



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.)

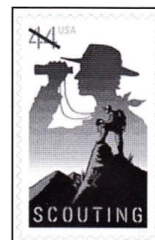
MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 / Year - \$7.00 Spouse (Life: \$150.00 / \$70.00 Spouse) October - 2010



HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Boy Scouts of America turned 100 years old this year! To help celebrate, the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative first class stamp, released on July 27, 2010 at the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia and at post offices all over the country.

New Bremen's Post Office unveiled the new stamp at the New Bremen American Legion Post 241 on July 27th. The Postmaster was present and had



a special New Bremen, Ohio cancellation stamp to be used only on that day. All scouts, scouters, former scouts, friends, family and the entire community were invited to help celebrate the day.

The event began at 2:00 pm in the parking lot of the Legion. There was a short ceremony with a speech by Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts (as portrayed by Curt Brookhart), followed by juice and cookies. **[Above: Members of New Bremen's Boy Scout Troop 95]**

<<NOTICE>>

In our last issue of *The Towpath* we wrote about the dedication of the Lockkeeper's House in New Bremen and announced the winners of the drawing and the winner of the key that opened the door. Dianne Komminsk held the winning key to the Lockkeeper's House. She has returned the prize money to the New Bremen Historic Association as a donation. We appreciate Dianne's support and generosity. If you are one of the 30 people whose name was drawn to win a prize and have not picked out your prize, please stop by the museum on a Tuesday from 9 to 11 A.M. or call Delores Stienecker at 419-629-2685.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND OPEN HOUSE

THEME: "CHRISTMAS MEMORIES"

[Set up will begin the week of Nov 29th.]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010 - 2:00-4:00 p.m.
[with Santa Claus]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010 - 1:00-4:00 p.m.

[Cookies and punch will be served both days.]

◆ "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 (unless otherwise noted), 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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ASSOC. MEETINGS ARE HELD FIRST TUESDAYS
at the Lockkeeper's House

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THE HISTORY OF SCOUTING IN NEW BREMEN

An Essay by Michael Staton

SCOUTING COMES TO AMERICA

It was a dense and foggy day in 1909. An American publisher from Chicago, William D. Boyce, lost his way in the London fog. Stopping under a street lamp, he tried to figure out where he was. A boy approached him and offered his help. Boyce told the boy that he wanted to find a certain business office in the center of the city.

"I'll take you there", said the boy. When they got to the destination, Mr. Boyce reached into his pocket for a tip. But the boy stopped him. "No thank you, sir. I am a Scout. I won't take anything for helping."

"You're a Scout? What might that be?" asked Boyce.

The boy told the American about the fledgling Boy Scout program. Boyce became very interested. After finishing his errand, he had the boy take him to the British scouting office. At the office, Boyce met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the famous British general who had founded the Scouting movement in Great Britain. Boyce was very impressed with the idea; he wanted the Boy Scouts for American boys. He turned to thank the scout for introducing him to this wonderful organization, but the boy had vanished - his good turn done. No one ever knew his name, but every scout owes a debt of thanks to this "unknown scout" for helping to bring the movement to our country.

On February 8, 1910, Boyce and a group of outstanding leaders founded the Boy Scouts of America. Scouts have always celebrated February 8th as the birthday of Scouting in the United States.

Boy Scouts from the United States later erected a statue of an American buffalo at the British Scout Training Center at Gilwell Park to honor this unknown scout. One Good Turn to one man became a Good Turn to millions of American Boys. Such is the power of a Good Turn. Hence the Scout Slogan: "Do a good turn daily".

EARLIEST SCOUTS IN NEW BREMEN

In the summer of 1913 a series of articles appears in *The New Bremen Sun* describing the New Bremen Boy Scouts. Thirty seven boys from the age of twelve to eighteen set out to camp on the shores of Lake Erie under the leadership of Scoutmaster R.F. Sullivan. The journey, which had been planned for the greater part of the winter, began by rail to Sandusky where the group caught the steamer Arrow to Lakeside. They stayed comfortably in the Barnes Cottage.

The show window of the Grothaus block became the show place for all reports from the boys as the town followed their travels. Visits to Marblehead Lighthouse, the Devil's Bathtub, Cedar Point, Put-in-Bay, Mammoth Cave and Crystal Cave were all highlights of the ten days of camp.

Members of the troop were listed as; Jakob Maurer, Reuben Boesel, William Uetrecht, Edgar Meyer, Ward Pape, Richard Kunning, Leon Kellermeyer, Lloyd Speckmann, Raymond Hartwig, Edgar Nieter, Cade Schulenberg, Elton Schulenberg, Herman Laut Jr., Carl Schrage, Carl Eckermeyer, Leo Wehrmann, Homer Isern, Waldo Boesel, Fred Behm, Lester Trautwein, Edgar Speckmann, Caesar Boesel, Lambert Klanke, Paul Kunning, Carl Purpus, Aaron Vogelsang, Fred Vogelsang, Leonard Nieter, Lewis Erb, Grover Neumann, Lawrence Heil,

Edgar Nieter, Willis Laut, Felix Weseli, Leon Kettler and Arnold Wuebbenhorst.

The group planned to hike back from Toledo, an earnest undertaking to say the least. After it was realized that the boys would not make the distance in the scheduled time, they utilized the train from Burgoon to Lima where they commenced their hike. A tired and dusty bunch of boys was met at the corner of Pearl and Main Streets by nearly the entire town. They were led through the streets with a band heading the parade to the town park. There Mayor Otto Boesel and Scoutmaster Sullivan spoke of the trip as the Campfire Girls served refreshments.

Unfortunately, no other mention of this group is known. There is no surviving record of their troop number or length of service.

[NOTE: The preceding story was previously printed in the January 2010 issue of *The Towpath*.]

TROOP 61 – NEW BREMEN

During late 1939, the Brotherhood of St. Paul Church began discussing the idea of sponsoring a Boy Scout troop in New Bremen. Scouting had become a very popular activity for boys over 12 years of age from all over the country. At the time Wapakoneta boasted the only Boy Scout troops in Auglaize County.

In the January 25, 1940 issue of *The New Bremen Sun* it was announced that a new troop had begun with twelve boys enrolled. Thomas Buirley, John Dickman, Craig Eckermeyer, Don Isern, Howard McKay, John Melchert Jr., Paul Melchert, Jack Moeller, Paul Moots, Junior Schroer, James Waterman and David Weinberg were the first Boy Scouts of Troop 61 to call New Bremen home.

An induction ceremony took place on April 5 in the New Bremen High School auditorium. Eighty scouts from the three troops in Wapakoneta (Troop 4, 9 and 14) as well as officers, sponsors, parents and well-wishers were present to welcome Troop 61. Robert Weinberg Jr. would take the task of Scoutmaster while Lee Harmony became his assistant. Members of the troop committee were Lester Blanke (grade school principal), W.A. Haveman, John Heisler, Reverend J.C. Melchert, Fred Schroer and Alvin Grothaus.

The first mission for Troop 61 was to collect dimes for the "March of Dimes". Along with doing their Boy Scout rank requirements and earning merit badges, the boys also collected scrap in several scrap drives in the early years. This was an important job – especially after the United States joined the fighting in Europe, Asia and the Pacific. Under the direction of the War Production Board, the boys collected used metal, rubber, rags and paper.

