



# 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: \$15.00 / Year - \$7.00 Spouse**

**(Life: \$150.00 / \$70.00 Spouse)**

**April - 2010**

## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - 2010

The Annual Dinner Meeting for the New Bremen Historic Association was held on Monday, March 15, 2010 in the Holy Redeemer Fellowship Hall. Dinner was served at 6:30 P.M. with a delicious meal prepared by Ruth Krieg. Everyone enjoyed the roast beef, mashed potatoes, noodles, corn and, of course, her famous coleslaw. There was white or chocolate cake for dessert. The youth of Holy Redeemer did an excellent job serving and clearing tables.

After the meal a short business meeting was held to introduce current Board members and to elect Board members. Tom Braun and Dennis Dicke agreed to serve another term and were re-elected. Jim Bruns' term was also over and he said he was not able to serve another term. Max Fledderjohann was nominated to fill the empty place on the board and he was elected unanimously by Association members.

Following the business meeting, John Gilberg gave a presentation entitled, "Guess Who I Met at the Canal". John is the son of Paul and Pauline (Vornholt) Gilberg. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1954, attended Heidelberg College and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He owned and operated Gilberg Furniture and Gilberg Funeral Home in New Bremen. John's presentation was very interesting, brought back many memories and raised laughter as he recounted humorous times in his youth.



At the dinner Larry Dicke, president of the Association, reminded everyone to purchase their keys for the opening of the Lockkeeper's House on Saturday, June 19, 2010. Only one key will open the door. Will it be yours? He also reminded everyone about the Summer Picnic which will be held at the Museum on Sunday, June 6. Please plan to attend both of these events.  
[photos & info by Gen Conrad]



## ◆ "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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**Lucille Francis ----- Johanna Schroer**

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## ◆ WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE ◆

Delores Stienecker (chairman), Joyce Holdren,  
Amy Scheer, Carolyn Smith, Dennis Dicke

## 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**  
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★PD 10 – Means you are Paid through Dec. 2010.  
★LM P-10 – Means you Paid for a Lifetime  
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made a Donation in 2010.  
★CM P-76 – Means you are a Charter Member and  
Paid \$75 for such by July 4, 1976.  
★CM D-10 – Means you are a Charter Member and  
made a Donation in 2010.

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

## THE NEW BREMEN SCHOOL

*by Anna Kuest*

The schoolhouse in New Bremen is built on Franklin Street,  
And about four hundred children in that building often meet.  
It consists of eight quite large rooms, but the ninth is very small;  
There's a library and a small office, and an upper and lower hall.

And underneath the building a basement has been made,  
And now let's name the teachers according to their grade.  
First is the superintendent, his name is Mr. Tooill,  
And Mr. Vogt of the High School is next to be named in our rule.

And then comes Mr. Conradi, the seventh grade teacher is he,  
And if we go to the sixth room, then there Mr. Murphy we'll see.  
Mr. Stone is the fifth grade teacher, and then down to the first floor,  
We'll come to Mr. Schrage who is teacher of room four.

Then to the third room we will go, to Alfred Steinebrey now,  
And then on to the second grade where the teacher is Miss Plough;  
Miss Stone is the first grade teacher, and now I think we'll close,  
For naming of all the pupils would be rather much I suppose.

## OUR OLD SCHOOL BUILDING

*by Anna Kuest - 1956*

The old schoolhouse is now a vacant place,  
They've all moved out to where there is more space,  
Now if this building could but speak today  
Perhaps the following lines is what 'twould say.

I was erected eighteen seventy-seven,  
Built with a proud spire pointing up to heaven,  
At first there were six rooms and a large hall,  
And at that time this space took care of all.

Now many seasons I've seen come and go,  
Faced summer's heat and winter's ice and snow,  
My years of service have been near four score,  
But now I am not needed anymore.

Now no more children's voices do I hear,  
Which I was used to, nine months of the year,  
That faithful old bell does not ring anymore,  
'Twas then the children formed lines at the door.

My graduates the first years were but few,  
I still recall when there were only two,  
I know that many of my graduates  
Are famous now, here and in other states.

Now I'm condemned, it's rather hard to bear,  
But wouldn't say I wasn't treated fair,  
I'm hoping that they will not tear me down,  
Hope in some way I still can serve our town.

I'm wondering what will be my destiny,  
And what it is we'll very shortly see,  
The history of my life I now did tell  
And so to one and all I'll say "Farewell".

