

THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly (January - April - July - October) by

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

(Founded in 1973)

VISITING HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays - June, July, August
(Or anytime, by Appointment)

DUES: \$8.00 Per year / Per person

(Life Membership: \$75.00 Per person)

July - 1999

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MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

7:00 p.m. at the Museum (summer time)

MEMBERS are invited to attend.

"TOWPATH" SUBMISSIONS

Committee reports and/or articles and pictures must be received by the Editor by March 15 (April issue), June 15 (July issue), September 15 (October issue), and December 15 (January issue) in order to assure the space required. All submissions will be considered and printed at the earliest opportunity. *Lucille Francis, Editor*

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES

With each quarterly mailing of *The Towpath*, a number of Complimentary Copies are sent to folks we think might be interested in reading one or more of the articles in that issue. If you are one of these people and would like to continue receiving future issues, please send the appropriate amount of dues (subscription) to the above address. (P.O. Box 73)



CELEBRATE THE FOURTH

(New Bremen Sun - 6/29/1888)



The Fourth will be observed with an unusual large degree of enthusiasm. A picnic will be held by the "Little Six Band" at which several eloquent speakers including Sheriff Wm. Schulenberg and Hon. C.A. Layton of Wapakoneta, and Rev. M. Buerkle of this place will make addresses. Our natural gas will by that time be in successful utilization, and great displays of it such as arches and mottoes will probably be suspended across the streets. Pyrotechnical displays will also be made and all other conceivable plans for making this celebration a glorious and patriotic one will be put in operation.



New Bremen is going to be strictly upon the map when it comes to proper observance of the great national holiday next week. Mayor Clifford V. Huenke (taking the initiative in the matter), the business men, and others interested have made up a good-sized purse which will be expended in procuring fireworks of rare qualities for the evening of the Fourth.

Assurances are given that this will be the grandest display of fireworks ever seen in New Bremen or any other place for many miles around. The White Mountain Park has been selected for setting off the display, it affording the proper and needed vacant space for such an undertaking as well as ample opportunity for all who wish to come out and see. The event is scheduled for 8:00 in the evening.

The Laut Auditorium will be opened for dancing to all who enjoy that sport.

Propriety demands a general and tasty decoration of business and dwelling places with a liberal display of the stars and stripes, as well as bunting and anything that reminds one of the national holiday.

(New Bremen Sun - 6/26/1916)



1ST ANNUAL N.B.H.A. PICNIC

Take a hot summer afternoon, good food, good friends, and what do you have? It was the "First Annual New Bremen Historic Association Picnic."

On Sunday, June 6th, the first annual N.B.H.A. picnic was held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the historical Luelleman house museum at 120 North Main St. Approximately 250-300 people attended this first-time event. Dennis ("Barney") Gruebmeier and Joe Eilerman stirred up a large batch of bean soup which was served along with cornbread muffins and a variety of sandwiches. Stan and Dona Mae Kuenning were on hand to serve "Specky's high-peak ice-cream cones", using the same "pointed" dipper used by Dona Mae's dad, Harold ("Specky") Speckman, at the Equity Store run by him in the 1930s-1940s. These were enjoyed along with a variety of cakes donated by some of New Bremen's finest bakers.

Musical entertainment was provided for the afternoon by the Miami-Erie Boys. Despite the heat, they managed to play for the entire afternoon and kept the toes tapping. There were also special displays by local residents. Police Chief Doug Harrod showed his collection of police patches and other law enforcement items. Walt Schmitmeyer, one of our local barbers, brought his collection of Coca Cola ("Coke") items, while Ed Phlipot displayed a number of items of memorabilia from the former White Mountain Creamery. Don Luedeke brought a display of old wood planes which his dad, Arnold Luedeke, had used in his carpentry profession. Young Casey Hoelscher displayed an interesting collection of over 400 pencils, while Cindy Newman filled an entire table with her watch collection. Many people stopped to view these displays. We thank each person who took the time to share them with us and the community.

Another special feature was a display set up by Lawrence Egbert of the items we recently acquired from the Alton ("Butch") Schelper estate. There were many old tools and also equipment used in the former Schelper's Meat Market and butcher shop. These items were donated in memory of Alton and Alvera (Stroefer) Schelper by their daughters, Shirley Schelper of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Anita (Schelper) Martin of Winter Haven, Florida. The Historic Association deeply appreciates the donation of these items and a special "Thank You" goes to the family for their generosity.

Many people helped for the afternoon - those who hosted inside the museum, barn and summer kitchen, as well as those who helped prepare and serve the food. A special thanks goes to the committee who orchestrated the picnic - Edith Wissman, Carolyn Smith, Judy Meckstroth, Don Luedeke, Mike Meyer, and Dru Meyer. Also, the help given by other members of the community was greatly appreciated.

It was a great afternoon of fun and fellowship, as well as a time to show what the Museum has to offer. Judging by this year's success, I'm sure another picnic will be in the planning for next year. If you missed this

year's event, plan to attend the "2nd Annual N.B.H.A. Picnic" in the year 2000. It should be another great day.

Don't forget that this was just the first Sunday of our summer visitation. Our Museum will be open every Sunday through August 29th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. On the weekend of Bremenfest (August 14th & 15th), we will be open additional hours to give our out-of-town visitors and class reunion folks a chance to tour the Museum and reminisce about "the old days."

Dru Meyer, President & Committee Chairman



Dona Mae & Stan Kuenning
creating a "High-Peak" ice-cream cone



Specky's Equity Store
22 N. Main St.



"SPECKY'S" EQUITY ICE-CREAM STORE 22 North Main St. - New Bremen, Ohio

In the late 1930s as the depression was drawing to a close, my parents, Harold ("Specky") and Alfa (Coble) Speckman, purchased the businesses of the Equity Union Ice Cream Store at 22 North Main St. and a rural cream and egg route, both from Forrest Nedderman. Clarence Roettger of New Bremen had been the previous owner. The rural route consisted primarily of picking up cream and eggs from farmers and hauling them to the Fort Recovery branch of the Equity organization of Lima, Ohio.

My father also at that time would carry cheese, butter, and bread as a huckster to the farmers. This continued until the 1940s when the popular thing to do was to sell whole milk instead of just cream. Dad would then pick up milk in the large 10-gallon cans from the farmers and take it to Fort Recovery for processing.

The ice-cream store became a very popular place in New Bremen - selling cones, sundaes, and hand-packed ice-cream. Of course, this was not a full time occupation as the store would open for business in early spring and close in late September. My mother and I would operate the store while Dad would take care of the rural routes.

Popular flavors were, of course, vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry, but others of interest were maple-nut, white-house, orange-pineapple, butter-pecan, and Lincoln logs. People came from miles around on a hot, sultry summer evening for one of Specky's "High-Peak" cones or a sundae with chocolate syrup and crushed nuts on top.

