

THE TOWPATH

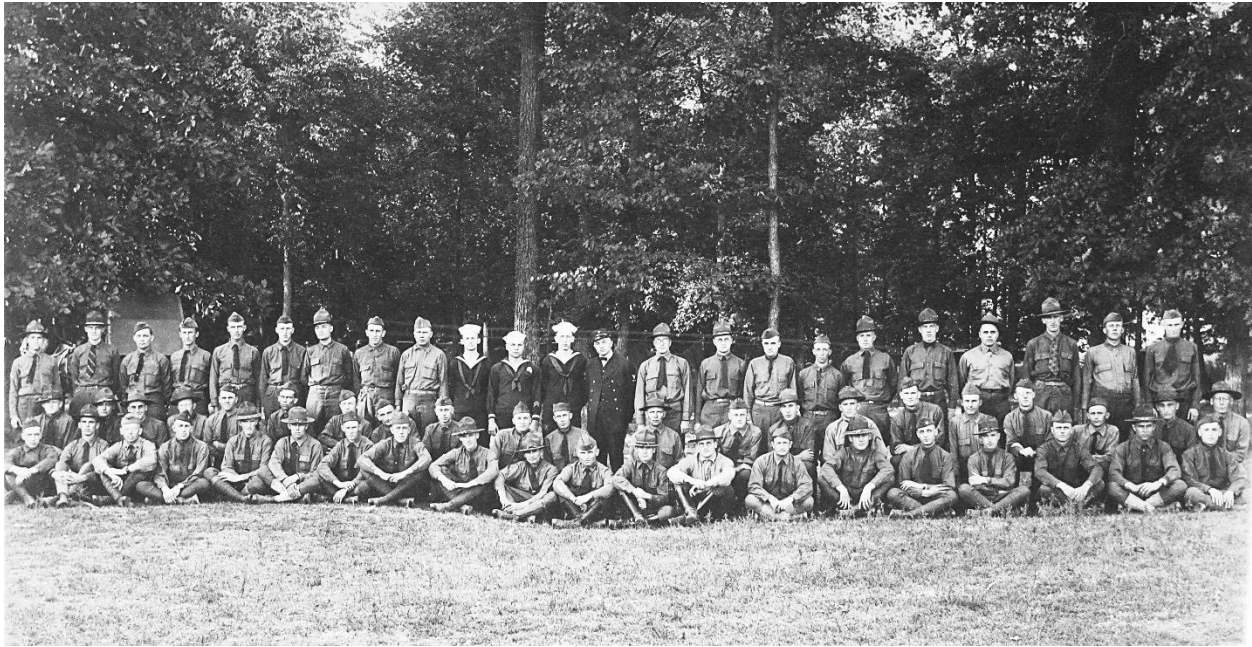
Published Quarterly

January-April-July-October

THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2019

HONORING OUR WWI VETERANS



This picture was taken at the 1919 Annual Farmers' Picnic in Kuenning's Grove (area in front of the racetrack on old state route 66.) All area servicemen were invited to attend the picnic, do a drill, and then have a group photo taken. The original picture was donated by Mrs. Irvin Koeper and is on display at the Luelleman House Museum.

Bottom Row: Carl Pape, Bill Donnerberg, Vernon Neuman, Andy Wieman, _May, Leonard Waterman, Ray Tomhafe, Harvey Fricke, Ray Knipple, Earl Speckman, Bill Rabe, Chester Kunning, Richard Boesel, __, Carl Wehmeyer, Bill Huenke, Bill Laut, Walter Althoff, Oscar Schwepe, Ward Pape. **2nd Row:** Edgar Wierth, Roscoe Lanfersieck, Hugo Merkle, Gus Ruedebusch, Mortimor Klanke, Henry Borgeding, Phil Ruedebusch, Bill Slentor, Arlie Moeller, Edgar Speckman, Homer Isern, Leander Heitkamp, Irvin Koeper, Huldreich Vornholt, Charlie Grothaus, Frank Grothaus, Ferd Greber, Alvin Harjehausen, Edward Pape, Elmer Loy, Alvin Hespe. **3rd Row:** Todd Taylor, Arthur Miller, Harry Kamman, Alfred Barth, Irvin Dammeyer, Rudy May, Leo Sunderman, Albert Bambauer, Leo Greber, Ralph May, Float Nieter, Grover Neuman, Leonard Speckman, Reuben Boesel, Carl Purpus, Ivan Koeper, Harvey Heinfeld, Richard Kunning, Felix Jung, Harry Vornholt, Omer Schroeder, Herbert Klute, Jake Maurer.

“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

NBHA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(2020) **David Maurer...**President...419-629-0164
dcmaurer6@gmail.com

(2021) **Larry Dicke...**V.President...419-629-1903
lldicke@nktelco.net

(2019) **Dennis Dicke...**Sec/Treas...419-629-2764
dengen@nktelco.net

(2021) **Diane Paul...**419-629-2856
rdpaul@nktelco.net

(2021) **Don Gagel...**419-629-3325
dongagel1@gmail.com

(2019) **Max Fledderjohann...**419-629-3368
maxandbev@nktelco.net

(2019) **Larry Tangeman...**419-629-3314
lrtangeman@nktelco.net

(2020) **Mary Moeller...**419-629-3635
mem@nktelco.net

(2020) John Turner...419-629-2482
jatcat@nktelco.net

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Mike Staton, Curator...419-953-8369
oldmanstaton@gmail.com

Rob Ziegenbusch, Curator...419-305-2822
rmz74@nktelco.net

Rodney Suchland, Member-at-large...419-953-4451
rj_suchland@yahoo.com

Thomas Braun, Genealogy...567-279-4921
tomandginnybraun@gmail.com

Genevieve Conradi, Historian's Scrapbook...419-629-2764

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)

NEW MEMBERS

Janice Reynolds

Gene & Bonnie Schwieterman

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Janice Reynolds

Nathaniel & Amy Bankey

Darlene Neuman

Ed & Marilyn Schwartz

Richard & Marlene Froning

Joe Lochtefeld

MEMBER DEATHS

(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

9/14/2018 **Charles Huwer**

10/19/2018 **Anna Mae (Cooper) Hudson (LM)**

10/25/2018 **Michael Stucky (LM)**

10/26/2018 **Susan (Schulenberg) Rabe**

11/22/2018 **Ferd Wint**

11/25/2018 **William (Bill) Bruns (LM)**

DONATIONS

Stanley & Dorothy Hirschfeld, Harold & Irene Stammen, Nancy Brucken, Larry Newman, Gene & Ellen Topp, Robert & Julie Ziegenbusch, Thomas & Florence Fricke, Robert & Brenda Klein, Betty McGowan, Craig & Sharon Mueller, Robert & Nancy Price, Sherry Biederman, John & Kathy Dicke, Ed & Rosalind Ekermeier, Jack & Beckie Dicke, Louise Davis.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Wayne Maurer by Kathy Maurer

2018 Monthly Raffle Winners

October- \$100-Kathi Overley (OH), \$75-Kelly Bernhold (NB), \$50-Auglaize Industries (NB)

November - \$100-Bob Leugers (NB), \$75-Janice Tobens (SC), \$50-Larry Tangeman(NB)

December - \$100-Teresa Smith(NB), \$75-Pat Wourms(OH), \$50-Mary Moeller (NB)

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



We are sad to announce the death of our trustee **Michael Stucky**. Michael had been a board member for three years. He was a friend to everyone he met. We truly appreciated his willingness to serve and use his many talents for the betterment of the NBHA.

