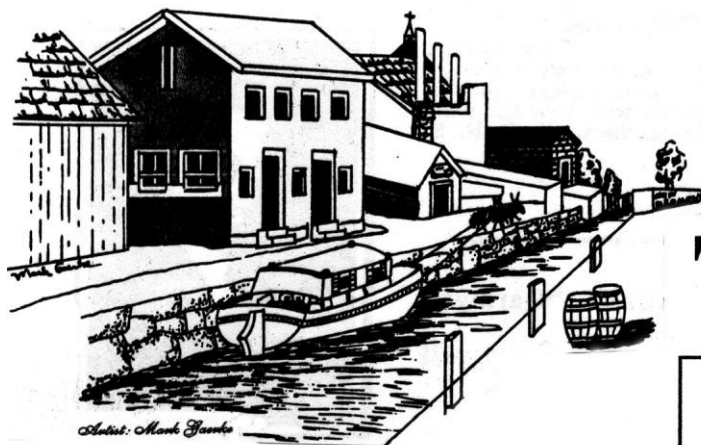


October - 1996



THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly (January-April-July-October) by
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869

(Museum located at 120-122 N. Main St.)

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OCTOBER

The green, green grass of Summer
Has changed to shades of brown,
And the smiling face of Autumn
Looks like a circus clown.

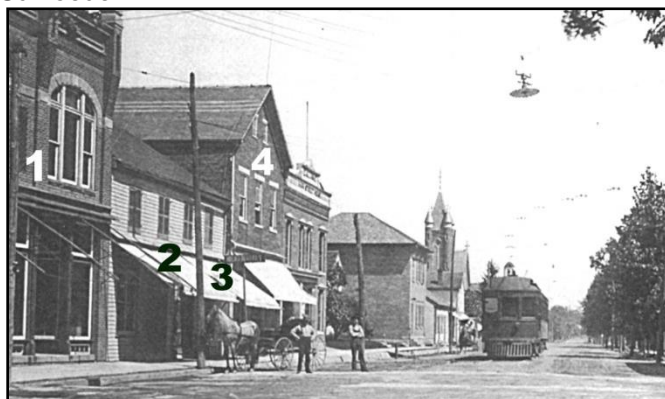
The Summer flowers have gone to sleep
Except for just a few,
October time is in its prime
All fresh with morning dew.

There's a chill about this mornin'
Cause it's late October time,
And frost will soon descend to earth
To paint its silvery shine.

Grass isn't green forever,
And nothing gold can stay,
But Springtime follows Winter
And the snow will melt away.

FROM THE EDITOR:

I want to thank Rosemary (Landwehr) Gerling, Eugene Jordan, and Margaret (Wehmeyer) Shroyer for their contributions to this issue of *The Towpath*. Rosemary's pictures and story about Louie's Restaurant (The Sandwich Shop) are on Pages 2, 3, 4. Page 5 is a memorial to Paul Lietz. Eugene's story about Clarence Laut's cigar making is on page 6. Margaret's picture of a horse-drawn hearse and related items are on page 7. In our next issue (January-1997), we will resume the series of **SHOPPING NEW BREMEN IN THE 1920s** by Bob Schroeder.



(1) KROGER'S (2) LOUIE'S (3) GILBERG/HEGEMIER (4) FARK'S
BAKERY
NORTH MAIN STREET

For Good Food During Festival Days Try the

SANDWICH SHOP

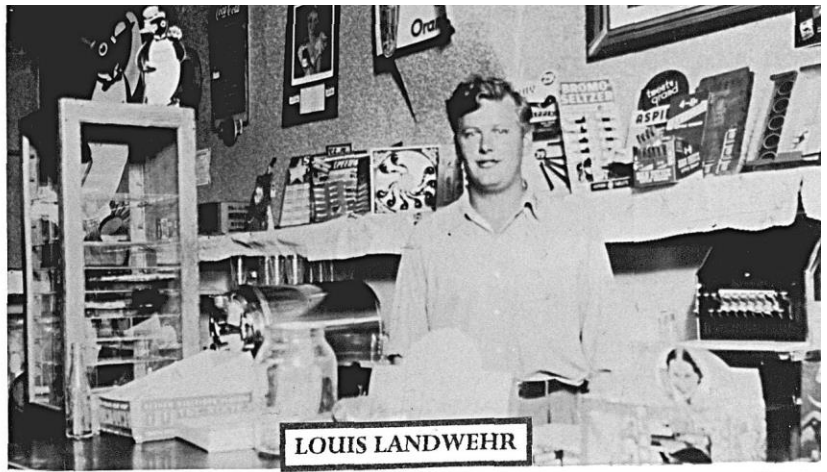
5 North Main Street
Erma and Louis Landwehr, Proprietors
**Guessing Contest --- Valuable
Prizes**

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
September 5, 6, 7, 1940



ERMA LANDWEHR
106 WEST MONROE ST.

