

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

# THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly  
(January - April - July - October)

## 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)

**MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 / Year - \$5.00 Spouse**

(Life: \$100.00 / \$50.00 Spouse)

January - 2004

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### ◆ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆

- (04) Drusilla Meyer, Advisor — 419-629-3495  
 (05) Joyce Holdren, Chairman — 419-629-3474  
 (06) Tom Braun — 419-629-8902  
 (07) Delores Stienecker — 419-629-2685

### ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

7:30 p.m. at the New Bremen Library or Museum

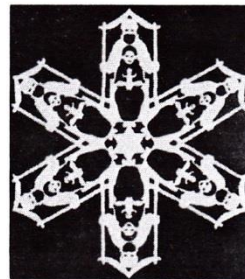
### ◆ THE TOWPATH ◆

- Lucille Francis, Editor & Membership — 419-629-3148  
 Susie Hirschfeld, "Towpath" Bulk Mailing — 419-629-2133  
*"The Towpath" is printed by Lee's Printing - New Bremen, Ohio*

**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 Association. 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)



### "DR. SNOWFLAKE"

Dr. Thomas L. Clark of Michigan, a physician by training and an artist by avocation, will be displaying his cut snowflakes at the N.B.H.A. museum at 122 N. Main St. from January 20<sup>th</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

Known as "Dr. Snowflake", he experimented in his youth with various art forms and for many years did charcoal portraits of friends and colleagues. In 1984, he learned how to fold paper to make snowflakes. Soon he discovered he could cut pictures into the designs (the above design is called "Birth of Isaac"). Since 1987, he has had annual exhibits of his paper snowflakes in Ann Arbor and elsewhere, including in the Toledo Museum of Art in 1999. He has also put together several books of his snowflake art.

"Dr. Snowflake" will also be the speaker at our **ANNUAL DINNER** to be held at Faith Alliance Church on March 15, 2003. Don't miss this opportunity to see Dr. Snowflake's work and learn how he makes these delicate designs.

[submitted by Tom Braun]



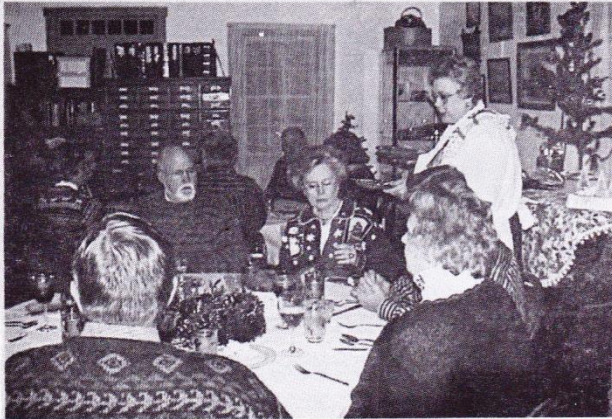
Katy (Berning) Gilbert - 12/14/03

### BOOK SIGNING

On Sunday afternoon, December 14, 2003, a book signing was held at the N.B.H.A. museum. Katy (Berning) Gilbert was on hand during the museum's open house to sign copies of her recent 120-page soft-cover publication, *"A Military Memoir of World War II - The Stories of Auglaize County's Veterans"* which was published to commemorate the Ohio Bicentennial in Auglaize County. The book was sponsored by all six Auglaize County historical societies and is available for \$10.75 (+\$2.00 S/H, if mailed) through the New Bremen Historic Association by contacting Tom Braun @ 419-629-8902.







N.B.H.A. Christmas Dinner – 12/3/2003 – Dru Meyer serving



N.B.H.A. 2003 Christmas Dinners – The Caterers

[photos by Genevieve Conradi]



Delores Stienecker at the punch bowl



Dru Meyer at the keyboard



Joyce Ruedebusch & Dennis Dick

### 2003 CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT DINNER

"Wonderful! Very Nice! Elegant! We'll be back next year!" Those were just a few of the comments heard the first weekend of December when the Historic Association held its first Candlelight Dinners at the museum. The museum was beautifully decorated with displays and trees and lit solely by the candles and tree lights, making a warm and beautiful atmosphere.

People were greeted at the door by members of the board and then directed to the parlor where they enjoyed appetizers and punch. When it was time for the dinner, they were escorted into the dining room and school room where tables were set with linens and china. The servers were also dressed in period outfits and aprons.

The meal, which was catered by "Elegant Cuisine", consisted of a soup course, a salad course, the main course of pork loin with cherries and rosemary, and a choice of three wonderful desserts – bourbon bread pudding, chocolate whopper cookies or apple/pear tarts.

When the dessert was served, Dru Meyer entertained with a few Christmas carols on a keyboard borrowed from the New Bremen High School. As the people left each evening, there were only favorable comments. It was a beautiful way to begin the holiday season. Guests came from N.B. and as far away as Columbus for the event.

Watch for news next year when the Association hosts the second annual Candlelight dinners and get your tickets early.

[submitted by Gen Conradi]



Photo by Lucille Francis

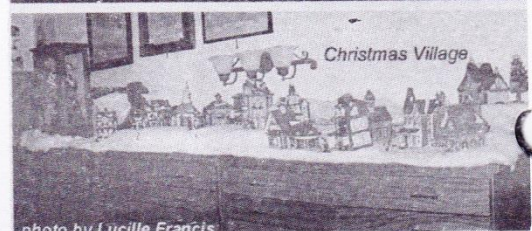


photo by Lucille Francis



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Annual Financial Report for 2003 <i>Thomas Braun, Treasurer</i>	
ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2003	
CHECKING ACCT.	\$1,802.32
PROMISSORY NOTE @ 7.1% 6/4/2003	\$6,900.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$8,702.32</b>
INCOME	
MEMBERSHIP: Regular yearly dues	3,922.50
Lifetime Memberships	2,100.00
Membership Donations	908.00
MEMORIAL Donations	725.00
DONATIONS: Miscellaneous (Visitors, etc.)	138.24
Special (Bequest/Leola Wissman)	9589.21
Special (File cabinets for N.B. Sun)	5,600.00
Special (Standing seam tin roof)	12,100.00
GRANT & MATCHING FUNDS	850.00
INTEREST: Checking Account & Promissory Note	366.00
ANNUAL DINNER (129 tkt. sales @ 10.00/ea.)	1,287.00
COMMUNITY PICNIC (Food, Ice Cream, Pie Auction)	698.02
CHRISTMAS DINNER (56 tkt. sales @ 25.00/ea.)	1,400.00
BICENTENNIAL QUILT RAFFLE (tkl. sales @ \$2)	739.00
MERCHANDISE SALES: "Then & Now" books	10,589.60
"North Main St." color prints	1,670.00
"Military Memoir" books	662.75
"Towpath" books	323.50
"Memories of Marge" books	269.50
Miscellaneous mdse.	416.40
S/H charged on merchandise mail orders	150.00
Miscellaneous sales: Old picture frames	16.00
<b>TOTAL YEARLY INCOME</b>	<b>\$54,520.72</b>
EXPENSES	
UTILITIES: Electric (N.B. Utilities)	235.76
Water (N.B. Utilities)	45.00
Gas (Vectren)	845.87
INSURANCE & Treasurer's Bond (\$50)	577.00
IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE: Indoor painting	878.00
Museum lighting	457.86
Furnace Maintenance	307.97
Lawn mowing & trimming	360.00
Misc. improvements & maintenance	290.77
SPECIAL PROJECTS: Standing seam tin roof	11,448.57
File cabinets for N.B. Suns	5,600.00
CURATORS: Picture hangers, frames, storage materials	1,437.60
OFFICE EXPENSE: P.O. Box Rent	68.00
Safety Deposit Box Rent	16.00
Other Office & Misc. Expenses	183.43
TOWPATH: Printing, Envelopes, Labels	3,527.74
Bulk Permit (\$150/yr. @ 2 yrs.) + Postage	830.33
Editor's Research & Office Expense	328.38
ANNUAL DINNER expenses	968.24
COMMUNITY PICNIC expenses	195.47
CHRISTMAS DINNER expenses	1,137.23
MERCHANDISE purchased for resale	2,301.00
Postage on mailed mdse. sales	94.94
State sales tax on mdse. sold + \$100 report fee	561.64
ADVERTISING: Brochures & canal booklets	298.40
MEMBERSHIPS: (Chamber of Commerce & Mecca)	125.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE: Gifts	37.11
<b>TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$33,157.31</b>
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$5,065.73
C.D.s [\$10,000@1.15%-6/3/04+\$15,000@3.00%-12/3/08]	\$25,000.00

## Curators' Report

By Joyce Holdren

We have had a busy year. Many extensive changes have been made for the preservation of the old *New Bremen Sun* newspapers. They are now stored in an acid-free environment in the education room.

The education room and the dining room were both painted & new lighting was added for better viewing. We have also added new display systems for hanging pictures & other items (see Christmas tree picture at left.)

We were under construction since September, so the upstairs has been inaccessible for months.



photo by Lucille Francis

We now have a new standing seam tin roof and an attic that will provide for better storage. The attic will also be open at times for viewing in order to show the unique structure of the house.



photo by Lucille Francis

Due to the on-going work on the museum, many donated items have not yet been documented. We received 3 large boxes of items from STAMCO and 2 boxes from TRANCO due to the closing of these two companies in New Bremen. Also, donations from individuals need to be logged in. All of these items should be on display by the time our summer visitation season starts in June.

"Dr. Snowflake" will be the speaker at our annual dinner in March (see pg. 1). He will be demonstrating his craft and also will have books for sale.

We look forward to seeing you this spring. Delores and I are available at the museum most Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00.

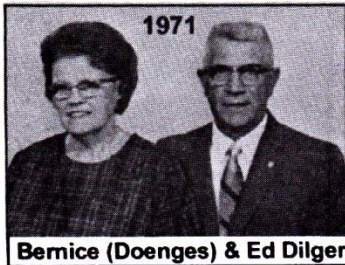
The curators — *Delores & Joyce*



## GROWING UP IN LOCK TWO

*as told by Bernice (Doenges) Dilger  
to her neighbor, Terri Tangeman, who published Bernice's  
stories in a small booklet in 1993 entitled "A Time Long Ago".*

Bernice Pauline Elise Doenges was born in Lock Two on March 14, 1905 to Theodore and Emmeline (Schwetter) Doenges. She had an older sister, Lenora, born 9/1/1899 in "New Paris", who married Raymond Henkener. They were the parents of former New Bremen Attorney Roger Henkener, Donald Henkener and Marjorie (Henkener) Wellman, wife of Howard Wellman. The Henkeners lived at New Knoxville.



**Bernice (Doenges) & Ed Dilger**

On June 22, 1922, Bernice Doenges was married to Edward Dilger. Ed died on July 17, 1974 at the age of 72 and Bernice died on February 17, 1998 at the age of 92. They had 3 children who died in infancy.

The following is an edited version of some of Bernice's childhood stories told to her neighbor, Terri Tangeman, when Bernice was 88 years old.....

"When I was a young girl growing up, we lived in Lock Two, in the last house going north on the east side of the road along the canal. I lived there until I was 16 years old." (The house is no longer there – see NOTE).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** According to Roger ("Bud") Scheer and Bill Tostrick, the Doenges house along Canal Road was built ca. 1908-1909 for \$1500. In the early-mid 1920s, it was moved from there by Bill's grandfather, William Tostrick, to the Tostrick farm ½ mile northeast, to Kettler Road. Bill and Barb Tostrick still live in this house on Kettler Road.

