

MUSEUM located at 120 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
(Other Appointments, Call 419-629-1014 - Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.)

MEMBERSHIP: \$10.00 / Year - \$5.00 Spouse (Life: \$100.00 / \$50.00 Spouse) January - 2005

◆ OFFICERS OF N.B. HISTORIC ASSOC. ◆

(06) Larry Dicke, President/Trustee-----419-629-1903
Larry Dicke (e-mail: ldicke@nktelco.net)
(06) Carl Roediger, V. Pres./Trustee-----419-629-2549
Carl Roediger (e-mail: croediger@nktelco.net)
(05) Dru Meyer, Secretary/Trustee-----419-629-3495
Dru Meyer (e-mail: midrum@nktelco.net)
(07) Thomas Braun, Treasurer/Trustee-----419-629-8902
Tom Braun, Genealogy (e-mail: TGBraun@nktelco.net)
(05) Lawrence Egbert, Trustee-----419-629-2578
(05) Mary Moeller, Trustee-----419-629-3635
(06) Mary Paul, Trustee-----419-629-2213
(07) R. Jay Stauffer, Trustee-----419-629-3334
Jay Stauffer (e-mail: keltie@nktelco.net)
(07) Dennis Klingler, Trustee-----419-629-2454
Dennis Klingler (e-mail: cokyrace@nktelco.net)

◆ "APPOINTEES" ◆

Delores Stienecker, Curator-----419-629-2685
Delores Stienecker (e-mail: stien@adelphia.net)
Joyce Holdren, Curator-----419-629-3474
Joyce Holdren (e-mail: tojoho@adelphia.net)
Joyce Ruedebusch, Corresponding Secretary-419-629-2946
Joyce Ruedebusch (e-mail: jdr@nktelco.net)
Genevieve Conradi, Historian's Scrapbook-----419-629-2764
Gen Conradi (e-mail: dengen@nktelco.net)
Susie Hirschfeld, Membership Archives-----419-629-2133

◆ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆

(05) Joyce Holdren, Advisor-----419-629-3474
(06) Tom Braun, Chairman-----419-629-8902
(07) Delores Stienecker-----419-629-2685
(08) Mary Moeller-----419-629-3635

ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

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

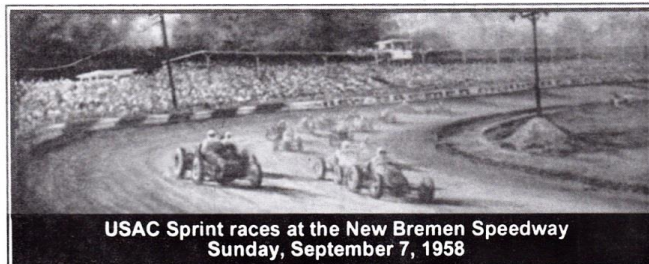
◆ THE TOWPATH ◆

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)



USAC Sprint races at the New Bremen Speedway
Sunday, September 7, 1958

This is the second color print in a series of **NUMBERED** New Bremen historical prints painted by artist Pat Wietholter of New Knoxville. It is the same size (17 1/4" x 5 1/4") as "The Interurban on Main Street" print sold last year and is available from our museum at the same price - \$40.00 (+\$5.00 S/H, if mailed). To purchase either of these prints, contact Tom Braun or Delores Stienecker - or mail your check to P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073.

NOTE: If you would like the same print **NUMBER** as the interurban print you purchased, **we must know this number no later than February 28th** or that print will be sold to someone else.

[The photo on which this painting is based was provided by David Kramer. To read all about the New Bremen Speedway, see Dave's article on page 10. To read about the Farmers' Picnic, see page 2.]

NEW BREMEN FARMERS' PICNIC ASSOCIATION

Fourth Annual Picnic Thursday - August 15, 1918

Grounds: 1 mile north on N.B.-St. Marys Hwy. & Western Ohio Traction Line

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PAST THREE YEARS = 5,000

Gentlemen: August 3, 1918

We are enclosing a copy of rules and regulations to cover our Tractor Demonstration. They are the same as have governed demonstrations generally throughout the state.

If you are not amongst those that have expressed their desire to enter this demonstration and take advantage of this opportunity to exhibit and demonstrate to the farmers of this community, hadn't you better make arrangement?

We are enclosing some posters which we hope you will place somewhere to advantage. Yours for a most successful picnic and demonstration.

Respectfully,

The New Bremen Farmers' Picnic Association

COMMITTEES: **FINANCE** - Frank Kuenning, Pres.; Ed. J. Boesel, Vice-Pres.; C.H. Koop, Treas.; C.V. Huenke, Secy.; **GROUND**S - Fred Wietholter, Ed. Rump, Leander Hespe, Wm. Dicke, Elmer Fischbach; **ADVERTISING** - Herman Kettler, Gust Bertke, Henry Blanke, John Thieman, Ed Bertke; **ENTERTAINMENT** - Herman Mohman, George Luedeke, Wilson Nieter; **MUSIC** - Oscar Moeller, Albert Westerbeck, Wm. Landwehr. (letter provided by Stan Wietholter - N. Knoxville)

DON'T MISS THE FIELD TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION

3RD ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC - 8/16/1917

There was but one road open to traffic on Thursday, August 16, 1917, far out beyond neighboring towns, and that road led to New Bremen. Farmers and others as far as Minster, Fort Loramie, Newport, Osgood, Houston, Piqua, Celina, Coldwater, Fort Recovery, St. Marys, Ohio City, Van Wert, Wapakoneta, Lima, New Knoxville, Kettlersville, Jackson Center, Sidney & Quincy, Ohio and Portland, Bryant & Decatur, Indiana came early in the day in order to witness the tractor demonstration which had been so widely advertised.

Not less than 12 different machines were out in Mr. Kuenning's 18-acre stubble field. These 12 tractors plowed the field in less than 2 hours:

1) **MOLINE**, by Barney Krampe of Fort Laramie, who also displayed a tractor drawing a couple of discs and a corn binder; 2) **MOGUL**, by Gordon, Hauss & Folk of St. Marys; 3) **CASE**, by Cast Implement Co.; 4) **TITAN**, by the Detjen Grain Co. of New Knoxville; 5) **STAUDA MAK**, a tractor, by J.F. Bick of Toledo; 6) **DEEP-TILLING PLOW**, drawn by a CASE tractor, Cast Implement Co.; 7) **BIG BULL**, Ed Hoewischer of Lima; 8) **WATERLOO BOY**, New Bremen Implement Co.; 9) **PULLFORD**, Helmstetter & Aschbacher, St. Marys; 10) **NATIONAL TRACTOR & PLOW CO.**, H. Carpenter, Carey, Ohio; 11) **HAPPY FARMER**, W.H. Spayd, LaCrosse, Wisconsin; 12) **LITTLE BULL**, Ed Hoewischer, Lima.

Other displays were: range & washing machines, Garmhausen Bros. Co., Lock Two; twin washers, K. & K. Roofing Co., New Knoxville; wagons & other implements, Gast Implement Co.

J.H. Meyer of Lima operated the merry-go-round. A little wagon was donated by the Gast Implement Co. and won by Henry Egbert. Winners in the auto parade were 1) Elmer Roettger (\$10.00), 2) Elwin Hespe (\$6.00), 3) H.E. Dicke (\$4.00), 4) Leander Hespe (\$2.00). Approximately 520 automobiles and 210 other rigs were parked in the grove.

(N.B. Sun - 8/17/1917)

◀◀◀◀◀◀◀◀

GIGANTIC CROWD AT 4TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC


Kuenning's Grove never before witnessed such a gigantic crowd of people as when the 4th annual Farmers' Picnic took place on Thursday, August 15, 1918. The decorated auto parade in the morning was very unique in appearance. Shocks of oats and green corn stalks were used and all were trimmed up in tasteful fashion either with greenery or artificial flowers. Prizes were won by 1) Ed J. Boesel, 2) H.E. Dicke, 3) Kellermeyer & Rabe, and 4) Oscar Moeller.



Hulda Kuenning (2nd from left) and her friends with their decorated cars at the Farmers' Picnic

[photo courtesy of Sue (Schmidt) Schmackers]

Thousands of people witnessed the demonstrations of no less than 15 tractors plowing Frank Kuenning's wheat field. Tractors were entered by the following companies/agents: Koenig Grain & Implement Co.; Gast Implement Co.; Henry Koenig; Reynolds & Miller; Barney Krampe; Gordon, Hauss & Folk Co.; New Bremen Implement Co.; L.H. Meckstroth; J.J. Esch Machine Co.; Star Tractor Sales Co.; and the Lawson Tractor. The last two had to be cancelled because their equipment failed to arrive in time.

 Another interesting display was of about 10 Black Angus steers, part of a herd arriving here last Saturday under supervision of Agriculture teacher, O.P. Gossard, which are to be distributed among local farm boys in a feeding contest.

Local & neighboring stores and business places who had displays at the picnic were: The Arcade; I(rvin) J. Speckman; Klanke & Co.; Porter & Son; Wilbur Montgomery, Garmhausen Bros.; H.K. & K. Roofing Co.; J.J. Dues; Gast Implement Co.; New Bremen Implement Co.; Wyen & Grieshop; Kellermeyer & Rabe; Theo. Kempker & Son; Auglaize Motor Car Co.; Huenke's Garage, Rairdon's Garage.

A demonstration was given for the ladies by an Ohio State Univ. representative in the newest modes of cold-pack canning. It was estimated that about 1,000 autos were on the grounds and that attendance was the largest ever. (N.B. Sun - 8/16/1918)

◀▶◀▶◀▶◀▶◀▶◀▶

Dance Pavilion Erected at Kuenning's Grove

A new dancing pavilion is being erected at Kuenning's Grove. It will be one of the finest open air floors ever constructed. Plans are already made by which the platform will be put under roof so that events similar to the July 4th celebration being planned by the United Fire Departments of New Bremen & Lock Two may be held even under unfavorable weather conditions. Band music has been engaged and the dancing will be started when the guests are ready. It will continue indefinitely as the grove will be amply lighted in the evening.

This is an unusual event as it is the first time that the two fire departments have united in such an enterprise. The boys are looking forward to a good turnout from town and country alike, showing them that their services as firemen and their effort in bringing about a fine Fourth of July celebration are appreciated.

(N.B. Sun - 6/20/1919)

5th ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC

Kuenning's Grove Friday, August 15, 1919
Big 1-Day Community Fair - Auto Parade at 9:30 a.m.

Tractor demonstration in field
Exhibition of farm implements, electrical machines,
automobiles, musical instruments, merchandise, etc.

Refreshments

Band music galore, Dancing on covered platform
Poland China male pig given away

**One continued round of pleasure & instruction all day
Come out and enjoy yourself. (8/8/19)**


It was estimated that 8,000-9,000 people visited the 1919 Farmers' Picnic. An estimated 1,800 cars were parked in the grove, the adjoining field and along the roadside.

The morning auto parade had 25-30 decorated autos. Prize winners were 1) Wm. Dicke, Clover 4 Rd.; 2) Wm. Hasting, Wapakoneta; 3) Ed J. Boesel, Van Buren Twp.; 4) Frank Kuenning. Ed Kettler of Kettlersville won the pig. Nine different makes of tractors participated in the field contest. (8/22/1919)

6TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC LIKE COUNTY FAIR

The decorated automobile parade at 10:00 a.m. was the prelude to the day's events at the 6th annual Farmers' Picnic on Thursday, 8/12/1920. Most cars were decorated with vegetable and grain products. Prizes were won by 1) Irvin Westerbeck (\$15.00), 2) Adolph Koenig (\$10.00), 3) Leander Hespe (\$5.00).

Just about the time when the parade was leaving for the grove, the siren fire whistle pealed forth its shrill tones, followed by the fire bells, causing an instant uproar. The parade disbanded as everybody was hastening to the scene of the fire at the St. Paul's accommodation barns at the rear of the church. After the fire was mastered, all roads again led to the picnic grounds which soon took on the look of a county fair.

 The Farmers' Picnic Association gave away these prizes: Elmer Loyer of Lima won a Duroc Jersey boar; Elwin Hespe, a \$25 pen of Black Orpington chickens; Herbert Kellermeyer, a \$15 pen of English White Leghorns; Ed Poppe of Kellersville, ½ ton of fertilizer. Springers were won by August Kettler, Dr. F.W. Everist, Ed Burmeister, H.A. Mesenbrink, Wm. Roettger, Henry Schowe, Pauline Vogelsang, Herbert Staas, Walter Thompson, Emil Koenig, Bernard Dietrich and George Wener of Sidnev.

An interesting spectacle was the 2 "aeroplanes" that came over during the noon hour from Bellefontaine, ready to take passengers aloft at \$10 each, but there weren't any daredevils on the premises so they left at 5:00 p.m.

The dance hall was well patronized all day and night and the picnic lasted way after midnight. (N.B. Sun - 8/13/1920)

GRAND MOONLIGHT PICNIC!

Sat. Eve. - July 23, 1921 Kuenning's Grove, New Bremen

DANCE PAVILION UNDER ROOF

Music by **PEERLESS ORCHESTRA**


Refreshments Of All Kinds

Our grove is admittedly the best and our dance platform the finest around here. We take pleasure in inviting you to come and have a good time with us.

THE NEW BREMEN AMUSEMENT COMPANY

7TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – MONDAY, 8/15/1921

Attendance at the 1921 Farmers' Picnic surpassed all previous records. A conservative estimate placed attendance at 20,000 while 3,000 automobiles were parked on the grounds.

 The day started at 9:30 a.m. with a mammoth horse-back parade, with 60 decorated horses and riders competing for the 6 prizes. Prize winners were 1) Dr. Leonard Schmidt, 2) Felix Knost, 3) Leona Brueggeman, 4) Hulda Kuenning, 5) Holbert Boroff and 6) Alfred Donnerberg.

