1833

NEW BREMEN OHIO



BREMEN



OBER BREMEN



NEW BREMEN

1983



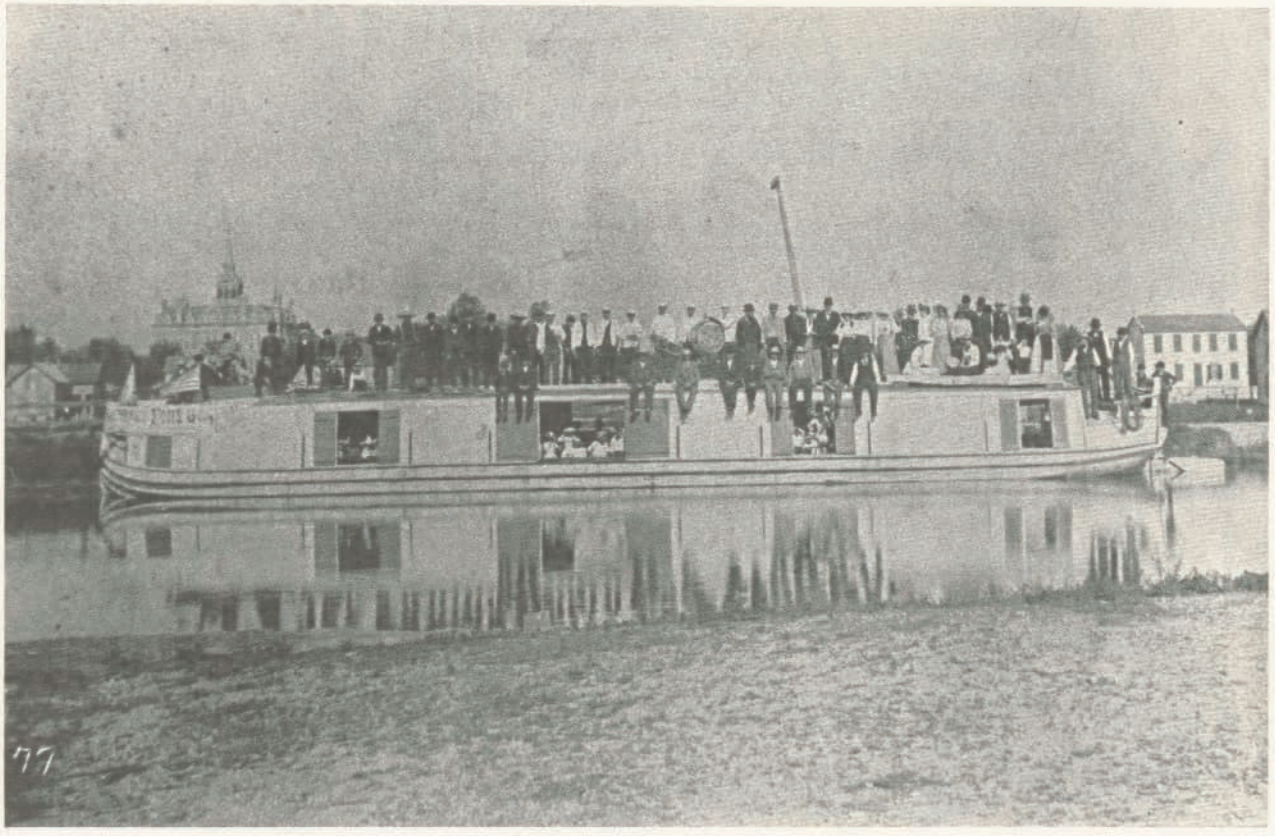
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New Bremen Sesquicentennial

REFLECTIONS



New Bremen, Ohio
1833-1983

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VILLAGE OF NEW BREMEN - OHIO 45869

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS,
The year 1983 marks the 150th birthday of our Village of New Bremen located in Auglaize County, State of Ohio, and

WHEREAS,
Our heritage from Germany has continued through the years so that it still remains a dominant force and

WHEREAS,
The courage, dedication, struggle and toil of these settlers made New Bremen inhabitable and

WHEREAS,
Their pioneer work gave all of us a more intense value of religious and educational beliefs and the success of our businesses, industries, cultural pursuits and recreational development can all be attributed to our ancestoral heritage.