According to Bill, the Doenges (by then, McConnell) house was moved in the winter time on rollers across the frozen fields and across the creek in between by using a steam engine, block & tackle and wooden planks. A stake would be driven into the ground, the house would be rolled to that point, that stake would be sawed off, another stake would be driven into the ground further along, and so on until reaching the destination. When the creek was reached, heavy wooden planks were laid across it and the house was rolled across on the planks.

About 1950, a small house was moved to the Canal Road location from the Wuebbenhorst property at the corner of Herman and Ash Streets in New Bremen by Horace and Helen (Wuebbenhorst) Richey. The Richey family lived there for many years after that.

"My father, Theodore Doenges, was for several years the town's saloon keeper in Lock Two, the only one for miles around who didn't drink a drop himself. After my dad gave up the job at the saloon, he drove a huckster wagon for Garmhausen's Store and delivered dry goods to the people in the country, in turn bringing their produce back to town. He was the first man in Lock Two to drive a truck for the mill. The truck had a chain drive, hard tires, and carbide lights."

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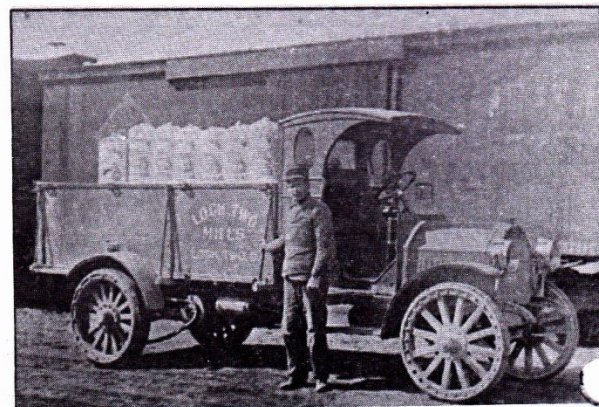
"As children, we played in the park 'square' which was created by the two roads leading to the Lock Two Mill (see pages 7-8). We were always told by our parents to be sure to be home before dark because there were often bums and riff-raff from the canal boats who would hang around the lock, and also occasionally gypsies camped in the area. One evening when I had played too long and it had become too dark, I was afraid to walk down the road to home by myself, so since I knew many of the men who had patronized my father's saloon, I went there and asked the town drunk, who was a next-door neighbor and a very nice man in spite of his reputation, to walk me home. He was very happy to do so.

There was no church or post office in Lock Two - just a small store, the saloon, and the mill. We used to walk the mile-and-a-half (on the sidewalks) to New Bremen to go to dances, concerts, and other entertainment. There would be band concerts in the city park across from St. Paul's Church in the summer and also barn dances. I always loved music and dancing, and whenever there was either one, I would find a way to get to town.

On Sundays, we would walk from Lock Two to New Bremen to attend services at St. Paul's Church where I was confirmed in 1920. I attended the one-room North School at the corner of Lock Two Road and the angling road to New Knoxville (N.B./N.K. Road)." (see pg. 16)



**HUCKSTER WAGON FOR LOCK TWO STORE**  
Emil Schneider of New Knoxville, driver



**LOCK TWO MILLS' FIRST TRUCK**  
("Armleder" with chain drive, solid tires, carbide lights)  
Theodore Doenges, driver



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"At Christmas time, the miller (Herbert Garmhausen?), who was naturally heavy-set, would dress up and play Santa Claus, bringing candy and trinkets to all the homes of Lock Two that had children living in them. I really liked the miller, but I was afraid of him when he dressed up as Santa, because then I didn't know who he was.

When the railroad became the preferred mode of shipping and transportation in the early 1900s, and the canal was no longer being used, my dad and the neighbors were given permission to break up the lock and use the lumber for firewood. Times were hard and the German people were not in the habit of wasting anything. We had enough wood to burn for 2 years!



When I was in the eighth grade, I met my future husband, Edward Dilger. He had come into New Bremen from a neighboring town on the interurban with a bunch of other boys and they went to the picture show. I went to the show with my girlfriend and was introduced to Ed. We became best friends and four years later, we got married. Ed worked at Streine's Tool & Mfg. Co. (Stamco)."



At the time these stories were being told, Bernice Dilger lived at 109 N. Main St., on the east side of the city park, in what was once the old Laut Hotel. The building was built about 1853, was sold to the Lauts in 1857 for \$1325, and later (ca. 1885?) was sold to William Schwepe and Mike Vossler. The basement was used as a beer cellar. (Mike Vossler had interest in a brewery.) At one time, the building served as a boarding house with the long room on the south (left) side being used as the dining room.

The front room on the north (right) side served as a saloon and there was a dance hall on the second floor – in what became known as Schwepe's Hall. Many wedding dances were held there. The stone step at the north door shows the wear of many feet. (In April 1910, William Schwepe celebrated 25 years in the saloon business.) There was once a bowling alley behind (west of) this building. (shown on the Sanborn maps of 1899)

In 1918-1919, the north side was used as a school room for the eighth grade due to a shortage of space.

In 1929, the Theodore Doenges residence was at 116 N. Main St. & his tire shop was at 7 S. Washington. About 1930, he bought the building across the street at 109 N. Main and moved his tire shop into the north side. "Teddy" also had gas pumps in front of the building where the curb was set back north of the big tree. In 2000, when new curbing was put in on North Main Street, the tree was removed and the street was straightened.

## GYPSY STORIES

Here are a couple of gypsy stories told by Bernice Dilger:

(1) "In the early 1900s gypsies were quite common in western Ohio. They were not well liked and when they were around everyone locked their doors at night. Whether they were all thieves is hard to say, but enough of them were to earn them a bad reputation.

One morning when my dad and the neighbor men were breaking up the lock, a gypsy girl came wandering by and became quite friendly with them. Most of them didn't pay any attention to her, but one of the men working behind the woodpile was able to get a good view of the situation.

One by one she picked the men's pockets clean. Her underskirts were full of pockets and that is where she stashed their wallets. He watched quietly, chuckling to himself at just how slick she was. He let her have her fun, then he came around the woodpile and strolled her way. She was using all her charm on him when he gave her the surprise of her life – he picked her up and held her upside down, shaking her as hard as he could. She kicked and screamed like a wildcat caught in a trap, but it did no good. Some of the other men were about to come to her aid, when their wallets started dropping out of her petticoats. Convinced that her pockets were finally empty, the neighbor stood her on her feet again and sent her on her way with a chuckle. The men gathered round to collect their wallets and watches. They ended up with more money than they'd lost themselves, but they figured that was pure profit."

(2) "One cold winter night we heard the faint sound of a tinkling bell that seemed to be coming from somewhere north of the house. Father went outside to investigate and discovered a gypsy wagon parked by the creek at the bend of the canal road. It seemed awfully quiet there and Mother finally went to inquire if all was well.

Things were anything but well. They had so little. Their horse had died shortly after they parked. Also, there was a new baby and both the mother and baby were doing poorly. Mother offered to take the baby to our house and care for it. With the baby gone, the husband was able to look after his wife. Mother prepared hot nourishing meals and my sister, Lenora, carried them down to the wagon.

The mother and child improved steadily. Once they were well enough to travel again, the neighbors all chipped in and gave them a new horse. Mother had gone through all of my baby clothes, bundled up those that were still nice and gave them to the new mother. Who knows, maybe we had entertained angels unaware!"



Bernice (Doenges) Dilger said her "grandfather" was the pilot of a canal boat, however her grandparents were Henry Jost Doenges, who was born in 1849 in St. Marys Twp. & Sophia Elisabeth Hoff. Henry was a brother to Louis Doenges (below) which would make Louis Bernice's great-uncle, not her grandfather. Henry and Elisabeth (Hoff) Doenges were the parents of Theodore (1875-1971), Otto (1878-1958), Alice (Mrs. Cornelius Geib)(1881-1968), and Frank Doenges (1890-1961).

#### LOUIS DOENGES, JR. - CANAL BOATMAN

(from the N.B. Sun - 9/18/1930)

Louis Doenges was born 3/25/1840 in Germany, one of 8 children, and was only 7 years old when his parents brought their family to this country. After 14 weeks on the sailing ship, a long boat ride took the family to Toledo by way of Albany and Buffalo, New York. In August 1847, they arrived in New Bremen, Ohio by way of the Miami & Erie Canal which had been in operation for only 2 years between Toledo and Cincinnati. The trip on the canal made such an impression on Louis that it became his life's goal to get a job on one of the boats.

When Louis was just 16 years old, he climbed aboard a canal boat at New Bremen and begged the captain for a job. When the captain asked what he could do, Louis replied that he could ride a mule. He got the job at \$20 a month and his "keep" and for the next 2 years, he prodded the stubborn mules as they towed the boats between Toledo and Cincinnati. It took 4 days and 5 nights to reach Toledo. Three the boat along the young Doenges rear mule. He five hours and then another youth did



Louis Doenges  
September 1930

Louis's greatest the second trip he his captain have with another man and then saw the stabbed to death. years, Louis got a the boat and 1862 when he down on a farm town of New Bremen. He cleared off trees to build a home and on 6/16/1864, he married Elizabeth Wagner. They lived on 92 acres in Section 30 of St. Marys Township, about 1 mile south of the St. Marys Reservoir. They had 6 children: William L., August, Charles, Katharina and another son and daughter who died as infants. Katharina died at the age of 14 in 1889.

In September 1930, Louis's oldest son, William L. Doenges, took his father to Toledo to visit with Louis's grandson and great-grandson, Adlai L. and 3-year-old Thomas Doenges. They took him to Maumee to view the old canal and the locks which he had not seen for 68 years. Pictures were taken of the 4 generations and an article was published in the *Toledo Sunday Times* on 9/14/1930, followed by re-publication in the *New Bremen Sun* on 9/18/1930. Louis died on 1/5/1933.



photo courtesy of Stan Scheer

#### REQUEST FOR CANAL PICTURES

Several members of the N.B.H.A. are working on a book about New Bremen and the Miami & Erie Canal. We are very interested in finding as many pictures as possible to include in this book.

If you have any pictures that include the canal, even as a background, we would like to copy them. Owners/Donors will be given credit in the book.

We think publishing a book with many photos of the canal taken over the years is a way to preserve and protect this important part of our New Bremen heritage.

To share your pictures, please contact one of the following committee members:

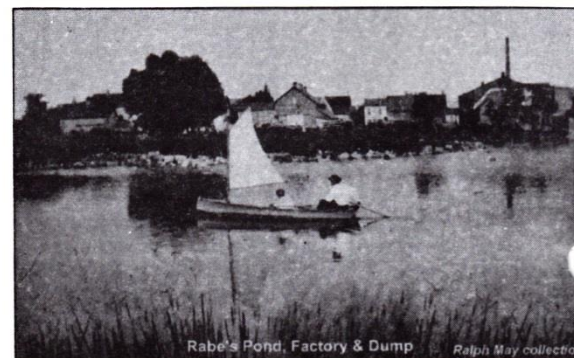
Gen Conradi-----Ph:419-629-2764-E-mail: [dengen@nktelco.net](mailto:dengen@nktelco.net)

Tom Fledderjohann-Ph:419-753-2255

Joyce Ruedebusch-Ph:419-629-2946-E-mail: [jdr@nktelco.net](mailto:jdr@nktelco.net)

Delores Stienecker-Ph:419-629-2685-E-mail: [stien@adelphia.net](mailto:stien@adelphia.net)

[submitted by Joyce Ruedebusch]





## LIFE IN LOCK TWO

By Vernita (Heinfeld) Scheer & Stan Scheer

*The following text was written originally by my mother, Vernita (Heinfeld) Scheer, who shared it with family and friends. Her reading of the text would prompt discussions and memories from others. I have added a number of those wonderful anecdotes that might otherwise be lost. For these I am grateful to my father, "Bud" (Roger) Scheer, and his brothers - "Jack" (Lafe, Jr.), Jim and "Butch" (Delbert), all providing stories of their own. I also want to acknowledge the help of Amy Scheer, daughter of Clifford & Grace (Knost) Scheer, who loaned Grace's wonderful collection of articles, notes and photographs of Lock Two and New Bremen that she began to collect well before others were chronicling local history. In addition to Amy, I want to thank my uncle Jack Scheer for sharing his old photographs. Some of these probably are appearing for the first time in print.*

Stan Scheer

Passing through the quiet village of Lock Two today one can hardly imagine the bustling commercial center it was many years ago. Taking its name from its position on the Miami-Erie Canal, over the years Lock Two had an active and important grain mill and elevator, a grocery, a department store that boasted the latest fashions, a sawmill, cooper shop, wagon shop, shoe shop, blacksmith, saloon, dance hall, and its own fire department. A 1903 newspaper article on the subject of incorporation mentioned 100 inhabitants.

