THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly
January - April - July - October
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 73 - New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073
(Founded in 1973)

MUSEUM located at 122 N. Main St.  VISITING HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays - June, July, August
(The Luellen House)
(Or anytime, by Appointment)

MEMBERSHIP: $10.00 / Year - $5.00 Spouse  (Life: $100.00 / $50.00 Spouse)  January - 2003

Our 2002 28th annual Christmas Tree Festival and Open House was held at our museum on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 1st, Saturday evening, Dec. 7th, and Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8th.

Santa Claus and his helper handed out candy canes to the children on Sunday, December 8th from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Cookies, hot cider and coffee were served in the summer kitchen.

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UPCOMING EVENT - ANNUAL DINNER

WHEN? - 6:30 p.m. - Monday, March 17, 2003
WHERE? - St. Paul Church Educational Building

Program

History of the Nickel Plate Railroad in Auglaize County by Daniel L. Meckstroth of New Carlisle, Ohio

From 1922-1964, the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (Nickel Plate) served the citizens of Auglaize County. Today the line is leased by R.J. Corman. The tracks and buildings serve to remind us of the days when trains were the primary source of transportation in this area.

Daniel Meckstroth, a native of New Knoxville, will give a 1-hour video presentation of the history of the railroad, including pictures of Auglaize County railroad scenes dating from the early 1900s to the late 1950s. Mr. Meckstroth, a retired school administrator and insurance agent and avid railroad historian, has written several articles for railroad historical journals. After graduation from Ohio Northern University and teaching in Wapakoneta, he worked as a locomotive fireman during the summers for the Norfolk & Western Railway in Lima. He is a collector of railroad memorabilia, railroad literature and model trains and will also have some of these items on display. John Tomshafie of New Bremen, former locomotive engineer, will be on hand to add additional comments.
THE NEW BREMEN WOMEN’S CLUB
Celebrates Its 90th Anniversary

On October 15, 2002, the New Bremen Women’s Club gathered at The Grille on West Monroe Street at noon for their regular monthly luncheon meeting. At this meeting, they marked the 90th anniversary of the club’s founding. Vice President Dorothy Hertenstein had prepared a history of the Women’s Club, which was enjoyed by all present. It was suggested that Dorothy turn her information over to the Editor of *The Towpath* for possible publication, which she did. After reading her account, I found that I had questions that might be answered in the early minute books. Dorothy graciously let me go through “all” of the past minutes and other material that she has in her possession. (Unfortunately, several “books” of minutes are missing – those of 1912 to January 1918, 1945-1950, and 1977-1987. If anyone knows where these might be, please notify Dorothy Hertenstein.) The following is a compilation of Dorothy’s article, the minute books, Verona (Langhorst) Huenke’s 50th anniversary speech in 1962, *The Evening Leader* article of 10/24/1962, Leola Wissman and Lorraine Blanke’s sesquicentennial article of 1983, and other items:

**What is a Woman’s Club?**

“A place where kind thoughts are cherished,
Where high ideals are fed and nourished,
Where charity in all its beauty is held to be a sacred duty,
Where peace and harmony abound
And members meet on common ground.”

[1933-1934 clubbooks]

“In the fourth year of the ‘Gay Nineties’, a brilliant assemblage of handsomely dressed women gathered in Springfield, Ohio amid colorful surroundings in response to a call issued to the literary clubs of Ohio to meet for the purpose of organizing a State Federation.”

When the Ohio Federation of Women’s Clubs was organized in October 1884, Xenia, Ohio was recognized as having the oldest Woman’s Club in the state, having been founded in 1867 as a part of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs. One of the first projects after the first annual state convention in October 1895, was “to formulate and inaugurate traveling libraries”, which were to become the forerunners of permanent libraries.

The Founding of the “Mothers’ Club” of N.B.

In October 1912, the superintendent of New Bremen Schools, Charles C. Garman, organized a private kindergarten class for children between 3 and 6 years of age. The mothers of those 8 girls and 6 boys were then organized into a Mothers’ Club to help with the kindergarten. This was the beginning of what later became known as the “New Bremen Women’s Club”.

This first kindergarten class consisted of Esther Bailey, Paul Boesel, John Brockie, Elton Bruns, Orlando Flederjohann, Helen Garman, Eva Grether, Evelyn Grewe, David Kuenzel, Kathryn Langhorst, Clara Pauline Nieter, Robert Paul, Marie Rabe, and Dean Settlage. Tuition was 50¢ per week. The first classes were held in the East Town Hall above the 1897 Fire Department on South Washington Street. Later, two rooms were used in the Frank Streine residence at 9 North Franklin Street.

The Mothers’ Club first met at the home of the kindergarten teacher, Verona Langhorst and her mother, Anna Langhorst. The first officers to be elected were: Mrs. Ewald C. (Myra Hunter) Kuenzel, president; Mrs. Edward (Anna Schulenberg) Langhorst, vice-president; and Mrs. Charles C. Garman, secretary-treasurer.

In 1914, new members were taken in and the reading of a chapter of a book was begun at each meeting in order to create interest in attendance, as no one wanted to miss the next chapter. In November 1914 each member donated 50¢ for clothing and food to be sent overseas. Items purchased were 12 cans each of sardines, pork & beans, green beans, peas, 12 jars of dried beef, 12 boxes of raisins, and 10 pounds of stick candy, all for a total of $6.50. The Arcade Dept. Store donated another 12 boxes of raisins, 20 pounds of stick candy and 24 cans of condensed milk.

The club’s first constitution was adopted in 1915. On June 14, 1918, the club gave its first play, “How The Club Was Formed” at the home of Mrs. Harry Hawkins. (Harry Hawkins was the manager of the J.A. Long & Co. Poultry Plant – see the October 2002 issue of “The Towpath”.)

The participants especially enjoyed the wearing of old-fashioned dresses and hats for the play. The club had charge of the sugar-rationing program during W.W.I. in the September 1918 meeting, each member was to give a recipe in which she could conserve sugar.
At the September 1919 meeting at the home of Mrs. Harry (Gertrude Huenke) Komminsk, part of the program consisted of “selections on the Edison.” In October 919, Mrs. Frank Streine suggested organizing a Parent-Teachers Association. [It wasn’t until the spring of 1930 that this was accomplished. See “The Towpath” of July 2002.]

There were two social functions every year that included the entire family. There was the annual summer picnic, for many years at “Evergreen Lake,” and also the Christmas dinner & party. According to Verona Huenke, the last family gatherings took place in 1942.

On July 20, 1920, the Mothers’ Club and their families held their annual outing at Evergreen Lake, being taken there by “different conveyances.” The Creamery truck brought ice cream furnished by the club.

Evergreen Lake, in Shelby County east of Houston and near Dawson, north of the “Big Four” railroad track, was a popular picnic spot years ago. New Bremen people quite often visited Evergreen Lake for picnicking, boating and swimming. The Women’s Club used to hold their annual outing there. The lake and camping grounds are now owned by the Springfield Y.M.C.A. [Ralph May – Evening Leader, 1970s]

In October and November of 1920, the first public meetings of the club were held in the assembly room of the newly built 1920 High School, northwest of the Central School. On December 29, 1920, the first Christmas dinner and party was held in the large north room of “the teachage” at 35 South Herman Street, hosted by Supt. & Mrs. Elmer W. Jordan. “This room was so nice for the occasion as all 40 people were seated at the tables at one time.” After the dinner, the adults were entertained by the Jordans in their 6-room living quarters on the south side while the little children were taken care of by the older children in the north room. Later in the evening, the children gave a program there for their parents.

On February 1, 1921, the members of the “Child Conservation League” were invited to join the Mothers’ Club. Hostess Gertrude Komminsk served a treat of “puffed rice confection.” At the March 1921 meeting, Mrs. Howard (Verona Langhorst) Huenke was elected as a member. The hostess, Mrs. Pina Ihle, closed the program by playing “God be with you till we meet again” on “the Victrola”.

Children’s Clubs

At the August 1921 meeting, secretary Mrs. E.W. Jordan suggested that the club “get busy and earn some money for a good cause other than our own pleasure.” It was decided to furnish a reading room and headquarters for the Boy Scouts. The “old bank building” was rented from Adolph Boesel for $50 per year. The American Legion agreed to help by taking charge of the reading room and keeping it in order. The Boy Scouts’ room was dedicated on November 6, 1921. On April 3, 1922, the club threw a party for the Boy Scouts, the Scoutmaster and the assistant supervisors. Thirteen boys were enrolled as members. By October 17th, 29 boys had responded. By October-November 1923, it was decided to discontinue the renting of the old bank building for the Boy Scouts and to turn the furniture over to the Board of Education to be used in remodeling and furnishing the teachage as a “community room”.

