



4-11 THE TOWPATH

Published quarterly
(January - April - July - October)

NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION

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

MUSEUM located at 120 N. Main St. (founded in 1973)

[Phone: 419-629-1014]

VISITING HOURS: 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sundays - June, July, August

MEMBERSHIP: \$15.00 / Year - \$7.00 Spouse

(Life: \$150.00 / \$70.00 Spouse)

October – 2011

THANK YOU, LUCILLE



Lucille Francis

The New Bremen Historic Association (NBHA) has marked a milestone event with the resignation of the editor of its newsletter. Lucille (Topp) Francis has been The Towpath editor for the past 15 ½ years. She was appointed as the editor when Marjorie (Gieseke) Conradi/Lietz resigned due to health issues in 1996. Other newsletter editors were Janet Fledderjohann and Rosemary (Kooper) Heitkamp.

The Towpath was named in 1979 by Robert Heinfeld, a native of New Bremen. He chose this name because he said a towpath indicates a sense of continuity with news backward and forward and a newsletter should have that same purpose.

The goals of *The Towpath* are to:

- Promote membership in the NBHA
- Keep members informed about NBHA activities
- Communicate with our members and share stories about New Bremen, Lock Two, German Township and the surrounding area
- Promote NBHA special events, projects and displays in the community
- Attract visitors to the museum
- Help people with genealogical queries

Lucille has done an outstanding job meeting all of these goals. She has thoroughly researched her stories and provided detailed information about our history. She has kept the members well informed while spending countless hours working to produce an exceptional publication. During her tenure our membership has doubled.

Lucille assures us that she will continue to write about New Bremen in future issues but wants to be free of the pressure of newsletter deadlines. She is also eager to have more time to devote to her quest to add information on the Find-A-Grave website (www.findagrave.com). Lucille maintains records for burials at the German-Protestant Cemetery. She has also catalogued burials at the older cemeteries of Plank Road, St. Paul and St. Peter. These records are vital to persons seeking information about their ancestors. Her knowledge has helped many people trace their New Bremen ancestry. Lucille is an expert in this area and we are happy that she will have more time to devote to the work she enjoys. Thank you, Lucille.

◆ "THE TOWPATH"◆

"THE TOWPATH" is a historical reflection of New Bremen and the surrounding area and published quarterly by the New Bremen Historic Association. Any stories and/or pictures that our readers are willing to share are welcomed.

Genevieve Conradi and Joyce Ruedebusch, Editors

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Johanna Schroer

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Diane Paul (chairman), Barb Ziegenbusch,
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at the Lockkeeper's House

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From the Mailbox



...Letters to the Former Editor...

Lucille:

7/11/2011

We're sorry to hear about your "retirement" but certainly understand. Your articles WILL be missed 'cause you did a great job. I'm sure you do need some mental relaxation. Thanks for all of the great articles in *The Towpath!* Now, enjoy your life! *Ginny (Braun)*



Lucille:

7/11/2011

I was so shocked to see this. Is there anything we can say that would change your mind? *The Towpath* just won't be the same without you! You were aware of so much "history"! Although, all good things must come to an end sometime, could you just phase out gradually? The decision is yours, of course, and we certainly appreciate all you have done! Just don't make your decision too hastily! (But possibly you have been thinking about this for a while.) Thank you, thank you for all your time you dedicated to this newsletter and everything else! *Diane (Paul)*



Lucille:

7/14/2011

I heard this from Mom right before the email or my jaw would have fallen on the keyboard. I understand needing a change after the last 16 years or so, but wow, we've got big shoes to fill. I guess now that the kids are older and leatherworker.net is making money, it's time to organize my time better. I'm still a little stunned, even though I suspected this day would come eventually. I recognize the enormous amount of work and dedication you have given to the NBHA over these many years, even if others have taken it for granted. You are an awesome lady, and I hope to never lose touch with you or get your opinion. I have always admired your clear writing and your attention to detail. When I write my book, I hope you edit it so that I'm not embarrassed with any inadvertent punctuation, spelling or grammar errors. *Johanna (Schroer)*



Lucille:

7/22/2011

Just want to thank you for a job well done for all these years that you have been editor of *The Towpath!* We have enjoyed your writing and researching for all these many years. You deserve many more years of total retirement. We wish you well. Thank you so much again.

Alice & Duane Hartwig



LMF:

It's an honor to be recognized by someone who truly appreciates and knows what it took to accomplish what you have. Be glad in it -- and give yourself a pat (or two) on the back! I'm sure you'll be hearing from more people.

7/29/2011

Your sister, Kathy Topp

Dear Lucille:

7/29/2011

Adieu to a Great Historian

Congratulations on an outstanding service to the history of New Bremen. I am sorry to see you relinquish the editorship of *The Towpath*, but, having written a monthly column for the *American Rose* magazine for the past 20 years, I can certainly understand your call for "a new outlook and new energy".