*N.B. Sun - 3/20/1903: A petition is being circulated among the residents of Lock Two, asking for incorporation of the village.*

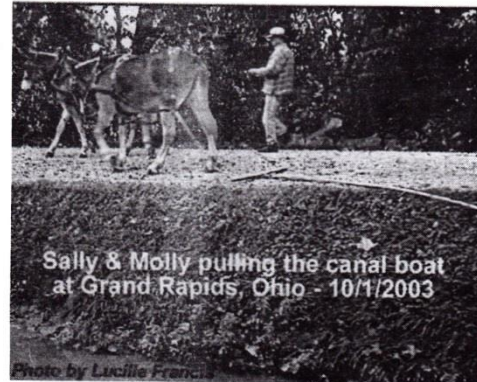
*7/22/1903: The citizens of Lock Two recently decided to incorporate as a village. At the hearing, after the names of all the minors and non-residents had been cut out of the petition, only 18 citizens of legal age were left, instead of 30 as the law requires. The petition was rejected. The town has about 100 inhabitants.*

In the early days the canal system brought prosperity and activity to Lock Two, so named because it had the second lock on the northern flow of the canal, New Bremen having Lock One. New Bremen's position on the canal is in a location known as the Loramie Summit. The water in the canal south of New Bremen, from near the Amsterdam Road, flows south towards Cincinnati where it joins the Ohio River, eventually flowing into the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. The water north of the Loramie Summit flows through Lock Two to Toledo where it passes into the St. Lawrence Seaway and eventually into the Atlantic Ocean. Lake Loramie (Loramie Reservoir) and Indian Lake (Lewistown Reservoir) fed the south branch of the canal, and Grand Lake St. Marys (St. Marys Reservoir) was constructed to feed the northern branch.

The canal was narrow so it was a "one way street". Only one boat could traverse the canal at a given time so there was always a large body of water near the locks and in other strategic locations where the boats could wait for passage through the lock or wait for the path to clear in the opposite direction. The Lock Two millpond served this purpose. In New Bremen the pond near the

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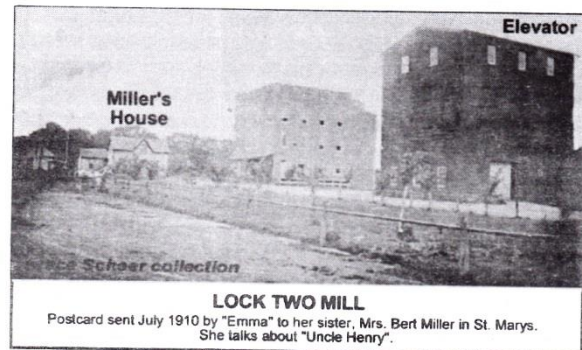
Rabe Manufacturing Company (Rabe's Pond) provided the necessary space. The job of the lockmaster was to regulate the flow of traffic. The cost of using the canal was paid in the form of a toll that was collected at various locations. The New Bremen Toll House was a small red brick structure on the west bank of the canal just north of where Norbert Roettger had his Jefferson Street machine shop (north of Second St.). Canal boats were very quiet in operation because the means of locomotion was not a motor but a team of mules or, more rarely, horses pulling a rope while walking along the bank on the towpath.



Sally & Molly pulling the canal boat at Grand Rapids, Ohio - 10/1/2003

Photo by Lucille Francis

Passengers on the canal boats, as well as the captains and crew could find evening's lodging in local hotels and boarding houses. For many years the Thompson House, which sat on the west bank of the canal just south of the lock in New Bremen, was the closest place of lodging. The arrival of the canal boat was an important event and my mother, Celia (Neuman) Heinfeld, often mentioned walking to the lock in New Bremen when she was a young girl to watch the arrival of the canal boats and to see them maneuver through the millpond and lock. During winter, when the water froze and stopped commercial traffic, the canal provided an excellent place to ice skate. With the exception of walking around the locks, it was possible to skate from Lock Two to Fort Loramie.



LOCK TWO MILL

Postcard sent July 1910 by "Emma" to her sister, Mrs. Bert Miller in St. Marys. She talks about "Uncle Henry".

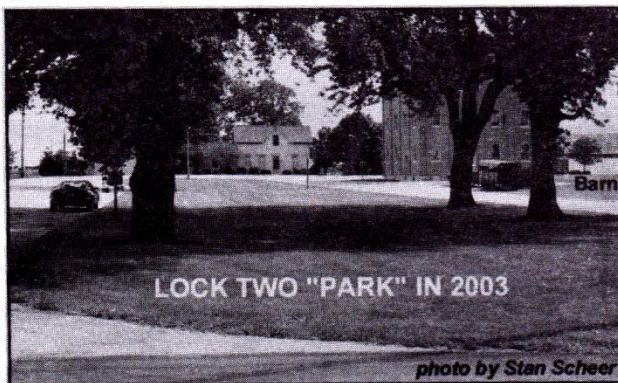
The center of Lock Two was, and remains, an "oval" park. For many years its lawn was completely shaded by large maple trees. The whole park was enclosed by an iron-pipe railing about three feet above the ground, onto which the farmers would tie their horses while waiting in



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line to deliver their wagon loads of grain to the mill. The railing provided the opportunity for youngsters to swing from it or walk along its top and probably generated lots of scrapes and bruises, as well as the occasional broken limb.

A single-story white frame building stood at the south end of the park and served as the office for the Lock Two Grain and Milling Company (see pg. 16). The office contained two tall formidable-looking black safes, each with two thick doors, their stepped sides forming an intricate geometric arrangement that required the doors to be opened and closed only in proper sequence. Inside the safes were numerous small drawers and compartments as well as the huge ledger books that were used to record the daily transactions. Outside the office to the north was the platform for the scale on which the farmers would drive their wagons to be weighed. Just beside the window inside the office was the scale mechanism that the operator would use to determine the weight of the wagon and grain. Later, after the wagon was empty, it would be weighed again to determine the amount of grain the farmer had delivered. On cold days, the office staff never had to leave the comfort of the office which was heated by a large stove.



The mill itself was constructed of red brick and stands today on the same site it occupied since being built, after the previous mill was destroyed in a fire August 18, 1903. In the early days the mill equipment was run by water power from water passing in a flume on the east side of the canal. Later, the source of power was a steam engine fueled by diesel fuel. During hours of operation the mill hummed and vibrated from the numerous drive shafts, wheels and belts that made everything work from a single power source - the large fly wheel in the engine house. The machinery was impressive and seemed to fill every square inch of space. It was beautifully made and painted in colors with decorative pinstriped borders around the perimeter of the panels. Grain began its journey to become flour on the top floor in huge boxes called shakers that were suspended from the ceiling by numerous maple dowels that allowed the boxes to be moved from side to side by the large belts that ran everything in the building.

Lafe Scheer, who apprenticed as a blacksmith in New Bremen, used to tell an interesting story concerning the

replacement of the large belt for the huge flywheel of the diesel engine. The miller removed the old one and carefully measured its length to order the correct length of material for the new belt. After the expensive new material arrived he measured the length carefully. It was cut and joined together with metal clips. However, when they put it on the flywheel, it did not fit - it was too short! After much discussion, and probably some colorful words, it was discovered that an old worn yardstick had been used to measure the new material and therefore it was too short. Throughout his life, Lafe often used this example to expound on the virtues of "giving the full measure" in life and business dealings.

The mill had an ingenious "lift" that workers used to move from floor to floor. It consisted of a large belt that had steps and handholds attached at regular intervals. The belt passed vertically through large open holes in the floors and when a worker needed to go to another level he approached the belt, grabbed the handhold and stepped onto the step. Soon he was moving to the next floor. OSHA would never approve of such a device today, much less the big holes in the floors (with no guard railings or warning signs) that were needed to allow the worker's body to pass through each level. These holes were really large because one was needed on each side of the belt to permit upward passage on one side of the belt and downward movement on the other.

My father, Cornelius Heinfeld, worked for the Lock Two Mills after a near-fatal burst appendix put an end to his own farming activities. He drove the mill's truck during the day (see picture on pg. 4). One job was to pick up diesel fuel from the railroad siding west of Lock Two (where Bremco Mills later was located). The flour from Lock Two Mills was recognized for its high quality and was shipped to many places, one of which was a bakery in Dayton. The driver who took the flour to Dayton would return late in the day, often with cookies. My dad, who swept the floors in the evenings, would bring some of them home. I can still remember some chocolate cookies similar to Oreos. It is amusing now to think how special "store-bought" cookies seemed in those days when virtually everything else was home-made.

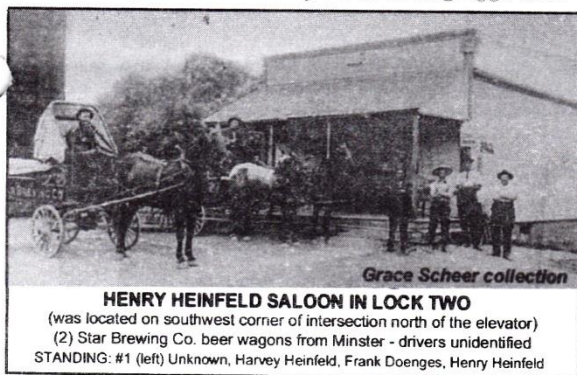
Other mill structures included a storage building south of the office in the park (see pg. 16). Jim Scheer and some of his brothers worked there helping to load sacks of flour on the wagons of customers. For many years flour was bagged in fabric sacks that were printed with colorful patterns. Purchasers carefully removed the bag's stitching in order to have a piece of cloth to make dresses and other articles of clothing. Jim remembers a lady wanted two sacks of flour for the correct amount of material she needed for her sewing project. She took some time making her choice and of course only one bag was on the top of the stack - the other one was at the bottom. After carefully moving the whole stack of bags to get the second one, the woman changed her mind and decided on a different pattern, so Jim had to move even more bags to satisfy her wishes. He worked hard for his spending money that day!



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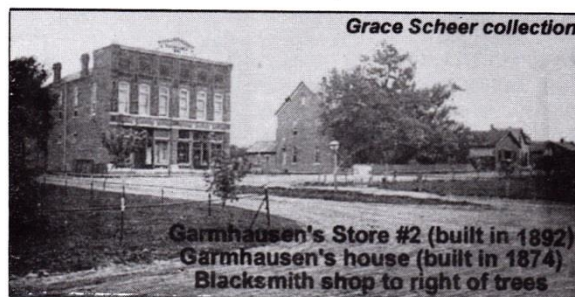
On the southeast side of the present road (at the curve) is a large barn where horses (later trucks) were kept (now the property of Gary & Sheree Topp, along with the former miller's house - shown in the picture on page 8). South of the mill and west of this barn were some log stables where hogs were loaded to be taken to Cincinnati. The hogs were butchered there and packed in barrels with salt. Some of the barrels were made in the local cooper shop while others had previously contained salt shipped in for the purpose of preserving the pork while it was on its way to various cities. Another important building in the mill complex that stood until March 1989, was the tall grain elevator (a building with metal siding) north of the brick mill (see pgs. 7 & 16).

