

THE TOWPATH

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
120 North Main Street - P.O. Box 73
New Bremen, Ohio 45869

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH
1995

THIS NEWSLETTER IS
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Membership Dues:
\$3.00 per year
Life Membership \$50.00

Regular visiting hours:
Sunday afternoons - June, July, August
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

SLATE OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

(97) Craig Griesdorn	President
(95) Mark Gaerke	Vice Pres.
(96) Donna Warner	Secretary
(95) Betty Schroer	Treasurer
(95) Dorothy Hertenstein	Trustee
(96) Rev. Lawrence Holmer	Trustee
(96) Dan Miller	Trustee
(97) Don Ruese	Trustee
(97) Eugene Kuck	Trustee
Irene Wellemeyer	Corresponding Secy.
Lois Moeller	Historian
Vernita Scheer	Co-Curator
Bea Young	Co-Curator
Susie Hirschfeld	Membership
Mary Wint	Genealogy
Marjorie Lietz	"Towpath" Editor

WE'RE GOIN' TO GRAN'MA'S

It won't be long before we go to Gran'ma's house again;
An' say, I guess you oughta know, we'll have a big time then.
They live way back in Illinois - that means we'll drive it in
About two days an' then - Oh boy, the fun'll just begin!

Our ol' hometown is full o' folks that treat us awful good,
Invite us to their house an' coax us kids to eat. I could
Eat all the stuff they want me to, but mother shakes her head,
'Cause she knows if I ever do, I'll hafta go t'bed.

There's lots of cousins waitin' there for us t' come and play;
We'll be so pop'lar everywhere, we'll hate to break away.
An' gee, it's fun out on a farm - we run a mile or more,
An' here ain't nothin' we can harm, nor neighbors to get sore.

But where I'm anxiously t' be than any other place
Is at my Gran'ma's house an' see the smile that's on her face.
She'll be so glad to hug us all, she'll hafta stop and cry,
An' then I'll hear my Gran'pa call "Well, who's all this? Hi-yi!"

by Lawrence Hawthorne

A MONTAGE FROM GRANDMOTHER'S ATTIC

ARRANGED TOGETHER: a pair of button shoes, some A-B-C blocks, glass marbles,
a teddy bear and a tin-head dolly – all popular at the turn of the century (1900).

-by Betty Schroer



"There is a kind of magic that happens every year
When winter winds are blowing and nights are cold and clear.
It's then you see it happen in lights upon a tree,
In bright red bows and candy canes and gifts to you from me."

20TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 3rd and 4th marked a very special time – it was the Annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Museum. The weather was great! Mark and Renae Gaerke were the chairpersons this year and they spent many extra hours at the Museum getting ready for visitors. The fragrance of fresh evergreen and hot wax candles, along with the Christmas music, filled the air in the Museum. What a wonderful Christmas feeling!

The theme this year was "The Gay Nineties" (the 1890s, that is). We were transported back in time as we walked from room to room enjoying all the Christmas trees and displays.

Santa Claus came for two hours on Sunday afternoon to be with the children. Each child received a special candy treat from Santa. There were homemade cookies and hot spicy cider for all visitors. We had a record crowd of visitors and also had a door prize drawing. Thanks to those donating the prizes, namely Bud & Vernita Scheer, Dwight Schroer, Betty Schroer, Paul Lietz, Susie Hirschfeld, and Mark & Renae Gaerke. Thank you all for helping to make this 20th Annual Christmas Tree Festival a success.

PRIZES: (2) ceramic mugs filled with candy, won by Faye Hirschfeld & Betty Quellhorst; Christmas shirt, won by Jean Schroer; Santa Claus plaque, won by Ruth Henning; pair of laminated candlesticks, won by Lawrence Egbert; Christmas door cover, won by Jerry Newman; (2) boxes Esther Price candy, won by Rosalyn Stutsman & Dorothy Harlamert.

