

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: \$12.00 / Year - \$6.00 Spouse (Life: \$120.00 / \$60.00 Spouse) October - 2006

LOCK ONE PROGRESS

Work is well underway on the Lock One rebuilding project. New concrete walls, reinforced with steel bars, have been poured. Original-type gates are still to be installed at both ends of the project, with the south gates being operable and the north ones being permanently fixed shut. Excess water will be routed in a bypass on the east side of the locks and will then go over the spillway into a yet-to-be constructed basin. The spillway and basin are being built on a smaller scale than the originals. Heavy construction is to be completed by Thanksgiving. The parking lot and the landscaping will be done next spring.

After the canal was drained, the canal banks were to be rebuilt using compacted clay. Large stone was later placed above and below the water line to keep muskrats from ruining the newly restored banks.

Several sections of the old concrete wall were saved from the northwest wing wall where the towropes had worn 2-3" deep into the concrete.

In August, in an area of the canal near the JayCee Park (near Cherry Street), remnants of an old sunken canal boat were found by using a backhoe to scrape away the dirt and muck. Found were the keel where the rudder was attached (about 3 feet long), some hand-forged nails, and pieces of the bottom of the boat (about 6 feet long).

In some of his many reminiscing articles, historian Ralph May recounted how he used to swim at "the old swimming hole" south of the ice-house "a little beyond where the hedge started and almost opposite where the 'Old Boat' stuck out of the water". Other living local residents also recalled having played on the sunken ship in their youth, which is why the search was conducted.

According to current stories being circulated, the boat caught fire and was pushed to the side of the canal to let it burn out, probably toward the end of the canal era, after which it was left in place.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Having moved recently, I have not been able to devote as much time to doing research for *The Towpath* as usual, which is why this issue is about a month behind schedule. In August, however, my Class of 1956 held our 50-year reunion and several classmates gave me some interesting and historic pictures of the 1950s, so this is what has prompted this "school issue", along with other pictures also provided of the reunions of the graduation classes of 1961 and 1939.

The *New Bremen News* on page 6 was in the same issue (2/16/1956) of the *New Bremen Sun* as the article about the 1955-1956 basketball League Champs (page 5). I hope you enjoy browsing through this 1950s issue.

ABOUT THE LAST ISSUE

Due to a miscommunication with the printer, the July issue of "The Towpath" was inadvertently mailed using a previous (April) mailing list. Thus, some of you may have noticed an incorrect "payment code" at the top of your address. Other copies were mailed to a previous (old) address, necessitating the forwarding of the newsletter even though your address had already been updated in our files.

We believe that the cause of this accident has been corrected and that future mailings should correctly reflect your current membership status. We are sorry for any delays or confusion caused by this error.

AROUND TOWN - 2/16/1956

It seems that baseball, after many, many years of association with this community, is destined to become a thing of the past. Latest reports from the baseball committee report "no activity" in the enthusiasm department. And so, with no manager (Les Blanke retired after the 1954 season, Vernon "Farmer" Westbay managed the 1955 season), no players, and apparently no one interested, there seems to be no other solution but to throw in the towel. With New Bremen dropping baseball, it means their cancellation from the Western Ohio Baseball League of which they have been a member for 7 years. (The League was organized in 1948.)

What has happened to the baseball spirit? That's the \$64 question. Some blame it on television, others on the fact that there are just too many other things to do. No matter what the cause of this lack of interest, it has made a dead issue of baseball in New Bremen. It's a shame, too. This year the baseball committee had anticipated they would have a ball diamond to play on. More, the team has new uniforms, and there is money in the treasury.

New Bremen has about one more week to give their decision to the Western Ohio League. If there is to be any interest or enthusiasm in keeping baseball alive in New Bremen, it better come quick. Should you be interested or know anyone who is, contact Walter Behm or Jim Moeller and do it quick, or baseball in New Bremen will die with this article.

◆ "THE TOWPATH" ◆

"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.

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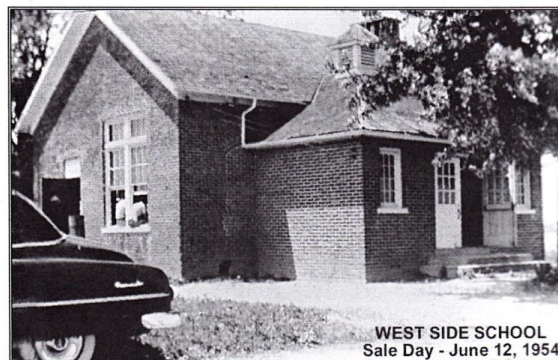
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Please keep us informed of any address changes.
Send to P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, OH 45869

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WEST SIDE SCHOOL

[German Township Special School District]



WEST SIDE SCHOOL
Sale Day - June 12, 1954

The West Side School was located on one acre of land along State Route 364 three miles west of New Bremen and was originally operated by the New Bremen School District. The independently operated German Township Special School was created April 10, 1913, when a petition signed by 71 taxpayers was heard and granted by the Auglaize County probate court.

Miss Bernice Ludeka taught in the West Side School from 1940-1953. Another earlier teacher was Lester Blanke who, in the 1930s, was named coach in the New Bremen Local School because of his athletic ability with the West Side students.