To the north of the elevator, at the southwest corner of the canal road and Lock Two Road, was a saloon (formerly John Heinfeld's cooper shop). This building was east of the bump bridge that allowed the road traffic on Lock Two Road to cross the canal north of the lock. In early days Henry Heinfeld operated the saloon and the property is identified on old maps of the area as the Heinfeld Saloon. When I was growing up, Gust Wissman operated it. Later this building was moved to New Bremen near the White Mountain Creamery. On the opposite (northwest) corner of this intersection was a red brick building that was used by the J.A. Long Egg Plant.

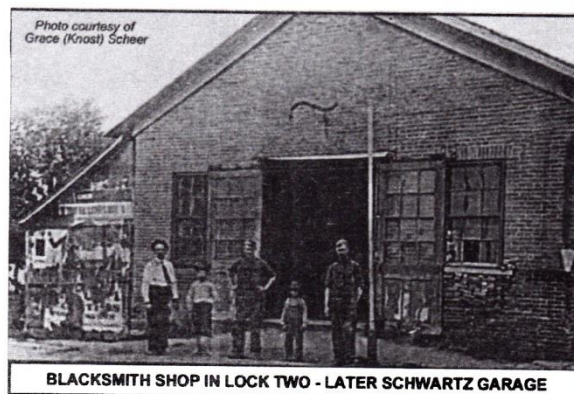


Another of the early commercial buildings remaining today is the large red brick building east of the park at the corner of Lock Two Road. This was originally the Garmhausen Store, built in 1892 after the first store was lost in an explosion on March 18, 1892. Workers who built the building came from Europe and a number boarded at the Heinfeld residence east of Lock Two. The store was divided into two main sections - groceries were sold on the north side, clothing and dry goods on the south side, and furniture was sold upstairs. Later the second floor was used for dances and receptions. The big display windows on the front of the store were shielded from the afternoon sun by large awnings. The large support pipes of the awnings made good jungle-gym bars for the local children until too many began hanging on them. Then the store owner would come out to send them on their way - usually back to the park and its iron railing. The Garmhausens and individuals from two other stores in the area, Rabe's (New Bremen) and

Willman's (Fort Loramie) went together to New York and Chicago where they would buy the latest clothing designs from the manufacturers. This gave these stores an edge on the most current fashions in the area.



South of the store and the open lot stands the red brick 2-story former home of August & Sarah Dicke, built by John Garmhausen in 1874. Further south was Ed Bambauer's blacksmith shop where Bud Scheer's father, Lafe, worked as a young man. Later it was a garage for servicing automobiles. The Bambauers lived in a house south of the garage. South of their house was the Oberwitte residence. Although Henry Oberwitte was retired, he worked for a while as a night watchman for the Garmhausens due to an unusual number of thefts at the store. Bud Scheer and his brothers were impressed as youngsters with seeing their Grandpa Oberwitte's ivory-handled pistol.



The Bambauers also had the dealership for selling cars - the Star, Willys Knight and Durant. One day Mrs. Bambauer was quite upset about the first rear view mirrors that had been added to the newest models of cars. She told her neighbor, Wilma (Oberwitte) Scheer, that the drivers should be watching where they were going and not where they came from!

Gasoline was 5¢ a gallon, and on Saturday there was a special of 6 gallons for a quarter. The Bambauers pumped gas by hand, checked the oil and cleaned windshields for their regular service. The gas pumps were cylindrical and very tall with a large glass container at the top. After determining the amount of gas to be sold, the operator turned a crank that brought the gas up



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from underground tanks into the glass cylinder which contained a float to register the amount of gas. When the desired amount was reached, the cranking was stopped and the cylinder was drained through the hose into the gas tank of the vehicle (see pg. 16).

An alley ran north to south behind the store, the blacksmith shop and the houses that faced the east side of the park. The alley turned west beside the Oberwite property in order to join the southern part of the road around the park. East of the alley and behind the Garmhausen Store was a large rectangular frame building painted gray known as "The Dance Hall". The Lock Two Fire Department maintained the building and held meetings there. The dance floor was wood and the space was large enough and high enough to allow basketball to be played inside, making it a kind of community recreation center.

The George Greber Orchestra often provided music for the dances. George and his father, William, both played the fiddle, Henry Greber played the bass fiddle, and Irma (Greber) Fledderjohn played the piano. *[Thanks to Donna (Greber) Conradi for this information. Henry Greber was her father.]* Another orchestra that played for dances was the Walter Topp & Berning orchestra. According to Katy (Berning) Gilbert (daughter of Richard Berning), the Topp-Berning orchestra consisted of Walter Topp, who played guitar, fiddle, and piano and called square dances, Herb Berning on drums, Henry Berning on saxophone, and Hermina (Topp) Mohrman (piano and vocalist).

Beer sold for five cents and sandwiches for ten. Gust Wissman operated the beer concession and bar tenders were Roger "Bud" Scheer, Raymond Poppe and Elmer "Jim" Luedeke. Dorothy Bambauer, Margaret Ruedebusch and I served the food. In those days, we were not allowed to put the beer on the tables - this had to be done by the men!

Along the east side of the building was a kitchen. At the beginning of hunting season the men would bring rabbits to the kitchen where Emma Ruedebusch and Clara Ahlers would fry them and make Hasenpfeffer, a kind of sweet-sour rabbit. Many people attended the meal and later there would be dancing and card playing, usually pinochle and euchre.

#### HASENPFEFFER

After butchering the rabbit it was coated with flour and browned in a skillet. The "hot" red peppers were removed from a quantity of pickling spices, which were then tied up in a small bag of cheesecloth. The browned rabbit and bag of spices were placed in a deep pan and covered with some water and vinegar. This was simmered for a long time, after which the spice bag was removed and the rabbit was served with its thick dark brown gravy. *[Vernita Scheer]*

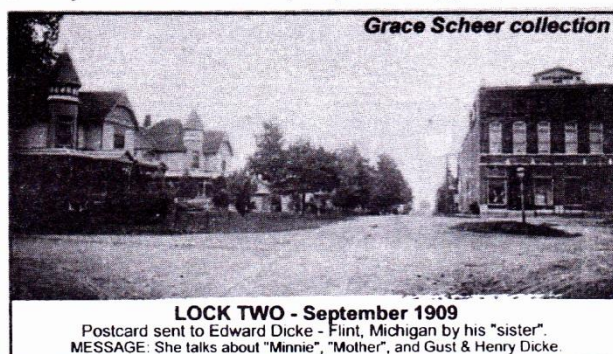
#### HASENPFEFFER II

Marinate the rabbit meat for 2 days in equal parts of vinegar & water, a sliced onion, salt, pepper, cloves & bay leaves. Remove & brown thoroughly in butter, turning often. Gradually add the marinade sauce. Before serving, stir in 1 cup thick sour cream.

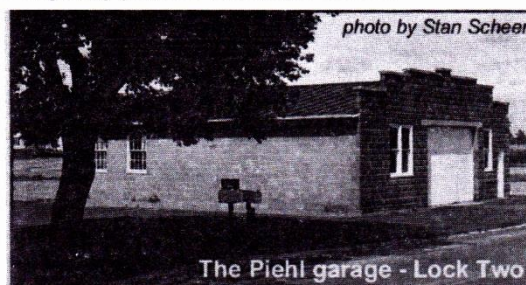
*[from the "Settlement" Cook Book - 9th Edition ©1915 - \$1.50]*

The dance hall also was used for wedding dances and other celebrations. For a while it was used for indoor roller-skating but this did not last very long because of the negative effect the hard skate wheels had on the wood floor. When the building was no longer used as a dance hall, it was sold and moved to Sidney. After the building was removed, the open lot was used for tennis courts.

Next to the dance hall was the Lock Two Fire Department building. Originally it was a frame structure with a cupola on top. When the present cement block building was built, the frame structure was moved and used as a garage at the Henry Dicke house that stood on the canal road north of the Charles Garmhausen home (the present location of the Jim Heinfeld home?). Two underground cisterns served as a source of water for the fire department. One was near the firehouse itself and the other was further east in front of the Stork (later Clifford & Grace Scheer) house. The Lock Two fire engine (small hand pumper) still exists in the Allen County museum in Lima. (see picture on pg. 19)



A number of the older homes still exist including the two large Garmhausen homes on the north side of Lock Two Road across from the former Garmhausen Store. This old postcard from 1909 suggests that these houses were originally painted in multiple colors.



On the east end of the village is a cement block building that was built by John Piehl as a car repair shop for his son, Herbert. However, this building was not used very long for that purpose. At one time Frank Grothaus used it as a shop for painting cars. Studying the history of the area, one is impressed with how many buildings were moved to other locations once they were no longer needed. The house on the Bill Tostrick farm is an example. It was owned by Theodore Doenges in the early 1900s and stood on the canal road north, next to the Henry Dicke house (see pg. 4).



### SCHOOL DAYS

All of us "kids" in Lock Two would meet at the grocery store in the morning where the bus picked us up to take us to grade school in New Bremen. When you became a freshman however, you had to walk to the high school. When it rained, my mother would call Mrs. Ed (Amelia/"Melie") Bambauer to coordinate which of the fathers could drive the children to school. The Heinfelds and Bambauers were the only parents who had cars in those days. I don't believe that I had to do that for very long before the bus again took us to school. For some reason Bud Scheer and his brothers had to walk to the Garmhausen Store from their home at the German Protestant Cemetery even though the bus went right by their house twice, once on the way into Lock Two and later on the way to New Bremen. I guess it was a way to save gasoline.

Homework was done in the evenings by the light of a kerosene lamp sitting on the table in the dining room, which today probably would be called the "great room". In keeping with the latest developments, my father purchased an Aladdin lamp that provided a lot more and much brighter light than the kerosene lamps we used previously. When we got our first one, my brother, Warren Heinfeld, and I were amazed that there was enough light coming through the windows that we could see to play outside in our sandbox after dark. One problem in those days was that the kerosene was not very pure and when those lamps were turned up too high a flame would erupt from the mantle and then the lamp would have to be turned almost to off until the small burned spot was eliminated. Then the room was really dark until the lamp could be turned up again.

Those things that Lock Two did not have, such as churches, other stores, and moving pictures, were available in nearby New Bremen. We could even walk all the way to New Bremen on a sidewalk. Parts of the sidewalk, constructed in 1913, can still be seen along the south side of Lock Two Road near the cemetery. It has since fallen into disrepair, but its importance years ago was significant when we recall that the roads were not paved. They could be either dusty or muddy depending upon the weather. When we went to the movies in New Bremen there were often 6 or 7 in the group and we walked, many times singing all the way down and back. I don't remember what songs we sang but we enjoyed the walk. Mrs. Adolph (Mariann Gobrecht) Pape and Lester Laut played the piano for the silent movies. Movies were 10¢ and (in the late 1930s & early 1940s) if we had enough money we would go to Louie's Sandwich Shop and enjoy a hamburger sandwich for a nickel.