From his obituary:

Michael Stucky of New Bremen died at his residence on Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 3:44 A.M. He was born on November 12, 1946 in Decatur, Indiana, the son of the late Ralph V. and Donna G. (Mann) Stucky. On November 28, 1964 he married Patricia Duncan who died on March 13, 2011. On March 16, 2012 he married Carolyn (Weinberg) Smith who survives in New Bremen. Also surviving are his children Todd (Lisa) Stucky of New Paris, Cindy (Dale) Freeman of Celina and Trent (Angel) of Coldwater, his ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren, his sisters Sharon (Ernie) Kuntz of Berne, Indiana, Susan (David) Highley of Celina and a brother-in-law Robert (Shirley) Weinberg of Findlay.

Michael was a 1964 graduate of Celina High School. He attended St. Peter's Church in New Bremen, he was a trustee of the New Bremen Historic Association and he also served on the Montezuma Fire Department for many years. He was a licensed auctioneer for twenty years and he owned and operated Stucky's Auction Barn in Montezuma. Michael retired from Crown Equipment Corporation in 2012 as inspection manager after 34 years of service...

Our friend and co-worker will be missed by all.



Kathy Maurer and her daughter Robyn Witherell visited the Luelleman House and the Pape house in October.

LETTERS...

I've read and reread many times the entire October issue and loved every minute. Those articles are terrific. Everything is so very interesting and reads so beautifully. I'm amazed at the article about me – how you ever did that I can't imagine – it's lovely.



Reading the letters from the war that ended in 1918 sometimes brought a tear. We don't know how fortunate we've been not to have gone through what they had to -- and weren't they wonderful writers also. You could feel the love they had for the families they were writing to. I was amazed at the one from the doctor that said he was in surgery sometimes 12 to 36 hours – incredible dedication and thoughtfulness and caring...Darlene Neuman (Ohio)

TO OUR READERS-

Thank you for taking time to give us your feedback on The Towpath.

We enjoy getting your letters, calls and article suggestions.

A huge thank you to those sharing stories.

As editors we value your help so...Keep your comments coming!

Gen & Joyce

ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED TO MUSEUM

Amy Webster - NBHS varsity jackets.

Vernita Wellman – School & church items, centennial & sesquicentennial books.

James & Mary Ann Rempe – Lock Two Mill invoices, local historical books

Rodney & Abi Suschland – NB Cardinal pennant from Merlin & Susie Hirschfeld family.

Dan & Sally Dicke – Pitcher, vintage kitchen items & garments, doilies, tablecloth, historical booklets, small file cabinet made by Carl Luelleman.

Ned & Judy Scheer – Crown Cleaners ashtray, antique cherry seeder.

Joe & Caryn Niekamp – Class ring, NBHS FFA jacket, Nupco patch, Lyons pencil, Stamco paper.

Rob Ziegenbusch – Gagel Plumbing & Heating sales slips booklet.

Doris Thielker Tangeman Remembers



What could be more magical than performing in an operetta at the age of 13 years! Doris Thielker Tangeman had that experience and remembers it fondly. "A Waltz Dream" was selected and directed by Mr. Gene F. Engle, New Bremen High School Music Director, and the cast of characters was extensive. Doris (NBHS Class of 1953) and classmate Molly Lou Kellermeyer (NBHS Class of 1950) were the accompanists for the production. The Operetta was performed in the New Bremen High School Auditorium on March 31 and April 1, 1949.

Cast of Characters

Maximilian X, King of Sylvania	Don Schwieterman
Princess Helene, his daughter	Lois Combs
Prince Rupert, her cousin	William Klier
Lieutenant Niki, an Austrian army officer	James Ashbaugh
Kay Robinson, an American artist	Delores Bertke
Princess Matilda, a sister of the King	Sally Beinker
Lieutenant Montschi, of the Sylvania army	Paul Quellhorst
Louisa, a Duchess	Janice Dammeyer
Bertram Budgett, an American efficiency expert	Robert Dicke
Count Lothar, of the Sylvania Court	Jack Friemering
Count Sigismund, of the Sylvania Court	Thomas Purpus
Nicholas, of the Sylvania Court	William Klier
Fifi, a singer	Dolores Wissman
Annerl, a singer	Donna Donnerberg

PRINCIPAL CHORUS

Sopranos:	Tenors:	Altos:	Basses:
Alice Gilberg	Robert Finke	Anna Mae Cooper	Ralph Casebolt
Joan Jung	Kenneth Greiwe	Carolyn Dammeyer	Kenneth Fiedderjohn
Jo Alice Kuenning	Carl Roediger	Evelyn Dicke	Duane Hegemier
Betty Quellhorst	Robert Westerheide	Audrey Klier	Eugene Hegemier
Gloria Roediger	Mark Woehler	Audrey Lampert	Don Lamphar

SPECIALTY CHORUS AND DANCERS

Sally Jo Abbott	Joyce Laut	Delores Piehl	JoAnn Schnell
Louise Lamphar	Martha Moeller	Beverly Rump	Peggy Speckman

Guide	Charles Dickman
First Deaf Man	Roger Schaefer
Second Deaf Man	Earl Sollman
Waiters	David Friemering and Paul Nedderman

AMERICANS

Dorothy Althoff	Virginia Hoffman	Betty Jo Schwieterman
Barbara Earl	Paul Nedderman	Earl Sollman
Jean Glass	Roger Schaefer	Vera Warner

TOURISTS

Ralph Casebolt	Eugene Hegemier	Ether Rempe
Kenneth Fiedderjohn	Sue McCollum	Mary Ann Wellman

LADIES OF THE COURT

Jean Dicke	June Hirschfeld	Grace Wittenbrink
------------	-----------------	-------------------

SOLDIERS

John Ahlers
Steve Black

Richard Blanke
Thomas Block

Jerry Brown
Harold Harjehausen

TRUMPETERS

Kathryn Westerbeck Inez Ziegenbusch

TOWNSPEOPLE

Dorothy Billger
Mary Brueggeman
Mary Fischbach

Betty Holdren
Dorothy Moeller
Joan Quellhorst

Charlene Schroer
Carolyn Wellman

ACCOMPANISTS

Molly Lou Kellermeyer Doris Thielker

Acknowledgments

Costumes ----- Mrs. Jacob Boesel
Scenery ----- Mr. C. H. Bay, Industrial Arts Class, Mr. Fred Schroer
Properties ----- Mr. Carl Watkins
Publicity ----- Mr. John Cindric
Speech Assistant ----- Miss Dorothy Meier
Programs ----- Miss Alvina Burk
Finance and Tickets ----- Mr. Roger Downing
Make-up ----- Mrs. Jacob Boesel and Mrs. L. L. Hurley
Stage Crew ----- Robert Bay, Carl Barhorst, Howard Fark, Henry Greber, Elmer Green, Duane Hartwig

Dancing under the direction of Helyn Hobby Spinner, Sidney, Ohio.