A typical day of a country school teacher would include arriving early, firing up the coal furnace (in the winter), sweeping and cleaning the classroom, pumping water from an outdoor pump, and teaching several classes simultaneously. There was also the occasional pupil who would get sick or have a "potty accident". The teacher would have to clean up the messes, frequently washing out the dirtied clothing in a washbasin, and the pupil would spend some time sitting on top of the furnace register to dry out.

Bernice Ludeka related that a typical day could also at times include a groundhog in the basement coal bin (*She called a member of the school board to remove it. One time we had groundhog meat for supper. Only one of us ate it - the one who had caught it!*). There were also mouse traps in the desks and an experimental student getting jammed in the wastebasket (*Louis Kettler - I can still see him!*). She felt that having the same students for six years brought about closer relationships. Older brothers and sisters would help the younger ones. She said she had compared students after graduation and felt many did very well even though they started school in a little red schoolhouse.

She spoke of the plays on the platform in the corner on holidays and the last day of school. At Easter, Miss Ludeka would come to school early and hide colored eggs so the pupils could have an Easter egg hunt on the playground. On the last day of school, she presented each pupil with a small plant such as marigolds, verbenas, etc.

The German Township Special School concluded the 1949-1950 school term last Wednesday, May 10th. A pot luck dinner was enjoyed by the children after which various games and contests were played. In the evening, a program was presented under the direction of the teacher, Miss Bernice Ludeka. Parents and friends were invited to attend. Following the program the school board served ice cream, wafers, crackers and potato chips.

Seven children completed the sixth grade and will enter Junior High in the New Bremen schools next fall. They are: Lucille Topp, Stanley Dicke, James Rentz, Earl Dicke, Louis Kettler, Louise Kettler and James Temple. The outgoing class presented the teacher with two pieces of Fostoria.

Louis & Louise Kettler, Stanley & Larry Dicke and Edward Dicke had perfect attendance for the past school year. [N.B. Sun - 5/18/1950]



BACK: Mary Brueggeman, Jim Hehr, Bernice Ludeka (teacher), Walter Vondenhuevel, Kenneth Greiwe.

CENTER: Kenneth Dicke, Anna Louise Schmidt, Thomas Kettler, Stanley Hirschfeld, Paul Nedderman, Ned Dammeyer, Betty Lou Vondenhuevel, Louise Kettler, Louis Kettler.

FRONT: Joyce Quellhorst, Stanley Dicke, Lucille Topp, Earl Dicke, Stanley Quellhorst, Phyllis Nedderman, Larry Dicke, Eileen Vondenhuevel.

[NOTE: This picture was taken to commemorate Bernice Ludeka's first six years of teaching at West Side School and shows students from all six grades.]

One of the last one-room schools in this area, the affairs of the West Side School were directed since 1951 by a board consisting of Lafe Topp (President), Lendor Sollman (Clerk), Ralph Dicke, Forrest Nedderman, Robert Wehmeyer and Henry Wittenbrink. Others who had served on the board in prior years were Emil Brueggeman, Carl Greiwe and Raymond Kettler. *[One of my fondest memories are the fish fries that would be held around the Christmas holiday each year, with the school board members taking turns having the party. One year, a summertime party was held at the home of teacher Bernice Ludeka and her brother, Harry, on Southland Rd.]*

During the early 1950s, the number of pupils eligible to attend the West Side School dwindled and an application was filed by patrons of the school to transfer the remaining pupils to town to receive their education.

On Monday, August 17, 1953, the Auglaize County Board of Education consisting of Lester Blanke, Burton Campbell, Elmer Stroh, Ralph Walther and Ferd Wellman approved the transfer of the West Side School back to the New Bremen school district.

Thirty six children to be transferred were (11) 1st Graders: Joyce Brockman, Gary Greiwe, Dennis Gross, Stevie Hayes, Daniel Heitkamp, Ronald Kremer, Roger Kremer, Connie Nedderman, Hope Schwarck, Beverly Wehmeyer, Donald Bruns; (4) 2nd Graders: Stanley Topp, Larry Gruebmeier, Carole Dicke, Jerry Koeper; (7) 3rd Graders: Terry Schwarck, Diann Heitkamp, Clarabel Bruns, Barbara Wehmeyer, Lavern Wente, Kathleen Topp, Nancy Brockman; (5) 4th Graders: Billy

Bruns, Darlene Bruns, Edward Dicke, Danny Nedderman, Thomas Steinbrugge; (2) 5th Graders: Robert Bruns, Martha Bruns; (4) 6th Graders: George Vondenhuevel, Betty Lou Wente, Larry Nedderman, Louise Wittenbrink; & (3) 7th Graders: Wilma Bruns, Oneta Dicke, David Temple.

The approval resolution by the county board also provided for the transfer of 98.5% of the funds and indebtedness to the New Bremen district.

The New Bremen school board consisted of Erney Koeper (President), Orville Ruedebusch (Clerk), James Ashbaugh, Paul Gilberg and Fred Luedeke.

[N.B. Sun - 8/20/1953]

On Saturday, June 12, 1954, the former West Side School, along with the outbuildings, was offered at Public Auction by the New Bremen Local Board of Education. It was purchased by Robert & Esther Scheer for \$1985 and was made into a residence.

