



# THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly

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THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

January 2016

## GREG PARROTT TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Greg Parrott taught history in New Bremen for five years. During those years he organized a youth history club and with the help of his students was an instrumental force in the development of the NBHA museum. After his term of teaching at New Bremen he accepted a job in his home area of Illinois. He is now retired and lives on a farm once owned by his great-grandfather in Crawford County Illinois.

Although Greg has been away from New Bremen for many years he never lost his interest in our town. He visits whenever possible and says, "It's always interesting to see the changes in this unique community. While other small towns all over the Midwest are dying, New Bremen is not only surviving but thriving."



We look forward to learning more about Greg and hearing his memories of his time in New Bremen. Greg is looking forward to addressing the organization that he along with many others, assisted in creating. He would really enjoy seeing many of the students that went through his classes

at New Bremen Junior High and High School.

We are happy and honored that such a stalwart advocate of New Bremen has agreed to be our speaker on March 21, 2016 at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

Tickets for the Annual Dinner Meeting will go on sale February 1. Call Dennis Dicke (419-629-2764) or any NBHA Board Member for tickets or more information.

## MUSEUM NEWS

As a result of moving our collection of furniture made in New Bremen to the Pape House, the Luelleman House collections are also being rearranged. The board discussed the best use of the newly opened space and it was decided to move the military display downstairs for easier access. Upstairs a collection of items relating to the history of our schools including some old desks, books and pictures is being arranged.

Over at the Pape House, to protect and enhance the furniture display, blinds have been installed and area rugs added. An 1840's era couch was acquired from the Auglaize County Historical Society. The date of this piece makes it blend nicely into the canal house time period.

Thanks to our curators and board members for volunteering their time to help make both museums as visitor friendly as possible.

## NEW BREMEN'S FIRST SEAL COMES HOME



New Bremen's First Seal circa 1833

Seals have been used from early times to authenticate documents. In 1833 when New Bremen was founded, important legal papers had to have an official seal attached to be considered valid.

New Bremen's first seal is made of solid brass and the wording is in German. It states that Bremen is in Mercer County. This significant piece of our early history has been preserved and is now on display at the Luelleman Museum.

The New Bremen Historic Association expressed their gratitude to the Auglaize County Historical Society for the preservation and return of the seal.

## NBHA Christmas Tree Festival

The NBHA Christmas Tree Festival marked its 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary this year. The event opened for the season as part of the New Bremen Village program. The cheerful crowd gathered in Lock One Park for the lighting of the tree, music by the NBHS Choir and the arrival of Santa Claus. People were then invited to the Lockkeepers House to view the many trees and holiday collections on display.

We thank everyone for their beautiful entries. And thanks to the area businesses who donated prizes for this event.

Diane Paul and her committee organized the event. We are sure this 41<sup>st</sup> festival was enjoyed by many people throughout the Christmas season.

Everett &  
Piper Hyde,  
great-great  
grandchildren  
of Vilma &  
Edgar Rump.

(More pictures  
on page 3.)



**"THE TOWPATH"** is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Association and mailed to all members. We welcome stories, pictures and suggestions of topics from our readers.

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**Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month**

**Membership Dues**

\$25.00 per year (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)

Lifetime membership - \$250.00 (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)

**It is now time to pay your 2016 membership dues.** Payment is required by January of each year to assure uninterrupted delivery of *The Towpath*. Please renew your membership and consider a donation to the NBHA.

**Send your dues and donations to The New Bremen Historic Association, P.O. Box 73, New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073.**

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT THIS QUARTER**

(Dennis Dicke, Recorder)

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Barbara Mousa Gebert**

**Kathy Stienecker Lawler**

**Angela Purdy**

**Phyllis Rose**

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

**Linda Fortkamp**

**Don & Janice Howell**

**Don & Sue Kettler**

**Robert & Linda McDermitt**

**Angela Purdy**

**Lester & Helen Settlage**

**MEMBER DEATHS**

**Robert Campbell (LM) 3/26/2015**

**John Swank 5/3/2015**

**Jim Hudson (LM) 10/4/2015**

**Roger Busse 10/22/2015**

**Wallace Hirschfeld 11/25/2015**

(CM=Charter Member, LM=Life Member)

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

In Memory of Marjorie Stienecker by Kathy Lawler

**NBHA RAFFLE WINNERS**

October- \$100.00 to **Doris McClure** (Manheim, PA), \$75.00 to **Marlene Hittopole** (NB), \$50.00 to **Dick Falkner** (NB).

November- \$100.00 to **Julie Ziegenbusch** (NB), \$75.00 to **Nancy Roettger** (Sidney), \$50.00 to **Ruth Dabbelt** (NB).

December- \$100.00 to **Tanner This** (NB), \$75.00 to **Carl Roediger** (NB), \$50.00 to **Bill Wente** (NB).

Board Members especially thank those winners who have chosen to increase the profits by returning their winnings.

**To the Towpath Editors** –How nice to see the Towpath's "New Bremen Citizens Participated in the California Gold Rush" in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter edition. I spotted the little profile about my great-grandfather Johan Garmhausen and learned a thing or two as well about him.

Coincidentally I was reading *The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey* by Rinker Buck at the time so was primed regarding the Gold Rush Migration. Although I have a vague recollection that Johan may have gone by ship rather than overland.

I should have asked my Dad, Garmy, more questions growing up! He told many stories about growing up in Lock Two and about his family.

Thanks for your good work and also here is my check to renew my membership for 2016.

Best Regards, **Betsy Garmhausen Hunter** (Dobbs Ferry, New York)

Thanks to all of you nice people! Keep up the good work.  
**Ron & Marlene Hittepole** (New Bremen)

Special thanks for the many hours of your preparation and the editing to be done before printing *The Towpath*! Excellent. It has been 67 years since I was involved with journalism. Many changes since then. Ha Ha. **Mary Wissman** (St. Petersburg, Florida)

...I've enjoyed every copy of the NBHA Towpath and am looking forward to the 2016 copies. You all are doing a wonderful job, keep it up. It is a blessing to hear from home. Your friend, **Flo Bushman** (Louisville, Kentucky)

I really enjoy reading *The Towpath* and look forward to each issue. I especially enjoyed this last issue and the article on Don Pape. I was in the Class of 1941, too, so it was special to hear about him. **Mary Ellen Taylor Patton** (Talbott, Tennessee)

Great article on my ancestor, Charles Boesel, in *The Towpath*. Thank you.

**Nancy Brucken** (Ann Arbor, Michigan)

...In the previous issue, the one about the autograph books was particularly interesting since you used one from my mother's books-and maybe a second one from Nettie Loy. She and Miss Burk and the band director (who had played in Sousa's band) were always my mother's favorites and she talked of them often and always in the kindest way...

