

THE TOWPATH

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

**OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER
 1995**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS
 PUBLISHED QUARTERLY**

Membership Dues:
\$5.00 per year (new rate for 1996)
 Life Membership \$50.00

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

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- Mary Wint..... Genealogy
- Marjorie Lietz "Towpath" Editor



PHOTO ABOVE: Walt Schmitmeyer, barber, with TWO FEATHERS - 320 West Monroe St. - 1995
WELCOME NEW TRUSTEES: DOUG HARROD, ERIC WIERWILLE

**DUE TO THE POSTAGE INCREASE AND THE RISING COST OF PAPER,
 THE TRUSTEES ARE RAISING THE NBHA'S ANNUAL DUES TO \$5.00 PER YEAR PER PERSON.**



**"I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS" – THEME FOR CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL
 IN COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II FIFTY YEARS AGO**

FESTIVAL HOURS:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 6:00-8:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE: Mark & Renae Gaerke, Don & Carol Ruese, Eric Wierwille.

To get ready for the Festival in December, we need some volunteers to help sweep and dust on November 15th at 9:00 a.m. Come and join us!

PICTURE REQUEST: Martha Plattner, member of the NBHA, is looking for a school picture of Anna Marie (Donnerberg) Plattner. The picture would be from 1907-1914. Martha would copy your picture and return it to you.

FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN

1800s: Peter Kennel was a shoe cobbler, his house was a tiny house right off the towpath, northwest of the Monroe Street bridge.

July 1, 1893: Dr. F.M. Lewis arrived in town.

November 9, 1900: A skating rink will be started in New Bremen at Kruel & Hartwig's hall.

1902: The A.H. May Implement Co. bought the Jay grain elevator for \$5,500. This is near the L.E.& W. Railroad.

May 1902: The Brick Works factory is in operation.

November 6, 1903: The sandstone ordered for the construction of walks along West Monroe and South Main Streets began arriving on the L.E.& W. Wednesday afternoon. Two carloads are here and already distributed along the streets and laying will begin in a day or two under the supervision of August Heil of New Bremen.

November 20, 1903: Work on the new sidewalks along West Monroe Street was begun Tuesday morning on the corner of Main and Monroe, but on account of the cold wave on Wednesday the workmen were compelled to leave the job until warmer weather sets in again. Property holders along Monroe between Main and Franklin have practically agreed to construct six feet instead of a four foot walk, as demanded by the village council, this square being traversed by nearly seven-eighths of the school children during nine months of the year, making a four foot walk entirely inadequate to the demands! That is surely a praiseworthy move on the part of the property holders, who thereby incur a much higher expense than would be necessary according to the decision of the council.

NOTE: Many of the above mentioned sidewalks have been replaced with new concrete walks over the years. Just recently the walks in front of the Museum have been replaced. Sandstone walks were a smooth stone and ideal for old-fashioned roller skating! However, now that roller-blading is in style (1995), the trend is to skate on the blacktop roads.

MORE ROOM NEEDED IN THE SCHOOLS!

September 7, 1906

The 7th and 8th grades are crowded together - only one teacher for them. Attendance in the High School is steadily advancing. **Enrollment this September:** →

The West School was operated by the New Bremen School district from the date of erection (unknown) until 1913 when they were permitted by law to withdraw from the district and operate independently. This school was again in later years placed in the New Bremen School District, but the New Bremen Board of Education permitted them to operate independently until 1953.

Enrollment this September is:

Grade 1. Miss Lizzie Fischer, teacher	45 pupils
Grade 2. Miss Ruby Heinfeld, teacher	49 pupils
Grade 3. Miss Ida Laut, teacher	49 pupils
Grade 4. Miss Olga Finke, teacher	42 pupils
Grade 5. Miss Annabel Brown, teacher	45 pupils
Grade 6. Mr. J.W. Behm, teacher.... ..	37 pupils
Grade 7. Mr. A.W. Steinebrey, teacher	36 pupils
Grade 8. Mr. A.W. Steinebrey, teacher	20 pupils
Grade 9. Freshman class	42 pupils
Grade 10. Sophomore class	25 pupils
Grade 11. Junior class	18 pupils
Grade 12. Senior class	8 pupils.
J.O. Erwin, Principal; Ed J. Rodeheffer, Assistant	
North (Lock Two) School: J.C.Halsema	39 pupils
West School: Irwin Pohlman.....	<u>24 pupils</u>
A total of.....	479 pupils

