

# "THE TOWPATH" – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER - 1991

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

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WINTER TIME IN THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"  
MAKING ICE IN NEW BREMEN

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT THE MUSEUM - 16<sup>TH</sup> YEAR  
COME AND ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL  
DECEMBER 1, 1991 – 11:30 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

1991 THEME: "BABES IN TOYLAND"



## BABES IN TOYLAND

Toyland, Toyland, beautiful girl and boy land,  
While you dwell within it, you are ever happy then.  
Childhood, Joyland, mystical, merry Toyland,  
Once you pass its borders, you can never return again.

Toyland, Toyland, dear little girl and boy land,  
While you dwell within it, you are ever happy there,  
Childhood, Toyland, wonderful world of Joyland,  
Wouldn't it be fine, if we could stay there forevermore.

Toyland, Toyland, here are the ways to Toyland,  
Don't know when we'll get there, but we know there's love in store,  
Toyland, Toyland, wonderful girl and boy land,  
Once you leave its borders, you may never return again.



PLEASE LET US KNOW if you have a Christmas display for the Annual Festival.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the persons who were hosts at the museum during the summer Sundays -  
to all who helped keep the museum clean, to the repairmen and the yardmen. Your work is greatly appreciated.

## THE ADVERTISER - NEW BREMEN'S FIRST NEWSPAPER

The year was 1871 and the editor's name was JOHN CROMER. Mr. Cromer's newspaper print shop was located on the second floor of the then F.P. Jung building (northeast corner of West Monroe and Water Streets) across from what is, in 1991, the "Oh, Baloney" restaurant (formerly, the Hotel). Later, the office was moved to the old "Lanfersieck block". The newspaper, however, named "*The New Bremen Advertiser*" survived only about one year. Many folks in New Bremen thought the field was "ripe for a newspaper".  
(from the *New Bremen Sun*)

## NEWS FROM "YESTERYEAR"

(from "*The Community Post*" – Minster, Ohio)

■ IN 1963, THE NEW BREMEN MEN'S GARDEN CLUB WAS ORGANIZED WITH 6 PERSONS. THEIR FIRST PROJECT WAS THE ISLAND OF PETUNIAS ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF WASHINGTON & MONROE STREETS. SLOWLY THE MEMBERSHIP GREW AND SOON WAS PAST THE "DOZEN" MARK. IT WAS A BUSY GROUP - FILLING FLOWER BOXES, WATERING ALL THE FLOWERS DURING A LONG DRY SPELL, GETTING A DISPLAY READY FOR THE WOODMEN FESTIVAL AND ALSO DISPLAYS FOR THE FLOWER SHOW HELD IN SEPTEMBER.

■ IN 1965, SCHWIETERMAN'S DRUG STORE ADDED A ROOM TO THEIR BUILDING BY ENCLOSING A PORCH, WHICH WILL BE A NEW EATING AREA. THIS NEW LITTLE RESTAURANT WILL BE NAMED "DAVE'S A-GO-GO".

■ IN 1965, MISS JANE BELTON WAS CROWNED QUEEN OF THE WOODMEN FESTIVAL WITH HER COURT BEING MISSES JUDY BERGMAN, ROSAMUND JACKSON, DONNA DICKE, LU ANN KOENIG, SANDRA TONTRUP, AND DEBBY MEYER. THE FESTIVAL WAS A 4-DAY EVENT, HELD AT THE VILLAGE PARK ON PLUM STREET.

■ IN 1965, THE NEW SOHIO CALENDAR FEATURED A PICTURE OF THE LOCK HERE IN NEW BREMEN. ON THIS PICTURE ARE TWO NEW BREMEN BOYS - JIM HAY AND HELMUT JUDT. LOCK ONE IS ONE OF THE LAST REMNANTS OF THE CANAL DAYS.

