

THE TOWPATH

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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: \$10.00 Per year / Per person

(Life Membership: \$100.00 Per person)

April - 2001

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MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

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

THE TOWPATH is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area - researched, written, and/or edited by Lucille (Topp) Francis, EDITOR, and published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Assoc. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

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)

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.

UPCOMING EVENT

THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, June 3rd — 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

We will be kicking off our 2001 summer visitation season with a community picnic to be held on the museum grounds. This event is open to the public and we invite you to attend. The museum itself will open at the usual 2:00 p.m. and food, entertainment, and other activities will be available starting at 3:00. There will be canopies, picnic tables, etc. in place for shelter from the weather.

Due to the popularity of the antique appraisals held last year, we will again be doing that, with appraisals being given by Monty McDermitt, a local antique enthusiast. This year, there will be a fee of \$1.00 per item brought for appraisal.

We will again have music - to be provided by the Miami-Erie Boys, also by Rita Heitkamp.

Alan Fenters, local horticulturist, will be on hand to give gardening advice. If you have a gardening question, bring a sample of your plant for his examination.

There will be beef, chicken, and hot dog sandwiches, a special German dish, also homemade pies. We will again have

FREE ICE CREAM!

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR - JUNE 3rd, 3:00 p.m.

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS

To serve as Museum Hosts, Etc.

If you would be willing to spend 2 hours on a Sunday afternoon this summer serving as a host at the museum, call Rev. Lawrence Holmer at 629-3738 and let him know when you would be willing to serve. Help is also needed on the Annual Museum Cleaning Day: Saturday, May 19th, starting at 9:00 a.m.

If you have an interesting or unique collection that you might like to display for a Sunday afternoon this summer, please let us know.

L. T. Holmer, Pres.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2001 DUES?

Before you lay this issue aside, be sure to check the label on your mailing envelope. If the top line says **EXPIRED!**, this means we have not yet received your 2001 payment and this will be the last "Towpath" you will receive. Please send your payment now. We don't want to lose you!

NEW BREMEN'S MOVIE THEATRES

The first mention of a "moving picture show" appeared in the Friday, 11/16/1906, issue of *The New Bremen Sun*, which stated that "The Edison Moving Pictures entertainment at Boesel's Opera Hall Wednesday and Thursday evening were largely attended and appear to have given general satisfaction."

BOESEL'S OPERA HOUSE

Ground was broken for Charles Boesel, II's business block and Opera House on the south side of West Monroe St. in June, 1895. The building was completed and the Opera House was opened to the public for the first time on January 3, 1896, presenting a comedy play, "My Wife's Friend."

At the turn of the century, the Opera House booked such attractions as lecturers, band concerts, etc. and also became the scene of many amateur and school presentations. Before the new high school was built on South Walnut St. in 1929-1930, the Opera House was the place where commencement exercises were held.

(N.B. Sun - 6/24/1948)

The New Moving Picture Show at BOESEL'S OPERA HOUSE

is showing some splendid productions in the moving picture world. Remember, you are given the same advantage as in any large city - a change of two films every evening. Bring your friends with you. With your patronage we will be able to give you this advantage every evening.

5¢ to ALL

(5/31/1912)

WONDERLAND THEATRE

The 6/21/1907 issue of the *New Bremen Sun* stated "The residence portion of Herman Laut's building on Washington Street will be changed into a business room. When completed, it will be a moving picture show."

The 7/27/1907 *N.B. Sun* said "WONDERLAND is drawing great throngs of people nightly, the house being packed to its full capacity at nearly every performance. Entire change of program - don't fail to see 'The Village Fire Brigade' and 'A Slave's Love' at Wonderland tonight."

4/22/1910 - Herman Laut is contemplating moving the business room adjoining the old French House on North Main St. to the vacant lot fronting on Monroe St. near the bridge and "fitting it for a moving picture show." →

6/10/1910 - The Wonderland Theatre in Herman Laut's building on Washington St., which was gutted by fire and water several weeks ago, is being repaired and remodeled preparatory to re-opening tomorrow evening. H.S. Michael, who will again conduct the business, has purchased a brand new outfit and states that he is better equipped than ever to give the patrons a good show.

Picture Show to be Next Feature at Opera House

Manager Charles J. Boesel (son of Charles Boesel, II) of Boesel's Opera House, assisted by his son Milton, is rapidly completing arrangements to add to his theatrical performances a picture show department to be operated at such times when there are no regular shows billed at the playhouse. Arrangements for a supply of first class films as they are produced by the manufacturers have been perfected, and an order for a fireproof steel booth has also been placed for early shipment.

In the meantime the state building inspector and the state fire marshal have inspected the Opera House for exits and fire escapes and have given their consent and approval to the proposed change. (N.B. Sun - 5/3/1912)

Movies made in New Bremen were shown by Mr. Boesel on September 10-12, 1914. (N.B. Sun - 6/24/1948)

See New Bremen In Pictures

Its Homes, Business Houses and Children at the

OPERA HOUSE PICTURE SHOW

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
September 10-11-12, 1914

WATCH FOR THE MAN WITH THE CAMERA

He will call upon you to photograph your Babies, Homes, and Business Houses for the purpose of showing them at this theatre.

Good Moving Pictures Will Be Shown Each Night In Connection

You cannot afford to miss this opportunity of seeing yourself as others see you. Bring your Friends, Children and Sweethearts.

Admission 5 and 10 Cents

CROWN THEATRE

Having purchased the interior of the former Wonderland Theatre and having rented the building for one year, we beg to inform the public of New Bremen and vicinity that same will be opened up for business with high class moving pictures tomorrow evening. It will be known as the "Crown Theatre."

STARR & WHIPPLE

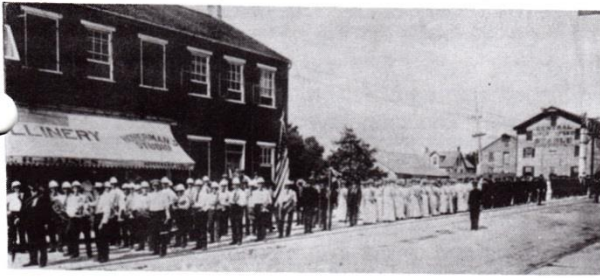
(N.B. Sun - 10/14/1910)

NEW BUSINESS BLOCK TO BE BUILT on West Monroe St.

Messrs. Herman Laut and Herbert Schulenberg have just completed arrangements for the erection of a new business block on the vacant lot opposite the present Schulenberg & Laut block on West Monroe St., near the canal bridge.

The building will be a substantial structure with two business rooms on the first floor. The one room is extended for moving pictures and vaudeville exhibitions and will be the home of the CROWN THEATRE. The other room has not been positively disposed of as yet. The upper story will be converted either into dwelling rooms or a public hall.

(N.B. Sun - 4/5/1912)



West Monroe St. - Sunday, June 21, 1908

This shows what it looked like before Herman Laut and Herbert Schulenberg built their new business block here in 1912. Notice the awning of Mrs. E.R. Haines' Millinery Store and Roy Hoverman's Photography Studio - notice also Rairdon's Livery Stable at the right, along with the iron lift bridge across the canal.

This procession formed on Monroe Street and marched to German Protestant Cemetery to unveil the monument for George William Eisenhut of Botkins, a deceased member of the Woodmen of the World. It was the custom of the W.O.W. to erect monuments to the memory of their deceased members.

The parade was headed by the W.O.W. band under the leadership of August C. Gobrecht, this being the first time that the band appeared in public. Photographers Roy Hoverman and F.W. Greber took a series of pictures of the large procession, which included members of the various lodges who had arrived on the 1:26 interurban car. The various companies on foot and the carriages following measured almost a quarter of a mile.

(N.B. Sun - 6/26/1908)

CROWN THEATRE

Herb. Schulenberg, Prop.

The Moving Picture serves as a recreation and educator. It brings the world to your door. It is the poor man's hobby. To those who labor hard during the day, it affords rest and relaxation. You will be able to meet your next day's work with greater ease and pleasure.

Moving Pictures are not for the select few, but for everyone, young or old, poor or rich. You can all enjoy them. Don't think they will harm your children as they will not, but will bring them along and their lives will be made the happier for their presence.

We aim to give you the best pictures produced and a trial will convince you.

5¢ to Everybody

(8/16/1912)

Contract Let - Herman Schaefer Successful Bidder

The contract for the erection of the new brick business block to be built by Herman Laut and Herbert Schulenberg on their adjoining properties on West Monroe St. near the canal bridge, opposite the present Schulenberg & Laut block, was let Tuesday afternoon to

Herman Schaefer as the lowest bidder. This contract includes only the building of the structure proper - the plumbing, heating and frescoing will be let at some later date.

