



THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly
(January - April - July - October)

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

MUSEUM located at 120 N. Main St. (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) July - 2005

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Delores Stienecker (Chairman), Joyce Holdren,
Dru Meyer, Mary Paul

ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

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

◆ THE TOWPATH ◆

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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.

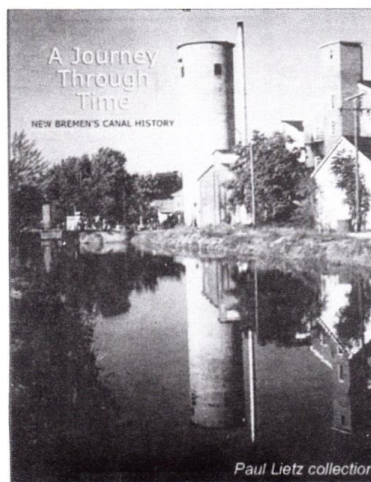
COMPLIMENTARY COPIES

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)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE (NEW)

www.newbremenhistory.org

Johanna Schroer-----Webmaster



Paul Lietz collection

The New Bremen Village government, the New Bremen Historic Association and the Miami Erie Canal Corridor Association (MECCA) are working together to preserve New Bremen's canal history.

In 2004 a grant for the preservation of the deteriorating Lock One was secured. Lock One Day, with the Canal Ducky Derby and other fund raising activities, helped to raise part of the matching funds needed for this preservation.

Our new book, "**A Journey Through Time: New Bremen's Canal History**", was recently completed by Genevieve Conradi, Tom Fledderjohann, Joyce Ruedebusch and Delores Stienecker, with editorial support from Diane Fledderjohann and Johanna Schroer. This book has chronicled the work of the past generations' building and using the canal. The profits from this book will be added to the Lock One Preservation Fund. Our hope is to preserve our canal legacy for future generations as they

"Journey Through Time."

"A Journey Through Time" is available from the N.B. Historic Association and is also on sale at the Chamber of Commerce, The Crown Store and The Artist's Touch.

The price of the book is \$22.00 (+\$2.00 S/H, if to be mailed).



Deterioration of Lock One

Photo by Gen Conradi - 2004

NEW BREMEN'S CANAL HISTORY

Dear Friends of the New Bremen Historic Association:

The N.B. Historic Assoc. has published a 60-page book called **"A Journey Through Time: New Bremen's Canal History"**. This is a wonderful book which gives the history of the Miami & Erie Canal and contains many photos going back many years.

There is a topographical profile of the Miami-Erie Canal from the Ohio River at Cincinnati (south) to Lake Erie at Toledo (north). There are detailed descriptions of the canal boats, swing bridges and the locks. There are photos of the buildings which were located next to the canal (*see aerial photo below and photos on next pages*). There is also a detailed map of the canal from Amsterdam Road (south) to Lock Two (north).

It has been 95 years (1910) since the last time there was work done to the lock. It is in very bad condition. Part of the preservation will include installing boulevard lights along the towpath from Lock One to Plum Street. This work, which is now scheduled to start in August, will be a wonderful addition to preserving New Bremen's history.

The proceeds from the sales of this book will go to the **LOCK ONE PRESERVATION FUND**. The book is available for \$22.00 (\$24, if mailed) and may be ordered from:

New Bremen Historic Assoc. - P.O. Box 73

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

[Tom Braun, Treasurer]

CANAL BOAT EXCURSION

**at Johnston Farm - Piqua, Ohio
Saturday, July 30, 2005 - 6:00 p.m.**

[Delores Stienecker, Chairman - 419-629-2685]

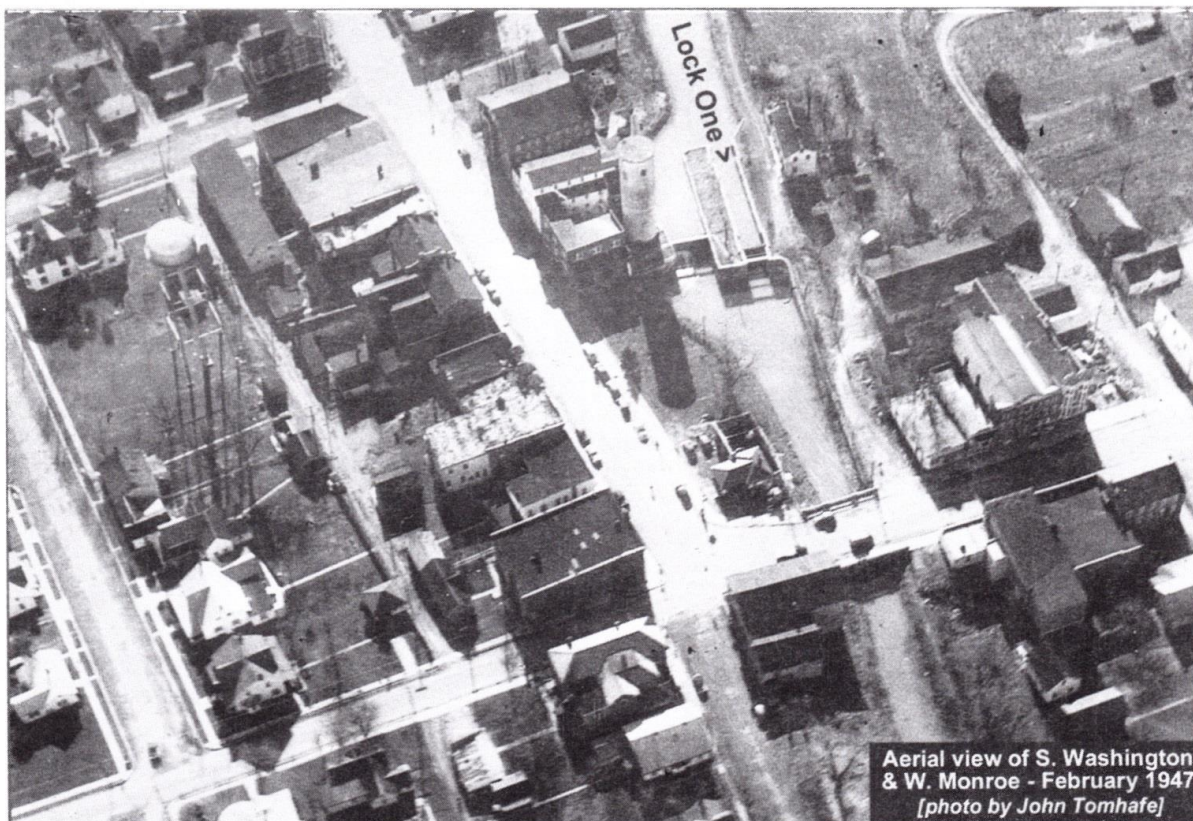
WAYS & MEANS REPORT**New Bremen Speedway print "BEST SELLER"**

The New Bremen Speedway print has sold rapidly. By December 23rd, only 8 of the 200 prints remained. By the end of January, there was a waiting list. Some prints were returned because of people receiving duplicates for Christmas, etc. Copies of the earlier interurban print were given in exchange.

This speedway print stimulated many to want to have sets with identical numbers. At the end of March, those prints that had not been claimed for their matching numbers to the interurban print were sold to those on the waiting list.

The third in a series of five scenes of New Bremen is now being worked on by the artist, Pat Wietholter.

We thank all who have supported the N.B.H.A. now and through the years.
[Delores Stienecker, Chairman]



John Tomhafe flew several times with pilot Carl Wuebbenhorst (see page 18 & also April 2005 issue of "The Towpath"). Notice the old water tower and the Fire Department's hose tower at left of picture.



This photo first appeared in the September 2004 issue of "Village of New Bremen News". This is one of the "new" canal pictures recently discovered. This postcard photo is of Lock One & of the lock-keeper's (Thompson) house and barn (former livery stable for canal mules). Notice what appear to be cannas growing and blooming along the east canal bank.

Street Commissioner Wissman & Clerk Schrage are sharing honors in decorating the flower boxes on the Monroe St. bridge. The beautiful green plants with occasional colored blossoms add much to the appearance of the surroundings. This and William Schulenberg's lawn and flower beds on the east canal bank are real refreshing to the passersby. (N.B. Sun - 5/23/1919)

Former Auglaize County auditor, Vernon Doenges of Wapakoneta, has an extensive postcard collection from the various communities in Auglaize County and frequently contributes items from the *Wapak Daily News* which he discovers while doing his "Looking Backward" column for that newspaper.

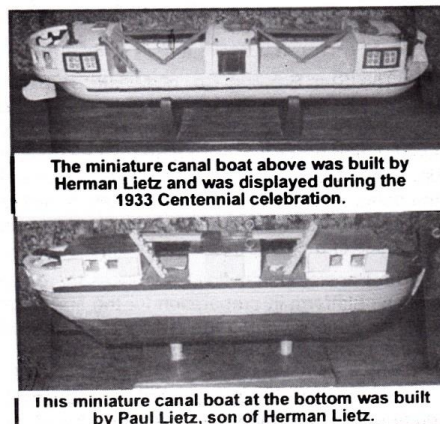
Included in the N.B. Village's newsletter was the following information: "New Bremen's Lock One is actually Lock One North. Lock One South is at Lockington, Ohio. The 23-mile stretch between New Bremen and Lockington is called the Loramie Summit and is the highest level of the Miami-Erie Canal. The Loramie Summit is fed by Lake Loramie while Grand Lake St. Marys and Indian Lake were built to supply other portions of the canal."

"Mary Ann Olding (now of Cincinnati), who has been involved with historic preservation and research for over 30 years (and was one of the founders of the New Bremen Historic Association in 1973), is gathering information in order to prepare a nomination to place Lock One North on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service and is part of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior."

NEW BREMEN LIONS' CLUB PARK

Also in the Village's September 2004 newsletter was an item concerning the Lions' Club, which on August 24, 2004, turned over its park (located in the area southwest of the buildings above), with its shelter house, restrooms and playground equipment, to the Village of New Bremen. According to the newsletter, the former Harris scrap yard was purchased by the Lions' Club in September 1970 and the shelter house & restrooms were built there after clearing the area. Names on the 1970 deed are Ernest Phlipot, Robert Nagel Sr., Lowell Ziegenbusch, Ferd Wint and Robert Niemeyer.

The park is to continue to be known as the Lions' Club Park. Reservations for the shelter house can be made at the Village Office. The Village Parks Dept. will continue the annual Cider Time event at Halloween, but the Lions' Club barbecued chicken dinners (mentioned in the N.B. Speedway article in the January 2005 issue of *The Towpath*) have become but a memory of the past.



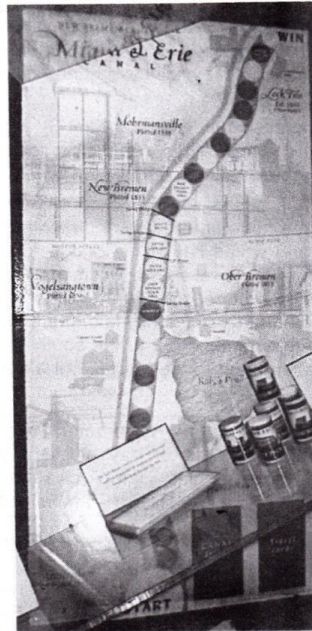
The two miniature canal boats above were put on display at the N.B. Public Library on June 10th in a canal display created by Genevieve Conradi, Joyce Ruedebusch, Delores Stienecker and Judy Baker (library display chairman). Joyce is the daughter of Orville & Dorothy (Lietz) Ruedebusch. Herman Lietz was her grandfather and Paul was her uncle. Paul Lietz was married to Genevieve's mother, Marjorie (Gieseke) Conradi. (See top photo in color on the web.)

Ralph May, in his "Memories of the Centennial" wrote: "I want to make mention of the miniature model of a boat made by Herman Lietz. Another fine model was on display near the Home Printing Co. They were the first I have ever seen and the work should be encouraged amongst the boys in school. If one of these models could be put in a miniature canal, with towpath, mule, driver, bridge, lock and all, how much more interesting it would be. Maybe this could be carried out at the next Centennial!" (N.B. Sun - 7/21/1933)

NEW SALE ITEM

Included in the display at the library is one of these Canal Board Games created by Genevieve Conradi which are now on sale from the N.B.H.A.

The game provides a fun way to learn about the history of New Bremen and the Miami & Erie Canal. Players move their canal boat game pieces from Amsterdam through Lock One in New Bremen. The first player to reach Lock Two wins the game. High winds, tired mules, and ice may hinder travel. Sometimes players will be sent to Rabe's Pond to assess damage or wait their turn at the lock. But everyone enjoys the fast-paced adventure and learns about a bygone era. The folding game board



and cards are beautifully designed and are packaged in a drawstring bag. The game sells for \$15.00, including tax. All proceeds will benefit the Lock One Preservation Fund.