At the June 1921 meeting, the girls’ “Rosebud Club” visited the Mothers’ Club. On November 15, 1921, the newly formed “Girls’ Club” solicited funds, for which a free-will offering was to be taken up at the December meeting. The Mothers’ Club members were invited to the open house held by the Girls’ Club on 2/23/1922.

In December 1921, Mothers’ Club membership dues were increased from 5¢ to 10¢ per meeting, the entire amount to be paid at the beginning of the year. At the January 1922 meeting, hostess Mrs. Herman Bienz played “Ave Maria” by Hayfetz on “the Brunswick.” In November 1922, the Mothers’ Club decided to have their “2nd annual community Christmas tree”.

Street Commissioner Landwehr hauled this year’s community Christmas tree in from the Mrs. August Ahlers residence at Lock Two and the lights and decorations were arranged by the ladies of the Mothers’ Club. Two more large trees were cut down in the Ahlers yard and will be used in one of the churches. (N.B. Sun Dec 22/1922)

On April 17, 1923, Mrs. Elmer (Lyda Langhorst) Roettger entertained the Mothers’ Club at the home of Howard and Verona (Langhorst) Huenke (her sister.) Musical entertainment was provided by Mr. & Mrs. Roettger, their daughter Jean, and Lois Hardwick (later of Buster Brown fame - see the April 2001 issue of “The Towpath”), daughter of Stanley & Agnes (Langhorst) Hardwick. An address was given by Rev. Nathan Vitz.

At the May 15, 1923 meeting, it was suggested that if membership were increased, the club would be better able to do community work. It was thought that if lunches were discontinued and the meetings held in some public building, more women might become interested in joining. The club’s first program booklets were printed in 1923, the 1927-28 booklet being the first to list all the members – 21 total.

The Community Room

Monthly meetings were held in the mothers’ homes until 1924 when the large north room of the teachage became available. At the November 18, 1923 meeting, it was suggested that the Mothers’ Club would fix up the room as a “community room” if the Board of Education would retain it. The furniture from the Boy Scouts’ room in the old bank building was moved to the teachage and at the February 1924 meeting, the School Board’s response was that the Mothers’ Club could have the vacant room rent-free, to use as they saw fit and could charge a fee of anyone else wishing to use the room (the Square & Compass Club once a month, school classes and other organizations.)
The Mothers' Club cleaned, scrubbed and waxed the floors and paid all expenses for the decorating, furnishing and upkeep of the interior of the Community Room. Tea towels and tablecloths were hemmed, and rugs were crocheted. The club held their first meeting in the Community Room on May 20, 1924.

On August 12, 1924, the club, along with their families and guests, attended a lawn party at the home of Mrs. Louis Huenke on West Monroe St. The lawn was decorated with Japanese lanterns and electric lights. On September 27, 1924, guest night was held at the Community Room. Victrola records were played for entertainment.

In November 1924, the executive committee of Mrs. Elmer Jordan, Mrs. William Burk, Mrs. Harry Komminsk, and Mrs. Howard Huenke donated 5 dozen place settings of silverware and a motion was made to buy dishes so that the club could begin cooking and serving monthly dinners to the Businessmen's Club and other organizations. The first income from the Businessmen's dinners was reported in the May 1925 minutes – a total of $38.

Other projects were selling items for and made by the blind, sponsorship of picture shows for a percentage of the profits, and for some years, they also sold Red Cross Christmas seals and tickets to the Chautauqua.

New Bremen's First Chautauqua

The first (Lincoln) Chautauqua to be held in New Bremen was on September 1-6, 1914. It consisted of 12 sessions of popular entertainment, literary lectures and also some preaching by one Sam Jones.

The patrons of this first Chautauqua were well pleased and when it was proposed that the town should have another the next year, enough season tickets were subscribed to cover expenses and leave a neat balance in the treasury. In order to secure the Chautauqua for the next year, it was necessary that not less than 600 season tickets be disposed of. Over 700 tickets had been subscribed with scarcely more than 2/3 of the audience canvassed. Many subscribed for 25 tickets, others for 20, some for 15 and so on down the line.

The Booster Committee conducted arrangements for the 1914 Chautauqua and signed the papers for the one to be furnished in 1915.

Mildred Boesel Finds Chautauqua Work Interesting

Mildred Boesel, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Boesel of South Franklin Street, finds life on a Chautauqua circuit to be filled with varied experiences. Miss Boesel is spending the summer as superintendent of crew #3 of the Cadmean-Dominion Chautauquas. The Cadmean Chautauqua System of Topeka, Kansas and the Dominion Chautauquas, Ltd. of Toronto, Canada are a part of the Associated Chautauquas of America, which is the largest organization of its kind in the world.

Since starting out on May 27th, Miss Boesel's work has taken her through Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and the southern part of Canada. She will also visit the Dakotas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama before the season closes about September 20th. Travel in Canada is very difficult as it is impossible to use the larger type of motor vehicles due to the impassable roads found in many sections of the country.

Some weeks ago, in Plato Center, Illinois, a big tent collapsed during a storm and serious injuries were narrowly avoided. The tent was picked up by the wind and carried several feet before it was crushed to the ground. Miss Boesel and another crewmember were the only ones in the tent at the time and both escaped uninjured.

Miss Boesel has been employed at Portsmouth, Ohio for several years as a teacher in the public schools and will return there in September.

Miss Mildred Boesel this week signed a contract with the Central Community Chautauqua Association of Indianapolis, Indiana as advance representative covering Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois for the 1927 season.
Mothers' Club Membership Eligibility Changed

At the November 17, 1925 meeting, it was decided to change the reading of the Constitution of the Mothers' Club from "Any resident of New Bremen being a mother shall be eligible for membership" to "Any resident of New Bremen being interested in Mothers' Club work shall be eligible for membership."

In October 1925, Mrs. E.C. (Myra) Kuenzel reported that she and her Girls' Club took all honors in the county cooking club. This entitled them to a free trip to Columbus. On December 2, 1925, the Mothers' Club met with the Girls' Cooking Club and the Girls' Sewing Club and their leaders to hear a Mr. Herman speak on different club work being done in the county. Prizes were given to some of the girls.

On July 9, 1926, Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel's "4-H Food Club" gave a play in the Community Room. The Food Club was sponsored by the Mothers' Club. On July 13th, the annual picnic was held at Evergreen Lake. The 4-H Food Club girls were guests. (see picture on pg. 16)

On Tuesday afternoon, August 31, 1926, Mrs. Louis Huenke entertained the Mothers' Club at her beautiful home at Northwood. This was a farewell party for Mrs. Elmer W. Jordan, wife of the school superintendent. Elmer Jordan was replaced as superintendent by S.M. Archer and Mrs. Archer became a member of the Mothers' Club.

In 1925, William Jasperson of St. Marys developed a residential area on the north shore of Grand Lake St. Marys known as Northwood, originally planned as "an exclusive but not prohibitive summer home development." The landmark for this development was the Northwood Lighthouse, which operated from April 1 to November 1 for many years. (Evening Leader - 10/27/1997)

At the June 21, 1927 meeting, Mrs. Howard Huenke gave a paper on "Electric Refrigeration", something new to most of the members at that time. In September 1927, the Mothers' Club purchased a piano from Cade Schulenberg for $50 for the Community Room.

In the summer of 1928 a kitchen and bathroom were added onto the Community Room. The contractor was Charles Doenges. Monetary donations were received from the school board and White Mountain Creamery while Streine Tool & Mfg. Co. donated the wiring, plumbing fixtures, sheet zinc, labor and other items.

In the early years, each newcomer to town was presented with a geranium. For some years, the club also supplied and took care of the flower boxes on the Monroe Street concrete bridge banisters. Each new baby born to a club member was given a sterling silver teaspoon until 1928 when the gift was changed to a silver cup. In April, 1934, it was decided to send cards instead of flowers for sicknesses and deaths, and also instead of silver cups for newborn babies.

On October 28, 1928 the Mothers' Club endorsed the building of the new high school on South Walnut Street, and published this endorsement in both The New Bremen Sun and The Evening Leader in St. Marys.

Club Name Changed to "N.B. Women's Club"

In 1926, an attempt was made to change the name of the organization from "Mother's Club" to "Women's Civic Club", however a number of the older members objected, so the name stayed the same until 11/20/1928, when it was officially changed to "New Bremen Women's Club" after having joined the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs in 1927. In 1928 and again in 1929, the club received the special "high attendance" gavel for having the largest percentage of registered members at the District Convention in Piqua, 16 of 23 members in 1928 & 17 members in 1929.

On February 21, 1929, a detailed inventory was given of the club's possessions. A committee was appointed to "find out the sentiment of the town regarding kindergarten work in connection with the public school." (This was the first time the kindergarten was mentioned in any of the available minutes.)

