



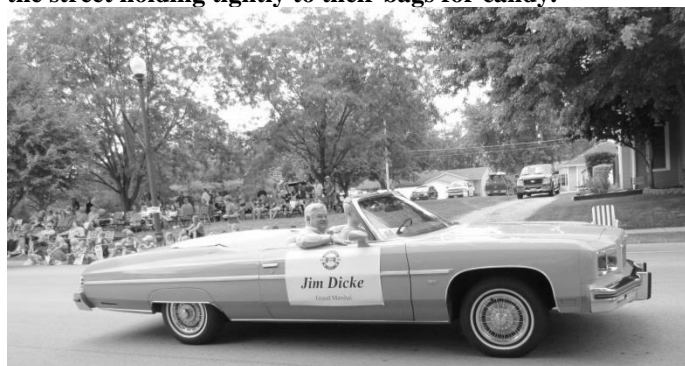
THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly
January-April-July-October
THE NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
October 2017

BREMENFEST 2017 PARADE



“Look! Look! Here comes the parade!” The children lined the street holding tightly to their bags for candy.



The Grand Marshal is Jim Dicke.



The New Bremen Band marched proudly and played a rousing tune.



Everyone cheered and waved to the veterans.



Here are the young men who play sports for New Bremen High School.



And here are the young women who play sports for New Bremen High School.

A large crowd enjoyed the parade and many other events of the 43rd Annual Bremenfest.

"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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lldicke@nktelco.net

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dengen@nktelco.net

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rdpaul@nktelco.net

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dongagel1@gmail.com

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maxandbev@nktelco.net

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lrtangeman@nktelco.net

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mem@nktelco.net

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mjstucky1946@roadrunner.com

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

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6/8/2017 **Alice Waterman** (LM)

6/8/2017 **Carolyn Deniston** (LM)

6/9/2017 **Walter Kuhlhorst** (LM)

7/28/2017 **Mary C. Ahlers** (LM)

8/9/2017 **Don E. Pape**

8/10/2017 **Sally Fark** (LM)

8/31/2017 **Doris Dillon**

9/7/2017 **Marta Hoelscher**

(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

DONATIONS

Amy Scheer

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Don E. Pape by James & Carol Pearce

2017 Monthly Raffle Winners

July- \$100 Jim Opperman (NB), \$75 Mike Suchland (NB), \$50 Dru Meyer (NB)

August- \$100 Lisa Weigandt (NB), \$75 Rich Plattner (NB), \$50 Pat Gels D'Alessio (Florida)

September- \$100 Marty Steinbrugge (NB), \$75 Doris Cook (St. Marys), \$50 Michele Bambauer (NB)

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

ITEMS RECENTLY DONATED TO MUSEUM

Photos, match books advertising NB businesses by **Roger & Phyllis Dicke**; 54 historic photos and 28 other historic documents by **Bob & Betty Dietrich** and **Michael & Linda Hirschfeld**; 1921 news clipping about Dicke reunion by **Mary Klein**; 1939 NBHS class picture, diploma, commencement program, 2001 NB calendar by **Virginia Kuening**; NBHS class ring by **Randy McCune**; Numerous NB business items, NB blanket, Kuenzel and Lock Two flour sacks, 1884 autograph book, binder of NB news clippings by **Kathleen & Jerry Pulskamp**; Copies of NB postcards by **Ryan Tinnerman**; Baseball uniform, letter sweater with a variety of other high school memorabilia, 24 sports photos from high school, chewing tobacco cutter that belonged to his grandfather, gum dispenser from Wint's Restaurant by **Dennis Wint**; New Bremen blankets (2), Speedway photo & flag by **Christina Klinger**.

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)



From the *Towpath* Editors- Joyce & Gen

The goals of our newsletter, *The Towpath*, are to reflect and preserve the history of New Bremen and the surrounding area and to keep you informed about the activities of the NBHA. These goals have been in place for the 42 years that it has been in print.

This month marks the 25th issue (6 years) with Gen and Joyce as editors. We certainly have enjoyed doing the interviews, research and preparation of the articles. A big thank you is due the many people involved during the past six years. We could not have done it without your help.

Now going forward we need your continued support. We have found the articles that garner the most interest are those with a personal touch about New Bremen area people. It is our hope to include more of these stories so we encourage you to share your memories and family history. You may write the story yourself or tell us and we will write it for you. **Contact us and we will find a way to include your story in the Towpath.**

NBHA NEWS

- **Our museums have been open the fourth Sunday of each month April through October as part of the AUGLAIZE COUNTY: IN MOTION project to promote visitation.**
- **Letters will be mailed in November to remind you to pay your 2018 NBHA yearly dues.**
- **Our NBHS Class Ring Collection is growing. We now have rings from the years 1925, 1927, 1935, 1940, 1954, 1957, 1961, 1964 and 1965! If you would like to donate a NBHS class ring to enhance our collection please contact a board member.**
- **The 2018 Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20. Please mark this on your calendar because this will be a special meeting and dinner. It will be held in the old high school on Walnut Street and tours will be available. More details at a later date.**



LETTERS

The twins in our family are:
Alexi Rose Walker and
Olivia Sue Walker born on
8-28-2008; parents are Tom
and Amy (Ritter) Walker.

Dennis & Sue Burnell (New Bremen)



Thank you so much for including my Dad's autobiography in the last Towpath. I am glad he took the time to write about his memories for the generations to come.

The letters from the New Bremen men in World War One were fascinating. The Army buddies and I went to Kansas City for our spring trip this year and toured the World War One museum, twice on two consecutive days. So interesting.
Sandra Conradi (S. Carolina)

I thoroughly enjoyed the article about Joel Epstein and his difficulties coming to America. I do not have Sandra's email so please let her know how much it was appreciated. **Pat (Gels) D'Alessio (Florida)**

The following note was received by Sandra Conradi:

Wow!! I just read the fascinating article about your father in the Towpath. Thank you so much for sending it to me. I'm going to photocopy it and send it to my brother.

