

THE TOWPATH

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER - 1995

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
120 North Main Street - 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!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Visiting hours are Sunday afternoons during the summer from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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FARMER'S FORECAST

When the sky is red in the morning and a rainbow forms before noon,
And the stars are dim and dull and gray and a ring forms 'round the moon;
When the crows caw long and loudly and sounds travel far at night,
And fish jump from the water and flies stick tight and bite;
When you can't get salt from the shaker and your corns give extra pain,
There's no need to consult an almanac for you know it's goin' to rain!

[Forecast written by Otis H. Henry of Franklin, Tennessee]

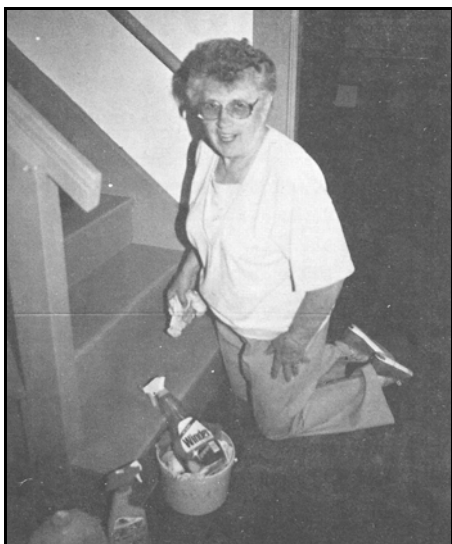


THE NEW BREMEN FIRE BELL RETURNS TO ITS ORIGINAL HOME

The Trustees and Officers were happy when Crown Controls / Equipment Corp. wanted the old fire bell back in its rightful home. We felt it belonged there too. For the past several years, the bell has been housed at the NBHA Museum. Crown wanted to do something special for the Museum and suggested putting in the new sidewalks in front of the Museum in exchange for the bell. Now the new walks are all in and the bell is "home" again (above the 1897 Fire Station).

How many of you remember when New Bremen had a curfew and this same bell rang at 9:00 p.m. sharp every evening? Young people without a chaperone better be off the street of New Bremen and in their homes.

MEET TWO OF OUR STAFF: OUR SPRING HOUSECLEANING WAS ON MAY 17TH.



Susie Hirschfeld keeps a record of all members, dues, donations.



Mary Wint does genealogy research from Library files and records.



JOHN MEYER'S HOTEL

In 1994, Carol Hone of Celina donated a rose-carved walnut chair to the NBHA Museum. The chair is from the hotel that John Meyer owned in New Bremen. John Meyer was Carol Hone's great-great-grandfather. Here is the story:

GERMANY: John Meyer / Meier and Lenora Wedeking were born in Germany about 1800. For about a century or more, war and revolution had marked the general condition of the country. Germany's strength was reckoned by the size of her Army and the height of her soldiers. The kings had oppressed the common people and the young men were pressed into military service for an allotted number of years beginning at a fixed age. The German rulers considered military training all-important and every male citizen was under compulsion to receive it. No one was exempt.

John Meyer was no exception and was pressed into military service and served three years as bodyguard in the palace of the King. After he had served his allotted time and was discharged, he became a farmer and early in life he was married to Lenora Wedeking. They continued to live in their native land for some time.

When Prince Mitternich became ruler of Germany, he formed the League of Kings known as the Holy Alliance. This League succeeded in taking away what rights and privileges were left to the people. Prince Mitternich opposed any sign of self-improvement of people, fearing an uprising on their part would mean a decline of his own power. For this reason, he used no discretion in seizing land and personal property of his subjects and taking away their rights as citizens.

In this respect, John Meyer was no exception. He was about to lose his home in Germany, so in order to gain freedom and privileges he had heard were to be his in America, he disposed of such possessions as he could and came to seek the liberty he craved.

AMERICA: After coming to this country, John Meyer and his wife moved to New Bremen, Ohio, located on the canal route between Cincinnati and Toledo, and which was a thriving little business town. Here he engaged in running a tavern or hotel and many and varied were his experiences as a tavern keeper. He lived happily here and became prosperous.

