

# "THE TOWPATH" – OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER - 1992

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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"DER HEILIGE NIKOLAS TAG"  
(Saint Nicholas Day – December 6th)

**Come and Visit our Museum!**

## "DER HEILIGE NIKOLAS TAG" (SAINT NICHOLAS DAY - DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>)

is the theme this year for the 18th Annual Christmas Tree Festival

SATURDAY: December 5th - 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

SUNDAY: December 6th - 11:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

We hope you will come and enjoy the Christmas displays! Home baked Christmas cookies, hot cider and coffee will be served. AND... most of all, SAINT NICHOLAS will be here on Sunday, December 6th, from 2 to 4 P.M. to hear what you want for Christmas. COME AND VISIT THE MUSEUM!

Would you like to bring a Christmas display or Christmas tree to the New Bremen Historical Museum for the 18th Annual Christmas Tree Festival? Special set-up times can be arranged by calling Rev. Lawrence Holmer (629-3738), chairman of the 1992 Christmas Tree Festival.



## HERE IS A SONG SUNG BY THE CHILDREN

Welcome, friend Saint Nicholas, welcome.  
Bring no rod for us tonight.  
While our voices bid thee welcome,  
Every heart with joy is light.

Tell us every fault and failing;  
We will bear thy keenest railing.  
So we sing - so we sing;  
Thou shalt tell us everything.

Welcome, friend Saint Nicholas, welcome.  
Welcome to this merry band.  
Happy children greet thee welcome.  
Thou art glad'ning all the land.

Fill each empty hand and basket,  
'Tis thy little ones who ask it;  
So we sing - so we sing  
Thou wilt bring us everything.



## SAINT NICHOLAS DAY - DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

*by Rev. Lawrence Holmer*

Sinterklass to the Dutch, Father Christmas to the English, Pere Noel to the French. The Germans call him Weihnachtsmann, as well as Christkindl, or Christ Child, while in Russia they once spoke of the Miracle Maker, but now simply refer to him as Grandfather Frost. The Chinese have their Lam Khoong-Khoong, meaning Nice Old Father, and the Japanese have Hoteiosho, who has eyes in both the back and front of his head and carries a big bag of toys. On January fifth, Epiphany Eve in Italy, Santa Claus is a woman called Befana, who comes down the chimney bearing gifts for good little girls and boys.

Who is this universally beloved magical figure with the power to melt hard hearts and suspend shrewd doubts during the Season of Peace? Well, the story of Santa Claus begins with the birth of St. Nicholas, approximately A.D. 270, along the Mediterranean coast of northern Turkey. Saint Nicholas, whose feast day is the 6th of December, is the most popular of the saints who are not martyrs in both Eastern and Western churches.

According to one account, Nicholas was born to a childless couple after thirty years of marriage and was orphaned at the age of nine. Reared by guardians thereafter, he developed a strong sympathy for the poor and needy and devoted a great deal of his time to providing food, clothing and often money to the underprivileged. Much of his gift giving was accomplished in secret and, invariably, at night.

A story often told of the young Saint Nicholas involves the three daughters of an impoverished nobleman who was not able to provide them with dowries. Without dowries they had no hope of suitors. Out of desperation one of the girls volunteered to sell herself into slavery in order to provide marriage portions for her two sisters. Informed of their difficulties Nicholas came by one night and tossed a small bag of gold down the chimney or through the open window of the eldest girl's bedroom where, according to the legends, it fell into a stocking hanging up to dry. Shortly thereafter the eldest daughter was married. This same act of generosity was repeated for the other two daughters with equally happy results. Conceivably this is the origin of the custom of hanging stockings at Christmas Eve.

While perhaps still in his teens, Nicholas became the Bishop of Myra in Lycia (Asia Minor), subsequently to be identified in early manuscripts as a saint and miracle worker. Destined to become patron saint of children, Russia, bankers, sailors, pawnbrokers, vagabonds and thieves, when Nicholas died, probably on the sixth day of December around the year A.D. 340, he was well on his way to becoming universally revered as St. Nicholas of Myra. Devotion to St. Nicholas extended to all parts of the world. In 1807 Italian sailors brought his body from Myra to Bari in Apulia; this translation, commemorated on May 9th, greatly increased the saint's popularity, and Bari became one of the most crowded pilgrimage centers. His miracles were a favorite subject for medieval artists and liturgical plays, and his feast day - December 6th - was the occasion for the ceremonies of the boy bishop.

