CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM - 2009

Candlelight dinners held again this year in the NBHA Museum were enjoyed by all. The brightly colored trees were decorated with the theme “A Lockkeeper’s Christmas”. The twinkling candles gave a festive air to the quaint surroundings of the Luelleman House. The dinner tickets were quickly sold out. Musical entertainment was provided by Sharon Chaney and her students and Harriet Bundy and her family.

Each dinner began with appetizers in the living room. Delicious meatballs, cheese and ham wraps, cheese with crackers and a delicious fresh fruit punch were served. Following appetizers, guests were directed to the dining area. Dinner started with Wisconsin cheese soup followed by a salad of baby greens with dried cranberries, feta cheese and toasted walnuts. The main course was roast pork loin stuffed with cranberry cornbread dressing, redskin potatoes and Caribbean blend vegetables.

Following the meal, desserts and coffee were served. A peppermint ice cream dessert was offered along with chocolate cherry cake, lemon fluff and cherry cream puffs. The meal was catered by Speedway Lanes with some of the appetizers and all of the desserts made by members of the Historic Association.

The Christmas Tree Festival and Open House was held on Sunday, December 13, from 1 to 3 P.M. Trees were decorated by the Kindergarten classes, the Library, MECCA, St. Peter’s Church, the Red Hats and Dorothy Hertenstein. Displays were furnished by Susie Hirschfeld, Diane Paul and the Serendipity Nursery School. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were featured guests and welcomed the children and their Christmas lists. Rita Heitkamp played her guitar and sang Christmas songs which the children enjoyed very much. The children also enjoyed seeing Dennis Dicke’s train display set up in the Museum. Cookies and punch were served in the kitchen.
MEMBERSHIP DUES

$15.00 per year ($7.00 extra for spouse)
Lifetime Membership - $150.00 ($70.00/spouse)
Payment is required by March 15th of each year
to assure uninterrupted delivery of "The Towpath".

Check the line above your name on your address label for your status.

-- Membership Status Code --
P09 -- Means you are Paid through Dec. 09.
LM P-09 -- Means you Paid for aLifetime Membership in 2009.
LM D-09 -- Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2009.
CM P-76 -- Means you are a Charter Member and Paid $75 for such by July 4, 1976.
CM D-09 -- Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2009.

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

SELECTED BUDGETED ITEMS

ANNUAL DINNER

PETTY CASH 25.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT 7,361.00
CDS (2) - 1ST NATIONAL BANK ($17,909.13 + $20,000.00) 37,909.00
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT 6,932.00

TOTAL ASSETS $52,227.00

INCOME

MEMBERSHIP: ANNUAL DUES 4,928.00
LIFE MEMBERSHIPS 3,030.00
DONATIONS (Includes $532 membership donations) 639.00
MEMORIAL DONATIONS 860.00
AUGLAIZE COUNTY GRANT 594.00
INTEREST: Certificates of Deposit 353.00
ANNUAL DINNER (Ticket sales) 1,235.00
COMMUNITY PICNIC (Food sales & pie auction) 2,100.00
CHRISTMAS DINNER (Ticket sales) 1,097.00
MERCHANDISE SALES 4,549.00
SHIPPING & HANDLING RECEIPTS 40.00

OTHER INCOME

LOCK TENDER'S HOUSE DONATIONS (Inc. $2100 Key sales) 1,140.00
BRONZE MULE STATUE DONATIONS 2,027.00

TOTAL YEARLY INCOME $94,883.00

EXPENSES

ELECTRIC & WATER (N.B. Utilities) 352.00
NATURAL GAS (Vectren) 1,038.00
TELEPHONE (Verizon) 331.00
INSURANCE: Property & Treasurer's bond 723.00
INDOOR & OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE 1,097.00
CURATORS' EXPENSES 328.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES (Includes P.O. Box Rent - $70) 261.00
POSTAGE 94.00
TOWPATH PRINTING 3,878.00
TOWPATH POSTAGE (Bulk Mailing, incl.$180 Permit) 1,003.00
ANNUAL DINNER 1,061.00
COMMUNITY PICNIC 974.00
CHRISTMAS DINNER 2,069.00
PURCHASES OF MDSE. FOR RESALE + SIGNING FEES 1,530.00
SALES TAX ON SALES (+$100 FILING FEE) 382.00
RENTAL OF GOLF CARTS - AUGLAIZE COUNTY FAIR 400.00
MEMBERSHIPS: Chamber of Commerce & Mecca 130.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES 107.00
PURCHASE OF 2 TENTS 187.00
CIVIL WAR FLAG DEDICATION EXPENSE 354.00
LOCKKEEPER'S HOUSE PROJECT 98,666.00

TOTAL YEARLY EXPENSES $113,898.00

ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

PETTY CASH 25.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT 24,228.00
NEW BREMEN FOUNDATION INVESTMENT 8,959.00

TOTAL ASSETS $33,212.00

ANNUAL DINNER - MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010

SPEAKER: JOHN GILBERG

"The Towpath" – January 2010 – Pg. 2
Dear Lucille:

8/28/2009

It was so nice talking to you on the phone. Here is a memorial contribution in memory of my father, Judge Jacob James Boesel, son of Otto & Bessie (Stone) Boesel. I am also enclosing the memorial flyer from his funeral on March 15, 2008 when he was interred in Greenlawn Cemetery in Wapakoneta, Ohio, where he served as Auglaize County Judge for 5 years.

I especially wanted to tell you about his W.W.II history since his name was not listed with the others on page 10 of the April 2009 issue of The Towpath along with other New Bremen men in the U.S. Armed Service as of August 15, 1942.

My dad, Jacob J. Boesel, served as a Captain in the 4th Infantry Division. He participated in the D-Day invasion of France, landing at Utah Beach in June 1944. He also served in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. He served in battles at St. Lo, Bastogne, Aachen, the Hurtgen Forest, the Ardennes, and the Battle of the Bulge. He retired as a Colonel in the USAR.

Thanks for all you do for the NBHA. Sincerely, Margaret Boesel – Blacklick, Ohio

9/21/2009

I just received my copy of the October 2009 issue of The Towpath in today’s mail. I have to admit I read the synchronized swimming article first! You did a really great job researching and putting the article together. I hope others enjoyed it as much as I did. All the memories you added were most informative and appreciated. Thanks again for all the hard work you and others do for the enjoyment of your members. GOOD JOB!!

Linda Cable Jones – Yorktown, Indiana

9/25/2009

Would you please complete the address and forward this stamped envelope to Mary Jo Vogelsang in New York City? Her article was in the October 2009 issue of The Towpath. I went to school with her in the 7th grade. I enjoy The Towpath immensely. Sincerely, Lois (Westerbeck/Lammers) Stammen - North Star, Ohio [1940 N.B.H.S. graduate]

9/25/2009

I enjoyed receiving the October 2009 issue of The Towpath this month. The articles were especially interesting. You are all to be commended for the work you do putting everything together. What dedication! Keep up the good work!

