

THE TOWPATH

October

1997

NEW BREMEN

HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 73

NEW BREMEN, OHIO 45869-0073

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$50.00

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WINTER VISITING HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

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OUR TOWN'S NEW TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

The initial phases of New Bremen's two new tourist attractions were both completed in July, 1997 - the "Lock One Park" south of Monroe Street, between South Washington St. and the Miami-Erie Canal - also the "Bicycle Museum of America" at 7 West Monroe St. adjacent to Lock One Park. (see the April and July, 1997 issues of "The Towpath" for previous articles concerning both these projects.)

One of the two main features of **LOCK ONE PARK** are the brick walkways containing nearly 33,000 bricks, over 600 of which have been engraved with the names of the purchasers or names designated by them. (The Tree Commission is still taking orders for bricks at \$50.00 each for Phase II of this project. Write to them at P.O. Box 101 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0101.)

The other interesting feature is the concave diagonal "waterway" which represents the canal flowing through the park. At the center of this concrete "waterway" is a bubbling fountain which is turned on periodically and which represents the Loramie Summit from which the water flows north to Toledo and south to Cincinnati.

Completing Phase I of the park were trees, shrubs, and sod, which created an instant "green space" for all to enjoy this summer. There are also benches where visitors can sit and visit.

In the picture below can be seen Lock I at the right, a historical canal monument in the center, and the Morrison "bowstring girder" foot bridge, installed in 1984-1985 across the canal behind the library. Another foot-bridge west of the bowstring bridge (upper right in picture) affords access across the "storm ditch" to the Lions' Club Park west of the canal and towpath.

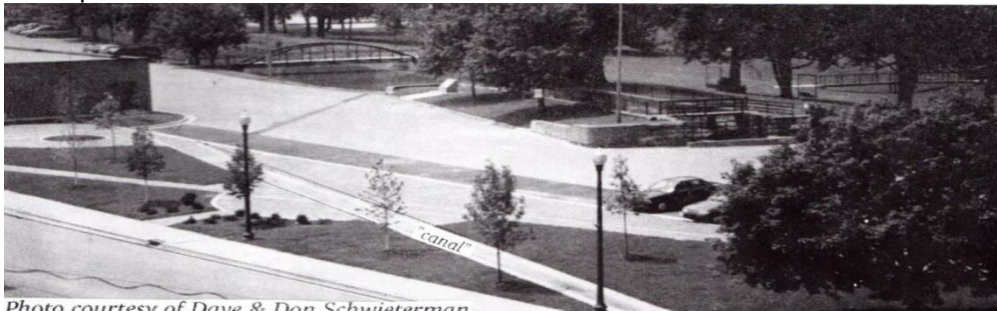


Photo courtesy of Dave & Don Schwieterman

Friday, July 25, 1997, marked the grand opening date of the **BICYCLE MUSEUM OF AMERICA**. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 11:30 A.M. with a crowd of over 200 in attendance. An opening statement was given by owner James Dicke, II followed by a brief speech from Ohio's Secretary of State Robert A. Taft.

Also participating were former owner Richard Schwinn, and Tony Huffman of Huffy Bicycles. After the ceremonies, the crowd was invited to enter the building for a free viewing of the large variety of "bicycles" from the 1800s through the 1970s (not all are 2-wheelers) along with other memorabilia. Also on display was one of Crown Equip. Corp.'s first lift trucks, the "Easy-Lift" LT 500.

The bicycle museum will be open daily (except Sundays). Free will donations will be directed towards New Bremen High School's scholarship fund. (Museum phone: 419-629-9249)

STORIES LEFT UNTOLD!

Just as the July, 1997 issue of *The Towpath* was being completed, we received word of the death of Robert J. Schroeder of Woodbury, Connecticut - a New Bremen native. You may remember from the July, 1996 issue that Bob had planned to write a series of articles for us about:

SHOPPING NEW BREMEN IN THE 1920'S.

Since he was unable to complete this project before his death, we are printing in this issue (at the suggestion of his son, David, of Port Townsend, Washington) Bob's anticipated schedule of topics which he submitted to the Editor in May, 1996. Perhaps these topics and names will trigger memories for some of our other readers and they will share some of them with us for future articles. I know Bob had been in contact with many of you to corroborate his memories. However, he had not had time to research all these topics, so (in his own words) some things may be subject to error.

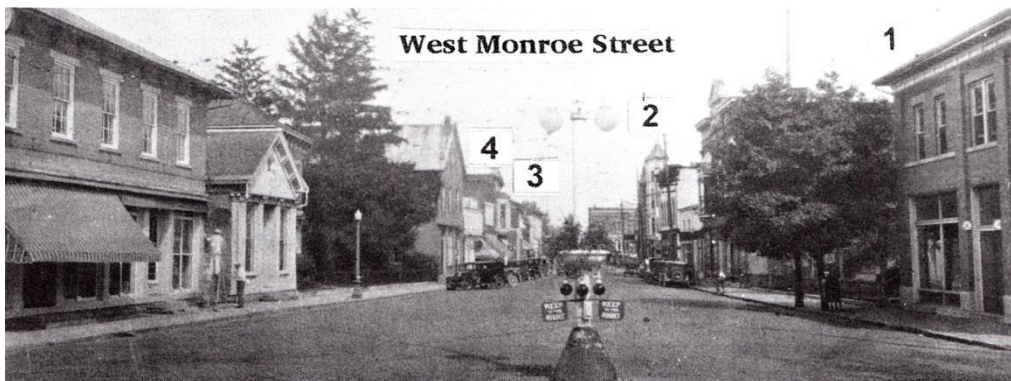
IN MEMORY OF ROBERT J. SCHROEDER, here are some of his memories of New Bremen around 1925-1935:



West Monroe Street (south side)

↘(1) The businesses or activities along the south side of Monroe, starting at the corner of Main & Monroe, then going east and ending at Water Street: This would include the old Post Office building (P.O., N.B. Telephone Co., and Albert Funeral Home), the First City (Boesel) Bank (later Lewis Poppe's shoe store) and the old N.B. Hardware location in the Opera House block, the Opera House itself (upstairs), Schelper's Meat Market - Ed Jung and Lafe Neuman peddling meat from the horse-drawn wagons, Erhardt's Dry Goods, and "Bud" Laut's shoe store, later (after 1946) the N.B. Hardware & Supply Co.

↘(2) The businesses or activities on the south side of Monroe between Water St. and the canal: This would include "Peanuts" Dierker's Tin Shop, the Hotel, Laut's Pool Room, the first Woodmen Hall, Schulenberg's Drug Store, Purpus Insurance Agency, "Patty" Patterson's Barber Shop, and the freight house used by the interurban and manned by the Thompson brothers. The Thompson house at the canal lock would be included. (see July, 1997 "Towpath" for Thompson story.)



