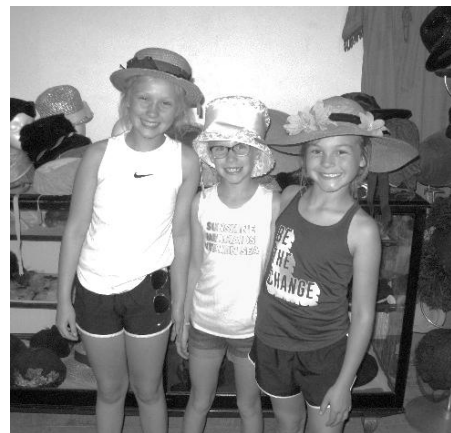
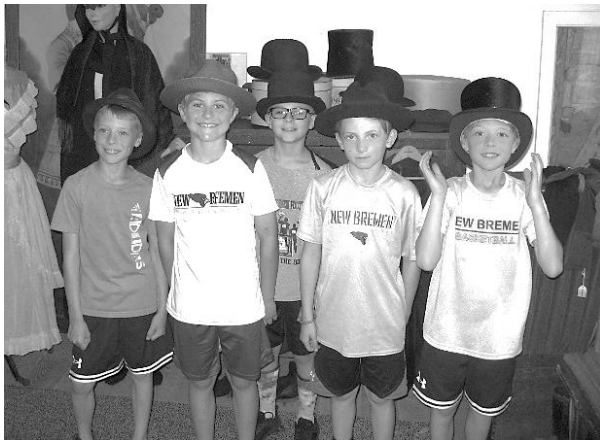


THE TOWPATH

Published Quarterly
January-April-July-October
NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
JULY 2025

NEW BREMEN THIRD GRADERS' ANNUAL HISTORY WALK AND VISIT TO THE LUELLEMAN HOUSE MUSEUM



Our visitors seemed to really enjoy interacting with these displays. Lots of smiles and joy!

Thank you to the teachers for introducing the students to New Bremen's history. Thanks to Dave & Tina Maurer and Don Gagel for guiding the tours. Thanks to Don Gagel for the photos!

“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.

NEW NBHA MEMBERS
Leroy & Paulette Pohlman
Vicki Blaser
Brad & Linda Holdren

NEW NBHA LIFE MEMBERS
Brad & Linda Holdren

MEMBER DEATHS
12/30/2024 **Jack Schnelle (LM)**
3/1/2025 **Arnold Heitkamp (LM)**
4/19/2025 **Steven Schroer (LM)**
(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

DONATIONS
Jerry & Sue Maxson
Martha Ewing
Diane D. Griesdorn

MEMORIAL DONATION
Jack Schnelle (by Jean Schnelle)

Monthly Raffle Winners
April-\$100.00-Ron Mueller (NB), \$75.00-Renae Gaerke (NB), \$50-Amy Jo Jessen (OH).
May-\$100.00-Margery Ziegenbusch (OH), \$75.00-Ron Stauffer (OH), \$50.00-Nancy Riethman (NB).
June-\$100.00-Benjamin Bergman (OH), \$75.00-Matthew Dawson (NB), \$50.00-Kelli Heckman (NB).
We sincerely appreciate your participation. All the proceeds help pay for our insurance, utility, and maintenance bills. So, it is always a pleasant surprise when winners return their prizes.

Items recently donated to NBHA
Boesel Bank Book, Deeds& Ins. Policy from 1800s (*Myra Hanenkratt*); Calendar1986 New Bremen Auto Parts (*Don Leugers*); Toy truck & manure spreader, Mueller Menswear light switch cover (*Ron Evers*); Medicine bottle-Schwieterman’s Drug Store (*Mary Moeller*); St. Peter’s Confirmation Photo 1935 (*Kathy Maurer*); High School mementoes of Martha Moeller May, yearbook, basketball programs, photos (*Lori Now*).

Answers for History Mystery Pictures of the Past (page 15).
#1. Betty Waterman McGowan, Orville Ruedebusch, Genevieve Nieter Klose, Leota Busse inside car. #2. Rabe house on S. Franklin St. #3. Ben Tangeman’s covered wagon with Harry Wiehe’s cow in 1933. #4. Amelia & Lambert Conradi. #5. An unknown couple out for a ride. Zion’s church on 2nd Street in the background. #6. “Queen” and the William Tostrick farm near Lock Two. (Page 16: Jim Opperman & Ferd Wint)

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Genevieve Conradi, Historian’s Scrapbook

Board meetings are held on 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 historical information.



NBHA LETTERS & NEWS

We were recently given a box of mementos collected by Martha Moeller May, a Life Member of the NBHA and a graduate of New Bremen High School Class of 1949. Her classmates were:

Dorothy Althoff, James Ashbaugh, Robert Bay, Sally Beinker, Lois Combs, Anna Mae Cooper, Don Dammeyer, Janice Dammeyer, Evelyn Dicke, Jean Dicke, Charles Dickman, Jo Ann Dietrich, Barbara Earl, Jack Friemering, Leona Harjehausen, Joan Hoffman, Carl Inman, William Klier, Martha Moeller, Ruth Mueller, Mary Lou Obringer, Thomas Purpus, Lowell Quellhorst, Paul Quellhorst, Alice Rodeheffer, Gloria Roediger, Stanley Schroer, Don Schwieterman, Earl Sollman, and James Wiegars.

Martha was an active and busy student in high school. The *Crimson & Gold* page in the *New Bremen Sun* newspaper described her activities in an interview in her senior year:

If any of you have torn a book recently and tried to mend it yourself, you know what the librarians have to go through every time one of the students gets careless. They also check out books, put books in the proper places as they come in, and take inventory every year. One of these librarians is Martha Moeller. Besides all the duties as librarian, she was one of the Varsity cheerleaders, is treasurer of G.A.A., and is in the specialty chorus of the operetta "The Waltz Dream" to be given in March.

Martha was born in our fair city of New Bremen on September 29, 1931. She is a Senior this year and is taking Shorthand, Typing, Public Speaking, History, and Home Economics. Her majors are Commercial subjects and English.

Martha keeps a scrapbook in which she says she puts anything and everything. But that is what makes a scrapbook interesting. She will go to any party when she hears there will be ice cream and barbecue sandwiches for lunch. Her one great dislike is conceited people. Cracking gum and popcorn in shows is also very distasteful to Martha. This especially holds true when Jane Powell and Dana Andrews are starring in the picture for then she can't concentrate fully on the movie.

