

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)

October - 2002

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MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

7:30 p.m. at the N.B. Library (winter 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 who 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.

~ ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL ~



By request, this year we will be open on two consecutive weekends for our 28th annual Christmas Tree Festival and Open House. Our hours will be:

Sunday, December 1st - 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 7th - 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th - 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

(Santa Claus will be here this Sunday.)

Our theme this year will be "Bells Ring Out."

For those willing to decorate a tree, provide a display, or donate a raffle or door prize, please call Dru Meyer, Special Events Chairman, at 419-629-3495 for further information.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

BREMENFEST 2002 MEMORIES

Bremenfest 2002 was held on the weekend of August 16, 17, 18. A parade was held on Sunday afternoon, the 18th. The N.B.H.A., under the direction of our president, Rev. Lawrence Holmer, again entered a float (see next page for pictures.) Rev. Holmer is our major float designer. Here he is sitting on the back of the float in his patriotic dress of wide-brimmed red hat and his stars & stripes necktie, waiting for the parade to start.



SCHWIETERMAN DRUG STORE'S ENTRY

The world's largest pill bottle?

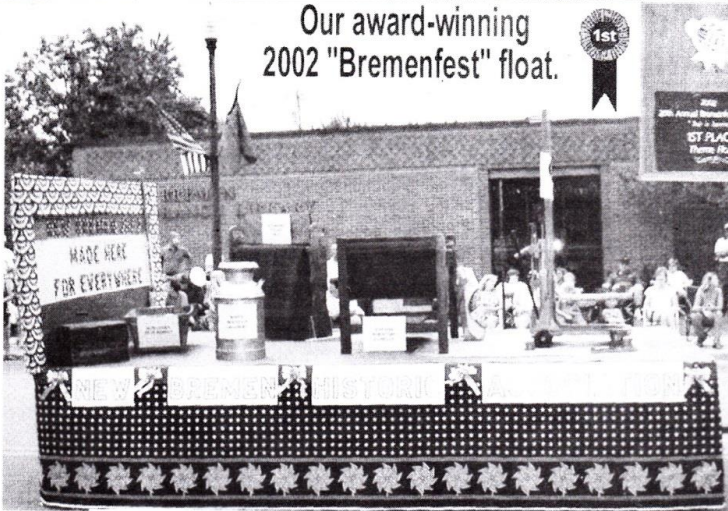


Our award-winning
2002 "Bremenfest" float.



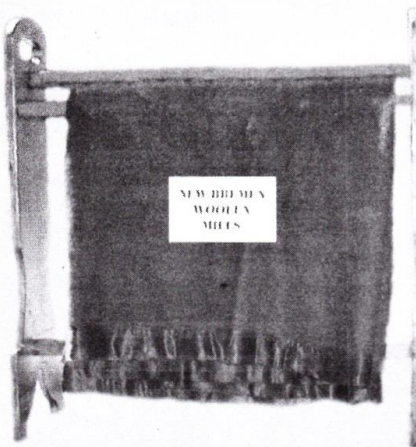
Pulling the float
was Allen Paul.

Thanks to Bill Tostrick
for the use of his
tractor and wagon.

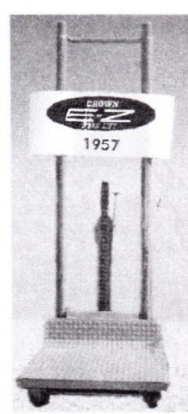


Our award-winning 2002 "Bremenfest" float. We again won 1st place in the theme category. The theme for this 28th annual Bremenfest was "Made In America." Our theme was "New Bremen 2002 – Made Here For Everywhere."

ITEMS DISPLAYED ON THE FLOAT: Kuenzel Mills "New Bremen" blanket, Kuenzel Mills flour sacks (in frame), Lock Two Mills "Silver Star" flour sack, White Mountain Creamery milk can owned by Merlin & Susie Hirschfeld, Logan Block (brick from S. Main St.), Henry Schwaberow's Store egg carrier (black box), Wooden "meat carrier" used by Schelper's Meat Market, C.W. Barth broom, 1957 Crown E-Z lift hydraulic platform truck (the first of their material handling equipment) furnished by the Bicycle Museum of America, Auglaize Furniture Factory library desk.



HENRY SCHWABEROW
Dealer in
Queensware, Lamps, Groceries, Etc.
New Bremen, O.



Auglaize Furniture Factory
Library Desk

NEW BREMEN'S CANAL BRIDGES

The first canal bridges were made of wood since wood was most plentiful in those early days after the Miami-Erie Canal was completed in 1845. Later, wrought iron became more affordable and the bridges began to be made of a combination of wrought iron and cast iron because the iron would not rot. Wood planks continued to be used for the floors, however.

Stationary Bridges

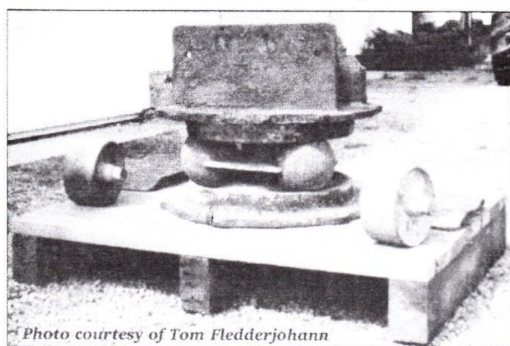
The first bridges to cross the canal were fixed in place with a 10 foot minimum clearance from the water to the underside of the bridge. These bridges were a nuisance and a danger to the canal boat passengers should they forget to stoop or lie down when they approached a bridge and heard the boatman call "Low bridge, everybody down!"

Swing Bridges

Later, movable bridges were invented. They were built only a few feet above the water and had a stationary pier in the canal bed near the center of the bridge. The masonry pier could be round, octagonal or square and had to be almost as wide as the bridge for stability. A circular iron track with a pivot at the center would be bolted to the pier. Another circular iron track was attached to the bottom of the bridge. The bridge could then be easily rotated 90° on cast iron rollers and "ball bearings" which were held in place by a spacer plate. These were called swing bridges and required a bridge tender to operate the mechanism which moved the bridge to the side for the canal boats to pass through. (See the *Vogelsang Street swing bridge* on pg. 4.)

Bump Bridges

In order to eliminate the expense of having a bridge tender, bump bridges were invented. These were swing bridges that were bumped open by an approaching boat and would close automatically by force of gravity as the rollers and ball bearings rolled back down the sloping tracks after the boat had passed through.



The "ball bearing" pivot assembly shown above with 7" iron balls was used where the Miami-Erie Canal intersected with Quellhorst Road north of New Bremen and was discovered about 8-10 years ago. It was dug out and preserved and is located at the home of Tom Fledderjohann on St. Rt. 219, St. Marys. Tom is a canal buff, having grown up near the canal in town, and he now has the canal running through his farm. It is thought

that there were probably originally 4 of the rollers (shown below left) that moved on the circular track around the pivot assembly to support and stabilize the bridge.

Lift Bridges

Lift bridges could be raised by the use of cables, pulleys, and counterweights to provide clearance for the boats. In March, 1904, the village council proposed building a new bridge at Monroe Street to replace the existing swing bridge.

"The question whether the Monroe Street bridge house should be disposed of to the highest bidder for \$10 was weighed carefully as if a matter of a thousand dollars were involved. Finally it was agreed that since the town needed the money, to let the old house go for the price. After the vote was taken, the entire council heaved a sigh of relief to think that such a serious proposition upon which so much of the welfare of the community depended, had been successfully disposed of. The old eyesore, which has been answering the purpose of a billboard for every Tom, Dick and Harry that struck town, bill posters and advertising agents, from the very day it was erected 10 years ago will not answer such purpose any longer. It was this week removed by Julius Topp, who recently acquired it for use on his farm north of town." (N.B. Sun - 3/11, 4/8, 4/22/1904)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Julius Topp was my grandfather.]