High-Peak cones were 5¢ each, and Dad is remembered as giving free cones to kids who did not have the 5¢ available to them.

Another part of Dad's business was delivering and setting out bottle milk each morning to the local residents. There were at this time 3 milk delivery routes in New Bremen - Herman Blanke and Henry Westerheide, who both had Meadow Gold horse-drawn trucks, and Dad, who had a step-in motor van to deliver milk.

My husband, Stan Kuenning, and I were married in 1948, and Stan would get up every morning at 5:00 much

snow fell that passage through the streets was impossible. Stan and Dad had been to the Meyers Dairy in Minster on Saturday to pick up the bottle milk to deliver to their customers on Sunday morning, but alas, the step-in truck was too low to get through the deep snowdrifts. Being the ingenious Germans they were they came up with a solution. Stan and I had a Chevrolet convertible, so they put the top down and filled the car and trunk with bottles of milk and made their way through the streets selling their wares. They must have had a great time because they told their stories for many years!

Years passed and my mother and father were not able to take care of all the work. About 1948, Dad sold his rural routes to Martin Dabbelt and his brother, Luke. Dad also sold the ice-cream store business and bottled milk route to Lester Howe, who later moved the business to the building next to the Klanke-Isern home at 9 North Main Street (the old stucco Fark Bakery building.) The original Equity store building at 22 N. Main was purchased by Crown Controls and was torn down in 1982.

We hold many happy memories of the old ice-cream store and its patrons. My mother passed away in 1964 and my dad in 1976. Times were different than now, but they were filled with good remembrances (high-peak ice cream cones and fond friend-ships), when you cherished the things that were free and really counted, and when friends and families were prominent in your life.

**Dona Mae
(Speckman)
Kuenning**

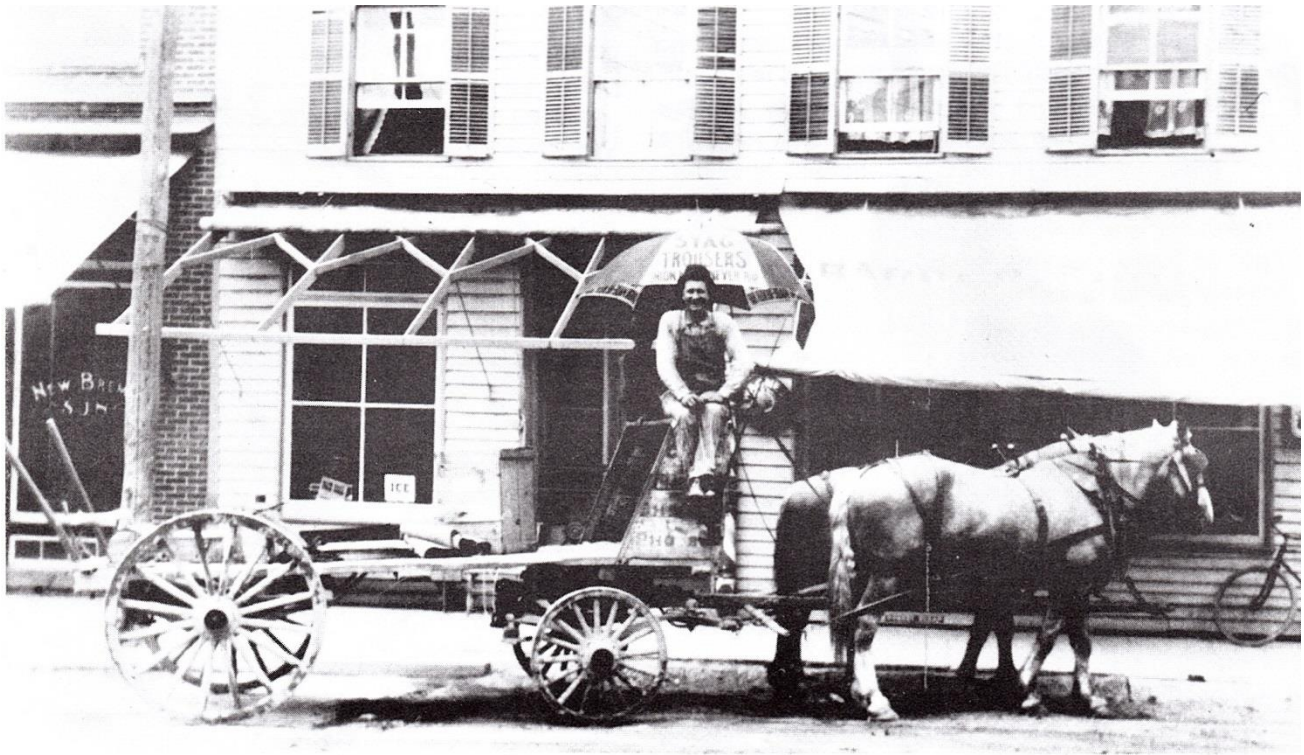


**HIGH PEAK
CONES - 5¢**

VANILLA
CHOCOLATE
STRAWBERRY
WHITEHOUSE
ORANGE-PINEAPPLE
BUTTERED PECAN

<><><>

Harold Speckman
Equity Distributor
Phone 321X
NEW BREMEN, OHIO
(1946 "Mirage")



1-5 N. Main St. - New Bremen Sun Office, Meat Market? / Barber Shop
 Sign on dray appears to say "O.H. SOLMS - PHO. 83", however this is NOT teamster Oliver Solms (circa 1912)
 Sign below left elbow appears to say "WAGNER" - (1/6/1905: Chas. Block took over Wagner Brewery Agency)

MAIN STREET

BATH SERVICE

E. J. SCHNEIDER

BARBER

WATCH, CLOCK AND JEWELRY REPAIRING

AGENT FOR ST. MARYS STEAM LAUNDRY AND FAULTLESS DRY
 CLEANING
 NEW BREMEN, OHIO

(Adv. from 1920 "Mirage")

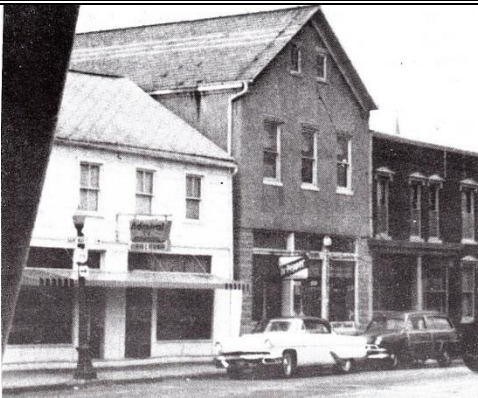
William Klanke

Proprietor of the

MAIN STREET HOUSE and EAGLE SALOON

Furnished Rooms for Rent.
 Boarders kept by the day or week.