Your 15½ years as editor have contributed immeasurably to the recording of and accessibility to New Bremen history. *The Towpath* is itself a historic document that will be a source of information for many years to come and a living monument to your service.

I encourage Gen and Joyce to emulate your example. Their article "Joyce and Gen Remember...Wie Gehts" in the current issue gives evidence to the fact that they will.

Best personal regards and Auf Wiedersehen, which means "until we meet again". John T. Dickman

Lucille:

7/31/2011

Congratulations and Thank You

This is David Schroeder, writing from Port Townsend, Washington. I believe we've met in the distant past, and communicated a bit over the years. My father was Robert Schroeder, son of Harry and Frieda (Dammeyer) Schroeder. My dad contributed a downtown New Bremen map/legend to one of *The Towpath* issues years ago.

I see that you're retiring from the editorship of *The Towpath*. I simply want to tell you what an honor and inspiration it has been reading and admiring *The Towpath* over these many years.

The love you and your authors have shown for New Bremen and our common American past just glowed through every issue. I work in volunteer organizations myself, so I know what a challenge it is to bring consistent quality to such efforts. Over and over again, I have been amazed at the editorial quality of what *The Towpath* has done. It has been both personal and objective. Nostalgic, and yet not wallowing in sentiment. Always looking for the untold story, the nearly-forgotten building or service or institution in the past.

I didn't grow up in New Bremen, but my parents lived so much there in their hearts and memories (to be frank, for better or sometimes for worse), I have often felt that I almost grew up in New Bremen, too.

It wasn't that long ago that all they remembered was true. A village of German Protestants, three miles away from a village of German Catholics. A different universe, the same universe, all of us share this legacy.

Thank you so much for your hard work. It has been deeply and warmly appreciated.

Best wishes, David Schroeder



8/18/2011

Dear Lucille:

Congratulations on your successful years as *Towpath* editor. It is a great publication which I always read cover to cover. Amazing how you always find new and interesting stories to feature. Your shoes will be hard to fill, but I have great faith in the people of New Bremen. Enjoy your retirement and many thanks for all your hard work. Janet (Garmhausen) Bock



9/11/2011

Lucille:

I was so sorry to read that you are not going to continue as editor of *The Towpath*. Over the years, I have learned so much from your articles. For those of us who were lucky enough to either grow up in New Bremen or to often visit grandparents who lived there, we could remember many of the names mentioned in articles and visualize their homes, or the stores or events that have been reported by you. I know that you spent tons and tons of time in getting *The Towpath* ready for print and distribution. I just want you to know that I really appreciated the work behind each and every article even though I did not take the time to let you know that. My father (Bill Kuck) also loved *The Towpath* and would look forward to each issue and what the contents would be discussing.

I wish you well and hope that you will now have time for whatever it is that you have not been able to do during these years that you were of service to all members of the New Bremen community. Good health to you and have a wonderful fall. Once again, a huge thanks from myself and I know that Dad would be expressing the same thoughts if he were here.

Sincerely, Sherry (Kuck) Biederman



9/6/2011

Lucille:

I want to thank you for the many years you served as editor of *The Towpath*. It was always professional, well written and very well researched. It was a tremendous amount of work and your dedication to the project was admirable. I enjoyed every issue and put it on top of my to do list when it arrived. Thank you for all your hard work.

Barbara Ziegenbusch



MEET THE NEW EDITORS OF *THE TOWPATH*



Joyce Ruedebusch and Genevieve Conradi

Genevieve Conradi and Joyce Ruedebusch have agreed to assume the duty of publishing the quarterly newsletter *The Towpath* for the NBHA. Gen and Joyce have worked closely with Lucille for several years writing articles for the newsletter. They both enjoy hearing and telling the stories of New Bremen. They are hopeful that NBHA members will share stories with them for use in future newsletters.

Genevieve is the daughter of Marjorie (Gieseke) and Carl Conradi. In 1975, Genevieve's mother, Marjorie, married Paul A. Lietz. Gen had one brother Edward Conradi. Her parents, step father, and brother are deceased. Genevieve graduated from New Bremen High School in 1961. She chose a career in nursing and graduated from The Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Cincinnati, Ohio, Pace University in New York and the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. She worked in the field of Psychiatric Nursing for 32 years and returned to New Bremen after her retirement. She has two daughters, Johanna (Malik) Schroer and Rebekkah (Malik) Whitten. In 2001, Gen married Dennis Dicke. Dennis has two children, Douglas Dicke and Lisa (Dicke) Weigandt. Together Gen and Dennis have eleven grandchildren.

Joyce is the daughter and only child of Orville and Dorothy (Lietz) Ruedebusch. She graduated from New Bremen High School in 1964 and chose a career in Education. Joyce graduated from the Ohio State University in 1968. She taught in the South-Western City Schools in Grove City, Ohio for 33 years retiring in 2001. Joyce also chose to return to New Bremen after her retirement.