Furniture by courtesy of Gilberg and Hegemier

Presented by permission of Edward B. Marks Music Corp., New York

Costumes and wigs supplied by the Kampmann Costume Works Co.,
268 S. High St., Columbus, Ohio

"A Waltz Dream", written by Viennese composer Oscar Straus in 1907, is a love story and one of his best works. Born in 1870, this Austrian fled Vienna in 1939 with the looming war and traveled to Paris, then Hollywood. After the war he returned to Europe and his beloved Austria.

RALPH MAY REMEMBERS VOGELSANG FIELD

Ralph May (1892-1981), was a noted historian for New Bremen and the surrounding area. Ralph was born in 1892 and spent his boyhood years in New Bremen. He lived with his grandmother on West Plum Street in a house that stood where the log cabin is now. A graduate of NBHS in 1910, Ralph served in the US Navy during WWI. He married and settled in Piqua, Ohio, but returned often to New Bremen to visit with friends and relatives.

Being a keen observer with a talent for writing, Ralph wrote over 100 articles about growing up in New Bremen. In the 1930s he began sharing his stories with the *New Bremen Sun*. He wrote the following article in 1938 when he learned that a swimming pool would be built on Vogelsang's Field.

RECALLS NEW BREMEN PLAYGROUNDS OF YESTERYEAR

By Ralph May

(*New Bremen Sun*, June 24, 1938)

In reading the article by R. W. Brady in last week's Sun on the swimming pool project and the early history of the site on which it is being constructed, I cannot help but reflect on the former uses of this lovely stretch of meadow and pasture land, with the culvert on the south, the meandering creek (Vogelsang's) through the center, and the sloping hillsides to the east, with the canal towpath and the canal running alongside to the old wooden lock at the Thompson House. Vogelsang's Field was a beautiful stretch of commons, filled with luscious grass, clover, a few thistles and mullein, a wide, open space, with all the natural setting to make it a village playground all the year round.

An old rail fence enclosed the Field on the south and west boundaries; there were a few tall trees along the west side of the creek; and in early spring or during a wet summer there was always some water to be found in the creek. Here, in early spring we would test out our water-wheels made from Rabe's shingles, or float our sailing boats made from the same material and secured from the same source. Here we tried our feats of jumping by beginning where the creek was narrow and then gradually selecting a wider place until some boy got wet feet. Or we took off our shoes and stockings and went



Ralph May and his wife Christine

wading in the clear, sparkling water that gurgled through the Field on its way to the north.

During the spring freshets this creek would swell and swell, and I remember distinctly that on one occasion it nearly reached the towpath on the canal side, unbelievable as it may seem now. The Chuck's Nest boys had a large boat capable of seating at least 20 people and they placed this boat on the waters in the Field and rowed all around. Sometimes the canal bank would give way and then the

waters would flow down into the creek; and at one time it washed right under the pop house and nearly caused the building to fall away. But along in early summer and throughout the rest of the season until fall the creek was usually a dry bed of mud and deltas (prized for the fine sand in which to play with our bare feet). But it was a lovely creek, in a part of Ohio where creeks are few and far between on account of the watershed, and the boys and girls of New Bremen made good use of it.

The field in summer was a great battle ground for our Indian fights and massacres and from which heights we sent our home-made arrows, made from corn cobs and chicken feathers. Many dead have strewn these grounds only to rise again and go home for supper.

In the summer an occasional tent show would put on the grounds; and once, I remember distinctly, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" played to an afternoon and evening audience, for I was one of the boys who helped to gather twigs which were placed between the stage floor boards and tufted with pieces of cotton to represent Dixie. Once or twice I remember a balloon ascension having been made from the Field, and that not so very long ago.

In the fall the New Bremen High School football practice games were held here and many fictitious "down" was made on the soft, cool grass. The smaller boys of the neighborhood always played football here, as well, with the High School boys on one end of the grounds and the elementary school boys on the other end.

There were so many open fields and lots in New Bremen in those days that one now often wonders where the boys really play. The old "School Ground" off Cherry Street, is very much the same as it was years ago; but so many of the other common meeting grounds are undergoing changes or being obliterated entirely as playgrounds. But then, when so much entertainment is being found indoors, even swimming and bathing, it really doesn't matter. I am only looking back.

One time I remember, and this goes way back, the Field was filled with wild horses brought to New Bremen

by some enterprising salesman to be disposed of to its fair citizens. And, believe me, they were really "wild". The horses or young colts rather, sold for about \$35 each; but before they could be used they had to be "broke in". The horses were lassoed in the field, when a purchase was made, and of course, this made the boys think of the Wild West. We played with lassos for a long time thereafter, if not for the whole summer. If I remember correctly, there were any number of runaways in the town for months after until all the horses were really broken in. But it was an interesting experience and will never again be repeated in Vogelsang's Field.

Just for old time's sake, and for those who may have forgotten, I want to try to enumerate all the playgrounds and recreational centers in New Bremen 35 years ago. First and foremost, I must name Vogelsang's Field; then the Old School Ground back of Herman Hermsmeyer's place; the lots near the Central School Building and directly across from the old Klanke Furniture Factory; the commons near the Poultry House; Kuenning's Lot, now built up with residences but an old show grounds years ago and once occupied by a large tent where church services and Sunday School were held; the field south of the Ice House, where the ice pond is now located; the Dierker Lots near Fearings; and, never-to-be-forgotten, old Tri-County Fairgrounds; the Picnic Grounds in the southwest part of town, still there but very much altered, where picnics and dances were held, and Fourth of July Celebrations, during the summer months; the City Park for ice cream socials, with Chinese lanterns; and the still beautiful, little park between the Post Office and the old Boesel Opera House Building, where apple trees bloomed galore and statuary stood here and there, now long since removed. Old Water Street, to the north, had many vacant lots, on some of which the Kinsey Komedy Kompany played real melodrama to hundreds of the townspeople, boys and girls included, at 10 cents a head and with a parade thrown in each evening, right after supper, for nothing.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE VOGELSANG FIELD

In 1833 Fred Henry Vogelsang arrived in New Bremen from Germany with his parents and grandparents. He was two years old. Several years after their arrival the parents died from cholera and the grandparents then reared and educated young Fred. The Vogelsangs acquired a large tract of land in the township just south of the town of New Bremen. (See map on page 7). In 1852 Fred and Sophia Wilhelmine Kuenning were married. Fred inherited this land and cared for it wisely.

In 1856 the farm land was platted for residences as Vogelsangtown. One of the first houses built in this new town in 1862 still stands at the SE corner of Franklin &

Poplar Streets. By the end of the Civil War in 1865 the town was merged with New Bremen.