I was amazed to find a list of the graduates of New Bremen High School in the New Bremen Historic Association’s website, www.newbremenhistory.org, Marcia (Ashbaugh) Weadock – Fort Wayne, Indiana [1964 N.B.H.S. graduate]

9/30/2009

In your October 2009 issue of The Towpath, you had an article about Armistice Day and a list of New Bremen’s World War I veterans. My father, Irvin Dammeyer, is on that honor roll. The only thing I can remember he ever said about the war is that he was on guard duty on the French-Belgium border the night the Armistice was signed. Julia (Dammeyer) Fark

10/2/2009

The latest Towpath (October 2009) arrived in my mailbox yesterday, 69 years to the day after I was born in a small house (the Berning house) on Pearl street in New Bremen. Great timing! I would have been thinking about New Bremen anyway, but now I had new photos and stories of my relatives to help me enjoy the day even more! Dr. Fiedderjohann was the attending doctor on that day in 1940. I still wonder about being born in a little bedroom at home - Mom with no EKG machines plugged in, no IVs dripping, no imaging machines to have provided a preview, and the country doctor and relatives in attendance! But then, that was the way it was for most of us then; seems like it worked just fine.

At my 50-year class reunion last year, we talked about the fact that the majority of our class started first grade together in 1946 and graduated together in 1958. That wonderful continuity is probably the case for all the classes featured in The Towpath’s October 2009 edition, and is even probably the case yet today in New Bremen. It is a far cry from the ever shifting, mobile social patterns of the 2000s in our cities and metropolitan areas where folks can’t appreciate what they are missing.

It is good to have The Towpath keeping our roots watered and, even though somewhat stretched, still in the ground. Bob Gilberg (Class of ’58) - San Diego, CA

Response to thanks sent to Tom & Shelley Kuennning for their generous donation to the Lockkeeper’s House fund:

Thanks for the “Thanks”. New Bremen was a great town to spend the first eight years of my life. Mom and Dad loved living there after Dad retired from the military and I have always enjoyed coming home. I think I have been home six times since Mom passed away to deal with ongoing activities there and visit with friends who still live in town. Simply put, the town and the people of New Bremen will always have a spot in my heart. I want to thank you for all you do to honor past citizens of the town and educate today’s residents on our shared heritage. It is because of your activities and others like you that New Bremen keeps getting to be a better place to live.

Tom Kuennning, Jr. – Lyttleton, New Zealand (10/28/2009)
E-mail to Lucille Francis: 10/29/2009

I want to tell you how much we all thought of your page-long Vogelsang story in the October 2009 issue. I think you are tops at your job. I've worked at Time magazine and at Newsweek (in lowly positions), and I think that you could be a credit to any large city newspaper or publication. I really do.

Maybe it would be more appropriate to imagine you as the curator of a large history museum. Ours here is The New York Historical Society. New Bremen is lucky to have you.

That reminds me — Grandpa Vogelsang had several sisters. One of them, Aunt Meelee (Emile) married J.H. (Henry) Grothaus, who was a banker in New Bremen. Another, I think her name was Elvira (Alvina), married a Ruese (Herman) in Sidney. Their son, Lloyd Ruese, was therefore my father's cousin. Lloyd's widow Jan retired to the Presbyterian home in Sidney. We often visited her. She told me that a very close friend and neighbor of theirs in Sidney was a young girl named Gretchen Mackenzie. I suppose Gretchen is retired by now, but I never actually met her, but intended to look her up and never got around to it. It's a small world.

Best wishes, Mary-Jo Vogelsang — New York City

Dear Tom, Delores & Lucille: 11/9/2009

I want to thank all of you for making our time in New Bremen so wonderful and for giving us the opportunity to build a new set of memories there. It was especially meaningful for my mother (a descendant of the Nietert/Koop families associated with the mills) — a great opportunity for her to reconnect with a town she'd heard a lot about.

Tom, you really went above and beyond the call of duty — that was a wonderful day and we will remember it always - and I love my New Bremen cookbook, "Preserving the Abundance"! I am going to make the coffeecake recipe soon.

Thank you. Elizabeth Creely — San Francisco, CA

Dear Genevieve: 11/10/2009

Your article about the New Bremen swimming pool did bring back lots of memories! We couldn't wait to go there after we got our chores finished on the farm — and looked forward to seeing our friends there too.

You were right about Esther Williams too — we used to pretend we were her when we were swimming back and forth across the pool! I still like to swim. A couple of years ago, they took a picture of me when the seniors did their early morning swim at the pool here in Friendswood. The reporter for the Galveston News interviewed some of us, but I didn't know she took my picture until it showed up in the paper!

Just wanted to share this with you and thank you for the memories. All good wishes,

Carol (Dammeyer) Cook — Friendswood, TX

Mrs. Francis: 11/9/2009

Thank you for taking time to show us around after meeting us on our impromptu side trip visit to the German Protestant Cemetery on our way home from a seminar in Pittsburgh, PA. We didn't really know what we'd find just dropping in with no knowledge about New Bremen. We were very pleasantly surprised. As we said, the town is fantastic. We took a number of pictures of buildings before we met you. We also toured the small park by the restored lock. I have an interest in locks. When I worked for Reynolds Metals in Richmond, VA, it seemed that everywhere they sent me I found a lock. It started with the canal in Richmond.

Karen is originally from Garnavillo, Iowa and is the daughter of Norris Kuenzel who was a member of the NBHA for a short period in the early 2000s. (He just turned 90 and still lives in Garnavillo.) Karen said she wants to become a member too so she will get The Towpath. We had hoped to be able to go through the museum and followed the signs, but of course, it wasn't open.

Karen has been talking about going back to New Bremen already. We seem to travel a lot so we can never know where we'll visit next. We would like to spend more time there because you were so friendly, as well as being able to touch Karen's "roots".

Thank you in advance for the copies of "The Towpath." I'm sure we'll enjoy them. Thank you also for getting us in touch with Mr. Braun. I've used the information you put on the Find A Grave website on the Internet regarding Kuenzel graves but there are still so many questions. Of course, I haven't had time to try to search for answers since we got back.

Thank you again.

Paul & Karen (Kuenzel) Moldenhauer — Stuttgart, AR

E-mails to Tom Braun: 12/22/2009

My name is Art Lowell, a member of the last generation of Long Island descendants of the Bessel family that came from Europe in the 1880s. Are there any members of the New Bremen Bessel branch of the family in your area? We have common ancestors - Isaac and Esther Bessel, my great-grandparents.