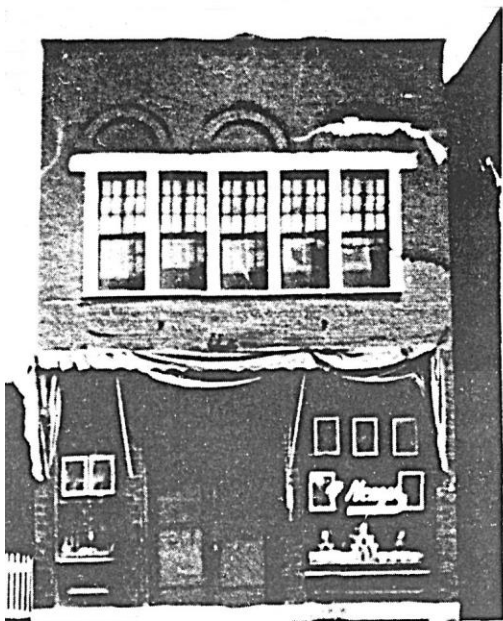
SANDWICH SHOP	
HAMBURGERS	5¢
ROAST BEEF	10¢
HAM	10 & 15¢
CHEESE	10¢
Hamburger Bar-B-Q	10¢
SOUPS	Chili 10¢
	Mocked Turtle 10¢
PIE	10¢



LOUIS LANDWEHR



ROSEMARY LANDWEHR



106 WEST MONROE ST.



TED PURPUS - LOUIS & ROSEMARY LANDWEHR - BETTY BEHM

LOUIE'S RESTAURANT (1937-1946)
(by Rosemary Landwehr Gerling - 10708 Kohler Rd. - Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895)

April 18, 1996

My mother, Erma Landwehr, was a widow with two children, Louis and Rosemary. After an illness of six years, Raymond Landwehr, beloved husband and father, passed away in 1932. After her husband's passing away, Erma supported herself and her thirteen and eight year old children by working at the Meadow Gold Dairy in New Bremen. Erma and her children lived above the Sun Printing Co. (presently Howell's IGA).

It was early fall in 1937 that Paul Gilberg and Earl Hegemier suggested that Erma have a lunch stand during the street festival sponsored by the Woodmen of the World. By this time, the Sun Printing Co. moved to their Washington St. location and Kroger Grocery moved in their place. Paul Gilberg and Earl Hegemier had a furniture store and also their funeral directory in the north side of their store building next to the Kroger Grocery. Since the south side of their building was unoccupied, Paul Gilberg suggested to Erma that she have her lunch stand inside instead of on the street during the festival.

The lunch stand proved out to be a very successful endeavor and Erma was encouraged to go into a full time restaurant business. She called it "Louie's Restaurant." Erma had a variety of sandwiches, homemade soups, and pies, the specialty being "Hamburgers - 5 cents. Buy them by the bag - six for a quarter."

Erma continued working at Meadow Gold as well as preparing food for the restaurant, but gave her son Louie an opportunity of not only a job, but the learning experience of running a business. Rosemary was also asked to help out after school and week-ends, and likewise was given the same learning experience opportunities at an early age. Meadow Gold put in an ice-cream cabinet, and sundaes and cones could be purchased for five or ten cents. We also sold hand-packed ice-cream as well as packaged. Later on, in 1938, Erma added a frozen malt machine - the first such machine in this area.

"Louie's Restaurant" became a popular place for all ages, as beer and liquor were not offered. At that time there was no school cafeteria and some school children ate their noon lunches at "Louie's Restaurant." We also received business from the New Bremen Rubber Co., the Kuenzel Mills employees, Stamco, and the Meadow Gold Dairy.