*[See pages 4-5 for Gen Conradi's remembrances of her first day of school in the Central Grade School on South Franklin Street in 1949.]*

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Honors New Bremen's**  
**Augusta Grothaus Conradi**  
*By Edward Conradi Ekermeyer*

Florida State University honored Augusta Grothaus Conradi along with its 12 former First Ladies on the morning of October 31, 2009. President T. K. Wetherell dedicated a memorial garden and reflecting pool on the grounds of the President's residence. On the wall of the pool, each first lady has a bronze plaque, containing a brief biography and a list of her accomplishments for Florida State. In the center of the pool is a white rose, made by the Master Craftsman students. The dedication was part of the university's homecoming festivities.

Augusta Grothaus Conradi remains the longest serving First Lady in the university's 158-year history. She was the First Lady from 1909 to 1928, when she died from kidney disease. Her husband, Edward Conradi, continued as president of Florida State until his retirement in 1941.

Representing the Grothaus family were Martha Ekermeyer Drake, granddaughter; Edward Conradi Ekermeyer, grandson; and Betsy Boone Hosey, great-granddaughter. On the lovely morning, descendants and husbands spoke fondly about their First Ladies.

I had been asked to speak in memory of my Oma, and my tribute was short: "Thank you for this lovely tribute to the former First Ladies of Florida State and for asking me to speak on behalf of my grandmother. I have been requested to be brief. Those people who know me know that when asked a question, I usually give a 15 minute answer when you only wanted a three minute one.

I am not going to recite the plaque, but rather amplify one part of it. Augusta Grothaus was the second girl to graduate from New Bremen High School and the first woman to teach in New Bremen, Ohio schools, and possibly the first woman to teach in Auglaize County, Ohio. After her marriage to Edward Conradi, she moved with him to Carlisle, Indiana near the Illinois border. When they moved to Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, she was a mother. Then they moved to St. Petersburg, Florida and then to Tallahassee. For a 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century woman, she made significant commitment to leave home, family and friends.

When I was a lad, I often heard my mother, Liepe, and other women use the phrase, 'behind every successful man, there is a good woman'. That is certainly true for my grandmother and for these First Ladies of Florida State. They supported their husbands' careers and contributed significantly to the prosperity of Florida State."

When Augusta and Edward moved in 1905 to St. Petersburg, 135 teachers taught 2,382 students in the 56 public and private high schools in Florida. Of those 135 teachers, 73 were women and 62 were men. By 1940 there were approximately 9,500 primary and secondary teachers in the state. Of that number, 8,000 were women. From which institution did most of the women teachers come? - Florida State College for

Women. I believe a majority of the 8,000 women, in all likelihood, had met Augusta Conradi personally.

Augusta Grothaus Conradi was an active participant in the community. She was a member of the Tallahassee Women's Club and served as its president in 1926. She was one of the founders of the College Dames Club and an active member of the Literary Club. At the time of her death in 1928, she was president of the Women's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church.

Lucy Worthington Blackman, author of *The Women of Florida: The Biographies*, wrote in 1940 that Augusta "was always intensely interested in the youth and student life of Tallahassee and in her gentle, unassuming manner gave both sympathy and encouragement to the under-privileged and less fortunate." Her death "brought to a close a life so lived as to richly merit the warm place she holds in the memories of her many associates, friends, acquaintances."

Augusta Grothaus and Edward Conradi changed the educational and cultural life of the frontier state of Florida. Are they perhaps one of the few couples to have had such major, positive influence on a state? To think - they began life (and life together) in a town on the Miami-Erie Canal in New Bremen, Ohio.



This is the Reflecting Pool mentioned in the article. The President's Home is in the background. The photograph was taken following the dedication. Note the chairs are still there from the dedication ceremony.

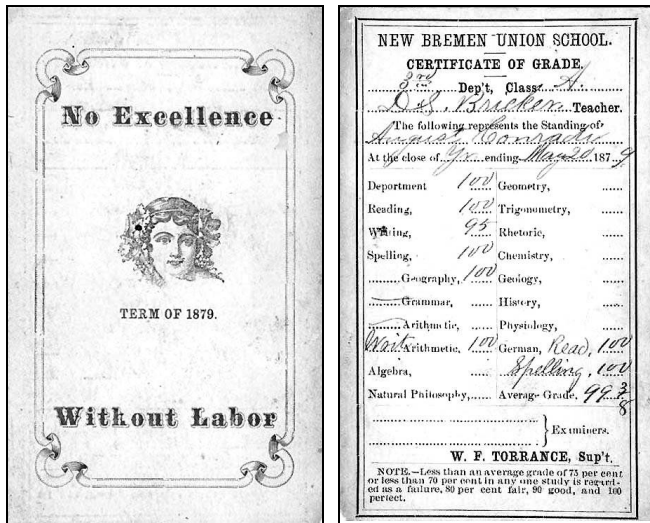


The large rose is in the center of the pool. The bronze plaques are on the top of the wall surrounding the pool. The bronze plaque behind the rose stem is Augusta's. The building in the background is the FSU Alumni Center.