On December 16, 1931, with the entire school and faculty present, a red oak tree was planted by Wellman's Nursery of New Knoxville on the southeast corner of the 1929 high school grounds, at the entrance to the sports field. This tree planting, costing $7.50, was sponsored by the Women's Club to commemorate the upcoming bicentennial of George Washington's birth. Approximately 1 million trees were said to have been planted in honor of this occasion.

"On April 16, 1933, Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Kuenzel celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a reunion of their family members at 104 North Main Street in the home which has been owned by the Kuenzel family for 98 years. The Kuenzels were married 4/22/1893 in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Kuenzel is secretary of the Kuenzel Mills Co. and Mrs. Kuenzel has been associated with the Women's Club since it was organized in 1912, many of those years having served as President of the Club."

[photo donated by James J. Halbmers]

On July 4, 1933, the club took an active part in New Bremen's centennial celebration by sponsoring the "Get Together" evening. They wore old-time colonial costumes and started the evening by dancing the Virginia reel, then served tea and cookies throughout the evening in a colonial manner and setting. (See the January 2001 issue of "The Towpath" for a picture of these "colonial ladies with their George Washington wigs and an article about the George Washington Bicentennial celebration.)
In 1935, Mrs. E.C. (Myra Hunter) Kuenzel was presented with a beautiful table for having served as president of the club for 21 years (not consecutively). In October, 1937, the club celebrated its 25th anniversary. In May, 1939, dues were raised from $1.25 to $2.00 per year. Starting in September 1942, the September meetings were held at the home of Verona Huenke at Northwood.

In October, 1943, the Auglaize County extension agent spoke to the club about “How Best to Serve Your Family in War Time.” In 1943, a Student Loan Fund was started. The purpose of the fund was to furnish financial aid to students entering Nurses’ Training.

In September 1953, Mrs. Edith Kohl opened the meeting with this poem by Mrs. Clara Bode of New Knoxville:

“If you push here and I push there,
We could push all day and we’d get nowhere.
But if together we both strive
We’ll get somewhere and we’ll arrive
Atop the hill we have in view
If you help me and I help you.”

In October, 1955, a grand piano was given to the club by Ewald C. Kuenzel and his family and was placed in the music room at the High School. A plaque engraved with “Presented to the New Bremen Women’s Club in memory of Mrs. Myra Kuenzel” was placed on the piano. (Myra Kuenzel had died in August 1951 at the age of 81.) In 1959, the piano was given to St. Peter’s Church. (Ewald Kuenzel died in January 1959.)

In 1955, the Women’s Club held their meetings in the Home Economics room of the High School. In 1956, they moved to the multi-purpose room in the newly-built elementary wing. In the early 1960s, the club sponsored the Vogue patterns sewing contest for Home-Ec girls.

On October 16, 1962, the New Bremen Women’s Club celebrated their 50th anniversary with a three-course turkey dinner served by the Band Mothers in the multi-purpose room of the elementary school, followed by a program. Former members in attendance were: Mrs. Pete (Dorothy Boesel) Gossard of Detroit, Mrs. Arlie E. (Opal) Wiessinger of Lima, and Miss Jeanette Wagner, Mrs. Dillon (Marie Rabe) Howell, Mrs. Wilson (Ruth) Thieman, Mrs. Walter (Katherine Rabe) Grothaus, Mrs. Bus (Marge) Bruner, Mrs. Leonard (Helen) Schmidt and Mrs. Alton (Alvera Strofe) Schelper, all of New Bremen. Mrs. Edward (Anna Schulenberg) Langhorst was the only charter member in attendance.

Members of the first kindergarten class who attended were: Mrs. Dillon/“Ding” (Marie Rabe) Howell of New Bremen, Mrs. Charles (Clara Pauline Nieter) Fletcher of Middletown and Mrs. Robert (Kathryn Langhorst) White of Van Wert.

Deceased members of the club who were remembered were: Mrs. Ferd (Laura Garmhausen) Rabe, Mrs. Frank (Caroline) Streine, Mrs. Ewald C. (Myra Hunter) Kuenzel, Miss Frieda Dierker, and Mrs. Harry (Gertrude Huenke) Komminski.

Musical entertainment was provided by an instrumental trio consisting of Miss Jeannette Wagner, Mrs. Stephen (Opal Wissman) Jagoditz, and Mrs. Frieda “Hoelscher” and also by the Women’s Club chorus, consisting of Mrs. Wilson (Deilah Dammeyer) Braun, Mrs. Arnold (Mary) Dammeyer, Mrs. Wilbert (Marie Roediger) Dammeyer, Mrs. George (Marie Solms) Gensler, Mrs. Paul (Pauline Vornholt) Gilberg, Mrs. Virgil (Fern) Hirschfeld, Mrs. Howard (Verona Langhorst) Huenke, Mrs. Earl (Esther Dicke) Kuening, Mrs. Harry (Frieda Dammeyer) Schroeder, Mrs. Urban J. (Corinne) Schwieterman and Mrs. Reuben (Leola Speckman) Wissman. A historical pageant “Living Pictures of the Past” was presented by Mrs. Clifford (Jean Bessel) Harris and Mrs. Harry (Hilda Klanke) Nussmeyer.

Mrs. Ferd (Georgeanne) Wint read news excerpts and household hints from a 50-year-old publication. Serving with her on the anniversary committee were: Mrs. Clifford Harris, Mrs. Herman (Marie) Laut, Mrs. Lloyd (Esther Hooper) Laut, Mrs. Harry Nussmeyer, Mrs. Harry Schroeder and Mrs. Reuben Wissman.
In 1965, Nan Howe won 1st prize in the 2nd District Home Ec. sewing contest. That same year, the Women's Club won 3rd prize for their program booklet at the State Convention held at Cleveland.

In August 1975, New Bremen held its first "Bremenfest". The Women's Club provided homemade German potato salad, pickled eggs and apple butter. In October, the club traveled to Dayton and had lunch and an escorted tour of Rikes, getting to see things behind the scenes. Rikes then employed from 4500-5000 people.

In 1977, the club presented 100 bulletin boards to Auglaize Acres Nursing Home, to be placed in the patients' rooms. Throughout the years, the club has sponsored many Girl Scout troops. By 1983, several Child Guidance groups were being organized and membership in the Women's Club had declined. In 1990, the club started having noon luncheon meetings in various area restaurants.

**THE N.B. WOMEN'S CLUB TODAY - 2002**

According to the revised Constitution and Bylaws of March 1999, the object of the Women's Club is "self-improvement, mutual helpfulness and cooperation, and maintaining and sustaining the standard of community life". Any woman "expressing a sincere desire to assist in advancing these principles" is considered eligible for membership. Annual membership dues are $20, depending on the financial status of the club, and are payable at the beginning of the club year (September). Luncheon meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month from September through May, except for January.

Current club projects are: Scholarship ($100/year), Library (books), Girl Scouts, and the flowerbed at the corner of North Washington & First Streets.

Officers for 2002-2003 are: Edith Wissman, president; Dorothy Hertenstein, vice-president; Dolores Fledderjohn, secretary; and Lois Moeller, treasurer. Honorary members are Doris Howe and Ollie Inman, both residents at Heritage Manor Nursing Home.

**"TO OUR CLUB"**

May we strive to do the right with an effort most sincere,
Always trying with our might our friends and neighbors to cheer.
Learn to know each other better, have a sympathetic heart,
An ever ready happy smile, lest we grow too far apart.

Let us laugh a little, play a little, be eager our bit to do —
Work for Our Club. Our Community, or any cause that's good and true.

[Club poem from the club's 1931-1932 booklet]

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**WOMEN'S CLUB Past Presidents**

- Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel 1912-1916
- Mrs. L.W. Brodie 1916-1917
- Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel 1917-1922
- Mrs. Frank Streine 1922-1923
- Mrs. Elmer Jordan 1923-1924
- Mrs. Hills Burt 1924-1926
- Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel 1926-1936
- Mrs. Minnie Quist 1936-1938
- Mrs. C.V. Huerke 1938-1940
- Miss Alvina Burk 1940-1942
- Mrs. Reuben Wissman 1942-1944
- Mrs. Lester Blanke 1944-1946
- Mrs. Herman Laut 1946-1948
- Mrs. Esther Quist 1948-1950
- Mrs. Harry Schroeder 1950-1952
- Mrs. Louis Kohl 1952-1954
- Mrs. Howard Huerke 1954-1956
- Miss Lola Patterson 1956-1958
- Mrs. Arnold Dammyer 1958-1960
- Mr. Paul Gilberg 1960-1962
- Mrs. Arnold Dammyer 1962-1964
- Mrs. Clifford Harris 1964-1966
- Mrs. U.J. Schwieterman 1966-1968
- Mrs. Howard McKay 1968-1970
- Mrs. Harold Opperman 1970-1972
- Mrs. George Voress 1972-1973
- Mrs. Earl Meckstroth 1973-1976
- Miss Leona Poppe 1976-1978
- Mrs. Pearl Meckstroth 1978-1980
- Mrs. Earl Meckstroth 1980-1982
- Mrs. David Klein 1982-1984
- Mrs. Karl Hagerstrand 1984-1986
- Mrs. Earl Meckstroth 1986-1988
- Mrs. Reuben Thiesing 1988-1990
- Mrs. Karl Mesloh 1990-1992
- Mrs. Stanley Hertenstein 1994-1996
- Mrs. James Jarvis 1996-1998
- Mrs. Lester Howe 1998-1999
- Mrs. James Meyer 1999-2001
- Mrs. John Wissman 2001-
On October 17, 2002, the 1939 graduates of New Bremen High School held their annual class reunion with a brunch at "The Pub" on West Monroe Street. Their meeting then moved to the home of Jim and Pat Moeller.