(submitted by Gen Conradi)

WASHINGTON STREET & CANAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS

[News items from "The New Bremen Sun"]

8/30/1912: The Star Brewing Co. of Minster is excavating a pond of respectable dimensions south of their icehouse on Vogelsang St. to be used for ice-making purposes next winter. The excavated material serves as a dam on the south, west and north sides while the west bank of the canal forms the east bank of the pond. In this manner, the company hopes to always be able to secure a sufficient amount of ice for commercial and storage purposes of a quality free from foreign materials.

6/6/1913: The Booster Committee announces the erection of a spacious dance platform in preparation for the first Booster Day for 1913. [The Sanborn maps for 1914 show this platform on the northwest corner of South Washington & Front Streets, south of Kuenzel Mills (now the location of the N.B. Public Library). It was called a "Tango Platform". Mrs. Lester ("Toots") Blanke, during our "Tales of Yesteryear" program at the March 17, 1997 Annual Dinner, talked about the open dance floor on the south side of Kuenzel Mills. She said the dance floor had a canopy over it. "We didn't have enough money to afford to go to the dances, so we would sneak behind the Arcade and dance there".]

6/15/1914: The unusual high stage of water in the lower level of the canal has evoked no end of comment these days, it being years since there was any water to speak of for any length of time in the level below the lock. The explanation lies in the fact that preparations are being made for the construction of the new culvert at the north corporation limits under the canal and consequently it has become necessary to construct a dam through the canal bed in order to be able to control the meager flow of water that would otherwise be such a hindrance in the work. Very likely this dam will be made a permanent feature for retaining the water in the level until outside the corporation limits.

1/22/1915: Mechanics have been at work for some time erecting the steel water tower in the rear of the manufacturing plant of Kuenzel Mills which is a necessary member of the sprinkler system which is being installed in the woolen and flouring mill plants. Thereby the company will save hundreds of dollars on their fire insurance.

2/11/1916: The new bridges crossing the canal at First St. & at Second St. lend a very imposing appearance by their massive steel beams and girders resembling railroad bridges.

An unpleasant situation has arisen in connection with the Plum St. canal bridge. In some manner, the two abutments do not line up with each other and would cause the bridge to lie diagonally in the roadway. In order to rectify the mistake, it will be necessary to add a short piece of concrete to the north end of the east abutment. When the bridge is finally laid, there will be an equal stretch of concrete extending out at the south end of this abutment, a useless adornment to the bridge, but a sort of a monument to someone's error.

7/28/1916: THE LOCK LIVERY BARN - Henry Hegemeier, Prop.

Good and reliable turnouts any time of day or night at reasonable terms. Cabs, Surreys, Buggies, Sample Wagons, Hacks, Etc.

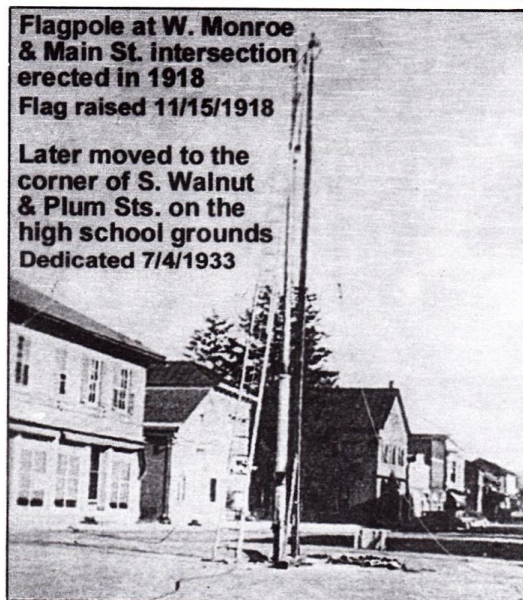
AUTO LIVERY A SPECIALTY - Phone: 193

9/1/1916: The construction of the concrete wall between the lock and the Monroe St. bridge was completed Wednesday. It was originally intended by the engineer to have the new wall run up towards the bridge until it joined the second wall near the water line, and then abruptly turn toward the west to connect with the first wall that has the iron railing. This would have left the space between the two walls open and eventually it would have been a favorite place for the accumulation of rubbish.

The plans were altered so that the new wall runs in a straight course right up to the bridge, being anchored down to the top of the second wall. The space will now be filled up at once and will add that much to the narrow space between the freight house and the canal, affording better room for loading and unloading cars and wagons.

4/25/1917: Those traffic signals placed in position at the intersection of Main & Monroe Streets last Saturday by Street Commissioner Landwehr have surely tended to lend civility to the town. What New Bremen needs now is a speed cop to enforce the law on the auto speeders ere some terrible accident happens due to the carelessness of drivers touching the speed regulations.

8/17/1917: Wm. J. Patterson was appointed yesterday as lock tender to succeed Herbert Schultenberg, who had occupied the place the past 2 years. The appointment is a political one.



Flagpole at W. Monroe & Main St. intersection erected in 1918
Flag raised 11/15/1918

Later moved to the corner of S. Walnut & Plum Sts. on the high school grounds
Dedicated 7/4/1933

11/15/1918: Real patriotism was never more forcibly demonstrated by New Bremen and the surrounding community than at last Sunday afternoon's formal flag raising. The city band led the procession through nearly all the principal streets, followed by prominent businessmen and nearly every child of school age, together with their teachers.

Arriving at the corner of Main & Monroe Sts., Mayor Huenke, Supt. E.W. Jordan, the Board of Education, Rev. R. Worthman and representatives of the Businessmen's Association mounted the bandwagon for the ceremonies. While the band played the Star-Spangled Banner, the stars and stripes were hoisted to the top of the stately iron pole which was placed in position 2 weeks ago.

Just before adjournment, a collection was taken for the purpose of remembering the boys in the services of Uncle Sam with an acceptable Christmas present. Another collection was taken at Monday evening's celebration marking the close of hostilities between Germany and the Allies. There are in the neighborhood of 62 boys from New Bremen and German Township in the service.

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MANY IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED FOR SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET

Kuenzel Mills To Erect New Flour Mill Office

The business section of South Washington Street has for years been an open subject for improvement. The combined new office building and storage room to be erected this summer by Kuenzel Mills will take the place of the small antiquated building used these many years as the office of the flouring mill.

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

Carl Gieseke presented the highest sealed bid for the old 14'x21' building and planned to move the structure to the rear of his residence at 221 West Monroe St. where he planned to convert it into an auto garage. It was to be removed by June 25th, when ground was to be broken for the new building.

The new building will be entirely of brick and concrete, will have a frontage of 62 feet on Washington St. and will extend beyond the footbridge and over part of the present billboard space.

(more Kuenzel details in the Jan. 2001 "Towpath")



Paula Luelleman & Helen Goeke of Fort Wayne standing on the footbridge crossing the canal. (Billboard & Kamman's Saloon in background) [Before 1919]

8/22/1919: Prospects are assuming shape for a monster demonstration in connection with the Homecoming Picnic which has been scheduled at Kuenning's Grove for Labor Day.

Several bands from surrounding towns have been engaged to deliver music, while Delfa Silvers, the plucky balloonist of Wapakoneta, will demonstrate some of his aerial stunts, making flights to dizzying heights and then spectacularly dropping to earth with his parachute.

The first homecoming celebration in honor of the returned soldiers and sailors of New Bremen and German Township has been arranged for the afternoon. There are some 131 of the boys who have been invited to be present, wear their uniforms and take part in an exhibition drill, whereupon a grand 6:00 pm banquet will be served the boys at one long table in the grove.

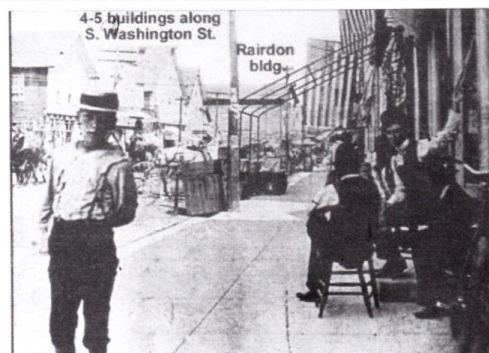
Of course, the fine dancing pavilion will be in first class condition and the festivities will continue by electric light way into the night as long as the merry-makers are willing to remain. Come on out on Labor Day and pay your respects to the boys who offered their services and their lives for you and your country.

10/10/1919: One solitary group of cluster lights will soon adorn one of the principal public places in town. The improvement is to be made at the intersection of Washington & Monroe Streets, the lights to be attached to the traffic post out in the street at an elevation of 10 feet, thus transforming the post from merely a utilitarian purpose to a thing of beauty and adornment for that immediate section. A burglar protection system was also virtually agreed upon, which if installed, will make it pretty warm for any attempted night trespassing.

(see picture at right)

Auto Park & Gas Filling Station Possibility

With Herbert Schulenberg as the prime mover in the matter, New Bremen may very soon have a fine gas filling station right in the central part of the city and in connection therewith a public parking place for automobiles. In conjunction with representatives of an oil company, he has opened negotiations for the purchase of the string of old buildings (see 2 pictures below) along the canal from the Monroe St. bridge south, including the Wagner building, the Boesche buildings and also the old office building of Kuenzel Mills.



The filling station would, of course, be located near the corner at the bridge, while the rest of the space from there up to the mill race would be converted into a slightly space to be devoted to the parking of machines. It is believed that at least 50 machines could be parked in that space at one time, thus relieving the present situation remarkably. (N.B. Sun - 10/23/1919)

The new office and stock building of Kuenzel Mills is rapidly approaching the stage of completion. The covered driveway along the north side of the building where stock will be loaded and unloaded, always protected against wind and weather, will prove a decided convenience. (N.B. Sun - 11/28/1919)



WONDERFUL IMPROVEMENTS

2/27/1920: The heart of New Bremen's business district is about to undergo some wonderful changes due to a movement fostered by Herbert Schulenberg and other influential businessmen. The most noteworthy improvement will be the wrecking of the old Boesche warehouses on South Washington St. The present occupants, Wyen & Grieshop, have started this week to remove their tin shop to the former New Bremen & Minster Gas Office building further south on Washington St.

As soon as spring arrives, steps will be taken to dismantle both the Boesche warehouses, the timber of which is still in a good state of preservation. The corner building, formerly occupied by Brucken's Cigar Store, is likely to be wrecked also to make room for a gasoline filling station to be operated by the Lilly White Gasoline Co.

As soon as more favorable weather arrives, the old Speckman warehouse in the alley at the rear of the Arcade store will also be removed, this structure recently having been purchased by Louis Kettler, who will use the timber for a large barn on his farm northwest of here.

The vacant space gained by the removal of the Boesche warehouses is to be utilized as a parking place for autos. The removal of these old structures also adds materially to the safety of the town, for they were generally regarded as fire traps.

3/5/1920: Saturday, March 13th, is the time for the sale of the row of frame buildings on South Washington St., from the Monroe St. bridge to Kuenzel Mills' new office and wareroom. Herb Schulenberg is going to offer them at public sale. A couple of the buildings could be moved and remodeled into something useful while the old warehouses contain timber sufficient to build a small town.

PUBLIC SALE OF BUILDINGS

Saturday, March 13, 1920

Beginning at 1:30 pm, I will offer for sale the building at the corner of Washington & Monroe St., a building about 20'x44', in good condition.

Also the 2 large warehouses known as the Boesche warehouses. One is about 32'x40', 3 stories high, in good condition - would make a good barn; contains good timbers 2x8x20 and 2x8x10, good floors and sidings.

The other is about 40'x60', 3 stories high - contains good timber, floor & sidings and good windows.

Also the Kuenzel Mills building about 35'x40', 1½ story. This building is in good condition and could be remodeled for a house or good barn.

These buildings contain several good timbers 12'x12'x40'.

Herbert Schulenberg - New Bremen, Ohio

3/19/1920: Almost in less time than it takes to jot down these words, the sale of the Boesche warehouses and the Wagner building at the bridge was perfected Saturday afternoon when Herb Schulenberg offered them at public auction. The Wagner building at the corner, formerly Brucken's stand, and the large building in which was located Wyen & Grieshop's sheet metal works, were sold to F.W. Sampson of St. Marys for \$135 and \$450, while the small warehouse was sold to Mr. Dingledine of Buckland for \$425. The Kuenzel Mills old office building was not sold as the bid failed to meet requirements. Within 60 days, the buildings are to be dismantled and the ground cleared.

4/23/1920: The old Wagner building, many years the home of Brucken's Cigar Store at the corner of Monroe & Washington Streets near the canal bridge, was relegated to history this week when the recent purchaser appeared upon the scene with a crew of helpers and dismantled the structure. Tearing down was done in a systematic way so that every available piece of

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lumber was saved to be used in reconstructing another building. The shingles from the roof were about the only thing on the building that could not be saved for future use.