Nine different tractors gave a demonstration, including a **MOLINE**, Barney Krampe of Fort Loramie; **MIAMI**, Celina; **FORDSON**, Advance Implement Co.; **AVERY 2 & 3-BOTTOM**, John Osterloh, Minster; **INTERNATIONAL**, International Harvester Co., Chicago; **SAMSON**, Katterheinrich Bros, New Knoxville; **CASE**, Gast Implement Co.

Various merchants from New Bremen, St. Marys, Minster, Lima, Celina and other towns showed their wares, also numerous refreshment and amusement concessions were scattered about the grounds.

A parachute drop was supposed to be made by Sgt. Bothrell of Dayton south of the picnic grounds, but owing to engine trouble, the jumper was forced to drop north of the grounds, drifting behind the woods so that the landing was not seen by anyone. A second "aeroplane" followed the aviator in his drop

and pointed out the landing place so that the helpers could bring back the parachute.

Free acrobatic attractions were given on a raised platform. The dance pavilion was open all day and evening, no admission being charged in the afternoon. The picnic closed at midnight.



[rooster photo from Adolph Pape collection]

Prizes donated by the farmers and given away included 38 spring chickens, 1 pr. Flemish Giants, 1 pr. New Zealand Reds, 1 pen Anconas, 1 pen White Leghorns, Poland China boar, Duroc Jersey gilt, Chester White gilt, Shropshire ram, 2 gallons honey, two ½-bushels of potatoes, 2 flashlights, 1 wagon.

(N.B. Sun - 8/19/1921)

❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖❖

8TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – TUESDAY, 8/15/1922

No longer is the annual Farmers' Picnic a big day merely for those residing near New Bremen, but in fact the whole county regards the event as a 1-day fair. Attendance for the 1922 picnic was estimated at 10,000-12,000.

A decorated horse-back and mule-back parade formed at 9:00 a.m. and, led by the 42-piece Elks Band of Wapakoneta, paraded through the principal streets of town. More than 50 animals were counted in the parade. Horse-back prize winners were: 1) Frank Thobe, Maria Stein; 2) Elmer Rump; 3) Ernst Schnelle; 4) Ida Schroeder; 5) Hulda Kuenning; 6) Leona Brueggeman. Mule-back winners were: 1) John Stegeman; 2) Henry Geise, St. Marys; 3) Arnold Poppe, St. Marys; 4) Raymond Heil

All makes of tractors sold in this territory were demonstrated by the following dealers in the tractor & plow demonstration in the field adjoining the picnic grounds: Gast Implement Co. a Advance Auto & Implement Co., both of New Bremen; Lobsenz & Co., Two Grain & Milling Co., St. Marys; Fred Heckman, Maria Stein; Barney Krampe, Fort Lorame; Busse & Berning, E.F. Westerheide and Esser & Rentz, all of Minster; and Katterheinrich Bros., New Knoxville.

Merchants & dealers having exhibits on the grounds were: Leo Huenke, Advance Implement Co., Gast Implement Co., Heitman Brothers, Heinfeld Mfg. Co., Loy & Ludwig, Doenges & Doenges, The Arcade Dept. Store, Kellermeyer & Rabe, Knost Shoe Store, Garmhausen Bros. Co., E.H. Nieter, Wyen & Stueve, Royal Tangeman & The Lock Two Grain & Milling Co., all of New Bremen; Hoying & Westerheide & Charles Laufersweiler, both of Minster; Chickasaw Tile Co.; Alfred Langhorst & Henry Becker, both of Kettlersville; J.R. Gast of Coldwater; Herbert Holl, P.F. Sarver & Son and The Refiners Oil Co., all of St. Marys; Jacobs & Meckstroth and B.S. Porter & Son, both of Lima; R. Bollheimer of Fort Loramie; and Detjen Grain Co. & H.K. & K. Roofing Co., both of New Knoxville.

The grounds were covered with amusement concessions, besides which Sgt. R.W. Bothrell of Kelley Field, Texas (*in 1921, of Dayton*) performed thrilling acrobatic stunts in an "aeroplane" and, after reaching a 6,000' altitude, glided back to earth with a parachute. Equillo & Mabelle, a team of high-wire artists, also gave several performances. Four reels of films entitled "How to Conduct a Dairy Farm" were shown under the auspices of the Ohio State University. A trap shooting match began at 12:30 p.m. in a field near the grounds and liberal prizes were awarded to the winners.

Music consisted of the Wapakoneta Elks Band for the parade and during the day, the Kettlersville Band in the evening, the Black & Blue Orchestra, and Koehn's Orchestra.

(N.B. Sun - 8/18/1922)

9TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – WEDNESDAY, 8/15/1923

All roads led to New Bremen on Wednesday, August 15th, for the annual Farmers' Picnic Day. Farmers' Picnic Day is always a big event in New Bremen and the surrounding territory and again fully lived up to its reputation. The big 1-day community fair has grown from year to year and estimates of the numbers attending in the past have variously been placed at 8,000-10,000.

This year's event was again officially started at 9:00 a.m. with an auto parade headed by the state Forty & Eight Band of Greenville. This band consists of 35 pieces and was awarded 3rd prize at the national American Legion convention at New Orleans.

About 75 decorated autos proceeded down the main streets and then out to the grove. Prizes were awarded as follows: **BEST DECORATED FARM PRODUCTS AUTO** – 1) Gust Grothaus (\$12.00), 2) Ed Boesel (\$10.00), 3) Irvin Dammeyer (\$7.00); **BEST FANCY DECORATED AUTO** – 1) White Mountain Creamery (\$10.00), 2) Lola Huenke (\$7.00), 3) Louis Huenke (\$5.00); **MOST COMICAL DECORATED AUTO** – Oscar Dammeyer (\$10.00).

Company K of St. Marys patrolled the grounds both afternoon and evening, directing the traffic and protecting the machines that literally overflowed an adjoining field which had been set aside for parking purposes.

The following merchants were to display their wares: **WYEN & STUEVE** (FarQuar furnaces); **HENRY BLOCK** (furnaces & plumbing); **BARNEY KRAMPE**, Fort Loramie (new kind of farm wagon); **SARVER MUSIC STORE**, St. Marys (pianos, players & victrolas); **HEITMAN BROTHERS** (electrical supplies); **H.K. & K. ROOFING Co.**, New Knoxville (Delco light); **GARMHAUSEN BROTHERS** (general merchandise); **NEW BREMEN HARDWARE & SUPPLY Co.** (hardware & paints); **ARCADE DEPT. STORE Co.** (general merchandise); **LOCK TWO GRAIN & MILLING Co.**, St. Marys (separators & implements); **J.J. DUES MACHINE Co.**, Minster (shredders); **KELLERMAYER & RABE** (shoes); **A.G. LANGHORST**, Kettlersville (Ford cars & Fordson tractors); **ADVANCE IMPLEMENT Co.** (Ford cars & Fordson tractors); **TRACTOR IMPLEMENTS** (Kalamazoo silo filler); **CHICKASAW CEMENT BLOCK Co.** (tiles & blocks); **B.S. PORTER SONS Co.** OLD RELIABLE MUSIC STORE, St. Marys (pianos, players, Brunswicks, Edisons); **LOY-LUDWIG MUSIC Co.** (pianos, players, Brunswicks); **REIHER & SCHLECHTE**, St. Marys (men's furnishings); **A. WESNER**, St. Marys (Maxwell Sales & Service); **GAST IMPLEMENT Co.** (J.I. Case tractors).

Shows and concessions galore dotted the grove on every side, including a big \$8,000 merry-go-round and giant Ferris wheel. There were 2 free acrobatic attractions – one in the afternoon & one in the evening.

The Ohioans, a popular 6-piece orchestra of Van Wert, played for the afternoon and evening dances.

Officers of the Farmers' Picnic Association for 1923 were:
August Braun, Pres.; Irvin Neuman, Vice-Pres.; Levi Egbert,
Sec'y.; Alvin Dicke, Treas. (N.B. Sun - 7/19+8/9+8/16/1923)

<><><><><><><>

10TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – FRIDAY, 8/15/1924

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people are expected to mill about in the crowd at the 10th annual Farmers' Picnic at Kuenning's Grove tomorrow. At least this many are known to have attended the big 1-day community fair in other years so there is no reason why the committee cannot confidently look forward to an equal number or perhaps more this year.

Besides the number of entries made by farmers, these 34 local merchants and manufacturers have agreed to enter the 9:30 a.m. parade: Mel Laut, Erhardt Dry Goods Store. New

Bremen Auto Livery, New Bremen Hardware & Supply Co.,
Lewis Poppe, First City Bank, A.H. Albert, A.J. Friemering,
Mueller Brothers, Taylor Studio, F.B. Hollingsworth, Laut
Brothers, Schulenberg Brothers, Patterson & Wissman, E.H.
Nieter, Knost Shoe Store, Leo Kuhlhorst, Jerry Dietrich, Blase
Grocery, Schwieterman Drug Store, J.M. Brucken, Kellermeyer
& Rabe, Arcade Dept. Store, Theo. Doenges, W.J. Stappe,
Ferd Wint, First National Bank, Advance Auto & Implement Co.,
White Mountain Creamery, Auglaize Hoist & Body Co., Gast
Implement Co., Heinfeld Mfg. Co., I.J. Speckman, Klanke & Co.

One of the biggest attractions of the day and evening will be the daring stunts of Claude Baughman, Springfield aviator. He will perform at 3 different times – 2:30, 6:30, 9:00. Besides performing all sorts of daredevil stunts on the wings of his plane and from a trapeze suspended underneath it, he will also stage a spectacular act in the evening when he is to be featured in a pyrotechnic display the like of which has never been seen here.

10TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – FRIDAY, 8/15/1924
Kuenning's Grove – 1½ miles north of New Bremen

MONSTROUS PARADE – 9:30 a.m.

Decorated Team, Horseback and Industrial Prizes awarded on
 Best Decorated Team and Wagon - 1st - \$20.00, 2nd - \$15.00
 Best Decorated Horseback - \$6.00, \$4.00, \$2.50
 Most Comical Entry - 1st - \$15.00, 2nd - \$7.50
 Each entry receives a 25¢ ticket for refreshments

SIDNEY MUNICIPAL BAND of 35 pieces in parade & during the day.
NEW BREMEN-MINSTER BAND in parade & in the evening.

BIG \$8,000 MERRY-GO-ROUND & GIANT FERRIS WHEEL

TRACTOR PLOWING & DEMONSTRATION

Free Acrobatic & Aeroplane Attractions – Shows & Concessions

DANCING AFTERNOON AND EVENING

MUSIC BY GARRISON'S 8-PIECE ORCHESTRA OF VAN WERT

EXTENSIVE MERCHANTS' DISPLAY

The following merchants will display their wares:

FROM MINSTER

Hoying & Westerheide (Hardware), C.J. Laufersweiler (Buick Sales), Dr. Ed Westerheide (Fords & Oil), J.J. Dues Machine Co. (Huskers & Threshers), John Bollheimer (Wind pumps & Water Systems), Busse & Berning (I.H.C. Implements & Tractors)

FROM ST. MARYS

Sarver's Music Store - also of Wapakoneta, Sidney & Piqua
 (Pianos & Victrolas), The B.S. Porter Son Co., Old Reliable
 Music House (Pianos, Players, Rolls, Radios, Brunswicks, New
 Edisons & Records), Herbert Holl (Players, Victrolas, Records &
 Radios), Alfred Wesner (Maxwell Sales & Service)

FROM NEW KNOXVILLE

Detjen Grain Co. (Implements),
The H.K. & K. Roofing Co. (Delco Light)

FROM McCARTYVILLE

Nick Grilliot (Deere Tractors & Implements)

FROM NEW BREMEN

Theo. Doenges (Tires, Tubes & Fixtures), Wyen & Stueve (FarQuar Furnaces), Henry Block (Water Systems), Gast Implement Co. (Case Tractors & Implements), Advance Auto & Implement Co. (Fords, Fordson Tractors & Tractor Implements)

EVERYBODY WELCOME

NO ADMISSION CHARGE FARMERS' PICNIC COMMITTEE

Kuenning's Grove Dance Pavilion Enlarged

Extensive improvements are being made at Kuenning's Grove 1½ miles north of New Bremen on the St. Marys-New Bremen Road, where the annual New Bremen Farmers' Picnic is held each summer.

Probably the biggest piece of work that has been carried out is the sawing in two of the dance pavilion from roof to foundation, following which the sections were moved apart and a new 48-foot square section was built in, practically doubling the floor space.

A new maple floor is to be laid over the entire pavilion. Other buildings and concession stands are being moved about the grounds to give a more suitable and convenient arrangement of the park. The resort will be formally opened with a dance on Saturday, May 9, 1925 with the 8-piece Bob Diekman Radio Orchestra of Lima providing the music.

[Wapakoneta Daily News, 4/29/1925 - provided by Vern Doenges]
(N.B. Sun - 5/7/1925)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Sunday Dancing Prohibited

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

Three Auglaize County dance hall proprietors have signified their intention of filing application with Probate Judge L.C. Brodbeck for permits to conduct public dance halls – Minster Eagles, Minster; Kuenning's Grove, New Bremen; and Gordon State Park, St. Marys. [Wapakoneta Daily News – 7/15/1925]

(provided by Vern Doenges – Wapakoneta, Ohio)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

11TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – SATURDAY, 8/15/1925

Resembling the county fair in the number of attractions offered and in crowd attendance, the 1925 Farmers' Picnic at Kuenning's Grove on Saturday went down in history as the most successful event of its kind ever held, with an estimated crowd of 20,000.