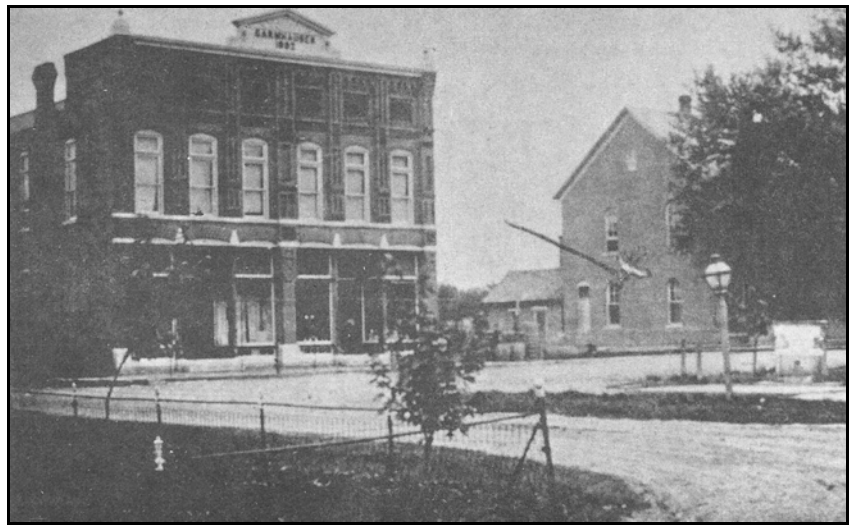
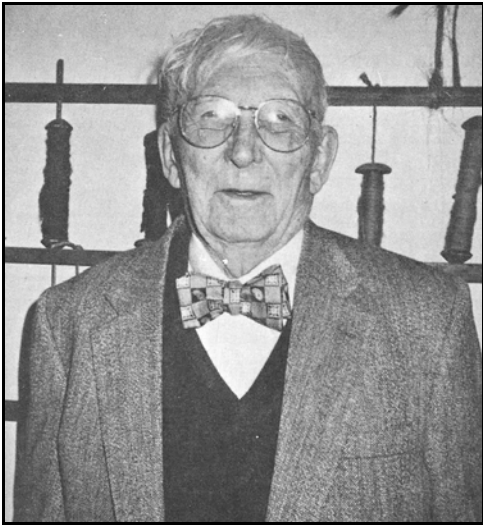
FAMILY: A number of children were born to Mr. & Mrs. Meyer, all of whom died in infancy except Catherine Georganna (Mrs. Henry Hone) and Ben Meyer. When Georganna was 3 months old, her mother died. After a time, John Meyer married a Maria Strombeck of New Bremen and continued to conduct his hotel. To this union, Fredrica Meyer (Mrs. Christ Schmidt) was born. When she was quite small, her mother died also, leaving the children to the cold mercies of two more step-mothers, each in her own turn. The children were reared in the family home and when the girls were grown, they went to work for a Jewish family in Cincinnati for five years. At the end of that time, they returned to New Bremen where they were married.

John Meyer, who was a member of the Reformed Lutheran Church, died at his home in New Bremen at the age of 75 years.

by Vernita Scheer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Vernita (Heinfeld) Scheer (pictured above) is a co-curator of the NBHA Museum. The picture shows her with the rose-carved chair that at one time, years ago, was part of the furniture in the Meyer Hotel. The picture was taken in the parlor (southeast room) of the Museum.

In researching New Bremen's history of hotels, we find these early ones listed: The American House, The French House, The Lehmkuhl House. Since pork-packing became one of the town's leading industries, farmers came from great distances to dispose of their hogs in New Bremen. Folks had to have a place to stay for a few days. Persons traveling by canal boat also appreciated hotel accommodations.



WILBUR J. GARMHAUSEN – GRAND-DADDY OF ROADSIDE REST AREAS

From NBHA member, Mrs. Betsy Hunter, comes a delightful letter concerning her father, Wilbur J. Garmhausen of Chillicothe, Ohio. Wilbur is a New Bremen High School graduate and a charter member of our Historic Association.

