



THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly

January-April-July-October

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

January 2017

A Christmas Celebration

The NBHA Christmas Tree Festival opened after the Village Christmas Tree Lighting on November 28, 2016. This is the 42nd year for the festival and the sixth year that the display of trees has been placed in the Lockkeepers House.

Participants included: A'Bloom, Ann Kuhn, Beverly & Ralph Plattner, Bicycle Museum of America, Capabilities Country Club, Colten, Rogan & MariAna Muether, Diane Hartwig & Karen Eckert, Diane Paul, Elmwood Assisted Living, Gagel Plumbing & Heating, Gilberg Furniture, Greg Paul, Jacki Love, Marilyn Dickman, New Bremen Cub Scouts, New Bremen Girl Scouts, New Bremen Historic Association, New Bremen Kindergarten Classes, New Bremen Public Library, New Bremen Third Grade Classes, Paul Chiropractic & Health Center, PT Services, Rindler Automotive, Ruth Brookhart, Safeway Packaging, Serendipity Preschool, Southwest Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Paul UCC Sunday School Classes, St. Peter Church, Taylor & Rianna Paul, The Family of Marcia Meyer, The Hair Loft, The Kuhn Family, Western Ohio True Value Hardware.

It was a rainy windy evening for the Village Christmas Tree Lighting but the children were all smiles and filled with wonder.



All visitors were able to register for door prizes.



Kennedy Trego shows her decoration made at Serendipity preschool.



*Thank you, Diane Paul,
for chairing this event.*



"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.

Editors: Genevieve Conradi & Joyce Ruedebusch

gen@nktelco.net & jdr@nktelco.net

419-629-2764-----419-629-2946

WEBSITE – www.newbremenhistory.org

Johanna Schroer...johanna @nktelco.net

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dcmaurer6@gmail.com

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mjstucky1946@roadrunner.com

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rdpaul@nktelco.net

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ceroediger@nktelco.net

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mstaton@nktelco.net

Rob Ziegenbusch, Curator...419-629-0727

rmz74@nktelco.net

Rodney Suchland, Member-at-large...419-953-4451

rj_suchland@yahoo.com

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tomandginnybraun@gmail.com

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DONATIONS

Jean Rigbsby, John & Kathy Dicke, Darlene Neuman, Mark & Patty Cisco, Craig & Sharon Mueller, Judy & Wayne Wiehe, John & Nancy Knost, John & Eleanor Brucken, Thomas & Florence Fricke, Robert & Julia Ziegenbusch, Robert & Brenda Klein, Larry Neuman, Ed & Rosalind Ekermyer, Guy & Vera Schmidt, Barb Ziegenbusch, Otterbein Cridersville, Jack & Becky Dicke, Jeff & Christine Boruvka, Karl & Ethel Mesloh.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of: **Marjorie Schmehl Stienecker** by Ned & Kathy Lawler

NBHA RAFFLE WINNERS 2016

October- \$100.00 to **Carolyn Deniston** (Westerville, OH), \$75.00 to **Julie Ziegenbusch** (NB), \$50.00 to **Don Siegel** (Greenville, OH).

November- \$100.00 to **Don Smart** (NB), \$75.00 to **Keith May** (NB)), \$50.00 to **Karen Voress** (NB).

December- \$100.00 to **Teresa Gushing Heitkamp** (NB), \$75.00 to **Marlene Hittepole** (NB), \$50.00 to **Joyce Ruedebusch** (NB).

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

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)

BASEBALL COMES TO NEW BREMEN

The first games of "base ball" were played on the outskirts of New York City in the early 1820s. The game caught on and soon more teams and clubs were formed. In 1845 The New York Knickerbockers formed a club and wrote rules that were then adopted by other clubs. By 1865 and the end of the Civil War, there were over 100 base- ball clubs. It is believed that the game was popularized and perfected during the war by soldiers who played the game and shared knowledge of rules.

We are not sure what year that baseball arrived in New Bremen but we do know that "base-ball" was very popular by 1888 from articles written in *The New Bremen Sun*.

A Minster base-ball nine will play a New Bremen nine Sunday afternoon at the old school house grounds. Two games will be played by two different sets of clubs. The married nine's will come off first. (New Bremen Sun 6-1-1888)

BASE BALL.

The "Cyclones" will play at Wapakoneta, Sunday.

The New Bremen "Excello" club recently organized, crossed bats with the Main Streeters of Minster Sunday afternoon, on the grounds of the latter. The New Bremen went down with heavy hearts feeling that they would be utterly routed but they faced the enemy with a steady nerve and came out, swinging their bats with a triumphant cheer. This is the score:

Innings.....	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Excellos.....	2 0 1 5 1 5 4 2 8—28
Main Streeters.....	2 0 0 0 5 1 2 5 4—19

The ball game played by the Cyclones vs the Anna Stars at this place, Sunday afternoon, was an interesting and exciting one. A big crowd of spectators were at the grounds and saw with pride the Cyclone's sweep the field with one fell swoop. It was one of the best games ever played on the grounds. The score:

Innings.....	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Cyclones.....	1 2 2 0 1 0 0 1—7
Stars.....	0 0 0 1 0 0 4 0 0—5

Batteries: Wohler, Wellman; Embodding and Milliette. Umpire, Joe Klankel. Struck out by Wohler—18.

New Bremen Sun 6-15-1888

To All Whom it May Concern

Notice is hereby given that all games of Ball are strictly forbidden to be played upon Main, Washington and Monroe streets in the Village of New Bremen, O.

William Bruns, Mayor

The mayor issued an order prohibiting ball playing on the principal streets of the town. Although the playing was quite a sport to many it was a nuisance to all highway travelers and a menace to all windows of the stores. The mayor took the right move.

New Bremen Sun 6-14-1889



"Skinning the diamond" at the Fair Grounds in New Bremen, 1900



The All-German Baseball Club in 1909 Standing: Ed Wellman & Al Huenke 2nd & 5th Seated: Irvin Wissman & Carl Wehmeyer 2nd & 4th. Others unknown.



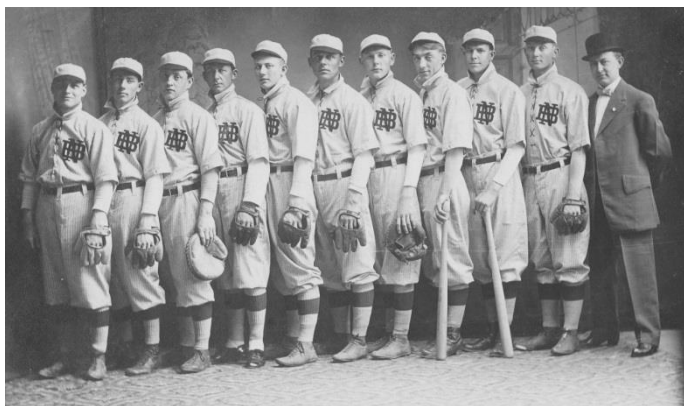
New Bremen City Team 1910 Back: Carl Wehmeyer, Edward Heinfeld, Herbert Garmhausen, Al Huenke, Alvin Pape, Irvin Wissman, Albert Meyers Front: Edward Wellman, Robert Weinberg, Sr., Manager, Lawrence Roettger

The NBHA Luelleman House museum has a display of items related to local baseball teams. The collection of donated uniforms, ball gloves, trophies, etc. show how popular the game was in New Bremen.