Prizes totaling more than \$100 were given to drivers of the best-looking and most comically decorated automobiles and trucks that entered the big 9:00 a.m. automobile parade. The parade formed at the corner of First & Walnut Streets and passed down Walnut, Washington, Monroe, North Main and then out to the grove north of town.

There was a big display of farm machinery and a tractor & farm machinery demonstration in the field adjoining the picnic grounds. Exhibits were also made by more than 50 New Bremen merchants.

Every concession on the grounds was liberally patronized. There were lunch, refreshments, and amusements of all kinds, including a Merry-go-round, Merry Mix-up and a Ferris wheel. Sambo & Sambo, colored vaudeville performers with the Edward Wyerson Amusement Co. of Chicago, and Gaylor Brothers, an acrobatic act from Detroit, were to perform several times during the day and evening in free shows.

Russell Hull of Springfield, Ohio was on the grounds with his plane throughout the day doing fancy flying antics and also taking up passengers from the landing field located immediately to the rear of the grove.

Music was furnished by the Sidney Municipal Band and the New Bremen-Minster Band. There was afternoon and evening dancing and the dance hall was crowded until near midnight. The picnic grounds were well policed for the evening and parking was carefully supervised. (N.B. Sun - 8/13+20/1925)

AUTO POLO GAME

Labor Day, Sept. 7, 1925 **Kuenning's Grove, New Bremen**

A thrill every second — A game that requires not only skill, but also nerve and split-second thinking. Four automobiles partake in this game, with 2 players on each car and 2 cars to every goal. Collisions, spills, skids, complete turn-turtles, wrecked cars are an every-minute occurrence in this sensational and nerve-tingling demonstration, while fortunately, serious accidents are almost unknown due to the wonderful training and skill of the players. Auto Polo will keep you on your toes all the time, and you will enjoy and appreciate every phase of the game most thoroughly.

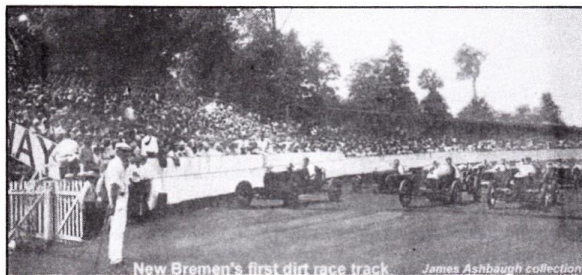
Admission — 50¢

Children Under 12 — FREE

Games at 1:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

ALL KINDS OF AMUSEMENTS AND CONCESSIONS ON GROUNDS
DANCING ————— AFTERNOON & EVENING

(N.B. Sun - 8/20/1925)



New Bremen's first dirt race track

James Ashbaugh collection

LOCAL MEN TO BUILD RACE TRACK

AUTO RACES TO BE BIG FEATURE OF 12TH FARMERS' PICNIC

Construction of a ½-mile dirt track to be used for automobile and motorcycle racing was started this week in the extreme east end of Kuenning's Grove, 1½ miles north of New Bremen. The field is being cleared and graded and next week the actual building of a 35-foot wide track will start. A strong protective railing made out of 2" planks will be erected around the outer edge of the oval which is to be 3' higher than the inner edge. Bleachers capable of seating 2,000 people will be built on the west side of the track. The track probably will not be completed until several days before the opening races on August 14th.

The track is being promoted by Leo Huenke, local garage man, and a number of associates. The opening races are to be staged as an added attraction of the 12th annual New Bremen Farmers' Picnic. Bill Suddeth, veteran Bluffton, Indiana driver, will have charge of the races. Suddeth, who has been racing since 1911, retired recently to take up the promoting end of the game. He will bring many prominent drivers to New Bremen and promises to have at least eight entered in each of the three events scheduled – a 10-mile, 15-mile and 20-mile race.

Some of the most daring drivers in the country, including a number of those racing regularly at Funk's Speedway in Winchester, Indiana have already signified their intention of entering the opening race here.

(Wapakoneta Daily News, 7/24/1926 - provided by Vern Doenges)
(N.B. Sun - 7/22+7/29/1926)

12TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – SATURDAY, 8/14/1926

As has been the custom for several years, the August 14th Farmers' Picnic was opened with an automobile parade at 10:00 a.m. The parade was headed by committeemen representing the New Bremen Farmers' Picnic Association, members of the local American Legion Post #241, and the 35-piece Wapakoneta Community Band, followed by a number of beautifully decorated automobiles and floats. The float entered by the White Mountain Creamery was judged the best decorated truck while the two most comic machines were Bielefeld & Beickman of New Knoxville and Herbert Dammeyer.

-7-

Threatening weather is thought to have kept many from entering the parade. A heavy downpour at noon held down the attendance, but several thousand were estimated to have been in the crowd which milled its way about the muddy grove in the afternoon and evening. One of the free attractions that was to appear was Oliver Brothers' mechanical mule, "Sadie".

The biggest disappointment of the day was the postponement of the automobile races scheduled for the afternoon on the newly-built ½-mile oval dirt track just east of the grove. Managers of the track considered it unsafe to stage the races on the rain-soaked oval. All of the 7-8 drivers who had entered in the different events arrived early in the morning, but most left when it became apparent that a postponement was inevitable. An exhibition race, however, was arranged between two drivers willing to take a chance on the slippery track and "Dusty" Farno of Lima finished the 5-mile event in 5 minutes, 54 seconds.

The races were re-scheduled for the following Saturday, August 21st, admission to be 75¢. An attempt was to be made to also have another picnic then with numerous shows, rides and concessions.

Officials of the 1926 Farmers' Picnic Association were Chas. Geib, Pres.; Roy Roettger, Vice-Pres.; Cornelius Heinfeld, Sec'y; Herb Staas, Treas. Committeemen included Chas. Kah & Gust Grothaus (Music); Al Huenke, August Dicke & Cornelius Heinfeld (Entertainment); Emil Hoeper, Oscar Moeller, Frank Ahlers, Gust Egbert, Ed Heitkamp & Alfred Roettger (Grounds); Frank Quellhorst, Gust Niekamp, Chas. Eberhart, Leander Hespe, Walter Althoff & Ben Schroer (Advertising).

(N.B. Sun - 8/12+19/1926)

DANCING at KUENNING'S GROVE

Every SATURDAY & SUNDAY Evening
Until end of Season

GOOD MUSIC

—Refreshments on Grounds—
Everybody Welcome

Dancing from 8:30 to 12:00 p.m.
Blue Bird Serenaders — September 25-26, 1926

Managers of the dance pavilion at Kuenning's Grove are planning to operate it on Sunday evenings for the remainder of the present season. They already have applied for and secured the necessary permit from Probate Judge John R. Coffin. The first dance under the new arrangement is being advertised for Saturday evening, September 25th. (N.B. Sun - 9/23/1926)

(N.B. Sun - 9/23/1926)

SPEEDWAY NEWS

Officials of the New Bremen Speedway Co. this week announced that construction of a new grandstand at its track north of town will be started as soon as the weather permits. Henry Kuck, local builder, has been awarded the contract for a 180-foot long grandstand which is to have a seating capacity of 2,500. It will be erected on the west side of the track and is to be completed by opening day - Sunday, May 29th. Other improvements are also contemplated.

The New Bremen Speedway Co. was organized last year with the following incorporators: Louis Huenke, Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt, Leo Huenke, Harry F. Schroeder and Oscar Dammeyer. The ½-mile oval was formally dedicated on Sunday, September 19th, with more than 3,500 in attendance.

(N.B. Sun - 4/21/1927)

13TH ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC – MONDAY, 8/15/1927

With more than 20 entries already in, some of the best dirt track drivers in the middle west still are clamoring to register for the automobile races to be held Monday at 3:00 p.m. at the New Bremen Speedway in connection with the 13th annual New Bremen Farmers' Picnic. Beginning today, reserved seats can be secured at the Leo Huenke Garage on North Main St.

Although the races undoubtedly will attract thousands to the speedway, it is believed that fully as many will attend the picnic in the adjoining grove. The average annual attendance over a period of 12 years has been estimated at nearly 15,000 and present indications are that even this mark will be shattered on Monday.

A free-admission Ohio-Indiana League baseball game is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. between Wapakoneta & New Bremen.

There will also be the usual big farm machinery and merchants' display. See a Fordson tractor pull a plow 6 feet wide, 7 inches deep.

The Sidney Municipal Band will play all day. There will be dancing in the afternoon and evening. Other high class attractions are the Merry Mix-up, Ferris Wheel, shows, concessions and refreshments.

This year's officers are: August Grothaus, Pres.; August J. Poppe, Vice-Pres.; Wilbur E. Kuenning, Sec'y.; and Herbert Staas, Treas. Committee members are: **ADVERTISING:** John Kuest, Roy Roettger, Theodore Maurer, Edwin Fark, Leo Schroeder; **GROUND:** August Egbert, Edward Heitkamp, William Tontrup, Ewald Beickman, Charles Bruns, Theodore Egbert; **ENTERTAINMENT:** August Dicke, Emil Poppe, Alfred Roettger; **MUSIC:** Raymond Mohrman, Leander Hespe.

(N.B. Sun - 8/4+8/11/1927)



-8-

New Bremen Speedway Co. Buys Kuenning's Grove

The New Bremen Speedway Co., composed of Louis Huenke, Pres.; Harry F. Schroeder, Vice-Pres.; Leo Huenke, Sec'y./Treas.; Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt, Promoter; Arnold H. Heinfeld and Alton L. Schelper, is planning new improvements at the speedway after buying the tract of land on which the speedway is located.

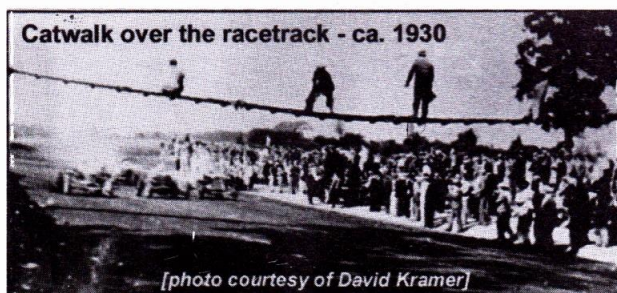
The officials recently set aside \$15,000 for a number of improvements to be carried out within the next few months. Part of this sum was used to purchase the 41-42 acre tract of land, the company prior to this time holding a long-term lease on the land owned by Frank D. Kuenning. The tract includes the Kuenning grove adjoining the New Bremen-St. Marys Road and a part of the field lying immediately south of the speedway itself.

Work on a new grandstand was started this week by a large force of workmen and is to be completed in time for the next races scheduled for July 15th. The new stand is being built just north of those already standing on the west side of the track. It will measure 160' in length with 14 tiers of seats and will increase the total seating capacity to nearly 6,000.

A heavy wire fence surrounding the oval inside the course also is to be put in place before the next race. The fence is necessary for the protection of spectators watching the races from vantage points within the oval.

Another contemplated improvement, to be started after July 15th, is the construction of an overhead permitting spectators to cross the track while the races are going on.

When these improvements are completed, the speedway will be one of the best equipped racing plants in the middle west and will fully live up to its reputation as being the fastest ½-mile dirt track in Ohio. (N.B. Sun - 6/28/1928)



14th ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC - WEDNESDAY, 8/15/1928

Everything is in readiness for the 14th annual New Bremen Farmers' Picnic to be held next Wednesday, August 15th, at Kuenning's Grove. The 1-day community fair is perhaps the biggest attraction of its kind in northwestern Ohio and in recent years has drawn an average attendance of nearly 15,000.

A large number of merchants, automobile dealers and others have contracted for displays such as are usually found at all county fairs. One of the principal free attractions this year will be a ballgame between the Wapakoneta Reds and New Bremen, to be played at 9:30 a.m. on a diamond in the east end of the grove.

Two free acts featuring a group of magicians also will be presented in the afternoon and evening. A team pulling contest is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. A large merry-go-round and a mammoth Merry Mix-up will set up along the midway.

The 25-piece Sidney Municipal Band has been engaged for the entire day while a popular dance orchestra will play at the main pavilion during the afternoon and evening.

(N.B. Sun - 8/9/1928)

NO FARMERS' PICNIC IN 1929!

Following a series of meetings held during the past weeks by officers and committee members of the Farmers' Picnic Association entrusted with the preliminary arrangements, an announcement was made Monday evening that

THERE WILL NO FARMERS' PICNIC IN NEW BREMEN THIS YEAR!

This marks the first time in 15 years that the picnic will not be held. Starting with a small gathering of farmers in 1915, the event gained in popularity with each succeeding year until it eventually was known as one of the biggest 1-day community fairs in Ohio. (N.B. Sun - 8/8/1929)

15th ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC - FRIDAY, 8/15/1930

EDGEWATER PARK ----- CELINA, OHIO

[Formerly held at Kuenning's Grove - New Bremen, Ohio]

=====

FARM MACHINERY DISPLAY --- SURF BOARD RACING

=====

BAND CONCERTS

Celina Concert Band, Celina High School Band,
Celina American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps
Directed by Leonard Wolf

TRAP AND STATIONARY SHOOTING

Auspices of Western Ohio Fish and Game Association

WATER SPORTS, GAMES AND CONTESTS

Supervisor - Robert Day, Celina High School Coach

DANCING at the Pavilion

Afternoon and Evening

BRING WELL-FILLED BASKETS AND STAY ALL DAY

15th ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC AT EDGEWATER PARK

Auglaize and Mercer County farmers and their families laid aside their cares on Friday, August 15, 1930 for a day of jollification at Edgewater Park at Lake St. Marys. For years August 15th has been known as Farmers' Picnic Day and Kuenning's Grove at New Bremen was the site of the picnic.