During the summer of 1941, Troop 61 attended their first summer camp at Lake Loramie. The boys spent the week preparing to pass rank requirement tests which included preparing their own food, putting up tents, hiking and fishing. Les Blanke had taken over as scoutmaster and was quoted in *The New Bremen Sun*, "If at anytime we can be of service in the community, please do not hesitate to ask; for we welcome the opportunity to serve."

Mr. Blanke was also principal of the grade school which put him into daily contact with the boys.

The Shawnee Council Encampment was first used in the summer of 1942. An area of land measuring 225 acres was set aside for use by the Boy Scouts as a camping facility. Named Camp Lakota in 1951, it is situated just south of the city of Defiance. Boy Scouts from New Bremen have spent summer camp there ever since its founding.

Funding for the scouting program in the early years was done by asking for donations door to door. Citizens were asked to give whatever they could afford to help in the scouting cause. During the war this was difficult, but the scouts of the area were always well taken care of.

During the week of February 8th, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its anniversary. For the scouts of New Bremen it meant window displays in store fronts downtown. Every business in the downtown had its window decorated by the scouts. The scouts also wore their uniforms during the week.

David Schwieterman, James Ashbaugh Jr., Paul Poppe, and Dean MacWhinney were the first from Troop 61 to receive their Eagle award. In a ceremony on September 13, 1946, the four boys were all recognized at the New Bremen High School.

Bob Gustafson of Troop 14 in Wapakoneta also received his Eagle in this same ceremony. Bob played trombone in the "Kentucky Moonshiners" with fellow Troop 14 scout Neil Armstrong. The group would be the entertainment for the very next Court of Honor held in Wapakoneta in December. Armstrong would receive his Eagle in December of 1947.

Don Schwieterman, Dave's younger brother, earned his Eagle with Armstrong and Lee Harmony Jr. of Troop 61. Years later, Don wrote to Armstrong and told him how Neil had gone to the moon, Harmony graduated from the Naval Academy and eventually traveled under the North Pole in a submarine, and he himself had never left the area! Armstrong wrote back and assured Don that becoming a doctor was no small feat.

In 1953 an Explorer unit was begun in New Bremen with Bob Casebolt acting as advisor. Not much is known about this group as it was only mentioned in one newspaper article.

The Boy Scouts basically disappeared from New Bremen for the next few years. This can happen when enough adults cannot be found to put on a quality program. Fortunately, it didn't last for long.

TROOP 95 – NEW BREMEN

On January 17, 1956, Troop 95 was chartered in New Bremen with a membership of twelve boys. Walter Maich was the new scoutmaster with David Friemering acting as his assistant. The charter organization was once again St. Paul Church.

In a Christmas fundraiser, the Boy Scouts sold aluminum "Ice Stoppers" manufactured by Crown Controls. The handy little device was designed to hold ice submerged in a drinking glass. A package of eight sold

for a dollar and the funds were used to finance the troop. The next year they sold ice tongs, also made by Crown.

Explorer Post 2095 was chartered by the New Bremen Rod and Gun Club during this time. This was an opportunity for older scouts to stay active in the scouting organization.

In September of 1958, scouts of Tecumseh District passed out Civil Defense pamphlets to every home in Mercer and Auglaize Counties. This was in accordance to a request from President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the Cold War began to heat up. The 24-page booklet suggested many preparations for floods, tornadoes, fires and atomic fall-out.

The charter was again dropped in 1961. After a few years absence the troop returned in 1966 with the American Legion Post 241 as the charter organization.

The troop has been continually chartered with the BSA since 1961. Camp Lakota continues to be the home for Troop 95 summer camp. The boys have been active with recycling in New Bremen since its inception, starting with curbside pickup to monthly collection in the recycling building maintained by the town.

The Shawnee Council merged with Put-Han-Sen to form the Black Swamp Area Council in 1992. Tecumseh District was renamed Old Sycamore but still covers Auglaize and Mercer Counties.

Troop 95 leadership continues to explore challenging activities to keep the boys active and having fun while still providing community service and developing future leaders. There are several leaders in New Bremen scouting who started out as scouts here themselves.

PACK 61 – NEW BREMEN

The Cub Scouts of Pack 61 began having monthly meetings in January of 1946. Initially, any boy from 9 to 11½ years of age were encouraged to join. The Cub Scouts were intended to prepare boys to become Boy Scouts and have fun while doing it. The fifteen initial members of Pack 61 met at St. Paul Church much like they still do today.

On August 17, 1946, the Cub Scouts of Pack 61 put on a circus. Two parades were held, one in the afternoon and one in the evening followed by stage shows. Listed on the marquee were such attractions as trained mice, clowns, strong man, lion, leopard, and the biggest turtle in Ohio. Concessions were operated and substantial financial funding was raised for support of the pack. Star Scout David Schwieterman proved a hit as the Master of Ceremonies.

After that first circus, Pack 61 began holding a fair every summer to raise money for their projects. Children from town would decorate their bicycles and follow the high school band in a parade to the park. From there, games, amusements and concessions were available. The cost to get into the first fair was a nickel.

Scouting interest fell off in 1952 as Pack 61 was not rechartered, though it returned in 1956 with the Twig Benders acting as the charter organization. Jim Dicke Sr., Betty Kettler, Wilson Westerbeck, Verlin Hirschfeld

and Don Ellenwood were instrumental in bringing Cub Scouting back to New Bremen.

On April 12, 1956 the first pinewood derby race was held in New Bremen. Dick Luelleman made a track 30 feet long and acted as the starter. Frank Dicke, who owned the New Bremen Speedway, was the judge. First place winner David Wint received a trophy while second place finisher Bradley Klose won a flashlight. Dean Harlamert took home a Cub Scout T-shirt for coming in third.

One interesting fund raiser happened for the cubs on November 17, 1956. Alvin "Pete" Wagner, owner of the Sohio gas station on the corner of Monroe and Washington Streets, offered to donate all gasoline sales profits to Pack 61 if the fathers pumped the gas. A total of 2,411 gallons of gas was sold on that day making a tidy profit for the pack.

In the 1960s, the popular event for the cubs was the overnight campout in the racetrack infield. Tents and camping gear was trucked out to the speedway and the boys spent two quality days with their friends. After all, you can't have scouting without "outing".

A one year drop of the charter in 1970 was corrected in 1971 and the pack has had continuous charter since. Pack 61 continues to be a positive influence on many young boys in New Bremen today, teaching them teamwork, responsibility and a sense of belonging to something great.

NOTES: Written records for the scouting units in New Bremen are very hard to come by. The best source for information available for the early days was *The New Bremen Sun*. The local newspaper printed any tidbit of information and proved a most valuable source.

Next, I made a visit to the records kept by the Black Swamp Council office in Lima. These consisted mostly of names and awards but included no real stories. The records for New Bremen only go back to 1959 as I was told there was a flood or fire which destroyed many of the previous records.

The part of this process which I enjoyed most was visiting with former scouts and scouters. I picked their brains for any insignificant detail to add to what I already had. To John and Edith Wissman, Dave Schwieterman, Duane Hartwig, Ed Rump, Bob Kramer and Curt Brookhart I owe a debt of thanks for helping to bring this project this far.