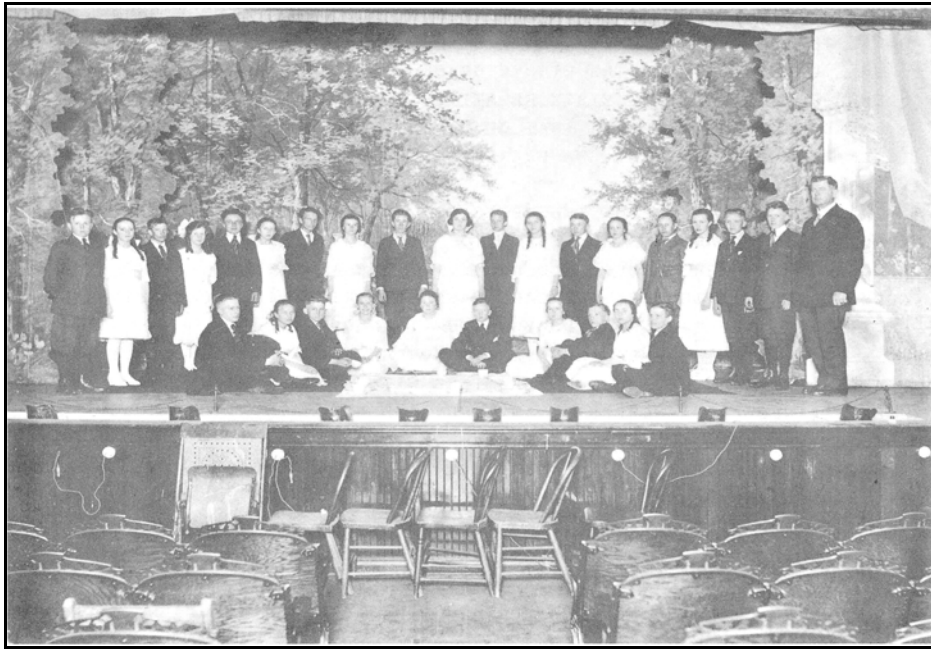
■ ON JANUARY 4, 1968, APPROXIMATELY 1.3 ACRES OF LAND WAS DONATED TO THE NEW BREMEN VILLAGE BY MR. & MRS. LEWIS KOMMINSK. THEIR ONLY REQUEST WAS THAT THE PROPERTY BE UTILIZED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES. THE OLD THOMPSON FREIGHT HOUSE WAS LOCATED ON THIS PROPERTY WHICH BORDERS LOCK ONE OF THE MIAMI-ERIE CANAL.

■ IN 1966, A CHICKEN FRY FOR THE PUBLIC WAS HELD AT THE ROD AND GUN CLUB EAST OF NEW BREMEN. TICKETS WERE \$1.25 EACH.

■ IT WAS IN THE SIXTIES THAT THE OLD "CITY PARK" ON NORTH MAIN STREET BECAME A PARKING LOT BEHIND THE POST OFFICE / BANK BUILDING.

■ IN 1969, "LES BROWN AND HIS BAND OF RENOWN" CAME TO THE CRYSTAL BALLROOM IN VERSAILLES, OHIO. ADVANCE TICKETS WERE \$3.00 EACH.





### SCHOOL DAYS – SCHOOL DAYS

This is a picture of the eighth grade class on the stage of the Boesel Opera House in 1920. The teacher is Mr. Otto Doenges. The "Opera House" is now owned by Crown Controls / Equipment Corp. of New Bremen. It is located on the south side of West Monroe Street.

Pupils in the top row are Carl Roettger, Madella (Donnerberg) Schmidt, Barthold Rawers, Leona (Hoeper) Fischer, Arnold Laut, Marie (Roediger) Dammeyer, Garnet Luedeke, Alvira (Roettger) Schmidt, Clarence Quellhorst, Corrine (Hollingsworth) Schnell, Florus Wissman, Fern (Geib) Wagner, Howard Weinberg, Eunice (Boesel) Brucken, Marvin Blanke, Helen (Kettler) Leonard, Raymond Wissman, Marvin Dietrich, TEACHER OTTO DOENGES

Bottom row, left to right: Harold Brucken, LeVerne (Waterman) McCollum, Norman Behm, Dolores (Utrecht) Zodicoff, Esther (Hamilton) Russell, Frank Streine, Grace (Jordan) Seiple, Ernst Ekermeier, Marie (Poppe) Sollmann, Donald Houtz.