As soon as material can be gotten to the ground, work on the new building will be started. It is hoped to have it ready for occupancy before late fall. Aside from the deep basement necessary along the fill on Monroe St. up to the bridge, the building for the present will be but one story high.

(N.B. Sun - 9/7/1912)



The Laut-Schulenberg block, built in 1912-1913

THE NEW CROWN THEATRE

The new Crown Theatre occupying the east side of the new Laut & Schulenberg block on West Monroe St. has been completed and will be opened to the public Saturday night, February 1, 1913.

Manager Herbert Schulenberg takes considerable pride in the fact that he has constructed one of the finest and most up-to-date picture theaters in existence in small cities in northwestern Ohio, and is being complimented on many sides because of the beautiful structure.

The room has been constructed according to instructions from the State Inspection Department and possesses all the necessary equipment in the way of fire protection, exits, etc.

The walls and ceiling are tastefully frescoed, the handiwork of Clay Bourquin of St. Marys, and the illumination causes a pretty effect. The room is equipped with modern and roomy opera chairs affording seating capacity in the auditorium and gallery for some 300 people.

(N.B. Sun - 1/31/1913)

CROWN PICTURE SHOW

will give its first show

Saturday Evening, February 1, 1913

Three Reel Subject Entitled

"Mills of the God"

First show opens promptly at 6:15. Admission: 5 ¢ & 10 ¢. Children under 6 yrs. of age accompanied by parent FREE

Herb Schulenberg, Prop.

JUNIORS-SENIORS Annual Reception & Banquet

The 1913 annual reception and banquet given by the Junior class in honor of the Seniors took place last Friday evening at the Crown Auditorium. The reception hall was decorated in the colors of the Seniors, while the dining hall was in the colors of the Juniors.

The evening began with a short program in the reception hall, after which a grand march led to the dining hall where an exquisite lunch was served. After the banquet, the guests returned to the reception hall for more amusements and departed at a late (or rather an early morning) hour for their homes. (N.B. Sun - 4/25/1913)

The Arcade Department Store is responsible for the exhibit of an interesting film at the Crown Theatre next Tuesday evening. The film is entitled "From Sheep to Wearer" and graphically demonstrates the method of manufacturing a fine grade of woolen clothing. (N.B. Sun - 10/17/1913)

ST. MARYS IDLEWILD CLUB Given Banquet & Program at Crown Theatre

Not less than 34 of the Idlewilders of St. Marys, including several Wapakonetaans who are members of the club, arrived here on the 5:34 electric railway and were received into the spacious Crown Auditorium, where under the direction of Mrs. Helen Kettler, a festal board had been prepared. Fifty one sat down to the banquet.

After the repast, a program was enjoyed consisting of addresses by the visiting guests, a solo by Miss Myrtle Kunning, piano duet by Misses Ione Schulenberg and Frances Bruns, recitation by Miss Dorothy Kunning, a song with piano by little Milford Dickman, and a song by Lester Laut.

The guests were then invited next door into the Crown Theatre where several original slides and appropriate comment by John Ennor were presented. Slides had been made of several of the guests from pictures of their boyhood days. (N.B. Sun - 2/6/1914)

John Ennor at the Crown is drawing large crowds this week. He shows his own pictures, and the versatility with which he speaks of persons and things connected with the pictures shown is being admired by his numerous audiences. (N.B. Sun - 2/6/1914)

Herbert Schulenberg to Conduct Two Playhouses

Beginning Saturday, May 15, 1915, Herbert Schulenberg will have charge of both theatrical playhouses in New Bremen. Actual management of the Crown Theatre again belongs to Mr. Schulenberg after several months of being under the management of Mr. Newman.

This week Mr. Schulenberg entered a contract with the Rabe Mfg. Co. by which he will also assume charge of the Opera House Picture Show. The Opera House had been under the management of August C. Gobrecht for a number of months. (N.B. Sun - 5/14/1915)

THE ARRIVAL OF "TALKING PICTURES"

On October 6, 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a movie which featured both silent and sound-synchronized scenes.

Tom Larkin of St. Marys has bought the Crown Theatre at New Bremen from R.H. Becker of Piqua. Larkin expects to do considerable remodeling and redecorating and to put in a modern ventilating system. Larkin previously managed the Capitol and Gem Theatres at Sidney. (The Evening Leader - 4/19/1928)

New Crown Theatre To Open Sunday Equipment Installed for Sound Pictures

On Sunday, September 15, 1929, Manager J. Thomas Larkin will open the new Crown Theatre for a special matinee performance at 2:30 p.m. The film to be shown is "The Desert Song."

The theatre has been wired for Vitaphone equipment and a new screen and projectors have also been added to the mechanical equipment. Other improvements include rearrangement of the interior of the building to increase its seating capacity. A lobby has been built near the main entrance, while a large canopy extending over the sidewalk adds to the appearance of the exterior.

The interior has been newly painted and redecorated, the walls and ceilings being finished in cream with side panels of mahogany finished in tiffany. A new heating and ventilating system also has been installed.

Invention of sound pictures is hailed as the most popular advancement in the amusement world since motion pictures first were experimented with 30 years ago. In the old days it was rather unfair to have a 4 or 5-piece orchestra try to give the same musical accompaniment to a big picture that was rendered by the magnificent symphony orchestras in the larger theatres. Today that is all done away with.

"The Desert Song" will be followed by "On With the Show", "The Home Towners", and other Vitaphone attractions. The theatre will be open every evening except Tuesdays. (N.B. Sun - 9/12/1929)

CROWN THEATRE - New Bremen Vitaphone and Movietone TONIGHT

"Kid Gloves"

with

Conrad Nagel and Lois Wilson

★ ALSO A LOIS HARDWICK COMEDY ★

Matinee every Sunday at 2:30

(N.B. Sun - 10/17/1929)

★Who Was Lois Hardwick?

"Lois Hardwick is the 11-year old daughter of Mrs. Agnes (Langhorst) Hardwick, and a grand-daughter of Ed & Anna (Schulenberg) Langhorst of New Bremen. Lois has found it easy to emerge from obscurity to a place of prominence in the Hollywood movie colony.

Lois was first heard of in the movies when she played in 'Alice' comedies for Winkler Productions, and has also worked in comedies turned out at the Hal Roach studios. Her latest contract is with Stern Brothers, producers of 'Buster Brown' comedies.

In the 'Buster Brown' comedies, she plays Mary Jane, having been selected from a field of 500 applicants. She is one of the screen's brightest youngsters.

Also starring in the 'Buster Brown' comedies is Oatmeal, a little colored boy who is said to be good for a laugh every move he makes and some without moving."

(N.B. Sun - 6/14/1928)

[NOTE: Lois Ann (Hardwick) Minervini was born in 1917 and died in Chicago in 1968. Her mother, Agnes (Langhorst) Hardwick, died in Chicago in 1972. Both were cremated and their ashes were interred in the Langhorst family plot at German Protestant Cemetery near Lock Two.]

MIDNIGHT SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE AT CROWN THEATRE

Manager J. Tom Larkin of the Crown Theatre announced that he has arranged a midnight show for Tuesday, December 31, 1929. The featured picture will be "Hollywood Revue", a gorgeous musical talkie.

The show features stars of the stage, screen stars of vaudeville, opera and radio, and stars of all the amusement fields of the 20th century in one huge parade. It has 20 song hits, abundant comedy, tuneful melodies, and dialogue that sparkles, to say nothing of the largest dancing chorus of beautiful girls that ever dazzled an audience.

(N.B. Sun - 12/26/1929)

THE LITTLE THEATRE

Movie House Here To Re-open Under New Name

New Bremen theatregoers will be glad to know that the Crown Theatre is to be reopened Saturday, September, 26, 1931, after having been closed for several months. It will be renamed "The Little Theatre" according to Manager Tom Larkin and will continue its policy of showing only the latest and best releases.

New sound equipment is being installed this week and other improvements also have been made to better the acoustics of the building.

Manager Larkin also announced today that he has contracted with Crosley Radio Corp. of Cincinnati for personal appearances in New Bremen of many of the popular WLW radio stars. The first of these to be heard here will be Bradley Kincaid on Sunday, October 4th.

Announcing the Opening of THE LITTLE THEATRE Formerly The Crown

Saturday, September 26, 1931

"The Smiling Lieutenant"

starring Maurice Chevalier

Admission for our Opening Picture

Sunday Matinee, 10¢ & 25¢

Evening, 15¢ & 35¢

CROWN THEATRE TO BE RE-OPENED SUNDAY

Leased by Tom Broad

The Crown Theatre re-opens Sunday, December 13, 1931 under new management. The theatre has been closed the past 2 weeks while a new screen and other improvements were installed. It has been leased by Tom Broad of St. Marys, who will take personal charge of the management.