Nine members of the class attended, along with 7 spouses.


FRONT: Cleora (Fark) Fonwerck, Paul Westerbeck, Ruth (Burmeister) Luellenman, Dorothy (Mohrman) Otting.

Unable to attend the reunion were Betty (Brady) Marshall, Mabel (Engle) Ruff, Ruth Evelyn McKay, Jean (Niemeyer) Dock, Marjorie (Pape) Metzger, Jean (Tangeman) Pritchard, and Betty (Waterman) McGowan.

Seventeen of the 33 graduates are deceased: Preston Belton, Irene (Dammeyer) Wollmeyer, Verna Egbert, Donald Fledderjohn, Jean (Grothaus) Lampert, Hazel (Hespe) Martin, Helen (Hespe) Grewe, Norma (Kettler) Lampert, Warren Knipple, Robert Kuennng, Virgil Nedderman, Antoinette (Purpus) Kehoe, Esther (Rabe) Yarrington, Helen (Rehn) Mousa, Robert Wehmeyer, Edna (Wiehe) Hirschfeld, and Richard Wissman.

Richard Huckriede

“Soda Jerk” for 50 Years

In October 2002, Louie & Julie Fark received word that Louie’s cousin, Richard Huckriede of Greensburg, Kansas, had been featured on CNN and also that an item had appeared in the Springfield, Ohio News-Sun about his 50th anniversary as a “soda jerk” at the Hunter Drug Store in Greensburg. The newspaper article stated that a life-sized cardboard cutout of his image was to be included in a soda fountain exhibit at the Kiowa County Museum in Kansas.

In January 2000, a letter from Richard Huckriede appeared in The Towpath. In that letter he stated that he was the son of Oscar Huckriede and Alma Fark. Two of his uncles were George Fark (Louie’s father) & Charles Fark (father of Cleora, above).

Richard also stated that he had been employed at the soda fountain of the Hunter Drug Store in Greensburg, Kansas since October 1, 1952.

The Huckriede family lived in New Bremen at 19 Knoxville Ave. (now 514 North Main St.) until about 1936, when they moved to Greensburg, Kansas.

Richard attended the first grade at New Bremen’s Central Grade School in 1935-1936 and had two brothers, Edison (deceased) & James Huckriede.

[Photo from the Springfield, Ohio “News-Sun” – 10/2/2002] [Clipping provided by Wayne & Kathy (Fark) Maurer – Springfield, OH]
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Rev. Lawrence T. Holmer

The New Bremen Historic Association would like to thank all those who supported the Association in 2002 with your time, efforts, monetary donations and other contributions to our museum. Thanks also for attending and supporting our major events during the year.

Annual Dinner / Meeting – March 18, 2002
Our annual dinner was held in the Holy Redeemer Parish Center. A group of 167 heard Thomas Block speak about lighthouses and were able to view some of the lighthouse collections of Rev. John Tostrick and Rev. Steve Wills, which were placed on display and also used as table decorations. Rev. Lawrence T. Holmer, Dru Meyer, and Lawrence Egbert were re-elected to office.

4th Annual Summer Picnic – June 2, 2002
Our annual summer picnic was held on the museum grounds with approximately 250-300 people enjoying a beautiful sunny afternoon, good food, and entertainment provided by various groups and individuals.

28th Annual Christmas Tree Festival & Open House
December 1st, 7th, 8th, 2002
The theme for this year’s Tree Festival was “Bells Ring Out”. Approximately 225 people visited the museum to view the 20 displays set up by various groups and individuals of the community. Santa handed out candy canes to 43 children, and 21 raffle prizes, 30 adult door prizes and 17 children’s door prizes were given out. We wish to thank the many individuals and groups for their displays and the businesses and individuals who provided the prizes and refreshments. Special thanks to those who gave many hours of their time and effort to make all of these major events possible.

Bremenfest Float – August 18, 2002
Our float took 1st place in the theme category of the Bremenfest parade and it was also entered in the New Knoxville Fall Festival the first weekend of September. Thank you to those who provided the wagon, the tractor, and the helping hands to decorate the float. (Details were given in the October issue of The Towpath.)

Outdoor Improvements
We wish to thank Alan Fenters for the yard work (mulch and fertilizer) on the relocated sweet gum trees on the north side of the museum. He waived his charge of $42 for the work.

Thanks also to the Village of New Bremen for the removal of a tree near the back property line, as well as for the use of some equipment associated with the patio renovation project and the outdoor light post which is to be installed near the new patio.

Patio Renovation & New Sidewalk
Major improvement projects this year were the renovation of the brick patio area between the museum and the summer kitchen and the installation of a new 44” wide brick sidewalk on the north and east sides of the museum leading up to the new patio, all for a total cost of about $3,500 (including $752 for extra matching new bricks for the sidewalk.) By using this sidewalk and the rear entrance of the museum, the first floor is now handicapped-accessible.

Many a night was spent tearing up the old brick patio and power washing the bricks so that we could re-use the good ones in the new patio. Kitzmiller and Bergmans did the preparation work of installing concrete retainers for the sidewalks and patio.

Tearing up the old brick patio
Barely recognizable are Carl Roediger, Jay Stauffer, Phyllis Cox, Jerry Brown, Joyce Holdren, Dru Meyer. In front on the right are Susie Hirschfeld and Rev. Holmer.
Special thanks to Rodney Brandt of Lewistown, Ohio and his helper who donated their labor plus the stone and sand for the brick patio and sidewalks, including a new brick walkway to the outdoor oven.
NEW SIDEWALKS – MUSEUM NOW HANDICAPPED-ACCESSIBLE!

9/8/2002
Making a new sidewalk north of the museum

10/9/2002
Concrete retainers poured for new sidewalk behind and north of the museum

10/11/2002
Bricklaying begun for new sidewalk

N.B.H.A. Donations / Pledge
The Association renewed its $50 annual membership in MECCA (Miami Erie Canal Corridor Association), and the $60 annual membership in the Southwest Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce.

We pledged $500 towards the production of the Auglaize County W.W.II military memoir being prepared by Katy Gilbert of the Auglaize County Historical Society to commemorate the Ohio Bicentennial. Other historical groups in the county are also helping to underwrite this project.

501 (c)(3) Status
In April, we received from the U.S. Department of the Treasury our 501(c)(3) organizational status under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. This means that contributions made to the N.B.H.A. are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes. It cost us a one time fee of $500 to obtain this status.

The 501(c)(3) status will also allow us to apply for grants to underwrite projects and programs for the museum. We wanted this status in order to be able to apply for a grant for the "restoration and preservation of The New Bremen Sun." [It is necessary to be declared a 501(c)(3) organization in order to obtain grants.]
We received information from our national representative in regard to this project, but that particular federal grant would require the museum to be open 120 days a year in order to apply. We also received support letters from local and state representatives to apply for an Ohio Humanities grant, however no grants have been or would be given for the metal filing cabinets we hoped to use for preservation of The New Bremen Sun. Total cost for this project, not counting our labor, would have been about $7,000. We could possibly get a grant for acid-free boxes, however the Trustees felt this would not be the best way to preserve the old newspapers.

Donations to the N.B.H.A.

We wish to thank the Auglaize County Commissioners for their 2002 grant of $700. We also thank all those who have donated items to the museum, such as the set of English china from Peggy (Speckman) Henschel now being displayed on the dining room table, and the many other items received by the curators throughout the year. If you took a drive down North Main Street on the evening in late November - December, did you notice that warm holiday glow radiating from the museum? We wish to thank the anonymous donor for the window candles that go on and off by themselves which provided that glow.