The picnic was cancelled in 1929 and this year it was transferred to Celina because of a controversy between Farmers' Picnic officials and the New Bremen Speedway Co., new owners of the former Kuenning's Grove. The committee in charge of the event, headed by Charles Bruns of near Montezuma, selected Edgewater Park for this year's picnic.

All former features of the picnic and some new ones were included in the program. The new features included water sports, possible through Edgewater Park's lying along the northwest shore of the lake, and trap shooting under auspices of the Western Ohio Fish and Game Association.

Visitors were welcomed to this year's site with a display of American flags down Main Street.

Officials responsible for the success of the 1930 picnic were: Charles Bruns, Pres.; Edwin Schwepe, Vice-Pres.; Leonard Dammeyer, Sec'y.; Alfred Will, Treas. Committee members included Elmer Fischbach, Earl Braun, Henry Quellhorst and Levi Koeper. (N.B. Sun - 8/7+21/1930)

GRANDSTAND BURNED AT NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY

On Sunday, September 20, 1931, an angry riot broke out due to a reduced purse for the final race of the day. The judges' stand and the grandstand were destroyed and that was the end of racing in New Bremen until the late 1940s.

[See David Kramer's speedway article on page 10.]

-9-

"Caddy" Moeller's Lunch Stand Burned

Fire thought to have been set by someone implicated in the N.B. Speedway riot and fire on September 20th destroyed the lunch stand owned by Raymond (Caddy) Moeller at 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning, October 25, 1931, in the Speedway infield. Papers were found scattered about the Speedway Company's lunch stand in the infield, indicating that whoever fired the Moeller stand had started to fire the other stand too. (10/26/1931)

SPEEDWAY PARK Being Improved for 1933 Season

Speedway Park north of New Bremen was opened for the 1933 season Saturday evening, April 29th. Extensive improvements at the popular dancing pavilion are being undertaken by Leo Huenke and Clayton W. (Whitey) Schnell, lessors of the park. All the buildings are to be repainted and other improvements will be made as the season progresses.

While not as large as expected, the opening crowd was well behaved. The management has announced that every effort will be made to operate the park on a high standard and that an efficient force of park policemen will be on duty at all times. When this once becomes known, it is believed the attendance will increase. (N.B. Sun - 5/4/1933)

Centennial Celebration To Be Held at Speedway Park

Members of the Centennial Program Committee in charge of the July 4th celebration have decided to have the celebration at Speedway Park in connection with a big Fourth of July picnic and a monster display of fireworks.

The dance concession was let to Leo Huenke and the drink concession to Clayton Schnell, both on a percentage basis. Clyde M. Griffin was placed in charge of the letting of concessions, including amusements, lunch, fruit, candy, ice cream and others. (N.B. Sun - 5/18/1933)

SATURDAY NIGHT, JULY 1, 1933

**Return Engagement
MACK FINCH and his ORCHESTRA**

TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 4th

**THE COTTON PICKERS — All Colored Band
At SPEEDWAY PARK, NEW BREMEN, OHIO
Lunch & Draught Beer Served**

(N.B. Sun - 6/23/1933)

Alumni Association Plans July 4th Reunion

Tickets were placed on sale Wednesday for the N.B.H.S. Alumni Association luncheon July 4th at Speedway Park. The luncheon is sponsored by the association, recently organized with Walter W. Grothaus, President; Carol Streine, Vice-President; Jean Bessel, Secretary-Treasurer.

The 30¢ tickets can be had from the chairmen, Mrs. Carl Quist or Mrs. Clyde (Dorothy Streine) Griffin; or from any of the following committee members: Robert Kiefer, Jean Bessel, Elizabeth Frey, Dorothea Vitz, Elsie Hoffman, Gabriel Schaefer, Selma Hoffman, Esther Knipple, Louise Haines, Viola Hirschfeld, Mary Archer, Phyllis Nussmeyer, Helen Thiesing or Carol Streine.

The luncheon was arranged to provide time and place for the alumni to hold a reunion with former classmates. There will be no set program other than the opportunity to renew old High School friendships. (N.B. Sun - 6/23/1933)

Farm Bureau Picnic at Speedway Park

The 5-township Farm Bureau Picnic will be held on Thursday, August 15, 1935, at Speedway Park at New Bremen because of its central location and fine picnic facilities.

Emil Koenig, chairman of the German Township F.B. has announced the lineup for the program, including a calf judging contest. A baseball game will be played by two picked teams.

The Washington Township Quartet, winner of the state contest last year, will be presented from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and the N.B.H.S. Band will entertain from 7:00-8:00 p.m., along with other entertainment by local Farm Bureau groups.

There will be free dancing to music by "The Ohioans" from 8:00-11:30 p.m. The general public is invited to bring their basket supper and stay for an afternoon and evening of fine entertainment. (N.B. Sun - 8/9/1935)

ANNUAL FARMERS' PICNIC - Thursday, 8/15/1935

KEMPER'S GROVE - MINSTER, OHIO

[1/2 mile south & 2 miles west of Minster]

Latest household appliances, automobiles, etc. will be displayed here during the day by Minster dealers and distributors.

BEANO & other amusements with Valuable Prizes

FEATURE ATTRACTION OF THE AFTERNOON

"Whitey" Rauner, Cincinnati **PARACHUTE JUMPER** with more than 350 leaps to his credit, will be a feature attraction. Rauner is holder of the World's Long Delay Record, having baled out at an altitude of 20,000 feet and falling 18,500 feet before pulling the rip cord on his chute.

Airplane Rides

"Big Bill" Bleyle, operator of the Greenville airport, will also be here to take up passengers.

DANCING

We cordially invite you to join the free dancing in the afternoon. Music will be furnished by a popular orchestra.

OLDIGES HARMONY SEVEN will furnish the music for the park plan dancing in the evening.

**TURTLE SOUP, SANDWICHES, ICE CREAM,
WOODEN SHOE BEER & POP**

No Admission - Free Parking Everybody Welcome

SPEEDWAY PARK DANCE PAVILION DESTROYED BY FIRE!

The New Bremen Speedway Park dance pavilion, owned by the New Bremen Amusement Co., was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday noon, March 24, 1936. In recent years, the pavilion had been leased by Leo Huenke. The fire, which started beneath the orchestra pit, was discovered at 11:30 a.m. by Clarence Heinfeld.

Rumors that the blaze was started by an incendiary have thus far proved unfounded. It is believed that they originated because threats to destroy the building were made several years ago when the grandstands were burned during a riot at the speedway. This is the 3rd dance pavilion to be destroyed by fire in this section in the past few years, the other two having been at Gordon State Park, St. Marys, and at Russell's Point, Indian Lake. (N.B. Sun - 3/27/1936)

This concludes the chronology of the New Bremen Farmers' Picnics. They began in August 1915 and kept increasing in size. After the start of auto racing in August 1926, and the formation of the New Bremen Speedway Co., there were only two more Farmers' Picnics held at Kuenning's Grove - in 1927 & 1928. After that, the grove became known as Speedway Park and several picnics were held elsewhere.

-10-

THE NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY

by David L. Kramer

The New Bremen Speedway in New Bremen, Ohio began as an added attraction to the local Farmers' Picnic. The picnics were held annually starting in 1915, with the speedway being added in 1926. This makes the speedway the oldest dirt track in Ohio built specifically for auto racing. It is third oldest in the country, with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (built in 1909) and the Winchester, Indiana Speedway (built in 1914), then known as Funk's Speedway, being older. The idea to build the New Bremen Speedway came from a group of local men who had been to Indianapolis for the 500 races, and who then decided to build a track in the New Bremen area.

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Huenke*, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford V. Huenke, Howard Huenke, Mrs. Harry (Gertrude Huenke) Komminsk and Mrs. Henry Schwaberow (sister to Mrs. Louis Huenke) constituted an automobile party to Indianapolis last Friday where they visited relatives. On Saturday, May 30th, they viewed the Indianapolis 500 automobile races.

Otto J. Boesel, Charles P. Gress and Fred Kamman also constituted a party which left early Saturday morning for the Indianapolis races. Lafe Gagel preceded them Friday afternoon, going by rail to transact business at different places in Indiana. (N.B. Sun - 6/5/1914)

[*Louis Huenke was one of the organizers of the N.B. Speedway Co.]

The track was built as a dirt track in July-August 1926 (see page 6), paved in 1967, and then returned to dirt in 1979. The last race held at the speedway was on September 1, 1980. The area where the speedway was built, 1½ miles north of town, was originally known as "Kuenning's Grove", named after Frank Kuenning, landowner at the time the track was built. Picnic organizers created the ½-mile oval in a cornfield east of the grove, with corn still standing in the infield for the first race.

Some of the drivers to have raced at New Bremen in the early years were Dusty Farno/Fahnow, Bob Carey, Frank Sweigart, Bill Cummings, Howdy Wilcox, and Paul Bost. A riot in 1931 closed the speedway for many years. It wasn't until the late 1940s that the speedway began operating again on a regular basis, with stock cars being the main attraction. In the '50s and '60s, drivers Don Branson, Jud Larson, Pat O'Connor, Eddie Sachs, A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Johnny Rutherford, and Jim Hurtubise competed at New Bremen. In the track's final decade Larry Dickson, Gary Bettenhausen, Tom Bigelow, Jack Bowsher, Tom Sneva, Pancho Carter, Bubby Jones, Rich Vogler, Dick Trickle, Ken Schrader, Jack Hewitt, Sammy Swindell, and Steve Kinser raced at the New Bremen track.

The first race was scheduled to be run on Saturday, August 14, 1926. This event was postponed due to rain, although two cars did hit the track for an exhibition race, with Dusty Farno of Lima, Ohio, running the 10 laps (5 miles) in 5:54.

The first official race was held on August 21, 1926, with Herbert "Dusty" Farno taking the top honors. Three events were held - 5 miles, 10 miles, and a 15-mile feature. Farno won the 5-mile race in 5:07, and took the 15-mile feature with a time of 15:16. Lloyd Early, Ft. Wayne, Ind., won the 10-mile race in 10:22. George Heller and Bob Smith, both of Dayton, Ohio, also competed in the first race. Eight entries had been received for this race, but a heavy storm near Dayton caused the others to miss the race.

The speedway was formally dedicated on September 19, 1926, with 3,500 spectators on hand for the day's races. Dusty Farno again took the honors, winning the 20-mile feature in

22:55 and the 10-mile race in 10:45. Freeman Inloes won the 5-mile race. Eleven drivers were on hand for this event.

The New Bremen Speedway Company was formed in 1926 to manage the speedway, with the following owner-promoters: Louis Huenke, Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt, Leo Huenke, Harry F. Schroeder and Oscar Dammeyer.

The 1927 season began with rain once again postponing the first race - from May 29th to June 19th. Track officials announced that a new 172 foot grandstand with a 3,500 person seating capacity was practically completed. They also widened the track to 45 feet and increased the banking in the turns.

Three races were held in 1927 - in June, August and September, with Bill Cummings of Indianapolis winning two of them. The purse for the June 19th race was \$1,000. Cummings would go on to win the Indy 500 in 1934.



Leo Huenke's
Dodge racecar
[ca. 1927-1931]

Wilson Braun, Louis Stegeman, Edward Wehrman

Leo Huenke's Dodge "B-4" racer never failed to be "behind", according to Robert Schroeder, son of Harry F. Schroeder, one of the owner-promoters of the New Bremen track.

Mechanics this week started rebuilding the racing car owned by a group of local men which was badly damaged Sunday, June 26th, in a race at Hamilton, Ohio. The car was driven by a Richmond, Indiana driver who escaped unhurt when it left the track on its 48th lap in a 25-mile event, crashed through a fence and up against a large tree standing near the course.

(N.B. Sun - 6/30/1927)

Edgar Maupin, driving the locally owned Huenke Special, stacked up with a broken wheel shortly before the third race at the 13th annual Farmers' Picnic on August 15th. Maupin left the track on the northeast corner but brought his car to a stop without crashing into the crowd lining the north side of the oval.

(N.B. Sun - 8/18/1927)

The speedway's popularity grew over the next several years and more fans started coming to the races. Four races were held each year during the track's early years - one each month, June through September. Paul Bost, Detroit, won all three events in the 1928 season opener on June 10th.

Fully 12,000 speed-loving persons are estimated to have paid and fought their way into the stands and into the field inside the track, the jam of humanity at times becoming so great that policemen were unable to cope with the situation. Thousands more were reported turned away at the gates, the roads leading to the speedway being crowded with machines three abreast an hour before the races were scheduled to start.

Free car service over the Western Ohio (interurban) from New Bremen to the speedway was provided by the management in the hope that many thus would be induced to park their machines in town.

On the 28th lap of the last race, machines driven by Carl Butts and Edgar Maupin, both of Richmond, Indiana, collided while going into a curve on the south end of the oval. Butts was thrown out of his machine and struck by Maupin's car. Word is that Butts probably suffered a fractured skull, but he shows signs of regaining consciousness after being in a coma for 4 days. Maupin, who last year was at the wheel of a car owned by Leo Huenke, New Bremen garage man, received a badly mangled arm, cuts & bruises.

The races were ably handled from the judges' stand by Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt, with Louis Covell of Fort Wayne as the official starter. A new grandstand and other improvements will be completed at the track before the next races on Sunday, July 15th. The present seating capacity of 3,500 has proven entirely inadequate and will be increased to at least 5,000.

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

The August 19, 1928, race had an attendance of 11,000. The 1928 season would also see the speedway's first fatality. Eugene Pfeiffer, 23, of Huntington, Indiana was killed in the 4th event on September 23, 1928, after crashing on the north curve, rolling several times, and being crushed under his car. A motorcycle race was scheduled for October 21st, but no results have been found.