In 1983, **Lester H. “Les” Blanke**, an ardent sports fan wrote about his favorite sport of baseball for the New Bremen Sesquicentennial book:

...Baseball, as the national pastime, played a very important role in the history of New Bremen as well as in other communities during the early 1900s on into the 1950s. Recreational activities were limited during these early days, and baseball served as an outlet for people to get together on Sunday afternoons, enjoy a game of ball and fellowship together while watching the play. It also was a means of uniting the people in a common cause; that of rooting for the home team, thus showing their loyalty to their community. The advent of better means of transportation and the varied recreational facilities now available have changed all this. The smaller communities now look to their high school programs to satisfy their athletic interests and to show their loyalty to their community...

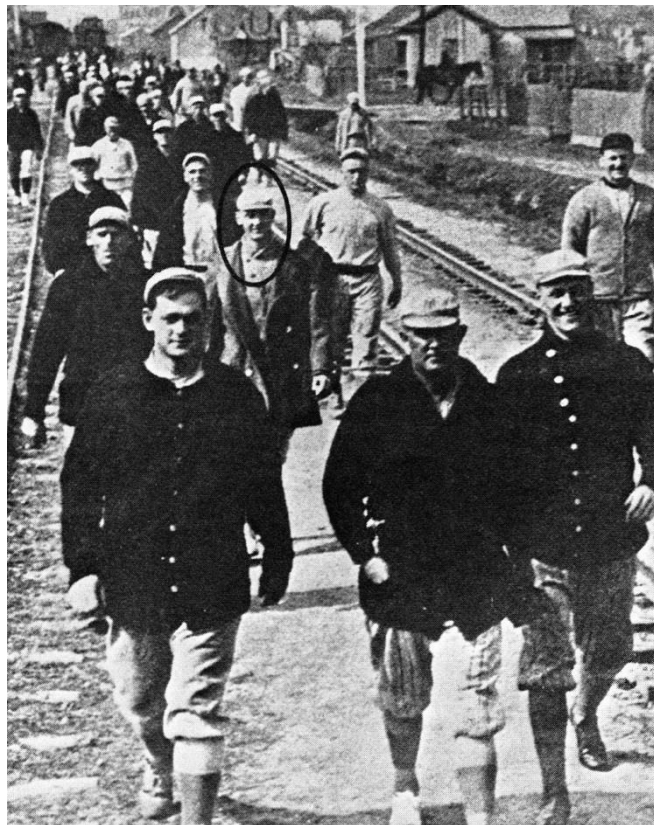
...For me, it all began one Sunday afternoon when I was approximately seven years old (1912). My uncle, Ed Schaefer, emerged from an adjoining room fully dressed in a New Bremen baseball uniform, carrying his fielder's glove and a pair of spiked shoes. Boy, a real baseball player all dressed up ready to go to the Fair Ground Park to play a real game of baseball. I believe this event made me determined that someday I, the same as many other boys of that time, wanted to play ball when I grew up...



The New Bremen team played at Fairground Park in 1912. From left: Ed Wellman, Cort Ihle, Lawrence “Maggie” Roettger, Ed Schaefer, Herbert Garmhausen, Frank “Bully” Wellman, Carl “Cotton” Wehmeyer, Alvin Pape, Al “Mac” Huenke, and Joe Brucken, Manager.

The following information continues from the article by Les Blanke. (The article can be read in its entirety in *The New Bremen Sesquicentennial Reflections*, 1983, pp. 77-80.)

- 1913 - Albert “Mac” Huenke pitcher for New Bremen team, signed by New York Giants.
- 1915 – new site for a diamond on Louis Huenke farm just west of railroad track along Rte 274.



Al Huenke (circled), member of the Giants at Marlin, Texas training field in 1913. (This picture appeared in Life Magazine in 1963.)



1914 New Bremen Team of Western Ohio Trolley League. The interurban railway organized a league of teams on the trolley line. This league consisted of Botkins, Celina, Minster, New Bremen, St. Marys, Wapakoneta.

- 1921 – Les Blanke was invited to be on New Bremen team as catcher, Lloyd Laut manager, Al Huenke captain. New baseball diamond site west of railroad tracks and west of STAMCO (now Crown), with a grandstand that seated 200 people.
- 1923 and 1924 – Minor and Major league players could “barnstorm” with semi-pro teams to earn money. This increased attendance and thus receipts but had to pay the players.
- 1924 – New Bremen joined the Ohio-Indiana League which consisted of Celina, Angola (Indiana), Lima Wapakoneta, Bryan, Ottawa,

Delphos and New Bremen. Hired high salaried players. Each home team had to guarantee \$155 to the visitors. Had to have fundraisers to augment gate receipts.

- 1925 – Continuation of Ohio-Indiana League with Greenville, Minster, St. Marys and Sidney replacing Bryan, Angola, Ottawa, and Delphos. Celina won the league that year.
- 1926 – Les Blanke and Mel Wildermuth had tryout for Cleveland Farm System. Did not make it but the exposure resulted in them signing with the Lima independent team. Played on same team with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig that fall in Lima.
- 1927 – Ohio-Indiana League disbanded
- 1928 – New Bremen played as independent team
- 1929 – Many New Bremen players joined teams in nearby towns.
- 1930s – Various teams organized



Woodmen of World team ca. 1930. Richard Waterman is kneeling, 2nd from left.

- 1946 – Renewal of community organized baseball in New Bremen. Men returned from military service. A citizen's committee headed by Harry Schroeder secured finances to put a field into playing condition, on southeast corner of school grounds with grandstand and dugouts.
- 1946, 1947 – marked success as independent ball team managed by Earl Speckman in 1946 and by Leander Landwehr and Paul Pape in 1947. Paul Pape tried out with Cincinnati Reds in 1946.
- 1948 – 1955 Western Ohio League organized with teams from St. Marys, Ft. Loramie, Kettlersville, Maria Stein, Botkins, Osgood, Russia, Houston, Newport, and New Bremen. Minster and Versailles were added in 1950.



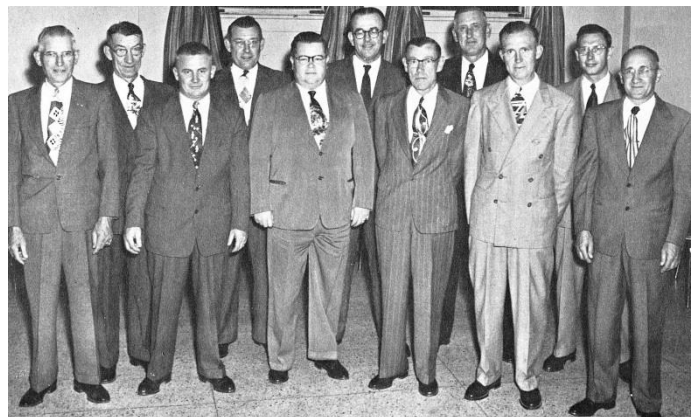
New Bremen team for Western Ohio League

Back Row: Paul Pape, John Wissman, Stan Kuenning, Richard Pape

Center: Roger Busse, Frank McCune, Les Blanke - manager, Vernon Westby.