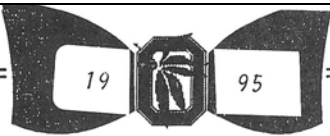
Dear Marjorie:

I thought you would be interested in this story for *"The Towpath"*. At age 93 (71 years after his original class of 1924 was graduated), my father, Wilbur J. Garmhausen, will receive his B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture. Dad was the Chief Landscape Architect for the state of Ohio from 1949-1972. Nationally recognized, he served on President Lyndon Johnson's Beautification Committee and was a pioneer in Highway Development for Ohio. His legacy is miles of beautiful highways with wonderful roadside parks throughout the state.

The page I've included that says "Good News! Good News!" tells about Garmy's receiving his degree and about Garmy's awarding of a scholarship in his name. Interestingly, the first recipient is from Columbus Grove, Ohio. That's not very far from dear old Lock Two (pictured above) and New Bremen where Dad grew up. Seems fitting! I've included some pictures you might like to use.

As excited as Dad is about receiving his B.S., he is particularly thrilled to be able to establish an annual scholarship in a field he loved at a school he worked closely with during his career and to help a student this year and every year be able to continue his/her studies. Best regards,

-Betsy Hunter of Dobbs Ferry, New York (6/3/1995)



Good News! Good News!

The family of W. J. Garmhausen is proud to announce two exciting events that will take place on Friday, June 9th at The Ohio State University:

Garmy will be awarded a B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture, Class of 1995, by the university's Knowlton School of Architecture. Based on his credit hours previously earned (1920 - 1926) and the mastery of landscape architecture, he has satisfied all graduation requirements for the degree.

At the same award ceremony, Robert N. Allen of Columbus Grove, Ohio will be the recipient of the first annual Wilbur J. Garmhausen Scholarship in Landscape Architecture.

The scholarship is granted to a second year student with a declared major in the landscape architecture program. It was designed to help meet monetary needs similar to those Garmy faced as a student. The recipient must exhibit excellence in landscape architecture through the knowledge of landscape plant materials, and must possess outstanding professional communication skills.

We are so proud of all Garmy has achieved throughout his 93 years. Thanks to his contributions, everyone can enjoy miles of beautiful Ohio highways and wonderful, convenient roadside parks.

Join us as we cheer him in these latest accomplishments.
Our hats are off to him, our hats are off to him indeed!

Janet Bock Charles Garmhausen Betsy Hunter

P.S. If you'd like to send Garmy a card.... he loves to hear from friends!
198 Grand Avenue Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

GARMY - THE GRAND-DADDY OF ROADSIDE REST AREAS

Once upon a time, not so long ago or far away, automobiles traveled at a top speed of 40 mph on two-lane roads. Motorists going any distance who didn't buy a meal in town relied on a packed picnic lunch and the kindness of farmers along the way who shared their grove of trees or fields by the roadside as places to stop, stretch and picnic.

Today's motorists use multiple lane, high-speed highways and interstates with a network of convenient and attractive roadside areas provided for their comfort and safety.

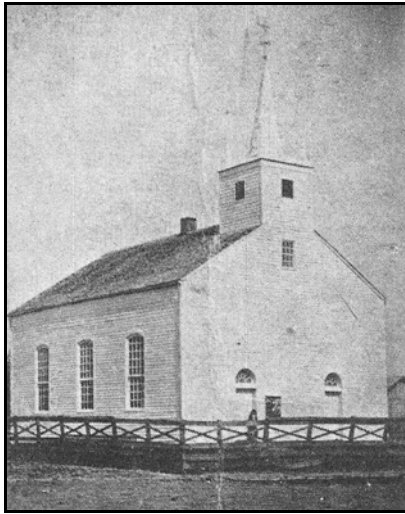
Our Thank You to a visionary pioneer – Wilbur J. Garmhausen!

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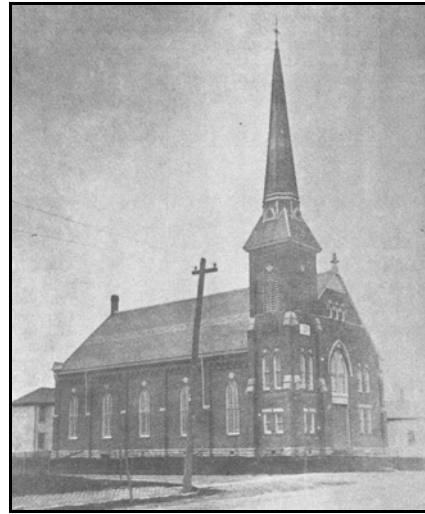
BIOGRAPHY OF W.J. GARMHAUSEN

He worked from 1935-1972 on behalf of Roadside Development in Ohio. The guiding precepts of his work were to make highway landscaping both a practical solution to roadside problems and to make travel more attractive and safer for the motorist. Roadside Rest Areas were designed to provide the traveling public complete facilities including sanitary conditions.

