

THE TOWPATH

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NEW BREMEN HISTORIC ASSOCIATION
October 2021

We are rich in history and so every three months we try to bring you a little news about our history and the people who helped build New Bremen.

This quote from Towpath editor Marge Lietz in 1987 is still our mission today. Yes, our area is so rich in history that it has furnished material for our newsletter since 1975.

It doesn't seem possible that we've had the privilege of being **the editors for the past ten years**. That is 40 issues containing 640 pages of New Bremen's rich history.



One of the best parts of our job is that we have no assigned topics. We delve into any aspect of our history that peaks our interests. Researching various topics and preparing articles has proved fascinating and allows us to continue learning about our history.

In addition to research, another great part of our job is interviewing people who kindly share their stories and memories. Also, we are always happy to share articles and pictures from others about their New Bremen connection. Putting all these parts together gives us our newsletter with a combination of topics. We hope our readers find interest in every issue.

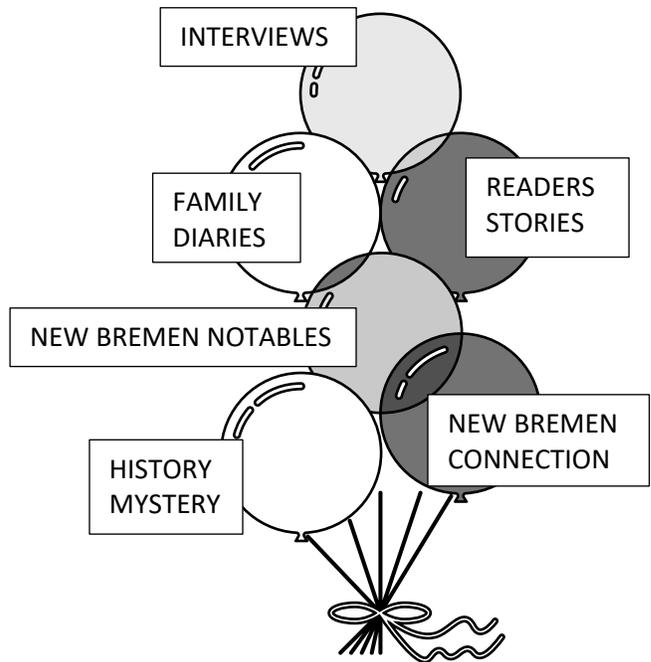
We are grateful for the solid foundation we inherited from our previous editors. The continuing support of our members from the oldest to the youngest readers makes our job an interesting adventure.

Genevieve Conradi

Joyce Ruedebusch



NBHA Newsletter Editors
1975-1977 Janet Fledderjohn
1978-1979 Rosemary Heitkamp, Betty Schroer
1980-1987 Janet Fledderjohn
1987-1996 Marjorie Lietz
1996-2011 Lucille Francis
Since 2011- Gen Conradi & Joyce Ruedebusch



We will continue our adventure of being the Towpath editors. Please send us your stories, memories, and suggestions for articles!

We would love to hear from you.

“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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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

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It is now possible for you to access the most recent issues of [The Towpath online](#). To do this we will need your email address to set up your account for online access. So, send an email to info@newbremenhistory.org and request online access. This email goes to Jack Gilberg, our webmaster, and he will set you up with a temporary password in a reply email giving you login information and instructions how to access the [Towpath](#).

NEW MEMBERS

**David & Judy Kelly
Monica Weiss**

MEMBER DEATHS

6/18/2021 **Alice Hegemier, LM**

7/13/2021 **Lois Moeller, CM**

9/6/2021 **Carol Paul, LM**

(CM=Charter Member LM=Life Member)

DONATIONS

Robert & Nancy Price

Harold Stammen

John & Merrily Hoffman

James E. Moore,II

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Dave Kuck by the NBHS Class of 1955

Monthly Raffle Winners

July-\$100.00-Sis Coenen (AK), \$75.00-Jerry Bambauer (NB), \$50.00-Randy Thobe (NB).

August-\$100.00-Brad Holdren (NB), \$75.00-Jim Opperman (NB), \$50.00-Dean Hirschfeld (TX).

September-\$100.00-Ed Doenges (NB), \$75.00-Linda Meyer (NB), \$50.00-Sis Coenen (AK).

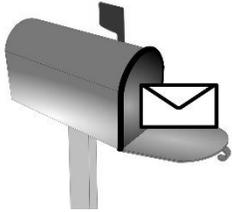
Thank you to all for supporting the raffle and an extra thank you to those winners who have chosen to increase the profits by returning their winnings.

Items Recently Donated to NBHA

Item made by Mary Ann Neuman in 1880, VHS tape Bremenfest, Eleanor Landwehr confirmation certificate by **Walt Schmitmeyer**, assorted American Budget items by **John Wierwille**, NB bowling shirts, deeds, Lion’s Club card, NB Women’s Club booklets by **Carol Hipple**, Northern Fire Department framed photo by **Mike Staton**, NBHS newspapers (1948-52) by **Doris Thielker Tangeman**, various NB items, newspapers by **Ned Scheer**, WWII Bible by **Max Fledderjohann**.



David & Judy (Boesel) Kelly visited New Bremen in July to examine her “Boesel Roots”. We enjoyed your visit!