My mother's mother, Ella, was born in 1896 & came alone to Ellis Island in 1913 & never saw her parents or brothers again. I never heard any stories about the trip or her leaving Russia. Too bad. I didn't know your father was born abroad. Fascinating story. **Kati Peters (Washington)**

I do enjoy reading the Towpath each time it comes. Thanks for your research and diligence in keeping up a quality publication about my hometown. **Rich Luedeke (Indiana)**

History Mystery (page 15) Answers

#1. Max Fledderjohann & Niles Harris

#2. Top Row: Scott Valentine, Jim Valentine, David Wint, Jack Knost, Barry Boyer, Tom Cooper, Gary Musset, John Hespe, Jim Schwartz, Bill Bailey, John Watkins, Bob Cashdollar **Center Row:** ? Scheer, Gary Hirschfeld, Tom Young, Joe Knost, Wayne Mauer, Ronnie Roettger, Gary Maich, Tom Westerbeck, Jim Dicke, Jerry Wahoff, Jim Suchland, Chad Cumming, Dean Harlamert, Jim Pape **First Row:** Ronnie Hirschfeld, Terry Wissman, Mike Suchland, Duane Dammeyer, Randy McCune, Mike Shelby, Harold Suchland, Jay Kettler, Rob Dietrich, Dennis Gross, Brad Klose.



Conversation with Kitty-Hunt Ziegenbusch

A young physician came to New Bremen to practice medicine in 1957. It was a homecoming because Kenneth Ziegenbusch had strong family history in this area.

We were privileged to visit with his widow, Kitty-Hunt

Ziegenbusch, and other members of the Ziegenbusch family – Barbara (Cashdollar) Ziegenbusch (widow of Lowell Ziegenbusch) and Wayne Ziegenbusch. They have all done an excellent job preserving the family history.

Johann Herman Heinrich Ziegenbusch emigrated from the Kingdom of Hannover and arrived in New Bremen in 1838. This date, just five years after New Bremen was established, makes him an early New Bremen pioneer. Soon after his arrival he married Henriette Fredericke Juliane Ortmann in St. Paul Church. They had seven children with five reaching adulthood. The family settled on the Ziegenbusch farm just south of the Amsterdam Road along State Route 66.

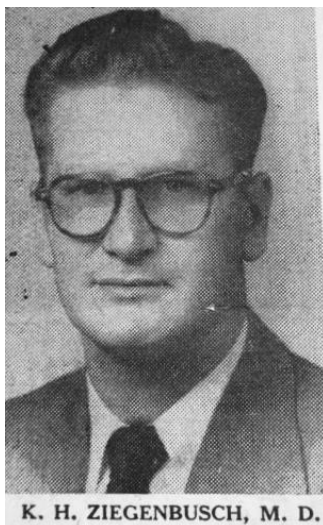
The Ziegenbusch farmland was handed down within the family through the years. Kenneth lived there with his parents Henry and Emma (Bergman) Ziegenbusch, sisters Evelyn and Velma and brother Elwood. His father told the story that he would ask his sons Elwood and Kenneth to do farm chores and while Elwood would quickly comply, Ken would say, "I'm reading a book right now." Then his father would ask, "What will become of Ken, always reading a book?" His love of learning served him well and after high school graduation and military service, he enrolled in pre-med at Bowling Green State University

and received his medical degree in 1955 from the University of Cincinnati.

Kitty met Inez Ziegenbusch at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. They lived in the nurses' dormitory across the hall from each other. One day Kitty



Inez Ziegenbusch



K. H. ZIEGENBUSCH, M. D.

saw Kenneth sitting in his cousin Inez's room and their eyes met. Soon she made trips to New Bremen with Kenneth and Inez to visit with friends and relatives. On June 2, 1956 they were married in St. George Catholic Church in Cincinnati just as he was finishing his internship.

Dr. Kenneth Ziegenbusch chose New Bremen to begin his medical practice. After looking at other communities, he and Kitty both felt a pull towards New Bremen.

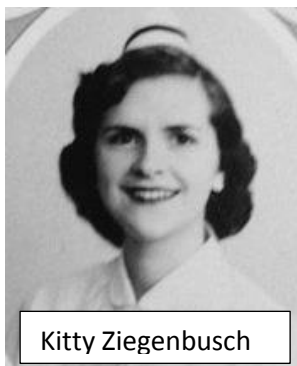
He opened his office in 1957 in a building provided by Dave Schwieterman. At that time the building was under the water tower and Kitty remembers that her son and a neighbor boy once tried to climb the tower with some success.

Announcement....
Dr. Kenneth H. Ziegenbusch, M.D.
Will Open His Office for the
General Practice of Medicine
Wednesday, July 24th
at 17 S. Walnut St.
New Bremen, O.
Office Hours Will Be:
1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Daily
Except Thursday
Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Monday - Wednesday - Friday
PHONE: OFFICE 5301 — RESIDENCE 5311

Dr. Ziegenbusch would not only see patients in his office but also made house calls covering a large area. Kitty tells that he never wanted to refuse when someone requested his help. Even when his car was being serviced he accepted a "loaner" pick-up truck to use for the home visits. His father did not approve of the Doctor arriving in a pick-up and loaned him his own car.

Kenneth remained in New Bremen until 1964 when he decided to study radiology. Kitty remembers that it was a big decision for them at that time but one they were glad they had made. He completed his residency in radiology at Geisinger Hospital in Pennsylvania and then settled in Celina and served the local hospitals as a Radiologist.