4/30/1920: The somewhat abbreviated lamp post at the corner of Monroe & Washington Sts., for some time now also serving as supporter of the traffic signal, surely has a sound and firm foundation. Several young chaps, joyriding in a tin lizzie Sunday towards dusk, got caught in a rather tight place at that very corner because of another machine coming in the opposite direction. In their effort to turn around the traffic sign in the proper and legal manner, they collided with the said post in no gentle manner. Of course, the post with its solid concrete base was erected at that time to be a contraption of durability and in this case proved itself equal to expectations. The auto, of course, came to a standstill and one wheel was crushed into an unrecognizable mass, while the post stands as firm and solid as the proverbial rock of Gibraltar.

5/7/1920: The new public office building of the Kuenzel Mills flouring mill, having been in use for some time now, is connected with the mill, as was the old office. As soon as the scales are installed in the open driveway along the north side of the new building, weighing, loading and unloading can be performed there.

5/28/1920: Since those massive and decorative lights have been placed into position at the intersection of Monroe & Washington Sts., there has been some speculation as to what should be done at Monroe & Main Sts., where the municipal flag pole is decorated with red danger lights. Very soon, the flag pole will be decorated with identically the same lights as are illuminating the other intersection, the delay having been caused because of a mistake in the construction of the bowl that is to be placed around the pole as a basin for potted plants. Just why the disfiguring red lights should remain on the flag pole and similar ones be placed on the post at the other intersection is a matter that many are unable to figure out, as it is believed that concrete bases with strong iron posts and lights at the top ought to be sufficient signals for auto drivers to observe.

6/11/1920: Monroe St. was endowed with an additional beautification Tuesday afternoon when Street Commissioner Wm. Landwehr, under the personal direction of William Schulenberg, provided the specially constructed flower bowls at the flag pole and the traffic signal with blooming geraniums and vinca vines. This improvement surely manifests a pleasing appearance to incoming motorists.

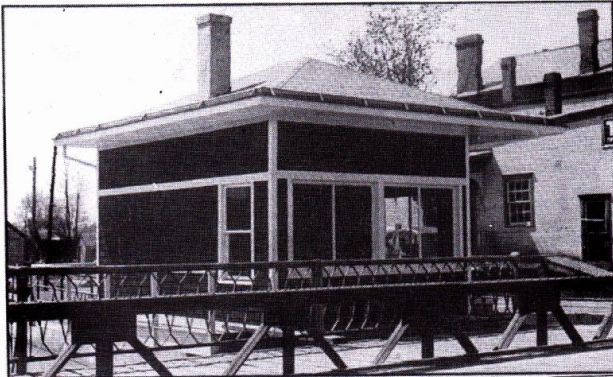
7/9/1920: Work on the gigantic concrete grain tank of the Kuenzel Mills Co., to be erected in the rear of the new office and warehouse, was begun this week. Erection of the circular concrete wall will be carried on without interruption, the moulds in which the concrete is being poured to be automatically raised by machinery so the pouring can continue until the tank is finished. (see picture at bottom of page 5)

7/9/1920: Slow progress is being made at dismantling the superstructure of the Monroe St. canal bridge, a contraption that has proven unnecessary and unsightly for so these many years. The enormous weights attached to balance the bridge when it was being hoisted are testing the strength and patience of the men in loading them upon the truck.

9/10/1920: Work on the erection of the 2 buildings at the Lilly White Oil Co. filling station at the Monroe St. bridge is going on with noticeable speed this week. The first building, facing Monroe St., is intended for a small business room, while the second building, facing Washington St., will harbor the real filling apparatus.

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10/1/1920: Work on the circular concrete grain tank of the Kuenzel Mills Co. is progressing nicely. The workmen are by now way up in the air at heights frequently reminding one of the Tower of Babel.



12/10/1920: Herbert Schulenberg's small building, erected on the side of the Lilly White Station last summer, has been transported to the west side of the Monroe St. bridge and now occupies space partly on the canal bank and partly on beams extending out over the canal bed at the southwest corner of the bridge. After the bridge is widened, the location will be all right. The transfer was made across the bridge Monday night after Western Ohio traffic had ceased. (*What ever happened to this building? – Does anybody know?*)

12/24/1920: For the first time in the town's history, New Bremen is enjoying the distinction of municipal Christmas trees. Upon the initiative of Mayor C.V. Huenke, the traffic posts at the intersections of Main & Monroe and Monroe & Washington Sts., have been converted into veritable Christmas decorations, the base of each post being surrounded with evergreen branches. The red lights shining through the green enclosures lend a real holiday aspect to the situation. Immediately after the noon hour, Street Commissioner Landwehr and Light Superintendent Scheer began work on the proposed decorations.

7/29/1921: A large force of workmen are busily engaged in the construction of a substantial concrete retaining wall along the east bank of the canal between the Kuenzel Mills building and Hegemeier's vulcanizing station. Upon completion of the wall, the general appearance of the canal will be greatly improved and all danger of a cave-in of the adjacent sidewalk removed.

8/12/1921: Workmen employed at the Monroe St. bridge unearthed an interesting find Monday while making excavations in the canal bed. A large stencil employed by the old milling firm of Koop & Vogelsang in the stamping of their flour sacks was uncovered. The stamp was well preserved and the markings are easily distinguishable. The firm of Koop & Vogelsang was a pioneer in the milling industry and one of the proprietors of the present Kuenzel Mills, but the partnership has been dissolved for over 60 years.

11/11/1921: A change occurred in New Bremen business circles Saturday when Henry Hegemeier disposed of his vulcanizing and tire repair station on South Washington St. (next to the Lilly White Filling Station) to William Doenges and Theodore Doenges. Mr. Hegemeier will remain with the new firm until next month. William & Theodore Doenges are cousins and are well known in New Bremen and vicinity. The transfer was made by Lafe Gagel, who is becoming actively interested in local real estate actions.

NOTE: The safe used by Doenges & Doenges Tire Shop was brought to our museum in May 2000 and can be seen near the front entrance (under the stairway).

2/23/1923: William Combs and his crew of men have been busy all week storing ice from the big pond belonging to the Star Beverage Co. of Minster. The work was started on Sunday, but a halt was called Tuesday morning because the wind swept the water from the open spaces over the ice still uncut, making it perilous to continue with the job. Cutting was resumed Wednesday.

2/23/1923: The D.T. & C. railroad running through Maria Stein, Chickasaw and Montezuma, west of New Bremen, is soon to be torn up and disposed of as junk. Before the D.T. & C. was built and before the C.N. railroad through St. Henry and Coldwater was constructed, New Bremen enjoyed a trade territory westward to and beyond the Indiana state line. The prosperous pork packing and grain industry of New Bremen held a large part of the western trade even after the railroads were in operation. However, matters have materially changed as the years rolled by and much of the trade was lost because of shipping opportunities the railroads afforded. The D.T. & C. being no more, other arrangements must be made.

The Chickasaw Road, formerly and favorably known as the Plank Road and also as the Vossler Pike, has for many years been kept in first class state of repair. However, with the general use of the automobile and the auto truck, it requires better than ordinary gravel roads, and if western trade is to be secured and held, the Chickasaw Road needs early and thorough attention. The lion share of western trade could easily be secured for N.B. if proper road improvements are instituted.

6/7/1923: The contract for the paving of the Shelby County section of the Fort Loramie-Minster Road was let to John Frantz of Sidney. Specifications call for the construction of 1.9 miles of brick paving from the corporation limits of Fort Loramie to the Auglaize County line. The estimate for the work, which includes two large concrete bridges, one over Loramie creek and the other over the Miami-Erie Canal, was \$97,685.62. Mr. Frantz is favorably remembered in New Bremen from the time (1921) that he and his men were engaged here in the construction of the new Monroe St. bridge.

THE JOHNSON OIL REFINING CO.
New Bremen, Ohio Telephone No. 50
GASOLINE, KEROSENE & OILS
(N.B. Sun - 8/9/1923)

11/8/1923: Rumor has it that N.B. is soon to have another filling station as Louis Huenke is reported to be contemplating the erection of a station on his property at the corner of Main & Pearl Streets. It is unknown whether the new building is to go up before winter or not, but here's hoping it doesn't receive a coat of the hated yellow and red.

3/6/1924: It will not be long now until attendants at the Roxana Filling Station on the corner of Washington & Monroe Streets step out in full glory of the new uniforms recently ordered by the company for all its employees. Not having seen the uniforms, they are probably wondering whether they are to be dressed in the Roxana colors of blazing red and yellow. If so, we can't help but wonder how they'll like it. Neither would we – and we wouldn't like to be joshed about it very much either.

9/ /1924: N.B.'s municipal flagpole at the corner of Main & Monroe Sts. has been given a fresh coat of pure white paint. Some days ago, the long wire used in raising and lowering the flag came into contact with a Western Ohio line carrying several hundred volts and was severed in the twinkling of an eye. The flag, in the meantime, was left dangling at the top until a pair of St. Marys steeplejacks, Jim Michael and Dave McCann, agreed to climb the pole and bring it down. Besides salvaging the flag and repairing the pulley beneath the guided ball, Michael also painted the pole – and all for \$27.50. (*Wapak Daily News*)

New Bremen GASOLINE GARDEN

Formerly LILLY WHITE GAS STATION

Announcing New Management

ALVIN C. DICKE, Proprietor

OUR SERVICES ARE YOURS FREE

Crank Case Service, Battery Testing

Distilled Water, Spring Oiling

GASOLINE - 20½ cents

Special Prices on Oils in Quantities

(N.B. Sun - 5/7/1925)

2/4/1926: Frank W. Thompson has purchased the

The Practical
5¢ Cigar

J.M. Brucken, Maker
NEW BREMEN, OHIO

Title Registered August 8, 1911

"Practical" Cigar Store from J.M. Brucken and is planning to assume management on Monday, February 8th. Mr. Brucken had been anxious to dispose of the store since joining the sales force of the White Mountain

Creamery on February 1st. The Practical Cigar Store has been an institution in New Bremen for more than 20 years.

3/4/1926: Mr. & Mrs. Theodore L. Doenges and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Dilger, are moving this week into the Mrs. Anna Klanke residence at the corner of South Franklin & Plum Streets. Mr. & Mrs. Doenges have been living in the Jake Paul residence on North Franklin while the Dilgers have been occupying a suite of rooms in the Fred Gilberg property at the corner of Franklin & Monroe Streets. The Gilberg property has been rented by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wehmeyer.

3/4/1926: The paving of the St. Marys road is to continue with a 7-mile stretch from the Piqua city limits north 4 miles into Shelby County.

3/4/1926: H.H. Huenke, manager of the Lone Pine Filling Station, and C.F. Schulenberg attended the first annual dealers' banquet of the Regal Oil Co. and the Frontier Mfg. Co. at Piqua Tuesday evening.

Advertisement for "Pathfinder" tires, including "Clinchers", "Straight Side Cords", & "Balloons"

Theodore L. Doenges, The Tire Man

7 S. Washington St. - Phone: 262

(N.B. Sun - 6/9/1926)

8/19/1926: Carpenters this week completed the erection of a new gasoline filling station just north of the Nickle Plate tracks at the North Herman St. intersection. The station is owned and will be operated by Henry Heitkamp & Henry Landwehr (later Herman Schmidt's station). It is the third to be opened here in recent years, the other two being the New Bremen Gasoline Garden and the Lone Pine Filling Station.

10/7/1926: Mearl May, idol of local baseball fans in 1925 when he played with the New Bremen club in the O.I. (Ohio-Indiana) league, is president of the M. & B. Oil Co. of Waynesfield, which has taken charge of the Johnson Refining Co.'s bulk station in New Bremen. Besides operating the station on North Herman St., the company also maintains curb pumps at Advance Auto & Implement Co.'s West Monroe St. garage and at the Arcade Dept. Store on South Washington St. H.H. Schulte is the driver of the company's supply truck.

4/28/1927: Pouring of concrete for the new floor being put in the Washington St. municipal building (Fire Dept.) was started

yesterday by a crew of workmen under supervision of Street Commissioner Landwehr. The decision to repair the building, which was erected some 30 years ago (1897), was reached when an examination showed the board flooring to be suffering from dry-rot. Present plans also call for transferring the city jail from its present location on North Main St. to the Washington St. building. The jail probably will be moved next month. A room on the lower floor of the building may be made available at a later date as a comfort station. Officials for years have recognized the need of a centrally located restroom.

7/21/1927: William E. Moeller, attendant at the Refiners' Filling Station (formerly N.B. Gasoline Garden), corner of Monroe & Washington Sts., who was seriously burned shortly before 10:00 a.m. 6/30/1927 in an explosion at the station, died Saturday, 7/16/1927, of the burns and inhalation of flames.