To that end, I wish to say that this is a work in progress and I intend to add to it as information becomes available to me. Just as scouting is never finished in New Bremen, neither shall be this report.

By Michael Staton



A FREE TRIP TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

By Orville Ruedebusch

[NOTE: Mr. Ruedebusch wrote this journal in the spring of 1945 while stationed in France.]

After spending a week or more in the staging area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, our order came to ship out at six o'clock on December 2, 1943. We had an early chow to give us plenty of time for that trip. We were briefed on everything, even how and where to place our gear while on the train. We shoved off promptly at six o'clock. It was dark because the blackout was still in effect on the east coast.



We were carrying full packs, rifles and a barracks bag which became plenty heavy. The special trains were on the sidetracks, so as soon as one was filled, it moved out to make way for another. The curtains and shades were all drawn, so no light could be seen from the outside although inside there was plenty of activity. It was a boisterous crowd because many of the fellows had partaken rather freely of strong drinks for one more fling at carefree life.

The train was making good time when all of a sudden we heard sirens. It gave me a sickening feeling to hear them, but later we learned that they always had alerts when there were troop movements. The train rumbled to a stop on the Jersey side of the Hudson River which was a long walk to the ferry. After making several stops we boarded the ferry and very shortly were on the move again.

During all this time nobody knew what ship we were going to take although there were plenty of rumors. Presently we could see the outline of a very big ship. As we came closer some of the fellows could read the word "Mary" so all doubts were removed and we knew it was the "Queen Mary." The gangplank was down and troops were going aboard single file. It seemed like an endless column plodding up the ramp. I'll never forget that sight and peculiar feeling to know that before very long I would be one of those images struggling up the plank.

The ferry stopped with a thud along one of the wharves. We moved off in short order. Inside the building was a band and the Red Cross with their coffee and doughnuts. By this time one of our boys was dragging his barracks bag because it was so heavy and another fellow was sick, so things were pretty well messed up by now. Then we arrived at the gate where we gave our name and serial number, and went up the plank, just like thousands had done before us.

It was almost 11 o'clock that night when we went on board that grand ship. She was pretty well loaded, so we spent our first night sleeping on life jackets in the hold. Some of the fellows slept on tables with others in hammocks just above them. We had very close quarters

with the indescribable stench of new military clothing, equipment, etc.

The next day we moved to D Deck with some British seamen that had been torpedoed off our east coast. We had comfortable quarters. The beds were of the three deck type fixed with chains. D Deck was almost even with the water line. While on the ship we had two meals a day of British rations. I remember one in particular - kidney stew, bread, potatoes, and coffee. The PX was doing a great business with men buying Hershey bars and cookies by the box.

We worked the mail for one day while on the ship and it was here that I received a money order from my sister Margaret but it was too late to spend it in New York City.

Oh yes, I almost forgot about leaving the pier. At noon on December 3rd the little tug boats started pushing the big Queen Mary in the middle of the stream. Before long we moved out to sea with all the men lined up on the deck. Soon we passed the "Grand Old Lady" holding the torch, the Statue of Liberty. The secrecy of the day before must have been forgotten because all the horns were making noise that would break a person's ear drum. Soon we met a warship lying off our coast and a message was exchanged with the blinker lights. We saw one flying boat while enroute to England. Previously everybody thought that we would travel in the visual convoy but we soon saw that we would make the whole trip unescorted.

The weather was bad for 24 hours. The waves were running high and the zigzag path that the ship followed caused the ship to roll quite a bit. One night something happened that has never been explained. The ship lurched forward as though being pushed. Soon the rumor spread that a submarine had been heard and the ship was running away from the danger spot. I knew we were traveling fast, but I never did hear the official explanation.

Church services were held on board the ship. It was quite an experience to attend services in a zigzag manner and thus caused more commotion than we were used to while on land. It also became necessary to set our watches back one hour each day due to the change in time zones.

During the whole trip we always wore a kapok life preserver. This was a rule and strictly enforced. Every morning at 10 o'clock we had life-boat drills. When the siren sounded we had to rush to one of the upper decks and have our life preserver adjusted correctly. After the drill we were usually free to do as we liked. We spent a lot of time on either the sun deck or the promenade deck.

When we got up on December 9th our ship was anchored in the Firth-of-Clyde. It was a pleasant feeling to see land even if it was only the jagged hills of Scotland. That morning our unit disembarked to the mainland. I became separated from the group due to getting stuck with the baggage detail and stayed on the ship another full day.

On December 18th we were shipped to a transient camp in Glasgow and stayed there for ten days. Everyday we had to go down to the docks and help

unload the equipment which was brought on the Queen Mary. All this freight and mail was brought up the river by small barges to the dock which had been taken over by the United States. It was miserable at the dock, very foggy, damp and cold. It was hard work but worth it because we had the run of the ship the evening before we left and while at camp we had passes to see the city of Glasgow. Mild and bitters (mixture of mild and bitter beers) was plenty high priced because the Yanks were reckless with their money.

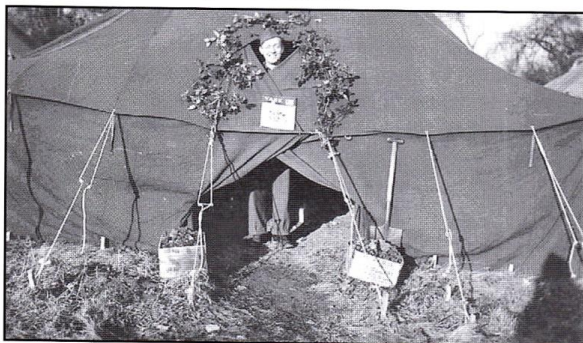
It was here that I had my first ride on a double deck train for *tupence ha'penny*. Glasgow was bombed by the Germans early in the war, so all buildings were perfectly blacked out. It reminded me of a ghost city. When people carried flashlights (torches) they were requested to always point the rays to the ground or be subject to arrest.

Now that our work had been completed in Glasgow we received railroad tickets and started out to rejoin our individual units. I knew that our outfit was at Marks Hall which was headquarters for the Ninth Air Force Bomber Command. While enroute we had several hours to spend while in Peterborough so we visited the Cathedral.

I arrived at the railroad station Monday morning. While waiting on transportation I heard the first air raid siren which was the real McCoy. They had the Jerry (German) plane in the search lights. The stationmaster didn't seem to mind but it was a rough reception for me.

After getting transportation to the camp which turned out to be Ninth Air Force headquarters I found that my new home would be a tent. It was plenty cold as it was just a few days before the holidays (Christmas and New Years). We didn't do anything but eat and sleep and make a dive for the air raid shelter at least once every evening. Jerries (German planes) were a regular visitor and the bombs were dropped too close for comfort.

On Christmas we decorated our tents with holly and attended a special program for underprivileged English children from the Mark Hall community. It was grand to see how these children enjoyed things that they had been deprived of for four years or more.



Orville Rueдебusch with holly decorated tent on Christmas 1943

Christmas was a grand day for all of us because we received our first mail since we landed in England. We spent our time watching the B-26 planes come in and to see how many squadrons of heavy four-motored

bombers would pass overhead. It was finally decided that my unit, the A.P.O. 591 (Army Post Office 591) was to join the 13th R.C.D. (Replacement Control Department) which was under the 9th Air Force Service Command.