*[Thank You to Edward Ekermeyer for this contribution and to Gen Conradi for submitting it.]*

## GOING TO SCHOOL 60 YEARS AGO (1949-1950)

I don't remember the first day I attended school but I do remember that first year. I was six years old in the first grade at the Central (Union) School on South Franklin Street. This school was built in 1878 as the school for all students within the village limits and over 70 years later was still in use as the elementary building when I went to school. Both my mother and father attended this school. Edythe Conradi Henschen was the third generation in her family to attend this school. (See the photo of her grandfather's 1879 report card below.)



All the students in my class were the same age, six years by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year you started school. It was 1949 and the school opened on the day after Labor Day with everyone wearing their new school clothes and new shoes, no matter how hot it was. The girls wore dresses and the boys wore long pants and no one wore jeans. Denim material was for work and certainly not appropriate for school. The shoes were oxfords or saddles for both boys and girls. Sneakers were not allowed to be worn in school except during gym class. Metal cleats were not permitted on the soles of shoes but I remember some of the "cool" kids had those on their shoes in high school.

The school bell rang at 8:30 AM and that was the signal to head for the school building. Another bell rang when it was time to go inside the building. Coats were hung in the hallway and we went into our classrooms and sat in our desks, ready for the day. The school day was from 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM with 45 minutes for lunch. There was no public address system. Teachers made their own announcements. We usually sat in alphabetical order in five rows of eight desks. The desks were attached to long rails one summer, maybe 1953, so the whole row could be moved for cleaning.

Books were distributed the first day. Sometimes the books were brand new and smelled so good. We put our names in the books in pencil and were instructed to take good care of them. We had to arrange the books, pencils, eraser, and ruler in our desks. There was an inkwell on the upper right side of the desk but we did not use this because our fountain pens had ink cartridges - and ballpoint pens were also coming on the market. In

the primary grades students wrote on yellow lined paper called Goldenrod tablets.

The busses brought the "country" kids to school and loaded and unloaded the busses from the east door on Franklin Street. On the trip home the busses picked up the elementary students first and then went to the high school where they waited until the classes were dismissed. Sometimes the students had to switch busses at the high school. Only students who lived more than one mile from the school were permitted to ride on the busses. All the other students walked home from school and rarely did parents transport students to and from school.

The main entrance to the school or east door faced Franklin Street. There was a large heavy door at each of the four entrances - east, west, north and south. There were three levels to the Central (Union) School - first floor, second floor and basement. There were four areas or rooms on each level - On the first floor, grade three was on the left in the southeast corner; Grade two was on the right in the northeast corner; Grade one was in the northwest corner; and a playroom was in the southwest corner. The doors of each room opened into a hallway.

There were stairs near the north and south entrances that led to the second floor or to the basement. The nurse's office was on the landing of the north stairs. The room containing the mimeograph machine was on the landing of the south stairs along with a storage room for books. The rope to ring the bell was near the third grade classroom.

There were three classrooms on the second floor. Grade six was in the northeast corner, grade five was in the northwest corner and grade four in the southwest corner. The cafeteria was added to the school in 1947 and was located in the southeast corner of the second floor. The students in grades 7-12 also went to the Central (Union) School cafeteria for lunch until 1955 when the new elementary wing and cafeteria opened on Walnut Street. I remember that lunches cost 25 cents and the cartons of milk were 2 cents each. I rarely ate in the cafeteria because I lived nearby and I walked home for lunch.

The basement had a playroom for inside recess in the northeast corner and a music room in the northwest corner. The girls' bathroom was in the southwest corner and the boys' bathroom was in the southeast corner. There were inside doors leading to the bathrooms as well as outside doors accessible from the playground.