[N.B. Sun - 6/10+17/1954]

On November 13, 1979, an open house and reunion was held at the Senior Citizens' Center in downtown New Bremen as a "Bernice Ludeka Special Recognition Day". This get-together was hosted by the first class to have attended all six years as pupils of Bernice Ludeka: Kenneth Greiwe, Stanley Hirschfeld, Mary (Brueggeman) Klein and Walter Vondenhuevel. *(Two of their classmates were deceased - Paul Nedderman and James Hehr.)* Many former pupils and school board members, along with their families, attended to reminisce and renew old friendships. Miss Ludeka was presented with a special cake and a plaque in recognition of her years of service.

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THESE PICTURES WERE A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM TEACHER, DOROTHY HARLAMERT – CHRISTMAS 1945



**CLASS OF 1956 BOYS
ON FIRE ESCAPE (2nd Grade-1945/46)**



**CLASS OF 1956 GIRLS
ON FIRE ESCAPE (2nd Grade-1945/46)**

BOYS-TOP: Paul Mohrman, Ferd Wint, Elden Smith, Robert Rump.
ROW 2: Bill Ritter, Richard Burd, Jerry Dennis, Leroy Will.

ROW 3: Hugh Casebolt, Don MacWhinney, John Glass, Jim Kiefer.

FRONT: Jerry Hirschfeld, Tom Dicke, John Poppe.

GIRLS-TOP: Janice Topp, Judy Dietrich, Betty Tangeman.

ROW 2: Beverly Tangeman, Cecelia Harris, Louise Schaefer.

ROW 3: Jane Gilberg, Julia/Judy Sharp, Kathleen Pence (behind), Virginia McCollum (forward), Judy Thieman.

ROW 4: Nancy Maurer, Jeanette Ahlers (behind), Martha Hirschfeld, Marlene Moeller.

FRONT: Beverly Moeller, Janice Luedeke, Eileen Greber.



**N.B.H.S. CLASS OF 1956 50-YEAR REUNION - AUGUST 19, 2006
[Senior Citizens Center - New Bremen, Ohio]**

STANDING: Louise (Schaefer) Jones, Virginia (McCollum) Braun, Tom Dicke, Judy (Thieman) Looker, Janice (Topp) Schroer, Elden Smith (behind), Jane (Gilberg) Talan, Ferd Wint, Nancy (Maurer) Heyne, Earl Dicke, Paul Mohrman, Stanley Dicke, Larry Looker.

SEATED: Beverly (Tangeman) Applegate, Betty (Tangeman) Burkard, Cecelia (Harris) Coenen, Gerald Hirschfeld, *Eileen (Greber) Bortner, *Judy (Sharp) Tremain, *Louise (Olive Loyer) Pullins, Louise Kettler, Louis Kettler.

NOT ON HAND FOR PICTURE: Bill Ritter, Robert Rump, Lucille (Topp) Francis

*Did not graduate from New Bremen, but attended New Bremen Elementary School with the class.

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1955-1956 NEW BREMEN CARDINALS Auglaize County Class B League Champions



Robert C. Shauck

Robert C. Shauck, youthful coach of the New Bremen Cardinals, although only in his second year as a coach, can well be proud of the record he has compiled in these two short years. Taking over the coaching reigns in New Bremen in the 1954-55 season, he finished the season with an 11-8 record. His current team has just wrapped up the league championship with a 5-0 league record, and an impressive 15-3 season's record. New Bremen last won the league championship in 1950.

Mr. Shauck is a graduate of Otterbein University where he was an outstanding basketball player.



Pictured left to right, standing, Ferd Wint, Jim Opperman, Elden Smith, Coach Shauck, John Poppe, Ronnie Baur, Ray Meckstroth.

Seated, left to right, David Schaefer, Eddie Conradi, Roger Hegemier, Larry Looker.

New Bremen Cardinals

1955-56 Season

SCHEDULE

N.B.		OPP.
67	St. Henry	56
82	Anna	73
65	New Knoxville	50
59	Wapakoneta St. Joe	71
84	Cridersville	69
96	Jackson Center	59
63	Minster	52
80	New Knoxville	70
	Holiday Tournament	
63	New Knoxville	58
86	Anna	64
86	Waynesfield	58
82	Buckland	56
78	Ft. Recovery	67
81	Minster	44
72	Cridersville	52
59	Waynesfield	71
53	Russia	54
71	Sidney Holy Angels	60

Cheerleaders

Judy Gast
Barbara Luedeke
Kathleen Pence
Janice Topp

Student Managers

Hugh Casebolt
Paul Mohrman
Gary Schmieder

1956 Auglaize County Baseball Champs



(Photo courtesy Sidney News)

The jubilant New Bremen Cardinal baseball team poses for the camera after edging Minster 3 to 2, for the Auglaize county baseball title. The title game was played at Rangers Field, New Knoxville, April 24. From left to right, the squad includes, first row: John Schaefer, Gary Schmieder, Hugh Casebolt, Ron Wiedeman, student manager; second row, Coach Carl Watkins; Earl Dicke, Eddie Conradi, Larry Looker—holding championship trophy; Jim Kettler and Dave Schaefer. Third row: Jim Opperman, Ron Baur, Larry Landwehr, Walter Fischbach, and Jan Sprinkel.

[this page courtesy of Larry & Judy (Thieman) Looker]

NEW BREMEN NEWS

Florence Poulson, Correspondent
[N.B. Sun - 2/16/1956]

◆ On Sunday afternoon, the dads of the varsity basketball team honored the first 12 boys on the team, the coach and the managers by taking them to a pro-basketball game at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne to see the Fort Wayne Pistons play the Minneapolis Lakers.