New Purchases

About $100 was spent to purchase new display books for photos and postcards. Another $155 was spent to purchase two additional 2-drawer stackable metal filing cabinets for obituaries at the N.B. Public Library. Two metal signs were purchased for $160, which are used in the community billboard at the corner of St. Rt. 274 and St. Rt. 66 to advertise the Annual Summer Picnic and the Annual Christmas Tree Festival. We received a donation of a third sign that lists the summer hours of our museum.

Projects for 2003

The American Legion Post #241 has agreed to help with the lighting and re-decorating of our military room on the 2nd floor of the museum.

We have asked the Bremenfest Committee for help towards a new roof for our museum. This project could cost as much as $10,000 or more. You can help by making a donation marked for this project, and/or by buying raffle tickets for our historical New Bremen quilt to be raffled off at our annual summer picnic on June 1st (see page 13). We look forward to your support and hope we will not have to take out a loan to cover cash flow as we did in 2002.

NEW POLICY FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

At the October 2002 Board of Trustees meeting, it was approved that the yearly membership dues beginning in 2003 will be $10.00 for an individual and $15.00 for a husband and wife. Lifetime memberships will be $100 for a single individual and $150 for a husband and wife. If one spouse is already a lifetime member, the other spouse can now become a lifetime member for $50.

NEXT SPECIAL EVENTS

ANNUAL DINNER / MEETING – MARCH 17, 2003

Our annual dinner will be held this year in the St. Paul Church educational building. Members will be asked to vote on two amendments to the "Code of Regulations" of the N.B.H.A. as follows:

Addition to ARTICLE II (1) Election of Trustees

"Anyone considered for the position of Trustee must be a member in good standing of the New Bremen Historic Association."

Addition to ARTICLE III (1) Officers

"Such individuals elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees as referred to previously in this item must be a member in good standing of the New Bremen Historic Association."

These two amendments were approved by the Board of Trustees to be submitted for vote at the annual meeting on March 17, 2003.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC – JUNE 1, 2003

Tickets are available ($2 each or 6 for $10) for our historical New Bremen bicentennial quilt which was designed by Delores Stienecker, assembled by Lawanda Gerzina and Marilyn Deter, and quilted by Lavon Dicke. The quilt will be raffled off at our annual summer picnic on Sunday, June 1st, 2003. Contact any of the trustees if you would like one or more chances to win this quilt.

We will also have the Auglaize County Bicentennial bell on display at our museum that day. The bell was cast at the Auglaize County Fair in August 2002 and is being shown at different locations in the county during Ohio's bicentennial year of 2003.

Looking Forward to 2003

With heartfelt thanks, the Board of Trustees and Appointees wish you and yours

A Blessed New Year.


EDITOR'S NOTE: We regret to announce that Rev. Holmer and his wife, Pat, will be leaving our community soon to move to Stow, Ohio to be near their daughter and son-in-law and two grandsons. Rev. Holmer began his pastorate at St. Peter’s Church on April 16, 1972 and preached his last sermon there on June 14, 1992.

In 1988, the Holmers moved from the church parsonage to the historical Adolph Boesel house they purchased at 114 South Franklin Street, where they continued to make their home after Rev. Holmer’s retirement in 1992.

Rev. Holmer has been a trustee of the N.B.H.A. since 1991, was always very interested and involved in our Christmas Festivals and floats for the Bremenfest parade, and has been a big helper with the Towpath bulk mailings.

The Holmers are looking forward to being closer to their grandsons so they can spend more time with them. We wish "Larry" and Pat many years of happiness in their new location and hope they will keep in touch with us, too.
New Bremen Historic Association

Annual Financial Report for 2002

Thomas Braun, Treasurer

ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2002

<table>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>CHECKING ACCT.</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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INCOME

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<td>MEMBERSHIP: Regular yearly dues</td>
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<td>Lifetime Memberships</td>
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<td>Membership Donations</td>
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<td>MEMORIAL Donations</td>
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<td>DONATIONS: Misc. (Visitors, etc.)</td>
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<td>GRANT &amp; MATCHING FUNDS</td>
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<td>INTEREST on C.D. &amp; Promissory Note</td>
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<td>ANNUAL DINNER (169 tkt. sales @ 8.00/ea.)</td>
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<td>COMM. PICNIC (Food, Ice Cream Donations)</td>
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<td>CHRISTMAS RAFFLE (ticket sales)</td>
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<td>CHRISTMAS DOOR PRIZE Donations</td>
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<td>MERCHANDISE SALES</td>
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<td>S/H charged on mail orders of mdse.</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL YEARLY INCOME</strong></td>
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EXPENSES

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<td>UTILITIES: Electric (N.B. Utilities)</td>
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<td>Water (N.B. Utilities)</td>
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<td>INSURANCE &amp; Treasurer’s Bond</td>
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<td>EE for 501(c)(3) status (one time fee)</td>
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<td>IMPROVEMENTS &amp; MAINTENANCE:</td>
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<td>Improvements to brick patio, sidewalks, oven</td>
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<td>Lawn maintenance, incl. mowing &amp; trimming</td>
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<td>CURATORS: Photo &amp; postcard display books</td>
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<td>GENEALOGY: Metal files for N.B. Library</td>
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<td>OFFICE EXPENSE: P. O. Box Rent</td>
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<td>Safety Deposit Box Rent</td>
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<td>Other Office &amp; Misc. Expenses ($160/signs)</td>
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<td>TOWPATH: Printing, Envelopes, Labels</td>
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<td>Bulk Permit ($125/yr.) + Postage</td>
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<td>Editor’s Research &amp; Office Expense</td>
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<td>ANNUAL DINNER expenses</td>
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<td>COMMUNITY PICNIC expenses</td>
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<td>BREMENFEST float expenses</td>
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<td>CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL expenses</td>
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<td>MDSE. purchased for resale</td>
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<td>Postage on mailed mdse. sales</td>
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<td>State sales tax on mdse. sold + $100 report fee</td>
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<td>MISC. - Memberships (Ch./Commerce &amp; Mecca)</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES</strong>:</td>
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ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002

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Curators’ Report

by Joyce Holdren

FIRST FLOOR

Stairway: Our stairway is being used as a display area for our plaques.

Parlor: More items have been added to the display cases.

Music Room: Only the mannequin has had a change. All mannequins were in vintage wedding dresses in 2002. A change is planned this spring.

Dining Room: A complete set of donated English china is being displayed on the table and buffet.

School Room: The display cases are being kept up-to-date with the most recent acquisitions. We have new albums for displaying photos and postcards and are in the process of displaying items used in the November 1879 “Bloody Barn Battle” – the gun, Marshall's badge, Billy club, pictures, etc.

UPSTAIRS

Clothing Room: All plastic has been removed from clothing items to prevent further mildew and to allow the air to circulate. All metal hangers have been discarded. We have plans to better display our vintage clothing.

Bedroom: There are more pictures and birth certificates hanging on the walls.

Sewing Room: Quilt racks have been added so we could better display our quilts which had previously been stored in drawers.

Military Room: The photo album has been preserved and can now be looked through without damaging the pictures and the diaries which are written on each page. We discovered a picture of General Pershing reviewing the troops. This is a room that will be on our list for renovation in 2003.

We would like to thank Carl Roediger for giving so generously of his time and talents whenever we come up with ideas for changes of displays, quilt racks, a shadow box for the “Bloody Barn Battle” items, repairs, etc.

The curators – Delores & Joyce

QUILT RAFFLE

This historical quilt will be raffled off at our Annual Community Picnic on Sunday, June 1st. See page 12 for details.

(Tickets - $2.00 ea.)
SUPT. C.C. GARMAN
New Bremen School
Superintendent Charles C. Garman succeeded
Superintendent Charles F. Limbach in 1909. He
served 6 years, until 1915 when Clyde Fogel
became the new superintendent. Mr. Garman was a graduate of
Western Reserve University and Wooster
University.

During Supt. Garman's tenure, the high school
received accreditation from the Ohio State University and
Ohio College Association, and then from the North
Central Association of Universities.

Also during his years as superintendent, Mr. Garman
was responsible for starting a private kindergarten,
introducing manual training and household economics,
establishing a commercial course, and introducing music
with a special teacher. He established a new heating
and ventilating system, sanitary drinking fountains,
ensured the laboratories, and created a modern
classification and magazine file department of the library.
He also established medical inspections and the School
Savings Bank. He taught Chemistry and Manual
Training and was in charge of Senior Review.

1913 "Mirage" yearbook

On October 4, 1912, these two letters of Supt.
Garman's were published in The New Bremen Sun:

1 Dear Friends:
I find that in the village school district of New Bremen there
are 155 persons between the ages of 14 and 21 who are not in
school. Realizing that many of these have been compelled to
leave school to work, and believing that the public schools
ought to serve the entire community and particularly those
whom circumstances have deprived of opportunities of
attending the public school, I wish to know how many would
be interested and would attend a public night school between the
hours of 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Supt. Chas. C. Garman

2 Dear Friends:
I am mailing this letter to all parents in New Bremen who
have children between the ages of 3 and 6 years.