(5) South Washington Street (west side) →

The businesses or activities on the west side of Washington St., from Monroe to Plum: This would include reference to the former pork-packing buildings still standing on the east side of the canal when I was a kid, the canal boat turn-around, the filling station at the southwest corner of Monroe and Washington, the harness/tire shop next door, the Kuenzel Mills buildings, the Sea Breezes miniature golf course, the poultry house, Bill Combs' ice house,

the Gast Blacksmith Shop (see July, 1997 "Towpath"), and Stueve's sheet metal shop.

(6) South Washington Street (east side) →

The businesses or activities on the east side of Washington St. coming back from Plum St. to Monroe: This would include Rabe's Store, the Arcade, the Knights of Pythias hall above the Arcade, Speckman's Furniture, the *New Bremen Sun*, the bakery (later the bowling alley), Wint's Bar and Restaurant, "Dooly" Wissman's Barber Shop, the fire station, jail, & town offices, the harness shop, the cigar factory, the First National Bank at the corner of Washington & Monroe, and other enterprises that came and went.

Also included would be Urban Schwieterman's Rexall Store (on the northeast corner of Washington & Monroe), Tony Schwieterman's Blacksmith Shop, and Rairdon's filling station & car dealership in what had earlier been a canal warehouse, then a livery stable (on the northwest corner of Washington & Monroe).

West Monroe Street (north side)

↳(3) The businesses or activities on the north side of Monroe St. from the canal westward - including the movie theater (later the Bielefeld Print Shop and from 1968-1996, the Senior Citizens' building), the old Hespe Hall when it was New Bremen High School's basketball court as well as a dance hall (afterwards becoming the Shanghai Gardens Night Club), "Icy" Hirschfeld's Sandwich Shop, the Taylor Photo Studio (on the northeast corner of Monroe & Water St.)

↳(4) Going west across Water St. was Schwaberow's Variety Store, later Western Ohio Hardware (on the NW corner of Monroe & Water), the first Kroger's (between Schwaberow's and "Plucky" Laut's Jewelry Store), the jewelry store, Fred Ende's Optometry Shop, the Jacob Boesel/E.G. Conradi residence (2nd Woodmen Home), the Concordia Savings & Loan, and the Mueller Brothers Clothing Store (on the NE corner of Monroe & Main.)



These postcards were dated 1931. Notice the street lamps (with flower planters) in the intersections, the street car tracks, and the overhead cables, also the Kuenzel Mills silo. ↗ It says "The Home of Gold Lace Flour." Note Theodore L. Doenges' tire sign saying "Seiberling - All Treads."

North Main Street

The businesses or activities on both sides of North Main St. - on the east side were the Equity dairy store, the Superior Broom Works (torn down for an auto repair shop), Gieseke's Grocery, and Huenke's Garage.

Coming back on the west side, Henry Block's Plumbing Shop, Nieter's Store, the Doenges store & old town hall, Al Friemering's grocery/bakery and the Gilberg & Hegemier Furniture Store (the south building later served as Erma & Louie Landwehr's restaurant), the earlier *New Bremen Sun* location (later Kroger's, now Howell's IGA on the northwest corner of Main & Monroe).

Back to West Monroe St.

On the north side of Monroe west of Main were Elbert's Tailor Shop, the office and shop of *Der Stern des Westlichen Ohio*, the German language weekly paper (this space was later Dr. Rabe's office), Kamman's Coal Yard (later "Toodily" Hirschfeld's and Bob Fledderjohn's tiny appliance store), and the Erhardt Coal Yard.

On the south side of Monroe the Gilberg Funeral Home, Otto Heinfeld's Plumbing Shop, the Halsema sisters'

hem-stitching, Home Furniture store, and Doc Fledderjohann's residence (later torn down to make room for a filling station) on the SW corner of Monroe & Main.

Other Memories

Buying an auto, and filling 'er up, in 1920s and 1930s New Bremen - an atlas and glossary of the dozen places you could buy a new car or truck, and the two dozen filling stations to service them, that had popped up all over New Bremen - starting with the 1912 Case Truck Factory in what later became the school for the retarded (now ABC Learning Center).

In preparing these articles, I will check with old-timers Virgil Hirschfeld, Orville Ruedebusch, Ralph Dietrich, Alton Schelper, etc., as well as checking Ralph May's and others' writings. I will not be stressing historical facts, rather I intend to convey the "feel" of that time - what life was like in this unique village in the late '20s and early '30s - and what the town "folks" were like, such as "Hook" Thompson, Nathan Vitz, "Molly" Wehrman, Roscoe Lanfersieck, "Hon" Pape, Les Neuman, "Mookie" Tangeman, Louie Huenke, Lina Brucken, Betty Gast, "Sky" Kuck, Storm Haarbye, Frank Streine, Andy Albert, Bill Nieter, Lois Hardwick, "Blackie" Heil, Howard Huenke, Carl Schrage, Bill Hollingsworth, "Tooper Top" Heinfeld, Annie Schwepe, Elmer Ende, Ben Vornholt, the Laut brothers & cousins, and Marie (Schowe) Rabe (the ear-shattering roving bread lady). They don't make them like any of these any more.

The first World War had wrought traumatic sociol-ogical changes in New Bremen - until that time, almost, a German colony. The second World War brought about further irreversible changes of another kind. My articles will focus on what life was like in New Bremen, and what its people were like, in that brief sliver of time between the World Wars.....

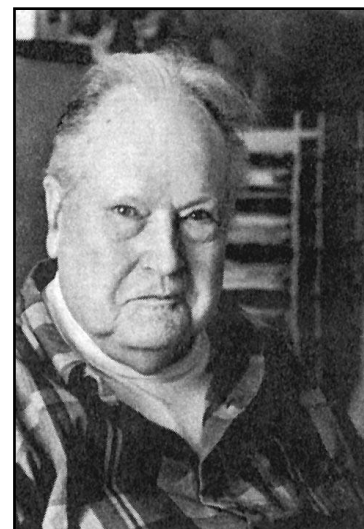
Robert J. Schroeder (2/14/1918-5/21/1997)

For about 40 years the Schroeder family (Harry or his son, Bob) owned and operated the New Bremen Hardware & Supply Co., with branches in Sidney, Piqua, Bellefontaine, & Lima. →

In 1963, Bob moved to New York City, where he became a playwright, author-ing over 20 plays, and also was a theater reviewer. He is survived by his wife, a sister, two sons, two step- sons, a stepdaughter, & four grandchildren.