The Crown Theatre

New Bremen, Ohio

OPENS Sunday, December 13, 1931

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

We take great pride to present to our patrons the most beautiful picture ever shown in New Bremen.

Florenz Ziegfeld & Samuel Goldwyn
present

WHOOPEE

Starring EDDIE CANTOR

Eddie Cantor is a scream as a Jewish Indian.

All in Technicolor

On the Same Program - Comedy & Vitaphone Acts

ADMISSION: Children 15¢, Adults 35¢

FREE SHOWS AT CROWN

New Bremen merchants, in cooperation with the management of the Crown Theatre, are giving free shows on Friday and Saturday evenings. There will also be free matinees for the children. These shows are arranged to create good will and to prove to New Bremen people the excellence of the new sound equipment installed by the theatre. Get your free guest tickets from the following merchants:

Arcade Dept. Store, Dr. M.H. Briggs, Central Auto Service, Crown Dry Cleaners, Theo. L. Doenges, Erhardt's Dry Goods, Green Lantern Restaurant, Gulf Service Station, Heinfeld & Gieseke, Home Printing Co., Hotel Hollingsworth, Johnson Service Station, Knost Shoe Store, Koeper's Shoe Store, Laut Bros., Mel Laut, Lone Pine Filling Station, Moeller's Bakery, Mueller Bros., N.B. Hdwe. & Supply, Wm. B. Patterson, Lewis Poppe, Refiners Service Station, Schelper's Meat Mkt., Schulenberg Bros., U.J. Schwieterman, Smith's Variety Store, South Side Service Station, Speckman Furniture Co., Taylor Studio, Tip Top Grocery, White Mountain Creamery, Wint's Lunch Room, Wissman Barber Shop. (N.B. Sun-2/11+18/1932)

Where was the Green Lantern Restaurant?

C.L. Vermillion of Sidney this week purchased the Green Lantern Restaurant on South Washington Street. He plans to take over the business immediately. During the past year, the restaurant was managed by Mrs. Frances Tanger, and before that it was owned by Mrs. Nora Timeus, both of Sidney. (N.B. Sun - 9/24/1931)

MGR. BROCKIE RE-OPENS NEW CROWN THEATRE

Manager John Brockie has selected "Miss Pinkerton" with Joan Blondell and George Brent and "So Big" starring Barbara Stanwyck for the reopening of the Crown Theatre on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday - September 17-19. Several changes and improvements have been made in the theatre and Mgr. Brockie is looking forward to a successful season. (N.B. Sun - 9/15/1932)

BOYHOOD RECOLLECTIONS

by Robert G. Heinfeld

The motion picture theater was a big means of entertainment in New Bremen and always drew big crowds. The Crown Theater (later to become the Roosevelt Theater) charged admission of 10¢ for kids under 12 & high school students and 25¢ for adults (2 for 30¢), unless it was a "spectacular". Then admission would go up slightly. In later years, high schoolers were charged the same as adults.

In 1933, a tremendous film came to New Bremen. Mr. Larkin (the manager) put a banner across the street, from the theater over to Schulenberg's Store, advertising the film, "King Kong." I thought it should be a good movie after all that advertisement. I went into the theater but after I sat down, I thought it might be too scary. Willis Sudmann, who, at 13, was about 4 years older than I, sat across the aisle. Before the movie started, he said to me, "Heinfeld, you better go home - this movie is too scary for little kids." That startled me, but I was determined to stick it out.

Tuesday nights were family nights - kids, 10¢, and adults, 15¢. Thursday nights were "bank nights" - names of all New Bremen people would be put in a large drum and on Thursday nights, names would be drawn for prizes. The movie would be a western - maybe Gene Autry, but more often than not Dick Foran from Republic Studios. I think of Gene Autry today and of what he was able to do because he was in grade B westerns.

ROOSEVELT - New Bremen Sunday & Monday

"FOUR WIVES"

with Claude Rains,
Jeffrey Lynn, Eddie Albert, May Robson,
Frank McHugh, Dick Foran, Henry O'Neill

(N.B. Sun - 2/8/1940)

Tom Larkin, who obtained the theater from his brother, William, also shared his projectors with a theater in

Spencerville. This meant taking those large projectors out once a week, transporting them to Spencerville, and then bringing them back to New Bremen.

I don't remember when "sound movies" came to New Bremen (9/15/1929), but in October, 1934, Larkin had new "talking equipment" installed and advertised "sound at its very best." Talk about getting your money's worth - it was a double feature, "Wild Boys of the Road" and "A Very Honorable Guy" with Joe E. Brown.

On weekends, there were two shows a night starting at 7:00 p.m., with the second show lasting until about 11:00.

Ralph May, of course, wrote about entertainment at the old Boesel Opera House. This I have no knowledge of other than when I first went into it, it was in derelict condition - dirty and very smelly from disuse. Tafe Mueller told me that before New Bremen had a movie theater, a projector was brought into the Boesel Opera House and the original movie "Ben Hur" was shown to New Bremenites. (Robert G. Heinfeld - Ada, Ohio)

THEATRE IS RENAMED "ROOSEVELT THEATRE"

The Crown Theatre, re-decorated and with a new sound system and a new sound screen, will be re-opened Sunday evening, October 8, 1933, under the management of Wallace & Saunders, a Fort Wayne firm operating a string of theatres. The name of the showhouse has been changed to Roosevelt Theatre. The feature chosen for the re-opening is "Golden Harvest." It is understood the theatre will be open Sunday, Monday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. (N.B. Sun - 10/6/1933)

Legend has it that the Crown Theatre was re-named "Roosevelt Theatre" because owner Tom Larkin was a Democrat and a supporter of the new President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Theatre Leased by Middletown Man

The Roosevelt Theatre, closed for several months, will be re-opened this evening under new management. It was leased this week by Gust Chifos of Middletown, Ohio. New sound equipment has been installed and several other changes are contemplated by Mr. Chifos. (9/28/1934)

ROOSEVELT THEATRE - New Bremen

Friday & Saturday - Matinee Saturday at 2 p.m.
Children, 10¢ - Adults, 25¢

Special Admission Price to all High School Students
this Friday & Saturday only
10¢ - Matinee or Night

ZANE GREY'S

"The Last Round-up"

A Paramount Picture with
RANDOLPH SCOTT

(N.B. Sun - 9/28/1934)

FREE OUTDOOR MOVIES

Merchants Sponsor New Programs

The first program of the series of free shows sponsored by the merchants of New Bremen will be presented Wednesday evening, September 4, 1935, and the feature will be a Western picture, "Wild Horse", with Hoot Gibson and Stepin Fetchit with his mule. The shows will be offered on the postoffice lot (on West Monroe St.). There will be absolutely no admission charge or collection. Preceding the feature will be two shorts - a musical subject on Stephen Foster and a comedy cartoon, "The Haunted Ship."

The business men of New Bremen invite you to be their guests at these showings every Wednesday evening, furnished by C.S. Eldridge and Gail Twyman of the Alan B. Twyman Sound Film Library, Dayton.

(N.B. Sun - 8/30+9/6/1935)

Subsequent feature movies shown in this outdoor series were "Man's Best Friend" with the dog "Lightning", successor to "Rin Tin Tin"; "Pony Express" with Jack Hoxie and his wonder horse, "Dynamite"; and "Mystery Train" starring Nick Stuart, Marceline Day and Hedda Hopper. Short films usually included a musical or travel picture and a cartoon.

THEATRE RE-OPENS WITH NEW SCREEN

The Roosevelt Theatre was reopened this week, equipped with a new screen and improved acoustics, making it one of the best theatres in this area. A Will Rogers picture was chosen for the opening, while Shirley Temple will be featured tomorrow and Sunday in "Our Little Girl."

(N.B. Sun - 9/27/1935)



An aerial view of West Monroe St.

The Roosevelt Theatre, sometime between October, 1933 & January, 1945.

(Notice the billboard east of the theatre with the playbills attached to it.) .. Across the street from the theatre is the former freight house for the interurban, the white building with slanted roof at the lower center of the picture. Also visible are the 3 church steeples of St. Paul, St. Peter, Zion churches, and the bell-tower of the Northern Fire Department on North Main St.

ROOSEVELT THEATRE - New Bremen

"RHYTHM on the RANGE"

with

BING CROSBY, FRANCES FARMER
BOB BURNS, MARTHA RAYE

Wednesday & Thursday are New Bremen Nights

\$25.00

(N.B. Sun - 12/11/1936)

Air Conditioning Adds to Theatre's Popularity

Tom Larkin, manager of the local playhouse, is head and shoulders above most showmen when it comes to booking the right pictures at the right time. Most of the big box office attractions are seen in New Bremen just as soon as they are shown on the screens of the large metropolitan theatres.