After school and Saturdays, she works at Taylor's Studio. After graduation Martha intends to learn photography. So, in several years when you get married, remember to get your wedding picture taken at the Moeller Studio. (The New Bremen Sun 2/17/1949)

The box contained many items relating to her school years from elementary through graduation. One of her earliest mementos came from her classmates when they

were studying poetry in their early elementary years. These budding poets wrote:

Jack

Jack would be a sailor
Sail the ocean blue
But nothing else to do.
-Martha Moeller

Flop

I was walking down the road
I met a farmer and a toad
The farmer laughed as the toad did jump
Then the farmer stumbled over a stump.
-James Ashbaugh

Baseball

It's spring and baseball time is here
The happiest time of all the year
To see the great Lombardi run
To me is sure lots of fun
And when McCormick hits the ball
The other team is sure to fall.
-Charles Dickman

Mary also kept track of her classmates over the years and pictures at each of their reunions. Below is a picture of their 50th reunion in 1999.



Seated: Joan Hoffman Sunderman, Molly Kuenning Brown, Gloria Roediger Wagner, Leona Harjehausen Hansel, Anna Mae Cooper Hudson, Ruth Mueller Henning, Lois Combs Wissman, Dorothy Althoff Moehlenkamp. **Middle:** David Nedderman, Charles Dickman, Jean Dicke Dickman, Janice Dammeyer Urson-Smith, Martha Moeller May, Donna Topp Harmeyer, Evelyn Dicke Werts, Don Dammeyer, Jack Friemering. **Top:** Earl Sollman, Tom Purpus, Lowell Quellhorst, Don Schwieterman, Stanley Schroer, Paul Quellhorst, James Ashbaugh.

We thank Martha Moeller May's daughter, Lori Now, for sharing this memento box with us.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HELEN!

Helen Tangeman with her daughter-in-law Terri Tangeman.

Helen DuBois Tangeman was born in Lima and grew up in Auglaize County in Washington Township on a farm. She attended school in New Knoxville where

she and her sister were cheerleaders for three years. She graduated in 1940 and then studied nursing at Lima Memorial Hospital. She married Harold Henry Tangeman in 1942. They had five sons, Richard, Ronald, Timothy, Anthony, and Michael. Richard and Michael are still living. Helen has 12 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild with another on the way.

A longtime member of the NBHA, **Helen will be 103 years old on July 7, 2025.** She gives the Lord Jesus Christ the credit for her long and happy life. She is pleased to share this information with our readers.

BARN RENOVATION PROJECT

William H. Luelleman, a brick mason, emigrated in 1866. His wife Anna Catherine arrived in New Bremen in 1867. They purchased the house in 1868 and added a brick summer kitchen in 1870. Their three children were born in this house – Henry, William H. F., and Alvina. The father William H. Luelleman died unexpectedly in 1890. The son Henry soon moved to Fort Wayne and married. The younger children remained with their mother. William H. F. was almost nine years, and Alvina was just four years. The mother retained the large house but built a smaller one at the east end of the lot for them to live in. In 1901, William H. F. married Ida Heinfeld and they moved into the large house. William H. F. added a barn. Built for storage and as a workshop, the barn also later became a garage for their automobile.

Since the NBHA acquired the property in 1973, the barn has been used for storage of donated items. Trustee Carl Roediger was responsible for taking on the project to upgrade the building so the items could be stored safely. He did work on the windows and siding and made a place for displays. It was a great improvement to the original structure but there needed to be more improvements to make the space climate controlled.

So, in 2025 the NBHA Board set aside donated funds to complete the renovation. The completed project will make the Luelleman barn into a climate-controlled area that can be used to safely display donated items. Since space is limited a committee of board members has been tasked with the development of a plan for items that will be displayed. We will keep our members updated on the progress.



NBHA Board members Dave Maurer, Craig Hoffman, & Don Gagel removed items to prepare for barn renovation.



The building has been rewired, the walls ready for insulation, and the floor prepared to accept a covering.

REMEMBERING THE DEDICATION of State Route 66, New Bremen-St. Marys, October 31, 1961

A printed program of the Dedication of State Route 66 from 1961 reminded me that if you were born after 1961, you may wonder why we have State Route 66 and county road 66A between New Bremen and St. Marys.

Older residents remember well the winding road, now called 66A, carried motorists to and from St. Marys and New Bremen and was the original State Route 66, established in 1924, until the new section of the road was dedicated in 1961.

This road had been a trail and was part of the Auglaize Trail or portage trail from Piqua to the St. Marys River in early days. South of Defiance, the route followed the former Miami & Erie Canal

Traveling north, the old route entered New Bremen on Washington Street and then turned left, heading west, on Monroe and crossed the canal over a large bridge. The route turned right onto N. Main Street and continued north until reaching Pearl Street and then turned left. At the end of Pearl Street, the route turned right, crossing the railroad track and passed the bowling alley that was built during the 1950s. The route then continued to St. Marys.

The 1961 Dedication Service for the new section of State Route 66 began in New Bremen. Rev. Lewis G. Fritz offered the invocation. The Division Deputy Director, Plez M. Gastineau was introduced by Mayor Lloyd J. Laut. Remarks by Mr. Gastineau were followed by an address by Ralph J. Lehman, representing the State Highway Director. A ribbon cutting by Mayor Laut and W. Westerbeck, President of New Bremen Civic Association then took place. The New Bremen Band under the direction of Eugene This played the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Benediction was offered by Rev. Wilbur Jorgenson.

A caravan from NEW BREMEN then traveled to ST. MARYS to continue the service. A Dedication like the New Bremen Dedication was held in St. Marys. Emil Limbacher served as Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Henry Ausdenmore offered the invocation, Mayor H. Hollman introduced the officials Plez M. Gastineau and Ralph Lehman. The Ribbon Cutting in St. Marys was performed by Mayor Hollman, former Mayor Lewis Sittler, and Miss St. Marys-Faye Lietz. The St. Marys High School Band under the direction of Russell E. Willke played the *Star-Spangled Banner*. Rev. Howard Poetter offered the benediction.

Interesting facts were printed on the paper program for the Dedication:

- The ceremonies marked the completion of Project No. 34-60.