My father very much wanted to write this series of articles for *The Towpath*. Of course, no one can write the articles that my father would have written, but perhaps your readers can help complete them. New Bremen meant a lot to my dad. His writings and plays often touched on the special qualities of life he experienced growing up there.

Sincerely, David H. Schroeder



NEW BREMEN HARDWARE

**Will Open Remodeled New Store
September Seventh**

Beginning Monday, September 2, business will be at a standstill at the New Bremen Hardware & Supply Co.'s store as far as retail sales are concerned, as both the old store in the old Opera House block and the new store in the Hardware block will be closed during the week to make possible the removal of the merchandise and office from the old to the new quarters.

Formal opening of the new store in the remodeled building at West Monroe and Water Streets is scheduled for Saturday, September 7, at 1:00 P.M., when the public will be invited to inspect one of the most modern and up-to-date hardware stores in this section of Ohio.

The building in which the store will soon be located has undergone a program of remodeling which, on account of rationing, priorities and one thing and another, has consumed the better part of the past six months. A complete new and enlarged basement with heating plant has been constructed, the main part of the partition between the two business rooms has been removed, and a mezzanine floor added in what formerly was the east room. All fixtures are new or reconstructed and the lower floor has an entirely new front.

However, at opening time, there will be more to be said about the remodeled building which, in its new form, will

be a credit to the community and will daily speak volumes of evidence of the enterprising spirit of the management and of them who are connected in one way or other with the business.

Saturday, September 7, at 1:00 P.M. will be the official opening (*New Bremen Sun - 8/30/1946*)

Remodeling of the east business room in the Schulenberg block has been making headway since last week. For several weeks, a large sign hung in the window of the former Barber Shop, announcing that a Dr. Koehl would soon open a chiropractic office there. Last week, carpenters got busy erecting partitions, and the decorators took in hand the walls and ceilings, giving the location a decidedly inviting appearance. (*New Bremen Sun - 8/30.1946*)

Gala OPENING!

At Our New Location

NEW BREMEN HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO.

1:00 P. M.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 1946

Door Prizes and Gifts for Opening Day Visitors!



OUR old location was in one half of the building shown at the far right.

WE now occupy the entire corner building illustrated, comprising two former store locations, a complete basement warehouse, and the warehouses and storage lot illustrated to the back and left of the main building

OUR AIM...

TO CARRY NORTHWESTERN OHIO'S
MOST COMPLETE STOCK IN OUR THREE DEPARTMENTS

RETAIL

WHOLESALE

DISTRIBUTORS

- Hardware, Housewares, Appliances, Plumbing and Farm Supplies, Bar and Sheet Steel, Sporting Goods and Paints.
- Hardware, Plumbing and Farm Supplies, and Bar and Sheet Steel.
- Factory, Mill and Contractors' Supplies.

WE SELL THESE NATIONALLY PROVEN BRANDS

<p>RETAIL</p> <p>Philco Frigidaire Eureka Plumb Easy Proctor Wheeling</p>	<p>Woman's Friend Dexter Westinghouse True Temper Wagner Ware General Electric Wilson, Spaulding</p>	<p>WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS</p> <p>Continental and Pittsburgh Fence, Roofing, Nails and Sheets, Youngstown Pipe, Allen, Ferry, Rockford Screws and Bolts, Ward Fittings, Atkins and Simonds Saws and Files, Browning V-Belts and Sheaves, Johns-Manville Insulation, Weinman and Carver Pumps, Standard Drills and Reamers, Williams and Ridgid Wrenches and Dies, Alemite Guns and Fittings, Quaker and Hewitt Belt and Hose, Calumet Ankorite Steel Posts.</p>
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OUR NEW LOCATION HAS A LONG BUSINESS HISTORY

OLDER NEW BREMEN RESIDENTS WILL RECALL WHEN

The East Store was occupied by
Gustave Boesel, Boots and Shoes
Henry C. Meyer, Boots and Shoes
Martin Knost, Boots and Shoes
Herman Laut, Boots and Shoes
Gregor Gast, Boots and Shoes
Mrs. George Gast, Ladies' Wear

And for many years the upstairs rooms, now apartments, housed business enterprises occupied by
John Laut, Cigar Maker
Theodore Purpus, Concordia Bldg. & Loan

THE building was built in the year 1880, by Chas. Boesel, Sr., grandfather of C.J. Boesel from whom H.F. Schroeder purchased the predecessor of the present New Bremen Hardware & Supply Co. in 1922. The builders were Wm. Brinkmeyer, John Klankke and George Klankke.

THE above listing was courteously compiled by Mr. Chas. Lanfersieck, well-known New Bremen resident, who was 8 years old when the building was erected.

The West Store was occupied by
Edward Purpus, General Store
Henry Schwaberow, Grocery
Mueller Brothers, Clothing Store
Henry Schroerlueke, Dry Goods
Loy and Ludwig, Music House
Ed Erhardt, Dry Goods

housed business enterprises occupied by
Dr. Barrett, Dentist
Dr. McCormick, Dentist

...AND WE'LL TRY TO ADD MANY YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL MERCHANTISING IN THE REMODELED BLDG.

WE owe our special thanks to the following, whose efforts created the fresh, modern appearance of the renovated building...

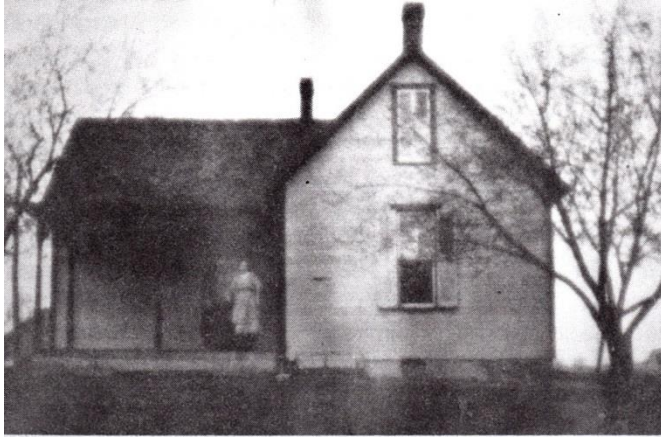
CARPENTERS
Julius Heimfeld, Gustave Dicke,
Frank Ahlers, Rudy May
PAINTING & DECORATING
Richard Knost
aisle STORE FIXTURES
Reuben Thiesing
FLOOR SANDING
Frank Sunderman
ELECTRICIAN
Luelleman & Son

VISIT US ON OPENING DAY!
REMEMBER US WHEN YOU DESIRE A COMPLETE SELECTION

THE NEW BREMEN HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO.

