



# 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) January - 2009**

### CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM

Preparations for the Holiday Season at the museum began in late November. Decorators arrived and transformed the surroundings into a twinkling festive atmosphere. Diane Paul and Greg Paul placed a display of older toys and Santa Claus on the stairway. Susie Hirschfeld provided a display depicting some of the buildings in New Bremen in Holiday theme. Dorothy Hertenstein brought her feather tree for all to enjoy. Delores Stienecker and Mary Moeller also provided displays. Trees in the museum were decorated by the New Bremen Kindergarten classes, St. Peter's Church, Friends of the Library, the Red Hats and the New Bremen Girl Scouts. Serendipity Nursery School displayed their snow gauges that they made for Christmas.

Candlelight Dinners were served during the first two weeks in December. Cathy Flinn of Creative Catering prepared the food. Delores Stienecker, Mary Moeller and Amy Scheer prepared delicious desserts. Paul Mizer, Darryl Smith and Jean Smith provided musical entertainment following each meal. New Bremen Historic Association board members served the meals and provided cleanup. Even Santa Claus made a surprise visit during the last dinner.

On Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Santa Claus returned to the museum with Mrs. Claus and listened to the requests of the children. Over 60 children with their parents and grandparents visited the museum that day. Rita Heitkamp sang Christmas songs for everyone to enjoy. Cookies and punch were served in the kitchen. [Gen Conradi]



## ◆ "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.

Lucille Francis, Editor & Membership ----- 419-629-3148  
[E-mail: [lmf\\_towpath@verizon.net](mailto:lmf_towpath@verizon.net)]

[printed & mailed by Messenger Press - Carthagen, Ohio]

## WEBSITE - [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org)

Lucille Francis ----- Johanna Schroer

## ◆ OFFICERS OF N.B. HISTORIC ASSOC. ◆

(09) Larry Dicke, President/Trustee ----- 419-629-1903  
*Larry Dicke (e-mail: [ldicke@nktelco.net](mailto:ldicke@nktelco.net))*  
(09) Carl Roediger, V. Pres./Trustee ----- 419-629-2549  
(09) Diane Paul, Secretary/Trustee ----- 419-629-2856  
*Diane Paul (e-mail: [rdpaul@nktelco.net](mailto:rdpaul@nktelco.net))*  
(10) Thomas Braun, Treasurer/Trustee ----- 419-629-8902  
*Tom Braun, Genealogy (e-mail: [TGBraun@nktelco.net](mailto:TGBraun@nktelco.net))*  
(10) James Bruns, Trustee ----- 419-629-2474  
(10) Dennis Klingler, Trustee ----- 419-629-2454  
(11) Kurt Gottschlich, Trustee ----- 419-629-1819  
(11) Mary Moeller, Trustee ----- 419-629-3635  
(11) Amy Scheer, Trustee ----- 419-629-3268

## ◆ "APPOINTEES" ◆

Delores Stienecker, Curator ----- 419-629-2685  
*Delores Stienecker (e-mail: [stien@roadrunner.com](mailto:stien@roadrunner.com))*  
Joyce Holdren, Curator ----- 419-629-3474  
*Joyce Holdren (e-mail: [tojoho@roadrunner.com](mailto:tojoho@roadrunner.com))*  
Carolyn Smith, Corresponding Secretary ----- 419-629-1366  
Genevieve Conradi, Historian's Scrapbook ----- 419-629-2764  
*Gen Conradi (e-mail: [gen@nktelco.net](mailto:gen@nktelco.net))*  
Susie Hirschfeld, Membership Archives ----- 419-629-2133

## ◆ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆

Delores Stienecker (chairman), Joyce Holdren,  
Gen Conradi, Amy Scheer, Carolyn Smith

## ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS

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

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

**\$15.00 per year (\$7.00 extra for spouse)**

**Lifetime Membership - \$150.00 (\$70.00/spouse)**

**Payment is required by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year to assure uninterrupted delivery of "The Towpath".**

**Check the line above your name on your address label for your**

## ★★★MEMBERSHIP STATUS CODE★★★

★PD 08 - Means you are Paid through Dec. 2008.  
★LM P-08 - Means you Paid for a Lifetime Membership in 2008.  
★LM D-08 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2008.  
★CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and Paid \$75 for such by July 4, 1976.  
★CM D-08 - Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2008.

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

## The Past is our Future

### Lockkeeper's House Fundraising

In the early days of the Miami and Erie Canal in New Bremen, what was later referred to as "the Thompson house" was the lockkeeper's house and New Bremen's major overnight lodging establishment. It was the job of the lockkeeper to keep canal boat traffic moving through the lock. Boats coming from the north would be pulled into Lock One and raised to the summit level to travel across the Continental Divide and then to continue south on their way to the Ohio River. Boats coming off the summit level would be locked through Lock One and then would continue another 123 miles on their descent to Lake Erie.

The lockkeeper was responsible for tending the lock on the canal day and night and so a house close to the lock was necessary. The original lockkeeper's house stood on the west bank of lock one until April 1968 when it was destroyed in a practice session for the New Bremen and other area Fire Departments. (See colored pictures of that event and information about the Thompson family on our website at [www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org).) The foundation of the house was uncovered during the renovation of Lock One in 2006. The house was referred to as "The Thompson House" because Mr. Thomas B. Thompson was the lockkeeper for many years.



Lockkeeper's House Artists Sketch

The Village of New Bremen, MECCA, Chamber of Commerce and the New Bremen Historic Association are combining efforts to reconstruct a Lockkeeper's House on the same site as the old one. The new building will measure approximately 26'x 48' and will be used as a Visitors' Center. A museum will house and display historical artifacts of the Miami & Erie Canal and will

tell the story of the canal and the important role it played in the development of New Bremen. The Chamber of Commerce office will be housed on the first floor. The MECCA Director's office and a meeting room will be located on the second floor. All floors will be accessible by elevator, including the basement.

The New Bremen Village Council filed for a grant for the project and a Transportation Enhancement Grant was obtained for \$522,300. To meet the grant requirements, we must provide 20% matching funds. Our share is \$130,000-\$135,000. All donations towards this project at any level of giving will be appreciated. If this amount is raised, construction can begin by July 1, 2009. Occupancy would be anticipated by early 2010.

Your gift is tax deductible because the N.B. Historic Assoc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Suggested donation levels are:

Partners in Building - \$100.00 ♦♦♦ Cornerstone Club - \$1000.00  
[At the \$1000 level your name will be placed on a bronze plaque and you will be included in the Grand Opening Celebration.]

Memorials are also accepted.

♦♦♦♦♦

Please send your contributions to:

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

## HOBOS IN NEW BREMEN



This is a picture of a little chair crafted by a hobo that passed through New Bremen sometime during the Great Depression. One day this man came to my grandmother's house looking for work so that he might earn a meal. She had no work for him but fed him because he was hungry. He returned the next day with this chair that he had crafted for my Aunt Evelyn who was young at the time. He said this was his payment for the food that Grandma had given him.