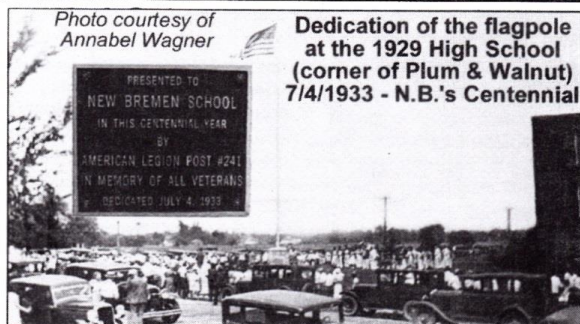
The explosion is believed to have been caused by a lighted match held by Mr. Moeller as he stepped into the basement to clear away a pile of rubbish accumulated during the previous week. He was hurled into a corner of the small room and suffered severe burns about the face and body before he could be rescued by several men who were standing near the station at the time the explosion occurred. He was taken to St. Rita's Hospital, Lima, after first aid had been administered by a local physician.

A small blaze threatened the building for a while, but was quickly extinguished with chemicals. This is the first time the new fire engine, recently purchased by New Bremen, was used by the Fire Dept. The interior of the building was wracked by the explosion and one of the walls moved more than a foot. One of the large stone pillars supporting the heavy canopy in front of the building also was cracked.

3/3/1928: A mile of the Miami-Erie Canal bed south of New Bremen has been cleaned out by employees of the state using drag scoops pulled by teams of horses.

1/31/1929: Burglars early Tuesday morning obtained a small quantity of merchandise including a flashlight, 4 boxes of candy, 2 boxes of chewing gum, 1 pr. of leather gloves, and a 5-gallon can of motor oil at the Johnson Filling Station in the extreme north end of town. The loss was discovered when the station was opened by Herman Schmidt, day attendant. Entrance to the station was made by forcing a side window and breaking the inside lock. This is the third robbery suffered by the station in the past 18 months.

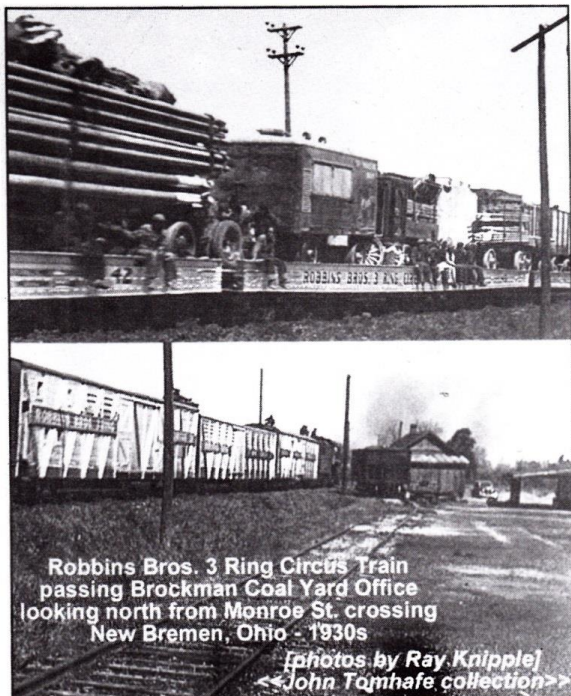
3/12/1931: Members of the Civic Association voted Tuesday evening to present a petition to city officials requesting that the municipal flag pole at the corner of Monroe & Main Streets (see pg. 4) be removed because it constitutes a dangerous traffic hazard. The pole was erected during the World War. If officials act favorably, the pole will be given to the American Legion Post, which, in turn, plans to provide a new base for its erection in front of the high school building on South Walnut St.



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6/22/1939: A business transaction was consummated last week whereby E.F. Erhardt has become the owner of the coal business which for a number of years was conducted by Ben Brockman. The yard and sheds, on Nickle Plate railroad property at West First St., will be retained by Mr. Erhardt, and the business will be conducted at the same place.

Formerly Mr. Erhardt was engaged in the dry goods business and the past couple of years he has been employed in the butter department of the White Mountain Creamery. Mr. Brockman will remain with the new owner for a while after which he will devote his entire attention to his farms and his livestock business.



7/6/1950: Arrangements have been made this week between the State Dept. of Public Works, the Auglaize County Trustees, the German Township Trustees and New Bremen Village Officials for the filling in of the old spillway at the canal locks.

Considerable dirt is needed for fill, which presented the problem of where to get the dirt and who would pay for the hauling. It was remembered that workmen are grading the County Line Road southeast of here, a project of the County Commissioners and Township Trustees, who, themselves had a problem of getting rid of considerable dirt. It was decided that the dirt was available for the canal fill, providing arrangements could be made for loading it and hauling it.

After consultation with officials of the State Dept. of Public Works and local Village Officials, arrangements were made for the use of village trucks for hauling, and the state offered the use of its drag line for loading - all this at no cost!

The gentleman who managed to arrange this remarkable set-up between these various branches of local government chooses to remain unknown. However, we'll say that he has real abilities as a diplomat and statesman.

To read about N.B. historian Ralph May's remembrances of "Fun on the Old Canal", see our Website at www.newbremenhistory.org

7/13/1950: While walking near the First Street canal bridge recently, Howard McKay spotted an object half buried in the muck on the bank, recently piled there by state workmen when they cleaned out the canal. McKay unearthed it, found it to be a very old earthenware bottle, the type of which is now extinct. He cleaned it up and found it to be in perfect condition. It bears the inscription "Vitreous Stone Bottle, J. Bourne & Son, Patentees, Derby Pottery, New Derby, P. and J. Arnold, London." The bottle or crock is about pint sized.

McKay looked up information of J. Bourne & Son and found that concern had been in business about 1812. How long the bottle had been buried in the mud at the bottom of the canal no one can say. It may have been dropped in off an old canal boat many years ago. Who knows what interesting tales that old bottle could tell!

THE CANAL

Then the evening vespers fell
Silent on the old canal
And a moon was standing still
High above the blanket mill.
See the water splash and fall
Yonder o'er the battered wall.
Round the bridge the kiddies play -
Full of fun, good and gay.
To the south the water flows
Where the reed and willow grows.
No one seems to heed its charm,
Just a ditch that does no harm.
Lots of history buried there
Ancient mules that towed the fare.
Years have passed when boats would go
Handsome crafts, perverse and slow.
Cargo shipping through the state,
Passage boats and barge of freight.
Vulgar captain and his crew -
Gambler, pilot, hoopskirts, too.
Now the past will sleep a spell
Buried in the old canal.

Jon Paul Franks
(N.B. Sun - 8/8/1929)

CHURCH BARN / STABLES

Carpenters have completed the rebuilding of St. Paul's accommodation barn which was partially destroyed by fire about a month ago (8/12/1920). The adjoining barn, which was burnt to the ground, will not be rebuilt, the church board being of the opinion that with the advent of the automobile, one barn will be sufficient to accommodate farmers' horses. (9/17/1920)
[See "The Towpath" - January 2005, page 4 & April 2005, page 4]

NOTE: When I wrote about the "Big Barn Sale" that was to take place on 9/11/1926 of St. Paul Church's stable situated at the corner of Herman & Second Sts., I wondered why only one barn was being sold. The above article explains why.

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NOTE #2: In the July 2003 issue of "The Towpath", on page 3, I wrote that the barn that had been on the cemetery grounds of St. Peter's Church on North Herman St. had been sold and sawed in half by Albert Westerbeck and Ben "Tangeman" (according to pg. 47 of the St. Peter's sesquicentennial book published in 1995).

I received a call from Verdella Schaefer, saying that it was not Ben "Tangeman", but her father, Ben "Schaefer" who took half of the barn and moved it west and north across the railroad track behind the Schaefer property. The Schaefers subsequently used it for a cow barn.

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NEW BREMEN FOUNDRY & MACHINE CO.**SMITH'S BUSINESS DIRECTORY - 1887** ("The Towpath" - July 2001)**New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co.**
Machinery, tile mills, steam engine repair**SUPT.:** William Langhorst **CLERK:** Christ Langhorst**DIRECTORS:** Julius Boesel, Herman Heinfeld, Henry Kuenzel,
Fred Speckman Sr., F. Vogelsang**FOREMAN / MACHINE SHOP:** Charles Snider (Schneider?)**FOREMAN / MOULDING ROOM:** Ferd Laut**EMPLOYEES:** Paul Buerkle, Richard Fickel, Herman Greiwe,
John Huelsman, William Koeper, Charles Langhorst, Ed
Langhorst, Henry Nieter, F. Pape, Henry Pape, Christ Voeckel,
Mike Vossler.

This 3'x4' cast iron curbside sewer cover plate was found by
Nathan Hirschfeld on the northeast corner of Plum & Walnut.

FROM PAPERS SALVAGED BY ELMER ENDE - 7/9/1959
(from the old town hall on North Main St.)

12/24/1881: N.B. Foundry & Machine Co. (Repairing fire engine & hose).....	\$13.00
10/2/1888: N.B. Foundry & Machine Co. - Christ Langhorst, Secy. - (Piping east side engine house & town hall: pipes & fittings, stopcock, round burners, key valves, digging & cutting through east side town hall, tapping & connecting 2 stoves, 3 #105 pendants/2 lights @ \$2.90, 1 3-swing bracket)	\$45.87
(Have copy of actual statement)	
11/11-12/1889: N.B. Foundry & Machine Co. (Iron railings spanning abutments of Monroe St. swing bridge)	\$237.04
6/1/1898: N.B. Foundry & Machine Co. (Bell ringer for east side engine house-\$25.00; Repairing lawn seat for park-\$2.00) (approved by Dr. H. Schmidt Jr., G. Watermann, A. Dierker)	\$27.00
Total	\$27.00
(Have copy of actual statement)	

6/29/1888: Our Foundry & Machine Co. will exhibit one of their
new improved tile & brick machines at the coming fair. It will
make both brick & tile at the same time. The machine will be
run by steam power and for superiority of workmanship cannot
be excelled.

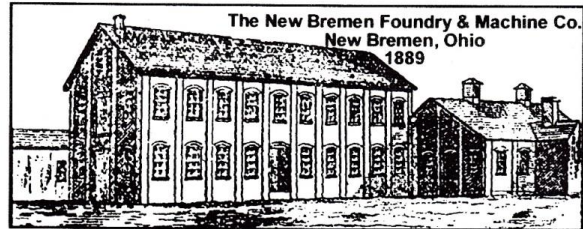
4/19/1889: The Foundry sent a tile machine to Minnesota
recently and is also making sales in Nebraska.

5/17/1889: William Langhorst, Supt. of the Foundry, left for
Nebraska to set up a tile machine. He will also visit his sons.
[At least 3 of the Langhorst sons - William F., Julius, Louis - lived in or
near Elmwood, Nebraska (east of Lincoln & south of Omaha). Another
son, Ed Langhorst, also spent some time in Nebraska before returning
to New Bremen. Wm. F. was married to Emelie Lanfersieck, daughter
of H.H. & Dorothea (Boesel) Lanfersieck. Ed Langhorst married Anna
Schulenberg, daughter of William & Catherine (Helwig) Schulenberg.]

5/31/1889: The Buckeye Drain Tile & Brick machines
manufactured by the New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. are
rapidly gaining precedence among tile & brick makers in all

parts of the country. Quite a few machines were sent to
western states this year & they seem to do well in all kinds of
clay.

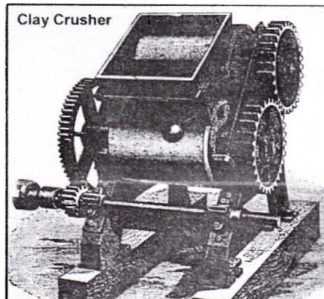
5/31/1889: A pressed brick machine arrived in Elmwood,
Nebraska and was set up on Monday by William Langhorst. By
Tuesday noon, bricks were rolling out as fast as 2 men could
carry them away. The clay (in Nebraska) stands the test well &
Mr. Langhorst thinks that number one brick will be the result of
the new enterprise for Elmwood.



7/26/1889: The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Company
manufactures the Buckeye Steam & Horsepower Drain Tile &
Brick machines, which are superior to any similar machine.

Three ways of manufacturing brick and tile are the dry, wet
and stiff processes. With the Buckeye machine, the stiff
process is used. Six different styles of machines are
manufactured, ranging in capacity from 15,000-26,000 3" tiles in
10 hours.

The difficulty of working stiff clay is overcome by the use of
two separate main shafts and two master wheels, where all
other machines have only one main shaft and one master wheel
which soon break or become twisted from the strain put upon
them.



Another machine
manufactured by this
company is their Clay
Crusher & Stone Sepa-
rator. When running at a
moderate speed, the clay
passes freely between the
rollers and is crushed
without choking, while
the stones are quickly
passed to the trap door
and discharged by their
own weight.

In addition to manu-
facturing drain tile and brick machinery, the company also
makes all kinds of gearings and castings, repairs steam
engines, boilers and machinery, and does a general foundry
and machine shop business in sheet iron works, shafting,
pulleys, hangers, iron castings, gas pipe & fittings, brass goods,
rubber & leather belting, rubber hose, etc.