Phone 36 New Bremen, Ohio

A MEMORY FROM YESTERDAY by Marjorie L. (Gieseke) Lietz



Marjorie & Dorothy Gieseke with their mother.



The Joe Niekamp house at 117 E. Second St. today.

The weather was hot and humid. Farmers were busy in the field next to our house on East Second Street (picture above - now 117 East Second). It was time for the second cutting of grass to make hay. Here and there some leaves in our old apple tree moved and seemed to sigh with the heat. My sister, Dorothy, and I sat on the steps of our front porch, waiting to hear the bell of the meat wagon. Our mother was hard of hearing, so this was our job on the **days the meat wagon came**. The meat wagons, pulled by faithful horses, belonged to Wm. Schelper's Old Reliable Meat Market.

Since New Bremen is a canal town, it was easy to divide the routes for the delivery wagons that brought the fresh meat to the busy housewives during the summer months. Mr. Lafe Neuman had the route east of the canal and Mr. Ed Jung's route was west of the canal. Keep in mind this was "back in the twenties."

As soon as the bell sounded in the neighborhood, we could see the ladies come out of their homes carrying a meat platter or sometimes a pie pan to hold the meat they would purchase. The coin purse was carried in an apron pocket. In the "twenties" one could purchase 25¢ worth of round steak and it was enough for a family of five!

The meat market was a box-like affair, with a seat for the driver up front and a step on the rear of the wagon so he could reach the various cuts of meat. The scale hung from a chain fastened to the ceiling of the wagon. Sunshine furnished the light from the front and back of the wagon.

The floor was lined with white butcher paper to hold the fresh meat. There were beef roasts, pork roasts, round steak, pork chops, homemade frying sausage, homemade bologna and wieners-most likely the drivers had to take along a good supply of wieners because this was a free treat for the children along the route. In one corner of the wagon was a small supply of beef bones, in case a customer wanted a bone for the family dog. I suppose the dogs knew the sound of the bell, too.

The meat wagons served our town well in those days, however, this convenience passed with the years. Now, with refrigerators and freezers in each home, it is not necessary for delivery trucks.

We lived in a different "era" back in the twenties, when the man of the family came home at noon for a hot meal of meat and potatoes. In New Bremen we called it "dinner," when the whistles blew at 12:00 noon!



*The Schelper barn & slaughter house north of town, where Shanverton Court is now located.
One of the meat wagons can be seen in the center of the picture.*

THE ELUSIVE DIECKMANN HOUSE

written 4/28/1997 in New Bremen by
John Graaskamp, Unit 13-167, 1575 Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, New York 14304

For over three years, Sandy Geddis Sakofsky and I had been searching for the location of a mysterious house - in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Iowa.

It all started when Sandy, a great-granddaughter of J.F.H. Dieckmann (1835-1893), who was a German Reformed preacher in Buffalo, N.Y. until his death, found the picture in an old photo album after her dad died in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1994. The picture, reproduced in this article, shows a large two-story home with a bay window and, in front of it, a family whom we supposed must have been some kind of relatives. But who were they?

At first we thought the man and woman standing were the parents of J.F.H. with their three sons, shortly after they had arrived in Cincinnati from Sulingen, Hannover, in 1847. But sitting next to the elderly lady in the chair on the right was a little girl with a doll carriage beside her and that did not fit, for there were only the three brothers and no sister. Also, the house did not seem to date from that early period.

During our first trip to California in the winter of 1994-1995 we completed, to a large extent, the history of the oldest brother, 1♣J.F.H. Dieckmann, who had been a minister in Galion, Dayton, and other places in Ohio, as well as in Louisville, Kentucky, and lastly, in Buffalo, N.Y. Needless to say, the trip to California took many detours! The line had died out on the male side, but there were many descendants in the female branches of the eight children of J.F.H. Dieckmann and his wife, Friederike Tatgenhorst - from the Hube (Sandy's mother), Bollmann, Rettig, and Denny lines spread over different parts of the United States. (Sandy's grandmother was Lydia Dieckmann who married Rev. Hube. Lydia was a daughter of Rev. J.F.H. Dieckmann.) A tantalizing bit of information showed that in 1860 the parents of the three brothers lived with or near J.F.H.'s family in Licking County, Ohio, together with the two other as yet unmarried sons, Fred and William Dieckmann.

Courthouse and census records in different places indicated that both Fred and William eventually became German Reformed preachers also. The Reformed Church yearbooks showed umpteen different towns where they served, promising a vastly expanded genealogical and historical goose-chase! But this fascinating chase produced results.

We found most of 2♣Fred Dieckmann's descendants during our 1995-1996 trip, several of whom lived in Fred's last preaching location - Wheatland, Iowa. The Rev. Harold Koenig, who was serving his last year before retirement as a United Church of Christ minister there, was himself a historian and was of invaluable help in our search. On our way home in the spring, we detoured to a distant cousin in Illinois who had pictures of all three brothers, plus one of the father, Heinrich Wilhelm Dieckmann, born in 1807. This led us to believe that the latter had lived out his old age with the Denny descendants, but a trip to East Bernstadt, Kentucky where the Denny family lived, turned up nothing.

This year we decided to try the descendants of the third brother, the 3♣Rev. William Dieckmann. We knew from the German Reformed Church synod books that he had been a minister of a Zion Church in New Bremen from May, 1873-Dec. 1, 1887. On my way to California in January, 1997 (it was too cold for Sandy to come along), I had made a brief preliminary stop in New Bremen and finally discovered the graves of the three boys' parents, namely Heinrich Wilhelm Dieckmann (4/20/1807-3/11/1881) and Dorothea (Tangemann) Dieckmann (6/7/1815-8/20/1894) in the German Protestant Cemetery, thanks to the many precious and accurate cemetery records kept by Mrs. Lowell (Lucille) Francis. I promptly got stuck in the snow near the monument, trying to park as close to the graves as possible to shorten the walk back to the warm van through the icy winds. Also, the Rev. Dean Greenwood of Faith Alliance Church kindly let me have a look at the old German Reformed Zion church book which showed the Dieckmann family during various phases of their family and church life.

Once Sandy had joined me in California, I subjected the old picture to some intense scrutiny with a couple of magnifying glasses. I finally concluded that the man and woman standing in the picture could be none other than the 3♣Rev. William Dieckmann and his wife, Anna Schmidt, and the children must be William C., Jr. (born 1875), Christian W. (born 1880), and Henry (born 1877) - all in New Bremen. The little girl then had to be Dora (born 1883), also during the ministership of Wm. Dieckmann. Since Dora looked to be about two years of age, I dated the picture to the year 1885. It dawned upon me then that the house must have stood in New Bremen and possibly was the Zion Church parsonage!