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - 1994

\$5,667.31	Balance January 1, 1994		
	<u>RECEIPTS:</u>		<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>
1,993.25	Dues and Donations	\$362.46	Property, Maintenance (Includes Painting)
960.06	Special Events (Annual Dinner Meeting, Christmas Open House, Notecards, Prints, Ornaments)	301.00	Utilities
		470.00	Insurance
850.00	Grants	484.13	Special Events Expenses
213.15	Interest	1,079.96	Newsletter Expenses (Printing & Postage)
\$4,016.46	TOTAL RECEIPTS	206.21	Miscellaneous (Office Supplies, Stamps, Curators Supplies, etc.)
\$9,683.77	TOTAL		
-2,903.76	-DISBURSEMENTS	\$2,903.76	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS
\$6,780.01	Balance December 31, 1994 (Checking Acct.)		
\$1,500.00	Reserve (American Budget)		<i>[Betty Schroer, Treasurer]</i>

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING MARCH 13, 1995

Please mark your calendars for March 13, 1995, when we will meet in the St. Paul Church auditorium at 6:30 p.m. for our Annual Dinner Meeting. The meal will be prepared by the St. Paul Cookers.

JOYCE ALIG, Curator of the Mercer County Historical Society will be guest speaker at the NBHA's Annual Dinner Meeting. She will speak on the barns in the area and the Mercer County culture.

Tickets will go on sale the last week in February at Schwieterman's Drug Store and also at the Cornerstone Shop.

A VISIT TO THE MERCER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In October 1994, the NBHA was invited to attend a meeting in Celina. Rev. Larry Holmer, Trustee, graciously represented our Association for the evening and spoke on cultural heritage. Thank you.

THANK YOU to Trustees, Don Ruese and Gene Kuck, for building the temporary sidewalks to accommodate visitors during the Christmas season. The weather was in our favor, but the work was hard. On our spring agenda will be walks in front of the Museum!

THANK YOU TO THE CLEANING CREW – We enjoyed the fellowship while cleaning the Museum this fall. Soon the dust and cobwebs of summer disappeared and the rooms were ready for the Christmas Tree Festival.

SECOND PUBLISHING OF RALPH MAY BOOKS

There are many of us who enjoy the history of New Bremen, Ohio – how our little town got its start, how it grew over the years with the help of so many dedicated people - through bad times, through good times, and how our town continues to grow.

There is very little recorded about the history of New Bremen, and so it is with real pleasure for our historians of today to find some interesting history of "old New Bremen" to share with others. Some history is recorded in story form, some in articles in the newspaper, while other history has been told in a letter to a friend. From time to time, these articles will be published in this newsletter.

One collection of articles (by the late Ralph May) were gathered together and published in book form for New Bremen's celebration of her 150th birthday in 1983. The books, "*Ralph May Remembers*", have all been sold (from coast to coast) and so the Friends of the Library and the New Bremen Historic Association decided to have a second printing done. The books are for sale at the Public Library and the NBHA Museum.

To get a better idea of many of New Bremen's landmarks, Sue Maxson, Assistant Librarian, suggested a map for the Ralph May book. So, Paul Lietz, a native of New Bremen, consented to sketch a map, giving readers the approximate location of buildings and historic places in our fair town. Paul adds: "The map is not drawn to scale, but as you read the book, ENJOY!" Maps will also be available at the Library and Museum for everyone who already owns a Ralph May book.

Remember – New Bremen was quite small in the early 1900s and where once there were corn fields and pasture land, now in 1994, there are subdivisions with beautiful homes, new business buildings, restaurants, a bowling alley, a mall - all occupying this site.

Home life was very important to Ralph May and the following are a few excerpts from a speech he gave in later years:

"Although I was born in 1892 in Piqua, Ohio, I lost my parents at a very early age. I was then brought up by my Grandmother Schroeder in an old unpainted weather-beaten one-story house on Plum Street, just west of Washington Street in New Bremen, Ohio. This was in the year 1895-6, at the time my mother passed away.