Recently, I have had great success finding information about members of the New Bremen Bessels in the archived copies of "The Towpath" on the Internet. I have always been curious about the non Long Islanders. My mother mentioned an uncle and one cousin in New Bremen. This was many years ago. My grandfather, Samuel, was one of four brothers who came to this country. My grandfather and Solomon settled along with Isaac and Esther in Glen Cove, New York. The other two were Benjamin who settled in Great Barrington, MA and Morris who went to New Bremen.

If there are any family descendants in the New Bremen area who might want to contact me, my e-mail address is gparr81@verizon.net.

Arthur Lowell — Somerset, New Jersey

"The Towpath" — January 2010 — Pg. 4
Hil! 12/29/2009

So much has happened in the last few days since you gave me Lynne (Harris) Thompson’s e-mail address. She talked to her sister Sis (Cecelia) who then e-mailed me several times. Sis and I had a phone conversation on Sunday. We were both very excited about the contact. We even exchanged pictures. There is a web site, [http://www.citionline.org/history.html](http://www.citionline.org/history.html), that is a history of the Glen Cove Jewish congregation. There is a picture of Isaac Bessel, Morris Bessel’s father on the site and reference to Sam Bessel, Morris’s brother. I am also mailing a copy of an article that appeared in the Long Island Newsday on August 25, 1992. It was about the history of the two oldest Jewish congregations on Long Island. The Glen Cove organization was one of them. There is a picture of Morris’s parents in the article.

Arthur Lowell

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Morris and Celia Bessel were the parents of Jeanne (Jean) Bessel Harris and the grandparents of Cecelia, Niles and Lynne Harris. See the January 2006 issue of “The Towpath”.

*NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 12/31/09)*

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

10/30/2009 Frice, Thomas - Greenwood, IN
9/23/2009 Gruebmeyer, Jane (Moore) - New Bremen (rejoined)
9/20/2009 Marshall, Linda - Centerville, OH
10/24/2009 May-Benson, Teresa - Randolph, MA
10/14/2009 Meyer, Joe - New Bremen
11/20/2009 Moldenhauer, Karen (Kuenzel)(LM) - Stuttgart, AR
11/20/2009 Moldenhauer, Paul (LM) - Stuttgart, AR
9/28/2009 Schoenberger, Jeff - Plainfield, IL
12/17/2009 Steinke, Joyce (Nagel) - St. Marys, OH
9/22/2009 Waterman, Jon - Wapakoneta, OH
11/20/2009 Ziegenbusch, Adam (LM) - Franklin, LA

*ADDITIONS TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP ROSTER*

11/20/2009 Moldenhauer, Karen (Kuenzel)(new)
11/20/2009 Moldenhauer, Paul (new)
11/20/2009 Ziegenbusch, Adam (new)

*MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD*

12/27/2009 Heil, Virginia (Kettler) (CM) (died 12/27/09)
9/2/2009 Heitkamp, Paul (died 9/2/09)
12/20/2009 Jackson, Jane (Johnsonbaugh)(LM) (died 12/20/09)
10/23/2009 Koenig, Dorothy (Dickman)(died 10/23/09)
11/5/2009 Kuennig, Jack (died 11/5/09)
9/9/2009 Kuether, Veronica (Bergman) (died 9/9/09)
10/26/09 Martin, Anita (Schelp/Cook)(LM)(died 10/26/09)
9/24/2009 Opperman, Betty (Quellhorst)(LM) (died 5/10/09)
11/13/2009 Pape, James (died 11/13/09)

*MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS*

The following donations have been received this period:

In memory of Jacob J. Boesel
by his daughters, Margaret Boesel and Kathryn Dunn

*MEMORIAL / HONORARY DONATIONS*

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

*CURATORS’ YEAR-END REPORT*

Many new items have been added to the Museum this past year, including photos from New Bremen and the surrounding area – also negatives which will be developed by John Kooper. There is also a collection of New Bremen articles from Vern Doenges.

We have a display window at the former Lyons Electric building at the corner of Monroe & Water Streets which features an old living room setting where you would sit and listen to the radio. Pictures of radio personalities are included in the display. The pictures, bible and tables are all donations to the Museum.

We are in need of an area rug that would be used in our parlor – the room with the couch and chairs. The current one is in very poor condition.

We received a gift of two small refrigerators that will be used for our summer picnic and summer tours. We appreciate the thoughtfulness of all your donations.

Delores & Joyce wish all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.
WM. UETRECHT GROCERIES & FRUIT

BUSINESS DEAL: William Uetrecht, the grocer, comes into possession of William Klanke's business block at 9 North Main St., the third building north of the Monroe St. corner.

Mr. Uetrecht will move his stock of groceries to his new location and his present quarters will be utilized by Mueller Brothers with their stock of clothing. Mr. Uetrecht expects to take up residence in the second story of his newly acquired property.

(N.B. Sun – 8/20/1909)

Bills dated 1913-1914 say “Uetrecht & Speckman”.

In 1916, the Uetrechts moved to 327 South Wayne St. in St. Marys, where Mr. Uetrecht opened a grocery business.

This building later housed Weinberg Brothers Grocery (1916), Friemering's Grocery (1921), Tip Top Grocery (1929), Cloverleaf Cream Station (1934), Irvin Fark's Bakery (1936), Main St. Fruit Market (1944), Lewis Poppe's Shoe Repair Shop (1948), Les Howe's Equity (1953), Harry Joyce's Equity (1954), Luetta Roettger's Dress & Gift Shop (1968), and Richard & Betty Plattner's Ceramic Shop (mid-1970s-1989). (some dates are from telephone books). At some point, the front of the building was covered with stucco. The building (3rd from left) is now owned by Crown Equipment Corp.

WILLIAM UETRECHT'S BUSINESSES

In 1882, William Uetrecht became employed as a carpenter and cabinet maker (for the Klanke Furniture Company which had been founded about a year earlier, in 1880-1881). He followed this vocation for “eighteen years”, at the end of which time he started a grocery store at Fort Wayne, Indiana (August 1902?). For eighteen months he continued in the grocery business at Fort Wayne and then (January 1904) he returned to New Bremen and opened a grocery store there. For fourteen years Mr. Uetrecht remained in the grocery business and then he disposed of it and was employed in the (Auglaize) Furniture Factory for two years (1914-1916), at the end of which time, in 1916, he moved to St. Marys, established himself in the grocery business in that city and has since been thus engaged.

(Wm. J. McMurray's History of Auglaize County - 1923)

FROM THE NEW BREMEN SUN

4/4/1890: Klanke Bros. Furniture has now reorganized, partners being George, William & Edward Klanke and Messrs. Uetrecht & Wittenbrink. (John Klanke, also a partner, had died 2/3/1890)

2/10/1894: William Uetrecht had the misfortune of losing the middle finger of his left hand Tuesday while operating a planing machine in the Klanke Furniture Factory. The index finger also was injured, but can be saved. The middle finger was damaged beyond hope and was amputated by Drs. Ekermeyer and Stone. This is the second time that Mr. Uetrecht has been unfortunate while working in the shop.