NOW,
THEREFORE,I, RICHARD H. WIEDEMAN, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW BREMEN, OHIO, PROCLAIM THE YEAR 1983 AS THE SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR OF CELEBRATION, AND .....

HAVE AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW BREMEN, OHIO, THIS 10TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1983.

Richard H. Wiedeman

Richard H. Wiedeman, Mayor

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Foreword

This book was published to help commemorate the 150th year since the founding of New Bremen, Ohio. Located in Auglaize County along the old Miami-Erie Canal, New Bremen today has a population of about 2300 people. On July 23, 1832, a group of thirty-three German Protestant immigrants formed a society in Cincinnati to found this community in Ohio. The village was platted and recorded on June 11, 1833.

The book is intended to be more than a chronological history of the town, rather it is a collection of articles, photographs, documents, recollections, and research. The histories of the businesses, organizations and families were written by the people of the town. The material in this book gives information about the town and its people, both past and present.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the publication of this book. Without the interest and the response from the community, and especially from Crown Controls, the sesquicentennial book could not have been printed.

Book Committee

Jerry Brown
Mary Ann Brown
Sue Maxson
Monty McDermitt
Donna Watkins
Alice Wissman

Cover

On the cover are three official seals which were once used in the community of New Bremen. The one written in German is the original seal of the town of Bremen, which was platted in 1833 when German Township was still in Mercer County. The second one was used by the village of Ober Bremen, platted in 1853 after Auglaize County was formed. This town was located on the east side of the Miami-Erie Canal and was later annexed to New Bremen. The third one is the official seal of the village of New Bremen today.

First Printing, 1983
for The Sesquicentennial
Committee of New Bremen

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Founding of New Bremen

written by Mary Ann Brown

For this study of the founding of the village of New Bremen in German Township, the author has followed a chronological development of the events that took place in northwest Ohio and Germany beginning with the last half of the eighteenth century. These events directly shaped where the town would be located, how settlers could get there, who would come to make a community, how the people would make a living, and why the town looks as it does today.

This interpretation of New Bremen's early history is based primarily on courthouse records, census lists, plat maps, original letters translated from German script, village minutes, and field research in Germany. Names of people and places are spelled as they appeared in the original sources.

The story of the founding of New Bremen begins in 1769 in the land north and west of the Ohio River. During that year, a French Canadian trader, Peter Loramie, established a store at the mouth of a small tributary of the Great Miami River. The trading station was located about one mile north of present-day Fort Loramie. To get from Loramie's Creek to either the St. Marys or Auglaize River, stretches of land had to be crossed. These portages were used by the Indians, early white traders and frontier militiamen. They were the first people in the land that is present-day German Township.

During the Revolutionary War, Simon Girty, a white man who had been raised with the Indians, followed one of these portage routes on a military campaign. At the end of the war when the Ohio land became a part of the Northwest Territory, Girty and his two brothers returned to the area to set up a trading post. Of all the places he could have chosen, he came to the St. Marys River at the north end of the portage where people were traveling from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes region. At the south end of the portage was the site of Loramie's Store, which had been destroyed in 1782. A trail developed along the portage and further north on the west side of the Auglaize River in the 1790s.

As white people began surveying and entering the Ohio land, the Indian nations were pushed back from the Ohio River. Conflicts between the two cultures increased until the Indians were defeated by General Anthony Wayne's army in 1794 and the Treaty of Greeneville was signed in 1795. The northwest quadrant of what later became Ohio was awarded to the Indians and was closed to white settlement. The Indians gave up a small area around St. Marys and a parcel of land that was six miles square which reached from today's Fort Loramie to New Bremen. The terms of the treaty also insured free passage along the portage routes from Loramie's store to a chain of posts that stretched north to Fort Wayne, Fort Defiance and Lake Erie. (DOCUMENT # 1). In 1796, Wayne ordered that a fort should be built at the site of Loramie's store to protect the portage as well as the settlers who were south of the line.