Kenneth became ill in later years but found comfort having a room at Elmwood Assisted Living facility that overlooked what had been his family farm. He died December 6, 2011. Kitty finds joy in their three children Karen, Kenneth, Jr., and Krista and emphasizes that Kenneth was "a good and kind man."



Kitty Ziegenbusch



Kitty & Kenneth Ziegenbusch

As Life Members of the New Bremen Historic Association, both Kitty and Kenneth supported the organization's goals and enjoyed reading the *Towpath* newsletter. Kitty relates that one of Kenneth's favorite articles was entitled *New Bremen*

Sheephead. They both also enjoyed the series of articles about the German names in New Bremen written by Karl Mesloh.

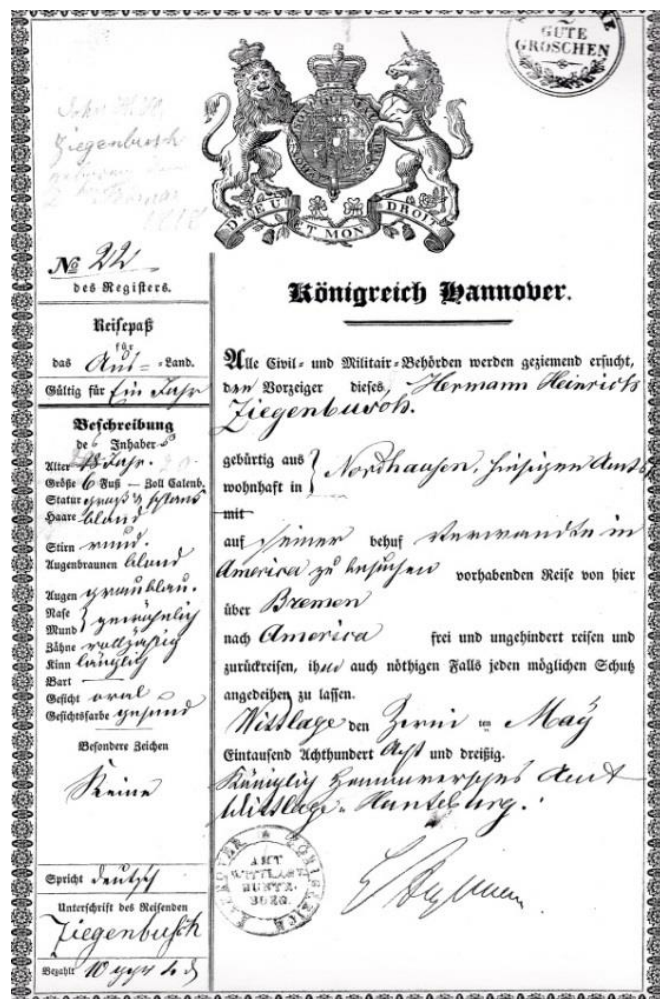
We thank the Ziegenbusch family for sharing their family history. It provides us with more knowledge of our early New Bremen pioneers and settlers. This information also gives the background of the life story of Dr. Kenneth Ziegenbusch and his years of commitment to our community.

Ziegenbusch Genealogy

Kenneth Ziegenbusch and siblings **Evelyn, Elwood, and Velma** are the children of Henry & Margaret (Bergman) Ziegenbusch, the grandchildren of Carl & Anna (Nordloh) Ziegenbusch and the great grandchildren of Johann Hermann Heinrich & Henriette (Ortmann) Ziegenbusch

Inez, Lowell & Wayne Ziegenbusch are the children of Elmer & Alesa (Schnelle) Ziegenbusch, the grandchildren of August & Clementine (Boesel) Ziegenbusch and the great grandchildren of Johann Hermann Heinrich & Henriette (Ortmann) Ziegenbusch.

Rob Ziegenbusch, NBHA Curator, is the son of Robert & Julia (Miller) Ziegenbusch, the grandson of Elwood & Ursula (Eilerman) Ziegenbusch, the great grandson of Henry & Emma (Bergman) Ziegenbusch, the great great grandson of Carl & Anna (Nordloh) Ziegenbusch and the great great great grandson of Johann Hermann Heinrich & Henriette (Ortmann) Ziegenbusch.



Johann Hermann Heinrich Ziegenbusch's Passport dated May 2, 1838. It says he is 18 years old, has blond hair, blond eyebrows, green-blue eyes, lives in Nordhausen in the Kingdom of Hannover and plans to go to America



Henry and Emma (Bergman) Ziegenbusch on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Huckster Wagons

We were privileged to receive a photo from Phyllis (Schrolucke) Schneider/Dicke recently of Emil Schneider (1884-1974) and his huckster wagon. We decided to do a little research about this long-gone occupation.



Emil Schneider with the huckster wagon he drove for the Garmhausen store in Lock Two.

Historically, the term “huckster” referred to any type of vendor or reseller and was an integral part of the rural community. It was a store on wheels and filled a need for rural families who did not get to town very often. In turn the huckster picked up the farmers’ fresh fruit and vegetables and took them to the customers in town.

The huckster had organized routes and made regular trips along the route. The wagons contained goods similar to a general store. Beside groceries the wagon was probably stocked with bolts of cloth like calico and outing flannel. There would also be pins, needles, and thread. Some carried ready-made items like work gloves.

The visit of a huckster wagon was an enjoyable event especially for the children as they would often be treated to candy.

New Bremen had several huckster wagons that served rural customers. Mr. Adolph Steinberg began a wholesale produce business at 112 N. Main Street in the mid-1800s. He employed Fred Wierth and William Gilberg as hucksters. They drove their wagons to Mercer and Darke county towns to gather country produce for the business.

