

**MUSEUM located at 122 N. Main St.**  
(The Luelleman House)

# 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: \$10.00 Per year / Per person**

(Life Membership: \$100.00 Per person)

**July - 2001**

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*"The Towpath" is printed by Lee's Printing - New Bremen, Ohio*

### 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.



### COMMUNITY PICNIC COMMITTEE

STANDING: Mike Meyer, Gen Conradi, Dru Meyer (coordinator), Dennis Dicke, Edith & Dennis Klingler, Jason & Lori This.

SEATED: Reuben Dickman, at 99, the most "mature" guest.

(See report on page 3)



### A MEETING AT THE POOL

While visiting in New Bremen on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and attending the 3rd annual Community Picnic held by the Historic Association, former mayor (1937-1947), Reuben Dickman, met with the current mayor, Robert Klein, at the new Community Swimming Pool, built in 1998. Reuben Dickman was mayor when N.B.'s first swimming pool was built (1938-1940) and Robert Klein was mayor in 1998. The plaque shown originally hung in the 1938-1940 bath house.



## Curators Corner

### NEW ITEMS NOW ON DISPLAY - JULY, 2001

■DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY TICKET FOR AUGLAIZE COUNTY ELECTIONS of Treasurer, Sheriff (with William Wehrman as a candidate), Prosecuting Attorney, County Commissioners, Infirmary Director - mid to late 1870s:

■CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION: special election on August 16, 1880 of August Wehrmann as the New Bremen Village Marshal, signed by Wm. Bruns, Village Clerk:

■NOTIFICATION TO TOWNSHIP OFFICERS OF THEIR ELECTION: August Wehrmann, Esq., of German Twp. - Certification of election on April 6, 1891 as Constable for a 3 year term, signed by C.P. Gress, Township Clerk:

■PICTURE: Explosion of Henry Dierker's Store on corner of Monroe & Washington Streets - Jan. 27, 1905:

■NOTICE TO RESIDENT LOT OR LAND OWNERS of Auglaize, Shelby, Mercer, Van Wert Counties on straightening, widening & deepening of the St. Marys River, petitioned for by J.W. Hoverman, et al. on April 17, 1911 - includes names of all persons and corporations affected in Auglaize County (11 pages):

★ All of the above items came from the estate auction of Mrs. Clarence/"Molly" (Rose Wissman) Wehrman.

*[donated by Jill (Coble) May]*

■(2) TINTYPE PICTURES: Andrew George Steinbrugge & Fredonia Henrietta Marie (Koeper) Steinbrugge.

*[donated by Sue (McCollum) Shockney]*

■PICTURES: 1924 N.B.H.S. graduation picture taken at the Boesel Opera House [from the Alvera (Roettger) Schmidt estate], 1948-49 STAMCO girls' softball team, 1948-49 New Bremen Merchants men's baseball team:

*[donated by Stan & Dona Mae (Speckman) Kuenning]*

■FRAMED CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE dated March 29, 1896 for Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Luellemann:

*[donated by Catherine (Luelleman) Grilliot]*

■"2000" PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORIES:

*[donated by St. Paul Church & Holy Redeemer Church]*

■"MALLORY" HAT from Mueller's Menswear:

*[donated by Judy Meckstroth]*

■(6) SILK LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS - U.S. NAVY:

*[donated by Donna Watkins]*

■"SIMPLICITY" DRESS PATTERNS

*[donated by Joyce (Quellhorst) Gilberg]*

■(2) CHILD'S SEWING MACHINES: 1940s era red "Kenmore" with instruction book (sews chain stitch), black "Singer" from 1880s-1890s era (originally owned by the grandmother of Mrs. David (Jeanette) Grieshop) Quellhorst.....*[ON LOAN from Lucille (Topp) Francis]*

■"1938" (1940) SWIMMING POOL MEMORABILIA - Wire baskets, keys, garment bag, tickets (*all donated*), "1938" WPA cornerstone (*ON LOAN*).....*from the Village of N.B.*

THANK YOU! We very much appreciate the donations and loans that are being made. A special THANK YOU to Stan & Scott Kuenning for their help and "hardware" donations. *Delores Stienecker & Joyce Holdren, Curators*

### "1938" SWIMMING POOL DEDICATION

Memorial Day - May 30, 1940

*[See "The Towpath" - July, 1998 for more details]*

INVOCATION.....Theodore G. Papsdorf,  
St. Peter's Church Minister  
PARK COMMISSION.....Herman J. Laut, Chairman  
Mrs. Clifford V. Huenke  
Walter Grothaus  
POOL SUPERINTENDENT.....William Richcreek  
LIFE GUARDS.....Don Fledderjohn  
James Sunderman  
WOMAN ATTENDANT.....Betty Behm



### "1938" Municipal Swimming Pool

Completed & Dedicated on May 30, 1940

Pictured: Myrl Smith & Marian Frey (1940)



### Rear of "1938" Pool Bathhouse

Pictured: Fred Schroer, Jr., Myrl Smith, Marian Frey, John Melchert, Jr. & Bernadine Luedeke (1940)

NOTE: Please help us! We would like to compile a complete list of people who served as Lifeguards at this pool during its existence, from 1940-1997. The Curators



### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL N.B.H.A. SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, June 3, 2001

Our third annual summer picnic was held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the museum. Although the weather was cool, approximately 150 people turned out to enjoy the various activities on the museum grounds.

Monty McDermitt, local appraiser from Minster, was on hand to appraise antiques and collectibles brought in. Also, Alan Fenters, local horticulturist, was available to answer plant and gardening questions brought to him.

Musical entertainment was again provided by the Miami-Erie Boys, including Dan Miller on guitar and Brittany Hartwig on violin entertaining the crowd with some toe-tapping tunes. Also, Rita Heitkamp and her brother, Alfred Gehret, entertained with some songs.

A special guest was former mayor, Reuben Dickman, from Orlando, Florida, along with his son and daughter-in-law, John and Sue Dickman of Columbus. Reuben, who turned 99 on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, enjoyed visiting with former friends and relatives from the area.

Food items included shredded chicken and beef sandwiches, hot dogs, a cabbage roll casserole, homemade pies, and beverages. Especially popular on this cool Sunday afternoon were the homemade pies and the coffee.

This years' committee consisted of Dennis Dicke & Gen Conradi, Dennis & Edith Klingler, Jason & Lori This, and Mike & Dru Meyer. (see picture on page 1)

We would like to thank these folks who took time to monitor the museum or work in the food service area: Dorothy Dicke, Lawrence & Marlene Egbert, Dee Fledderjohn, Larry & Pat Holmer, Jack & Deb Maurer, Judy Meckstroth, Dan & Kathy Nedderman, Joe Niekamp, Mary Paul, Robert & Diane Paul, Don & Carol Ruese, Marilyn Sommer, Delores Stienecker, Eugene This & Loreen, and Donna Watkins.

Also, a very special thank you is owed to all the special ladies who baked the wonderful pies: Johanna Alger, Bev Applegate, Mrs. Willis (Helen/"Mickey") Dicke, Louise Hay, Dorothy Leshner, Nancy Marshal, Judy Meckstroth, Mary Paul, Leola Tangeman, Karen Tostrick, Donna Warner, Evelyn Warner, Emily Wiedeman, Edith Wissman, and Barb Ziegenbusch.

*Dru Meyer, Special Events Coordinator*

**NOTE:** The first woman to be named as manager of the New Bremen municipal swimming pool was Diane (Gruebmeier) Gast, who served as such during 1980-1981-1982. Then there were 8 lifeguards - now there are 32. Diane is now New Bremen's Village Clerk and was responsible for salvaging the items listed on page 2.

### NEW HISTORICAL REFERENCE SOURCE

#### Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

From 1876-1970, the Sanborn Insurance Co. (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd. of New York City), created more than 40,035 maps of Ohio towns and cities. Originally used for fire insurance records, these detailed maps identify individual buildings on each block and give detailed information - including a building's occupant (blacksmith, tin-shop, flour mill, woolen mill, Opera House, hotel, moving picture theatre, bowling alley, stable, etc. - sometimes giving the business's name), height (1-story, 2-story, etc.), what type of roof (tile, tin, shingle, composition), street address (1933 only - the years before that, they were given arbitrary numbers). The original maps were colored and showed whether the buildings were brick (red), frame (yellow), etc.

The maps also give the population, prevailing wind direction, water supply source, number of firemen, available equipment (steam & hand engines, hose carts, hook and ladder truck, size and length of available hoses). They tell what kind of streets there were and the type of fuel & type of lighting being used.

There is much more information - the more you look at the maps, the more you can find!

#### How Did We Learn Of These Maps?

Back in March of this year, the Editor received a call from a Mr. Richard Egen of Long Beach, California. He had been referred to me by the N.B. Village Office since he was doing research on the Western Ohio Railway Co. (interurban) and I had covered this topic in the April, 2000 issue of *The Towpath*. After several lengthy phone conversations, he asked if I had ever heard of the "Sanborn maps." He then gave me his source for these maps - the Cleveland Public Library Map Collection Dept. I contacted Ms. Maureen Farrell of that department, and she informed me that the Sanborn maps were available on microfilm and that there were maps of New Bremen for 1892, 1899, 1907, 1914, and 1933 (22 sheets in all.) She in turn referred me to Bell & Howell of Ann Arbor, Michigan, who sent me a quote of \$100.00 + \$3.00 S/H.