The graveled playground area was on the north, west and south sides of the school. Large trees - maple, oak and cottonwood, grew along the sidewalks near the streets. Linden trees grew on the front lawn facing Franklin Street. On the playground we had two swing sets, a slide, two teeter totters, a merry-go-round and a jungle gym. Joyce Ruedebusch, who lived very close to the school grounds, said she and the other neighborhood children were glad when school was not in session because they could then have "their playground" to themselves.

Mr. (Myrl) Smith taught sixth grade and was the elementary principal. Lunch money was collected from each classroom daily and placed in a glass jar. Attendance was marked on a stenographer's tablet. The jar and steno pad were taken to the sixth grade room each morning and the student seated in the first seat nearest the door answered knocks on the door and collected the money and attendance for Mr. Smith. Students in the sixth grade were also selected to help with mimeographing, ringing the bell and selling cartons of milk to the other students. Sixth graders along with other classes counted the sales tax stamps donated to their class for use as a fundraiser for their senior class trip.

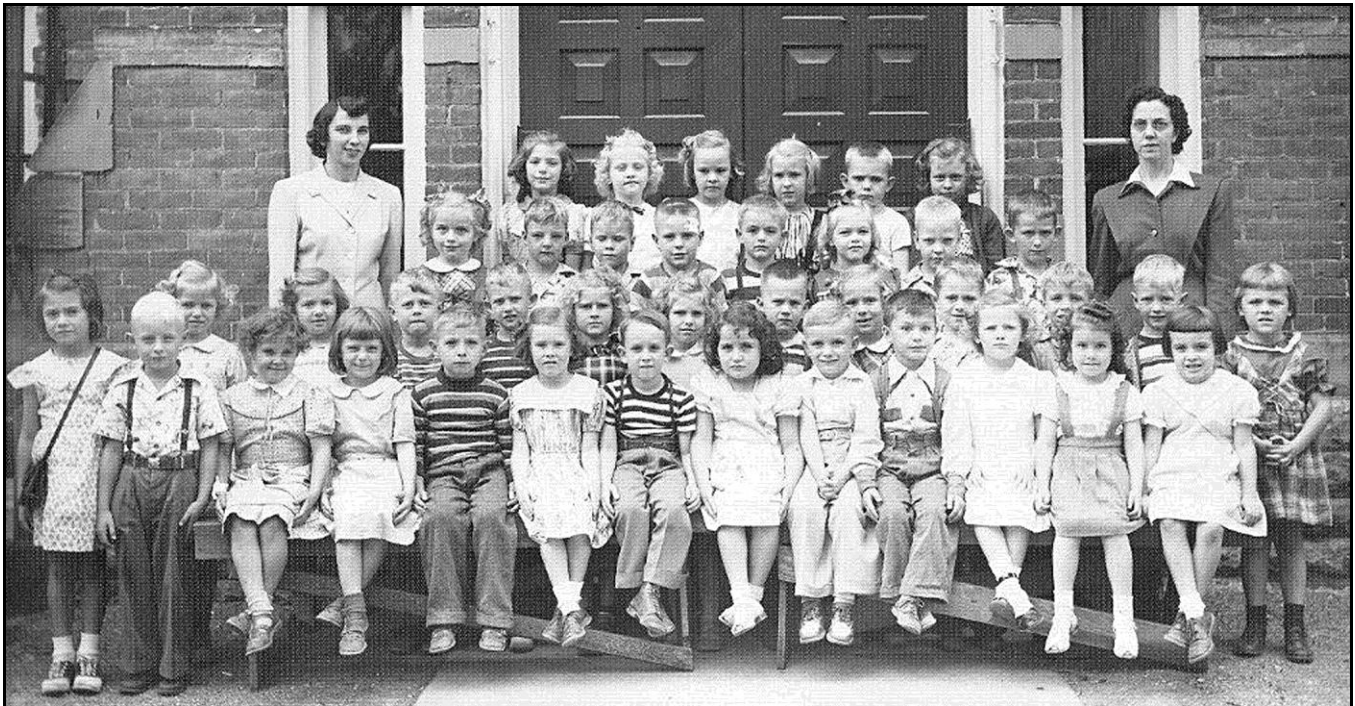
Sixth grade boys were also appointed to be "Patrol boys" and help younger students cross streets near the school. They wore a white strap over their shoulder with a badge pinned to the strap. Girls were not permitted to do this job.

Girls were also not permitted to wear slacks to school which was a huge inconvenience in cold weather. They had to wear the slacks or snow pants under their skirts when they left their homes and then take them off when they arrived at school. Boots were worn over shoes by both girls and boys and were removed at school and placed near the coat racks in the hall.