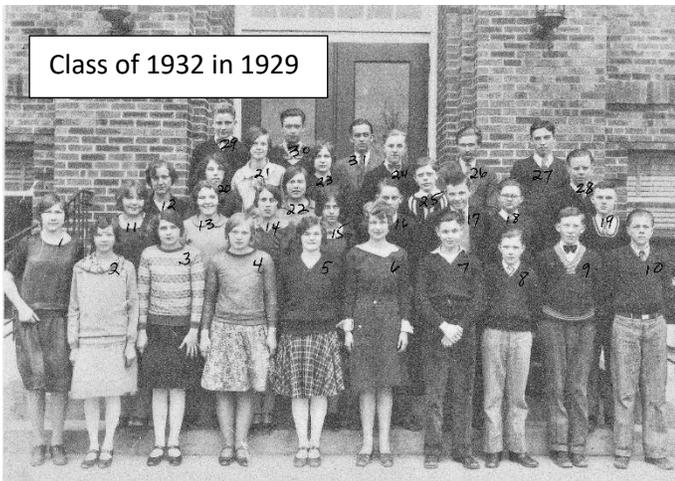
LETTERS

Dear Joyce, I enjoyed reading the Towpath article about your Uncle Paul and Grandma Lietz.

Of course, I remember both of them well. As kids, you and I would occasionally visit your Uncle Paul's woodworking shop, and he always treated us with kindness and a little amusement, I think. And if we passed through your Grandma's kitchen, she always had a pack of gum or a candy bar to give us. I didn't know Uncle Paul served in the Pacific during WWII. I wish I'd asked more questions. The photos are great. **Julie Zerbe (Colorado)**

The Towpath was very good as usual! What I remember about the Lietz's, that Dorothy Lietz Ruedebusch moved in with her mother while Orville was in Service. I think that Orville & Dorothy rented their home to Virgil Hirschfelds. While Orville was gone, Dorothy worked at a store in Piqua. When a sale was made, the salesclerk placed the sale bill and the cash into a container which was sent by a suction device to the cashier located on the 2nd floor. I was fascinated. **Tom Braun (NB)**

UPDATE ON Identification



Identified: 1-Gabriel Schaefer, 2-Selma Hoffman Geib, 3-Bertha Schowe King, 5-Louise Haines Dietrich, 7-Frederick Luedeke, 8-Don Kettler, 9-Verlin Egbert, 15-Viola Hirschfeld Headapohl, 16-Ralph Dietrich, 18-Harold Ahlers, 19-Webster Geib, 24- Richard King, 25-Stanley Bienz, 27-Louis Topp, 28-Woodrow Braun, 29-Thomas Laut, 31-Franklin Coss.

Thanks to John Hoffman for identifying Gabriel Schaefer and Selma Hoffman Geib. Thanks to Kathleen Geib Boykin for identifying her mother, Selma Hoffman Geib.

Below is an article from the *Community Post* (1996) written by Ivan Knapp to honor his friend Paul "Pickle" Lietz.

Good-bye, Pickle Lietz



This is one of my favorite pictures of the late Paul "Pickle" Lietz at work in his workshop. (photo by Ivan Knapp)

By Ivan Knapp

This article is a salute and a good-bye to one of the most interesting people I have met and had the pleasure of knowing. I want to say "good-bye" to my old friend, Paul "Pickle" Lietz, who I know was also a good friend to many of you across Postland.

I owe a big thanks to Norm Holcomb who encouraged me to take the time to meet Pickle and his wife, Margie. My life is richer for the times I spent with the Lietz's, numbered by time though they were.

The last time I saw Pickle was just about a year ago when I stopped by the Lietz's to do an article on the 55th reunion of the New Bremen Class of 1940. I bumped into this gala celebration at the Wooden Shoe in Minster when I was about to cover a story about Bill Cheslock's Screamin Eagles Baseball team.

A few days later I stopped by the Lietz's to have them help me identify the faces in the photos of the reunion class. Pickle filled me in on some of the antics that he and Ted Purpus used to pull, like the day they skipped school to go swimming.

Before I left, Pickle reached me a wood cutout of a New Bremen Cardinal, like the one he had made for his classmates. On the bottom it says, "Another Pickle Product." My wife took a likin to it and set it there in the kitchen window. Whenever I pass by and look at that Cardinal I think of Pickle and his wife and the positive influence they have had on me and a lot of other people.

I remember the story of how he became known as pickle--as a young boy Paul would stop at a restaurant having specials of six hamburgers for a quarter. Paul walked in and said, "Give me one of those pickle sandwiches with hamburger on it."

A skilled craftsman and furniture designer, Pickle always had time to share a story. The Lietz's pointed out that for years they never had a Saturday breakfast alone as folks stopped by waiting for Pickle to finish breakfast so he could get started on some wood project.

Pickle also told stories about the Klanke Furniture Factory where his father Herman began working when he was 20 years old. Later Herman became the superintendent of the business after the company had become the Auglaize Furniture Company.

Pickle was also an experienced photographer and developed slide programs on the history of New Bremen. Pickle said he got into
Con't on page 7

"Pickles"

Con't from page 1

photography when his mother made him throw out the short wave radio set he had built because she got shocked on it. With \$2.89 Pickle replaced the radio with his first dark room when he was 15 years old.

I remember Pickle telling me how he surprised all of New Bremen when he got married to Marjorie Gieseke Conradi. Pickle was 53 years old and he and Marjorie fooled everybody by tying the knot.

Pickle had a zest for living and

he enjoyed living in New Bremen where he used his cameras to record the history of his home town.

Wood craftsman, neighbor, friend, storyteller, historian, archivist, photographer, videographer. Paul Pickle Lietz was all of these and more. But most of all, friend.



Schwieterman Drug Store 1955 thru 1958

By Ron Baur NBHS Class of 1958

I enjoyed the article, by Rex Fledderjohn, and it brought back memories from my experiences of over a decade preceding Rex's employment. Dave and Corrine's influence on my life, led me to a successful 60-year career in pharmacy.