These warm summer days and evenings, when the mercury is soaring in the 90s, are making the Roosevelt Theatre doubly popular because of its newly installed air conditioning system. Receiving its severest test this week since it was installed several months ago, the air conditioning system is performing perfectly.

A large unit for washing the air by means of an extremely fine spray of water is installed in the basement. After being washed and cooled, the air is drawn over a baffle board which traps all surplus water and then is driven by a huge fan into conduits leading into the theatre. Other conduits remove the used air, making it possible to change the air in the entire building every two minutes. On the hottest days a difference of 25-30° can be maintained between the outside & inside temperature. If it is 95° outside, the theatre can offer absolute comfort by holding its temperature between 65° & 70°.

(N.B. Sun - 7/9/1937)

Tom Larkin, manager of the Roosevelt Theatre, is all set to play host tomorrow afternoon to hundreds of New Bremen children at his annual Christmas theatre party. The party will be free, with everything on the house, and will be open to children of grade school age and under.

(12/23/1937)

Whenever Tom Larkin begins to tear things up around the Roosevelt Theatre, it may be taken for granted that he is contemplating changes that are bound to add to the general attractiveness of the showhouse. He has had a group of men at work for several days removing what once were artistic decorations on the front of the theatre, and by the time he gets through, the Roosevelt will have one of the finest decorated fronts of any playhouse in these parts.

(N.B. Sun - 5/16/1940)

ROOSEVELT THEATRE GUTTED BY FIRE!

Smith's Variety Store Also Greatly Damaged

Perhaps one of the most disastrous and costly fires to visit New Bremen in more than a decade occurred at about 9:00 p.m. Sunday evening, January 14, 1945, at the Roosevelt Picture Show owned and operated by Tom Larkin of St. Marys.

Just a few moments after the close of the first showing of "Our Hearts Were Young And Gay" and while visitors were still coming in for the second show, the alarm "Fire" was sounded when in some unaccountable manner the rewinding film had caught fire and in a moment the projection booth was one mass of flames.

Requested by the management to leave the show house in an orderly manner, the visitors in a short time vacated the theatre which was fast filling with smoke. Mrs. Larkin and daughter Kathleen were trapped in the balcony, the flames cutting off their approach to the stairway, and it became necessary for them to leap over the railing to the lower floor where they were caught by several strong men. Kathleen escaped uninjured while her mother sustained painful, though not dangerous, cuts on the head.

The local fire department was quickly upon the scene, but for some time was unable to get near the fire because of the billows of smoke issuing from every door and every vent while the flames were eating their way through the space between the metal ceiling and the composition roof.

The partition wall between the theatre and the Smith store, evidently not cutting off access of smoke and water from one room to the other, caused the adjoining 5 & 10¢ store to soon become smoke-filled, forbidding entrance on the part of the employees. (see Smith article on pg. 11)

After trying vainly to get at the fire from the outside, the firemen began valiantly endeavoring to gain entrance through either wall or roof, when the flames broke out at the rear of the building, threatening to attack the 5 & 10¢ store and jeopardizing Mrs. Lizzie Schelper's residence and other buildings in the block.

About midnight, it was deemed advisable to send the SOS call to Minster and to St. Marys. Both departments arrived without loss of time and lent much assistance in throwing streams of water on the burning cauldron which now had become exposed. The firemen under Chief John Scheer, the air raid wardens under Captain Frank Park, and ever so many volunteers did all in their power to overcome the demon before more exceeding damage could be wrought. The work of the firemen ceased between 2:00 and 3:00 Monday morning, though some did not leave the scene of the conflagration until later.

Mgr. Larkin only a few months ago had installed much new equipment and furnishings, which is now all a mass of ruins. The main floor and the floor coverings and seats were not touched by the flames, but smoke and water wrought ruin to all. The Roosevelt was acknowledged one of the finest and best equipped picture shows in these

parts. The loss, which is estimated as exceeding \$10,000, is only partly covered by insurance. It will be many months before the theatre can be rehabilitated, if at all.

The firefighters are grateful to Mrs. Irma Landwehr of Louie's Restaurant, assisted by Miss Rosemary Landwehr and by several other ladies, for passing out piping hot coffee to the men who were manifestly suffering with cold after being exposed for so many hours.

Frank Park's Air Raid Wardens and a group of the Boy Scouts assisted in directing traffic and kept a lookout from advantageous points for possible brands (burning embers) which might have added to the conflagration, and they were praised for their efforts. (N.B. Sun - 1/18/1945)

Village Council Meeting Focuses on Recent Fire

The meeting of the village council Tuesday evening was fraught with much business pertaining to the fire department. Fire Chief John Scheer, Civilian Defense Captain Frank Park and Thomas Larkin were visitors, having been invited to be present by Mayor Reuben Dickman. The principal business of the evening revolved around the disastrous theatre fire Sunday night and the needs of the fire department in the way of improved equipment.

Chief Scheer pointed out that better equipment is needed in the way of masks, coats, boots, hats, etc., whereupon the mayor instructed the fire committee composed of Elmer Kellermeyer, Francis MacWhinney and Arnold Luedeke to take up the matter in joint session with the fire laddies and procure the necessary equipment.

[A 2/8/1945 letter to N.B. Sun Editor, E.G. Conradi, pointed out that when the St. Marys Fire Dept. came upon request for help, their hose couplings did not fit the local department's fire plug couplings, and since the St. Marys men did not bring their reducers along, it was impossible to get their apparatus in action.]

Firemen's salary and meeting place accommodations were discussed. Also, mention was made that firemen's accoutrements to be kept on the fire truck at all times, such as boots, etc., have been known to have been removed for days at a time by well-meaning men who believed they had justified use for them as "there was no fire anyway." (N.B. Sun - 1/18/1945)

Pictures To Be Shown At School Auditorium

The officers and other members of the local P.T.A. have perfected arrangements whereby weekly Saturday night picture shows will be given at the High School auditorium, to be continued while the local picture show house is undergoing rehabilitation.

Undoubtedly, many of the younger folks who are desirous of seeing moving pictures once a week will stay here and patronize the local effort instead of going to neighboring towns for that purpose. (N.B. Sun - 3/8/1945)

Rebuilding of Roosevelt Theatre

Mgr. Tom Larkin is sparing neither pain nor expense in bringing the new theatre building up to modern lines. There will be an extension to the north, making room for a more spacious stage, and a wing is to be erected along Monroe St. towards the east, adding almost as much space as the rear addition. The east wing will contain the entrance and the lobby, while the old building will be arranged altogether as an auditorium. (N.B. Sun - 5/3/1945)



THE NEW BREMEN THEATRE

After having been closed for rebuilding and remodeling for about 10 months following the disastrous fire of January 14, 1945, the former Roosevelt Theatre was reopened to the public last evening, November 7th, with the showing of the technicolor film, "Bring On The Girls." The enlarging of the theatre provides more stage room and balcony space, also a new entrance and lobby. The renaming of the theatre to "The New Bremen" has struck public accord. (N.B. Sun - 11/1+8/1945)

Coming Attractions "Screen"

Activity up on the roof of the new addition to the New Bremen Theatre for the past several weeks has attracted the attention of many a passerby. Now that the chore is finished, pictures frequently appear in the evenings on the large flat metal rectangular screen, mystifying those who drive by as to where the pictures are coming from. The credit for the job belongs to electrician Carl Luelleman, who knows all the ins and outs of the contraption, having been the principal mechanic in planning and fitting the thing together. Custodian Charles Weinberg was a valuable assistant to Mr. Luelleman. (N.B. Sun - 12/4+11/1947)

How Did It Work?

According to Richard Luelleman, brother of Carl, and a one-time projectionist at the theatre, a rubber-coated electrical cord was run from the theatre under the street (through the creek tunnel) and up to the former freight house building. A projector was set up in the freight building and slides of up-coming movies were then projected onto the screen at the top of the new theatre.

Dick & Ruth Luelleman both worked at the theatre when they were in high school - Dick as a projectionist for \$1.00 per day + \$1.00 for a matinee, and Ruth ushered and sold tickets for 25¢ a day.

Theatre Sold To Sun Printing Company

The Sun Printing Co., publishers of the *New Bremen Sun* and the *Sun-Shopper*, recently acquired the once-upon-a-time theatre building on West Monroe St. [The last movies to be advertised for the "New Bremen Theatre" were for Friday, Saturday, Sunday - March 25, 26, 27, 1955.] The old flooring has been ripped out and steel beams have been set in place in the process of changing the old slanted floor to a level one.

