



THE TOWPATH

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NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
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MEMORIES OF NEW BREMEN IN THE 1950s

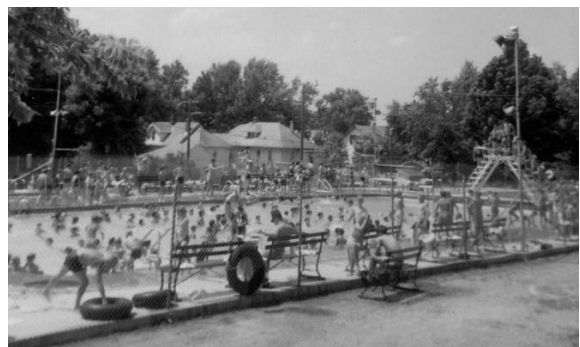


Corner of Monroe & Washington Streets



PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL - NEW BREMEN, OHIO

Plum Street



SAFETY PATROL - 6TH GRADE (1949-1950)

BACK: Ferd Wint, Molly Wehrman, Elden Smith.

FRONT: 1) County Supt. Schumacher?, 2) Jim Kiefer, 3) _____
4) Ed Conradi, 5) Jack Dicke, 6) Bill Ritter, 7) Tom Dicke, 8) Joe Ritter,
9) Robert Rump, 10) John Poppe, 11) Garry Schroer, 12) Myrl Smith.



Dolly delivering Milk

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

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NEW NBHA LIFE MEMBERS
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 Jim & Teresa Wente
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MEMBER DEATHS
 08/08/2024 Milton Boesel, Jr. (LM)
 09/10/2024 Louise Pullins (LM)
 09/12/2024 Lois Dicke (LM)
 09/30/2024 John Dickman (LM)
 10/19/2024 Howard Fark (LM)
 (CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

DONATIONS
 Dennis Klinger, Jack & Beckie Dicke, Nancy Brucken,
 Robert & Brenda Klein, John & Kathy Dicke, John
 Brucken, Sauerland Foundation, John & Nancy
 Knost, James & Pamela Elking, Thornton Hole,
 Dennis Wint, Louise Davis, Lee & Rita Wissman.

Monthly Raffle Winners
October-\$100.00-Pam Elking (OH), \$75.00-Bill Poepelman (OH), \$50-John Wells (NB).
November-\$100.00-Brad Holdren (NB), \$75.00-Ned Conradi (NB), \$50.00-First National Bank (NB).
December-\$100.00-DebbyLunz (ID), \$75.00-Greg Bornhorst (NB), \$50.00-Tim Wourms (OH).
We sincerely appreciate your participation. All the proceeds help pay our insurance, utility, and maintenance bills. So, it is always a pleasant surprise when winners return their prizes.

Items recently donated to NBHA
 Louise Dicke’s baby buggy (*Sally Dicke*); Auglaize County Atlas (*Dianne Schwartz*); Dicke band stand (*Ned Dicke*); Small chair made by Wm. Luelleman, WWII letters written by Carl Luelleman, Correspondence school papers & Detective agency papers of Wm. Luelleman, 1915 piano receipt (*Diane & Nick Grilliot*); NB ads on basketball & football (*Greg Paul*); Dale Fledderjohn’s WWII Diary 1943-1945 (*Rex Fledderjohn*); German songs, German-Polish-English phrase book belonging to Katy Klein (*Steve Bertke*); Book “33 on Sunday” published 2023 (*Rich Gilberg*); St. Paul Sunday School Certificates 1930s (*Paul Poppe*).

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.

NBHA Membership Dues
\$25.00 per year (includes spouse/S.O. at same address)
Lifetime membership - \$250.00
NBHA, P.O. Box 73, New Bremen, OH 45869-0073

Visit our website www.newbremenhistory.org for more history information.



NBHA LETTERS & NEWS

I enjoyed receiving and reading the recent Towpath. A little reminiscing: I was surprised to see me and my sister Emily in the 1951 neighborhood photo. I would have been about six years old. I remember the Campbell sisters, Becky and Barbara. They lived in a small house on South Herman Street near the old elementary school. I loved to visit them because they had an amazing collection of comic books! Of course, I remember Janet and Carol Stueve and Joyce. We were neighborhood playmates for quite a few years.

In the article about the postal service, a mention is made of the Grothaus Building at the corner of Main & Monroe streets. As a little girl, I remember being told that our family owned the building. At that time, it housed the post office and a photography studio on the first floor, and the town's telephone switchboard on the second floor. As a young woman, my mother Katherine Rabe Grothaus worked a time as a switchboard operator. This would have been in the early 1920s. When the town switched to dial phones and the switchboard was shut down, my mom took Emily and me there to witness the shutdown. I think this would have been in the late 1950s.
-Julia Grothaus Zerbe (Colorado)

Library Renovation 2024



The Grand Reopening of the New Bremen Public Library was held in September. The Patron-Focused, Community-Minded Renovation is a wonderful addition in New Bremen. Please stop in and visit the Library.

Paul Poppe, NBHS Class of 1948, donated his St. Paul Sunday School certificates to the NBHA, saying... *I hope they will be of interest to today's generation regarding community traditions years ago. Also, I always look forward to the Towpath. It is great. Warmest regards, Paul.*

Paul is retired now but he holds the title of the oldest fulltime employee in the state of Washington. (For more information, see *Towpath* January 2017.) It was wonderful hearing from you, Paul!

We welcomed a group of Kuenzel Family Visitors to our museums in October.



Dan Kirby, Angie Kirby, Cooper Chung, Liz Mericle Bell, Andree Mericle.