I had started working as a paper boy in the sixth grade and had an early morning (5:30 AM) route. The cold days of winter in New Bremen were certainly no fun. I had seen Mr. Westerheide in his nice warm milk truck driving down the same streets I was trudging with my load of papers and thinking wouldn't it be better in his truck. I knew his son had graduated from high school that spring and I asked him if he would like someone, who got up at 5:00 AM every day, to help him run the milk, cream, and butter to the front porches.



Henry Westerheide and his milk truck.

It did not take him long to hire me. I would work from 5:30 to 8:30 AM, Monday thru Friday, and 5:30 to noon on Saturday. He paid me 10 dollars a week, which made me the richest kid in the 6th grade. I kept this job until my freshman year. I was on the freshman basketball team, when at Christmas, the coach told my father he was moving me up to the varsity. In Ohio, at that time, a player was only allowed to play 5 quarters a night. I played 2 quarters on the freshman team, and then 3 on the varsity. I was still delivering milk in the morning and basketball practice from 4 to 6 PM, and then again from 7 to 9 PM with the varsity. The pace was so demanding that I knew something had to give. Obviously, it was the job.

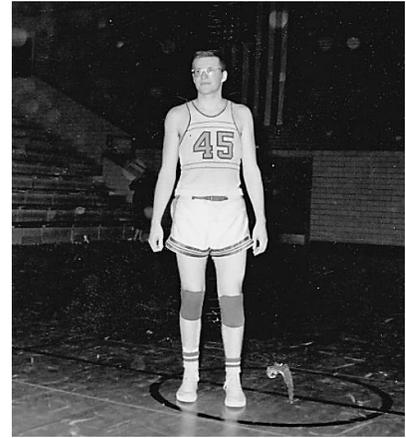
Having always worked, after basketball season I then set my sights on the Drug Store. Up to that time David and Corrine only hired girls, to work the soda fountain and other general clerking duties. I told Dave, that I could do the heavy lifting, bring the merchandize from the basement and sweep the oiled wooden floors as well. He asked me if I could drive, to be able to deliver any

prescription orders, I said no, but would be able to do so soon. (I was only 14 at the time).

Ron Baur in 1958.

My hours were to be after school and some nights, and like Rex would open the store at 8:00 AM so the kids on the way to school could get their hot chocolate. It worked reasonably well, with the exception of my practices and games. I became good at convincing the girls to switch hours with me, and usually would always work the weekends for any of the girls and my hours as well.

David, Corrine, Katie Knost, and Helen Schroer were working there, back in my day as well as Rex's. Dorothy Schroer, Helen's daughter was also working with two or three other girls. I do remember Barb Luedeke, Joan Fark, and Jeanne Braun. I was told I was the first boy, who had ever worked in the store.



Coach Carl Watkins and the team in 1958.

David was a friend, and mentor to me. I stayed in touch with him for the rest of his life. He also told me that he would not hire anybody that was into sports ever again after me. That was my legacy. I'm sure that the girls and Dave were not happy I had to miss much of my work schedule during basketball season.

It seemed strange that when I read Rex's story, how so much of his experiences were similar to mine. Yes, I engraved my name on the wall leading down to the basement, and would check for it, every time I visited over the years.

My classmate and friend Bob Gilberg, a very successful electronic engineer with many patents to his name in the earliest days of computers, has a new career

as an author and in his first book (*The Last Road Rebel*) he spelled out life in New Bremen in the 1950s. He covered every social group of our high school days, and did mention David, Ruth, Corrine, and the drugstore. I would like to take this time to elaborate on David, Ruth, and Corrine's influence on the town of New Bremen and my life.



Schwieterman's Drug Store in the 1950s

Corrine was one of the most wonderful human beings I have ever known. She lost her husband Urban, at a young age of a heart attack. Up until that time Corrine had been raising their family of two girls and two boys. David, the oldest, was in high school when his father died. Corrine took over the running of the drug store and continued to raise the family by herself. She hired a pharmacist and held fort, until David graduated from Pharmacy School and had served his time in the army.

In my Senior year of high school, my parents had moved to Missouri, and I convinced my mother to let me live with Dave and Corrine. The pharmacy had not expanded into the first floor of the adjoining residence. What was to become the expanded pharmacy were the living room, dining room and kitchen of their home.

Corrine, at that time, not only did the books, but worked full time in the drug store. They even had an extensive area in the basement devoted to wallpaper, and Corrine had to oversee this as well. My family paid the princely sum of 10 dollars a week, for room and one meal a day. Corrine worked late into the evening many days and about 4 days a week, she would give me 2 dollars to go down to Wints' for supper. Years later we would laugh at the 2 dollars a week, she made off her boarder.

It is amazing how so little had changed in the drug store from 1956 to 1969. Every experience Rex had, I also had experienced. One addition to Rex's story, was that hand packed ice-cream was by far the most popular ice cream in town, and whenever I was working the customers always asked for me to pack their pint containers. It took David a while to figure out why, they

asked for me. It was then he discovered that I was packing the containers so hard, and was getting all the air out, that the customer was getting almost 2 pints of ice cream in the one-pint container. It was the only time David, came down on me and reprimanded me. I quickly learned to go easy on the packing.

I could go on and on about the great times when living next to and working at Schwieterman's but would only be repeating the same stories that Rex had so elegantly written.

David and Ruth had married after I had graduated from Pharmacy School. Whenever I visited, Ruth would graciously welcome me into their home, and patiently listen to Dave and me, reminisce about the old days.

David had been a leader in New Bremen his whole life. He was council to the elders of the community, the rich and the poor. Most of his good works were done behind the scenes. He did not look for thanks or publicity.