We are desirous of organizing a private kindergarten,
affiliated with and supervised by the public schools. It is not
feasible at present for the public schools to finance a
kindergarten although the Board of Education is heartily in
favor of the movement.

If there are enough patrons interested to justify it, we shall
organize at once in a suitable building with Miss Verona
Langhorst as teacher. The cost would not exceed 50¢ per
week. The kindergarten would be in session in the forenoon
from 8:15-11:15 a.m., enabling the brothers and sisters in
school to take the children and bring them home. Regular
attendance will not be required as in school, but the fees
will be required as long as the child is registered.

The children will be taught songs, games, clay modeling,
paper cutting, story telling, etc.

Supt. Chas. C. Garman

Night School
Not only are the younger people addressed by Supt.
Garman's letter of last week asking for the night school to start,
but an earnest demand is being made by high school
graduates, employees and even business men, that the plan
be enlarged to cover the Commercial School, Manual Training,
Domestic Science, Chemistry and other subjects, allowing
anyone to enter who will pay the small tuition necessary to
cover expenses. This will be done. All those interested should
report at once to Mr. Garman.

(N.B. Sun - 10/11/1912)

Kindergarten
Supt. Garman now has about 20 children enrolled in the
Kindergarten and will start the work very soon. The East Side
Town Hall (above the Fire Dept. on South Washington Street)
will be used, after proper screening is placed in the windows
and around the stairway to make it perfectly safe for the little
ones. In the meantime, Mr. Garman and Miss Verona
Langhorst, who is to take charge, will visit Kindergartens and
Kindergarten colleges in Oxford, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

(N.B. Sun - 10/11/1912)

The Kindergarten will start at 8:15 a.m. Monday, October
28, 1912 at the East Town Hall.

Public Library
Supt. Garman is organizing a movement to install a Public
Library in the Grothaus Block (at the southeast corner of Main
& Monroe Streets) opposite the Post Office. Let any and all
organizations who want to boost the interest of New Bremen
get busy with plans to help finance it.

(N.B. Sun - 10/11/1912)

Tour of Inspection
Members of the Board of Education - Charles
Garmhausen, August F. Isern, Dr. F.F. Fledderjohann and Ed
Heinfeld, accompanied by Supt. Charles C. Garman, made a
tour of inspection to Lima and Findlay this Wednesday, looking
into the operation of the domestic science and manual training
departments of the schools in those cities.

It might be interesting for the general public to know that
New Bremen has a manual training department on a small
scale in operation at the Central School building, with a
number of the High School pupils taking advantage of the
opportunities being offered them.

Now discussion is rife as to the advisability to also establish
a domestic science department for the benefit of the girls in the
public schools. The introduction will, of course, entail
considerable expense, but the principal object of the Board of
Education is to see what it really means to employ competent
instructors for these departments.

To install either manual training for the boys or domestic
science apparatus for the girls would be foolhardy unless the
necessary ability can be secured to properly instruct the
children in these branches. Truly, there is nothing too good for
the schools of New Bremen or the coming generation of men
and women.

(N.B. Sun - 10/11/1912)

1914-1915 School Faculty & Class Size
Grade 1: Verona Langhorst (31); 2: Meta Boesel (41); 3:
Clara Vogelsang (42); 4: Helen Bienz (41); 5: Viola Neuman
(36); 6: Clara Wegener (44); 7: Clara Fledderjohann (41); 8:
A.M. Steinebry (32).

Grade 9: (31); 10: (29); 11: (17); 12: (23). Total = 408.

Miss Myrtle Kinning taught music in the grades and the high
school. Harry Taubken taught the commercial classes. Emil Koenig
taught at the North School (Lock Two) and had 33 pupils. Miss Leona
Wienke taught at the Brown Township Special School District (Weber Side, on St. Rt. 364) and had 26 pupils.

(N.B. Sun - 9/11/1914)
It is believed that this picture was taken in front of the "teacherage" building at 35 South Herman Street, now the home of Ken & Pat Bensman.

AMUSING SIDELIGHT:
Margaret Merritt's father was Warren Merritt who conducted an egg-packaging business on N. Main St., later operated by Leo Kuhlhorst. Her mother was Alfreda Broemen, sister to Hilda Broemen, one of New Bremen's former telephone operators. In the 4th grade, Margaret was said to have kept talking, passing notes, and chewing gum. The teacher punished her by making her stick her gum on the end of her nose for a half hour. The Merritts moved to New York about 1918.
[Photo courtesy of Lucille (Topp) Francis
[Photo by Marie Topp & Carl Luellman]


ROW 2: VERONA LANGHORST (TEACHER), Marie (Otte) Topp, Margaret (Grewe) Paul, Robert Paul, Marie (Wehrman) Metz, Carl Luellman, Milford Dickman, Pearl (Waterman) Becker, Dorothy (Dickman) Landwehr.

ROW 3: Marie (Rabe) Howell, Wilbur Schowe, Delores (Luedeko) Fogt, Solms?, Nickels, Myra Schlesseman?, Margaret (Kniolle) Silke, (8)


NEW BREMEN'S FIRST KINDERGARTEN
New Bremen's first (private) kindergarten was started in October 1912 by Supt. Charles C. Garman. The only mention of a kindergarten in the Women's Club minutes was on 2/21/1929, when a committee was formed to "find out the sentiment of the town regarding kindergarten work in connection with the public school." Perhaps there is more information in the missing minutes of 1912-1918. Former Supt. Jay Stauffer searched the old minutes of the School Board and could find no mention of a kindergarten there either.

Apparently Verona (Langhorst) Huenke only taught the kindergarten class for 1 year, since in the above photo she is the teacher for the 1st grade class in 1913-1914. If any of our "older" readers have any recollections of a kindergarten class in the years following 1912-1913, I would appreciate hearing from you.

The Editor

MORE SCHOOL NEWS
N.B. Sun - 9/7/1917: Supt. Fogel requests that those pupils who have been advanced to the 7th grade go at once to the St. Paul Sunday School building where they will be met by their teacher and assigned to their places, while those pupils who have been advanced to the 8th grade are requested to go at once to the room in the Laut block at the City Park on North Main Street where they will be received by their teacher. Pupils who have advanced to the 1st year of High School will come directly to the High School assembly room (in the Central School building.)

N.B. Sun - 9/6/1918: With the 7th and 8th grades crowded up on the 2nd floor of the Central building with the High School, the teaching facilities for the High School are very handicapped. Every effort is being made to adjust matters until the new building is finished and the congested condition will be relieved.

1918-1919 School Faculty & Class Size
Grade 1: Mrs. Mabel Henderson (36), 2: Miss Myra Kuenzel (31), 3: Irma Kuenzel (42), 4: Margaret Krein (42), 5: Adah Eigel (25), 6: Catharine Buss (37), 7: Alma Geiger (41), 8: Otto C. Doenges (31)
Grade 9: (34), 10: (39), 11: (21), 12: (22). Total = 415.

Esther Kuck was the teacher at the North School (Lock Two) and had 26 pupils. The German Township Special School District (West Side, on St. Rt. 364) was not mentioned.

"When I was in the 7th grade (1917), we went to school in the St. Paul's catechism (Primary) building and spent our recesses in the old City Park between Franklin and North Main Street. My 8th grade was spent in the north side of the building where Theodore Doenges had his tire shop on North Main (Bernice Diger house). Otto Doenges was a schoolteacher at that time. Later he became a minister at Oak Harbor, Ohio."

First New High School Built - 1920
On 5/14/1918, a bond issue for $20,000 was passed and construction was begun on a new 2-story brick High School on the northwest corner of the Central School property facing east, with 2 rooms on each floor, including the basement. The building was completed in 1920 at a cost of $20,500.29.

[1983 N.B. Sesquicentennial book - pg. 100]

-15-
4-H CLUBS

One of the earliest programs of the 4-H Club movement was started in Springfield, Ohio in 1902.

On January 15, 1902, Albert B. Graham, who was the superintendent of Springfield Township Schools in Clark County, met with 85 children aged 10-15 for the first “Boys and Girls Agricultural Experiment Club” in the basement of the Clark County Courthouse. In 1924, the program became known as 4-H and the 4-leaf clover was adopted as its emblem. The four H’s originally represented Head, Heart, Hands and “Hustle”. The fourth H later was changed to “Health”. The 4-H club motto is “To Make the Best BETTER”.

Albert B. Graham was born in Lena, Ohio, a mile east of Conover, about 12-13 miles east of Piqua, just south of U.S. Route 36. A 4-H centennial celebration was held in Conover in January 2002 at the A.B. Graham Memorial Center housed in the former Miami East Junior High School. A.B. Graham died in 1980.

