



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. – VISITING HOURS: June, July, August - 2:00-4:00 P.M. Sundays)

Dues: \$5.00 per year per person (Life Membership: \$50.00 per person)-----July – 1996

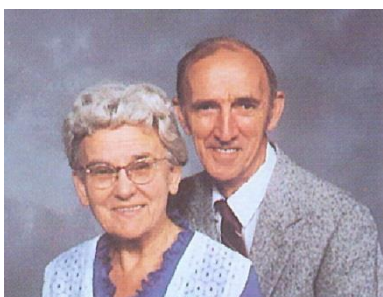
OFFICERS OF N.B. HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

(April-1996 thru March-1997)

Don Ruese..... President/Trustee
 Doug Harrod Vice-President/Trustee
 Donna Warner Secretary/Trustee
 Betty Schroer Treasurer/Trustee
 Mark Gaerke Trustee
 Craig Griesdorn Trustee
 Dorothy Hertenstein..... Trustee
 Rev. Lawrence Holmer Trustee
 Gene Kuck Trustee

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Susie Hirschfeld..... Membership Chairman
 Marjorie Lietz "Towpath" Editor Emeritus
 Lucille Francis..... Genealogist & Editor
 Martha Plattner Genealogist
 Lois Moeller Historian
 Irene Wellemeyer Corresponding Secretary
 Vernita Scheer Co-Curator
 Bea Young..... Co-Curator



Paul & Marjorie Lietz

Paul A. Lietz is the son of Herman C. Lietz and Almas was born December 15, 1928, the eighth of eleven children. Sophia Heil. He was born July 1, 1921 in the same house Lucille and Lowell were married July 1, 1961 and now he still lives in today at 34 S. Herman St. Marjorie L. wasreside at 419 E. Front St. Lowell retired in March, 1991 born January 4, 1918 to Arnold C. Gieseke and Elsie Janefrom Crown Equipment Corp. of New Bremen. Lucille has Awrey. After graduation, she married Carl L. Conradi andbeen working on genealogies for the past 15+ years, and is they had two children, Dr. Edward C. and Genevieve, wholooking forward to keeping up the "Towpath" tradition have provided Marjorie with five granddaughters. Carleestablished by Marjorie Lietz. Your contributions and passed away in March of 1944 and Marjorie was left tosuggestions for future articles for "The Towpath" are raise her two young children alone. On April 3, 1975,encouraged.

Marjorie and Paul were married. They have been quite active in preserving the history of New Bremen. We hope they will continue to help provide us with interesting articles and historic pictures as their health permits. (1985 St. Paul Church photo)

MEET THE NEW EDITOR FOR "THE TOWPATH"

Mrs. Lowell (Lucille Topp) Francis will be researching "Old New Bremen" and keeping you interested in the history of our little town. Lucille works with a computer, so the format of the newsletter will look a little different than in the past. Articles concerning New Bremen are always welcome and any pictures you supply will be returned to you after the paper goes to press.

It has been a real pleasure for Paul and me to work with you in connection with the history of New Bremen. Our work started in the fall of 1987 and we want to thank you for your cooperation. Due to health problems, our work will now be limited. **THANK YOU.**

from Paul and Marge Lietz



Lucille & Lowell Francis

Lucille M. Francis is the oldest child of Lafe W. Topp and Marie A.E. Otte and was born February 28, 1938. She has a sister, Kathleen, and a brother, Stanley, both of New Bremen. Lowell J. Francis is the son of Frederick F. Francis and Florence A. Bonie and is a native of Russia, Ohio. He

(1994 St. Paul Church photo)

WHEN & HOW WAS THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED?

(from Secretary's minutes, Sesquicentennial book, and early newsletters)

When a group of people held a friendly gathering in a backyard on the evening of Thursday, September 27, 1973, they discussed the sad loss of the Thompson Hotel and Livery at Lock 1 on the canal. They determined that another such building that was soon to be remodeled by its owner, Bruce Scheer, should be preserved. They approached Mr. Scheer about the possibility of buying the house for use as a landmark and museum. Thus the New Bremen Historic Association was organized as a non-profit group dedicated to the collection and preservation of the history of New Bremen and German Township.

The twelve-room, two-and-a half story house on North Main Street became the immediate subject of a community restoration project. The "Luelleman House", so named because that family purchased it in 1868 and lived in it for more than seventy years, is one of the first non-log cabin structures in the original plat of 1833 in Bremen (as it was then called.) The building is believed to have been constructed about 1837, with an addition about 1846, and renovations about 1876 and in the 1930's.

On Sunday, September 30, a second meeting was held at the library which was attended by Mary Ann Brown, Jerry & Sue Maxson, Jeanette Hellwarth, Carl & Melba Roediger, Greg Parrott, Mrs. Elmer Ende, Miss Marie Schrage, and Nancy Hack. It was decided to contact the major industries and to talk to as many individuals as possible.

On Wednesday, October 3, another meeting was held and a motion was passed to form the New Bremen Historic Association. Holly Riebel, Emil Fledderjohann, and Jerry Maxson were appointed to a committee to draft by-laws. A steering committee was set up to take care of finance and membership. Appointed were John Poppe (also the voluntary legal advisor), Jim Dicke II, Melba Roediger, Sue Maxson, and Greg Parrott as a consultant.

On November 5, eighteen people signed up for membership and an election of Officers and Trustees was held (see box).

On December 3, a finance committee was named: Jim Moeller, John Gilberg, Les Blanke, John Poppe, Jim Dicke II, Vic Maurer, Emil Fledderjohann, John Hoffman, and Holly Riebel. They were to contact all businesses to seek pledges.

On December 28, 1973, a letter was sent to the citizens of New Bremen, asking for pledges to meet the initial purchase price of \$15,500. Over \$7500.00 had already been pledged by local businessmen.

By the January 15, 1974 meeting, a total of \$17,021 in pledges had been received from 40 businesses and 169 pledge cards.

On December 16, 1974, Irene Bay accepted the position of Corresponding Secretary. Marjorie Conradi was to be contacted about becoming the Historian. She resigned October 20, 1975, and Ollie Inman took over the job of keeping the Historian's scrapbook.

At the annual meeting on January 20, 1975, three new Trustees were named: Dave Anthony, Lois Moeller, & Fred Wellemeyer. They replaced the departing 1-year Trustees.

In May, 1975, Greg Parrott resigned as Curator and was replaced in September by Janet Fledderjohn.

On February 17, 1975, it was decided that anyone who contributed \$76.00 or more by July 4, 1976, would be considered a Charter Member and his/her/their name would be placed on the Founders "Spirit of '76" Plaque in the museum. As of November 17, 1975, 138 people had pledged \$75.00 or more.

On October 20, 1975, a motion was passed to offer Life Memberships for \$50.00.

On July 4, 1976, as the United States celebrated its 200th birthday, the town of New Bremen turned out to dedicate its museum which was completely paid for by pledges from over 130 interested people.

JULY 4, 1996, MARKED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS DEDICATION.

FIRST OFFICERS OF HISTORIC ASSOCIATION - 1973/74

President/2-yr. Trustee	Victor Maurer
Vice-President/3-yr. Trustee.....	John Hoffman
Secretary/2-yr. Trustee.....	Melba Roediger
Treasurer/1-yr. Trustee.....	Jeanette Hellwarth
Trustee/1 year.....	Emil Fledderjohann
Trustee/1 year.....	Sue Maxson
Trustee/2 years.....	Holly Riebel
Trustee/3 years.....	Mary Ann Brown
Trustee/3 years.....	Mary Wint
Curator.....	Greg Parrott

New Bremen Historic Association Spirit of '76 Plaque

Charter Members

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Anthony, David (Mr. & Mrs.) | 46 | Kuenning, Earl (Mr. & Mrs.) | 91 | Shelby, Thomas (Mr. & Mrs.) |
| 2 | Bay, M. Irene | 47 | Kuenning, Stan (Mr. & Mrs.) | 92 | Shupp, Dennis |
| 3 | Behm, Walter W. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 48 | Kunning, C.H. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 93 | Sollman, Hilda (Pohlman) |
| 4 | Blanke, Lorraine & Lester | 49 | Rabe, William (Mr. & Mrs.) | 94 | Stegall, V.J. (Dr. & Mrs.) |
| 5 | Block, Thomas & Barbara | 50 | Laut, Lloyd J. | 95 | Steineman, Norbert F. |
| 6 | Boesel, Reuben J. (Dr. & Mrs.) | 51 | Lear, William & Kohneita | 96 | Steiner, Marie (Braun) |
| 7 | Braun, Floyd P. (Rev.) | 52 | LeMaster, Helene L. (Mrs.) | 97 | Stienecker, Rick & Mark |
| 8 | Brown, Jerry & Mary Ann | 53 | Lietz, Paul (Mrs.) | 98 | Stueve, Roman |
| 9 | Buckloh, W. Frank & Marie | 54 | Marshall, Robert E. | 99 | Topp, Anna Mae (Mrs.) |
| 10 | Casebolt, Lucille & Robert | 55 | Maxson, Jerry & Sue | 100 | Topp, Emil J. (Mr. & Mrs.) |
| 11 | Cooper, James (Mr. & Mrs.) | 56 | Maurer, Arthur W. | 101 | Ward, Thomas N. (Rev. & Mrs.) |
| 12 | Cumming, James (Mr. & Mrs.) | 57 | Maurer, Frederick H. | 102 | Wellemeyer, Fred (Mr. & Mrs.) |
| 13 | Dicke, Allen A. (Mrs.) | 58 | Maurer, Thomas & Helen E. | 103 | Westerheide, Henry A. & Mildred A. |
| 14 | Dicke, Irene K. (Mrs.) | 59 | Maurer, Vic & Virginia | 104 | Wierwille, H.E. (Mr. & Mrs.) |
| 15 | Dicke, Jack & Beckie | 60 | Maurer, Walter P., Jr. | 105 | Wierwille, Robert & Jill |
| 16 | Dicke, James F., II (Mr. & Mrs.) | 61 | May, Ralph (Mr. & Mrs.) | 106 | Will, Carl G. (Father) |
| 17 | Dietrich, Marvin (Mrs.) | 62 | Meckstroth, Earl E. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 107 | Young, S. Chester (Mr. & Mrs.) |
| 18 | Ende, Elmer. (Prof. & Mrs.) | 63 | Meckstroth, Jacob A. | 108 | Zuege, H.W. (Mr. & Mrs.) |
| 19 | Fledderjohann, Emil (Mr. & Mrs.) | 64 | Meckstroth, Judy A. | | |
| 20 | Fledderjohn, Janet I. | 65 | Meyer, James & Marcia | | BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS |
| 21 | Frey, William H. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 66 | Moeller, Adrian F. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 109 | Advance Auto Co. |
| 22 | Fritz, Lewis G. (Rev.) D.M. | 67 | Moeller, Paul W. | 110 | American Budget Co. |
| 23 | Garman, Charles L. & Erline | 68 | Moore, T.H. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 111 | Beatrice Foods Co. |
| 24 | Garmhausen, Chas.J.,Sr. (Mr./Mrs.) | 69 | Mousa, Virgil E. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 112 | Botkins Grain & Feed Co. |
| 25 | Gensler, George (Mr. & Mrs.) | 70 | Parrott, Gregory A. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 113 | Bremco Mills, Inc. |
| 26 | Gieseke, Arnold (Mrs.) | 71 | Perl, Roger D. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 114 | Crown Controls Corp. |
| 27 | Greiwe, Marie | 72 | Poppe, Arnold A. | 115 | Dicke Service Station |
| 28 | Hack, Richard & Nancy | 73 | Poppe, Leona E. | 116 | First National Bank - New Bremen |
| 29 | Harmony, Frieda & Lee | 74 | Poppe, John A. & Beverly | 117 | Friemering's Home Furnishings, Inc. |
| 30 | Harris, Clifford & Jeanette (Bessel) | 75 | Quellhorst, Paul (Mr. & Mrs.) | 118 | Gagel Plumbing & Heating |
| 31 | Hartman, Irvin W. | 76 | Rabe, Michael (Dr. & Mrs.) | 119 | Gilberg Funeral Home |
| 32 | Heil, Arthur (Mr. & Mrs.) | 77 | Reed, Alexander C. (Dr. & Mrs.) | 120 | Gilberg Furniture |
| 33 | Hellwarth, Don (Mr. & Mrs.) | 78 | Reynolds, Dorothy (Kunning) | 121 | Lampert Super Market |
| 34 | Henkener, Roger J. | 79 | Riebel, Ronald L. (Dr. & Mrs.) | 122 | New Bremen Student Historical Society |
| 35 | Herkenhoff, Frank L. (Mrs.) | 80 | Ritter, Paul (family) | 123 | New Bremen Women's Club |
| 36 | Hertenstein, Stanley & Dorothy | 81 | Roediger, Carl & Melba | 124 | Precision Tool & Machine Co. |
| 37 | Hirschfeld, Verlin (Mr. & Mrs.) | 82 | Ruedeusch, Orville C. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 125 | Prenger's Marathon |
| 38 | Hoffman, John P. | 83 | Ruese, Donald & Carol | 126 | Ray Ann Lanes |
| 39 | Hotchkiss, Leland H. | 84 | Rump, Mamie & Ed | 127 | Riggs Food Express, Inc. |
| 40 | Jordan, Mary Belle (Block) | 85 | Scheer, James H. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 128 | Stamco Div., Monarch Machine Tool Co. |
| 41 | Klein, David K. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 86 | Schmidt, H.J. (Dr. & Mrs.) | 129 | Suchland's Flowers & Greenhouses |
| 42 | Knost, George & Sophia | 87 | Schott, Paul (Mr. & Mrs.)(& Randy) | 130 | Thieman Stamping Co., Inc. |
| 43 | Huenke, Hy., Sr. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 88 | Schroeder, Walter (Mrs.) | 131 | Tranco Sales & Service, Inc. |
| 44 | Koop, John F. (Mr. & Mrs.) | 89 | Schwieterman, Al | 132 | Twentieth Century Mothers C.C.L. |
| 45 | Kramer, Mildred B. (Bessel) | 90 | Schwieterman, David & Ruth Ann | 133 | Twig Benders C.C.L. |
| | | | | 134 | Wint's Restaurant |

Founders Plaque

- 1 Hoffman, John P.
- 2 Harris, Clifford & Jeanette (Bessel)
- 3 Roediger, Carl & Melba
- 4 Maxson, Jerry & Sue
- 5 Riebel, Ronald L. (Dr. & Mrs.)
- 6 Hack, Richard & Nancy
- 7 Fledderjohann, Emil (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 8 Hoffman, Craig
- 9 Hellwarth, Don (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 10 Hoffman, Paul (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 11 Brown, Jerry & Mary Ann
- 12 Wint, Paul & Mary
- 13 Ende, Elmer (Prof. & Mrs.)
- 14 Ward, Thomas N. (Rev. & Mrs.)
- 15 Dicke, James F., II (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 16 Poppe, John A. & Beverly
- 17 Parrott, Gregory A. (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 18 Maurer, Vic & Virginia
- 19 Stegall, V.J. (Dr. & Mrs.)
- 20 Minster-New Bremen Medical Group

In Memoriam Plaque

IN MEMORY OF:

- 1 Langhorst, William
- 2 Slchulenberg, William
- 3 Dicke, Amber L. & Allen A.
- 4 Brose, Milton (Jack)
- 5 Brose, Dorothy
- 6 Metz, Don
- 7 Sharp, Norma (Vornholt)
- 8 Belton, Myrtle
- 9 Fledderjohann, Carol Ludeen
- 10 Fledderjohann, Emil
- 11 Yarrington, Esther (Rabe)

IN HONOR OF:

- 12 Bruns, Elton (Mr. & Mrs.)
- 13 Poppe, Irene

ROOM PLAQUE

- 14 Schroeder, Walter

New Bremen Historic Association

LIFE MEMBERS PLAQUE

(alphabetically)

1	1984	Behm, Walter	72	1988	Kommink, Betty Lou
2	1990	Block, Barbara (Poppe)	73	1988	Kuck, Jacqui
3	1990	Block, Thomas	74	1989	Kuck, William
4	1986	Boesel, Caesar	75	1978	Kuenning, Doris
5	1994	Bornhorst, John	76	1977	Kuenning, Thomas
6	1982	Brantly, Mrs. Waddell (Betty)	77	1990	Kuhn, Larry L.
7	1990	Brinkmeyer, Ralph (Robert?)	78	1978	Kunning, Marguerite (Koop)
8	1980	Bruns, Daisy	79	1991	Leshner, Clarence
9	1980	Bruns, Elton	80	1991	Leshner, Dorothy (Neuman)
10	1996	Bubeck, Jim (Chevrolet)	81	1990	Lietz, Marjorie L. (Gieseke/Conradi)
11	1990	Buckingham, Margaret H. (Hoffman)	82	1990	Lietz, Paul A.
12	1979	Bunten, Elsa (Boesel)	83	1996	Luedeke, James (Dr.) & Kathy
13	1993	Buss, Mrs. William (Virginia Rinehart)	84	1992	Maurer, Victor L.
14	1995	Carpenter, Rod	85	1991	May, Mrs. James (Martha Moeller)
15	1979	Casebolt, Hugh	86	1986	Mesloh, Ethel
16	1979	Casebolt, Paul	87	1990	Mesloh, E.D.
17	1979	Casebolt, Ralph (Rev.)	88	1986	Mesloh, Karl
18	1990	Conradi, Donna (Greber)	89	1990	Moehlenkamp, Dorothy (Althoff)
19	1993	Conradi, Edward C. (Dr.)	90	1983	Moeller, Adrian
20	1996	Cook, Doris (Krogman)	91	1984	Moeller, Lois (Gensler)
21	1988	Dicke, Dane	92	1996	Moeller, Robert
22	1990	Dicke, Dorothy (Tangeman)	93	1996	Mowery, Henrietta (Luedeke/Schroeder)
23	1988	Dicke, James II	94	1991	New Bremen Machine & Tool Co.
24	1991	Dicke, James, Sr.	95	1991	Newman, Cindy (Wissman)
25	1991	Dicke, Janet	96	1983	Niekamp, Mervin
26	1996	Dicke, Thomas E. (Dr.)	97	1993	Pape, Carolyn
27	1990	Dickman, John (Dr.)	98	1993	Pape, David
28	1977	Dickman, Reuben	99	1990	Patterson, Steve
29	1977	Dickman, W.H.	100	1993	Paul, Allen
30	1988	Dietrich, Ralph	101	1994	Plattner, Martha
31	1996	Egbert, Alvin	102	1979	Poppe, Arnold
32	1993	Engle, Marian (Frey)	103	1979	Poppe, Irene
33	1994	Erhardt, M. Louise	104	1993	Poulson, David
34		Eschmeyer, Paul	105	1996	Pulskamp, Kathleen
35	1994	Fischer, Harold G.	106	1979	Quellhorst, Clarence
36	1994	Fledderjohann, Max	107	1996	Rabe, Valentin
37	1994	Fledderjohann, Tom L.	108	1989	Roettger, Norbert
38	1985	Fledderjohn, Bernadine L. (Luedeke)	109	1992	Roettger, Richard F.
39	1985	Fledderjohn, Donald (Commander)	110	1989	Sauerland, Elizabeth (Ivins)
40	1992	Gaerke, Mark	111	1993	Scheer, Ned C.
41	1995	Gilberg, John	112	1979	Schroeder, Lavina
42	1995	Gilberg, Joyce (Quellhorst)	113	1989	Schroer, Betty (Horn)
43	1994	Glory Real Estate	114	1992	Schroer, Marilyn
44	1991	Graf, Catherine (Schroeder)	115	1988	Schweissguth, Joann (Scheer)
45	1990	Gruebmeier, Curtis	116	1996	Schwieterman, Ruth Ann
46	1995	Harris, Teresa E. (Scheer)	117	1990	Schwieterman, Don (Dr.)
47	1992	Harrod, Douglas	118	1991	Sommer, Marilyn
48	1994	Hartman, Ed	119	1996	Stammen, Lois (Westerbeck)
49	1990	Hartman, Irvin	120	1990	Stauffer, Carol
50	1994	Haupt, Dorothy L. (Fark)	121	1990	Stauffer, R. Jay
51	1995	Hay, Charles	122	1979	Steiner, Marie (Braun)
52	1992	Heinfeld, Blaine	123	1990	Stienecker, Dolores (Schroer)
53	1986	Heitkamp, Arnold	124	1989	Sunderman, James (Colonel)
54	1986	Heitkamp, Nancy (Quellhorst)	125	1978	Sunderman, Mrs. Edwin (Naomi Grothaus)
55	1996	Henschen, Edythe (Conradi)	126	1988	Taylor, Marie (Waterman)
56	1993	Hertenstein, Dorothy (Nussmeyer)	127	1994	Thieman, Ruth
57	1994	Hertenstein, Stanley	128	1988	Thiesing, Reuben
58	1990	Hirschfeld, Craig	129	1989	Utrecht, Jim
59	1984	Hirschfeld, Michael	130	1991	Vondenhuevel, Walter
60	1995	Hirschfeld, Nevin	131	1990	Warner, David
61	1995	Hirschfeld, Verona (Kettler)	132	1993	Warner, Donna
62	1976	Hoffman, Craig	133	1990	Wint, Mary
63	1976	Hoffman, John	134	1976	Wisner, Janet (Fledderjohn)
64	1992	Holcomb, Norman	135	1995	Wissman, Edith (Blanke)
65	1990	Hudson, Anna Mae (Cooper)	136	1993	Wissman, Leola (Speckman)
66	1978	Huenke, Verona (Langhorst)	137	1996	Wourms, Patricia (Grilliot)
67	1989	Ivins, Mariana (Boesel)	138	1985	Yarrington, Esther (Rabe)
68	1994	Jackson, Jane	139	1995	Ziegenbusch, Kenneth H. (Dr.)
69	1983	Jordan, Eugene	140	1989	Ziegenbusch, Lowell
70	1992	Kane, Bruce (Dr.)	141	1990	Ziegenbusch, Wayne
71	1996	Kellermeyer, Vernon H.			

HOW TO READ YOUR MAILING LABEL

At the upper left corner of your mailing label, you should see a code of letters and/or numbers. Here is what they mean:

CM - means Charter Member(s) - those who gave \$76.00 or more by July 4, 1976 and whose names appear on the "Spirit of '76" plaque in the museum.

LM - means Life Member(s) - those who paid a Life Membership of \$50.00. Your name(s) should appear on the Life Membership plaque in the museum.

The numbers following these letters indicate the year you paid for your Life Membership or a subsequent year that you made a donation.

95 - If these numbers are shown, this means that you are delinquent. To keep receiving future issues of "The Towpath", send your 1996 dues NOW.

96 - If these numbers are shown, you are current.

CC - means Complimentary Copy. If you would like to keep receiving "The Towpath", send your \$5.00 dues to P.O. Box 73 and we will keep you on our mailing list.

PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.

Thank You, Karl Mesloh

*for your past services in the printing of
mailing labels.*

Your efforts have been much appreciated.

Marjorie Lietz & Lucille Francis

VISIT OUR MUSEUM

The MUSEUM has been given its spring cleaning and is now ready for summer visitors. The visiting hours are on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. through Sunday, August 25th.

Various volunteers will be there to greet you. (Additional volunteers are needed. Why don't you call and offer your help?) Come on Sunday, July 21st, and meet the genealogists. Our book, *New Bremen Marriages*, will be available along with the book, *Ralph May Remembers*, and other New Bremen souvenirs.

If you are planning to visit New Bremen during our Bremenfest celebration the weekend of August 16, 17, 18, perhaps you would like to pay a visit to the museum on Sunday afternoon.

Recent visitors to New Bremen and the Museum were Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wagner (a member of the New Bremen Historic Association) of Portland, Oregon. Harry spent several days at our Public Library and also the churches doing some genealogy research. They also spent time visiting with Harry's relatives, Annabel Wagner and Ted Wagner.

A NOTE FROM TWO OF OUR MEMBERS

Dear Marjorie,

April 30, 1996

It is ironic to note that the final issue of *The Towpath* that came during Garmy's (Wilbur J. Garmhausen's) life featured articles about his grand-parents, Henry Conrad & Louise (Wehrman) Finke. Certainly we had heard the story over & over from Dad of Louise being taken from her dead mother during that dreadful cholera plague.

Dad loved Lock Two and New Bremen and looked forward to each edition of *The Towpath*. Thank you for the happiness and pride each issue gave him.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hunter & Janet Bock

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Past contributions to *The Towpath* were articles written by Betsy Hunter and Janet Bock in the January, 1994 and July, 1995 issues about their father, Wilbur John ("Garmy") Garmhausen, who was very active in the design, construction, and beautification of roadside parks and from 1935-1972 served as the Division and/or Chief Landscape Architect for the Ohio Dept. of Highways. In November, 1993, a roadside rest stop on Interstate 71 in Fayette County was dedicated to him.

In June, 1995, based on his past academic record of the 1920's and his mastery of landscape architecture, he was officially awarded his Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture at the age of 93, making him the oldest graduate to receive this degree from Ohio State University. He passed away on April 20, 1996.

Touring the past with Bob Schroeder

“If we don’t have it, you don’t need it” could have been the slogan of New Bremen’s merchants in the 1920s, for the town was self-sufficient. Every necessity of life could be obtained from stores on Main, Washington or Monroe Streets. If you had walking shoes and a bag or a basket and spoke enough German to make your needs known, you were ready to shop the town.

There were no shopping carts, no bar codes, no checkout counters. You told Charlie Gilberg at Schelper’s or Ray Knipple at the bakery, or Doc Schwieterman at the Rexall what you wanted, item by item, and they got it for you, item by item. You stood at the counter, exchanging town gossip the while. No one was in a hurry in the 1920s, not even Calvin Coolidge. You didn’t go shopping - you went visiting.

A purchase made out of town, like Leo Kuhlhorst’s Pierce Arrow touring car or like special parts for Alton Schelper’s and Eddie Wehrman’s built-from-scratch full-size airplane, or like Doc Fledderjohann’s auburn-tinted, fits-all wig, was a very special purchase indeed.

Harry and Frieda Schroeder’s son, Bob, “worked” at his dad’s hardware store from little kid on, through the 1920s and into the 1930s. “Down-

town” was his wondrous boyhood play-ground and he explored its every facet. During Bob’s high school and

college years, his “Bill Bogers Says” column in *The New Bremen Sun* treated humorously of town personalities and events.

In the next issue of *The Towpath*, Bob, who can be depended on to see the past much more clearly than the future, will begin a series of tours of New Bremen’s 1920s businesses past. First up, a visit to the imposing building then standing at the southeast corner of Main and Monroe, a Boesel “mansion” remodeled for commercial use.

In addition to the Postoffice, this hub of the transitory housed the New Bremen Telephone Company and Andy Albert’s Funeral Home.

Upstairs, phone numbers soaring into the double digits (the Hardware’s number was 36) were plugged in by Hilda Broerman and the Halsema sisters. Downstairs, alternating political appointees Bud Laut, Cade Schulenberg and “Sky” Kuck, played musical chairs in the Postmaster’s office, while civil servants, teamed with Orville Ruedebusch, actually ran the show. And a show it was!

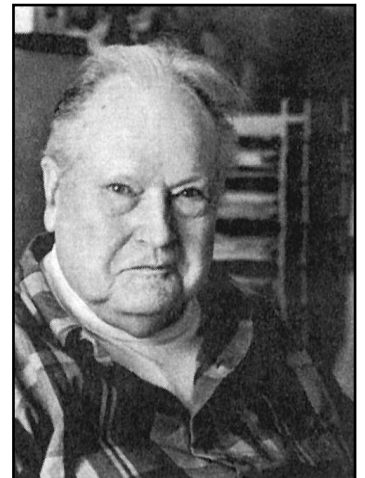
Aber das ist etwas anders. See you next issue.

©1996 by Robert Schroeder

Robert J. Schroeder is a 1935 graduate of New Bremen High School. He was born in Cincinnati to Harry F. Schroeder and Frieda L. Dammeyer. His grandfather, Johann George Schroeder, emigrated from Germany with his parents in 1853, when he was two years old, and lived all of his life in or near Rising Sun, Indiana, near Cincinnati. Bob's parents were married in 1917 and moved to New Bremen in 1923 when Bob was 5 years old. Bob's sisters are Catherine Graf, living in Columbus, and Louise McAllister, deceased.

Bob moved to New York City in 1963, beginning a second career as a playwright, drama reviewer, and writers' agent. In 1988, he founded Popular Play Service, a publishing and royalty agency. His first wife (deceased) and mother of his two sons, John and David, was Grace Thiesing of New Bremen. He married Jan Henson Dow in Connecticut in 1991.

Bob has previously contributed to our reading pleasure with an article about the New Bremen Speedway riot which was published in the April, 1994 issue of "The Towpath." From all indications, his series of articles starting in the next issue, will be something we will look forward to. (Photo: Judith Petrovitch



TELEPHONE CO. HELD OPEN HOUSE

175 Visitors Taken Through Plant On Inspection Tour

Commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the telephone, the New Bremen Telephone Company held open house yesterday afternoon for its patrons and friends. The celebration had not been announced until Tuesday evening by J.M. Brucken, President of the New Bremen Business and Professional Men's Association, however the telephone proved its usefulness in this matter.

In the afternoon, School Superintendent Elmer Jordan took his physics class for an instructive and entertaining lecture by Mgr. S.R. Buchanan on the construction and mechanism of the telephone. When this was concluded, the students were shown through the various departments of the plant, whereupon the doors were thrown open to the general public with an almost continuous stream of visitors.

Mr. Buchanan, along with other officials and employees, demon-strated the operation of the telephone and called attention to the manifold machinery and equipment needed in the proper conduct of the business.

Many compliments were passed and officials and employees are highly pleased and satisfied with the result of their trouble and efforts. (*New Bremen Sun - Thurs., 3/11/1926*)

The New Bremen Telephone Co. was located at the southeast corner of Monroe and Main Streets, in the former home of the Honorable Charles Boesel. Telephone switch-board operators, shown at right, were Hilda Broerman, Geciena Halsema, Anna Kuest and Elizabeth Halsema .



Mr. & Mrs. George Taylor and daughter, Mary Jane, of Wapak-oneta, were the week-end guests of Mrs. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Moeller. They also visited with Mr. Taylor's father, Ohio Waterman Taylor, who is critically ill at his home on Water Street. (*New Bremen Sun - 3/11/1926*)

Clarence Blase has arrived here from New York City to assist his father, John Blase, in the Blase Grocery Store on South Washington Street. He also will be the representative in this district of the Fuller Brush Company, having received his training in this work while employed in a similar capacity in New York City. (*New Bremen Sun - 3/11/1926*)

O.W. Taylor is in full charge of the Lilly White Filling Station, corner Monroe and Washington Streets, and the way Hi feeds the hungry automobiles and Fords as they come one after the other to lay in a supply of gas, would cause one to

believe that he had been doing that very thing for half a century. (*New Bremen Sun - 10/22/1920*)

BUSINESS MEN ASK FOR FIRE TRUCK Purchase of motorized fire fighting equipment as planned by village officials was recommended in a resolution at its meeting Tuesday evening in the St. Paul's Church dining hall on N. Herman St. The resolution, presented to members of the Village Council, follows:

- Believing that the efficiency of the Fire Department of the Village of New Bremen has been lowered because of the almost obsolete fire fighting apparatus now owned by the Village; and
- Believing that it is absolutely essential to introduce new and modern methods into the Department for the protection of life and property; and
- Believing that such improved equipment ultimately would be reflected in lower insurance rates in the Village of New Bremen;
- Therefore be it resolved and recommended by the New Bremen Business and Professional Men's Association that the Council of the Village of New Bremen purchase a motorized fire truck equipped with both chemical and pumping engines. (*New Bremen Sun - 3/11/1926*)

LETTERS FROM TWO OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dear Lucille,

I am enclosing a check for a copy of your *New Bremen Marriages* book. Perhaps you will want to use this letter in *The Towpath* as a very enthusiastic endorsement for your book.

Approximately five years ago, I began researching my various lines in the New Bremen-St. Marys area. The surnames HEUSCH, GRUNDISH, SCHROEDER, and WARNKE were my primary focus. Two years ago, when working my maiden name, HEUSCH, I hit the wall so to speak because I could not find the village of origin in Germany for my immigrant ancestor, Louis Henry HEUSCH. As you well remember, I sought your help with Louis's wife, Fredericka SCHROEDER. I tried every available source, but the village for Louis remained unknown. Always I felt that somewhere in the St. Marys-New Bremen area, the information existed. I was discouraged, but knew I had to keep on it.

In February of this year, while working the files for your *New Bremen Marriages* book, you recognized my Louis Heusch-Fredericka Schroeder marriage and sent me a copy of the card file information. I remember looking at that information in total disbelief that I was not only looking at the village of origin for both Louis and Fredericka, but also their parents' names and places of birth in Germany.

Since February I have been able to trace my HEUSCH line back twelve generations from Louis to 1398 A.D. It was fortunate that records existed in Louis's birthplace in Germany.

It is with anticipation of finding more information that I order a copy of your book and heartily recommend it to others searching for possible valuable genealogical information. Thanks for being so alert and remembering my search.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia (Heusch) Vessely
1455 Chandler Road - Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

INFORMATION REQUEST

I am interested in corresponding with anyone who has FINKE or WEHRMAN ancestors. My grandmother was Doris Finke, daughter of Julius Finke, who moved to Nebraska. My great-great-grandparents were Henry & Louise (Wehrman) Finke, who were featured in the last issue of *The Towpath*.

Carol Bennett - Box 37 - Hemingford, NE 69348

ANOTHER LETTER FROM A READER

"I would like to send GREETINGS to any of your readers who were among the New Bremen High School graduating Class of 1949. I would have been among those graduates if I had remained in New Bremen. As it was, I went to school with them for several years at the elementary level, having started 1st grade there. After many years, I still remember all of them, and would love to hear from any member of that class."

"I am planning to do research on the SCHULTE, WUELLENBRUCK, HUENKE, and STROEFER families as they relate to the KUNNINGS & KOOPS. Is there anyone who would have information and that I could correspond with?"

Molly Kunning Chochoms
34 Bailey Ave. - Wallingford, CT 06492
[Daughter of Richard & Marguerite (Koop) Kunning]