Thank you for allowing us to visit your wonderfully preserved homes on October 12th. My great-grandfather & great-grandmother were Ewald & Myra Kuenzel. It was amazing seeing all your historical things. And giving us a drawing of Kuenzel Mills was icing on the cake! God bless you! Sincerely, Liz Mericle Bell (Texas).



NBHA Trustees Don Gagel, Max Fledderjohann, & Dennis Dicke welcomed the St. Henry 4th graders to Lock One, New Bremen in October.

...Thank you so much for sharing all about the canal and lock with us! We appreciate your time. St Henry Fourth Grade.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, MARCH 17, 2025



Annual Dinner March 2024

The NBHA Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at the American Legion, Post 241, in New Bremen. Dinner will be served at 6:30. Tickets will go on sale February 1, 2025, and can be purchased from any NBHA Board member.

Our speaker for the evening will be **James J. Scheer**.

Please mark it on your calendar and plan to attend.

James J. Scheer was born in 1948, the son of Lucille and James H. Scheer. He spent his childhood growing up in New Bremen. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1966 and went on to study at Wright State University and graduated in 1970 with a degree in Education. He enlisted in the Army and then spent 18 months in Ft. Hood, Texas, serving in the First Armored Div. and the First Cavalry Div., achieving the rank of Sergeant. He received the Army Commendation Medal.

He entered the Ohio State University College of Law and graduated in 1975. He practiced law for ten years in Celina until he became the Municipal Court Judge and served in that position for over 32 years. He retired in 2018.

Annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Lockkeeper's House

For the Annual Christmas Tree Festival at the Lockkeepers House, **Karen Eckert, (NBHA Board Member)**, decorated a lovely tree featuring vintage items that might be used in baking Christmas cookies. Hope you had a chance to see it!



Kay & Myra Dabbelt enjoying the Tree Festival.



Thank you, Karen, for the historical decoration of the Christmas Tree. And for the pictures!

Remembering John Dickman

We are sad to report that John T. Dickman, a life member of the NBHA, who has had a grand time for 96 years and has told us many stories, died on the last day of September 2024.



John Theodore Dickman, age 96, of Delaware, OH, passed away Monday, September 30, 2024. He was born in Hamilton, OH, on October 27, 1927. He was the son of the late Reuben and Eleanor (Purpus) Dickman and brother of the late Dr. Charles H. Dickman. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Sue Evelyn (Thrasher) Dickman; children, Ann Cason and William Dickman; grandchildren, Lucas and Henry Dickman; and nephews, David (Barbara), Michael (Becky), and James (Krista) Dickman.

John graduated from Fork Union Military Academy (1945) and The Ohio State University (1950). He received his MS from OSU (1957) and PHD in physiological chemistry from OSU (1960), and taught chemistry and physics at Urbana (OH) High School from 1950-1953. He served in the U.S. Army (Korea) from 1953-1955. John retired from Chemical Abstracts Service after 30 years, as Senior Editorial Advisor, in 1990. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, and past president of the Association of Earth Science Editors. John and his wife enjoyed growing, exhibiting, and judging roses and were engaged in local, state, and national activities of the American Rose Society (ARS). He wrote a popular Q&A column in the ARS magazine American Rose for 20 years. He was awarded the District Silver Honor Medal and received the ARS Klima Gold Medal for excellence in rose education.

John was a life member of the New Bremen (OH) Historical Association, Harmony Lodge #8 F & AM, and 32nd degree Scottish Rite, Valley of Columbus. He was a longtime member of Upper Arlington Lutheran Church where he served as lector for more than 30 years. In 2009, he and Sue moved to Willow Brook at Delaware Run retirement community in Delaware, OH, and cherished the time there among new friends...Interment will be held at a later date in New Bremen, OH.

Though John did not live in New Bremen when he was older, he had wonderful memories growing up in this special community. According to his wife Sue, "He felt very connected with a soft spot in his heart for his hometown and the people who live there."

The Dickman family moved to New Bremen in 1933 when John was 6 years old. He gathered many experiences growing up surrounded by friends and family. Early on he shared his talent as a storyteller as seen by this SUN newspaper article:

Mayor's 10-Year-Old Son Leaves for Solo Visit with Wisconsin Relatives

Master John Dickman, 10-year-old son of Mayor and Mrs. R. H. Dickman, South Franklin Street, isn't losing any time seeing the world on his own. He left New Bremen this morning for Chicago, accompanying Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Schroeder, South Main Street, to that city. At Chicago he plans to board a train that will take him to Marshall, Wisconsin, where he will be a guest in the home of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin H. Dickman. Naturally, he's looking forward to having a grand time-and won't he have the stories to tell his chums when he gets back. (New Bremen Sun 7/8/1938)

More of these growing up in New Bremen experiences were shared in two books John wrote. The first book entitled "A Taste of Tradition," 1998, remembers his youth in New Bremen in the 1930s and 1940s by way of the foods of the day in an 86-page booklet of memories and recipes. One of the recipes he included was for a favorite breakfast memory-peanut butter rolls. These are the same rolls that Ivan Fark used to bake and sell in his bakery on North Main Street. A second book "Recipes and Reminiscence-Culinary Memories of a German Heritage" followed in 2001. (Excerpts of this second book were printed in The Towpath, April 2024. This book is available for purchase from Amazon.)

John was also a great supporter of the NBHA Annual Dinner Meetings consistently making the trip from Columbus to attend. He was the featured speaker in 2001 telling of his visits to Germany. Again, in 2018, he and Edith Wissman shared memories of the old high school.