I am happy to let you know that the Historic Association agreed with me that these maps are a valuable source of information about our town in the earlier years, and we have purchased the microfilm and placed it in the New Bremen Public Library to be used by the public. I have also copied all of the maps and pieced them together (each completed sheet measures about 18"x22".) We hope to be able to copy these maps onto single sheets and place copies in both the Library and our museum so that more people can view them.

There are other Ohio towns on this reel of microfilm also - Newark, New Boston, New Carlisle, New Concord, New Holland, New Lexington, New Lisbon, New London, New Paris, New Philadelphia, and New Richmond.

Since May, these maps can also be viewed on the internet at:

<http://oplin.lib.oh.us/products/SanbornMaps/index.cfm>



## FOUND! - A 55 YEAR OLD LETTER

by John Schwepe - Findlay, Ohio - 12/22/1999

Prior to my mother's death in 1974, she had placed items in a box with my name on it. It was one of those things that I looked at and said, "Yeah, that is mine", then closed the box and stored it. In November, 1999, my wife Linda was looking for a book of Bible stories for children at church and for our grandson. She remembered a book in this box. When she opened a book entitled, *Bible Stories for Children*, by Myrtle Barbre, published by the Saalfeld Publishing Co., copyright 1940, out of it fell a booklet, a picture, and a letter!

The letter was addressed to me from Miss Wilhelmine Moeller. I had attended Sunday School at St. Paul Evangelical & Reformed Church in New Bremen while in grades 1-3. In September, 1944, my family moved to Versailles, Ohio. I grew up there and graduated from Versailles High School. The picture was of three of the classes from the Primary Dept. The three teachers were Miss Wilhelmine Moeller, Mrs. Walter Althoff, and Mrs. Elmer Dammeyer. The booklet contained documentation by Miss Moeller such that all those in the picture were identified. What a kind, thoughtful and loving teacher Miss Moeller was by her actions of producing the booklet, picture and letter. May others know of and share in her thoughtfulness. Her letter follows:

Sunday, October 1, 1944

Dear John:

I suppose you are settled in your new home and trust that you like it, which I'm sure you will. I am enclosing the class picture which I told you about.

I am looking forward to some Sunday when you are in New Bremen and will come to our Sunday School to visit. Keep up your good record as it will mean much to you as you grow older.

Miss Wilhelmine Moeller

**BACK:** Lloyd Schroer, John Schwepe, Andrew Schwierking, Roger Dicke, William Greber.

**MIDDLE:** Barbara (Harmony) Moore, Jack Moyer, Vernon Luedeke, Janice (Quellhorst) Dorsten, Virginia (Warner) Friemering, Dolores (Mohrman) Fledderjohn.

**FRONT:** Doris (Thielker) Tangeman, Louise (Topp) Barga, Helen (Piehl) Settlage, Shirley (Hittepole) Woehler/Kuck, Mary (Holdren) Finke, Janet (Egbert) Kuck.

## HE WAS JUST A LITTLE LAD

He was just a little lad, and on a Sabbath day was wandering home from Sunday School and dawdling on his way.

He scuffed his shoes into the grass; he found a caterpillar; he found a fluffy milkweed pod and blew out all the "filler."

A bird's nest in the tree o'erhead, so wisely placed and high, was just another wonder that caught his eager eye.

A neighbor watched his zig-zag course and hailed him from the lawn, and asked him where he'd been that day and what was going on.

"Oh, I've been to Sunday School." (He carefully turned the sod and found a snail beneath.) "I've learned a lot of God."

"Hmm, a very fine way" the neighbor said, "for a boy to spend his time. If you'll tell me where God is, I'll give you a brand-new dime."

Quick as a flash his answer came, nor were his accents faint, "I'll give you a dollar, Mister, if you'll tell me where God ain't."

Miss Ida Wissman collection

## ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH

### Sunday School Class - Fall, 1944

(computer photo provided by John Schwepe)







Photo donated by James Melchert

### St. Paul's Church Choir - ca. 1923-1927

Rev. John C. Melchert, behind piano, served as pastor of St. Paul's Church for 25 years, from 6/1/1922-6/1/1947.

Mrs. Hulda Melchert, sitting at the piano, served as the organist from September, 1931 until June 1, 1947.

**FRONT:** Gladys (Neuman\*) Schwierking, Wanda (Mueller) Stappe, Aurelia (Wissman\*) Wellman, Alma (Wissman) Scheer, Leona (Hespe\*) Ramga, Esther (Fearing\*) Quist, Stella (Neuman\*) Gruebmeier, Erna (Schaefer\*) Schrage, Brunhilda (Wissman\*) Hole.

**MIDDLE:** Hilda (Topp\*) Klute, Ida (Wiehe) Moots, Beata (Klanke) Isern, Hermine (Dicke) Kellermeyer, Hulda Wiehe, Edna (Kamman\*) Haarbye, Eva (Tomhafe\*) Bush, Leola (Speckman\*) Wissman, Edith (Schwartz) Thieman.

**BACK:** Oscar Hirschfeld, Jacob King, Leo Sunderman, Delbert Schwierking, Leon Kellermeyer, Edward Erhardt, James King, Walter King.

[\* names as listed by Esther (Fearing) Quist - these women had not yet married.]

Rev. Melchert established the first fully organized St. Paul Church choir on 7/11/1922 and became its first director. Anna Schwepe was the organist at that time, having served as such since September, 1906. Prior to Miss Schwepe, Martha Bertram, daughter of Rev. & Mrs. F.W. Bertram, served as organist, from September, 1905 to August, 1906. Martha Bertram married William Frey & they were the parents of Marian (Frey) Engle. (see "From the Mailbox" - page 16.) Rev. Bertram (Marian's grandfather) served as minister of St. Paul's from 1894-1906. It was during his tenure that the 1890 church was destroyed by fire on New Year's Day, 1897 and the new church was built and dedicated on December 5, 1897.

One hundred Elmhurst hymnals were purchased in 1922 which were used until March, 1943, when new hymnals were purchased with the church name printed on

the covers. Choir robes were purchased in January, 1923. Mrs. Melchert became the organist when Anna Schwepe retired after 25 years of service. In 1933, in preparation for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, the church was re-decorated, new light fixtures were installed, new carpet was laid, and the buildings were renovated for a cost of \$5,000.

After the Melcherts left in June, 1947, Hermine Kellermeyer became the new organist, serving until 1/2/1963, when Mrs. Robert (Betty) Topp assumed the position. Gene Engle became the new choir director and served until May, 1949. He was replaced by new teacher, Gerald Reese, who in turn was replaced by Edith (Blanke) Wissman on 6/1/1951. She served as such until 1968-1969, when Rev. Roger Perl replaced Rev. Emil Bassler, & his wife, Jeanie Perl, became the new choir directress.



## MORE ABOUT MOTION PICTURES

On page 5 of the April, 2001 issue of *The Towpath* was an advertisement dated 12/13/1931 for the movie, "Whoopie", starring Eddie Cantor. It was advertised as being "All in Technicolor" and "the most beautiful picture ever shown in New Bremen." This was questioned by Bob Heinfeld of Ada, Ohio. He recalled that the first "Technicolor" movie was "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" in 1936. (It was the first Technicolor feature to be "shot on location.") This prompted both of us to do more research about the "moving picture" industry. The following is a general history of the development of motion pictures:

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Thomas Edison is generally regarded as the "father of motion pictures." He made the first workable camera and viewer, and the first projectors were based on his apparatus. The key to motion pictures was the discovery of a suitable flexible film base. Motion pictures were the first great modern industry founded on plastics.

In 1887, Edison began to search for an apparatus to do for sight what his phonograph had done for sound. That same year, Hannibal Williston Goodwin obtained a U.S. patent on a photographic covering described as "transparent, sensitive and like celluloid."

In 1889, Thomas Edison and an assistant obtained workable film from George Eastman. On 12/10/1889, Eastman applied for a patent on "the manufacture of flexible photographic films." This patent was issued in 1898, after a legal battle with the Hannibal Goodwin estate had been settled.

In 1891, Thomas Edison's "Kinetograph" camera and viewing apparatus were completed, and in 1893 a patent was issued. "Peep-show" Kinetoscopes (only one person at a time could view the pictures) were first displayed 4/14/1894 in New York City, later in Paris and London.

In 1895, screen projection was accomplished by others in the United States, France, and England with the "Cinématographe" and the "Bioscope." In 1896, motion pictures were commercially successful in many parts of the world. On 4/23/1896, the "Vitascope" system for projecting movies onto a screen for larger audiences was first demonstrated in New York City.

The first "movies" were only brief sequences inserted in a vaudeville show. Soon stage personalities agreed to appear in films, and pictures began to tell a story.

In April, 1902, the first small theater, the Electric Theater in Los Angeles, was established to show movies exclusively. In early 1903, the Cascade Theater was opened in New Castle, Pennsylvania by Harry M. Warner and his brothers. These early theaters became known as "nickelodeons" because the admission was 5¢.