Bottom Row: Merle Belton, Les Howe, Carl Inman, Don Coble, Jerry Brown, Ed Moore, Bat Boy Bill McCollum.

- New Bremen was a member of the Western Ohio League for eight years. Their accomplishments included:
 1. 1948 – League & Play-off Champions
 2. 1949 – League Champions
 3. 1950 – Play-off Champions
 4. 1951 – League Champions
 5. 1953 – Play-off Champions



Typical baseball committee which served the team so well during the years of Western Ohio League play (1948-1955). Left to right: Emil Topp, Al Pape, Wilbur Tontrup, Richard Pape, Leander Landwehr, Wilbur Fricke, Ray Hirschfeld, Omer Schroeder, Walter Behm, Richard Dammeyer, Les Blanke.

GERMAN MIGRATION

The Auglaize County Historical Society in Wapakoneta has been awarded an Ohio Humanities grant to weave together the historical sites in our county. To create a unified effort in interpreting our history they have selected the theme **Auglaize County: In Motion!**

Using this unifying link we thought back to what put our pioneer families *in motion* to settle New Bremen. In this article we will share the writings of two early New Bremen settlers about the **German Migration to America**.

Excerpts from

TRAVEL ADVENTURES OF AN IMMIGRANT

Written in 1871 by Carl Boesel, A New Bremen Pioneer

("Einwanderers Reiseabenteuer" Published in *Der Deutsche Pionier* by *Deutscher Pionier Verein, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1871-1872, Vol. III pp 215-218, Translated by Allen A. Dicke in 1959.*)

It is already two years since I wrote in the *Pionier* about the settlement of New Bremen. I promised at that time that I would report a few memories from my emigration travel in 1833, as soon as I came back from my trip to Europe. As promised, here is my report.



First, a few remarks about the situation in Germany and the feelings of the population in general at that time. At the beginning of 1832, it appeared that something important was to be happening in the world. The Enlightenment of the nations made it impossible to dampen the spirit of the era. And yet, there was an attempt to strangle it and to push the population back into the dark centuries by destroying the free press. As men rebelled against the oppression of the State, excessive taxation, etc., and wrote about it in their free newspapers, the authorities tried to crush the press, abolish the free press. Enough soldiers had been sent from Altbaiern, with guns to frighten the people. Among the spirited men who preferred to lose their offices rather than be silenced, were in particular Dr. Siepfeiffer, Dr. Wirth from Hamburg, and Pastor Hochdorfer from Seimbach. These leaders organized therefore a great public festive event that was held in Hambach on the Bergschloss ruins on May 27, 1832.

From all parts of the Palatinate came strong groups from almost every class of society with flag and music. Many men came also from other regions: from France, England, Holland, Frankfort, Wurzburg, Augsburg, etc. The number of participants was apparently 35,000. Speeches were made all in a liberal spirit. The Government President Herr von Andrian tried with his troops to prevent the festivities, but to no avail! The reformers were thus taken prisoners. Others, to escape captivity, escaped to America.

The discontent was such among the population that hundreds and thousands of families from Palatinate emigrated in the spring of 1833 to America. Among those which at that time also decided to seek better fortune in America, I noticed Jacob Maurer from Kronenberg, Hoffmann and Walther from Meisenheim, Forster Lang from Zippersfeld, Jacob Morvilius from Bodenhause, Barth and Fickeisen from Lauterecken, Braun and Stein from Heinzenhausen, Eckert from Bisterschied, Paul from Schonborn, and several others.

We left our homeland at the beginning of April, 1833. Since at the time there were no trains in our region, we had to make the trip to the port by wagon, and after a tiresome trip of 18 days we arrived in Le Havre. Here we made a deal with the master of the "Norfolk" whose captain promised to bring us to Baltimore in 35 days. The weather was very bad so that our progress was slow and on the 35th day we had hardly covered half the distance. Food on the ship became scarce; in addition, there was not a drop of good water on board. To the horror of everyone, we had an outbreak of smallpox, so that we were happy to arrive in Baltimore after a 63-day trip. But we were not allowed in the town because of our smallpox, but rather loaded on flat boats outside of the town and left to our destiny. In addition, the first night on American soil we had to spend under the stars. This was on June 24, 1833...



The next day, June 25, 1833, we left Baltimore by wagon and crossed the Allegheny Mountains--a very slow and tiresome trip. On the 18th day we finally arrived in Pittsburgh. Walther, Morvilius and Fickeisen had left us already in Bedford, Pennsylvania. In Pittsburgh there was a formal separation to all directions: Maurer, Stein, Braun and Paul decided to continue the trip westward together.

From Cincinnati, we traveled to Hamilton, Ohio. Here we made a temporary halt. The families were left behind and Maurer, Stein, Braun and Paul organized a scouting trip in all directions in order to find suitable land, after which they would then settle there. They learned about the New Bremen settlement, came here and since they liked the region very much they bought some land. Then they returned and brought their families back with them.

In an earlier article, I already mentioned how things were in the New Bremen settlement and the hardships which the people had to suffer. Not long after they came here, cholera that had broken out in that area made already victims that year. Maurer was just going to build a small log cabin, when he died suddenly. He was a very pious and God-fearing man. Every Sunday, weather permitting, he gave a sermon on the ship. May he rest in peace... CARL BÖSEL

REASONS FOR COMING TO AMERICA

From the Day-Book of Phillip Jacob Maurer during the sea voyage to America – 1833

The thought came to me early in the month of October, 1832, that I should like to go to America with my children. From the moment I resolved to go, I became happy and carefree. It seemed as though I were transformed. At work and in marching I was never tired. I could make a two-hour march in one and a half hours. Thank God for the wonderful gift of health and for a light and happy heart.

The conditions that influenced me to go to America are as follows:

1. The bad house-keeping of the State where the expenses are so great, and the princely household, the officers and the state officials are paid too high; also the customs and the toll. The land is cut into small parts so one gets into a new land with each day's journey, and each land is encircled by a toll line. Commerce is hindered. The last cent is taken away from the common people. Also the money must be changed and the people are again the losers.

2. Of complimenting and politeness and saluting there is no end. One hardly knows how to frame his sentences so as not to offend. Everyone wants to be addressed as "THOU."

3. In the field and in the home one is robbed. One cannot be careful enough.

4. Poverty is so universal that one has to hand out 10 to 15 pounds of bread daily. Among these are many beggars. One knows them but dares not refuse them, because of what they may do. They live in the next village and are very dangerous.

5. One cannot be too careful in the lending of money and grain. One is cheated often. There is no such thing as keeping one's word among the people. When people need money or other things they give you angel-words (Engleworte) but if you ask them to return what they borrowed, they become your enemies and call you heartless. The returning of things is hard because they are so needy. Many times one loses. All confidence is gone and one dreads to help anyone, but still one has no peace from the borrower.

6. The Sabbath is desecrated. The good and upright person has a battle to stay in the straight and narrow path.

7. In spite of the extraordinary taxes, the State debt gets higher and higher every year. What will things come to when it must be paid? According to the speakers at the Hambacher Festival, the State debt amounted to 124 million florins on the 27th of May, 1832.