Sue Dickman, Donna Conradi, John Dickman at an NBHA Annual Dinner Meeting

Just as John had many happy memories of New Bremen, we also have happy memories of him sharing his talents with the NBHA. We appreciate his generous contributions over the years as a supporting member, speaker, and writer.

John's obituary shows he had a very full life with many areas of interest, and we were fortunate and privileged to be a part of it.

LETTERS FROM CARL W. LUELLEMAN WHILE SERVING IN THE ARMY DURING WWII

We were happy to receive items donated to the New Bremen Historic Association (NBHA) from the Grilliot family. The items included letters written by Carl William Luelleman during his Army service in WWII.



**Ida & William Luelleman with their children
Helen Quellhorst, Margaret McDermitt, Catherine
Grilliot, Richard, and Carl. (1942)**

(For more information about the Luelleman Family: The Towpath January 1998 & April 2021. More information about the Luelleman House: The Towpath January 2023)

Born in 1908, Carl lived on Main Street in New Bremen. He was born and reared in the house that is now the NBHA Museum. At age 34 years he was pursuing a career as an electrician when his number was drawn for induction into the army after the third draft registration was carried out in February 1942 during WWII. Ten men from New Bremen were called for induction into the Army in March 1942: Howard Weinberg, Carl Luelleman, Richard Kettler, Eudine Waterman, Richard Rupert, Robert Bienz, Chester Ley, Herbert Benedure, Richard Dammeyer, Richard Ahlers. *(New Bremen Sun 3/26/1942)*

Carl was inducted into the Army at Camp Perry, Ohio, on March 27, 1942. He entered as a private and was given credit for his civilian occupation. This allowed him to move quickly up to Tech-4th Grade.



His basic training was at Camp Hulen Texas along with several other men from New Bremen who had also been

inducted at Camp Perry. He wrote a letter to his sister Catherine (Luelleman) Grilliot about his adjustment to army life:

It almost seems like months away from home since I'm in the Army, yet it is only 13 days today...I hope it is not so windy tonight for we thought the top of our tent would blow off any minute. It rained and hailed today but now the sun is out again...we are not able to leave camp as we are still in quarantine...We have so much clothes and equipment to keep in shape...keeps us busy. Every Saturday is inspection day. You have to display all your equipment and have your bed in tip-top shape. Lots of this stuff doesn't make sense but that's the Army for you. (letter 4/8/1942)

While at Camp Hulen he was assigned to the 435th coast artillery for anti-aircraft training. During his time there he experienced a Texas hurricane. Two very descriptive letters were published in the *SUN*:

The following descriptive letter was received a couple of days ago by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Luelleman from their son, Pvt. Carl W. Luelleman, who is stationed in Camp Hulen, Palacios, Texas. He tells his own experiences gained from days of watching and a night in a Texas hurricane. Here is what he says:

Dear Mom and Dad:

Friday night after supper we were told of an approaching hurricane and were confined to battery area and wait for any emergency. We were issued storm warnings before, but August and September being a hurricane season, we gave this a little more consideration.

At 12:30 a.m., Saturday, we were called and had to nail all doors shut on the vacant huts as the men that lived in these were at Indianola on maneuvers. Had to pick up everything that might easily be blown around and put inside. After an hour of this, we went to bed. All day Saturday it was dark and looked like it would break loose most any time, but it stayed calm all day.

At 6:00 p.m., Saturday night, we were called out again and told that it would strike sometime around midnight and that we were in the path of it unless it would turn. It was starting to rain, and we had to put on our raincoats and take the tops off the officer's tents. We were only out there about 5 minutes when it really started to pour; we all got soaked to the skin even with raincoats on.

When this was all done and the tops put away, we got orders to pack all our clothes, because the whole camp was to be evacuated. By this time the wind was starting to blow very hard. We got loaded about 10 p.m., 30 men to a truck, all standing, and the canvas tops rolled back to keep them from blowing off and to cut down wind resistance of the truck. About four miles out of camp, we met a battery of men marching out. Where they were headed for, I do not know. We were lucky at that to have a truck even if it was the most horrible ride I ever had in my life. The rain pouring down and the wind blowing at times that it would force the truck to one side of the road.

We drove 50 miles from camp, and it was 12:30 a.m. when the truck was parked. This was just an open field, and a number of trucks were already there. There was no shelter whatsoever for us, we did pull the canvas top of the truck back to keep most of the rain off but had to stand all night until daybreak. The wind was terrific all night and at daybreak we

were all one tired, hungry and half-frozen bunch of men. We were parked about ½ mile from Edna, Texas. Three of us got permission to go to town as we wanted a good cup of hot coffee to warm us up. It was a job walking as the wind was still blowing hard, but we finally made it. As we got to town, the people were aware of the soldiers parked out there in the field, and all were more than willing to assist us even though their own town felt the effect of the storm. One gentleman stopped his car as we were walking down the street and begged us to go to breakfast with him. He bought us each a bacon and egg breakfast with good hot coffee, and boy, that sure hit the spot! Before we were finished, he brought in 12 more men and ordered breakfast for them.



Carl Luelleman in uniform.

His regiment has returned from maneuvers, and is again stationed in Camp Hulen under date of September, he says,

Hello Mother and Dad:

Sorry I didn't write the last two nights; have been just too busy, and besides it is hard to write by candlelight. Usually we work till dark, and don't know yet if we will tonight or not. It is 6:15 and anything can turn up from now till dark. Most of the men went on an eight-mile hike, last night after supper, but I had to do something else to get out of it. I got the letter little Anna Mae wrote for you, last night and it was the first one since Monday. Did not have mail call yet tonight, and our mail service is bad here.