- The cost of construction was \$1,345,406.88.
- Construction length of 7.442 miles.
- Project was awarded to Vernon Nagle, Inc. and Carl F. Gerken & Sons, Napoleon, OH and called for grading, draining, and paving with asphaltic concrete on an aggregate base.
- There were six structures including a grade crossing elimination of the New York Central Railroad over State Route 66.
- The project had a pump station with pumping equipment.
- Starting at New Bremen and extending to St. Marys, this improvement required excavation of 143,626 cubic yards of earth and a borrow of 59,539 cubic yards.
- 70 acres were seeded, 5,280 feet of guard rail constructed, 21,144 feet of Right-of-Way fence built, and 41,079 feet of drainage pipe used.

A MARKER TO COMMEMORATE THE TOWN OF AMSTERDAM

The NBHA, with the assistance of the Historical Society of Auglaize County, submitted an application to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for a marker to honor the “lost” town of Amsterdam, Ohio. This town was platted and settled in 1837 but abandoned in 1849 during the cholera epidemic and largely forgotten for many years. After careful research the application was approved by the Pomeroy Foundation and a marker was awarded. It will be placed on the site of the former town, near the canal and water tower on Amsterdam Road as a reminder of the lives lost but not forgotten. Dedication of the sign will be 11:00 A.M. on June 14, 2025.

For more information about the town of Amsterdam, read the *Towpath* January 2024.

PAPE HOUSE MAINTENANCE TASKS

New blinds have been ordered from and placed in the Pape House by Gilberg Furniture. Our goal is to maintain the Pape House in a balance of old and new. Using modern methods to keep the historic furniture in the best possible condition.

The NBHA board also approved a trimming of the majestic maple tree near the porch of the Pape House.



LODGING IN NEW BREMEN

As New Bremen was platted and divided into 102 lots, the center of the plat was designated as Main Street and was along the established Auglaize Trail, later known as State Route 66. Main Street became prime real estate for the developing town. Within the first five years, Carl Boesel had opened a general store on the northeast corner of Main Street and Plank Road (what is now Monroe Street).



Boesel & Kunning Dry Goods Store (124 W. Monroe Street) was built in 1864.

When the Miami & Erie Canal opened in 1846, this brought prosperity to New Bremen. During the 1850s many more structures were built to serve the needs of the residents but also the increasing number of visitors. Other businesses soon followed, and N. Main Street became the first business district.



Northern Fire Company (111 N. Main Street) established 1857 and Town Hall.

A Fire House was built on lots 9 & 10. The second story of the Fire House served as the Town Hall for many years. Today this is the site of the U. S. Post Office.

The first hotels were built along Main Street. One of these was the Laut Hotel. This old building still stands south of the Post Office.



Laut Hotel (109 N. Main Street) was built in 1853.

C. W. Dicke owned and operated the Dicke House hotel in the early 1860s to the late 1870s. In the 1880s this hotel was owned and operated by Alex Bourquin and was called Hotel French.



The building on the left is the Dicke/French Hotel (ca. 1860-1889) at 26 N. Main. (Demolished in early 1930s)

An old-time hotel was built at 119-121 N. Main Street by J. Albert Lehmkuhl. The two-story structure was built in 1846, and a three-story addition was added in 1858.



Lehmkuhl Hotel (Barth's Flats) 119-121 N. Main Street just north of the Post Office and bank. (Demolished in 1983)

The Lehmkuhl Hotel was a favorite stopping place for farmers who engaged in butchering hogs in the

wintertime from Dec.1 to Feb. 1. They came from as far west as Fort Wayne, Indiana in horse drawn wagons. The Lehmkuhl family extended ideal hospitality to their patrons and thus prospered for many years. The property was sold to William Barth in 1905 and became known as Barth's Flats.

Across the street at 112 N. Main Street is another structure dating from 1855. In its 170-year history this building has been used as a brewery, pork-packing warehouse, general store, and a residence. More about it later in this article.



Iron & Rind 112 N. Main Street

The canal also brought a business boom along Washington Street in Ober Bremen. The American House Hotel was a popular place to stay.

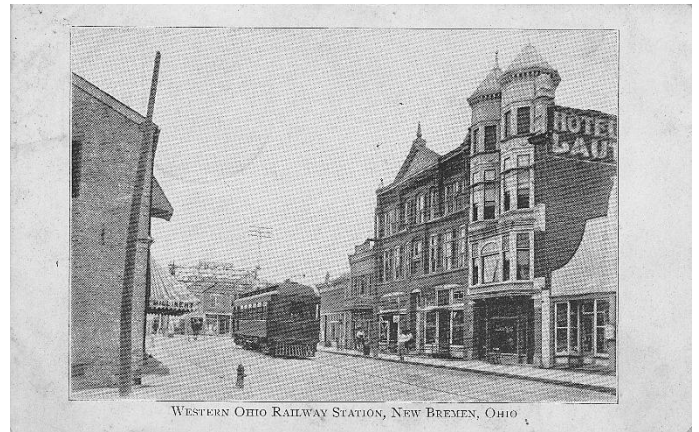


American House Hotel (1880-1985) on S. Washington Street. (Demolished 1985)

It was also at this time that a business district was opening along Monroe Street. A place of lodging, Hotel Central, was built in 1896 at 17 West Monroe Street. The name was changed to Hotel Laut in 1903. In 1915 the name was changed again to Hotel Hollingsworth. It was operated as a hotel and bar until 1952 when the lodging rooms were closed, and it became the Hotel Bar.

In the 1980s the Hotel Bar and Restaurant was owned by Duane and Alice Hartwig. Now owned by Crown Equipment, the 17 West restaurant can be found there.

As the canal was closing, another business brought travelers to town. The Western Ohio Railway interurban tracks were laid following State Route 66 in 1902. The 1904 Business Directory lists two hotels in New Bremen, the Hotel Laut on Monroe Street and Main Street House on N. Main Street.



Hotel Laut in 1904 became Hotel Hollingsworth in 1915.

In 1950, an article about the resurgence of country hotels, written by Bernard J. Losh (feature writer for the *Dayton Daily News*) was printed in the *New Bremen Sun*. He believed that the traveling salesmen had favorite hotels that they stayed in and described New Bremen's Hotel Hollingsworth to make his point:

It was built in 1891 by Henry J. C. Laut. It changed hands several times, now being operated by Mrs. Eleanor Hollingsworth, her son, William, and her daughter Mrs. Corrine Schnell. There are 22 rooms, some with bath, others with only beds and running water. There are timber buyers, well-drilling salesmen, hardware salesmen, hunters who want to get an early start in the nearby fields, leather salesmen, stopping at the hotel now as they have done for the past quarter of a century.