8. The military duty is worrying me because of my five sons.

9. Friendship is seldom found. Greed and selfishness have taken the place of true friendship.

10. When it is necessary to go to the law, there is so much expense that many a one loses his right.

11. When one buys land for 100 Fr., the State 14 Fr. and 14 crowns.

12. In the several states of Europe one is robbed of all freedom. A chain is thrown around the people and they are led like animals. For instance, one may not take a dog to the field with him without a fine of 5 Fr. One may not catch a rabbit, for the fine is 3 Fr. Because of these things and many others, I am leaving Europe. For these reasons, wealthy, prominent, and worthy men also officials and spiritual leaders, who are dissatisfied, resolved to migrate to the United States of America, where there is freedom.

Genealogy of Phillip Jacob Maurer of Kronenberg-Lauterdecken, Bavaria and his Descendants in America 1738-1968 by Dorothea Dicke Maurer.

This is the second in a series of articles to support the
Auglaize County: In Motion initiative.

We have many motion-related sites in New Bremen – Miami & Erie Canal, Lockkeepers House, Kuenning-Dicke Natural Area on the Buckeye Trail, and the Bicycle Museum of America. In addition, there are myriad *in motion* stories in our repositories for New Bremen history, the Pape House and the Luelleman House museums. We will be sharing more *in motion* stories in future issues.

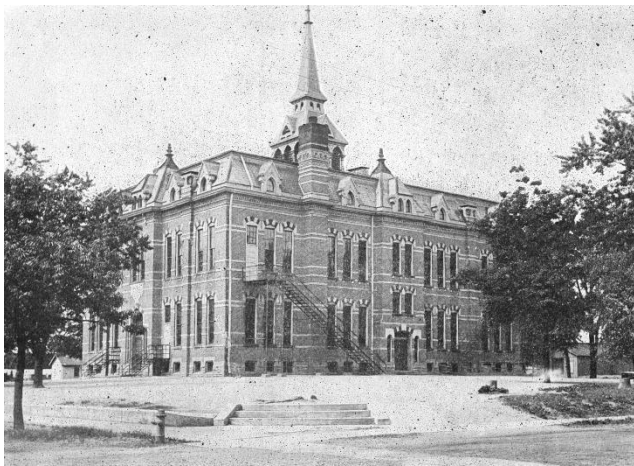


Restored Pioneer Cabin on Plum Street in New Bremen near Miami & Erie Canal. It is an example of cabins built in the 1830s by New Bremen's pioneers.

School Lunches

New Bremen Schools opened their first cafeteria at the Central Franklin Street School in 1947 soon after the passage of the National School Lunch Act. The idea of a cafeteria was discussed at the October 1946 school board meeting and the board members, led by President Dr. L. Schmidt, authorized Superintendent Downing to proceed with the installation.

The cafeteria was to be placed in the elementary building due to lack of space in the high school. Initial plans called for an expenditure of \$ 1500 to \$2000. When school resumed in January 1947 the installation was complete and this article appeared in the *Sun* newspaper.



NEW SCHOOL CAFETERIA

The school cafeteria, under the auspices of the P.T.A. will be opened for service on Tuesday, January 7, was announced this morning by School Superintendent Roger L. Downing. Mrs. Harris Sharp is the chief cook, assisted by Mrs. Leona Wellman. If more help is needed during the initial week of operation, some of the P.T.A. members will be asked to help.

Mrs. Dottie Boesel, Miss Frieda Dierker, Mrs. Wesley Crow and Mrs. Herbert Piehl have been appointed to serve on the menu committee with Mrs. Sharp. Mr. Downing further stated.

To begin with, he said, the daily meal price will be 25 cents per meal. Any second helpings will cost extra. This price is experimental and may have to be changed according to the cost of operation. \$1.00 and \$2.00 meal tickets are being printed, however meals may be paid for daily, if parents prefer.

Monday, January 6, a count will be taken to ascertain how many will eat at the cafeteria on the next day, so that the correct amount of food will be prepared.

Until further announcement is made, the cafeteria will be open only to the lower six grades.

Some equipment has been very difficult to obtain, and some items are still very much needed. Especially needed articles include: large baking dishes, a large kettle (12 or 16 qt.), and large enamel dish pans. Donations of any of the above will be greatly appreciated.

Any food donations will also be welcomed by the P.T.A.; especially potatoes, cabbage, carrots, canned goods, etc. Cans or other containers will be returned, if labeled with the owner's name. (*New Bremen Sun*, 1-2-1947)

The next issue of the *Sun* commented on the cafeteria's Tempting Menus.

TEMPTING MENUS

Enjoyed By Large Per Cent Pupils At Grade School Building

If present indications are not misleading, that is judging by the patronage accorded the first few days, the cafeteria at the grade school building will prove one of the most popular introductions and at the same time most profitable from the standpoint of health and

comfort for the pupils which were ever initiated in the public schools here.

Of course, the novelty of the arrangement and the prevailing unfavorable weather are supposed to have added to the numerous initial patronage, but Tuesday noon the guests at the midday meal were in excess of 100 and it appears this figure was pretty closely duplicated yesterday and likely was maintained today for which, however, no figures were obtainable at press time.

The following are the daily menus for the four days this week since opening the cafeteria. **Tuesday** – Barbecue sandwiches, Baked corn, Peaches, Milk. **Wednesday** – Scalloped potatoes, Green beans, Cabbage, apple and raisin salad, Bread and butter, Milk. **Thursday** – Marzetti (noodles, hamburger, tomatoes), Carrot sticks, Applesauce, Bread and butter, Milk. **Friday** – Baked beans, Tossed green salad, Bread and butter, Cookie, Milk. (*New Bremen Sun*, 1-9-1947)

CAFETERIA

To Be Viewed At P.T.A. Meeting, Monday At School

(*New Bremen Sun*, 1-9-1947)

Mrs. Harold Opperman, president of the New Bremen Parent-Teacher Association, announces that the regular monthly meeting of the association, next Monday evening at 7:45 will be held on the second floor of the grade school building on South Franklin Street. The reason assigned for holding the meeting there is to offer members and others interested an opportunity to inspect the school cafeteria which was installed and operated for the first time this week...



A picture from the *Mirage* shows the cooks in 1954. What were Ona Finke and Leona Wellman cooking?

Menus from 1954.

Menu	
Week of April 5th	
Monday—Barbecue Sandwich, Head Lettuce, Fruit, and Milk.	
Tuesday—Meat Loaf, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit, Bread, Butter, and Milk.	
Wednesday—Beef and Noodles, Peas and Carrots, Cherry Cobbler, Bread, Butter, and Milk.	
Thursday—Hamburger Sandwich, Baked Beans, Fruit, Milk.	
Friday—Salmon Loaf, Tomatoes, Tapioca, Bread, Butter, and Milk.	

Menu	
Monday — Meat Pie, Beets, Fruit, Bread and Butter, Milk.	
Tuesday — Hamburger Sandwich, Soup Beans, Jello, Milk.	
Wednesday—Pork and Sauer Kraut, Mashed Potatoes, Fruit, Bread and Butter, Milk.	
Thursday — Barbecue Sandwich, Baked Corn, Tapioca, Milk.	
Friday — Rice, Green Beans, Fruit, Bread and Butter, Milk.	