We started back to camp after seeing the damage done in the town, and by this time the wind was calming down considerably. The sun soon came out and dried the ground enough so we could lie down and get a little rest. At 5:00 p.m. we broke camp and started back for Hulen. Coming near Palacios, we could see boats and rubbish in all the fields and knew then that our camp was well hit. It was too dark to see the extent of the damage in camp that night and there were no lights in camp. We unloaded all the equipment, washed and had supper which they made by candlelight and then went to bed.

We did get a break, Monday morning, and did not get up till 7 a.m. I did not think there would be school but to make sure I went down anyway. As I left the battery area, I could see a hut in the middle of the street near the Radio school and knew that things were in a mess. The whole south end of the camp is a total wreck, and there is driftwood by the hundreds of loads on the end of the camp. I have walked along the beach many a time and never at any time saw any driftwood that had floated in. Where all this came from, I don't know.

There had been eight inches of water in our huts, and what a mess that was. The water was all gone when we came back to camp but it left 2 inches of mud in our huts. Jellyfish even stayed back when the water left, and they started to smell bad. We all worked hard to get things in halfway decent shape, Monday. I don't think there is a building in camp that didn't get part of the paper roof torn off. One hut in our battery went completely flat. There are quite a number of big buildings that went down too. The wind is not the only danger about these hurricanes as usually the tidal waves come in too.

Even after being soaked and cold for 12 hours I feel O.K. and everyone else seems so too. The fellows that were at Indianola came in today and everything went flat there. They had to march 14 miles to get to shelter. They went to Victoria which is also an army camp. The roof of the building they were staying in blew off and they had to get into a different one.

I hope everyone is O.K. and will try to keep a regular letter schedule again. It was impossible the last few days. Your son, Carl (New Bremen Sun 9/10/1942)

Writing from Indianola, Magnolia Beach, Texas, where his regiment had been on maneuvers, Pvt. Carl W. Luelleman tells his folks about his daily duties in camp and gives a picture of things in general around Camp Hulen after the terrific windstorm about which he wrote in a former letter.

...

Sure is windy here now, and I have a job writing as the paper always wants to blow away. You ought to see the waves coming in on the beach, it sure looks swell. Our tent is only about 150 feet from the water's edge. Tuesday night a few of us walked to Magnolia – it is just a small grocery store about two miles up the road. Well, the road leading there was a macadam road, but tidal waves from the hurricane practically washed the whole road away. Some places you can't see any of it. No cars can travel it except they follow the beach and travel on the sand.

Hope you had a good time in Indiana. You should go oftener if you have the opportunity. That's about all the news for now. If you don't get a letter every day you will know I didn't have time to write. Am OK and hope you are too. Your son, Carl (New Bremen Sun 9/24/1942)

His next post was Camp Barkeley Texas. This was a large training camp for infantry and supply troops. We have one letter from this camp. In this he states:

...Am rather glad to be here and miss a lot of the cold weather you have there. But then again, I'd much rather be home and out of this all together...mail has been irregular...it is no wonder...a camp of this size of about 70,000 men and if each would average 10 letters, look what the figures would be then, let alone the packages...

...Today is my 9th month in the Army, time went fast considering everything we have gone through up to now. You know I expect to see you all soon, unless something turns up which is not impossible... (letter 12/27/1942)

Carl left the United States on April 29, 1943, and arrived in North Africa May 17, 1943. His next letter was dated May 27, 1943, and was a V-Mail.

Last night I got the newspaper for the first time here. It was almost like being at home. After I was through with it, I took it over to Dick Dammeyer, as he enjoys reading it, too...Have been to the beach several times. The water of the Mediterranean sure looks beautiful... (letter 5/27/1943)

Then in June a letter to his parents was shared in the SUN:

North Africa, June 20, 1943

Dear Dad: It's been nearly a week since I've had any mail. I suppose when it comes it will all be at one time. This seems

rather early, but by the time it gets there and just doubt whether it will be near the date of your birthday. I want to wish you a happy one and many more of them. Enclosed find present, with which you can buy what you want; it is hard to get anything here. The 5 francs note, enclosed also, is equal to a dime in American money.

Was in town this afternoon for a short while. The French people are the most hand-shaking bunch of people I ever saw. Every time they stop to talk or meet someone, they greet them with a handshake. This morning was the first time I saw one of the R.R. trains. Gosh, but they seem small against those in the states. The cars seem only about one third size. It's a narrow-gauge track job. The engine was run on a turn table and a couple of men pushed it around by hand.

Have seen a good number of prisoners of war. A couple of days ago we took a hike up and around one of the prison camps. From the looks of the men, they seemed well pleased to have been captured. The sea is very calm today and it's seldom that it's very rough at all.

I saw Dick Dammeyer a few minutes ago but did not talk to him long as he had to leave on truck again. That's the first time I saw him in a week or more. He lives about a mile from me. The last few days have noticed the heat more than other times. It's not near as hot as you might expect it to be. Will have to sign off now. I'm fine and hope this finds you all well and whatever you do, don't worry. It's lots better here than in Texas. Tell everybody I said Hello. Your son, Carl (New Bremen Sun 8/5/1943)

Another letter was published on September 9, 1943:

Dear Mother and Dad:

Well, this is Sunday night again. We just finished our supper, and it was a good meal. It's been a few days since I wrote you last and since then we have moved to a new location. On the long trip we had we spent the night of Dad's birthday near Algiers but surely hope to be able to be with him on his next one.