Gen and Joyce share many of the same interests and relatives. They both enjoy gardening, reading and pets.

They are related at least two ways. Gen's great grandmother Dorothea (Ruedebusch) Ahlers was a sister to Joyce's great grandfather Gerhard Ruedebusch which makes them third cousins. When Gen's mother married Joyce's uncle, Paul Lietz, they became related again, this time step-first cousins. They have other mutual relatives which has encouraged their interest in genealogy. They have many fond memories of sitting on the back porch of the Lietz house and hearing their parents and step-parents talk about New Bremen and friends.

The New Bremen Historic Association

Did you know that 2011 marks the thirty-fifth year that our museum has been open? This article about the organization's history may give new members an idea of our roots and accomplishments. Hopefully our long time members will be reminded of some happy memories.

The Association was founded in the Fall of 1973 by a group intent on preserving local history. The founding members organized their group by electing nine trustees to serve three year terms and this continues at the present time. The trustees are voted into office by the membership at the annual meeting in March. In addition to the trustees there are several persons who serve as appointees in other capacities, such as Historian, Curator and Newsletter Editor. This group gathers on the first Tuesday of the month to conduct its business meeting.

In 1973 it was decided that a museum would be the first project for the newly formed group. They sought to purchase one of New Bremen's oldest houses for use as a museum. Through pledges from charter members and businesses the house was purchased and the museum dedicated in 1976. Since that time the association members have continued their efforts to preserve local history through restoration projects and increasing the artifact collections that bring history to life. We realize the huge debt of gratitude owed to all who have supported these projects over the years. More detailed information and many pictures can be found at www.newbremenhistory.org.

After more than a quarter century the association is still working with many partners to share our history. We do this in New Bremen through our museum, the local library where many of our written archives are found and the Lock One and Lockkeeper's House area. *The Towpath* newsletter and website also connect us with those interested in exploring and preserving our heritage. We are always looking for ways to keep the New Bremen Historic Association a dynamic organization that continues to preserve our past.

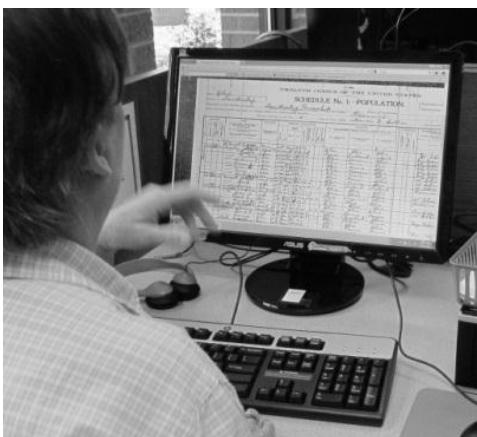
New Resources Available at the Library

In the last issue of the Towpath we reported on the digitization of *The New Bremen Sun*. This early newspaper was published from 1888 until 1961. The content of the paper has been digitized to computer files. These files are ready for your use and enjoyment. Shelli Parker, Branch Supervisor, for the New Bremen Library and her staff will be glad to show you how to use them.



Shelli Parker Demonstrates How to View NBSun

As an added feature, the New Bremen Friends of the Library was awarded a \$500.00 grant from Midwest Electric to purchase a computer specifically for the Genealogy section of the library. The Auglaize County Public District Library has subscribed to the online genealogy programs, Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest. As its name implies, Ancestry Library Edition must be used at the library. Heritage Quest can be viewed from your home computer as well as in the library. Again the library staff will be happy to answer any questions about these new resources.



Marilyn Mackey, New Bremen Library Staff, Demonstrates Genealogy Research

NEW BREMEN FESTIVALS

THEN & NOW

In the October, 1998 issue of The Towpath Lucille Francis wrote about the long history of festivals in New Bremen. To recap this article, church picnics were held soon after the settling of New Bremen and all manner of carnivals and festivals have been held in the years that followed. Many different New Bremen organizations have sponsored events such as the Fire Department, Rod & Gun Club, American Legion Post #241, New Bremen Civic Association and the Woodmen of the World Lodge #149.

The local lodge of the Woodmen of the World began the Annual New Bremen Woodmen Festival and Homecoming in 1939 and continued through 1973. Over the years it drew many people back to visit their hometown while others were attracted by the rides, midway, concessions and free entertainment. We have good memories of the WOW festival. One of those memories is found in the next article.

1948 FESTIVAL

Hi-Yo Silver! Away! A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and hearty Hi-Yo Silver...the Lone Ranger. I remember when The Lone Ranger came to the New Bremen Festival in August of 1948. There are not too many things I remember from those early years but “the masked man” is vivid in my memory.