**Darlene Neuman** (Sidney, Ohio)

We all look forward to getting *The Towpath*, even my neighbors...**Dottie Fark Haupt** (Miamisburg, Ohio)



I am in contact with a gentleman in Germany. He is related to me through my Grandmother Maria Seimer Wuebbenhorst...he sent me the family tree of the Tangeman family in Germany. If you know of any of the Tangeman family searching for ancestors in Germany, please pass this on. **Kathi (Wuebbenhorst) Overley**

#### ITEMS DONATED TO MUSEUM

Photo of Schwieterman Reunion in frame 1931 by **Bill Meiring**; NBHS Sweater Letter, school memory books by **Judy Meckstroth**; Doll Cradle, Steamer trunk with doll clothing 1940s by **Jeanne Braun Schoenberger**; Rabe Manufacturing Company apron, Heinfeld & Gieseke Grocery 1929 calendar, Photos of NBHS Class of 1935 at 50 year reunion, Swimming Pool photos on Plum Street (5) by **Donna Conradi**; Mueller Mens Wear hat that belonged to Ralph Boerger by **Linda Fortkamp**; Schoolbook of Verona Langhorst Huenke by **Don Seyfried**; Woodworking Tools (10) of Carl Wissman by **Terry Wissman**; Table & chairs, sundae glasses, cardboard ice cream container from the Equity Store by **Tim Kuenning**.

#### MONEY DONATIONS

**Michael Bee, Jeffery & Christine Boruvka, Michelle Broussard, Nancy Brucken, Florene Bushman, Jon Carter, Thomas J. Emery Memorial, Tom & Florence Fricke, Dorothy Haupt, Eugene Hirschfeld, Michael & Linda Hirschfeld, Robert & Brenda Klein, John & Nancy Knost, Betty McGowan, Jo Ann Mesloh, Karl & Ethel Mesloh, Rosanne Meyer, Bill & Jane Moore, Craig & Sharon Mueller, Carl & Dorothy Poppe, Carl & Dianne Schwartz, Donald Sink, Jason & Lori This, Wayne & Judy Wiehe.**

#### More Pictures from the Christmas Tree Festival 2015



## MY HOMETOWN IS A LITTLE GEM!

### Interview with

### Catherine “Kay” Schroeder Graf



**Catherine Schroeder Graf and Tom Braun**

Recently, Tom Braun and I traveled to Columbus, Ohio to visit with his cousin Catherine Schroeder Graf. Catherine is a NBHS graduate, Class of 1940, the daughter of Harry and Frieda Dammeyer Schroeder. She was born in Cincinnati in 1922 and moved to New Bremen in 1924 when her father bought the C. J. Boesel hardware business. Catherine, her brother Robert and sister Louise grew up in New Bremen and enjoyed the freedom and opportunity of a small town. She says, “I tell everyone that my hometown is a little gem!”

The time passed quickly during our interview with Catherine. Even after more than 70 years of being away from her hometown, she had memories to fill the three hour interview. She recalled the names and antics of her close friends Mary Quist, Dorothy Komminsk, Beverly Huenke, Bonnie Schulenberg, and Mary Ellen Taylor. She remembers each classmate and the fun times that they had growing up in New Bremen. They skated on the canal and Combs’ ice pond in the winter, rode their bikes to New Knoxville to swim in the summer, and felt safe and secure in their hometown.

Catherine attended the first eight years of school in the Central School Building on S. Franklin Street with Les Blanke as Principal. She remembers the pranks that she and her class pulled. They hid the dreaded County Tests and vowed not to reveal their location to Mr. Blanke. Unfortunately one of the classmates squealed and their attempt to avoid the tests failed. For April Fool’s Day one year they hid all the chalk and substituted candy cigarettes.

As they neared the end of eighth grade, students were required to interview with Mr. Blanke to discuss their plans and potential for success in high school. She recalls that she was shy then and fearful of this interview but to

this day remembers what he told her. “Catherine, you don’t have to be shy...you can do anything you want to!” She often thinks of this encounter and believes it has been helpful to her throughout her life.

She entered high school in the fall of 1936 and found many wonderful activities and learning experiences that were available. Rather than having to pick and choose a few activities, as students must do in larger schools, she was able to do everything. She said that she even joined a basketball team though they never put her in a game. Her special love was music and she took lessons for the piano, clarinet and violin.

One of her major accomplishments during high school was her role as the yearbook editor in her senior year. As editor she was required to select a staff and develop the organizational skills that this required. She has special memories of her staff and their contributions to the 1940 Mirage.

Catherine said that the yearbook staff was fortunate to have Miss Burk as their advisor, but they also had to learn how to deal with problems or difficulties of publishing. They soon learned that they were not permitted to solicit ads for the funding of the yearbook. They had to raise their own money with such activities as collecting coat hangers for the local cleaners.

Another difficult aspect was the typing. The publishing company required the typing to be done on carbon paper. If a mistake was made, the typist had to retype the material. She recalls that when the deadline for the book came they were not ready and many had to work late into the night at the school. As editor, Catherine was there all night. Molly Wehrman, local police chief, saw the lights in the school during the night and reported to Miss Burk. The next morning Miss Burk confronted Catherine and said, “Well, Catherine, you might as well go home. You will be no good for the rest of the day.” She recalls that the angrier that Miss Burk became, the quieter her voice became. She went home that day but felt satisfied that the deadline had been met.



**Miss Alvina Burk, Catherine Schroeder, Beverly Huenke working on The Mirage yearbook of 1940.**

After graduation she made plans to attend Ohio State University and major in music. That summer she was able to get a job at the brand new Swimming Pool that had just opened in New Bremen. Her job was in the check room and she remembers how heavy the bags were that held the swimmer's clothing.



New Bremen Swimming Pool Opened May 1940

Catherine's time at OSU went well and she formed many friendships. In 1941, she was chosen as Homecoming Queen and her mother made her a beautiful midnight blue gown for the event. Her academic record led to her selection for membership in Mortar Board honor society. She had the foresight to supplement her music major courses with an engineering course that focused on mechanical drawing and physics.

She finished her course work in March of 1944 and returned home to assist her mother. Her father had become ill and died just before Christmas in 1943. She began working at Streine's that spring. Soon she learned that New Bremen Schools had a position open for music teacher and she submitted her application and OSU transcripts. Not only did she get the music teacher position but also the task of teaching physics in high school.

In the school year 1944-1945, she began her role as Music Teacher in the New Bremen Schools. That fall she presented *The Magic Nutcracker* with local talent from the grade school and Junior High Chorus.