We also received business from traffic passing through New Bremen, because Rt. 66 was then what is now 66A, and we had a lot of fishermen trade stopping in on their way to Lake St. Marys for the weekend. Louie would stay open all night long on Friday and Saturday to accommodate them.

Irvin Fark had a bakery in the stucco building next door, north of the Gilberg and Hegemier Furniture Store, and he baked fresh buns for our hamburgers every day. They were really delicious. We got fresh meat from Schelper's Meat Market in New Bremen, and also on occasion from Busse's Meat Market in Fort Loramie.

Erma also made homemade bread-and-butter pickles to serve with her sandwiches. Paul Lietz was one of Louie's Restaurant's best customers. In fact, Paul liked her hamburgers with pickles so much that ever since he was called by his nickname, "Pickle Lietz."

The year 1938 saw Louie's Restaurant's business growing and Erma found it necessary for her to leave Meadow Gold Dairy and devote all her time to the restaurant. During this time we were still making our home in the apartment above the Kroger Store. Erma's mother, Rose Kettler, lived with us and was also of great support and help in the restaurant.

The year 1939 saw Mother Erma taking over the restaurant full time and Louie part time, as he then went to work at the Meadow Gold Dairy as a truck driver.

John Gilberg advised me that he and his sister, Alice, were born in the apartment above the restaurant and furniture store, and they moved to the present funeral home in 1937. So, Mother Erma, Louie, and I must have moved into that upstairs apartment in 1938.

The year 1940 saw us growing out of our present business location and we started looking for more space. Erma learned of the Leo and Amanda Huenke building at 106 West Monroe St. being available and arranged to rent both the business rooms and the apartment above. This building was located between Mel Laut's Jewelry Store and the 5 & 10 cent store. Louie thinks we moved in early 1941. We redecorated and put in a new soda fountain, grill and steam table, counter, and booths.

December 7th, 1941, Pearl Harbor had a profound effect on everyone. In 1942, Louie left for military service and received his training in Hawaii and then on to the Pacific and the Philippines.

The restaurant business was affected in other ways. Along with missing all the young men leaving for the Service, we had to continue on, and in our case, we started having shortages of different items which resulted in our hours of business being shortened also. Then the rationing program began for sugar, coffee, meat, etc. These were supplied and allowed to us in proportion to what our sales had been. Mother Erma had to keep records of all quantities used. Uncle Nevin and Aunt Verona Hirschfeld helped us out during this period of time.

We managed to hold on, and then, when the war ended and Louie received his separation papers September 14, 1945, Mother received a telephone call from Mr. & Mrs. Maftau from Michigan. They were interested in purchasing the restaurant from her. They became the new owners and changed the name to "**THE NOOK**."

The Maftaus sold "The Nook" in 1946 to Ned and Marjorie Metzger. I was told James Waterman purchased the restaurant from the Metzgers in 1949. Then it changed hands a couple more times.

A deal was consummated here last week whereby The Nook, popular restaurant on Monroe St., changed hands. Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Ringwald of St. Marys, are the new proprietors. The Ringwalds took over active management of the restaurant on Monday. Mr. Ringwald is an experienced restaurant man, having left the Equity Dairy Store in St. Marys to come here. Prior to that he was employed in restaurants in Van Wert. According to Ringwald, no immediate changes in The Nook are planned. Operation of the restaurant will remain the same as under the management of the former owners, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Waterman.
(N.B. Sun – 7/3/1950)

Lee's Printing had their business there for some time. In 1976, the building was badly damaged by fire and rebuilt as a one-story building. And now, the building has been torn down.

Erma purchased the William Frey residence at 123 S. Franklin St., remodeled it, and went to work at the New Bremen Rubber Co. for a few years, and then to the Goodyear Rubber Co. in St. Marys till retiring. She did some baby sitting and spent a lot of time gardening and just being with her children and grandchildren. She passed away September 12, 1972.

Louie went back to work for Meadow Gold after returning from the Service in September, 1945. Our cousin, Betty Behm Kishler, came home on weekends, having worked at the Airforce base in Dayton during the war. This particular weekend, she brought a friend home with her and that's how Betty arranged for Louie to meet Dolores Lindemuth, and it worked - Louie and Dolores were married a year later, on August 25, 1946.