He was a noted toastmaster in the whole state of Ohio. And annually did one of the largest banquets in the state. Year after year he did the Cattlemen's association banquet in Columbus. He once was approached by a talent agent who wanted him to come with him and start a career as a comedian. David told me he had no desire to travel the country, working in small dingy clubs in the hope he would someday make it big.

David wrote all his own material and was very self-deprecating. He said he loved New Bremen too much to ever consider doing anything else with his life. One story he told that always brought the house down, he told at an annual sport banquet. He once was the high scorer on his freshman team. He had scored 1 point, which was the only point they scored that night. (This was a true story). Dave added that whenever he walked down the street, people would say "there goes foul ball Schwieterman." The whole audience roared.

Once again, I want to thank Rex, for bringing so much of my experiences to mind. I will always relish those years in New Bremen.

I am finally retiring from over 40 years in the LTC pharmacy business and another 20 years manufacturing medication carts for the industry. I have started a Journal of my life and have devoted many pages to my experiences in New Bremen. I hope that my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, may gain some insight as to what can be learned from being raised in a small town such as New Bremen.



Sincerely, Ron Baur

SUE MAXSON HAS HELPED NEW BREMEN IN MANY WAYS

In August of this year, we had the opportunity to talk with Sue Maxson about her experiences as a Librarian in New Bremen. During this interview we found that Sue, in addition to her work with the library, has helped our town in more ways.

Sue and Jerry Maxson arrived in New Bremen in the summer of 1960. She and Jerry had been living in Cleveland with Jerry teaching in a junior high school while she was employed at Sherwin Williams. Both were pleased when Jerry accepted an offer to be a teacher and coach at the New Bremen Schools.

Apartments were difficult to find that summer in New Bremen. They first moved into a farmhouse northwest of New Bremen but when this proved unsatisfactory, they found an apartment in New Knoxville, just before the school year began. She felt isolated, with a baby on the way, not knowing anyone, and having only one car which Jerry used to travel to work. One saving grace she remembers with pleasure. New Bremen teacher, Dorothy Harlamert, a relative of Jerry's family, sent over a large supply of books for her. With her love for reading, she read every one of the books, including "War and Peace," the whole thing.

Her strong love for reading carried her through that first year in New Knoxville. It has also served her well since, paving her way to be a librarian. The next year they were able to rent a house in New Bremen and she was able to walk to the library which was then above the Fire Department downtown.

Sue was in the right place at the right time to be involved in the development of the library services in New Bremen. A need for a library was recognized for many years but that service had not materialized. Instead, a few books from the Blume Library in Wapakoneta were kept at the Arcade Department Store and changed every few months. The Arcade went out of business in 1953 and the only library service was the Bookmobile from Wapakoneta. There were books that were kept in the Schulenberg Store for a few years, but that location ended in 1958 when the store closed. The remaining books were then moved to a space above the Fire Department.

Fortunately, a group of New Bremen women (*Frances Bailey, Dottie Boesel, Alice Cumming, Katherine Grothaus, Ruth Howard, Betty Komminsk, Verona Huenke, Mary Wint, and Auglaize County Librarian Louise Miller*) continued to see a need for a



library. These women helped establish the New Bremen Branch Library and the Friends of the Library group. In 1962, this group with the help of the Lion's Club, rented the space in the Dierker Building, vacated by First National Bank, to be used for the library.

The first Librarian hired was Judy Dietrich Horn. She was followed by Melba Roediger. Sue Maxson soon became acquainted with Melba and found they shared a mutual love for books. It was not long before Melba asked Sue to work with her in the library and be Assistant Librarian. Sue found the work very interesting. She loved to read and kept up with book reviews. Sue enjoyed being with people and helping them choose books.

During those early years Sue took Library Science courses at Wright State. She also had the opportunity to attend many library workshops and programs within Ohio, thus she able to learn what resources were available and who to call when library services were needed.



The library moved into the Dierker Building in 1962.

In 1969 the library had another move. The Dierker Building was scheduled for demolition in 1970, so the library moved to the New Bremen school and remained there for a little over two years. She recalls a few humorous incidents from that experience. The movers attempted to move the shelves with the books in place which did not work well, and it took some time to sort the books when the move was complete. She also remembers that the two leather couches (that had been left by the bank in the Dierker building) were moved to the library in the school. The couches became a favorite of a few of the students for naps in the air-conditioned space, rather than study hall. Also, some of the neighbors near the school were upset by the noise of the air conditioner and requested that the noise be stopped. But all-in-all, she enjoyed the time at the school with the opportunity to interact with the students as well as the library patrons.

At first, Sue worked 10 hours each week but soon the job became full-time with each Wednesday off. To this

day, she said, she still finds herself doing laundry on Wednesdays because it became such a pattern.

In 1973, the library moved to their present location on Washington Street the former site of the Kuenzel Mills. New Bremen acquired the land in 1967, razed the old mill buildings, and prepared the plans for a new library.

She recalls that it was exciting to move into the new downtown building. She said she always liked the feeling that her work at the library was an important service to New Bremen. She also liked being able to walk from her home on S. Main Street, through the park, and arrive at work.

In 1990, the library underwent construction which increased its size and refurbished its older sections. A public meeting room was added, space for books was doubled, and handicapped accessible restrooms were added. The Dedication occurred in January 1991.



January 6, 1991, Dedication for the remodeled Library.

Melba Roediger remained Head Librarian during this construction with Sue as her assistant. Sue took over the role of Head Librarian when Melba became ill.