All the steam whistles in town ushered in the New Year. My uncle was an engineer at Rabe's Factory and I would sometimes stay up to be with him as he got up steam to blow the whistle. The morning found the boys in my neighborhood going from house to house, shooting our cap pistols and singing 'Hail the Bright New Year' with many a kling klang and a knocking at the door until we were let in for some light refreshments."



J.A. LONG & CO. PRODUCE DEALERS



The former J.A. Long & Co. (brick) building in 1995

2/24/1899: F.I. Steinberg sold his property business to J.A. Long & Co. Bring your poultry, eggs, butter, hides, tallow, sheep pelts, beeswax, rags, etc. to J.A. Long and Co. in the former oil mill near the Vogelsang Street swing bridge.

11/7/1902: J.A. Long & Co. bought the old mill and will convert same into a poultry house. The building is located on Vogelsang and Canal Streets near an old landmark having been used as an oil mill – Amount: \$600.00.

1/15/1904: J.A. Long & Co. will remodel their warehouse near Vogelsang Street swing bridge.

6/3/1910: J.A. Long & Co. packing house threatened by flames. The building burned and was replaced by the brick building.

1995: Former J.A. Long & Co. building now owned by Crown Controls / Equipment Corp.

READ ABOUT THE J.A. LONG POULTRY COMPANY YEARS AGO IN THE RALPH MAY BOOK.



THE WHITE MOUNTAIN CREAMERY COMPANY

Organized in 1884 to carry on the business built up by Louis Huenke, who made it possible to have the first creamery in northwestern Ohio.

Incorporated 1908.

[This photo and the J.A. Long photo on the left (above) were provided by Vernon Doenges of Wapakoneta.]

FRIENDSHIP OF LASTING DURATION

Sprung Up Between Postman and Two Dogs

[from *The New Bremen Sun* – January 1946]

Photo: Walter Behm, with mail sack



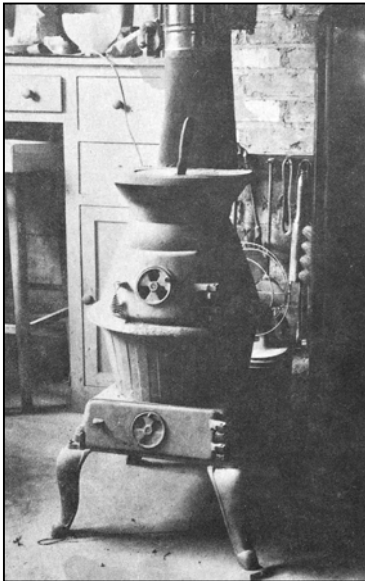
Without being able to attribute the odd relationship to any particular deed of kindness toward the canine pals, Postman Walter Behm has won the apparent lasting esteem and love of a couple of dogs whose owners live on his route in the west part of the village. They are the dogs owned by ex-mayor Harry Nussmeyer on North Franklin Street and by Mrs. Alma Lietz at South Herman and Poplar Streets.

Quite a few years ago, when Mr. Behm was delivery man on the present route, the canines' affection for him became evident when one of the dogs (the white and tan residence guardian of Mr. Nussmeyer) began to arrive at the Post Office, on the minute, to start off and make the rounds with the letter carrier from house to house along every street. Neither rain nor shine, neither snow nor ice could cause the animal to deviate one iota from the adopted course! Soon Mrs. Lietz's dog joined the trek when the mailman arrived at its home, however the accumulation of years on this canine's back has cut its perambulation short, the pooch calling it quits whenever Mr. Behm stops at the Post Office for his second pack. Then the dog leisurely trots home while the other one faithfully continues the perambulations consuming the better part of a half day.

Adding to the strangeness of the case is the fact that during the three years when Mr. Behm performed office duties while O.C. Ruedebusch was in the armed service, the dogs merely called at the Post Office occasionally, rattling the door latch with their noses until admittance was granted them. They snuffed around a few minutes, spied around to see who was there and then peacefully took leave without ever attempting to accompany Harry Thielker (who was acting carrier during the interim) on the route.