An article in the *New Bremen Sun* on August 5, 1948 said that the Lone Star Ranger of Hollywood, California and famous star of radio and movies would appear in New Bremen with his horse Silver. The article also said that photos of the Lone Star Ranger would be distributed to young admirers. Now was this the star of radio fame? Or was this the star of movie fame? In 1930 George O’Brien played the role of Buck Duane in The Lone Star Ranger, a movie adapted from the novel of the same name by Zane Gray.



The Lone Ranger

As I thought about this memory I was curious about the history of this famous western crime fighter. A great deal of information can be found on the Web's *Wikipedia* and the *lonerangerfanclub.com* site. I learned that the radio series was developed in Detroit on station WXYZ by George Trendle and Francis Striker and aired on January 30, 1933. The radio show continued to September 3, 1954 with 3336 episodes. Brace Beemer was the longest running masked man on the radio from 1941 to 1954. He had a deep voice, was 6' 3" tall, an outdoorsman and crack shot. He was in constant demand for personal appearances at rodeos, circuses, benefits, magazine layouts and probably visited New Bremen. During the early years he wore black regalia for his personal appearance as the Lone Ranger.

The William Tell Overture by Rossini will be forever linked to the Lone Ranger, his horse Silver, and faithful friend Tonto. This overture was selected as the theme song because the music was in the public domain and thus could be used without payment. Incidental music throughout the radio series included works by Bizet, Liszt and Schubert for the same reason.

The creators also developed guidelines for the stories to keep the series wholesome and worthwhile. The Lone Ranger was never seen without his mask, never captured by lawmen or held for any length of time which might lead to his being unmasked. When he used his guns he never shot to kill but only to disarm. He used silver bullets to signify that life is precious and like his bullets, not to be wasted. He never smoked or drank alcohol. His battles always furthered his goal to bring law and order to the western part of the USA and his adversaries were never depicted as wealthy or powerful. The actors portraying the Lone Ranger on the radio and later the TV series saw themselves as role models and tried to live by this creed.

I remember the radio programs and all the sounds and excitement of the Lone Ranger's battles. He was "real" on the radio and seeing him in New Bremen validated this.
 (By Gen Conradi)

Who was that masked man anyway?

NEW BREMEN FESTIVALS NOW

FIREMAN'S PICNIC 2011

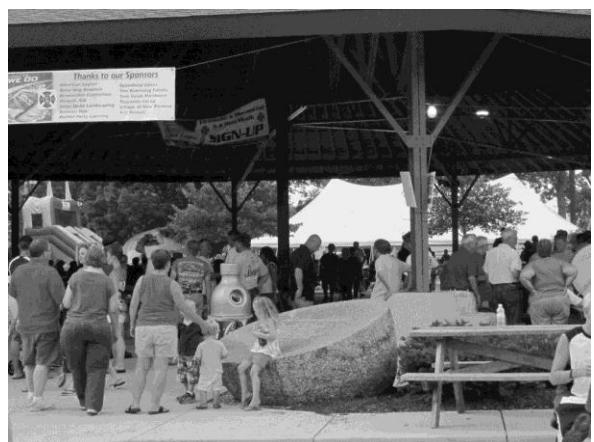
The Fire Department had their first picnic in 1923 and it has become an annual event. This year the New Bremen-German Township Fire Department held their picnic on July 30th.



**Dan & Michele Voress, Michael Conradi,
Fire Department Members**



Food Preparation at Fireman's Picnic



Crown Pavilion During Fireman's Picnic

Bremenfest 2011

Bremenfest, a community picnic, began in 1975 and was designed to raise money for various projects that would benefit all of New Bremen. A formal constitution was developed, which stated all profits of the Bremenfest would be held collectively and distributed through the wishes of the majority, whenever a request for funds was presented. A major accomplishment of the organization is funding of the Bremenfest Park in the northeast part of New Bremen.

Through the years Bremenfest has provided a mixture of German and American foods, games, rides and musical entertainment, highlighted by the annual Heritage Parade on Sunday afternoon. (From New Bremen Sesquicentennial book, Don Kuck)



Grand Marshal Delores Stienecker

This year's Parade Grand Marshal for the 37th Bremenfest parade was Delores Stienecker, Board Member of the New Bremen Historic Association and Council Member for the Village of New Bremen. Congratulations, Delores.

Following is a list of the Grand Marshals for the annual Bremenfest Heritage Parade.