Document #1

Treaty of Greeneville August 3, 1795

extract

ARTICLE III. The general boundary line between the lands of the United States, and the lands of the said Indian tribes, shall begin at the mouth of Cayahoga River, and run thence up the same to the portage between that and the Tuscarawas branch of the Muskingum; thence westerly to a fork of that branch of the great Miami river running into the Ohio, at or near which fork stood Loromie's store, and where commences the portage between the Miami of the Ohio, and St. Mary's river, which is a branch of the Miami, which runs into Lake Erie; thence a westerly course to Fort Recovery, which stands on a branch of the Wabash; then southwesterly in a direct line to the Ohio, so as to intersect the river opposite the mouth of Kentucke or Cuttawa river. . . the said Indian tribes do hereby cede and relinquish forever, all their claims to the lands lying eastwardly and southwardly of the general boundary line now described; . . .

. . . the said Indian tribes do also cede to the United States the following pieces of land; to wit. 1. One piece of land six miles square at or near Loromie's store before mentioned. 2. One piece two miles square at the head of the navigable water or landing on the St. Marys River, near Girty's town.

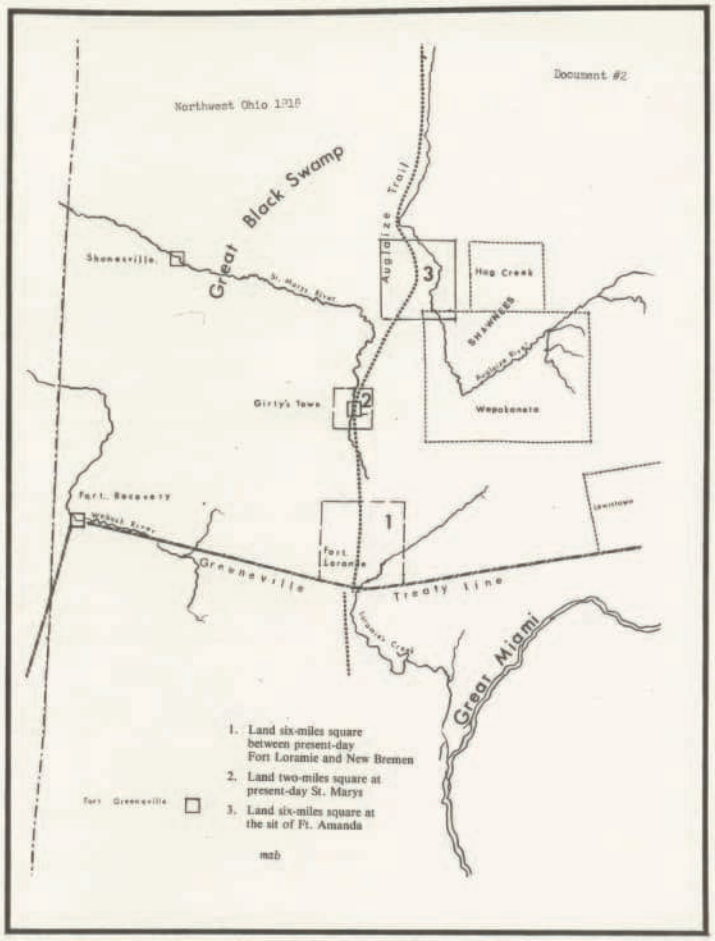
3. One piece six miles square at the head of the navigable water of the AuGlaize river. . .

and the said Indian tribes will allow to the people of the United States a free passage by land and by water, as one and the other shall be found convenient through their country, along the chain of posts hereinbefore mentioned; that is to say, from the commencement of the portage aforesaid at or near Loromie's store, thence along said portage to the St. Mary's, and down the same to fort Wayne, and then down the Miami to lake Erie; again from the commencement of the portage at or near Loromie's store along the portage from thence to the river at Au-Glaize, and down the same to its junction with the Miami at fort Defiance; again from the commencement of portage aforesaid, to Sandusky river, and down the same to Sandusky bay and lake Erie. . .