They still use the hotel as headquarters while they are in the vicinity only now instead of renting a horse and buggy to make their calls they use their automobiles. They don't like things changed too much. They know the curve of the rocking chairs in the lobby and they like the homelike atmosphere they find. They also like the cooking, a vastly important part of any hotel's operation but almost a prime one with the small ones.

When the Hotel Hollingsworth closed there was no commercial lodging available in New Bremen for over 70 years. Now in 2025, we have the Iron & Rind, a modern lodging experience, owned by Amy & Troy Grillot. Check their website at www.ironandrind.com. The hotel is located at 112 N. Main Street in the updated and repurposed 1855 former brewery, warehouse, and residence and has once again made lodging available in New Bremen.

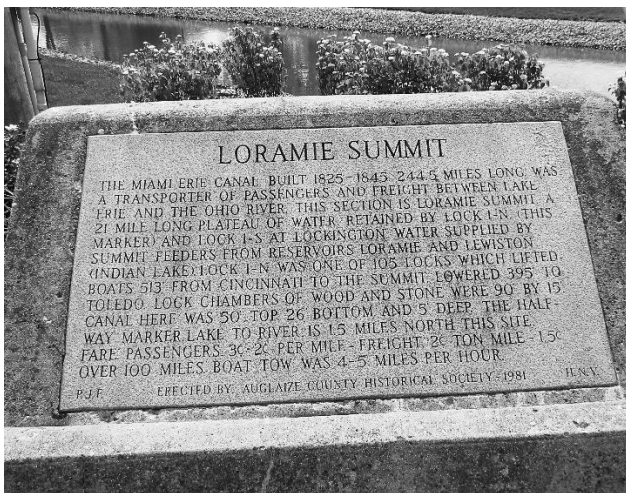
WHERE THE WATER GOES

Part 1. Miami & Erie Canal

By Johanna Schroer

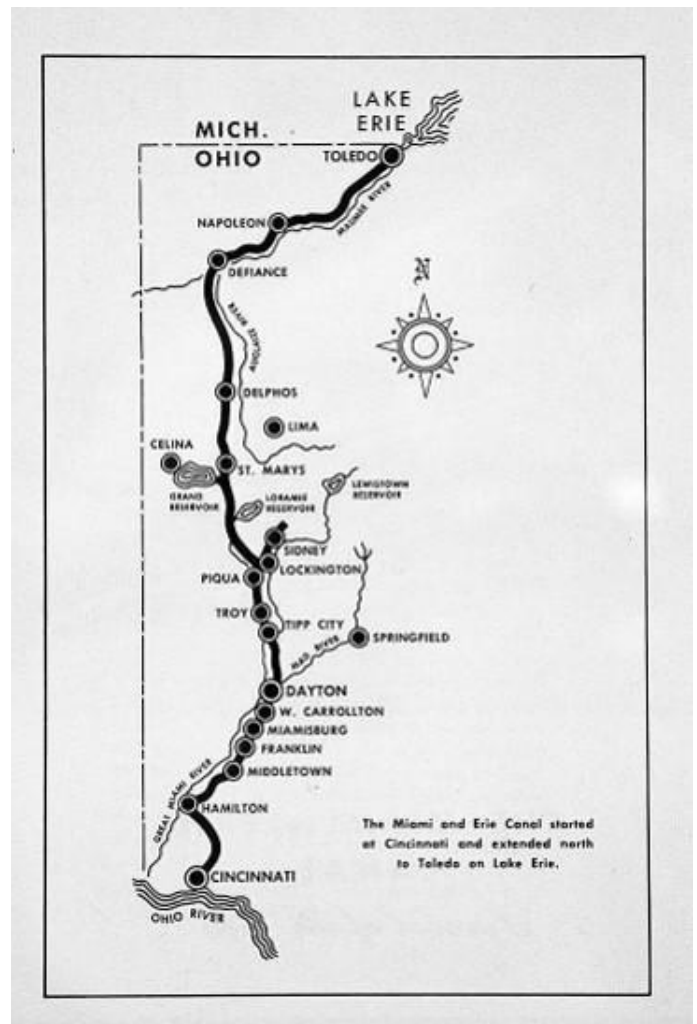
Where the water goes is determined by ancient geology. In our part of Ohio, this specifically is the result of glacial movement. As glaciers advanced and retreated, landscapes were formed. The Loramie Summit landscape is an important feature of the plan for the Miami & Erie Canal.

Plans for the Miami Erie Canal were in full swing by 1825 when Cincinnati finally connected to Middletown. Soon, the canal was extended to Dayton. The planners intended to extend the canal to Lake Erie at Toledo and had to overcome some high ground at the center of the route, a long high spot called the **Loramie Summit**.



The Loramie Summit, formed by glacial deposits atop older bedrock, is an elevated ridge. Engineers used this natural high ground by constructing feeder reservoirs, Grand Lake St. Marys, Lake Loramie, and Indian Lake to supply water to the summit. These man-made lakes were strategically placed in depressions left by glacial activity, using the region's ancient geology to ensure a consistent water source for the canal's operation. Without this water supply on the elevated summit, the canal could not have functioned as a continuous waterway from Lake Erie to the Ohio River.

The construction of the Miami and Erie Canal between the Loramie Summit and the Maumee River was completed by 1845. This section of the canal went northward from the high point at Loramie Summit near New Bremen and ultimately to Toledo. This is a region molded by glacial activity and ancient bedrock formations, requiring careful consideration of elevation, water supply, and soil conditions.



The Miami and Erie Canal was able to cross the Loramie Summit, a 21-mile-long plateau between New Bremen and Lockington, because of its relatively flat terrain and the maintenance of a steady water supply. At the highest point along the canal's 274-mile route, near Amsterdam Road in New Bremen, the Loramie Summit is a natural divide between the watersheds of the Ohio River to the south and Lake Erie to the north. The trail we now know as Ohio State Route 66 between the Great Miami River to the St Marys River was used by natives for centuries as a portage trail, where they carried their canoes to get from one water system to the other.

The Loramie Summit section was designed to be a long, level stretch of canal that maintained a constant elevation without locks along its 21-mile length. This allowed boats to travel smoothly before the descent either southward to Cincinnati or northward towards Toledo.