[NOTE: Christian W. Dieckmann, born in 1880, graduated from New Bremen High School in 1897. In 1909, he was working as a clerk in St. Louis, Missouri. He became a music professor at Agnes Scott

College in Decatur, Georgia for 45 years, and died on Christmas day, 1963 in Decatur. A daughter of Christian is Adele Dieckmann McKee, who still lives in Decatur. She hopes to visit New Bremen for the first time sometime this year (1997).]

The old lady sitting between two of the boys is probably the Rev. William's mother, Dorothea Tangemann Dieckmann. On March 26, 1874, shortly after becoming a minister at Zion, William married a local New Bremen girl, Anna Schmidt, daughter of the well-known Christian Schmidt (1/1/1816-1/16/1899) and Catharine Maria Wiemeyer (10/18/1823-12/10/1908). We think the old lady sitting on the right, next to little Dora, was Mrs. Catharine Wiemeyer Schmidt.

Arriving in New Bremen on Sunday, April 20, 1997, the first thing we did after attending church services at Faith Alliance Church (which came about through a union of Zion and Faith Alliance in 1996) was to take a look at the gravestones of old Heinrich and his wife, Dorothea. Nearby were the little graves of four of their grandchildren (sons and daughters of the Rev. William and his wife, Anna).

Just as we were coming back to Highway 66 via Lock Two Road, Sandy looked out of her window and said to me: "That house looks a lot like the one in our picture." We had already looked at so many of those houses with bay windows that I did not pay much attention at first. In fact, I wanted to show her a two-story house with bay windows at the corner of North Main and Pearl Streets (the former Lone Pine house) that looked like our picture. But, we decided to back up and turned into the driveway of the house Sandy had pointed out. The owner was just leaving, but when we showed him the picture he exclaimed: "Yes, that's our house!"

Our search was over! He invited us in and then we sat talking for 2½ hours with Jim and Anna Mae Hudson.

Arriving in New Bremen on Sunday, April 20, 1997, the first thing we did after attending church services at Faith Alliance Church (which came about through a union of Zion and Faith Alliance in 1996) was to take a look at the gravestones of old Heinrich and his wife, Dorothea. Nearby were the little graves of four of their grandchildren (sons and daughters of the Rev. William and his wife, Anna).

They showed us throughout the immaculately maintained interior and told us that if it hadn't been for the Johns-Manville asbestos cladding over the old clapboard siding outside, the house might have been a goner during a 1957 barn fire which also destroyed the corn crib and a pighouse and melted the domes off the firetruck even though it had been parked as far away from the fire as possible. It gave us a wonderfully warm feeling to sit in the room where William and Anna must have spent their years here with their family - 14½ years in all.

In September, 1904, they sold the house and land to an Ernst Burmeister for \$4300, who in turn sold the property (just over 37 acres) to Edward Arnold Tangeman, the grandfather of Anna Mae (Cooper) Hudson, for \$5500 in November, 1913.



THE DIECKMANN - BURMEISTER - TANGEMAN - HUDSON HOME (ca. 1885)

ON THE LEFT: William C. Dieckmann, Jr., Rev. William Dieckmann, Christian W. Dieckmann, Rev. Dieckmann's mother, Dorothea (Tangemann) Dieckmann, and Henry Dieckmann.

ON THE RIGHT: Anna (Schmidt) Dieckmann (wife), her mother, C. Marie (Wiemeyer) Schmidt, and Dora Dieckmann

THE CHRISTIAN SCHMIDT FAMILY

Christian Schmidt was born in Osnabruck, Hannover, Germany on 1/1/1816, the youngest of 6 children born to Adam Schmidt and _____? Brueggemann. When he was only six weeks old, his parents died from cholera and he was reared and educated by friends. In August, 1834 he emigrated to America arriving in New York after a tempestuous voyage of nine weeks. From there he went to Albany, on to Buffalo, and then across the Great Lakes to Cleveland and by canal to Portsmouth, Ohio, from where he went by way of the Ohio River to Cincinnati and then up the canal to Dayton. When he landed in America, he owned \$56 which he had borrowed to pay his passage over.

He and his brother found work about 13 miles east of Dayton and supported themselves by cutting cord wood at 25¢ a cord, after which Christian worked for farmers for \$10 and \$11 a month for one season. The following winter, he went to work in a distillery where he stayed for 4 years, the last 2 as a foreman, with an increase in pay. On 12/30/1840, he married Catharina Maria Wiemeyer, daughter of Christian Heinrich Wiemeier and Catherine Elisabeth Grotman. Maria was also born in Osnabruck, on 10/18/1823, and had come to America with her parents on the same ship as Christian and settled on a farm in Mercer County. After their marriage, he became a partner in the distillery his brother (Gerhard H. Schmidt, born 1800?) had built near New Bremen.



C. Schmidt

On 7/10/1849, Christian started a small grocery and in 1856 added a dry goods business. He also built a warehouse on the canal and shipped grain and packed pork. These he operated by himself until 1874, when his eldest son, Henry Gerhard, became a partner and the name of the business was changed to C. Schmidt & Son. On 7/10/1881, Christian retired and his interest in the business was assumed by his younger son, William Christian, and the firm name became Schmidt Brothers. Their chief business was in dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, grain and pork. In 1891, the general merchandising was discontinued, leaving just the grain and pork business. They also had a large elevator at Chickasaw on the Dayton, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad, where they did an extensive grain buying business.

In 1892, Christian owned a 106 acre farm in Franklin Township in Mercer County, near Chickasaw. Also in 1892, the Schmidt brothers were sole proprietors of the New Bremen Machine Co. and had a large foundry and machine shop. Besides doing a general line of repairing, they manufactured the Titus Steam Press tile and brick machine. They owned stock in the New Bremen Natural Gas Co., the Tri-County Fair Association, and the Boesel Brothers' Bank.

Christian served in many township and municipal offices. He was a Township Clerk from 1853-1856 and Treasurer from 1856-1859. He also served as Mayor (1854-1855), Village Clerk, Township Assessor, Council member, and on the Board of Education.

He was one of the founders of Zion Reformed Church, which held its first organizational meeting on 3/6/1865 and its first services in the second story of his home at the corner of North Main and Pearl Streets. A house was then purchased on the NE corner of N. Main & Pearl to be used as a parsonage and the lot on the SE corner was purchased for a church. In October, 1865, the small frame church was completed and dedicated. (This building later served as a garage for the Carl Pape family. It has since been torn down and replaced.) Christian served for 25 years as Treasurer and 35 years as Elder of the church. He also was one of the founders and served as the first Treasurer of the German Protestant Cemetery Association, which was founded on 12/1/1865.