Theodore Doenges drove a huckster wagon for Garmhausen’s store in Lock Two and delivered dry goods to the people living in the country, in turn bringing their produce back to town.

Another man who drove a huckster wagon for Garmhausen’s store was Emil “Maggie” Schneider. Emil grew up in New Knoxville but had many ties to New Bremen. Emil’s huckster days ended when a woodstove on his wagon caught fire and ruined his wagon. He lost his job with Garmhausen’s but he continued in the

grocery store business with Dooley’s Grocery store in New Knoxville.

Garmhausen Bros. Co. of Lock Two discontinued huckster wagons on October 1, 1910. Their huckster wagons which for many years had covered the territory for miles around were taken off the road and all dealing in merchandise was then done directly over the counter at the store. The age of the automobile and truck had arrived.

Door to door sales and deliveries flourished using the new cars and trucks. Meadow Gold milk was delivered by Henry Westerheide, first by horse and wagon and then by truck. Raymond “Caddy” Moeller delivered bread from his bakery. Ray Knipple also sold baked goods from Knipple’s Bakery. Marie Rabe drove a Model T Ford to deliver her baked goods. Other door to door salesmen were Edmund Bertke who sold Mc Ness vanilla and pudding and pie mixes, Reuben Amstutz and Royal Tangeman sold Watkins products. Francis “Angie” King sold Fuller Brush products in this area for over 30 years.



LOCK TWO MILLS' FIRST TRUCK
("Armleder" with chain drive, solid tires, carbide lights)
Theodore Doenges, driver

Theodore Doenges first drove a huckster wagon for Garmhausen’s store. After the service was discontinued he drove a truck for the Lock Two Mills.



Royal J. Tangeman & daughter, Jean – ca. 1922-1923

SCHOOL NEWS FROM THE PAST



The New Bremen School House of 1878 on South Franklin Street housed both the elementary and high school students in 1910.

From 1910...

In his lecture on the Progress of Auglaize County's ungraded schools at the School House, Saturday afternoon, to an audience of School teachers, Prof. C. W. Williamson, of Wapakoneta, produced some very interesting matter. The Professor takes delight in hampering with historical facts. He commands a good audience and ready listeners, and never leaves a disappointed crowd. He said:

Schools first made their appearance in Auglaize County in 1833. Wapakoneta and St. Marys were the first to have schools. Instruction in those days was meager; the allotted support to a district by the State was to the amount of \$20.00 a year. Voluntary subscription came to some help. Nowadays the apportionment by the State is \$250.00.

The branches taught writing, spelling and arithmetic. The switch was a necessary article in a school room. In 1853, the schools of the State began to be graded. There were very few brick school houses as late as 1860. Along about this time log benches gave way to desks and seats. In 1862, some uniformity in school books was established. In November 1868 the first Teacher Institute was held in this county. The teachers at that time were the laughing-stock of the town, and would bear no comparison to the class of teachers we have now. Auglaize County has today as good a class of teachers as any surrounding county, and the improvement has been brought about by rigid school and teachers' examinations. This is the only method for elevating the standard of our teachers and schools, and negligence in its pursuit would demoralize and ruin them.

The schools have now nearly reached the pinnacle of perfection. There is not much room for improvement. Laws, reducing the prices of school books, will not materially aid in elevating schools, save that they will relieve the pocket book of the poor.

(New Bremen Sun, 11/18/1910)

From 1920... College Students

The New Bremen High School, though not the largest in the county, has for many years born the enviable reputation of having more graduates to attend higher institutions of learning than any other school of its size in this part of the state, not infrequently surpassing in number of students attending college all the high schools in Auglaize County. This year is no exception to the general rule. The Class of 1920 with an enrollment of 22 bears the distinction of having over half its number to attend college this year. Appended is a list of students from NBHS, who are either now off to college or will leave in a few days:

Ohio State University, Columbus, R. J. Boesel, Carl Schrage, Richard Kunning, Aaron Vogelsang, Myra Kuenzel, Dorothy Kunning, Chester Trautwein, Lloyd Speckman, Clarence & Arlington Rawers, Leon Stroeder, Marion Boesel, Arlie Dicke, Omar Fritz, Orlando Gilbert, Walter Kuck, Wilbur Garmhausen, Eleanor Purpus. (The last eight are in the NBHS Class of 1920.)

Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Lawrence Tebbe.

Eden Seminary, St. Louis, Hilmar Neuman.

Central Reformed Seminary, Dayton, Reinhard Eschmeyer.

Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Edgar Wierth and Ralph May.

Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, Wayne Jordan (Class of '20).

State Normal College, Bowling Green, Meta Meckstroth (Class of '20).

Stout Institute, Menomonee, Wis., Wallace Grothaus (Class of '20).

Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, Mildred Boesel, Ione Schulenberg, Ruth & Wilhelmine Kuenzel.

Miami-Jacobs Business College, Charlotte Haines and Edna Langhorst (the latter Class of '20).

(New Bremen Sun 9/17/1920)



New Bremen Central High School on the northwest corner of the South Franklin Street school grounds opened in 1920 but soon was too small to accommodate the numbers of students. In 1928 the south wall proved unsafe and the building was taken down. The High School on Walnut Street replaced this building in 1929.

Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Conradi made a trip to the west coast in the summer of 1904. Mr. Conradi wrote a series of letters that were published in the New Bremen Sun so that his friends in New Bremen could follow his travels. This is the first of the series.

Incidents that Were Noted and Impressions Received From Them During the First Days of a Long Journey

(The New Bremen Sun, May 27, 1904)

Since so many of my friends and acquaintances, after learning of the fact that Mrs. Conradi and myself had planned an extensive journey through the northwest and west, requested me to keep them informed from time to time of my whereabouts and also to communicate to them my most notable observations and experiences on the way, I have concluded that the best method of granting these requests is to speak in a manner to which I have been accustomed, namely through the columns of our papers, however disappointing this may be to many.