In 1870, Charles Boesel, Jr. began a trend of fashionable residences in this part of town by building a large home on the NW corner of Franklin & Poplar, complete with a garden and tennis court. And a few years later, in 1877, after the merger of Ober Bremen and New Bremen, the new Union Central School was built in the former town of Vogelsangtown in the 100 block of South Franklin Street.

Even after the merger of Vogelsangtown and New Bremen the farmhouse of the Vogelsang family could only be reached by lane from Monroe Street. South Main Street was not opened until 1890.



South Main Street about 1900. Notice horse trough on right.

Ralph May remembers that the Vogelsang field was used as a delightful play area for the neighborhood youth and also as a practice field for the high school football team.

Fred Henry Vogelsang died in 1897 and his wife Sophie died in 1909. At that time Morris Bessel purchased several acres of land from the heirs of the Vogelsang family. In 1919 Mr. Bessel moved his family to a new house at 32 S. Main from their former home at 217 S. Walnut. He also moved his scrap yard to the new location. By 1943 both Morris and Celia Bessel had died and their daughter Jean and husband Cliff Harris had taken over the scrap yard business.

In 1938 the plans for a municipal swimming pool were put in place and the finished pool was dedicated in 1940. The pool was placed in the southern part of the field with access from Plum Street, on land donated by Emilie Vogelsang Grothaus and her sons Walter and Alvin.

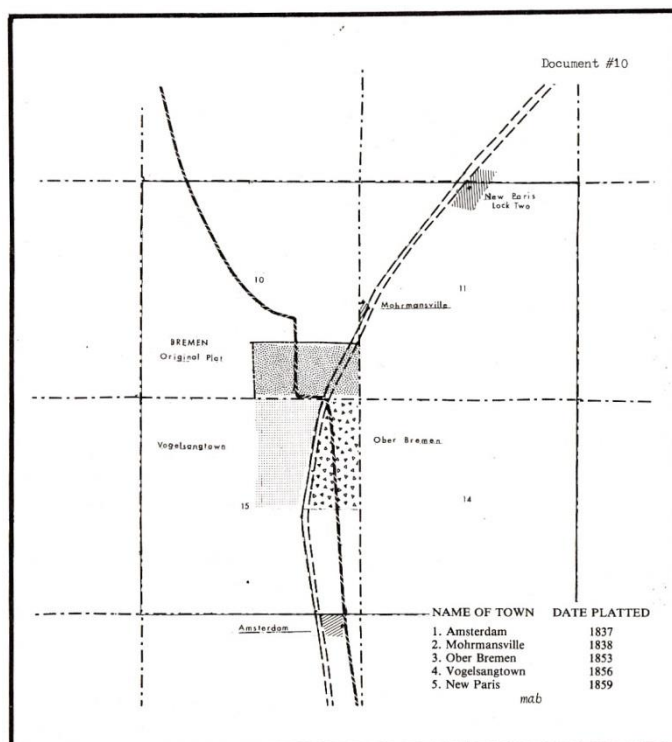
In October of 1969 a fire destroyed the old Vogelsang barn and the Harris' equipment to bale paper and cardboard. The major portion of the scrap yard was sold to the Lion's Club for the establishment of a park. The Lion's Club maintained the park until 2004 when the land was turned over to the Village.

Today the Crown Pavilion is located on the site of the 1940 Municipal swimming pool. The Komminsk Legacy Park joins the Pavilion area with the Lockkeepers House and the Lock One Park on Monroe Street. The concrete walkway follows the former canal towpath, lighted with gas lights. Steps and pathways from the “towpath” lead into the Komminsk Legacy Park which features interactive art works.

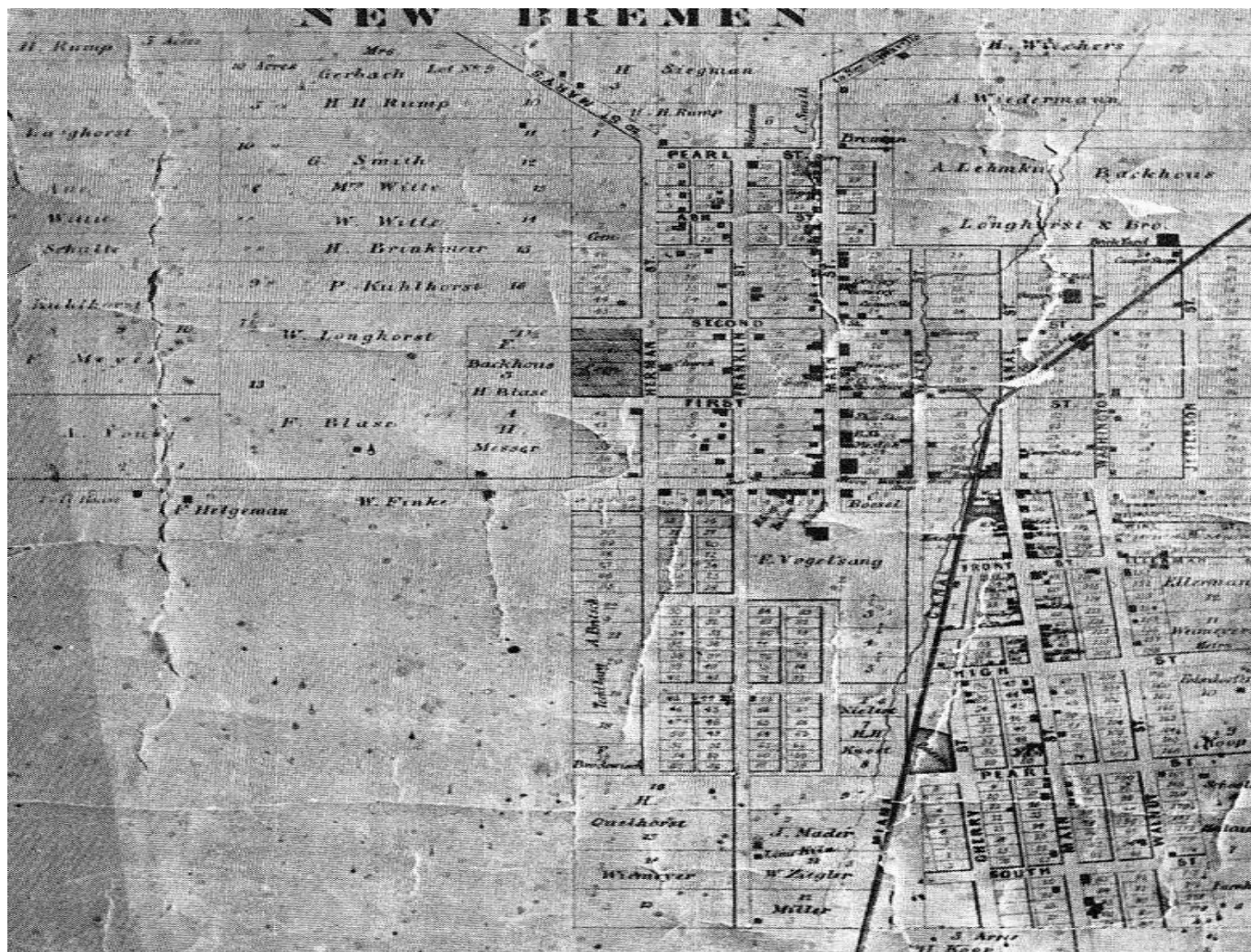
It is interesting to note that Vogelsang's Field has seen a number of changes but has retained its early use as a playground and recreational center.