5/2/1902: William Uetrecht resigned the foremanship in Klanke's Furniture Factory Wednesday and sold his stock to F.W. Greber. Mr. Uetrecht has been connected with this establishment since its infancy (20 years) and much of its success is due to his industry and management.

8/8/1902, 9/26/1902: William Uetrechts will move from Franklin Street to Fort Wayne.

1/1/1904: William Uetrecht, who has for the past three weeks been engaged in fitting up the Vogelsang room near the Finke House (formerly known as the French House - on North Main St.) for a grocery will open up for business today.
WEST MONROE STREET
3/11/1904: G.A. Künnig, who has been in the grocery and gents furnishing business for a number of years, last night sold his business to William Uetrecht, the Main Street grocer, who will take charge next Monday morning.

Mr. Uetrecht is well known here, having for a large number of years been active in the Klanke Furniture Co. and having been engaged in the grocery business here for several months after returning from Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he conducted a similar business for several years.

5/7/1909: Charles J. Boesel sold his stock of groceries to William Uetrecht and will give full attention to his implement, hardware and sporting goods business.

NORTH MAIN ST.
8/20/1909: Mr. Uetrecht will move his stock of groceries to his new location (previous page) and his present quarters will be utilized by Mueller Brothers with their stock of clothing. Mr. Uetrecht expects to take up residence in the second story of his newly acquired property.

UETRECHT & SPECKMAN
[NOTE: It is unclear who the Speckman partner was. However in April 1921, the store was purchased by Alfred J. Friemering and Aloys Wagner from Robert & Louis Weinberg, who had purchased it from Frank Speckman about 5 years earlier (1916?).]

8/18/1914: The Auglaize Furniture Company factory was built to replace the old Klanke Furniture Company factory which had burned down on 9/12/1913. When the new factory began operations in August 1914, William Uetrecht again became the "shop superintendent".

2/7/1941, 1/19/1945: In 1916, the Uetrechts moved to 327 South Wayne St. in St. Marys, where Mr. Uetrecht opened a grocery business. He was an expert cabinet maker and continued to work in his cabinet shop after retirement from the grocery business, even after he had one leg amputated due to gangrene.

11/7/1929: William Uetrecht Jr. was elected Mayor of St. Marys on November 5, 1929. He is 29 years old, the son of Mr. & Mrs. William Uetrecht Sr., and has been associated with his father in the grocery business.

BIOGRAPHY
Carl F. WILHELM Uetrecht was born 9/19/1861, the son of Christian & Sophie (Waterman) Uetrecht. On 11/12/1885, he married Anna M. Hespe, born 3/18/1865, daughter of Henry & Mary (Neumann) Hespe. They had been married for 55 years when Anna died 2/2/1941.

When William died 1/19/1945, he was survived by 5 children: Mrs. Emil (Laura) Wellman of Celina, Mrs. Clem (Frieda) Crow and Mrs. Simon (Edna) Hay, both of Lima, William Uetrecht of St. Marys (then St. Marys postmaster), and Lester Uetrecht of Lima. Four children died as babies.

Funeral services for both William and Anna were held in the home of their son, William H. Uetrecht, the postmaster, at 725 South Wayne St. in St. Marys.

More New Bremen Grocery History
[clippings from The New Bremen Sun]

BUSSE'S MEAT MARKET
10/6/1922: For several weeks it has been rumored that New Bremen would soon have a new meat market and now Frank Busse & Son of Minster have announced that they are planning to establish themselves in the Laut property on South Washington Street formerly occupied by the John Laut cigar store. Mr. Busse and son Raymond have conducted a meat market at Minster for several years and expect to operate both plants simultaneously, the elder Mr. Busse continuing in charge of the Minster store while the son will conduct the business in New Bremen. The local store will probably be opened on Saturday, October 14th (1922).

THE RED AND WHITE STORE
8/10/1934: The Red & White Store, New Bremen's new grocery located in the Finke building on West Monroe Street (112-114) will be open to the public for the first time tomorrow, Saturday, August 11, 1934. F.H. Grimes, owner and manager, formerly operated a Red and White store at New Knoxville. He and his family already have established their residence in N.B.

THE KROGER STORE
8/16/1923: The Kroger Grocery & Baking Company, with a long chain of stores in central and western Ohio, last Friday opened its doors in the Huenke building on West Monroe Street, where a branch of their business has been started. It is reported that the store room, the former Wissman pool room, has been rented for a long term of years which leads to the belief that the additional grocery has become a permanent institution.

3/24/1927: Anthony Varno, for the past two and a half years manager of the local Kroger store, has been transferred to Piqua and probably will leave for there the fore part of next month. He will be placed in charge of Piqua's newest Kroger store to be opened on Young street. Henry A. Westerheide of Dayton, son-in-law of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Froning living west of New Bremen, probably will succeed Mr. Varno as manager of the store here.

9/26/1929: Anthony Varno, former manager of the Kroger Grocery Store here, has returned to New Bremen from Piqua and again is in charge of the store. He has taken the place of Joe Hart of Piqua who several weeks ago succeeded Henry Westerheide as manager of the grocery.

5/21/1938: The Kroger Grocery & Baking Co. today signed a new 10-year lease for the Theo. Purpus building at Main & Monroe Streets. (Probably under management of Hollis C. Breece at this time.)

10/19/1939: Kroger’s celebrate the “7th anniversary” of the opening of their modern food market in New Bremen. The Kroger Store is under the capable management of Francis MacWhinney, a Kroger veteran.

10/6/1949: The local Kroger Store will close its doors Saturday night, October 15, 1949, and discontinue business in New Bremen. The entire stock will be moved to other Kroger stores in the vicinity and the building vacated.

OTHER STORES
There were many more grocery stores in New Bremen over the years – too many to list all of them here. Let us hear from you about other stores you remember…
THE CAMPING EXPERIENCE

The Camp Fire Girls organization was founded in 1910 in Vermont by Dr. Luther Gulick and his wife, Charlotte Gulick, as a sister organization to the Boy Scouts of America, also founded in 1910. It is listed as the first nonsectarian organization for girls in the United States. The Girl Scouts of America was founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in Georgia. Neither the Camp Fire Girls nor the Girl Scouts were the first to offer a camping experience for girls, though. The first camping experience for girls dates back to 1902 and Laura I. Mattoon, a private school teacher in New York. Miss Mattoon took her charges to New Hampshire for a wilderness experience - at that time, a first for girls.