The practice of bringing gifts in the name of St. Nicholas probably began in France at the beginning of the twelfth century. The fifth of December, proclaimed the Eve of St. Nicholas, was the time when people would leave gifts of good things to eat - fruits, nuts, and sweets - at the doorstep for the small children of poor families. The custom spread rapidly into other parts of Europe and was soon being celebrated by both rich and poor alike. In England children hang stockings by the fireplace. In France and Holland slippers and shoes are left by the hearth to be filled with presents. On Epiphany Eve in Italy the good little Befana comes down the chimney on a broom and fills the shoes of good Italian boys and girls with toys. Those who have been bad will more likely find their shoes filled with charcoal, rocks and ash. Wherever Christmas is celebrated, some form of the custom is still in practice.

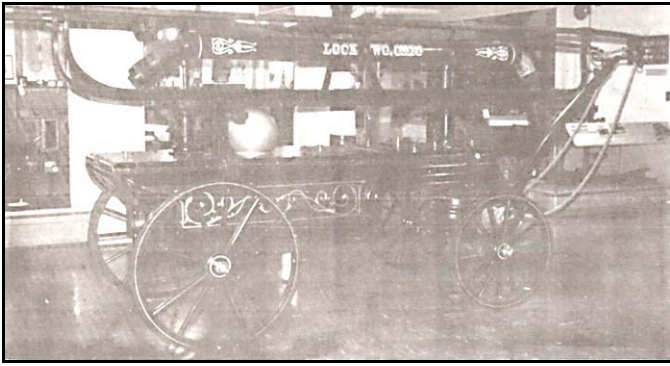
It was not until 1626 that Saint Nicholas made his way across the Atlantic to North America. He came in the form of a figurehead on the prow of a Dutch ship, The Good Housewife, filled with settlers from Holland. Their destination was New Amsterdam [New York] at the southern tip of Manhattan Island. It was here that St. Nicholas' foothold in the New World was firmly established. Even after New Amsterdam fell to the British in 1664, the Dutch persisted in the custom of celebrating St. Nicholas Eve. Popular pronunciation over the years managed to contract Saint Nicholas into Sinterklaas, which was eventually corrupted to Sancte Claus.

With Sancte Claus now on the scene, could Santa Claus be far behind? Three people are generally credited with the further transformation of Saint Nicholas from the gift-bearing good Bishop of Myra to our own beloved gift-bearing Santa Claus. They are the author and humorist Washington Irving; Clement Clarke Moore, a professor at a theological seminary; and the renowned political cartoonist, Thomas Nast.

It has taken more than sixteen centuries for the good Bishop of Myra to evolve into jolly old Saint Nick. In an age of computers, genetic engineering and interplanetary space travel, it is tempting to speculate on what additional changes the next sixteen centuries might impose on this beloved figure.

But even if Santa does trade in his red flannels for a thermostatically controlled space suit, and the reindeer for a glittering titanium space capsule, the spirit of the good gift-bearing Bishop of Myra with his unflinching concern for the needy and less fortunate will never change. Sixteen centuries from now one thing will still be taking place on Christmas Eve - children will still be asking tough questions, hanging stockings and eagerly awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus / Jolly old St. Nick on December 24th, or in many places as they do today, on the 5th of December - the Eve of Saint Nicholas' Day.

*-Rev. Lawrence Holmer*



The Lock Two fire engine in the Lima museum (1992)



The cement structure that housed the fire engine at one time still stands in Lock Two today – June 1992.

## LOCK TWO

by Orville & Joyce Ruedebusch

DO YOU REMEMBER when the village of Lock Two had a Volunteer Fire Department? In the early 1900s, the community was very proud of their equipment. They had one hand pumper operated by 18 men, one hose cart, and one ladder. The hand pumper is now in the Allen County Museum at Lima, Ohio. The volunteer fire-fighters were members of the Lock Two community and the members paid monthly dues for department expenses.