Towns that formed New Bremen. Map from New Bremen Sesquicentennial book.

(Drawn by Mary Ann Olding)



From 1862 MAP of New Bremen, Ober Bremen and Vogelsangtown.



A SEVENTY YEAR NEW BREMEN MYSTERY

By Edward Conradi Ekermeyer

This Sunshine State boy summered in New Bremen for 12 years. I experienced exciting things and activities, things and activities not available in Tallahassee. My visits to New Bremen and later my assignment to Wright-Patterson AFB in 1980 were pleasant and memorable. Even the one on my first visit to New Bremen, the mystery I am writing about.

It all started in 1948. My dad, Ernest Ekermeyer, born and raised in New Bremen, is home from the War. He was one of the first Americans assigned to the Japanese homeland after the War ended. As a doctor, he had been based at Yokohama, where he saw the destruction of the port city. Now he wants to visit his sisters, Irene and Maud Ekermeyer.

My initial recollection of New Bremen was my dad's tale of WLW/700 radio broadcasts emanating from downspouts. Impressive to an eight year old boy! The two Tallahassee radio stations signals faded out at the city limits. I thought that WLW signal could be heard hundreds of miles from Cincinnati. Wow!

I looked forward to an experience of a lifetime. For the upcoming school year, I could answer my teacher when she asked, "Edward, what did you do exciting during the summer." My answer, "I sat on my aunt's lawn by a copper downspout eating my sandwich and drinking milk, listening to WLW broadcasts from Cincinnati, hearing *Big John and Sparky*."

We arrived at 120 South Washington Street late at night. The morning came early for me. I tip-toed downstairs and went out on the front porch and looked around. No one was up, so my aunts would not receive reports of suspicious activity around their house.

2018



I went to a downspout. I stopped. I listened. No sound. I walked to a second downspout. No sound. I visited the



remaining downspouts and the same occurred. No sound. There must be some mistake, I thought. Or, maybe, I did something wrong. Expecting a different outcome, I repeated the same activity, but so sound was heard.

I sat on my aunt's grass disappointed and embarrassed. I did not express my sadness to my parents and aunts. My summer experience was not exciting.

However, dear reader, I researched the history of WLW/700 and downspouts. If you lived in Cincinnati between 1930 and 1934, you would have had electrifying experiences. One source stated that the national government wanted to be able to communicate with Americans throughout the country simultaneously – e.g. 50,000 watt, clear Channel voice radio stations. WLW retains this capability.

Powell Crosley – a radio innovator and owner of the Reds – boosted WLW's power to 500,000 watts in 1934. The station became the nation's station and could be heard overseas. The Cincinnati environment was charged up with electrons: a neon sign was turned off; private house lights could not be turned off (WLW engineers had to rewire these homes); gutters were shaken off of houses; and farmers reported that WLW programming emanated from barbed-wire fences.

My New Bremen father, Ernest, lived in Cincinnati from 1928 to 1932 as a medical student. He moved to Xenia in 1934 and he and my mother lived there for two years.

I believe now my dad did hear WLW/700 signals. Since he and my mother visited New Bremen between 1934 and 1935 to see his sisters and his brother Carl, did they hear WLW from the 120 S. Washington Street downspouts? The same ones I stood by? Did New Bremen farmers and residents hear the broadcasts, too?

For many years I did not share this fond humorous New Bremen memory. Then my New Bremen cousins and my sister learned of it. They encouraged me to share it with you.

**The
Ekermeyer
House circa
1912.**

**Esther,
Maud and
Irene
Ekermeyer
on porch.**





Edward and his sister Martha are descendants of New Bremen families that migrated to Tallahassee, Florida in the early 1900s. Their mother, Liepe, was the daughter of Edward & Augusta (Grothaus) Conradi. Their father, Ernest, was born and raised in New Bremen, the son of Dr. M. S. and Martha (Schmidt) Ekermeier.

Edward retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel, having served in top secret military intelligence. He graduated from Florida State University with a degree in History and earned Master degrees from Boston University and Wesley Theological Seminary. New Bremen is his ancestral home.

Family Tree of Edward Conradi Ekermeier & Martha Ekermeier Drake

Parents

Ernest & Louise "Liepe" (Conradi) Ekermeier
(1906-1972) (1907-1995)

Grandparents

Dr. M. S. & Martha (Schmidt) Ekermeier
(1860-1919) (1865-1937)

Dr. Edward & Augusta (Grothaus) Conradi
(1869-1944) (1873-1928)

Great Grandparents

Dr. William & Mary (Wolfert) Ekermeier
(dates unknown)

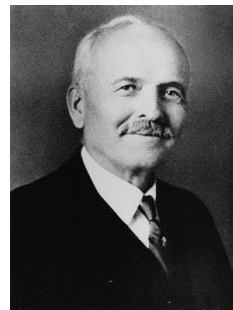
Heinrich A. & Lucia (Boesche) Schmidt
(1837-1878) (1841-1898)

Carl F.W. & Gertrude (Bruetsch) Conradi
(1817-1891) (1833-1900)

William & Marie (Lanfersieck) Grothaus
(1824-1885) (1840-1914)



Ekermeier Grandparents & Family: Maud, Martha, Mathew Simpson, Esther, Irene & the 3 boys-first unknown, Ernest, Carl. (circa 1912)



Conradi Grandparents: Edward & Augusta (Grothaus) Conradi



Our museum proudly displays the plaque that graced the Conradi Biology Building for many years at Florida State University.

1930 in New Bremen

It is difficult to imagine what life was like in our town so many years ago. Still, we are able to get a glimpse into the past through the following articles about New Bremen. They highlight 1930 activities of the people who lived during the Great Depression (1929-1939) and Prohibition (1919-1933).

...Along with the rest of the country, New Bremen has felt the disastrous results of the depression which started with the stock market collapse in October, 1929. Since then factories have been operating only part time, or, worse still, have been shut down completely, and there has been a general stagnation of business that has spared no one from its ill effects. Some signs there are of a return to normal conditions but the recovery necessarily must be slow.

New Bremen is looking forward to the future bravely and hopefully. It knows that the country is founded upon sound principles and that these will triumph, no matter how dark the clouds may be at times.
(C. A. Schrage, *New Bremen Centennial book*, 1933)

In 1930:

- E. R. Haines was Mayor of New Bremen.
- S. M. Archer was the Superintendent of New Bremen Schools.
- A new high school building for students opened January, 1930 on Walnut Street.
- The students' **Crimson & Gold** page began in the *New Bremen Sun*.
- The municipal water plant added equipment to soften the water.