Sue believes that the library is truly an important part of our community. She stated that our community is fortunate to have the Komminsk and Dicke families' donations for the library building, the support of the town officials, and many interested patrons. Working with the town employees, who keep the building in tip-top shape, was always a pleasure for her. During the interview she often said she loved her job at the library and the people she served. We thank Sue for an enlightening interview and for enriching her adopted town.

It is true that Sue Maxson has had a significant influence in the establishment of our community library. We would like to add that she also enriched New Bremen through her work with other civic groups.

Sue was part of the group in 1973 that worked to save the Luelleman House. There were many meetings and discussions, and the wheels were put into motion to form the New Bremen Historic Association and to purchase the

house to use as our museum. Both Sue and her husband Jerry are Charter Members of the New Bremen Historic Association.

Sue was among the first group of trustees elected to serve on the New Bremen Historic Association Board in November 1973. The others were Holly Riebel, Melba Roediger, John Hoffman, Emil Fledderjohann, Victor Maurer, Mary Ann Brown Olding, Jeanette Hellwarth, and Mary Wint.

Sue served on the Board as trustee and secretary for five years and as Historian for 10 years.

She was also an active member of the 20th Century Mothers organization. Below is a picture of the officers of that group in 1974.



Officers of the 20th Century Mothers organization in 1974. Linda Topp, President, Trudy Kuenning, 1st Vice President, Diane Dicke, 2nd Vice President, Beverly Applegate, Treasurer, Sue Maxson, Secretary.

Through their years in New Bremen, the Maxsons have raised their daughters Beth (NBHS Class of '79) and Suzanne (NBHS Class of '82). Although both Sue and Jerry are now retired, they can often be seen at events actively supporting New Bremen.



The Maxson Family in 1983, Jerry & Sue with daughters Beth & Suzanne.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN BUDGET COMPANY

By John Wierwille

Overview

American Budget Company operated in the consumer lending industry making secured, unsecured, and real estate mortgage loans. As the advertising saying went ... "Loans For Every Worthwhile Purpose." It obtained its funding through the sale of promissory notes to investors at competitive rates or as its ads stated ... "We pay ___% interest, why take less".

The company's executive office was in New Bremen with branch locations in St. Marys, Wapakoneta, Coldwater, Versailles, Sidney, Lima, and Kenton. It was one of the larger consumer finance companies in western Ohio servicing over 3,000 investor and loan customers throughout its area.

Early History

American Budget Company was incorporated October 8, 1928, with its principal office being located at 40 West Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio. The purpose of the company was to grant loans and sell investments. The first years were difficult due to the Great Depression but in 1935, with an upturn in business, the company opened a branch office in Washington Court House, Fayette County, Ohio. In January 1936, a branch office was opened at 38 South Washington Street, New Bremen, Ohio with the primary purpose to raise capital for the two other offices. Lloyd J. Laut was hired as the manager of the New Bremen office. In early 1938 a decision was made to also enter the loan field in the New Bremen office.



Lloyd J. Laut

A defalcation on the part of management in February 1942 at the Washington Court House office, with subsequent audit by the Division of Securities, State of Ohio of all three branches, resulted in the issuance of a cease-and-desist order to sell securities, the company's prime source of raising capital to operate. In March 1942, Lloyd J. Laut was recommended by the Division of Securities, State of Ohio, to head the company and work out its problems. By due action of the directorate, he was named president. A hearing was held by the Division of

Securities on April 6, 1942, at which time the plan of reorganization was approved and adopted.

Subsequent thereto, a meeting of the noteholders who by action of the reorganization became the common shareholders, was held in New Bremen for the purpose of organizing a new board of directors and the election of officers. Nine persons were selected to serve as directors. Those named were Judge Lowell C. Bodey, Edmund Morsey, Wilson Vornholt, Fred Steineman, Clem Winner, L.H. Blanke, William B. Harmeyer, William Kuhlhorst, and Lloyd J. Laut. Wilson Vornholt was elected to serve as president, Lester Blanke, secretary, and Lloyd J. Laut, manager and treasurer. By the end of 1942, the company had sold off the Washington Court House and Columbus receivables and closed those offices leaving only the New Bremen office. From that point on the company operated profitably.

Locations

As stated earlier, the first location in New Bremen was at 38 South Washington. In 1949, the company purchased the building at 16 South Washington Street, New Bremen from Alinda Wiemeyer, Mary Elizabeth (Hawkey) Boyce and Eugene Lehman Boyce. In December 1950, the remodeling was completed, and the company moved its office to the 16 South Washington location. Besides office space for American Budget the building had three residential apartments located above, a south unit (later housing New Bremen Insurance Agency) and a north unit (housing Wissman Barber shop which became Walt's Barber Shop).



The American Budget Company after 1950.

In May of 1975, American Budget celebrated an open house for its newly remodeled office.



Remodel of the American Budget Building in 1975.

The remodel tried to retain the architectural flavor to be what was originally built. The area being rented by Walt's Barber Shop was incorporated into the original office to provide more needed space. The barber shop relocated to West Monroe Street.



“Exterior Restoration Award, The American Budget Co., presented by the New Bremen Historic Association.” is inscribed on the plaque presented to the firm Monday in recognition of retaining the German architecture of the village. The award was accepted by Lloyd J. Laut, chairman of the board and president and Charles Wierwille, executive vice president and treasurer. Others shown are members of the historic association. Left to right, seated, Mary Ann Brown, Laut, Wierwille, and John Hoffman. Back Row, Melba Roediger, Greg Parrott, Fred Wellemeyer and Holly Riebel. (The Evening Leader April 29, 1975)

The American Budget Company moved to a newly built building at 10 Bremen Drive in 1998. The 16 South Washington property had been sold to Crown Equipment.