After Ohio became a state in 1803, new treaties were signed at Maumee in 1817 and St. Marys in 1818. Along with other cessions made by Indian tribes of Ohio, the Shawnees gave up their rights to the land between the St. Marys and Wabash Rivers, except for a few tracts along the St. Marys River near Shanesville (now Rockford). The Shawnees were confined to the three reservations at Wapakoneta on the Auglaize, Hog Creek on the stream of the same name, and Lewistown on Wolf Creek. The land where New Bremen and German Township is today was open for survey and sale. (DOCUMENT #2)

Subdivision of this part of northwestern Ohio into the mile-square system began in 1819, a post road was legislated from Piqua to St. Marys on March 3, 1819, and Mercer

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County was formed on April 1, 1820. This large county included the land in today's townships of Salem, Noble, St. Marys, and German from 1820 until 1848, but they are now part of Auglaize County. By 1822, nearly the whole area was subdivided excepting the reservations. The county seat was established at St. Marys in 1824, where it remained until 1840 when it was removed to Celina. During the first decade from 1820 until 1830, the area that was to become German and Jackson Townships was part of St. Marys Township. For the first time in 1834, the land in Sections 1-36 of Township 7, Range 4 was referred to as German Township in the land tax records. A small number of parcels of land in present-day German Township, which includes Sections 1-18 of Township 7, Range 4, was owned by people of English ancestry. Some of these owners were already listed as taxpayers in St. Marys Township as early as 1824. One man, Peter Opdyke, bought eighty acres in Section 5 on November 16, 1821. Others with names of English descent purchased land in today's German Township between 1821 and 1827, as shown on the map. (DOCUMENT #3) Much of the land owned by the men with English names lay along the route between Fort Loramie and St. Marys, and the planned path for the canal that was under construction by the mid 1830s.

These men were probably soldiers from Wayne's army or the War of 1812. Military men from the Kentucky and Virginia regiments with Scotch-English backgrounds were often paid with land for their military service. It is difficult to know how many of these owners ever lived on the land in present-day German Township, but Peter Opdyke is listed in the German Township census record of 1840, which is dominated by German names. These military men with English names are the second group of people in German Township.