New Bremen had hoboes during the Great Depression. They camped near the train tracks and often appeared at people's homes asking for work. They were hungry and needed food. The people in New Bremen shared their food with them.

Hoboes first appeared in the United States in the 1880s and were men looking for work. They wandered, were homeless, hopping freight trains and stopping in towns to ask for money, work or food. They were not considered tramps or bums. A tramp was a man who wandered but would not work. A bum would wander but spent his time drinking.

A Hobo Code of Ethics was created during the 1889 National Hobo Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The code reads in part:

"Be a gentleman. Respect the law. Try to find work. When no employment is available, make your own work by using your added talents at crafts. Do not allow other hoboes to molest children."

An increase of hoboes occurred with the slowdown of the economy in the late 1920s and the stock market crash of 1929. Debtors defaulted on

loans; depositors began massive withdrawals from banks causing the banks to fail. Prices and incomes fell 20 to 50 per cent but debts remained the same. The rate of unemployment was over 25 per cent. The Great Depression changed people's lives, lasted about ten years and finally lifted with the advent of World War II.

During those ten years many men were out of work. Businesses failed because people had no money to buy their products. In 1933, at the peak of the depression, fourteen million American workers, 25% of white males and 50% of African American males, were unemployed. During this time many men and some women left home and wandered about the country seeking work. They were referred to as Hoboes.

Many of the wanderers traveled on freight trains. The trains kept running during this economic downturn because President Hoover created the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to provide loans to banks, utilities and railroads to keep them in business. By March of 1933, the railroads had received \$3 million more than any other industry and that kept the trains running. There were many railroads in the 1930s - Santa Fe, B.&O., L.&N., Southern Pacific, Northern Pacific, Pennsylvania and Western & Union.

The trains delivered the mail, newspapers, freight and products to market all across the country. Most of the trains were still steam-driven and required stops to take on water supplies. It was at these sites that the men would board the cars. Jumping on the trains provided adventure, a way to look for job opportunities in faraway places and a hope to escape poverty. Nearby camps of hoboes rose up near these water sites and the railroads were tolerant towards them. In fact, some railroads would attach an extra car on their train to accommodate the riders. It has been speculated that this may have been an attempt to stop men from breaking into the sealed cars hauling freight and goods rather than as an act of charity.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President in the fall of 1932 and was inaugurated in March of 1933. During his first 100 days, he introduced new programs which addressed relief for the unemployed, recovery of the economy and reform of economic and banking systems under his New Deal. The programs began to address the unemployment issues and provided hope for recovery. The Great Depression finally lifted when the United States entered World War II in 1941, but the fears and memories of those days have remained in the minds of many people.

*[Genevieve Conradi]*

# HOME BUILDING HOUSE KITS

## SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO. HOME CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

Several companies sold house kits beginning around 1900 but the one to become most famous was Sears, Roebuck & Co. The first Sears catalog devoted exclusively to house kits was issued in 1908. That issue offered 22 styles that ranged in price from \$650 to \$2500. Sears advertised that it had everything needed to build, including money. Mortgages were given to qualified buyers from 1911 until 1934. Early applications asked only for the person's vocation. If that one question was answered to Sears' satisfaction the mortgage was issued. In "Sears House Designs of the Thirties", a 2003 reprint of the 1932 "Sears Homes of Today" catalog, the company would lend up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cost of the proposed home and lot for 15 years. Another option was a 5 year mortgage with an interest rate of 6% per annum. If the order included cash for the total amount, a 2% discount was allowed.



The Lietz house on South Herman Street was built in 1916 and was a Sears house design. The house kit was ordered by Herman Lietz and his brother Leo. In this kit was all the pre-cut and numbered lumber needed to frame the house and many other components including the door bell. An average Sears house kit contained about 30,000 pieces and came with a 75-page instruction manual. The kit was "ordered by mail and delivered by rail". Transportation from the rail station to Herman Street was the responsibility of the owners. The Lietz brothers were experienced carpenters and they became the general contractors for the project, doing most of the labor themselves. The exterior brick work was done with the help of Herman's wife's family, the Heils, who were stone masons. Sears did not ship bricks so they were probably local products.

In 1934, Dorothy Lietz and Orville Ruedebsch were married and lived in this house with her parents until they had saved enough to build their own Sears house on the lot next door. Prior to 1937 this lot had been the family garden. By the 1930s, Sears offered house kits not only through their catalog but also had opened over 40 sales offices. In Ohio, sales offices

were located in Dayton and Columbus. Visiting a sales office helped expedite the ordering process and gave the buyer more options, such as reversing house plans. The Ruedebsches chose to do this with their house kit, making a dining room into a den.

The 2003 reprint of "House Designs of the Thirties" stated the Home Construction Division was the largest home building organization in the world. It was a separate and distinct unit of Sears that owned its own factories and at its peak employed more than 2500 people. The 1932 catalog showcases over seventy designs of houses containing four to eight rooms but only four of the designs offered an attached garage. Sales of these home kits continued to climb through 1937, then declined sharply until 1940 when the program ended.



Although the house plan and materials were ordered from Sears, local contractors were responsible for the actual construction. The basement was one of the last ones dug using mules. The basement walls were poured without the help of modern trucks to deliver the cement. The interior woodwork also was produced locally. A tree from the John Kuest woods off Amsterdam Road was taken to Hoge Lumber Company at New Knoxville where the wood products were milled. The walls were plastered and painted or papered by Hoffman Decorating.





In addition to these commercial contractors, the help of family and friends was an important part of the process. Paul Lietz, Dorothy's brother, began his life-long career as a carpenter and wood craftsman at the age of 16 with his work on this house. He worked under the supervision of his father, Herman Lietz, a master craftsman

and the builder of the first (brick) Sears house. Paul

was also the photographer who took these pictures. It is interesting to note through his pictures the many differences but also some similarities in the construction process over the past seventy years.

### NATIONAL HOMES

The popularity of building with house kits did not end with the Sears program, however. In 1940, the National Homes Corporation was founded by James Robert Price and his brother in Lafayette, Indiana. During World War II National Homes got government contracts to produce houses for war workers. The corporation's biggest boost came from the post-war housing boom as they were able to quickly produce houses for returning vets. National Homes were manufactured as panelized house kits in which the wall panels were completed in the factory. Next, doors and windows were added to the panels. The other needed components were compiled and the total kit was transported to the building site by trailer. As with the Sears kits, the buyer had the responsibility of assembling the house, roofing and completing the interior work. In 1954 an article in Time magazine called Price "King of the Builders". The article cited two reasons for the corporation's success. First, no house kit was started in the factory until it was sold, so storage cost of completed kits was low. Second, transportation costs were cut by limiting delivery area to a radius of 300 miles of the factory. Buyers had over 30 styles from which to choose in 1954.