(N.B. Sun - 10/5/1900)



Mid-1950s - Gilberg & Hegemier & Les Howe's Equity
 5-9-11 N. Main St.



Mid-1970s - Plattners' Ceramics? & Beata Isern's House
 9-11 N. Main St.

A VISIT WITH BEATA ISERN

November 12, 1976 ~ by Annabel Wagner

My uncle, Ed Klanke, built this building (11 N. Main) in 1896. Uncle Ed owned both this building and the one next door (9 N. Main) until he got divorced in 1907. Then he wanted my father to buy both buildings. We moved from 5 N. Franklin to the building next door (the stucco) when I was 4 years old (1900), and lived there for 3 months before we moved to this building. On Franklin St., we lived in what is now the garage. I remember when we moved to Main St., I pushed my doll buggy up the alley from Franklin to Main. It is now all in grass.

The building where the IGA is now was built by my mother's uncle, Ed Purpus, in 1892. He had a music store there. That was the time when pianos came in - pianos and other instruments. When he died, the building was sold to the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio* - that was a German newspaper we had here years ago. It meant the *Star of Western Ohio*. Clara Luebke worked there, and Otto Schneider. In later years, it became *The New Bremen Sun*.

After the *Sun* office moved out, the New Bremen Telephone office was up there in the SW corner and the other rooms were rented out as a residence. I don't know who owned the building then, but Kroger's rented it. They had had a little store down on Monroe St. (106 W. Monroe.) Tony Varno ran that.

After Kroger's left (October, 1949), IGA came in, and then they bought that old frame building to the north of it. Emil Schneider had had a barber shop in there and they lived upstairs. There had also been a butcher shop and a gift shop and a restaurant in it. When Gilberg & Hegemier had it, Paul and Pauline Gilberg lived upstairs. I remember when Erma Landwehr had her restaurant in there, too. After the IGA took it over, I don't think anything went into that building and it was torn down. When they tore it down, Elmer Ende was right there, and he saved several pieces of the lumber because it was walnut.

My father and mother, William & Adelia (Purpus) Klanke, owned and operated a boarding house and saloon next door (9 N. Main) after we moved in this building. When the streets were put in, they had a lot of boarders who stayed for quite a long time. Lots of times the workers would have to work out of town. Then we would have to pack their lunch pails for them. We had two hired girls to help us. Papa had a free lunch - when you bought a glass of beer, you got a free lunch. Mama always had to have enough on hand, you know. She'd maybe get a leg of veal and roast that with gravy. There was always free cheese, and pretzels, and crackers.

About once a year, a band would come from Germany and stay for three or four days. Dad would take the pool table and push it aside and I guess he put boards over it and a cloth, and that was the musician's stand. Everybody would come to Bill Klanke's saloon because a German band was there - that was a drawing card. I

really don't know how the band got here. They must have come on the dinky (railroad) - there were no cars and they couldn't make it with a horse and buggy, you know. There was a little corner where they put a screen around, and that's where the bathroom was.

There used to be a hotel up here on the corner (24 N. Main.) It was called the French House. It was a great big building. To the south of it (20 N. Main) is a real old house that used to be owned by Carman Hirschfeld.

These streets used to be dirt. In the summertime when it was dry, it made a lot of dust when the farmers used to bring their cows in from the east and down Monroe St. to the dinky (railroad) to be shipped out. A lot of people in town used to have cows and chickens in their backyards. I remember there used to be Jungs living in this neighborhood and Lorine Isenberger - she was a Schwabertown. She had a cow, and over there where Verona Huenke's house is (304 W. Monroe) - there were several there. I can remember when they made the brick streets. I was about 10 years old at the time. I think they put the electric in about the same time.

My dad was in the Klanke Furniture Company with his brothers, John and George. Their store used to be where Friemering's is now (205 W. Monroe.) Then Auglaize Furniture Factory started up (after the Klanke Furniture Factory burned down in 1913) and they made different types of furniture.

Undertaking went with the furniture business. My father was an undertaker. His brother, John, was older and he taught my dad. When some of our boarders would die and they had the funeral here, they couldn't make the turn through the single door with the casket, so Papa said the best thing we could do is take the window out. After that happened once or twice, he put in a double door.

Beata (Klanke) Isern was born June 15, 1896 to William Klanke and Adelia Purpus. She had a sister, Hilda (Mrs. Harry Nussmeyer.) Beata lived on N. Main St. most of her life (except for about 12 years) until her death in March, 1979. She was married to Homer Isern in 1923 and Homer was killed in a freak automobile accident in April, 1934. Their 8 year old son, Don, was seriously injured in the same accident. After Homer's death, Beata and Don stayed in their home at 214 S. Washington St. for several months, but then decided to move home with Beata's parents. When Beata's father died on 6/16/1948, Don was working and/or going to school in Dayton, and Beata decided to fix an apartment upstairs to provide her with an income. Many people will remember Beata sitting on her front porch swing, always ready to visit with passersby.

NORTH MAIN STREET

North Main Street represents New Bremen's original business district, where many buildings were used for both business purposes and also as residences. It has a history of boarding houses, hotels, saloons, breweries, general stores, mills, warehouses, and porkpacking plants, all of which were maintained to accommodate the travelers who came up the Miami-Erie Canal as well as the farmers and industries that the canal drew to the town. By the turn of the century, the railroad service had replaced the canal boats.

Monroe Street was not developed as a business district until the 1890s. After the Lake Erie & Western Railroad came into existence on the west edge of town in 1872, the farmers would drive their cattle down Monroe St. to the depot, creating clouds of dust as they stormed down the dirt street. Sometimes the cattle would get out of control and end up in residents' yards. (*N.B. Sun-8/26/1893: Monroe St. was noisy all night as 22 carloads of stock were unloaded. From 8:00 p.m. until daybreak, livestock was being hauled from the railroad station to the fairgrounds east of town.*)

Development of the **South Main Street** extension as a residential street also was not begun until after 1890, with J.H. Grothaus purchasing all the land on the east side of S. Main St. between the lane/alley south of Monroe St. and Vogelsang St. (later Plum St.) from Mrs. Fred (Wilhelmina Kuenning) Vogelsang in September, 1906. (*J.H. Grothaus purchased all of the Vogelsang property lying on the east side of Main St. and will probably make improvements to lots and convert them into suitable building locations. / N.B. Sun - 9/14/1906*)

The **Original Plat** of "Bremen" contained 102 lots, each measuring approximately 66' 8" wide x 300' deep (east & west.) This double depth allowed the lots to front on two streets, but very often the half of the lot facing the next street would be sold to someone else. The lots were originally numbered from 1 to 102, but were renumbered at a later date (by 1880) from 1 to 138. The new series of numbers is being used to correspond with more recent maps (1880 Atlas, etc.)