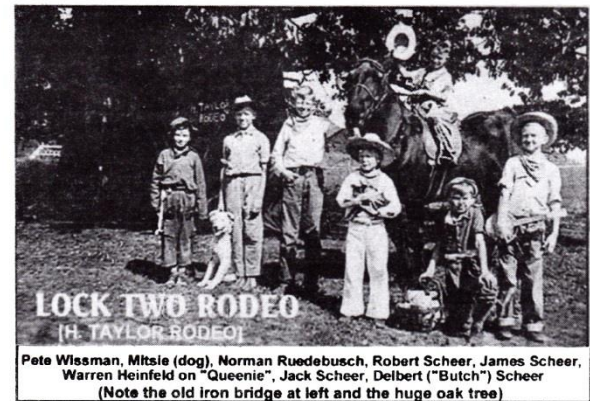
Another form of local entertainment was the New Bremen Speedway. Before the races a number of boys would go to the track in hopes of being employed by the Piqua-based Mikesell potato chip salesman. Chips were 10¢ a bag and if you were selected to sell them during the race, you got free admission to the track, a 1¢ commission per bag, plus an occasional bag of broken chips to eat.

There are many happy memories of growing up and living in the Lock Two community. There was the comfort of home and family, good friends and neighbors and many activities that we could take part in during the year. The open field west of the huge oak tree on our farm



Bud Scheer with his oak tree - 1997

(reported in 1997 to be the oldest chinkapin oak in Auglaize County, with a 19' circumference and a 100' canopy) was the scene of many activities. Softball was played there and one year (1932?) my brother Warren and his neighborhood friends presented a rodeo show. The metal bridge that crossed the creek on our farm is visible on the left side of the picture of them with their animals (below). When the metal frame bridge was replaced by a new concrete bridge as a WPA project (also in 1932?), Warren got a job filling the lanterns with kerosene and lighting them at dusk to warn of the construction site. He saved the money from this job to buy his first bicycle.



Pete Wissman, Mistle (dog), Norman Ruedebusch, Robert Scheer, James Scheer, Warren Heinfeld on "Queenie", Jack Scheer, Delbert ("Butch") Scheer  
(Note the old iron bridge at left and the huge oak tree)

Writing this article gave me the opportunity to talk about many interesting facts and stories with my parents, both of whom lived at Lock Two their whole lives. I hope that recording this oral history will give some idea of life years ago in this small community and will encourage others to write down their own recollections of history before even more of it is lost.

It is easy to romanticize about the past and want to return to what seems like life in a simpler time, but it is important to remember that life was also difficult with lots of hard work. For example, my mother talks about needing to move the plants each evening in the winter from the kitchen into the dining room where there was heat, because if left in the kitchen they would freeze - in the house! I also learned that gravel for the roads was provided by the county but it was the property owner's responsibility to get it from a central location and spread it in front of his property (see article on next page). It is human nature to complain about paying taxes but we have to realize that paved roads and other services we have come to expect were not the norm years ago and there was probably a very good reason that the Lock Two Road was once dubbed "Kelling's Cow Sh\_\_ Avenue".

Stan Scheer



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## More Memories of Lock Two

by "Butch" & Juanita (Roediger) Scheer

German Township would buy 2 car-loads of crushed stone which would be delivered at the railroad siding at Bremco Mills. The farmers would hire their team of horses with their gravel wagons and they would pass through Lock Two with 20 to 30 teams at a time. Some would stop at the store in Lock Two to eat their lunch and to water and feed their horses.

The unique gravel wagons were built with oak 2x4 bottoms. Each 2x4 had rounded edges and when they would get to the spot to spread the gravel, one man on each end of the wagon would twist and turn the 2x4 on edge - this way it left the space for the gravel to fall through the bottom of the wagon. If they wanted to spread the gravel, they'd have the horses move up just a little. It was quite a sight to see one wagon after the other going down the road. Some of the larger wagons had two teams of horses pulling them.

Juanita (Roediger) Scheer remembers that when she was about 16, Mrs. Gust (Ida Waterman) Wissman hired her to work in the grocery store and restaurant during the summer months and on Saturdays. The men at the mill would come in for their lunches, and families around the area bought their groceries there. A lot of the farmers waiting for their grain to be processed into flour or for feed to be mixed would come into the store for Ida's best ham sandwiches and bean soup. Usually, the mill crew would put their meals on a tab and at the end of the week when they got paid, they would pay their weekly bill. This does not work that way today!

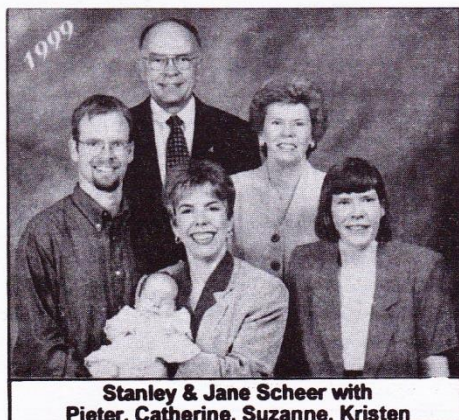
When Lafe Scheer was hired as caretaker of the cemetery on January 1, 1927, he started at \$50.00 a month plus \$5.00 for each grave (which was dug by hand!). The original cemetery was 23 acres, which was mowed by hand with 16" hand-pushed mowers - no power mowers then! By the time they finished mowing, the grass was ready to be mowed again. Power mowers never became available until the beginning of W.W.II when 6 of the 7 Scheer boys went into the service. By that time Lafe could not handle the cemetery work anymore and had to give it up. When he resigned on 12/31/1946, his salary had risen to \$75 per month.



**LOCK TWO (NORTH) SCHOOL - ca. 1922 - Emil Heitman, teacher**  
**BACK:** Richard Roettger, Ralph Scheer, Lela Mae Scheer, Lila Heitkamp, Leroy Heinfeldt, Robert Bambauer  
**MIDDLE:** Harold Kettler, Inez Heitkamp, Earl Meckstroth, Sylvester Scheer, Milford Kettler  
**FRONT:** Lawrence Heinfeldt, Howard Ruese, Paul Geib, Harold Wissman, Edward Roettger [photo courtesy of Jim & Lucille Scheer]



Six of the 7 Scheer brothers, sons of Lafe & Wilma (Oberwite) Scheer, served at the same time in W.W.II. There was an older sister, Lela Mae Biliger, and an older brother, Ralph. Shown above with their parents are: Delbert (Butch), James, Roger (Bud), Robert, Lafe Jr. (Jack), and Sylvester (Bill). Butch (1942-1946) was stationed in England, Jim (1945-1947) was stationed in Guam, Bud (1944-1945) fought across Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg & Germany, Bob (1942-1946) served in Belgium & England, Jack (1942-1947) went to France, and Bill (1943-1945) served in Japan.



**Stanley & Jane Scheer with  
 Pieter, Catherine, Suzanne, Kristen**

Read more  
 about the Scheer  
 brothers and their  
 World War II  
 experiences on  
 pages 34-39 in Katy  
 Gilbert's book, "A  
 Military Memoir of  
 W.W.II".

(see page 1)



**Roger "Bud" & Vernita Scheer - August 2003**

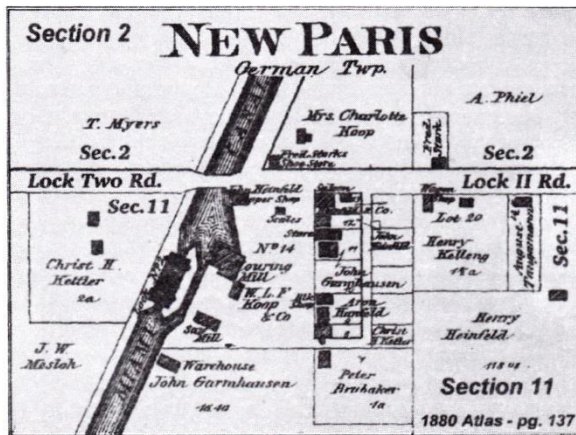


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### LOCK TWO (FORMERLY "NEW PARIS")

Lock Two was originally known as New Paris and is located in German Township 1-1½ miles northeast of New Bremen at the second lock of the Miami & Erie Canal, which was completed in 1845.

The hamlet of Lock Two is part of two sections - #2 to the north & #11 south of the Lock Two Road. It was never platted as a village or incorporated, although an effort was made to incorporate it in 1903 (see pg. 7). In 1935, the private "little dirt road" along the canal and east of the mills was established as a township road. (see pgs. 14, 16).



Courthouse records\* show that Henry Heinfeld purchased a 160-acre farm in the northeast ¼ of Section 11 in 1835. In 1836 he sold 40 acres of this farm to Bernhard & Anna (Heinfeld) Garmhausen, who had just immigrated from Germany.

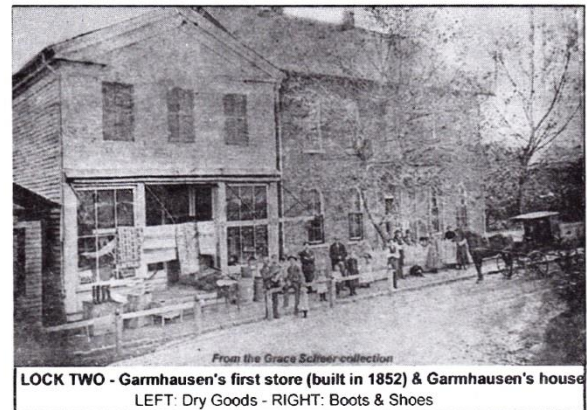
*[\*as researched by Rosemary Heitkamp in 1978]*

As shown in the 1880 Atlas of Auglaize County (see map above), Lock Two once had a cooper shop owned by John Heinfeld, a shoe store owned by Fred Stork, a saloon, a wagon shop owned by Henry Kelling, and a blacksmith shop owned by Arend Heinfeld. Later, the blacksmith shop (see pg. 9) was owned by John Komminsk and then by Edward Bambauer, who owned it from July 1909-1946 (37 years). The Schwartz brothers, Lawrence & Louis, ran the blacksmith shop / garage from 3/27/1946-1987 (41 years), still sharpening plow shares for the farmers (see pg. 16). The building was eventually sold to Crown Equipment Corp. who have since razed it. John Garmhausen is shown to have had a store and a warehouse at that time. The flouring mill is shown to be owned by W.L.F. Koop & Co. (Koop, Boesche, Tangeman). The map also shows where the lock, mill pond, & scales were located.

John Garmhausen was born 4/29/1832 in Oldenburg, Germany, the son of Bernhard and Anna (Heinfeld) Garmhausen. When John was 4, the family came to America & settled at Cincinnati. In 1850, at the age of 18, John went to California to try his fortune in the gold mines near Sacramento. In 1852, he returned to Ohio and settled at Lock Two, where he embarked in the general mercantile business. After a few years, he entered into the grain and pork business. After renting the flour mill

for some years with William Meyer, and then his brother, August, John decided to purchase both the flour mill & saw mill. During his lifetime, John Garmhausen operated a grain warehouse, a sawmill, a grain mill, a pork-packing plant (until December 1895), a lard-making establishment, an egg-packing plant, a general store and a saloon. He had one of the first ready-to-wear dry-goods stores in this area and sold goods from two huckster wagons (until October 1910).

On 12/28/1854, John married Maria Strasburg and they had 9 children. After his wife's death in 1886, John made his home with his children.