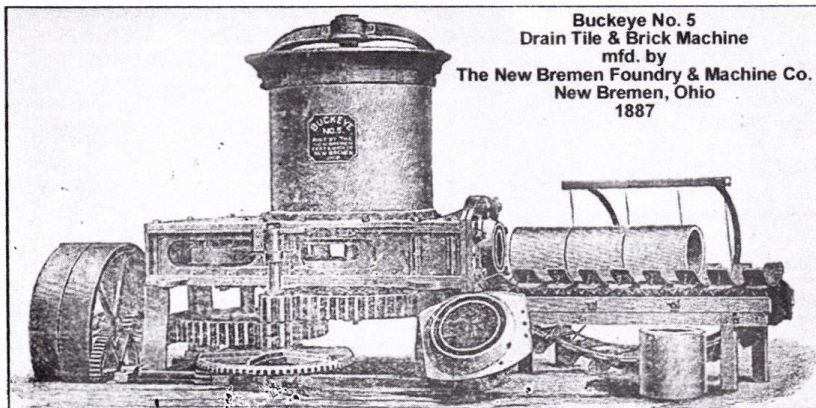
Officers of The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. in July
1889 were Julius Boesel (Pres.), William C. Schmidt (Treas.),
William Langhorst (Supt.), and Christ Langhorst (Secy.).

1/17/1890: The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. made an
assignment - creditors will be paid in full. Assets amount to
\$15,000; liabilities are \$8,000.

1/24/1890: Christ Langhorst, former Secy. of the N.B. Foundry
& Machine Co., accepted a position as bookkeeper in the
Wapak. Spoke & Wheel Works & will start his duties Feb. 1st.

Wm. Langhorst's property was chosen as the site for the new
St. Paul's German Lutheran Church. This property adjoins the
present church property.

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2/28/1890: The New Bremen Foundry was recently inspected by outside parties who may desire to purchase & remove the plant. The removal of this established, though poorly managed, concern would mar our business interests & greatly disfigure the integrity and push of our moneyed & otherwise enterprising businessmen. We hope the foundry will not be removed & believe enough courage could be mustered to put it on its feet again.

The property has depreciated since January from \$22,854 to \$8,165 and a great loss to the many stockholders is imminent, but we should keep the foundry out of the hands of low-bidding foreigners.

4/18/1890: Wm. Langhorst purchased 7 acres of land from Adam Huelsman on the St. Marys pike with the intention of building a brick factory. The New Bremen Foundry will be sold at public sale.

5/9/1890: William Langhorst's brick factory is well under construction.

5/23/1890: The New Bremen Foundry's real & personal property was sold at public sale to Jacob Boesel for \$6250. The foundry will be restarted immediately.

6/13-20/1890: New Bremen Machine Co. (name changed under new ownership) announces they are now prepared to do all kinds of machine repairing. Repairing of boilers, engines, tile machines, etc. a specialty. All works entrusted to us will be turned out promptly and in a workmanlike manner. We solicit your patronage The New Bremen Machine Co.

6/27/1890: Langhorst & Son's brick factory is going full blast. They will be making all the brick for the new St. Paul's Church.

3/21/1891: The New Bremen Machine Co. received a patent on the Titus Steam Press brick & tile machine.

4/4/1891: The Schmidt Brothers have purchased The Boesel Brothers' business interests in the New Bremen Machine Shop.

5/2/1891: The brick factory of Langhorst & Son has started in full force. They have an order for 600,000 bricks.

7/18/1891: The Schmidt Bros. will quit their store business (at Main & Pearl Sts.) and will convert their store rooms into dwelling rooms. They also own the elevator at Chickasaw and have entire control of the New Bremen Machine Shop. (Besides doing a general line of repairing, they also manufactured the Titus Steam Press tile & brick machine (in 1892*). (*see "The Towpath" - October 1997)

9/26/1891: The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. declared a dividend of 15% on capital stock.

4/2/1892: The William Langhorst & Son brick manufacturers failed.

ATTENTION BRICKMAKERS

4/30/1892: The assignees of William Langhorst & Son have for private sale the best arranged brickyard in northwestern Ohio, supplied with a Potts patent brick machine, capacity 15,000-20,000 brick per day, run by a 50hp power boiler & 20hp engine. Natural gas for both running machine & burning brick; over 2000' of covered, best-arranged drying racks; 2 large kiln sheds; a never-failing well with separate engine for pumping; a crushing machine and all appliances of a first class plant. Situated near the incorporate limits of New Bremen, Ohio on the track of the L.E. & W. railroad with 7 acres of land. In immediate neighborhood of gas wells. All to be sold at a large sacrifice of the cost. For particulars, apply to William Schulenberg & Herman Laut, Assignees.

7/16/1892: William Langhorst & Son's Brickyard was sold on Monday at Assignees' Sale to Fred Vogelsang for \$1690.

7/23/1892: The foundry grounds have sprung into prominence as a baseball resort. It is conveniently located and the huge willows afford abundant shade at the homeplate and for the spectators. Picked nines or any number of picked men below that number have the privilege to play there. Admission is free to all. The sport is very recreative for shopmen, printers, businessmen and other indoor laborers, and interest in the sport increases as time rolls on. We are truly glad that the baseball spirit is being revived.

3/25/1893: William Langhorst is employed by the New Bremen Machine Co. as a traveling salesman.

9/23/1893: Beginning Tuesday, September 26th, Christ Langhorst will be the landlord of the French House. Mr. Langhorst is presently engaged in packing his household goods preparatory to his removal from Wapakoneta. He is possessed of good business principals and is a good manager.

9/30/1893: Christ Langhorst has taken charge of the Hotel French, recently occupied by O.P. Behymer. The Langhorsts moved in on Tuesday and that evening were serenaded by the Little Six band.

11/25/1893: Henry Schelper purchased the 6-acre tract of land formerly occupied by the William Langhorst & Son brickyard north of town for \$550. Mr. Schelper plans on building a slaughter house. [now, in 2005, Shanvorton Court]

6/16/1894: J.C. Titus, foreman of the New Bremen Machine Co., received a patent on a dry kiln for pottery.

9/15/1894: The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. is closing out business.

10/27/1894: The former New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. declares a 6¼% dividend, payable to stockholders. This winds up the old business of the company. F.B. Speckman, Treas.

6/15/1895: Ed Langhorst & family (daughter=Verona Huenke) moved back to New Bremen (from Nebraska?). He will be employed at Schmidt Bros. Machine Shop.

9/25/1896: Schmidt Bros. have dissolved partnership in the New Bremen Machine Co. and in Schmidt Brothers Grain & Pork. William C. Schmidt will look after the machine company while Henry G. Schmidt will look after the grain & pork business.

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1/22/1897: Christ Langhorst will quit the hotel business by February 9th & will move back to Wapakoneta, where he has secured a position as clerk in Probate Judge J.J. Walter's office. Mr. Langhorst is presently the Mayor of New Bremen.

3/16/1897: The Hotel French property is being fixed up to receive its new occupants. Mrs. Fred Finke, of Rossville, formerly of New Bremen, will take charge and will run a boarding house and barber shop.

3/11/1898: William C. Schmidt sold his machine shop (formerly *New Bremen Machine Co.*) this week to J.F. Lanfersieck, August Lanfersieck, J.H. Grothaus, William Grothaus and Edmund Grothaus. These gentlemen in

turn sold the buildings & grounds to Klanke Bros. & Co. who will use the buildings for store rooms. The machinery will be moved to J.F. Lanfersieck & Co.'s place of business as soon as room has been provided. The machine shop has already passed into the control of the new firm, but the company has 4 months to vacate the buildings.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

4/8/1898: New Bremen Machine Co. to J.F. Lanfersieck, et al, lot 85 and outlots 21, 22 - \$2000.

6/3/1898: J.F. Lanfersieck, et al, to Klanke Bros. & Co., lots 21, 22 - \$2000.

6/10/1898: The contract for the new foundry building of J.F. Lanfersieck & Co. was awarded to Wm. Brinkmeyer for \$1150.

7/22/1898: The New Bremen Broom Co. has effected an exchange of buildings with Klanke Bros. & Co. Klankes are to receive the building now occupied by the broom shop (*the former lantern factory*). The Broom Shop is to receive the building still occupied by the New Bremen Machine Shop, which was recently purchased by Klankes. Klankes will use the former lantern shop building for a storehouse and the Broom Factory will get more a convenient location & a better building.

(see Broom Co. article - "The Towpath" - July 2004)

7/29/1904 - "15 years ago" Edition: The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co., in 1889 located in the buildings occupied now by the New Bremen Broom Co. (see picture on page 10), and in which William Langhorst and his son, Christ Langhorst, were then leading figures, has been assimilated by the Lanfersieck & Grothaus Co., both Langhorsts having moved to Wapakoneta where the father died and where Christ is today employed as deputy in Probate Judge J.J. Walter's office.

THE LANGHORST FAMILY

William Christian Friedrich Langhorst was born 2/21/1836 in Rahden, Westphalia, Germany. He immigrated to America with his parents in 1851 and soon became engaged in the manufacture of tile and brick. He later became the superintendent of the New Bremen Foundry & Machine Shop. He was married twice and had 13 children. He died in Wapakoneta on 2/16/1899.

Christian Langhorst, born 11/9/1858, was the oldest child of William Langhorst and his first wife, Anna Fricke. Christ received his early schooling in New Bremen and later completed a course in Piqua High School. According to his obituary, he was elected and served as the secretary for the New Bremen Foundry & Machine Co. when it was organized. He must have been awfully young, because the first record of the company's existence was dated 12/24/1881 (see pg. 10).

On 11/12/1884, Christ married Mary (Hennings) Smith. Mary was the sister of Mrs. Martin Buerkle. Rev. Buerkle was the minister of St. Paul's Church from 1880-1894. Mary had come to New Bremen to live with her sister after her first husband's death and that is how she and Christ became acquainted.

On 2/1/1890, Christ became employed as bookkeeper for the Wapakoneta Spoke & Wheel Works.

On 9/26/1893, he came back to New Bremen and became the landlord of the French House. He was elected Mayor of New Bremen in 1896.

On 2/9/1897, he resigned as Mayor, disposed of his hotel business, and moved back to Wapakoneta, where he had secured a position as clerk in Probate Judge J.J. Walter's office. He also served under Probate Judge C.A. Stueve, but after a few months, Christ suffered a stroke which incapacitated him for several years.

In the fall of 1907, Christ was nominated by the Democrats for Probate Judge. In the fall of 1908, he was elected, and he assumed his duties in early 1909. He continued as Probate Judge of Auglaize County until about a month before his death on 12/30/1910. He was buried in Greenlawn Cemetery at Wapakoneta. Mary died in 1928 and funeral services were conducted in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Marie Hipple of Sidney, by Rev. Wobus. (Rev. Richard Wobus of Sidney served as St. Paul Church's interim minister from June-November 1947, between Rev. John Melchert and Rev. Emil Bassler.)



12/23/1893: REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Lot 118 - H. Backhaus to Inc. Village of N.B. - \$25.00
 Lot 124 - Maria Witte, et al, quit claim, to Village N.B. - \$100
 Lot 125 - C.J. Langhorst to Village of N.B. - \$155.00
 Lot 125 - Adolph Steinberg to Village of N.B. - \$50.00

HENRY HUEFE'S DRAINAGE TILE

by Hilda Huefe, daughter - 9/19/1977

My father, Henry Huefe, had a drainage tile business located west of the canal on 6 acres at the north edge of town (Outlot 28 - in 1880 shown as William Langhorst's Tile Works). He dug the clay and used carts to take it to the pits where the clay was mixed with water from the canal to moisten it and make it pliable. (My father had to pay for that water.)

Then the clay was put on carts and taken to the press which was operated by horses. One man threw the clay into the pit and two men took it out. At the bottom of the press were forms the same size as the tile that was to be made, then the tile came out on rollers and was cut in foot lengths by a cutter. It was made in sizes from two inches up to twelve inches and was round on the top and flat at the bottom (see picture, pg. 17). The tile would then be lifted with a handle and placed on carts and taken into the drying sheds and stacked. Drying time depended on the weather - in wet or humid weather it took longer. The clay and water were mixed manually and John Schwede and Henry Neuman worked at the machine. After the tiles were dried in the shed, they were taken to the brick kiln and stacked up. The kiln was fired from the bottom, with flames shooting up to the top. Those flames had to be kept up day and night for a number of days, then the tile had to be cooled off and stacked up outside.

People would come from all around with their big heavy wagons and haul the tile away. They dug the ditches about six to eight feet deep. They'd order their tiles ahead of time and my father would make them to order. For the connections, they'd



Photo courtesy of NUPCO

have to cut holes in the larger tiles to insert the smaller ones going in the other direction. The land around New Bremen was very wet, but after a while it got drained pretty well. The farmers did that themselves. Later on, they got those large sewers, but they weren't equipped to make that in New Bremen.