National Homes were sold through a network of dealer-builders who held a franchise for certain areas. New Bremen's connection to these homes came in 1950 as Alton Schelper and Carl ("Jack") Abbott formed S. & A. Homes. In 1953, National homes were being built in the Shanverton Court subdivision by Schelper Construction Company. (See the January 2008 issue of "The Towpath" for more about Shanverton Court.) Paul Lietz, who began his career as a carpenter on a Sears house kit in 1937, continued to work on National Home kits as a carpenter for S. & A. Homes and Schelper Construction Company.

### SHANVERTON COURT

**10/4/1953:** Open house at Shanverton Court on St. Rt. 66, just north of New Bremen – Schelper Construction Co.'s Del-Ray model of National Homes 1954 – the first in the new Shanverton Court.

**1/14/1954:** A fourth National home is scheduled for erection by the Schelper Construction Co. at Shanverton Court next week. Buyers of 3 other Shanverton homes include Mr. & Mrs. Ward Landis of Union City, Indiana, Mr. & Mrs. William T. Silvers of Minster, and Mr. & Mrs. James Sipe.

How many more houses built from these vintage house kits still exist in New Bremen? These types of houses are becoming historically significant as construction methods change. *-by Joyce Ruedebusch*



## ◀▲ DIRECTIONS ▼▶

I have noticed that there are persons who are able to identify what direction they are traveling without the aid of a compass or GPS device. My mother was one of those persons. She referred to rooms in the house by direction - *the southwest bedroom, the southeast bedroom, the northeast room in the basement*. She would refer to the "south wall" or the "tree to the north of the house." She had a sense of her direction at all times. My husband has this sense also and I have heard many conversations by others here in New Bremen who also describe their world in this way. Perhaps this tendency comes from a Germanic passion for precision.

This idea came to my mind this year as I installed the storm windows on the porch at the Lietz house at 34 South Herman St. All the storm windows were custom made by Paul Lietz and are not interchangeable. Paul had chiseled in the wooden frame of each window, "N" for north, "E" for east or "S" for south. With multiple windows on each side of the porch, my mother had written further directions on each frame such as *east facing south* and *south to the west*. Needless to say, I have no clue about directions. I do know that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west but on a cloudy day or at night that information is not helpful.

So I lined up all the storm window frames and studied the layout of the porch and began the task of finding the proper spot for each window. Perhaps a compass would have been helpful because I had no idea what all those directives about direction meant. I got all the windows installed but I began to wonder why I lack this inborn directional sense. Do I lack the gene for knowing what direction I am headed? Did I move away too soon in my developmental years to have this sense of direction ingrained?

In the eastern states where I lived for many years, direction was not important for giving or getting directions. Roads twisted about and what was important were names of roads and landmarks such as a hill, a bend in the road, tall pine trees or large rock formations. Our roads here in this part of Ohio are straight and run east and west or north and south except for the occasional diagonal road. State Route 66 meanders a bit because it was originally an Indian trail but several attempts have been made over the years to straighten it through Auglaize County. And the landmarks are not unique in Ohio. If someone tells me to turn at the red barn or the cornfield, I would have many options and probably would not find what I was seeking.

So now I am back in Ohio and trying to learn to find my way with these compass-oriented people. I practice saying things like...*go north one block...one mile west of town...the house to the east*, so that it sounds like I know where I am. And I challenge you to listen to conversations in New Bremen and identify how often people speak directional cues to others. [Gen Conradi]

## MOTHER WRITES SERVICEMAN SON

Believing that a bit of mirth is good reading at times, we offer this letter from a backwoods Mother to her son in the military service about World War II:

Dear Son,

Your Paw has a job. It is the first one he has had in forty eight years since we have been married. We are a little better off now because we have so much money, we don't know what to do with it. Paw gets \$17.15 every Thursday, so we thought we ought to do something with the house.

We sent to Sears & Roebuck for one of those bathrooms you hear people are having in houses. It took a plumber to put it in shape. On one side of the bathroom is a great long thing like a pig trough, only you get in it and wash all over. Over on the other side is a little white thing they call a sink where you wash your face and hands.



SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO.

But over in the other corner we really got something. This thing, you put one foot in, wash it clean, then you pull the chain and get fresh water for the other foot. Two lids come with this thing. We got no use for them in the bathroom so I'm using one for the breadboard. The other lid has a hole in it, so we use it for a frame for Grandfather's picture.

Sears & Roebuck are real nice people to deal with. They sent us a roll of paper with the outfit. We can't write on it very well, so I'm using it to wrap Paw's lunch. Take care of yourself. Maw  
(Unknown source)

[First published in the April 1986 "Towpath"]



## FROM THE "NEW BREMEN SUN" – 9/1/1916

Work on digging out the basement and the foundation of George Greber's new house on Jefferson Street was begun this week. Contractor Herman Schaefer has charge of the job. This is Mr. Schaefer's fifth new dwelling in town for this season.

The Henry Brockmann house on Herman Street is just about ready to be occupied while the Herman Lietz dwelling and the new George Thiesing house are both ready for the plasterers. Digging on Carl Gieseke's house is completed. These, with several other new houses, and improvements on a number of others, are sufficient evidence that the citizens of New Bremen are surely enjoying some general prosperity.

# FLASHBACKS

## TO THE '40S & '50S

### FROM "LOUIE'S SANDWICH SHOP" TO "THE NOOK"

#### *Louie's Restaurant*

Louie's Sandwich Shop, operated for several years in the south business room in the Gilberg & Hegemier block on North Main St., was last weekend moved to its new location in the Leo & Amanda Huenke block on West Monroe St., about one block east of its former location.

At its new place, the business is being operated as Louie's Restaurant, and in connection with the hot and cold lunches, a soda fountain is being installed for the accommodation and enjoyment of the patrons. The lunch room has been beautifully decorated and equipped with up-to-date furniture which enables the management to accommodate a larger patronage than heretofore.

The business continues under the operation of Louis Landwehr and his mother, Mrs. Erma Landwehr. The dwelling rooms upstairs and to the rear of the restaurant have been furnished for the use of the family.

Though no definite conclusion has been reached at this time, Mrs. Landwehr states that they are contemplating at some future date to institute a regular meal service if the public demands it. (N.B. Sun - 8/7/1941)

<<<<>>>>

Mrs. Erma Landwehr, son Louis and daughter, Mrs. Douglas Burris, moved Tuesday from their apartment in the Huenke building on West Monroe St. to their recently purchased dwelling at 123 South Franklin St. at the corner of West Plum St. - the former Mrs. William Frey residence. (N.B. Sun - 11/1/1945)

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Rosemary (Landwehr) Gerling wrote an article for "The Towpath" of October 1996 about her mother Erma and brother, Louis Landwehr, and their restaurant. The article contains a full page of pictures.]