Louie transferred to Himes Bros. Dairy in Dayton, a subsidiary of Meadow Gold, in 1948 and retired from there in 1982. Louie and Dolores have three children - Raymond and Jane Landwehr, Ronald and Ada Landwehr, Mike and Joy (Landwehr) Benton - and seven grandchildren.

Louie and Dolores are living in Englewood, Ohio, spending their retirement going to garage sales. Louie also repairs bicycles, and Dee enjoys sewing. They both like to play Bingo, but most of all, they enjoy their trips to Kansas City, Mo., South Mills, N.C., and Verona, Ohio, to visit their children and grandchildren.

My own personal memories of "Louie's Restaurant" overwhelm me now that I have looked back into this period of time, 1937 through 1946. It was not only a learning, working experience starting at an early age of 13, but there were always friends, young people, people from local businesses, families, farmers, fishermen on the way to the lake, and truck drivers coming in for lunches or ice-cream that made every day an interesting fun day.

I have to admit, there were some days when I would have liked going to the pool or whatever my friends were doing, but my mother provided a lovely home life, encouraged school and church activities and I graduated with the "Class of 1942" from New Bremen High School and have been a lifelong member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ.

In 1945, I married Douglas Burris and we have three children: Nancy, married to Terry Anderson (they have a son, Nathan); Jeanne's husband is Ernest Nuce and they have a daughter, Erin Rose; and Ned married Donna Horn. Ned is a professional photographer in Atlanta, Ga.

In 1960 I worked in assembly at Crown Controls Corp. for a couple of years and then transferred to their Personnel Dept. for five years. Divorced in 1967, I then went to work for Thomas Shelby and Co., an electronic sales representative firm, as their office manager until retiring with 20 years of service in 1987.

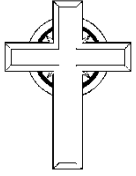
On August 12, 1972, Leon Gerling and I were married. We are now living out in the country five miles east of the New Knoxville Airport. We live in a wooded area; so much of our retirement is spent in the yard and outdoors. Leon likes golf and woodworking, and I like to quilt. We both like music and ballroom dancing, but most of our time is devoted to our children and grandchildren. Leon has two sons, Tom and Ed, and they have become as my own.

[On September 12, 1972, Erma Landwehr passed away.]

"Mother, thank you...for giving and sharing, for listening and caring, for being a such a wonderful mother. You gave so much to us - your warm and tender care, your time and gentle wisdom and the way you were always there, but more prized than all the rest...will always be your special gift of love."

Rosemary (Landwehr) Gerling

In Memoriam

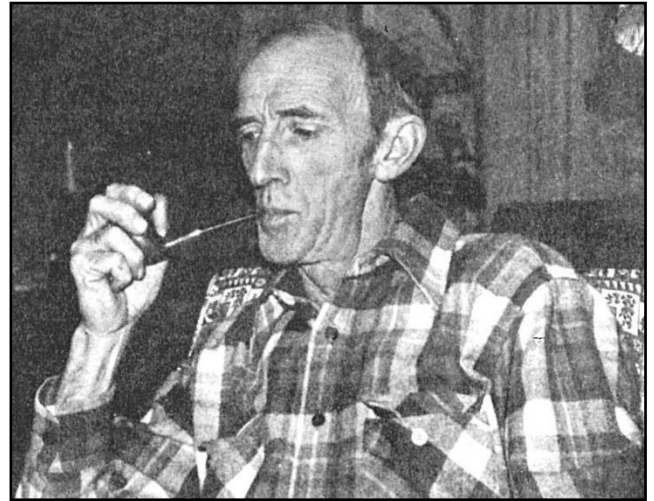


It is with much sadness that we report the passing on August 7th of one of our most dedicated members, **Paul Lietz, husband of Marjorie Lietz (former Editor of *The Towpath*).**

Paul Lietz was a Life Member of the New Bremen Historic Association and assisted his wife, Marjorie (Gieseke/Conradi) Lietz, with the quarterly publication of *The Towpath* from October, 1987 to April, 1996. Paul and Marjorie have spent their entire married lives of 21 years working to preserve the history of New Bremen.