In 1912, Adolph Zukor imported a 4-reel film from France - "Queen Elizabeth" with Sarah Bernhardt. The success of this long "feature" film prompted American producers Jesse L. Lasky, Cecil B. DeMille and Samuel Goldwyn to produce "The Squaw Man" in Hollywood.

Hollywood became the American headquarters for film production.

In 1915, "The Birth of a Nation" by D.W. Griffith was released and American films first achieved status during W.W.I. The actors, such as Charles Chaplin and Mary Pickford, became more popular than the stories, and films were made with players selected for "star value."

As pictures improved, there was increasing interest in color, and in 1915 the "Technicolor" company was founded and the first practicable 2-color film system was developed. Technicolor was the first commercially successful (lengthy) screen color process.

The mid-1920s were considered the golden age of "silent films." On 8/6/1926, "Don Juan", made by Warner Brothers, was the first film that synchronized pictures with music on discs, however there was no dialogue. By 1927, the public displayed a desire for "talkies" and Warner Brothers made "The Jazz Singer" with Al Jolson, which combined the sound-synchronization with talking scenes. Also in 1927, the first "Movietone" films were shown, which had the sound on the film. The first all-talking picture, also made by Warner Brothers in 1928, was "The Lights of New York."

Cartoons started in the late 1920s. Walt Disney's "The Three Little Pigs" in 1933 was the first cartoon with both color and sound. "Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs" in 1937 was the first animated film.

In 1935, the first live-action, 3-color Technicolor film, "Becky Sharp", was made and it included the sound track along with the print.

After "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" in 1936, much improvement was made in the Technicolor process.

In 1939, "The Wizard of Oz" started out in black and white (the tornado) and after the house sat down, Dorothy was in the colorful land of Oz. After the record-breaking release of "Gone With The Wind" in 1939, more and more pictures were made in color.

During W.W.II, the American motion picture industry enjoyed record attendance. After the war, many technical improvements were made, such as larger screens and improved sound, to compete with the small screen of a new competitor - television. "Cinerama", a 3-film-strip process developed from an aerial gunnery trainer of W.W.II, was opened in New York on 9/30/1952. In 1953, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox introduced "CinemaScope", with stereophonic sound, in the film "The Robe." [EDITOR'S NOTE: I remember the N.B. High School students being taken by bus to the New Bremen Theatre to see this film. Another time we were taken to see "Lorna Doone."]

By the 1950s more and more people were owning television sets. Also, another new competitor to the downtown movie theatre, the drive-in movie, had arrived on the scene. By the mid-1950s, the New Bremen Theatre could no longer compete, and in 1955, the theatre was closed and the building was sold.

Lucille Francis & Robert Heinfeld



### SUNSET CRUISE-IN THEATRE

Located 4 miles east of St. Marys,  
4 miles north of New Knoxville  
on Route 33

**2 Shows Nitely — Rain or Shine  
8:30 — 10:30**

Admission — 45¢  
Children under 12, Free  
Come out and bring the family

**Thursday — July 17, 1947  
"CHINA'S LITTLE DEVILS"**

**Fri.-Sat. — July 18-19  
"JUNIOR PROM"  
&  
"WEST OF ALAMO"**

**Sunday-Monday — July 20-21  
"HEARTBEAT"**

**Tues.-Wed. — July 22-23  
"KISS AND TELL"**

The first mention of a drive-in movie theatre in the *New Bremen Sun* was with this advertisement on 7/17/1947.

The "Lake Drive-In" Theatre, between St. Marys & Celina on St. Rt. 703 (then St. Rt. 29) opened on June 12, 1948, according to an article in the 7/2/1997 "Extra Merchandiser", then published by *The Evening Leader*.

By July, 1950, the "Sunset Cruise-In" became known as the "Midway Drive-In."

Another drive-in theatre patronized by N.B. people was near North Star on U.S. Rt. 127, called the "Starlight Theatre."

The Lake Drive-In and the Starlight Drive-In theatres are still operating. ↗

### DANCE HALLS

◆ There were a lot of dance halls within 25 miles of the N.B. area. N.B., of course, had one out at Kuenning's Grove, later called Speedway Park. (see pg. 11 of the January, 2001 issue of "The Towpath.") Before that, there were Hesse's Hall (West Monroe St. - April, 2001 "Towpath"), Schwepe's Hall (North Main St.), and one at Hartwig's Grove (on the south end of town.) Then there was the Oddfellows & Knights of Pythias Hall which later became the Woodmen Hall (above the present bicycle museum.) There was a dance hall above the Speckman & Nieter Store (Arcade Dept. Store) on S. Washington St. The old Boesel Opera House on West Monroe St. was converted into a dance hall in 1948 by the American Legion. There was also a dance hall in Lock Two above the Garmhausen Store.

◆ Gordon State Park at St. Marys had a dance hall, there was one at Edgewater Park at Celina, Minster had dance halls at Kemper's Grove (Hell's 1/2 Acre) & Eagle Park (St. Rt. 66), and Newport also had one (Lindhaus Park). Then there was the Crystal Ballroom at Versailles, built in 1948, which brought in big name bands such as Guy Lombardo, Louis Armstrong, etc.

◆ In the 1930s, lots of people went to Ohio's million dollar playground (it was billed that way) at Sandy Beach at Russells Point. All the big name bands came there. I can still remember seeing signs saying "Glenn Miller here next week at the Moonlight Terrace." The Moonlight Terrace was an open air dance floor. At the San Juan Ballroom (indoors), it cost 10¢ a dance. After each dance, the people were "roped" off and had to pay another 10¢ to get back on the floor.

(Robert G. Heinfeld - Ada, Ohio - 1/16/2001)

### More Movie Theatre "Trivia"

◆ When I wrote about N.B.'s first movie theatre ("Wonderland Theatre" - 1907) in the April, 2001 issue of *The Towpath*, I wasn't positive where that had been located ("the residence portion of Herman Laut's building on Washington St.") Now that we have the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (see page 3), I can say with certainty that N.B.'s first "moving picture" theatre was located in the north half of the old American House Hotel, known to most people as Raymond ("Caddy") Moeller's Bakery, then Knipple's "Home Bakery" (at 30 S. Washington St.) In August, 1907, Herbert Trautwein's "Star Bakery" was in the south half of the building on the first floor and a cigar factory (John & Clarence Laut?) was on the second floor.

◆ On page 5, I mentioned that Tom Broad of St. Marys was to re-open the "Crown Theatre" on 12/31/1931. Tom Broad went on to own the Opera House in St. Marys from 1932-1939. He ran the theatre there and called it the "Broad Theatre." Later it was called the "St. Marys Theatre."

(Extra Merchandiser - 7/2/1997)

### "Looking Backward"

through the *Wapakoneta Daily News*  
by Vern Doenges

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** These are two of the articles sent to us by Vernon Doenges of Wapakoneta, Ohio. He had published them in the *Wapakoneta Daily News* "Looking Backward - 75 Years Ago" column in 2000. Vern is still hoping to find a picture of the dance pavilion at Kuenning's Grove (and so are we.)

◆ Extensive improvements are being made at Kuenning's Grove one mile north of New Bremen on the St. Marys-New Bremen Road, where the annual New Bremen Farmer's Picnic is held each summer.

Probably the biggest piece of work that has been carried out is the sawing in two of the dance pavilion from roof to foundation, following which sections were moved apart and a new section 48 feet square was built in, practically doubling the floor space. A new maple floor is to be laid over the entire pavilion and it promises to be one of the finest and most popular resorts of its kind in this vicinity.

Other buildings and concession stands are being moved about the grounds to give a more suitable and convenient arrangement of the park. The resort will be formally opened with a dance on May 9, 1925."

(*Wapakoneta Daily News* - 4/29/1925)

◆ "The Ohio Legislature some time ago passed a law prohibiting Sunday dancing in Ohio, which caused much opposition. That law, amended as it is now, is up to the approval of each Ohio County Probate Judge.

Three Auglaize County dance hall proprietors have signified their intention of filing application with Probate Judge L.C. Brodbeck for permits to conduct public dance halls - Minster Eagles, Minster; Kuenning's Grove, New Bremen; and Gordon State Park, St. Marys."

(*Wapakoneta Daily News* - 7/15/1925)





This picture was sent to us by Irvin Hartman of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (N.B.H.S. Class of 1926) and was taken in New Bremen (location unknown) in 1925. The car (a Model T Ford touring car?) was won by Katharine (Langhorst) White in a raffle at Gordon State Park at Lake St. Marys (date unknown). In the rear seat are Ethel (Heil) Rawers/Trout (class of 1927), Erna (Schaefer) Schrage (1925), Deloris (Hirschfeld) Schnell (1925). In the front seat are Bernice (Hartman) Steinbrugge (1927)(sister to Irvin Hartman), Katharine (Langhorst) White (1925), and the driver, Leverage (Waterman) McCollum (1924)(a cousin to Bernice & Irvin Hartman). Leverage was also the mother of Mrs. Tom (Ginny McCollum) Braun. Tom is our treasurer and genealogist. On the running board is a sign that says:

"FOR LAZID STUBBORN FEET, TRY JOE KAYSER MUSIC, Gordon State Park."