"The construction of the new retaining wall on the north side of Monroe Street preparatory to the erection of the new bridge was begun this week." (8/19/1904)

"The present Monroe St. bridge which workmen have begun to remove today in order to make room for a new and more convenient one has surely done yeoman service. It was 16 years old the 20th of this month having been completed in 1888." (N.B. Sun - 9/23/1904)

"Charles Wiegman, who had the contract of dismantling the old Monroe St. bridge, finished the job this week. The masonry work will now be resumed and finished as speedily as possible to allow the bridge company to complete the iron work in the time specified." (The plate at the top of this new lift bridge said "Massillon Bridge Co. - 1904.") (N.B. Sun - 9/30/1904)

"With the end of another week, we will probably see the Western Ohio (interurban) crossing the new Monroe St. bridge. Workmen are engaged in making the required fill at both approaches of the new structure. The Railway company will then start to re-lay the rails and stretch the wires after which traffic to Minster will be resumed. The citizens of that town will no doubt hail the change with great delight after so long a time of 'dinkey' or hack transportation." (N.B. Sun - 12/2/1904)

"Everybody is glad now that the new bridge is built and the whole town feels proud of the elegant structure. It is a worthy monument to the manufacturers and to the commissioners who had it erected." (N.B. Sun - 12/23/1904)

Bowstring Bridges

New Bremen has an example of an iron "bowstring" bridge across the canal south of Lock One and west of Front St. It was installed as a foot bridge in 1984-1985.

CLIPS FROM THE N.B. SUN

6/1/1888 – The prospects for our swing bridge are not so bad after all. The commissioners are favorably inclined to give us the bridge at a considerable less expense.

8/31/1888 – Sealed bids will be received by the Clerk of the Village of N.B. for the opening and closing of the swing bridge spanning the canal on Monroe Street for the passage of boats.

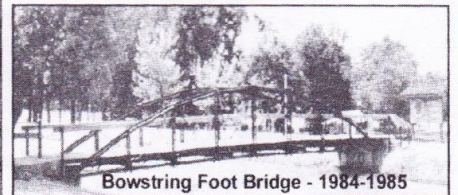
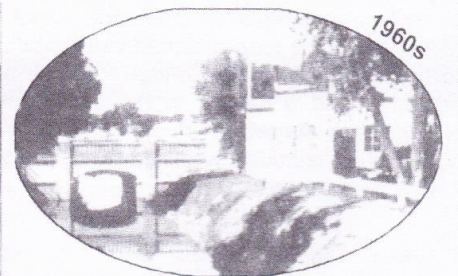
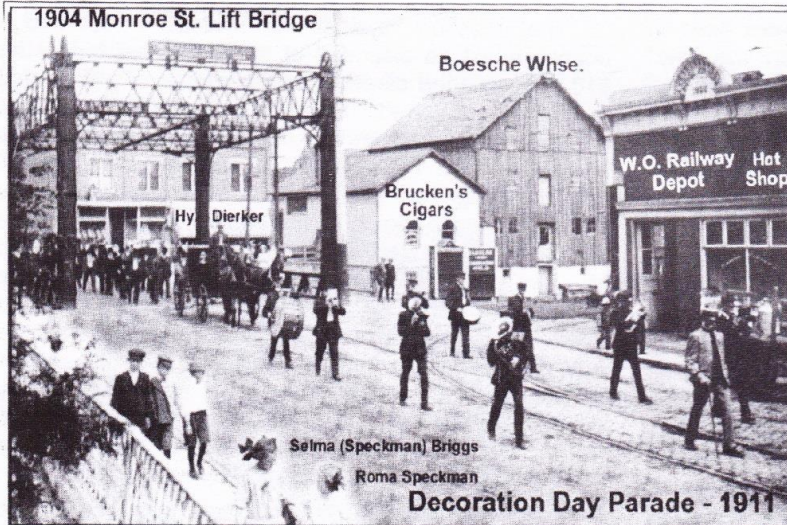
8/22/1891 – The new swing bridge on First St. will be put up by the Toledo Bridge Co. for \$1860.

5/7/1892 – The contract for opening and closing the swing bridges was awarded to George Thompson for \$200 per year.

7/30/1892 – Four swing bridges now span the canal in N.B. Two are in charge of a bridge tender and the other two are opened by the force of the moving boat and jack-ass strength.

10/13/1899 – Gerhard Waterman & his men are putting in a new foundation for the new swing bridge at Vogelsang St.

11/3/1899 – Gerhard Waterman is putting in a swing bridge at Lock Two. The old bridge is already torn down.

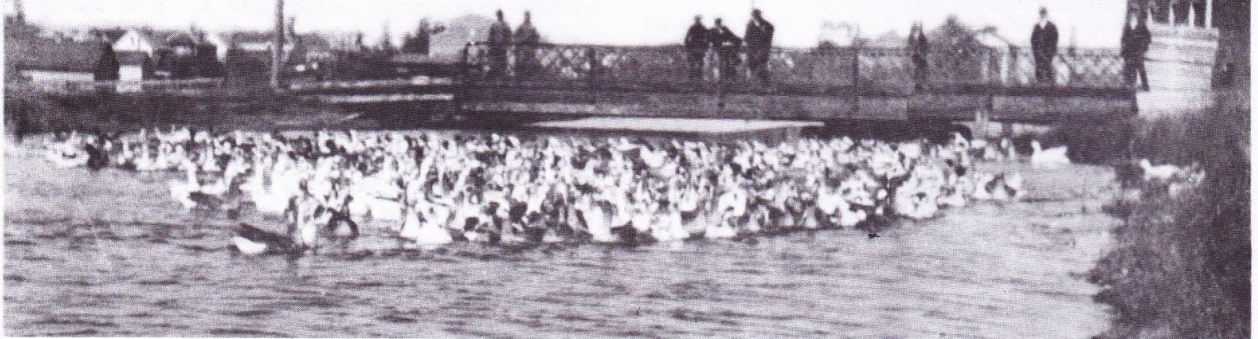


(looking north)

J.A. Long & Co.
Poultry House

St. Paul's Church
steeple (left)

THE VOGELSANG STREET SWING BRIDGE - ca. 1905



This is one of the four iron swing bridges in New Bremen at one time. The others were located at Monroe Street, First Street, and Second Street. The Monroe Street bridge was replaced by an iron lift bridge in 1904, and by a concrete bridge in 1921. Two of the swing bridges were opened by a bridge-tender and the other two were opened by a bump on one end with the bow of the canal boat. The boat would be guided into position by timbers extending out into the water from the bridge. When the bridge was bumped, it would swing around on castor-like wheels which moved on a circular track located to one side of the bridge (visible underneath the right end of the bridge.) That end of the bridge was weighted down with heavy limestones to give it the proper pitch to swing smoothly. Vogelsang Street, so-called because all the land in this area west of the canal was once owned by Fred Vogelsang, was renamed West Plum Street in July, 1923.

(Ralph May photo)

THE POULTRY HOUSE

by Ralph May - 1932

When the J.A. Long & Co. Poultry House at the corner of Plum & Canal Streets discontinued business a few years ago, it marked the closing of an era in the history of New Bremen and was almost as much of a catastrophe as when the Western Ohio (interurban) ceased operating.

For time immemorial the poultry house was a going concern in N.B., particularly in the fall and winter. From September until after Christmas and New Year's, chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys were gathered in from all corners of the adjacent countryside to be killed, ruffed and handpicked and then packed in ice and shipped to the Eastern markets. This not only afforded employment for the regular hands employed all year, but for the women and children of the entire neighborhood.

We children ran all the way home from school in order to hurry and change from our school clothes into the old rags we wore when we picked chickens. To us it was a splendid opportunity to earn some money for Christmas and we worked hard to make what we could during this "rush season" of the year.

Of all the work, the picking of chickens was not the most agreeable job. There were certain drawbacks that would make the children of today shrink in terror. Imagine, if you can, working in a brick building with little ventilation and what atmosphere there was beclouded with small feathers. Instead of being knee-deep in clover, we were knee-deep in feathers.

Around the room were arranged plain wooden benches on which we sat, holding our fowls in burlap-sack aprons and picking away for dear life. Of course, we had to stop and scratch occasionally for there were chicken lice aplenty in those days when insecticides were not so widely used. We took old stockings which had been soaked in coal oil (kerosene) and tied them securely around our necks to keep the lice from getting into our hair.

We picked for an hour or two before supper and an hour or two after supper, depending on how long the chickens held out. We had paper cards which were punched for each chicken we picked and which were presented at the office at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays when we were paid - 2¢ per chicken. This was our first adventure into the "working world" and we enjoyed every bit of it. I have never since earned any money that gave me more pleasure than the money I earned picking chickens at the poultry house.