Those who went on the trip were John Poppe, Ed Conradi, Larry Looker, Ferd Wint, Jim Opperman, Ronnie Baur, Ray Meckstroth, Dave Schaefer, Elden Smith, Ted Wagner, Larry Landwehr and Roger Hegemier, who represented the team; their managers, Hugh Casebolt and Paul Mohrman; the coach, Robert Shauck; and the fathers - Arnold Poppe, Harold Looker, Rev. Herbert Baur, Laverne Wint and Charles Opperman. After the game, the group all went out to dinner before returning home.

◆ The Cub Scouts of New Bremen met Sunday evening in St. Paul's assembly room for their regular monthly pack meeting. Five awards were given out - the Lion Badge to Frank Richey and the Wolf Badge to Terry Wissman, Tommy Young, Wayne Maurer and Dennis Gross. The program for the evening was put on by Dens #1, 3, 5 & 6.

The Scouts will appreciate your patronage at their Bake Sale on Saturday, February 25th at the Mel Laut building on West Monroe Street. If you have any donations, call Cub Scout leader Tom Purpus (2721) or one of the following Den mothers: Mrs. Ralph Dietrich, Mrs. Paul Wissman, Mrs. Harold Suchland, Mrs. Wilbur Tonttrup, Mrs. Robert Klose or Mrs. James Dicke.

◆ The Child Guidance Club met at the home of Mrs. Charles Vornholt Thursday evening, February 9th. Mrs. Albert Ahlers was the co-hostess. The subject for the evening was "Music and Your Child", with the speaker being Mrs. Charles Schwantes, pastor's wife of St. Paul's Evangelical & Reformed church in St. Marys. The next meeting will be a friends party in St. Paul's assembly room in combination with the Twig Benders Club.

◆ Mrs. Charles Wierwille was hostess to the Twig Benders Club Thursday, February 9th, with Mrs. William Frevet as her co-hostess. A play, "The Missing Handshake", was given by Mrs. Wierwille, Mrs. Tom Purpus, Mrs. Fred Wellemeier, Mrs. James Dicke and Mrs. Ferd Helmstetter. The next meeting will be held in combination with the Child Guidance Club and friends.

◆ The Senior class (class of 1956) is sponsoring a Bake Sale this Saturday, February 18th, at the Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. Phone 3631 (Cecelia Harris) if you wish to order anything ahead of time.

◆ Mr. & Mrs. Wilson Braun of South Walnut St. were hosts to the Sheephead Club on Saturday evening, February 11th. Mrs. Braun prepared a Valentine luncheon for the 7 couples: Mr. & Mrs. Braun, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bertke, Mr. & Mrs. Orville Ruedebusch, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd ("Pete") Blanke, Mr. & Mrs. Alton Harlamert (all of New Bremen) and Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Miller and Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Montague, both of St. Marys.

◆ Mr. & Mrs. Paul Schwepe & son Alan and Mrs. Flora Schwepe, all of St. Marys, were guests in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Koenig and sons, Edward & Roger, on Tuesday evening, February 14th, to celebrate the birthday of Mr. Koenig, which is on February 15th. A social evening was enjoyed by the group and a birthday lunch was served by Mrs. Koenig. Mrs. Flora Schwepe, mother of Mrs. Koenig, has been visiting in the Koenig home for the past few days.

◆ Mr. & Mrs. Lester Howe were completely surprised Thursday evening on their 10th wedding anniversary when relatives came in with a lunch and gifts to help celebrate. Present for the occasion were their children, Nan & Keith Howe, and Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Waterman, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Waterman & son Guy, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Waterman & son Jay and Mr. & Mrs. Don Waterman. Unable to attend were Mr. & Mrs. John (Betty Waterman) McGowan of Dayton and Mr. & Mrs. Jim Waterman of Wapakoneta.

◆ It was a full house when relatives and friends gathered for the birthday of Mrs. Virgil (Fern Mallory) Hirschfeld on Wednesday evening, February 8th, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Hirschfeld and their sons, Lynn and Kevin. Besides filling up on doughnuts and other refreshments, the group enjoyed playing cards.

Present were Mr. & Mrs. Charles Goldenetz and children: Claudia, Dewey & Eddie; Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Westbay and son, Michael (all of Wapakoneta); Mr. & Mrs. Dewey Mallory from St. Marys; and Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Hirschfeld and Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dicke and children, Stanley, Larry & Oneta (all of New Bremen.)

◆ On Sunday evening, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Nedderman and daughter LaRose honored Phyllis Nedderman with a birthday party for her (19th) birthday of February 13th. A social evening was enjoyed by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nedderman & children - Delores, Virginia, Billy, Nancy, Betty & Kay; Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Nedderman, and Dick Bartlett (all of St. Marys).

Phyllis's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Forrest Nedderman, are at the Ft. Myers Trailer Park in Ft. Myers, Florida for the winter. Mrs. Marvin Nedderman is still convalescing from her broken arm received 6 weeks ago.

◆ Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Block have moved from her parents' home (Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Poppe) to an apartment at 127½ North Main Street.

◆ The mother of Mrs. Herman Laut, Mrs. Martha Neubauer, who has been living with Mrs. Laut the past 2 years, was taken Friday to St. Rita's Hospital in Lima where she is getting along quite well. Mrs. Laut also is getting along quite well after fracturing her left wrist.