- 1975 Paul Gilberg
- 1976 Dr. Michael Rabe
- 1977 Reuben Wissman
- 1978 Donna Watkins
- 1979 Alvina Burk
- 1980 Lester Blanke
- 1981 Fr. Carl Will
- 1982 Lloyd Laut
- 1983 Richard Wiedeman
- 1984 Edith Wissman
- 1985 Dorothy Harlamert
- 1986 Dave Schwieterman
- 1987 Rose Wehrman

- 1988 Betty Kommink
- 1989 Paul and Marge Lietz
- 1990 Ann Kuhn
- 1991 Desert Storm
- 1992 Dave Kuck-FD/Dave Anthony-EMS
- 1993 Alice Settlage
- 1994 John Knost
- 1995 WWII Vets
- 1996 Urban Buscher
- 1997 Mabel Kettler
- 1998 Eugene This
- 1999 Don Kuck/John Gilberg
- 2000 New Bremen Emergency Squad
- 2001 Jim Dicke, Sr.
- 2002 Tim Kuennen
- 2003 Gary Stueve
- 2004 Active Duty Personnel
- 2005 Shirley James
- 2006 Sue Ritter
- 2007 New Bremen Fire Dept.
- 2008 Dr. Ron Riebel
- 2009 Linda Emmons
- 2010 Bob Kramer/Ruth Brookhart

PUMPKINFEST 2011

Pumpkinfest, a relative newcomer to the festivals in New Bremen, was started in 2004 by the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers. This festival with its giant pumpkin weigh-off and pumpkin themed foods and crafts is the last outdoor festival of the year. This year the NBHA Board made German Pumpkin Waffles on a stick as a fundraiser at the festival.



Diane Paul, NBHA Board Member, making German Pumpkin Waffles On-A-Stick.

CLASS REUNIONS New Bremen Alumni

New Bremen High School (NBHS) was organized in 1879 and the first student to graduate was Charles W. Mesloh in 1882. Mr. Mesloh was the only member of the first graduating class. By 1909 the school had 142 alumni. That same year the first annual yearbook, "The Mirage" was published. Commencements were held at the Boesel Opera House on Monroe Street since the Central School on South Franklin Street had no auditorium.

The 44th commencement for the Class of 1930 was the first to be held in the auditorium/gymnasium of the new High School on Walnut Street. It was also in the 1930s that the Alumni Association began having annual meetings. These gatherings were also held in the High School auditorium. Long tables would fill the room with the honor classes seated together for the banquet and program.

An article in the New Bremen Sun newspaper in June, 1939 states that the 180 gathered for the NBHS Alumni meeting was the largest in the organization's history. The President of the association was Paul Gilberg and the banquet was served by the American Legion Auxiliary members. The article notes that following the banquet there was a program of music and speakers and the evening ended with a short session of dancing. For over 50 years these homecoming dinners and receptions were held in the High School auditorium.

By 1993 due to space issues the annual NBHS Alumni reunion was moved to the American Legion hall. That year a member of the honor class of 1928, Dorothy Harlamert, wrote a poem for her classmates. A part of it reads:

Memories
*Sixty five years have now gone by,
Since our High School Graduation, oh my!
Twenty eight members - 14 girls and 14 boys
Were filled with anticipation and many joys.
Of course we always like to reminisce,
Graduation exercises at the Opera House, what bliss...
Proms were at the Teacherage, what fun!
After prom activities, there were none...
May our class be remembered well
By the good we've done for others, do tell.
May the world be a better place to live,
Because of the good deeds each had to give.*

Before attending the 58th Annual Alumni Reunion in 1993, members of the Class of 1928 went to the home of their classmate Irene (Kuest) Quellhorst.



Seated: Irene (Kuest) Quellhorst, Helen (Wehrman) Froning. Standing: Orville Ruedebusch, Irene (Neuman) Moeller, Earl Roettger, Dorothy (Geib) Harlamert

On the following pages are pictures and reports of some of the class reunions held this summer.

There is a name we all hold dear,

We will love it till we die.

It is the name of our High School

The dear New Bremen High!

Local historian and NBHS graduate Ralph May (Class of 1910) wrote about attending the alumni reunions in several of his articles compiled in "*Ralph May Remembers New Bremen*." One article titled "New Bremen Revisited" was written in 1964 when Mr. May was 72 years old. This is an excerpt from that article:

...I again went up north to attend our Alumni Association and meet and shake hands with all those who are still living, some of whom I had not seen for quite a few years...As usual, I always try to arrive an hour or so before our gathering takes place. This gives me time to saunter over some of the streets and review in my mind how the old town has changed in many ways. The High School and Elementary building, so different from the one I attended and from which I graduated as far back as 1910. That corridor in the new building, almost two blocks in length, is a spectacle in itself. What a view it gives to the beholder...

50 Year Reunion

Class of 1961



(photo by Greg Garman)

Seated: Dennis Dicke, Genevieve Conradi, Doris (Topp) Carr, Judy (Scheer) Wiehe, Carolyn (Shaffer) Wehnes, Judy Meckstroth, Marvin Moeller, Steve Schroer, Allen Paul. **Standing:** Karl Kittel, Ned Scheer, John Bornhorst, Larry Henschen, Nancy (Kettler) Price, Lois (Wahoff) Westerheide, Herb Richey, Emily (Grothaus) Reisner, Lois (Dicke) Herman, Jill (Coble) May, Hal Opperman, Sharon (Widau) Dietz, Dennis Wint, Barbara (Kuck) Dill, Frederick Moeller, Tom Wissman, John Tostrick. (Also present but not pictured was Emily (Harlamert) Wiedeman.