Many parts of the curriculum we studied still remain clear in my memories of school. We studied about Pimwee who lived in the Rain Forest when we were in the fourth grade. In all our classes we had spelling tests and we participated in spelling bees as we got older. I remember a debate we had in fifth grade about television and radio and we spent weeks preparing for the event. We also listened to the World Series on the radio when we were in fifth grade. There were no televisions at Central School.

I remember each teacher that I had and how each influenced me. Some were strict, some were lenient, but all of them cared about the children. They were an integral part of the community and well respected by the parents. We respected them also and tried our best to please them. But most of all I remember my classmates and how we grew up together during those years in school. We experienced all the growing-up landmarks together as we went through school. We learned to read and do math together, we studied from the same books. Later we learned to drive, play sports, date, experience band and chorus and think about what we wanted to do after graduation. We had a special relationship then and we have a special relationship now because we share so much of the same history.

Now, everyone, what do you remember about your school days? Please send me an e-mail or write me a note. I would like to hear from you. Gen Conradi



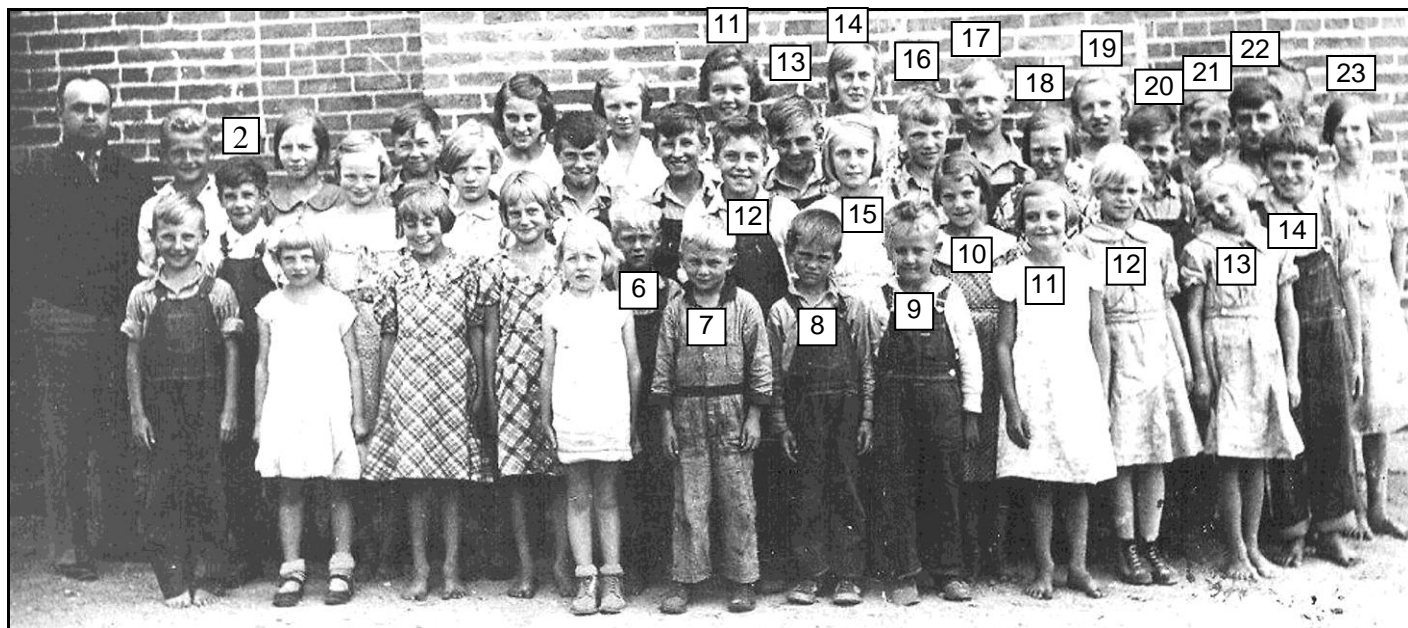
#### **FIRST GRADE 1949-1950**

**TOP:** Betty Schnelle (teacher), Jill Coble, Lois Dicke, Nancy Kettler, Judy Huelsmeyer, Jerry Niekamp, Connie Boesel, Mrs. Roger Downing (helper).

**MIDDLE:** Emily Grothaus, Frederick Moeller, John Tostrick, Don Daniels, Paul Scheer, Kathleen Luedeke, Hal Opperman, Larry Henschen.