We are several miles from a small town or rather what's left of it. It looks like it went thru an awful battle. Near here is also a large hill where one of the last battles took place. It is said it looks there as the day the battle ended. The bodies still laying around and also all the equipment. The ground there is heavily mined and so many booby traps that it takes time to clear them out. Guards are at the foot of the hill to keep anyone from going up there.

We are in a large, bare field with no shade around except what you can get under a tent. We all have fox holes around our tents in case of an air attack but don't think there is much danger of that as I think they have their hands full on the other side.

Hope this finds you all well and don't worry about me. It's two weeks since we have had mail. Hope we get some soon. Your son, Carl (New Bremen Sun 9/9/1943)

The next letter is dated October 4, 1943:

...Well, it's about a month since I wrote to you last, but it seems like only a few days ago. I hope you are well, as for me I'm just fine... We have C-rations a lot over here. They consist of meat & beans, vegetable stew and hash along with this are a can of biscuits. The can also contains cube sugar, three pieces of hard candy, either coffee, lemon powder, or cocoa. One can of biscuits and one of the meals above is for one meal... At times we have U-rations which is enough for five men, three

meals each for one day. These are by far the best. They have to be prepared by us. Most of it only needs heating & adding water...

On October 23, 1943, a V-Mail did give his location as Italy: We are in Italy now and do like it real well...

He goes on to describe the land in a letter in the SUN:

Italy, November 11, 1943

Dear Mother and Dad:

Last night I had four of your letters but there are still a lot of the old series back. I suppose one of these days they will catch up with me. Yes, I do wish you could see all the things we get to see. The mountain ranges especially are beautiful and more so when the sun is about ready to set. The upper tips look gold-crested then. Little villages can be seen in the distance along the edge of the ranges and near the seashore... don't worry about me, I'm fine and O. K. Hope the same of you. Your son, Carl (Printed in New Bremen Sun 12/2/1943)

During this time his unit was involved in the Naples Foggia Campaign according to his military record. On October 1, 1943, Allied troops had entered Naples and secured its valuable port.

Carl Luelleman (on left) in Italy.

For Christmas 1943, he sent home a poem which was published in the SUN:



To Mother and Dad-
I won't be home this Christmas,
Mom and Dad,
To help you trim the tree,
Or eat the fancy turkey leg
You always saved for me,
I'll miss the morning laughter
And the happiness we knew,
But deep inside the soldier heart
A spot is reserved for you.
I won't be home this Christmas,
Mom and Dad,
No, not till Victory's won.
I'll say best wishes to the best,
Your proud and loving son-Carl.
(New Bremen Sun 12/7/1943)

The next campaign listed on Carl's military record was Rome-Arno. This campaign began in January 1944 once Naples was secure. The Allied goal was to push the Axis forces out of Italy. To do this the German line of defense, known as the Gustav Line, would need to be

broken. This was a series of fortifications across 100 miles of Italy built to defend the area around Rome. The Gustav Line was heavily armed with troops having guns, mines, and mortars sheltered in concrete bunkers. The line was not broken until May 1944.

During these months we have only one V-MAIL, an Easter message. But note that Carl has been promoted to Sergeant.

After D-DAY, Carl's V-Mail of June 9, 1944, says:
...Boy, I sure am tickled of the progress that is being made and that the new invasion was started. Have great hope now again that a person will get home sometime. It sure did look gloomy for a while...

It seems that after the D-Day invasion in France, Italy became the "Forgotten Front" as many troops and resources were diverted to France.

After the Gustav line was broken, Rome fell ending the *Rome-Arno* campaign. The German troops retreated north to a second line of defense known as the Gothic line. This line was also heavily fortified but had the added natural defense of being up in the Apennine Mountains. The campaign to break this line was known as the *North Apennines* and lasted from September 1944 to April 1945. Many battles were fought through "the winter in the mountains."

On October 3, 1944, Carl wrote a V-Mail in which he sounded discouraged:

...I'm not looking forward to being home for a long time. Things sure have changed in the past few months and never had figured we would do what we are doing now. The army sure does things that are hard to figure out...

The next V-Mail is dated January 21, 1945, and states:

...Well, it's been a long time since I wrote to you last, many things have happened in that time...and too busy to write...am glad we got out of the mountains when we did as there is plenty of snow up there now...



This letter shows a new address. He is now with the 473rd Infantry Regiment. This was a unit created in January 1945 from existing anti-aircraft units that were no longer needed to defend against German aircraft. The unit's name was the 473rd Infantry Regiment Combat Team and their nickname was Flakfeet.

As soon as the 473rd was formed, these veterans of AAA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalions) began training with infantry weapons and were not enthusiastic about their new assignment. This new infantry unit was assigned to fight in the *Po-Valley*

campaign, the last major offensive against the Germans in the Gothic line.

A V-Mail from Carl in February 1945 says:

...just hope that being home won't be too long. These Krauts sure are a bull-headed bunch...

During the time Carl's unit was engaged in this offensive, it took many battles through February, March, and April of 1945 to break the Gothic line and liberate this region of Italy. (A booklet entitled *Battle History 473rd United States Infantry World War II*, written by Jack F. Ramsberger is available online.) As this booklet states, it is a record of a relatively short period of combat by a relatively small unit in the Italian campaign. However, it is most important as a record of a memorable and terrible period in these soldiers' lives. On page 11 we learned... *There were more than 50 killed and 200 wounded in the 473rd between the 13th and 18th of April...*

Unfortunately, Carl was among those wounded. His service record states he was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 17 April 1945 in the European Theater.