The old frame building, which burned down on 10/3/1912 and was replaced by the new brick one, was formerly a linseed oil mill and was operated for many years by William Rabe. In the old days, canal boats on the Miami-Erie Canal anchored alongside this building and loaded and unloaded their cargo. The first manager that I can recall was a Mr. F.I. Steinberg. Then followed Henry Beard, Jim Moore, W. Harry Hawkins and Lafe

Kellermeyer. When the old building burned down, it was a most spectacular fire and burned quickly, owing to the old timber and the rags and paper stored on the second floor.

Some of the commodities bought and sold by the J.A. Long Co. were: poultry, eggs, cheese, rancid butter, bones, hides, tallow, beeswax, hickory nuts, maple syrup, rubber, old rags, paper, tinfoil, iron, brass, copper, zinc, etc. The entire second floor of the old warehouse was used to house the rags and paper. These were baled during the hot summer months and gradually shipped to the paper mills. All trouser, coat and vest pockets were carefully looked into for possible articles overlooked by the seller, however I know of nothing that was ever found. I did, however, find many interesting magazines, which contributed to my love of reading.

About once each week during the summer months, we boys made the rounds of all the alleys, looking for old iron, rubber, zinc washboards and Mason jar lids, worn-out rubbers, brass and copper. Chicken pens, which were then very plentiful in town, were inspected carefully for good-sized soup bones. Anything that had a market value, be it ever so small, was gathered up and carried away in an old Gold Lace flour sack (from Kuenzel Mills). It was an interesting sight to see the different groups of boys come in to the Poultry House on a Saturday morning with their express wagons and flour sacks filled with junk. We were always disappointed with the weight, though, since our efforts had seemed to warrant more than we usually got.

Prices paid for junk around the turn of the century (1900) were 1¢ for 2 pounds of rags or 4 pounds of iron or bones. Zinc, copper, brass and rubber brought higher prices since they were scarce. A day's hunt usually netted only a few pennies, which were spent at Rabe's Cheap Store for red hot drops, kisses, old-fashioned stick candy, horehound or Sweet Wheat chewing gum.

Some of these commodities had a quick turnover, but some seemed to remain forever. Many years ago, a foundry was operated where the N.B. Broom Co. is now located (on South Herman St.). Many an express wagonload of old iron castings were found there by digging up the earth in the rear of the buildings. I believe that some of the iron we sold to the company when we were boys is still in their junkyard!

The junkyard was surrounded by a high board fence to prevent the boys from pulling the junk from underneath and selling it for the second time. This junkyard was an interesting place to visit. Here we picked out all our horse shoes, iron pipe for home-made cannons to use on July 4th, old stoves for our clubrooms, wheels for our express wagons, etc. Whenever we wanted a little target practice, all we had to do was to lie behind an old box near the bone pile and shoot away at the rats which lived there in large colonies.

The junkyard always contained one or more tractor engines. It was great sport to play engineer with one of those engines. Since they were the old-fashioned steam

engine type, they abounded in valves, clutches, throttles, etc. We blew the whistle, turned on the steam, and watched the fly wheel turn swiftly (all in imagination, of course.) We had much pleasure playing with these old "threshing engines", as we called them.

At Halloween, we would carry chicken coops (crates) away from the Poultry House and put them in the school yard or in front of somebody's house. On October 31st, there were always large stacks of them ready for us, piled up on the outside near the office. Were it not for the fact that the junkyard was kept locked, we would probably have moved away some of the tractor engines.

When I was a boy, each lawn in the neighborhood had a large-sized flower bed in the center front, with cannas and elephant ears being planted inside large tractor wheels supplied by the junkyard.

Our first trips to neighboring towns were made in the wagons of J.A. Long & Co. Weekly trips were made to Chickasaw, Kettlersville, Minster, and Fort Loramie (Berlin). To go along with the driver for the day's trip was real traveling in those days. These wagons brought in eggs and poultry, and hardly ever traveled more than 10-15 miles a day. In those days of the horse and wagon, there was no traffic and the growing fields of grain, clover, pasture and woods was a pleasant view to look at. The approach of a town was a sight indeed, and the unloading and loading of the wagon always a

pleasure. In this manner, we soon learned to know all the small nearby towns situated close to New Bremen.

The ducks and geese purchased in the fall were permitted the free use of the canal during the day. There were no restrictions as to how far they could go on the canal. In the evenings, they were driven home and kept within the board fence surrounding the company's junkyard. One of the most interesting sights was to see these hundreds of ducks and geese given their liberty in the mornings and being herded back in the evenings. The Vogelsang Street swing bridge was always crowded with spectators.

I hope that the present managers will be able to keep the Poultry House going as one of the institutions of N.B. As a business, it was unique. We have lost so much in recent years that we do not want to lose anything else. The Miami-Erie Canal is almost dried up, the pond has about been filled up, Faehl's barn has long since disappeared, Koop's "Ten Acres" is not what it used to be, and the Western Ohio (interurban) just recently stopped running (on 1/16/1932). True, we still have the Central School building, the Old Reliable Meat Market, the Thompson House, and the New Bremen Sun, but if the depression lasts much longer, we may even lose some of these. I hate to see old things go.

The Weekly Contributor (Ralph May) — [N.B. Sun — 9/22/1932]



Ducks and geese on the south side of the poultry house which stood on the east side of the canal at the corner of East Plum St. and Canal St. To the right of the pole is Canal Street. Across Canal Street (to the right, on the corner) is the old blacksmith shop where Ralph May's grandfather, Dietrich (aka Richard) Schroeder, shod horses and did other blacksmith work before his death in 1895. After his mother's death in 1896, 4 year old Ralph lived with his Grandmother Schroeder in the house just barely showing at the extreme right of the picture (the peak with gingerbread trim.) Ralph, about 11-12 years old, is standing beside the old blacksmith shop. (Ralph May photo)

FOR SALE: Good frame building at corner of (East) Plum and Canal Streets, formerly used as blacksmith shop. Inquire of Mrs. Elise Schroeder. (N.B. Sun - 7/29/1904)



Penny postcard sent 8/9/1910 by Lafe Kellermeyer to Louis Fisher, Minster, Ohio.

Message: "This is our place of business. Lafe Kellermeyer"

[postcard donated by Bob & Mary Finke]

About 1871, this building was purchased by William Rabe and here he entered into the production of linseed oil. At that time, flax was being raised in the community and the production of linseed oil became a flourishing business. About 1881, when the mills in the larger cities gained the upper hand, Mr. Rabe went on to found the Rabe Mfg. Co. planing mill at 225 South Washington St. He also had a hardware store at 124 South Washington which he had founded in 1856, next door to his residence.

In the business directory of the 1880 Atlas of Auglaize County, F.I. Steinberg was listed as being the shipper of and dealer in butter, eggs, clover grass, and flaxseed and his residence and business was located at 112 North Main Street (see pg.11). In May, 1888, he bought the Rabe Oil Mill building. In the 1898 Atlas, his brother, Adolph, was said to have resided in Auglaize County "for the past 28 years" (since 1870?), most of that time at New Bremen, where he was engaged in the produce business and the wholesale egg and poultry industry. In August, 1893, Adolph Steinberg sold his country produce business to Fred Wierth & Son, who had been employed by Mr. Steinberg for some time.

In February, 1899, J.A. Long & Co. of Portland, Indiana purchased the country produce business from Fred Wierth & Son, who in turn purchased the Hilgeman Brick Yard. J.A. Long also purchased the produce business of F.I. Steinberg. J.A. Long planned to turn these businesses into another branch of their already widely established interests. The townspeople were urged to bring their poultry, eggs, butter, hides, tallow, sheep pelts, beeswax, rags, etc. to J.A. Long & Co. in the former oil mill near the Vogelsang Street swing bridge.

(N.B. Sun - 2/17+24/1899)

J.A. LONG & CO.

**Buys the old Oil Mill.
Will convert same into
model Poultry House.**

The poultry firm of J.A. Long & Co. bought the building in which they have conducted their business these years. The building was formerly the property of F.I. Steinberg, but was covered by a mortgage by T.B. Steineman of Minster. Mr. Steineman foreclosed his mortgage on Monday and for a consideration of \$600, transferred same to the poultry firm.