The original building for the fire department was a frame building (now torn down) on the north section of Canal Road. Later the department had a cement structure built which stands today east of the old Garmhausen Store on Lock Two Road.

A fire alarm was sounded by a bell located on the derrick behind the building. The Lock Two Fire Dept. remained in operation until the New Bremen Fire Dept. received their motorized equipment (1927). At that time, the Lock Two Dept. was disbanded. The final distribution of money was used to purchase household fire extinguishers for the community.

In addition to fire protection, the Lock Two Fire Dept. sponsored various activities for the community throughout the year. In the fall of the year, they would have a rabbit fry. This activity would take place in the old dance hall (now torn down) and the rabbits were supplied by community hunters. My mother, Emma (Kuest) Ruedebusch, was the cook. On the menu was fried rabbit, (Hasenpfeffer) and bread.

In the spring of the year, the department would have an outing at Lehmkuhl's Landng at Lake Loramie. This was a big time for the children, with free ice cream and soda pop. The Lock Two Mill would furnish the truck for transportation of supplies for the event.

During the summer, the Fire Dept. would sponsor a Fireman's Picnic, with entertainment in the park at Lock Two.

LISTED BELOW are the names of some of the men in the Lock Two Community and probably members of the Lock Two Fire Department. Perhaps you know of other names that could be added to this partial list.

August Ahlers	Ben Garmhausen	Mr. Kelling	Edwin Poppe	Lafe Scheer
Louis Ahlers	Christ Garmhausen	August Kettler	Emil Poppe	John Schierholt
Edward Bambauer	Herbert Garmhausen	John Kettler	Elmer Roettger	William Tostrick
August Dicke	Louis Heinfeld	Elmer Oberwitte	Ferd Roettger	Theodore Waterman
Henry Dicke	Henry Heinfeld	Henry Oberwitte	Henry Roettger	Frank Wierth
Theodore Doenges	William Heitkamp	Herbert Piehl	Henry Ruedebusch	Gust Wissman
		John Piehl		



Mrs. Henry (Emma Kuest) Ruedebusch (left), was the cook for the rabbit fries at Lock Two.

Here is the recipe for the "Hasenpfeffer" that everyone enjoyed and are still talking about over fifty years later: *[This recipe was contributed by Margaret (Ruedebusch) Slattery. Also contributing to the rabbit fry information were Bernice Dilger and Bud & Vernita Scheer.]*

### HASENPFEFFER

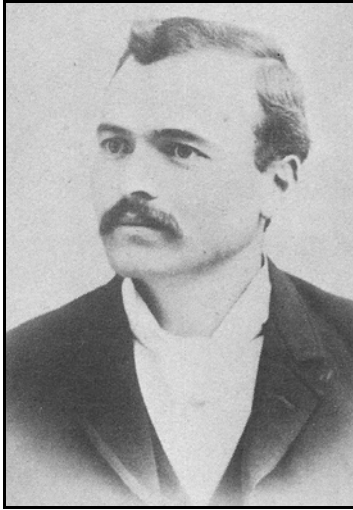
Dip rabbit in flour and brown. Add mixture below.

Sauce:

Put 1 teaspoon of mixed spices in a bag.

Use equal parts of vinegar and brown sugar.

Salt & pepper – gravy if needed.



DR. EDWARD CONRADI  
President, Florida State College for Women

- Born February 20, 1869, on a farm near New Bremen.
- Attended New Bremen High School. Graduated, 1888.
- Taught in New Bremen schools, 1888-89; Lock Two School, 1889-93; New Bremen schools, 1893-94.
- Graduated Indiana State University, A.B. 1897; A.M. 1898.
- Superintendent of public schools at Carlisle, Indiana, 1898-1902.
- Attended Clark University, Worcester, Mass., 1902-05.
- Granted Ph.D., Clark University, 1904; Honorary Fellow, 1904-05.
- Superintendent of public schools at St. Petersburg, Florida, 1905-09.
- President of Florida State College for Women, Tallahassee, Florida, since 1909.
- Member of Board of Directors of Florida State Chamber of Commerce.
- Member of Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.
- Member of Tallahassee Kiwanis Club.
- Member of Florida Education Association.
- Member of National Education Association.
- Member of Florida Historical Society.
- Member of National Geographic Society.
- Elder in Tallahassee Presbyterian Church.