The success to passage at the Loramie Summit was ensuring an adequate water supply, as the plateau lacked a natural river or stream to feed the canal. At this elevation, water had to be artificially sourced and maintained to keep the canal navigable. Gordon Mitchell, in his article "Ohio's Canals," writes...

...To provide water for the canal in the summit and its adjacent sections, 5 reservoirs were proposed, but only 3 were built. The Loramie Summit received water from the Loramie Reservoir (present-day Lake Loramie), which was completed in 1843, and from the Lewistown Reservoir (present-day Indian Lake), via the Miami River and the Sidney Feeder Canal, which was completed in 1852. The Sidney Feeder Canal was 18 miles long and had no locks. Both of these reservoirs would provide water from the summit to as far south as Dayton.

North of the Loramie Summit, the Grand Lake St. Marys Reservoir was built to provide water for the canal as far north as the Wabash and Erie Canal. Until Hoover Dam was built in the 1930s, Grand Lake St. Marys was the world's largest man-made lake...

The reservoirs were fed by local streams and rainfall, with control gates regulating the flow into the canal. Excess water could spill southward toward the Ohio River watershed or northward toward the Maumee River, maintaining a delicate balance to keep the summit level operational.



Grand Lake St. Marys is located just west of the canal near St. Marys. This massive artificial lake was originally called the Mercer County Reservoir.

Lake Loramie was positioned southwest of the summit. This smaller reservoir was built by damming Loramie Creek, part of the Great Miami watershed. A feeder canal linked it to the main channel, providing an additional water source near the center of the summit. Like Grand Lake, it relied on the region's glacial topography of low-lying areas that could be flooded to store water for the canal. The feeder canals exploited natural low spots and streambeds formed by glacial retreat, ensuring that the canal remained operational even during dry times.

At the northern end of the summit, at New Bremen's Lock One North, the canal began its descent toward the Maumee River via locks and cuts. The Maumee River valley itself is a remnant of Glacial Lake Maumee, a proglacial lake formed as the glaciers retreated around



Lock One North in New Bremen, Ohio

14,000 years ago. This left behind a broad, low-lying watershed with swampy areas, notably the Great Black Swamp. This swamp occupying an area from Sandusky to Fort Wayne was 120 miles long and about 40 miles wide, before its drainage in the 19th century.

South of Lockington, a series of locks dropped the canal 67 feet over a short distance toward Dayton and the Great Miami River watershed.

The Loramie Summit, approximately 395 feet above Lake Erie and 513 feet above the Ohio River, represents an important divide in the landscape, marking the highest elevation along the canal's 274-mile route. North of the summit, the land gradually descends toward the Maumee River, which flows into Lake Erie. This descent required the canal to drop 217 feet over 57 miles between New Bremen and Defiance, necessitating a series of locks to manage the elevation change. The gradual slope from The Loramie Summit to the Maumee River required 32 locks to lower boats over the drop. The canal's alignment along the Maumee River leveraged the river's glacial valley while avoiding the most impassable swamp sections.

The ancient geology of Ohio—its glacial plains, subtle divides, and wetland remnants—profoundly shaped the Miami and Erie Canal's construction between the Loramie Summit and the Maumee River. Engineers created a vital transportation corridor, linking Ohio's interior to broader markets. The Miami and Erie Canal passed through the Loramie Summit by creating a level, lock-free channel sustained by an ingenious water supply system anchored by Grand Lake St. Marys, Lake Loramie, and Indian Lake. The builders utilized the summit's glacial flatness to minimize excavation challenges while overcoming its lack of natural water flow with artificial reservoirs. This 21-mile stretch was a linchpin of the canal, connecting Ohio's northern and southern waterways by adapting to the region's unique geological constraints.

LOOKING BACK 80 YEARS TO 1945

That was the year WWII came to a close with a victory for the Allied Forces. The war was fought in two areas. In Europe against Germany and the Pacific Islands against Japan. Eighty years later it is time to honor and remember those who fought and died during WWII.

Victory in Europe came in May 8, 1945, when the Allies accepted the surrender of Germany's armed forces. As soon as the signing of the surrender document was announced, celebrations began, and the day became known as V-E Day.

In the United Kingdom it was declared a national holiday. King George VI and Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the nation. Churchill said, "God bless you all. This is your victory. In our long history we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best."



V-E Day in Paris, France.

In the United States, President Truman dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, President Franklin Roosevelt, who had died less than a month earlier. Great celebrations took place across the country. However, the celebrations were tempered by the fact the war against Japan had not yet been won. President Truman said in his speech that it was a "Victory only half won."

What was happening in New Bremen on V-E Day?

VICTORY IN EUROPE

BUT A FORERUNNER OF WHAT IS EXPECTED IN JAPAN IN NEAR FUTURE

Celebration In New Bremen Altogether In Proper Relation To The Earnestness Of The Occasion

Industry continued along the even tenor of its way, here and there a shop ceased activity for the day, stores and all retail business places were closed, and the citizenry of New Bremen Tuesday gave due respect to the magnitude of the task accomplished and brought to a

successful termination by the Allied forces in Europe. There was no boisterous celebration even though hearts were glad that the long wished and hoped for victory was finally proclaimed. Due respect was had in regard to the task yet remaining for the American fighting forces and our Allies over in the Pacific where we have been contending with a foe equally as atrocious in his practices as the one who has just been vanquished.

One-half of the greatest, bloodiest and costliest war in human history was brought to an end with the surrender without conditions of the Nazis to the Western Allies and Russia, after 40,000,000 casualties in killed, wounded, and captured on both sides had been recorded. Hitler and his cohorts – as if by magic – have vanished from the scene, allegedly having died a natural death, or killed in action in action by their own hands. They are all gone, suddenly as if the earth had swallowed them, no one seems to know where or when. But it is generally believed that retribution for their atrocities to their own and other people awaits them as sure as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

What it will in loss of life ad expenditure in money for war material can only be conjectured, before the last battle is fought, and the patriotic citizens of the United States may well plan to do more than ordinary investing when the Seventh Bond Sale starts. The Boys at the front are offering their lives, a few of us have offered donations to the blood bank, most of us have invested in War Bonds – but now as the final struggle begins it will mean more lives, more blood, more bonds! (The New Bremen Sun, 5/10/1945)

Not everyone in New Bremen agreed with the celebration decision, in the following letter to the editor of *The New Bremen Sun*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 9, 1945

Dear Mr. Conradi:

It made us feel sad indeed, yesterday on V-E Day, that there was such an apparent lack of community spirit to be seen in New Bremen in failing to celebrate, in some form, the great event-the end of the war in Europe!