The company remained at the Bremen Drive location until its closure in 2016.



American Budget Company at 10 Bremen Drive, 1998.

Additional Information

In May of 1967, Lloyd J. Laut was elected President replacing Ferd H. Kuck who served as president from 1956 until his death in 1967. Charles Wierwille who joined the company in 1951 was elected vice-president.



Charles Wierwille

Mr. Charles Wierwille would later become the executive vice-president upon Laut's retirement in 1969 and served in that capacity until 1992.



John C. Wierwille

John C. Wierwille who joined the company in 1977, was appointed President in 1992, and served until the company closed in 2016.

John Wierwille recalled that in the 1970s American Budget Company had what is now called Black Friday. The busiest day of the year for making loans was the day after Thanksgiving. Many people wanted to have a nice Christmas even if it meant taking out a loan for their holiday shopping. He also recalled the number of businesses that American Budget worked with in funding their needs as well as financing their sales.

The First National Bank in New Bremen purchased American Budget Company in 1988 and operated it as a

separate subsidiary. It used the Wapakoneta and Sidney locations to begin full-service bank branch operations in those cities. American Budget Company continued to operate in the consumer finance field at all its locations as a subsidiary of First National Bank. In 2016, First National decided to close American Budget Company and sold off the non-real estate loan portfolio and retained the real estate loan portfolio.



Dorothy Quellhorst, Assistant Treasurer



Phil Dauphin, Vice President



Sue Heuker and Karen Dabbelt, Receptionist Secretaries

More information about the remodeling of the building on South Washington Street from our NBHA files:

The American Budget Company held an Open House on Sunday May 4, 1975. An article in The Evening Leader (April 29, 1975) stated that the Open House

...ends several years of planning and work to remodel the building inside and out, with the inside modern and the front renovated in keeping with the architectural flavor which makes New Bremen a unique and beautiful community...Karl Freytag of Freytag and Freytag, architectural firm, Sidney, studied pictures of German villages in various libraries and tried to redesign the front to determine what may have been originally built, said Wierwille. Since the American Budget Co. is a New Bremen oriented business with most of its 228 common stockholders and 118 preferred shareholders living in the area of operation, we tried to keep all the remodeling business within the immediate area, said Wierwille...

Below is a picture from the newspaper showing how the building looked during the remodeling.



American Budget Co. Home Office in New Bremen-It is anticipated that the remodeling of the front of the building will be completed by the end of next week, according to Charles Wierwille, executive vice president and treasurer.

In addition to the front, of which the company has gone to great length to retain the character and flavor of the German type of structure, Wierwille said the office area is also being expanded. This expansion is to the north of the building in the rooms which had formerly been leased as a barber shop. This area will house the accounting and record department.

Wierwille said the interior should be finished by the end of March and consideration is being given to an open house in April. (Evening Leader photo by Joe Glick)

MEMORIES FROM JACK MOELLER

Jack Moeller, son of Raymond W. “Caddy” and Alfreda M. (Vornholt) Moeller was born on July 28, 1925, in New Bremen. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1943 and was drafted in September to fight in WWII. He served as a Staff Sergeant in the US Army in a support unit to General Patton’s unit until his return home in 1946. He furthered his education at Oberlin College, with a Ph.D. from Princeton University. He spent most of his career as a German Professor at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, Michigan. He wrote many German language textbooks for use in high school and college classes.

Before his death in 2020, he shared his autobiography with his children Susan and Kurt and his brother, Jim Moeller. Jim has shared the reminisces with the NBHA. In this article we will share a few of Jack’s early memories living in New Bremen. If you are interested in reading his other memories, the complete document can be accessed at the New Bremen Museum.

Life in the Bakery 1925-1931

Mom and Dad owned the only bakery in New Bremen, a town of 1200 people. The front of the building was the bakery proper; the front had the show case with breads, cookies, and cakes. The room behind it was used to wrap the bread and whatever else was needed to prepare products. Behind this room were the living quarters-kitchen, dining room, living room, and upstairs the sleeping rooms and the bathroom. The ovens for baking the bread were in a separate building behind the bakery, actually across an alley. The baker was Dad’s brother Bill. I used to go there often after supper and watch him mix the dough and put the loaves into the oven. Dad made the rounds in New Bremen selling bread from a horse and enclosed wagon.

I only remember a few things from those first six years.

- I remember that I liked the rhyme, *Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jump over the candlestick*. One day Mom was giving me a bath. A heater warmed up the bathroom and while she was drying me, I decided to recite the rhyme *Jack be nimble* and when I tried to jump over the heater I remember being burned.
- I liked the song “Carolina Moon” (keep shining). I remember figuring out how to play it on the piano. This song was my first public performance. Jim came up with the idea to make money. I sat in the wagon, he pulled me along the stores next to the bakery while I sang Carolina



Moon keep shining. Jim’s idea was that people would give us money to hear me sing the song (probably Jim’s first entrepreneurship event. I think the only money we earned was a nickel from one of the bankers (the bank building was close to the bakery). After all these years, “Carolina Moon keep shining” is still in my repertoire. It is one of the songs we have sung several times during the Sing-along here at Brookhaven.