The 1929 season had four races on the schedule. Fans in attendance on August 18, 1929, saw Mauri Rose of Columbus, Ohio, crash on the north curve during the feature event. His car went over the wall, through some small trees, and ended up under the grandstand. Raymond Tomhafa, a special policeman from New Bremen who was working at the speedway, was injured after being struck by a tree branch during the crash. Rose suffered only a cut left cheek. Rose went on to win the Indy 500 in 1941, 1947 & 1948.

The 1930 season saw a racing first in Ohio. On Saturday, September 6, 1930, the first night race in Ohio was held at New Bremen. Thirty 1000-candlepower lights with large reflectors were installed temporarily around the track. Lights were also to be placed in the grandstand and along the driveways leading to the speedway. Admission was raised from 75¢ to \$1.00 for this event to help cover costs. Al Miller of Detroit won the 15-mile feature. Attendance was only 2,000 due to bad weather so no more night races were attempted for many years.

The June 7, 1931, event was postponed until June 21st due to rain. Mauri Rose won the 20-mile feature in 16:23. On July 12th, a 150-lap, 75-mile race was held. Sixteen cars started, vying for a \$1,000 purse. Mark Billman, Louisville, Kentucky, won with a time of 70:54. An electrical timing device was used for the first time on August 16th. Mauri Rose won that event.

The 1931 season proved to be a major turning point in the speedway's history due to the riot that occurred during the 4th & final race that year on September 20th. Three of the four events had been run. Howdy Wilcox, Al Miller, and Clay Corbitt won the 5, 7, and 10-mile events. Prior to the start of the 20-mile feature, the drivers realized that the purse was to be \$525, instead of the usual \$750. Track officials insisted that when the drivers signed in, the purse was listed at \$525. Attendance was high and the drivers demanded more money and refused to race. Fans became restless and angry and began to throw items onto the track. Some witnesses said Mauri Rose, attending this race as a spectator, not a driver, threw the first pop bottle. Soon fans were tearing up the bleachers, pouring fuel on them, and burning them. The judges' stand was toppled. Law enforcement officers were greatly outnumbered and were unable to control the angry mob. The drivers who refused to race were Howdy Wilcox, Bob Carey, Bill Chittum, Al Miller, Gene Morgan, Clay Corbitt and a few others. None were accused of having taken part in the rioting.



Here is the world's smallest racing automobile, built by Edward Wehrman of New Bremen, alongside the machine driven by Mauri Rose of Dayton, one of the year's leading race drivers. Rose is at the wheel of his car, while the driver of the smaller machine is John Edward Wissman, 4 year old son of Irvin & Clara Wissman of North Jefferson Street. The other two boys are Roger Quellhorst (back to the camera) and John Briggs.

This small racing automobile astounded a large crowd at the New Bremen Speedway when it was driven around the course under its own power during the August 1931 race meeting (before the riot of 9/20/1931). In fact, ever since the car was displayed at the track, visitors have been coming here every day to inspect it at close range.

The car was built by Wehrman at the Wehrman Machine Shop on North Jefferson Street. Working on it only in his spare time, he completed it in a little less than a year. Resembling a racing car in every detail, it is powered by a 2-cycle air-cooled 2½ h.p. motor. It has a real clutch and transmission system. The differential, axles, springs, chassis, brakes and wheels all were made at the Wehrman Machine Shop. Especially typical of the ingenuity exercised by the builder is the exhaust pipe extending along the side of the machine which was made from an old discarded bar rail.

Only 21½ inches in height, with a wheel base of 46 inches, the machine is approximately half the size of the regular racing car which has a wheel base of 92 inches. It is claimed to be the smallest machine of its kind in the country, its only known competitor, owned by a garage mechanic out in California, having a wheel base of 66 inches and standing 28 inches in height.

The Wehrman machine is capable of 25 miles per hour, has a ½ gallon gasoline tank, and holds ½ pint of oil. It carries 14x3 pneumatic tires. Total weight of the machine is 100 pounds. The chassis is painted black, the body red, and the wheels green.

The driver's seat originally was built to accommodate a 4 or 5 year old child. Changes are now being made in the seating arrangement to permit handling of the machine by a larger child, although the mechanism is said to be simplicity itself.

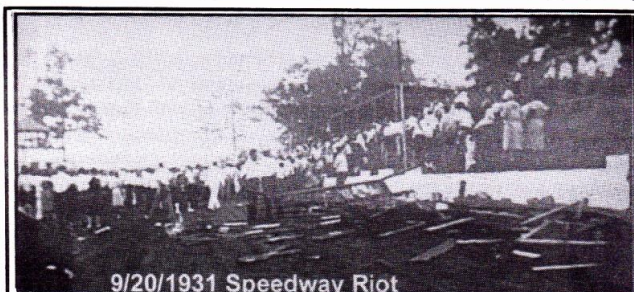
(N.B. Sun - 8/27/1931)

<<<<>>>>

Edward Wehrman, builder of the world's smallest racing automobile, has arranged to display the machine Sunday, October 4, 1931 at the Fort Wayne Speedway and also at the Logan County fair to be held October 6-7-8-9 at Bellefontaine. It previously was shown at the New Bremen Speedway, the Auglaize county fair and in a number of Ohio cities and towns.

(N.B. Sun - 10/1/1931)

-12-



9/20/1931 Speedway Riot



New Bremen Speedway grandstands in flames during the 9/20/1931 rioting

SPECTATORS RIOT, MOB BURNS GRANDSTANDS

Apparently convinced that matters had reached an impasse as far as racing was concerned, spectators started throwing pillows, pop bottles, and even chairs and benches out on the racetrack. The crowd quickly worked itself into an ugly mood. Policemen were unable to quell the disturbance and the crowd, seeing it held the upper hand, started to wreck the grandstands. A part of the mob surged up to the judges' stand, pulled it down and set it afire. Despite warnings from the more thoughtful spectators who were caught in the milling mob, gasoline was procured and poured over the stands. Fires were started simultaneously in different sections and the whole structure soon was a seething mass of flames. All attempts to extinguish the blaze were stopped by the mob.

Yells, shrieks and imprecations filled the air as the stands burned. Men, women and children, temporarily beside themselves with anger, fought and clawed their way about the track. Weird shadows were cast upon the scene by the flames as the fire burned far into the night. By morning a mass of ashes and smoke-blackened foundations bore mute testimony to the mob's wrath.

As though loath to give up the orgy of destruction, many of the rioters remained until late in the evening. Deputy sheriffs patrolled the grounds and finally succeeded in restoring some semblance of order. The only gunplay came when three youths were found attempting to burn the dance pavilion standing a short distance away from the track. They escaped but not before three shots were fired at them by the policemen.

(N.B. Sun - 9/24/1931)

SPEEDWAY RIOTING GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY

New Bremen is receiving nation-wide publicity, unwelcome as much of it may be, as the result of the rioting Sunday at the New Bremen Speedway. Newspapers throughout the country carried stories on it and news broadcasts also were made by several radio stations.

Lowell Thomas (a Greenville, Ohio native), in his discussion of national and international news happenings touched on it Monday evening. Speedway officials, however, felt he had been misinformed and sent him a telegram giving their view of it. They received a prompt reply which said: "Many thanks for your telegram last night. I made the correction you suggested in my second broadcast. I hope everything turned out O.K. in spite of the difficulty you had out there." (N.B. Sun - 9/24/1931)

Police eventually made four arrests in connection with the riot - Mauri Rose, Dayton, and William Wolfe (Chittum's car owner) of Columbus, along with spectators Pete Brademeier of Sidney, and Basil Argo of Lima, Ohio. Wolfe admitted to being the spokesman for the drivers who refused to race. The speedway's insurance policy did not cover the damage caused by the riot. Track officials later announced they were unsure of any plans for future events at the speedway. Speedway officials were Leo Huenke, Dr. Leonard H. Schmidt, Ed Erhardt, and Harry F. Schroeder.

DAYTON GROUP MAY OPERATE NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY

Reports circulating here are that the New Bremen Speedway is to be leased by a group of Dayton men represented by Ritcher Brothers, and that a race will be scheduled for Labor Day, 1933. The contract is expected to be signed this afternoon at a meeting in Dayton.

There have been no races at the Speedway since the stands were partially destroyed by fire on September 20, 1931. Up to that time, it was known as one of the best dirt tracks in the country. Four race meetings usually were held each season and always attracted a good field of drivers as well as crowds approximating 10,000. (N.B. Sun - 8/11/1933)

Reference has been found for one stock event in 1932 and a re-opening race was scheduled for August 5, 1934, but no results have been found for any of the above. The 1934 race was promoted by Frank Starkey and was set to include auto, motorcycle, and bicycle races. A "public wedding" (not identified), with free dancing, was to be held in the dance pavilion in the grove in front of the speedway. (*Any couple wishing to take part in the public wedding was to see the manager to insure completion of all necessary arrangements.*) "Lucky Norb, the Hell Driver", was to drive his Plymouth up a ramp at 60 mph and jump it 50 feet down the track.

On March 24, 1936, a fire, believed to have started beneath the orchestra pit, destroyed the dance pavilion. The loss was estimated at over \$2,000. The building was not insured. This ended the dance era at the former Kuenning's Grove/Speedway Park.

NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY TO REOPEN UNDER NEW DIRECTION

Lee and Ralph Elliott of Sidney have taken over promotion work at the New Bremen Speedway and have arranged for 7 events this Sunday, 9/17/1939, when daring and entertaining junk car races will be held. The event is being announced as a grand opening and homecoming at the speedway. It is the purpose of the management to have races every Sunday as long as weather permits. (N.B. Sun - 9/14/1939)

In March of 1947, Frank and Warren ("Shorty") Topp of New Bremen bought the speedway from Clayton W. ("Whitey") Schnell. Schnell had acquired the speedway in 1945 from Leo Huenke, whose father, William, had bought the track in 1935 from the New Bremen Speedway Company.

Racing at the New Bremen Speedway resumed with a grand opening on Sunday, August 31, 1947. The event included two 5-mile, two 10-mile, one elimination and one 20-mile feature race. George Tischner, Fort Wayne, won the feature followed by George Lynch of Detroit and Billy McGee of Zanesville, Ohio. Admission was \$1.25 with 6,000 fans in attendance.

Stock cars and "Hot Rods" were featured at the speedway for the next several years. Some of the stock car drivers were Audie Schwartz of Muncie, Indiana; Bobby Croft, Lima; Don Hewitt, Troy; Cliff Feters, Gary Bubb, Homer Chilcoat, and Johnny Linders, all from St. Marys; Clarence Ray, Findlay; and Harry Dahlinghaus and Rocky Laut, both from Minster.

-13-

The Central States Racing Association, a national governing body for dirt track racing, oversaw the events run in 1949. Midget races were rained out after 26 cars had qualified on June 12th. A crowd of 3,000 was on hand. The race was re-scheduled for June 19th. "Big Car" races were held on July 4, 1949. On July 10th, 4-star Class "C" motorcycles were run.

In 1950, a group from St. Marys - Bay Rock Co., composed of George Bayman, Paul Rockwood, Carl Rockwood and B.J. Swonguer, leased the track. "Hot Rod" races were the feature events. Feature winners that year included Chuck Farquar, Dayton, Ohio; Bob King, Muncie, Indiana; and Bob Stokes, Newcastle, Indiana. Others competing were Tex Shackelford, Bruce Stone, Bob Jackson, Bobby Croft, Gary Bupp, Eliza Whitnall, Jim McWhithey, Leon Clum, and many others.

John Collier, Columbus, of Collier Productions, promoted the speedway for the 1951-52 seasons. Newspaper reports tell of several events for the 1951 season for "Hard Top Races" but no results were given. Stock and Sportsman cars headlined the 1952 season. Some winners were Don Hewitt, Troy, Ohio; Grant Wilmont, Middletown, Ohio; Pete Newman, Troy; Dick Newland, Lima; Leonard Milligan and Don Jones.

The Northeastern Indiana Racing Association leased the track from the Topp brothers in early 1953. They ran two races, with Ray Rhodes winning the "Woodmen Trophy" on July 19th. The New Bremen Racing Association, headed by Frank Dicke, signed a 3-year lease on the track in August 1953. They ran the balance of the '53 season, with the contract starting in '54. Stock cars were the main attraction over the next several years. Audie Schwartz of Muncie, Indiana, was the man to beat. He had numerous feature wins from 1953-1956. Others in victory lane included Bob Daniels, Gary Bupp, Bobby Croft, Don Hewitt and Dean Macke of Adrian, Michigan.

NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Incorporation papers for the New Bremen Racing Association were issued this week at Columbus. Incorporators are Frank Dicke, agent, & Reinhard Wiegers, both of New Bremen, and Don Montgomery of Celina, Mercer County prosecuting attorney.

Built in 1926, the speedway was known in its hey-day as one of the fastest 1/2-mile tracks in the country. After the track was abandoned by the original operators, it remained idle until a few years ago when it was acquired by Topp Brothers, the present owners. (N.B. Sun - 8/27/1953)

GARY BUPP WINS TOP STOCK CAR EVENT

Gary Bupp of St. Marys, driving a car owned by Adrian Meyers, also of St. Marys, won Sunday's feature stock car event at the New Bremen Speedway. He drove a consistent race to finish with a 1-lap lead. Eighteen cars were entered. Max Loffer, also of St. Marys, placed 2nd in the 4th heat of the day. (N.B. Sun - 9/24/1953)

"OLD TIMERS DAY" AT NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY

Next Sunday will be "Old Timers Day" at the New Bremen Speedway, the management having set the day aside to honor big-car drivers who appeared here regularly more than 20 years ago, back in the days when the track was known as the fastest 1/2-mile dirt oval in the country. (N.B. Sun - 10/22/1953)

<<<<>>>>

A new grandstand seating 5,700 has been completed at the speedway owned by Topp Brothers and leased by Frank Dicke and Reinhard Wiegers. Other improvements include new ticket booths, new concession stands, sanitary rest rooms and enlarged picnic areas. (N.B. Sun - 5/6/1954)

The July 4, 1954 big-car race was billed as New Bremen's first "Sprint Car" event. Gary Bupp of St. Marys was severely

injured in this race while substituting for another driver. Sprint cars returned in 1955 with the AARC (All-American Racing Club). Pete Allen got the victory.

NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY TO BE IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

For the first time in almost 25 years, New Bremen will be in the national spotlight of the racing world Sunday afternoon as the nation's top drivers will converge on the New Bremen Speedway to do battle on this fast 1/2-mile oval.

This will be an official United States Auto Club (USAC) engagement, as they will sanction the event.

To promoter Frank Dicke, it should be a climax and reward for years of rebuilding the speedway and the beginning of big-time New Bremen racing. (N.B. Sun - 8/16/1956)

USAC (United States Auto Club) made it to New Bremen on August 19, 1956, with Pat O'Connor and Don Branson winning separate events. Branson scored another New Bremen win on Sept. 8, 1957, with Elmer George, Andy Linden, Pat O'Connor, and Ed Elisian rounding out the top five. The 1957 season featured weekly stock car events, along with several late model, motorcycle, and sprint car events.



NEW BREMEN SPEEDWAY OPERATOR LEASES FAMED WINCHESTER HIGH-BANK

Frank Dicke, operator of the New Bremen Speedway for the past several seasons and a comparative newcomer to the racing world, will operate the famed Winchester, Indiana, racing high-bank in addition to the New Bremen Speedway program. Mr. Dicke leased the Winchester track for one year with options to renew for a 5-year period.

Dicke's main interest will be centered on the New Bremen track where he plans to run weekly shows, including stocks, motorcycles, midgets and sprint cars. (N.B. Sun - 3/27/1958)

Two fatalities occurred during the 1958 season. Jim Davis, 28, of Indianapolis, died of injuries suffered on June 29th, during the third sprint car heat. Don Branson won the feature, with Bob McLean, Jim McWhithey, Leon Clum (of Wapakoneta), and Curly Boyd winning heat races.

EDDIE SACHS WINS USAC SPRINT CAR RACES

On September 7, 1958, Eddie Sachs of Center Valley, Pennsylvania, set a new record for sprint cars at the New Bremen racetrack, qualifying in 19.483 seconds, or 92.455 mph. He went on to win the 30-lap USAC feature. (Sachs was later killed on a 1st lap crash in the 1964 Indy 500.)

After the races, the crowd of 5000 was invited to enjoy the chicken barbecue presented by the New Bremen Lions Club.

(The Evening Leader-9/8/1958)

NOTE: The N.B.H.A. now has for sale a color print of this 9/7/1958 race. See front page for a picture and details.

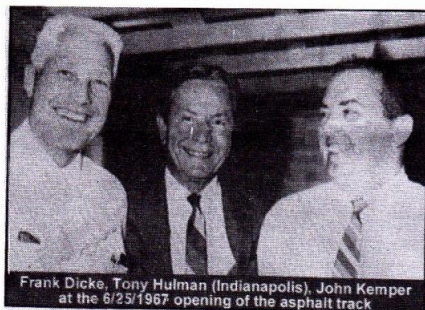
-14-

Around this time, a tradition of fried chicken began at the speedway. The local men's Lions Club (of which Frank Dicke was a member) began barbecuing chicken during the races and serving dinners after each race. The smell of the cooking chicken let fans and drivers know that dinner would be ready when the races were over. For \$1.25 you could enjoy a good meal and maybe get to meet some of the drivers, too.

On October 5, 1958, William E. "Bud" Bell, 28, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died of injuries from a stock car crash. Bell was thrown from his car and hit by one or more cars as his body lay on the front-stretch. Bell's brother, Gene, was also in this race and stopped his car to go to the aid of his brother. Bell crashed on lap 16 of the 50-lap "Governor's Race" as Ohio governor, C. William O'Neill, watched from the stands.

Jim Hurtubise won the USAC sprint car events in May and June of 1962. Other notable drivers in the top five of these events were Parnelli Jones, Jim McElreath, Don Branson, and A.J. Foyt. Parnelli Jones set a new qualifying record of 19.12 seconds - 94 mph on September 9, 1962. Don Davis of Phoenix was fatally injured during a 1962 race. He had finished 4th in the 1962 Indy 500.

A crash on June 21, 1963 claimed the life of Allen Crowe, 34, of Springfield, Illinois. Don Branson won three races in 1964, while Jud Larson took two wins, including the "Day After the Indy 500" event on May 31st. On May 1, 1965, Red Riegel won a 30-lap USAC sprint race, with Mario Andretti finishing fifth. Later that year, a strong windstorm destroyed much of the grandstands. This resulted in only one race in 1966, with Bud Randall winning that sprint car race on June 26th.



Frank Dicke, Tony Hulman (Indianapolis), John Kemper at the 6/25/1967 opening of the asphalt track

Frank Dicke, 50, New Bremen mayor, & promoter at the speedway from 1953 to 1956, purchased the 41-acre speedway on 1/27/1967. Dicke and his partner, John Kemper, a stockbroker from Dayton, formed

New Bremen Speedway, Inc. Reconstruction of the grandstands was begun, along with the paving of the speedway surface. The racing surface needed replacement. New clay would have to be brought in, or the track would have to be paved. Dicke, who also had been on USAC's safety board, decided pavement was the way to go, due to the fact that more drivers had been fatally injured on the dirt in recent years. Dicke had partnered with USAC president, Tom Binford, and driver, Rodger Ward, in constructing the Indianapolis Raceway Park in 1959.

June 25, 1967 saw the opening of the new "New Bremen Speedway". USAC sprints were the first to test the pavement. Al Smith was fast qualifier at 18.76 seconds, topping the old record of 19.12 seconds set by Parnelli Jones on the dirt, and went on to win the feature that day. A.J. Foyt blew a tire in the semi-feature and hit the wall. He drove the pace car in the feature. Johnny Rutherford and Aldo Andretti (Mario's brother) had problems and didn't make the feature.

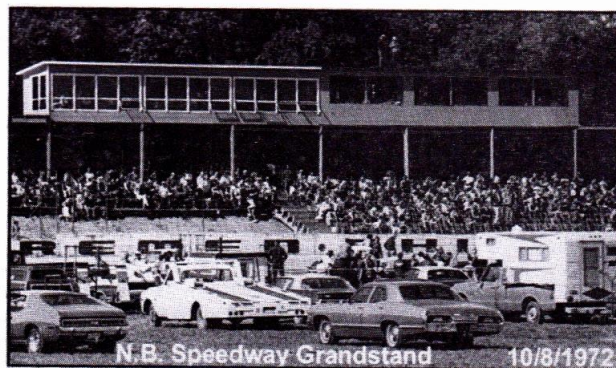
Bill Vukovich Jr. and Mike Mosley took the top spots in the Twin 50-Lap events on August 27, 1967. USAC midgets took to the track in July and October, with Mel Kenyon and Bob McLean setting fast times. Super modified action in September saw Johnny Benson qualify at 17.95 seconds, 100.278 mph, the first to break the 100 mph barrier.

USAC sprints, midgets, and stock cars ran many races at New Bremen over the next several years. Larry Dickson scored a sprint car win on April 28, 1968, while Bob Wente of St. Louis won the midget event on May 12th. Jack Bowsher of Dayton won both ends of a Twin 100-Lap USAC stock car event on June 16, 1968. This race was delayed for over an hour after the track doctor was injured. Bill Behling lost control of his car and spun into the pits, striking a tow truck. Dr. Charles Garrity had been standing on the back of the truck watching the day's event. Dr. Garrity suffered a broken arm and track officials were forced to wait until another doctor arrived. Sammy Sessions, Mike Mosley, and Gary Bettenhausen took sprint car wins, while Mel Kenyon and Henry Pens won in the midgets.

USAC stocks took to the track on May 25, 1969. During qualifications, the car of Lefty Robinson crashed into the pits, striking the race cars of Dave Hirschfeld and Roger Regeth. No one was injured, although all three cars were knocked out of competition. The IMCA (International Motor Contest Association) Sprints ran a 150 lap "Sprint Race of Champions" on September 20-21, 1969.

Beginning in 1970, Earl Baltes, president of Eldora Enterprises of Rossburg, Ohio, promoted the New Bremen Speedway along with the Eldora Speedway (which he had built in 1954 after attending a race at New Bremen) and the high-banked Dayton Speedway. On June 14, 1972, after the June 1971 death of Frank Dicke, the Speedway was sold to Baltes' Eldora Enterprises.

ARCA (Automobile Racing Club of America) stock cars made their first appearance at New Bremen September 11, 1971 with the running of the "Dayton 500". The Dayton Speedway had been sold to make room for a landfill, so Baltes moved the race to New Bremen. Ramo Stott won this event to capture the 1971 ARCA championship. The 500 returned in 1972 with Jack Shanklin first across the line.



N.B. Speedway Grandstand 10/8/1972

Tom Sneva, the 1983 Indianapolis 500 champion, won a 40-lap USAC sprint race at New Bremen on July 22, 1973 and again on Oct. 7th. Sneva, from Sprague, Washington, was a junior high school principal and teacher before becoming a full-time racer. This win came in a rear-engine sprint car. Dave Roahrig, also in a rear-engine machine that year, was fast qualifier on August 12th. Roahrig crashed on lap 22 of 40 on this date, taking Karl Busson, of Toledo, and Billy Cassella of Wierton, West Virginia, out with him. Lee Kunzman went on to take the win. The rear-engine sprinters were banned after the 1973 season. The "Dayton 500" was held at New Bremen again in 1973. The September 23rd victory went to Bruce Gould, followed by Ron Hutcherson, and Jack Shanklin. A purse of \$14,500 was paid out, with the winner pocketing \$2,275.



-15-

USAC continued to be the main attraction at New Bremen over the next several years. Gary Bettenhausen, Sammy Sessions and Bill Puterbaugh each scored a win in 1974. In July of 1974, Earl Baltes announced that the speedway was once again for sale. Baltes said, "All I want is what I paid for it, plus what I've put into it in the way of improvements the last four years". Baltes stated that if no interested bidder came forth, he would hold onto the speedway and most likely make it a dirt track again. Baltes said he had been making money at Eldora on the dirt but had been losing money at New Bremen on the pavement. "I'm convinced the people prefer racing on dirt", Baltes stated. The pavement stayed for several more years, though fewer races were run at the speedway. Marvin Carman of Union City, Michigan, qualified with a fast time of 17.161 seconds, 104.888 mph, on July 13, 1975. Rain postponed this Twin 40-Lap feature event until August 17th, when Bruce Walkup and Larry Dickson collected feature wins. Gary Bettenhausen and Pancho Carter scored victories in the April and July 1976 events. Sheldon Kinser took the USAC sprint win in 1977, in the last pavement race for which records have been found.

In 1979, Earl Baltes did make good on his plan to return the track to dirt. The asphalt was removed except for pit road and a new retaining wall and fence was constructed from the middle of the front stretch through turns one and two. A pond was dug in the infield to supply clay for the racing surface as well as a water source for the track.

On July 15, 1979, the USAC sprints returned, this time with their dirt cars. Norman "Bubby" Jones of Danville, Illinois won, followed by Rich Vogler, Larry Rice, Mack McClellan, and Chuck Gurney. Jones went on to win the August 19th and September 30th events also. The September race card also included the USAC midgets. Tom Bigelow won, followed by Mel Kenyon, Steve Cannon, Bobby Grimm, and Stan Fox. On September 2, 1979, the WoO (World of Outlaws) sprints made their New Bremen debut. This race was for non-winged* cars. Steve Kinser took the victory.



the rest of the way, crossing the checkers, followed by Sammy Swindell, Ron Semelka, Lee Osborne, and Doug Wolfgang. The WoO's sprints returned on July 6th, with Kinser picking up the win again. On July 27th, an Outlaw Midget program was scheduled. The feature was to start 33 cars, 3 abreast, for 33 laps. This event was rained out. The final race at the New Bremen Speedway was on September 1, 1980. Steve Kinser scored his 4th New Bremen win on this date, collecting \$2,000.

(*Sprint car races were winged or non-winged. The wing, which is removable, changes the handling of the car. It helps hold the car down on the track, allowing the driver to stand on the throttle more.)

Kinser scored three more New Bremen victories in 1980. On May 26th, Kinser passed Jack Hewitt on lap five of the 40-lap race. Hewitt hit the wall and was done for the day. Kinser led

The speedway has sat idle since 1980. The only engines roaring around the track today are from the tractors used to mow the grass that now covers the racing surface. The cement wall still surrounds the track. The fence in turn one still bears the scars where Red Bledsoe climbed the wall in his sprint car. Vines entangle much of the fence, as well as the flag stand, which stands waiting for the next race. The grandstand, still somewhat intact, continues to suffer from the elements. Small trees & vines have taken their seats in the bleachers. Shards of glass litter the bleachers from the penthouse press box above. Pieces of tin from the grandstand roof lie on the front stretch.



Earl Baltes held on to the speedway until May 31, 1989, when he sold it to Crown Equipment Corp., a local New Bremen industry. The sale included a "25-year, no professional racing" agreement.