Beginning in 1936, Ohio was the only state that had rest areas with all facilities! In addition to his regular duties as Chief Landscape Architect, Garmy authored 61 articles and publications such as "Roads and Streets", "Public Works", "Better Roads", "Ohio Contractor", "Park Maintenance" and "Highway Magazine".



St. Peter's Church of years ago.
[photo courtesy of Roger & Vernita Scheer]



St. Peter's Evangelical Church in 1900
[Photo by Historian, Ralph May]

ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Ninety five years ago, the picture on the right was taken by Ralph May. This brick building, which replaced the old frame church on the left, was dedicated on July 3, 1887. Behind the church, to the left, you can see part of the parsonage. It was built in 1880 and is still (1995) used by the current pastor, the Rev. Mr. Brady Seeley.

On the right, beside the church, you will see part of the old schoolhouse which was built on the northeast corner of the property in 1849. This building was replaced by an addition to the brick church building in 1904.

The week of October 15th-22nd, 1995, the congregation of St. Peter's United Church of Christ will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the congregation. The history and publication committee hopes to publish an anniversary booklet in time for the anniversary celebration and welcomes any stories about the congregation or the pastors that you would like to share. Please send such information to Rev. Dr. Lawrence T. Holmer, co-chairperson of the committee.

HOMETOWN

Where people meet with outstretched hands and grins upon their faces,
Where songs and laughter seem to blend more than at other places;
Where footsteps seem a little lighter as they fall upon the street,
And eyes shine a little brighter when they chance to meet;
Where the sun shines a little more and the grass seems always green,
Where the bird's song is always sweeter than anywhere I've been;
Where the rain feels a bit more gentle as it comes falling down,
Upon the roofs and sidewalks of my hometown. (Lynda Schlamann – *Ideals*)

WHAT I LIKE THE VERY BEST ABOUT OUR SMALL MAIN STREET,
ARE SMILING FACES OF THE FRIENDS THAT ONE IS SURE TO MEET!
(*Ideals magazine*)



DO YOU REMEMBER "THE CRIMSON AND GOLD"

PUBLISHED BY STUDENTS OF NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL BEGINNING IN 1930

1931 EDITORIAL STAFF

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NINE YEARS AGO - HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NEW SCHOOL ONE YEAR

First Classes In New Building Held January 22, 1930

<Special from the January 22, 1931 Issue of "Crimson and Gold">

January 22nd! What a day and what it means to every member of New Bremen High School.

A year ago, on January 21st, word went around to every high school student to "pack up his troubles in his old kit bag and smile, smile, smile", for another milestone had been reached in the lives of all students. On the morrow we were to leave the rough paths of the past and go to the smoother paths of the future. Our beloved new high school building was completed and wonder of wonders, there was a magnificent gym, a modern laboratory, home ec and ag rooms, and joy of joys, a spacious library where one could sit for hours reading the literature which pleased most. In truth, it was a "grand and glorious feeling".

Now we have been here a year and are quite satisfied. We love each inch of the building and shall ever look back upon the days we spent as some of the happiest in our lives.

"Thanks a million, a million thanks to you for all you've done."

It would take more than a million thanks to express our gratitude to you for the passing of the three-mill levy.

To the Seniors it means graduation, to the lower grades it means promotion, and to all of us it means continuation of school and a higher standard of education. Some of us will go on with our education and try to bring, in glory, our payment to all of the people who have so willingly helped so that our schools might stay open.

We hope we have expressed to you our gratitude for the things made possible by the passing of the three-mill levy.

COLLECTS AUTOGRAPHS OF COUNTRY'S LEADING CARTOONISTS



Shucks: I can't think of anything this week.