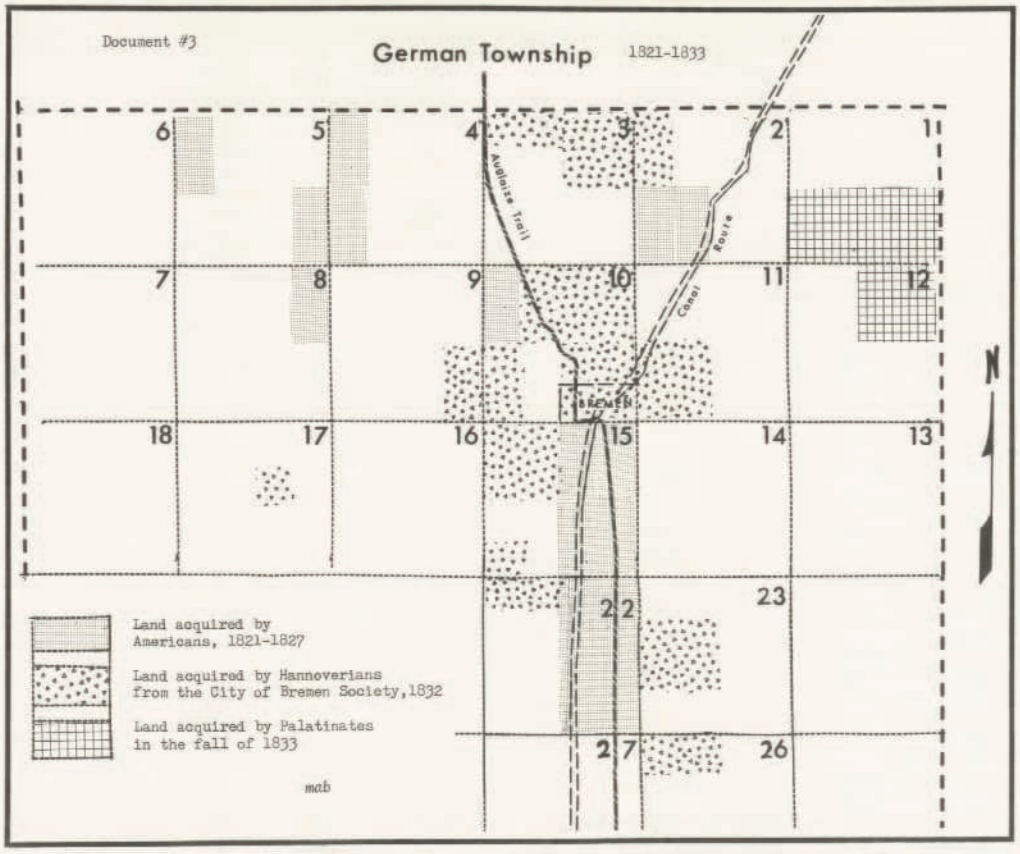
Even though the land in northwest Ohio was surveyed and ready for purchase during the 1820s, few men were willing to bring their families into the forbidding wilderness. They faced three major obstacles. The presence of the Shawnee Indians at the reservations, less than twenty miles to the north at Wapakoneta and Hog Creek, discouraged permanent white settlement. The tales of Indian atrocities were still fresh in the minds of those who were survivors or had been eye witnesses. Settlement was still confined to the outposts surrounding the old trading stores or fort towns. The second obstacle was the lack of opportunity for making a living on the edge of the Great Black Swamp, which covered most of northwest Ohio. (See DOCUMENT #2) The land had to be cleared and drained. When that was done, there still remained a great difficulty in getting products to a market for a cash income.

These hindrances were observed by men in decision-making roles at the state and national levels. During the 1820s, it was felt that the "civilizing" of the Indians east of the Mississippi had not been successful. This resulted in the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The President of the United States was authorized to exchange public lands west of the Mississippi River for all remaining Indian land in the eastern United States at the government's expense. A treaty was signed with the Shawnees, a nation that numbered about 400, on August 8, 1831. It provided for the cession of three reservations which totalled 145 acres, and their removal to Kansas. The Lewistown and Wapakoneta Shawnees migrated westward in the fall of 1832, and the Hog Creek band followed in 1833.

The idea of creating a water route from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes through the state's interior resulted in the completion of the Miami Canal from Cincinnati to Dayton in 1829. It is believed that a part of the canal extension reached the summit at New Bremen in 1838. This was the northern terminus of the canal for about eight years because there were difficulties cutting through the stone shelf at Deep Cut near Spencerville and delays during the construction of three reservoirs at the summit. These large bodies of water were at the threshhold of the western half of the state where the water flows either north to the Great Lakes or south to the Ohio River. They were needed to provide an adequate flow of water for the twenty-six mile stretch of flat ground between New Bremen and Lockington. The construction of the reservoirs helped drain the surrounding farmland and the opening of the canal through the state in 1845 allowed farmers a market access.

The immigrants who came to present-day German Township in Mercer County in 1832 were primarily from Hannover in northern Germany. The people who were to come to New Bremen were enjoying a decade of peace in the 1820s during the Hanoverian dynasty that linked the northern German kingdom to England. This relationship between the two countries on the North Sea began with the Hanseatic League in the fourteenth century. This trade system extended to major cities in England, the Netherlands, Norway and Russia. During this period, the city of Bremen assumed a leading role in the economy of northern Germany. Bremen was the chief seaport for the immigrants who left from Hannover and Oldenburg. The

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small state of Oldenburg that lies west of Hannover differs from its neighbor because it has pockets of Catholics in the Muensterland.