The New Bremen High School **Class of 1961** held their **50 year reunion** during the Bremenfest weekend. They began their plans for the reunion early this spring and encouraged all classmates to try to attend. Only six members did not attend. Classmates toured the Lockkeeper's House, the Bicycle Museum, Historical Museum and the New Bremen School buildings. Friday evening was spent socializing at the home of Gen Conradi and Dennis Dicke. On Saturday evening the group met at the Speedway Lanes for a dinner and lots of reminiscing.

Board of Education in 1961 – James Ashbaugh, President, Frederick Luedeke, V. President, Leander Landwehr, Paul Wissman, Orville Ruedebusch, Clerk.

Class Flower – American Rose, **Class Colors** – Old Rose and Silver, **Class Motto** – Climb Though The Rocks Be Rugged. **Class Officers** – John Tostrick, President, Ronald Wiedeman, V. President, Kathleen Luedeke, Secretary, Dennis Wint, Treasurer.

1961 High School Faculty: Clifford Bay, Esther Booker, Donald Brandewie, Alice Cumming, Jack Earl, Donald Eifert, Laverl Foos, Lewis Fritz, Katherine Gels, Alvin Hoying, Jerry Maxson, Mabel McClure, Maria Overholt, Carl Watkins, Roger Zoll, Alvina Burk, Principal, Robert Strahm, Superintendent.

The Class of 1961 attended the 46th Annual New Bremen High School Alumni Reunion on June 13, 1981. The Honor classes that year were the classes of 1981, 1971, 1961, 1956, 1951, 1941, 1931, 1921 and 1911. The dinner program was held in the old high school gym. Dinner was prepared by the Band Boosters. They served fruit cup, tossed salad, Swiss steak, baked potato, peas, dessert, rolls and beverage. Music during the program was provided by the New Bremen Music Department. The Alumni Dance was held at E-Z Campground Hall in St. Marys following the dinner.



1981 Alumni Reunion



Class of 1961 at the 1981 Reunion

45 YEAR REUNION Class of 1966



Kneeling: Doris (Bornhorst) Krieg, Donna (Dicke) Jacoby, Marlene (Wiehe) Ahlers, Pam (Moeller) Elking.

Standing: George Dicke, John Turner, Betty (Branderburg) Magato, Mike Suchland, Deanna (Sollman) Anderson, Harold Krieg, Dru (Luedeke) Meyer, Dennis Bushman, Joann (Wittenbrink) Boyer, Sandy Tontrup, Bob Niekamp, Jim Scheer, Jack Bielefeld, Rich Gilberg, Bill Lampert.

55 YEAR REUNION Class of 1956



Paul Mohrman, Bill Ritter, Judy (Thieman) Looker, Lucille (Topp) Francis, Larry looker, Jerry Hirschfeld, Ginny (McCollum) Braun, Earl Dicke, Stanley Dicke, Louise Kettler, Ferd Wint, Betty (Tangeman) Burkard, Robert "Red" Rump, Jack Dicke, Louise (Schaefer) Jones, Jane (Gilberg) Talan, Tom Dicke, Bev (Tangeman) Applegate, Louise (Olive Loyer) Pullins, Janice (Topp) Schroer. (Photo provided by Kaye Wint.)

60 YEAR REUNION

Thirteen members of the **Class of 1951** and their guests met for lunch on August 27th at the New Bremen Coffee Shop. They happily spent the afternoon sharing memories of the Class of 1951. No picture was taken that day.

The NBHS Class of 1951 class roster: Ralph Casebolt, Carolyn Dammeyer, Kenneth Fledderjohn, Alice Gilberg, Lee Harmony, Jr., Duane Hartwig, Duane Hegemier, Eugene Hegemier, Virginia Hoffman, Audrey Klier, JoAlice Kuenning, Donald Lamphar, Joyce Ann Laut, Susan McCollum, Bernard Nedderman, Paul Opperman, Delores Piehl, Betty Quellhorst, Esther Rempe, Carl Roediger, Delores Schemmel, JoAnn Schnell, Bernard Schroer, Charlene Schroer, Vera Warner, Grace Wittenbrink.

65 YEAR REUNION

Class of 1946



From left to right: Kenneth Eckart, Mack Wellman, Eunice (Kettler) Haye, Stan Kuennen, Evelyn (Westerbeck) Kittel, Everet Topp, Edith Wissman, Bob Donnerberg. Bob is talking with Virginia (Rinehart) Buss and May (Gross) Peters. (Photo provided by Edith Wissman.)



Stan Kuennen brought a special cake to share with his classmates of the Class of 1946.