**BOTTOM (alternating):** Lois Wahoff, Dennis Dicke, Barbara Kuck, Doris Topp, Peggy Katterheinrich, Marlene Barhorst, Tom Slife, Steven Schroer, Dennis Wint, Judy Scheer, Sharon Widau, Robert Valentine, Shirley Kyburz, Judy Meckstroth, Ron Wiedeman, Ned Scheer, Genevieve Conradi, Ned Roediger, Marvin Moeller, Susan Shafer, Tom Wissman, Carolyn Shaffer, David Dicke, Peggy Ritter, Judy Kies.





### WEST SIDE SCHOOL (1st to 8th Grades) – State Route 364 (1934-35)

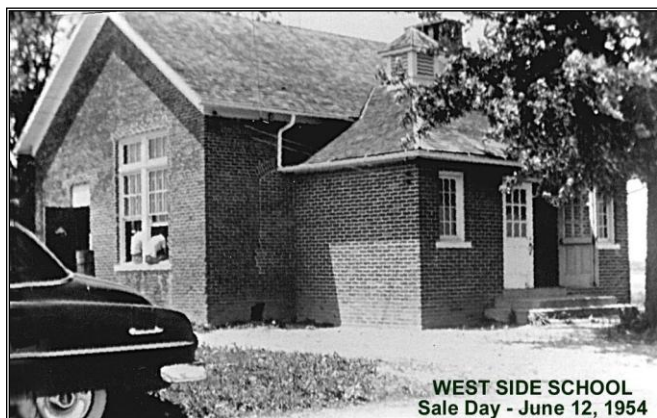
**BACK & MIDDLE ROWS:** Mr. Ross (teacher), 1-Robert (Bud) Niemeyer, 2-(boy in front) \_\_\_\_\_, 3-Leta Neuman, 4-Virginia Kettler, 5-Warren Moeller, 6-Gestine Kettler, 7-Mary Jean Fark, 8-Oscar Moeller Jr., 9-Norma (Barney) Kettler, 10-Vernon Koeper, 11-Jean Niemeyer, 12-(boy in front) \_\_\_\_\_, 13-Richard Koeper, 14-Luedna Schulze (behind), 15-Helen Luebke (front), 16-Maurice Elking, 17-Roman Elking, 18-Norma Schulze, 19-Marjorie Fark, 20-Albert Schulze, 21-Fred Luebke, 22-Louis Schwartz, 23-Agnes Schulze.

**FRONT ROW:** 1-Warren Schmidt, 2-Eunice Kettler, 3-Mary Lee Schmidt, 4-Veronica Schulze, 5-Aurelia Ann (Susie) Fark, 6-Ernie Schulze (behind), 7-Lester Topp, 8-Everett Schmidt, 9-Frank Niemeyer Jr., 10-Marie Elking (behind), 11-Dorothy Schwartz, 12-Iva Topp, 13-Goldie Topp, 14-Leo Schwartz.

### MR. DALE ROSS, TEACHER for 2 years (from Van Wert), followed by Yvonne Cannon from Wapakoneta.

Elkings: Roman (1921), Maurice (1922), Marie [Frank & Frances Elking]  
 Farks: Marjorie (1921), Susie (1929) [Edwin & Amanda Fark]; Mary Jean (1921) [Herman & Clara Fark]  
 Kettlers: Norma (1922), Virginia (1923), Gestine (1924), Eunice (1928) [Ray & Dorothy Kettler]  
 Koepers: Vernon (1920), Richard (1922) [Levi & Clara Koeper]  
 Luebke's: Helen (1924), Fred (1926) [Arnold & Nora Luebke]  
 Moeller boys: Warren (1921), Oscar Jr. (1923) [Oscar & Aurelia Moeller]  
 Neuman: Leta (1922) [Lafe & Ida Neuman]  
 Niemeyers: Jean (1921), Robert/"Bud" (1924), Frank Jr. (1929) [Frank & Ruth Niemeyer]  
 Schmidts: Mary Lee (1927), Everett (1928) [Arlando & Irene Schmidt]; Warren [Carl & Lorma Schmidt]  
 Schulzes: Luedna (1921), Albert, Norma, Agnes, Veronica, Ernest [Louis & Henrietta Schulze]  
 Schwartz family: Louis (1921), Leo (1924), Dorothy (1926) [Adam & Josephine Schwartz]  
 Topp's: Goldie (1923), Iva (1924), Lester (1927) [Ernest & Lucinda Topp]

*Photo courtesy of Lester Topp  
 IDs by Lester Topp &  
 Susie (Fark) Hirschfeld*



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.