Paul became interested in photography at the age of fourteen when his parents gave him a dark room kit for Christmas. His mother encouraged him to photograph New Bremen as his great-uncle, Fred Gilbert, had done. Paul did so for over sixty years, taking thousands of pictures, home movies and videos of New Bremen architecture and community events and activities. Paul and Marjorie have also copied many old pictures in order to preserve them. Many of these have been printed in *The Towpath* over the years. A 10-page segment of the 1983 New Bremen Sesquicentennial book is devoted to Paul's photos taken from 1935 to 1983.

Paul and Marjorie took their historic photos, slides, movies, and video presentations to the school children and to many



other civic gatherings, helping all of us to remember and better understand our New Bremen heritage. In 1989, Paul and Marge were designated as Grand Marshals for the Bremenfest parade.

Paul was always willing and able to be Mr. Fix-it whenever there were any jobs to be done at the Museum. He was an expert wood-craftsman and was an enormous help in keeping things in shape.

Paul will be missed by all of us who knew him. We send our sympathy and condolences to Marjorie and her children, Drs. Edward and Sandra Conradi of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and Genevieve Conradi of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and their families.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM KARL MESLOH'S EULOGY OF PAUL LIETZ, 8/10/96:

"When asked as to whether I, Karl Mesloh, could describe Paul in a single word, I said yes, I surely could - it would be "**FRIEND**", but **FRIEND** would have to be spelled in capital letters and printed in bold type. Paul was a Professional in all he undertook, a Class Act in all respects and most importantly, the owner of an extremely keen sense of humor. It has been written and I have heard it said that we Germans are much too serious in our lives, that we have little or no sense of humor. I don't really believe this, but if it were to be true, then Paul was a notable exception, for Everywhere Paul went, Laughter followed. He loved a good joke and pulled quite a few himself. Two years ago I was complaining to Paul about all the taxes we seniors had to pay and that I sure would like to find a tax shelter of some sort. Paul said he thought he might just have what I needed and would look it up for me. So, I eagerly returned in several days and inquired as to whether he had had any luck in finding the tax shelter information. He said he had and with that, reached down under his workbench and handed me a little wooden shelter containing 3 carpet tacks!! There was my "tax shelter."

Paul was a Master Craftsman and an Expert in many fields: Carpentry, Wood Carving, Electronics, Photography, Nature Study, New Bremen History, and Winemaking, to name a few. St. Paul Church and many homes in New Bremen abound with products of his carpentry expertise. Last Christmas we rejoiced during Advent with a new candle wreath crafted by Paul. My grandsons have all played with Noah's Ark and its animals Paul carved. Marge's bird feeder is probably the only one in the entire world with a standing seam roof! Seldom was Paul ever seen without a camera around his neck and those shots of animals, birds, flowers, as well as New Bremen and its people, are simply fabulous. Paul & Marge have been fervent supporters of the NB Museum, the Sesquicentennial, and NB Historical programs of all sorts. NB Heritage has been perpetuated through the numerous shows and presentations made by Paul & Marge to the NB schoolchildren and to other cultural groups. Their editing of *The Towpath* has spread NB history all over the country.

Paul was proud of and frequently spoke of his military service, philosophically comparing modern day challenges of life with those experienced in the military when charging the beaches in the South Pacific. Paul also often spoke with pride and love of his family - he took care of his mother for many years; of his great love for Marge - "Hen", as he fondly called her; of Ed & Sandie; of Gen; of Orville & Joyce Ruedebusch (his brother-in-law & niece); and the grandchildren. Yes, Paul was a **FRIEND**, a Professional, a Class Act in every respect; a loving husband - proud of and a lover of his family; a Joker and a lover of a good joke - in all, a **SUPER FRIEND** with an extremely keen sense of humor - one who enriched every life he touched. Paul "Pickle" Lietz, the man who always ordered "a pickle with a hamburger on top", our Mr. New Bremen, will be greatly and sadly missed by all."

UNCLE CLARENCE LAUT'S CIGAR MOLD

by Eugene Leonard Jordan – Plymouth, Michigan - June, 1996

I remember the mid-1920's when evenings were spent visiting relatives in New Bremen.....

My father, Leonard Christian Jordan, and my mother, Wilhelmine ("Minnie") Laut Jordan, would visit my mother's oldest brother, Clarence Laut, and his wife, Luetta Speckman Laut. The ladies stayed in the living room (starched lace doilies on the upholstered sofa and chairs) while the men and I went to the basement where Uncle Clarence had a work area for making "hand-made" cigars.