Personal Interview Page

Dale Fledderjohn Talks About The Arcade



South Washington Street at night with Arcade Department Store on the right.

The Arcade Department Store was formed in 1903 with the merger of four mercantile establishments. Speckman & Nieter had a grocery and dry goods store, Faehl & Nieter a furniture store, Fred Wiemeyer a clothing store and Rabe's Cheap Store was a 5& 10 cent variety store. All were located on the east side of South Washington Street in the large building across from the present day Library. The businesses merged their stock and started a department store. Their goal was to be a servant of the community, to carry the merchandise and supplies that the community wanted.

The store met this goal and thrived for more than 50 years. The Arcade was quite an asset to New Bremen. In 1939 Alfred Rabe, son of Theodore Rabe, wrote that the store covered 15,000 square feet of sales floor and stocked 270,000 items all under one roof. The store was one of the largest in Northwestern Ohio and managed to survive the Great Depression. They claimed to do their business on their own money and at the close of each year had a balance sheet with no liabilities.

In 1946 the store came under the management of Arlie Wiessinger, a businessman from Sidney, Ohio. He began an extensive remodeling program in 1950 to keep up with the times and to compete with the malls that were beginning to appear. But this attempt failed and in 1953 the store closed and the buildings were sold to Crown Controls, Inc.

During its 50 years in business The Arcade employed many local workers. Just a few of the

people that worked there over the years were: Hulda Kuest, Laverta Hittepole, Ollie Inman, Verlin Hirschfeld, Bob Fledderjohn, Milton Gieseke, Ron Hittepole, Malinda Hehr, Farmer Westbay, Jeanette Rump, Marge Conradi/Lietz and Dale Fledderjohn.

We recently had the pleasure of talking with Dale Fledderjohn about his life and his employment at The Arcade. Dale said it was a wonderful place to work. He said that Mr. Wiessinger was a great boss and his co-workers were fun to be with. The people of New Bremen were happy to have the opportunity to do all their shopping in one place. Dale remembered a time when Leota Busse commented that she was able to do all her Christmas shopping that year at The Arcade.

Dale graduated from New Bremen High School in 1941 and worked at Minster Machine until he entered the Army in January of 1943. He served 2 years 11 months and 27 days and was in the Battle of the Bulge. After his service he learned the meat cutting business in Dayton under the GI Bill. He returned to New Bremen and worked with Butch Schelper until he took a position at the Arcade as Grocery and Meat Department Manager. Each week he personally went to Busse's Slaughter House in Fort Loramie and selected the sides of meat for his customers at the Arcade. We are sure this careful buying and attention to the customer is an example of how The Arcade employees always met their goal of serving the community.



Dale Fledderjohn

History Mystery Page Who is it?

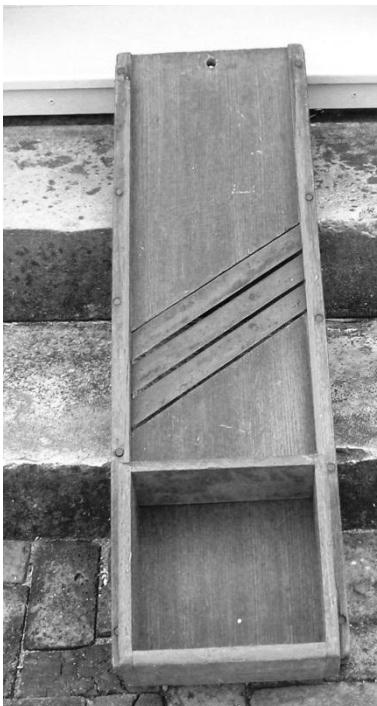


Nancy (Kettler) Price submitted this picture for our readers. How many of these women can you name? Can you tell us why they gathered for this picture?

Who is it?



What is it?



What is it called? What is its function?

(Hint: Nancy (Kettler) Price knew this person very well.

Please drop a line to us at **The Towpath- NBHA, P. O. Box 73, New Bremen, Ohio, 45869**, and tell us the answers to the questions. Or E-Mail your answer to Gen at gen@nktelco.net or Joyce at jdr@nktelco.net. Your answers will appear in the next issue of *The Towpath*.



This photo appeared in the July 2011 Towpath. Sally Fark identified the lady on the left as Nettie Loy. Others are Maude Ekermeyer, Emma (Koenig) Schroer, Hilda Huckriede, ?, and Irene Ekermeyer. Thanks, Sally.

Curator's Report:

Items Recently Donated to Museum

Mortar & Pestle, marble slab used by Dr. Ernest W. Ekermeyer and his father Dr. M.S. Ekermeyer, Saddle Bags used by Rev. Wm. Ekermeyer (served St. Peter's Church 1868-1871), Eleven WWII papers of Dr. E. W. Ekermeyer, Confirmation announcement for Augusta Grothaus, German Family Bible. (**Martha Ekermeyer Drake, April 19, 2011**)

Duster, potato ricer. (**Mark Moeller, April 19, 2011**)

Large Steamer Trunk. (**Doug Harrod, April 19, 2011**)

STAMCO playing cards. (**Erlene Garman, April 19, 2011**)

Sunday School journals and First City bank book.