The *Crimson and Gold* section of the *New Bremen Sun* newspaper published the menu each week. In those years taking a lunch count and sending the money to Mr. Smith, the principal, was one of the first items of the school day. What an honor it was to be chosen to carefully carry out this duty for your teacher!

The original cafeteria was in use for about ten years at the Franklin Street building. When the elementary addition was built on Plum Street it included a new cafeteria that began operation in October 1956.

From the school's website comes this information about the lunches served by the food service in 2017. The cafeterias now use a computerized lunch system. Daily lunch prices are \$2.80 for grades K-6 and \$2.90 for grades 7-12. Lunches are prepaid into student accounts and at lunchtime students enter a PIN code to debit their account. This account can be used by parents to monitor what their child has purchased from the cafeteria and the amount of money in the account.

Now seventy years later New Bremen School students are still being served tempting menus for their school lunches. The menus contain some familiar favorites such as hamburger and hot dog sandwiches, mac and cheese and chili soup. But now they also feature pizza, tacos, quesadillas and a breakfast wrap. A chef salad and alternate sandwich choice are offered each day and may be chosen instead of the main item.

Do you remember your favorite school lunch item? We surveyed several people and this is what they told us:

Dale Schaefer (NBHS '55) said that he remembers that the cafeteria was on the second floor of the elementary building. He also remembers that he hated the succotash that they served and that he did not eat in the cafeteria very often. He usually brought his lunch in a paper sack.

Edythe (Conradi) Henschen (NBHS '60) remembers Mrs. Finke and Mrs. Wellman working in the kitchen and the high school students coming to eat in the cafeteria. She remembers that there were trays to use in the line and that made her feel like an adult. She thought that she did not like green beans and one day someone suggested that she eat them. She realized then that they were not bad at all and she has eaten them ever since.

Hal Opperman (NBHS '61) said he usually went home for lunch or brought his lunch. His family had a large garden, chickens and other animals that provided most of their food and probably found it less expensive to eat at home rather than in the cafeteria. He related one unpleasant memory of the cafeteria when he was in the 2nd grade: *The meal included hot dogs. I did like hot dogs and that was probably why I ate there that day. Someone, not me, apparently did not like them and threw theirs under the big tables that we all sat at. A teacher saw it under the table and proceeded to question those of us at the table. For some reason she concluded it was me that had thrown it on the floor and made me pick it up and clean up the mess. She proceeded to tell me how awful it was to tell a lie and that I should be ashamed of myself. I was innocent but had to pay the price for the crime of someone else. An early life lesson that not everything in life is fair!*

Barb (Cashdollar) Ziegenbusch (NBHS '62) remembers the cafeteria on the 2nd floor of the elementary building and that it always smelled so good there. She has fond memories of "home-cooked" food made by ladies who treated her like a grandmother would. Mrs. Finke (Bob Finke's mother), Mrs. Fogt (Shirley Black's mother), Mrs. Kuenning (Stan's mother) were the cooks when she was in elementary school. A favorite food item was a cookie that had fruit in it and was chewy & delicious. She remembers that the high school students came to the grade school for lunch. Now she wonders – who carried all that stuff upstairs?

Kathy (Schmieder) Nedderman (NBHS '62) says she did not eat in the cafeteria because she lived across the street from the school. However, she does remember the high school kids coming in cars, parking in front of the school on Franklin Street and running up the front steps to be first in line. Now she wonders how many came in cars and how many walked?

A Look at *OLD* New Bremen

What was life like in New Bremen more than 100 years ago? Our best source to answer the question is the *New Bremen Sun* newspaper. These are some events reported in the year 1897.

Plenty of Mud

There is an abundance of mud on our streets now. It is of the sleek glossy variety and covers every inch of surface. The pedestrian of course likes to gaze on that silent, shining sea of mud and wades through it with as much alacrity as though he were passing through the gates of Heaven. The male pedestrian goes at it with a hop step and a jump fashion, while the female treads lightly and seeks to alight on the shallowest spots, and sometimes makes an inspection trip of a block or two before making the attempt. A person equipped with high boots, of course, pays no attention to the mud. When he has a good supply of it hanging on to his pedal extremities and finds navigation retarded he can, like a barn yard fowl, raise his foot and give it a jerk. This mud sticks closer than a friend. (*New Bremen Sun* 1-1-1897)

Fire Bell

No pair of legs ever carried a man quicker across the canal to ring the fire bell than those of Henry J. C. Laut on the night of the fire, next door to the hotel. But what puzzled him after he got across was how to find the bell. The old engine house is razed and the new one hasn't gone up yet. (*New Bremen Sun* 1-1-1897)



Dedication of New Engine House August 1897- Firebell in Place. (Note muddy street.)

Ice Cutting

The coldest weather of the year was experienced Monday, the thermometer registering 22 degrees below zero. Several people while cutting ice, Sunday, had their ears and hands frozen. The cylinder of the gas engine in the *SUN* office burst during Sunday night. Jack Frost put in his work with a vengeance, but so far we haven't heard of any calamitous damage done.

There may be times when a man "isn't cutting much ice," but this week, that slang phrase is hardly applicable, for the pond was literally covered with men actually cutting ice. Henry B. Schwepe (*New Bremen native, agent of the Star Brewing Co. of Minster*) employed nearly 50 men to cut the ice for the Minster brewery. Some of it was stored away in their houses here and a large quantity was hauled to Minster. (*New Bremen Sun* 1-30-1897)



Sleigh Riding

The school children have enjoyed free sleigh-riding at the hands of H. B. Schwepe, who every morning before starting out with his sled would make a trip or two to the school house. (*New Bremen Sun* 2-12-1897)

Canal Bank Broke

Portions of Land in New Bremen Flooded. It Rained Incessantly all of Last Night.

The continued rain of last night filled the canal to a dangerous mark. The bank at several places could no longer stand the pressure and gave way this morning. There was danger of a general flood such as this place has once or twice experienced in years gone by. Help was needed and resort was taken to the alarm bells to call out the people. The bank near the pop shop on Vogelsang Street was washed down a foot or more and water shot down the embankment with menacing force, inundating that portion of town through which a side creek wends its way.

Men saw the danger and voluntarily threw up a dam of stone and lumber but not without much hard work. At the front of the lock the water was even with the bank and a dam was made.

The cellars on south Main Street that are drained to the creek in the flooded district are filled with water. Lock Tender Thieman made haste to the locks below to facilitate the flow, but at this writing all dangers for a flood are not over, as the rain came down in torrents and every available brook and streamlet adds its mite. (*New Bremen Sun* 3-5-1897)

Otto Mesloh

Mr. Otto Mesloh leaves today for Montreal, Canada, where he goes to accept the leadership of a band which furnishes the music on a steamer running between Montreal and Quebec.

(*New Bremen Sun* 6-11-1897)



NBHS CLASS REUNIONS

There is a name we all hold dear...