EDWARD CONRADI was born on a little farm just one mile east of New Bremen, Ohio in German Township, Auglaize County. The farm buildings were located on the land in the southeast corner of where Route 274 intersects with the Kettler Road. It was a long way for a little boy to walk to school, especially in a down-pouring rain or when the snow was deep.

According to the dates found in the New Bremen Centennial Book (published in 1933), Edward started his schooling in the Ober Bremen School. This school was located on Cherry Street, east of Walnut Street on four lots with a total of 1.82 acres of land. (It was very close to where the school bus garage is now located in 1992.) From hearsay, this was a swamp area and not too desirable. There are no records of what year this school was built. The building was vacated in 1877 and used only for summer classes. Finally after some years it was torn down, however, during the 1930s an old well was found on the property and was filled in for safety measures. The first teachers for the Ober Bremen School were Theodore Purpus and H. W. Bockemohle.

You can feel the warmth of summer and the sun against your cheek  
Smell the fragrance of roses, hear the babbling of the creek.  
Kids are barefoot in the country hiking over hill and glen;  
Life is carefree, days are happy, telling school is out again. (*Ideals*)

#### EDWARD'S CHILDHOOD

There was time for play but also time for work. Edward was the middle child of seven and even though the farm was of small acreage, there were jobs to be done. With no modern equipment to work the fields, it took many hands at planting and harvest time. Ed and his older brothers helped the neighbor who lived south of them with her daily tasks. She was handicapped and could not walk very well. So the boys fed and watered the livestock for her and also gathered the eggs, sometimes having to climb in the haymow to look for hidden nests.

When Christmas came, the Conradi children knew there would be gifts of warm mittens and stockings knit of woolen yarn because they had helped knit them in the long winter evenings. While they were busy knitting by candle or coal oil lamp, their father, a shoe cobbler by trade, was bent over the cobbler's bench, making boots and shoes for other folks. With the gifts of woolen clothes would be fresh fruit. Their mother, at harvest time, carefully picked out the finest pears and apples, wrapped them carefully in paper and put them aside for Christmas Day. Each child would also receive one piece of candy shaped like an apple and made entirely of sugar. Life was different in the 1870s. It was a time of heating stoves, dug wells, felt boots, feather beds, horses to harness and no electronics.

#### EDWARD'S GOAL WAS TEACHING

The desire for more education in order to teach made Edward continue his studies. With family help he graduated from New Bremen High School in 1888. There were three persons in his class.

A year later, Augusta D.E. Grothaus (the first woman teacher in New Bremen) became his bride on August 24, 1898. The minister performing the ceremony was Pastor F.W. Bertram. Within the next few years they became the parents of two daughters, Elizabeth and Louise.

"A COLLEGE SHOULD BE FIRST A BUILDER OF LIFE."

The above quote was one of Edward's and he firmly believed in it. From his memoirs: "It has always been the policy of the College to be first of all a builder of life. The students are to learn what the great leaders of the history of civilization have contributed to the building of a better and nobler life, and to the comforts of the modern day."

#### FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Dr. Edward Conradi will long be remembered for his strength of character and warmth of personality when he served as President of the College from 1909 to 1941. He raised the academic standards at the college and constantly challenged students and faculty to develop high ideals of the spirit and of life.

Honoring its heritage as a woman's liberal arts college and the president who led it for 32 years, Florida State has established the Dr. Edward Conradi Eminent Scholar Chair in Psychology at Florida State University. The chair is Florida State University's 14th fully funded \$1 million chair and is the first eminent scholar chair completed in the College of Arts and Sciences.

#### HIS HOME TOWN

On July 2, 1933, Dr. Edward Conradi came to his hometown to take part in the 100th birthday of New Bremen. He gave an address to the public, called, "A Century of Progress". Even though his teaching positions took him many miles from his place of birth, he never lost his love for his home town.