1 NORTH MAIN ST. (Lot #31 - South ½)

The 1880 Atlas of Auglaize Co. shows a frame building on the corner - owner, A. Bruetsch. In the 1870s, Ambrose Bruetsch ran a whiskey and beer joint in this building (from "Do You Remember?" by F.W. Bruns - 1/30/1947.) About 1877, Ed Purpus opened a "Toy & Fancy Store" here and also a music store. In 1892, the frame building was torn down and a new brick building was put up. Later, the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio* & *New Bremen Sun* were published in this building. (see "*The Towpath*" - Jan., 1999.) In December, 1904 the business was incorporated as the Home Printing Co. and was still

listed at this address in the 1929 New Bremen Telephone directory. It became the Kroger Store, managed by Tony Varno?, Hollis ("Wimpy") Breece (1930s), later by Francis MacWhinney (about 1937? - June, 1948.) There were then several changes of managers (Cecil Thwaites - 6/17/1948, Bill Fulton - 8/5/1948) before Kroger qu doing business on Saturday, October 15, 1949. (*N.B. Sun-10/15/1949*) The Corner IGA Market has been here since December 8, 1949. Wesley ("Freeze") & Margery (Scheer) Howell and their children, Dick & Margene, lived upstairs. Dick & Mary Lou Howell are still in business on this corner in 1999 as Howell's IGA.

"DO YOU REMEMBER?"

by F.W. Bruns (1872-1948)
(from the *N.B. Sun*)

(*In this first of a series of "remembrances", published 1/30/1947-5/15/1947, Fernando Wm. Bruns tells about the first three buildings on the west side of the first block of North Main, from its intersection with West Monroe.*)

"Do you remember the mercantile establishments located along North Main Street from the intersection with West Monroe Street on the south, to the intersection with Pearl Street on the north? Yours truly, F.W. Bruns, can remember all these enterprises as yesterday. Since a number of enterprises were strung along the area mentioned, and desiring to elaborate on some distinctive establishments, I shall enumerate both sides of Main St., dating back to 1886, sixty years ago."

(#1) Located in a 2-story building on the present site of the Kroger Store (1947) was the business owned by Ambrose Bruetsch, who conducted a common whiskey and beer joint. Relating the high-jinks indulged in by frequenters of this place would not appear good in print.

(#5) Adjoining the Bruetsch building on the north was the Billy Buss building. Title to this building is now being vested in the firm name of Gilberg & Hegemier, who have improved it from time to time. For many years Theodore Dinkel conducted a meat market on the south side, while the north side was occupied by Mrs. Tillie Pape, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Buss, as a millinery store. Also, Ed Patterson, father of Miss Lola Patterson, conducted a barber shop here.

(#9) Next was the Adolph Steinberg saloon and billiard parlor. Yours truly, then in his teens, can picture this business place as of yesterday very distinctly. Mr. Steinberg, according to appearances from the outside or front of the place, evidently catered to select trade. In the summer time, special reclining chairs were lined up in front of the place, which were always in demand after the evening meal. Every now and then, a roving rope-walker would make his appearance in town and on such occasion Mr. Steinberg usually would arrange for the wanderer to ply this mid-air stunt. The tight-rope was stretched from the street window of his building across to the Boesel & Kunning block and always drew big crowds.

FROM THE N.B. SUN INDEX

11/11/1889: Ed Purpus's wife dies (Elizabeth Heil).
3/21/1891: Ed Purpus starts a real estate agency.

4/25/1891: Anna Catharine (Erb) Bruetsch, age 59, widow of Ambrosius Bruetsch, died Wednesday, 4/15/1891, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. F. Schillmoeller of Botkins, Ohio, where she had been living after first moving to her children in Celina about 1887. She and her husband were married in Germany in September, 1851 and they emigrated in December, 1851. Mr. Bruetsch died in 1881 in New Bremen.

3/26/1892: Ed Purpus to build new store. **4/16/1892:** Mayor Purpus going to tear down old store building. While new building is being constructed, store will be in brother-in-law Herman Laut's building opposite the mill on Washington St. **4/30/1892:** Ed Purpus has the greater part of his store goods moved to his temporary quarters on Washington St. The clearance sale is going on and Jake Fritz, the genial clerk, enjoys being kept busy. **5/14/1892:** Mayor Edward Purpus re-married on Sunday, May 8, to Miss Josephine Hais in Covington, Kentucky. The couple arrived here on Monday and in the evening were serenaded by the "Little Six Band." **8/20/1892:** PROGRESS - A new business block in New Bremen has opened. One of the finest business rooms in Auglaize County adorns one of the most prominent business corners in New Bremen. The goods from Ed Purpus's temporary quarters are now removed to his new store.

4/8/1893: Mayor Ed Purpus will close out his present business. He wants to devote his entire attention to the insurance and real estate business. As soon as his stock is closed out, he will transfer his office to the second floor of his handsome building and rent out the ground store room. **9/22/1894:** Son, Edward, born to Ed Purpus & wife on 9/14/1894.

2/23/1895: N.B. will have telephone connections with St. Marys - station will be in Ed Purpus store. **5/20/1898:** Ed Purpus has rented store room to National Supply Co. which will take possession. **9/2/1898:** Wm. Schulenberg & Son have bought Purpus stock of books, stationery & supplies.

6/23/1899: August & John Mueller will open a new clothing store in Ed Purpus rooms. **7/26/1901:** Mayor Purpus has moved his office into the room in his building lately occupied by the Mueller Brothers.

10/14/1904: Ed Purpus, of (8) N. Franklin St., died suddenly Sunday afternoon in Covington, Kentucky, having gone there to attend the wedding of his wife's niece. He was born at Lauterecken, Rhenish-Bavaria, Germany on 1/15/1847 and immigrated to America at the age of 16, working at a brewery in New York for 2 years, followed by another 2 years in a brewery in Huntington, Indiana. He came to N.B. in 1867, again embarking in the brewery business for a few years, after which he became a school teacher at the North

(Lock Two) School for 7 years, until about 1877. In May, 1876, he married Elizabeth Heil and he is survived by their 3 grown daughters - Clara, Dora, and Irma - also by a 10-year old son, Edward. Survivors also include his second wife, Josephine, a brother, Theodore Purpus, and 4 sisters - Susanna M. Fegert of Germany, Mrs. John (Louise) Gemmer of Bippus, Indiana, and Mrs. Jacob (Catherine) Paul & Mrs. Herman (Dorothea) Laut, both of New Bremen. He was preceded in death by 4 infants, a brother, Ernst, who died in 1867 and a brother, Louis, who died in 1882.