### **GORDON PARK Dance Gardens**

**Accommodating 200 couples — Costing \$50,000.00**

**Opens July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1925**

**Music by**

Saxie Holsworth White Way Band—Direct from New York

Dancing every night during summer season  
and Sunday afternoons.

**Gordon Park on Lake St. Marys**

(N.B. Sun - 7/2/1925)

### **DANCE PAVILION AT GORDON STATE PARK DESTROYED BY FIRE**

All that remains of the handsome dance pavilion at Gordon State Park, St. Marys, are two tall brick chimneys and a mass of ashes and charred timbers. The pavilion and the adjoining "Wind Blew Inn" were destroyed by fire of undetermined origin at midnight on Tuesday, December 8, 1931. Loss was estimated at \$35,000.

(N.B. Sun - 12/10/1931)

### **Harold Bachman & His "Million Dollar Band"**

**In an Open Air Concert at**

**KUENNING'S GROVE, New Bremen**

**Wednesday evening, June 28, 1922 at 8:00 p.m.**

**Sponsored by New Bremen American Legion Post 241**

### **ORIGIN OF THE "MILLION DOLLAR BAND"**

The Million Dollar Band originated in the band which Harold Bachman organized at the outbreak of the (First) World War and which became attached to the 116<sup>th</sup> Engineers. It was while serving with this regiment in France that General Hunter Liggett said on a certain occasion "That band is worth a million dollars to the American Army."

The officers and men of the regiment began to refer to Bachman's Band as their "Million Dollar Band" and after being discharged from the Army and starting out in the professional band business, Mr. Bachman adopted the name given his band in France, which is now taken all over the U.S. as the synonym of good band music.



## VOGELSANG & SONS TINWARE

"Among the resources of the town of New Bremen which go to make up its commercial fabric, the trade carried on in stoves, tinware, etc. forms a most important feature. Prominent among those engaged in it is Mr. Fred Vogelsang, who is a practical and energetic man of business - honorable and upright in all his dealings."

*[from Portrait and Biographical Record of Auglaize, Logan & Shelby Counties, Ohio - published in 1892 by Chapman Bros.]*

### The Vogelsang Family

Friedrich Heinrich Vogelsang was born 1/8/1831 in Vogelsang, Barnstorf, Diepholz, Hannover, Germany. He was the son of Henry William & \_\_\_\_\_ (Beckmann) Vogelsang and the grandson of Friedrich & Sophia Margarete (Meier) Vogelsang. The entire Vogelsang family immigrated from Germany in 1833 when Fred was 2 years old. They landed in New York City, but the fertile soil of Ohio tempted them to settle there. Several years after locating in Auglaize County, Fred's parents and their other child had died of cholera, leaving their oldest child, Friedrich Heinrich, to be raised by his grandparents.

The grandparents, Fred & Sophia Vogelsang, purchased a farm (at the southwest edge of town) and lived in a log house, where the grandfather died in 1845. After his grandfather's death, young Fred remained on the farm and took care of his grandmother. Sophia lived until 10/16/1864, when she died at the age of 79.

*This "farm" was located south of Monroe Street, up to what is now called Plum Street, bounded on the west by Franklin Street, and on the east by the government lands along the western bank of the Miami-Erie Canal. This section of town was later called Vogelsangtown, after being developed in the 1890s. What is now called Plum St. was then called Vogelsang St.*

*Land tax records of 1870 show the main portion of this "farm" as being 8 acres with the lot valued at \$1000, the house at \$650, and other buildings at \$275. The other 3 1-acre lots were valued at \$90, \$80, & \$70. By 1890, Vogelsang had started to subdivide this land, selling it off .21 acre at a time. By this time, the 8 acres had diminished to 6.51 acres, with the lot being valued at \$1260, the house at \$480, & the barn at \$100. Main Street was being extended to the south and Dr. Michael Stone and August Dierker built the first new houses south of the alley behind the Charles Boesel house in 1891.*

*In 1904, Dr. F.F. Fledderjohann purchased 2 lots from Mrs. Fred Vogelsang, adjoining her residence on the north, on which he planned to build a residence.*

*In 1906, son-in-law, J.H. Grothaus (husband of Emilie Vogelsang), purchased all the Vogelsang property east of Main St. and prepared it for additional building locations. [This included the land later donated for the "1938" pool.]*

On 4/15/1852, Fred Vogelsang married Sophia Wilhelmine Kuenning, who had come to America with her parents, Herman Frederick & Anna Margaret (Speckman) Kuenning about 1849, at the age of 13 (or in 1845,

*depending on the information source.) Fred & Wilhelmine had 13 children, 6 of whom grew to adulthood: August, Emilie Grothaus, Edward, Emil, Alvina Ruese, and Henry.*

About 1856, Fred Vogelsang purchased an interest in the flouring mill in New Bremen, and continued in the milling business for about 10 years.

In 1879, he purchased a large tin store and then conducted an extensive business in tinware and stoves. As of 1892, his son, August, had learned the tanners' trade and had gone into partnership with his father.

F. Vogelsang & Son carry a remarkably large and well selected stock of every description of ranges, cook stoves and heaters, tinware, washing machines, and general house furnishing goods. Among the large array of stoves are the "Homestead" and "Clermont" cook stoves for which this house has the exclusive agency. They are made in many different sizes and patterns and are warranted to give entire satisfaction.

This firm pays special attention to metal working such as tin, sheet-iron, copper work and roofing and guttering. A large amount of the furnishing goods which they display are turned out from their own workrooms and are all hand-made. In every respect this is a first-class supply depot.

*(N.B. Sun - April, 1893)*

### August Dierker

August Dierker was born 1/25/1854 in Piqua, Ohio. He started his first job in a tin shop when he was barely more than 13 years old, signing on as an apprentice with Fred Geier of Piqua on 7/12/1867.

In the summer of 1879, he came to New Bremen and became employed in the Fred Vogelsang tin shop. In May, 1897 (after Fred's death), August Dierker and Fred's son, Emil Vogelsang, formed a partnership. (Emil's brother, August Vogelsang, suffered from epilepsy for many years and died in 1916 after spending 15 years in a hospital for epileptics at Gallipolis, Ohio.)

The stove and tinware firm of Vogelsang & Dierker intend to go into the slate roofing and galvanized iron-work business next month. They will have a practical slate roofer and galvanized iron worker in their shops and will give all jobs their personal supervision. This is an entirely new enterprise for New Bremen.

*(N.B. Sun - 1/14/1898)*

The Vogelsang & Dierker partnership was dissolved in 1898, with Mr. Dierker taking over the store on 11/7/1898. He continued to conduct the business for the next three years at its old location - in the west half of the building occupied by the storeroom of the Klanke Furniture Co. and, still later, by Friemering's Home Furniture Store, at 207 West Monroe. Nothing further is known about what became of Emil Vogelsang, except that he was living in Los Angeles when his sister, Emilie Grothaus, died in August, 1942.

Emil Vogelsang is in possession of a rare coin of an age that surpasses anything along that line seen for a long while. It is a German five Thaler gold piece of the province of Saxony, bearing the date 1772 on one side & the likeness of Duke Frederick August on the other side. It is prized by Mr. Vogelsang because it is an heirloom in their family, having been in the possession of grandfather and father for many years. - NBSun-11/26/1909



In 1902, August Dierker purchased the building formerly occupied by the Henry Aue blacksmith shop, then the Adam H. May Implement Co., west of the Hotel Central on the southeast corner of Monroe and Water Streets. He built on to the building and remodeled it, moving his stock of stoves and tinware in April-May, 1902.

August Dierker and Minnie Volp were married on Christmas day, 1879. They did not have any children of their own, but adopted a daughter, Minnie, whom they reared from childhood. (Minnie married Carl Quist and they had a daughter, Mary Louise. Minnie died 2/12/1939 and Carl Quist subsequently remarried, to Esther Fearing.)

On December 6, 1909, August Dierker purchased at public auction the Vogelsang heirs homestead on South Main St., consisting of two lots, an orchard and a 2-story 9-room brick house for \$2565. [Mrs. Fred (Wilhelmine Kuenning) Vogelsang had died on 10/20/1909.] He then renovated and remodeled the south rooms. (Mrs. Vogelsang had added a room to the north in 1906 in which Dr. F.F. Fledderjohann had his office. Mrs. Minnie Witte had a boarding house in the south rooms later on. Still later, the house became the home of Paul & Ruth Ritter & family at 15-17 South Main St.)

Mr. Dierker worked in his tin shop next to the Hotel up to the day he died. In 1930, he made a special type of milk dipper used by the White Mountain Creamery.

Dierker lived in the house at 14 S. Main St. which he had built in 1891 next to Dr. Michael Stone's new house.

His wife having died in 1928 and his daughter in February, 1939, Mr. Dierker now lived with his widowed son-in-law, Carl Quist, and his granddaughter, Mary Louise. It was Mary Louise, a high school senior, who found him dead at the tinshop on 9/26/1939 when he failed to come home for the noonday meal. He was 85.