The building is located on Vogelsang & Canal Streets near the Vogel-sang Street swing bridge

and is an old landmark, having primarily been used as an oil mill.

This deal carries with it the assurance that the firm of J.A. Long & Co. is to become a permanent fixture of the town. Local manager, Henry C. Beard, informed us that this is one of the best branch houses the firm has. They buy an average of \$1000.⁰⁰ worth of poultry per week.

The company will replace the old weatherboards with new ones and the inside will be sealed and plastered. A cement floor will also be put in. When all is fixed, this will be quite an up-to-date establishment.

(N.B. Sun - 11/7/1902)

J.A. LONG & CO. DESTROYED BY FIRE!

The J.A. Long & Co.'s poultry plant on the corner of East Plum and Canal Streets was the scene of a great conflagration at 4:00 a.m. Thursday morning, October 3, 1912. The fire was supposed to have had its origin in the rag pile on the second floor and destroyed the entire wood building. The roof of the adjoining brick building, the second floor of which had been used as an office, was also destroyed.

The flames first made their appearance on the south side of the upper story, which indicated that matches contained in old clothes of the rag pile may have been ignited by rats or mice. The fire first having a fair start in the rags, the flames soon reached the empty egg cases and barrels, and then only a few minutes were required to transform the entire building into a mass of flames and smoke.

As soon as neighbors were awakened by the crackling of the burning wood, the fire bells in the east side fire department were sounded and shortly thereafter

the hose carts, propelled by active firemen, arrived on the scene. The firemen stood in no small danger of being struck by the falling beams, however they had the fire under control in about 20 minutes. Their work was highly praised.

The loss of the stock on hand was estimated at \$1000.⁰⁰. About 1000 pounds of chicken and 25-30 cases of eggs were saved, while about the same weight of chickens perished. All of the contents of the second floor including the huge rag pile, empty egg cases, barrels, feathers, etc. were a total loss. The office fixtures inside the brick building were also seriously damaged, although some of them could still be used. The building together with the stock was insured for the sum of \$2800.⁰⁰.

The live stock and eggs that were saved were removed to the Boesche warehouse next door to Brucken's Cigar Store on South Washington Street. (see pg. 4) Manager Hawkins expected that a new building would soon be erected. (N.B. Sun - 10/4/1912)

J.A. LONG & CO.'s NEW POULTRY PLANT

The local branch of J.A. Long & Co.'s poultry plant is doing more business today than ever before and New Bremen may well feel proud of having such an establishment within its boundaries. Big new improvements and systematic methods have now been installed. The new building is an entirely brick 3-story building plus basement and has plenty of light. The increased interior facilities present a marked change in cleanliness and sanitation compared to the old structure. Foremost of all the improvements is the elevator in the center of the building, leading from the basement to the upper floor and propelled by an electric motor. This makes it possible to handle 2-4 times the poultry of former years.

Manager W. Harry Hawkins stated that he has a strong 20,000 pounds of poultry on hand and is well able to find room for more. The live poultry is confined in galvanized coops which are certainly a wonderful improvement over the old system. The chickens stand on wire netting, underneath which is concealed a galvanized pan into which all droppings fall and which are cleaned out daily to avoid any chicken pests.

Besides Mr. Hawkins and his clerk, there are eight men employed, not saying anything about the women pickers who are busily at work in the basement nearly every day during the killing season. Another improvement are the galvanized poultry racks on which to hang the dressed poultry. As soon as one of these racks is filled to capacity, it is removed from the killing room on rollers to the elevator and then to colder quarters in the third story.

The rags which the company buys are confined to a separate building entirely separated from the brick structure so that in case of fire, the building proper would be less exposed to the ravaging flames.

(N.B. Sun - 1/2/1914)

ROOSTER DAYS - June 4-5-6, 1914

As the hatching season soon is over and as experiments have demonstrated that hens lay as well or better without the presence of the rooster, the non-fertilized egg will keep better and longer.

We have decided that we will pay 7¢ per lb. for all the roosters delivered at our packing house at New Bremen on the above named dates.

We hope you will cooperate with us for the betterment of the quality of the eggs by disposing of the roosters.

Yours truly, J.A. LONG CO. - W.H. Hawkins, Mgr.

The State Dairy and Food Commission has proclaimed June 6th, 1914 as the day for disposing of all roosters for better production of eggs.

[postcard courtesy of Mary (Brueggeman) Klein]



"J.A. Long & Co. has 67 stations in western Ohio & eastern Indiana. Headquarters are in Union City, Indiana. Lafe Kellermeyer is the manager of the New Bremen branch."

(N.B. Sun - 9/24/1920)

The New Bremen plant of the bankrupt J.A. Long Co., Portland, Indiana, failed to sell yesterday at public auction. Appraised at \$7000, the highest bid was \$2100. A unit of the Celina branch of the J.A. Long Co., the plant is a 3-story 40' x 60' brick building and was offered for sale under an order by Wheeler Ashcraft, referee in bankruptcy of the northern district of Indiana.

(N.B. Sun - 7/30/1931)

J.A. LONG RECEIVES PENITENTIARY SENTENCE

Head of Produce Firm Guilty of Violating Bankruptcy Laws

J.A. Long of Portland, Indiana, former head of the J.A. Long Co., which until a few years ago when it went into bankruptcy, operated a branch farm produce plant in N.B., received a sentence of 3 years in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas following his conviction on two indictments charging conspiracy to violate the national bankruptcy act and with concealment of assets. He was sentenced to a 3-year term on each indictment, and was taken immediately to Leavenworth. He will be eligible for parole in 1 year. The maximum penalty that could have been imposed was 22 years imprisonment and a fine of \$10,000. (1/26/1933)

LEWIS KOMMINSK BUYS J.A. LONG CO. BUILDING

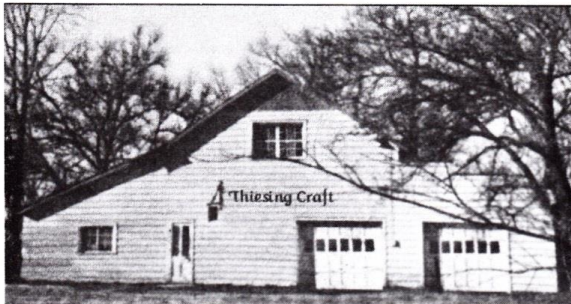
Lewis Komminsk this week came into possession of the J.A. Long Co. building at a purchase price of \$835.⁰⁰. There were no bidders when the property was offered at public sale on 11/29/1937. The building has been vacant since 1931. (N.B. Sun - 12/3/1937)

The windows and doors of the former J.A. Long & Co. building, now owned by Lewis Komminsk, were treated to a new coat of paint last week, while broken sash and panes were replaced. The building has a decidedly improved appearance. (N.B. Sun - 10/19/1939)

REUBEN THIESING BUYS POULTRY PLANT & BARN Original Livestock Barn Now Converted Into Modern Workshop

Reuben G. Thiesing recently purchased the old frame livestock barn, once a part of the poultry plant property, on the west side of South Canal Street. He also purchased the former J.A. Long Co. packing plant which he in turn sold to Virgil Amstutz. Reuben immediately began salvaging, repairing and remodeling the old barn, converting it into a modern woodworking plant.

The west end of the building is a modern machine room and workshop where cabinets, built-in cupboards and all manner of wood conveniences are constructed. The stockroom, office and display room are on the first floor and a spacious supply room is on the second floor.



Up until some months ago, Thiesing was employed as a pattern maker for the Minster Machine Co., an occupation which, though interesting, failed to satisfy his artistic mind, and he began to devote his spare time to odd tasks in the shop of his father, George Thiesing, and to remodeling the former William F. Suelter property at 206 South Canal St. Thus, his latent talents became manifest and he began to build cabinets, counters,

cupboards and the like for private homes and business places. The old barn on Canal St. appealed to him as a place in which he could make use of his talents.