On 1/16/1899, Christian Schmidt died at his home on the SW corner of North Main and Pearl Streets. He was survived by his wife; his sons, Henry G. (b. 6/5/1851) and William C. (b. 4/16/1858); and two daughters, Mrs. William (Anna) Dieckmann (b. 1/8/1854) and Emilie (b. 3/27/1861). (*William Dieckmann had been the minister at Zion's Church from May, 1873 to 12/1/1887 - see Dieckmann article.*) Christian and Marie were preceded in death by five children: Catherine Elisabeth (3/12/1843-8/25/1858), Maria Engel (3/29/1845-5/22/1849), Carolina Margaretha Elisabeth (3/17/1850-3/22/1850), Sophia Louise Rose (3/5/1856-1/14/1879) and another infant. The first two daughters had been born in Mad River Township in Clark County.

On 3/17/1899, William and Emma (Boesel) Schmidt advertised for sale their real and personal property, namely: the grain & packing house known as Schmidt's Warehouse (N. Washington St.), their dwelling, and other buildings

on the same premises. *[In March, 1903, Henry Dierker bought two warehouses and dwellings located near the north swing-bridge (at Second St.), for many years the property of H.G. & W.C. Schmidt.]*

On 10/6/1899, the large 2-story brick property on the SW corner of N. Main & Pearl Sts. was sold to C.F. Wissman, the father of Emil Wissman and grandfather of Reuben Wissman. In December, 1905, this house was sold to Julius Wuebbenhorst for \$2700.

In April, 1901, Henry G. & Rosina (Boesel) Schmidt left New Bremen to live in Chicago, where Henry & William had organized a large cement paving contracting firm known as Schmidt Construction Co. (Emma and Rosina were both daughters of Senator Charles Boesel, Sr. and Dorothea Maurer.)

On 12/30/1903, Henry & Rosina's daughter Rosamond (born 7/3/1885), and six of her teen-age friends died in a fire that destroyed the Iriquois Theater in Chicago and killed over 600 people. She was to have graduated the next spring.

On 4/15/1904, Henry & Rosina put their house at the NW corner of N. Main & Pearl up for public sale. The house was described as follows: "10-room house, inside all finished in yellow pine, heavy doors, windows all double strength German plate-glass. Well equipped with closets, pantry, and dining room elevator." The house did not sell - the highest bid was only \$2900. In April, 1905, H. Fred Dammeyer bought the property and then sold it to Rep. B.A. Fledderjohann of New Knoxville, who served as State Representative from 1902-1906. *(This house later became known as the Lone Pine house - see July, 1997 "Towpath", also picture on page 7, this issue.)*

Henry G. Schmidt and Rosina Boesel were married on 5/19/1874. His sister Anna had married Rev. William Dieckmann on 3/26/1874. Anna & William lived just north of town in a large house with bay windows, now the home of Jim & Anna Mae Hudson. (In 1892, the Dieckmanns lived at Belvidere, Tennessee.) Henry & Rosina lived in the large house with bay windows (the Lone Pine house) on the NW corner of N. Main & Pearl Sts. These houses look very much alike. *(see Dieckmann article - page 7)*

On 12/10/1908, Marie (Wiemeyer) Schmidt died in Chicago where she had moved with her sons and her daughter Emilie. Emilie died 8/2/1909 after a long ailment. In May, 1909, Henry G. & Rosina Schmidt sold the vacant W½ of inlot 36 opposite Zion's Church on the SE corner of Franklin & First Sts. to Lafe W. Kunning for \$350. Rosina (Boesel) Schmidt (born 8/1/1852) died 11/29/1931 in Chicago. In addition to her husband and children, she was survived by her sister Emma (Mrs. Wm. C. Schmidt), and a half-brother and half-sister - Frank T. Boesel of Milwaukee and Mrs. John (Clara Louise Boesel) Koenig of Columbus.

Henry G. Schmidt died 7/20/1935 in Chicago due to a fall in front of his home. He was survived by his brother William in San Antonio; his sister, Anna Dieckmann, in St. Louis; and his children: Lydia (3/13/1875-11/2/1951) who was a gifted writer and speaker and in 1923 had gone to Europe as the representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Otto Gustav (b. 5/13/1877), who had taken over the construction company in Chicago (Otto died 2/20/1936 - he had 3 daughters: Anna, Rosina, and Catherine); Dorothea C. (2/14/1880-9/1/1948); Mrs. Henry G. (Bertha) Langworthy (b. 6/3/1882) of Dubuque, Iowa; and Mrs. David (Marie) Schillinglaw (b. 11/17/1890). Henry and Rosina were preceded in death by a son, Christian Heinrich (10/26/1887-12/10/1888) and Rosamond (mentioned earlier).

William C. (4/16/1858-3/31/1941) & Emma (Boesel) Schmidt (9/1/1863-5/27/1944) both died in San Antonio, Texas, having moved there from Chicago, where they had lived from 1900 to 1912. They had 6 children: Olga Marie (5/12/1884-12/19/1888), Karl Wilhelm (4/14/1886-3/15/1917), Pauline Henrietta (b. 8/23/1888); Christian Hugo (b. 11/29/1890), Felix Robert (b. 10/26/1893), and Miriam Hulda (6/19/1896-3/9/1958). Miriam was the first woman ever to serve on an official board of the Presbyterian Church. Pauline and Miriam lived with their parents in San Antonio. Hugo and Felix both lived in Austin, Texas, where Felix owned the Schmidt Pest Control Co.



The former Christian Schmidt 2-story brick house and general store at 315-317 N. Main St., built in 1848-1849. There are two quarter-moon windows on the front, rear, and south sides of the house. The porch, with 5 square cement pillars and a stained-glass window, was added later. The house is now being used as apartments. St. Peter's Church steeple can be seen at the left. (1977 Ohio Historic Inventory)

THE CRIMSON AND GOLD

Published by the Students of New Bremen High School

VOLUME I

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1930

Editorial Staff — 1930-1931, Editor-in-chief-Mary Archer, Associate
Editor- Marie Kuest, Senior Class Reporter-Marie Behm, Junior Class
Reporter-Gabriel Schaefer, Sophomore Class Reporter-Elizabeth Streine,
Freshman Class Reporter-Paul Eschmeyer, Humor Editor-John
Garmhausen, Asst. Humor Editor-Louise Haines, Boys Sports Editor-
Frederick Luedeke, Girls Sports Editor-Helen Knipple, Faculty Advisor-
R.S. Miller.