During the days of the Hanseatic League, crusading warriors encouraged German peasants, nobles, and burghers to migrate to newly opened lands and conquered territories. Protestantism was declared the state religion in Hannover in 1618; and in 1646, Bremen received the privileges of a free imperial city, which owed its allegiance to the Hanseatic League only. The close relationships with the other countries on the North Sea during the days of the League resulted in the common usage of "Plattdeusch", a German language that has similarities to English, Scandinavian and Netherlands languages. The location of Bremen and Hannover near the North Sea isolated them somewhat from the influences and domination of the Catholic countries of France, Spain, Italy, Bavaria and Austria. Because of their close relationship with England during the reign of the House of Hanover, the Hannoverians were used to dealing with a Protestant country and began absorbing the English law.

During these less turbulent times in Hannover during the 1830s, societies were formed in Bremen which organized the immigration of Germans to the new land in America. Sometimes groups of people were all from one village or were related to each other. A major reason the people from Hannover left Germany at that time was for the opportunity for available land and increased economic advantages. Most left from the port at Bremen and sailed to the harbor at Baltimore which took about two months. They traveled by land across Pennsylvania, often on the National Road to Wheeling, West Virginia. There they journeyed on the Ohio River which was much simpler than overland travel. When the immigrants arrived in Cincinnati, the gateway to the west, they found other German-speaking people who were eager for a new start. One of these groups, the City of Bremen Society, drew up a charter among thirty-three members on July 23, 1832. The Actum (an enactment), which was signed in Cincinnati, contained eight articles. It authorized the purchase of eighty acres of land in Ohio to found a Protestant town. (DOCUMENT #4)

According to the account of Charles (Karl) Boesel, an early New Bremen settler, the Society sent out two scouts, A. F. Windeler and H.F. Schroeder, to search for suitable land to found a community. In the Land Grant records, an entry shows that H.F. Windeler purchased from the government eighty acres in Section 10, Township 7, Range 4, on August 4, 1832. This land was almost at the center of the portage between Fort Loramie and St. Marys. It was prime land along the Auglaize Trail at the summit which was later to become Lock One going north on the Miami-Erie Canal. According to the land records, Windeler was the second German to buy land in German Township. The first one was Frans. L. Pohlman. He bought 80 acres in Section 4 on April 10, 1832, and was a member of St. Paul Church by 1834.

Windeler returned to Cincinnati to gather members of the Society who were willing to settle in the new land while Schroeder stayed behind to ready a shelter for the arriving families. A cabin was built with the help of some Englishmen who lived within four or five miles. After a two-weeks journey over the 120 miles from Cincinnati, six families, including B. Mohrman and F. Dickman, were led by Windeler to the new settlement. According to most written accounts, they all lived in a log hut that measured 12 x 14 feet.

The families of the City of Bremen Society also purchased land from the government. The land they bought in 1832 is

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Document #4

Actum Cincinnati. On the 23rd of July, 1832.

We the undersigned, after careful consideration, have reached an agreement to good understanding to establish, with the permission of the state, a town for *Germans* of Protestant faith. We would like therefore to acquire in common 80 acres of congressional land in the state of Oheio (Ohio). And to prevent future disorders and arguments, we are among ourselves establishing rules as set forth in the following articles:

Article 1 - The purchase of the land will be carried out by 3 men elected from the assembled membership. They will with unselfish effort, having the common interest of the association in mind, select the most suitable land site for the 80 acres.

Article 2 - Of this purchased land, allocation shall be made for a church, school, and cemetery in a suitable location as determined by the membership.

Article 3 - One part of this land shall after the purchase be divided into lots, so that each member of the group may receive one whole lot, which will contain not more nor less than one acre.

Article 4 - Should the quality of the lots vary, then higher values should be assigned to the better, and lower values to the poorer lots and the ownership determined by a drawing.

Article 5 - The rest of the land not divided into lots will remain in the ownership of the entire association until such time when further division will be required for new prospective members.

Article 6 - The organized membership assumes the holy responsibility to themselves and their descendents to admit no others but Protestants as members into their closed organization.