The New Bremen Speedway is an important piece of racing history. At least a dozen Indianapolis 500 winners competed here, along with countless drivers who ran the 500, but never found victory lane. Several drivers went on to compete in NASCAR. Two New Bremen competitors, A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti, went on to win at both Indy and the Daytona 500. Some drivers made a living driving sprint cars, while some worked everyday jobs so they could race on the weekends. Many drivers competed at New Bremen in late-model, stock, and street-stock events which were run as companion events to the featured race. Records of most of these races are lost in history. All of these drivers, as well as the car owners, mechanics, pit crews, promoters and race fans contributed to the history of the **New Bremen Speedway**.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I would like to thank Dave Kramer for taking the time to write this in-depth article about the New Bremen Speedway and for his pictures. If you would like to contact him to share pictures, news articles or memories, see his card below.

NEW BREMEN
NEW BREMEN,
OHIO

SPEEDWAY
INC.

-COLLECTOR-
PROGRAMS, PHOTOS,
SOUVENIRS, MEMORABILIA, ETC.

DAVE & DEB KRAMER
8820 Clover Four
New Bremen, OH 45869

E-mail: nbspdwy@yahoo.com

(419) 629-2335

N.B. SPEEDWAY OWNERSHIP TIMELINE

Frank Kuenning was the landowner at the time of the
first race on August 21, 1926.

"Kuenning's Grove" was the site of the annual Farmers Picnic, which began in 1915. The races were begun as an added attraction to the 1926 picnic.

6/16/1928: Frank D. & Mary Kuenning sold property to the
New Bremen Speedway Company.

6/20/1935: New Bremen Speedway Co. to William Huenke.

6/18/1936: William Huenke (deceased) to
Sophie Huenke (wife) life estate.
Leo Huenke (son) ½ estate.
Flossie Komminsk (daughter) ½ estate.

7/20/1936: Flossie & Frank Komminsk to John Komminsk.

4/18/1939: John Komminsk to Leo Huenke.

10/15/1945: Leo & Amanda (Dammeyer) Huenke to
Clayton W. ("Whitey") Schnell.

3/19/1947: Clayton (dec'd.) & Corrine Schnell to
Frank H. Topp, ½ interest.
Warren E. Topp, ½ interest - \$6,400.00.

4/23/1954: Frank H. & Elizabeth Topp, ½ interest=1/4;
Warren E. & Patricia Topp, ½ interest=1/4 to
Clarence W. Topp & Robert Byram (bro.-in-law).

10/24/1956: Warren E. & Patricia Topp to
Frank H. Topp, Clarence W. Topp, & Robert Byram.

10/1/1965: Frank H. & Elizabeth Topp, Clarence W. & Gertrude
Topp, and Robert Byram to
Thomas D. Allison & Edward Stroebel.

1/27/1967: Thomas D. & Marilyn Allison and Edward & Doris
Stroebel to Frank F. Dicke.

3/29/1967: Frank F. & M. Louise Dicke to
New Bremen Speedway, Inc.

6/14/1972: New Bremen Speedway, Inc. to Eldora Enterprises.

8/3/1972: Eldora Enterprises to Earl & Berneice Baltes.

5/31/1989: Earl & Berneice Baltes to Crown Equipment Corp. -
"25 year, no professional racing" agreement.

N.B. SPEEDWAY RACING TIMELINE

8/21/1926: THE FIRST RACE - Dusty Farno of Lima, Ohio wins the 30-lap, 15-mile feature with a time of 15:16. Lloyd Early, Ft. Wayne, was 2nd and George Heller of Dayton ran 3rd. Four cars were entered.

9/23/1928: 1st fatality - Eugene Pfeiffer, Huntington, Indiana.

9/6/1930: Night Race, 1st in Ohio - Al Miller of Detroit, wins.

7/12/1931: 150-lap, 75-mi. race - Mark Billman, Louisville, wins.

9/20/1931: THE RIOT - Drivers protest purse, fans riot, burn bleachers and judges' stand. Insurance doesn't cover damages. Racing doesn't resume until the late 1940s.

3/24/1936: Dance pavilion at Speedway Park was destroyed by fire, marking the end of dances in the park.

8/31/1947: Racing resumes under Topp brothers.

7/4/1949: Billy McGee, Columbus, wins "Big Car" event.

7/6/1952: Don Hewitt, Troy, wins stock car feature.

10/5/1952: Harry Dahlinghaus, Minster, wins consolation while Don Horne takes stock car feature.

8/27/1953: Frank Dicke signs 3-year lease to promote the New Bremen Speedway. The Topp brothers (Frank & Warren/"Shorty") own the track.

8/19/1956: Pat O'Connor and Don Branson score USAC sprint wins at New Bremen.

6/29/1958: Jim Davis, 28, Indianapolis, killed in USAC sprint race. Don Branson wins the feature.

10/5/1958: Bud Bell, Kalamazoo, killed in stock car event.

5/6/1962: Jim Hurtubise edges Parnelli Jones in USAC sprint action.

8/5/1962: Don Davis, 28, Phoenix, severely injured and dies three days later. Don Branson wins, R. McCluskey 2nd, A.J. Foyt is 3rd.

6/21/1963: Allen Crowe, Springfield, Illinois, killed in sprint car race.

5/1/1965: Red Riegel 1st, Mario Andretti 5th in USAC sprints.

6/26/1966: Bud Randall wins only USAC sprint race held this year due to a large windstorm, possible tornado, which took down part of the grandstand in 1965.

1/27/1967: Frank Dicke buys the speedway and paves the track prior to the 1967 season.

6/25/1967: Al Smith wins first pavement race at New Bremen. A.J. Foyt blew a tire and hit the wall in the consolation. He drove the pace car for the feature.

10/5/1969: A.J. Foyt wins 200-lap USAC stock car race.

9/11/1971: The "Dayton 500" held at New Bremen - ARCA race, 500-laps. Ramo Stott wins.

6/14/1972: The speedway is sold to Eldora Enterprises.

10/7/1973: Tom Sneva wins USAC sprint feature.

4/18/1976: Gary Bettenhausen takes the sprint feature.

1977: Sheldon Kinser picks up a New Bremen USAC sprint win, Pancho Carter 2nd.

7/15/1979: Earl Baltes of Eldora Speedway tears up the asphalt and makes New Bremen a dirt track once again. Bubby Jones, Danville, Illinois, gets the first of three New Bremen sprint feature wins this year.

9/2/1979: Steve Kinser wins the first WoO (World of Outlaws) event at New Bremen.

9/30/1979: Bubby Jones 1st in USAC sprints. Tom Bigelow 1st in USAC midget feature, with Mel Kenyon, Steve Cannon, Bobby Grimm, and Stan Fox following across the line.

5/26/1980: Steve Kinser is 1st, Sammy Swindell 2nd, in WoO action.

9/1/1980: THE LAST RACE at the New Bremen Speedway. Steve Kinser picks up his 4th N.B. win, collecting \$2000. Stock cars and street stocks ran also.

5/31/1989: Earl Baltes sells the N.B. speedway to Crown Equipment Corp. with a "25-year, no professional racing" agreement clause included.

Indy 500 Winners who competed at New Bremen

	<u>years won</u>
Bill Cummings	1934
Mauri Rose	1941-47-48
Troy Ruttman	1952
Rodger Ward	1959-62
A.J. Foyt	1961-64-67-77
Parnelli Jones	1963
Bobby Unser	1968-75-81
Mario Andretti	1969
Al Unser	1970-71-78-87
Gordon Johncock	1973-82
Johnny Rutherford	1974-76-80
Tom Sneva	1983



Cliff Fetters of St. Marys
holding the checkered flag

Cliff Fetters raced primarily at New Bremen back in the 1950s. He also ran some races at Landeck Speedway near Delphos and Allentown Speedway, now known as Limaland Speedway, at Lima. Cliff was born on Feb. 22, 1926, and raced from about age 25 to 29. His car was owned and sponsored by the St. Marys Trucking Company, where he was a truck driver for 18 years.

One day the trucking company decided to build a race car. They didn't have a driver, so Cliff said he would give it a try. He said that in his first race he started near the front, but before he knew it everybody had passed him and when he looked up again, they were lapping him. Cliff did improve and went on to win about seven feature events at New Bremen. One day he was given a trophy for having more second place finishes than anyone else.

St. Marys Trucking Co.'s first car was a 1935 Ford coupe, #00, which they ran the first year. The next year they built a 1934 Ford coupe, #7-11. It had a Lincoln engine, a four-barrel carburetor, and a rear end built in California, designed for New Bremen's track. Cliff said after the new chassis was put under the car, it just wouldn't drive right. Bobby Croft, another driver, agreed to take it for a spin. He crashed and broke his nose and agreed that something was wrong.

The #7-11 was sponsored by the St. Marys Trucking Co., Bernard Montague's Sohio Service Station and Wesner's Market. Cliff's fastest lap at New Bremen in this car was 18.3 seconds, for an average speed of 95 mph.

Cliff never got hurt racing, though he did have his share of crashes. His worst crash took place during a heat race one afternoon. He started near the rear of the field and within a lap or two had passed everyone except for the leader, Chick Hale, of New Madison, Ohio. Fetters had plenty of room to make the pass for the lead, but Hale blocked him. The cars locked bumpers, and when it was over Cliff had rolled three times. He wasn't hurt and didn't feel the need to go to the hospital, though the ambulance crew thought he should.

Some of Cliff's favorite memories of the track center around the Hewitt brothers from Troy. They came up with the idea of a "Duck Race", where drivers ran a few laps, then pitted and got out of their cars, ran to the infield pond and jumped in to try and catch a duck. After that it was back to their cars to finish the race. One time, Chick Hale went off the track and into a cornfield. All the fans could see was the corn being knocked down. A minute later Hale came walking out of the field carrying a rabbit he had hit. (*Chick Hale remembers this well.*)

When Cliff quit racing he still went to a few races as a spectator. Sometimes other car owners would ask him to drive their car that day. Sometimes he would drive for them, other times he'd say he forgot his helmet or goggles, then the owners would try to borrow other drivers' gear. After a while, he stopped going to the races altogether.

Cliff donated his helmet, photos, and memories towards my collection on April 30, 2003, with many thanks. (*David Kramer*)

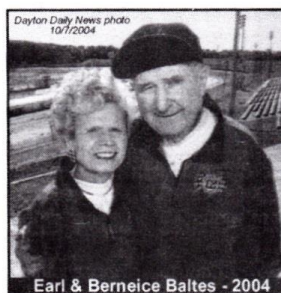
LUNDY BROTHERS MINIATURE RACERS

Boys and girls of New Bremen and the surrounding community (and the older persons, too) will have the opportunity of taking a ride in a miniature auto racer Wednesday afternoon and evening, July 31, 1935, when the Lundy Brothers bring a fleet of midget cars here for exhibition. The cars will be available for rides during the afternoon and evening for 10¢ for either youngsters or adults.

The miniature cars are being brought to New Bremen under the auspices of the New Bremen Retail Merchants. Gasoline and oil for the little cars is being furnished by the Kuck Oil Co., Sinclair distributors. Arrangements have been made with city officials to rope off a block in the main business section as a course for the event. This will give spectators a better view of the cars in operation. This is the first time this attraction has appeared in a smaller community.

The miniature race car sport is gaining popularity all over the country. It offers a new thrill for the kiddies in that they drive the cars themselves. It is safe, healthful and lots of fun. The miniature cars are constructed exactly like the largest racing cars used in speedway races. One of the features of bringing the midget racers here will be a parade of the tiny cars, headed by an Austin. Several youngsters will be given an opportunity to drive the cars in the parade, a thrill every boy and girl will enjoy.

(N.B. Sun - 7/26/1935)



Earl & Berneice Baltes - 2004

EARL BALTES UPDATE

As we were putting this article together about the New Bremen Speedway, the news broke that former owner, 83-year old Earl Baltes, had sold his Eldora Speedway along St. Rt. 118 at Rossburg, Ohio, to NASCAR driver and former Eldora racing competitor, Tony Stewart. Eldora Speedway is a 1/2-mile clay track with a seating capacity of 20,000.

When Earl decided to turn some rich, black farmland in Darke County into a racetrack in 1954, his mother, Ella Baltes, and others thought it was a hare-brained idea.

The Baltes family was well known by people in the New Bremen area as the family with the dance halls - the Crystal Ballroom at Versailles, Eldora Park Ballroom at Rossburg and the Carousel Ballroom (formerly Shady Park) along US Rt. 127 near Celina. Earl Baltes was a saxophone player in the family's orchestra, "The Melody Makers". His brother, Jimmy, called the square dances and became the announcer for the races at Eldora Park, in the early days using a farm wagon as the announcer's and scorers' platform.

The Baltes orchestra also played local clubs & dances in St. Henry, Versailles, Greenville and Dayton.