There were no services in the churches as had been promised us many weeks ago while in all the neighboring towns and villages services were held. There was no ringing of church bells inviting the people to come and give thanks in some form. In fact, nothing was provided to bring the people together to share the joy over this long-awaited event, despite their hearts were full to overflowing with the wish to express their feeling of joy and gratitude. The only recourse left was to go to some other community for united church services.

Also, it would have been a splendid occasion for the school band to play and march through the town after

school, with all the pupils marching along and singing, but as it is New Bremen children have nothing to remember this outstanding day in future times. It does not seem like New Bremen at all to show such little initiative, such lack of spirit and imagination.

And is it not poor psychology to tell people whose hearts are overflowing with joy and gratitude; to curb their emotions until a certain date, days later and then allow them to celebrate? From a number of people, I have heard regrets that such an outstanding day had to pass by so silently.

Would you please publish these thoughts for the consideration of the readers of the SUN?

-Just one citizen (*The New Bremen Sun, 5/10/1945*)

In other news included in that issue of the *SUN* titled **News of our Men and Women in Uniform**, we found interesting information:

- *In a letter received from Richard Wiedeman Y 2-C, by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Emil Wiedeman, he informs them that recently he had occasion to meet Cpl. O. C. Ruedebusch and that together they enjoyed their evening meal at the Navy Headquarters. Then later in the evening they looked up Robert F. Kettler and then the trio had a pleasant evening together. Richard was stationed in Paris.*



Cpl. O. C. Ruedebusch, Y2C Richard Wiedeman, Sgt. Robert F. Kettler in Paris, France near V-E Day.

- *Misses Maud and Irene Ekermeier returned home Thursday after spending a week's visit with their brother and sister-in-law, Dr. And Mrs. Ernest Ekermeier and son, Edward, at Bainbridge, Md.*
- *A card from the War Department and a long-distance telephone call from her husband, Saturday afternoon, brought happy information to Mrs. Jacob W. Boesel that Lt. Boesel arrived in New York, Saturday morning last, and that he will be sent to some hospitalization center before*

receiving a leave to come home. It will be remembered that Lt. Boesel, some weeks ago was wounded in Germany and for several weeks had been in a hospital in England where he recovered in part from severe injuries to his right hip, but as the sight of his left eye has not yet been restored, he is supposed to have a course of hospitalization.

- *After a silence of about four weeks the Edwin Fark family received word from their son, Vernon, who before was somewhere in the South Pacific, that he is now on the island of Okinawa in the Ryukusa Group not far from Lakya. "And," says Vernon, "It's plenty hot and it's far from being over with."*

(The New Bremen Sun, 5/10/1945)

Who's James Cassidy?

He is the first war correspondent to see German soil with advanced units of America's Third Army and to give a WLW short-wave report on the vivid demonstration which he witnessed.

He reported the first eye-witness account of the initial shelling of Germany by heavy guns of the American First Army in Belgium. Speaking direct to the Nation's Station by short-wave he said the American attack in the Siegfried Line city of Bildchen was as if someone in Mt. Washington, Cincinnati, fired a Long Tom at Covington, Ky. It was no further than that.

He was the first reporter to tell of the American First Army's break through to the outposts of the Siegfried Line into the Nazi homeland, how he saw our sons and husbands and brothers moving ahead under artillery fire that crashed and exploded in the treetops in territory where even a foxhole is useless.

*Cassidy was in the thick of it all, once narrowly escaping death in a Nazi dive-bomb attack, **and Sunday, May 27, (1945) he will be at the high school auditorium in New Bremen** and tell as much as can be said in an hour. You'll want to listen to him for two hours.*

(The New Bremen Sun, (5/24/1945)

The name Victory in Europe Day was a recognition of the fact that the war against Japan was still raging in the Pacific. From May until August 1945 the emphasis was on the defeat of Japan.

Some Allied Forces in Europe remained as an occupation army. Many others were preparing for transfer to the Pacific Theater. This availability of reinforcements allowed the Allies to press Japan to end the war. In July they called on Japan to surrender but the Japanese government did not agree. It was not until major

devastation was caused by the use of two atomic bombs that they would admit defeat. On August 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito urged his people to surrender blaming the country's defeat on "the use of new and most cruel bombs."

President Truman announced the news at a press conference on August 15. He said, "This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor." Victory over Japan Day was declared and celebration began on Wednesday, August 15.

The official Japanese surrender document was signed on September 2, 1945, aboard the U. S. Navy battleship Missouri. At last WWII was over.

PROPER OBSERVANCE, YESTERDAY

Of America's Outstanding Victory Over The Most Treacherous Enemy Ever Met By Peace-loving Country

APPROXIMATELY 1200 PACKED ST. PAUL CHURCH

EQUAL NUMBER AT HIGH SCHOOL

Preachers, Superintendent, Mayor and Laymen Took Active Part in program

Following the official announcement from Washington of the acceptance of the United Nation's surrender terms by the Japanese Warlords, Tuesday evening accompanied by an expected noisy jubilation on the part of a good part of the populace, New Bremen, in conformity with the deep import of what the surrender of the most treacherous nation on the face of the globe will mean in the coming years to America and all the civilized world, beginning at 8:00 o'clock, Wednesday morning and lasting almost to the noon hour, carried out a program of proper observance of the historic occasion.

The celebration was introduced by divine services in the spacious St. Paul church, but before the introductory notes of the organ were sounded every seat in the auditorium and balcony and the folding chairs which were pressed into action as far as law and safety would allow was taken, and for about one and one-half hour the devout audience gave ear to the exhortations and admonitions of the Reverends J. C. Melchert, Theo. Papsdorf, and G. E. Brand, and joined in the singing of the church hymns. Thanksgiving, Penitence and Dedication were the themes the pastors had chosen for their meditations and their messages were well received.