*...The presentation was sponsored by the New Bremen Parent-Teacher association, but the difficult and painstaking work, proof of which was plainly noticeable on every hand, of teaching, drilling and guiding the youngsters in their roles, devolved upon Miss Catherine Schroeder, able music instructor, assisted by the entire corps of the grade teachers together with Mrs. Michael Rabe... It is the consensus of opinion of the folks who witnessed the rendition Friday evening that never before has a similar entertainment been presented with the same degree of success and approval, nor has an equally difficult enterprise ever been attempted. New Bremen Sun, 12/28/1944.*

In the spring she presented a program with the theme of *Folk Songs and Dances of the United Nations* featuring the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade pupils. That same month she presented a formal concert featuring the Boys' and Girls' Glee Clubs with the theme *Music Soothes the Soul*.

### Program for *Music Soothes the Soul*, April 17, 1945

In Honor of Miss Alvina Burk's 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Service in the New Bremen Schools



### Members of the Girls' Glee Club 1944-1945

Alberta Ahlers,  
Dorothy Blanke,  
Edith Blanke,

Ruth Block,  
Darlene Braun,  
Vernita Brockman,  
Patsy Buchloh,  
Nancy Lou Erhardt,  
Vesta Fritz,  
Donna Greber,  
Lois Ann Hegemier,  
Eileen Hehr,  
Laverne Hirschfeld,  
Donna Mae Holdren,  
Vernita Jung,  
Eunice Kettler,  
Gloria Kettler,

Joanne Koenig, Erlene Kuenning, Shirley Jane Laut, Martha Lynam, Patsy McCollum, Rose Lee Park, Anna Mae Quellhorst, Gloria Quellhorst, Virginia Rinehart, Juanita Roediger, Anita Schelper, Susan Schulenberg, Dona Mae Speckman, Donna Tontrup, Marilyn Warner, Shirley Weinberg.

### Members of the Boys' Glee Club 1944-1945

Merle Belton, Bill Conradi, David Jung, Richard Jung, Walter Kuhlhorst, Eugene Lampert, James McDermitt, James Melchert, Paul Melchert, Herman Mohrman, Jack Schnell, Tom Waterman, Leon Wehmeyer, Mack Wellman.

PROGRAM	
Group I	
"The Lord's Prayer" (Chant) .....	Talia
Erlene Kuenning, Accompanist	
BOYS' GLEE CLUB	
"There's Music In The Air" .....	Boys
"Vesper Hymn" .....	Bornhagen
Patsy Buchloh, Accompanist	
GIRLS' GLEE CLUB	
"Come And Trip It"—English Dance Song .....	Carnegie
Joan Koenig	
Group II	
"Oh Dear! What Can The Matter Be?"—English Folk .....	Boys
Shirley Jane Laut, Accompanist	
"Maidens"—Italian Folk .....	Pitts
Erlene Kuenning, Accompanist	
GIRLS' GLEE CLUB	
"Go Down, Moses"—Negro Spiritual .....	Bridgeport
"All God's Chittun Got Wings"—Negro Spiritual .....	Bridgeport
Erlene Kuenning, Accompanist	
BOYS' GLEE CLUB	
"No Shade So Rare"—from "Kerzas" .....	Harold
Shirley Weinberg	
Group III	
"Ave Maria" .....	Schubert-Hoe
Joan Koenig, Accompanist	
"Sanctus" .....	Chorale
Patsy Buchloh, Accompanist	
GIRLS' GLEE CLUB	
Group IV	
"Legend" .....	Technikowsky-Pitts
Nancy Lou Erhardt, Soprano	
"Lullaby" from "Jocelyn" .....	Gordon
Anita Schelper, Soprano	
Assisted by—Edith Blanke, Donna Greber, Anna Mae Quellhorst, Joan Koenig, Alberta Ahlers, Marilyn Warner, Erlene Kuenning, Patsy Buchloh, Virginia Rinehart, Patsy McCollum, Darlene Braun, Dona Mae Speckman, Accompanist	
Group V	
"La Cucaracha"—Mexican Folk .....	Ringer
"Blithered Men" .....	Rosberg-Sylvan
Erlene Kuenning, Accompanist	
BOYS' GLEE CLUB	
"Too Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Rai" .....	Shannon
Unaccompanied	
"Great Day" .....	Yonkers-Fry
Edith Blanke, Accompanist	
"Summerlino" .....	Gershwin-Sikles
Erlene Kuenning, Accompanist	
GIRLS' GLEE CLUB	

### BACCALAUREATE May 1945

During the playing of the "Processional" by Edith Blanke, the graduates of this year, attired in wine caps and gowns, entered the auditorium. The invocation was given by Rev. L. G. Fritz. Scripture was read by Rev. J. C. Melchert. The audience then sang the Peace Hymn. Rev. Melchert offered a prayer asking help and guidance for these graduates. Two numbers were sung by the Girls' Glee Club, the first being a Russian hymn, "Sanctus", which was sung unaccompanied. The second was "Ave Maria" with Joan Koenig as accompanist and Miss Schroeder directing.

A beautiful trumpet solo was played by Paul Melchert. The solo was entitled, "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings." Paul's mother, Mrs. Melchert, accompanied the solo.

The sermon of the evening was delivered by Rev. T. G. Papsdorf. Rev. Papsdorf stated that each person should live his own life, providing he goes in the right direction. But if he should stray from the right path then someone else may be needed to help him back.

Following the sermon Edith Blanke played a clarinet solo entitled "A Night in June." Miss Schroeder accompanied her on the piano. The Girls' Glee Club then gave a beautiful rendition of "Dear Land of Home," accompanied by Nancy Lou Erhardt. The audience then sang the song "The Vision." Rev. Fritz offered the benediction after which the audience remained standing for the recessional.

*New Bremen Sun 5/24/1945*

One of the last musical events Miss Catherine Schroeder organized and directed was the *Ballad for Americans* at New Bremen's Memorial Day program in 1945, performed by the Community Chorus.

Miss Schroeder's role as New Bremen's Music Teacher ended after one year. Her new career as wife and mother began that summer with her marriage to Jack R. Graf. They met during their years at OSU where Mr. Graf was a star athlete and later coach. He was an Ohio State University Athletic Hall of Fame inductee in both football and basketball. They made their home in Columbus and raised their three children - Jack, Jr., Holly and Laurie.

Along with Catherine's many memories of her early life, we were impressed with how full her life is now. She is involved with family, friends and activities in her community. One example is the writing class she participates in and her use of the computer. She was kind enough to share an assignment she wrote about New Bremen.

### Catherine's Writing Assignment -October 12, 2015

My hometown was a village in western Ohio. A freight train, the "Dinky," made a stop in our town once a day around five o'clock in the afternoon. Tramps, "hobos" or "bums," as we called them, who had been riding on the trains would get off and visit our neighborhoods to rap at our back doors and ask for a meal. That happened frequently at our house. Whenever it did, my sister and I would hurry through our dinner and sit on the back steps with our visitor to hear his story about the bad luck that had made him a beggar.