On March 18, 1892, there was a large fire that destroyed or damaged all the buildings in lots marked 11, 12, 13 on the map at left. The fire originated in Christ Wissman's saloon and dwelling and also destroyed J.B. Dickman's Shoe Shop, John Heinfeld's dwelling and John Garmhausen's Store. Garmhausen's brick house (above right), built in 1874, was only partially destroyed. The greatest tragedy, however, was that Henry J. Hartwig, buttsman for the Northern Fire Co. of New Bremen was killed by the explosion of a full keg of gunpowder in Garmhausen's Store. At his funeral, the Cataract Fire Co. of New Bremen contributed two crossed fire ladders with hooks at the sides and a "floral" fireman's helmet at the head.

*[Until this past year, Henry Hartwig was the only New Bremen fireman ever to be killed in the line of duty. On October 1, 2003, New Bremen firemen Ken Jutte and John Garman were killed in a silo explosion at Hoge Lumber Co. at New Knoxville (see back page).]*

By November 1892, John Garmhausen had rebuilt and opened his new 2-story brick store on the southeast corner. About the same time, he built the two Victorian houses across the street for two of his sons, Charles & Benjamin. He also rebuilt his own brick house. About 1885, he had built the miller's house that stands on the south side of Canal Road across from the mill. In 1911, Herbert Garmhausen (John's grandson) became the miller and on 1/2/1913, he married Fanny LaDow, the daughter of a former miller, T(homas) J. LaDow. Another daughter, Edna, married Wilson Vornholt.

*[\*And so the daughter of the miller who went by the mill was married to young Herbert, and lives with him still.]*

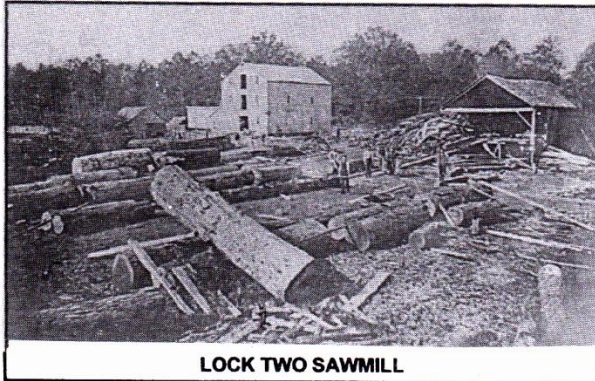


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**JOHN GARMHAUSEN**  
 proprietor of the NEW ROLLER SYSTEM  
**NEW PARIS, OHIO**

We have first class wheat and rye flour constantly on hand; also all kinds of food products. We pay the highest price for good wheat and rye; and we pay special attention to custom work. Give us a call.

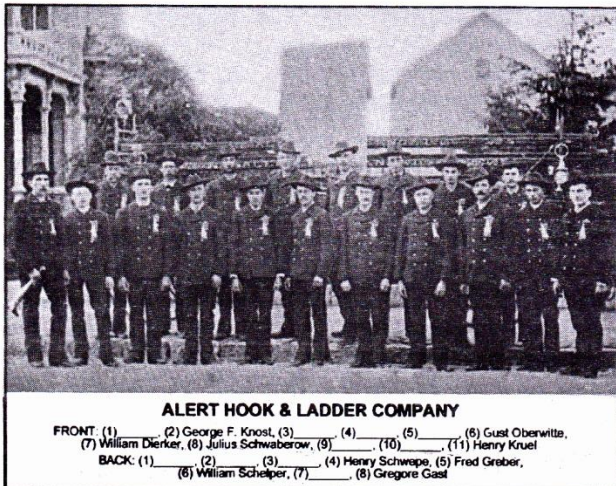
[N.B. Sun - 11/15/1889, 7/4/1891, 5/14/1892]



LOCK TWO SAWMILL

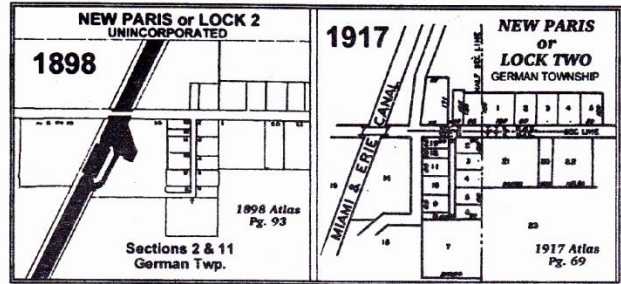
On August 18, 1903, another fire destroyed the elevator, the 3-story flouring mill and the sawmill. The Cataract Fire Co. and the Alert Hook & Ladder Co. were called from New Bremen to aid the Lock Two Fire Dept. They succeeded in saving Henry Heinfeld's saloon and the large residences of Charles & Ben Garmhausen. The buildings of Florenz Garmhausen across the canal were protected by several bucket brigades. Paint was blistered on the residence of Mr. (Fred?) Thiesing, which stood over 100' from the saw mill. It was thought that the fire was caused by a hot box in the elevator.

**Henry Heinfeld, Proprietor**  
**LOCK TWO SALOON**  
 Choice Wines, Liquors and Cigars  
 Pool Room and Dance Hall in connection  
**LOCK TWO, OHIO** [March 1905 advertisement]



ALERT HOOK & LADDER COMPANY

FRONT: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) George F. Knost, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) Gust Oberwille,  
 (7) William Dierker, (8) Julius Schwabberow, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (11) Henry Kruel  
 BACK: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) Henry Schwespe, (5) Fred Greber,  
 (6) William Schelper, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (8) Gregore Gost



As the Garmhausen sons, Florenz, Charles and Ben, grew up, they assisted their father in his business interests. On 1/1/1899, he disposed of his interests to his sons who conducted the business a few years as a partnership, but later, after the mill fire, organized as The Garmhausen Brothers Co. and The Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. Oldest son, Florenz, operated the mills and Charles took care of the mercantile business. When the store would have its big sales, the Garmhausens (father & sons) would drive out into the country and stop at every farm to pass out handbills advertising the sales.

**The Garmhausen Bros. Company**  
 Proprietors of

**THE LOCK TWO STORE**

Dealers In Dry Goods, Clothing, Groceries,  
 Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Produce, etc.

**The Store of Big Values and Little Prices.**

Adapted especially for Young Men & High School Boys.  
 Featured line for Graduation purposes.

Phone 65 [1905, 1909, 1913, 1920 adv.] LOCK TWO, OHIO

**THE LOCK TWO MILL & ELEVATOR**

The most modern and up-to-date in northern Ohio  
 For the Easy Unloading of grain we lead them all  
 Bring us your Grist and your Grain

**The Lock Two Grain & Milling Co.**  
**LOCK TWO, OHIO** [March 1905 advertisement]

**THE LOCK TWO GRAIN & MILLING CO.**

**First in 1852**

Dealers in Meal, Feed and Grain

**MANUFACTURERS OF LOCK TWO BEST BREAD FLOUR**  
**AHEAD OF ALL PASTRY FLOUR**

Try the "Lock Two" Self-rising Flour for Biscuits, Shortcake, Gems,  
 Muffins, Piecrust as well as Pancakes. It can't be beat.

[The mill was known for its "Silver Star" flour]

**NEW BREMEN, OHIO** [1920, 1946, 1954 "Mirage" adv.]

John Garmhausen died 2/24/1911, followed closely by his oldest son, Florenz, in July 1912. Upon his father's death in 1912, Herbert Garmhausen became the president of the Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. He would get from his home west of the canal to the mill across the way by way of a foot bridge which was supported by a cable. According to an interview given by Herbert to Andrew Kay ca. 1950-1952, a barn also caught fire in the August 1903 mill fire and a number of horses perished.



## NEWS CLIPS

**5/14/1892:** A band of gypsies was in town this week. They had 2 bears with them and gave an open air exhibition with them on our streets (*New Bremen*).

**9/30/1893:** Grand Ball at Garmhausen's Hall, Lock Two — Saturday evening, October 7, 1893. All are cordially invited — Social Four Orchestra.

**4/23/1897:** "Dances at Ehrgott's Hall" — The Louis Kettler-Rosa Rump wedding ball will be given at Ehrgott's Hall, Lock Two on Wednesday evening, April 28<sup>th</sup>. — Social dance at Ehrgott's Hall, Lock Two — Saturday evening, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, by the Social Four Orchestra. Everybody is cordially invited.

**5/12/1899:** "Blacksmith Business For Sale" — John Komminsk, Lock No. 2, New Bremen, Ohio desires to sell at private sale his blacksmithing business at Lock Two, together with the building in which it is located — also his dwelling house adjoining. The shop building is big enough to enable a man to engage in wagon-making or handle wagons and buggies.

**8/25/1899:** The Misses Mertz and Hoewischer from New Paris rode to New Bremen on their bicycles Thursday evening. They say there is no name for dust along the line.

**1/11/1901:** Heinfeld's Saloon in Lock Two was burglarized Wednesday night. The burglars "busted" two slot machines and looted the cash in a drawer. The entire loss was about \$18.

**1/15/1904:** Henry Heinfeld will on Saturday evening, January 23, 1904, institute a grand mask ball at his hall in Lock Two. Admission is 25¢ — Ladies free.

**4/22/1904:** Do not forget the grand public dance at Heinfeld's Hall at Lock Two on Saturday evening, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It has been some time since a dance has been held there, hence an elegant time may be looked for. No admission.

**1/28/1909:** "Lock Two Weddings" — (1) Ferdinand Roettger and Mathilda Bakhus, 1/27/1909. Mr. Roettger is engaged as a teamster. Mrs. Roettger is the only daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bakhus. The Roettgers will reside in Lock Two.

(2) Ben Kettler, son of Mrs. Fred Kettler, & Louise Stanford, daughter of Mrs. Hoewischer in Fort Wayne, 1/27/1909. Mr. Kettler is employed as a salesman by the Garmhausen Bros. The Kettlers will reside in Lock Two.

**9/1/1909:** Henry Roettger, general manager of the Garmhausen Bros. Co. of Lock Two, was in Cincinnati last Friday and Saturday where he purchased a stock of fall and winter suits and coats for ladies and misses.

**9/23/1910:** "No More Hucksters" — A custom about as old as the business itself will next week be discontinued by the Garmhausen Bros. Co. of Lock Two. Their huckster wagons which for many years have covered the territory for miles around will be taken off the road and all dealing in merchandise will be done directly over the counter at the store. Huckstering will be discontinued October 1, 1910.

**6/27/1913:** "Lock Two Sidewalk" — A petition was circulated for the construction of a cement pavement from Lock Two to the German Protestant Cemetery and from New Bremen to the cemetery. Petitioners and their donations were Garmhausen Bros. (\$100), First National Bank (\$25), and others with smaller sums of \$15, \$10, \$5, \$1.

Cost of the Lock Two construction was estimated to be not less than \$700 and the cost for the New Bremen portion was estimated to be far in advance of the \$1500 bonds to be issued. Individual property owners along the walk were willing to donate to cover the excess. [*The cemetery paid \$164 on 7/9/1913.*]

**1/27/1914:** Because of the statewide quarantine on cloven footed animals, hogs have been banned from shipment for a

-15-

couple of weeks. To meet this condition local buyers have purchased slaughtered hogs from the farmers (when the carcasses have been prepared according to quarantine instructions) and shipped them to market. The Garmhausen Bros. Co. of Lock Two had a lot of over 50 hogs in their pens ready for shipment when the ban was pronounced. These were slaughtered Tuesday and shipped to Lima where they were taken care of by a branch packing house. Henry F. Jung and William Schelper Wednesday afternoon shipped a carload of dressed hogs which they had purchased from the farmers to a Piqua packing house.

**5/22/1914:** "Retaining Wall" — To eliminate the bed of mud and weeds as it is found every summer in the northern level of the canal, it has been proposed to have a dam erected at Lock Two in order to retain the water in this level as it drains from the upper level, there being no other means of keeping the water from flowing away, all locks between New Bremen and St. Marys having fallen into such a state of dilapidation.