◆◆◆◆

### THE NOOK

**At last we're ready - opening of "The Nook"**  
**At 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening, May 18, 1946**

All the noise of hammering, sawing, scraping and other things which you have heard the past 3 weeks have finally resulted in the finishing of our little restaurant which we have chosen to call "The Nook". By Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m., we expect to open our doors for you to come in and inspect the work we have done at 106 West Monroe St. and we trust that after your first visit at our grand opening, you will be one of our steady customers.

Everything we have accomplished in these weeks is for your benefit and comfort and we would appreciate any helpful criticism you may have to offer. We have done our utmost to redecorate and make attractive every square inch of the building. Our new floor is of asphalt

tile, and everything, whether new or old, has been made to look new to you.

We are indebted first of all to Mr. & Mrs. Leo Huenke for making so much of this possible, as well as for the hours of labor they gave. Our thanks are also extended to Rev. G.E. Brand for the many early and late hours he put in, as well as the hours in between. (He makes a wonderful painter besides a good preacher!) Rev. Harold Morgan came from Kenton, Ohio to help us lay all the linoleum and the asphalt tile. This used to be his work and we are indeed grateful to him for coming.

We welcome you to come and visit us on Saturday evening anytime between 6:00 and 11:00 p.m. We'll be looking for you. **The Mafteius** (N.B. Sun 5/16/1946)

<<<<>>>>

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mafteiu express gratification with the generous patronage at their formal opening of "The Nook" Saturday evening and during the beginning days of the week. The restaurant has been completely remodeled, table service as well as counter service has been introduced, and the service as well as the food seems to please the customers. (N.B. Sun - 5/23/1946)

**THE NOOK - 106 West Monroe St. - Phone: 148**  
 Sandwiches, Short Orders, Meadow Gold Ice Cream  
 (July 1951 Ohio Consolidated Telephone Directory)

### **SCHWIETERMAN'S** *The Rexall Store*

**NEW BREMEN, OHIO Telephone 118**

**GIRLS:** It's easy to win one of our beautiful DOLLS.

Join the Rexall Doll contest now on!

**14 PRIZES:** These beautiful dolls are on display now at this drug store. Bring your friends and see these wonderful prizes today. **YOU CAN WIN** - Any girl 12 years old or under can enter this contest. It is easy to win - and fun, too.

**START TODAY** - Come to this drug store now and let us tell you how to enter Rexall's big doll contest. This is your chance to win a genuine Effanbee doll that every girl would be proud to own.

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS NOW!**

(N.B. Sun - 11/15/1945 - No winner was ever announced in the paper.)

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Schwieterman's Drug Store takes pleasure in announcing that **Mr. James McConaha**, a registered pharmacist, graduate of the Detroit Institute of Technology College of Pharmacy, has assumed the position of pharmacist at our store. He would be pleased to meet the old customers and also make new friends.

Mr. McConaha will fill prescriptions and give attention to any problems pertaining to the drug business.

**Schwieterman's Drug Store**  
 (N.B. Sun - Tuesday, 11/10/1945)

[NOTE: Pharmacist Urban J. Schwieterman had died 9/7/1945]

## **MAN ORDERS MALTED MILK ESCAPES WITH \$325 FROM SAFE**

The till at Schwieterman's Drug Store was relieved of some \$325 about noon yesterday in as slick a robbery as was ever pulled in these parts.

A man, neatly dressed in a gray topcoat, entered the Drug Store and ordered a pack of cigarettes. Druggist Walter Rosselit gave him the cigarettes, whereupon the customer ordered a malted milk and asked permission to use the telephone. Rosselit told him the phone was in the rear, behind the swinging door, and began making the malted milk. The customer soon came out, stating that he had forgotten the telephone number and that he would have to go to his car to get it.

Meantime, the noon-hour arrived with the usual rush of workers and school children. Mrs. Corrine Schwieterman, proprietor, and Miss Anna Mae Cooper came on duty to relieve Rosselit for lunch. The malted milk customer was temporarily forgotten and it was not until another customer came with a large bill to be changed, that the theft from the store's safe was discovered.

Marshal Clarence (Molly) Wehrman and Sheriff William Nieter were summoned and they investigated; however, clues are few and far between.

(N.B. Sun - 4/13/1950)

◆◆◆◆

## **CORNER I.G.A. MARKET GRAND OPENING**

In a real estate sale, Otto Purpus, now of Dayton, has sold the brick former Purpus block in New Bremen to Mr. & Mrs. William Scheer and their daughter & son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Wesley (Freeze) Howell. The building will be used for a grocery store and meat market which will be operated by Mr. Howell and Gene Lampert, both of New Bremen.

(Evening Leader-10/20/1949)

<<<<>>>>

A new grocery store opened in New Bremen today. "The Corner I.G.A. Market", located on the corner of Main & Monroe Streets, former location of the Kroger Store, is under the management of Mr. Gene Lampert and Mr. Wesley (Freeze) Howell. The new store will carry the complete line of I.G.A. groceries and will feature home-killed meats - killed and dressed by Midway Market Slaughter House.

The building has been completely re-decorated inside and a new tile floor has been laid in addition to new counters and cases. New refrigeration has been installed as well as all new meat-cutting equipment. The store will be open 6 days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

(N.B. Sun - 12/8/1949)

*NOTE: According to Gene Lampert, he and Freeze Howell ran the store together until Gene went into the service. Then Gene's brother, Orville Lampert, replaced him until Orville built his own new store, Lampert's Market, just south of town. Freeze and Marge Howell, together with their son Dick, took over the business and enlarged the facility, changing the name to "Howell's I.G.A."*



## **LAMPERT'S SUPERMARKET**

Orville Lampert purchased farm land along St. Rt. 66 south of New Bremen on September 2, 1959. In the spring of 1960, he and his wife, Norma (Kettler), started to build a brick supermarket on this land. They held their Grand Opening in July 1960. The business was operated as a family grocery with all five of their children - Beverly, Bernard, Nancy, Jane and Judy - working alongside their parents.

◆◆◆◆

## **NEW BREMEN HARDWARE & SUPPLY CO. MOVING**

After 24 years of business in one half of the Boesel business block (the lower floor of the Opera House), the New Bremen Hardware & Supply Co. is opening in the renovated Hardware Block (at 103 West Monroe St.). The most recent occupants of the building now being occupied by the New Bremen Hdwe. & Supply Co. were the Gast Frock Shop and the Erhardt Dry Goods Store.

The N.B. Hdwe. & Supply Co. was founded in 1922 by Harry F. Schroeder when he purchased the retail hardware business of Charles Boesel. The establishment has grown to a tripartite business composed of retail hardware, wholesale hardware, plumbing & farm supply and factory & mill supply distributor departments. (The Evening Leader - 9/5/1946)

◆◆◆◆

## **FARM BUREAU ELEVATOR & WAREHOUSE**

On October 5, 1949, a group of German Township farmers attended a meeting held at the new American Legion Hall in the former Boesel Opera House to discuss plans for a new Farm Bureau Elevator and Feed Mill to be built on the Farm Bureau lot on South Herman St.