On August 17, 1953, the Auglaize County Board of Education approved the transfer of the German Township Special School back to the New Bremen school district.

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.

*[For more information, see the October 2006 issue of The Towpath.]*

# From the Mailbox



Dear Lucille:

1/29/2010

In case you haven't heard, we in Oklahoma are in our second day of terrible, staying-in-the-house weather. Schools and work have been cancelled and they are telling us all to stay home and have four days of provisions, firewood, water and food since it is not fit for anyone to be outdoors and it will not go up above freezing temps until Sunday or Monday. Still, the poor mailman had to trudge through this dangerous mess to deliver our mail and yesterday I received your complimentary copy of the newest (January 2010) *Towpath* which I really enjoyed reading cover to cover, especially the feature story of New Bremen Rubber Co. along with photos.

It all took me back to New Bremen and the wonderful people who inhabit N.B. Although I lived there only about a year, it truly is one of the friendliest and happiest places on earth, kind of like the small town I grew up in which no longer exists. Seeing the very familiar names and faces in the photos was so nostalgic and the pictures of the factory were so great I could almost smell the rubber because I do remember the aroma of rubber and glove talc that used to permeate Seiberling.

Mostly I wanted to compliment you on your excellent writing and research skills and the way you put together a truly interesting and informative story. I think you were meant to be a fine journalist, you do it very well. I am still looking and re-looking (is that a word?) at the photos with my giant magnifying glass and enjoying Ben Furry as a boy, and I do remember Marion Parsons, Paul Pape and a few others, seeing Pres Belton's father, just every bit of the article is fascinating and I am sure that the people of N.B. who have actually lived there their entire lives and know all these families' generations are finding it riveting to have a look back far into the past.

You have put out a brilliant issue here and I am so glad that you were thoughtful enough to send it to me. I am enjoying every bit of it, thank you, thank you, thank you. New Bremen is very lucky to have you and I feel very lucky to have received this magazine and am very appreciative. Being stuck in the house is fun with such interesting reading material. Thanks again and God Bless...and love to Lowell too.

*Most gratefully, Carole Maloney – Midwest City, Okla.*

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: Carole Maloney is the widow of Maurice (Moe) Maloney, who was the head accountant for Seiberling when the factory was moved to Oklahoma City. The family had lived in New Knoxville, then New Bremen for a short period of time before the factory was moved.]**



## FORREST NEDDERMAN CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



An open house was held on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, at Otterbein-St. Marys in honor of **Forrest Nedderman's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**, an event of January 6<sup>th</sup>. Forrest enjoyed the afternoon of fellowship, greeting and talking with friends and acquaintances. We wish Forrest all the best!

[klt]

Dear Lucy:

2/3/2010

Thanks for sending the extra two copies of the January issue of *The Towpath*. I now have the complete story of Seiberling, my place of employment for 16 years.

*Robert G. Heinfeld – Ada, Ohio*



## NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 3/31/10)

[^Spousal Memberships @ \$7.00 or \$70.00/LM]

- 2/20/2010 Ahlers, Eugene - St. Marys, Ohio (Rejoined)
- 1/12/2010 Belton, Sarah (Shaffer) - New Bremen
- 2/12/2010 Dammeyer, ^Daryl - New Bremen
- 1/15/2010 Eckert, ^Randy - New Bremen
- 1/26/2010 Heuker, ^Suzanne - New Bremen
- 1/30/2010 Hughes, Ellen (Greiwe) - Indianapolis, Indiana
- 3/20/2010 Kuether, Donald - Covington, OH
- 3/3/2010 Mueller, ^Sharon - New Bremen
- 3/3/2010 Mueller, Scott - New Bremen
- 2/12/2010 Scherm, Linda (Wellman)-New Carlisle, OH (Rejoined)

## ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

- 1/29/2010 Dicke, Nicholas
- 1/26/2010 Hartwig, ^Alice (Gilberg)
- 1/26/2010 Hartwig, Duane
- 1/26/2010 Plattner, Beverly (Rump/Miller)
- 1/26/2010 Ziegenbusch, Rob

## MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

- 2/1/2010 Ahlers, Mary Ellen (Berlet-Archer) (LM) (d. 2/1/10)
- 1/6/2010 Boesel, Charles W. (Toledo) (died 1/6/10)
- 2/21/2010 Kuck, William H. (Findlay) (LM) (died 2/21/10)
- 2/5/2010 Staggs, Irene (Wehrman) (LM) (died 11/29/09)
- 3/7/2010 Stovlbeck, Thomas (LM) (died 3/7/10)
- 3/5/2010 Watkins, Donna (Thompson) (LM) (died 3/5/10)

## MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this period:

**In memory of William Greber**  
by Mary Greber

**In memory of Tonja Chiles  
& Letitia (Chiles) Steigerwald**  
by Harry Wagner

**In memory of Veronica Kuether**  
by Donald Kuether

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.