From the church not a few hied to the grade school where many children had already assembled to join their elders in a pageant which moved over Franklin, Monroe, Washington, Plum and Walnut streets to the high school building where upon the spacious lawn, which has never served finer purpose, another program was rendered in which Walter W. Grothaus as committee chairman,

Mayor R. H. Dickman, Rev. Theo. G. Papsdorf, Rev. G. E. Brand, School Superintendent D. R. Bendure and Harris Sharp, commander of the local American Legion, had a part. Superintendent Bendure was the principal speaker. He delivered an address that had the ring of patriotism in it which should have been heard by every citizen of New Bremen and vicinity. Many in the large audience, at the conclusion of the program, pressed their way to the front to extend their personal congratulations to the school man for the excellent address.

In view of the fact that all preliminaries had to be arranged before an issue of the SUN appeared – V-J Day parleys having been begun after last week's paper was off the press – the members of the arrangement committee comprising Mr. Grothaus, Lee Harmony, Wilson Vornholt, Mayor Dickman, A. L. Kruse, U. J. Schwieterman and Postmaster Herman J. Laut, did exceedingly well in carrying out so well the plans necessary for the celebration. (The New Bremen Sun, 8/16/1945)

More than 16,000,000 Americans served during this war. Sadly over 400,000 service members lost their lives and an additional 600,000 were wounded.

This year as we observe the 80th anniversary of V-E Day and V-J Day it is important to note this is likely to be one of the last to include a significant number of WWII veterans. Reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs show only one per cent of Americans who served in that war are alive today. They are the last part of what has become known as the Greatest Generation. This name was certainly earned through their service and sacrifice in WWII.

NEW BREMEN AREA'S W.W.II CASUALTIES	
<small>[KIA=Killed In Action; DOW=Died Of Wounds; DNB=Died/Non-Battle] [MIA=Missing In Action; POW=Prisoner Of War]</small>	
* Listed in W.W.II Memorial Registry	
★ 10/18/1943	– David E. Koenig (KIA-lost at sea)
1/22/1944	(MIA) – Carl G. Wissman (POW-14 mos.)
★ 3/13/1944	– Frederick J. Luebke, Jr. (KIA)
★ 5/19/1944	– John H. Zahn, Jr. (KIA-lost at sea)
★ 6/20/1944	– Gerald L. Shaffer (DOW-6/22/1944)
★ 7/4/1944	– Donald H. Mohrman (DOW-7/7/1944)
★ 7/7/1944	– John C. Coss (KIA)
★ 7/11/1944	– Richard L. McNett (KIA)
★ 7/27/1944	– Warren K. Knipple (KIA)
10/5/1944	– Dorothy Wittenbrink (DNB-Cadet Nurse)
11/5/1944	(MIA) – William J. Koenig (POW)
★ 12/3/1944	– Vernon H. Dickman (DNB)
★ 12/ ? /1944	– William Thieman (DOW-12/14/1944)
3/13/1945	– Richard Kettler (Wounded)
3/15/1945	– E.J. Halsema (POW-killed by U.S. bombing)
★ 5/26/1945	– George W. Gensler, Jr. (DNB)

MAKING SOAP

In this century most soaps are made commercially. Soap companies make their products for specific purposes such as bathing, laundry, and house cleaning. New Bremen area pioneers did not have this luxury. Their soap was home-made, and the same bar soap was used for all types of cleaning.

Our pioneers made soap from fats and lye just as it had been done for thousands of years. The science of making soap is the combination of fats with a base alkaline such as lye to form a salt called “soap.” This chemical reaction is a process called saponification – the word literally meaning “soap making” or “turning into soap.”

Soap was often made after butchering using the saved fats of tallow or lard. We can learn more about traditional soap making from two New Bremen family sources. The first is a recipe used by three generations.



Hilda Eckstein Niekamp (1926-2022)

RECIPE FOR HOMEMADE SOAP

7 ½ pints of water
2 cans of lye (8 oz. each)
8 lbs. of clean melted lard

Pour water into a one-gallon crock and add the lye (being extremely careful with the lye.) Stir it well. Caution, it gets really hot.

Then let it cool until the water is lukewarm. When it is lukewarm, add the clean melted lard and stir with a wooden spoon until it drops like honey. (May need a larger crock.)

Line a rectangle cardboard box with newspaper and place a clean cloth over the papers. Pour the mixture into the lined box and let it set for about 8 hours. Then cut the soap into blocks.

The next day, turn the box over, remove the paper and cloth, and separate the blocks of soap so that they can dry.

The blocks of soap can be grated and used to wash laundry or dishes.

This recipe was donated by Bob Niekamp, the son of Cletus & Hilda F. Niekamp. The recipe was used by Hilda, her mother Teresa Rammel Eckstein (1896-1944), and her grandmother Margaret Lieser Rammel (1874-1955).

The second recipe also has a long family history. It is from Dorothy Nuesmeyer Hertenstein (1928-2010), her mother Frieda Hehr Nuesmeyer (1898-1982), and her grandmother Christine Zahn Hehr (1867-1939)



Dorothy Nuesmeyer Hertenstein (1928-2010)

HOW TO MAKE SOAP

Submitted by Dorothy Nuesmeyer Hertenstein.

Take a stone jar and add 1 quart rainwater and 1 Tbsp. borax and stir. Then add 1 can of lye and let cool.

Add 5 lbs. of melted lard or tallow and 4 Tbsp. of bottled ammonia. Stir until as thick as honey. Pour into pasteboard box lined with heavy paper or cloth.

When cooled, cut into squares.

When my Mom made home-made soap, my sister and I were not allowed to be near. She made the soap in a room between our house and the summer kitchen. Our kitchen's back door had a big window, and we could look through the window to watch her make the soap. When she was finished, she would pour it into cardboard boxes. When it was cold, she would cut it into bars. She used this soap to wash our clothes.



Pumpkin Growers Aim to Break Own Record

By Lori Osterloh Hagaman
Sidney Daily News, September 20, 2010

Five years ago, the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin growers got together to start a new tradition. This new tradition brought the establishment of the Pumpkinfest to the New Bremen area. To celebrate that very first year of the festival they baked all kinds of pumpkin goodies. The biggest of these baked goods was one large pie – so big that it set a world record. That record setter was 12 feet in diameter and weighed in at a whopping 2,020 pounds.

Since that time, the annual Pumpkinfest has seen such events as giant pumpkin tossing, pumpkin boats, and pumpkin go-carts. This year, to commemorate that first huge pie five years ago, the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers decided to once again break the record set by the 2,020-pound pie in 2005.

“The event takes about a year to plan,” said Greg Reynolds, the group’s treasurer. “We put the wheels in motion right after last year’s event. There are seven guys in our group. Each one has their own area of expertise.”