In Nicola, Italy there is a plaque to the 473rd Regiment Memorial to the 161 soldiers killed in battle to liberate Terre Di Luni 5-25 April 1945. This area was part of the Gothic line of Defense and from these hill towns the line



ran down the PO Valley to Genoa the capitol of this region. The line was finally broken and on May 2, 1945, came the German surrender.

The last V-Mail from Carl was dated May 3, 1945, in Genoa and says:

...Have not been writing to you as I should have. For some time, we were on the go at all times and finally got them where they

gave up. Sure does feel good to be relaxed for a change. Don't think those left in Germany will last too long anymore but then there are still those darn Japs...

Sgt. Carl W. Luelleman left the European Theater on October 17, 1945, and returned to the United States October 30, 1945. On November 10, 1945, he left the Nichol General Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky for a 30-day Furlough to visit with his parents. On December 8th he returned to Louisville and was discharged from the Army at Nichol General Hospital on January 19, 1946.

He spent a total of 1 year, 3 months and 21 days in the USA and 2 years, 6 months, and 2 days in foreign service during his time in the Army.



Returning home, Carl became the third-generation owner of the family home, which is now the Luelleman House Museum. His father died in 1963, mother in 1964. Both parents remained in their home until their death. Carl sold the house in 1973.

In 1974, WWII veterans were notified that if they had received the Combat

Infantryman Badge while in service, they were eligible to receive the Bronze Star Medal. Carl applied for this medal and received it.

Carl died in 2006 at age 98 years. His family donated Carl's Army uniform and medals and they are proudly displayed in the Luelleman House Museum.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NEW BREMEN AND WWII

THIRD DRAFT 1942

John Zahn, local member of the Auglaize County Draft Board, as soon as totals had been summed up at Wapakoneta, Tuesday afternoon, called the SUN office and gave the information that Auglaize County had registered 1,673 men between the ages of 20 and 44. The draft board had estimated the possible number at 2,000.

Of the above total New Bremen furnished the names of 133 men, the majority of which appeared at the registration room in the City building on South Washington street before the noon hour. Twenty citizens had offered their services throughout the day from seven in the morning until nine in the evening, serving on a staggered schedule whereby some stayed on three hours at a stretch, but the majority only two hours. In the absence of John Zahn, member of the draft board, whose presence was required in Lima on some business matters, Mayor R. H. Dickman had kindly volunteered to act as chief registrar. The first one to register was O. H. Gilberg and that a few minutes before seven o'clock, and from then on till the noon hour the registrars were kept busy as bees while during the afternoon and in the evening, business was decidedly slack.

Those who had volunteered and without fee gave their services a part of the day and during the evening are, Mrs. Herman J. Laut, Mrs. J. M. Brucken, Mrs. R. H. Dickman, Mrs. J. C. Melchert, Mrs. Harold Opperman, Mrs. Cliff Harris, Miss Emma Marie Dickman, E. F. Erhardt, Harold Moyer, Earl Hegemier, Herb Dicke, Al Friemering, Les Blanke, Ivan Koeper, Herman J. Laut, Henry Dicke, Carl Quist, Walter Behm, Frank Buckloh, and O. C. Ruedebusch. (*New Bremen Sun 2/19/1942*)

DISCHARGED SERVICEMEN (1945)

Many of the former students of New Bremen High School have served their country and are back again in their respective homes. Many have returned to their former positions, while still others are pursuing new interests.

Those who have been discharged after serving in the **European Theatres** include: **Stanley Bienz, Robert Bienz, Karl Block, Paul Block, Jacob Boesel, Richard Dammeyer, Wilton Dicke, Louis Fark, Paul Froning, Warren Heinfeld, Frederick Kettler, George Knost, Orville Ruedebusch, Norman Ruedebusch, Victor Schneider, Calvin Steinebrey, Harold Tangeman, Chester Ley, Carl Pape, Howard Weinberg, Paul Wissman, John (Tom) Moeller, Harold Marshall, Arlon Greber, Eugene Woehler, Roger Scheer, Paul Boesel, Richard Fischbach, Frederick Huckeriede, Vernon Koeper, Israel Topp, Orrin Roettger, Eudine Waterman, Robert Waterman, Elmer Will, Verle Tangeman, Orville Dammeyer, Edward Laut, Mark Heinfeld, and Milton Brose.**

Discharged veterans of the **Pacific Theaters** are: **Roger Busse, Vernon Fark, Merlin Fischbach, Robert Isenbarger, Verlin Hirschfeld, Louis Landwehr, James Sunderman, Paul Lietz, William Richcreek, Robert Paul, Clarence Davis, Robert G. Hirschfeld, Walter Klosterman, Wayne Jordan, Lawrence Schwartz, Reuben Meckstroth, Paul Eschmeyer, Carl Henke, and Ralph Kuhlhorst.**

Howard Kettler and Thomas Kuenning are veterans of both the European and Pacific Theaters. Chester Quellhorst served in Bermuda and Frederick Maurer served in Trinidad. Richard Wissman and Richard Tontrup have returned after serving in Panama; Rodney Fischbach has returned from Alaska; and Preston Belton has returned from South America.

Those discharged after serving in the **United States** include: **Wayne Belton, Richard Black, Arnold Heinfeld, Wilbur Hegemier, Robert Schnelle, Carl Tangeman, Verne Bertke, Craig Ekermeier, Harold Meyer, Ward Pape, Robert Heinfeld, Steven Rust, Roman Stueve, Frederick Topp, Earl Meckstroth, Orville Fischbach, Warren Brockman, Marvin Sollman, Hubert Heinfeld, Vernon Roediger, and Norman Meckstroth.**

The above list is complete to the present date. We hope that soon all servicemen will be home again and NBHS eagerly awaits your return.