Although we have spent but four days traveling and sight-seeing; this fact has been driven home to us most emphatically-that it is one thing to plan a journey, but an altogether different thing to actually make the journey. By this I do not mean that we have in any way been disappointed, but find that traveling, even though one does it at leisure, it is very hard work indeed; and today being Sunday we make it a real day of rest and are glad to be able to do so. We are occupying a very pleasant room, on the second floor of the Davidson Hotel, directly opposite the Schlitz Hotel and Palm Garden in Milwaukee, and are enjoying the real quiet of an "open" Sunday.

Thinking back now to that dreary, rainy Thursday morning four days ago when we left New Bremen, seems to be a span of several weeks, so many incidents and occurrences have crowded themselves into it, and if I did not jot down little notes as we go along, I am sure my memory would already be so muddled or "balled up" that I would not be able to write even these few uninteresting things. It might be of some consolation to the readers of the SUN if I tell them that New Bremen was certainly not singled out for the dreary and unpleasant weather, for all the long and round-about way from there over Muncie and Tipton to La Porte, Ind., the drizzling continued till way up into the night. How long, I do not know for we retired before it ceased raining. Our original intention had not been to stop at La Porte. We had planned to go to Michigan City by rail, and there take a steamer the next morning for Chicago, it being past the middle of May we had no doubts whatever that the passenger traffic across



the lake had already begun. However, either the dreariness of the weather or some other cause gave us reasons to surmise that we might just be a little too early for steamboat riding, and upon inquiry we found our fears had been well grounded; the Chicago-Michigan City steamers will not run before June first. Therefore our stop at La Porte.

Our L. E. & W. train was a strict accommodation train and stopped at every city, village, hamlet and way station along the route. Remarkable as it may seem, but the smaller the station at which the train stopped the larger in proportion was the crowd of idle men and boys at the depot seeing the train come and pull out, most notably was this the case at such stations where a train from the opposite direction had to pass, or where our passenger train was side-tracked in order to let a freight pass by. In so far surely, New Bremen is fortunate in having its main traffic over the electric line through the business portion of the town, stops being made at every street corner, thus avoiding the necessary and as well as the unnecessary gathering and waiting at the station, making it a lounging place for idlers-in fact a school where idlers are created and educated in their calling.

After a night's rest in La Porte we started on our journey to Chicago bright and early the next morning over the L.S. & M.S. R.R. arriving at the new and beautiful LaSalle St. Station at 9:30. Along the route we saw some of the most barren yet interesting country that is found in all the north central states. The writer was well aware from what he had read and heard about northwestern Indiana, southwestern Michigan and northeastern Illinois, that the soil was sandy, but what that term really meant he never understood correctly until he had seen with his own eyes. For miles and miles between Dune Park and Whiting the soil is almost absolutely barren at least as far as agricultural products are concerned. It is almost one continuous chain of sand hills or dunes all a yellowish sand that will give one a headache just to look at it in hot weather-interspersed by ponds, lakes and swamps that produce nothing but weeds and shrubs. Many of these hills or dunes are covered by straggling oaks and pines, in places quite thickly, but nowhere seemed they to attain more than 25 feet in height. It is quite interesting to note how these dwarflike trees seem to be struggling for the mastery in their miniature forests only to have their foothold torn from under them during a protracted strong lake breeze, or to be totally covered up by its shifting dunes. In all of this stretch of country of which I am speaking we saw but a few straggling houses, but whether the proprietors really owned any of the real estate surrounding their lonely

dwellings, that could not be detected since nowhere were there any fences to be espied beyond those which the railroad company had erected along its right-of-way. That journey through northern Indiana, however, on account of the many and beautiful little lakes, should be interesting and pleasant for anyone.

Chicago, the Windy City, the city of congested traffic in its extremest form! So many of our readers having been in Chicago and probably know more things and better than they could be described here, I shall restrain from tiring them any more than necessary with lengthy and uninteresting description of the city as a whole can be given in three terms setting forth her most distinctive qualities. The first is magnitude, the second is more magnitude, and the third is still more magnitude. With its intricate and endless street railway service, its elevated lines, its two dozen or more steam railway lines, its thousand and one express deliveries, freight deliveries, automobiles, cabs and other vehicles, all attempting at one and the same time to pass a given point, with 23 story buildings on all the four sides of them and a half dozen policemen making fruitless efforts at unraveling the Gordian knot-this gives one a fair idea of the "down town" district of Chicago. In the residence portions it is, of course, different; but these are so many, so far away and so varied that one cannot think of the one at the same time that he thinks of the other.

After arranging some few minor business matters here, Mr. W. C. Schmidt of the Illinois Portland cement Co., who has commodious offices on the third floor of a large business block on LaSalle Street, took us in tow. He made us spend the night at his home in Englewood, where we also met Mr. Gustave Boesel, who had come to Chicago the previous day in the interest of the Broom Co., Saturday morning. Mr. Schmidt took it upon himself to show us some few points of interest in the city during the short time we desired to stay. He accompanied us to his brother Henry's house, near Jackson Park, but two squares from the well-known "Midway" of World's Fair time. Here we were joined by Miss Lydia Schmidt who occupies a position in Chicago University and who in consequences of her connection with this renowned and constantly expanding institution of learning had many points of interest to show us and many instructive explanations to make. The University Campus being "next door" to Jackson Park we also paid this world-renowned pleasure resort a passing visit. A passing visit indeed it was, for Miss Lydia has certainly committed the Chicago gait to memory, and when we again passed through the portals "to mingle with the outer world" she had us all perspiring and panting like hounded fawns.