◆ Mrs. Lafe Dammeyer of St. Marys, mother of Mrs. Wilson Braun & Mrs. Rueben Meckstroth, came home Tuesday from Memorial Hospital in St. Marys. She was stricken with yellow jaundice and needs plenty of rest.

◆ Mahlon Gilbert, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harry Gilbert, who suffered a concussion last Tuesday after falling on the ice, is improving a little each day. The medicine for this type of illness is just plenty of rest and quiet.

◆ Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Blanke are supper guests this evening in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Don Kettler and children - Nancy, Jim, Jay and Joe. Jay is 9 years old today.

CLASSIFIED ADS

◆ Your Driver's License and 1956 Automobile License plates may be gotten at the Township building on West Monroe Street, next to Amstutz Hatchery. Verneda Moeller

◆ I am buying paper, magazines, rags and iron. I am equipped to cut down and trim trees with electric power saw. Cliff Harris, Phone 3631, New Bremen

◆ Joyce's Restaurant has added a small line of groceries for your Sunday and evening buying. We also handle Althoff's Bakery goods.

◆ YOUR NUTRILITE DISTRIBUTOR: Marie L. Rabe, 110 South Franklin Street, New Bremen, Ohio - Phone 5651

◆ LIFE INSURANCE with a DISABILITY BENEFIT: Harold W. Moyer, Phone 5963

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175 TAKE DRIVER COURSE - Since the first driver education course in Auglaize County was started in 1950 at New Bremen High School, a total of 175 students have completed it. During all this time, Carl Watkins has been the instructor and every car used has been provided by the Advance Auto Company, New Bremen Chevrolet dealers, who also loaned an auto to Marion High School of Maria Stein this year. Shown along with several students are Mark Houshower, superintendent of schools, Robert Kuenning of Advance Auto Co. and Instructor Watkins. At far right is Knight L. Wallace, auto club secretary-manager. *(from the Minster Post)*

STUDENTS: Cecelia Harris, Barbara Schwarck, Rosalyn Ahlers, Marlene Moeller, Hugh Casebolt, LaRose Nedderman, Bob Braun, Janice Richey. (1953-1954) *(photo & article courtesy of Cecelia Harris Coenen)*

From "The New Bremen Sun" - 8/17+24/1950:

HIGH SCHOOL EQUIPPED FOR DRIVER TRAINING COURSE

In a newspaper photo taken by New Bremen's photographer, Jim Taylor, Earl Kuenning of Advance Auto Co. is shown presenting the keys for a new 1950 Chevrolet dual-control driver training car to Roger L. Downing, superintendent of the New Bremen schools.

In this course, being offered for the first time in the New Bremen High School, only juniors and seniors are eligible, as all enrollees are required to have temporary drivers' permits. There is to be a 36-hour course with 14 hours of road work, including 8 hours observation and 6 hours experience.

The course is made possible through the Auglaize County Automobile Club - Knight L. Wallace, secretary. The club is providing textbooks and other materials.

Title of the car remains with Advance Auto Co. Liability insurance is carried by the Board of Education.



NEW BREMEN SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL (1949-1950)

BACK: Ferd Wint, Village Marshal Clarence (Molly) Wehrman, Elden Smith.

FRONT: County Supt. Schumacher? Jim Kiefer, Ed Conradi?, Jack Dicke, Bill Ritter, Tom Dicke, Joe Ritter, Robert Rump, John Poppe, Garry Schroer, Principal Myrl Smith. *(photo provided by Elden Smith)*

P. T. A. AMATEUR SHOW

October 20, 1950

The P.T.A.'s Amateur Night, held on Friday, October 20, 1950 offered a variety of talent from the community, a lot of it from our own school. Every seat in the High School auditorium was taken and additional chairs were made available through the courtesy of the Vornholt Funeral Home.

The show was directed by Gerald Reese →, head of the school music department. He was assisted by a committee composed of Mrs. Lloyd Laut, Mrs. Wilbur Dicke and Franklin Dicke. Leander Landwehr acted as master of ceremonies, substituting for R.G. Shafer, who was unable to be present because of illness. Mrs. Dottie Boesel and Miss Joan Hoffman had charge of costuming and make-up. Myrl Smith, grade school principal, was director of ticket sales.

There were 16 acts on the program, each offering home talent. All were well received and combined for an evening of clean and delightful entertainment. Included among the 16 acts were:

- 1) Irish Act: Mrs. Dona Mae Kuenning, Miss Donna Greber.
- 2) Song: Ralph Quellhorst.
- 3) Saxophone solo: Doris Thielker.
- 4) Song: Wally Hirschfeld.
- 5) Little Junior Band, aka "Sweet Serenaders": 7th grade students John Poppe, Judy Thieman, Beverly Tangeman, Tom Dicke (Doris Thielker, director). →
- 6) Accordion Duet: Helen & Delores Piehl.
- 7) Dance Routine: Bette Harris & Patricia Gels.
- 8) Accordion Band: Delores Piehl (instructor), Barbara Luedeke, Jim Rentz, Dale Sollman, Lucille Topp, Gene Roediger, Karen Klute, Bill Tostrick. ↘
- 9) Piano Solo: Joyce Ann Laut.
- 10) Sophomore Girls' Sextette: Janice Quellhorst, Helen Piehl, Virginia Warner, Shirley Hittetpole, Mary Holdren, Imogene Pence, accompanist Doris Thielker.
- 11) Accordion Solo: Tom Steinbrugge.
- 12) Instrumental Trio: Bob & Roger Dicke, Doris Thielker.
- 13) Accordion Duet: Helen & Frances Kuck.
- 14) Piano Solo: Andrew Schwierking.
- 15) Don Isern & his King Kongo Trio.
- 16) Blackface Act: Boys' Glee Club