"We are all links in the chain of life. No one is complete in himself. We are each one daily bearing something onward – something that contributes to the world and to experience. And we never know to what end our influence has been carried." (*Ideals*)

## THROUGH THE YEARS

[from "THE NEW BREMEN SUN"]

**September 1927:** When the housewife discovers a flour that meets all the requirements of a "good flour" she insists upon having that particular brand! That is why so many women of this section of Ohio demand that their grocer keep GOLD LACE FLOUR manufactured by THE KUENZEL MILLS CO. here at New Bremen.

**1930-1931:** THE NEW BREMEN SUN gave a full page each week to the New Bremen High School to fill. This page was called "The Crimson and Gold". In the school year of 1930-31, the Editorial Staff was listed as follows:

Editor-in Chief, Mary Archer; Associate Editor, Marie Kuest; Senior Class Reporter, Marie Behm; Junior Class Reporter, Gabriel Schaefer; Sophomore Class Reporter, Elizabeth Streine; Freshman Class Reporter, Paul Eschmeyer; Humor Editor, John (Jack) Garmhausen; Assistant Humor Editor, Louise Haines; Sport Editors, Frederick Luedeke, (boys), Helen Knipple (girls); and the Faculty Advisor, R.S. Miller.

**April 16, 1932:** Miss Goldie Schmidt has sold the filling station building at Walnut and Monroe Streets in New Bremen to Prosper Combs who will move the building to the Harry Gephart farm. After the building has been moved, Miss Schmidt plans to build a home on the lot in the near future.

#### GROCERIES AT THE KROGER STORE IN NEW BREMEN - JULY 1933

<b>Coffee:</b> 19¢ / lb. Jewel-smooth, fragrant	<b>Sugar:</b> 25 lb. bag / \$1.32 Pure Cane Granulated
<b>Bread:</b> 24-oz. loaf / 8¢ Country Club 16-oz. loaf / 6¢	<b>Relish:</b> 17-oz. jar / 10¢
<b>Layer Cake:</b> 2½ lb. / 39¢ with Orange-Pineapple Icing	<b>Pickles:</b> quart jar / 25¢ Sweet Gherkins
<b>Tomato Juice:</b> 3 for 25¢ 16-oz. bottles, fine appetizer	<b>Pineapple Juice:</b> 2 for 25¢ No. 2 cans, for Fruit Cocktails
<b>Crackers:</b> Sodas 2 lbs. / 21¢	<b>Shu White:</b> 13¢ For Canvas, Duck and Suede Shoes

**APRIL 1, 1966:** The Men's Garden Club of New Bremen have accepted New Bremen's old antique fire bell and will use for display. The bell was cast in Europe and tolled at the death of Abraham Lincoln.

Feverish excitement runs high when "townfolks" get together to plan a celebration! Some of our "TOWPATH" readers had the pleasure of helping plan the program for New Bremen's Centennial (1933) and also for New Bremen's Sesquicentennial (1983).

IN 1933, MRS. J.M. (LINA) BRUCKEN, PROMINENT LADY OF NEW BREMEN, WROTE A POEM ("OUR HOMETOWN") MENTIONING ALL THE PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS FOLKS IN NEW BREMEN. YOU WILL NOTICE SOME ARE FULL NAMES, SOME ARE ONLY FIRST NAMES, SO "TRAVEL UP AND DOWN THE STREETS IN NEW BREMEN WHILE YOU ARE IN YOUR EASY CHAIR."

# "Our Home Town"

by Mrs. Joseph M. (Lina Taylor) Brucken  
*The New Bremen Sun* - Friday, May 24, 1935

Our home town is the best town I know,  
I've stood on the side lines and watched it grow;  
Within its walls my life I've spent,  
I have always been happy and well content.

Our town is noted for thrift and cleanliness, too,  
Its cordial welcome attracts quite a few;  
It can boast of sons and daughters of fame  
Who have added much to its fair name.

We have paved streets and water works,  
A softening plant that never shirks,  
The electric lights, gas and telephone  
Add convenience in business place and home.

Our Marshal, Council, Mayor and Clerk,  
For our town's welfare surely do work;  
The Board of Public Affairs to a man,  
Give us all the consideration they possibly can.