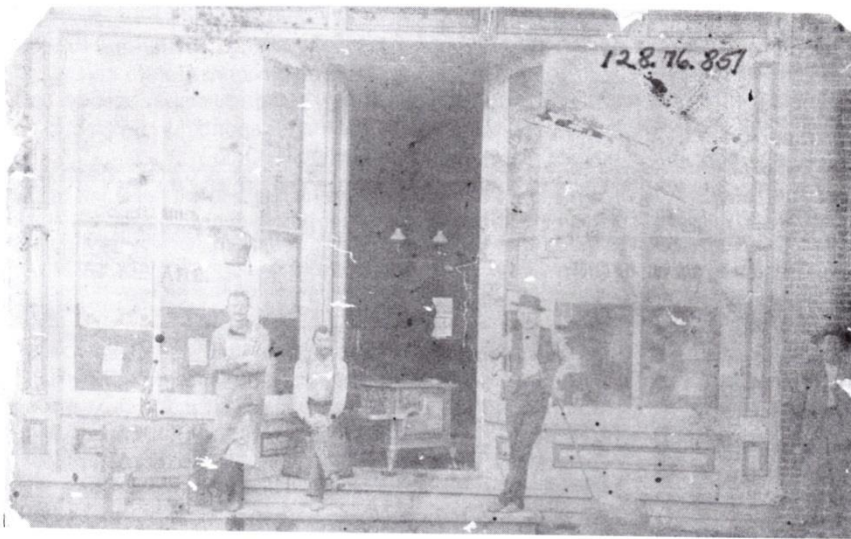
## THE END OF A LANDMARK

"A gang of workmen have been put to work razing the old frame building at the southeast corner of West Monroe and Water Street, the former August Dierker business block, and within a few days the corner will appear bleak and bare. Carl Quist sold the building to a Celina wrecking firm who are now salvaging as much of the lumber as possible. It is an old landmark erected over 50 years ago by the late Henry Aue, who for a number of years conducted a blacksmith and horse-shoeing establishment there, and later, in connection with William Schulenberg, devoted the building to a farm implement business.

The main part of the building contains unusually heavy pieces of lumber, in large part in a good state of preservation, while much of the interior wooden partitions also contain some good timber - though the outside of the building for some years has shown a marked state of disrepair. It is believed that the bare lot will have more appeal to an investor and may be disposed of to better advantage than the property with the old building on it."

[NOTE: The lot is still empty in 2001]

(N.B. Sun - 9/10/1942)



**August Dierker**

(N.B. Sun - 9/28/1939)

## Vogelsang & Son Tinware ~ Stoves ~ Hollow Ware ~ West Monroe St. ~ Fall, 1888

This picture was identified only as "the once Dierker tin shop on Monroe St. - second from left, Charles Heil."

QUESTION: Which Charles Heil?? If it is Charles Heil, the tinner, he must have been visiting, since he had his own tin shop at the time, along with Wm. Frederick "August" Schneider, on South Washington Street (Heil & Schneider.)

SPECULATION: The man on the left could be August Vogelsang, #3 could be August Dierker, and the older man clear to the right could be Fred Vogelsang, who would have been about 57 years old at this time.

[Picture donated by Esther (Fearing) Quist in 1976]



## HEIL & SCHNEIDER

### DEALERS IN

Stoves, Tinware, Pumps, and latest make of  
Lightning Rods, at the Lowest Prices.

### JOB WORK, ROOFING, & SPOUTING

When in New Bremen, call and see the "Big Teapot" Stove and Tinware establishment of Messrs. Heil & Schneider on East Side of Washington Street (Opposite the Mill) and you will be surprised at the fine New Stock and Low Prices.

Yours respectfully,  
**HEIL & SCHNEIDER**

Stove your dwellings, rod your buildings, pump your wells.

### Charles A. Heil ~ W.F. "August" Schneider

"In mentioning various supply depots, that of Charles A. Heil may well be included. In stoves alone, he has the exclusive sale for a half dozen famous manufactories. One of the leading stoves well known to all good housekeepers is the "Early Bird" cooking stove. The line of house furnishing goods and tinware is very large. This is headquarters for pumps and lightning rods. Gas fitting receives prompt attention. Mr. Heil is a practical metal worker and gives careful attention to everything in tin, sheet-iron, copper work, roofing and guttering. Fair square dealing with the public and honest goods at low prices are his mottoes."

(N.B. Sun - 4/8/1893)

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Charles A. Heil was born in 1860 in N.B., the son of Carl & Elizabeth (Jahn) Heil. On December 25, 1890, he married Louise Huenke, daughter of Henry & Louise (Stroefer) Huenke. They became the parents of three girls - Letha Rider, Helen Erhardt, & Norma Schulenberg.

In 1882, Charles A. Heil started in the stove and tinware business. He was joined by William Frederick "August" Schneider, born 3/7/1861, the son of August Schneider and Barbara Reinacher. (August's father, J. August Schneider, was a cooper in N.B. - see pg. 12) In 1889, August left the firm of Heil & Schneider and moved to Beebe, Arkansas to engage in the manufacture of staves. The factory was later moved to Little Rock and August died there on 8/14/1899. He was survived by his wife, Mina/Minnie (Wilson), who he married on 11/4/1891.

The Heil & Schneider store was first located in a 2-story frame building just north of the Speckman & Nieter building on the corner of South Washington St. and Front St. In 1895, this building was torn down and a new 2-story brick one was built which became the central part of the Speckman & Nieter block (later the Arcade, now Crown Equipment Corp.) Charles Heil moved into the new store in October, 1895. In May, 1901, he sold his tinware business to Gustave Wiegman and Henry F. Blase. He worked for a short time in 1902-1903 in the tinshop of W.H. Fledderjohann in New Knoxville and died on 2/25/1926 after being a patient at the Toledo State Hospital for more than 20 years. He was 66 years old.



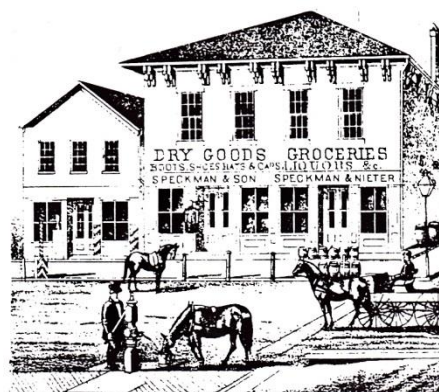
### Heil & Schneider Tinware ~ 1888?

Sign above door is advertising "Estate" stoves.

Looking out from behind the stove in the doorway is an "older" man with a hat and beard. He looks just like the older man in the Vogelsang & Son picture on page 10.

SPECULATION: The man on the left could be "August" Schneider, the "older" man in the middle could be Fred Vogelsang (visiting his competitors), and the man on the right with the mustache could be Charles A. Heil.

BELOW: This picture shows the location of the Heil & Schneider Tin Shop, next to the Speckman & Nieter store.







### The Schneider Family

J. August Schneider was born 8/19/1835 in Emmendingen, Baden, Germany, one of 6 children of Georg Friedrich Schneider from Niedereggenen, Germany, and Karoline (Gimpel) from Emmendingen. Georg Friedrich was a knifemaker (as was Karoline's father) and a maker of surgical instruments. An older brother, Wilhelm Schneider, came to America first and settled in Piqua, where he was a foreman of the O'Ferrall, Daniel & Co. Flour Mill.

August followed his father in the knife-making trade and in 1849, the family emigrated to Geneva, Switzerland. August came to America in 1857, and to New Bremen in 1859. While in Piqua, he learned the cooper trade and after moving to New Bremen, he set up his cooper shop on Lot 424 facing Vine Street. He also owned the adjoining Lot 413 which faces Front Street and this is where the family lived (the present brick Bill Ritter house.)

The cooper shop shown in the above picture burned down in March, 1902. Apparently a new barn was built, since, when Merlin & Susie Hirschfeld bought the property in 1966, they tore down an old barn and chicken coop in order to build a new brick house (at 9 E. Vine St.) When Merlin went up in the barn, he found August Schneider's cooper tools and still has them.

*[NOTE: The Historic Association has cooper tools on display in our barn. They were donated by U. Roy Davis of Piqua, Ohio in 1981-1982. In June, 1983, demonstrations on making wooden buckets were given during New Bremen's sesquicentennial celebration by Carl Roediger, Lowell Quellhorst, Roger ("Bud") Scheer, and Ken Bensman.]*

August Schneider was married to his first wife, Barbara (Reinacher) on 7/3/1860 and they had 6 children: William Frederick "August" (see page 11), Caroline Chase, Louise (died young), Charles (see next column), Wilhelm (who joined his brother, W.F. August in Little Rock at the Beebe Stave Co., and later established the Schneider Stave Co. in Dermont, Arkansas), and Gustav Adolph, who lived in Springfield, Ohio.

### J. August Schneider's Cooper Shop - 1898

Henry Wiegman & J. August Schneider

*[Photo donated by Victor Schneider - 1979]*

<<<<>>>>

August Schneider remarried after the death of his first wife - to Anna (Breymaier) Meyer and they had a son, Otto Friedrich, who worked as a printer for the New Bremen Sun Printing Co. Otto married Alma (Doenges) on 2/3/1916. They had 3 children, 2 of which lived to adulthood - Victor Schneider, who lives in Winter Haven, Florida, and Mrs. Earle (Rosemary) Williams, who lives in St. Marys.

