STILL WORKED! Now on Saturday, tasty loaves of bread were being taken from the hot oven and placed on tables for sale.

THANK YOU TO DOROTHY HERTENSTEIN, MICKEY DICKE, RUTH MECKSTROTH, CAROL STAUFFER AND DONNA WATKINS and Thank You to all of you who brought the delicious baked goods. We even had homemade apple butter and homemade strawberry jam for snacking.

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MUSEUM NEWS

WANTED: OUR CO-CURATORS NEED SOME USED DRESS FORMS TO DISPLAY THEIR COLLECTION OF CLOTHES. IF YOU HAVE SOME, PLEASE CALL VERNITA AT 629-2258 OR DOTTIE AT 629-3162. THANK YOU!

NEEDED: WE NEED A SHORT-NAP, BURLAP-BACK USED RUG IN THE DINING ROOM AT THE MUSEUM. IF YOU HAVE A RUG TO GIVE AWAY, PLEASE CALL CAROL AT 629-3334. THANK YOU!

AT THE TIME OF THIS WRITING, THE MUSEUM IS BEING PAINTED.



COMING SOON - DECEMBER 2, 1990 - THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

THEME: "KRIS KRINGLE"

Most every country has their Santa Claus and from the old HIGH GERMAN IN GERMANY comes KRIS KINGLE, an angel-like figure who brings gifts at Christmastime. The word is derived from Christ Kindle or Christ Child.

(Compton's Encyclopedia)