Four churches have we and we can say  
The pews are filled on each Sunday.  
Our schools come next in close relation,  
Giving our girls and boys a fine education.

The New Bremen Sun will be a guest  
In your home each week at your request;  
Insurance representation of every kind,  
Quite a number in our town you'll find.

Our mail is delivered twice a day,  
And three times it is taken away;  
The Nickle Plate train comes once a day,  
Has it a passenger coach? Oh, nay!

A yarn mill run by Mr. McKay,  
A popular product on the market today;  
When knitted dresses are just the rage,  
In pastel shades, including beige.

Our Woolen Mills make blankets fine,  
That stand the wear and the test of time;  
Our Gold Lace flour is renowned,  
For miles and miles around.  
It makes good bread and pancakes light,  
And cake that is a beautiful sight.

Brockman and Kamman our coal supply,  
To keep us warm when the winds are high;  
New Bremen brooms sweep mighty clean,  
And if you use them your floors will gleam.

Our Meadow Gold butter can't be beat,  
Its ice cream and milk are sure a treat;  
It builds muscle and makes the body strong,  
So when it is matured it won't be wrong.

We have the Streine Tool Company too,  
That furnishes employment for quite a few;  
Our plumbers, both Heinfeld and Block,  
Guarantee their work to be tip top.

Knipple's bread and pastries are fine,  
Be sure to serve them when you dine;  
Schwieterman's Drug Store is up to date,  
His one cent sales are sure cut-rate.

Schelper's Meat Market has quite a reputation,  
Serving its customers for many years in the same location;  
Heinfeld & Gieseke, Kroger and the Red & White,  
Carry a line of groceries that is just right.

There is Smith's Variety, the popular Five & Ten,  
Mueller Bros. Clothing Store for men;  
Two barber shops run by Dooley and Pat,  
With a cordial welcome on each door mat.

August Dierker for many years has had a tin store,  
We hope he continues for many more;  
Irvin Wissman hasn't been in the tin business so long,  
But he certainly is going strong.

Schulenberg's Store is our general meeting place,  
And Cade wears a smile all over his face;  
Two up-to-date hardware stores have we,  
The Rabe and the Schroeder Company.

A jewelry store owned by Mel Laut,  
He certainly can tell what it is all about;  
Wint & Laut each have a pool room and restaurant combined,  
In them good eats you'll always find.

To praise the Hotel Hollingsworth you need not falter,  
The First National Bank is as strong as the Rock of Gibraltar;  
The Arcade is a general department store,  
Serving us well for thirty years or more.

Teddy Doenges has a tire repair shop,  
When you have a puncture, be sure to stop;  
Taylor's Studio is just the place,  
To get a likeness of your face.

The Home Furniture Company will help you find,  
Home furnishings of the latest kind;  
One picture show and then, Oh my,  
I must not forget the Gardens Shanghai.

Earl Kuening, the proprietor of the Advance,  
Will sell you a Chevy if you give him a chance;  
Filling stations there are nine,  
You may have your car serviced and gassed at any time.

The Briggs Furniture Company is just new,  
It will soon have its product on the market too;  
Furniture is built and repaired by Bertram and Heil,  
Their prices are right and their work worth while.

Koepfer and Gast carry a line of shoes that are neat,  
They will very comfortably fit your feet;  
One veterinary, who by night or day,  
Answers his calls without delay.

Ed Wehrman has a shop for electrical repair,  
He does his work with the greatest of care;  
Frank Jung has the only harness shop,  
So when you want to dress up old Dobbin, be sure to stop.

A blacksmith shop operated by Tony,  
He will shoe your horses, including the pony;  
Bill Combs delivers ice that is clear,  
He is also the agent for the Wooden Shoe beer.

Five beauty parlors, where the ladies meet,  
To give their hair and face a treat;  
One chiropractor to work on your spine,  
To take off the kinks and make you feel fine.

An oculist, two dentists and doctors three,  
Relieve all the ills for you and me;  
Three undertakers to serve us night and day,  
When God calls us from this earth away.