This year the group decided to make the pie 20 feet in diameter. The weight, of course, is unknown until the final weigh-in of the pie.

According to Reynolds, “There is fundraiser going on right now at the Celina Eagles. They are holding a Tailgate for Cancer and having people see how close they can guess the final weight of the pie.”

An undertaking this large takes quite a bit of effort. The group secured help from area businesses to make it all happen. Agrana Fruits in Botkins has agreed to assist in the mixing of the filling ingredients. A pie this size takes the following: 2,450 cups of pumpkin puree, 233 dozen eggs, 1,750 cups of evaporated milk, 525 pounds of sugar, 14 ½ pounds of cinnamon, 7 pounds of salt, and 3 pounds of pumpkin spice. After Agrana mixes all of this up for the group it will be transported back to New Bremen in eleven 55-gallon drums.

The oven to bake the monster pie began being constructed a few weeks ago.

“The oven is being constructed on the basketball court just north of the Crown Pavilion,” Reynolds said. “Wayne Building Supply in Greenville has donated over 1,000 cement blocks to build it.”

He went on to explain that once the oven walls are built, the roof will be added. The roof is constructed of sheet metal, and the entire structure is to be insulated. Regal Plumbing and Heating of Sidney has agreed to then install the heating elements and Moulton Gas is supplying the propane tank to fuel the set-up.

The 20-foot pie pan was specially made for the occasion.

“The pan is going to be made from three sections that get bolted together,” Reynolds said. “It then gets bolted on casters and whole thing rolls in and out of the oven.”

The foundation of any great pie is a great crust. This one is no different. The crust has been made by Susan Krieg. Krieg runs a bake-to-order business called The Pie Shell in New

Bremen that specializes in pies, cookies, decorated cakes and wedding cakes. Krieg said the task of mixing all the crust took about 32 ½ man hours.

“I mixed the crust up in five-pound batches. I rolled them out in 15- by 10 ¾-inch sheets that are ¼-inch thick. Then I put those sheets in a box with 17 sheets in each box. There are 440 sheets altogether.”

Krieg stored all of the pie crust sheets in the walk-in freezer at Howell’s IGA. She said the crust dough will be transported to the park in a portable fridge and will be thawed about two hours prior to being laid out in the pan.

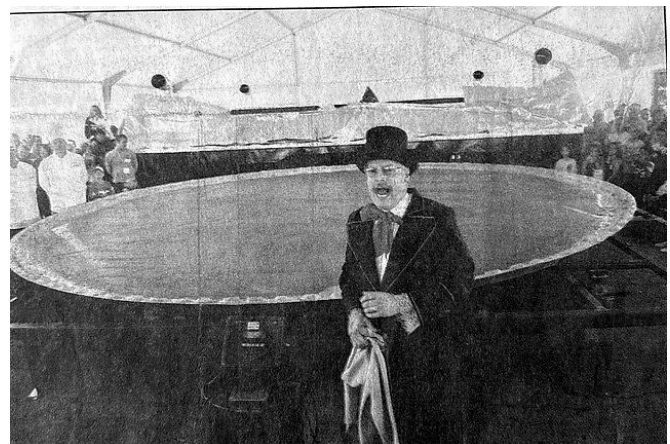
“I have a small group of volunteers helping me, all decked out in food-safe, hazmat-type suits, to lay out the crust and seal the seams,” she said.

This pie isn’t just for looks either. The group will be selling pieces of the world’s largest pumpkin pie for \$2 a slice.

“The Health Department has cleared our undertaking so that the pie will be safe for all to consume. The last one was great!”

Other pumpkin-based foods will be available at the event for purchase as well. The Wooden Shoe Brewery is scheduled to have its Pumpkin Ale available at the festival again this year.

A big screen is going to be available on the grounds so the attendees can watch the OSU game and more...



(SDN Photo/Luke Gronneberg)

Vernon Bergman reveals the weight of a 20-foot-wide, 3699-pound pumpkin pie baked in New Bremen at Pumpkinfest in 2010. The massive pie took over 13 hours to bake in a specially made oven. The New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers also made the previous world record for pumpkin pie in 2005 with one that measured 12 feet wide and weighed 2,020 pounds.

Last year marked Pumpkinfest’s 21st year. There will be no Pumpkinfest in New Bremen this year. According to a Facebook post, the committee voted to cancel the fall festival due to a lack of members to help organize the event.

History Mystery

Pictures from the Past!



#1. Conversation on Poplar Street. Can you name them?



#2 A well-known house in New Bremen. Can you identify the location?



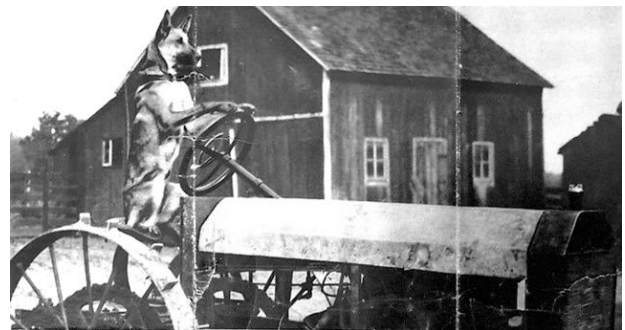
#3. Ben Tangeman's covered wagon with Harry Wiehe's cow are ready for New Bremen's Centennial Parade. What year was that?



#4. Smiles after a day's work on the farm. Can you name them?



#5. Do you recognize the building in the background?



#6. "Queen" is ready to drive the tractor. Whose farm is this?

(Answers on page 3.)

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



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IN THIS ISSUE

- Annual Visit by Third Graders
- Martha Moeller May Mementoes
- Happy Birthday to Helen Tangeman!
- Remembering Dedication of Rte. 66, NB-St. Marys
- Lodging in New Bremen
- Where the Water Goes
- Looking Back 80 Years to 1945
- Making Soap
- New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers/World's Largest Pie 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

**FIREMEN'S PICNIC
July 25-26, 2025**

**BREMENFEST
August 15-17, 2025**

**VISIT THE
The Luelleman House & Pape House Museums
4TH SUNDAY IN APRIL – SEPTEMBER
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.**

**OR
Open by appointment
Call any NBHA BOARD MEMBER for an
appointment.**



Can you name these boys on their tandem bicycle in 1948?