The building was purchased from James F. Dicke, who had purchased it only 30 days before with a view to using it for Crown Controls, of which Mr. Dicke is president. However, after purchasing the theatre from the Schmidt Theatre chain of Celina and Minster, Dicke abandoned plans to use the building for manufacturing purposes. (N.B. Sun - 8/25/1955)

Senior Citizens Purchase Former Theatre

On March 20, 1969, 10 elderly people (over 60) met at the home of Mr. / Mrs. Cornelius Heinfeld to organize the New Bremen Senior Citizens. Their first meeting was held May 28th at the Rod & Gun Club, with 67 in attendance. By 9/1/1969, the charter membership of 150 felt the need of a centrally located, handicapped-accessible meeting place, with ample parking space. The former movie theatre building at 10-12 West Monroe St. had been unoccupied by the Bielefeld Printing Co. (formerly Sun Printing Co.) for a number of years and was in a deplorable condition, but it had possibilities, so the building was purchased from the owner, Roger Henkener.

With much planning, the building was remodeled and renovated, all work being done by volunteers, except for the plumbing and electrical work. The building was dedicated on May 12, 1972.

Sr. Citizens & Crown Equipment Trade Buildings

On October 9, 1995, a trade was proposed by Crown Equipment Corp. - they would provide a new building for the Senior Citizens in exchange for the theatre location. On December 8, 1996, this exchange became a reality and the Senior Citizens moved into their new home at 700 East Monroe St.

Crown Equipment Corp. is now reinforcing and remodeling the old theatre building. Maybe one day we will again have a "Crown Theatre" in New Bremen???



Senior Citizens Building at 10-12 West Monroe St.



N.J. Smith's Ben Franklin 5 & 10¢ Store at 16 W. Monroe St. - 1940
Clerks: Alma Kuest & Hulda Wiehe

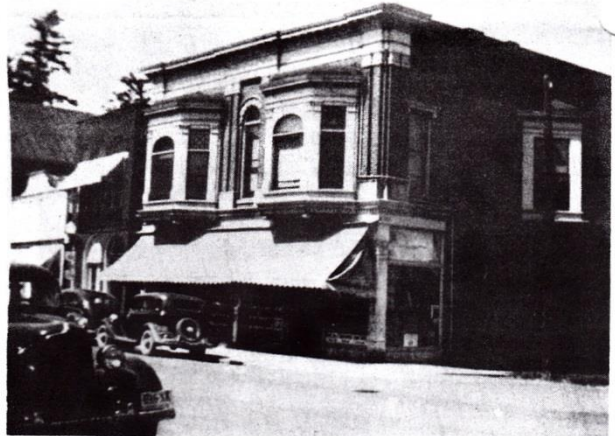
NEW BREMEN'S 5 & 10¢ STORE

New Store Opens Next Week

The Schwaberow Grocery Store building on West Monroe Street was leased this week by G. Smith of Coldwater, who plans to open a 5 & 10¢ store here. Mr. Smith probably will assume management of the store, leaving his brother in charge of the Coldwater store.

Carpenters are now at work altering the old fixtures and installing new shelving in the Schwaberow building. The stock will arrive next week. (N.B. Sun - 9/9/1926)

Paul Kettler, for the past several months in charge of the N.J. Smith Store in Versailles, will return to New Bremen next week to again become manager of the local Smith Store at the corner of West Monroe and Water Streets. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kettler. John Frank, present manager of the store here, will be transferred to Versailles. (N.B. Sun - 3/14/1929)



(1939 photo courtesy of Alma Kuest)

N.J. Smith Store - 102-104 W. Monroe, formerly Henry Schwaberow's Grocery Store. (Notice the scale in front of the store.) The upstairs was used as a residence by Mr. & Mrs. Schwaberow and later as apartments. To the left of the Smith Store was the Kroger Store and to the left of that was Melville ("Plucky") Laut's Jewelry Store.

[NOTE: Henry Schwaberow built this store and moved into it (from across the street) on 11/5/1898. He died on 9/6/1925. Henry's wife, Laura (Wulfeck) was a sister to Mrs. Louis (Emme Wulfeck) Huenke and she died in January, 1934. Her niece, Mrs. Harry (Gertrude Huenke) Komminsk, then came into possession of the former Schwaberow Store.]

SMITH'S

Announce the Opening of their
New 5 and 10¢ Store
With Variety Departments
 located one door east of Kroger's Grocery
ON SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 25, 1926
 At 9 o'clock

SPECIALS FOR OPENING DAY

10 Qt. Galvanized WATER PAILS.....	10¢ Each
10 Qt. Gray Granite DISH PANS.....	9¢ Each
[With a Purchase of \$1.00 or More]	
Extra Large Pieces of ENAMELWARE.....	Only 19¢
Large White DINNER PLATES.....	Only 9¢
Heavy WHITE CUPS.....	Only 9¢
SAUCERS to Match.....	Only 4¢
White and Colored OILCLOTH.....	Only 25¢
54 inch Wide Damask TABLE OILCLOTHS.....	Only 29¢
24 x 54 inch RAG RUGS.....	69¢
Good Quality HOUSE BROOMS.....	29¢
Large Size TURKISH TOWELS.....	Only 15¢
PHONOGRAPH RECORDS.....	3 for \$1.00



←LEFT: The Laut-Schulenberg building on West Monroe St. before undergoing alterations in 1939. The building at far left was occupied by Crown Cleaners and Jim Taylor's Photography Studio. (See the January, 2001 issue of *The Towpath* for another view.) The Schwaberow building is across the street (Water St.) Notice the sign at the end of the Roosevelt Theatre canopy - "Bank is 200.00." This apparently refers to the theatre's "bank night." (See Bob Heinfeld's article, etc. about the theatre on pages 6-7.)

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N.J. SMITH PURCHASES AUDITORIUM BLOCK Ben Franklin Store to be Transferred On October 1st, 1939

N.J. Smith of Coldwater became the owner last Friday (June 30, 1939) of the former Laut Auditorium block on West Monroe St. which has been occupied during the past months by Mr. Stonerock's Yacht Club. The building was purchased from the First National Bank and has been on the market for a long time without finding a buyer, evidently because the purchase price was considered too large. It is believed the sum paid is one of the largest paid for real estate in New Bremen for some time.

Mr. Smith has operated the Ben Franklin Store in the Mrs. Komminsk building (the former Schwaberow block) at West Monroe and Water Streets for a number of years (since September, 1926.) He also operates a similar store in his home town of Coldwater. The New Bremen store is under the management of Arthur Theis.

The Laut-Schulenberg building was erected originally in order to furnish a room of sufficient dimensions to be used for public gatherings and civic exhibitions.

The auditorium was used by the N.B.H.S. athletic department from November, 1915 until the new high school building was erected in 1929-1930. It became owned by Ehrhardt and Elvin Hespe, who operated the Hespe Brothers Garage and Taxi Service and used it as an automobile display room in the 1920s, including for Dr. W.J. Stappe's Chevrolet Agency. It was used as a public dance hall (Hespe's Hall), and as a night club and lunch room (Shanghai Gardens and the Yacht Club.)

(N.B. Sun - 7/7/1939)

FLOOR SHOW at SHANGHAI GARDENS Every Thursday Night

DANCING - Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun. Nights

(N.B. Sun - 9/27/1935)

"I think a Mr. Henry Snethkamp operated the Shanghai Gardens. He had a son named Carl Snethkamp who lives near St. Marys." (Alma Kuest)

N.J. Smith this week placed a force of men to work changing the front of his business block on West Monroe St. which he recently purchased from the First National Bank. A heavy steel beam is being placed over the entrance and show windows and the center entrance will be altered into two entrances - one on each side, with a large show window in the center. The interior is to be equipped with modern and serviceable fixtures. The chore is expected to be finished and the transfer of stock to be made by Oct. 1st. (N.B. Sun - 9/7/1939)



ABOVE: N.J. Smith's Ben Franklin 5 & 10¢ Store, next to the Roosevelt Theatre, after remodeling of the front in 1939, with new entrances and show windows. Clerk Hulda Wiehe is standing in front. (Pics provided by Alma Kuest.)

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SMITH'S VARIETY STORE

Greatly Damaged By Smoke and Water From Fire Originating in Roosevelt Theatre

When the Roosevelt Theatre suffered a disastrous fire at about 9.00 p.m. on Sunday evening, January 14, 1945 (see the article about the theatre fire on page 8), N.J. Smith's 5 & 10¢ Store also suffered much smoke damage, the partition wall between the theatre and the Smith store evidently not cutting off access of smoke and water from one room to the other.

Mr. Smith, who had hurried over from Coldwater, and his employee, Miss Hulda Wiehe, tried to enter the store to remove the cash contents, but were unable to proceed until a smoke mask was obtained by Mr. Smith. The ceiling and walls were greatly damaged by smoke and seeping water and the greater part of the merchandise was damaged so that little could be salvaged. (Fire sales were held in Feb.-Mar. to dispose of the damaged items.)