IT WAS IN 1920 THAT THE NEW BREMEN SCHOOL BOARD REALIZED THE GREAT NEED FOR AN ASSEMBLY ROOM FOR THE SCHOOL CHILDREN. IT WAS THEN THAT THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE "BOESEL OPERA HOUSE" WAS LEASED FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT WAS HERE THAT THE CLASS PLAYS WERE GIVEN, A PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL CALLED "LITERARY" AND THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES WERE HELD. THIS CONTINUED FOR TEN YEARS UNTIL THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL WAS BUILT AND COMPLETED FOR OCCUPANCY.

[This picture was donated to the museum by Annabel Wagner.]

In the May 21, 1963 issue of *The Evening Leader* is a picture of the NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL DANCE BAND. I wonder how many followed the music profession...

Members of the band are Nancy Lampert, Diane Kettler, Jerry Koeper, Gene Will, Harold Suchland, Drusilla Luedeke, Chad Cumming, Bill Frey, Dean Harlamert, Joyce Ruedebusch and Eugene This.

This group of musicians were playing for the Alumnae Dance which followed the banquet for all graduates of New Bremen High School. Five classes were honored in 1963 and special recognition was given to the Class of 1913 with 14 members present from a class of 23 students. (Nine are deceased.)

In 1913, those serving on the Board of Education were H.F. Jung, President; August F. Isern, Clerk; Charles Garmhausen, Dr. F.F. Fledderjohann, and Edward Heinfeld.

'Tis a voice from the past that resounds in our ears and old memories wake at its tone,  
Coming back like a dream from the slumbering years with the scenes that have faded and gone.  
The home of our childhood where fancy still strays and the friends we had known there so well  
Come again with a vision of sunshiny days at the sound of the old school bell. (*Ideals magazine*)



**HOME OF GERHARD WILHELM & REGINA (BROCKMAN) JORDAN**

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUBMITTED BY EUGENE L. JORDAN, WHOSE FAMILY LIVED AT 212 EAST MONROE STREET NEXT DOOR TO THE HOME SHOWN ABOVE UNTIL THEY MOVED TO TOLEDO, OHIO IN THE SPRING OF 1929.

EUGENE GRADUATED FROM THE EIGHTH GRADE THAT SPRING AND RETURNS TO NEW BREMEN PERIODICALLY TO VISIT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS.

"THE ABOVE PICTURE IS THAT OF MY UNCLE, OMER JORDAN (1895-1980) AT AGE 15, TAKEN AT THE HOME OF MY GRANDPARENTS, GERHARD WILHELM & REGINA (BROCKMAN) JORDAN.

THE REVERSE SIDE OF THE POSTCARD HAD A 1¢ STAMP, WAS POSTMARKED AUGUST 11, 1910 AND WAS ADDRESSED TO MISS GOLDIE BROCKMAN IN CARE OF BEN BROCKMAN (HER FATHER) R.F.D. NO. 2. THE NEW BREMEN PART OF THE ADDRESS WAS OMITTED, BUT THE CARD WAS DELIVERED. THE CORRESPONDENCE SECTION OF THE CARD READ "DO YOU KNOW THIS COUSIN?"

MY GRANDFATHER, GERHARD WILHELM JORDAN, WAS A FORMER FARMER TURNED TEAMSTER WHO HAULED LOGS TO SAWMILLS WITH A HORSE-DRAWN WAGON. HIS SON, OMER, LEARNED ABOUT HORSES AT AN EARLY AGE AND MAINTAINED AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THEM ALL OF HIS LIFE.

AS A SMALL BOY, I WELL REMEMBER RIDING IN A HORSE-DRAWN BUGGY WITH MY GRANDPA AND GRANDMA JORDAN, GOING TO LOCK TWO TO SHOP AT THE STORE IN THE GARMHAUSEN BUILDING.