- One day I was outside the glass front door and Pauline held it shut from the inside. I pushed on the glass to open it, the glass broke, and I remember the blood coming out of the wound on my chest. It must have scared me since I remember it so vividly.
- Louise taught me to ride a two-wheel bicycle.
- I started in first grade. I think it was about 8 blocks to walk to school. I loved my teacher Miss Loy and I liked to read. I had several books which cost 5 cents at the Five and Ten-Cent Store, books that I read over and over.
- I loved rain (still do). In the summer when it rained, I would go to the Arcade, a department store- a few houses down from the bakery-and sit under the covered roof which ran along the entire front of the store and watch the rain.
- On the other side of the bakery was Wint’s Saloon which later became a bar and a restaurant. I liked to go in the saloon, men would be sitting at tables drinking or just talking and some would use the spittoons. The reason I remember it so well is because one time one of the men gave me a half-dollar.
- The bakery faced a lock on the Miami-Erie Canal which ran through New Bremen. There was a bridge over the lock, however without side rails. I can remember each time I crossed it I was terrified with nothing to hang onto. I still don’t like heights.

The bakery was in the middle building in the photo below. This building had been the American Hotel in the early days of New Bremen.





Ernie Philipot, the Barber

The last issue of the Towpath told of two barbers on South Washington Street who would pitch horseshoes while waiting for customers. This article

features one of those barbers, Ernie Philipot. **Information for this article came from his children Dot, Tom, Deb, Dan, and Ken.** Ernie and his wife Jeannette raised six children. Their oldest son Bill died in 2014.

Born and raised in Russia, Ohio Ernie began his barber training in 1949 when he attended the Moler Barber College in Cincinnati. Other barbers in his family were his older brother Joe and his father-in-law, William Budde.

Barber Career

Ernie was a barber in New Bremen, Ohio for over 50 years. He began his barber career in Dayton prior to moving to New Bremen in 1951. His first barber shop in New Bremen was in the old Esquire Shop at 38 S. Washington Street. After a year or two, he purchased the building next door at 36 S. Washington Street and the family moved there in 1960. Ernie remained in that location until 1985.

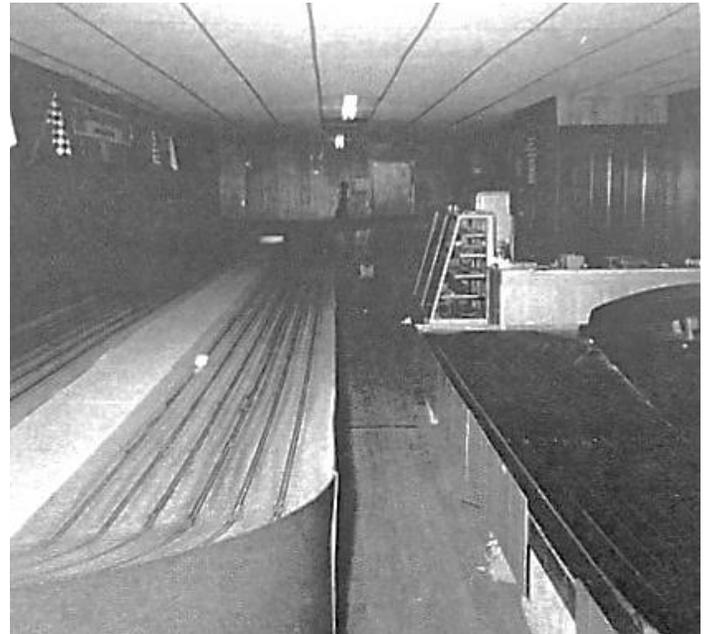


Ernie gave his son Bill, born in 1952, his first haircut.

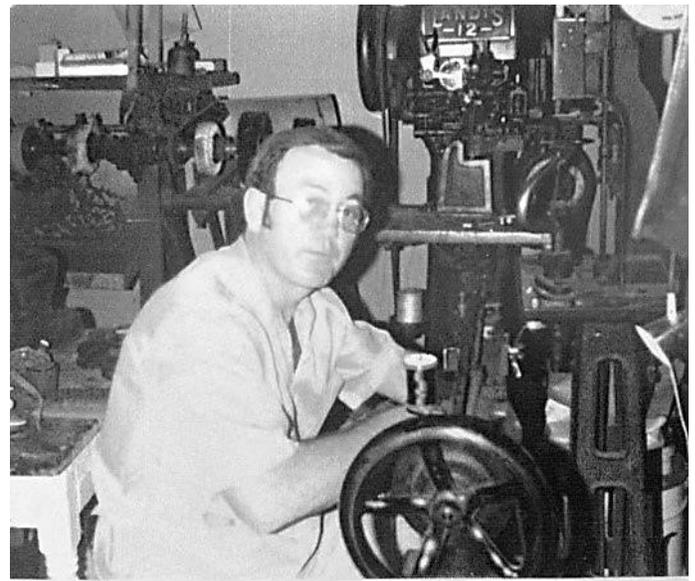
Interests and Hobbies

Ernie had many interests and hobbies. During that time on Washington Street, he operated a slot car track for 3 or 4 years in the late 1960s for kids and opened a shoe repair shop. Ernie also sold Mutual Funds and Knapp shoes.

For hobbies, Ernie enjoyed pitching horseshoes, fishing, deer hunting, mushroom hunting, gardening, and wine making when not in the shop.



Ernie's slot car track in Washington Street building, 1960s.



Ernie's Shoe Repair Shop in the 1970s.

In 1985 the Philipots purchased a home on the corner of First and Water Streets and moved the barber shop to that location.

He was also known to go to his clients' homes when they were sick or unable to make it to the shop. Ernie barbered at various nursing homes in the area, which he continued doing even after closing the shop in 2001. His barber chair and barber pole are now being used at Que's Barbershop on Main Street in New Bremen.

Memories

One of his fondest memories was being a member of the local Lions Club. He helped negotiate a deal for the purchase of property which became the Lions Club Park in downtown New Bremen.