The Crystal Ballroom
Versailles, Ohio
1948-1976

New Bremen Historic Association Annual Financial Report for 2004 <i>Thomas Braun, Treasurer</i>	
ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2004	
CHECKING ACCT.	\$5,065.73
C.D.s [\$10,000@1.15%-6/3/04+\$15,000@3.00%-12/3/08]	\$25,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$30,065.73
INCOME	
MEMBERSHIP: Regular yearly dues	4,232.50
Lifetime Memberships	3,000.00
Membership Donations	1,249.50
MEMORIAL Donations	530.00
DONATIONS: Miscellaneous (Visitors, etc.)	219.02
Special (Bequest & Anonymous Donor)	3,959.84
GRANT & MATCHING FUNDS	850.00
INTEREST: Checking Account & Certificates of Deposit	659.20
ANNUAL DINNER (110 tkt. sales @ 10.00/ea.) + Raffle	1,117.00
COMMUNITY PICNIC (Food, Ice Cream, Pie Auction, etc.)	790.51
CHRISTMAS DINNER (85 tkt. sales @ 25.00/ea.)	2,125.00
"Speedway" Brunch (percentage)	165.55
Miscellaneous income (garage sale, etc.)	87.40
MERCHANDISE SALES: "Then & Now" books	841.48
"Military Memoir" books	601.50
"Dr. Snowflake" books	722.40
"Niekamp Genealogy" books	100.00
"Interurban on North Main St." color prints	1,520.00
"New Bremen Speedway" color prints	4,855.00
Miscellaneous mdse.	274.28
S/H charged on merchandise mail orders	47.50
TOTAL YEARLY INCOME	\$27,947.68
EXPENSES	
UTILITIES: Electric (N.B. Utilities)	256.48
Water (N.B. Utilities)	30.00
Gas (Vectren)	1,102.86
Telephone + installation, service (Verizon)	251.48
INSURANCE & Treasurer's Bond (\$50)	1,108.00
IMPROVEMENTS/MAINTENANCE: Indoor painting	2,216.35
Museum lighting	524.58
Supplies: Sweeper, Shop Vac	259.98
Lawn care, Snow & Leaf removal	470.74
Misc. improvements & maintenance	284.71
SPECIAL PROJECTS: Security system, lock box, service	6,364.11
CURATORS: Supplies (unidentified)	740.41
OFFICE EXPENSE: P.O. Box Rent	68.00
Safety Deposit Box Rent	25.00
Bank Service charges & penalties	59.27
Other Office & Misc. Expenses	132.80
TOWPATH: Printing, Envelopes, Labels	4,091.29
Bulk Mailing	615.45
Editor's Research & Office Expense	456.95
ANNUAL DINNER expenses, Dr. Snowflake Art Exhibit	882.77
COMMUNITY PICNIC expenses	133.82
CHRISTMAS expenses, incl. serveware & costume	1,816.58
MERCHANDISE purchased for resale	2,434.90
Postage on mailed mdse. sales	42.05
State sales tax on mdse. sold + \$100 report fee	695.09
ADVERTISING: Walking tour brochures, etc.	715.08
MEMBERSHIPS: (Chamber/Commerce, Mecca, Visitors Bureau)	160.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE: Signs, Memorial Plates	54.50
TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES:	\$25,993.23
ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$6,439.12
C.D.s [\$15,000@3.00%-12/3/08], [\$10,000@1.3%-6/5/05]	\$25,581.08
TOTAL ASSETS	\$32,020.18

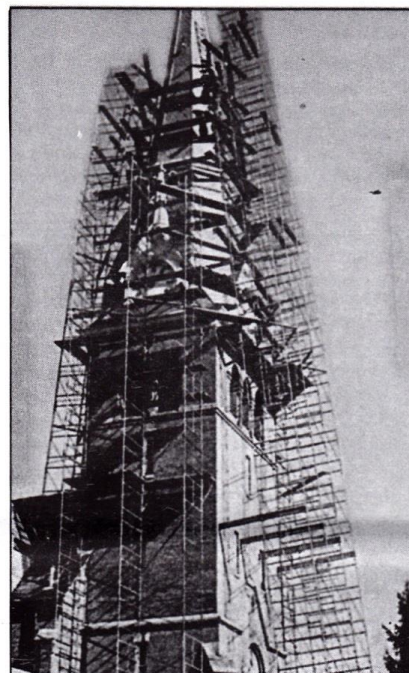
LOCK ONE PRESERVATION PROJECT

Donations to date\$1275.00
 "Can Ducky Derby" revenue\$3076.00
 Less Expenses(1050.11)

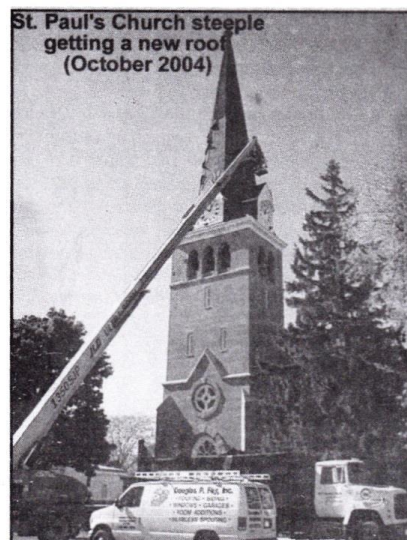
BALANCE as of 12/31/2004\$3300.88

[provided by Delores Stienecker & Tom Braun]

(See the October 2004 issue of "The Towpath" for further information about this project.)



St. Paul's Church steeple getting a new roof (sometime before the church's first pictorial directory was published in 1971). The small spires were removed from above the north and south clock faces at that time.



CURATORS' REPORT

NEW ACQUISITIONS (Partial Listing)
(submitted by Joyce Holdren - 11/2/2004)



DONOR: German Protestant Cemetery Assoc.

- "Woodmen of the World" grave marker on stake: (from unknown grave)
- "Dum Tacet Clamat" on top.

DONOR: Stanley Shuster Estate

- Stationery: Seiberling Latex Products
- Stanley Shuster, Purchasing Agent

DONOR: Stamco, Inc.

- Bills of lading box, papers (Poorman, Streine, Stamco)

DONOR: Edwin Philipot

- February & March 1912 newspapers: "Die Deutsche Hausfrau" (a German paper for the German-American housewife)

DONOR: Marilee (Sunderman) Besancency

- Booklet: "De Husapteeken"
- Newspaper: "The Stars & Stripes" - October 18, 1918

DONOR: Mrs. James (Marilyn Miller) Uetrecht

- Booklet: "The Enterprising Housekeeper", compliments of Charles Boesel Hardware & Grocery - New Bremen, Ohio

DONOR: Paul E. Dicke Estate (Lodema Dicke)

- Postcard: Monroe St. lift bridge with Rairdon's Garage on left
- Wooden filing system ("Simple Account File") from Dicke's Service Station

DONOR: Jerry Brown

- Photo: 1915-1916 First Basketball Team with names on back

DONOR: Alicia (White) Schemmel

- Wedding dress of Beverly (Huenke) Yoder

DONOR: Amy Scheer

- Royal blue wedding coat worn by Grace (Knost) Scheer
- Portable typewriter from Bernice (Wiehe) Wittenbrink estate

DONOR: Catharine (Luelleman) Grilliot

- Treadle sewing machine

DONOR: Marty (Overman) Jutte

- Hand crocheted rug made by her grandmother

DONORS: Dr. Alex & Mary (Dicke) Reed

- Auglaize Furniture Factory table (by verification of Paul Lietz)
- Cream colored doily
- Christmas postcard from Lulu Burmeister
- Booklets: 1983 St. Paul's Church Sesquicentennial book "I Love America" Sesquicentennial program
- Books: Auglaize County cemetery inscriptions: Vol. 4, 1 & 2 - German, Jackson, Washington Twps.
- Miscellaneous local history newspaper articles in scrapbook

DONOR: Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman

- Long white baptismal dress hand-made by her mother
- (2) Hand-made wool doll carriage blankets
- Sollman family Bible
- German confirmation certificate: Anna Sophia Eliz. Hoff -1843
- Baptism certificate: Anna Corwin Hoberg - Sept. 1923
- Numerous obituaries, death notices (some German)
- Numerous photos, postcards (many unidentified)
- Newspaper articles (some German), poems
- News article: "Titanic's fate is to be shown in symphony"
- Program: "The Fall of a Nation" at Opera House - Dec. 26th

-19-

CURATORS' YEAR-END REPORT - 12/13/2004

■ It has been another busy year at the museum. Three rooms have been patched and painted - five rooms to go.

■ The hanging system is finished in the military room. Many W.W.I & W.W.II pictures have been framed and are on display. We have three Civil War swords on display in a special case.

■ We now have two electric hurricane lights in the kitchen and outdoor lighting at the front door.

■ We could use smaller Christmas trees for tabletop displays for next year's Christmas decorating.

THE CURATORS: Delores & Joyce

DECEMBER EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

The 2nd annual Christmas Candlelight dinners were held in early December at the N.B.H.A. museum. Members of the Historic Association beautifully decorated the museum, Christmas lights and candles providing a glow to the event. Trees were decorated by the Serendipity Nursery School, the N.B. kindergarten and 3rd grade classes, St. Peter's Church, Friends of the Library, ladies of the Woodmen of the World, Kristina Paul, and the Cherry Belles (N.B. Chapter of the Red Hat Society).

A four-course meal was catered by "Elegant Cuisine" and 87 people were served during the four dinners by members of the Historic Association's Board. Entertainment following each dinner was provided by Vonda Malone and her violin students, Bret & Wendy Rochette; the Faith Quartet from Faith Alliance Church and the Irish Coffee Band.

On Sunday, December 12th, the 30th annual Christmas Open House was held at the museum. Everyone who attended enjoyed seeing the Christmas trees, decorations and the events of the day. Rita Heitkamp played her guitar and sang Christmas carols in the parlor.

Pat Wietholter was in the dining room signing her latest print, the N.B. Speedway, which is now for sale through the museum. Dave Kramer was available to talk about the old New Bremen Speedway and shared his many pictures. Punch and cookies were served in the kitchen.



The busiest room, however, was the music room where Santa and Mrs. Claus greeted the children and accepted their Christmas lists. Approximately 60 children made their wishes known to the "Jolly Old Elf" and "wife".

[LEFT: "Grandpa" Santa with twin grandsons, Jordan & Jared Weigandt.]

It was a busy two weeks at the museum, but a wonderful way to share the spirit of Christmas with the community. Please remember to order your tickets for next year's Christmas Candlelight dinners and join in the fun.

[submitted by Gen Conradi - 12/24/2004]

From the Mailbox



-20-

Hi Susie:

10/19/2004

I thought the N.B. Historic Association might like this photo. I found it among Aunt Irene (Kettler/Blanke) Ruedebusch's pictures. Uncle Pete Blanke must have been taking the picture. *Nancy (Kettler) Price - Grove City, PA*



BACK: Helen (3rd) & Myrl Smith (6th grade), Dorothy Harlamert (1st grade)
FRONT: Frances Shanks (2nd), Marie Laut (4th), Gertrude Rinehart (5th grade) (ca. 1949-1950)

[Photo courtesy of Nancy (Kettler) Price]

(Pete Blanke "started teaching" 5th grade in 1953-1954).



Hi Tom (e-mail):

10/25/2004

I just want to pass along how consistently impressed I am by the quality of each issue of *The Towpath*. The depth and care demonstrated in each article is truly amazing for an organization the size of the NBHA. Beyond the great personal histories, it follows the many other threads (social, commercial, geographic) that made New Bremen what it was.

Even though they are no longer here to read it, it does a fabulous job of honoring the memories of my parents, Harry & Frieda (Dammeyer) Schroeder. I deeply appreciate it.

David Harry Schroeder - Port Townsend, WA



Dear Lucille:

11/1/2004

Thanks so much for sending me the information about my ancestors, Herman Henry & Catharine Margarethe (Koop) Kunning.

I am absolutely shocked that the members of St. Paul's Church would feel comfortable with covering up the graves of the old cemetery (on N. Herman St.) and turning it into a baseball field! I hope the brave pioneers resting there don't know that they're lying under third base, or perhaps out in left field. Maybe they're actually not getting much rest under the circumstances! Those are the founders of St. Paul's & of New Bremen.

FOR SHAME!

Molly (Kunning) Brown - Dublin, Ohio

Plans for a ball field and playground area on North Herman St. west of the church were initiated in September 1948 since, because of an 1860s ordinance, the old church cemetery could no longer be used for burials. [St. Paul's Church 1983 sesquicentennial book - pg. 19]

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 12/31/04)

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

12/1/04	Dammeyer, Kirk - Chelsea, Michigan
12/17/04	Dammeyer, Lance - Brentwood, Tennessee
10/2/04	Dicke, ^Carolyn M. (Schmidt)(LM) - New Bremen
10/2/04	Dicke, Kenneth A. (LM) - New Bremen
11/9/04	Evarts, Doris (Wint) - Fort Wayne, Indiana
10/19/04	Meyer, Lucille (Hirschfeld) - Botkins (Rejoined)
11/5/04	Murray, Patsy (Ankerman) - Celina, Ohio
12/21/04	Tangeman, Mark (LM) - Enon, Ohio
12/21/04	Tangeman, Robert (LM) - New Bremen, Ohio
10/23/04	Thompson, Lynne (Harris) - Celina, Ohio (Rejoined)
11/15/04	Topp, Eugene - Ocala, Florida

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

10/29/04	Boesel, Margaret
10/2/04	Dicke, ^Carolyn M. (new-spouse)
10/2/04	Dicke, Kenneth A. (new)
12/1/04	Stienecker, Mark
12/21/04	Tangeman, Mark (new)
12/21/04	Tangeman, Robert (new)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

11/29/04	This, Eugene (died 11/29/04)
----------	------------------------------



Dear Lucille:

11/7/2004

Thanks so much for sending the Complimentary Copy of the October 2004 issue of *The Towpath*. I really enjoyed the article on Wints' Restaurant. I even learned some things I didn't know about.

I worked in my Dad's restaurant for a number of years. He always said "When everyone else is havin' fun, we work." How true that was, but it didn't hurt any us. Enclosed is \$10.00 for a 2005 membership. Thanks again.

Doris (Wint) Evarts - Fort Wayne, Indiana



Chick Hale with
 Dave Kramer &
 daughter, Sarah
 12/12/2004

Former New Bremen race car driver, Chick Hale, of Lewisburg, Ohio, and his nephew, Jerry Wahl of Clayton, Ohio, were two of the visitors to the museum's Christmas Open House on December 12th. They came to purchase a copy of the "N.B. Speedway" print. Racing enthusiast, Dave Kramer, took Chick out to the old speedway, where they were given permission to drive once more around the old track and to see what's left of the old grandstand.

[See Dave's N.B. Speedway story beginning on pg. 10]