### Charles Schneider

Charles Schneider was born 10/9/1870, the 4<sup>th</sup> child of August & Barbara (Reinacher) Schneider. Charles was an electrician and was the Superintendent of the New Bremen Electric Light Company in 1899. He and a helper, Mr. Wright, wired the new St. Paul's Church in September, 1897. He and his helper, Herman Hirschfeld, wired the Boesel Opera House in July, 1899. About 1896, Charles married Elizabeth Graney from Urbana and they had 10 children, their oldest son, Harold, being born in New Bremen. The family later moved to Springfield. When he died in 1922, Charles was the superintendent of worldwide operations for Robbins & Meyers. He was best known for inventing an electric motor which contributed greatly to the company's early success.

*[Another son of Charles Schneider was William Schneider. His daughter, Christine (Schneider) Howard of Centerville, Ohio prompted this article about her great-grandfather, August Schneider. Much of the early Schneider family history came from her.]*

**INCIDENTAL NOTE:** Both August Schneider and Fred Vogelsang (page 9) served as councilmen in 1895 and received as compensation \$1.50 per year. (N.B. Sun - 3/8/1895)

### Henry Wiegman

Henry Wiegman was born in Hannover, Germany on 1/12/1835, the son of Claus & Maria (Koester) Wiegman, and came to America at the age of 20. He immediately located in New Bremen where he learned the cooper's trade, in which he was engaged his entire life, at least part of which he worked with August Schneider. On 4/25/1860, he married Elizabeth Schwaberow and they had 8 children - 6 sons and 2 daughters. One son, Gustave Wiegman, together with Henry F. Blase, purchased the tinware business of Charles A. Heil in May, 1901 (see pg. 11). A daughter, Louise, married Henry Schneider (another Schneider family.)

Henry & Elizabeth Wiegman lived at 217 E. Monroe St. (later the Oscar Hirschfeld, Charles Opperman homes) for 54 years until both died in 1914, less than 5 months apart.

Before he died, Henry Wiegman was the oldest member of the Cataract Fire Company, in age (79) as well as in number of years of service (47). (N.B. Sun - 3/13/1914)



## THE NEW BREMEN ADVERTISER - 1871

[from the N.B. Sun - 2/11/1898 & 2/16/1923]

♦The first newspaper ever published in New Bremen was *The New Bremen Advertiser*. The first issue, dated October 19, 1871, was discovered in February, 1898 by Lafe Kunning while going through old papers at the C.H. Kunning & Son store. It had been left there years before by Jacob Boesel, one of the early partners in the firm, then known as Boesel & Kunning. Mr. Boesel, who had died in August of 1896, had a penchant for preserving anything in the newspaper or book line that was of special interest or merit. He preserved this first copy of *The Advertiser*, no doubt thinking it might prove of interest to a future generation.

♦The office of *The Advertiser* was at first located on the second floor of the F.P. Jung building on the northeast corner of West Monroe St. and Water St. - where the Taylor Photography Studio was later located (1910). Later, the newspaper's office was located in the north room of the old frame Lanfersieck building on South Washington St., which in February, 1898, was occupied by Bruns and Schnelle's Saloon. This building was torn down in 1906 and replaced with a new brick building. In 1923, Joe Brucken had his cigar store in this new brick Lanfersieck building.

♦The editor of *The Advertiser* was John C. Cromer. He hoped "to merit a liberal share of public patronage by being prompt and paying strict attention to business." He was said to be a good writer, however he could not be found in his office when people came to have work done. *The Advertiser* survived not quite a year, when Mr. Cromer left town, leaving some of his supporters "holding the bag." He was said to have moved somewhere "out west."

### News Items of October 19, 1871

•J.H. Boesche, Esq., has nearly completed his new building & will occupy it about December 1<sup>st</sup>.

•The Honorable Charles Boesel of New Bremen and P.W. Hardesty of Defiance County are elected Senators of this Senatorial District.

•The firm of Finke, Bakhaus & Kuenzel Woolen Mill purchased the Bremen Grist Mill and completely refitted and added steam, so that the farmers need not be delayed when bringing their grinding in.

•G.H. Knost purchased a stock of iron, spokes, hubs, etc. at Cincinnati with the intention of establishing an iron store in town.

•There was a fire at the H. Lanfersieck & Co. Plow Factory, originating with a spark from one of the forges. The firemen were on the grounds immediately and displayed their energy in arresting the flames.

•The New Bremen Cornet Band recently purchased new instruments with which they discourse some excellent music. They gave a free ball on Saturday night.

•Canal boats arriving: Mazeppa (merchandise), Auglaize (merchandise), Belle (merchandise and lumber.)

•Canal boats leaving: Mazeppa (2000 bushels wheat), Iowa (same), Auglaize (28,000 bushels barley), Belle (same.)

## THE ADVERTISERS

**Boesche & Nietert** - general merchandise.

**August Boesel** - manufacture & sale of kip, calf, upper and harness leather.

**Mrs. Charles Boesel, Jr.** - millinery.

**Boesel & Kunning**, successors to Charles Boesel, Sr. The oldest business house in town, having been established in 1836.

**A. Brueggeman** - dry goods, notions, hats, etc.

**A. Bruetch** - groceries, provisions, fresh oysters, wines, etc.

**Wm. Buss** - stoves & tinware. Sole right in Auglaize County to manufacture the Sonniksen's patent drum, best in the market.

**C.W. Dicke** - Dicke House, 1st-class accommodations

**Wm. Fahrenhorst**, merchant tailor - full assortment of woolen goods, foreign and domestic.

**Finke, Bakhaus & Kuenzel** - woolen and grist mills.

**Henry Heil** - stoves and tinware - tin, copper, zinc & sheet-iron worker.

**G. Knost** - "Eagle" Saloon (invitation to parties in want of pleasure to "come and spend the time with the patent cap gun.")

**H. Lanfersieck & Co.** - manufacturers of steel plows and cultivators.

**Langhorst & Bruns**, marble works - lettering in any language desired.

**Wm. Langhorst** - manufacturer of drain tiles. Tiles will be shipped to order to any point on the Miami-Erie Canal.

**Menke & Heinfeldt** - buggies & spring wagons.

**J.H. Mesloh**, dealer in hardware - sole agent for the "Dorsey self-rake reaper."

**G.S. Myers** - drug business, hair oil, patent medicine.

**J.C. Oberwitt** - dry goods.

**Edward Purpus** - agent for all principal German periodicals and serial publications.

**C. Schmidt** - full assortment of groceries, fancy goods, queensware, hats, caps, boots, shoes, furs, hardware, cutlery, etc.

**Wm. Schulenberg** - Post office & store

**John Schwaberow** - merchant tailor, agent for the Davis vertical-feed sewing machine.

**Wm. J. Schwible** - bakery on Main St., near the bridge.

**Speckman & Nieter** - full supply of family groceries.

**J.J. Steinberg** - clothing.

**Stork & Deidemeyer** - furniture

**J.E.D. Strasburg** - livery business.

**Peter Tomhafe** - first-class groceries and provisions.

**A. Wehrman** - harness business, repairs on short notice - very cheap.

**Herman Witte** - "Star" Saloon.



of Manufacturers; Business Men, City-School-Church Officials  
by C.M. Smith, Editor & Proprietor of the "New Bremen Sun"

Canal Boat Captain  
Lock Tender  
Boarding House, N.B-Botkins Hack Driver  
Drayman  
Drayman  
Railroad Agent  
Coal & Lime  
Machinery, Tile Mills, Steam Engine repair  
Plow Factory  
Agricultural Implements, City Councilman  
City Clerk  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmiths, Agricultural Implements  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmiths  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith  
Blacksmith & Carpenter  
Carpenter & Contractor  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Woodworker  
Woodworker  
Mason & Plasterer  
Mason & Plasterer  
Mason & Plasterer  
Mason & Bricklayer  
Plasterer  
Plasterer  
Painter  
Painter  
Painter  
Painter  
Painter  
Painter  
Painter  
Sawmill  
Handle Factory  
Cooper  
Cooper  
Cooper  
Cooper  
Cooper, Street Commissioner  
Planing Mill & Factory  
Hardware, Lumber, Etc.  
Carriage Factory  
Furniture Dealer, Carriages  
Furniture Dealer & Planing Mill  
Furniture Mfg. & Dealers, Undertaking  
Stoves & Tinware, Roofing, Spouting  
Stoves, Tinware, Lightning Rods, Pumps  
Wagonmaker  
Wagonmaker  
"Big Whip" Harness Shop (S. Wash.St.)  
Harness Dealer  
Harnessmaker  
Harness Dealer  
Harnessmaker & Constable/Marshal  
Harnessmaker  
Flouring Mill & Woolen Mill  
N.B. Roller Mills (Hour) & Woolen Mills  
N.B. Woolen Mills  
Miller  
Miller  
New Bremen Elevator  
New Bremen Canal Elevator  
Chickasaw Railroad Elevator  
Grain Buyer  
Livestock Dealer  
Hog breeder (2-1/2 miles NE of town)  
Engineer  
Pike Contractor  
Bankers (Organized 5/11/1885)  
Cashier, City Councilman  
Assistant Cashier