The highlight of the show was the ½-hour comedy put on by the Boys' Glee Club. It was a "darky" act in which Smitchum, played by Jack Moyer, was to be tried by Judge Ralph Casebolt and his jury for stealing doughnuts from bakery owner Christopher, played by Don Lamphar. The sheriff (Eugene Topp), Rumpus, the prosecuting attorney (Duane Hartwig); and Smitchum's wife (Don Westerheide), all played their parts in getting Smitchum out of this jam. Readers of the *New Bremen Sun* were encouraged to come and see Ralph Casebolt play his "slush pump".

Proceeds from the presentation were to be used to promote school activities.

(N.B. Sun - 10/12, 19, 26/1950)



HALLOWEEN PRANKS - 1954

Five New Bremen teenagers thought the 1954 Halloween season was a good time for upsetting 21 corn shocks on the Howard Wiehe farm east of town.

Police Chief Molly Wehrman investigated the following morning and found a clue. Three times the boys were given a chance to "come clean" and all chose to deny any involvement in the affair. Finally Molly produced Exhibit A which he had found in the field, a billfold belonging to one of the boys. Shamefacedly, they then admitted their guilt.

After being lectured by Mayor Souders, the pranksters were escorted by Molly Wehrman to the farm to put the shocks back into place. Molly, remembering that he too had once been a boy, jumped in and helped them!

(N.B. Sun - 10/29/1954)



DELORES PIEHL & HER ACCORDION PUPILS

BACK: Barb Luedeke, Jim Rentz, Dale Sollman, Lucille Topp.
FRONT: Gene Roediger, Karen Klute, Bill Tostrick.

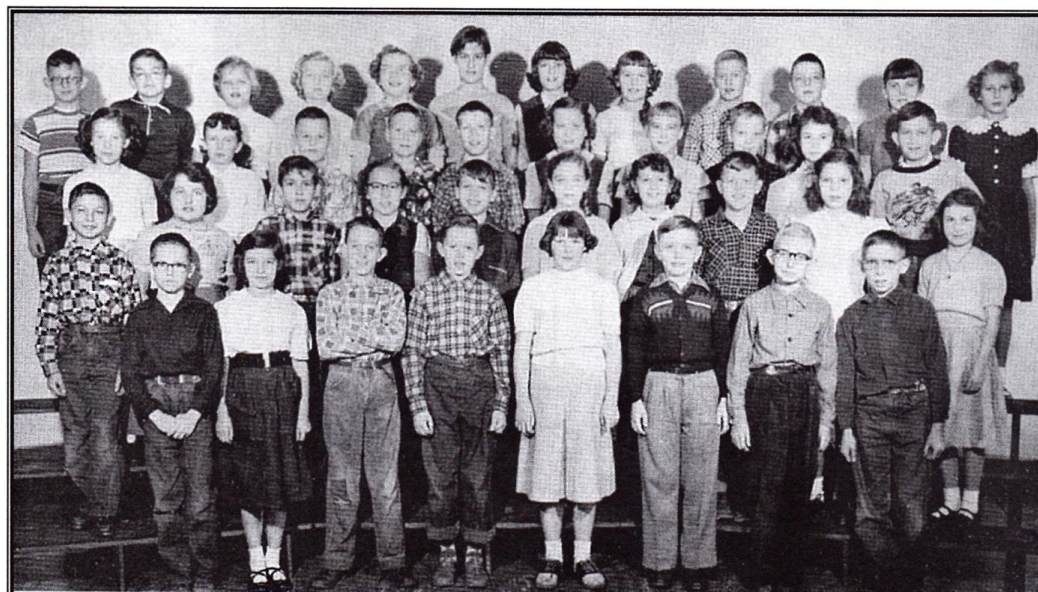
-9-



N.B.H.S. CLASS OF 1961 - 45-YEAR REUNION
[Holiday Inn - Sidney, Ohio]

Lois (Wahoff) Westerheide, Jill (Coble) May, Ned Scheer (behind), Dennis Dicke, Marvin Moeller, Herbert Richey (behind), Lois Dicke, Fred Moeller (behind), Genevieve Conradi, Nancy (Kettler) Price, John Bornhorst, Emily (Grothaus) Reisner, Doris (Topp) Carr, Barbara (Kuck) Dill, Karl Kittel, Emily (Harlamert) Wiedeman, Carolyn (Shaffer) Wehnes, Allen Paul (behind), Judy Meckstroth.

[Photo courtesy of Doris (Topp) Carr]



N.B.H.S. CLASS OF 1961 IN 5th GRADE - 1954

TOP: Dennis Wint, Paul Scheer, Barbara Kuck, Lois Dicke, Emily Grothaus, Ann Sanders, Jill Coble, Nancy Kettler, Herbert Richey, Fred Moeller, Frances Cooper, Sharon Widau.

ROW 2: Judy Scheer, Leslie Gilmore, Ronnie Wiedeman, John Tostrick, Donnie Daniels, Connie Boesel, Judy Hulsmeyer, Hal Opperman, Lois Wahoff, Larry Henschen.