FROM THE "CRIMSON AND GOLD " HIGH SCHOOL NEWS - NOVEMBER 3, 1960

"SCHOOL DAYS, SCHOOL DAYS, DEAR OLD GOLDEN RULE DAYS."

EDITOR: Dennis Dicke

COLUMNIST: Lois Dicke

COLUMNIST: Lois Wahoff

COLUMNIST: Delores Luedeke

HUMOR: Gen Conradi

BOYS' SPORTS: Tom Young

GIRLS' SPORTS: Ann Young

REPORTERS: Kate Wahoff, James Schroer,
Kathy Schmieder, Roberta Strahm, Mary Wissman,
Tom Cooper, Marlene Schoenlein, Mary Pohlman

TYPISTS: Judy Scheer, Peggy Ritter, Barb Kuck

FACULTY ADVISOR: Esther Booker

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Treasurer's report:..... \$211.12

United Fund balance:..... \$6.54

Basketball Court Fund balance:.. \$206.15

Bulletin Board displays will be continued, with Delores Luedeke & Jane Voress appointed for the October display.

WORLD CLOTHING DRIVE

Hal Opperman made a motion to have the Student Council take part in the project again this year. Committee appointed: Denny Wint, Kathy Schmieder and Roger Bornhorst to work up ideas for the project.

In the cafeteria they were serving toasted cheese sandwich, cinnamon rice, cherry jello w/nuts and cream.

SOUNDS GOOD!



EARLY NEW BREMEN: This tin-type picture of a street in early New Bremen was found recently and "THANKS" to the Photography Department at Crown Controls / Equipment Corp., the picture has been enlarged so we can share it with all of you!

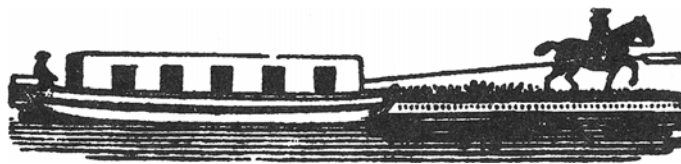
There are some clues: From left to right - the 4th building reads DRUG STORE. The large brick building on the far right matches one of the buildings of today now owned by Crown.

The round white globe in the center of the picture reads: KRUEL-HOTEL-_____? The 3rd word could be Hartwig or Kamman.

Study the picture and then let's hear from you.

One of New Bremen's very early historians (Adam Helwig) wrote "The sawmill run by water power was situated where the woolen mill is now." Our library now (1995) occupies this site.

Adam Helwig also said "In 1862, one could always see at least 25 persons fishing in the locks on Sunday. They caught bass and sunfish."



CANAL LORE - NEW BREMEN - LOCK I

OUR PORTION OF THE CANAL MADE THE HEADLINES IN THE FEBRUARY 5, 1925 EDITION OF THE *THE NEW BREMEN SUN*:

"And should the old canal be doomed because of greedy men?
Our transportation's only vein for pork and wood and stone and grain,
E'en product of the sugar cane.
Commercial highway, sure it was, until the railroad came
For all our food and textile stuff as well as products in the rough."

Our third grades (in the 1990s) study about early New Bremen, a village boomtown in canal days, shipping pork in wooden barrels by way of the canal boats. They learn how New Bremen was founded, the first buildings, the church, the school, the home life of the pioneers - through pictures, stories and history and the able guidance of their teachers. Their art work is displayed on the walls of their classrooms, keeping alive early New Bremen!

The canal plays an important part in the history of New Bremen. We are, indeed, a canal town. The Miami-Erie canal was built in sections beginning in 1818 and with the major construction completed between Cincinnati and Toledo by 1845. Warehouses, hotels, houses and saloons were found in number along the canal.