One man had owned a bait store in a shanty by a river. He had been making ends meet until the year of the Great Earthworm Blight. Earthworms would curl and die when exposed to daylight. Dried circles of earthworms do not make good bait, so the man's business failed. He was forced to sell his digging equipment and his shanty and had been penniless ever since. So he began riding the rails.

Another man, orphaned at an early age, survived by running errands for the tips he received. One of his patrons was a crippled sousaphone player who died and willed his instrument to the orphan. The musician had never given him lessons, so the boy, now a young man, taught himself to play. He performed on the streets for coins from passers-by, but he was arrested and sent to jail for noise pollution. He played his sousaphone for the other prisoners and was given early release. With no worldly goods except his sousaphone and no prospects for making a living in that town, he began hopping on freight trains in the hope of finding a more hospitable location. It wasn't easy, with a sousaphone wrapped around his neck, but he managed with only a few dents in the bell of his horn. (He left the sousaphone in the train station whenever he went looking for a meal.)

Then there was the man who had become an alcoholic because of his fascination with grapes, mostly wine. He had a job as a gasoline attendant, before self-serve, and became intrigued with the sound of fuel pouring from the hose into customers' tanks. The sound reminded him of wine pouring from a bottle. In a trancelike state, he would forget to turn off the hose and the tanks would overflow. He was fired from his job and was broke. Sorrowfully he went to the neighborhood bar, hoping that someone would buy him a drink. He thought someone had when he saw a glass of wine on the counter in front of an empty bar stool. He was drinking the wine when the customer who had bought it returned. The customer became angry and hit the man so hard all his teeth were knocked out. The poor fellow knew he would never again find work in that town because of his reputation and unfortunate appearance, so he began living on trains. Whenever he went begging for a meal, he had to ask for a soft diet.

As the saying goes, these stories "ain't necessarily so," but my sister and I had fun thinking up tales these men might have told us if our parents had allowed us to be anywhere near them as they ate their meals sitting on our back steps.

Thank you, Catherine, for sharing your life in Columbus along with your memories of New Bremen. Your memories now are our memories and we agree with you that... "My hometown is a little gem!"



## NEW BREMEN HAS A HISTORY OF BEING PROACTIVE IN EDUCATION

Let our motto be "Forward always-never backward, save for reminiscence, to profit by the past." –S. M. Archer, New Bremen Superintendent, 1926-1933

The citizens of New Bremen have always supported and encouraged the education of their children. The first school house, a log house with benches, was opened the same year that the town was founded. This log house was located where the post office now stands and was used for the school and the church. The minister of the church was also the schoolmaster.

Prior to the merger of New Bremen and Ober Bremen, the German Township School District consisted of the New Bremen School on North Franklin Street, the Ober Bremen School on Cherry Street, the North School in Lock Two and the West School on state route 364, west of New Bremen. These schools provided an elementary school education. There were few public high schools in Ohio at that time. There were schools of higher learning but they were called academies, seminaries or institutes. They were not publically funded and depended on a payment of tuition by the student.

The era of the public high school in Ohio began in the decade 1840 to 1850 with the first public high schools established in cities. Most small towns did not establish high school programs until the 1890s or later. New Bremen established the Central (Union) School in 1878 which included a high school, well before the time that it became mandatory in the state of Ohio. The elementary schools were categorized in levels- primary, secondary and grammar and when joined with a high school and supervised by a superintendent the school became known as a Union School.



The era of the public high school was supported by Ohio law. School attendance became mandatory and was enforced by truant officers.

New Bremen had its first graduate in 1882. There were 24 graduates (20 men and 4 women) of NBHS in the first nine classes by the year 1894. As we looked at these graduates, their education in New Bremen seems to have done well in preparing them for their life's work and many accomplishments.

**1882 Charles Mesloh** German Professor OSU

**1883 Minnie Torrance** Daughter of New Bremen's first School Superintendent, W. F. Torrance, (Mrs. Wm. R. Duvall)

**1884 Albert Buss** New Bremen teacher, attended OSU, Owner of *New Bremen Sun*, Postmaster, Editor *St. Marys Graphic*, Editor of *The Evening Leader*, Organizer NB Telephone Co., NB Brick Co., A.H. May Implement Co.,

Creamery Patron Printing Co. for White Mountain, President of St. Marys Community Building & Loan Co.

**1886 Harry Bakhaus** Columbus Banker

**Philip Dinkel** Lima Grocer, Author of *New Bremen Sun* Horse & Buggy Days

**Edmund Grothaus** New Bremen teacher, Lanfersieck & Grothaus Manufacturing Co., Postmaster, Dr. of Osteopath practice in Van Wert, Ohio

**1888 Edward Conradi** New Bremen teacher, A.B. and M.A. degrees from Indiana University, Doctoral degree from Clark University, Superintendent of schools in Carlisle, IN, Principal of the Normal and Industrial School of St. Petersburg, Florida, President of the Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University), Married Augusta Grothaus, Class of 1890.

**Henry Schrage** New Bremen teacher, Village Clerk

**Herman Steinberg** Attorney, New York City

**1889 Emil Conradi** New Bremen teacher, Editor *New Bremen Sun & Star of Western Ohio*, New Bremen Mayor

**Amanda Frey** (Mrs. Wierwille)

**Cornelius Williams** New Bremen teacher, became a theatrical shoemaker, specialized in building trick stage footgear for magicians and tap dancers in Toledo, Ohio.

**1890 William Brueggeman** Woodworker in Carthage, OH

**William Gagle** Real Estate in Kentucky

**Augusta Grothaus** First woman teacher in New Bremen Schools. Wife of Edward Conradi. The theater at Florida State University is named for her.

**Ida Rabe** (Mrs. Lafe Kuenning)

**1893 John C. Halsema** Continued education at Miami University and Ohio State University. Principal at New Bremen Schools. Superintendent for Minster Schools.

**Alfred Steinebrey** New Bremen teacher, Rural mail carrier

**1894 Clarence Bakhaus** Bank Cashier in St. Marys

**Albert Conradi** Continued education at Ohio State University and University of New Hampshire, Entomologist. On faculty at UNH, Texas A & M and Clemson College. Started own business in Thomasville, Georgia.

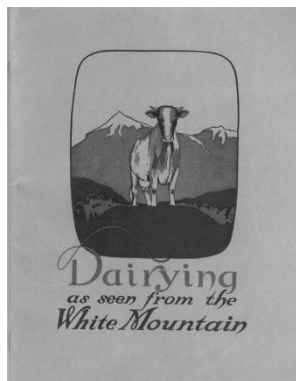
**Otto Schmidt** Continued education with AB degree. President of Schmidt Construction Company in Chicago. Trustee at Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio.