Laura Mattoon believed that camping was an important means of building character. She taught her campers the pleasures, values and skills of outdoor life. This camping experience was named Camp Kehonka after the call of the wild goose and was located near Wolfeboro, New Hampshire on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee. Camp Kehonka served three generations of women as the oldest private girls' camp in the United States from 1902-1985. Rebekkah Malik Whitten and Johanna Malik Schroer (daughters of Genevieve Conradi) attended this camp in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Camp Fire Girls held their first camping session in 1913 (see article at right). Their motto, “Give Service”, was formulated by Luther Gulick, the founder. The Camp Fire Law provided guidance to the girls and was usually sung at meetings. “Worship God; Seek Beauty; Give Service; Pursue Knowledge; Be Trustworthy; Hold onto Health; Glorify Work; Be Happy.” Dr. Gulick emphasized that the Camp Fire law is a desire or a goal, not an oath. He said, “The power of the law is within you. It is not law that others can demand you obey; that is, it is not law from without – it is law from the heart. It commands only those who seek to follow. It is opportunity, not obligation. It is an open road leading to the beautiful country where you live, rather than chains which would bind or limit your freedom.”

The Camp Fire ceremonial gown in the early years was based on a pattern of the gowns of Native American women. It was a simple pattern, an inexpensive design, easy to adjust for the growing girl and it made all girls equal. The girls embroidered their own designs and badges on the dresses. (See Bendetta Schelper’s dress in the accompanying pictures.) The ceremonial attire and the membership have changed over the years. In 1975 the organization became co-ed and was called Camp Fire Boys and Girls. In 2001 the name was changed to Camp Fire USA and the mission and core values emphasize an organization that builds caring confident youth and future leaders. Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, Camp Fire USA currently serves nearly 750,000 children and youth annually. Camp Fire USA will observe the 100th anniversary of its founding in 2010.

CAMPFIRE GIRLS WALKED INTO TOWN WEDNESDAY MORNING AT TEN FIFTEEN

(New Bremen Sun – 8/15/1913)

“The week's camp at Edgewater Park, Celina, was ended by the Camp Fire girls Tuesday of this week when 25 of them hiked the 10 miles from Celina to St. Marys to remain overnight at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leander Sollman. From there they continued their journey on foot Wednesday morning, arriving on native soil at about 10:15 in the forenoon. Schulenberg's ice cream parlor formed the first stopping place, where each of the hikers was regaled with ice cream at Mr. Schulenberg's expense, and in the evening they visited the Opera House picture show at Mr. Boesel's expense. The girls, of course, are duly grateful for these kindnesses.

The party taking part in the hike consisted of 25 of the girls, the balance of them having come home a day or several days in advance on the traction line. Of course, as they approached the corporate limits they were met by those who had come home in advance, and the entire camp, consisting of upward of forty members, marched up the street lustily cheering all the way, none the less happy for the strenuous time which they had had!

Those having enough grit to hike the 16 miles were Leora Behm, Mildred Bessel, Mamie Boesel, Frances Bruns, Hermine Dicke, Irene Dicus, Maud Garmhausen, Hilda Gobrecht, Frances Heil, Klara Heil, Norma Heil, Edith Houser, Martha Ihle, Irene Kamman, Marie Knipple, Helen

Rebekkah & Johanna Malik with "Lady Buffington" at Camp Kehonka

“The Towpath” – January 2010 – Pg. 8
Laut, Bendetta Schelper, Marie Schrage, Ione Schulenber, Hazel Wehmeyer, Vera Weinberg, and Marie Woehler, with their guardian, Miss Clara Fledderjohann. Helen King, a Lima Camp Fire Girl who was also camping at Edgewater, accompanied the girls. The girls are anxiously waiting for the ceremonial meeting when they will receive their honor beads for walking 40 miles in ten days. $31.21 was left and deposited in the bank for next year’s outing when the girls expect to go further and stay longer. The girls certainly enjoyed the week. One of them said she wished it would rain ‘pitchforks and hay ladders’ on Tuesday so they couldn’t leave.”

CUTATORS’ CORNER
CURATORS: DELORES STINECKER & JOYCE HOLDREN


DONOR: Dorothy (Doe Wallace) Zarley — Campfire Girls dress of her mother, Bendetta (Schelper) Wallace.

DONOR: Edward Conradi Ekermeyer — Metal insignia wings for AF BBG CMD Pilot.

DONOR: Dennis Dicke — Commemorative Church plates for St. Paul Church (1833-1983) & St. Peter’s Church (founded in 1845).

DONOR: Esther (Headapohl) Dicke Estate — Advertising items: Screwdriver (Edgar & Eddie Rump Service Station), Shoehorn (Kayes, St. Marys), Box (Jackson Jewelry), Memo Holder (1st National Bank), Pencil (Miller Insurance), Pencil with Lord’s Prayer on it.

DONOR: Verdella Schaefer Estate — Dust Bonnet, 5 pairs gloves, dictionary.


DONOR: John & Dot Koeper — 1895 German Baptismal Certificate of Mabel (Marbal) Elise Hoeper [daughter of Julius & Elise (Sollman) Hoeper], 1909 Confirmation Certificates for Mabel Hoeper, Ivan Koeper.

DONOR: Beverly (Rump / Miller) Plattner — Wedding photos of Beverly Rump & Don Miller, bride’s dress and bridesmaid’s dress, both sewed by Vilma Rump, mother.


DONOR: Jayne Knost — Scythe handles & blades, Slaw Cutter - from Levi & Julianna Egbert farm.


DONOR: N.B. School Library — Numerous books.
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NEW BREMEN TROOP NO. 1

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to 1) Do my duty to God and my country and to obey the scout law, 2) To help other people at all times, 3) To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Law (12 points)

A scout is trustworthy.
A scout is obedient.
A scout is loyal.
A scout is courteous.
A scout is kind.
A scout is friendly.
A scout is clean.
A scout is brave.
A scout is thrifty.
A scout is hardy.
A scout is helpful.
A scout is reverent.

Shamrock Patrol: Carl Ermeyer, Lewis Erb, Raymond Hartwig, Lawrence Heil, Leon Kellermeyer, Leo Wehrman, Arnold Wuebbenhorst, Kenneth Ziegler.


Raymond F. Sullivan, Scout Master

Raymond F. Sullivan graduated from Miami University in June 1912 and became an instructor of the English and Commercial Departments of New Bremen High School in September 1912. Through his efforts, the New Bremen troop of the Boy Scouts of America was founded.