ROW 3: Ned Roediger, Judy Meckstroth, Michael Wessels, Genevieve Conradi, Tommy Wissman, Kathleen Luedeke, Peggy Katterheinrich, Thomas Slife, Roberta Rempe, Carolyn Shaffer.

FRONT: Philip Marshal, Margaret Ritter, Robert Valentine, Marvin Moeller, Doris Topp, Ned Scheer, Dennis Dicke, Steven Schroer.

ABSENT: Dianne Arnold, James Cumming Jr.

-10-

**CLASS OF 1939 - 9/21/2006**

STANDING: Wilbur Warner, Jim Moeller, John Dicke, Roger Busse.

SEATED: Betty (Waterman) McGowan, Ruth Evelyn McKay, Katherine (Bambauer) Schmieder, Dorothy (Mohrman) Otting, Ruth (Burmeister) Luelleman.

The New Bremen High School graduation class of 1939 held a reunion celebrating their 67th year since graduation at *The Grille* in New Bremen on Thursday, September 21, 2006.

The class had 33 graduates, of which 13 survive.

Unable to attend this year's reunion were Cleora (Fark) Forwerck, Betty (Brady) Marshall, Mabel (Engle) Ruff and Jean (Tangeman) Pritchard.

The next reunion is scheduled for the third Thursday in September 2007.

A comment made at last year's reunion was "These reunions will continue until the last person is standing."

(Picture & write-up provided by Jim Moeller, Class President)



BACK ROW: Wilda (Greber) Fledderjohann, Marie (Waterman) Taylor, Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, Edna (Saer) Cadle, Laura (Luedeke) Schulte, Gertrude (Heinfeld) Fritz, Lucille (Luedeke) Seitz, Beulah (Scheer) Lutterbeck, Lilas (Schierholt) Watercutter/Lininger, Louis Topp.

MIDDLE: Clarence Topp, Verlin Egbert, Charles Gobrecht, Thomas Laut, Paul Taylor, Donald Kettler, Albert Knost, Woodrow Braun, Ralph Dietrich, Stanley Bienz, Walter Frey.

FRONT ROW: Louise (Haines) Dietrich, Nellie (Cotterman) Lacy, Helen (Knipple) White, Selma (Hoffman) Geib, Bertha (Schowe) King, Violet (Grothaus) Dill, Viola (Hirschfeld) Headapohl, Marie (Kuest) Fischbach, Frederick Luedeke.

TEACHER: Marie Greiwe

[Identifications by Louise (Haines) Dietrich]

ADDITIONAL GRADUATES IN 1932: Harold Ahlers, Franklin Coss, Leroy Egbert, Paul Fischbach, Hilda (Garmhausen) Wissman, Webster Geib, Dorothy (Gieseke) Kah, Kenneth Moeller, Ruth (Schnelle) Fullerton, Marie (Westerbeck) Schwaberow.

[photo courtesy of Gary Cadle, son of Edna (Saer) Cadle]

8/6/2006

E-mail to Tom Braun:

I recently came across this postcard from April 1922 of the New Bremen 2nd grade. This card has a group picture of 30 students and the teacher, with most of the names written on the back.

I thought the Historic Association might like to have a copy of this picture. Thank you,

Gary Cadle
Medford, Oregon

<<<<>>>>

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our thanks to Gary Cadle for this picture and a special thanks to Louise (Haines) Dietrich for identifying all the students, including married names.

From the Mailbox



The Towpath: 6/26/2006

My mother has had a subscription to *The Towpath* for a number of years. I read each issue as she finished it. She has been in assisted living now for the past 3 years and no longer wants to continue her subscription. Therefore, I would like a Lifetime Membership in my name, which includes your quarterly publication. I would also like a copy of your "Towpath back issues" book.

Most of my relatives on both my father's and mother's sides of the family live or have lived in the New Bremen area. I am the son of Orville & Dorothy (Ruedebsch) Fischbach. I sincerely enjoy reading your publication and am always looking for an article or photo concerning my families.

Thank you. Wayne O. Fischbach – Dayton, Ohio



Dear Lucille Francis: 9/28/2006

Our family visited Murphy's Landing, Minnesota, a town which has been turned into an 1820 museum with all the homes furnished as when the Swedes arrived in

EAGLE CREEK GAZETTE

Eagle Creek, Minnesota

CLASSIFIED ADS

ROPE – Hand made rope of the best quality and available in different lengths, made by the Boesel Rope Works. Don't be caught at the end of your rope without a Boesel.

THE GENERAL STORE

We generally have what you need. If we don't have it, you don't need it.

America in the early 1800s. Besides the doctor's home/office, the general store, theatre and militia, there was a newspaper (Eagle Creek Gazette) that was hand composed by using movable lead type and copper engravings. On a demo page was this old classified ad for "Boesel rope". I wonder if one of the Boesels in your readership would

recognize the business of an ancestor who lived in Minnesota not far from Minneapolis.