*It is the name of our High School, the
dear New Bremen High!*

**This was the theme when the New Bremen Class of
1946 held their reunion.**



The **Class of 1946** celebrated their 70th Anniversary Reunion on October 1st at Elmwood Assisted Living of New Bremen. Those attending are pictured above. Standing: **Robert Donnerberg, Everet Topp, Edith (Blanke) Wissman, Ken Eckhart**. Seated: **Stan Kuenning, Evelyn (Westerbeck) Kittle**.



The **Class of 1946** shared high school memories and a delicious dinner at Elmwood. The tables were decorated in the NBHS school colors Crimson & Gold! Reporters from two newspapers, *The Evening Leader* and *The Sidney Daily News*, interviewed the classmates.

An article from the *New Bremen Sun* described what the **NBHS Class of 1946** graduates were doing that fall.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

“In the Fall of 1946”

I know many of you are just wondering where our graduates of '46 have gone since they have left NBHS.

Eileen Altic – Nurses's training at Lima.

Dorothy Blanke – Helping at home on the farm.

Edith Blanke – Attending Miami University, Oxford.

Doris Burmeister – Employed at the White Mountain Creamery.

Robert Donnerberg – Located in Texas with Uncle Sam's Air Corps.

Kenneth Eckhart – Working at home on the farm.

May Gross – Employed at McKay's Woolen Mills.

Eunice Kettler – With National Cash Register Co., Dayton.

Stan Kuenning – Helping father at St. Marys Motor Sales.

Walter Lee Kuhlhorst – With Uncle Sam's Navy Bluejackets.

Skip Laut – Stationed with Air Corps in Texas.

Jacqueline Ley – Employed at White Mountain Creamery.

Herman Mohrman – Employed at Bremco Mills.

James Pape – Works at White Mountain Creamery.

Anna Mae Quellhorst – Secretary in office of Farm Bureau.

Virginia Rinehart – Attending Miami University, Oxford.

Mack Wellman – Serving with the Air Corps in Texas.

Evelyn Westerbeck – Employed at New Bremen Rubber Co.

Donald Will – Serving in the United States Army.

Everett Topp and **Charles Wierwille** – Managers of Crown Dry Cleaners. (*New Bremen Sun*, 10-10-1946)

NBHS CLASS OF 1954

The **Class of 1954** had their 62nd Anniversary Reunion on August 20, 2016 with lunch at JT Restaurant in St. Marys. Those attending the reunion were **Bill Bruns, Tom Braun, Ned Dammeyer, Don Fischbach, John Gilberg, Joyce (Quellhorst) Gilberg, Tom Holdren, Joyce (Inman) Holdren, Anna (Schmidt) Hoelscher, Mary Ellen (Schemmel) Kurtzman, Frank Kuenning, John Koeper, Roseanne (Schaefer) Meyer, Lloyd Schroer, Harold Stammen, Delores (Schroer) Stienecker, and Janice (McCollum) Voglewede**.

Those who were unable to attend were: Bob Baur, Eileen Brady, Paul Casebolt, Jane (Becker) Dirks, Virginia (Donnerberg) Sweigart, Louise Erhardt, Don Fischbach, Dale Hirschfeld, Don Luedeke, Mary Mohrman, Shirley (Harshbarger) Pohlable, Don Westerheide, Joann (Neuman) Williams.



Jim & Jack Moeller

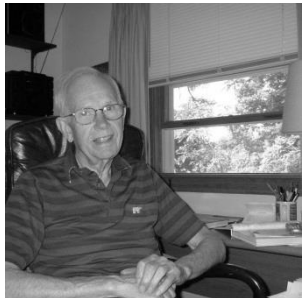
Five years ago *The Towpath* had an interview with **Jim Moeller**. We are happy to report that Jim recently celebrated his 95th birthday. Happy Birthday, Jim! He shared this article about his brother Jack

published recently in the Pioneer Club eNewsletter from Oakland University. *The article was written by Gerry Coon.*

Dr. Jack Moeller is one of those fortunate retirees who has been “re-wired” as well as retired.

Jack began his higher education as a piano major at Oberlin College. When he decided that piano was not going to be his major, he switched to a major in German and reserved his musical abilities for his own enjoyment.

While still in graduate school Jack and his wife, Hilda, attended the University of Basel under a Princeton-Basel Exchange Fellowship. Throughout his career, he spent much time in German speaking countries, attending a number of seminars and workshops, some for an extended period of six weeks. “One great experience,” he says, “was teaching at a



German school under a Fulbright Exchange fellowship. At that time I learned first-hand how quickly children can acquire a language. Our daughter, Susan, attended first grade in Germany and within weeks she had no problem with the language and even finished the year with top grades.”

Dr. Moeller joined the Oakland University staff in 1963 and led a distinguished career as a professor of German until his retirement in 1992. During that time he realized that the standard method of teaching German was not, in his mind, the appropriate approach. During the early 1970s he teamed with Professor Helmut Liedloff of Southern Illinois University to produce several high school and college German language textbooks to fill what they considered a void. Forty years later those books are still in print and considered the gold standard of German language textbooks.

He and other Oakland University modern language teachers led the movement away from the old system of teaching grammar and vocabulary only, toward the incorporation of speaking and writing into the curriculum. “The college texts of the time,” he says, “were old fashioned, and we thought they needed to be modernized as well. We tried to make them more streamlined.” Current language teaching follows that lead, incorporating language proficiency along with information about German history and culture.

After his retirement, Moeller volunteered to teach German to seniors at the Older Persons’ Commission in Rochester. An active German group developed under his direction, learning to speak German and gain cultural knowledge about German-speaking countries. He found working with older persons a

wonderful and exciting experience and hopes that the courses have continued.

Because of Hilda’s poor health she and Jack moved to an independent living apartment in Ann Arbor in 2014. She passed away early in 2016, but Jack remains in Ann Arbor because their daughter, Susan, is a professor of finance at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. Their son, Kurt, is an engineer at United Technologies in Hartford, Connecticut. Susan is called upon constantly, Jack says, to take care of such matters as driving him to doctors, buying necessities and even making some dinners. Their son and his family make occasional visits from Connecticut. Dr. Moeller has three grandchildren: Katie, Susan’s daughter, and John and Chloe, children of Kurt and his wife, Judith.

Since his retirement Jack continues to revise *Deutsch heute*, now in its 10th edition, which now includes an audio-enhanced e-book and other interactive features. He has also worked with co-authors Simone Berger and Professor Anja Wieden of Oakland University to produce the ninth edition of *Kaleidoscop*, a text for intermediate German. In later year he has discontinued work on the high school editions, but continues to revise new editions of the college texts.

But back to the re-wiring: In his new life in the senior home in Ann Arbor, Jack has gone back to his first love. “Switching my major to German was the correct choice for my career, but I now have a piano in my apartment. I do accompanying for sing-alongs and even gave a recital here, although I don’t play as well now as I did when I started at Oberlin,” he admits.