My grandparents, Henry F.W. Backhaus (1826-11/15/1903) and Sophia (Witte) Wellman (1827-5/27/1900), were married May 16, 1850 in New Bremen and lived next to where my father had his tile yard (see 1880 Atlas map, left). Next to their home my grandfather had a cooper shop where they made barrels for the flour mill. He made the staves and then bound them together to make the big barrels. Those were shipped on the canal boats. The boats stopped in Lock Two and picked up the flour.



**The Henry & Sophie Backhaus home
at 214 N. Walnut St.
[built about 1851-1852?]
(later the Ruedebusch & Eversman home)**

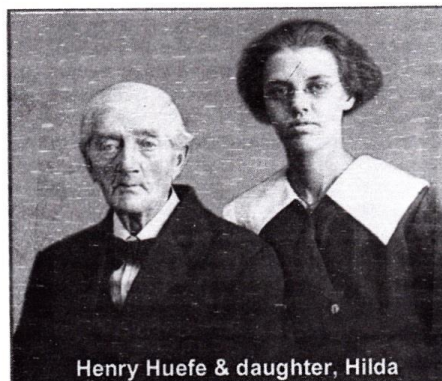
In the 1887 Smith's Business Directory, H. Backhaus was listed as "cooper". On the 1899 Sanborn insurance maps, H.F. Backhaus had a "spoke works" employing 6 men (Lots 118 & 119 - 1880 Atlas). H. Huefe Tile Works was just north, on Outlot 28, the former site of the Wm. Langhorst Tile Works - see 1880 map.) On the 1907 Sanborn map, Lot 28 was shown as J.C. Steineman Tile Works¹. The Backhaus business was no longer shown (he had died in 1903). The N.B. Brick Co. was shown in the south end of town. The 1914 map showed "formerly J.C. Steineman Tile Works, not running". Frank Wierth² had moved the business to the south end of town as the N.B. Brick Co.

¹Henry Huefe sold his tile business to Steineman Bros. of Minster.

(N.B. Sun-3/31/1905)

²J.C. Steineman sold his tile business (lot 28) to Frank Wierth, \$2500.

(N.B. Sun-11/15/1907)



Henry Huefe & daughter, Hilda

Henry Huefe immigrated from Germany in 1868, shortly before his 30th birthday. He was first employed at New Bremen as a farm hand and later on the state boat. He learned the trade of tile-maker at Fort Wayne and in 1877, he returned to New Bremen and established his own tile manufacturing plant, which he conducted for 28 years (to 1905). He married Wilhelmine Backhaus on 5/13/1886.

Hilda L. Huefe (9/21/1889-9/17/1979) was the daughter of Henry H. Huefe (1838-4/28/1919) & Wilhelmine S.C. Backhaus (1853-12/6/1908). She had a brother, William H.F. Huefe (1887-5/20/1909). Hilda Huefe worked as a missionary across the country for Homeland Missions of the United Church of Christ and died at the Good Samaritan Home in Webster Grove, Missouri, just 2 years after this interview took place.

WIERTH BRICK & TILE YARD

Fred Wierth arrived in New Bremen in 1871 and worked as a huckster for Fred Steinberg's egg and poultry business. Later he formed a partnership with Adam Brueggeman in a general store on North Main St. Still later, he ventured into the brick manufacturing business with his son, Frank. Fred died in 1916.

Frank Wierth became associated with his father, Fred, at an early age. For many years, Fred operated a brick & tile yard. In February 1899, Frank Wierth bought out the Ernst & John Hilgeman brick yard which was north of the Fred Wierth property. In 1902, Frank took a leading part in the organization of the New Bremen Brick Co. (formerly the Hilgeman brick yard) and was named manager of the plant in the south end of town. His associates were Louis Huenke, Julius Boesel, C.P. Gress & A.C. Buss. In 1907, he bought the J.C. Steineman (formerly Henry Huefe) tile business (see above).

In 1915, Frank Wierth was appointed sexton of the German Protestant Cemetery (where they lived), a position he held until December 1926, when he resigned to join his sons in the management of a poultry farm north of town. He died in March 1927.

Dear Lucille:

5/6/2005

I am enclosing an obituary that I found in my files for Frederick J. Schoettley, who died May 14, 1992 at his home at Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan at the age of 89. The obituary stated that he had been born in New Bremen, Ohio and was a 1926 graduate of the Univ. of Michigan School of Architecture. He had also been a past director of the Salvation Army.

Mr. Schoettley and my uncle, Ferd Freytag, of Sidney, Ohio, were both project managers for government construction in San Diego, California during W.W.II and were good friends. The three of us had lunch together in the early 1950s in Detroit, but I don't recall New Bremen being mentioned. I have always been curious about his "New Bremen birth". Your help would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Richard Freytag - Royal Oak, Michigan

<<<<>>>>

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: Frederick J. Schoettley was the son of Albert Schoettley and Anna Hilgeman and was born 2/8/1903 in New Bremen. His baptismal sponsors were Fritz Schöttle and John Hilgeman (his grandfathers). He had 3 sisters - Marie, Augusta & Lucille Schoettley. He also had an uncle, Fred Schoettley, Jr. who was a plasterer.

Fred's mother died 6/29/1926 near Toledo, the family having moved there about 1906. Anna (Hilgeman) Schoettley was the daughter of John and Mathilda (Jung) Hilgeman and was the second oldest of 17 children. After Anna's death, Albert Schoettley remarried, to Dora (Bay) Heil, widow of Ed Heil.

John Hilgeman, in conjunction with his father, Ernst, operated a brickyard north of New Bremen on what later became the Emil Kuenning farm near the "Lock Two" (German Protestant) Cemetery. In February 1899, Frank Wierth (who married Emelie Jung) bought the Hilgeman brickyard. Ernst Hilgeman and his wife, Marie (Langhorst), moved to Belmont, Illinois where Ernst engaged in a similar occupation.

<<<<>>>>

Dear Lucille:

5/15/2005

I am absolutely amazed by your research on Frederick J. Schoettley. I noticed his forebears anglicized their name as did my own family during W.W.I. I wonder if the family's membership in St. Peter's Church influenced Fred's interest in the Salvation Army.

Since the Schoettley family left New Bremen early, I now know Fred didn't attend school with either my mother or step-mother which I was curious about. The University of Michigan should be proud of him!

I'm a big canal fan. I was born in Fort Loramie in an old house which was right on the canal bank way back from the street (Route 66) which still stands. In 1930, after the death of my mother, I lived with my paternal grandparents at the south end of town and the canal was across Route 66 down a high bank. In 1935, after my father remarried, we moved up town and the canal was in front of the house with ice-skating between the bridges, which was flood-lighted at night. The canal there has mostly been filled in, but it was a big part of my youth. Thanks again for your help.

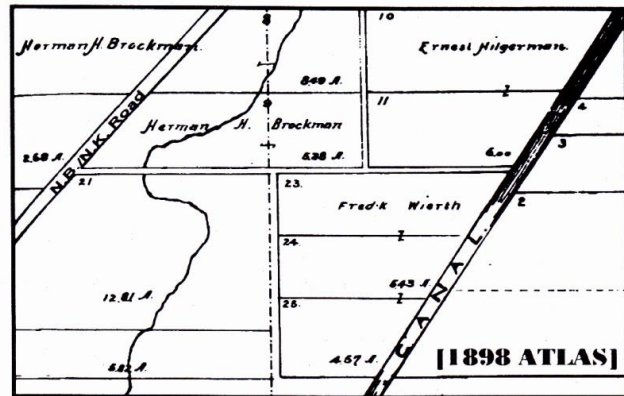
Sincerely,

Richard Freytag

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

"The Fred Schoettley crew have the job of lathing and plastering in Ed Purpus's store room. These men cannot easily be excelled by plasterers in any town the size of New Bremen for quick and first class work. The small detail of men - 5 in number - work with great alacrity, throwing the mortar on the walls as though it were child's play. If you want a job of plastering done, call at Schoettley's. They will fit you out in the most satisfactory manner."

(N.B. Sun - 7/16/1892)

HILGEMAN BRICK & TILE CO.

Ernst Hilgeman, a native of Germany, founded the Hilgeman Brick & Tile Co. in 1869. In 1889, the brick works was located on the Ernst Hilgeman farm ½ mile north of New Bremen (see map above). The tile works was located in Kettlersville, 6 miles east of New Bremen. In both the brick and tile yard, 15-18 men were employed.

"The brickyard of J. Hilgeman is a scene of life and bustle from morning to night. Mr. Hilgeman has been crowded with work throughout the entire season. He employs 14 hands and pays a neat weekly payroll. There is an unusual amount of building going on in this vicinity this year and Mr. Hilgeman furnishes the brick for every job. He makes a good quality of brick and is withal a good accommodating man to deal with. Get your brick at Hilgeman's brickyard." (N.B. Sun - 8/17/1895)

THE NEW BREMEN BRICK YARD

manufactures Building, Foundation and Paving BRICK.

Orders Promptly Filled and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

We solicit your patronage.

We sell you the best Brick in the Market at Lowest Prices.

LOWEST ESTIMATES TO CONTRACTORS

Brickyard situated 1 mile north of New Bremen on Lock II Rd.

John Hilgeman, Proprietor

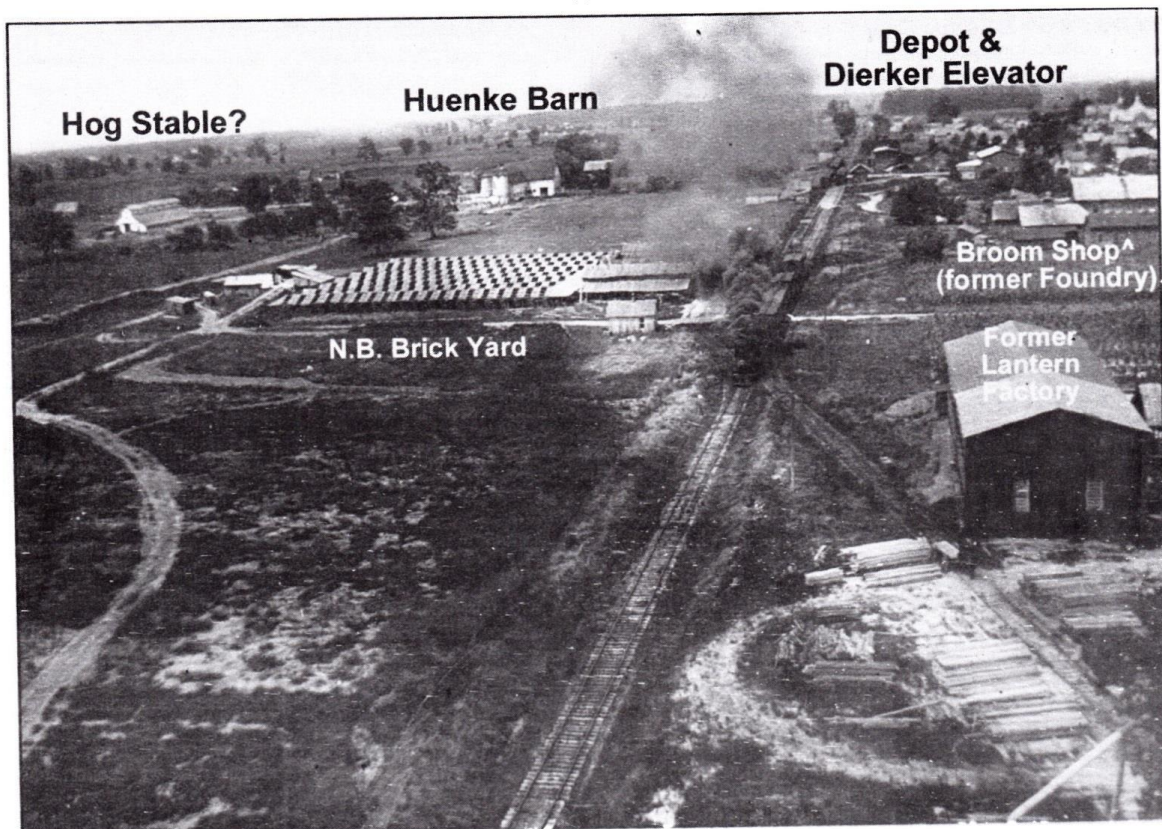
(N.B. Sun - 2/5/1897-9/16/1898, etc.)

"John Hilgeman, the brick maker, is behind in his orders, but people who know a brick when they see one will wait for him. John has the art of brick making down to a fine point." (7/1/1898)

"John Hilgeman sold his 70-acre farm, including the brickyard, to Julius Boesel for \$4500. Mr. Boesel, in turn, sold the brick yard, comprising 2 acres of ground, to F. Wierth & Son. Mr. Hilgeman will continue to operate the brick yard." (2/10/1899)

In February 1899, Frank Wierth bought out the Hilgeman brick yard which was north of the Fred Wierth property and east of the Herman H. Brockman property (see above). Ernst and Marie (Langhorst) Hilgeman and some of their family moved to Belmont, Illinois where Ernst engaged in a similar occupation until his retirement. John Hilgeman had been engaged in the brick business with his father and later lived in St. Marys. Both John Hilgeman and Frank Wierth married daughters of Frank & Anna (Frey) Jung, making them brothers-in-law. John Hilgeman's obituary (1/24/1942) stated that the Hilgeman brick yard had been located north of New Bremen on the "present Emil Kuenning farm near the Lock Two Cemetery". Ernst Hilgeman died 11/4/1920 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Florenz (Cordelia) Garmhausen at Lock Two.