Christmas mail for the troops

The 13th R.C.D. was at that time located in the Trowbridge barracks at Trowbridge in Southern England. When we arrived at the barracks there was a welcome sign that said "reserved for the pistol unit". The barracks had a wooden floor and everybody thought that they had lice because it was so dirty. There was straw on the floor and the beds would almost collapse when we laid on them.

The 13th R.C.D. had just come from Africa and the mail was really a mess. Many men had been assigned to units and the card file had not been kept up to date which slowed progress. We did not unpack any equipment because the 13th R.C.D. was scheduled to move again.

So on January 2, 1944 we moved to a place called Potters Hill near Sheffield in the north central part of England. Potters Hill camp was originally built to house people evacuated from the cities. The British army used it for a while and finally the Americans took it over. The buildings were substantial but the rooms were very small and the stoves were comparatively small and looked like toys.

On our first pass at this station a buddy and I walked to a nearby town called Chapeltown. We walked into a pub for a beer and in conversation learned that we were the first American soldiers that they had seen during World War II. Our stay in northern England was very nice, no doubt due mostly to not having too many G.I.s around.



Orville Rueдебusch, second from left, in Sheffield

After becoming more or less acquainted we spent most of our time off in Sheffield. This is a large city and had more to offer in the way of entertainment. This part of the country is known for its many steel factories and naturally was a target for the German bombers at the beginning of the war.

Many of Sheffield's nicest buildings were in ruins. One place, a hotel, was struck by a bomb and people were buried in the basement. It was impossible to remove the bodies because debris had fallen on them. Great quantities of lime had been used for sanitary purposes.



Bombed building

Here are the names of a few of the pubs that we visited quite frequently: The Queenshead, Grand Hotel, The Nelson House, The Grapes, Minerva, The Black Swan, The Cart and Horse. We had many good times in Sheffield visiting the pubs, drinking English beer (mild and bitters), pale ale, etc. Their hospitality will never be forgotten.

During the last week in April 1944 we went from Potters Hill to Bamber Bridge near Preston in Lancashire County. We didn't unpack our equipment, only marked it for an overseas movement. We cleaned up the work left by another A.P.O. It was while we were stationed here that I had a pass to Blackpool - England's Coney Island. I had a very good time while there and also enjoyed the bus trip because it passed through England's finest dairy country.

During the first week in May 1944 we were ordered to move to a camp in southern England. We went to the railroad station at Preston and departed by train via the west coast cities. On arrival at Warminster, Wiltshire we found that our camp was several miles in the country near the village of Bishopstrow. The camp had only a few permanent buildings and our A.P.O. was set up in one of them. Everybody lived in tents. It was rather uncomfortable at times but we got used to it.

It didn't take long until we learned that Jerry (Germans) paid frequent visits to this part of the country. Trenches had been dug in a zigzag manner behind each tent. We could have absolutely no light after the siren (wailing winnies) could be heard, so clothes and shoes were placed so we could jump right in and go for the trenches. This became more or less monotonous so some brave fellows started staying in bed during the raids and alerts. One night Jerry dropped a land mine close by and there was a terrific explosion. Out came the fellows, some in underwear and some with just pants. Luckily it fell in a field and only four or five cows were killed. It was

a good lesson for most of us to get the overcoat and helmet on and down into those trenches.

All this brings its humorous moments too. One of our fellows called "hit the trenches, men" and he was the only one out and stumbling in the tent ropes. We still remind him of it. During another alert, the Officer of the Day reported to the Adjutant (who was shivering in his boots in the trench) "Salute Sir, a state of emergency exists. I have doubled the guard. What shall I do?" The answer was "Get down in this trench darn quick."

Our liberty truck would leave for Bath every evening at 6:30. It was a 20 mile ride and I went quite often. It was a nice city. The ancient Roman baths are located in this city. There were such places as a Preveus Hotel, The Crystal Palace and many others that we visited. While I was stationed here I had a furlough to Edinburgh and I saw my brother Norman several times.



Orville and Norman Ruedebusch

We had a good chance to travel being only 2 miles from the railroad station. Almost every night the planes were up pulling gliders. The gliders had many green and amber lights so they looked like Christmas lights. It was very nice to watch the endless procession going over.

On the morning of D-Day, long before we had any radio reports, we knew something big was happening. We could hear a terrific bombardment (probably naval) and wave after wave of heavy bombers going overhead. Finally the radio gave us the news that Normandy had been invaded and from that day on we didn't have any Jerry (German) visitors.

After hearing many rumors that we would go to France we finally shoved off on October 14, 1944. We were scheduled to ride but our truck was stolen so we went with the marching part. We were all loaded down with C-rations, rifles, etc. After arriving at Southampton we were put on a 30 minute alert and stayed a week.

Finally we boarded an L.C.T. (landing craft tank). There were no beds so we slept any place - one night on a table, the next night on top of a tank or duck. The food tasted good at this stop because all week we had been eating C-rations.

We landed on Utah Beach about four and one-half months after D-Day. Most of the wreckage was still there. We left the ship early in the morning, when the tide had gone out. After walking five miles we reached a camp and were directed to an airstrip but found that the

rain had ruined it. There was nothing left to do but pitch our pup tents.



Pup tents in France

Later we moved into a chateau and found that sleeping in a barn really beats sleeping on the cold ground. We had fairly good food but it seemed to rain every time that we had chow. It is rather difficult to eat with rain coming down so fast that your bread gets soggy.



Chateau near St. Mere Eglise, France

We were about a mile and a half from St. Mere Eglise. This section was the scene of much bitter fighting. In fact our Chateau was a German headquarters at one time. The Germans had an observation tower in one of the trees and could see Utah beach very plainly. We made several trips into town and visited America's number one cemetery at St. Mere Eglise.

A few things that I will never forget about the chateau are the stench caused by a dead horse in the barn, the mice running over us during the night and one of our boys falling in a water-filled manure pit.

On October 29, 1944 we journeyed to our airstrip on the west coast of the Normandy Peninsula. From there we took a plane to an airstrip near Etain and from there we went by truck to Verdun. We were glad to move back

to Verdun from Etain because the city of Metz hadn't fallen and at night one could hear the field artillery very plain.

We opened our A.P.O. and operated there until December 19 or 20, 1944. It then became necessary to move because a hospital wanted to move in where we were. Engineers were working on the building when suddenly remnants of front line units came in half-tracks (vehicles with regular wheels in front and caterpillar tracks on back) and the like.

Before long we began hearing of the Battle of the Bulge. The Germans had broken through and with weather in their favor kept right on coming. The engineers were moved up to do demolition work. Everybody was tense and anxious. We knew that the Germans would be stopped but when and where depended so much on the weather. Finally the weather broke so our air force could go in. It was mighty pleasant to see hundreds of fighters going over to stop the enemy.

I have never seen so much military equipment at one time moved up to the front in those hectic days. All our bridges were set with dynamite and guarded day and night. Everything was ready in case Jerry (Germans) got through to our town. There were soldiers everywhere looking for parachutes dropped during the night and some Germans were rounded up, some were shot.