NEW BREMEN GIRLS’ 4-H CLUB

The New Bremen Girls’ 4-H Club had its origins as the “Rosebud Club”. In 1921 the club, newly formed as the “Girls’ Club”, visited the “Mothers’ Club” (later named the “New Bremen Women’s Club”) and solicited funds, after which the Mothers’ Club members were invited to an open house held by the “Girls’ Club” on 2/23/1922.

In October 1925, Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel and her “Girls’ Club” took all honors in the county cooking club. On December 2, 1925, a Mr. Herman spoke to the Mothers’ Club, the “Girls’ Cooking Club” and the “Girls’ Sewing Club” and their leaders about different club work being done in the county.

In July 1926, Mrs. Kuenzel’s “4-H Food Club” gave a play in the Community Room on South Herman Street. This was the first mention of their name as “4-H Club”. The picture above, thought to have been taken about 1927, shows Mrs. Kuenzel and the girls wearing white dresses and headbands with the 4-leaf clovers sewn on the front. (Notice the inconsistency of positioning – some are placed in the ‘cross’ position, while the others are in the correct ‘block’ position.)

Thanks to Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman for providing pictures and her 4-H Club books for the years of 1928-1932. There is not enough room to show all the pictures, however I will give the names here:

- In the 1928 picture, the girls are Helen (Harjehausen) Scarpelli, Dorothy (Sunderman) Luedeka, Mary Archer, Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, Almeda Waterman, Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman, Marie (Waterman) Taylor, and Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel, advisor.

- The 1929 picture shows the following girls with a trophy: back: Lucile (Fark) Moeller, Phyllis (Nussmeyer) Murtaugh, Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman, Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, Marie (Waterman) Taylor, Almeda Waterman, Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel, advisor.

- Front: Dorothy (Sunderman) Luedeka, Lucille (Hirschfeld) Moser, Bernadine (Huenke) Mueller, (trophy), Viola (Hirschfeld) Headapohl, Gladysadell (Schwieterman) Kuhlman, Betty (Burk) Sturtevant.

According to the 1929 club book, the club was then called the “New Bremen 4-H Club” and concentrated on foods, especially desserts. Their project was called “Simple Desserts”.

On July 16, 1929, the 4-H Club was invited to join the Women’s Club at their annual outing at Evergreen Lake.
The 1930 picture of the “N.B. 4-H Food Club” shows Marie (Waterman) Taylor, Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman, Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, Mrs. Elmer (Pearl) Wittenbrink, advisor, Carol Greber, June Brockman, Katherine Maurer. Their project for this year was “Fruits for Every Day”.

In 1931 the “N.B. 4-H Clothing Club” advisor was Mrs. Elmer Wittenbrink and the club’s project was “summer clothing for girls”. There is no picture of this club for this year, however these names were listed in the club roll: Mary Belle (Block) Jordan, Dorothy (Gieseke) Kah, Catherine (Heil) Grundish, Laverta (Hirschefeld) Westbay, Helen (Hoffman) Simon, Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman, Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, Dorothy (Sunderman) Luedke, Betty (Weinberg) Kettler, Irene (Wehrman) Staggs, Ruth (Wiehe) King. The girls’ project for the year was “creating an attractive room”.

A baseball team was organized in 1931 to play against other teams in the county. On June 7th, an outing was held at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds, with baseball games, a cafeteria picnic, a vesper service and after dark, a campfire sing-along.

On July 27th, the girls hiked out to Speedway Park for a wiener roast and vesper service. Guests were Mrs. N.E. Vitz and home demonstration agent Miss Virginia Bear of Wapakoneta.

In 1931, there was also a “Junior N.B. 4-H Clothing Club”, with Elodie Lanfersieck’s mother, Mrs. Joe (Josephine) Lanfersieck, as advisor. (See picture below.) At the 9/16/1931 meeting, the entire group danced the Virginia Reel.

In 1932, the senior club’s project was “Attractive Rooms”. (See club picture below.)

1931 N.B. JUNIOR 4-H CLUB
BACK: Lela (Tangeman) Holmes, Dorothy (Ruebebusch) Fischbach, Grace (Thiesing) Schroeder, Ruth (Rabe) Schwartz, Lillian Schowe, Marguerite (Wittenbrink) Langsdon, Kathleen (Kuck) Noble.
FRONT: Lucille (Buckloh) Deehrake, Pina (Schnelle) Hogenkamp, Marion (Meyer) Robinson, Mrs. Josephine Lanfersieck (advisor), Virginia (Gast) Williams, Margaret (Henning) Boecker, Helen (Wuebbenhorst) Richey.

1932 N.B. SENIOR 4-H CLUB
BACK: Marie (Westerbeck) Schwabrow, Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman, Mrs. Pearl Wittenbrink (advisor), Gabriel (Schaefer) Herring, Dorothy (Sunderman) Luedke.
FRONT: Selma (Hoffman) Geib, Helen (Hoffman) Simon, Betty (Weinberg) Kettler, Marie (Kuest) Fischbach, Catherine (Heil) Grundish, Ruth (Wiehe) King.

[photo & I.D.'s from Elodie Sollman]
Dear Lucille:

10/22/2002

Your October 2002 newsletter was outstanding again. Congratulations on a well researched and well presented publication.

I read the articles about Reuben Thiesing and thought you'd like to see a recent publication written by Jane Ware and published by Orange Frazer Press of Wilmington, Ohio in 2002. Jane interviewed Reuben for her book "Ohio - A Traveler's Guide to Ohio's Rural Architecture." Maybe the readers of The Towpath would enjoy it as well.

Mary Ann Olding - Cincinnati, Ohio

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Thanks to the above letter from Mary Ann, I have a chance to expand on the Reuben Thiesing story. Much of the information I already had, but was unable to use because of a lack of space. If anyone would like to read the full article written by Jane Ware, I believe a copy of this book is available at the New Bremen Library.

The Reuben Thiesing House - 214 S. Canal St.

The Thiesing house (shown on page 10 of the October 2002 issue of The Towpath) was built from 1976-1980 of scavenged materials. It has 3 kinds of brick, flagstones and wood shingles on the outside, with stone sills. The shutters are made with stone blocks. There is wood ornamentation in the gables that was once stair railings in a bank. The flagstone came from the lock tender's house (Thompson house), 2 bay windows came from the Gilberg Funeral Home, and the driveway is made of paving bricks that used to be Second Street.

Inside, the marble in the entry floor is from the First National Bank on Washington Street and the parquet floors came from pocket doors from a church. Wainscoting came from the floor of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church. The living room ceiling beams came from a barn and heating pipes came from an old house in Chickasaw. An ash floor came from the old mill and was tongue-and-grooved by hand.

In addition to building his own house, Reuben bought and remodeled other old houses in New Bremen. Part of his trademark was the color he painted them - yellow with green trim. Some examples still exist - if you see a yellow and green house, you know it was one of Reuben's.

One of Reuben's creations came from an old log that came out of the canal in 1984, when the canal was being dredged with a bulldozer. Two white oak logs were found which had been stuck under water for 75 years or more. The logs were 9 and 18 feet in length by 30 inches in diameter. Reuben asked for the logs, but the village claimed them as its own property. The logs had lain on the canal bank for several years, when one day Reuben noticed that they were missing and found that they'd been dragged to the village dump to be burned. Reuben persisted and finally the village agreed to let him have them when he said he would use one of them to make furniture for the New Bremen Library. Hoge Lumber Co. of New Knoxville collected and sawed the logs and Reuben made the "New Books" bookcase shown here. The plaque on this bookcase reads "The lumber used to construct this bookcase came from 2 oak logs uncovered when dredging our Miami and Erie Canal in 1984. The 18 foot log was 145 years old and lay in a muck hole over 75 years or more."

Crafted by Reuben Thiesing - 1990

In 1990, Mary Ann Olding, a Cincinnati preservationist who was overseeing restoration of Cincinnati's Memorial Hall, was told that the hall's floors had to be replaced. Being from New Bremen and knowing of Reuben's knowledge and abilities, she asked him to come to Cincinnati and give his opinion. He determined that he could save the floors because he had his own tools and his own system and agreed to come back and make the necessary repairs.

He scavenged the flooring of a small changing room in Memorial Hall and devised a special jig to cut floorboard patches that would fit in seamlessly in the damaged floors. The whole job took him just two weeks, working from 7 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m. every day without stopping, unless Mary Ann brought him lunch. One day as she was watching Reuben work, Mary Ann left to take a phone call. When she returned, she couldn't find the patch!

Reuben had started to build another house similar to his own before he died in August 2000. The unfinished house has been purchased by one of his long-time helpers, Mike Nagel, who, along with his son Scott, are planning to complete the house in Reuben's tradition.