(N.B. Sun - 1/18+2/8+2/15+3/1/1945)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STORE SOLD

The Benjamin Franklin Store owned by N.J. Smith of Coldwater was sold to J.W. Johnston of Fort Wayne, Indiana on Monday, August 26, 1946. Mr. Johnston also has stores in Fort Wayne and New Haven, Indiana. Mr. Smith plans to devote his entire time to his business in Coldwater.

The New Bremen store will remain under the management of Luther ("Jack") Hirschfeld, who has been in charge for the past six years.

During Mr. Hirschfeld's 2 years of service in the Navy during W.W. II, business was carried on by Miss Hulda Wiehe and Miss Alma Kuest, his efficient and capable clerks, and other assistants. (N.B. Sun - 8/29/1946)

In August, 1949, Luther Hirschfeld, manager of Johnston's 5 & 10¢ Store, was admitted to St. Rita's Hospital in Lima, Ohio as a polio patient. After several months he had greatly improved, however he desired to have outdoor work which he thought might be of greater benefit to his condition.

In January, 1950, he relinquished his position as manager of the 5 & 10¢ Store and purchased the Sohio Service Station across the street at the corner of Washington and Monroe Streets, which had been operated by Robert Klose.

In February, 1950, J.W. Johnston sold the store (business?) to Howard T. Warren of Greenville, Ohio. Mr. Warren also purchased the store at Minster. The name was changed to "H.T. Warren 5¢ to \$1.00 Stores." Mr. Gerald Henninger became the new manager. He and his wife, Martha, lived in an apartment at 28½ South Main St. (the home of Mrs. Ed Wehrman, later the home of Mayor Richard & Louise Wiedeman.)

On July 1, 1953, the Henningers left New Bremen to manage a store in Oak Harbor, Ohio. Howard Warren's son, Wally, became the new manager. (by Alma Kuest)



In June, 1965, the H.T. Warren Store went out of business & was sold to Dennis and Edith Klingler. They operated under the name of N.B.O. Variety Store for 10 years, until 1975. Since no buyer could be found for the business, the Klinglers sold off their merchandise, ending a business that had existed for nearly 50 years.

The building which housed the 5 & 10¢ Store for about 35 years, from 1940-1975, is now owned by Crown Equipment Corp. which has converted it to company offices.

SMITH'S VARIETY STORE SPECIALS - May, 1935

New Shirley Temple BIG-LITTLE BOOKS.....	10¢
ICE CREAM.....	Pint 14¢ - 2 Cones 5¢
CANDY: Chocolate Drops, Orange Slices.....	10¢/lb.
Men's Cowboy Style OVERALLS (Irregulars).....	59¢
Men's SHIRTS & SHORTS.....	15¢, 19¢, 25¢
Ladies' BLOUSES.....	59¢-\$1.00
Ladies' RAYON BLOOMERS & PANTIES.....	25¢-59¢
BRASSIERES.....	10¢, 15¢, 25¢
9 x 12 CONGOLEUM RUGS.....	\$4.95
Palmolive TOILET SOAP.....	4¢/Bar



Hulda Wiehe at the candy counter in December, 1949.

[Hulda Wiehe worked at the 5 & 10¢ Store for many years. She had also clerked at The Arcade Department Store, and after leaving the 5 & 10¢ Store, she clerked at the Garman Dry Goods Store. Hulda passed away in January, 1971 at the age of 73.]

←LEFT: Alma Kuest in rear of the store in Dec., 1949.

[Alma Kuest worked at the 5 & 10¢ Store for 19 years - from 1935 to 1954, when she quit working full time to stay home on the family farm and care for her ill mother.]

The N.J. Smith Ben Franklin Store went through a period of cleaning, scrubbing, painting and re-decorating after the fire of January, 1945 and was set to re-open in March 1945 - a few days before Easter. Smoke-damaged goods were auctioned off by Hirschfeld & Mallory, auctioneers.

From the Mailbox....

New Bremen Historic Association: 1/16/2001
Enclosed is my check to renew my subscription to *The Towpath* for 2001. I haven't forgotten that I owe Tom Braun a copy of my genealogy. Now a retiree, I hope to have time to finalize it in the next couple of months. I really appreciate Tom's tour of the museum last November. I was accompanied by my cousin, Kathleen Wilson. It was a very memorable experience for both of us.
Sincerely, David Walters - Hendersonville, NC

Dear Ms. Francis: 2/4/2001
I'm enclosing my yearly dues with thanks for your hard work on *The Towpath*. You do a fine job and I enjoy reading it very much. At \$10 a year it is still a bargain.

I was pleased to discover in the January 2001 issue several articles on the Künning family. The one on the Mohrman/Künning golden wedding was completely new to me. I have a picture of Lucy (Künning) Mohrman - she was the older sister of my great-grandfather, Court Henry Künning (of Boesel & Künning fame.)

According to family oral history, my great-great-grandfather, Herman Heinrich Künning, was the first Künning to come to New Bremen in 1835. However, records show that he was not in fact the first. The "Actum Cincinnati" dated July 23, 1832, lists a Johann Heinrich Künning (#26) as one of the original 33 immigrants. He was assigned Lots #11 & #58 in the original plat of New Bremen as shown on the map on pages 10-11 of the red 1983 sesquicentennial book.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Land Tax Records for 1838-1839-1840 show the owner of Lots #11 & #58 as John B. Behrens. On pages 10-11 of the January, 2001 issue of "The Towpath", I stated that Herman Henry Künning was the son of Anna Margaretha Künning and Johann Herman Behrens. The family took the name of Künning because Anna Margaretha had a larger dowry than her husband, Johann Herman Behrens.]

Land records indicate that Johann Heinrich Künning owned farm land just east of town, and birth records show that a daughter was born to him and his wife in New Bremen, however no death records seem to exist for this man or his wife.

If anyone else has gathered information about the Künning family history, I would like to hear from you.

Molly Künning Brown - 3020 Dublin Arbor Lane - Dublin, OH 43017

I am enclosing membership dues for 2001 & 2002. I always look forward to *The Towpath*. Many of the pictures and stories I can relate to. I have a collection of almost 100 postcards of New Bremen and Lock Two. I would very much like to find a picture of the dance pavilion at Kuenning's Grove.

I do the "Looking Backward" column for the *Wapakoneta Daily News* - 75, 50, & 25 years ago. I am enclosing some articles that may be of interest to you.

Vernon Doenges - Wapakoneta, Ohio (2/4/2001)

Enclosed is my check for 2001 dues. I look forward to *The Towpath* and I discuss the contents (along with our memories) via A.T. & T. with my sister, JoAnn (Dietrich) Mackenbach, who lives in California. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Jane (Dietrich) Douglas - Kendallville, Indiana (2/6/2001)

Dear Lucille: 2/6/2001
I was delighted with the January, 2001 issue of *The Towpath*. I'm sending a copy to Dad's cousin, William Kuenzel, of Connecticut - he is Leroy Kuenzel's son.

I'm always on the lookout for more Kuenzel blankets. I plan on checking out those Springfield antique malls again. My dad found one at Springfield a couple of months after I found mine. The blanket fever is catching!

Thanks again for all your hard work and help on the Kuenzels of New Bremen. I really appreciate it very much!

Sincerely, Fritz N. Kuenzel - Norwalk, Ohio

Ruth (Gilberg) Ritter says that she still has the Kuenzel Mills blanket given to her and Paul when they were married on August 27, 1936. The blanket was given to the wedding couple by Ruth's father, Fred Gilberg.

Dear Lucy: 2/13/2001
Your research about the past history of New Bremen's Woolen Mills and Flour Mills was excellent. The articles in the January, 2001 issue make good reference materials as do all of your previous *Towpath* reporting.

I can tell you a story about the Bakhaus & Kuenzels Flour Mill that may be of interest. It was handed down through the families of my great-grandfather, Fred Bakhaus. My great-grandfather took loads of the mill's Gold Lace flour to Chicago in the late 1800s with a team of horses and a wagon. He informed his family that he had distributed the flour to the area that is now the heart of Chicago.

Incidentally, the photo (on page 7) showing the display of the "New Bremen blankets" was a display in the windows of the Arcade Department Store, not the Kuenzel Mills building.

Keep up the good reporting.

Robert G. Heinfeld - Ada, Ohio

Kuenzel Mills Blanket Display Picture

The picture of the window display of the New Bremen blankets, etc. on page 7 of the January, 2001 issue was said to be the display window of The Kuenzel Mills Co. retail store. I am told that this display was actually in the window of the Arcade Department Store across the street from Kuenzel Mills (see above letter.) On closer inspection of the picture, several "sheep" can be seen - 3 at the very center of the picture and 1 at the bottom of the center window. I wonder if any of these promotional "sheep" still exist???