Industries in New Bremen in 1930

- The Rabe Manufacturing Company
- New Bremen Cement Tile & Block Company
- The Kuenzel Mills Company
- The Auglaize Furniture Company
- The Streine Tool & Manufacturing Company
- The New Bremen Broom Company
- The White Mountain Creamery Company
- McKay Woolen Mills
- The Lock Two Grain and Milling Company

And on a lighter note in 1930:

- The Mickey Mouse comic strip made its first appearance.
- 3M introduced Scotch Tape.
- The first night game in organized baseball was played in Kansas.
- Hostess Twinkies were invented.
- First frozen foods (Birdseye) go on sale.

The Crimson & Gold

The Crimson and Gold newsletter published by New Bremen High School students became available to many more readers in 1930. *The New Bremen Sun* newspaper that year began including *The Crimson and Gold* in its weekly publication.

The single page newsletter told of school events, interviews with teachers and students, and usually included some gossip and jokes called Crackers. An example of a Cracker:

Mr. Archer: "Tell how water behaves when it freezes."

Freshman: "It doesn't behave very well."

Each issue included an editorial.

The following are some excerpts from the first three issues of the *Crimson and Gold* in October, 1930.

THE NEW BREMEN SUN

Editorial (October 2, 1930)

With this issue of the *Sun* there appears the first number of *The Crimson and Gold*, edited by the students of the New Bremen high school.

It will be found a highly interesting sheet, and, as time goes on and the editorial staff becomes more experienced in the work, will be made even more interesting and entertaining.

The *Crimson and Gold* can be described as varietal in purpose. It will give an outlet for student expression and also will keep patrons informed about school activities. Then, too, it will stimulate the students' interest in their class endeavors as well as in all other branches of high school work.

While essentially a student publication, it is prepared under faculty guidance. This is expected to lead to better co-operation between the teaching staff and student body, a fundamental prerequisite to the efficient operation of the school plant.

Read the *Crimson and Gold*. Look for it each week in the *Sun*.

The Crimson and Gold staff in 1930 included:

Editor-in-chief---Mary Archer

Associate Editor ---Marie Kuest

Senior Class Reporter --- Marie Behm

Junior Class Reporter ---Gabriel Schaefer

Sophomore Class Reporter --- Elizabeth Streine

Freshman Class Reporter --- Paul Eschmeyer

Humor Editor ---John Garmhausen

Asst. Humor Editor --- Louise Haines

Sports Editors: Boys --- Frederick Luedeke

Girls --- Helen Knipple

Faculty Advisor --- R. S. Miller

Editorial

(By Crimson and Gold Staff)

The *New Bremen Sun* has kindly offered us a page each week in which we may chronicle the current school activities, exhibit any of our school writings, set forth our aspirations, and, in short, publish what we hope will be a school paper.

We deeply appreciate this courtesy of the owners of the *Sun* and of the editor.

This is our first issue. The faculty and pupils have co-operated enthusiastically. Probably, as we feel our way into the enterprise, a more definite form will take shape. We invite suggestions and help. We want to make the paper function helpfully, reasonably and entertainingly.

There will be departments, and special editors and reporters will have charge of collecting the materials. We hope to print information, news, special articles, and humor. Inform us helpfully from time to time how we may make improvements.

This paper, filed away each week, moreover, will make interesting reading matter in years hence, here, there, or some place on earth wherever each individual's lot may be cast at that time.

Fire Drill

Tuesday afternoon a fire drill was held in the high school building. The time required to vacate the building was exactly 68 seconds. Parents need never worry, therefore, that their children will be trapped in the building in case of fire.

As an extra precaution, a group of senior boys have been trained, and, in case of emergency, will be stationed by each fire hose to help with the hose and fire extinguishers.

Cracker

Agent: "No, lady, this train goes to Baltimore, Boston and points east."

Helen K.: "Well, I want a train to Cleveland and I don't care which way it points."

14 MEMBERS REPORT FOR FIRST REHEARSAL BY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

The New Bremen high school band had its practice on Friday, September 19. There will be a band practice every Wednesday and Friday evening.

The band has been enlarged with several new players. It also is going to use new band books for the coming season. The new books are by far more difficult than the old ones.

Director O. E. Steiner has taken great care to have more boys and girls get instruments and join the band. More new players would be of great help. There are 14 members in the band at present. They are: Richard Vitz, Louis Komminsk, James Sunderman, Victor Koenig, Reuben Thiesing, David Koenig, Otis Longworth, Arlin Greber, Bernadine Brockman, Dorothy Sunderman, Robert Schroeder, Jacob Boesel, Athur Heil, and Betty Burk.

TEST WEEK

"Test Week", with all its possibilities, is here at last. The students are beginning to busy themselves in getting ready for the endless number of tests. Some may still be waiting to do some last minute cramming.

After the six weeks, and, yes, the tests also, are over-for a short period-then, in the seventh week, come the grade cards. These are capable of bringing forth smiles on some faces and frowns on others.

THANKS

The home economics department extends a vote of thanks to Mr. Ed Boesel, one of our local bee men, for a gift of half a gallon strained honey. The home economic girls are anticipating delicious muffins, cookies and cakes as a result.

The following list of high school students is from the *New Bremen Sun*, October 9, 1930.

HIGH SCHOOL SHOWS TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF 145 STUDENTS

New Bremen's high school this year has a total enrollment of 145 students according to records compiled at the close of the first six weeks of school. The complete list of students attending the local school follows.

Freshman Neale Behm, Lilas Bertke, Robert Bienz, Eloise Blanke, Bernadine Brockman, Betty Burk, Racanna Coss, Floyd Dilsauer, Fred Dorsten, Paul Eschmeyer, Kenneth Fark, Edith Fark, Lorma Fark, Gregor Gast, Paul Geib, Arlin Greber, Milford Greber, Howard Hartman, Hubert Heinfeld, Louise Henning, Esther Headapohl, Carmen Hirschfeld, Milford Kettler, Verona Koeper, Harold Kuest, William Kuck, Carabell Kuhlhorst, Catherine Luelleman, Auralie Lutterbeck, Virginia McNett, Leota Nedderman, Johanna Niekamp, Julitta Nieter, Richard Pape, Robert Papsdorf, Grace Quellhorst, Bernice Roettger, Alvera Schroer, Leo Schulte, Clifford Scheer, Harry Sollman, Dorothy Sunderman, Reuben Thiesing, Irma Topp, Irene Topp, Emma Wehmeyer, Howard Wiehe, Ruth Wiehe.

Sophomore Karl Block, Woodrow Braun, Ralph Dicke, Lucille Fark, Opal Fischbach, Orville Fischbach, Betty Gast, Dorothy Gieseke, Frederick Gilbert, Hilda Garmhausen, Adrian Greber, Virgil Hirschfeld, Norma Heinfeld, Frederick Koeper, James King, Alma Kuest, Everett Koenig, Victor Koenig, Robert Kiefer, Charlotte Knost, Otis Longworth, Elodie Lanfersieck, Earl Meckstroth, Marcella Nieter, Leona Niekamp, Vernon Roediger, Ernest Strohmeier, Beulah Scheer, Rita Schulte, Elizabeth Streine, Sylvester Scheer, Lionel Schierholt, Helen Topp, Helen Warner, Phyllis Nussmeyer, Howard Ruese, Louis Komminsk, Elmer Wietholter, Gladys Poppe.