Editorial

The New Bremen Sun has kindly offered us a page each week in which we may chronicle the current school activities, exhibit any of our school writings, set forth our aspirations, and, in short, publish what we hope will be a school paper.

We deeply appreciate this courtesy of the owners of the Sun and of the Editor.

This is our first issue. The faculty and pupils have cooperated enthusiastically. Probably, as we feel our way into the enterprise, a more definite form will take shape. We invite suggestions and help. We want to make the paper function helpfully, reasonably and entertainingly.

There will be departments, and special editors and reporters will have charge of collecting the material. We hope to print information, news, special articles, and humor. Inform us helpfully from time to time how we may make improvements.

This paper, filed away each week, moreover, will make interesting reading matter in years hence — here, there, or some place on earth wherever each individual's lot may be cast at that time.

Organizations

Seniors

President — Willis Kah
Secretary-Treasurer —
Harold Wissman

Juniors

President — Marie Kuest
Secretary-Treasurer —
Bertha Schowe

Sophomores

President —
Elizabeth Streine
Secretary-Treasurer —
Adrian Greber

Freshmen

President —
Louise Henning
Secretary —
Paul Eschmeyer
Treasurer — William Kuck

Girls' Glee Club

President — Louise Haines

Secretary-Treasurer — Marie Behm

Librarian —

Phyllis Nussmeyer

Pianist — Marie Waterman

Boys' Glee Club

President —

William Haveman

Secretary-Treasurer — Thomas Laut

Librarian —

Luther Hirschfeld

Pianist — Wilda Greber

Hi-Y Club

President— Willis Kah

Vice President —

Donald Kettler

Secretary — Donald Fark

Treasurer —

William Haveman

SCHOOL SONG

There is a name we all hold dear,

We will love it 'til we die.

It is the name of our high school,

The dear New Bremen High.

Then hurrah for our school,

Our dear High School -

Her honor we'll uphold.

And to the end we will defend

The Crimson and the Gold.*(Ernest M. Botkin - Class of 1909)*

Class of 1930 Directory

Evelyn Arkenberg, Wilhelmine Blanke, Verona Kettler, Troy Beauty Shoppe, Lima, Ohio

Marie Braun, Ruth Gilberg, Kathryn Vornholt, St. Rita's Hospital, Lima, O.

Robert Grothaus, Clerk at Schulenberg Bros., New Bremen, Ohio

Earl Hartman, Miami-Jacobs Business College, Dayton, Ohio

Elfrieda Heinfeld, Lucille Hirschfeld, Northwestern School of Commerce, Lima, Ohio.

Elsie Hoffman, Dorothea Vitz, Conservatory of Music, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, O.

Stephen Jagoditz, Mason, Cincinnati, Ohio

Harvey Kah, Elmhurst, Illinois

Theophil Mueller, Travel-ing salesman, Sandusky, Ohio

Violet Neuman, Working at Middletown, Ohio

Howard Scheer, Electri-cian, New Bremen, Ohio

Carol Streine, Western College for Women, Oxford, Ohio

Helen Thiesing, Working at Wapakoneta, Ohio

Almeda Waterman, Bliss Business College, Columbus, Ohio

Mabel Waterman, Secre-tary, Pioneer Heat Regulator Corp., New Bremen, Ohio

Anna Becker, At home, Kettlersville, Ohio

At home, New Bremen, Ohio: Milton Brose, Norman Fledderjohann, William Hollingsworth, Robert Isen-berger, Walter King, Helen Kuest, Hilda Kuest, Pearl Moeller, .

New Bremen Public Schools
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Carl Schrage, Editor
Ohio
New Bremen Sun
1930

New Bremen,
September 28,

Dear Mr. Schrage:

We thank you and the directors of the Sun for the opportunity you are giving our Schools in printing for their use a section of your paper.

This will give the pupils an avenue for expression and will stimulate all English work. The public, moreover, can keep better informed as to current school activities and practices. The public is entitled to know all there is to know of the school.

We will all be glad to cooperate in this enterprise. Again thanking you for this service,
I am sincerely, **S.M. Archer**

THE FIRST YEARBOOK

Senior Mirage

New Bremen High School

May, 1909

Editor in Chief.....Ernest M. Botkin

Associate Editors:

Allan J. Boesel, Allen Dicke, Herbert Garmhausen,
Herbert Kettler, Esther Laut, William Rabe, Margaret Stone

Business Manager.....Allan Boesel

Mgr. of Adv.....Howard H. Huenke

*(Printed by the Home Printing Co.)
New Bremen, Ohio*

Editorial

We are told that for several years each succeeding graduating class of New Bremen High School has considered the question of publishing an annual, but for some reason or other, the matter has gone no farther than mere discussion. Early this year the question was placed before the Class of 1909 by Superintendent Limbach and it was finally decided to make an attempt at the work. The result is THE MIRAGE.

Our object is to gain for ourselves a souvenir of our high school life, and to furnish to Alumni, friends, and the public in general something that will give them an idea of the work and value of our High School.

We wish to extend our thanks to Supt. Limbach, the High School teachers, to Elmer Ende of the Junior class for his aid by way of drawing, to the three lower classes, and to all others who have assisted us in carrying out this undertaking.

We sincerely hope that all patrons of THE MIRAGE will find something of interest in it.

Truly yours, **N.B.H.S. Class of 1909**

SENIOR CLASS OF 1909
Helen Leona Bienz - Secy.
Allan Julian Boesel
Ernest Marcellus Botkin - Pres.
Allen Augustus Dicke
Esther L.M. Ekermeier
Gertrude Flack
Clara L. Fledderjohann
Herbert E. Garmhausen - Treas.
Edward John Gieseke
Alvin F.W. Grothaus
Walter William Grothaus
Frederic J. Hengen
Howard Henry Huenke
Herbert H.W. Kettler
Bernice May Koop
Olive Laufersweiler
Esther Rose Laut
Bernice Louise Limbach
Viola Marie F. Neumann
Grover F.J. Oberwitte
Alma Caroline Pohlman
William Henry Rabe
Ray M. Shearer
Margaret Cleo Stone
Harry Henry Stork



SENIOR CLASS OF 1910

(The picture shown above was taken at the class's 50 yr. reunion – 5/28/1960)

Front Row: Alfrieda Marie Vornholt Moeller, Fannie A. LaDow Garmhausen, Helen Heil Erhardt, Elizabeth A. Halsema, Grace M. Boesel Ende. **Back Row:** Otto Holtkamp, Edwin F. Sunderman, (#3 unknown), Elmer Friedrich Ende, Walter Fledderjohann, Ralph C. May, Henry B. Henschen, (#8 unknown), Richard B. Meckstroth