**11/7/1914:** "Liquor Licensing" — The county liquor license board on Wednesday handed down its decision as to who will be permitted to continue in the saloon business in Auglaize County after November 24<sup>th</sup>. Among those being permitted to continue were Henry J.C. Laut, Fred Kamman and Emil F. Wissman of New Bremen, and Henry Heinfeld of Lock Two. Among those rejected were William Combs of St. Marys, Gustave Wissman, and Laut & Sons of New Bremen.

**11/13/1914:** Lock Two is surely coming right to the front. Though perhaps the smallest burg in the county, it can now boast truly city airs, since part of the street in front of the big Garmhausen Bros. Store has been covered with paving brick, presenting the appearance of a real city street. Henry Heinfeld and August Dicke were the mechanics to attend to the job.

**11/27/1914:** The Lock Two Grain & Milling Co. has had some marked improvements made in its power plant connected with the large mill. Expert electrician William Luelleman was busy several days installing a set of storage batteries in connection with their dynamos, and now they are prepared to illuminate the mill as well as Garmhausen's big department store at any hour of the night or day, while heretofore they were able to secure electric current only at such times when the mill was operating.

**12/18/1914:** August Dicke and son, Henry, who for almost a quarter of a century have attended to the duties of sexton at the German Protestant Cemetery, have handed in their resignation to the board of directors, to take effect by March 1915. [*Frank Wierth was hired as the new sexton and served until Dec. 31, 1926, after which Lafe Scheer took over the job. (see pg. 12)*]

**10/8/1915:** Children residing beyond the 2 mile limit from any school house in the N.B. school district have for 2 weeks now been enjoying the novelty of riding to and from school in an auto-hack. The board of education has arranged with Ben Vornholt to haul the pupils back and forth, stations having been established at Christ Grothaus's corner east of town, at the crossroad east of Lock Two, and at the North School.

**11/11/1917:** Mrs. Leo C. Kuhlhorst tells writer [*N.B. Sun-10/18/1945*] that through all the years the first little frame schoolhouse stood at Lock Two, and where for many years thereafter the more modern brick building took its place, only one lady teacher ever had charge of that school, and that was none other than Mrs. Kuhlhorst herself, then Miss Esther Kuck. Especially remembered was the celebration of Armistice Day on November 11, 1917 and some days later, when the school, together with superintendent Elmer Jordan, celebrated with a picnic under the maple trees in the schoolyard.

**2/21/1919:** Lafe Scheer and family moved Wednesday to the Mrs. (Lizzie?) Scheer residence east of the North School,



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while Mrs. Scheer will shortly move into the Schulenberg property, formerly the Gobrecht property on S. Washington St.

**6/27/1919: "Firemen's Picnic"** — On July 4, 1919, the United Fire Departments of New Bremen & Lock Two (for the first time together) held a holiday celebration at Kuenning's Grove (later Speedway Park). For this event, an open air dance pavilion was erected with a cement foundation and was to be provided with a roof and a side enclosure in case of unfavorable weather. This dance pavilion became a major attraction over the years. On March 24, 1936, the pavilion was destroyed by fire. It was the third dance pavilion to burn in this section in a few years time, the other two being at Gordon State Park at St. Marys and at Russells Point at Indian Lake.

**8/2/1923: "Abandoning North School"** — On Tuesday



evening the Board of Education decided to suspend operation of the North School. Pupils will be transported to the Central School building in New Bremen. [This brick school was built in

1898 at a cost of \$1453 after the original 1857 frame school was torn down. — see picture of pupils on pg. 12.]

**10/9-16/1924: FOR SALE** — 5 room house with 1 acre of land at rear of Lock Two schoolhouse. Inquire of John Scheer.

**1/28/1925:** Six year old Dorothy Bambauer, primary grade pupil, fell while sliding down a banister at the N.B. grade school at the noon hour Tuesday, striking her head on the floor 6 feet below. Her mouth and nose bled freely and she was unconscious for some time following the accident. The little girl is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ed Bambauer. Her father is manager of a garage in Lock Two. The practice of sliding down the banisters at the school was forbidden, but a number of younger children who remained at the school during the noon hour were enjoying themselves in this manner during the absence of the teachers when the accident occurred.

[submitted by Vernon Doenges — from the "Wapak Daily News"]

**9/10/1925:** The Citizens Bldg. & Loan Assoc. is planning to move the former Theodore Heinfeld home from Lock Two to a lot on South Franklin St., a distance of approximately 1½ miles.

**4/6/1933:** A Ralph May article "The Open Road" talks about walking through Lock Two and returning to New Bremen by either the towpath or by the "little dirt road parallel to the canal".

**8/9/1935: "Canal Road"** — A petition requested establishment of the "private road immediately east of the Lock Two Mills" as a township road. The petition was signed by Frank D. Kuenning for the Lock Two Grain & Milling Co., Herbert E. Garmhausen, Gust Wissman, Ed Bambauer, Henry Oberwite, Henry Ruedebusch, Edwin Poppe, John Kettler, Louis Heinfeld, Ferd Roettger, Rudolph H. May and Ernest Leonard.

**10/9/1938:** A gang of men employed by the Dayton Power & Light Co. are laying pipe this week from New Bremen to Lock Two where service connections are to be made for the use of natural gas. Years ago Lock Two people had a supply of natural gas, but since the supply has given out they were obliged to rely on wood and coal.

### WISSMAN'S STORE - LOCK TWO, OHIO

[1946 "Mirage" advertisement]

**5/9/1949:** Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Cunningham became the new proprietors of the Lock Two Store, formerly owned by Gust & Ida (Waterman) Wissman.

**1/26/1950:** Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Cunningham last week sold the Lock Two Store to Mr. & Mrs. Milton Gieseke. Mr. Gieseke

has relinquished his position at the Arcade Dept. Store grocery and has taken over management of his newly-acquired business. Mr. Gieseke formerly operated a grocery in partnership with Irvin Heinfeld (until May 1935) and from then until March 24, 1941, operated what is now The Little Store on North Main St.

**6/29/1950:** Mr. & Mrs. Milton Gieseke have moved to Lock Two to the upstairs apartment in the Mrs. Ed Meckstroth residence. They operate a grocery & lunch room in Lock Two. [Part of the Garmhausen building was being used at this time by Oscar Dammeyer for his Nu-Way Company, a self-manufactured line of hog feeders and chicken houses.]



**10/23/1958:** Henry & Emma (Kuest) Ruedebusch celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They have lived in Lock Two for the past 43 years (in the former miller's house).

**1968:** Federal Government Air Raid Shelter for 50 people, located in the Lock Two Mills basement — Canal Rd., Lock Two. [1968 Robinson's Auglaize County Directory]



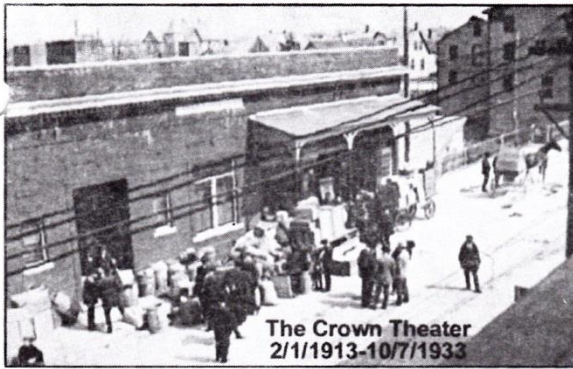
Because of financial problems and increased competition, the Lock Two Mills closed on April 13, 1981. Employees, numbering approximately 14 at any given time, had been given the opportunity to buy stock in the company. Edgar Steinbrugge, a 52-year employee, credited the buy-in plan as the reason the mill was able to keep operating as long as it did.

**6/27/1981: "PUBLIC AUCTION — Lock Two Grain & Milling Co."** — Real Estate, 3.84 acres of land situated in 3 parcels: large brick structure now being used as the milling and grinding area, large elevator with storage bins and shelter, 4 steel grain bins, office building, platform scales, large storage barn, and small storage building.

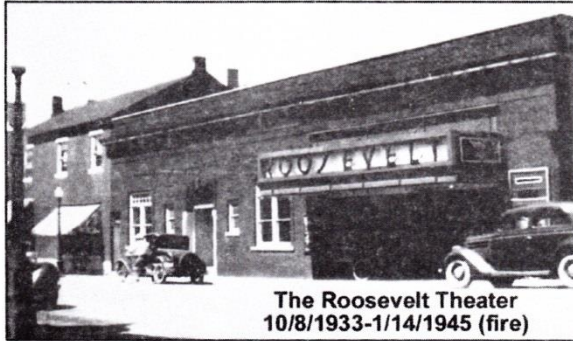
**7/6/1981:** Auctioneers Red Kuck & Owen Hall sold all of the Lock Two Mill's contents, inventory and some small buildings during last Saturday's sale. However, the bids for the granary and mill, plus the 3.84 acres of land did not bring a satisfactory price and remain unsold.

**3/27/1989:** After several changes in ownership, the remaining Lock Two Mill buildings and the land were purchased by Crown Equipment Corp. All buildings except the 3-story brick mill building were demolished. The company has restored the building and it is now being used for storage. The former Garmhausen Store is also now the property of Crown.





The Crown Theater  
2/1/1913-10/7/1933



The Roosevelt Theater  
10/8/1933-1/14/1945 (fire)



The Roosevelt Theater Sun Printing Co.  
11/7/1945-March 1955 Aug. 1955-Mar. 1969



Senior Citizens Center - 5/12/1972-10/9/1995

New Bremen's first theater was called WONDERLAND and was located in the north side of the bakery building then owned by Herman Laut (at 30 South Washington St. - Sanborn maps). This was in June-July 1907. In 1910, the theater changed ownership and the name was also changed - to CROWN THEATER. In 1912-13, Herman Laut and Herbert Schulenberg built the Laut-Schulenberg block (see top picture) and Herbert Schulenberg opened the new theater on 2/1/1913 with the show "Mills of the God." To read more about the early days of New Bremen's theater, see the April 2001 issue of *The Towpath*.

## LOCK ONE THEATER

A call to 419-629-4100 will get a  
recorded message giving information  
and show times for the current movie.

8 West Monroe Street • New Bremen, Ohio  
419-629-4100

[www.lockonetheater.com](http://www.lockonetheater.com)

According to a 10/9/2003 "Crown Announcement", the primary purpose of the Lock One Theater, recently renovated by Crown Equipment Corporation, is to accommodate the company's sales presentations to visiting customers and large group meetings. When the theater is not being used for these purposes, it will be open on weekdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to Crown employees. They are permitted to bring their lunch into the theater and/or use the vending machines in the lobby. Local or national TV is available.

A November 3<sup>rd</sup> "Announcement" stated that the theater would also be open to the public on a limited basis for evening and weekend movie showings.

From December 6-18, 2003, the first general admission movie to be shown was Dr. Seuss's "The Cat in the Hat". The second film to be shown was "The Last Samurai" with Tom Cruise from December 19<sup>th</sup> through New Year's Day. Scheduled to show from January 2-15, 2004 is "Something's Gotta Give" with Jack Nicholson, Diane Keaton, and Keanu Reeves.

### STAMCO UPDATE

In the July 2002 issue of *The Towpath*, the history of STAMCO (Streine's Tool & Mfg. Co.) was given, from its beginnings in 1885 as The O.O. Poorman Co. through December 2001. Since then, STAMCO has left New Bremen and the buildings have been purchased by Crown Equipment Corp. A November 10, 2003 "Crown Announcement" stated that Crown had purchased the Herr-Voss Stamco facility and would lease a portion of the space in the old Seiberling building on the south side of Plum Street back to Herr-Voss Stamco for their remaining engineering and service operations in N.B.