## Curators' Report

### CURATORS: Delores Stienecker & Joyce Holdren

Among the items recently donated to the New Bremen Historic Association are the following:

- ◆ Arcade advertising flyer: donated by Barbara Grimm.
- ◆ Genealogy of the Poppe family compiled by August Kruse for a reunion held June 4, 1933 at Kuenning's Grove; photo of the Class of 1922 (NBHS?) and a 50-year anniversary booklet of the Class of 1922: donated by Richard Poppe.
- ◆ Numerous (175?) photos from the Robert Kettler estate.

### From the Mailbox (continued)...

Dear Tom: 2/9/2010

I was thrilled to receive the January issue of *The Towpath* with the article on my great-grandfather, William Uetrecht. I was on the phone immediately to my Aunt Laura Lee (Wellman) Fischer, daughter of Emil and Laura (Uetrecht) Wellman. Being the youngest, born in 1940, she was the last to leave home and her parents talked more openly in front of her. She seems to keep all the family history in her head!

I asked her about the advertisement stating "Uetrecht & Speckman" Fancy Groceries. She was unaware of any partnership but was pretty sure that Grandpa had sold the building to a "Speckman" while he continued operation of the grocery store. She was also pretty sure that the Speckman family had an auto dealership in St. Marys. I'm wondering if real estate might have been exchanged between the two since Grandpa moved the grocery to St. Marys in or about 1916.

My father, Rolland William Wellman, was born in 1915. I have heard many stories of the grocery store in St. Marys where he worked for his grandfather from the age of 10 or 11. He was driving the delivery truck by the age of 12! To the day he died he had a fear of mice. He blamed the fear on his dreaded trips to the basement storage of the grocery store.

All of the children told colorful stories of Grandpa whooshing around on his homemade cart after the loss of his leg, and whacking his Grandma Anna on the behind as he went by. They all loved the visits to their Uetrecht grandparents.

William Uetrecht Jr. (one-time mayor of St. Marys) has one son named Jim living in Florida who has been able to travel to Ohio for a couple of reunions. Daughter Florence passed away a couple of years ago and I was never able to meet her but did correspond with her in her last years.

I am enclosing membership dues for 2010 - don't want to miss anything else. Thanks again.

*Sincerely, Linda (Wellman) Scherm - New Carlisle, Ohio*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC  
AT MUSEUM  
SUNDAY JUNE 6, 2010 - 11:30 AM  
CHICKEN DINNER TICKETS  
WILL GO ON SALE IN MAY**

The Grand Opening of the Lockkeeper's House will be Saturday June 19th. This will be the day to bring your key to see if it opens the door. The person who has the lucky key that opens the door will win \$1000.00. There will be other prizes as well.

Museum will be open on Sunday afternoons in June, July, and August - 2:00 to 4:00 PM

2010 Christmas Candlelight Dinners are planned for December 1, 3, 8, 10.

Christmas Tree Festival with Santa Claus will be on December 12, 2010.



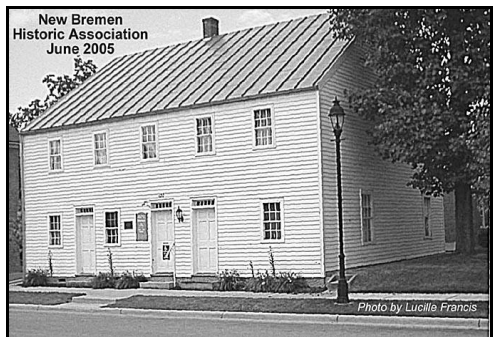
### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you paid your membership dues for 2010? If not received by June, your name may be dropped from the membership / "Towpath" list.

Also, please keep us informed of any changes in address.

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

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Permit No. 41



**NBHA Museum - 120 N. Main St.**



**PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.**

If your newsletter is "undeliverable", it will be returned to us, costing us from **\$2.50-\$3.00** per copy postage!

**Address Service Requested**