Otto C. Althoff , Arthur Barth, Dorothy Boesel, Leo C.H.W. Conradi, Orie H.L. Cron, Henry Feldwisch, Luella C. Fledderjohann, Romand A. Gast, Ethel L. Gobrecht, Leonard G. Grewe, Edward H. Kattman, Myrtle M. Kunning, Clara Luebkeemann, William A. Meckstroth, Edwin J. Meyerholtz, Edwin A. Rodeheffer, Ferdinand F. Rodeheffer, Leonard H. Schmidt, Edgar A. Schroeder, Earl O.E. Solms, George Taylor, Leona Wierwille

THE FACULTY

Charles F. Limbach, Supt.
John C. Halsema, Principal
Edward J. Rodeheffer
Henry A. Schrage

♦♦♦

BOARD OF EDUCATION

H.F. Jung, Pres., Julius Gilberg
Wm. Heitmann, Lafe W. Kunning

EUGENE, THE COOK

In Public Speaking we learned that the Junior class has an amazing male cook, in the person of Eugene Kuck, who related to the class his cooking and baking experiences.

Once, after baking an 11-egg chocolate sponge cake, Eugene discovered to his sorrow that he had put no baking powder in it and the cake — how flat! Another time when making molasses cookies, he put a cup of coffee grounds in the batter instead of a cup of coffee, resulting in bitter cookies with a peculiar flavor.

When Eugene once went to ask a lady for her popcorn ball recipe, he inquired if he could have her pattern for popcorn balls. How embarrassed he was!

Even the greatest cooks meet failure sometimes. So, Eugene, we wish you the best of luck in your future experiences. *(Crimson and Gold - 10/26/1939)*

The *Crimson and Gold* was published by the New Bremen High School and was a regular feature of our weekly newspaper, *The New Bremen Sun*, from 10/2/1930 to 7/13/1961 when the *Sun* quit operations. *(see page 10)*

DOES ANYBODY KNOW??

- When and how did "Crimson and Gold" come to be New Bremen's school colors?
- When and how did the school's sports teams come to be called "The Cardinals"?

Card of Thanks

I want to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of *The Towpath* - especially to David Schroeder for encouraging us to print his dad's memories of New Bremen in the 1920s and 1930s (pgs. 2 & 3) and to Marge Lietz for writing the article about the Schelper meat wagons (pg. 5). (Marge and Bob Schroeder were classmates, both graduating with the class of 1935.) Thanks, also, to John Graaskamp for his article about the search for the Dieckmann house (pgs. 6 & 7).

We are always glad to print pictures and/or items of interest that have been contributed by our readers. Let us keep hearing from you!

WELCOME BACK, MARGE!

The New Bremen Historic Museum's 23RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE &

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7

THEME: "Yes Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus"

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 9/7/97)

07/21/97 Baur, Evelyn (Bassler) - St. Charles, Missouri
07/06/97 Braun, Dale - Rowlett, Texas
07/30/97 Campbell, Erline (Kuenning)(LM) - Toledo, OH
08/28/97 Christianson, Nancy (Lathrop) - Rockford, IL
08/16/97 Densmore, Jack - Madison, Wisconsin
07/06/97 Egbert, Myra (LM) - Findlay, Ohio
07/24/97 Fark, Laverne (Niemeyer) - New Bremen

07/21/97 Fark, Walter - St. Marys (Otterbein)
 07/12/97 Fledderjohann, Melvin - St. Marys
 06/23/97 Fogt, David - Houston, Texas
 07/12/97 Gast, Diane (Gruebmeier)(LM) - New Bremen
 07/12/97 Howe, Doris (Waterman) - New Bremen
 07/12/97 Klier, Joan (Quellhorst)(LM) - Lyons, Ohio
 07/06/97 Kohler, Darlene (Braun) - Wapakoneta
 07/05/97 Kuenning, John - Palm Harbor, Florida
 07/05/97 Kuenning, Matthew - New York, N.Y.
 07/05/97 Kuenning, B/G Thomas E. - Reston, Virginia
 08/12/97 Ley, Chester - St. Marys
 08/16/97 Loffer, Alberta (Ahlers) - St. Marys
 07/12/97 Maze, Lois (Hegemier) - Monroe, Wisconsin
 07/12/97 McNett, Lowell - Findlay, Ohio
 08/16/97 Mendel, David - Pleasanton, California
 06/20/97 Metz, Marie (Wehrman) - St. Marys
 07/12/97 Pape, Margaret (Ritter) - New Bremen
 08/16/97 Parmelee, Vesta (Fritz) - Roswell, Georgia
 07/21/97 Schaefer, Michelle (Hoffman) - Mo. City, TX
 07/28/97 Scheer, Amy (LM) - New Bremen
 08/16/97 Scheib, Nan (Howe) - Celina, Ohio
 07/24/97 Schmidt, Wallace - St. Marys
 07/12/97 Sink, Mary D. ("Pat" Buckloh) - Findlay, Ohio
 07/24/97 Skinner, Sterling E. - Beloit, Wisconsin
 07/21/97 Summerill, Raeanna (Coss) - Lancaster, WI
 08/11/97 Tontrup, Annabelle (Jung)(LM) - New Bremen
 08/25/97 Valentine, John - New Bremen
 07/05/97 Wetzler, Nancy (Kuenning) - Washington
 07/21/97 Wittenbrink, Edwin - New Bremen

ADDITIONAL LIFE MEMBERS

07/30/97 Campbell, Erline (Kuenning)(new)
 07/06/97 Egbert, Myra (new)
 07/12/97 Gast, Diane (Gruebmeier)(new)
 07/12/97 Klier, Joan (Quellhorst)(new)
 08/05/97 Koenig, Roger
 07/28/97 Scheer, Amy (new)
 08/11/97 Tontrup, Annabelle (Jung)(new)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

07/27/97 Steinebrey, Alberta P. (Collins) – died 7/27/97
 09/03/97 Wenning, Wayne - died 8/28/97
 08/31/97 Wissman, Paul K. - died 8/31/97

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions made to our Memorial Fund this past quarter in memory of:
Robert J. Schroeder, by his son, David Schroeder, and his cousin, Leota Nieter; **Lola (Huenke) Dietrich**, by her daughter and son-in-law, Fred & JoAnn (Dietrich) Mackenbach; **Otto J. & Bessie (Stone) Boesel**, by their sons, Paul (deceased), Kenneth S., and Jacob J. Boesel; and **Delilah (Dammeyer) Braun**, by her cousin, Leota Nieter.