12/23/1904: Articles of Incorporation issued to Home Printing Co. Members (Fridolin) Purpus & (Emil G.) Conradi remain as publishers. **6/23/1905:** Ed Purpus block sold for \$4000 at Administrator's sale to Theodore Purpus, Herman Laut, & C.F. Wissman. **7/7/1905:** N.B. Sun office located in Purpus block. **10/7/1910:** Theodore Purpus & Herman Laut purchased C.F. Wissman's interest in former Ed Purpus business block at corner of Main & Monroe, undivided 1/3 SE corner inlot #31 - \$1750. **7/22/1921:** Theodore Purpus is now sole owner of the Purpus block, corner Main & Monroe, having purchased the 1/2-interest held by the Herman Laut estate.

2/4/1938: Francis MacWhinney, local Kroger Store manager, and clerk Arthur Heil attended a meeting in Lima for Ohio Kroger managers and employees. **10/20/1949:** Purpus building at corner of Main & Monroe purchased by Mr. & Mrs. William Scheer and Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Howell. **12/8/1949:** The Corner IGA Market opened today in the former location of the Kroger Store. It is under the management of Mr. Wesley Howell & Mr. Gene Lampert.

5 NORTH MAIN ST.

(Lot #31 - North 1/2)

The 1880 Atlas of Auglaize Co. shows a frame building - owner, William Buss. The north side of this building was of black walnut clapboard, put together with handmade nails, and was never painted. The building was built by (Peter) Charles Boesel, Sr., a pioneer merchant, banker, superintendent of the Miami-Erie Canal, state representative and state senator. He purchased the lot in May, 1838 from Sarah Meyer, who had purchased it in May, 1837. Mr. Boesel began a general store in 1838 which may have been in this location, however land tax records of 1838, 1839, 1840 show a lot value of \$25.00 with no buildings listed. He also served as Postmaster from 1840-1849 and there was a Postoffice here from 1845-1849.

Theodore Dinkel had a meat market in the south side of this building in the 1880s-1899, followed by W.I. Miller (1902-1904), Henry A. Koeper (1904-1908), W.J. Breideweiser (1908-1909), and others.

Ed Patterson (father of Lola Patterson) ran the Climax Barber Shop and fixed both ladies' and gents' hair on the

north side (N.B. Sun-5/30/1891). Mrs. Henry Pape (Mathilda Buss) had a millinery shop here until April, 1900, when she sold the business to Mrs. J.F. Bienz of Rockford. Mrs. Bienz moved across from Zion Church in August, 1901. Emil Schneider, barber, followed.

In 1929, Paul Gilberg & Earl Hegemier moved their "People's Radio & Gift Shop" into this building where the Don Houtz Restaurant had been. They put in new display windows with two entrance doors and added a line of furniture.

In 1937, Erma Landwehr & her son, Louis, opened Louie Landwehr's Hamburger Shop in the south half of the building which they operated there until about 1941 when they moved to 106 W. Monroe. (see *The Towpath* - October, 1996).

In November, 1959, Gilberg and Hegemier purchased the Schulenberg building at 7 W. Monroe St. next to the Hotel and sold their Main St. property to Howell's IGA. The building was torn down shortly thereafter (February, 1960) to provide room for expansion. A solid walnut board with "Chas. Boesel" painted on it was salvaged by Elmer Ende and is on display at the Historical Museum.

FROM THE N.B. SUN INDEX

4/25/1891: Mr. Ed Patterson arrived Wednesday evening from Syracuse, Nebraska. He has rented a room on Main St. opposite Boesel & Kunning's and will start in the barbering business. **4/8/1893:** Tonsorial artist, Ed Patterson, now has his well-appointed barber shop and bathrooms underneath the Postoffice. He has two chairs and two good bath rooms in the rear. **4/22/1893:** Wait for the opening of the millinery goods at Mrs. Matilda Pape, on April 21 & 22, 1893. **4/20/1900:** Mrs. J.F. Bienz of Rockford purchased the millinery business of Mrs. Pape. **8/30/1901:** Millinery store of Mrs. Bienz has been removed to the Reiher property opposite Zion's Church. **1/4/1907:** Emil Schneider moved his barber shop from a room near the French House to Butcher Koeper's building (north side). **2/18/1910:** Mrs. J.F. Bienz, who for a number of years conducted her millinery business in the Reiher building on N. Main St. has disposed of same to Misses Minnie Dierker and Hilda Komminsk.

3/21/1902: William J. Miller, butcher, will move his shop from the Lanfersieck-Grothaus building on Washington St. to Henry Pape's building (south side) on Main St. Mr. Pape and family will move into the former Finke House (French House) to conduct a boarding house. **4/11/1902:** W.I. Miller, east side butcher, moved his meat market to the west side and is located in rooms formerly occupied by Theodore Dinkel. **10/28/1904:** Henry Koeper of Herman St. purchased W.I. Miller Meat Market on Main St. **11/11/1904:** Henry A. Koeper moved his family from Herman St. to rooms in Henry Pape building, closer to his business. **10/12/1906:** Henry A. Koeper, Main St. butcher, purchased the Pape building in which his place of business and residence is located for

\$1950. **2/28/1908:** H.A. Koeper retired & sold meat market (business) to V. Breideweiser of Anna.

1/15/1909: The business & residence block beside the Sun office, Lot #31, was purchased from Henry A. Koeper by Emil Schneider for \$2100. It is presently occupied by Mr. Breideweiser's Butcher Shop and Mr. Schneider's Barber Shop. **12/31/1909:** Simes & McClure have purchased tools, machinery & stand of W.J. Breideweiser between the Sun office & Schneider's Barber Shop. **7/15/1910:** Fred H. Wyen of Chickasaw has rented the south room of E.S. Schneider building. He will open up a tin shop.

11/19/1959: Paul Gilberg, Earl Hegemier, and John Gilberg dba Gilberg & Hegemier have purchased the former Schulenberg building at 7 W. Monroe St. They plan on moving their retail furniture business from their 5 N. Main St. location after the first of the year (1960.)

9 NORTH MAIN ST.

(Lot #32 - South ½)

The 1840 land tax records show the owner of this entire lot as G.S. Speckman, with a building valued at \$100. In 1870, the owner was Christian Oberwittte. The lot was valued at \$400, a house valued at \$1000, and other buildings valued at \$200.

The 1880 Atlas of Auglaize Co. shows a long brick building - owner, Speckman & Nieter. It was built around 1846 and later covered with stucco. Adolph Steinberg had a saloon & billiard parlor here (in the 1870s-1880s?). It also served as a boarding house for men of canal days, later for men who put in gas lights, telephones, electric lights, and brick streets.