Yours truly, Shirley Koenig – Huntsville, Alabama



CURATORS' REPORT

by Delores Stienecker & Joyce Holdren

- ♦ 1946 "Mirage" N.B.H.S. Yearbook – Donna (Holdren) Wirtz
- ♦ From the Carl Luelleman Estate: Metal mess kit (including knife, fork & spoon), metal container for liquids, American flag in case, with name plate on front, W.W. II military hat, khaki shirt & long pants, dress jacket with all medals attached.
- ♦ Copy of Charles Boesel's English translation of the History of New Bremen – Mr./Mrs. James Lampert
- ♦ "Muellers' Menswear" wooden hanger – John & Dot Koeper
- ♦ Photo: Conestoga wagon in 1933 N.B. Centennial parade – Betty (Holdren) Quellhorst
- ♦ "STAMCO-WAPAK" brown shaving kit – Joe Schroer – N.K.
- ♦ "Calumet" baking powder tin, "Rump's Service Station" ice scraper, "Muellers' Menswear" nightlight – Druscilla Meyer

NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 10/23/06)

[*Spousal Memberships @ \$6.00 or \$60.00/LM]

8/13/06 Meyer, John – San Diego, California (LM)

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

8/13/06 Meyer, John (new)

MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

8/25/06 Anthony, Marie (Huerkamp)(LM)(died 8/25/06)

10/7/06 Conradi, Dr. Edward C. (LM)(died 10/7/06)

7/6/06 Fark, LaVerne (Niemeyer)(died 7/6/06)

10/14/06 Jung, Milton (LM)(died 10/14/06)

7/12/06 Luelleman, Carl (LM)(died 7/12/06)

10/22/06 Scheer, Jack (LM)(died 10/22/06)

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

CORRECTION

In the July 2006 issue, I incorrectly gave the maiden name of Marie Elsass in the memorial donation for Merlin Hirschfeld. The name should have been Marie (Tangeman) Elsass, not Marie (Hirschfeld) Elsass. Sorry for the mix-up.

<<<<>>>>

The following donations have been received this period:

In memory of Merlin Hirschfeld

by James Kettler

In memory of Carl Luelleman

by Jan & Kathy Luelleman, Dustin & Lori (Luelleman) Cernan, Jeff, Kelli & Abigail Luelleman, Amy Luelleman, Tom & Sandy (Luelleman) Bergman & family, Paul & Dorothy Quellhorst, Everet & Anna Mae (Quellhorst) Topp, Gene & Ellen Topp & family, Mildred (Luelleman) Linnemeyer, David Linnemeyer, Bob & Betty Kettler, Mr./Mrs. James Goes, Tom & Ginny Braun, Reuben & Rosalie Hoffman, Scott & Sherlyn (Grilliot) Schlosser, John & Dorothy Koeper.

In memory/honor of August & Martha (Bertke) Schnelle, Ruth (Schnelle) Fullerton, Pina (Schnelle) Hogenkamp (still living), Dr. Robert C. Schnelle, DVM, Thomas Schnelle, Betty (Schnelle) Slattery, Jack D. Schnelle (still living)

by Jack D. Schnelle (LM)

In memory of Dr. Edward C. Conradi

by William & Donna Conradi, William & Karen Conradi, Bill & Edythe (Conradi) Henschen, Ned & Nancy Conradi, Fred & Dorothy Luedeke, Joyce Ruedebsch, Esther Dicke, George & Karen (Dicke) Voress, Tony & Cresta (Voress) Ritter & Ashton & Megan, Robert & Diane (Headapohl) Paul, Bill & Anita Bruns, Dale & Shirley Schaefer, Stanley & Rosie Quellhorst, John & Joyce Gilberg, Bill & Ann McCollum, Rev. John & Karen Tostrick, Anthony & Pat (Gels) D'Alessio, Larry & Nancy Busse, Max & Beverly Fledderjohann, Dan & Kathy Nedderman, Orville & Bonnie Heidt & Beth & Amy, David & Ruth Ann Schwieterman, Don & Judy Gehle, James & Annette Bertke, James Kettler, Dr. John A. Colwell, Drs. William & Rosalie Crouch, Grady H. Hendrix, Tony & Sarah Stewart, Nelda Barton-Collings, Rosemary Braun, Christopher & Nanette Sweet, Thomas E. Eustis, Edgar & Sue Ann Russell, Thomas & Kristina Walle.

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNERS

Wednesday, November 29, 2006
Friday, December 1, 2006
Sunday, December 3, 2006
Friday, December 8, 2006



Bring the kids to visit Santa
Sunday, December 10, 2006

There will be musical entertainment for you to
enjoy while visiting with your relatives, friends
and neighbors.

For more information and/or to order tickets,
Call 419-629-3495
Tickets: \$25.00 per person

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 address below.

(Membership Dues information on pages 1 & 2.)

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Available from our "Catalogue"

MEMBERSHIPS / "TOWPATH" SUBSCRIPTIONS
\$12.00 / Year ***** \$120.00 / Lifetime
Collection of Back Issues ***** \$20.00 (+\$3 S/H)

OTHER BOOKS & RELATED ITEMS:

Then and Now (Village Pictures)
A Journey Through Time (Miami-Erie Canal)
CANAL Board Game (related to book)
Recipes and Reminiscence (by John Dickman)
A Military Memoir of W.W.II (by Katy Gilbert)
Ralph May Remembers New Bremen
New Bremen Marriages (genealogy)

SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVES:

Central School: Paperweights, Pencil Caddies
1929 High School: Trinket Boxes
BOTH: Medallions (make nice tree ornaments)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

"Interurban on Main St." print
"Monroe St." print
N.B.H.A. Shirts & Caps
N.B.H.A. Mugs & Pencils
N.B.H.A. Christmas Ornaments
N.B.H.A. Note cards

For More Information: Call 419-629-8902

or

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.newbremenhistory.org

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



NBHA Museum - 120 N. Main St.

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