Reuben Thiesing is the third generation to follow in the trade of woodcrafting. His grandfather, John Thiesing, was the original carpenter, cabinet maker and floor sander in the family. His father, George Thiesing, Jr. is presently employed at Minster Lumber Co. as a woodworker. Mr. Thiesing is pleased with the confidence shown by the orders he has received for specimens of his "Thiesing-Craft", every piece new and original, different from preceding units he has built. (N.B. Sun - 2/5/1948)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: When my parents had Reuben Thiesing build kitchen cupboards for us in 1949, he put a "T" carved out of a different color wood (walnut) on the base cabinet under the sink. We were never sure if the "T" stood for our name (Topp) or for his name (Thiesing).]

AMSTUTZ HATCHERIES

When Virgil Amstutz purchased the former J.A. Long Co. Poultry Plant in 1948, he was already operating a hatchery in the large brick building at the northeast corner of Monroe & Main Streets (the former Mueller Bros. Clothing Store.) When a new sidewalk was built in 1947 to replace the old one in front of that building, it was said that the old sidewalk had been the first concrete walk to be built in N.B. (N.B. Sun - 7/31/1947)

In September, 1948, Nevin & Verona Hirschfeld announced that they had purchased the Degraff Hatchery in Degraff, Ohio and would be moving there in the near future. The Hirschfelds had been associated with the Amstutz Hatcheries. (N.B. Sun - 9/9/1948)

From 1951-1954, Amstutz Hatchery was listed in the telephone directory at 120 West Monroe Street (the present location of The Crown Store) and the Amstutzes lived at 23 South Walnut Street.

"Virgil Amstutz has a record of over 20 years in progressive hatchery experience, expanding from one small plant to a network of 18 branches in the tri-state area of Ohio-Indiana-Michigan. A staff of 40 trained and accredited experts are employed at the hatcheries."

(N.B. Sun - 12/4/1952)

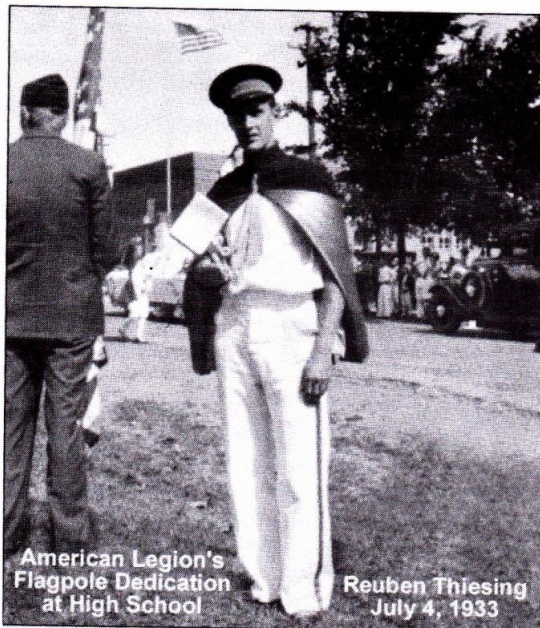
In 1953, Virgil and Helen (Rehn) Mousa became associated with the Amstutz Hatchery in New Bremen and they moved into the former Amstutz house at 23 South Walnut Street. Virgil & Majesta Amstutz and their family moved to Indiana. In the 1953-1954 telephone directories, there is a listing for the "New Bremen Broiler Association" at 113 S. Canal Street.

CROWN EQUIP. CORP.

New owners of former J.A. Long Poultry Plant.

Crown Equipment Corp. now owns this building and uses it as one of their warehouses.





American Legion's
Flagpole Dedication
at High School

Reuben Thiesing
July 4, 1933

NIGHT FOR MUSIC

Every week has its night for music – music on the old Miami and Erie Canal. There's neither an Island Queen nor showboat "coming 'round the bend", but there's plenty of music Tuesday evenings when the Civic Band holds its rehearsals in the Thiesing Woodcraft building. The group's repertoire includes about everything from slow-moving waltzes to stirring marching tunes.

Organized originally by a small coterie of high school graduates under leadership of the late Joseph N. DuPere, the band was directed until recently by Gerald Reese, head of New Bremen school's music department the past two years. Present rehearsals are for a number of upcoming engagements such as the Woodmen Festival, the Firemen's Picnic and others.

The instrumentation includes 4 trumpets, 4 clarinets, 2 trombones, 1 saxophone, 1 bass and 2 drums.

(N.B. Sun – 7/19/1951)

—————»«—————

REUBEN THIESING TAKES OVER FLOOR SANDING BUSINESS

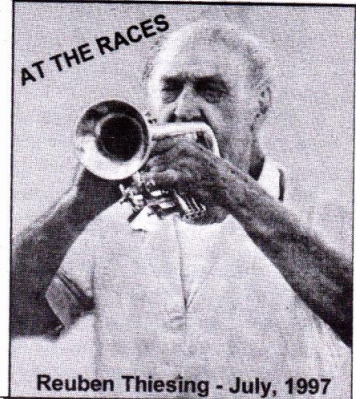
A well-known floor sanding firm passed to the 3rd generation this week when Reuben Thiesing took over the trade served since 1920 by his uncle, Frank Sunderman. The business was started by Thiesing's grandfather, John Thiesing, who also was closely identified all his life with various forms of wood-working. When he retired 35 years ago, the business was taken over by his son-in-law, Mr. Sunderman.

Sunderman worked closely in recent years with his nephew. Thiesing will be able to give his customers the benefit of the know-how passed along by his grandfather and uncle and also his father, George Thiesing, who was also an experienced woodworker.

Owner and operator of Thiesing Craft, Thiesing is successfully established in custom wood-working and has been engaged in sanding on his own since 1948.

(N.B. Sun – 7/7/1955)

When the trumpet sounded on July 29, 1997 at the Auglaize Co. Fair, calling the horses to post to open the harness racing program, a new memory was created for 81-year old Reuben Thiesing, who had been playing the trumpet since grade school.



Reuben Thiesing - July, 1997

Reuben Thiesing (12/10/1915-8/12/2000) was born in New Bremen during W.W.I. His father, George Thiesing, paid \$25 for his first trumpet when he was earning only \$15 a week.

On July 4, 1933, 17-year old Reuben was playing in the N.B.H.S. band and participated in the American Legion's dedication of the flag pole which they had erected at the high school.

Thiesing graduated from N.B.H.S. in 1934 and played with numerous local dance bands, including Whitey Thobe of Maria Stein. He was also active in the New Bremen and Auglaize County Alumni Bands.

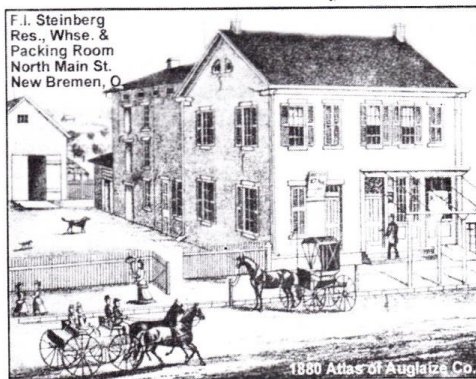
Reuben was asked to play at the Auglaize County fair by John Poppe, a former New Bremen resident and an organizer for the harness racing program at the fair. Poppe said "When I was a kid learning to play the trumpet, Reuben was the only adult I knew except the band director who played a band instrument."

Reuben's first love, however, was his woodworking and construction work. He still worked 10-hour days remodeling a 19th century home on Canal St. that he had bought for \$1000.⁰⁰. He was interested in recycling long before anybody else cared. When old factories and other buildings in town were being torn down, he would collect the old wood, brick and other supplies, and then re-use them for other projects.

His former home at 214 South Canal Street (shown below) is an outstanding example of his creative talents. Featured in a May, 1983 "Tour of Homes", it was said to have been built entirely from materials salvaged from the buildings of Auglaize Furniture / N.B. Rubber / Seiberling Latex Products, the Central School, Kuenzel Flour & Woolen Mills, the Lock Tender's (Thompson) house, the First National Bank, and many other buildings.



Thiesing's home at 214 S. Canal St. (1983)



F.I. STEINBERG

F.I. Steinberg bought the Rabe Oil Mill building last week. He may use it for manufacturing purposes other than those of making oil. (N.B. Sun - 6/1/1888)

Mr. Ignatz Leipnicker and family of New York City arrived here Wednesday and expect to make this their future home. Mr. Leipnicker is the son-in-law of our fellow townsman, F.I. Steinberg, and will live in Mr. Steinberg's house. (N.B. Sun - 4/26/1889)

Wholesale Dealer in Grain, Provisions, Wool, Etc.