TROUBLES OF A CARTOONIST

HOWARD (BUDDY) KETTLER, high school student cartoonist, is continuing to add the names of some of the country's leading cartoonists to his collection of autographs. He is reaching into all sections of the country to build up his collection of such well-known artists as: Donahey, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Daniel Bishop, St. Louis Post; Claude Shafer, Cincinnati Times-Star; Fitzpatrick, St. Louis Dispatch; Larry Keyes and Ray Evans, Columbus Dispatch; Edmund Duffy, Baltimore Sun; Cecil Jensen and Shoemaker, Chicago Daily News; Jon Cassel, Brooklyn Eagle; Jerry Doyle, Philadelphia Record and New York Post; Brown, New York Sun; Dorman H. Smith, San Francisco Examiner; Billy Warren, Buffalo News; Carey Orr, Chicago Tribune; Tom Carlisle, Des Moines Register; Lynn Bogue Hunt, cover artist for Field and Stream.

KETTLER also has a letter from Powel Crosley, head of the Crosley Radio Corporation in which he expresses his thanks for a recent drawing of himself as made by the youthful New Bremen artist! *[published in The New Bremen Sun - 12/13/1935]*

EARLY HISTORY OF NEW BREMEN, OHIO

"Cap Doyle", an early pioneer settler of New Bremen, owned a canal boat which during the summer he used for transportation purposes and when the canal froze over in winter, he would park it somewhere along the canal banks and live in it until spring. But the boat grew old - one morning he found the boat had sunk during the night. He made no effort to have it raised. The boat sank just opposite the Eschmeyer residence and the top of it can still be seen occasionally when the water is low!

-Crimson & Gold - November 1930

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

The Junior class has been kept fairly busy the past week with selecting class rings and choosing a class play.

The class has decided to give the play, "Brother Rat", which is taken from the movie of the same name. This play will be given on February 22 in connection with the Community Institute. There was quite a controversy in deciding how to put on the play, but due to the fact that there would probably be too many plays throughout the winter had the class sponsored it alone, it was finally decided to give it with the Institute. Those who have seen the movie "Brother Rat" know that this will be one of the high spots of entertainment during the year. The play will be directed by Miss Dottie Schmidt.

On Monday afternoon, the last two periods were spent in trying to select a class ring. From hundreds of rings the class chose the six which they preferred. Then the trouble began. Some wanted one ring, some wanted another, and so it was finally decided that the three rings receiving the highest votes should be held over until Tuesday. Before classes shifted on Tuesday morning, the class made their final choice to the satisfaction of everyone.

LOOK PLEASANT, PLEASE!

One day last week the students of N.B.H.S. went on a primping spree. It meant just one thing – pictures. A Mr. Huntzinger from Piqua was on hand to take small pictures of each person.

DIARIES TELL TALES

A number of our class have diaries which the class secretaries have been trying to fill with interesting occurrences of the school years. These diaries were received in eighth grade.

Some of the writings found in the diary of the class of '41 will now be unveiled to you.

January 27, 1937: We studied the electric motor in science class. Ruth Poppe said "Isn't that cute?"

February 1: Rosemary Schneider broke the camera when we had our pictures taken.

February 4: Hazel Heitman was moved to a seat in front of Mr. Blanke's desk because she was drawing sketches during classes.

February 18: We went to high school to sing for Community Institute. (What an honor.)

February 19: Imagine Marian Hespe writing a sentence like this for present perfect tense. "He has been with me all evening." (Perfect, eh?)

March 5: Ruth Poppe acquired the seat in front of Mr. Blanke for acting up.

April 9: We gave a play, "Major Wissys Amateur Hour", also "Kaltenmeyer's Kindergarten". (Were they swell!)

April 27: John Briggs said that North Carolina was a tobacco raising region in Ohio. (Will he learn?)

April 30: After wearing Wayne Belton's cap in school just for fun, Betty Rust was compelled by Mr. Ludwig to wear it.

May 13: As Freshmen we presented a clock to the school which we bought for our P.T.A. money. (The clock still runs, too!)

May 21: Mildred Zahn said she couldn't read a newspaper article because there were so many big words in it.

September 5: First day of school. At last we're upperclassmen.

September 6: Marian Hespe fell out of her seat in Shorthand class. What was she trying to do?

October 28: P.T.A. Carnival. Our class had the best float and our queen was crowned.