Article 7 - Any person wishing to join the closed association, now or in the future, must be known to the members as a good law-abiding man, otherwise permission to join shall not be given.

Article 8 - Anybody who wishes to become a member of this association will be herewith required to provide in cash an equal part of the money needed to cover the purchase price and other expenses incurred at the acquisition of the 80 acres.

After all the above articles have been loudly and clearly read to the gathered membership, and no changes have come forth, it is agreed that these articles are binding to each member thru his own handwritten signature:

Signatures on the Actum, Cincinnati, on July 23, 1832:

1. F.H. Schroeder
2. Friederick Siemer
3. Johann Heinrich Siemer
4. Johann Heinrich Buck
5. Heinrich Evers
6. Phillip Reiss
7. Hermann Friederich Mohrmann
8. Albert Freiderich Windeler
9. August Tiemann
10. Christian Karrman
11. Diedrich Straussburg
12. Johann Heinrich Willanbruch
13. Alrend Heinrich Schreiber
14. Dietrich Timmerman
15. Friederich Linneweber
16. Johann Hermann Mesker
17. Freiderich Christian Nieter
18. Johannes Hermann Mohrmann
19. Johann Wippenhorst
20. Andrew Kiefer
21. Gerd. Heinrich Mohrmann
22. Johann Heinrich Stöver
23. Johann Diedrich Meyer
24. Herman Heinrich Speckmann
25. Behrend Hinrich Harms
26. Johann Heinrich Künning
27. Johann Koch
28. J.P. Kestner
29. Behrend Mohrmann
30. Friederick Dickman
31. Fr. Blhmann
32. Heinrich Kramer
33. Jacob Reiss

Translated from the original by: George Chochoms, Wallingford, Connecticut.

shown on the map. (See DOCUMENT #3) According to the land grant records, at least ten members of the Society bought farms in German Township by December of 1832.

The eighty acres that was purchased for the town was divided into lots so that each one of the thirty-three members would receive one lot each. Each lot, drawn by chance, was to contain one acre. Some type of sketch was probably drafted in the fall of 1832, much like the one recorded on June 11, 1833. According to the letter written by F.H. Schroeder from Bremen in Mercer County to Jacob Reiss in Cincinnati and dated on January 7, 1833, the first lottery was held sometime between August 4 and December 28, 1832. (DOCUMENT #5) In this letter, Schroeder referred to a previous letter written on December 28, 1832, which stated that the first lottery had taken place.

In the letter from 1833, a second lottery was reported. Schroeder also indicated that a dispute was surfacing about expenses that needed to be paid. He wanted reimbursement for work on the street, for the expenses he had in the surveying and laying out of lots for the town, and for the damages he suffered for letting the street go through his land. The writer seemed uncertain that the people in the community in Cincinnati would pay. It is not clear what "street" Schroeder referred to. It might have been the trail from Fort Loramie to St. Marys, or the path of the canal. It is unclear whether the Americans he mentioned in this letter were neighbors, land surveyors or county officials. Finally, the letter requested that a new schoolhouse, which could be used as a "House of God", should be built to assure members that their children would be educated.

In the list of names for the second lottery, which is exactly the same as in the first lottery, a postscript appeared in a mixture of German and English words. Schroeder put pressure on the members in Cincinnati to pay what he asked. In the postscript, he requested directions on how to sell the rest of the lots. That was the last sentence in the letter.

The plat of Bremen with 102 lots was officially recorded on June 11, 1833. Two lotteries had already taken place, and most of the lots had been divided up among the thirty-three members of the Society. (DOCUMENT #6) In the first lottery, thirty-three double lots in two rows on each side of present-day Main Street were drawn by chance. The lots ran east and west from street to street, and every member was allowed two lots each. Two double lots on the west side of Main Street (Lots #9 and 10) were reserved for Public Grounds, and Lot #36 was left over. In the letter that was written in January of 1833, Schroeder explained that the remaining land in the original plat had been laid out in sixty-six more lots from #37 to 102. For this second allocation, all the lots were single with an east and west frontage. All the lots drawn in the second lottery were located on the east side of the first thirty-three that had been assigned in 1832. Some lots that nobody drew were #37 to 48 on the west edge of the town. These twelve lots were near the "Public Place and Churchyard" which became the town's cemetery. The other twenty-one lots that were unused were #81 to 102 on the east edge of town.