(New Bremen Sun 12/6/1945)

From Our Files - Articles that We find Interesting. Hope you Agree.

From 1919...

THE BLIND METHOD OF BUYING BY MAIL

One of the truest of the old sayings is that “a prophet is not without honor except in his own country.”

It is human nature to belittle whatever is familiar and to believe that anything that comes to us from a distance possesses some quality or feature that would not inhere in the same thing if obtained at home.

This sentiment has obtruded itself forcibly in the patronage which our town-people are according the mail order houses. In sparsely settled localities where transportation is bad and the crossroads store is the only emporium, it is conceivable that a better selection and a fresher stock might be obtained by choosing from a catalog.

But in a town like New Bremen that can boast of the population, progressiveness and splendid retail establishments to be found here, in every line, we can see no excuse for sending away for any article of any description whatsoever.

Some people consult a mail order catalog and buy “cash in advance”. They could get just as good a value and see what they are getting before paying their money, if they dealt with New Bremen merchants.

It is surprising that so many people who are careful in their expenditures in other ways, who never spend a cent foolishly or without knowing they are getting value received, are so ready to send their cartage, merely as a result of reading a description of an article designed to bring out all merits very vividly, while concealing all its faults.

Compare this blind method of buying where everything is against the purchaser and in favor of the seller to the open and above-board method of our New Bremen merchants. You go into their stores and select from actual merchandise – not from pretty pictures and flowery descriptions. You decide after firsthand comparison with various qualities.

And yet some people will buy their goods from mail order houses until they need something they cannot pay cash for, then they expect the local merchants to take care of them. New Bremen can serve you best.

(New Bremen Sun 11/7/1919)

New Bremen Can Serve You Best

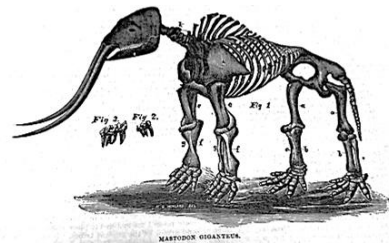
This article was first published in 1919 but is still relevant today. During the past 100 years we have seen many ways people can choose how they shop. They can

support local businesses or do blind shopping with their on-line competitors. In 2025 there are still advantages to shop local. First it is a quick convenient way to purchase quality goods. It also is a great way to support and invest in our local economy.

Our unique businesses define New Bremen, and we are proud of them. They have a positive impact on building a stronger community. By supporting them in buying local goods you also are supporting our community. Just as the article states, New Bremen can serve you best.

From 1913...

MASTODONS ROAMING IN OUR AREA?



Messrs. John and Eli Stofer of Minster gave this office a social call, Wednesday. The gentlemen are in possession of a part of a tusk of a mastodon giganteus which was unearthed in a pond on the north side of the Minster Star Brewery some four months ago. John Wiggenhorn is in possession of a molar tooth measuring 7 inches in length also unearthed there. This is the fourth mastodon unearthed in Auglaize County. The first was discovered in Clay township in 1870. The second also in Clay township in 1874. The third in Washington township in 1878. Using the words of Prof. Williamson: *the great mastodon of Ohio not unlike the elephant in its general outline, though somewhat longer and thicker. It had a trunk, tusks turned upwards, and four molar teeth in each jaw. It fed on herbs and not on flesh as first supposed.* *(New Bremen Sun 10/24/1913)*

We have often written about the founding of New Bremen by immigrants who were looking for land they could own and use as a means of making a living for themselves and their families. They found it necessary to hunt and gather food to survive.

In the mid-1800s they were certainly not the first to do this. If we go back in history thousands of years when this part of Ohio was covered by glaciers, it was then that the landforms we have in Auglaize County were formed. An example is the St. John's Ridge which runs through German Township and was developed by deposits left as the glaciers receded. Warmer temperatures caused the icy glaciers to melt and left not only ridges of sand and

gravel but also low-lying areas of ground which were perfect for growing vegetation.

Scientists think that as the vegetation grew it attracted hungry animals who moved into our area and made it their home. The largest of these animals was the mastodon, related to the elephant but larger. Mastodons were thought to have been about 10 feet tall and weighed about 7 tons.

Mastodon bones have been found in Auglaize County after being buried for over 1000 years. While the mastodon was hunting for food, it was also being hunted as food by the Native Americans who had also moved into the area. There is much evidence to show that the land in our area was quite useful long before the founding of New Bremen.

From 1953...



Ed Conradi (ca. 1953) with TV & antenna rotator.



Paul Lietz adjusting television antenna.

Television's Popularity

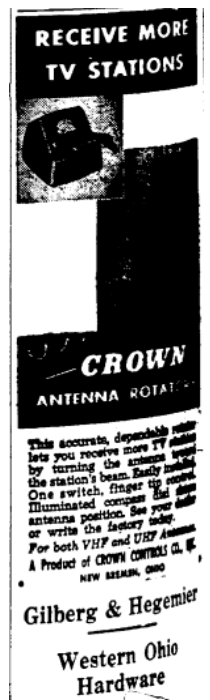
Television is enjoying the biggest boom in its brief history and has every reason to believe it will continue through the next few years. At the start of 1952, for instance, a total of 15,000,000 sets reportedly were in use. By the end of the year, however, the figure reached 21,000,000, an increase of nearly 40 percent. Phenomenal as it is, this expansion was realized even though more than one-third of the population still is without proper television facilities.