Verdun house with steel shuttered windows

We were living in a house that had part of the roof off and no windows. The steel shutters made an awful noise from the concussion of the heavy artillery. Every night Jerry came over because Verdun was a big supply dump. One night while I was at the office one of their planes came in very low with machine guns "spatting". Yes, I made some quick movements to get to a wall. The next morning we noticed that part of a pine tree had been clipped by bullets. We saw anti-aircraft in action many times but never saw any planes come down.

On New Year's Day we had three alerts before nine o'clock. They really kept the guns warmed up that night. We were serving fighter groups and anti-aircraft outfits in addition to our own outfit and they always gave us first hand information. We can be mighty thankful for the week of good weather between Christmas and New Year. If it had remained cloudy we might have a different story of the war today.

By the middle of February 1945 we were ordered to an airfield near Paris. It happened to be the one where Lindbergh landed in 1927. We have been operating at this field up to the present time. We have very good quarters, a good place for our A.P.O. and plenty of good food.



Orville Ruedebusch (left) in APO (Army Post Office)

Here is one question that we're thinking of right now. Were we scared during the Battle of the Bulge? Frankly, I was plenty scared. When one had that peculiar feeling as though something is pulling at your insides and you don't sleep well, you know there is something wrong. Of course when you wake up and several other fellows are awake too, you aren't alone in your misery.

I have tried to think of most of my experiences but probably have missed some. I know, though, that I have had all I want of war even if I didn't get to the very front line.



This photo shows three New Bremen men in the military service during W.W.II who had a chance meeting in Paris, France in the spring of 1945. Orville Ruedebusch, on the left, was with the Army Post Office, Richard Wiedeman was with the U.S. Navy and Robert Kettler was with the Military Police.

After their first chance meeting, the men were able to schedule other times to visit, eat together and share news of their hometown. Note in the background the famous Sacre Coeur church on Montmartre, the highest point in the city.



V-E Day in Paris - May 8, 1945

[Photo by Orville Ruedebusch]



V-J Day in London - August 15, 1945

[Photo by Orville Ruedebusch]

Orville Ruedebusch began working in the New Bremen Post Office in 1928 - the year he graduated from NBHS. He was hired by Postmaster Cade Schulenberg as a substitute clerk and village carrier. After his Army Post Office (A.P.O.) duty he returned to the New Bremen office. He retired as Postmaster in 1975 with 47 years of service. Mr. Ruedebusch died in 2001.

Richard Wiedeman served in the European Theater of Operations during World War II with the United States Navy. He returned to serve three terms as mayor of New Bremen. Mr. Wiedeman retired from the New Idea Farm Equipment Company in 1980 and lives in New Bremen.

Robert "Bob" Kettler was drafted into the Army on December 22, 1942 and served with the military police. The story of his time in the Army titled "MP Survives the Blitz in London" is recorded on page 93 in the book *A Military Memoir of World War II* compiled by Katy Gilbert in 2003. Mr. Kettler died in 2009.

Transcribed by Genevieve Conradi

Edited by Joyce Ruedebusch

VETERANS (ARMISTICE) DAY

The Armistice that ended the first World War was signed at 5:00 A.M. on November 11, 1918 at the headquarters of the Allied Commander-in-Chief in the Forest of Compiègne in France by representatives of the Allies and the Germans, with the cease-fire to become effective at 11:00 A.M. It covered a period of one month and was renewed until the peace-treaty was signed at Versailles on June 28, 1919.

One year later, on November 11, 1919, many people felt that some commemoration should be established in honor of the occasion. Numerous celebrations, church services, and veterans parades were held. For two minutes at 11:00 A.M., the time of the cease-fire, all activities and traffic were stopped in honor of the dead soldiers. It was on this same day that the American Legion Post No. 241 of New Bremen was organized (*see related article*). Beginning on November 11, 1921, Armistice Day was made an official national holiday by annual proclamation of the President of the United States, beginning with President Warren G. Harding.

On May 15, 1938, Armistice Day was made a legal holiday by act of Congress. After World War II, the day was still observed, but with less and less personal involvement. On November 11, 1953, after the end of the Korean Conflict, a movement began in Emporia, Kansas to incorporate all the American war dead into the observance, and the day was referred to as "Veterans Day." On June 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill into law, making the name change official.

The Sunday nearest Veterans Day is observed as World Peace Sunday in churches everywhere. In New Bremen, the American Legion participates in this patriotic observance in a local church.

PERSONAL NOTE: I remember when I was in grade school in the 1940s, we observed Armistice Day by standing silently at our desks for two minutes and saluting the flag - at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, i.e.: 11:00 A.M. on November 11. *lmf*

FORGET-ME-NOTS

The idea of selling little blue Forget-Me-Nots came from an image carried home in the memories of W.W.I soldiers who had seen spring flowers growing on the graves of comrades and allies killed in the fighting.

Many felt the best way to honor the dead was to assist those who came home bearing the scars of war.

The first time Disabled American Veterans ever sold the little, blue flowers to the public was on February 24, 1926. The first Forget-Me-Not drive was held to raise funds to support DAV services and assistance desperately needed by veterans disabled in the war. The Forget-Me-Not became the accepted symbol for commemorating those who had fallen in the war.

For more than 80 years, this small blue flower of remembrance has been the staple of Chapter-level fundraising to support DAV assistance to local disabled veterans.

UNKNOWN SOLDIERS

On November 11, 1920, the second anniversary of the signing of the Armistice was observed in France and England by the burial of an unknown soldier. France disinterred an unidentified soldier and placed his body in a stone tomb in the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Likewise, another unidentified soldier from England was placed in a tomb in Westminster Abbey.

On November 11, 1921, America followed the custom of her allies. A soldier's body was disinterred from each of the four American war cemeteries in France and all four were placed in a flag-draped room in the City Hall of Chalons-sur-Marne. A sergeant of the 59th Infantry placed a bouquet of white roses on one of the coffins, thereby indicating which unidentified soldier was to be buried in the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" at Arlington National Cemetery. On Memorial Day, 1958, two more unknown soldiers, one from World War II and one from the Korean Conflict, were buried in the tomb. The tomb then became known as the "Tomb of the Unknowns."

Each Veterans Day, at 11:00 A.M., a memorial service is held and a ceremonial wreath is placed on the tomb of each of these unknown soldiers - at Arlington National Cemetery, in Westminster Abbey, and in the Arc de Triomphe.

BLUE / GOLD STARS & POPPY DAY

In days gone by, small flags bearing blue or gold stars would be displayed in the window of a soldier's home. The blue stars indicated living soldiers and a gold star indicated that a son had been killed in the war.

The Saturday preceding Memorial Day is designated as "Poppy Day". The tiny red artificial poppies, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, are sold for the benefit of disabled veterans. The idea originated in France ("the poppies of Flanders Field") and also used to be sold on Veterans Day. Buying a poppy renews a promise that he who lies dead shall not have died in vain.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*Lt Col. John McCrae, MD (1872-1918)
Canadian Army*

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

FIRST AMERICAN LEGION POST AMERICAN LEGION FOR AUGLAIZE COUNTY ORGANIZED IN NEW BREMEN

World War Veterans Encouraged By G.A.R. and Other Citizens

With a goodly attendance of young and old Veterans and several prominent businessmen, Post No. 241 of the American Legion held its organizational meeting Tuesday evening, November 11, 1919, at the Washington Street City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was the commemoration of Armistice Day and organization of the New Bremen Post.