Despite the wintry winds, workmen began to pour concrete the morning of November 17, 1949. Work continued 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of weather, until the 105-foot structure was completed in late November.

Three shifts of 22 men each were employed and at the peak of construction, a force of 70 men was employed. Much of the help was local with many farmers of the area assisting (including my father, Lafe Topp).

The elevator was to have a storage capacity of 20,000 bushels and was to have high-speed elevating equipment to avoid having long periods of waiting time for the farmers to get unloaded.



A 50'x90' warehouse, to adjoin the elevator, was to serve as feed storage and was to house the dry mixers and molasses mill which were used in the manufacture of Farm Bureau feeds. The entire plant was to be of concrete and steel construction and was to be entirely fireproof.



Financing of the project was done through the sale of additional preferred stock of the Cooperative to local farmers and other interested investors, and through bank loans, according to County Manager, Ray H. Froning.

At night, when the elevator was going up, the well-lit project lent the appearance of a gigantic Christmas decoration.

### Formal Opening

The formal opening of the new Auglaize County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association's elevator and feed mill took place on Saturday, May 27, 1950, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with conducted tours through the facility. At 7:00 p.m., a concert was given by the St. Marys German Band and at 8:30 p.m., a dance was held in the new warehouse.

Branch Manager Arnold Schrolucke stated that the new structure had a storage capacity of 20,350 bushels of grain and the elevator could handle better than 3,000 bushels of small grain per hour. New feed grinding equipment was installed to increase the grinding capacity to approximately 18 tons per hour. A new corn sheller had a capacity of 500 bushels of ear corn per hour. The feed set-up also included two high-speed dry mixers and a liquid molasses machine. The warehouse held a battery of bulk feed storage bins.

The Cooperative, owned by Auglaize County farmers, provided employment for 57 people.

<<<<>>>>

### Origin of the New Bremen Farm Bureau Mill

On December 11-12, 1930, a Grand Opening was held for the "Community Sweet Feed Mill" which was opened by Oliver H. Solms on South Herman Street next to his lumber business and which offered a new service to New Bremen farmers.

Oliver Solms had previously been engaged in farming, and then for some years worked as a teamster for the New Bremen Grist Mill, until he began buying and selling timber. He then started a saw mill and a general lumber business which he conducted for many years. One branch of the lumber business (ca. 1904) was the manufacture of "Buckeye" handles.

In October 1919, he entered into a partnership with Fred Burden of Wapakoneta and their milling and lumber business became known as Burden & Solms.

In 1930, he founded the New Bremen Sweet Feed Mill, which he conducted successfully until his retirement in 1937.

New equipment installed at the mill known as the New Miracle Sweet Feed System rubbed vitamized molasses into the feed so that it seemingly disappeared without stickiness. The molasses, which was shipped in from southern states, was run through a meter which permitted only a certain amount to be run into the feed.

As an introductory offer for the Grand Opening days, the mill announced that it would grind 500 pounds of feed without charge for every farmer-customer visiting the plant.

When Mr. Solms retired in 1937, the mill was taken over by the Farm Bureau.

<<<<>>>>

### History of the Farm Bureau

The Auglaize County Farm Bureau began in 1917 in St. Marys. In 1936, the first discussion group was started by Walter B. Kuck and Louis Tangeman near New Knoxville. More advisory councils were organized, including at least one youth council. Below is my parents' council (don't remember the number.)



FARM BUREAU COUNCIL (Dressed Backwards - Men)

Lafe Topp, Arlon Sollman, Orlando Schmidt, Lendor Sollman, Louis Tangeman, Clarence Schroer, Willis Quellhorst, Emil Vornholt, Elmer Stienecker

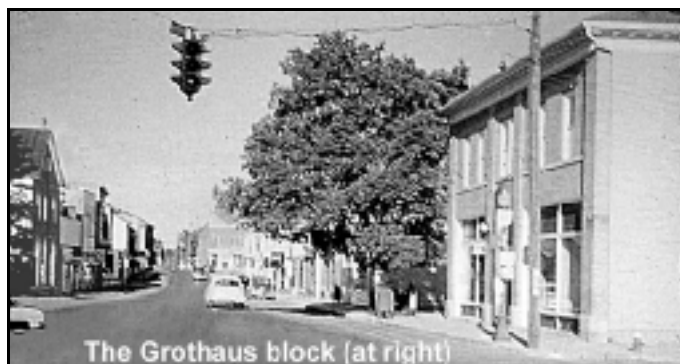
[Picture taken at Elmer Stienecker's farm]



FARM BUREAU COUNCIL (Dressed Backwards - Women)

Leta Quellhorst, Marie Topp, Elnor Stienecker, Ida Vornholt, Leola Sollman, Clara Tangeman, Irene Schmidt, Esther Schroer, Milda Sollman

[Picture taken at Elmer Stienecker's farm]



### NEW SERVICE STATION TO OCCUPY SITE OF OLD GROTHAUS BLOCK

The former Grothaus block on the southeast corner of Main & Monroe Streets is being razed. A new service station will be erected at the site in the near future. One of New Bremen's oldest landmarks, the building housed the Post Office for 43 years, from 7/1/1912-10/3/1955, when it was moved to the northwest corner of Monroe & Washington Streets and is now threatened with removal by the proposed relocation of Route 66.

In February 1954, John Slonkosky and his father-in-law, Urban Wetzel, purchased the Grothaus block from the Grothaus heirs. John Slonkosky operated his photography studio downstairs and made a modern apartment for his family upstairs.

In April 1957, Mr. Slonkosky purchased the Endicott Photography Studio at St. Marys, where he moved all of his equipment. The Slonkosky family moved to Minster following his sale of the building to "the oil company" (Tremarco?/Gulf?). The village offices were transferred to the Fire Department building on South Washington St.

The building was originally built by Charles Boesel (Sr.) as a home (ca. 1860s?). In 1909, it was purchased from the Boesel heirs by J.H. (Henry) Grothaus, who remodeled the building, creating business rooms on the lower floor and offices upstairs. It housed the Post Office, the New Bremen Telephone Exchange and the A.H. Albert Funeral Home. The office rooms upstairs were used by the Village Mayor, the N.B. Council, and by Attorney E.J. Garmhausen. (N.B. Sun - 9/12/1957)



### SEARCHING FOR MORE INFORMATION

Below are two pictures of the "service station" that was built on the former site of the Grothaus building on the southeast corner of Main & Monroe. It is thought that the first one with the light-colored block siding was put up by the Gulf Oil Company (Tremarco?) around 1957-1958.