Ed Klanke had a saloon and boarding house here in the 1890s. In 1900, his brother, William, purchased the building & business and ran a boarding & rooming house called The Main Street House. In 1907, he sold boarding privileges to the Oak Restaurant, but kept the rooming house.

In 1909, William Uetrecht, grocer, purchased this business block and remodeled it, turning the upstairs into living quarters and ran the Tip Top Grocery, which was still located here in 1929. Irvin Fark ran a bakery here from June, 1936 until April, 1944 when he moved his family to Eldorado, Ohio. (see *"The Towpath"* - Oct. 1994)

In the mid-1950s, Les Howe had the Equity Ice-cream store here, followed by Mrs. Clarence (Luetta Dammeyer) Roettger, who ran a dry goods store. In the 1970s, Richard & Betty Plattner had a ceramics shop here.

11 NORTH MAIN ST.

(Lot #32 - North ½)

The 1880 Atlas of Auglaize Co. shows a smaller frame building - owner, Speckman & Nieter. In 1896, when Ed Klanke remodeled his saloon next door, he tore down this

frame building and built a new brick one which was to have boarding house accommodations. It has a bay window on the north corner and stained glass over the porch window.

William Klanke and his brothers - John, George, and Ed, owned the Klanke Furniture Co. John died 2/3/1890, Ed sold his interest in 1891, and George moved to Piqua after the furniture factory burned down in 1913.

William purchased this building from his brother, Ed, in 1900 and moved his family from Franklin St. He and his wife, Adelia (Purpus) ran a boarding and rooming house. William was also an undertaker and his home was sometimes used for viewing corpses of itinerant men. Caskets were taken out the bay window because the stairway was too narrow and they couldn't make the turn.

FROM THE N.B. SUN INDEX

5/9/1891: Ed Klanke sold out his interest in Klanke Bros. Furniture Co. **5/23/1891:** Ed Klanke bought saloon business from Henry Schwaberow. Schwaberow will devote entire time to grocery business. **7/30/1892:** Ed Klanke, proprietor of Powhattan Saloon and Restaurant bought property now occupied by him from Speckman & Nietzer for \$4000. **4/8/1893:** Ed Klanke owns lot (#32) clear through from Main to Franklin fronting on each street 66' x 300' deep. Mr. Charles Polsdorfer, formerly a finisher at the furniture factory, is now with Mr. Klanke.

4/28/1894: Edward Klanke to Edward Purpus, WEST 1/2 of inlet 32 (Franklin St.), \$300 **7/21/1894:** Ed Klanke remodeling frame building adjoining saloon - contemplates running restaurant. **10/27/1894:** Ed Klanke put in new set of bar fixtures. **11/3/1894:** Ed Klanke's have son, Mortimer. **1/31/1896:** Ed Klanke remodeling saloon.

9/25/1896: Ed Klanke is having the old 2-story frame structure adjoining his saloon torn down. He contemplates erecting a large new brick building with boarding house accommodations. **10/16/1896:** J. Altenbach of Sidney received contract for Ed Klanke's new building - amount \$1668. **10/23/1896:** Work has begun on Ed Klanke's new building. **11/27/1896:** Ed Klanke's new addition under roof. **2/23/1900:** Edward Klanke, proprietor of Main St. Boarding House, purchased the interior fixtures of the Finke House (Hotel French) from Godfrey Finke and will take possession March 1. Mr. Klanke will move his family into the Finke House and use the building he now occupies as a lodging place.

4/20/1900: William Klanke bought brother Edward's saloon interest and building on Main St. for \$5500. **6/29/1900:** Edward Klanke purchased Henry J.C. Laut's hotel & saloon interests for nearly \$9000 (Central Hotel.) **11/26/1900:** The entire furniture in the Finke House (French House) will be sold at a sacrifice - or if anybody desires to lease the building together with its furnishings, he can do so at a reasonable rate. For further particulars

inquire at Ed Klanke's. **3/28/1902:** Ed Klanke sold his saloon and the building in which it is located to Emil Laut and his father, Herman Laut. **6/13/1902:** Ed Klanke moved to St. Marys to take possession of the saloon formerly owned by August Gobrecht.

2/20/1903: Traveling German band at Wm. Klanke's. **10/16/1903:** Ed Klanke bought Gust A. Gilbert's Bridge Saloon. **1/27/1905:** Explosion of Dierker building breaks windows in Ed Klanke's Bridge Saloon. **10/20/1905:** Ed Klanke's celebrate glass (15th) wedding anniversary. **4/13/1906:** Ed Klanke sold saloon & stock at Washington & Monroe to Clarence Moeller. Moeller will move his New Era Cafe from N. Main St. **5/18/1906:** Ed Klanke has gone back to work for Klanke Furniture Co.

1/11/1907: Mesdames Charles A. Heil (Louise Huenke) & Lillie (Huenke) Zwiesler will be proprietors of a new restaurant in the Lanfersieck block (Washington St.) **2/1/1907:** New restaurant (Oak Restaurant) now open. **2/15/1907:** William Klanke, who has been conducting Main St. House, sold boarding privileges to Oak Restaurant. He will have rooming house only.

4/10/1908: Ed Klanke commits suicide by jumping off the Spring St. bridge into the St. Marys river. **11/27/1908:** William Klanke has discontinued sale of liquor and converted business room in Main Street House to a restaurant.

8/20/1909: William Uetrecht, grocer, purchased William Klanke's business block on Main St. - new part (Main St. House) not included. **9/17/1909:** Wm. F. Klanke & wife to Wm. Uetrecht, east 1/2 inlet #32 - \$3100.

10/22/1909: William Uetrecht is having interior of former William Klanke business building remodeled. A portion of lower and entire upper floors will be used for dwelling purposes. **11/19/1909:** William Klanke is building stable in rear of his Main St. property. **4/22/1910:** Val Breidewieser is temporarily driving the William Uetrecht delivery wagon in the absence of August Aue, who is suffering with a disabled arm.

5/24/1935: Anthony Varno, Minster, has rented the N. Main St. building formerly occupied by the Tip Top Grocery (William Uetrecht - 9 N. Main), and will open a new grocery there within the next few weeks. The building recently was purchased by A.J. Wagner, Minster. Mr. Varno, several years ago, was manager of the Kroger Store here and more recently has been in charge of the Kroger Store in Minster.

8/17/1944: Alvin Friemering, before entering into the furniture business 18 years ago (1926), owned and operated a grocery store then located in the vacant room on N. Main St. until recently occupied by Fark's Bakery (9 N. Main.)

The preceding North Main St. information has been researched and compiled by Lucille M. Francis, Editor. Additional information or corrections are welcomed.

CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS, MIS-IDENTIFICATIONS


In the April, 1999 issue of *The Towpath*, several people were mis-identified in the picture of the Pythian Sisters on page 5. In the front row, the lady in the center identified as Mrs. Phil (Nellie) Rust is actually Mrs. Howard Huenke (Verona Langhorst). In the middle row, the identification of Mrs. Charles Boesel made by Margaret (Henning) Boecker has been verified. In the back row the 4th lady from the right, Mrs. William Huenke, identified as (Sophia Frevert), was actually Mrs. William Huenke, Jr. (Clara Heil). William & Clara (Heil) Huenke were the parents of two of our members, Mary Kathryn (Huenke) Maze and Dorothy (Huenke) Huwer, both of St. Marys. Mary Kathryn and Dorothy remember being taken as small children to the children's Christmas parties at the Knights of Pythias Hall above the Arcade, being bundled up with blankets and wearing long stockings to keep from getting cold. We thank Annabel (Scheer) Wagner, Dorothy (Huenke) Huwer, and Mary Ellen (Taylor) Patton for calling these errors to our attention. *(Annabel became so engrossed in identifying these ladies that she forgot about the peas she was cooking and left them and the pot scorch!!)*

A clarification is also necessary about the Dr. Rabe article on page G-2 (the genealogy section). The pictures at the top of the page were inadvertently switched at the printer. The picture shown on the right (which is dated 1939) was found in an envelope containing a sheet of pictures of Dr. Rabe which had been taken around 1971 (the picture shown on the left) at the Slonkosky Studio in St. Marys. This envelope was included in the many boxes of pictures passed along to us by George Neargarder when he purchased the former Slonkosky Studio, many of which we distributed to the people in the pictures.

We are sorry that these errors occurred, but appreciate hearing from our many readers when they have more accurate information. It is sometimes difficult to find the right person who can furnish the information we are looking for. If you have old pictures (with identifications) and/or stories to go with them, we would like to hear from you.


Mr. & Mrs. Phil Rust and their 6 children, who have resided in New Bremen for the past 18 years, have moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Rust will serve as Superintendent of Borden Milk. (N.B. Sun - 4/1/1943)

From the Mailbox....

 I received *The Towpath* today. The article on the Pythian Sisters was especially interesting. I have very fond memories of the children's Christmas parties that were held at the hall.

I must correct you on the identification of Mrs. William Huenke (Sophia Frevert). It should be Mrs. William Huenke, Jr. (Clara Heil). This is my mother and I have the same picture. I'm also thinking that Mrs. Phil (Nellie) Rust could be Mrs. Howard Huenke (Verona Langhorst).


Dorothy (Huenke) Huwer - St. Marys

 Oh, how I enjoyed the articles and pictures concerning the Knights of Pythias and the Pythian Sisters. My mother, Rhea Taylor, and my father, James Taylor, the photographer, were both members. I remember Dad sitting and retouching at his stand and memorizing rituals for his meetings.

I can help with two of the missing names of the Pythian Sisters. No. 16 (in the back row) is Mrs. Ferd Rabe (Laura Garmhausen). The Rabes were good friends of my parents. Also, the person you named as Mrs. Phil Rust (with a ?) is Mrs. Howard Huenke (Verona Langhorst). I also recognize No. 4 (with the black hat), but I cannot put a name to her.

It was interesting too seeing the picture of my grandfather, Ohio W. Taylor, in the Pythias Marching Club. I remember so vividly as a child at Christmas we would gather in the hall above the Arcade and wait for the arrival of Santa Claus. Does anyone else remember this???

Continue the good work on *The Towpath*. What enjoyable reading and what memories it brings to mind! Mary Ellen (Taylor) Patton - Talbott, Tennessee

 After reading the April, 1999 issue of *The Towpath*, I remembered Dr. Rabe and his ideas about natural foods. My mother (Dora Tangeman) got this health mixture recipe from him. Thought you might like to pass it on.

Betty (Tangeman) Burkard - Wapakoneta, Ohio

Dr. Rabe's Health Salad

(Eat before meal)

Soak: 1 cup regular rolled oats &
1 cup raisins in cold water (to cover)

while preparing: 1 ripe banana (mashed & whipped)
2 oranges (cut up)
1/4 - 3/4 cup honey (to taste)
1 grated apple

Add: Cream (from top of milk) to mix up well.

✍ Many thanks for the complimentary copy of the April, 1999 issue of *The Towpath*. I would also like to express my gratitude to Tom Braun, who has been very helpful in providing information to me and in answering my many genealogical questions. Enclosed is my 1999 subscription for *The Towpath*.

Some of my relatives settled in the N.B. area years ago, including my gr-gr-great uncles, John Henry and Frank H. Wenker. My great-grandfather, Friedrich Wilhelm Wenker, immigrated to America in November, 1870 and apparently stayed with his uncles in N.B. until he could get settled. He eventually located in Cincinnati, while his brother, Herman A. Wenker, lived in Dayton.

Jim Wenker - Amelia, Ohio

✍ I enjoyed Molly Lou (Kellermeyer) Manley's comments in the April, 1999 issue of *The Towpath*. An explanation may be in order about her being "turned on to pogo" by me. For the younger generation, Pogo was Pogo Possum, a philosopher opossum who, with an entourage of swamp creatures, inhabited Okefenokee Swamp and espoused philosophy and social and political commentary of the day through the satirical pen of cartoonist Walt Kelly. At that time my chemistry and physics students at Urbana High were likewise "turned on" to this intellectual treasure. Students do not live by chemistry alone!

John T. Dickman - Columbus, Ohio

✍ Enclosed is a check for a Lifetime Membership. I enjoy *The Towpath* immensely and look forward to each issue. I really appreciate all the work that goes into producing it. Thanks a lot.

Janet (Garmhausen) Bock - Columbus, Ohio

✍ Thanks for the many great memories through *The Towpath*. I'm happy and proud to always be connected with New Bremen.

Delores (Bertke) Frank - Ormand Beach, Florida

✍ In 1971 my family and I moved to Worthington, Ohio due to a change of jobs, but we try to keep up with historic N.B. topics by reading *The Towpath*. Your April, 1999 issue contained some very interesting information on fraternal organizations. It said New Bremen had local bodies of the I.O.O.F., Knights of Pythias, and Woodmen of the World.