**Henry Heitmann** Professor at Eastman Business College, NY.

**Thomas Stone** Mech. Engineer in Fort Wayne, IN.

**Julius Vornholt** Education at OSU, Minister





***Dairying as seen from the White Mountain***, published in 1927, tells the story of the pioneers who settled Northwestern Ohio and the dawn of a new industry, *The White Mountain Creamery and Dairy Companies*. A copy of this booklet has been placed in our museum courtesy of James F. Dicke, Sr., Tim Eiting, Stan Kuenning and Frank Kuenning. The following excerpts are the third and final installment of this booklet.

### **Huenke Bros. Butter Becomes "White Mountain"**

Mr. C. V. Huenke, better known as "Cliff", now Vice President and General Manager of The White Mountain Creamery and Dairy Companies, grew up in the dairy and creamery business. He attended the Agricultural Department of Ohio State and Ames Universities, specializing in dairying and creamery management. The White Mountain Creamery, when he took active management in 1902, offered plenty of opportunity to put into practice what he had learned concerning the development of the modern sciences. New principles of creamery management were applied and White Mountain began to take its place as an important factor in the marketing of dairy products. The condition of the business as it is today can be accredited to a large extent to the untiring efforts of the younger Huenke. On the foundation laid by his father, he and his associates have built an organization serving over 7000 patrons, and marketing more than three million dollars' worth of dairy products annually. Thru his efforts the Farm Institute at New Bremen was established. He served as its first secretary and addressed various Institutes on matters pertaining to better dairying, the erection and filling of silos and the raising and storing of alfalfa. He is a past president of the American Association of Creamery Butter Manufacturers, the world's largest dairy association, with headquarters at Chicago, and was the first secretary of the Ohio Creamery Owners and Mfgs. Assn...

### **Testing and Introducing the Cream Separator**

Watch the modern cream separator pour a stream of golden cream into one receptacle, and a stream of creamless milk into another, with an ease and precision that is uncanny in its perfection, and contrast its operation with the method of separating cream used in the 80s.

The oldest known method of cream separating was practiced, that used for hundreds of years, wherever butter was known and its food value appreciated.

The milk from poor cows, poorly fed and ill housed, was poured into shallow crocks, placed on pantry shelves or the cellar floor, and left until the cream had risen. Then the cream was taken off with a skimmer, but the most experienced and careful dairy maid would leave from fifteen to twenty percent of the butter fat, which went with the skim milk to slop the pigs and feed the calves.

Such was the inefficient method of cream separating when Louis Huenke introduced the deep setting gravity system, or the "inch can" as it was sometimes called. Crocks were

converted into bean pots, skimmers were left to rust-an improved method of cream separation was accepted.

Although it was far from the ideal method, it served well in its time. Milk was poured into the deep set cans, placed in water to cool, removed after twenty-four hours and the farmer measured his own cream by means of the inch scale, along the glass inserted near the top through which the cream was visible. The farmer made a memorandum of the "inches of cream" and then separated the cream from the milk, placed it in a pail or can until collected by a Huenke cream gatherer, who brought the cream along with the memorandum to the Huenke plant.

But the skim milk was usually in sour condition, and contained a fair portion of cream, farmers complained; Mr. Huenke suffered losses from inaccurate readings or readings taken before cream was properly condensed.

Always alert for improvements and advancements, Mr. Huenke had read of a machine into which milk, fresh from the cow could be poured and by the simple task of turning a handle the centrifugal force would separate the cream from the milk with less than .05% loss of butter fat. A separator was ordered and received at the White Mountain farm on an afternoon in May, 1894. That evening Mr. Huenke turned the first pail of milk into the first cream separator to come into Northwestern Ohio, and watched with keenest satisfaction the process of separating the cream from the milk.

He was convinced at once that the cream separator would revolutionize dairy practice, reduce waste, furnish fresh skim milk for the fattening of calves and pigs, and make possible the acquirement of clean, sweet, wholesome cream which would make better butter. But he did not recommend the machine to his patrons until he had thoroughly tested it. Satisfied, he mounted the separator on a wagon and drove to his patrons' farms, where it was explained and demonstrated in the separation of the farmers, own cream. Separators were sold and serviced by the White Mountain, a few at first, then hundreds until now there is very little cream bought by the White Mountain that does not come by the way of the separator. Acceptance by the farmer of the cream separator was slow like a glacier, but like a glacier moved ever on, borne by the tide of public approval, guided by those who could visualize its benefits.

Another great contribution had been made to the encouragement and development of the dairy industry in Northwestern Ohio. By its efforts White Mountain had placed a mighty force on the farm-the headwater from which a giant stream of milk and cream flows continually through its plants into the markets of town and city...

### **White Mountain Pioneers Better Herds**

When Louis Huenke began retailing milk, his herd, although good for the times, was composed entirely of grade cows. No material improvement was made until 1902, when C. V. Huenke completed his special courses in dairying at Ames and Ohio State Universities, and assumed active management of the dairy and creamery business.



Pure and well-bred Milking Shorthorns were then purchased, scientific methods of feeding and breeding were employed, and accurate records kept to determine the best and most profitable producers.

When in December, 1910, fire destroyed the White Mountain barns and forage, it became necessary to dispose of the entire herd, the new herd purchased the following spring was composed of Milking Shorthorns and Jerseys. This excellent herd, affected in 1914 by the hoof and mouth disease was entirely slaughtered. Because better individuals could be obtained, and the cross between the sire and native cows produced better stock, Milking Shorthorns were chosen for the new herd. Two selected pure-bred dams, one proven pure-bred sire, and five good grade cows were the foundation from which White Mountain has developed in twelve years its present excellent herd of eighteen grades, twenty-three pure-breds and two sires.

### **Honest Policy Embraces Honest Test**

In the early days many different methods of cream testing were used until a quicker, more accurate method became necessary. Chemists worked diligently on the problem and numerous ingenious tests were devised. Several were quite satisfactory, but in this country, because of its rapidity, accuracy and simplicity, the Babcock test was generally accepted. White Mountain early adopted this method, which replaced the old "oil test", a method used for a number of years after the cream separator came into use.

At the White Mountain laboratories every precaution is taken to insure test beings made properly and the true butter-fat content of each patrons milk and cream accurately determined. Due to changing conditions of production, separation and care, cream tests will vary. White Mountain readings are as accurate as it is humanly possible to make them, with no intention to over or under read. This basic principle has won for White Mountain the confidence of its patrons and the respect of the industry.

### **Feeding for Better Production**

Between careless handling and feeding, and scientific feeding, weighing and testing, lies the dairyman's profit.