In 1865, F.I. (aka F.J.) Steinberg came to New Bremen from Germany and immediately began business by opening an extensive clothing house. He continued in the clothing business for 5 years, after which he sold out to engage in the produce business. He has continued enlarging and extending his trade, until now he conducts one of the most extensive and substantial business establishments in this section. His chief business now is grain, provisions, wool and seeds, all of which he wholesales exclusively. (N.B. Sun - 7/26/1889)

"Fred Steinberg had the first clothing store in town. Steinberg could not speak English when he first came to New Bremen. A man came in to buy a suit of clothes and as it was rather dark in the store, Steinberg told him to go to 'hell', meaning that he wanted him to stand in the light. But the customer refused and walked out!"

(Adam Helwig letters - N.B. Sun - 2/9/1933)

F.I. Steinberg has served the city in an official capacity a number of times. (On 4/7/1879, F.I. Steinberg was elected to the town council. In June, 1889 he was one of 15 German Township representatives at the Auglaize County Republican Convention.)

Mr. Steinberg has recently purchased a very handsome brick residence on Washington Street (in lot 330 - 220 S. Washington) near his large warehouse (the former oil mill on Plum & Canal Streets) and has one of the finest residence properties in New Bremen.

(N.B. Sun - 7/26/1889)

Fred Speckman recently purchased the F.I. Steinberg property (on South Washington St.) and is having it remodeled. (N.B. Sun - 7/2/1897)

F.I. Steinberg sold his produce business in the former oil mill near the Vogelsang Street swing bridge to J.A. Long & Co. (N.B. Sun - 2/24/1899)

F.I. (Fred) Steinberg eventually moved to Brooklyn, New York. (N.B. Sun - 7/29/1904)

In the 1890 land tax records, lot 58 on North Main St. and its buildings were owned by Adolph Steinberg.

William Gilberg of Fort Recovery, formerly of N.B., purchased the house and lot of Adolph Steinberg on North Main St. (N.B. Sun - 5/19/1894)

PUBLIC SALE: William Gilberg will offer his 2-story brick dwelling house on Main St., formerly known as the Adolph Steinberg property, on Saturday, 2/27/1897. This is one of the most comfortable houses in the village, with large lot, fine fruit trees, good stable and other outhouses. Well and cistern all under roof. Large and roomy cellars and everything in first class order. Big bargain - will be sold cheap. (N.B. Sun - 2/26/1897)

Apparently, the Steinbergs re-purchased the property on N. Main St. at the public sale on February 27, 1897, since the next year, on February 26, 1898, it (lot 58, with large brick dwelling house, etc.) was again offered for public sale, this time by Mrs. H(enrietta) Steinberg (the wife of Adolph Steinberg). (N.B. Sun - 2/11/1898)

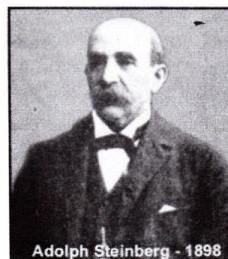
The Steinberg property on North Main St. was last Saturday sold at public sale to William Schwepe for \$1940. Mr. Schwepe will move into the building. It is just across the street from his saloon and will make convenient quarters. Henry Moeller and family who live in that building now, will move into the William Buss building at the corner of Monroe & Franklin Streets.

(N.B. Sun - 3/4/1898)



A. STEINBERG

Wholesale Butter, Eggs and Poultry Business



Adolph Steinberg was born 10/21/1844 in Hallenberg, Germany, the son of H.E. & Caroline Steinberg. On 12/1/1867, he married Henrietta Ochs and they had 9 children, 3 of whom died as children.

(1) Hattie Steinberg married Leon Kahn of Cincinnati and they had a son, Harry Kahn, born 4/22/1891. Harry Kahn graduated from Culver Military Academy and became employed in the Charles Kahn & Co. clothing store in Wapakoneta. He is remembered by many as the long-time secretary of the Auglaize County Fair Board, having served as such from 1934-1966.

(2) Herman Steinberg was one of the 3 N.B.H.S. graduates of 1888, the other 2 being Edward Conradi and Henry August Schrage. Only 6 others – 5 boys and 1 girl – had graduated before them from 1882-1885. In May, 1891, Herman was running a creamery for his father at St. Marys. He went on to become an attorney in New York City.

(3) Melville Steinberg died 11/24/1963 in New York City at the age of 76. He was the "youngest of the Steinberg family" and the last survivor, having been preceded in death by Mrs. Leon (Hattie) Kahn, Mrs. Harry (Millie) Jones, Herman Steinberg, Mrs. Roy (Helen) Doering, Max Steinberg, and the three children who died before 1898 – Emil, Freda, and Irwin. After leaving Wapakoneta, Mel Steinberg operated two restaurants in New Jersey and had become widely known for his culinary arts as an excellent chef. He had 2 sons: Allan & Mel, Jr.

(1898 & 1917 Atlases of Auglaize Co., Mel Steinberg obituary)

Adolph Steinberg has been a resident and business man here for almost a quarter of a century (since 1865?). From 1881-1886, he dealt exclusively in produce, but in 1886, he added a creamery at which an average of 1000 pounds of butter is made daily. In 1887 the success of his creamery had become established and the demands for the butter so extensive that it became necessary for him to abandon the produce business* & devote his time wholly to the management of the creamery. He gets his cream from all parts of the country. Some of it is collected by his men, while he also receives large quantities by express from distant points. [*The produce business was managed by Fred Wierth & Son until August, 1893, when they purchased the business from Adolph Steinberg.]

Mr. Steinberg employs 18 men, and 30 horses are required to do the work. During the month of June, 1889, he made and shipped 30,000 pounds of butter, most of which was destined for the eastern cities, New York being the chief market.

Mr. Steinberg was secretary of the Natural Gas Co. in 1889 and was also for some years a member of the Board of Education, being the president in 1888 when his son, Herman, graduated. (N.B. Sun – 7/26/1889)

In July, 1889, Adolph Steinberg purchased the creamery of Commins & Martin of Fort Recovery, which had recently been destroyed by fire. His brother-in-law, Leon Kahn of Wapakoneta, also had an interest in the business and they planned to be in running order sometime in August of that year. In addition to his extensive butter business, he also had a large wholesale egg and poultry trade. A creamery man from Toledo

stated that the two creameries of New Bremen (Steinberg & Huenke) did more business than any six similar establishments in the state. (N.B. Sun – 7/12/1889)

In March, 1890, Adolph Steinberg sold his entire creamery establishment located east of town to Louis Huenke in order to devote his attention to his poultry and egg business and to the Hazel Creamery at Fort Recovery. Louis Huenke was the owner of the White Mountain Creamery west of town and consolidated the two, which he located in Mr. Steinberg's former creamery east of town. (N.B. Sun – 3/7/1890)

In 1890, Adolph also was listed on land tax records as being the owner of the property at 112 N. Main St., formerly owned by his brother, Fred Steinberg.

On Sunday, 12/4/1892, Adolph & Henrietta Steinberg marked their 25th wedding anniversary with an elaborate celebration at their spacious and neatly appointed home in New Bremen. The German Manner-choir also came by to render numerous selections. (N.B. Sun – 12/10/1892)

"The Adolph Steinberg 'saloon and billiard parlor' was located in the building on North Main Street that is now stuccoed (9 N. Main), next to what is now Gilberg and Hegemier's Furniture Store. I can remember this business place of my teens (mid to late 1880s?) distinctly. In the summertime, Mr. Steinberg would have special reclining chairs lined up in front of the place, which were always in demand after the evening meal. Every now and then, a roving rope-walker would make his appearance in town and Mr. Steinberg would usually arrange for the wanderer to ply this mid-air stunt. The tight-rope was stretched from the street window of his building across to the Boesel & Kunning block (later the Mueller Bros. Clothing Store) and always drew big crowds."