As Uncle Clarence was working, he and my dad talked about the "Good Old Times" and the Cincinnati Reds' baseball team. As a youngster I was not involved in the conversation and sat quietly through the evening as a listener.

Uncle Clarence sat at his work bench which included a flat work area plus storage areas for the coarse tobacco filler, coarse tobacco leaf, and fine tobacco leaf.

The cut tobacco filler was placed in a coarse tobacco leaf slightly larger than the size of the cigar molds after shaping by hand. A round shape was obtained by rolling the rough cigar back and forth under a block of wood on top of the flat work area. These "in process" cigars were then placed in a two-piece mold with spaces for about 20 cigars (see picture below). About 5" long, the joined molds were placed in a press to shape the cigars under pressure. This completed the first stage of making a cigar by hand.



After the press time was completed, the molds were removed from the press as the second stage was now completed. The rough cigars were then finished by wrapping them in a piece of fine tobacco leaf and rolling them with the block of wood for the final round shape. The wrapper end of the cigar that went into the mouth received a small slit for the wrapper to fit smoothly around the end. Some milky mucilage was applied at that end for an effective bond. The

end of the cigar to be lit was then cut by a small guillotine-like device, making a sharp clean cut.

The highlight of the evening was when Uncle Clarence handed a newly made cigar to my dad, saying: "Here Leonard, have one." We then went upstairs for tasty refreshments served by Aunt Luetta.

I have never forgotten about my roots and memories involving New Bremen. This account was made from my memory bank of about 70 years ago. I am now donating my cigar mold set to the New Bremen Museum.

Thank you for letting me share these thoughts with you.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM "AN INTERVIEW WITH CLARENCE LAUT"

by Paul Gilberg - November 15, 1975

CLARENCE: "I was born September 24, 1879 on West Monroe St. in the brick house beside Plucky's Jewelry Store where Wissman had his saloon. Dad made cigars up there. When I was only 11 years old, I helped strip the tobacco. I quit school when I was 15 and started making cigars when I was 16 in the building right aside of Wint's."

"I made cigars until I was 45. I worked for Dad until all the cigar shops went bad and had to quit. I worked in Lima for 4 weeks for Henry Deisel but he didn't pay anything. I made over 700 cigars in the first day. They sent me a check for \$2.80."

"After that I went to work at Wint's. People used to come from Dayton on Friday and Saturday nights and get 10 or 15 hamburgers or breaded veal sandwiches and take them back to Dayton. I worked for Ferd and the boys for 27 years. Those are days I like to look back at."

Smoke a Laut cigar
a "Manhattan Puff"



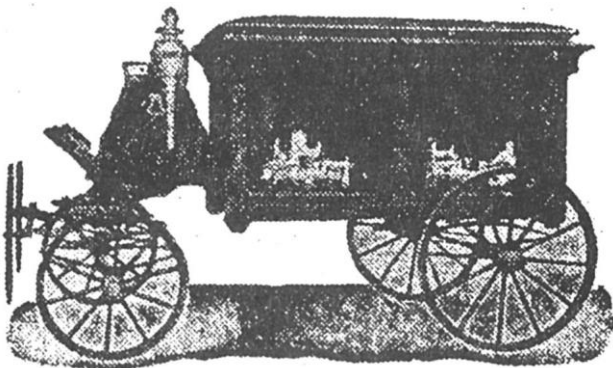
EDITOR'S NOTE: Clarence Laut lived to be over 100 years old, passing away on September 14, 1980, just 10 days before his 101st birthday.



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NEW BREMEN, OHIO

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The Following is an excerpt from

"AN INTERVIEW WITH BEATA ISERN"

by Annabel Wagner - November 12, 1976

BEATA: "My father, William Klanke, was in the Klanke Furniture Company with his brothers, John and George. They were also undertakers. Undertaking went with the furniture business. My uncle, John Klanke, was older and he taught my Dad. I don't know where he learned how to do it. Years ago, they put them in ice. Then it happened that you had to have a license and Papa said 'I bet I can embalm somebody better than these fellas that took it.' The first thing was they didn't want ice."