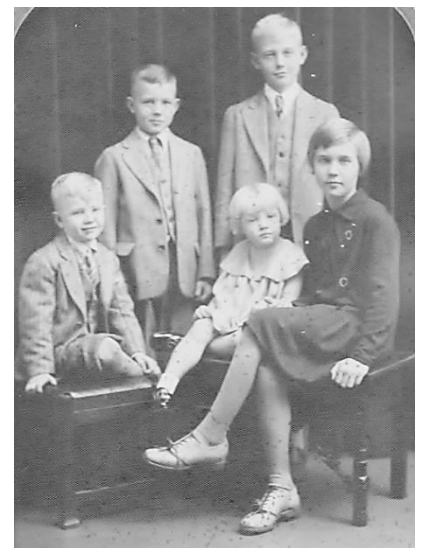
Jack remembers Oakland fondly. Living in Rochester after his retirement allowed him to visit the Department of Modern Languages and literature often – keeping in touch with former and newer colleagues, keeping up-to-date on developments in the Department, attending student functions, events and presentations, even being one of the judges each year in various student contests involving speaking and writing. “I do miss my colleagues and students now,” he admits. And he is mildly surprised that the Department functions so well without him, now that he is in Ann Arbor.

Jim and Jack are the sons of Raymond (Caddy) and Alfrieda (Vornholt) Moeller. Both are NBHS graduates, Jim with the Class of 1939 and Jack in the Class of 1943 and the Valedictorian of his class.

Jim has been a lifelong resident of and advocate for New Bremen. We thank Jim for that and for sharing this article about his brother Jack.

Jack, Jim, Tom, Pauline (Dunham), Louise (Hay) Moeller in 1928.

All three brothers are WWII veterans.





Paul Poppe

Paul Poppe is the oldest full-time employee in the state of Washington. This NBHS graduate (Class of 1948) was featured in a newspaper article in 2015:

State's Oldest Full-time Worker on the Job at EdCC

By Julie Muhlstein (Herald Columnist)

Paul Poppe's routine isn't unusual. Every weekday, he's on the job at Edmonds Community College by 7:30 a.m. He spends time off watching the Mariners or doing yard work.

So what's unusual about this busy professional? Well, he was born in 1930. Not only is Poppe 85, he is the oldest full-time worker employed by Washington state.

"It's in the DNA, people in our family all work a long time," the Edmonds man said Monday. "My Uncle Ferd retired from the Department of Agriculture at 90. He was an entomologist."

Poppe, who had been at EdCC 23 years, is a contract and risk management specialist in the college's purchasing department. "I make sure as possible that there are no conflicts, and they comply with all the state rules and regulations regarding contracts."

Marian Paanane, EdCC's director of finance, describes Poppe as a reliable and valuable employee. "He is an asset to the college and we are glad he is here," Paanane said.

Why is he there, though? Why work 20 years longer than most people do? There's the practical reason. Poppe, an engineer, was briefly retired years ago. He felt his benefits and assets fell short of his financial needs. He and his wife, Carol, live in their own home in Edmonds. They moved from Texas in the early 1990s to be near a daughter.

There is also a philosophical reason. "I have a political message," he said. "We should continue to earn our own way, and not depend on our grandchildren to support pension systems. For as long as we can, we should."

Also, retirement doesn't suit him. "I had too much going on in my head to retire," he said. "I tried writing for a while. I wasn't very good at it."

Poppe had an inkling he might be in rare company when he read an article a few years ago saying the oldest full-time state employee had retired. Earlier this year, he requested information from the Human Resources department in the state's Office of Financial Management. In May, he received data showing – with the other names redacted – the five oldest employees in the state's higher education and general government categories.

The eldest is an 87-year-old security guard in the state Senate. But that worker is in a temporary position, as is an 85-

year-old in the Office of Legislative Support Services. Email from Jennifer Gammell, of the state's Human Resources department, lists Poppe as the oldest full-timer.

"Good for him," said David Nelson, assistant director for customer and policy services for the state Department of Retirement Systems. Nelson said there are no mandatory retirement ages for Washington's general public workers, including teachers. Through the years, the state has had mandatory retirement ages for public safety workers and judges, he said. Poppe is part of the state Public Employees' Retirement System. If he retires, he'll get benefits from the PERS 2 retirement plan. "He has definitely earned a benefit," Nelson said.

Already, he collects Social Security. "I'm still paying into Social Security, and that's all right," Poppe said.

Poppe had other work lives before starting his more than two decades at EdCC. A Korean War veteran, he served in the U. S. Army from 1952 to 1954. He was a forward observer for an artillery division in Korea.

He has degrees from Bowling Green University and Iowa State University. He also returned to college for more schooling in information technology. Poppe was an engineer and plant manager for Bourns Inc., a metric devices electronics company. He also worked in information services for the Hach Company, which makes water quality testing instruments.

Today, Poppe is healthy and has kept up with technology. He likes his co-workers. "I work with very interesting people. They accept me for who I am," he said.

A child of the Great Depression, he really hasn't stopped working since 1944 when he took a job at a broom factory. "I was 15," he said. "During World War II, kids could get jobs. I swept the floor."

His family has urged him to give up the daily grind. "I'm not ready," Poppe said. Will he be like his uncle, working at 90? "I'll see," he said. "It's to be determined."

Through a phone call we found Paul in 2016 is still working full-time, is well and enjoying life. Paul told of others in his family who have had long careers. He mentioned his Uncle Ferd Dicke who worked at age 90 as an entomologist.

We also know of his father's long career. Paul is the son of Lewis and Clara (Dicke) Poppe. His father opened a shoe repair shop in New Bremen, in 1919, after his return from military service in WWI. He continued to operate the shop until his hospitalization on Sunday, October 22, 1972. His father died the following Saturday.

It was great to talk with Paul who is a long time member and supporter of his hometown historic association.



LETTERS

Oh! How I enjoyed the October 2016 issue of *The Towpath*! Lois Gensler Moeller's article was most interesting. I knew both Lois and Adie and her brother, George, was in my graduating class (1941). And I had never heard Sue Schulenberg's story of the suit of clothes. Her Dad was my 1st cousin and I knew



goes home with the kids and hopefully most of it finds its way into their family's dinner.

No one at this school goes home for lunch although some do bring their lunch. In today's environment, I am sure no school can afford to let any student leave campus at noon time. It is certainly not like in our days at the Franklin Street School where we went out the door at noon and rode our bikes six or eight blocks home for lunch. -**Hal Opperman, Kingwood, Texas**

Sue well. What great reading.

I know Don Pape is still living from my class, but I am wondering if there is anyone else besides us. I am also enclosing my membership dues for 2017. (Always the optimist!) -**Mary Ellen (Taylor) Patton, Jefferson City, Tennessee**

Hi, Gen! Just want to tell you I totally enjoyed the latest issue of *The Towpath*. You and Joyce should probably get the Nobel Prize for Literature next year... - **Nancy (Kettler) Price, Grove City, Pennsylvania**

Thank you so very much for sending me the issue of *The Towpath*. I thoroughly enjoyed Lois Moeller's article. Reading her words put me back in New Bremen once again, back in the many wonderful times of growing up in New Bremen.

It was good to see the pictures of the Rabes and the Schulenbergs. The big windows at Schulenberg's Drugstore so very often, showed Mr. Schulenberg and his cigar looking out. Also, it was a treat to see a picture of a former classmate, now an adult. I don't think he has attended any reunions of the class. I may be wrong, but it was good to see Andy Rabe.