Finke, Fred  
Gagel, William  
Laut, Gottlieb  
Schulenberg, William  
Helwig & Schroeder  
Purpus, Edward  
Fritz, Jacob  
Purpus, Theodore  
Kieser, F.  
Smith C.M.  
Pagels, Fred  
Stereo-Type Foundry  
Merkle, John  
Vornholt, F.J.  
Wehrman & Knorre  
Hoonke Brothers  
Steinberg Bros. (since Dec./1886)  
Steinberg, A.  
Dinkel, Theodore  
Schelper, Henry  
Speckman & Nietzer  
Wiemeyer, Fred  
Depweg, C.D., Mgr.  
Depweg, Frank A., Prop.  
Boesche, J.H. (S. Washington St.)  
Dierker, Henry & Co. (City Council)  
Speckman, Son & Co.  
Boesel & Kunning\* (Est. 1836)  
Boesel, Jacob\*  
Boesel, Jacob  
Kunning, C.H.\*  
Boesel, Charles, Jr.  
Jung, Frank  
Schmidt Brothers (Est. 1849)  
Ende, Fred  
Halsema, J.  
Knost, J.H., Sr.  
Koepfer, John A.  
Broerman, Fred  
Gilberg, Julius  
Pohlman, Louis  
Depweg, Benjamin  
Fahrenhorst, William  
Schwaberoew, John  
Reiher, Henrietta (Mrs.)  
Woehler, Mary (Mrs.)  
Boesel, Gustave  
Nietzer, F.H.L.  
Bruns, William  
Goll, John  
Greber, Fred W.  
Ekemeyer, M.S.  
Havemann, W.A.  
Miller, G.E.  
Potts, C.N.  
Stone, Michael (W. Monroe St.)  
Schmidt, Henry, Jr. (Dr.)  
Hoffman, J.L.  
Williamson, C.W. (former)  
VanderMaaten, K. (Prof.) (new)  
Beach, B.J.  
Bricker, D.S.  
Dinkel, Philip  
Grothaus, Edmund  
Miller, Edward  
Wannemacher, T.  
Zwez, Julius F.  
Thieman, G.  
Kunning, H.F.  
Buerkle, M. (Rev.)  
Merkle, A. (Rev.)  
Diekmann, William (Rev.)  
Bourquin, Alex  
Lahmeyer (Lameyer), E.H. (Mrs.)  
Laut, Henry  
Laut, Herman  
Meyer, Herman  
Schulhoff, John  
Schulte, William  
Schwaberoew, Henry  
Schwepe, William  
Schweres (Schwers), Henry  
Finke, August  
Wissman, F. (Monroe, near Water)  
Schwepe, Henry - Agent  
Dierker, William  
Laut, John  
Oberwitte, Gust  
Tomhase, Ernest  
Weseli, Joseph  
Weseli, Wm.


Barber  
 Barber  
 "Florentine" Barber Shop  
 Books, Stationery, Groceries, Notions  
 Book Agents  
 Postmaster + Book & Notion Store  
 Assistant Postmaster  
 "Stern" Editor, School Board Director  
 "Stern Des Weslichen" Office Foreman  
 Editor of "The New Bremen Sun"  
 Typographer?  
 "Sun" News & Job Printing  
 Baker  
 "Star" Bakery & Confectionery  
 Bakery  
 Creamery & Dairy, Livestock  
 "Elm Grove" Creamery, Produce Merchants  
 School Board Clerk  
 Meat Market  
 Meat Market  
 Groceries & Saloon  
 Clothing, Livery Stable, City Councilman  
 "N. B. Bazaar" Dry Goods & Notions  
 "N. B. Bazaar" Dry Goods & Notions  
 Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain  
 Dry Goods, Etc., School Board Treas.  
 Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Liquor  
 Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Hdwe.  
 Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Hdwe.  
 School Board President  
 Dry Goods, Produce, Pork, Grain, Hdwe.  
 Hardware, Dry Goods, Etc.  
 Hardware, Toys, Groceries  
 Dry Goods, Groceries, Sewing Machines  
 Jewelry Store  
 Jewelry Store  
 Jeweler & Gunsmith  
 Boots & Shoes  
 Shoemaker  
 Shoemaker  
 Shoemaker  
 Tailor & Cutter  
 Merchant Tailor (Monroe & Water Sts.)  
 Merchant Tailor  
 Millinery  
 Millinery (S. Washington St.)  
 Millinery, Notions, Barber, Notary Public  
 Justice of the Peace  
 Insurance Agent, Mayor  
 City Councilman  
 Photograph Artist  
 Physician & Surgeon (Speckman/Nieter block)  
 Physician & Surgeon  
 Physician & Surgeon  
 Physician & Surgeon  
 Physician & Surgeon, City Councilman  
 Veterinary Physician & Surgeon  
 City Drug Store - N. Washington St.  
 Superintendent of Union School  
 Superintendent of Union School  
 Teacher  
 Teacher  
 Teacher  
 Teacher  
 Teacher  
 Teacher  
 School Board Director  
 School Board Director  
 Pastor, St. Paul's Church  
 Pastor, St. Peter's Church  
 Pastor, Zions Church  
 French House (\$2 Hotel)  
 Saloon (N. Main St.)  
 Saloon  
 Saloon  
 Saloon  
 Saloon  
 Saloon  
 Saloon  
 Saloon (N. Main St.)  
 Saloon & Barbershop (W. Monroe St.)  
 Saloon & Pool Room, City Treasurer  
 Kaufman Brewing Co. (N. Main St.)  
 Cigar Factory  
 Cigarmaker  
 Cigarmaker  
 Cigarmaker  
 Cigar Factory  
 Cigarmaker



## MAINTENANCE REPORT

The year 2001 is a year in which a lot of much-needed improvements are being made to our facilities.

Two of our newest members, South Franklin Street neighbors Mark Kitzmiller & Ed Bergman, were hired this spring to redirect the run-off from our museum roof. They diverted downspouts from the museum into the storm sewer by digging a trench along the north side of the house and inserting plastic drainage tubing, connecting both the rear and the front downspouts. They also had to tunnel under the sidewalk in order to reach the sewer line. This will do away with the winter-time hazard of water running on the sidewalk and freezing. They dug out the vines, etc. growing on the south side of the museum, leaving a shallow trench and, around the perimeter of the museum, they placed a narrow strip of loose gravel, which was donated by Dale & Shirley Meyer. (cost = \$156.15)

Ed & Mark & Ed's brother, Alan Bergman, were also hired to pour a concrete base under the roof overhang on the west side of the barn at the rear of our property. The base was then covered with the "star"  bricks donated by Fred Moeller in 1980 - bricks that had been salvaged from the sidewalks in front of the appliance business he then owned on the south side of West Monroe Street. In conjunction with that, a new concrete sidewalk was poured from the barn to the old brick patio behind the museum. Also, the stone planter near the barn was removed. This was completed in time for our summer picnic on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. (total cost = \$1391.42)

New vertical wood siding will be put on the barn this summer, also by the Bergmans & Mark Kitzmiller. In addition, new steel doors and vinyl windows will be installed, and the door on the south side of the barn will become the new visitors' entrance. (quote = \$8000.00)

The museum is scheduled to be painted this summer by Hoffman Decorating (John & Craig Hoffman). They have volunteered to donate the paint and charge us only for the labor. The last time the museum was painted was in 1995 - 6 years ago. That, along with painting of the trim on the barn, was also done by Hoffman Painting for a cost of \$3800.00. (2001 quote = \$\_\_\_\_\_)

Carl Roediger has become our new "handy man" inside the museum. He has installed shelving in the office for the curators and has hung new pegboard panels in the southwest room in order that more pictures and other items can be hung for display. He is also making new quilt racks for our quilt display upstairs. Carl is a valuable asset to our organization and can be counted on to be available when something needs to be fixed.

### SPECIAL 1-DAY DISPLAY - JULY 15, 2001

This summer, we are trying to have people bring in their special collections for display during our Sunday visitations. On July 15<sup>th</sup>, Lawrence & Marlene (Moeller) Egbert will be displaying a bearskin rug-buggy blanket with horsehair backing, made from the hides of 3-4 bears, one of which is the last bear to be shot in Auglaize County in 1850. It was purchased some years ago by Elton & Freda (Larger) Moeller from Harry & Naomi (Grube) Koeper. When Naomi (Grube) grew up, she slept with the blanket on her bed. Thanks to Freda for allowing us to display this.

## N.B.H.A. MUSEUM'S BARN

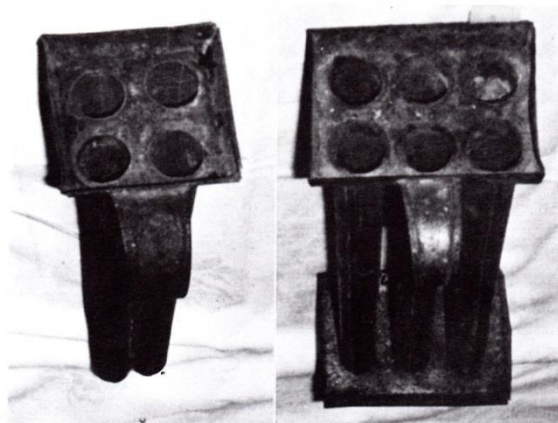
The barn / workshop at the rear of the museum property was built about 1912 by William H.F. Luelleman, father of Carl Luelleman, Richard Luelleman, and Catherine (Luelleman) Grilliot.