A street railway ride of four miles brought us to the Union Stock Yards, a business enterprise that stands alone of its kind in the world. The stock pens, stalls and barns, the buildings and offices of the company, and the

plants of Swift & Co., Armour & Co., and the Libby Canning Co., occupy an area of exactly one square mile. We had the pleasure of being conducted through the plant of Swift & Co., the world-renowned packers and to say that we were astonished at the magnitude of the plant would be putting it mildly. The company employs at its Chicago plant alone 9,000 people, and slaughters hogs at the rate of 900 a minute, sheep at the rate of 600 a minute, and beef at just a trifle smaller number, the exact figure I failed to learn. They are very kind to visitors, having several guides continually on the go showing people through their extensive plant, from the point where the stock is killed until it is ready for shipment either as beef, ham, sides, sausage, mutton chops or tongue, etc.

However, this letter has already exceeded the length that it was originally to have attained, so I may in some future communications say in more detail about this remarkable plant, but now I must close. We reached the Union Railway station just in time to board the 3:00 p.m. Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul train for Milwaukee.

When this letter reaches some of our readers we will undoubtedly be speeding on our way to Yellowstone Park. **E. G. Conradi** (Milwaukee, Wis. May 22, 1904)

Emil Gustave Conradi (1872-1964) was born and grew up on the family farm in German Township, New Bremen, Ohio. His parents were Carl Friedrich Wilhelm and Gertrude (Bruetsch) Conradi. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1889, in the sixth graduating class after the high school was organized.

He married Ida Boesel in 1894 and they lived in the heart of New Bremen in the large brick home at 116 W. Monroe Street that was built by Jacob Boesel, Ida's father. They had no children.



Emil taught school in the New Bremen School system and became the Editor of the New Bremen newspapers *The Sun* and *Stern des Westlichen Ohio*. In addition to his newspaper career, he was active in the business community. He was Mayor of New Bremen from 1903-1907.

THERE WAS MUSIC IN THE AIR

New Bremen in the 1950s was a happy place. The town along with the rest of the nation was enjoying an era of prosperity. The poverty of the Great Depression and the years of sacrifice during World War II were over. A booming economy allowed the purchase of new homes, cars and luxury items such as television.

This affluence also allowed many parents to purchase musical instruments and music lessons for their children. The children of New Bremen had long been encouraged to participate in music education. Studies have shown that singing in a choir or playing in a band improves social skills, self-esteem and patience. Music education is believed to enhance academic skills.

This time of prosperity in the 1950s allowed them even more opportunities to learn about music and perform as musicians. There were individual private lessons and also the chance to perform with others in the NBHS Band.



A glimpse of the New Bremen Band in the 1950s.

The following articles appeared in the *New Bremen Sun* on the Crimson & Gold page and were written by NBHS student reporters.

A Day in the Band (*New Bremen Sun 2/2/1950*)

As most of you know, we have a Band. It may not sound like the New York Philharmonic or the U. S. Navy Band at rehearsals, but when it comes to giving a concert or marching down the street in a parade, it ranks close to the top.

Many of you don't realize what it takes to build a Band but just ask Mr. Reese and he will tell you the story of his adventures in our local sweat shop. Of course, we are occasionally gifted with a good chord or even a whole measure full of them, but someone usually messes them all up. The clarinets may squeak, the drums may play too slow, the trombones may slide at a staccato part or the second trumpets may drown out the rest of the Band (blasting or spit). The above are usually divided so that at least one comes every measure, but, as I said, once in a while everyone watches the

director and the music at the same time and out pops music. After hearing a rehearsal, you wouldn't believe it at a concert.

When it comes to a marching Band, we are as good as any of the other schools of our size around here. At a rehearsal we usually take in a whole street and we have many fans at all our marching practices. One day we did a countermarch while some little shaver was following us on a tricycle. Boy, did we confuse him! He's still looking for us. Then there is the time a smart little dog thought he would have his fun but the bass drum soon scared him down the block. But best of all is when we march down Highway 66 and we can see the happy expressions on the truck drivers' faces who can't get past and who are a couple of hours late anyway. They look so happy! We all enjoy it; I don't see why they shouldn't either.

Well, the end of our too-short period is over and we didn't get much of anything done because by the time we got tuned up and our scales played and fought through a march, the bell rang and the noise stops and the music begins.

Freshman Assembly (*New Bremen Sun 2/16/1950*)

Friday, February 3, was the date of the Freshman Assembly. The Freshmen entertained the students of NBHS with several musical numbers and two short plays.

Frances Kuck and Doris Thielker opened the assembly with an accordion duet. Their play was "The Entertainment Committee." Barbara Harmony, Jim Rosselit, Janice Quellhorst, Shirley Hittetpole and Frances Kuck played their parts with much natural ability. Poor Henry! Do you always get shoved around that way, Jim?

The audience participated in the program by singing two songs, "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Cocoanuts" and "A Dreamer's Holiday."

Roger Dicke was next on the program with several saxophone solos.

"Slipping Around" was sung by Ruth Westerbeck and Helen Piehl as their part of the assembly.

Don Warner was Boswell Judson, glad to oblige the girls in the play, "End of the Line." Mary Holdren, Ruth Westerbeck, Virginia Warner and Barbara Harmony were the "Helpful" girls and Jack Moyer, Andrew Schwierking and Roger Dicke were the "bigger than Boswell" boys.

Next Doris Thielker entertained us with a saxophone solo, "Saxapeal." She was accompanied by Molly Kellermeyer.

The Freshman Assembly came to a fitting close with the group singing "Dear Hearts and Gentle People."

In giving such a fine assembly, the Freshman class has shown us that NBHS will have much talent and ability in the years to come.