The Kay Lou Studio teaches our youth gymnastics,  
And to trip the toe light and fantastic;  
We are happy the Knights of Pythias have been resurrected  
It was no more than we expected.  
You can't keep a good order down,  
It is an asset to Our Home Town.

The Cement Products Company at the edge of town  
For bird-baths and fancy vases are renowned;  
Wyen & Stueve your furnace will install,  
And have you ready for the chill winds of fall.

Hoeper and Blanke deliver milk at our door;  
If a quart is not enough, they will gladly leave more.  
Dietrich and Kuhlhorst our eggs will buy,  
In paying high prices they are not shy.

The Equity Union offers the trade  
The products that by them are made.  
Of some new business I want to tell,  
It's to be a grocery run by Varno & The Grill run by Schnell.

"Say it with Flowers" is Artman, the florist's creed,  
And he will be glad to take care of all your needs.  
Lewis Poppe will repair your shoe  
And make it look just like new.

The Pythian Sisters are a jolly bunch,  
If you do not believe it, just take this hunch;  
Hand in your petition and you will see,  
Just what is our mystery.

Now there are some things that we could change,  
And some things that we could arrange;  
A recreation field and a swimming pool,  
To refresh our bodies and keep them cool,  
In the summer-time when Old Sol reigns down  
His fury on the Old Home Town.

Make the city park a place for the kiddies to play,  
And spend their excess energy each day;  
A community room would be just fine,  
Where we could share our idle time,  
With those we do not meet each day,  
And thus help to pass the time away.

Now I've told my story to you,  
Let's all get busy and see it through;  
Let us boost our Home Town as the years go by,  
And help to keep her standards high,  
So for her let us give three cheers,  
May they echo down throughout the years.

## Dreamin' of New Bremen

Dedicated to Howard R. Hoffman by Arthur M. Crow

I ain't a kid no longer,  
My hair is thin and gray,  
But my love keeps growin' stronger  
For an old town far away.  
When day is done and sun is set  
I find myself a dreamin'  
Of a dear old spot I can't forget,  
My old home town, New Bremen.

I dream of the old electric line,  
They say it's gone to rust.  
And the old Lake Erie steam engine  
That often I have cussed.  
It sure pulled in most powerful late  
A wheezin' and a steamin',  
And then the crew would dump the freight  
For us folks there at Bremen.

I dream of settin' in that old grandstand  
At the great Tri-County Fair  
And listenin' to that Little Six Band  
Playin' a good old German air.  
I dream of factory and mill  
As the stars come out a gleamin'  
And then my eyes begin to fill,  
A dreamin' of New Bremen.

Old town that binds with golden strands  
Where everyone was pal  
And home folks joined in claspin' hands  
Across the old canal.  
Today as we shall gather in  
Where the welcome signs are streamin',  
God bless each one and all their kin  
And our old home town, New Bremen.



WHO ARE THEY?

This picture of three little children was brought to St. Paul Church in hopes that someone might know who they are. The photo was taken by F.W. Greber of New Bremen, who took many of the early New Bremen pictures in the late 1800s and at the turn of the century.

Mr. Greber sold his photography business to J.H. Hoverman of nearby Spencerville in 1905. He then gave his full attention to his new job at the Buckeye Handle and Lumber Co.

If you can identify these children, please let us know.



ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM

"This little rocking chair is made of solid walnut and was hand-made by a local carpenter years ago" says Mrs. Margaret (Hoffman) Buckingham of St. Marys, Ohio. The chair was a gift to her mother, Catherine (Dinkel) Hoffman, before Margaret was born.

Since New Bremen was Margaret's home in her early years, the chair has been donated to the NBHA museum.

The doll in the rocker is known as a "Floradora 22", made in Germany in 1901. The doll belonged to Helene Garmhausen and has also now been donated to the museum.

MAY THE MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS GLOW WARMLY IN YOUR HEART  
WHERE THE CHERISHED OLD TRADITIONS EVER PLAY A VITAL PART.

**LET THE NORTH WIND BLOW** - Thank you to Paul Lietz, Clarence Leshner, Karl Mesloh, Norman Holcomb and daughter Carrie who made, fitted, painted and installed the storm windows at the museum! They are great!