Commemoration of the day was suitably provided for with smokes and refreshments and by addresses from some of the leading citizens of the town. Those who addressed the ex-servicemen were Mayor C.V. Huenke, Captain William Schulenberg of the G.A.R., Postmaster Kunning, Mr. E.C. Kuenzel, Superintendent of Schools Elmer Jordan, and Mr. F.W. Bruns.

Mayor Huenke and Messrs. Kunning, Kuenzel, and Bruns especially assured the members of the LEGION that they personally took pride in the fact that the young men of New Bremen were joining in the nationwide movement to organize the ex-servicemen in an association similar to that of the G.A.R., which has as its aim the highest standard of American citizenship.

They assured the ex-servicemen of the whole-hearted support of the citizens of New Bremen in establishing an active Post of the American Legion. Captain Schulenberg, one of the remaining members of the GRAND ARMY, greeted the Veterans of the World War as "Comrades" and stated that the American Legion has even more opportunity than the G.A.R. inasmuch as it is attaining such a large membership.

Superintendent Jordan made an enthusiastic address in commemoration of Armistice Day and encouraged the ex-servicemen in working for the New Bremen Post. Mayor Huenke stated that he believed the New Bremen Post would be a real active enterprise in New Bremen and vicinity and that he believed this meeting would prove to be a history-making meeting for the community.

William H. Rabe acted as temporary chairman, and Richard Boesel as temporary secretary. Chairman Rabe announced the application for a charter had been accepted and within the next ten days, the charter might be expected, with the Post to be known as New Bremen Post No. 241.

Then followed election of permanent officers with the following result: William H. Rabe, Commander; Richard Boesel, Vice-Commander; George Taylor, Finance Officer; Homer Isern, Finance Officer; Jacob Maurer, Historian; Walter Bertram, Chaplain.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION: K.E. Berend, Irvin Heinfeld, Ivan Koeper, Jacob Maurer, Vernon Neuman.

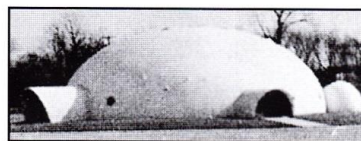
ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE: Clifton Boesel, Homer Isern, Roscoe Lanfersieck, Herman Laut, Gust Ruedebusch.

The meeting was pronounced profitable to all, and as New Bremen is the pioneer in the county in organizing a Post of the American Legion, another point of evidence is added that patriotism is now as it always has been, at a decided premium. (N.B. Sun - 11/14/1919)

Legion Post 241 met at the Washington Street City Hall (above the 1897 Fire Dept.) from 1919 until they purchased the Boesel Opera House at 115 West Monroe Street on December 28, 1948 and the upstairs was converted into a modern hall for dances, etc.

In 1973, while Nathan Hirschfeld was commander, the downstairs was remodeled into a canteen and meeting room in the former Lewis Poppe Shoe Repair Shop.

The Monroe Street hall and canteen was sold to Crown Equipment Corp. and in 1988 the post moved to its present site on State Route 66 North (the igloo-shaped former White Mountain Restaurant and Dance Hall).

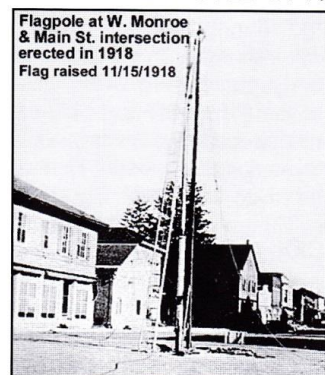


Among the past commanders are Orville Ruedebusch and Richard Wiedeman (both pictured on page 9).

The Legion Auxiliary Unit 241 was started in 1934 with 16 charter members. The first president was Mrs. Ray [Louise] Knipple who in 1944 became a Gold Star Mother when her son, Warren Knipple, was killed in France. The post also has an active Sons of the American Legion unit.



FLAGPOLE ERECTED IN 1918



ARMISTICE DAY - 1919

Under the leadership of Superintendent Elmer W. Jordan, the Public School pupils, accompanied by their respective teachers, paraded from the school buildings around Vogelsang (Plum), Washington, and Monroe Streets to the municipal flag-pole Tuesday afternoon, November 11, 1919, and, after forming a group about the base of the pole and under the Stars and Stripes, several patriotic selections were sung, class yells given, and dismissal was had for the rest of the day. The entire proceeding surely tended to instill patriotism and respect for the national banner in the hearts of the pupils.

(N.B. Sun - 11/14/1919)

RABE FAMILY VISITS NEW BREMEN



Anne Rabe, Matthew Rabe, Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe, Callie Rabe, Margaret (Rabe) Stempe

Susan Schulenberg Rabe and her family visited New Bremen on Saturday, July 17, 2010. They wanted to see the restored Civil War flag on display at the Bicycle Museum of America, which is located in the former Schulenberg building. Susan said that until she was contacted by the New Bremen Historic Association, she was not aware that the flag had been saved.

Susan's great-grandfather, William Schulenberg, carried the flag during the Civil War battles and returned it safely to New Bremen at the end of the war in 1865. William Schulenberg was active in the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) and also carried the flag to encampments after the war. He kept the flag at his home over the years and passed it to his son, Herbert. Herbert passed it to his son, Cade Schulenberg - Susan's father. Susan believes that her sister, Bonnie (Schulenberg) Knipple, gave the flag to her father-in-law, Ray Knipple, in 1959 after Cade Schulenberg died and their mother closed the Schulenberg Store.

In 1975 Ray Knipple gave the flag to the New Bremen Historic Association for safekeeping. The flag was wrapped around a flagpole and kept in a long, narrow wooden box. The wooden case had a glass panel for viewing. Jim Dicke II found a way to have the flag restored. In 2005, the flag was packed in a cardboard box and sent to the Textile Conservation Laboratory at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. The flag remained there for four years and was painstakingly unfolded and pieced together to display its 7.5x14 foot grandeur. The workers at the Laboratory said the smell of gunpowder still remained when the flag was unfolded.

Susan and her family were awed by the large flag and its historic significance. They toured the Bicycle Museum, also the New Bremen Historical Museum, and were pleased to see the beautiful restoration of buildings in New Bremen.



Valentin Rabe's graduation from Cranbrook School Bloomfield Hills, Michigan - Saturday, June 11, 1949
Valentin Rabe, Margarete (mother), Dr. Michael Rabe, Claire & Peter Rabe, Andreas Rabe

Valentin Rabe was the husband of Susan Schulenberg and father to the four children shown above. He passed away November 29, 2008.

[NOTE: See previous articles in the "Mailbox" sections of the April 2002 (pg. 14) & October 2008 (pg. 5) issues of "The Towpath".]

NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1960 HOLDS REUNION

The New Bremen High School class of 1960 gathered at the home of Tom & Sandy Thieman on Friday, August 20, 2010 for a 50-year class reunion. On Saturday, the 21st, they gathered for dinner at Speedway Lanes. There were 22 classmates, 15 spouses and five guests present. Guests included Fred Gilbert and former teachers and their wives, Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Hoying and Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Schacht.