Private piano lessons were available from several teachers. We have included the memories of some of their students of their music lessons.

Stan Scheer remembers walking to the home of Gladys & Del Schwierking for his weekly piano lesson. This is where **Loretta Herkenhoff** taught piano lessons in New Bremen.



Ed Conradi practicing his piano lesson. He also took lessons from Miss Herkenhoff.

Music Lessons

By Julia Grothaus Zerbe

My piano teacher, **Hilda Wernsing** from Minster, was the quintessential small town spinster piano teacher. She taught both my sister Emily and I from when we were six years old through high school. She used various private homes in New Bremen for her teaching studio, including for a while our house at 28 South Franklin Street. Our piano was in the front room overlooking the porch. We started on an old family piano, but shortly after beginning lessons, my bachelor Uncle Alvin Grothaus bought us a new small Knabe upright. Interestingly my mom Katherine moved that piano to Denver in 1974 and I still have it. At the time, Denver locals warned us the piano might not survive the change from a humid to dry climate, but it still sounds fine—at least to my untrained ear. My grandchildren play it frequently.

There were a few recitals over the years, but mostly we worked towards what were called “auditions.” Each student prepared three or more memorized piano selections, chosen from certain criteria, along with the scales and chords appropriate to each piece. These were performed for a master teacher at the end of the school term at the Dayton Art Institute. Each participant received a pin and critique. I was not particularly musically gifted, but I don’t think I ever completely embarrassed myself at these events!

Miss Wernsing (never Hilda as might be the practice today) was a bit stern, as were many teachers of that era, but always kind and pleasant. She charged one dollar for an hour’s private lesson. That was actually considered on the high side in small town 1950s New Bremen, but I don’t think the price ever went up.

I had just turned six years old at my first lesson. I remember being very excited and wore a brand new dress. But when actually confronted with the new teacher, I turned shy and had to be coaxed to sit down at the piano. But I did, and after that I was fine. I learned the location of middle C, the difference between my right and left hands, and my first piece (I think it was called *A Little Bird*). Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin came later.

Mrs. Betty Topp taught piano and organ lessons for over 50 years to hundreds of students. She gave piano lessons at her home on St. Rt. 274 west of New Bremen.

Her students needed to be able to read before they could begin lessons on her grand piano. They remember the metronome that was always on the left side of the piano. Mrs. Topp used the red John Thompson series of instruction books. During the summers she also gave organ lessons in area churches.

She is fondly remembered as a good and caring but strict teacher who expected her students to practice every day. These are the memories of Dru Luedeke Meyer. Dru is thankful for all she learned and also the music instruction her three daughters received from Mrs. Betty Topp.

During this time the accordion was also a popular instrument and some students took lessons from Mrs. Nevergall.



Deloris (Piehl) Nevergall with her students ca. 1950.

Back: Barbara (Luedeke) Fogel, Jim Rentz, Dale Sollman, Lucille (Topp) Francis **Front:** Gene Roediger, Karen Klute, Bill Tostrick (Photo provided by Lucille Francis)

All this music in the air during the 1950s surely contributed to the quality of life in the New Bremen community.

We are sure there are other music teachers that deserve mention. If you have any musical memories to share please contact us.



How about a Little Lunch?

Doing research on New Bremen history we have our favorite sources we turn to again and again. One such source is the book *Recipes and Reminiscence* by John T. Dickman. This book published in 2001 gives John's *Culinary Memories of a German Heritage*. He wrote the book

with the goal of preserving just a taste of our German tradition, culture, and heritage that must not be forever lost.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John T. Dickman is a third-generation American with a family background deeply rooted in German culture. Raised during the 1930s and 1940s in the rural village of New Bremen, Ohio, itself deeply rooted in German heritage, he recalls and records vivid memories of these formative years by way of the sights, tastes, and aromas of traditional German cuisine. Trained as a science teacher and biochemist, he holds a PhD from the Ohio State University. His eclectic interests range from rose culture to genealogy to cooking to writing. He is a regular columnist for the *American Rose* magazine, and *Recipes and Reminiscence* is the result of his venture into the realms of genealogy, cooking, and village history by combining all these interests.

If you grew up in New Bremen, as John did, you surely will find many parts of the book that bring back good memories. He notes in the introduction that our town was of German origin but at the same time was as American as apple pie. The following are samples of how our citizens have blended the German and American cultures.

A long standing New Bremen tradition is the sharing of food at the end of a visit. Before the visitors left at the end of the evening the hostess would invite them *to have a little lunch*. This tradition was explained well by John as he remembered visits to his Aunt Ida and Uncle Emil Conradi's house on Monroe Street. Included here are excerpts:

"Lunch" time arrived about 10 pm. I suppose there was a varied menu, but my recollection centers on two items-summer sausage and cake. The summer sausage direct from the Conradi farm was an exquisitely smoked and seasoned solid shaft of ground pork with plenty of lubricating fat, sliced into one-inch medallions about a quarter-inch thick. A cross-section looked like fine polished granite... The slices were placed on homemade rye bread containing plenty of kümmel and coated liberally with butter. The Germans, to this day, butter their sandwiches, never mind that the leberwurst (liver sausage) itself contains sufficient calories to light and warm the dining room.

A variety of cakes constituted the dessert finale to the "lunch." The two that I most clearly remember are Aunt Ida's sunshine cake and Amelia Conradi's chocolate devil's food cake. Sunshine cake was also called Easter cake and was a kind of yellow sponge cake baked in an angel food cake pan. It was an Aunt Ida exclusive...

Sunshine (or Easter) Cake

Beat whites of 6 eggs to a stiff froth. Boil: 1 ½ C sugar and ½ C water to just before it spins a thread. Pour over egg whites and beat. Add: beaten egg yolks. Fold in 1 C flour with 1 tsp cream of tartar and ½ tsp vanilla. Bake in form pan – 250 to 275 degrees – 1 hour.