By the year of 1912, there was only occasional traffic, and the travelers had to open and close the lock gates themselves along the way. The flood of March 1913 destroyed much of the canal and it was never repaired.

In the news article, New Bremen names connected with canal boats were mentioned and are familiar to us: Lol Dorfer, Fred Behm, Philip Geib, John Garmhausen, Henry Dierker, Schmidt Brothers, Boesche, Rabe, Wiemeyer, Boesel & Kunning and Speckman & Nieter.

The canal, or commonly called "THE BIG DITCH", was dug with pick and shovel by men with strong backs. There was no heavy machinery such as back-hoes and huge earth haulers! Mules were used the greater part of the time because mules are more sure-footed and more sturdy than horses. Poverty, disease, fights ran rampant and canal history states the pay was 31¢ a day.

The canal boats carried as many as 50 persons, depending on the size of the boat. The menu on the boats was very limited, even if you were riding on a packet boat. The meat was always a little on the tough side, served with boiled cabbage or boiled pumpkin. Bread with the meal was either rye bread or cornbread. Many songs came out of the "canal era". "Low Bridge, Everybody Down" and "Fifteen Years on the Erie Canal" were popular. How much did it cost to ride the canal boat? Prices ranged from 3¢ to 5¢ a mile.

Do you want to read some more about the canal? One of New Bremen's historians was the late RALPH MAY. He lived with his grandmother close to the canal and spent many boyhood hours fishing and ice skating there. He liked to write, and now his articles are preserved in the book, "RALPH MAY REMEMBERS NEW BREMEN". This book is sold at the Public Library and the New Bremen Historical Museum for \$6.50 a copy, plus shipping & handling. There are 10 pages devoted to canal history in the book.

DOC FAUST

This page is about a person who lived in New Bremen, had many friends and was remembered by many by his "nickname". His home was at the far end of South Franklin Street and in the early 1900s, everyone in New Bremen knew where "DOC FAUST" lived. He was christened Herman Henry Christ Greber, but was known to friends and relatives as Doc Faust. Where did he acquire the nickname? No one really knows. His brother lived in Swanders, Ohio and when Doc Faust dressed up and took the street car for a visit with his brother, he looked real "spiffy". His nickname is misleading because his occupation was a janitor's job at Streine Tool and Mfg Co. (Now Stamco). He was a good-natured soul and some of his co-workers enjoyed playing practical jokes on him such as nailing his wheelbarrow to the floor.

There was no well on his property, so he carried his drinking water from our grandparents' home at Southend (this property now occupied by the Wenthe family). Our Grandmother Gieseke always cooked just a little extra so she would have a bowl of soup or something tasty for her neighbor, Doc Faust. So, many times, he was seen carrying a bucket of water in one hand and a dish of food in the other.

Our grandparents (John & Josephine Gieseke) were good neighbors to Doc Faust, caring for him when he was ill, getting the doctor, taking care of the heating stove, washing clothes and bringing food to him.

When winter time came, Doc Faust would spend the cold months at the county home in Wapakoneta. Springtime found him back in New Bremen, in his little house just north of Southend (where Franklin Street ends and Erie Road begins).

FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN – 1927: Services for Herman Henry Christ Greber, familiarly known as "Doc Faust", who died at 6 o'clock yesterday morning at his home on South Franklin Street, have been arranged for tomorrow afternoon and will be held at 1 o'clock from the Vornholt Funeral Home with Rev. H.C. Klutey, pastor of St. Peter's Church, officiating.

*-written as told to us by our parents
Gieseke cousins, Betty H. Schroer & Marjorie Lietz*

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A SMALL TOWN THAT'S FRIENDSHIP AT ITS BEST,
FOR EACH AND EVERY WARM "HELLO" HAS EXTRA SPECIAL ZEST.
NO ONE NEEDS TO FEEL ALONE WHEN TROUBLE COMES HIS WAY,
'CAUSE ALL THE TOWN WILL PITCH RIGHT IN TO BRIGHTEN UP HIS DAY! (Ideals)

A FRIEND IS LIKE AN OLD SONG, GROWN SWEETER WITH THE YEARS.
A FRIEND IS ONE WHO SHARES OUR JOYS AND WIPES AWAY OUR TEARS.
HAPPY ARE WE WHO FIND A FEW GOOD FRIENDS ALONG THE ROAD. (Ideals)



"EARLY NEW BREMEN" (1995 photo)

A reminder of how New Bremen looked in the early 1830s.