Dear Ms. Francis:

2/8/2001

I am a great-granddaughter of one of the "founding fathers" of New Bremen, Karl/Charles Boesel. My grandfather, Frank Tilden Boesel (Charles' son by his third marriage) gave a speech at one of the programs celebrating New Bremen's centennial in 1933. I have a complete program of that celebration and copies of *The New Bremen Sun* and *The Dayton Daily News* containing articles about the event. The complete text of my grandfather's speech is included in *The New Bremen Sun*. (He was not a man of few words!)

I enjoy reading *The Towpath* and getting a sense of the history and flavor of New Bremen. I want to add my thanks for all your efforts and prose printed in the January, 2001 publication.

Beth (Ivins) Sauerland - Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Dear Lucille:

2/10/2001

I especially enjoyed the article on the Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. in the January, 2001 issue of *The Towpath*. My sister, Jane (Coss) and I walked to that mill from our home in the former Julius Boesel house on Knoxville Ave. (see the October, 1998 issue of *The Towpath*) to purchase what was then called "Germmeal", a meal ground from the wheat germ which made a very tasty cooked cereal. Today I believe it is referred to as Farina.

I still enjoy *The Towpath* even though there are not many left in my generation.

Sincerely,

Raeanna S. (Coss) Summerill - Lancaster, Wisconsin

Dear Lucille:

2/12/2001

Thank you for all your good work in serving as Editor of *The Towpath*. I was especially interested in the January, 2001 issue. Growing up, I had heard about the blanket and flour mills in New Bremen from my father, Wilbur John Garmhausen. Mostly I had heard his remembrances of the Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. in little Lock Two where he grew up.

That community was thick with Garmhausens then. His father, Charles, worked and lived there as did his grandfather, John, and two uncles, Florenz and Ben. John and Maria (Strasburg) Garmhausen, buried at German Protestant Cemetery, were my great-grandparents.

In addition to the mill, there was also a clothing store in Lock Two. Until my father died in April, 1996, we would often enjoy a drive over to Lock Two and New Bremen from his home in Chillicothe, Ohio to trim the graves and to check on the remaining buildings in Lock Two. Dad had such good memories of these two towns.

I would be very interested in any artifacts, memorabilia, or accounts relating to the Lock Two Mill or Lock Two Store. If anyone has any such items, I would appreciate it if you would contact me.

Sincerely,

Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter
94 Southlawn Ave.
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
(e-mail: skhunter@webtv.net)
Phone: (914) 693-0552

From a new member:

2/11/2001

I was born in New Bremen on February 12, 1927, and am the son of Elton Schulenberg and Mildred Vornholt. I have many relatives in the New Bremen area and was ~~la~~ there in May, 2000 for the funeral of my sister, Jean (Schulenberg) Dunbrook. I have a brother, Ted, in Kerrville, Texas, who is also a lifetime subscriber to *The Towpath*. William E. Schulenberg - Nokomis, Florida

Dear Lucille:

2/12/2001

I just wanted you to know what fun it is to see old friends' names in *The Towpath*. Mary Ellen Taylor and I were "New Bremen Cards" cheerleaders back in the 40s. I wonder if she is still doing cartwheels!

☺ Lois McCune - Gaylord, Michigan

On the afternoon of February 22nd, I was pleasantly surprised by a visit from Wilbert & Ethel (Ahlers) Sudman, who wanted to sign up for *The Towpath* for a year and also to relate that theirs was the first wedding dance to be held at Kuenning's Grove on September 8, 1932. Their attendants were Arnold Luedeke and Norma Heinfeld. [Arnold and Norma (Heinfeld) Luedeke were the parents of our own secretary and special events chairman, Drusilla (Luedeke) Meyer.]

Members of the band that played for the wedding dance were Emil J. Topp on guitar, Henry Landwehr on violin, Clem Stienecker of New Knoxville on saxophone, and a Mrs. Schmidt from St. Marys on piano. Ferd Ahler (Ethel's cousin) called the square dances.

The Sudmans said that the second wedding dance to be held at the Grove was that of Paul E. Dicke & Fentrus ("Bill") May on June 21, 1934.

Wilbert also remembers that he attended the Dicke reunions when they were held at Kuenning's Grove.

[When the Sudmans celebrated their 20th anniversary in 1952, they had a barn dance at their farm. I was present for that occasion.]

Lucille Francis, Editor

Edward and Fredonia (Brueggeman) Sudman entertained nearly 125 guests at a reception on Friday evening, February 5, 1932, in observance of their 25th wedding anniversary. Music for the reception and dance, which was held in the Lock Two Hall (above Garmhausen's Store), was by the Happy Trio - Mel Weinmiller of Wapakoneta on banjo and piano, Emil Topp on guitar and "harp" (harmonica), and Henry Landwehr on violin. Mr. & Mrs. Sudman were married on February 7, 1907 by Rev. Ph. Wittich. (They were the parents of Alferd, Wilbert and Willis Sudman.) (N.B. *Sun* - 2/12/1932)

NOTE: In the fall of 1999, Wilbert and Ethel Sudman donated to the museum a full-page "reduction sale" advertisement of the Garmhausen Store in Lock Two dated November, 1916. This ad had belonged to Wilbert's parents, Ed & "Donie" Sudman. A copy was sent to Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter (see letter in left column.)

Dear Tom & Lucille,

3/7/2001

My wife Margaret and I want to thank you both for a very pleasant afternoon on Tuesday, March 6th. We enjoyed your town and your museum. I have read your January, 2001 newsletter and surely do not know how you put it out and support your museum on \$10 memberships. We hope to see you again.

Robert Terwillegar
Milford, Ohio

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Terwillegars were in town to settle the estate of his cousin, Mary Louise Oberwite, of Cincinnati. Mary Louise had willed a bowl to Helen (Kellermeyer) Dammeyer of New Bremen, whose grandmother, Florentine (Oberwite) Rabe, was a 1/2-sister to Mary Louise's father, John Henry Oberwite. Since Helen had also passed away less than three weeks after Mary Louise, it was somewhat of a mystery to the administrators of their wills as to their relationship. Tom and I were glad to be of help and were pleased to be able to meet with the Terwillegars and Helen's attorney, Steve Smith.

3/7/2001

Enclosed is my 2001 membership dues for *The Towpath*. My aunt, Ruth McKay (my father's sister), sent me a complimentary copy of the January, 2001 issue. I enjoy hearing any news from my home town of New Bremen. Thank you.

Theresa Sue (McKay) Ford
Limestone, Tennessee

Lucille,

3/10/2001

Enclosed is a check for dues and *The Towpath* subscription for 2001. I really enjoyed reading the January, 2001 issue. The articles are very interesting and bring back lots of memories. Thanks again.

Beverly (Moeller) Wilt - Anna, Ohio

Curators Corner

We have received many items since our summer, 2000 visitation period ended. These items are now on display in the Curators Corner and will later be distributed throughout the museum, when other new items will take their place. Some of the new arrivals are:

N.B.H.S. Dedication & Open House program, 8/22/1999

N.B.H.S. 50-year reunion book (Class of 1950)

Classic American Bicycle book.

Variety of other books.

Variety of pictures.

Death Notice & Envelope (in German, edged in black)

for Friedrich Ludwig Luedeke, dated 4/23/1904.

Piano recital programs & prize cards -

Loretta Herkenhoff, teacher.

W.W.II Ration Book, Sugar Purchase certificate, etc.

End of W.W.II. worship program - St. Paul Church.

"I.F. Wissman" nail apron.

Baby clothes worn by Russell Podoll.

White linen tablecloth owned by Mrs. Emil Kuenning.

We hope to see you this summer, June - August, 2001.

Delores Stienecker & Joyce Holdren, Curators

WHERE IS IT?

When John Dickman came to New Bremen the afternoon of March 19th to give a slide presentation at our annual dinner of his visits to Germany, he took a drive through town and passed by the site of the old swimming pool on Plum St., which had been demolished in September, 2000. He was wondering what had become of the bronze plaque that had been attached to the inside wall at the entrance to the bath house and hoped that it had been preserved.

The plaque commemorated the construction of New Bremen's first pool in 1938-1940 and bore the names of the architect, the construction company, influential people of New Bremen whose vision brought the pool to reality, the village council, and then mayor, Reuben H. Dickman, John's father. John, himself, held a summer job in the early 1950s as manager of the pool.

John wrote a letter of inquiry to the present mayor, Robert E. Klein, and Mayor Klein responded as follows:

"Yes, the old municipal pool was demolished, but the village did save the bronze dedication plaque and the WPA sign from the front of the building. This bronze dedication plaque needed to be restored to its original luster, so we consulted with a company that restores bronze and I am happy to report that this plaque looks as good as new! Today, it is located in the hallway of our new (1998) community pool, mounted beside our new pool's dedication plaque. Having it located at our new pool provides our community with remembrance and continuity to our first municipal pool. I can assure you that our community has much pride and respect for our forefathers. Therefore, I also believe it is wise to preserve this history for future generations."