(1913 Mirage - pg. 22-23)

BOY SCOUTS CAMP AT LAKESIDE, OHIO

Under the direct leadership and supervision of Scoutmaster R.F. Sullivan, a party of 37 boys ranging in age from 12-18 years departed Wednesday morning at 4:40 am on a special car on the Western Ohio (interurban) for Lakeside, Ohio where they expect to remain ten days and enjoy typical camp life. Those in the party were Mr. Sullivan, Fred Behm, Caesar Boesel, Reuben Boesel, Waldo Boesel, Carl Ermeyer, Lewis Erb, Raymond Hartwig, Lawrence Heil, Homer Isern, Leon Kellermeyer, Leon Kettler, Lambert Klanke, Paul Kunning, Richard Kunning, Herman Laut Jr., Willis Laut, Jacob Maurer, Edgar Meyer, Grover Neumann, Edgar Nieter, Leonard Nieter, Ward Pape, Carl Purpus, Carl Schrage, Cade Schulenberg, Elton Schulenberg, Edgar Speckmann, Lloyd Speckmann, Lester Trautwein, William Uetrecht, Aaron Vogelsang, Fred Vogelsang, Leo Wehrmann, Felix Weseli, Arnold Wuebbenhorst.

The journey up was by rail as far as Sandusky where a lake steamer took the party on to be conveyed to Lakeside where they are to have a two week outing along interesting points on Lake Erie under the supervision of principal-elect Raymond F. Sullivan. Returning, the party will tramp all the way, excepting those unable to physically stand the long walk, who will be permitted to come back by rail.

For some this was the first car ride of any length, while for a large number the steamer ride was the first experience of its kind. The local post office is distributing the numerous postcards that arrive daily from the boys to their parents and friends. The window in the Grothaus block is liberally decorated with postcard bulletins which arrived daily since last Thursday afternoon, stating progress made and experiences enjoyed by the boys in camp. Scoutmaster Sullivan reported that all but two or three suffered seasickness while on a launch to various points along the coast. No one, however, suffered evil consequences. Meals in camp consisted of common staple food, and all delighted in devouring even the most ordinary dishes which at home would perhaps have been rejected with a sneer.

HOMEWARD BOUND

Boy Scouts started on long hike from Lakeside

The homeward hike was started Tuesday afternoon, but Cade and Elton Schulenberg came late Wednesday evening via Western Ohio, foot-sore and tired, the rest of the gang holding out for the finish. The Lakeside Courier of May 29 mentioned arrival of the boys in the following words: “Thirty seven boy scouts from New Bremen in charge of R.F. Sullivan are here for a ten day outing and are making themselves at home in the Barnes cottage. The jolly bunch arrived Wednesday afternoon on the steamer Arrow. After their outing they will return to Sandusky from whence they will hike back home, a distance of 120 miles.”

And hike they surely did. They arrived in Lima Thursday afternoon, in Wapakoneta Friday forenoon, and in New Knoxville Friday evening. They arrived Saturday at 2:00 pm at Fledderjohann’s corner at New Bremen’s north corporation line, somewhat sunburnt and dust-covered but otherwise fresh as if they had just started the 125-mile walk.

It might be well to state that the entire distance was not covered on foot, as it was the desire of the boys to be home by Saturday, and the journey proved too long to be covered in the allotted time. After reaching Burgoon in southern Sandusky County, it was decided to utilize the traction (interurban) as far as Lima in order to make sure that all would be home no later than Saturday.

Dr. W.J. Stappe and P.M. Berend, as members of the Booster Committee, conducted the Citizens Band to the intersection of North Main & Pearl Streets where the band formed at the head of the procession, conducting the Scouts up through Main, Monroe and Washington Streets as far south as Cherry Street where
countermarch was made and the guests of honor were conducted to Booster Park (West Monroe Street) where, at the hands of the Campfire Girls, refreshments were served. Mayor Otto J. Boesel addressed the assembled masses, directing his remarks principally to the Scouts and Scoutmaster, complimenting them all on the successful manner in which the outing had been completed. Succeeding the mayor’s talk, Mr. Sullivan gave a short account of the trip and experiences while at the lake. He gave assurances that next year would see a much larger number eager to be participants in the camp and hike.

Even though prevailing weather conditions were of a rather undesirable nature for this FIRST BOOSTER DAY of 1913, people nevertheless were seen on the streets in large numbers, eager to see the contests, races and the giving away of prizes. People came in from far and near.

The dance platform erected for lovers of dancing at the corner of Washington and Front Streets on the vacant lot south of the Woolen Mills was a rather deserted looking place, owing to the low mercury mark. The floor has been waxed and treated in such a way that it stands up well with any of the best floors - in fact it is the largest outdoor platform in Auglaize County. Tomorrow evening (June 14th) another Booster dance is to be held, rain or shine. In the event of rain, the Crown Auditorium (West Monroe Street) will be pressed into service.

(N.B. Sun – 5/30, 6/6, 6/13/1913)

[NOTE: From clippings found in a scrapbook kept by Esther Fearing Quist, recently donated to the NBHA museum by the Paul & Viola Headapohl family.]

...Gen Conradi

BOY SCOUTS TO CAMP WAKONDA

[New Bremen Sun - 7/21/1932]

Nine New Bremen boys will join the Sidney Boy Scouts at Camp Wakonda this year. The camp is scheduled to open Monday, August 1st, and will continue to Monday, August 8th. Thursday, August 4th, will be visitors day. The New Bremen youths are: Jimmy Dicke, Kenneth Fark, Carman Hirschfeld, William Kuck, Bob Kuennen, Tom Kuennen, Jimmy Moeller, Steve Rust, Jim Sunderman.

Lee Harmony, one of the camp leaders, is asking the boys to have their boxes packed and at the Post Office corner at 1:00 Sunday afternoon, July 31st. A truck will be there to take the supplies to Sidney. At 6:00 Monday morning, August 1st, the boys will gather at the Post Office corner for the trip to Sidney.

The following suggestions on what to take to camp are from a bulletin addressed to the Sidney Boy Scouts:

CLOTHING: Shorts, gym shirt and shoes or anything suitable for roughing it; Extra underwear and stockings; Twelve handkerchiefs; Pajamas; Bathing suit; Sweater; Rain coat. TOILET ARTICLES: Toothbrush, toothpaste, Ivory soap, towels, comb, small mirror. BEDDING: Three woolen blankets or equivalent. DISHES: Knife, fork, spoon, tin plate, tin cup, towels to wipe your own dishes. MISCELLANEOUS: Camera, flashlight, musical instruments, fishing tackle, ax, watch.