(**St Paul Church, July 26, 2011**)

Fifteen photos (Heinfeld, Luelleman, Quellhorst, Block), booklet. (**Max Fledderjohann, July 26, 2011**)

WOHL jacket, Dicke Service Station baseball uniforms, 1954-5 baseball scorebooks. (**Mike Westbay, July 26, 2011**)

Eight cooking booklets 1920s-1930s. (**Delilah Braun Estate, July 26, 2011**)

Bull ring. (**Michael Staton, July 26, 2011**)

Scales, receipt book used by J.L.Hoffman, Druggist in New Bremen. (**Martha Britt, August 16, 2011**)

Dairy Farmers of America hat, Beatrice racing hat, brush & mirror, sticker. (**Mary Moeller, August 16, 2011**)

Apple peeler, raisin grinder, 1910 Charleston dress worn by Brunhilda Wittenbrink, wedding dress, 1940s swim suits, 42 various books and booklets, photo of Streine workers. (**Joanne Boyer, August 16, 2011**)

If you find errors in this issue of The Towpath, please tell us so they can be corrected. Even with many layers of editing, mistakes can slip through, but with your help we can fix them. Thank you.

Membership Report

(Dennis Dicke, Recorder)

NEW MEMBERS THIS PERIOD (THRU 9/30/11)

7/06/11	Elaine (Opperman) Lampert
8/29/11	Lois (Dicke) Herman
8/29/11	Kristen (Wierwille) Nelson
8/29/11	Brett Wierwille
8/29/11	Lindsey Wierwille
9/20/11	Nick Schmidt
9/24/11	Megan Hardesty

ADDITIONS TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

7/06/11	Elaine (Opperman) Lampert
8/29/11	Lois (Dicke) Herman
8/29/11	Kristen Nelson
8/29/11	Brett Wierwille
8/29/11	Lindsey Wierwille
9/24/11	Megan Hardesty

MEMBER DEATHS THIS PERIOD

6/26/11	Shirley (Elsass) Schaefer
7/02/11	Leon Gerling
7/22/11	Earl Sollman
7/22/11	Dr. Duane Sunderman
7/23/11	Bea (Clerke) Young
8/10/11	Betty (Horn) Schroer
9/03/11	Dorothy (Mohrman) Otting

MEMORIAL/HONORARY DONATIONS

In memory of Shirley Schaefer

By Dale Schaefer & Family, Byron Lunz, Sandra Conradi, Ned Moeller, Pat (Gels) D'Alessio

In memory of Ed Wittenbrink

By JoAnn (Wittenbrink) Boyer

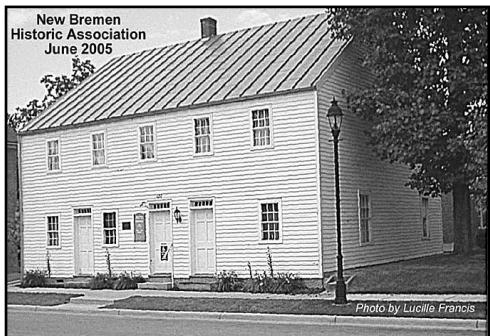
The New Bremen Historic Association Board has studied the financial report for our organization and deemed it necessary to increase membership dues. A letter will soon be mailed that will give the details. As a member, the Board welcomes your comments and suggestions on this matter. Remember your membership and continued support is vital to help us preserve the history of New Bremen and the surrounding area.

New Bremen Historic Association
P.O. Box 73

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073

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New Bremen OH 45869



Address Service Requested

NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES.

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

Towpath Collections

We are privileged to offer a collection of past issues of the Towpath. This Collection contains some issues edited by Lucille Francis. The Towpath Collection would make a wonderful gift for anyone interested in the history of New Bremen. New members of the New Bremen Historic Association might also enjoy reading these past issues of the newsletter. The Towpath Collection sells for \$20. (Add \$5 for shipping.) Contact Dennis Dicke to purchase. (419-629-2764 or E-mail dengen@nktelco.net.)

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

A Christmas Tree Festival at the Lockkeeper's House in New Bremen will be held in cooperation with the New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary Tree Lighting on December 1, 2011. The trees will be on display throughout the Christmas Season. Organizations, Businesses, Families, Individuals, and Children are invited to display a tree or any Christmas decoration. Prizes will be awarded. Voting will be by public participation.

To reserve your space, please contact Diane Paul, 419-629-2856 or Barb Ziegenbusch, 419-629-2623 by November 15, 2011.