No sooner had Mr. Ruedebusch returned home from overseas and resumed his position in the Post Office and Mr. Behm again shouldered the letter bag, when the dogs were again at hand to accompany him on the route!

After three years, the Nussmeyer dog retains the uncanny knowledge of the route so exactly that it no more follows the carrier, but trots ahead of him turning into streets to right or left as the case may be before the carrier ever arrives at the point. Its companion in the daily diversion contents itself by covering the short stretch from its home to the Post Office. And on Sundays neither of the dogs shows up at the Office!



FROM YESTERYEAR'S ALBUM

Courtesy of Paul Lietz

It is that time of the year when we think about 'pot-bellied stoves' and perhaps the old wood-burning kitchen range. A bright fire burning in the stove, enough room on top to hold a coffee pot and a chair or two near the stove for company to 'sit a spell' makes you forget all about kindling to make, starting the fire in the stove, ashes to carry out, stovepipes to clean, and a stove to polish!



NEWS FROM LONG AGO - 1895

December 20,1895: Dr. M.S. Ekermeier has removed his office to the second floor of the new Speckman and Nieter block. He now has greater equipment and more commodious rooms than ever. The stairway leading to his office is located between Heil's Tin Store and Speckman, Goll and Co.'s dry goods store.

1895: The bath rooms at the CLIMAX barber shop in the basement of the Schulenberg and Laut block are again in working order. Single baths are 15¢ or 7 for a dollar. William Schulenberg and Son are the new proprietors and Bonnie Kussman continues as manager. He will be happy to cut the hair, to shave and shampoo any and everyone who comes along, provided he has the price.

1895: The pork-packing business in New Bremen is not carried on so extensively as of yore. Mr. John Garmhausen has discontinued the business down in Lock Two altogether and ships his hogs alive while other merchants are continuing the purchase and packing of slaughtered hogs merely through force of habit.

NOW WE ARE ENTERING THE YEAR 1995 AND SOME OF THE MENTIONED BUILDINGS ARE STILL BEING USED TODAY!

December 24,1920: Seventeen New Bremen students at the Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio arrived home to spend their holiday vacation with their parents and friends. The group consists of Aaron Vogelsang, Carl Schrage, Chester Trautwein, Lloyd Speckman, Leon Stroefer, Arlie Dicke, Omer Fritz, Orlando Gilberg, Marion Boesel, Richard Kunning, Walter Kuck, Arlington and Clarence Rawers, Wilbur Garmhausen, Myra Kuenzel, Dorothy Kunning, and Eleanor Purpus.

WHAT'S NEW IN NEW BREMEN?

October 1930: WOMAN'S CLUB PROGRAM COMPLETED - Inaugurating its 18th year, the New Bremen Woman's Club arranged a series of interesting educational meetings for the season of 1930-31. The club was organized in 1912 and affiliated with the Federation of Women's Clubs in 1927. With 33 members, the officers of the club for the ensuing year are Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel, President; Mrs. H. Kornrninsk, Vice President; Mrs. S.M. Archer, Secretary; and Mrs. Felix Kuenzel, Treasurer.

April 16,1932: Miss Goldie Schmidt has sold the filling station building at Walnut and Monroe Streets, 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.

"THE CRIMSON AND GOLD" **SCHOOL NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL STAFF** *[New Bremen Sun – October 2, 1930]*

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 Garmhausen
ASSISTANT HUMOR EDITOR: Louise Haines
SPORTS EDITORS:
BOYS: Frederick Luedeke
GIRLS: Helen Knipple
FACULTY ADVISOR: R.S. Miller

SCHOOLS TO ENROLL MORE THAN 400 **REGISTRATION COMPLETED** **TEACHERS ASSIGNED 1927-28** *[New Bremen Sun - September 1927]*

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: Mr. Archer, Miss Alvina Burk,
Mrs. Hazel Garmhausen, Miss Alice Andrews,
O.H. Diehm, R.S. Miller & Miss Laura Niederhaus (music)