"In those days, they had the funeral in the home. They'd have to go way out in the country with a horse and buggy and no lights, then they wouldn't have a table or anything, so they would take a big door off the hinges and put that on a box, and then they would embalm them. Inside the casket, to trim it, they'd put smilax. That was some green stuff to make it kind of fancy. It was a real fine plant that came in strips, like."

"Then there would be a funeral. Oh my, just look at those fellas in that picture. There they sit real high on that hearse. They'd go real slow, you know, in the procession. Dad froze his ears a couple of times. He had a great big coat with a cape, and a fur cap. That picture is of Wilson Vornholt and Ferd Nieter. They were in that business in the Arcade building. Isn't that funny how the undertaker and the furniture business go together?"

The picture to the left was furnished to us by Margaret (Wehmeyer) Shroyer of Kettlersville. We're told that she got it from Harry Wagner of Portland, Oregon.

THE ARCADE ad above left was taken from a 1915 Auglaize County Directory and was furnished to us by George Neargarder of St. Marys, President of the Auglaize County Historical Society.



PAST DUE!

For anyone whose label has **95** on the top line, this is the last issue you will receive! In order for you to continue receiving issues of *The Towpath* in 1997, we will need to receive **\$10.00** before December 15, 1996 to cover the unpaid 1996 dues and to pay for the 1997 dues. If there are any questions about the accuracy of our records, please contact the Treasurer, Betty Schroer.

Special Thanks
are due to the following for their recent contributions

■ Ed Conradi, of Mount Pleasant, S.C. for the planting of several of "Hurricane Hugo's" sweetgum seedlings on the north side of the museum.

■ Donna Warner, for planting flowers at the front of the museum (and keeping them watered all summer by carrying water from home) - also for the planting of a seedling buckeye tree.

■ Doug Harrod and Mark Gaerke for their efforts at cleaning and straightening up in the garage.

■ Susie Hirschfeld, for bringing the Life Membership plaque up-to-date.

■ Rev. Larry Holmer, for bringing the Memorial plaque up-to-date and doing some outside painting.

■ Gene Kuck, who also helped paint and did some "weed-whacking."

■ To everyone else who has spent extra time improving the appearance of our Museum and grounds.

Curator's Corner

Recent donations to the New Bremen Historic Association are a **CIGAR MOLD** by Eugene Jordan of Plymouth, Michigan (look for his story and a picture in this issue of *The Towpath*), a trailer-load of **FARM TOOLS** by Johann & Mary (Bruggeman) Klein of R.R.1 - New Bremen (we will print an itemized list in a future *Towpath*), a 1930's-era **COUCH & TWO CHAIRS** donated by Mr. & Mrs. Randy Watercutter of Minster, a late 1880's to early 1890's **CHILD'S WALKER** on loan from Charles & Erlene (Topp) Garman of New Bremen, and the **LANTERN** which is said to have been used in the Henry Mueller barn when the Bloody Barn Battle took place there in 1879, along with a 1935 news article describing this event, donated by Tafe & Goldie (Finkenbine) Mueller of Minster (the story will be printed later). We want to thank all these people for keeping the New Bremen Historic Association in mind when they decided to dispose of these items.

GENEALOGICAL QUERY

I am trying to establish proof of the residency of Willie Lohmeyer and Caroline Lamping and/or their families prior to October, 1841, when they were married in Harrison County, Indiana. They may have lived or spent time in or around New Bremen, Ohio as I have letters and pictures exchanged with Caroline's sister, Henriette Christine (Lamping) Barienbrock. Other names connected with the Lampings are Haeseker (Henriette's daughter), Tecklenburg, Hoewisher (Justine Lamping), and Donnerberg. If anyone has any information, please contact:

Steven S. Lohmeyer
1801 Klerner Lane - New Albany, IN 47150

The New Bremen Historic Museum's 22ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

&

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8

(See insert for further details)

Christmas Gift Suggestions

For the New Bremen history buff and/or genealogist on your Christmas list, here are a couple of books that would make great gifts:

"New Bremen Marriages"

1835 - 1922

(Includes Maiden-name index)

Price: \$8.00 + \$2.00 S/H

OR

"Ralph May Remembers"

Price: \$6.50 + \$2.00 S/H

Send orders to:

New Bremen Historic Association

P.O. Box 73

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

OR

Pick up a copy during our Christmas Open House and save mailing costs.

(Also available at the New Bremen Library)



Happy Holidays
to all our readers