Sincerely, Robert E. Klein, Mayor

EDITOR'S NOTE: Former mayor, Reuben Dickman, will be 99 years old on May 23rd and lives in Orlando, Florida. He is planning to attend our summer picnic again this year on Sunday, June 3rd. [He also attended last year's picnic.]

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this quarter:

In memory of Herman A. & Esther (Vornholt) Freytag
by Richard Freytag

In memory of Dorothea (Vitz) Schroer
by Rev. Richard P. Vitz

In memory of Robert Wilson & Sally (Wilson) Fischer
by James Wilson

Bulk Mailing Rates

As the January issue of *The Towpath* was being prepared for mailing, it was discovered that we had been given the wrong information about a change in bulk mailing rates. We were given the rate schedule for regular mail instead of the "non-profit" rate schedule. Therefore there was not such a drastic change in bulk mailing charges as was first indicated.

N.B.H.A. ANNUAL DINNER

"NEW BREMEN AND ITS GERMAN ROOTS" Lauterecken in the Rheinland Pfalz

Our annual dinner was held on Monday, March 19th in the Faith Alliance Church fellowship hall. A delicious and bountiful dinner cooked by Mrs. Ruth Krieg, consisting of baked marinated chicken, scalloped potatoes, California blend, cole slaw, and German chocolate cake was served at 6:30 p.m. to a group of approximately 170 people.

Following the dinner, we adjourned to the church sanctuary for an interesting and educational slide presentation given by John Dickman of Columbus, with additional "color commentary" given by our genealogist, Tom Braun. John showed various slides taken on his and his wife Sue's visits to Germany to visit their son Bill, his wife and their two sons. Bill has been there for 16 years.

John's topics included the altar and the organ which had been donated by the Boesels to the Protestant church built in Lauterecken in the 1700s through the efforts of Johann Joachim Boesel, great-grandfather of Charles/Carl Boesel, one of New Bremen's most influential immigrants.

When Johann Joachim Boesel donated the black marble altar table to the newly built church, the congregation, in appreciation, had his name, Johann Joachim Bösell, and the year, ANNO 1748, carved in the edges of the altar. John showed several slides of the altar and said that it is still being used for baptisms.

The church had an organ which bore the inscription, "Presented by Carl Boesel, New Bremen, O., U.S.A." After presenting the organ in 1867, Carl Boesel is said to have then presented a pretzel to every school child on Easter Sunday, a practice that was kept up until his death in 1885. John said that this organ was used until about 1960. He showed a slide of the present organ that replaced it.

These are especially significant pieces of John's heritage, since Johann Joachim Boesel was John's gr-gr-gr-grandfather.

Tom and Ginny Braun also made a trip to Germany last year and Tom shared some of his impressions of their trip and showed where many of New Bremen's German immigrants came from. Tom also commented that above the crosses on some of the church steeples are roosters. This is to signify that Peter denied Christ three times before the rooster crowed.

John showed several road signs and explained what they said. His German pronunciations were fun to listen to. Also of interest was his description of the autobahn and the three lanes of traffic - the right lane for slower vehicles, the middle lane for fast traffic (80-90 mph), and the left lane for "racetrack" speeds up to 150 mph.

After the program, several members of the audience asked questions and made comments. The evening proved to be another successful "hometown" presentation.

(by Lucille Francis)

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 3/31/2001)

02/05/2001	Baker, Joy (Heil) - Cleveland, Ohio
02/09/2001	Black, Richard - New Bremen
03/15/2001	Dicke, Roger - New Knoxville, Ohio
02/13/2001	Dietrich, Robert (LM) - New Bremen
03/03/2001	Eiting, Tim - New Bremen (Re-joined)
03/20/2001	Ferguson, Carole (Dicke) - Sandusky, Ohio
02/07/2001	Finke, Mary (Holdren) - New Bremen
01/22/2001	Fogel, Barbara (Luedeke) - Medina, Ohio
03/09/2001	Ford, Theresa (McKay) - Limestone, Tennessee
02/03/2001	Gagel, Lynn - Indianapolis, Indiana
02/07/2001	Gormley, Betty Jo (Schwieterman)-Annapolis, MD
02/15/2001	Gossette, LaRose (Dicke) - Fresno, CA (Re-joined)
02/17/2001	Harris, Morris Niles - Deadwood, South Dakota
03/14/2001	Heitkamp, Dennis - New Bremen
01/22/2001	Henry, Judy (Luedeke) - New Bremen
02/06/2001	Kirby, Mary Jo (Kuenzel) - St. Marys, Ohio
01/22/2001	Kittel, Delores (Luedeke) - Houston, Ohio
03/17/2001	Kuenning, Franklin - New Bremen
01/22/2001	Luedeke, Becky - Oberlin, Ohio
03/07/2001	Mesloh, William N. - Tehachapi, California
03/06/2001	Moeller, Susan (Philpot) - Santa Ana, CA (TR)(LM)
02/07/2001	Mohrman, Gordon (LM) - Colorado Springs, CO
02/08/2001	Mueller, Jerry G. - Williamsburg, Ohio
01/05/2001	Pape, James F. - Homeland, California
03/07/2001	Paul, Mrs. Allen (Mary) - New Bremen
02/09/2001	Rush, Ruth (Rempe) - Kendallville, IN (Re-joined)
02/28/2001	Scheer, Roger - New Bremen (Re-joined)
03/08/2001	Schroer, Janice (Topp) - New Bremen
02/08/2001	Schulenberg, Mrs. Jeff (Sue) - Bryan, Ohio
02/15/2001	Schulenberg, William E. (LM) - Nokomis, Florida
02/08/2001	Siegel, Donald - Greenville, Ohio
03/22/2001	Slattery, Calvin - New Bremen (TR)
02/07/2001	Stauffer, Robert - New Bremen
02/07/2001	Stauffer, Ronald - Beavercreek, Ohio
02/14/2001	Stovlbeck, Thomas (LM) - Beloit, Wisconsin
02/22/2001	Sudman, Wilbert - New Bremen
02/16/2001	Talan, Jane (Gilberg)-Fairview Park, OH (Re-join)
03/02/2001	Tangeman, Mrs. Carl (Alice)-Wapakoneta (Re-join)
03/03/2001	Topp, Marvin - New Bremen
02/28/2001	Topp, Mrs. Lester (Ruth) - New Bremen
02/20/2001	Tostrick, Rev. John - New Bremen (Re-joined)
02/20/2001	Tostrick, Steven J. - Avon Lake, Ohio
02/16/2001	Voglewede, Janice (McCollum) - Fort Wayne, IN
03/06/2001	Voisard, Mary Ann (Moeller) - Russia, Ohio
02/15/2001	Wackenthaler, Linda (Jordan) - Middletown, Ohio
02/09/2001	Warner, Thomas - New Bremen
02/19/2001	Wenning, Evelyn (Mohrman) - New Bremen
02/09/2001	Wente, Thomas (LM) - New Bremen
02/05/2001	Westerbeck, Paul - New Bremen
03/13/2001	Wilt, Beverly (Moeller) - Anna, Ohio
02/10/2001	Wint, Ferd C. - New Bremen (Re-joined)
02/15/2001	Wissman, Terry - St. Marys, Ohio
02/15/2001	Young, JoAnn (Fark) - Van Wert, Ohio

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

01/02/2001	Fark, Mrs. Don (Freda) (died 1/2/2001)
03/05/2001	Ruedebsch, Orville (CM)(died 3/5/2001)
02/07/2001	Schmidt, Alvira (Roettger)(died 2/7/2001)
02/15/2001	Schroer, Dorothea (Vitz)(died November, 2000)
03/22/2001	Slattery, Esther (Fogt)(died 3/22/2001)
02/08/2001	Sollman, Lendor (died 2/8/2001)

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

02/13/2001	Dietrich, Robert (new)
02/03/2001	Eckhart, Kenneth
02/26/2001	Furry, Eric
02/19/2001	Hanna, Jamie (Wierwille)
03/13/2001	Kurtzman, Mary Ellen (Schemmel)
03/14/2001	Moeller, Ronald L.
03/06/2001	Moeller, Susan (Philpot)(new)
02/07/2001	Mohrman, Gordon (new)
03/06/2001	Opperman, Hal
02/22/2001	Quellhorst, Rev. Ralph
02/16/2001	Quellhorst, Stanley
02/06/2001	Schmidt, Barbara (Pape)
02/15/2001	Schulenberg, William E. (new)
02/14/2001	Stovlbeck, Thomas (new)
02/09/2001	Wente, Thomas (new)