WEBSITE UPDATE

The following links have been added since our listing first appeared in the January 2009 issue of The Towpath. A Site Map was developed (and is still a work in progress) to make it easier to navigate the website.

new SITE MAP [www.newbremenhistory.org]

“THE TOWPATH”

TOWPATH ARCHIVES: Oct.’87-Jan.’96
INDEX OF ARCHIVES (.pdf) (Marge Lietz, Editor)

MUSEUM RENOVATIONS (Barn, Patio, New Tin Roof)

CANAL
Lock One Restorations & Village Seal

CHURCHES: St. Paul 175-Year Books

GENEALOGY
Life of Phillip Jacob Maurer (.pdf)
St. Paul Church Cholera Deaths (.pdf)
NB Biography Index–1923 McMurray (.pdf)
Boesel Genealogy (.pdf file) (print landscape)
Finke Obituaries (Henry & Louise)
German Protestant Cemetery Aerial Photo

AUGLAIZE COUNTY
Auglaize County Courthouse (picture)
Brief Auglaize County Facts
Golden Triangle Stats - 2000
Golden Triangle Maps (.pdf)
“Dear Old St. Marys Forever”

CIVIL WAR STORIES
9th Reunion of 37th Regiment
More Civil War Stories (6 stories)

HISTORICAL ARTICLES
New Bremen Furniture / Monty McDermitt
Lehmkuhl Hotel
August Dierker, Tinsmith
New Bremen Cement Products Co.
Otto Mesloh, Sousa Cornetist
The Interurban
New Bremen’s Filling Stations (.pdf)

INTERVIEWS / ORAL HISTORIES
Clarence Laut (1975)
Beata Isern (1976)
Frederick Kuennking (1977)
Marquerite Koop Kuning (1980s)
Hilda Huefe (1977)

STREET TOURS
New Bremen’s Original Plat Map (.pdf)
New Bremen’s Gazebo
1976 Bremenfest Tour (North Main Street)

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES
Grandma’s Apron
“The Flour Sack” (poem)
Passing Newspapers in N.B.
Otto Mesloh, Sousa Cornetist
Henry Schwers Spits Bullet
THE NEW BREMEN RUBBER COMPANY

In his official connection as president of the New Bremen Rubber Company, Walter W. Grothaus (also president of the First National Bank) gave a short resume of the 8 year history of the rubber company at the New Bremen Civic Association’s final spring dinner meeting which was held at the Legion hall (then on South Washington Street) on Tuesday, May 23, 1944.

Mr. Grothaus introduced the officials of the Seiberling Latex Company of Akron, Ohio, who were among the guests, i.e. - T.K. Seiberling (Director of Seiberling - also manager of a heel & sole manufacturing plant at Carey, Ohio), A.E. Sidnell (Vice President & General Manager of Seiberling), Raymond T. Blesh (Secretary-Treasurer of Seiberling & the N.B. Rubber Company), H.E. Page (Director of Seiberling & V.P. of the Central Investment & Savings Co. of Akron), and H.D. (or D.H.?) Glass (Sales Manager of Seiberling & the N.B. Rubber Co.)

After introductions of these officials, Cade Schulenberg (Vice President of the N.B. Rubber Co.) introduced the guest speaker of the evening - 83 year old Charles W. Seiberling, original founder of the Goodyear Rubber Co. & the Seiberling Latex Co. in Akron and the N.B. Rubber Co. in New Bremen.

C.W. Seiberling gave assurance that "as soon as normal conditions were again restored", the first move by his company would be the erection of another building in the southwest part of town. He complimented plant superintendent, Porter Belton, for the fine relations he maintained with the men & women employees.

Porter Belton had as his personal guests Marshall Becker, Carl Inman, William T. Reed (head chemist since 1942) & Paul Pape, who at the close of the meeting assisted him in distributing souvenirs consisting of a pair of synthetic rubber gloves made at the plant.

Other guests, representing the Girl Scouts, were Mrs. Fred Schroer, Betty Schroer, Susan Schulenberg, Donna Greber and Edith Blanke who demonstrated the purpose and goal of their organization. (N.B. Sun – 5/25/1944)

CAMERICA
Dayton Daily News .................... Sunday, February 24, 1946

Thousands of ghostly white hands reach up into the air in the New Bremen Rubber Co. factory of the Seiberling Latex Products Co. on West Plum St. The hands are actually porcelain molds for rubber gloves made by the "dip" process. During W.W.II, the company made nothing but black gloves for the government, but this past week re-conversion to peace-time products became a reality and the factory began to turn out red gloves, as many as 10,000 (5000 pairs) a day.

The government had no use for rubber baby pants, but “Happy Happy Day!” for mothers of tiny tots – rubber baby pants production was resumed last week.

The process of dipping molds (forms) to obtain rubber products is an interesting one. Raw neoprene latex, a milky liquid, comes to the New Bremen factory in steel drums (or by tank car).

Unloading a tank car of neoprene latex through a pipeline into the New Bremen Rubber Co. plant - 5/21/1947

[photo courtesy of Jon Belton]

To the latex are added the company's special brews of (1) "master-batch" containing vulcanizing, aging, reinforcing and extending materials in a water dispersion, (2) coloring agent – also a water dispersion, and (3) an emulsion containing softening and de-webbing materials, the latter to prevent webbing between the fingers.

The glove molds must be thoroughly cleaned to prevent the rubber from sticking to the mold.

[Clarence Topp, compounder, adding "master-batch" to neoprene latex]

Then the molds, placed on racks in a large dipping machine, are lowered slowly (to prevent air blisters) into the liquid rubber mixture. Three or four dips are required to produce the thickness of the ordinary household glove, fewer dips for surgeon’s gloves, and more for heavy industrial gloves. Each rubber bath is followed immediately by a quick dip into a coagulating solution.
After dipping is completed, the gloves are soaked (leached) in warm water to soften the rubber and to remove chemicals undesirable in the finished product (at left in picture) while the next load is being dipped.

After the gloves have “dripped dry”, those that are to have a “rolled” cuff have the wrist edge of each glove rolled and cemented into a “bead”. If the cuffs are to be “pinked”, that process is done after the gloves have been stripped from the forms.

After the gloves have been rolled, the gloves are dried in one oven and then “cured” in a hotter oven. Six to twelve hours are required in the ovens, depending on the size and thickness of the gloves.

After the gloves are dried, they are “stripped” from the forms, turning the gloves inside out, dusting them with soapstone dust during the process to keep the gloves from sticking together.

After the gloves have been stripped from the forms (inside out), they are taken to the turn, treat, & tumble department, where, by using a special machine with a “pipe within a pipe”, compressed air is blown into the partially hand-turned gloves and the fingers are popped back right side out. The dust from the stripping operation is drawn away from the operator’s face by the outer pipe.

After the gloves have been turned right side out, they are treated in chlorinated water to keep the gloves from sticking and then tumbled dry in a revolving drum (dryer). From there they are sent to the inspection department where they are manually inspected and gauged for the proper thickness (within 1/1000 of an inch). Gloves with any sort of flaw or that test too thin or too thick are marked and sold as irregulars.
During W.W.II, production was switched from natural rubber products to synthetics, which wear better but do not have as much stretch. Chief chemist, William T. Reed, was kept busy for many weeks experimenting with new methods of compounding the dip mixture.

“Lingerie for the little folks” (& toys) are made by the same general processes used in the manufacture of gloves. Leg holes and vent holes must be cut out after the waterproof neoprene “trousers” are stripped from contoured, hollow aluminum forms. About 3000 of these garments, in 3 sizes, will be turned out daily when production reaches high tide.