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Looking north up the railroad track from the water tower - ca. 1905
Louis Huenke's creamery had not yet been established on the west end of town.

THE NEW BREMEN BRICK CO.

Large Brick Factory to be added to the Industrial Enterprises of New Bremen - Capital Stock - \$10,000

Plant will be located near L.E. & W. Railroad

Yard & Sheds to be of improved kind and facilities for large output provided for.

A company of New Bremen citizens has been formed to engage in the manufacture of brick. It will be a continuation of the firm of Wierth & Son, but the brickyard will be moved to a new location and built on latest and improved plans. It is the intention of the company to erect a building large enough to enable them to operate rain or shine, winter and summer; the period of operation, of course, to be governed by the demand there may be for the brick.

The personnel of the company are Louis Huenke (Pres.), C.P. Gress (V-Pres.), A.C. Buss (Secy.), Julius Boesel (Treas.), and Frank Wierth (Mgr.). Ten acres of ground have been purchased from Louis Huenke and the sheds will be located on the west side of the L.E. & W. Railroad tracks, opposite the broom factory, as the clay there is specially adapted for brick purposes. Application for a charter will be made and the capital stock will be fixed at \$10,000.

The name of the new company will be The New Bremen Brick Co. The manager of the concern will be Frank Wierth. His father, who has been identified with the business up till now, will retire. The Wierths have the reputation of making the finest brick in this vicinity and with the improved facilities at his command, the younger Wierth will be able to gain greater renown. The new concern will start out with the capacity of 10,000-12,000 bricks per day, and they expect to get a switch laid into their yard for shipment to outside points.

The entire teaming outfit of Frank Wierth has been bought and the work of hauling material will begin at once. Up-to-date machinery will be purchased and when the factory is in operation, it will be one of the most complete establishments of its kind in this part of the state. (N.B. Sun - 1/24+31/1902)

The New Bremen Brick Co. has purchased a strip of ground this week from William Kuhlhorst which they intend to utilize as a road leading to their yard. They paid \$300 for the same. The road is a necessity to the brick company, as it obviates a long drive over fields and through lanes. (N.B. Sun - 3/28/1902)

Frank Wierth bought the former Henry Huefe tile business on the north end of town (lot 28) from J.C. Steineman for \$2500. (see pg. 13) (N.B. Sun - 11/15/1907)

NEW BREMEN CEMENT TILE & BLOCK CO.

The Cement Products Company is one of the new manufacturing enterprises for New Bremen on South Herman Street, next to the Municipal Light & Water plant. The factory was formerly located at Chickasaw (*Chickasaw Cement & Tile Co.*) and had been in successful operation there for some years when the abandonment of the D.T. & C. railroad left that village without transportation facilities (*see pg. 7*).

The business is being located at the site of the former handle factory in the southwest end of town. The buildings are being remodeled and a spacious dry kiln has been erected for proper drying treatment of the product as it leaves the machines. With their present equipment, the firm is able to turn out the 3"-12" concrete drain tiles at the rate of 3,000 a day, while the 15" tile is made by a somewhat slower process.

Cement blocks, depending on size and kind, are made at the rate of 350-1700 a day, while the concrete grave vaults are manufactured at a slower rate, requiring so much more labor and material. The demand, however, never requires them in great quantities.

All the products of the company are dried in the large steam kiln where they are given a thorough 3-day treatment, insuring firmness as well as adhesiveness of the ingredients.

The stock in this firm is owned to a great extent by the Niekamp family. Manager Julius J. Niekamp and his force of helpers are enthusiastic in their enterprise. The large piles of sand and limestone and the stacks of cement disappear as if by magic when the shovels and the mixer begin to work feeding the forming machine. The Cement Products Co. will prove a valuable adjunct to New Bremen's list of worthy manufacturing enterprises.

(*N.B. Sun - 8/4/1922, 10/11/1923*)

The 1933 Sanborn maps show the N.B. Tile & Cement Block Co. at 321 South Herman St., just south of the light & water plant, at the end of Boesel St. They were listed as manufacturers of "C.B. Specialties".



See color picture above & description on the web at www.newbremenhistory.org

NUPCO PLASTIC TUBING

In 1946, Robert W. ("Bud") Niemeyer bought his first ditching machine and started Niemeyer Farm Drainage. Bud already had more than 10 years of experience in the drainage business and was joined by his father and brother, Frank Niemeyer, Sr. and Frank, Jr. After their marriage in 1949, Bud's wife, Irene Elizabeth Aselage, became his secretary. In 1953, Bud invented and patented a new ditching machine called the Ohio Ditcher.

In 1957, the Niemeyers started making 4"-12" concrete drainage tile in a small barn they moved to their location at 6561 County Road 66A north of New Bremen. The cement tile was made when the weather was not fit for ditching.

In 1971, a new metal building and new equipment were purchased for the production of polyethylene drainage tubing and the subsidiary was called NUPCO PLASTIC TUBING. NUPCO manufactured 4"-6" tubing. In March 1975, after 30 years of ditching, the Niemeyers sold their ditching business to Gene Topp in order to work full time in the manufacturing of concrete tile and plastic tubing. The Niemeyers had ditched in Auglaize and surrounding counties and as far as Marysville, Ohio and Muncie, Indiana.

By July 1977, the plastic corrugated tubing business had grown and a second line had been added. In the fall of 1992, a third line was added which made 4"-8" tubing. All of the tubing is corrugated for strength and flexibility.

Irene Niemeyer died December 6, 1993 and in April 1996, after over 50 years in business, Robert Niemeyer sold the business to two long-time employees and their spouses, Luke & Elaine Wilker and Virginia & Nick Dicke. Luke Wilker has worked in the manufacturing part of NUPCO over 17 years and Ginny Dicke has worked in the office over 11 years. They have three full time employees who manufacture and deliver millions of feet of plastic corrugated tile a year.

NUPCO PLASTIC TUBING is now basically a supply dealer and manufacturer of farm drainage products. They have in stock or will make available almost anything needed for modern farm drainage. They also have a growing collection of historic drainage products on display in the office.

[provided by Ginny (Wuebker) Dicke]



GENE TOPP DRAINAGE SERVICE*(from page 132 – N.B. Sesquicentennial book)*

"Gene Topp Drainage Service" opened for business at 6672 County Road 66A on March 1, 1975, following the purchase of Robert ("Bud") Niemeyer's 1968 "Buckeye Super D" trencher. Gene had previously worked for Niemeyer Farm Drainage for 6 years. Since 1975, various equipment was added to the business, such as a 1977 Buckeye Super D trencher, 2 Case bulldozers, a Case backhoe and a Mack tractor-lowboy combination.

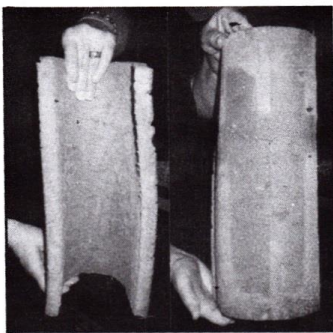
Gene Topp Drainage Service installs farm drainage tile, constructs grass waterways and stone structures, removes fence rows, grades building sites, performs backhoe work and removes snow in the winter. Since 1993, Gene also digs graves for the local cemeteries – German Protestant, Willow Grove and Schwaberoew Cemeteries.



Gene Topp Drainage
Ditching & laying tile
at German Protestant Cemetery
10/23/2003



NUPCO's Historic Drainage Tiles

**SHIN TILE**

The tile at the left is called a "shin" tile. It was made by forming the clay around a man's shin.

The tile at the uppermost left of the above picture is in two pieces, like that shown on page 12 in the Langhorst Tile Works picture. They were laid over-lapped, like bricks.

CURATORS' REPORT**NEW ACQUISITIONS***[submitted by Joyce Holdren – 6/14/2005]*

Johann Klein & his wife, Mary (Brueggeman)
present a copy of Johann's book "My Lost Home"
to N.B.H.A. curator, Delores Stienecker,
at the 2005 Community Picnic on 6/5/05.

DONORS: Johann & Mary (Brueggeman) Klein

◆ **BOOKLET:** "My Lost Home" – John's life story

DONORS: Mike & Connie Will

◆ **PHOTOS:** 7 Scenes of the Miami-Erie Canal running behind their house on Canal Street.

DONOR: Dennis Klingler

◆ **PHOTOS** of Smith's 5 & 10¢ Store, N.B. Women's Club Booklet, 1955-1956.

DONOR: Mary Ann Olding

◆ **ARTICLES** on Ohio canals– 20th Century, heavy embankments, deep cuttings.

DONOR: Virginia Kuenning

◆ **BALL POINT PEN:** Los Venados Mexican Restaurant in the Amsterdam Mall.

DONOR: Jason This

◆ **BOOKLET:** The Liberty Collection & News

DONORS: John & Dorothy (Schroer) Koepfer

◆ **COIN PURSE:** Kellermeyer & Rabe, Champion Shoe Store
5¢ **TOKENS:** C. Moeller & Co., H. Pape, Laut Cigars, Henry Laut

DONOR: John Tomhafa

◆ **AERIAL PHOTOS:** 7 Scenes, taken in 1947 (see one on page 2).

DONORS: Ted & Janet Schulenberg

◆ **FAMILY BIBLE,** N.B. Centennial items: 5 signed, stamped envelopes, 2 Centennial week postcards, Minster Centennial stamped envelope.

DONORS: James Ashbaugh family

◆ **PHOTOS:** St. Paul's sanctuary, dining hall, Brotherhood, Class of 1926 (8th grade), (2) Class of 1949-grade school, Women's Club – November 1986, Hospital Sewing Group - 15 years of service, Gilberg's bowling team - 1957-58 League Champs, Anna Schwepe, one of the first autos in St. Marys, **ALBUMS:** Neil Armstrong & Wapakoneta, (2) of New Bremen scenes – some postcards, **NEWSPAPER ARTICLE:** Clara Vornholt retires – 32 yrs.

DONOR: Hazel (Wittenbrink) Luedeke

◆ **MIRAGE YEARBOOKS** – 1937 & 1940, St. Paul's Church anniversary items & other religious items, baptism & confirmation certificates, Luedeke family information, hand-made wooden album, Mueller Bros. fan, news articles about the canal, Troy Daily News - J.F.K. assassination, Wapak Daily News - Neil Armstrong steps on the moon.

From the Mailbox



Lucille:

4/6/2005

In response to my classmate James Pape's letter in the April 2005 issue of *The Towpath* regarding the "hit" in *The Evening Leader* about the airplane trip we took, here is the write-up that appeared in both *The Evening Leader* on 9/18/1946 and *The New Bremen Sun* on 9/19/1946:

THEY'RE OUT FLYING

"James Pape, Stanley Kuenning, Carl Wuebbenhorst and John Tomhafe left Lake Field at Montezuma on the morning of Wednesday, 9/18/1946, for a 4-day air tour, their itinerary covering Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. If time permits they will also cover part of Canada.

Pape & Kuenning are flying a Taylorcraft and Wuebbenhorst & Tomhafe a Piper J-3 Cub. Pape and Wuebbenhorst are serving as the pilots, with Kuenning and Tomhafe serving as navigators. They will return sometime late Saturday, September 21st."

Our gas gauge was a cork with a wire in it!

Stan Kuenning - 1946 N.B.H.S. Graduate



Dear Lucille:

4/18/2005

Thank you for sending the complimentary copy of the April 2005 issue of *The Towpath*. I had an annual subscription for many years, but let it slide when my mother, Edna (Saer) Cadle, became too ill to read it.

You must have remembered from prior correspondence that I am the great-grandson of Heinrich Wilhelm & Anna Catherine Engle (Kruel) Grewe. The letter from Marlene Black about the Kruel family was of great interest to me as I used to correspond with her mother, Wilma (Kruel) Minkner, about the Kruel and Grewe families, as well as relatives in Germany.

We visited New Bremen a few years ago and had already made plans to do so again this fall when I received this issue from you. This made my wife, Kathy, and me all the more excited about visiting New Bremen, seeing the old family homes on Walnut Street, and visiting the German Protestant Cemetery. In addition, I am doing what I should have done years ago - enclosing my check for a Lifetime Membership.

Thank you again for taking the time to think of me and sending this information. I hope to contact Marlene Black some day as I have William & Anna Grewe's family album which may contain pictures from both the Kruel and Grewe families in Germany.