STANDING: Fred Gilbert (guest), Sandra (Moore) Hirschfeld, Ron Kettler, Connie (Forwerck) Koch, Tom Fledderjohann, Terry (Hirschfeld) Wagner, Tom Thieman, Pat (Grilliot) Wourms, Larry Hirschfeld, Edythe (Conradi) Henschen, Jake Froning, Mahlon Gilbert, Rex Fogt, Ben Luedeke.

SEATED: Evelyn (Mohrman) Wenning, Betty (Wente) Beyke, Carolyn (Scheer) Sanford, Louise (Wittenbrink) Koenig, Lois (Ruese) Rabley, Linda Marshall.

Those attending but not pictured: Marvin Topp, Robert Paul. Not present were: Carol (Barlage) Wermert, Tom Bassler, Becky (Campbell) Daly, Jim Heinfeldt, Barbara (Raymond) Gottschalk, Tom Schrock, Lynda (Sturgill) Scheer, Stuart Woehler. Six members are deceased: Larry Nedderman, John Luedeke, Bob Melter, Minnie (Meiring) Stachler, John Shroyer, Jan Belton.

[contributed by Edythe Henschen]

N.B.H.S. CLASS OF 1965 HOLDS REUNION

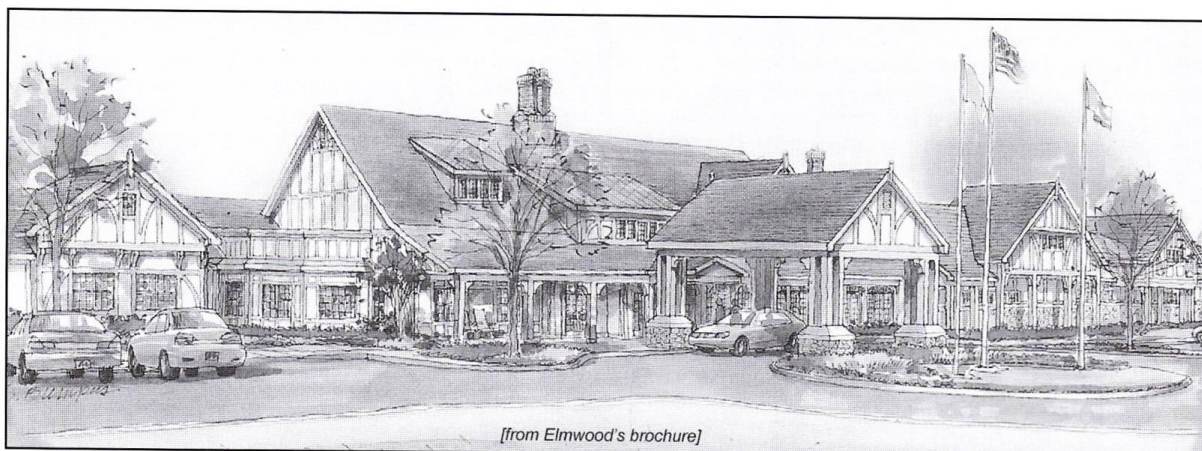
On Bremenfest Saturday, August 21, 2010, the New Bremen High School Class of 1965 met to renew friendships and celebrate their 45-year reunion. The reunion featured a day of interesting activities including a visit to the Bicycle Museum of America, a tour of various Crown guest facilities and a journey through time by visiting both the old High School where so many memories were made and the new High School where future memories will be made. The reunion was capped off by an evening of fun, food, fellowship and remembrance at the New Bremen American Legion. Forty-two class members were able to attend the festivities along with spouses and several teachers. A great time was had by all. The Class of '65 was the first double class at New Bremen Elementary School. The classes were divided in alphabetical order by the last names. There were 68 students from the Class of 1965 who graduated from New Bremen High School.

[provided by Bev Widau Fledderjohann & Terry Wissman]

1965 CLASS ROSTER

Elaine Ahlers, Judy Ahlers, Mary Anthony, Jon Belton, David Bergman, Joyce Brockman, Larry Busse, Howard Campbell, Delores Cummins, Sandra Cunningham, Robert Dietrich, Michael Elking, Kathy Fark, Barbara Forwerck, William Frey, Richard Froning, Ann Gossette, Gary Greiwe, *Dennis Gross, Dean Harlamert, Lynne Harris, Diane Headapohl, Roger Henschen, John Hespe, Gary Hirschfeld, Joyce Isenberger, Helmut Judt, Jay Kettler, Mike Kitzmiller, Bradley Klose, Jack Knost, John Knost, Roger Kremer, Ronald Kremer,

Lois Kuck, Nancy Lampert, Wayne Maurer, Randy McCune, Betty Meckstroth, Nancy Moeller, Phyllis Mohrman, William Moore, Gary Mussett, Connie Nedderman, *Ronald Paul, *Warren ("Ed") Rempe, Linda Rupert, Sharon Saum, Thomas Scheib, Wanda Schneider, Hope Schwarck, James Schwartz, Roseann Schwartz, Michael Shelby, Donald Siegel, Jill Sprinkel, Roberta Strahm, Janet Stueve, Bonnie Topp, *Donald Topp, Judy Voress, Beverly Wehmeyer, Carolyn Weinberg, Beverly Widau, David Wint, Mary Wissman, Terry Wissman, Thomas Young. (*4 Deceased)



[from Elmwood's brochure]

NEW! ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY NOW IN NEW BREMEN

On Thursday, July 22, 2010, the new 50,000 square foot Elmwood Assisted Living facility located at 711 South Walnut Street on the southwest corner of Amsterdam Road and South Walnut Street opened its doors to the public for its Open House weekend.

Elmwood Communities, a family owned business with facilities for the elderly in Fremont, Green Springs and Tiffin, Ohio has now opened a facility in New Bremen which offers Assisted Living and an Alzheimer's/Memory Care unit.

The one bedroom and studio units are designed to meet the needs of the elderly. Common gathering areas foster socialization and comfort. Kathy Hunt, CEO of Elmwood Communities started the plans on the New Bremen facility three years ago. Kim Dick Prueter of New Bremen is the Director of Community Relations. Elizabeth Lange is the Activities Director.

There are 44 Assisted Living suites and 17 Private Studio suites for Alzheimer's and Memory Care residents, 24-hour Onsite Nursing Care and Support and specialty senior programs such as a Day Care and a Respite Care program. Seniors moving into the facility can bring their own furniture and arrange the furniture to suit their own taste.

"When the level of care changes, the resident can still stay in the same suite they are in. We are not going to move them."

There is beautiful landscaping on the grounds. The garden has a putter golf hole along with water features and chairs to sit out and enjoy the weather. The facility has an ice cream parlor, library, solarium, fitness studio, private dining room, family parlors with fireplaces, porches and enclosed courtyards.

To view more information on Elmwood Assisted Living, go to www.elmwoodcommunities.com.