There was a brief mention of the Freemasons, the oldest fraternal organization in the world, but no mention of a local Lodge. (*We didn't know of one. Thanks for sending in this information, Jack.*) Since I am a Mason, it aroused my interest because I knew there once was a Lodge in New Bremen. The nearest Lodge today is in St. Marys. The Freemasons are still active today while the three other organizations mentioned above are either dormant or almost non-existent. (*comments, anyone???*)

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio is located in Worthington and I looked through their archives in search of the New Bremen Lodge. I found that it was identified as **Union Lodge #440** and was chartered on October 19, 1870, but was only in existence until sometime in 1882. There is no record of when it officially became extinct. I am enclosing copies of the Annual Return to the Grand Lodge, with officers and membership names, for the years 1870 and 1882. There are similar pages for each of the years, but I didn't copy them. You will note that the meeting date for each month is "Tuesday on or preceding full moon and two weeks thereafter." I understand that since communication was limited in those days, the full moon was used to eliminate the need for meeting notices. I hope the enclosed will be of interest to you. (P.S.-Lloyd Laut is a long-time Mason.)

Jack Dicke - Worthington, Ohio

RETURN OF Union Lodge No. 440

Held at New Bremen, County of Auglaize
For the year commencing December A.L. 5869
and closing October 17th, A.L. 5870, to wit:
The following OFFICERS were appointed by
Deputy Grand Master, November, 1869, viz:

C.W. Hamisfor/Howischer?.....W.M.
Joel H. Steinberg.....S.W.
C. William Dicke.....J.W.
Gerhard H. Knost, pro tem.....Treas.
W. Frank Wood, pro tem.....Sec.
Fred I. Steinberg, pro tem.....S.D.
August F./L.? Hipp, pro tem.....J.D.
Fritz Starke, pro tem.....Tyler

The stated day of meeting is Tuesday on or preceding
full moon and every two weeks thereafter.

GRAND DUES, \$16.00

LIST OF MEMBERS - 1870

1. Breutsch, Ambrose
2. Dicke, C. William
3. Hamisfor/Howischer?, Chas. W.
4. Hamisfor/Howischer?, LeRoy
5. Hulinke/Huenke?, Henry
6. Hadderman/Nedderman?, John D.
7. Hipp, August F./L.?
8. Knost, Gerhard H.
9. Klebecker, Herman
10. Langhorst, Wm.
11. Myers, George S.
12. Menke, Benjamin
13. Steinberg, Fred I.
14. Steinberg, Joel H.
15. Starke, Fritz
16. Schulenberg, Wm.
17. Schulte, Wm.
18. Wood, W. Frank

MOON BOUND

*A tribute to Neil Armstrong,
the first man on the moon.*

Neil started very young to fly
above this Earth of ours,
And now he's reached the moon,
maybe next he'll go for Mars.

It took tremendous courage
and nerves that were not prone
To lose their calm and steadiness
before his job was done.

Neil's desire to see the moon
started when he was a mere boy,
And what he saw through a telescope
gave him a lot of joy.

He pondered all the things he saw
and then he wondered why
Man could not reach the moon
and other planets in the sky.

Years of training he has had
and he proved himself to be
The man who walked upon the moon
to carve his name in history.

by James A. Ashbaugh

30th ANNIVERSARY

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing 30 years ago on July 20, 1969, when Neil Armstrong of Wapakoneta took his "One small step for man - One giant leap for mankind" on the moon? We were living in Del City, Oklahoma, in the area that was totally destroyed in the recent (May 3rd) tornadoes that hit Oklahoma and Kansas. *(Lucille & Lowell Francis)*

The above is a poem written by New Bremen's James A. Ashbaugh about Neil's historic event. Jim was a Boy Scout leader and Neil was an Eagle Scout, thereby giving them the opportunity to get to know each other and giving Jim an extra reason to follow Neil's accomplishments.

Jim wrote three different poems about this event which were passed on to us by his son, James F. Ashbaugh of San Diego, California, after Jim's death in June, 1997. Another of these poems was submitted to the Auglaize County Historical Society and was published by Editor Katy (Berning) Gilbert in the July-August, 1998 issue of their newsletter.

James A. Ashbaugh was born in St. Marys in 1908 and married Mildred Fricke of New Bremen in 1930. Jim spent 37½ years as a mechanical engineer at Minster Machine Co., and served 20 years and was past president of the N.B. Board of Education. A daughter, Marcia Weadock, lives in Decatur, Indiana.

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 6/15/99)

06/13/99 Dicke, Lodema (Egbert/Knost) - N. Bremen (TR)
06/07/99 Eiting, Tim - New Bremen
06/07/99 Gast, Bennett C. - Whittier, California
05/04/99 Niekamp, Joe - New Bremen
04/28/99 Rumpff, Lucille (Roettger) - St. Marys, Ohio (LM)
06/11/99 Trego, Bryan - New Bremen
04/07/99 Warner, Evelyn (Gieseke) - New Bremen (TR)
04/17/99 Wenker, James M. - Amelia, Ohio

ADDITIONS TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE

04/20/99 Bock, Janet (Garmhausen)
04/12/99 Opperman, Betty (Quellhorst)
04/28/99 Rumpff, Lucille (Roettger)(new)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

06/13/99 Dicke, Paul E. (died 6/13/99)
06/15/99 Lampert, Norma (Kettler) (died 6/15/99)
04/07/99 Warner, Karl (died 4/7/99)
04/11/99 Wissman, Alice (Schmidt) (died 4/11/99)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial donations are welcomed in any amount. When donations for any one person or couple have reached \$100.00, a brass plate engraved with their name(s) is attached to the Memorial Plaque.

NEW ITEMS ARRIVING SOON

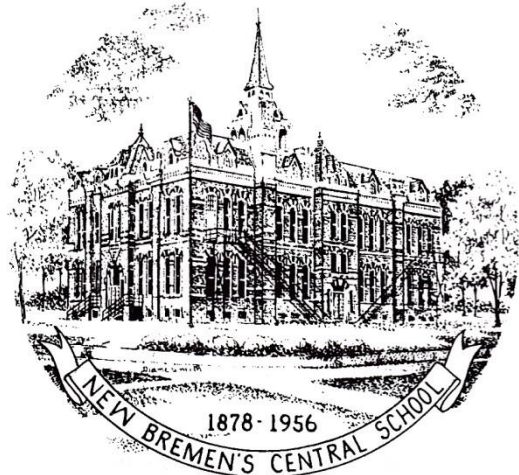
Last year we introduced the first of our porcelain "medallions" and trinket boxes depicting the 1929 High School. Sales for these items have been very satisfying. We will soon have available the second of these commemoratives as shown below of the Central School (old grade school on S. Franklin St.) Prices will be:

Medallions - \$10.50 each (\$12.50, if mailed)

Paperweights - \$11.50 each

Pencil Caddies - \$11.50 each

These are nice mementoes of your school days for those of you who attended New Bremen Schools, especially for the classes who are having class reunions this year.



Built in 1877-1878, the Central School served New Bremen's students until September, 1956, when grades 1-6 were moved to the 1929 High School. The Central School was razed in 1957.