In summer there is no better, more economical way to produce milk than by permitting the cows to harvest their own food from good pastures. Pastures can be made to produce better feed more abundantly, if given some care and attention. A coat of fertilizer or manure and reseeding will change waste land into productive feed lots. Producing milk from poor pasture requires grain feeding which eats up some of the profit.

Corn silage, made from mature, big eared corn, feed with plenty of alfalfa hay, cut before it gets woody and loses its leaves, makes an almost complete winter diet for the dairy cow. Red clover, cut early and well matured, furnishes excellent hay, second only to alfalfa. Cow pea or soy bean hay furnish excellent protein roughage.

Salt should always be kept within the cow's reach. She will help herself sufficiently if permitted...

Gradually increasing the cow's feeding, and weighing her milk to see whether the increase is sufficient to pay for the extra feed, tells whether each cow is producing to her utmost

capacity. If she is doing her best, her production will not be materially increased by the extra feeding...

### **White Mountain Pioneers the Silo**

Before the days of the silo the winter months were hard on the dairy cow and her keeper. Milk production dropped. When warm spring days brought green to the pasture lots, the cows produced more abundantly. The need of green feed to increase winter production brought the silo.

White Mountain, aware that good farmers were leaving 40% of the corn crop they had worked hard to raise to spoil in the field, conducted early experiments. One of the first silos in Western Ohio was erected on White Mountain farm. The corn that went into these first silos was cut while it was yet too green, too immature to have any real feeding value. Some farmers are still of the opinion that corn for silage should be cut in the roasting ear stage. But White Mountain learned by experience that well matured corn made the best silage.

Many different kinds and types of silos were tried before White Mountain's present battery of big, stave silos was erected. When a type was found that would provide green feed in an appetizing condition, White Mountain lost no time in broadcasting the news to its patrons, and Mr. Huenke and his associates spent much time helping dairymen erect and fill silos...

### **Developing the World's Largest Collection System**

When Louis Huenke pioneered the route system of cream collection he believed it to be the best method of obtaining cream, and that it would benefit his patrons by permitting them to spend more time on the farm, planting and harvesting crops. His idea was appreciated then, but the present scarcity of farm labor, and the necessity of making every minute of the day productive, makes the route collection system more appreciated today than ever before.

The "system", at first composed of one wagon, has kept pace with White Mountain's growth until today 70 motor trucks, collect the cream three days a week in summer and two days a week in winter, at nearly 7000 farms. The cream is sampled, weighed, and placed in jacketed, insulated cans of special construction which prevent overheating in summer and freezing in winter, insuring its delivery at White Mountain plants in the best possible condition for making high quality butter...

### **The Link gains strength as the Chain gains length**

*With the passing of the years the link that binds farm and city has grown in size and importance. In the short span of our mature lives, Mrs. Huenke and I have seen the business we started and developed to moderate size, grow to giant proportions...I firmly believe in White Mountain's future, for the principles upon which it was established and which have survived many changes, will continue to make it succeed. Thus, with the lengthening chain of the years, White Mountain will maintain its leadership and become a stronger link between the farm and city. Louis Huenke, President and founder of The White Mountain Creamery & Dairy Companies.*

## THE MOUSA FAMILY



**Helen & Virgil Mousa with their children  
Barry, Barbara and Bruce**



**Our House on the Corner of Walnut & Front  
in the 1950s**

Our parents, Virgil and Helen Mousa, bought Amstutz Hatcheries and the Amstutz home (now the Crown House) on the corner of Walnut and Front Streets from Virgil Amstutz in 1954. The move from our small home in St. Marys to the big house in New Bremen was fun. Most exciting to us as children was the TV that came with the house. It was our first TV and we were captivated by it.

Three rooms on the right side of the house were rented out. For many years Mrs. Dickman, widow of Dr. Dickman pastor of Faith Alliance Church (previously Christ Church), lived there. Whenever she baked her delicious yeast coffee cakes, she shared one with us.

Dad built an addition onto the eating portion of the kitchen. It was not large, but was a popular place. A familiar memory is Mom working in the kitchen while talking to a friend or her father, Harry Rehn, sitting at the table. The radio was always on and tuned to station WTGN from Lima. When Barb had trouble with history in grades 5 and 6, Mom bought a copy of the big blue textbook to keep at home. They spent hours at the kitchen table studying history.

Mom loved music. Both our piano and organ were well used. Sunday night after church we always had popcorn and apples – our dad's favorite snack.

A building behind the house was a combination garage, office, and "battery room". We called it a battery room because baby chickens lived in multi-story metal enclosures called batteries or incubators until they were sold to farmers in the area. That is where we (Barbara and Bruce) worked. Daily we fed and watered the baby chickens. Weekly we cleaned out poop and washed the water containers. Saturday mornings were a good time to work because we could listen to all the latest rock and roll songs on the radio as they did the count down to the #1 hit of the week – and we could turn up the volume on the radio as loud as we wanted in the battery room.

Later, the house was a great place for us to bring our children. The rooms upstairs made a complete circle with doors leading from one room to the next. There was a front stairs as well as a back stairs. The layout made the house a perfect place for the grandchildren to play complicated games of chase and hide 'n seek. During the summer, the game of chase continued outside on bicycles, toy tractors, etc. The sidewalks and driveway made more than one circle around the house.

All of the grandchildren have wonderful memories of the house and New Bremen. Dean and Mark spent lots of time in their Grandpa's garage. They built a go-cart even though there was no hill close by where they could ride it. The granddaughters loved to play dolls and have tea parties and makeup parties with their Grandma.

After our recent weekend in New Bremen, Dean wrote this tribute to his grandfather on his Instagram account.

'When I was 8, my grandpa used to take a 2x4 and get 10 nails started in it. Then he let me pound them the rest of the way in. I learned how to fix nearly everything because of him. . . He was a mentor, an encourager, a role model and the most generous man I've ever met. . . I'm lucky he was my grandpa.'

### Living in New Bremen

Moving to New Bremen meant getting used to a new school. Barb was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Bruce was in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade when we moved from St. Marys. It helped that we knew the Luedeke children (Kathy, Sue, Jon, Jamie) who also attended Faith Alliance Church in New Bremen.

In the 1957 school year, the new elementary school building was completed, but not in time for the first day of school. It was a memorable day when all of the students walked from the old school building on Franklin Street across town to the new building on Plum Street. Barb was especially impressed by the big windows, new desks, and all the library

books on the shelves under the windows. Bruce liked being able to sleep in longer as it took a lot less time to walk the block to school.

Most of our childhood centered on Walnut Street in New Bremen. It was great to have our school and our church, Faith Alliance Church, on Walnut Street. We were there on Sundays and Wednesday nights, enjoying being a part of a large group of church friends. During the summer months our world expanded to the swimming pool, family vacations and wiffle ball in the side yard with friends.