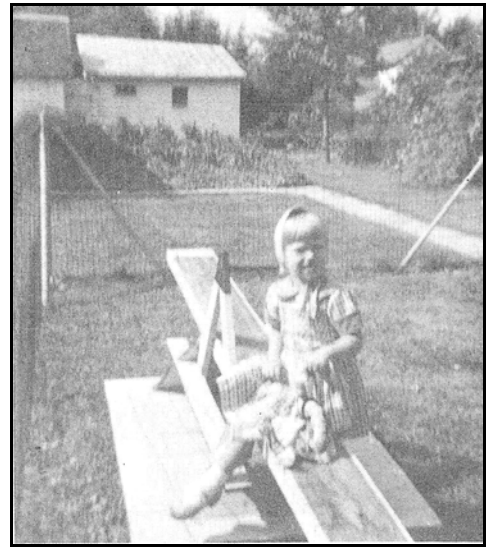
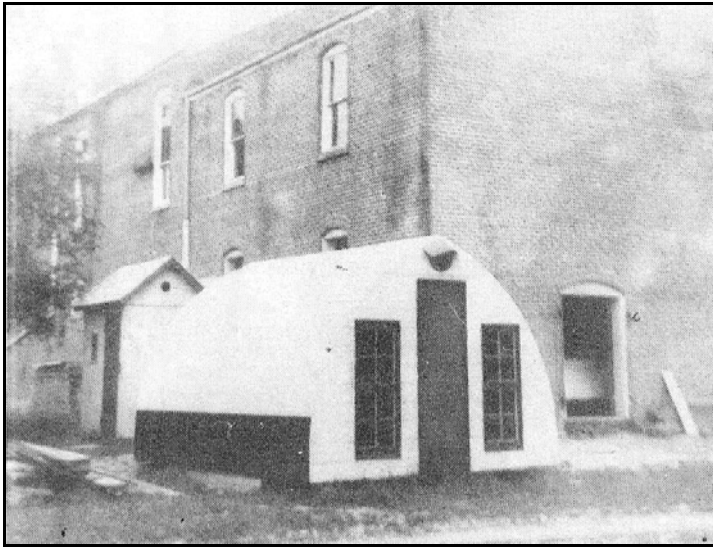
THE UNUSUAL PART OF THE ABOVE PICTURE IS THE FARM-SIZED BARN IN THE BACKGROUND WITH STALLS FOR HORSES AND ROOM FOR A WAGON ON THE GROUND LEVEL, PLUS A HAY MOW UPSTAIRS. THE BARN WAS RAZED SOMETIME AFTER 1929.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WAS NO CITY SIDEWALK BUT LATER PICTURES SHOW TWO STEPS LEADING DOWN TO THE CITY SIDEWALK LEVEL.

THERE WERE SEPARATE OUTSIDE DOORS TO THE PARLOR AT THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE TO ALLOW EASY PASSAGE OF A COFFIN INTO THE PARLOR WHERE VIEWING AND VISITATION TOOK PLACE. A FUNERAL WREATH WAS HUNG BESIDE THE DOOR TO INDICATE A DEATH IN THE FAMILY.

MY GRANDMOTHER, REGINA JORDAN, PASSED AWAY IN THE SPRING OF 1929 AND THE CASKET WAS PLACED IN THE PARLOR UNTIL THE TIME OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE AT ST. PAUL CHURCH. ALTHOUGH THE VORNHOLT FUNERAL HOME WAS ACROSS THE STREET, AT THAT TIME FUNERAL HOMES WERE NOT USED AS THEY ARE NOW. SOMETIMES I WAS EMPLOYED AT THE FUNERAL HOME TO ANSWER THE TELEPHONE WHILE THE VORNHOLT FAMILY WAS GONE ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON. THAT WAS A SOMEWHAT SCARY EXPERIENCE FOR A 12-13 YEAR OLD BOY."