Am enclosing a check for a year's membership. A former classmate and very good friend, Mary Klein, called someone in the Association about sending me a copy of *The Towpath*. She mentioned that I had known different folks mentioned. I thank Mary so much and also thank you so very much. Just had my 82nd birthday and health problems have been provoking, to say the least. *The Towpath* was a wonderful pick-me-up and for a time I was once again that spry young girl of many years ago in New Bremen. -**Jean (Glass) Rigsby, Troy, Ohio**

You ladies do such a great job of putting out the Towpath. Such a professional piece! Gudrun and I put out a monthly newsletter for our garden club and know how tough it is to gather all the stories and all the other details that are necessary to meet deadlines, etc. So, keep up the good work. Hundreds probably thousands of people look forward to the next issue and can't put it down until it is all read... (Editor's note: See p. 9 for Hal's memories of the New Bremen elementary school cafeteria in the 1950s.)

...Things are a bit different in elementary schools now. I am a volunteer at one of the local elementary schools. A group

Hello! We were in Michigan last week and visited with Randy McCune and he took us to see some of his brother Glen's work. I thought of the Towpath then because it might be nice to include an article about Glen in some future issue.

He has some wonderful carvings on display at various places in the area there around Petoskey, Indian River and Wolverine. One bar has 2 large bear carvings with trees with them and a beautiful carved eagle in a nest with two eaglets that looks over the room. The unique carving there is the bar edge which looks like a stream running with animals and various amphibians in a lovely dark wood. He also carved a large crucifix, Mary, and Joseph for a small Catholic church in the area as well.

I was amazed at the detail Glen puts on the carvings, right down to the toenails and the lines on the feet where the knuckles bend under. In his workshop, he was completing a full size canoe in wood. It is so pretty I don't think I would have wanted to put it in the water. He also had various sketches framed and smaller carvings as well.

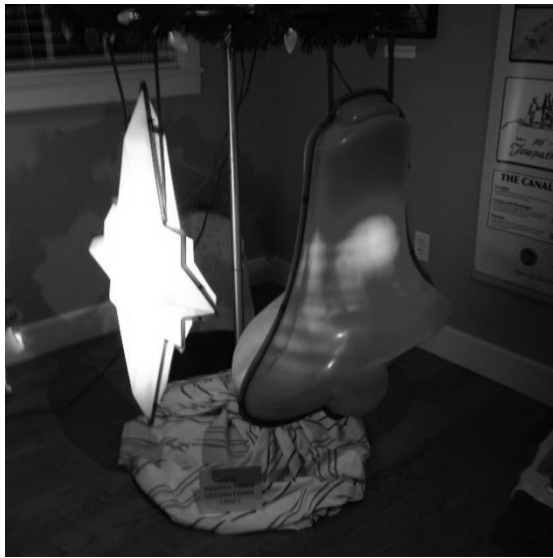
Thank you for the New Bremen stories. There is a tiny town near here where a man wrote something he called the *Jimmy Stories*, which was about the young boy growing up in Gilboa, Ohio. *The Towpath* reminds me a lot of those stories. Gilboa is about the size of Lock Two and is known in New Bremen for the winery there and a bar called Stinky's which various New Bremen people have visited.

Wishing you success on the Christmas festival celebrations and blessings on your holidays. -**Roberta (Strahm) Halker, Pandora, Ohio**

Editor's note: Roberta is a graduate of NBHS, Class of 1965. Randy, John & Glen McCune are also NBHS graduates, Class of '65, '68 & '73.

Editor's note: We are happy to hear from our readers and learn that you enjoy the articles. Any suggestions for topics or family stories are appreciated! Call, write or email Joyce or Gen.

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHT



Original holiday decorations from the 1950s donated by the New Bremen Village. Displayed at the NBHA Christmas Tree Festival this year.

WHAT DID THE NBHA BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACCOMPLISH IN 2016?

Reviewing the year's work, more than 30 items were identified. Some highlights were:

- Hosted Annual Dinner Meeting in March with Greg Parrott as speaker.
- Scheduled work days to clean, reorganize displays, and perform maintenance and repairs.
- Added new siding, roof, rain gutters and paint on the Pape Barn.
- Moved Military Room in Luelleman House museum to first floor with new display cabinets on walls.
- Participated in various projects and events that promoted our purpose of preserving history and sharing information about New Bremen. Welcomed visitors to both museums by appointment. Provided photos for display at Auglaize County Fair. Sold t-shirts on-line to promote history of New Bremen.

Much of the work was done by our trustees using their skills and donated time. Larger projects were completed by professionals. We are also indebted to several volunteers for their help.

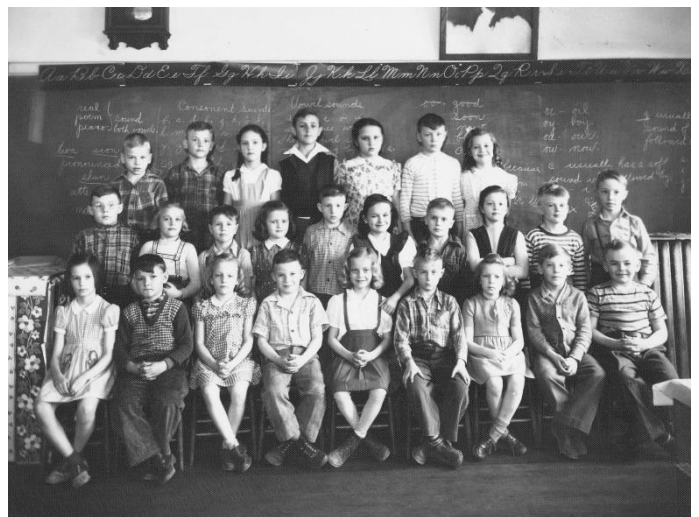
HISTORY MYSTERY



(Photo by Paul Lietz)

A photograph of the holiday decorations in use during the 1950s. Can you identify the location?

Answer: Intersection of Monroe & Washington Streets looking west.



Please help name the members of the NBHS Class of 1957 in this early photo. The photo was taken at the elementary school on South Franklin Street circa 1948.

Front row: 1. Kay Gilberg 2. - 3. Barbara Campbell 4. - 5. - 6. - 7. - 8. - 9. Edward Conradi

Middle row: 1. Dale Sollman 2. - 3. - 4. - 5. - 6. - 7. - 8. - 9. Bob Braun 10. -

Top Row: 1. - 2. - 3. - 4. Jim Opperman 5. - 6. - 7. -

Call Gen at 419-629-2764 or email gen@nktelco.net with your answers for this photo. We need your help!

**New Bremen Historic Association
P.O. Box 73**

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



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LM D-11 - Means you are a Lifetime Member and made a Donation in 2011.

CM P-76 - Means you are a Charter Member and Paid in 1976.

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

The New Bremen Historic Association Annual Dinner Meeting will be held Monday, March 20, 2017 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 Tim Eiting. The speaker's topic will be "Historic Farms near New Bremen." We want to include as much information on this topic as possible. If you have a historic (Century, Sesquicentennial, Bicentennial Farm) or information about one, call Larry Dicke (419-305-3100) so your farm can be included in the presentation.

Tickets go on sale February 1, 2017.

Former Employees of STAMCO are planning a get-together at the Speedway Lanes Bowling Alley in New Bremen on January 20, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Call Joe Niekamp for more information.

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

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 2017.

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!