Once a year our church had a Missionary Conference. People who lived in far flung corners of the world talked about and showed us pictures and objects from their part of the world. From them we learned that not everyone in the world was like the people in New Bremen or lived the way we lived.

Basketball games were social highlights of our high school years. Barb cheered from the bleachers on the stage of the gym and once in a while snuck off to Wint's after the game. Bruce played on the basketball teams during his years in high school. In 1960, the New Bremen team made it all the way to the state championships. School was closed for the day of the game. We decorated our station wagon in crimson and gold and traveled to Columbus to cheer on the team.

#### **Barb's Memories**

I was part of the Class of 1963. It was a small class, so we got to know each other very well. My favorite time of the day was the little bit of free time we had after lunch. It was a rare opportunity to mingle with friends.

Miss Foos embarrassed me when she called me Madam Butterfly for talking/flirting during her class. Mrs. Cumming taught me to diagram sentences. She loved to drink coffee, and our writing papers were sometimes returned to us with coffee stains amid the red corrections.

I chose to take a couple years of home economics with Mrs. McClure instead of some of the harder math and science classes. I always enjoyed going to her class and remember spending a lot of time ripping seams that I had sewn in wrong.

Miss Burk's algebra class was hard for me. She scared me when she walked up and down the aisles looking so serious. I was always afraid of not giving the correct answer when she called on me. Who would ever have believed that I would end up being an algebra teacher myself? I think my high school math struggles helped me be patient with my students and be willing to explain something to them 'one more time.'

One time I lost my billfold at school. I was afraid to go to principal's office to claim it. Eventually the school called my parents. Then I had to go to the principal's office for a very serious conversation with the principal.

#### **Bruce's Memories**

I am a graduate of the NBHS class of 1966 and many of us were classmates from grades 1 through graduation. We had good times with good friends throughout our New Bremen School years. Our high school "gathering place" during school hours was the old gym. We had good conversations, watched and participated in killer dodge ball games and watched some excellent trampoline stunts.

In high school, Miss Foos always was an intriguing teacher and we never could tell what she would do next. Of course, some of us would always try to test her ingenuity by living on the edge. Biology class was a good place to do that. And then there was the TEMAC Algebra class, which gave some of us questionable preparation for any math course to follow. Of course, Mr. Zoll, Mr. Maxson, Mr. Kurtzman, Mr. Watkins, Mrs. Wissman, Mrs. Cumming, Miss Burk and more of our teachers got the benefits of dealing with our mid-'60's era challenging class.

I was involved in my Dad's business, the chicken hatchery, so I spent time working with him vaccinating and debeaking chickens, building chicken houses, moving chickens from our facilities to new owners and all types of related tasks. It was particularly enjoyable playing basketball in our driveway, at the school lots or in the gym and our side yard was often the site of a neighborhood wiffle ball game.

**Summary** We have many good memories of our time in New Bremen as the values and culture helped shape and influence us for many future successes.

Barbara lives near Atlanta, GA. After retiring from teaching algebra in a suburb school, she continued to teach and tutor either full time or part time for the following 8 years. She spends her time traveling internationally, visiting with her children who live in Santa Monica, CA and New York City, working outside in the yard, going to the gym, and working on her photography hobby.

Bruce and his wife Sara Ann are in Naples, FL. Bruce is working in his "4th retirement job" as a full-time graduate school professor in Educational Leadership with the University of Florida. He is able to work from home in Naples, which makes this an ideal retirement position. He and Sara Ann are very involved in several local non-profit organizations in the Naples area and in particular, the Ohio State Alumni Club of Naples for which Bruce is President and Sara Ann is Social Chair. Bruce has children in Columbus OH, Lima Peru and Naples FL, with 8 grandchildren.

#### **Visiting New Bremen September 2015**



**Back row from left: Dean Gebert, Bruce Mousa, Caroline Mousa, Johanna Mousa, Mark Mousa Front row: Ellen Mousa, Barbara Mousa Gebert, Audrey Mousa (holding Bobito), Sara Ann Mousa, Michelle Gebert, Michael Puzzo.**

## CANDY MEMORIES

"Candy is childhood, the best and brightest moments you wish could have lasted forever" - Dylan Lauren (Owner of the largest candy store in the world.)

Many of us who grew up in New Bremen have sweet childhood memories of buying our favorite candy. When asked about their candy memories, the Drug Store was often mentioned as a great place to buy a sweet treat. Dru Meyer remembers it as her favorite place to buy a Baby Ruth bar in the short time between school ending and play practice. Nancy Kettler Price also liked to get a Valomilk candy bar to go with her vanilla phosphate from the soda fountain.



The Drugstore at the intersection of Monroe & Washington before SR 66 was rerouted.

The Drug Store probably has the record for selling the most candy in New Bremen. Imagine the amount of candy sold in its more than 100 year history!

Before 1900, candy was displayed in bulk and sold by weight. Candy counters with display cases and a scale were usually found as part of grocery or variety stores. An ad for Schulenberg's Store in the 1889 New Bremen Business Directory was the first to mention candy sales. The ad states that the store carried a "fine line of candy and cigars".



Rabe's Cheap Store

In one of his articles, Ralph May mentioned a candy memory from the early 1900s. He remembered going to Rabe's Store to buy candy and gum. His favorites were

stick candy, red hots and candy kisses. He also remembered Sweet Wheat Chewing Gum. (The Royal Remedy and Extract Company of Dayton Ohio made this gum in 4 flavors that were advertised as refined, elegant and healthful.)

Marge Lietz wrote about her candy memories in the October 1988 issue of *The Towpath*:



Schwaberow's Store in the early 1900s

*"Now we are going to go back a few years to Schwaberow's Store. I remember the candy counter! It was at the front of the store and Mr. Schwaberow built a sturdy bench in front of the counter, so little ones could stand on it and look down into the candy case. He had an excellent selection of penny candy. All kinds. There were root beer barrels-4 for a penny, peanut butter kisses- 8 for a penny, long black licorice sticks that were twisted and had a ring on each one- for 1 penny. There were also sugar babies coated with granulated sugar, jaw breakers and gum balls. -Marjorie Lietz*

During this time candy was being sold by the piece and became known as penny candy. The biggest change in the candy business came after World War I with the introduction of mass produced and individually wrapped candy bars. Candy production boomed and in 1920 there were over 70 candy and gum companies in Ohio alone.

Several of the candies that are popular today were introduced during that time. The Hershey chocolate bar was followed soon by the Clark Bar. Other popular candies of the 1920s were: Baby Ruth, Milky Way, Oh Henry and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Snickers, Sky Bar, Krackle and Nestle Crunch were added in the 1930's. The Great Depression did not hurt the candy business as much as other industry. Perhaps because Americans had to give up buying expensive items they continued to buy the relatively inexpensive candy.