The plant is at present (2/24/1946) operating 24 hours a day, 6 days a week. Synthetic rubber toys are the next proposed field of operation.

This unpainted toy rubber dog with squeaker sold at a 10/30/2004 auction for $27.50.

Thanks to Jon Belton, grandson of Porter Belton & son of Preston Belton, for providing the original “Camerica” newspaper article of 2/24/1946 (see pg. 12). A Xerox copy of this article is on display at our museum showing more 1946 pictures.

The pictures of the 1960s were taken by Plant Supt. Henry Whitcraft. More of these can also be seen at our museum (many in color).
MEN WANTED!

Starting Rate 73½¢ per hr.
NIGHT SHIFT BONUS
Incentive rates after learning period
Five Days a Week

NEW BREMEN RUBBER CO.
NEW BREMEN, OHIO
(N.B. Sun–8/8/1946)

BELTON RESIGNS
Porter Belton, Asst. Treasurer, Director, & Plant Superintendent of the New Bremen Rubber Co. has resigned his position. He was connected with the Seiberling Latex Products Co. in Akron for about 8 years prior to coming to New Bremen in 1936 and is the oldest employee of the company in point of service. He is regarded as the first man to direct a rubber industry in Auglaize County, having been with the company when real estate and buildings at Plum & Herman Streets were taken over. He has been on temporary retirement due to ill health & regards his resignation as the wise thing to do. (N.B. Sun – 2/19/1948)

N.B. RUBBER CO. PLANT ADDITION
Superintendent J. Henry Whitcraft has announced a building construction and expansion program for the New Bremen Rubber Co. A new 40’x120’ building will be erected behind the present plant as soon as steel can be procured. The contract for the work has been awarded to Clarence Ley. The company also intends to add 1200 sq. ft. of floor space to their compound room. The new building will be erected on an east-west line along Sycamore St. An old shed on the site will be removed to make way for construction.

The N.B. Rubber Co. now employs 133 men and women, according to Personnel Manager, Preston Belton. He and Supt. Whitcraft expect that 50-75 more workers will be needed when the new building is completed.

At present, the plant manufactures rubber gloves for home & industrial use, rubber baby pants and doll parts & toys of various types. Production is expected to increase materially with the added space. Whitcraft said the plant is unable to meet the present demand for many of its products. (N.B. Sun – 5/6/1948)

RUBBER CO. WORKERS IN DAYTON DAILY NEWS
Four women employees of the New Bremen Rubber Co. were featured in an article and photos last Sunday (6/13/1948) in the Dayton Daily News. Elsie Heitkamp, Crescentia Mescher and Mildred Broering were shown at their work, testing squeals in rubber toys.

This marked the second time in 2 years that feature stories have been written about the Rubber Co. plant. Journalist Margaret Taylor and photographer Paul Horn were escorted through the plant by Plant Supt. J.H. Whitcraft, Supervisor Paul Pape and New Bremen Sun editor, Ray Kruger. (N.B. Sun – 6/17/1948)

A small group of supervisors and executives of the New Bremen Rubber Co. held a social meeting at Earl’s Island last week in recognition of the plant’s record-breaking May production. J.H. Whitcraft said work on the new building was progressing and that the building would be ready for occupancy by August 15th. (N.B. Sun – 7/1/1948)

STOCKHOLDERS’ ANNUAL MEETING
The same officers elected when the New Bremen Rubber Co. plant was opened in 1936 were re-elected Monday morning. They are Walter W. Grothaus (President), Cade Schullenberg (Vice-President), R.T. Blesh of Barborton (Secretary-Treasurer), R.T. Parson (M.E. Parsons?) of Barberton (Asst. Secretary), J.H. Whitcraft of New Bremen (Asst. Treas. & General Manager). T.K. Seiberling, founder of the Seiberling Tire & Rubber Co. of Akron, was present at the meeting. Following the meeting, a dinner was served at the Hotel Hollingsworth. (N.B. Sun – 2/16/1950)

A.E. SIDNELL LEAVES N.B. RUBBER CO.
A.E. Sidnell, Vice President of the New Bremen Rubber Co., has resigned effective September 15th. Mr. Sidnell first came here 16 years ago (1936) when the New Bremen Rubber Co. was set up as a subsidiary of Seiberling Latex Products Co. of Akron. Along with being Vice President, he also was Factory Manager. Other N.B. Rubber Co. officers are Cade Schullenberg (President), Raymond T. Blesh of Akron (Treasurer) and J.H. Whitcraft (Factory Superintendent). (N.B. Sun – 9/11/1952)

SALE OF NEW BREMEN RUBBER CO. PLANT
T.K. Seiberling, President of Seiberling Latex Products (parent company of the N.B. Rubber Co. plant on West Plum Street), announced to his firm’s stockholders that Sydney L. Albert, Akron rubber machinery dealer & manufacturer, has agreed to pay $565,680 for the company’s plants in New Bremen and Barborton, Ohio.

Seiberling Latex Products was founded in 1928 by F.A. Seiberling (founder & former chairman of Seiberling Rubber) and his brother, Charles W. Seiberling (co-founder & vice-president of the tire firm.) T.K. Seiberling (son of Charles W. Seiberling) has headed the latex concern since the death of his father in 1946. He is also manager of heel sales & development for Seiberling Rubber. Seiberling Latex has no connection with the Seiberling Rubber Co. tire & tube manufacturer.

Organized in 1936, the New Bremen Rubber Company manufactures rubber gloves and drug sundries. Cade Schullenberg of New Bremen is president of the local firm and J.H. Whitcraft, also of New Bremen, is the factory superintendent. Approximately 100 employees are on the payroll. (N.B. Sun – 1/22/1953)

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

VARIOUS OWNERS
I started working at Seiberling in May of 1956 after graduating from New Bremen High School. During my 13+ years of employment, there were several different owners – Standard Industries, Crane Carrier Industries and Meco, Inc. (continued →)
In June 1967, owner Mal Greenberg of Meco, Inc. sold the above building to Stamco and moved the rubber glove business to 4500 S.E. 59th St. in Oklahoma City.

My husband, Lowell, and I were asked to move along with the factory – Lowell as a 21-year employee who was a factory supervisor and I, an 11-year employee who helped to get the Payroll, Billing and Accounts Receivable & Payable Depts. started in OKC. Other New Bremenites who moved “with the factory” were the Lester Topp family, Joe Knost and the Ben Ludeke family.

After 2½ years, by Christmas 1969, Lowell & I decided to move back to our hometown of New Bremen. The Topps and the Luedekes had already moved back the year before.

The factory continued to operate in OKC until 1979 when the rubber glove business was discontinued and the business and equipment were sold to Walter Morris Latex Products, Inc., a company that manufactured disposable rubber and synthetic anesthesia breathing bags.

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

NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.

PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.

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