Kathy Hunt, owner and CEO of Elmwood Communities, cuts the ribbon during the grand opening of Elmwood Assisted Living in New Bremen. Also pictured are Elmwood's first residents, Wilbert Gruebmeier, Dale Fledderjohn and Jeanne Jones; a representative from Shawnee Construction; Kim Prueter, Marketing & Community Relations Director; Architect Dimitri Smirniotopoulos of DSI Architecture; and Amanda Picciuto, Executive Director.

[photo by Lucille Francis]

From the Mailbox



Hi, Lucille: 7/20/2010

Another great issue of the *Towpath*. Every article is a gem, but I was particularly drawn to Gen's recollection of trash and garbage pickup in New Bremen in the '50s. She closed her article by asking if anyone else remembered this activity prior to the 1940s.

I am not sure I can add much, but I do remember Bill Varno and his horse-drawn wagon that came down the alley between South Main and South Franklin Streets. I don't know if anyone else provided this service between him and Shorty Ahlers. I just remember Bill and his horse clopping through the alley picking up the trash.

I have one more memory of Bill and his horse that goes back to 1933, the year of New Bremen's centennial celebration. I was only six years old, so who knows how accurate these memories are? But I remember riding on the ferris wheel, about at the corner of Monroe and Main Streets. I remember riding with Paul Boesel, a second cousin once removed or something like that. The wheel became stuck with us at the top. While we waited for the necessary repairs, a parade was passing by below us. In the parade was Bill Varno dressed as an Indian, leading his horse who was pulling two poles that formed a transport vehicle bearing also six-year old Marilee Sunderman as a little Indian papoose. It's amazing what sticks in one's mind.

John Dickman - Delaware, OH

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Hi Tom (c/o *The Towpath*): 11/26/2010

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the last issue of *The Towpath*, especially the article about St. Paul's parsonage. I too, like James Melchert, grew up in the parsonage. Many of our recollections are the same. My bedroom was the big one in the front. Mom and Dad's was the one nearest the church. Dad's office was the room off the dining room, with an entrance from the side porch. I vividly recall his typing *The Beacon* and other church things on his old typewriter, using just 2 fingers - but he was really fast! When the Sunday School building was built (1951), he still kept an office in the parsonage.

During Bible School, the garage turned into a woodworking shop as Dad taught the boys to build all sorts of things, especially birdhouses! The attic was a spooky place to visit, and back rooms of the basement were pretty spooky to a kid too! On the attic stairway were the autographs of the Papsdorf (St. Peter's Church minister) and Melchert kids, and I added mine too.

I was sad when the orchard was cut down to make way for the Sunday School. I spent many happy hours with a book sitting in a tree and my initials were in many of them! And all the applesauce and cherry pies that mom made are a wonderful childhood memory.

There is so much more I could share, but in the meantime, thanks for the wonderful memories.

Sincerely, Evelyn (Bassler) Baur - Mt. Sterling, MO

Dear Lucille:

8/30/2010

I hope that this letter finds you in wonderful health. Tom Braun reminded me to submit my membership to the New Bremen Historic Association. I am most happy to become a member. This has been a wonderful experience learning who my ancestors were - their successes and their heartaches. I am very proud of them and of my New Bremen roots.

Because of Tom, I have made contact with William Heitman's relatives in Germany. When I initially made contact, the comment was "We have often wondered what happened to CFW (Christian Friedrich Wilhelm)." Imagine, after leaving Germany as a seventeen year old over 160 years ago, they still remembered. And they supplied me with his confirmation papers, christening papers and many more documents, including photos and a line of ancestry back to 1620.

Thank you for the work that you and the rest of your members do in preserving not only the history of New Bremen but the remembrance of the people who made history. Enclosed you will find my check for \$15.00.

Most sincerely, Larry P Heitman - Houston, TX

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Lucille:

8/26/2010

Am sending my new mailing address. Enjoy *The Towpath* very much. Thank you.

Dave Heinfeldt - Tignall, GA

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Dear Lucille:

8/30/2010

My husband, Michael Boesel Bee, was a member of the NBHA, but his membership has expired. I have enclosed a check for \$150 for a Lifetime Membership. We enjoy reading *The Towpath* very much and appreciate all your efforts.

Jill Bee - Arnold, MD

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NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 9/8/10)

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

8/26/2010	Ayers, Mary Ella (Hirschfeld) - Leesburg, FL
8/26/2010	Barlage, Cheryl (Pape) - New Bremen
8/26/2010	Barlage, Roger^ - New Bremen
8/26/2010	Halker, Roberta (Strahm) - Pandora, OH
9/8/2010	Heitman, Larry - Houston, TX
8/3/2010	Macon, Roma (Speckman) - Buena Park, CA
8/3/2010	Rabe, Anne - Castleton, NY
7/1/2010	Schmidt, Janet (Walker) - St. Marys (TR)
8/26/2010	Shelton, Tracy - New Bremen
8/3/2010	Stemper, Margaret (Rabe) - South Deerfield, MA

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

9/8/2010 Bee, Michael Boesel

MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

8/28/2010	Dicke, Carolyn (Schmidt) (LM) (died 8/28/10)
9/1/2010	Grillot, Evelyn (Parmenter) (died 9/1/10)
8/10/2010	Hogenkamp, Pina (Schnelle) (died 8/10/10)
7/1/2010	Manley, Molly (Kellermeyer) (LM) (died 6/20/10)

MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS

The following memorial donations have been received this period:

In memory of Ralph Dietrich

by June Wiehe

In memory of Dorothy Hertenstein

by Susie Hirschfeld

NEW HISTORICAL DISPLAYS AT ST. PAUL CHURCH

The first edition (January 1948) of the church's monthly newsletter, *The Beacon*, and the 1951 Sunday School dedication program are on display in the east hallway of the St. Paul Church Educational Building across from the historical display case. The preservation and framing of these two pieces were made possible by memorial gifts from Evelyn (Bassler) Baur and Tom Bassler, children of Dr. Emil Bassler, St. Paul's pastor from November 1947 to January 1968 (pictured below).

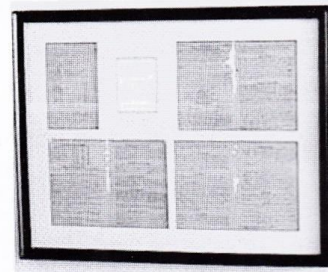
Rev. Bassler initiated *The Beacon* and was the pastor when the Sunday School building was built in 1951. *The Beacon* still exists today, more than sixty years later, keeping the congregation informed about the news of St. Paul Church. The editor today is Kathy Topp. The church also has a website: www.stpaulnb.org.

The Sunday school building will be sixty years old next year (2011) and still serves as a vibrant part of St. Paul's ministry.

Dr. Bassler's farewell message printed in the February 1968 *Beacon* has also been preserved and framed and can be viewed in the display case.

[from "The Beacon" – May 2010]

[NOTE: See letter from Evelyn (Bassler) Baur on pg. 15.]

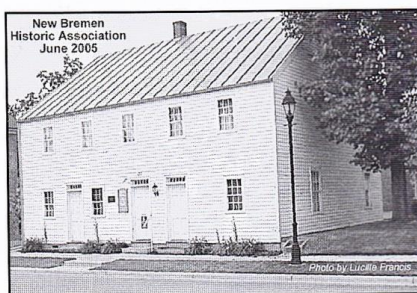


First edition of "The Beacon" – January 1948



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