[from F.W. Bruns' "Do You Remember?" - N.B. Sun-1947]

In September, 1893, Adolph Steinberg and his family moved to Wapakoneta to take charge of the new Burnett House Hotel at the corner of Auglaize & Blackhoof Streets. Misses Fredonia and Flora Schafer of New Bremen went to assist in the culinary department of the hotel. (N.B. Sun – 9/16/1893)

In 1896, Mr. Steinberg began the erection of the new Hotel Steinberg in Wapakoneta, now known as the Koneta Inn at 101 West Auglaize St. (1898 Atlas)





photo & identifications courtesy of Bill Kuck – Findlay, Ohio

BACK: Herbert & Lula (Taylor) Schulenberg, Cade Schulenberg (their son), Frank Huenke (son of Henry Huenke, Jr. & Fannie Gress), Frances (Schulenberg) Kuck, (C)harles P. Gress & Minnie (Schwede) Gress, Edna Gress, Verona (Langhorst) Huenke, Agnes (Langhorst) Hardwick, Frances (Langhorst) Frey, Helen (Gress) Jacobs, and Lillie (Gress) Vornholt (mother of Charles Vornholt, pictured below). The Langhorst girls were daughters of Edward & Anna (Schulenberg) Langhorst.

LEFT CENTER: Catherine (Helwig) Schulenberg & William Schulenberg. Catherine Helwig & C.P. Gress were half-sister and half-brother. Their mother was Anna M. (Fischbach) Helwig/Gress.

FRONT: Unknown girl, lone (Schulenberg) Schaefer, Edna (Langhorst) Schoonover, Elton Schulenberg (children of Herb & Lula.)

NOTE: The above picture is approximately one-half of a long picture that appears to be a reunion of some sort (possibly more of the Helwig-Gress family?). The people in the right half are the only ones that could be identified by Bill Kuck, son of Ernst & Frances (Schulenberg) Kuck. Others may be the Alex & Margaret (Helwig/Boogher) Bourquin family and the Adam Helwig family. A copy of the entire picture will be placed in our museum so you can come and try to identify some of the other people yourself.

(See the Schulenberg-Helwig-Bourquin-Gress stories in the April & July, 2002 issues of "The Towpath.")



STANDING: Helen (Luebke) Dicke, Milton Jung, Dorothy (Fark) Haupt, Lucille (Harjehausen) Draving, Charles Vornholt, Lodema (Egbert) Dicke, Don Isern, Dorothy (Donnerberg) Feltman.

SEATED: Dorothy (Koenig) Dunlap, Rosemary (Landwehr) Gehrling, Charleen (Fark) Hunter.

[photo courtesy of Dorothy Feltman]

On Saturday, August 24, 2002, the Class of 1942 held their 60-year class reunion at The Grille in New Bremen. Present were 10 graduates, 1 former classmate and 6 spouses. An evening of reminiscing and good food was enjoyed by everyone present. It was decided to get together again in 2004.

Unable to attend were Betty (Behm) Kishler, Erlene (Beickman) Maich, Richard Black, Robert Heinfeld, John Heisler, Thomas Schnelle, Goldie (Topp) Byram, Kenneth Westerbeck, Carl Wissman. Letters and phone calls from those who couldn't attend were acknowledged.

Deceased members of the class are: Wayne Belton, Paul Block, Mary Alice (Dicke) Wittes, Warren Heinfeld, June Kuhlhorst, Paul Ley, Alice (Schmidt) Wissman, Louise (Schroeder) McAllister, Fred Schroer Jr., Emily (Seewer) Packer, Roman Stueve, Bernice (Wiehe) Wittenbrink.

From the Mailbox...

Dear Lucille:

7/16/2002

Sue and I enjoyed our short visit to our old hometown on June 16th, and the tour of the well-ordered museum which we hadn't seen in many years, as well as meeting (or re-meeting) some of the people we've only known via correspondence or *The Towpath*.

Enclosed is the photo I mentioned some time ago of Cade Schulenberg with prospective Vice President, Richard Nixon, when Cade served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1952. If Cade's smile seems a bit forced, it's because his candidate for the presidency, Bob Taft, lost out to Ike.

Cordially,

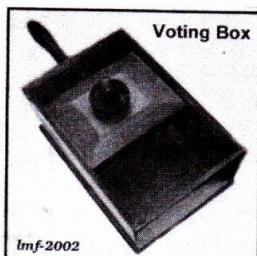
Val Rabe – Geneseo, New York



Photo courtesy of Val & Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe

Cade Schulenberg meets Richard M. Nixon, Vice-Presidential nominee, at the Republican National Convention at Chicago in July, 1952.

Cade Schulenberg, New Bremen, chairman of the Auglaize County Republican executive and central committees, today received word a double room has been reserved for him at the Eastgate Hotel, Chicago, for the party's national convention. He also will be given two assistant sergeant-at-arms badges, according to Mrs. Katharine Kennedy Brown, Dayton, member of the state executive committee. The convention is scheduled for the second week in July. (N.B. Sun – 6/19/1952)



Voting Box

lmf-2002

This is the voting box mentioned in the last issue of *The Towpath*. It was donated by Val & Sue Rabe and was said to have been used to vote on whether or not to admit new members to either the Knights of Pythias or the Woodmen of the World.

Dear Lucille:

8/12/2002

As you may recall, I've been doing Künning/Kuenning family genealogy research for a number of years. I thought the other members of this family who read *The Towpath* might be interested in some information I've uncovered.

As my grandmother, Alvina (Rabe) Künning (widow of Gustave A. Künning), and my father, Richard A. Künning, were involved in the writing and publishing of the Künning family history on June 30, 1935 for the Künning centennial celebration, I accepted the information in that orange-covered booklet as complete and entirely factual. However, my research has turned up some omissions.

My ancestor, Hermann Heinrich Künning, was neither the first nor the only person with that surname to come to New Bremen in the early days. The very first was Johann Heinrich Künning, who also spelled his name "Kinning" after arriving in America, being one of the original settlers of New Bremen and a signer of the Actum Cincinnati in 1832. He was not directly related to Hermann Heinrich but was from the same area in northern Germany. He stayed in New Bremen for less than 10 years and then sold his property and moved to Missouri.

Additional research, done mostly at the Columbus Historical Association Library and the Cincinnati Main Public Library, has turned up at least two other families with the surname Künning who lived in New Bremen in the mid 1800s.

As no death records exist for any of these folks, the best assumption is that they probably also moved on westward. It is interesting to note that all of these families seemed to use the three spellings (Künning, Kuenning, and Kinning) interchangeably.

The families of Hermann Heinrich Künning and his brother, Hermann Friedrich, may not have been the only Künnings to help settle New Bremen, but they were the only ones who stayed.

Sincerely,

Molly (Künning) Brown

3020 Dublin Arbor Lane – Dublin, OH 43017-2050

Dear Lucille:

8/16/2002

I really enjoyed seeing the picture on page 4 of the July, 2002 issue of *The Towpath*. My dad, George Gobrecht, is #7 in the back row. I was just 6 years old when we left New Bremen (around 1923-1924), but I went back with my folks every Memorial Day for years. [see the April, 1997 issue of "The Towpath" for more information about the Gobrecht family.]

I am enclosing a memorial donation for Verona (Kettler) Hirschfeld, the last of my New Bremen cousins to die. I am the only one left of my New Bremen relatives - I am 85 and counting. My husband, Philip G. Robinson, is 87 and was personnel director for Electric Auto-Lite for over 40 years in Toledo. We were married 62 years in August, 2002.

I look forward to each issue of *The Towpath*.

Sincerely,

Dorothy (Gobrecht) Robinson – Toledo, Ohio

Dear Lucille:

8/11/2002

Another superb issue of *The Towpath*. The STAMCO and Streine family history is most interesting and your write-up is of outstanding historic value. You are producing not only an interesting quarterly newsletter, but a real contribution to the recorded history of New Bremen.

I am enclosing a picture of my brother Charles and me with the curators, Joyce Holdren and Delores Stienecker, receiving the ceremonial cane of our grandfather, Herbert A. Dickman, which was donated to the museum on Sunday, June 2nd at the annual picnic.

The cane was presented to our grandfather in 1910 by the women's organization of St. John's Evangelical Church in Hamilton, Ohio, where he served as pastor from November 1903 to November 1910. The side of the golden head atop the black staff is inscribed "Presented by Ladies of St. John's Church" and the end is inscribed with his initials "HAD".