Junior

Harold Ahlers, Stanley Bienz, Franklin Coss, Ralph Dietrich, Ellsworth Dorsten, LeRoy Egbert, Paul

Fischbach, Walter Frey, Webster Geib, Wilda Greber, Violet Grothaus, Louise Haines, Gertrude Heinfeld, Viola Hirschfeld, Selma Hoffman, Donald Kettler, Helen Knipple, Marie Kuest, Thomas Laut, Frederick Luedeke, Kenneth Moeller, Gabriel Schaefer, Ruth Schnelle, Bertha Schowe, Paul Taylor, Louis Topp, Marie Westerbeck, Marie Waterman.

Senior

Mary Archer, Marie Behm, Alice Bushman, Carl Conradi, Emma Marie Dickman, Donald Fark, John Garmhausen, Grace Gruebmeier, Ione Hartman, William Havemann, Orvil Heil, Inez Heitkamp, Leona Hespe, Luther Hirschfeld, Victor Jung, Willis Kah, Esther Knipple, Annabel Knost, Carl Kuenning, Margaret Luelleman, Don Meyers, Arnold Niekamp, Verona Quellhorst, Ruth Roediger, Edward Roettger, Marjory Scheer, Ruby Weinberg, Esther Westerbeck, Harold Wissman.



The High School on Walnut Street was built in 1929.



An addition was added in 1968. The building is currently the middle school for grades 6, 7, 8.

SURVEY TO COMMEMORATE FOUNDING OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Information from the *New Bremen Sun*, May, 1930

In 1930, the ministers of three New Bremen churches planned to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of the founding of the Christian church by conducting a survey of all the families and individuals within the town. The Christian church is said to have begun on Pentecost in 30 A.D. when the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and other disciples after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. Pentecost in 1930 occurred on June 8th.

They were hopeful that everyone would understand the purpose of the survey and cooperate with the questions.

With **Rev. Papsdorf** (St. Peter's) serving as the committee chairman, articles about the survey appeared in the *Sun* each week in May of 1930. Both Rev. Melchert and Rev. Vitz submitted articles to encourage the community's participation in the event. **Rev. Melchert** (St. Paul) wrote... *we wish to commemorate the great event by undertaking a constructive program that will result in blessings for our community. God must be seeking to make beautiful families, happy educational societies, honorable communities, just and generous industries, sacrificial public service, and a world where war is inconceivable. This is the task that confronts the church but if we want these things, God will supply us with the same power that is so vital in the New Testament. To this task the churches wish to reconsecrate themselves that the good emanating therefrom may manifest itself in a happier life of all concerned.*

Rev. Vitz (Zion) wrote... *The churches solicit the interest and the hearty co-operation of all the New Bremen people so that the census may be successful and so that Pentecost may be indeed a blessing to many hearts and home. The church census to be taken in New Bremen on May 15th will be in keeping with similar canvasses that are being made in many other places. Usually the people gladly co-operate with the teams by readily giving them the information desired. The questions on the card are the same as those used in most communities.*

Some of the questions that were asked were:

Names of members of the home?

Members of what church?

If not a member, what church is preferred?

What Sunday School do children of the home attend?

FIGURES RELEASED IN CHURCH CENSUS

New Bremen Sun, May 29, 1930

Report reveals New Bremen has Church-going population

Work completed Under Direction of Minister's Committee

Interesting data of inestimable value to the co-operating churches was obtained by the recent church census in New Bremen, according to Rev. Theo. G. Papsdorf, pastor of St. Peter's church and chairman of the committee in charge of the census. Other ministers on the committee were Rev. J. C. Melchert, of St. Paul's Evangelical church, and Rev. N. E. Vitz of Zion's Reformed church. More than 80 enumerators, members of the three congregations participating, assisted the committee.

The census was completed in a single evening, May 15, and followed a fellowship dinner served at St. Paul's church. Among other things, it established the fact that New Bremen's population is made up largely of church-going people, about 98 per cent of those reached by the census professing the Christian faith.

Some of the outstanding figures from the census report are:

- Total number of individuals reached, 1,479. (The latest government census places New Bremen's population at 1,486. It is known, however, that several families were not reached by the church census.)
- Of the 1,479 interviewed by the enumerators, 813 are members of New Bremen's four Protestant churches—Christ, St. Paul's Evangelical, St. Peter's Evangelical, and Zion's Reformed.
- Affiliated with Protestant churches outside of New Bremen, 40.
- Affiliated with no church but interested either in St. Paul's, St. Peter's, or Zion's Reformed, 144.
- Professing no interest in any religion, 32.
- Enrolled in New Bremen's four Protestant Sunday schools, 606.
- Roman Catholics, 60; of whom 49 professed church membership.
- Christian Science, five.
- Hebrews, four.
- Mixed marriages, Protestant and Catholic, 14.

- Largest family, 10 members. Four families have eight members each, and nine have seven members each.

Enumerators included Harry Nussmeyer, August Mueller, George Williams, F.A. Ende, Delbert Schwerking, L. Tangeman, Walter Behm, Theo. Hoffman, Wm. May, A.M. Steinbrey, Frank Moots, Lafe Egbert, George Blasé, Ed Boesel, Oscar Hirschfeld, Paul Gilberg, Herman Blanke, Jos. Lanfersieck, Lafe Kellermeyer, Adolph Koenig, Henry Greiwe, Wilson Vornholt, Leo Sunderman, John Mueller, Herman Schaefer, Ed Jung, Frank Kuenning, A. Vornholt, James Taylor, S.M. Archer, Henry Schaefer, Sylvan Greiner, Leo Huenke, H. Komminsk, John Scheer, O.H. Solms, Paul Kettler, Fred Schroer, Ed Erhardt, E.R. Haines, Leo Wehrman, Ed Poppe, Louis Ruese, Val Nieter, Carl Gieseke, Adolph Boesel, Walter Grothaus, Felix Kuenzel, Ray Hirschfeld, Gust Maurer, Ed. G. Hirschfeld, O. Huckeriede, Louis Kohl, George Fark, Alvin Grothaus, Walter Boesel, A.H. Albert, Henry Hoffman, Henry Schroeder, E.C. Kuenzel, Walter Neuman, Alfred Roettger, H. Trautwein, C.V. Huenke, O.H. Boesel, Benjamin Huckeriede, Earl Kuenning, H. Bienz, F.W. Everist, Emil Koenig, F.W. Rabe, W.A. Havemann, Wm. Weinberg, Jr., R. Warner, Ervin Koeper, Julius Heinfeld, R. W. Kuck, Henry Mueller, Leon Kellermeyer, George Huelsmeyer, Grover Wissman, F.F. Fledderjohann, August Schnelle, Cornelius Heinfeld.