One of his fun memories was being featured in a Quaker Oats commercial...and after eating Quaker Oats for a time it did indeed lower his cholesterol!

His career as a New Bremen barber spanned fifty years until his retirement in 2001. Upon his retirement Ernie was interviewed by local author Katy Gilbert for her newspaper article.

Excerpts from **PHLIPOT HANGS UP HIS RAZOR AND CLIPPERS**

By Katy Gilbert, Staff Writer, The Evening Leader,
2001

Ernie Phlipot is hanging up his clippers and putting away his scissors. Phlipot has closed up Ernie's Barbershop at 106 E. First Street, New Bremen, and is now officially retired.

"This is the last day," Phlipot said when interviewed on Thursday. "You know that was the hardest thing for me to say. This is it. I've been in the business for over 50 years and now...I'm retired."

Phlipot said he made the decision to retire when he and his wife traveled out west recently. "Jeannette and I went out to see our daughter in Texas, a couple of weeks ago. I decided I was going to retire. But when I got back, I told Jeanette I was going to keep it open one more week. Well... this is it; this is the last day..."

... "In 1951, my brother Ed told me that a couple of guys from DeGraff were going to open a barber shop in New Bremen but changed their minds, and then asked why I didn't try it. I did. The first 34 years at 36 S. Washington and the rest of the time here at this shop. Almost 20 years ago, I started selling Knapp Shoes, too."

Phlipot and his wife, Jeanette, are planning to go to Canada next week to do some fishing. "I've always liked to hunt and fish and now I'll be able to do that more often," he said. "We can take trips, and when we visit our children and grandchildren, we won't have to rush back to open the shop. I like to garden, and I'll spend more time doing that," he said...

Tom Phlipot came in to get a trim on his dad's last day of barbering. "One thing nice about dad being a barber is that I've never had to pay for a haircut," he said. "Of course, during the seventies when long hair was *in*, I was dragged in to get my hair cut more than I really wanted," he said.

"Shoot, yes," said Phlipot, "Longhair was in for a long time, about 15 to 20 years. I know a lot of barbers went out of business during that time. I went to seminars to learn how to cut hair differently."

Phlipot added, "I've given a lot of kids first haircuts and those kids I gave haircuts in the early fifties are now bringing in their grandkids.

I'd give the kids a sucker or a piece of bubble gum to get them to sit still. But I stopped giving them suckers when I saw they were trying to eat it while getting their hair cut. A wet sucker can get hairy real quick."

Phlipot has been cutting hair for shut-ins since he started barbering. He has been cutting hair at the Valley Nursing Home in St. Marys for 30 years and at Auglaize Acres in Wapakoneta for 15 years. "I'll keep cutting hair at the The Acres," said Phlipot. "It's only once a month and I think it's important to give back to the community and the area..."

As he noted in that article, he continued barbering where he was needed after retirement as a way of giving back to the community. He continued this service as long as possible until his death in 2014.

Ernie's barber pole and chair can be seen at QUES Barber Shop on N. Main Street in New Bremen.



NBHS CLASS REUNIONS 2021

Class of 1966 (55th Anniversary)



Back Row: Marge Schoenlein Pilz, Gail Gruebmeier Mescher, Jim Scheer, Robert Niekamp, Dennis Bushman, Bill Meiring, Byron Lunz, John Turner, Mike Suchland, Bill Lampert

Front Row: Betty Brandenburg Megato, Joann Wittenbrink Boyer, Marlene Wiehe Ahlers, Pam Moeller Elking, Jane Belton, Debby Meyer Lunz, Deanna Sollmann Anderson, Jack Bielefeld.

Class of 1961 (60th Anniversary)



Standing: Karl Kittel, John Bornhorst, Allen Paul, Fred Moeller, Genevieve Conradi, Herb Richey, Lois Wahoff Westerheide, Dennis Wint, Ned Scheer, Dennis Dicke, John Tostrick

Seated: Doris Topp Carr, Judy Meckstroth, Emily Harlamert Wiedeman, Barbara Kuck Dill, Emily Grothaus Reisner, Carolyn Shaffer Wehnes, Judy Scheer Wiehe.

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HISTORY MYSTERY

Do you recognize anyone?

Thank you, **Donna Applegate Kuffner**, for the photos on this page.



#1. 1896 Three Sisters



#3. 1933 Centennial Parade



#4. Early 1950s...



#2. Liberty School 1925-1926 school year

Answers...

#1. Verona, Sabine & Clara Doenges, daughters of John & Cora Friedrich Doenges. (Sabine is Donna's Great-grandmother.)

#2. Front Row: Ruth Dicke, Robert Dicke, Willis Dicke, Wilton Dicke, Vernon Roettger, Ferd Schwepe Middle Row: Naomi King, Richard Dicke, Ralph Dicke, Franklin Dicke, Woodrow Dicke, Ruth Schwepe, Willamina Dicke, Leola Dicke, James King, Richard King Top Row: Eleanor Dicke, Lula Geib, Paul Schwepe, Paul Dicke, Walter King, Frederick Dicke. Teacher Edna Kammen (Leola Dicke is Donna's Grandmother.)

#3. Benjamin Tangeman's covered wagon, Harry Wiehe's cow featured in New Bremen's parade that year. (Ben is Donna's Great-grandfather.)

#4. John Poppe on trumpet, Tom Dicke on clarinet, Beverly Tangeman on accordion, and Judy Thieman on piano. (Beverly Tangeman Applegate is Donna's mother.)

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

New Bremen, Ohio 45869-0073



NBHA Museum – 120 N. Main St.

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.newbremenhistory.org**

Bremenfest Parade August 15, 2021