This 1830s era log cabin is complete now and stands in the backyard of the Kuckherman Real Estate office at 131 South Washington St. The cabin was originally built in Mercer County and rotted logs were replaced with aged logs from a Logan County site. The log cabin is a Crown Equipment Corp. restoration.



Wm Schulenberg

EARLY WRITINGS OF WILLIAM SCHULENBERG

Who and how many can go back with me three-quarters of a century and remember who was here in New Bremen before Auglaize County was on the map and recall the name of MR. JUNEMAN, WHO WAS ELECTED AUDITOR OF MERCER COUNTY, who resided here and moved to Celina, the Mercer County seat, when New Bremen was a part of Mercer County?

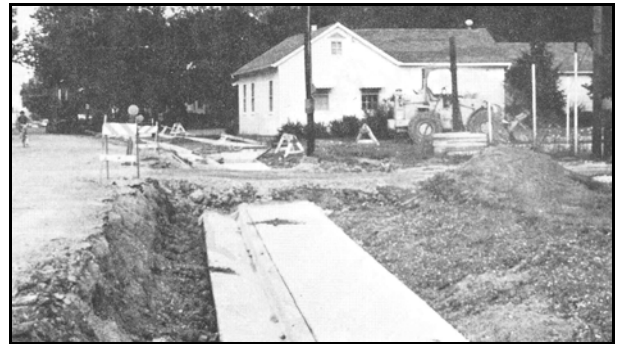
Who can remember the OLD LOG CHURCH ON HERMAN STREET with Rev. Fuhrman as pastor (1839-1847) and the building of the frame church, built by the writer's father, Frederick Schulenberg, and of which Rev. Borchers was the pastor? The NEW SPACIOUS FRAME CHURCH was built during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Borchers, who served St. Paul Church from May 1847 to May 1858.

A committee of five presented the plans and figures, namely Friedrich Schulenberg, Henry Wellman, William Finke, C. Kuenzel and B. Mesloh. The new church was DEDICATED IN 1849.

"COMBS HILL"



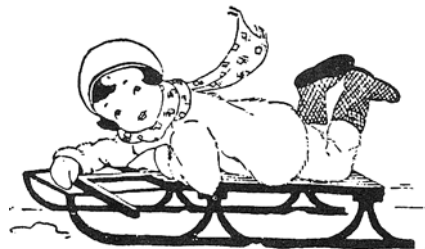
Plum Street looking west down Combs Hill - 1978



Plum Street looking east – Swimming pool on left.

This street is Plum Street, however in New Bremen we refer to it as "Combs Hill". The residence on the left was at one time the home of William Combs, canal boat captain. The ice pond and ice houses were south and west of the house. The buildings are now (1995) owned by the Minnich family.

Plum Street was rebuilt in the summer of 1978 and much of the road (the hill) was cut away. Yes – there are memories, especially in the winter time when the road was closed off for a few days so children could go sledding down Combs Hill.



TAKE ME AGAIN TO THE HILL WHERE I SLID DOWN
OH, LET ME HAVE ONCE MORE ALL THE JOY OF MY YOUTH
AND THE BEAUTY OF MY HOMETOWN. (*Ideals*)

LITTLE TOWNS

I love the look of little towns where one will always find
The neighbors up and down the street - the friendly, helpful kind.
I love the sweetness of small towns with fragrance in the air,
Where flowers bloom in every yard, with beauty everywhere.

I love the wealth of little towns where the folks are able
To grow their gardens fresh and green for the family table.
I love the hope of little towns where everyone, it seems,
Can work so well together there to realize fond dreams.

V.K. Oliver (Ideals magazine)

WISHING YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS!