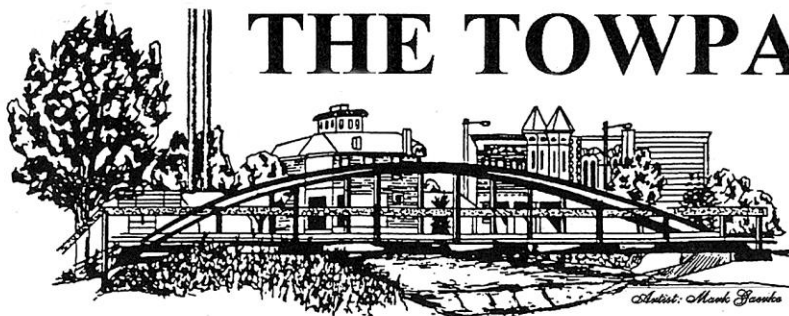


NEW BREMEN
HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 73
NEW BREMEN, OHIO 45869-0073

DUES: \$5.00 ANNUALLY (Due in January)
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00

MUSEUM: 120-122 N. MAIN ST.
VISIT: 2:00-4:00 PM SUNDAYS JUNE, JULY, AUGUST
(OR BY APPOINTMENT)



THE TOWPATH

April
1997

Published quarterly: January-April-July-October

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Susie Hirschfeld, Membership Ch.	629-2133
Lois Moeller, Historian	629-3180
Irene Wellemeier, Corresponding Secy.	629-2760

Spring Is Here!

"I am glad that spring is here,
the nicest time of all the year."

(Lois Ann Combs, Class of '49)

The golden rays will melt the snow
and thaw the frozen ground.

Every season has to change;
Not one will stay around.



OUR TREASURER & MAILMAN

Betty and Curtis Schroer have been our "mail handlers" for the past 7 years. Rain or shine, Curtis picked up the mail from our Post Office box and took it home to Betty. Betty then opened and sorted it, taking care of her Treasurer's responsibilities, after which Curtis again went on his "appointed rounds", delivering the rest of the mail to the various officers. They deserve to be recognized for their extra efforts, especially in this past quarter, the busiest time of the year, when membership dues and *Towpath* subscriptions have been coming in steadily.

Betty has resigned as Treasurer effective March 4, and she and Curtis plan to do some traveling. Martha Plattner has accepted the position of Treasurer. Betty will continue to serve as a Trustee for the rest of her term, through March, 1998.

OTHER CHANGES OF OFFICERS

Effective April 1, Doug Harrod became the new President, Mark Gaerke will be the new Vice-President, and Craig Griesdorn, Gene Kuck, and Don Ruese have volunteered to serve another 3-year term as Trustees.

Be sure to notice the tulips growing in front of the Museum....

The bulbs were planted last fall by Donna Warner....

Our Thanks to Dorothy (Gobrecht) Robinson for her article about the Gobrecht family band and her donations of several pictures and a W.O.W. badge to the Museum, also to Robert A. Papsdorf for his article. Other articles in this issue: New Bremen Men's Garden Club, Lock One Park, W.O.W. Memorial, 1913 Flood. We would like to encourage more of you to contribute articles for future issues. We will print them as early as possible after we receive them, as space is available. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space reasons.

THE MUSEUM WILL REOPEN for visitation on **Sunday, June 1** from **2:00 to 4:00**. We thank those who have volunteered to serve as Hosts and Hostesses this summer. We could use more of you. Call Susie Hirschfeld at 629-2133 or Donna Warner at 629-3616 to volunteer your time and to schedule your date to host.

NEW BREMEN MEN'S GARDEN CLUB

On February 25, 1963, six men from New Bremen first met to organize a Men's Garden Club. Officers elected were: James Ashbaugh, president, Leon Kellermeyer, 1st vice-president, Ray Minert, 2nd vice-president, and Harold Suchland, secretary-treasurer. The other two members were Tom Braun and Gordon Fox. The group received its charter in May, 1963.

The purposes of the organization were to promote the growing of flowers and vegetables among the citizens of New Bremen, to help the town's officials to beautify the village, and to attempt to interest young people in the growing of flowers and vegetables.

A letter was sent to business organizations and fraternal groups asking for donations to help beautify the canal area north of Monroe Street. In addition to this, each \$1.00 donation by individuals would be rewarded with a dozen petunias. Estimated costs were \$750.00.

The Club's first project, after receiving permission from Mayor Gust Kruse, was to plant a petunia bed in the island on the east side of State Route 66, just north of Schwieterman's Drug Store. Next, they planted shrubs around the stage at the Community (Jaycees) Park. Their next project, and the one which is still quite apparent, was to clean up the canal, putting in 60 tons of heavy stone and concrete on the banks to prevent erosion, and covering it with white limestone. Also, stone and soil were placed on the sloping canal banks for a rock garden.

In May, 1964, the Club held its first annual "Petunia Day" money raising project. (In 1965, they added geraniums, and later on, other varieties of flowers were also added.) They agreed to plant flowers in the concrete flower boxes which had been purchased by the New Bremen Women's Club for the Monroe Street bridge railings and care for them. This same year, the first shrubs were planted in the canal area. That fall, the Club was presented with pre-cast concrete slabs from the Superior Silo Co. to be used for a raised circular flower bed that at first was placed at the former site of the "new" (1955) post office on the northwest corner of Monroe and Washington Streets, and later (after the Kuenzel Mills, etc. were demolished in 1968) was moved to the area now being developed as "Lock One Park."

In 1966, the Garden Club, with the help of the Volunteer Firemen, placed the antique fire bell from the old Main Street Fire Station in the area between Monroe and First Streets. This bell had been saved during demolition of the old fire house in 1959 through the efforts of Professor Elmer Ende, and according to Professor Ende, was cast in Europe and had been tolled upon the death of Abraham Lincoln.

In 1967, the first landscaping was done in the area between First and Second Streets, east of Route 66 and west of the canal. In 1973, a "New Bremen" sign was placed in this area. The marker has bright red letters spelling NEW BREMEN on a slanted concrete and cement block base and is spotlighted at night, welcoming visitors to our town.

Over the years, many trees and shrubs have been planted and cared for by a dedicated group of men. A 1963 planning list shows a total of 59 items to be planted consisting of honeysuckles, forsythias, viburnums, lilacs, beauty bushes,

spireas, burning bushes, mock oranges, purple plums, red and pink flowering crabs, arborvitae, Norway spruce, and taxus, for a total cost of \$339.50. Other trees, etc. have been donated by groups and individuals as memorials. In 1974, with funds from the Twentieth Century Mother's Club, the Village Council, and the Men's Garden Club, shrubs and trees were planted in the mall area between Monroe Street and the new Library.

Starting in the spring of 1975, and for several years thereafter, the Club sponsored a Community Garden Project on land just north of the disposal plant. The Club plowed, fertilized, and then rented out the plots to interested participants.

For many years, Garden Club members took care of the various plantings and mowed the grass in all the areas north of Monroe Street, in the beginning using their own equipment, and later, after 1968, with a riding mower they purchased with proceeds from their annual flower sales. In 1978, a new mower was purchased with funds from the Bremenfest committee. In recent years, this work has been taken over by the village employees, due to the fact that all but two of the remaining members of the club are now between 68 and 92 years of age and are no longer physically able to continue this practice!

In 1983, 40 half-barrels were purchased, planted with flowers and placed at various locations to beautify the village when it commemorated its sesquicentennial (150th) birthday celebration. In June, 1994, these were deteriorating and were replaced with 14 new ceramic pots by the N.B./N.K. Rotary Club, N.B. Jaycees, and the village government. For the past three years, they have been planted and cared for by the Garden Club.

In the past, the Club has also conducted flower and garden exhibits and strung Christmas lights on trees and shrubs around the Library and the "New Bremen" sign. They have also, mostly through the efforts of member Paul Headapohl, participated in the New Bremen Historic Association's annual Christmas Tree Festival and entered floats in past Bremenfest parades.

In April, 1994, a plaque was placed in the Library to honor the 63 members the Club has had since its beginnings in 1963. At this writing (February, 1997), there are only 14 members remaining: Lowell Francis, president, John Wissman, secretary, Jerry Newman, treasurer, Don Ahlers, James Ashbaugh, Lester Blanke, Paul Headapohl, Stan Hertenstein, Tom Kuenning, Dick Luelleman, Russell Podoll, Orville Ruedebusch, Bill Starr, and Harold Tangeman.

The New Bremen Men's Garden Club would like to thank village officials, businessmen, merchants, and all other organizations and individuals who have helped to beautify New Bremen these past 34 years. They have now reached the point where they feel they need to rest, and are passing their funds and responsibilities on to the Lock One Park Fund and other organizations. [LMF-2/25/97]

LOCK ONE PARK

Since those of our members who live outside the New Bremen area might not otherwise become aware of this information, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a developing community project.

"In 1967, the restoration of the locks and canal in New Bremen was started. At the request of New Bremen citizens and the New Bremen Village Council, legislation was introduced by Robert Wilhelm, State Representative, who asked that the canal lands be ceded to the village for purposes of creating a park and recreation area for beautification of Ohio's historic canal site and for other public and municipal purposes." (*"New Bremen's History at a Turning Point" - Evening Leader - 5/10/1967*) On June 13, 1967, House Bill 525 was signed by Governor James Rhodes.

In 1995, the New Bremen Tree Commission was established and that fall undertook as its first project the planting of trees along a two block section of South Main Street. The next project to be undertaken was the establishment of "Lock One Park" in the block containing the historic Miami-Erie Canal lock (Lock One) and the New Bremen Public Library, along South Washington Street. On March 17, work was begun in the area formerly occupied by the Garden Club's raised circular flower bed and fountain.

One of the main features of the Lock One Park will be "Memorial" brick walkways - around the new circular flower bed (Phase I, scheduled for completion by June 1), through the park following the diagonal lines of the canal, and a four-foot brick walkway around the Library. In July, 1996, the Commission started taking orders for the "Commemorative" bricks. The bricks cost \$50.00 each and may be inscribed with two or three lines. Each line is to contain no more than 14 characters, and the third line will cost an extra \$1.50. The public was encouraged to take part in this project to recognize their German heritage.

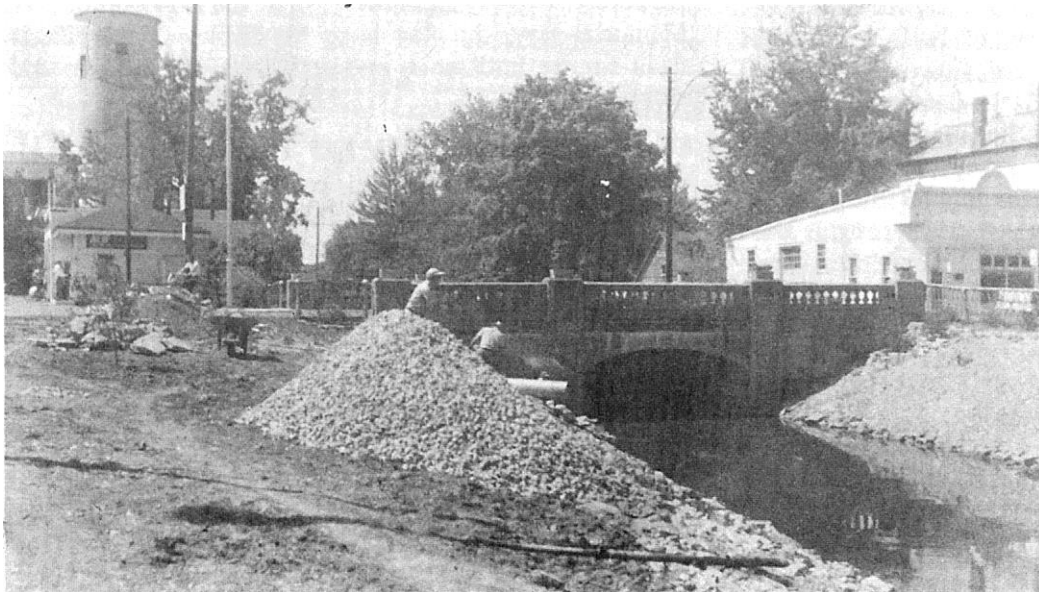
If any of our readers would like to memorialize your New Bremen heritage by having bricks inscribed with your own and/or your ancestors' names (or businesses), you can get more information by writing to:

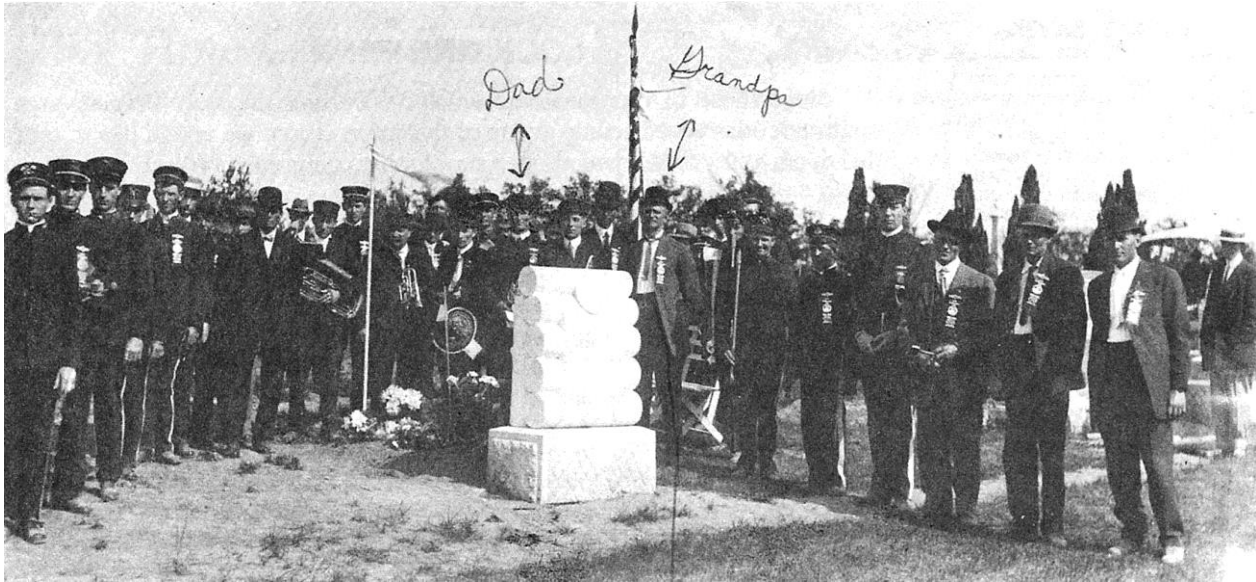


Lock One Park Fund - P.O. Box 101 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0101



This 1965 picture shows the old Monroe St. Bridge (with flower boxes), and the canal bank cleanup in progress. At the upper left is the old Kuenzel Mill building and silo, behind the old Sohio station. These buildings were demolished in 1968, and the Library was built at the south end in 1973. This is the area now being developed as "Lock One Park." To the right, behind the large white building, can be seen the top of the lock tender's (Thompson) house, which was burned.





W.O.W. MEMORIAL UNVEILED

The unveiling of the monument of the late Edward J. Neuman (1862-10/4/1911) took place on Sunday, June 9, 1912, at German Protestant Cemetery under the direction of the local order of the Woodmen of the World. Postmaster August C. Gobrecht served as speaker for the day. The procession, headed by the City Band, marched out to the cemetery. In connection with the unveiling, the local camp also celebrated the annual Decoration Day services. Pictured are: George Ernst Gobrecht (Dad) and August C. Gobrecht (Grandpa). *(Can anybody identify any of the others?)*

The monument shown above is in the shape of 5 stacked logs, with a W.O.W. emblem engraved on the front (see back page for a picture of the matching badge, worn by members of the band). *(The badge and the above picture were donated to the N.B.H.A. by Dorothy Gobrecht Robinson, daughter of George Gobrecht.)* The New Bremen chapter of the Woodmen of the World, a fraternal insurance society, was chartered on March 8, 1906. George Gobrecht was the last charter member to survive, passing away in 1963.



MEMORIAL (DECORATION) DAY

The earliest observance of Decoration Day took place Saturday, May 5, 1866, shortly after the Civil War, in Waterloo, New York, to honor the war dead of both North and South, by decorating their graves with flowers. This was repeated on Sunday, May 5, 1867. In 1868, the date was changed to Saturday, May 30th, in accordance with the suggestion of General Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Just why May 30 was selected as the day for the holiday has never been documented, however it was roughly the anniversary of the surrender of the last Confederate Army on May 26, 1865. The G.A.R. thought that the honoring of the dead should not be left to natural impulse, but should be recognized by law. In 1873, New York was the first state to legalize Decoration Day. In 1882, the G.A.R. urged that the designation of "Decoration Day" be changed to "Memorial Day."

Every year, just preceding Memorial Day, now celebrated (since 1971) on the last Monday in May, a new American flag is placed on the grave of every man and woman who served in the Armed Services of the United States. In New Bremen, this practice is carried

out by the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts under the direction of Mrs. Warren "Ed" Rempe (Linda).

The American Legion conducts memorial services at German Protestant Cemetery, weather permitting, or at the Legion Hall. (On Memorial Day, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff from sunrise until noon and at full staff from noon until sunset.)

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

The G.A.R. was an organization of Union veterans who held their first "encampment" at Indianapolis on November 20, 1866. Their purpose was to secure funds to help hospitalized soldiers and to rehabilitate the veterans' families. Their final "encampment" was held on August 31, 1949, with only six of the sixteen survivors able to attend. The last member died in 1956.

DECORATION DAY - 1908

An interesting feature of the parade to be held at Toledo in connection with the National Encampment of the G.A.R. will be the display of eight hundred and sixty-seven tattered old flags which were carried by Ohio regiments in the Civil War. An enormous military band will march at the head of the colors as a special honor.

(New Bremen Sun - 5/15/1908)

THE GOBRECHT FAMILY

by Dorothy (Gobrecht) Robinson - Toledo, Ohio

I was 6 years old when we left New Bremen. My sister, Wilhelmina, who passed away 2 years ago, was 16. She would have been so interested in all the news in *The Towpath*.

With our large family (4 boys and 2 girls) our Mother thought if we moved to a big city (Toledo) we might all get jobs and go to college. Not so - my brother, Harold ("Whitey") Gobrecht, went to Toledo first and the family followed when he thought it was great.

The boys were all musicians, taught solely by my father, George Gobrecht. He inherited his musical talent from his father, August Gobrecht. We had a family orchestra of five. My Dad played violin, trumpet, cornet, saxophone, and some piano. One brother, Whitey, played all reed instruments. Another brother, George Jr., played trumpet and wind instruments and brother, Willard, played drums. It was more like a 10-piece band.

My brother Whitey had his own band which was very popular in Toledo in the 30's. Both brothers, George and Willard, played with him. They played at our big Trianon Ballroom for many years and also for school proms, weddings, etc.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE GOBRECHT FAMILY

The Gobrechts lived at the northeast corner of Monroe & Franklin Streets where the Howell's IGA parking lot is now. Dorothy's father was George Ernst Gobrecht (1884-4/5/1963). Her mother was Martha Wilhelmina Rump (1884-8/14/1963). They were married 9/30/1905. The family moved to Toledo around 1923.

George was the son of August Gobrecht & Amelia (Boecke?). He had a brother, Edward, who lived in Cincinnati; a sister, Ethel Loraine, who was the first wife of Louis Kohl; a sister, Hilda, who married Harry Dale; and a sister, Magdalena ("Hon"), who married Alvin Pape. The Papes had 3 children: Richard, Mary Ellen, and Paul (*Dorothy's cousins*).

Martha Rump was a sister to Mrs. Gustav (Christine) Dammeyer and Mrs. Louis (Rosa) Kettler.

More of Dorothy's cousins were Irvin & Wilbert/ "Pete" Dammeyer, Rola (Dammeyer) McDaniel, Alma (Dammeyer) Tecamp, Ray Kettler, Erma (Kettler) Landwehr, Helen (Kettler) Behm, and Verona (Kettler) Hirschfeld, who lives in DeGraff, Ohio.

(NOTE: Vernon Doenges, New Bremen native, now living in Wapakoneta, says that he played bass fiddle with the Whitey Gobrecht orchestra on occasion in Toledo.)

We were a very middle-class family, but were so rich where music was concerned. All the instruments were kept under beds for storage, and my brother's big drum set with a scene on the base drum and a flashing light, was kept in the basement.

My younger brother Chuck was in his High School band and he played reed instruments and helped as assistant to the band director.

While all this was going on, my Dad had a group of young Polish men who met every Tuesday for orchestra rehearsals and they played for many churches and neighborhood gatherings. My Dad also was a trumpet soloist at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in downtown Toledo for many years.

Unfortunately for the two girls in the family, my Dad never taught us to play. I did take piano lessons and did get to college, but I never had the inherited musical talent of my brothers.

I am the last Gobrecht living except one nephew, Charles (Chipper) Gobrecht, living in Colorado. He is a graphic artist and not a musician.

I'm not much on family trees, but I was pleased to get some of the information you had on us. My husband, Philip Robinson, and I are married 56 years in August, 1996. We have 4 married children, 9 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

OTHER HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

♦August Gobrecht disposed of his agency for the Star Brewing Co. in Minster to Henry Kastens, and will move his family to St. Marys where he is already established in the saloon business. Mr. Gobrecht is a member of the Laut band and we understand he will be down occasionally to help the band "toot." (*N.B.Sun-3/29/1901*)

♦August C. Gobrecht was appointed Postmaster on 9/11/1909. At that time, the Post Office was located in the south side of a little frame building on South Washington Street near Monroe. Two or three of August's daughters clerked during the afternoon rush hour, when the *Evening Leader* arrived. Each patron rented a pigeon hole for his mail, but had to be served by the clerks since there were no lock boxes at that time. When August accepted a position as rural mail carrier, Lafe Kunning became Postmaster (appointed 10/9/1913).

(*Walter Behm - N.B. Sesquicentennial book, Pg. 111*)

♦Folks gathered 'round the bandstand to hear the music and when George Gobrecht and his band started to play *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, then you knew the picnic had started (in the old City Park on North Main St.)

(*July, 1988 Towpath - 6/20/1923 Firemen's Picnic article*)

Rag Time Comic Opera

Benefits Flood Sufferers

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1913, in Boesel's Opera House, the local Knights of Pythias entertained a full house with classy music and comedy, under the direction of Postmaster August C. Gobrecht. Proceeds had originally been intended for the K. of P. Lodge, but since the recent floods in various parts of Ohio caused so much loss and sorrow and need, the Lodge consented to forward the net gain of \$113 to the stricken flood sufferers. Tickets had sold for 50¢. The program lasted for nearly two hours.

THE CAST for this production included: Frieda Dammeyer, Irene Ekmeyer, Ethel L. Gobrecht, Hilda Gobrecht, Magdalene H. Gobrecht, Gustave A. Kunning, Erma Landwehr, Ben Laut, Emil W. Laut, Gottlieb Laut, Lester Laut, Louise Laut, Naomi Laut, Roy Laut, Alvin Pape, Leo Sunderman, George Taylor, James Taylor, Edna Uetrecht, Frieda Uetrecht, Robert Weinberg, and Aurelia Wissman. The men's quartet was comprised of Ben, Lester, and Roy Laut and George Taylor.

THE ORCHESTRA included George E. Gobrecht (drums), Ben Klute (violin), Morris Laufensweiler (violin), Clarence Laut (bass), John Laut (cornet), August Mueller (clarinet), Adolph Pape (trombone), and Lewis J. Wessel (cello).

Among the selections performed were: When I Woke Up This Morning She Was Gone (comedy act by Emil Laut), Moonlight Bay (sung by Gust Kunning in German dialect), I Want Someone Who Hasn't Anyone To Love (comedy act by Lester Laut), Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Sighing, Silver Threads Among The Gold, Honey Love.

(N.B.Sun-4/11,18,25/1913)



JOHN H. PATTERSON WRITES LETTER OF THANKS TO MAYOR BOESEL

Mayor Otto J. Boesel of New Bremen was the recipient of a letter of thanks from John H. Patterson of Dayton, following the reception of two car-loads of provisions and \$600 in cash from New Bremen people.

Freight cars were furnished by the C.H. & D. Railroad, and farmers and townspeople brought sacks, boxes, crocks, cans, and pots filled with the good things to eat that had been stored away for their own hour of need. It was estimated that perhaps \$1000 worth of food articles and wearing apparel had been donated freely and willingly towards alleviating the suffering and needs in the flood-stricken city of Dayton. Lock Two alone furnished a big wagon-load of quilts, comforters, and wearing apparel, besides many eatables.

Members of the self-appointed Citizens' Relief Committee to look after the receiving, packing, and delivering of the donations were: C.J. Boesel, Fernando W. Bruns, Julius Gilberg, Jake Gritmaker, F.B. Hollingsworth, and Henry Schwaberow. They left on the Friday afternoon car, April 11, and returned to New Bremen late Saturday evening.

(N.B.Sun-4/11,18/1913)

Curator's Corner

♦In the October, 1996 issue of *The Towpath*, we told you about a trailer-load of farm tools that had been given to us by Johann and Mary (Bruggeman) Klein. Here is an itemized list of what was on that trailer:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Harrow | 7. 3rd-horse hitch |
| 2. Horse-drawn leveler | 8. Land plow |
| 3. Tripod for butchering kettle | 9. Cultivator |
| 4. "Hexler" hand fodder-chopper | 10. Potato plow |
| 5. Double-tree | 11. Slip scoop |
| 6. Neck Yoke | 12. 4-finger hay fork |
| | 13. 2 drags |

These items have been placed in the barn behind the Museum. When you next pay us a visit, ask the host or hostess to show you these items and the many other items on display out there.

Other items donated the past year (1996) are:

♦1857 Citizenship papers for Henry Grube; Birth Certificate dated January 1, 1827 for Wilhelmine Marie Paul, who married Gerhard Heinrich Grube on February 16, 1854; "Grandma's money bag" (Wilhelmine M. Paul); all donated by Naomi (Grube) Koeper, granddaughter.

♦School books, donated by Paul & Rosemary (Koeper) Heitkamp.

♦Senior Citizens picture (ca. 1968?), donated by Mrs. Clarence (Dorothy Neuman) Leshner.

♦Pictures, from Mrs. Harold (Frances) Ahlers.

♦Old-fashioned nylon stockings, corsets, 2 aprons, muffin tin, flour bin, Hershey box (all donated), and 2 dining room chairs (on loan), from Dave & Donna Warner. These were items from Dave's mother's estate.

♦Items from the Marie Greiwe estate (pin tray, pictures, statuette), donated by Don & Clara Greiwe. Marie taught in area schools from 1919-1931. She then was a nurse in Cleveland for 50 years. Her grandfather Huckeriede had Huckeriede's Grocery Store.

♦A glass display case found in his barn and donated by Mark Gaerke, now located in the children's room on the second floor. It holds sports memorabilia, etc.

♦6th Edition of Jack Moeller's German textbooks, "Deutsch Heute" donated by Jack Moeller of Rochester, Michigan. Jack is a New Bremen native, the son of Raymond ("Caddy") and Alfrieda (Vornholt) Moeller. This and Jack's other books can be found in our "Author's Nook" in the northwest room of the Museum.

A PLEA FROM THE CURATORS

PLEASE - When someone has items to donate or loan to the Museum, we need to know who is donating these items, who brought the item to the Museum, when, and the origin of the item (someone's estate, personal, etc.) Please help by completing the appropriate donor sheets.

Robert A. Papsdorf

17810 Palo Verde Drive
Sun City, Arizona 85373

My father was Rev. Theodore G. Papsdorf. He accepted a call on September 1, 1929 to become the minister for St. Peter's Church in New Bremen and remained there until August 31, 1948.

Moving from a high-density, multi-cultured part of Chicago to New Bremen was a major change for my family, and was the best thing that could have happened to me, a boy of twelve. During the next five years I was able to enjoy experiences that would have been unheard of in our Chicago area. Now, instead of playing in alleys, I was able to have a bicycle and ride freely in town or in the countryside, play sand-lot baseball, go fishing for crappies at Lake St. Marys, swim in gravel pits, or go rabbit and pheasant hunting. The first day of hunting season, incidentally, was always an undeclared holiday for the boys, and, during those depression years, the better hunters were able to put a significant amount of meat on the table.

At that time, too, the canal was clear of bushes and trees, and had a substantial flow of water. Occasionally the canal ice in the wintertime became thick enough to support skaters. Most of us only had clamp-on skates, and I remember that I was envious of Paul Eschmeyer with his "Silver Streak" shoe skates. I discovered, too, that the ice wasn't always as strong as it appeared--as I ran home with my shoes and pockets filled with icy canal water.

Very important was the superb quality of the New Bremen schools. It was a real shock for me to come from schools where homework was unknown, and be suddenly plopped in a situation where several hours of daily homework was the norm, and where most everyone else was far better versed in the basics than I. The high school under Miss Alvina Burk's direction prepared us well for college or for careers in farming or business.