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Dear Lucille:

11/22/2002

Thank you for sending the copies of The Towpath, especially the July 2000 issue dealing with the different wars. I was delighted to also receive a copy of my grandfather George F. Bloss's letter that had appeared in The New Bremen Sun during the Spanish American War. I have another letter that he wrote to his "mama" during his war days. My husband and I loved New Bremen on our recent visit with Sally and Howard Farley. They are the perfect host and hostess. We hope to return to New Bremen. Thanks again,

Mary Ann (Bloss) Gardner
W. Des Moines, Iowa
Dear Joyce:
10/20/2002
I will be sending an envelope of photos from the albums of my mother, Marie (Boesel) Halsema. She was in the process of re-mounting them at the time of her death in 1958. I am impressed by the techniques now available to enhance photographs electronically, even on a home computer, and hope you are taking advantage of them. (see above)

I am also impressed by the quality of The Towpath. The October 2002 issue has given me information about bridges that I never knew before, even though my father, Eusebius Julius "Jay" Halsema, was a civil engineer and had given me much information about this type of structure. The genesis, rise and fall of New Bremen entrepreneurs was also instructive. Please relay my congratulations to Lucille Francis.

James J. Halsema – Glenmoore, Pennsylvania

Dear Lucille:
10/17/2002
When I was young my father (Doug Harrod, N.B. Police Chief) used to talk to me about all the history in the town in which we lived, but I wasn't really interested at the time. Now that I'm older and married, I'm discovering so much that I had never known about New Bremen. Lately I've started to collect a lot of things from New Bremen and Auglaize County by visiting various antique shops. It's become my hobby.

I'm hoping someone will write another historical book about New Bremen or Auglaize County soon. I would like to see a book just about the past businesses of New Bremen - that's what interests me most about The Towpath. My favorite most recent finds were 3 postcards about N.B. – the old City Park, the Central School, and a Birdseye View.

Christina (Harrod) Klinger – Columbus, Ohio

Lloyd Laut Celebrates 100th Birthday

On Sunday afternoon, December 15th, 2002, a celebration was held in Otterbein Retirement Community's Campus Center at Lake St. Marys to honor Lloyd Laut on his 100th birthday which he reached the next day, December 16th. Making the trip to help him celebrate were Janet (Garmhausen) Bock of Columbus, Ohio and her sister, Betsy (Garmhausen) Hunter of Dobbs Ferry, New York. Their father, Wilbur Garmhausen, was a fellow 1920 graduate of Lloyd's and they were good friends until Wilbur's death in April 1996.

Hi Lucille:
1/7/2003
Thanks for the photos from Lloyd Laut's 100th birthday party. I'm delighted to have them. That was a great party. I was so glad to see friends I knew, like you and Tom Braun, plus meeting other New Bremen people, in addition to seeing Lloyd. That was a treat for me and was well worth the drive to be part of the festivities. As always, I look forward to The Towpath for an interesting and relaxing interlude!

Warm regards,

Betsy Hunter – Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.
Lucille: 11/22/2002

Tom Braun sent me a complimentory copy of The Towpath and I really appreciate the effort you put into it. It is interesting to see letters from distant cousins and hopefully we will be able to catch up with their families, genealogically speaking. Thanks again to you and Tom for your help.

C. Fred Nieter – Warsaw, Indiana

Dear Tom: 12/26/2002

I just completed reading The Towpath “book” you sent me containing the issues from 1996-October 2002. That is by far the most I have gotten for my money in a long time! I have put them in a loose-leaf binder so that they are easier to read and I can add future copies. The history and genealogy and human-interest stories are fantastically written. I cannot imagine the time that Lucille puts into compiling that information, and who is her proofreader? I did not see any typos. (She is!)

Several things came to mind as I read through those issues. First, are there any “young” people on your N.B.H.A. Board? It would be a shame for these publications to discontinue due to a lack of interest by the next generation. Secondly, I will be putting the various activities on my calendar – March dinner/meeting, Community picnic, Bremenfest, Christmas open house. I don’t imagine that I would be able to make all of them, but I am going to have to get in on a couple.

Third, I feel short-changed by having my ancestors leave New Bremen. What a heritage to have grown up in that village! How am I ever going to make all the ties of the Nieter family to the Rabes, the Gibbergs, the Quellhorsts, the Luedekes? There are some Nieters mentioned that I do not have listed in my information. They will be a starting place for my next trip to your library.

If I may, I would like to take one of the issues of The Towpath to the Warsaw Historic Museum and see if they couldn’t come up with a similar publication. Bet they are not that ambitious.

Fred (tired eyes) Nieter

Greetings to you, Tom: 1/7/2003

The enclosed check is for membership in the N.B.H.A. and also for a book of the past issues of The Towpath. I really look forward to reading it.

Thank you for your information and all the kind interest you have in helping the genealogists.

Sincerely,

Judy (Nieter) Boy – Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Ms. Francis: 12/31/2002

Enclosed is a check for 2 more enjoyable years of The Towpath. I have been participating in writing workshops and the instructor is encouraging me to submit several of this fall’s work to publishers. This last quarter I wrote 5 poems about New Bremen as a general theme. I will send one to you for your consideration if you think they might fit your needs. My sister Rachel’s oldest daughter teaches creative writing in Lansing, Michigan and has agreed to give them one final critique. The editing process never ends!

Paul Poppe – Edmonds, Washington

NEW MEMBERS THIS QUARTER (THRU 12/31/02)

12/19/02 Dicke, Esther (Headapoh) - New Bremen
12/17/02 Dudas, Donald - Greensburg, Pennsylvania
10/3/02 Dunn, Kathryn (Boese) (reinstated) - Cincinnati, OH
11/22/02 Gardner, Maryann (Bloss) - W. Des Moines, Iowa
11/21/02 Griner, Rolland H. (reinstated) - Wesley Chapel, FL
10/12/02 Hageman, Carne (Luedek/Wolf) (RE) - Wapak, OH
11/2/02 Holliman, Georgia (Travis) - Chicago, IL
11/25/02 Luebke, Richard (LM) - New Bremen
11/25/02 Luebke, Ruth (Burmeister) (LM) - New Bremen
10/21/02 Moore, James E., II - Los Angeles, California
11/25/02 Nieter, C. Fred - Warsaw, Indiana
11/7/02 Smith, Eilen (LM) - Findlay, Ohio
11/1/02 Southard, Janie - St. Marys, Ohio
12/20/02 Topp, Ellen (Thaman) (LM) - New Bremen
12/20/02 Topp, Gene P. (LM) - New Bremen
12/19/02 Voress, Karen (Dicke) (LM) - New Bremen
12/19/02 Whitten, Glenna (LM) - New Bremen

MEMBER DEATHS THIS QUARTER

12/26/02 Heil, Herbert (died 12/26/2002)
11/12/02 Holliman, Kenneth (died 11/2/2002)
12/7/02 Kuenning, Thomas E., Sr. (LM) (died 12/7/2002)
12/1/02 Meyer, Marcia (Bricker) (CM) (died 11/2/2002)
10/21/02 Valentine, Scott (killed 10/21/2002 in accident)
11/27/02 Wierwille, Naomi (King) (CM) (died 11/27/2002)

ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

11/25/02 Luebke, Richard (new)
11/25/02 Luebke, Ruth (Burmeister) (new-spouse)
11/7/02 Smith, Eilen (new)
12/20/02 Topp, Ellen (Thaman) (new-spouse)
12/20/02 Topp, Gene P. (new)
12/19/02 Voress, Karen (Dicke) (new)
12/19/02 Whitten, Glenna (new)
12/19/02 Whitten, Rebekkah (Malik) (spouse)

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/2002 = 797
797 = 79 CMs + 14 CML Ms + 298 LMs + 406 Yearly

TOWPATH “Books” NOW AVAILABLE

Have you ever read a current issue of The Towpath and wondered what was contained in the previous issues that are referenced? Or are you a newcomer who has not received The Towpath for very long and would like to read some of the previous issues? Now is your chance to “catch up.” Our printer recently cleaned out his warehouse and found several boxes of Towpath “over-runs.” We brought them to me and I have spent a considerable amount of time sorting the different segments and issues and have assembled the available issues into a number of “books.” There are two different collections — one is comprised of the available issues I have authored from April 1996 thru October 2002. The other is comprised of some of the issues that were authored by Marge Lietz from October 1987 thru January 1996 and is called “Memories of Marge.”

The larger book ("The Towpath") is priced at $17.00 + $3.00 S/H
The smaller book ("Memories of Marge") is priced at $10.00 + $2.50

Place your order early to get the “most for your money.” These first “editions” contain the most issues. As some issues become depleted, the books will be smaller.

The Editor