This picture is being printed by permission of the publisher, Jeff Weidner of Indian Lake Printing – P.O. Box 1179 – Russells Point, Ohio 43348. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of his recently published 70-page book, "Indian Lake – A Snapshot of Time", you can do so by calling him at 937-843-2502 — or by contacting the Indian Lake Area Chamber of Commerce – P.O. Box 717 – Russells Point, Ohio 43348 — 937-843-5392.

[Tell them you read about it in "The Towpath"]

[Email: office@indianlakechamber.org]



**N.B.H.S. Class of 1934 & spouses\* - 10/6/2003**

BACK: Richard King\*, Carman Hirschfeld, Robert Papsdorf, William Kuck, Fred Luedeke\*  
FRONT: Ruth (Wiehe) King, Esther (Headapohl) Dicke, Catherine (Luelleman) Grilliot, Dorothy (Sunderman) Luedeke

Several members of the N.B.H.S. Class of 1934 met for lunch on October 6, 2003 at "The Grille" to visit with their classmate, Robert Papsdorf, of Sun City, Arizona. A complete class reunion is being anticipated in 2004 to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their graduation.  
(information provided by Dorothy Luedeke)

## THE CROWN PAVILION

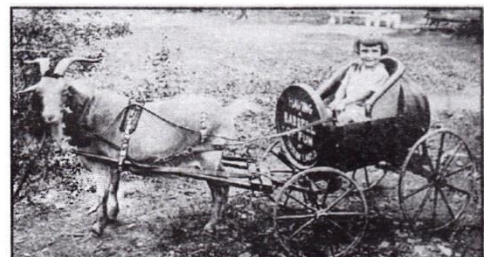
The Crown Pavilion, shown at left, was first written about in the October 2003 issue of *The Towpath*, as construction was taking place.

This 12-sided, 90'-diameter Chautauqua Pavilion-Coliseum Dance Hall was moved from Orchard Island at Indian Lake and constructed on West Plum St., on the site of the former "1938" N.B. municipal swimming pool.

At 12:00 noon on Monday, December 22, 2003, the pavilion was dedicated. A monument at the entrance reads:

"THE CROWN PAVILION, honoring all Crown employees, past and present, with appreciation for their efforts and commitment to making Crown a success."

Jim & Eileen Dicke – 2003



**Vernita Heinfeld at Indian Lake  
in the 1920s**

## Having a Barrel of Fun At Indian Lake

[photo courtesy of Stan Scheer]

Lucille:

10/17/2003

Thank you for the picture you took of our 1934 graduation class and presented to us so quickly (at left). Our classmates' visit was very interesting. Bob Papsdorf was amazed at New Bremen's changes & proclaimed it "very nice".

Best wishes,

Bill Kuck – Findlay, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Francis:

12/4/2003

Thanks again for all your reporting about New Bremen. It brings lots of nice memories. Keep up the good work. Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Helen Richey – Wapakoneta, Ohio

Hi Lucille:

12/23/2003

Enclosed is a check for a year's subscription to *The Towpath*. You sure do a lot of research – that makes your newsletter very interesting.

Sincerely,

George Neargarder – St. Marys, Ohio

**CORRECTION:** In the January 2003 issue of *The Towpath*, on page 15, Row 2 of the 1913 First Grade picture, the 3<sup>rd</sup> person should have been identified as Margaret (Greiwe) McKee (not Paul). Thanks to Jean (Greiwe) Waterman for calling this to my attention. Margaret was her aunt.



# From the Mailbox



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Dear Lucille:

9/1/2003

Just wanted you to know how much I enjoy *The Towpath*. I am at present going through my old issues and re-reading them.

Sally Jo (Abbott), Fark & June (Scheer) Slade ("cousins") visited me when I lived in the desert, before I moved to Manhattan Beach. I so enjoyed meeting Sally and hadn't seen June for some time. I also heard from another "cousin", Jerry Mueller (son of Carl) of Williamsburg, Ohio. Life's little surprises!! - the older you get the more your roots mean to you.

Betty (Gast) Roberts - Manhattan Beach, California



9/9/2003

I am enclosing a check for a subscription to *The Towpath* through 2004. My cousin-in-law, Judy (Bowers) Waesch, gave me all her old issues going back to 1998 and I found mention of a lot of my ancestors in almost every other issue. My father, Rev. Herbert Schowe, was born and raised in New Bremen and my mother, Helen Waesch, was born in St. Marys.

I was in New Bremen in June for 2 short days and with the help of Tom Braun and Judy, I was able to find a lot of information about our family. If anyone has any information on the Schowe, Soelmann, Waesch, or Dicke families, please write me at:

Sue (Schowe) Dicus - 48 Burke Loop - Silver City, NM 88061



Dear Susie or Lucille or whomever:

10/5/2003

I just finished reading my October 2003 issue of *The Towpath* and was surprised to see my letter (8/9/03, regarding an enclosed news article from "The Athens Messenger") above my Aunt Annabel (Scheer) Wagner's picture (on page 15). I noted you printed the article I sent (on page 3), then later discovered Auntie's picture. I certainly felt "covered" in this issue!

Earlier I got excited with some of the (early Ohio) history. Quite a few years ago, my brother Rex and I were talking about our heritage and he said he thought our dad, Jim Loyer, was part English and part French. We knew we had German blood from our mother, Ethel Scheer (sister to Annabel). Then some time later, I was visiting with my brother John and was telling him about the discussion with Rex. He said, "Oh yes" and pronounced a French version of "Loyer".

In reading this *Towpath*, I feel that they were both correct and want to share this with all three of my brothers - John (Lakeside, CA), Rex (Shreveport, LA), and Tom (McGregor, TX). I figure the best way to do this is by having you send each of them a complimentary copy of *The Towpath*. I am including their addresses and a donation check to cover any costs. Thank you very much.

Louise ("Olive" Loyer) Pullins - Athens, Ohio



To N.B.H.A.:

9/29/2003

Greetings to the Board and thanks for the October 2003 issue of *The Towpath*. I enjoyed the history of Ohio's beginnings and the data on New Bremen.

One thing I did not find was any remarks about the Bremenfest parade. Did the N.B.H.A. have a float this year? If so, how did we do? With the Bicentennial theme, it would be hard for the judges to decide the winners - they'd all be decked out in Red, White & Blue.

Lawrence T. Holmer (Past President) - Stow, Ohio

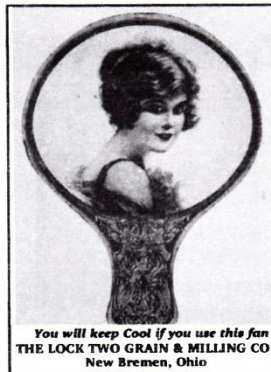
[NOTE: No, the N.B.H.A. did not have a float in the Bremenfest parade this year - therefore no story or pictures.]



Dear Lucy: 9/30/2003

Here is a copy of a Lock Two Mills fan that has been in the family for 80 years or more. It is actually in color.

In 1933, Lock Two Mills had a float in the Centennial parade. It had sheaves of wheat all over it and girls inside threw out little bags of flour. The mill had a large diesel engine for power and its exhaust made a lot of noise.



I remember a little of Ed Bambauer's blacksmith shop. I never saw horses being shod there, but plenty of plowshares were sharpened in the spring. The farmers' names would be written on each one with chalk. It was a busy place in Lock Two (see pg. 16).

Another place of popularity was Gust Wissman's saloon. My dad told me that part of it was built out over the canal. I only remember it being in the north side of the Garmhausen store. (see pictures on pg. 9). Dances were held upstairs in the Garmhausen store.

Lock Two had a Volunteer Fire Dept. that had a hose cart and a small hand-pumped fire engine. The hand pumper is now in the Allen Co. Museum in Lima.

More later,

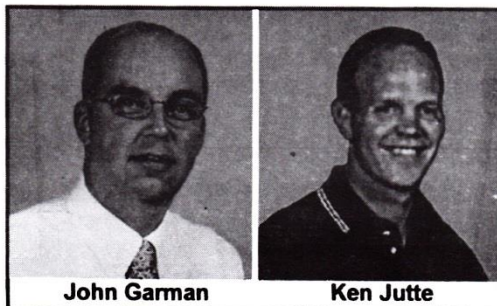
Robert G. Heinfeld - Ada, Ohio



[a Paul Lietz picture - 1992]



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## TWO HEROES

Two heroes died today,  
Two men who were brave and strong.  
Such a horrible tragedy has occurred,  
One that truly seems wrong.

Two heroes died today,  
Two dedicated to their families and friends;  
Dedicated to help others –  
Always helping, until the end.

Two heroes died today,  
And many shall mourn this loss –  
Families and friends and heroes alike  
Will think of this day and pause.

Two heroes died today,  
No more will they take a breath –  
An ending of two heroic lives  
In such an untimely death.

Two heroes died today,  
No more will their voices be heard.  
But in our minds and our hearts  
We may always hear their words.

Two heroes died today,  
No more smiles will they share.  
It seems unreal that they are gone,  
But close your eyes, they'll be there.

Two heroes died today  
Who were admired and loved by all.  
We shall miss everything about them  
As they have answered their duty and call.

*Stephanie M. (Hartwig) Fullenkamp*

<<<<>>>>

*Dedicated to Ken Jutte and John Garman,  
who tragically lost their lives Wednesday,  
October 1, 2003.*



The picture at right is part of a Christmas light display provided by Post Printing Co. and Buschur Electric Inc., both of Minster, in memory of New Bremen's fallen firefighters, Ken Jutte and John Garman, who died October 1, 2003 while fighting a silo fire at Hoge Lumber Co. at New Knoxville. This was on display at the "New Bremen" sign on North Washington Street during the Christmas season.

## NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 12/31/03)

[\*Spousal Memberships @ \$5.00 or \$50.00/LM]

- 11/26/03 Heinfeld, Julitta (Nieter) – Springfield, Ohio
- 11/19/03 Heitkamp, Dennis – New Bremen (Re-joined)
- 10/8/03 Hirschfeld, Eugene – Celina, Ohio
- 12/23/03 Neargarder, George – St. Marys, Ohio
- 12/10/03 Stroh, Leland – Wapakoneta, Ohio

## ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

- 11/19/03 Broy, Judith (Nieter)

## MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

- 9/17/03 Egbert, Alvin (LM) – died 9/17/03
- 11/12/03 Henning, Ruth (Mueller)(LM) – died 11/12/03
- 9/14/03 Tontrup, Marcella (Fischbach)(LM) –died 9/14/03

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

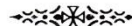
The following memorial donations have been received this quarter:

**In memory of Herbert Kellermeyer, Jr.** by  
Leota Kellermeyer, Mike & Nancy (Kellermeyer) Parsons,  
and Dennis & Andrea Kellermeyer

**In memory of Alvin Egbert**  
by his sisters & brothers: Edwin & Brunhilda (Egbert)  
Wittenbrink, Don & Norma Jean (Egbert) Mumaw, Adrian  
& Mary Egbert, Allen & Janet (Egbert) Kuck, Lawrence &  
Marlene Egbert, and David & Judy Egbert.

## 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.



Until this past year, the only New Bremen fireman ever to be killed in the line of duty was Henry Hartwig (see pg. 13). In October 2003, the tradition of the crossed fire ladders was again followed for the funerals of New Bremen firemen Ken Jutte and John Garman.

[photos by Lucille Francis]