<p>"THE TOWN HAS CHANGED THE MANY YEARS SINCE I HAVE BEEN AWAY BUT STILL, AS I WALK DOWN THE STREET, I FEEL THE OLD FAMILIAR PEACE THAT COMES FROM GOING HOME."  <i>(Ideals magazine)</i></p>
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### OSCAR "DOC" DAMMEYER (1889-1952) - A MAN WITH MANY IDEAS

Most everyone in New Bremen knew Oscar Dammeyer by his nickname, "Doc". He was born on a farm northwest of New Bremen near Lake St. Marys and grew up there. Later he came to New Bremen and entered the automobile business.

Doc Dammeyer was a man with many ideas - trying to invent new ways to house hogs, to feed chickens, to make hay, and to provide better play for children.

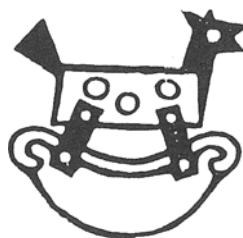
In the early 1940s, he began the manufacture of his equipment in the large 2-story brick building in Lock Two which many of us remember as the Garmhausen Store. Here there would be plenty of room as the building provided 9,000 square feet of floor space.

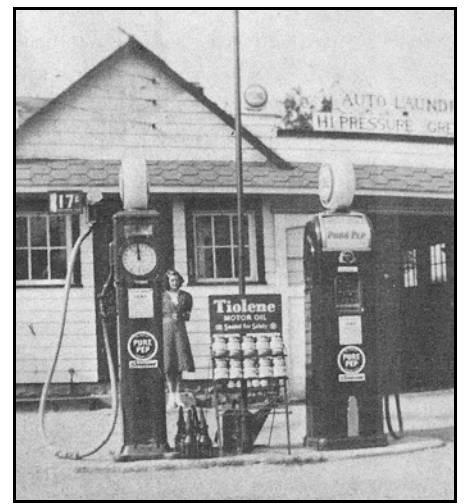
Doc came up with some good inventions. One that proved profitable was the portable brooder house with overhead doors. Here no chick would lose its life being crushed by swinging doors. The brooder houses were well insulated and wired and were made portable by mounting them on wood runners.

Some of Doc's inventions were the Hoss Pullman trailer, the automatic lift for buckrakes, the 2-story trough nest with a self-cleaning device, the pony chariot for adults and children, and a rocking teeter for the little kiddies. This swing proved to be a great exerciser and would accommodate from one to sixteen children.

The little girl in the above picture is Doc's granddaughter, Wendy (Wellemeyer) Braddock, now of Loveland, Ohio. She is seated on one of Grandpa's inventions. Doc's wife is Anna (Luelleman) Dammeyer, now of Upper Sandusky, and his daughter and son-in-law are Fred & Irene (Dammeyer) Wellemeyer of New Bremen.

[Part of this information came from a 1948 article in *The Wapakoneta Daily News*.]





## HORN SERVICE STATION

*by Betty (Horn) Schroer*

For several years my dad, Virgil Horn, operated the service station on the northeast corner of Monroe and Walnut Streets. In 1939, Pure Oil gasoline was 17¢ per gallon. Later, Dad sold Marathon gas and oil and delicious Equity ice cream.

In December 1940, Dr. Leonard Schmidt, who lived in the house now occupied by the Joseph Ritter family on the northwest corner helped with Christmas decorations by piping music from their home into the little church on the lawn. The sound of Christmas carols greeted customers and serenaded the neighborhood. I was informed just recently that the little church building was the former playhouse of Paul Lietz.

The summer I graduated from New Bremen High School (1941), Dad began working at WACO AIRCRAFT in Troy, Ohio, and I was left to mind the station. My most embarrassing moment was when I forgot to replace my very first customer's gas cap! I discovered my mistake right after she drove away and luckily she stopped again that afternoon to reclaim the gas cap. You can be sure I never forgot to replace gas caps after that!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The little church building was originally built as a child's playhouse by Herman C. Lietz in the early twenties, for his son Paul. H.C. Lietz was a well-known woodworker in New Bremen.