Sincerely,

Gary Cadle - Medford, Oregon



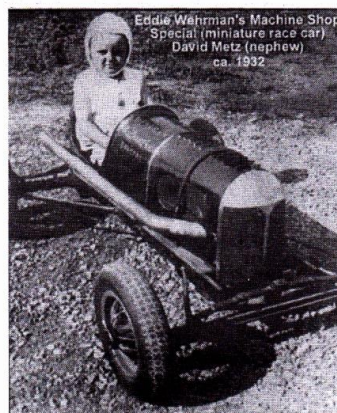
An e-mail letter for your *Towpath* "Mailbox": 4/22/2005

Within just a few recent days, I received a copy of the wonderful "New Bremen Speedway" print as a gift from my brother Richard of Piqua, Ohio - also copies of the January & April 2005 issues of *The Towpath* "on loan"

-18-

from '58 classmate, Jim Kettler of Flint, Michigan. What a treat these are!

I can't begin to describe the memories jumping out of the pages of *The Towpath* and from that image of the front stretch and grandstand at "the track". I won't even try, except to say that while for many of my friends in those days the big time sporting events were in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus, for me the big leagues were right there at our race track in hometown New Bremen. The arrival of the best drivers in the country during the '50s and '60s in our little hometown was a genuine happening. Thanks for the memories!



Eddie Wehrman's Machine Shop
Special (miniature race car)
David Metz (nephew)
ca. 1932

On another note, I am sorry to say that I am the one responsible for the demise of that marvelous little Wehrman Machine Shop midget race car. I wrecked it one night after Fred Wellemeyer had closed the Lone Pine (filling station) for the evening and brought the little car out to show off to a few of us kids who used Fred's place as our

second home. As far as I know, the car was never repaired and from what I hear, no longer exists. That is not exactly a happy memory, but one that is very personal to me and that helps me fondly remember growing up in New Bremen. Does anyone know what actually happened to the little Wehrman car? My brother Ron tells me he heard it was scrapped!

Bob Gilberg (class of '58) - San Diego, California



To *The Towpath* editor:

4/27/2005

Thank you for the April 2005 issue of *The Towpath* featuring an article about Henry Schaefer, New Bremen's last surviving veteran of the Civil War. Henry was a half-brother to my great-great grandfather, William Staas.

William & Anna (Brueggeman) Staas had five children: Herbert, Fredonia (Staas) Wehmeyer, Wilson, Elmer, and Leonard, who died soon after birth and is buried with other family members at the German Protestant Cemetery at Lock Two. Herb Staas was the only child to remain in New Bremen. Elmer and Fredonia ("Donie") moved to the Toledo area and Wilson settled in Lima.

Wilson Staas had four children: Dillon (Sr.), Ozro ("Jake"), Creato & Mary Jane. Mary Jane, the youngest, married Donald Galloway and is the only one still living (in Fort Wayne, Indiana). I am the son of Dillon Staas.

Enclosed is my check for a 1-year subscription to *The Towpath*. I am always surprised to find the Staas name mentioned in your articles, as we were not a prominent part of New Bremen's history.

Dillon Staas, Jr. - Lima, Ohio

-19-

I recently read the April 2005 issue of *The Towpath* with the picture (on page 11) of the St. Peter's Church confirmation class of November 13, 1919. This was the class of my father, Theodore Pohlman. He is number 7 in the front row. Next to him (number 6) is his twin brother, Benjamin Pohlman. They were born on February 13, 1905.

I always enjoy reading the news from New Bremen.
Thanks, Rose (Pohlman) Leffel - St. Marys, Ohio (5/15/2005)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks to Rose for these identifications. Can anybody else identify any more of these confirmands? Still unidentified are Lester Fark, Gaylord Heinfeld, Adiel Mueller, & Wilbur Strasburg.]



Dear Lucille: 5/29/2005

One final word on the original St. Paul Church cemetery. I'd like to thank those who wrote in with additional information re the history of the cemetery and its final demise. I now have a much clearer picture of what led up to the decision to destroy it.

Apparently no one cared enough to maintain the grounds and it was allowed to go to wrack and ruin. The years of neglect and lack of caring culminated in what must have seemed like a good excuse to get rid of it once and for all.

It's very hard for me to understand this kind of attitude toward one's own history and ancestors, although I feel sure that in the present era such a thing would not have happened. With the present active Historic Association, just think what a local treasure that old cemetery could have been.

Unfortunately a great many other treasures from the past were destroyed and lost during that same era of "non-enlightenment". Thank goodness that at least some survived and are looked after now and appreciated.

To the gentleman who wrote at length in defense of the ballpark - my point was not to berate the building of a ballpark, for I'm sure it has been a very good thing for many people. It was where it was built and at what cost that disturbs me. Members of my family are buried in that lost cemetery, and I do care even if nobody else does.

Thanks again for printing the letters, Lucille. Your dedication to *The Towpath* and all the time you must put in are appreciated.

Sincerely, Molly (Künning) Brown - Dublin, Ohio



Dear Lucille: 5/29/2005

Recently my niece, Beth Kuehnle, and I were in New Bremen and met with some of my classmates from the NBHS class of 1954. Classmates Tom Braun and Delores Stienecker said you were the person to contact regarding any information about the Lock Two (German Protestant) Cemetery where my parents, grandparents and sister (Beth's mother) are buried. Thank you very much for your assistance.

I enjoy reading *The Towpath*. It brings back a lot of pleasant memories. I enjoyed reading the last one (April 2005) about the Poppe family. You do a wonderful job. I hope the next time I come to N.B., I will have more time and can have a tour of the Historic Association's museum. Louise Erhardt - Bradenton, FL

Dear Lucille:

4/12/2005

Thank you very much for the *Post* story about Kuehner's Bakery. It certainly brought back memories. Of course, I recognized Karl Kuehner in the photos. Kuehner and pumpernickel were indeed synonymous.

Early in my married life and graduate studies, we lived near the OSU campus. This was in the mid-1950s. We did most of our grocery shopping in the Lane Avenue Big Bear - a roller rink across the street from St. John Arena converted into the first of the stores in the Big Bear chain of supermarkets. Kuehner's pumpernickel, in its distinctive blue and orange waxed paper wrapper, was on the shelves, and I felt that a little bit of Auglaize County was always with us.

The taste and texture of that pumpernickel were never duplicated, although a loaf (called *Minster pumpernickel*) sold by Wagner's IGA in Minster admittedly comes close. I will have to search the Internet for a recipe for a "course dark sourdough bread made of unsifted rye." "Westphalian rye bread" will be a good starting point.

Sincerely, John T. Dickman - Columbus, Ohio

EDITOR'S NOTE: John Dickman wrote about Kuehner's pumpernickel on page 10 of his book, "Recipes and Reminiscence" published in 2001 which is for sale through the N.B.H.A.

(For more information, contact Tom Braun).



The Kuehner Bakery operated in Minster from 1908-12/29/1979. The article mentioned by John was published 4/7/2005 in Minster's "Community Post" and was written by my classmate, Katy (Berning) Gilbert. This photo was scanned from an original wrapper.

My thanks to Katy for providing the Kuehner's wrapper so that I could scan it and include a picture.

Since the Kuehner story, Katy wrote an article about Wagner's IGA, which, in 1920, had its beginnings in New Bremen at 9 North Main St. as the Friemering & Wagner Grocery Store. In September 1922, Aloys J. Wagner sold his share in the store to his brother-in-law and partner, Alfred J. Friemering (father of Alvin H. & grandfather of Jack & Dave Friemering), and purchased a grocery store in Minster from another brother-in-law, Julius Friemering. The Wagner store in Minster is being operated today by A.J. Wagner's grandson, Wally Wagner, Jr. This story was published in the "Community Post" on June 2, 2005.

In December 2003, Katy Gilbert's 120-page soft-cover book, "A Military Memoir of World War II - The Stories of Auglaize County's Veterans", was published to commemorate Ohio's bicentennial. You can get a copy of it also through the New Bremen Historic Association.

(Contact Tom Braun for more information.)

SUMMER PICNIC

The 7th annual Summer Picnic was held Sunday, June 5th, from 12:00 to 3:00 on the grounds of the Museum. A western theme greeted the picnickers. The menu included grilled hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs, enchilada casserole, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, and lemonade - with pie and ice cream for dessert.

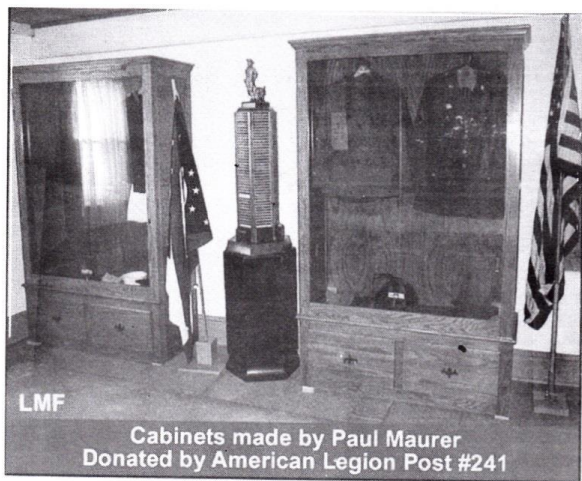
The pie-baking contest was held again this year with Dr. Ron Riebel, John Schwartz, and Police Chief Doug Harrod as judges. Each pie was judged for appearance and taste and the number one pie this year was baked by Sandy (Paul) Thieman. She was awarded two tickets for the 2005 Christmas Dinners.



Dr. Bret Rochotte's
horseshoe-making demonstration
6/5/05

GEN C.

Dr. Bret Rochotte gave a demonstration on how to make horseshoes. Harmonica John and Nancy (at keyboard) provided lively music for entertainment. The children had an opportunity to scramble for coins in an old-fashioned sawdust / wood shavings pile. The Museum was open for visitors and it was an enjoyable afternoon for all. (submitted by Gen Conradi)



LMF

Cabinets made by Paul Maurer
Donated by American Legion Post #241

IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR MILITARY ROOM

After receiving a new coat of paint, our military room upstairs is taking on a new improved look, with the cabinets above which were built by Legionnaire Paul Maurer and donated by the N.B. American Legion.

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 6/25/05)

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

4/23/05	Cadle, Gary (LM) - Medford, Oregon (rejoined)
4/20/05	Dicke, Nick - New Bremen
4/26/05	Freewalt, Barbara (Berning) (LM) - N. Bremen
4/21/05	Froning, Richard - Wapakoneta, Ohio (TR)
5/5/05	Gilberg, Robert C. (LM) - San Diego, California
4/9/05	Heinfeldt, David L. (LM) - Tignall, Georgia
4/15/05	Holdren, Tony - New Bremen
4/21/05	Nagel, Charles J., Jr. - Germantown, Ohio
5/31/05	Paul, Mrs. Kenneth (Carol Kruse) - N. Bremen
4/30/05	Staas, Dillon W., Jr. - Lima, Ohio (rejoined)
5/23/05	Swartz, Janet - St. Marys, Ohio

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

4/23/05	Cadle, Gary (rejoined)
4/26/05	Freewalt, Barbara (Berning) (new)
5/5/05	Gilberg, Robert C. (new)
4/9/05	Heinfeldt, David L. (new)
5/7/05	Hobrock, Marie (Rempe)
4/22/05	Kuck, William (New Bremen)
5/31/05	Paul, Carol (Kruse) (new)
4/17/05	Scheer, Stan

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

4/21/05	Froning, Helen (Wehrman) (died 4/21/05)
4/29/05	Pape, David (LM) (died 4/29/05)
5/29/05	Schowe, Lillian (died 5/29/05)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this quarter:

In memory of Ollie (Stephenson) Inman

by Craig & Diane Griesdorn, Steve & Diana Hartwig, Delores Stienecker, John & Carol Turner, Elizabeth Turner

In memory of Erlene (Beickman) Maich

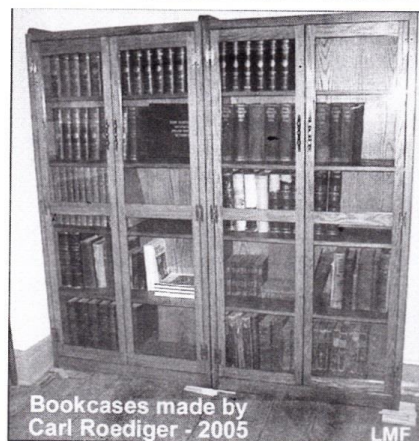
by her husband, Walter Maich

In memory of Margaret (Wehmeyer) Shroyer

by Harry Wagner (Oregon)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Memorial donations are welcomed in any amount. When donations for any one person or couple have reached \$100.00, a brass plate engraved with their name(s) is attached to the Memorial Plaque.



Bookcases made by
Carl Roediger - 2005

LMF

Another improvement to the military room is this double bookcase made by our own handyman Trustee, Carl Roediger. These bookcases give us a place to properly store our many military-related books.