...How was it that we all went home and could sleep like babies after the Saturday night lunch?

Another New Bremen memory is our Coffee Cake. He describes the round yeast-raised cakes that were covered in a sugary topping and made to be dunked in coffee. And just as important as the recipe is the way it was always served. We remember, as does John, that this coffee cake was served in one way only- *as 1 inch slices cut the length of the cake- never as pie shaped wedges!*

John presents a recipe for the coffee cake that he believes closely approximates the coffee cake made by his Aunt Ida.

Aunt Ida's Coffee Cake

2 pkg Dry yeast	½ cup Sugar
¼ cup Warm water	1 tsp Salt
1 cup Milk	2 Eggs
2 Tbs Butter	5 cups Flour

Sprinkle the yeast on warm water (hot water right out of the tap is not too hot). Mix and let stand. Scald the milk and add the butter, sugar, and salt. Cool to lukewarm. Mix the milk mixture and the yeast with 1 cup of flour. Add the 2 eggs and mix well. Add about 4 more cups of flour (to give a dough of kneading consistency). Knead the dough 5-10 minutes on a floured surface. Place the kneaded dough in a greased bowl and let it raise until double in bulk (1 hour?). Punch down and divide the dough into thirds. Press each third into a greased 9-inch cake pan and let raise again for another 30 minutes. Pour melted butter over the top and add a generous coating of sugar. I even punch a few depressions into the surface to cause the butter and sugar to collect to form sugary, buttery nuggets in the crust. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees F.

Many more memories and recipes can be found in *Recipes and Reminiscence* by John T. Dickman and is available for purchase at www.amazon.com.

The New Bremen High School Class of 1967 Reunion



Front row from left: Connie Luedeke Frey, Deb Schnell Kuck, Kaci Topp Anderson, Susan Westerbeck Snyder, Phyllis Topp Palmer, Carol Schott Wollet, Jane Moore Gruebmeyer, Margie Wissman George, Carol Stueve Weaver, Nan Howe Scheib. **Middle row:** Don Kuck, Pat Hittepole Dicke, Jim Lampert, Cindy Dicke Cool, Nancy Scheer, Nancy Heitkamp Lampert, Dennis Gruebmeyer, Gene Will. **Top row:** Jon Luedeke, Bill Anthony, Jeff Pape, Steve Cashdollar, Ed Schwartz, Dale Kremer, Mike Gossette, Gene Steineman, Jerry Bambauer, Dennis Wentte, Roy Reese, Stan Paul, Paul Dicke.

The **Class of 1967 of New Bremen High School** celebrated their 50th Class Reunion on the weekend of August 18th & 19th. Fifteen classmates and spouses gathered in the Alumni Tent at Bremenfest on Friday, where we reminisced about our student days and caught up with life changes since we last met.

On Saturday, 31 class members and their spouses gathered for hors d'oeuvres at the American Legion Canteen, stopping to remember those 8 classmates that have passed – **Bill Boyd, Mike Cox, Mary Jane Dirksen, Linda Minnich Luke, Ellen Steinbrugge, Ron Tangeman, Sharon Tontrup Stamm and Mike Topp.**

Although many in the class still live in the area, some traveled a great distance to be here including from France, California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, Indiana and northern Ohio. A surprise visit from Coach Jerry Maxson to share a high school basketball picture and go over plays that were missed in 1967 was a real treat. There was much camaraderie and laughter and a good time was had by all!

Pictures & article submitted by Phyllis Topp Palmer



**2017 Reunion
New Bremen High School Class of 1955**



From left: John Hoffman, John Rinehart, Lois Berning Dicke, Phyllis Nedderman Fledderjohann, Becky Westerbeck Cooper, Roland Luedeke, Bill McCollum, Ken Dicke, Dale Schaefer, Dave Kuck, Stan Quellhorst, Dick Howell, Ken Schroer

An Earlier Reunion of the Class of 1955



From left: John Rinehart, Bill Campbell, Ralph Quellhorst, Dave Kuck, Lois Berning Dicke, Emma Opperman Pleiman, Vivian Mohrman, Trudy Schwieterman Kuenning, Harry Brewer, Kenneth Schroer, Becky Westerbeck Cooper, Jim Cooper, Phyllis Nedderman Fledderjohann, Stan Quellhorst, Jim Remppe, Ron Hittetpole, Dick Howell, Dale Schaefer, David Paul, Richard Roediger

HISTORY MYSTERY



Larry Schwartz, Mike Ahlers, Duane Hartwig

Thank you to **Steve Hartwig, Alice Hartwig, Bill & Jane Moore, John Pape, and Marvin Heitkamp** who identified the men in this picture.



#1. Who are the two boys riding the elephant in downtown New Bremen in 1953?



#2. Boy Scouts in the 1950s. How many can you name?

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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.



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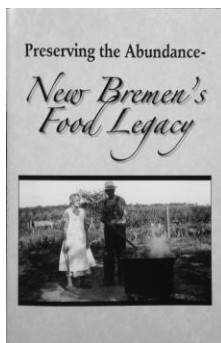
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Museum Visit

If you wish to visit the Luelleman House or the Pape House, call any Board Member for an appointment. We always have lots of interesting things for you to see, so please plan to visit.

We still have copies of another resource to help preserve New Bremen’s food history.

**For a copy,
only \$7.00,
Call Joyce or Gen.**



Preserving and Sharing New Bremen’s Food History



Coffee cakes like those pictured here are part of our food history. These delicious coffee cakes were baked by Gen from a recipe shared by John Dickman. For the recipe and more, see the story on page12.