In the mid-1960s (about 1967-1968?), the station was purchased from "Tremarco" by Charles Wierwille and Nathan Hirschfeld ("Charna"). The building was turned into the "Frigidaire Quick Clean Center" - a rapid dry-cleaning and self-service laundry facility, with the car wash on the side.



In March 1971, the building was sold to the Standard Oil Company. This second picture showing the "Union 76" sign of Rump's Service Station across the street looks like it might have been taken towards the end of the building's existence.

In 1974, the property was sold to James Dicke. The building was used for some time by Crown Controls as a storage facility for oil barrels, after which the buildings were razed and the corner was made into a graveled parking lot.



In the October 1987 issue of *The Towpath*, Editor Marge Lietz introduces the gazebo (shown here) as "something new" and thanks Crown for making this corner "a thing of beauty."

If anyone has any further information or pictures of these service stations, please let me know.

[Thanks to Dennis Dicke for researching the conveyance records at the courthouse.]

# New Bremen Historic Association

## Annual Financial Report for 2008

*Thomas Braun, Treasurer*

### ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2008

PETTY CASH	25.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT (INCLUDES \$4,445.84 LOCK TENDER RECEIPTS)	2,608.53
CD-1ST NATIONAL BANK (#157024 - \$15,000 @ 5.05% - due 12/8/08)	17,026.63
LOCK TENDER'S HOUSE PROJECT (BEFORE TRANSFER OF RECEIPTS)	20,715.94

### TOTAL ASSETS

**\$40,376.10**

### INCOME

MEMBERSHIP: ANNUAL DUES	4,386.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS	2,520.00
MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS	1,309.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS	1,045.00
DONATIONS: Miscellaneous	163.42
AUGLAIZE COUNTY GRANT	625.00
INTEREST: Certificates of Deposit (2)	1,085.55
ANNUAL DINNER	1,650.00
COMMUNITY PICNIC	1,210.00
CHRISTMAS DINNER	1,600.00
MERCHANDISE SALES	13,206.15
SHIPPING & HANDLING RECEIPTS	81.00

### OTHER INCOME

LOCK TENDER'S HOUSE DONATIONS	29,800.00
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION DONATION	10,000.00

### TOTAL YEARLY INCOME

**68,681.12**

### EXPENSES

ELECTRIC & WATER (N.B. Utilities)	380.04
NATURAL GAS (Vectren)	1,538.60
TELEPHONE (Verizon)	388.61
INTERNET (N.K. Telco - Discontinued in November)	142.45
INSURANCE : Property	723.00
INDOOR MUSEUM MAINTENANCE	356.39
OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE	691.76
CURATORS' EXPENSES	445.14
OFFICE SUPPLIES (Includes P.O. Box Rent - \$70.00)	393.47
POSTAGE	252.98
TOWPATH PRINTING	3,377.53
TOWPATH POSTAGE (Bulk Mailing, incl. \$175 Permit)	995.84
ANNUAL DINNER (Incl. \$100 for prizes)	1,382.17
COMMUNITY PICNIC	1,310.69
CHRISTMAS DINNER	928.08
PURCHASES OF MDSE. FOR RESALE + SIGNING FEES	8,920.61
SALES TAX ON SALES (+\$100 FILING FEE)	881.93
RENTAL OF GOLF CARTS - AUGLAIZE COUNTY FAIR	300.00
MEMBERSHIP: Chamber of Commerce	80.00
MISC. EXPENSE (Decrease in Value - N.B. Foundation Investment)	3,068.13
LOCK ONE NORTH BRASS PLATES (21)	273.00
LOCKKEEPER'S HOUSE PROJECT	30,000.00

### TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES

**56,830.42**

### ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

PETTY CASH	25.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT	7,360.79
CDS (2) - 1ST NATIONAL BANK (\$17,909.13 + \$20,000.00)	37,909.13
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT	6,931.88

### TOTAL ASSETS

**\$52,226.80**

**WRITE THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING EVENTS  
ON YOUR CALENDAR.**

## CURATORS' YEAR END REPORT

*[Delores Stienecker & Joyce Holdren]*

The inside of the barn has been cleaned, painted and set up for displays. It was opened for the Annual Picnic on June 1st of this year. Our Annual Summer Picnic will be held next year on June 7th at the museum. We will be selling chicken dinners – to eat in or carry out. There will be a Pie Baking Contest with the top three pies auctioned to the crowd.

Two mannequins have been purchased for use in the clothing room to display local attire.

In August we assembled a display, "Made in New Bremen/Made in Wapakoneta" that was used first at the Auglaize County Fair to celebrate the 175th birthdays of New Bremen and Wapakoneta. The display then traveled to New Bremen and was displayed in the windows of the old Mesco Building on Monroe Street. The display was moved to the Auglaize County Library in Wapakoneta in September.

The display windows in New Bremen now hold a cream separator, a cast iron butchering kettle, wine jug and items from the old Central School. A roster of early New Bremen graduates, photos, a desk and other miscellaneous items can be viewed. The display will change in the middle of January and will then feature a truck collection given to the museum by the Lloyd Schroer family.

The Christmas Candlelight dinners were held on December 3, 5, 10 and 12. The response this year was less than previous years, but those who attended had delicious food, wonderful entertainment, and pleasant company. Next year the dinners will be held on December 2, 4, 9 and 11. Mark your calendars.

The Christmas Tree Festival and visit by Santa Claus was held on December 14th. Over 65 children, accompanied by parents and grandparents, came to see Mr. and Mrs. Claus. They were treated to cookies and punch, and music by Rita Heitkamp. Next year the event will be held on December 13.

A donation of small artificial Christmas trees would be greatly appreciated for future displays.

Many donations have been coming into the museum and will be featured in current or future displays. We appreciate the gifts of money and items donated and are glad that so many families are supportive of the museum and its goals.



### N.B.H.S. CLASS OF 1958 50-YEAR REUNION – 8/16/2008

The class and spouses toured the Bicycle Museum of America, the 1929 High School (now the Elementary School), and other points of interest.

A buffet dinner was held at Speedway Lanes to culminate the day's activities, with time to renew old friendships. Eighteen of the 25 members of the class were present, along with 11 spouses. Many of the group met with family and old friends at the Bremenfest throughout the weekend.

**STANDING:** Tim Looker, Jerry Shroyer, Bob Gilberg, Ronald Baur, Stanley Scheer, Herbert Topp, Jim Kettler, Ted Rush, Ted Wagner, Ray Meckstroth.

**SEATED:** Rose (Pohlman) Leffel, Doris (Bushman) McClure, Judy (Gast) Buck, Dorothy (Schroer) Koeper, Judy (Bowers) Waesch, Emma (Scheer) Schemmel, Barbara (Luedeke) Fogel, Linda (Coble) Jones.

**UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Ron Gilberg, Ethel (Hendrix) Dawkins, Bertha Judt, Charles Scheer.

**DECEASED:** David Schaefer, Bette (Harris) Davis, Joann (Warner) Schwarck.

*[Submitted by Ted Wagner]  
[Photo by David Pence]*

### PRESIDENT'S YEAR END REPORT

The New Bremen Historic Association was very busy during the 2008 year. The old and the new trustees were kept very busy at the museum. Everyone is on a committee and has duties to complete. The committees are: Outdoor and Indoor Maintenance, Genealogy, Corresponding Secretary, Historian, Curators, Towpath and Membership.

We are always changing and coming up with new ideas to make the museum more interesting to visit. We are also changing and moving new and old items to different locations. The barn is now finished with new displays to view. Flowers were planted around the barn. We keep working on maintenance and repair as needed. New displays were put in the Crown window on Monroe Street.

Some of our other projects were getting things in shape for our annual picnic in June, our candlelight Christmas dinners and Christmas tree display as well as a visit from Santa. As always we welcome individuals and groups to the museum for tours.

2009 will be a very busy year because of our large Lockkeeper's House project. With the cooperation of the town of New Bremen, as well as many donations from individuals, organizations and businesses we will be able to see the start of this project soon. It will help to keep another part of our history alive in downtown New Bremen.

I would like to thank everyone for their help and support of the New Bremen Historic Association during the past year and look forward to their continued support in the future.

*Larry Dicke, President*

### NEW ITEMS IN OUR CATALOG

Several new items have been added to our merchandise "catalog". See these items in color on our website: [www.newbremenhistory.org/Catalog.htm](http://www.newbremenhistory.org/Catalog.htm).

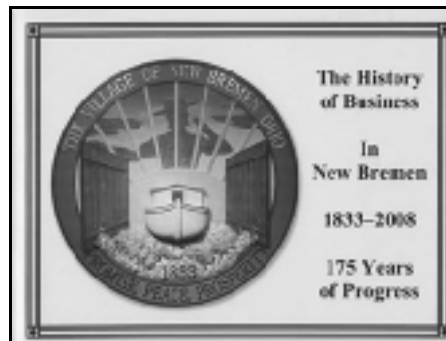


Kuenzel Mills – S. Washington St.



Lock Two

[Both pictures measure 7.5" x 12" O.D.  
Price = \$35.00 + \$6.00 S/H



N.B. Business book = \$15.00

## HAVE YOU NOTICED?

The NBHA website is being transformed.

You will still find many of the "old" pages, but a lot of new things are being added almost daily. Check it out and let us know what you think. We hope you will find something of interest to you.

Let us hear your comments and suggestions. We'll try to accommodate you. Your contributions to the website or to "*The Towpath*" are also always welcomed.

Lucille Francis, Johanna Schroer

[www.newbremenhistory.org](http://www.newbremenhistory.org)

XXXXXXXXXX

## PUBLIC FORUM

Lucille:

I spent a little time today browsing through many of the sites on the website. This is a magnificent website. Congratulations!

I was particularly struck by the incite shown by Dr. Edward Conradi in his 1933 Centennial speech (Wow - that was a speech and a half for what was undoubtedly a hot July afternoon or evening!) I was astounded by his reference to the potential of atomic energy and other scientific phenomena, which, I am sure, flew over the heads of the vast majority of a 1933 audience.

*John Dickman (12/14/08)*

[NOTE: John Dickman is the author of the article "Purpus Flemish Artist Connection".]

◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

We are so impressed with your website - and words can't express how great we think your quarterly publication ("*The Towpath*") is.

*John & Eleanor Brucken (1/2/09)*

XXXXXXXXXX

## WHAT YOU'LL FIND

CONTACT LIST: [NBHA Officers](#)  
[Links](#) to Other Organizations, etc.

[MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \(2009\)](#)

[MUSEUM HISTORY](#)  
[Founding of the N.B.H.A.](#)

["THE TOWPATH"](#)  
[Newsletter Purpose](#)  
["Towpath" Editors](#)  
[Newsletter index 1975-1987](#)

[MUSEUM STORE](#)  
(Catalog, Price list, Church Books)

[GENEALOGY \(N.B.H.A.'s Genealogists\)](#)  
[1848 Landowners](#)  
["How Do You Say Your Name?"](#)  
[German Names & Their Meanings](#)  
[Boesel Reunion Picture & IDs](#)  
[Purpus Flemish Artist Connection](#)  
["Cleaning Mother's House"](#)

[CANAL \(Canal Facts & Excursion\)](#)  
[\("N.B. & the Miami-Erie Canal"\)](#)  
["Thompson House"](#)  
["Fun on the Old Canal" – Ralph May](#)  
[Bicentennial Canal Marker - 2003](#)

[CHURCHES \(St. Paul Church Symbols\)](#)  
[St. Paul's Stained Glass Windows](#)

[SCHOOLS \(N.B.H.S. Graduates 1882-2008\)](#)

[NEW BREMEN'S CENTENNIAL \(BOOK\)](#)  
[Ralph May Remembers](#)  
[Brief New Bremen History](#)  
[Walter Grothaus Chronology](#)  
[C.A. Schrage History](#)  
[Speakers and Programs](#)  
[Dr. Edward Conradi's Speech](#)  
[Hon. Frank Boesel's Speech](#)  
[Churches](#)  
[Industries \(Pictorial\)](#)

[175-YEAR ANNIVERSARY - 2008](#)  
[James Dicke speech – 1/20/2008](#)  
[James Dicke speech – 3/17/2008](#)

[AUGLAIZE COUNTY](#)  
[Auglaize County QuickFacts](#)  
[New Knoxville Sesquicentennial](#)

[CIVIL WAR \(Co. C – 37th Regiment\)](#)  
["Missionary Ridge to Larkinsville"](#)  
[German Twp. Militia–1860 \(.pdf file\)](#)  
[N.B.'s Civil War Veterans \(.pdf file\)](#)  
[Civil War Anecdotes \(.pdf file\)](#)  
[More Civil War Stories](#)  
[Military Displays at Museum](#)

[OTHER WARS](#)  
[Mexican & Spanish-American Wars](#)  
[Letters from the Boys - 1898 \(.pdf\)](#)

[HISTORICAL ARTICLES](#)  
["The Great Black Swamp"](#)  
["Cholera and Amsterdam"](#)  
["The Bloody Barn Battle of 1879"](#)

[MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES](#)  
["Our Home Town" \(1935 poem\)](#)  
[Growing Up In New Bremen](#)  
[Old Sayings](#)

[STREET TOURS](#)  
[Bremenfest 2008 Tour](#)  
[Ober Bremen – Bremenfest 1977](#)

XXXXXXXXXX

<b>WHAT WILL BE NEXT?</b> <b>Keep checking to find out.</b>
--

# From the Mailbox



9/27/2008

Lucille Francis, Towpath Editor: 10/2/2008

Re your issue of October 2008, as a kid I had some living experience in New Bremen right across the street from the buildings marked "Dr. Rabe's office, June 1979" in the second photo on page 1 of the colored section.