In 1952 there were 117 television stations on the air. Construction permits already granted by the government make it certain the number will be more than doubled in the next 12 months. For the first time, then, television programs will be carried to and from every section of the country. (New Bremen Sun 1/8/1953)

The TV and antenna rotator in the picture were purchased from the Gilberg & Hegemier store on N. Main Street. In addition, each home in New Bremen also needed a very tall antenna to receive the television signal. The antenna rotator turned the antenna in the direction of the signal coming from Dayton or Lima. Dayton began broadcasting in 1949 and Lima started in 1953.

In 1950 it is estimated that 9% of American households had a television. By 1955 the number of households with a television increased to 50%. By 1960 the number increased to 90%.

Gilberg & Hegemier, Western Ohio
Hardware advertisement
(New Bremen Sun 4/16/1953)



Antenna Rotators-Made in New Bremen-can be seen at the Luelleman House Museum

Class of 1955 - Memorable Moments

(New Bremen Sun, May 19, 1955)

When the seniors were asked, "What are your most memorable moments in grade school and high school?", their replies were:

Evelyn Bassler, "I remember when we played boys catch girls in 6th grade, and the time we shot paper wads in self-defense when we were in 7th grade and had to stay in six weeks during noon hours." **Lois Berning**, "Being mother of twelve children in the junior class pay." **Harry Brewer**, "Being patrol boy with certain problems and being accused of doing something during junior play practice that I didn't do for once."

Jim Cooper, "Getting fours on my grade card in sixth grade and playing Liberate in the junior class assembly." **Kenneth Dicke**, "Certain times in biology class and playing the part of Washington crossing the Delaware in the senior class assembly." **Shirley Fischbach**, "When I got Mrs. Kramer's hair net caught on my blouse button while serving at an FFA banquet." **Janet Fledderjohn**, "I remember having my dress torn from one side to the other while playing boys catch girls in third grade. It resulted in having to have pins sticking in me for the rest of the day. In high school it was when I received varsity cheerleading."

Ronnie Hittepole, "Falling off the merry-go-round into the bicycles and playing girls catch boys at recess in grade school. In high school I remember the day after a few of us went to Dayton to go shopping without permission from Mr. Houshower. WOW, what a day!" **John Hoffman**, "In the first grade when I plodded through big puddles of water with low-cut boots and then had to sit in front of the register for the rest of the afternoon to dry out." **Dick Howell**, "Getting a paddling in sixth grade for banging the seats down and in high school it was the time when I sprained my arm playing volleyball."

Bill McCollum, "Getting straight fours in second grade and making 24 points in a basketball game against the undefeated team of Russia." **Vivian Mohrman**, "Oh what a rough class we were in grade school and decorating for the Junior-Senior Prom." **Phyllis Nedderman**, "When we had to stay in and couldn't go to the movies because we shot paper wads." **Dave Paul**, "The increased number of girls that first day according to those in the small school of Kettlersville."

Emma Opperman, "Drawing pictures in the third grade. Also, the day I was playing volleyball and jammed my finger when hitting the ball. I practically fainted."

Don Poppe, "The results of cutting up my science book in third grade." **Ralph Quellhorst**, "The times I always painted Sally's hair blue instead of yellow. Also, when I went to the district contest in speech."

Stan Quellhorst, "The day Bob Baur and Dave Hott had an explosion in chemistry in my junior year. I now

know that there's only one way to work with acid and that's the right way or BOOM!"

Jim Rempe, "The first day of school I was the only one sitting on the desk with my feet on the seat. I didn't know it was backwards. In high school I remember being the victim of twelve children in the junior class play and the Junior-Senior Prom." **John Rinehart**, "When Dave Hott and I tried to make nitroglycerin in chemistry and also the last day of the fifth grade." **Richard Roediger**, "The day Dad said I could finish my last year of school in NBHS and when I had to stand out in the hall in second grade."

Dale Schaefer, "I fell out of the swing backwards and landed on my face and when I got my third varsity letter in basketball." **Kenneth Schroer**, "When I missed the prom because I broke my leg playing football. I got special service at the hospital." **Steve Schroer**, "An undesirable experience with Mr. Downing for leaving my book on the seat over a weekend in eighth grade." **Trudy Schwieterman**, "A first day of spring in grade school when we took off our coats to play ball outside and it snowed while in the process of playing. Also helping out at the grade school on several occasions as a student teacher."

Janet Westerbeck, "I was scolded for hitting Bill Campbell for pulling my pigtails in third grade. Being elected varsity cheerleader was my other one." **Lee Wissman**, "When I knocked myself out in the 6th grade by slipping on my heel plates and hitting the chalk trough." **Quentin Woehler**, "Breaking my kneecap while playing tapping in third grade. Memory of my freshman initiation stays with me too for it took me an hour and a half to clean up after it."



Class of 1955 in 2024



Class of 1955 Class Play

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Past issues of *The Towpath* can be read on our website.

www.newbremenhistory.org

Click on menu, then archives, and select the year you wish to read.

New Bremen Historic Association
P.O. Box 73
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See the tree that Karen Eckard
decorated for the Annual Tree
Festival. (Page 4)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Luelleman House &
Pape House Museums
Are open by appointment
Call a NBHA BOARD
MEMBER for an
appointment.**

**NBHA Annual Dinner Meeting
will be held March 17, 2025, at
6:30, New Bremen Legion.
Tickets will go on sale February
1st. Call any Board Member for
a ticket. The speaker will be
Jim Scheer.**