We can make only a few comparisons of the 1930 church census report with today. In 1930 the population of New Bremen was reported as 1486. The 2010 US census reports the population at 2978. We now have four Christian churches. The average family size in 2010 was 3.26.

The US Census Bureau does not address religious affiliation today and has not since the 1950s.

Changing with the Times

The 1887 New Bremen Business Advertising Directory lists 12 people who owned saloons. The Directory in 1904 names 9 businesses serving alcoholic drinks, especially German lager beer. A favorite brand Wooden Shoe Beer was made locally by the Star Brewing Company in Minster. In our town the agent for Star Brewery was H.B. Schwepe. The company also sold ice cut in New Bremen.

Ice Harvest Began

After a week of real cold weather hugging the zero mark, local icemen were enabled, this morning, to begin with the annual ice harvest. The Star Brewing Company started with marking off the ice blocks on the old pond between Rabe's factory and the M. & E. canal. The ice at this place is an half inch greater in thickness than that on the new pond immediately south of the company's ice houses and is therefore preferred. The ice which is now being stored measures 6 inches. The new pond's product will evidently be taken in as soon as it attains the desired thickness. (New Bremen Sun, 2/13/1914)



Ben Waterman and ice harvest in New Bremen 1932.

Although the businesses dealing in alcohol had been a large part of early New Bremen economy, the nationwide temperance movement was gaining momentum. The beginning of WWI added to this momentum when grain rationing was used for the war effort. Ohio was voted dry in 1919. However not all the soldiers were in favor of this change.

...Well, I see that Ohio has gone dry by a very large majority. I know one thing; it would not have gone dry if all the boys had been home. But now that they are all gone they had a very good chance, and I think it was a very mean trick on their part. We were all over here trying to do our bit, and when we get back there we will find everything turned around...
(William Schierholt letter written December 28, 1918 in Germany, *The New Bremen Sun*, 1/31/1919)

When Prohibition began brewers and the saloons that sold their products had to change or go out of business.

Many saloons changed to sell food and soft drinks while others just closed their doors. To their credit, Star was one of the few small brewers to survive the dry years. They were able to do this by changing the name to Star Beverage Company and continuing to sell ice while also selling near beer, soft drinks and a "malt tonic".

Star joined many other brewers in producing a malt extract. Originally this product was marketed as a health tonic. It could also be used in baking bread. To add to bread, the directions said substitute malt for half the sugar in the bread recipe. This substitution of a few tablespoons per loaf would help make the bread soft and perfectly brown. An article in the Lima Ohio news on March 31, 1929 told of another use. The article noted that *enough malt extract is sold each week in Lima to provide the necessary sweetening for 800,000 loaves of bread, or more than 16 loaves for every man woman and child.*

Home brewers had found that they could brew their own beer by combining the malt extract with yeast and water. Home brewing during Prohibition was not only happening in Lima. These brands of malt extract were available at Wint's in New Bremen.

When Prohibition ended in 1933 the Star Beverage Company was still in business and went back to brewing Wooden Shoe Beer. A change was that more sales were in bottles or cans for home use. The majority of saloons in New Bremen never reopened. Wint's was an example of a business that remained open due to their willingness to change with the times.

Wint's Restaurant



MALT SALE

WHILE IT LASTS

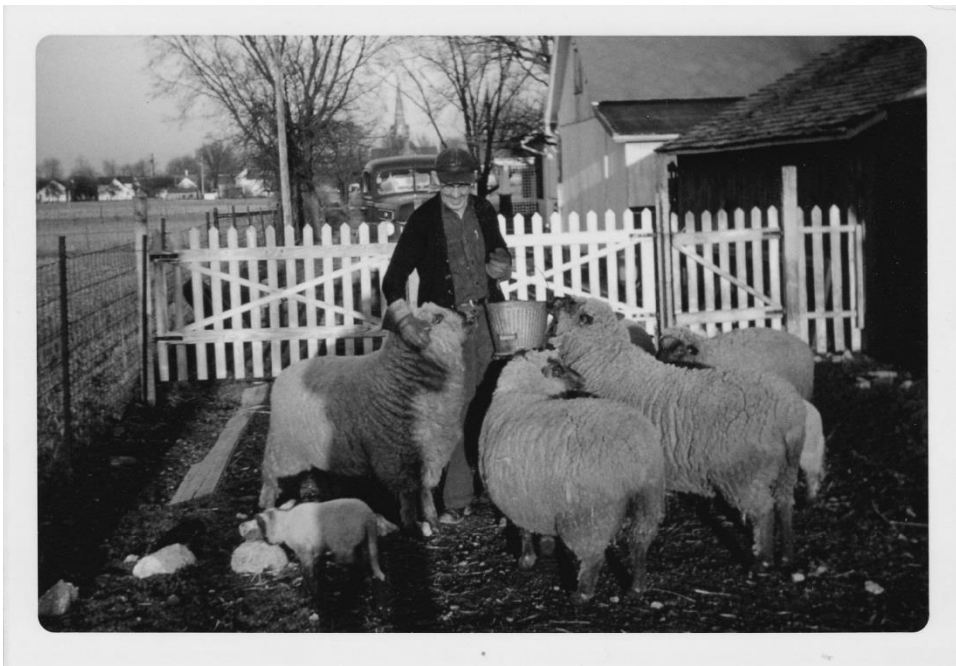
Blatz, Hop Flavored	29c
K. and M., Hop Flavored	29c
Ram Head, Hop Flavored	29c
Charm Malt with Hops	29c
Uber Alles, Hop Flavored	39c
High Life, Hop Flavored	45c
Bavarian, Hop Flavored	45c
Blue Ribbon, Hop Flavored	49c
Ritz, Hop Flavored	69c
Black Cat, Hop Flavored	59c
Red Top, Hop Flavored	49c
Red Top with Hops	49c
Old Hickory, with Hops	59c
German Maid, with set of 6 glasses and pitcher	79c

WINT'S
LUNCH ROOM

HISTORY MYSTERY



Mystery solved. Edythe (Conradi) Henschen provided the facts about this picture. The people are Jake Boesel, Elodie Lanfersieck, Merrily Good Hoffman, Edythe Conradi Henschen, Jim Jarvis and Elwood Day. This is the First National Bank on North Main Street in 1965. The employees are celebrating “Red Cap Day” by wearing caps from Mayor Frank Dicke’s Green Belt Chemical Company where he was the manager.



Who is this man feeding his sheep? He served in WWI and made New Bremen his home. In the background, the St. Paul Church steeple can be seen.



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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

New Bremen, OH 45869

Permit No. 41

Address Service Requested

PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the NBHA will be held March 18, 2019 at the Holy Redeemer Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. followed by a short business meeting. Our featured speakers will talk about their military experiences. Tickets go on sale February 1, 2019 and may be purchased from any Board member. Please plan to attend.



NBHS Class Picture Project

A huge **THANK YOU** to the volunteers who gathered at the NB Middle School on November 29th and removed class pictures from their frames. The photos are now on their way to be scanned. When the photos return they will be reframed and replaced on the walls until auction time in June of 2020.