Mechanized production began in the 1940s and resulted in many new types of candy such as M&Ms that would *melt in your mouth and not in your hand*. Without

the need for a candy display case to sell the wrapped treats, carry-outs and gas stations became additional places to buy candy.

Still you could also choose to buy it by weight at the 5 and 10 Cent Store in New Bremen into the 1950s. Gen Conradi remembers the delicious chocolate covered peanuts that were available in the fall. One of the clerks was always willing to weigh out 10 or 15 cents worth and the special treat lasted a long time on the walk home from school.



**Hulda Wiehe, Corrine Scheer Dicke in Smith's 5&10 (1932)**



**Rump's Service Station at the Corner of Main & Monroe**

Joyce Ruedebusch remembers the kids in her west-side neighborhood liked to go to Rump's Service Station on the corner of Main & Monroe to buy candy bars. After a friendly greeting from the garage area, if Edgar or Eddie was busy working on a car, they let the kids choose their own candy bar and would say, "Just leave your money on the counter." Joyce's favorite was the Sky Bar. A chocolate bar made by Necco, it was divided into four sections each with a different flavor filling. It is still available and is marketed as a "retro candy bar."



**Lock Two Store in the early 1900s**

Others remembered it was fun to buy candy after a bike ride to Lock Two. You could find candy at the Schwartz Brothers Garage or the Lock Two Store. Dennis Dicke, Hal Opperman and Ned Scheer would ride their bikes to the Lock Two Store to buy candy from Ned's Aunt Grace (Knost) Scheer. Dennis' favorites were SenSens and Valomilk. SenSen, the original breath freshener developed in the late 1800s, were small hard pieces of candy with a licorice flavor. It is no longer available. Valomilk, a Midwest favorite, was first made in 1931 in Kansas and can still be purchased at specialty stores. Dennis says that the trip to Lock Two through the undeveloped farm land seemed a long distance back in the 1950s.

Hal says that he cannot recall what he bought at the Lock Two store but as a kid he always liked Clark Bars, Snickers and Hershey Bars with almonds. "I still like Snickers and always buy them for Halloween treats hoping there are some left over." He also said that he often stopped at Schelper's Food Market to buy a small Blue Bird Cherry Pie to hold him over on his paper route until he got home for supper.

Ned reported that his favorite candy was also Valomilk and that he recently purchased one at a Cracker Barrel in Florida. He said it had cost him about twenty times as much as it did when he was a kid and it did not taste as good as he remembered.

In articles like "Candy Memories", we try to bring back the good memories of our shared history. We would be happy to add your memories. So think about, what does your "sweet tooth" remember of candy from your childhood days? Did you have some favorites? Do you still have the same tastes? Please share your memories with us.

**Call, write or e-mail Gen or Joyce  
with your memories!**



## DICKE COUSINS REUNION 2015



Family members gathered at Homestead Farm in New Bremen for the annual Dicke Cousins Reunion. The Ohio Century Farm is the home of Rob and Denise Dicke Stauffer. Denise is the 6th generation to live on the farmstead. Her great-great-great grandparents, Rudolph Johann and Karoline Bokelmann Bertke, were German immigrants who established Homestead Farm in 1874. (Photo and write-up courtesy of Rob & Denise Stauffer.)

## A MINI-REUNION OF NEW BREMEN ALUMNI

We call it a mini-reunion because for the past several years class members who reside in the New Bremen area, or relatively close by, have gotten together every September for lunch and fellowship. Of course, there are other classmates scattered throughout the country (even the world), but this little gathering just involves a local group ably arranged by Annabelle Koeper Wenning. Here is the photo of the 2015 get-together held at Rustic Haven to

commemorate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

**70<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the  
NBHS Class of 1945:**

Left to right:

**Luella Burd Muter,  
Jim Scheer,  
Curtis Schroer,  
Tom Warner,  
John Dickman,  
Annabelle Koeper  
Wenning.**

Good looking bunch of  
Octogenarians, don't  
you think?

(Photo and write-up courtesy  
of John Dickman)





## History Mystery Page

**#1- Who are these kids ready for Sunday School at St. Paul Church in the 1950s.**

(Photo submitted by Jeanne Braun Schoenberger)



**#4 Children who lived on Jefferson Street in the 1930s. David Schwieterman is standing to the far right. Ruth Poppe Kuck is next to him. Can you help identify the others?** (Photo submitted by Ted Wagner)



**#2 Do you remember the Bob Dicke music makers of the 1950s?**



**#3 Coach Carl Watkins with the NBHS Cardinals basketball team of 1958. How many can you name?**  
(Photo submitted by Tom Fledderjohann)



**#5 Do you know who is working on the New Bremen High School yearbook "The Mirage" in 1940?**  
(Photo by Paul Lietz)

*History Mystery* answers on page 16.



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

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CM D-11 - Means you are a Charter Member and made a Donation in 2011.

**RAFFLE FUND-RAISER**

The NBHA Board has been so encouraged by the support of the raffle they voted to continue the event. The funds raised have been used to pay the utility bills and insurance fees for our two museums. We thank those who have made this possible through their donations and hope you will join them in 2016.

**Watch your mail for a special invitation to participate in the RAFFLE FUND-RAISER for the NBHA. We will be conducting a raffle with cash prizes each month for a year. A one-time donation will put you in the drawing all year!**

**MUSEUM VISITS**

**If you wish to visit the Museum, call any Board member for an appointment. We always have lots of interesting things for you to see, so please plan a visit.**

**2016 ANNUAL DINNER**

**The Annual Dinner Meeting of the NBHA will be held March 21, 2016 at the Holy Redeemer Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. followed by a short business meeting. Our featured speaker is Greg Parrott. Tickets go on sale February 1, 2016.**

**History Mystery Page answers:** #1-(standing)Betty Nedderman, Dave Kuck, Karen Dicke. (kneeling) Gary Topp, Bob Weinberg. #2-Doris Thielker, Roger Dicke, Robert Dicke, Walter Topp, Adrian Moeller. #3-(kneeling) Jan Sprinkel, Jan Belton, Carl Watkins, Dave Schaefer, Bob Wilson. (standing)Larry Landwehr, Jim Kettler, Tom Thieman, Ron Wiedeman, Ed Judt, Ron Baur, Ted Wagner, Jake Froning. #4- Dave Schwieterman on far right, Ruth Poppe Kuck to his right. Others : Mary Wissman, Ethel Scheer, Beulah Scheer, A. Lutterbeck, John Wissman & dog Bubble, 2 boys & 1 girl not identified. #5-Mary Ellen Taylor.