The barn was originally a full 2-story structure, built as a horse barn, with the upper story being used to store hay for the Luelleman's horse, "Prince." When the barn was built, it encased the existing outdoor toilet.

The toilet had been built using limestone from the Piqua Quarry, which was brought to New Bremen by canal boat. The limestone was used as a foundation and also to line the pit. William Luelleman linked the toilet to the sanitary sewer so that when it needed to be emptied, it could be flushed with a hose and drained into the sanitary sewer - an original "flush toilet!" The area around the toilet and beneath the stairway was used as a woodshed.

At some point, probably during his ownership of the property between 1953 and 1973, Carl Luelleman remodeled the barn, lowering the roof to make a 1½ story building. Probably this is when the green shingle siding was added. The original barn had vertical barn siding and wood shingles on the roof. It did not have the overhang on the front (west) side. This was added by the New Bremen Historic Association, probably when the new roof was installed in 1984. The roof at that time cost \$5715.91 and was installed by (Bob) Hirschfeld Builders. New spouting was installed in 1998 by Association members.

by Lucille Francis



**Tin candle molds manufactured by August Dierker.**

[More about August Dierker's Tinshop on page 10.]

The one on the left (4) was donated by Mary (Dicke) Reed of Lima and came from the former Lehmkuhl Hotel on North Main St. (across from our museum.) The one on the right (6) was donated by Marjorie (Gieseke) Conradi/Lietz. She found it in the 1940s in the former home of Louis and Johanna Conradi, after marrying Carl Conradi and moving into the family home east of town.



## From the Mailbox....

5/7/2001

Enclosed are my 2001 dues plus a donation for the museum. Thank you for all your hard work and volunteer hours. Receiving *The Towpath* is always a great occasion and most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christina (Schneider) Howard - Centerville, Ohio  
[great-granddaughter of August & Barbara (Reinacher) Schneider]

Dear Mrs. Francis:

5/8+19/2001

Yesterday I received my April copy of *The Towpath* and of course, I had to immediately read it as usual. That issue brought back many memories.

After my father, William Frey, died in April, 1944, and my sister, Dorothy, was at Heidelberg College, my mother, Martha (Bertram) Frey, and I moved into one of the apartments above the former Schwabero Store. Mrs. Ed (Anna Schulenberg) Langhorst lived in the other one. Mrs. Langhorst played the piano, and she always said she would dance a jig with my husband, Gene Engle, when we were married. On our wedding day (8/26/1950) she came over and did just that. She was 84 years old then! (Anna Langhorst lived to be 98.)

In the Curators' Corner, you mentioned that programs of Loretta Herkenhoff's piano recitals had been received. My sister Dorothy and I both took lessons from her. I remember she would come to the Hollingsworth Hotel and give lessons on the second floor. Jim Schnell also took lessons, and I remember she always made him wash his hands (there was a basin in the room) before he could touch the keys. I wasn't the pianist like my sister and when I wasn't certain of my notes, I would play softly as Loretta was hard of hearing, but she knew!

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The programs, prize cards, etc. mentioned were found in the former Marvin & Lola Dietrich house by the new owner. They actually had been given to student Jane Dietrich by Mrs. Herkenhoff. Jane Dietrich & Marian Frey both graduated with the class of 1944.]

My husband enjoyed seeing the pictures of Hulda Wiehe (in the 5 & 10¢ Store article). Gene directed the St. Paul Church choir while he taught music in the New Bremen schools. Hulda was a member of the church choir (see pg. 5) and was his friend. When they got in fresh candy kisses at the store, she always gave him some.

My nephew, Bill Frey, gave me the web sites for the Lima and Wapakoneta newspapers, so I check the obituaries about every day and noticed that Louis Landwehr had passed away. His mother, Erma Landwehr, bought my mother's house at the corner of South Franklin and Plum Streets, two doors down from Melville ("Plucky") and Leona Laut. (The house is no longer there.) Ivan and Mabel (Hoepfer/Harjehausen) Koeper and their son, John, lived in the house in between.

Behind the three homes were the grade school's baseball fields. The other half of the block contained the school and all of the playground equipment, which we used as our playground the year around. I had a wonderful childhood home and surroundings.

When I visit my sister-in-law, Mrs. Walter (Madella Fischbach) Frey, on my annual trip to New Bremen, I also visit Leona Laut in the Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Minster. She is the only person left who knew me as a child. New Bremen will always be my home town!

Sincerely, Marian (Frey) Engle - Crozet, Virginia

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Marian Frey was one of the early lifeguards at the "1938" swimming pool on Plum St. See pictures on pg. 2.]

Dear Lucille & Tom:

April, 2001

It was so nice to meet you and to spend part of the day with you on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you both for all that you did to make our trip successful. Betsy and I learned a lot and went away more impressed than ever with the work the Historic Association is doing. Thanks also to Delores Stienecker for bringing in her Garmhausen collection for us to see.

Janet (Garmhausen) Bock - Columbus, Ohio

I am so grateful to you for the Garmhausen Store ad that you sent, and also for all the useful contacts you gave me within the museum/collector community. Thank you too for the generous amount of time, tour and information you and Tom provided. Janet and I benefited much from that day with you.

Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter - Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.

Dear Ms. Francis:

4/30/2001

Please add me to your Lifetime Membership roster. My grandmother, Marjorie Lietz, got me interested in New Bremen history many years ago, and I have been a loyal reader of *The Towpath* ever since. I appreciate all the effort you put into it to make it so informative and fun to read. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Johanna Alger

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Marge Lietz's interest in the Historic Association lives on. Her daughter, Genevieve Conradi, recently began serving as our Historian. Gen is the mother of Johanna Alger.]

### NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 6/22/2001)

05/02/2001	Alger, Johanna (Malik) - New Knoxville, OH (Re-joined)
04/24/2001	Beach, Thomas (Dr.) - New York, N.Y.
04/12/2001	Belton, Marjorie (Braun) - Lima, Ohio (Re-joined)
05/07/2001	Bennett, Carol (Blakey) - Hemmingford, NE (Re-joined)
05/19/2001	Bergman, Alan - New Bremen
05/02/2001	Bergman, Edward - New Bremen
05/14/2001	Buck, Judy (Gast) - Florence, South Carolina
06/21/2001	Donovan, Beverly (Sudman) - Celina, Ohio
06/14/2001	Gorbics, Nancy (Eschmeyer) - Shelby, Michigan
05/02/2001	Kitzmler, Mark - New Bremen
06/02/2001	Koester, John D. - New York, N.Y.
06/03/2001	Krieg, Ruth (Hummel) - New Bremen
05/01/2001	Landwehr, Mrs. Louis (Dolores)(TR)-Englewood, OH
06/14/2001	Lirones, Mary (Dickman) - Saline, Michigan
05/11/2001	Maze, Mary Kathryn (Huenke) - St. Marys (Re-joined)
05/14/2001	Mescher, Gall (Gruebmeier) - Minster, Ohio
06/22/2001	Meyers, David W. - Columbus, Ohio
06/01/2001	Reineke, Verona (Sudman) - New Bremen
06/22/2001	Roettger, Edward H. (TR) - Minster, Ohio
06/01/2001	Rump, Vilma (Gruebmeier) - New Bremen
04/28/2001	Scheer, Jack - Wapakoneta, Ohio
05/14/2001	Shroyer, Margaret (Wehmeyer)(TR) - Botkins, Ohio
04/06/2001	Siefring, Brian - St. Henry, Ohio
06/21/2001	Steiner, David (Dr.) - Lima, Ohio
05/10/2001	Vogelsang, Mary Jo - New York, N.Y. (Re-joined)
05/01/2001	Voss, Audrey (Rupert) - Sauk Centre, Minnesota
04/24/2001	Widner, George H., D.D.S. - Chapin, S. Carolina
06/01/2001	Wissman, Jack - Denver, North Carolina

### MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

05/27/2001	Ahlers, Mrs. Harold (Frances) (died 5/27/2001)
05/29/2001	Blanke, Lorraine (Laut)(CM) (died 5/29/2001)
05/08/2001	Kirby, Mary Jo (Kuenzel) (died 5/8/2001)
05/28/2001	Klein, Mrs. David (Marian)(CM) (died 10/18/2000)
05/01/2001	Landwehr, Louis (died 5/1/2001)
05/23/2001	Moeller, Lucile (Fark) (died 5/23/2001)
06/22/2001	Roettger, Edward C. (died 6/22/2001)
05/14/2001	Shroyer, Arthur (died 5/14/2001)
04/25/2001	Tangeman, Mrs. Carl (Alice) (died 4/25/2001)

### ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

05/02/2001	Alger, Johanna (Malik) (new)
06/14/2001	Lirones, Mary (Dickman) (new)

### MEMORIAL DONATION

The following memorial donation has been received this quarter:

In memory of Lorraine / "Toots" (Laut) Blanke  
by her cousin, Eugene Jordan