This was in 1938, when Dr. Rabe and his family came to New Bremen. I, my father Harris C. Sharp, my mother, Norma (Vornholt) Sharp and brother Jay were living with my aunt and uncle, Paul and Pauline (Vornholt) Gilberg. And, of course, the Gilberts lived directly south across Monroe Street from the buildings in the photo.

Times were not so good in 1938 and Dad had lost his job with a Federal Farm Loan program in Van Wert, so we came back to New Bremen. The Gilberts most generously put us up. We lived with them through the summer of 1938 until the start of school. I started in first grade that fall. My sister Judy was born at the Gilberts that summer.

Now we tie this to the photo of James F. Melchert, Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe and Val (Valentin) Rabe. Their photo was on page 5 of the same issue.

The Schulenbergs - Cade, Norma and Susan, lived diagonally across from the buildings in the photo, on the southwest corner of Monroe and Franklin.

The Rabe family lived that summer in the small house on the left of the building complex shown in photo 1 (*reprinted below*). The center section with the large glass windows was vacant at the time.



Susan, Val, Val's brother Andreas, and I were playmates that summer of '38. Val and Andreas wore their lederhosen and carried little knives in round wooden cases. That's pretty much the extent of my recollections.

Anyhow, Susan and Val have known each other almost since the moment the Rabes came to New Bremen. Susan was a cheerleader at NBHS and graduated in 1948. The basketball team then was Bill Conradi, Dave Jung, Jack Schnelle, Mervin Quellhorst and Tom Waterman. It was Coach Roger Downing's first year in New Bremen.

Yours truly, Don Sharp - Kimball, Nebraska

NOTE: We are sorry to report that Valentin Rabe passed away on November 29, 2008. We extend condolences to his family and friends.

I'm enclosing a check for membership.

My grandparents, John Henry and Mary Ann (Schweigart) Schulenberg, grew up around and in New Bremen at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I believe my grandfather was born in Lima, Ohio in 1872 (*10/12/1872? – a nephew to William, Friedrich and Ben Schulenberg?*)

My grandmother's father was Felix Schweigart. I'm interested in any information available on those families.

Thank you, Robert Schulenberg  
5770 Valley Oak Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90068

---◆回◆◆◆回◆---

Dear Friends: 9/20/2008

I am enclosing a check for a Lifetime Membership and four of your books. My wife and I were in New Bremen last Saturday during a vacation trip and I noticed your Museum sign. Unfortunately, it was a Saturday and you weren't open!

I hadn't been to my ancestors' home turf in at least a half-century. Two men, including one about my age, were exiting a restaurant and I asked, "Excuse me. Are you from here?" "I grew up here," said the younger guy, who turned out to be Jim Hay of Celina, "and my dad still lives here."

"Do either of you happen to remember Uncle Ben Vornholt who was the school custodian for many years?" I asked. There was a short pause before he replied, "He was my great-grandfather..."

I said, "Well, your great-grandfather was MY grandfather's brother. Grandpa was Edwin Vornholt and my dad was Esra Vornholt (*both ministers*)."

Needless to say, we had a great conversation, exchanged e-mail addresses, and he steered me to my second cousin's furniture store (*Gilberg's*). Unfortunately, John Gilberg and his wife, Joyce, were in Mississippi on a mission trip, but we did get to visit with their daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Joe Borkowski.

Sincerely, Dr. John Vornholt – Germantown, Tennessee

---◆回◆◆◆回◆---

Dear Lucille: 9/3/2008

My sister, Shirley, and I sponsored the Hirschfeld family reunion last June. We condensed the family background from Germany, produced some pictures of the family origins, and gave each adult a copy. If you find this material of interest, you may use it. Keep up the good work.

## THE HIRSCHFELD FAMILY HISTORY

Welcome to the 2008 Hirschfeld family reunion, now over 50 years old. It was started by 4 brothers and 2 sisters to keep family contacts alive. The four brothers, sisters, and spouses are all deceased. Now we are the oldest generations. Take a look at our history.

On this day in 1834 our gr-gr-gr-grandfather, Christopher Hirschfeld, and his 3 sons, Ludwig (34),





### NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 12/31/08)

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

12/5/2008 Bortner, Eileen (Greber) – Auburn, Indiana  
8/28/08 Buck, Judy (Gast) – Florence, South Carolina  
10/7/08 Drake, Keith – Quincy, Florida  
10/7/08 Drake, ^Martha (Eckmeyer) – Quincy, Florida  
12/5/2008 Eckmeyer, ^Rosalind – Babylon, New York  
12/5/2008 Eckmeyer, Edward C. – Babylon, New York  
10/2/08 Schulenberg, Robert – Los Angeles, California  
9/20/08 Vornholt, Dr. John (LM) – Germantown, Tenn.  
12/10/2008 Wenning, Annabelle (Koeper) – New Bremen  
11/13/08 Wiehe, Judy (Scheer) – Celina, Ohio  
12/4/2008 Ziegenbusch, Rob – New Bremen

### ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

8/26/08 Kuck, Robert D.  
9/20/08 Vornholt, Dr. John (New)

### MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

7/30/2008 Boesel, John H. - Deland, FL (died 7/8/08)  
8/31/08 Laut, Lloyd (CMLM) (died 8/31/08)  
8/15/08 Luedeke, Rebecca (LM) (died 8/15/08)  
9/12/08 Moeller, Freda (Larger) (died 9/12/08)  
11/29/2008 Rabe, Valentin (LM) (died 11/29/08)  
8/13/08 Rammel, Jean (Wuebbeling) (died 8/13/08)

### MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following donations have been received this period:

#### In memory of Marjorie (Braun) Belton

By Merle ("Red") Belton, Scott & Carole Belton, David & Kathy Belton, Beth Belton, Jay Belton, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.

#### In memory of Catherine Grilliot

By Jim & Lucille Watson

#### In memory of Lloyd Laut

By Village of New Bremen

#### In memory of Elton & Freda (Larger) Moeller

By the Moeller children

### 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.*

# ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

**Monday, March 16, 2009**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Holy Redeemer Church**

**[Dinner prepared by Ruth Krieg]**

**SPEAKER: To be Announced**

**Tickets: \$10.00**

**For more information, Call 419-629-2685**



**175-Year Commemorative Coin**

**For Sale - \$20.00**

### 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.)

### New Bremen Historic Association

**P.O. Box 73**

**New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073**



**NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
New Bremen, OH 45869  
Permit No. 41**

**Address Service Requested**

**IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS** in any way (even if it is only to/from a Post Office Box number, **PLEASE LET US KNOW.** It costs us to find that out from the Post Office!