The cane was strictly a ceremonial accouterment and was not for support. My father, Reuben Dickman, recalls one Confirmation Day when Grandfather dressed up in morning coat and top hat and carried the cane as he led the confirmation class down the center aisle of the church. Sincerely, John T. Dickman – Columbus, Ohio



Dear Lucille:

8/20/2002

I just finished re-reading the July issue of *The Towpath*. While I generally read each issue from cover to cover, this one is special since it contains "The Streine Story." While I was not yet around to make the 1940 picture on page 7, it was great to see my sister, Emma, and several cousins. There were eventually 11 of us grandchildren.

Keep up the good work! Gudrun and I put out a monthly gardening newsletter and we can really appreciate the work that you do in preparing and producing a quality newsletter like *The Towpath*.

I have enclosed a check to cover a 1-year membership for each of our 3 children who live in Texas and Colorado. We also have 3 grandchildren. I am sure they will all treasure the pictures and articles.

Thanks again,

Hal & Gudrun Opperman
Kingwood, Texas**CURATORS' REPORT by Joyce Holdren**

<Photo of Rev. H.A. Dickmanfrom John Dickman

<Photo of Cade Schulenberg & R.M. Nixon...

...from Val Rabe

<1st Nat. Bank book for Laut Jewelry – 1956-1960,

Citizens Bldg. & Loan of N.B. – B. Laut,

Bell from Bruns Const. – 1994,

Funnel – N.B. Coal & Builders Supplies...

...from Leona Laut estate

<N.B. Speedway ticket - \$1.00...

...from Spike & Darlene Kohler

<Frosted tulip design lampshade (originally used in Luelleman house – now our museum.) ...

...from Richard Luelleman

<Frisbie from "parade"...

...from Paul Chiropractic & Health Center

<Pencil – N.B. Hdwe. & Supply Co.....from Vic Maurer

<Kelloggs corn flakes box celebrating 90 years,

1936 "University" dictionary.....from Rev. Holmer

<Photo of boys' basketball team & scores...

...(unidentified donor)

<Photo – 1982 Bremenfest parade – Legion drill team...

...(unidentified donor)

<Postcard from Dayton to Norma Greiwe(?),

Newspaper article on lock keeper's house...

...from Jean (Greiwe) Ahlers/Waterman

<1983 "Tour of Homes" newspaper article,

2 papers of N.B. sesquicentennial – 1833-1983,

Collection of "The Towpath" – 1996-2001,

Postcard – 1911 Decoration Day parade with lift bridge,

Pictures – filling of butter tubs – White Mountain

Creamery (1920s); trucks T91-824-1926 – one filled with

steel drums, one filled with ice containers; boys at "old"

school.....from Mrs. Louis (Delores) Landwehr

♦♦♦<>♦♦♦

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above items are listed as they were submitted on the curators' report. If you have any questions regarding the above listing, please contact the curators.

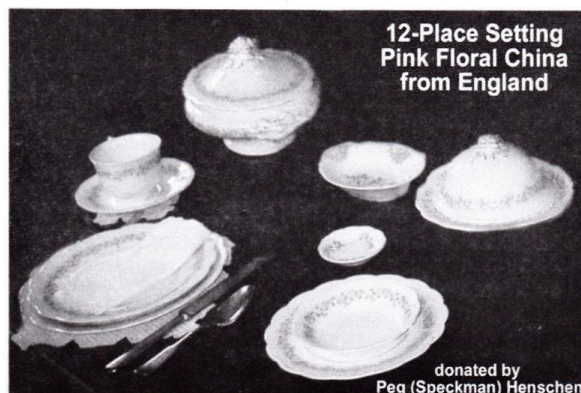


photo by Lucille Francis - 2002

This item is on display in our dining room.



ODD 'n' ENDS



Emma & Fredonia Hirschfeld, daughters of William and Mary (Piehl) Hirschfeld. Fredonia married George Fark. These are the same two girls pictured in the January, 2002 issue of *The Towpath*. It is thought that this picture was taken about 1892 when Emma would have been about 8 years old and Fredonia about 5. Emma died 10/22/1893. They had 3 brothers – Edward, Oscar & Raymond Hirschfeld.

[Thanks to Julia Fark for this picture and for clearing up the mystery about the identities of these two children.]

ABSENT MINDED FIREMEN

Frank Dine, general manager of the Streine Tool & Mfg. Co., may have to organize a company fire department, or if not that, open a school for his employees so they will know what to do and how to do it in case of fire.

The other day, Mr. Dine's father, Dr. Colson L. Dine, president of the company, drove over from Minster, as is his daily custom. He was in the main office only a few minutes when an employee saw smoke curling upward inside the Dine machine. The employee ran out to investigate and just as quickly came dashing back to call loudly for water with which to fight a small fire which was threatening the machine's upholstery. His cries brought several fellow workers to his aid and between them they succeeded at long last to carry out enough water to extinguish the blaze.

And then while the volunteer fire fighters were standing around patting themselves on the back, so to speak, someone deflated them abruptly by remembering that a fire extinguisher was hanging in its customary place just inside the main entrance!
(N.B. Sun – 12/3/1937)

MONROE STREET SWING BRIDGE DISABLED

The Monroe Street bridge was disabled Tuesday by a freight train running into it. The bridge did not stand true. There was too much of an offset between the tracks leading up to the bridge and those on the bridge. The front trucks of the freight car (interurban) ran off the track at this point and the car bumped up against one of the iron posts, bending it way out of shape. This weakened the bridge and put too much weight on one of the rollers underneath which gave way, permitting the bridge to sink about 2 inches. Traffic to Minster was delayed several hours. It is apprehended by many that this swinging bridge will be a constant source of trouble to the railroad company (Western Ohio Railway) as the structure is not put up for that kind of traffic. [The interurban made its first trip from N.B. to Lima on 4/21/1902 (see *The Towpath* – April, 2000). The swing bridge was replaced by a lift bridge in 1904 (see pg. 3)]

(N.B. Sun – 6/6/1902)

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 9/30/02)

08/12/2002 Busse, Evelyn L. - Fort Loramie, Ohio
08/28/2002 East, Susan (Opperman) - Cypress, Texas
08/29/2002 Hansel, Leona (Harjehausen) - Mendon, Ohio
09/04/2002 Kuenzel, Norris - Garnavillo, Iowa (re-joined)
08/07/2002 Lunz, Deborah (Meyer) - Beaverton, Oregon
08/15/2002 McCollum, William C. - New Bremen
07/05/2002 Nagel, Tony - New Bremen (re-joined)(LM)
08/28/2002 Opperman, Marc - Austin, Texas
08/28/2002 Opperman, Matt - Longmont, Colorado
08/07/2002 Paul, Mary - New Bremen (re-joined)
09/29/2002 Scheer, Pieter - Holly Springs, North Carolina
08/17/2002 Schmitmeyer, Gary - New Bremen (re-joined)(LM)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

08/21/2002 Kuck, Gestine (Kettler)(LM) - died 8/21/2002
08/30/2002 Wissman, Leola (Speckman)(LM) - died 8/30/2002

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

07/05/2002 Nagel, Tony
08/17/2002 Schmitmeyer, Gary

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donation has been received this quarter:

In memory of Verona (Kettler) Hirschfeld
by Philip G. & Dorothy H. (Gobrecht) Robinson

****CORRECTION****

Due to inadequate information received for the last issue, the memorial donation for

Donna (Tontrup) Niemeyer

was incorrectly credited. Donors should have been listed as: Lilas (Tontrup) Quellhorst and her children:

Joan Klier, Nancy Heitkamp, Bonnie Elsass,
and Kim Quellhorst.



PARKED IN THE DARK

A.J. Dunlap

The ribbon-like road wandered through the wood;
The motor was humming beneath the hood.
She laughed as we flew through the evening air
That played hide and seek in her golden hair.

I knew that her love was all mine and true;
I read the old tale in her eyes so blue.
She nestled up close as we sped along –
I sang in the twilight an old love song.

I parked in the dark by an old oak tree
Alone with my daughter, just half past three.
The reason we parked – there's no secret in that –
I felt the bump bump of a tire gone flat.



Congratulations to Lloyd J. Laut who will reach his
100TH BIRTHDAY
on December 16, 2002.

Greetings may be sent to Lloyd at
11816 Mallard Lane – St. Marys, Ohio 45885-9341.