Traditional German cleanliness and neatness always prevailed in New Bremen. When Paul Eschmeyer, Bill Kuck and I meandered through the town in 1994 (our 60th high school reunion) and reminisced as we went along, we found houses, streets and yards immaculate and well-maintained. After Dorothy and Fred Luedeke spoke of the relative freedom of crime, drugs or other major problems, I remarked to my wife upon my return to Arizona that in all our travels here and abroad, I have never seen a finer community in which to raise a family. I truly thank God that I had the opportunity of growing up in New Bremen.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Papsdorf

EDITOR'S NOTE: After resigning as pastor of St. Peter's Church, Rev. & Mrs. Papsdorf lived in retirement in California until their deaths in 1974 and 1980, respectively. Robert Papsdorf has a brother, Paul, currently living in Apache Junction, Arizona and a sister, Theodora Walker, living in Westwood, California.

NBHS Class of 1934

Neal Behm
Lilas Bertke (Haberkamp)
Robert Bienz
Eloise Blanke (Harland)
Bernadine Brockman-Huenke (Mueller)
Betty Burk (Sturtevant)
Raeanna Coss (Summerill)
Dr. Paul Eschmeyer
Gregore Gast
Arlin Greber
Milford Greber
Helen Harjehausen (Scarpelli)
Howard Hartman
Esther Headapohl (Dicke)
Hubert Heinfeld
Louise Henning (Laut)
Carman Hirschfeld
John Klopfenstein
Verona Koeper (Palmateer)
William Kuck
Harold Kuest
Carabell Kuhlhorst (Bowers)
Catherine Luelleman (Grilliot)
Frances McNett (Moeller)
Leota Nedderman (Hubbard)
Julitta Nieter (Heinfeld)
Richard Pape
Robert Papsdorf
Grace Quellhorst (Wint)
Bernice Roettger (Shook)
Clifford Scheer
Harry Sollman
Dorothy Sunderman (Luedeke)
Reuben Thiesing
Irene Topp
Irma Topp (Shroyer)
Israel Topp
Emma Wehmeyer (Greber)
Howard Wiehe
Ruth Wiehe (King)

READERS' COMMENTS

♦Regarding your article in the January, 1997 issue of *The Towpath* concerning the old cannon in the city park across from St. Paul's Church, I, too, remember this cannon since I lived across the street at 107 N. Franklin St. until 1957. As I remember, there was a metal plate installed on it and the fuse-box was welded shut, both done to disable the cannon. I feel sure that it was turned into scrap metal in the late 1950's. *James F. Dicke, II (New Bremen)*

♦The cannon in the old city park was destroyed during my years as Mayor (1956-1962). I was not in favor of doing this, as I thought it should have been preserved for history. I was over-ruled, however, and it was sold to Cliff Harris's Junk Yard for \$200.00. *Lloyd Laut (St. Marys)*

♦I remember Kuenzel Mills, Bill Combs' ice-house, and walking on the towpath - what beautiful memories. I'm retired from the Pasadena Post Office and work part-time with court reporters, editing their legal copy. *DeLoss Jordan (Arcadia, CA)*

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
(*William Wordsworth*)

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED of any changes in your address. If you don't, we are charged additional postage for address corrections, forwarding, or returns.



Stan Kuenning "riding" the cannon.

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following Memorial Fund contributions received this past quarter

in memory of:

Wilbur Garmhausen - by Janet (Garmhausen) Bock and Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter, daughters.

Paul Lietz - by Delmar Hickman, Karl Mesloh, and Edna Tontrup.

Louise Scheer - by Louise/Olive (Loyer) Pullins, granddaughter.

Alvera K. Schelper - by Anthony Cook, grandson.

These are the two sides of the W.O.W. badge being worn by the City Band at the cemetery, shown on page 4. One side has red, white, and black stripes with two flags at the top - the other side is black and says "In Memoriam."

The badge was given to the N.B.H.A. by Dorothy (Gobrecht) Robinson.



EDITOR'S NOTE

A 4-page supplement is included in this issue reviewing our annual dinner and program and containing our current membership roster.

Perhaps you will see a name on this roster of someone with whom you would like to correspond, but don't have their address. We'd be glad to help you get in touch with that person. Probably the best way to do that, however, is for you to send your sealed and stamped letter to us, and we will put that person's address on the envelope and send it on. This way, we will avoid inadvertently giving out information that someone may not want to make public.



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB on 20th Anniversary, February 28, 1983

(left to right) Stan Hertenstein, Tom Kuenning, Les Blanke, Jerry Newman, Lowell Francis, Russ Podoll, Paul Headapohl, Don Ahlers, Bill Starr, Walter Behm (see article on page 2)