There were other people with German names who acquired land in Sections 1-18 in late 1832 and early 1833. It is not known how they got to German Township. They were not members of the Society because their names do not appear on the lists, but many of them were from Hannover. Some of them, like John B. Mesloh, became important

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Document #5

Translation

Received January 19,33 Bremen, January 7, 1833

Dear Mr. Reis,

I wrote you on the 28th. of last month where I announced that I sold lot Nr. 36. I place this notice into your hands. Now I write to you that I had layed-out the remaining land into lots. This land resulted in 66 lots. The first two lots on the East side contain 300 feet, the last lot on the same side contains 210 feet, discounting an alley of 10 feet. On the West side are 12 lots, containing 250 feet, likewise discounting an alley of 10 feet.

Since the community was meeting in my house a raffle took place for the two 300 feet blocks, namely for 33 lots. There are still remaining 33 lots which probably the community must sell jointly because the lots are not of the same size.

Finally, with a great effort, I could submit to the brothers (the bill) for 80 Dollars for finishing the street and for work to put the street in a respectable condition. Furthermore, they ask and they desire the money as soon as possible also (in order) to pay for a pair of oxen. I ask therefore to send the money as soon as possible.

The last expenses which I had for land, chains, erecting posts, and for myself are 10 81/100. The community determined 15 Dollars for the damage I had at the new street, for which I will be satisfied.

Should there be some people in the community in Cincinnati who are not satisfied with this, then I will turn this case over to some men who are sympathetic and value this case in conscience and in honor. However, the expenses will fall to those who tell such rumours, the Americans said 'no'. They did not want to let the street go through their land or even parts of the street for 50 Dollars. We cleared this and now (the street) can go through my land for 50 to 60 Chains. The damage is really not small. Furthermore I was asked by the Company to announce to you that a new schoolhouse should be built in Bremen, which also could serve for a community House of God. It is not final, yet. It might cost approximately 36 to 40 Dollars. Some members of the community do regret very much to watch their children grow up without receiving at least some knowledge. For sure nobody of the community in Cincinnati will act against this proposal.

I believe I submitted and declared the necessary (things) of the Company.

I want to state here the names and numbers in sequence as they were followed and drawn.

As I am writing and wishing a continual well-being
your friend

F.H. SCHROEDER

1. Jacob Reis	59
2. F.H. Schroeder	73
3. A.H. Schreiber	57
4. D. Timmerman	62
5. A. Tieman	78
6. A.F. Windeler	53
7. H.F. Windeler	66
8. J.H. Stöver	79
9. Ch. Karrman	65
10. F. Linneweber	68
11. J.H. Mohrmann	76
12. J. Koch	70
13. F. Buhman	55
14. B. Harms	74
15. J.H. Siemer	71
16. G.H. Mohrmann	75
17. D. Strasburg	51
18. J.P. Kestner	56
19. J. Wippenhorst	77
20. F. Dickmann	64
21. H. Evers	67
22. A. Kiefer	60
23. J.H. Buck	61
24. D. Meyer	52
25. B. Mohrmann	69
26. J.H. Kunning	58
27. Ph. Reis	80
28. H. Kramer	81
29. J.H. Willenbruch	63
30. F.H. Speckmann	54
31. F. Nieter	49
32. F. Siemer	72
33. J.H. Mesker	50

Dear Mr. Reis, I am at J.H. Wellman and have been asked, if the society does not oblige, that you go to the Savings Institution and tell Mr. Goodman that Wellman would like to have his money within 14 days. This bank is just across of the post office.

I have to ask also if and how they want to sell the remaining lots or how they want to participate.

Yours very truly,
F.H. Schroeder

members of the Bremen community and were assumed to have been members of the Society.

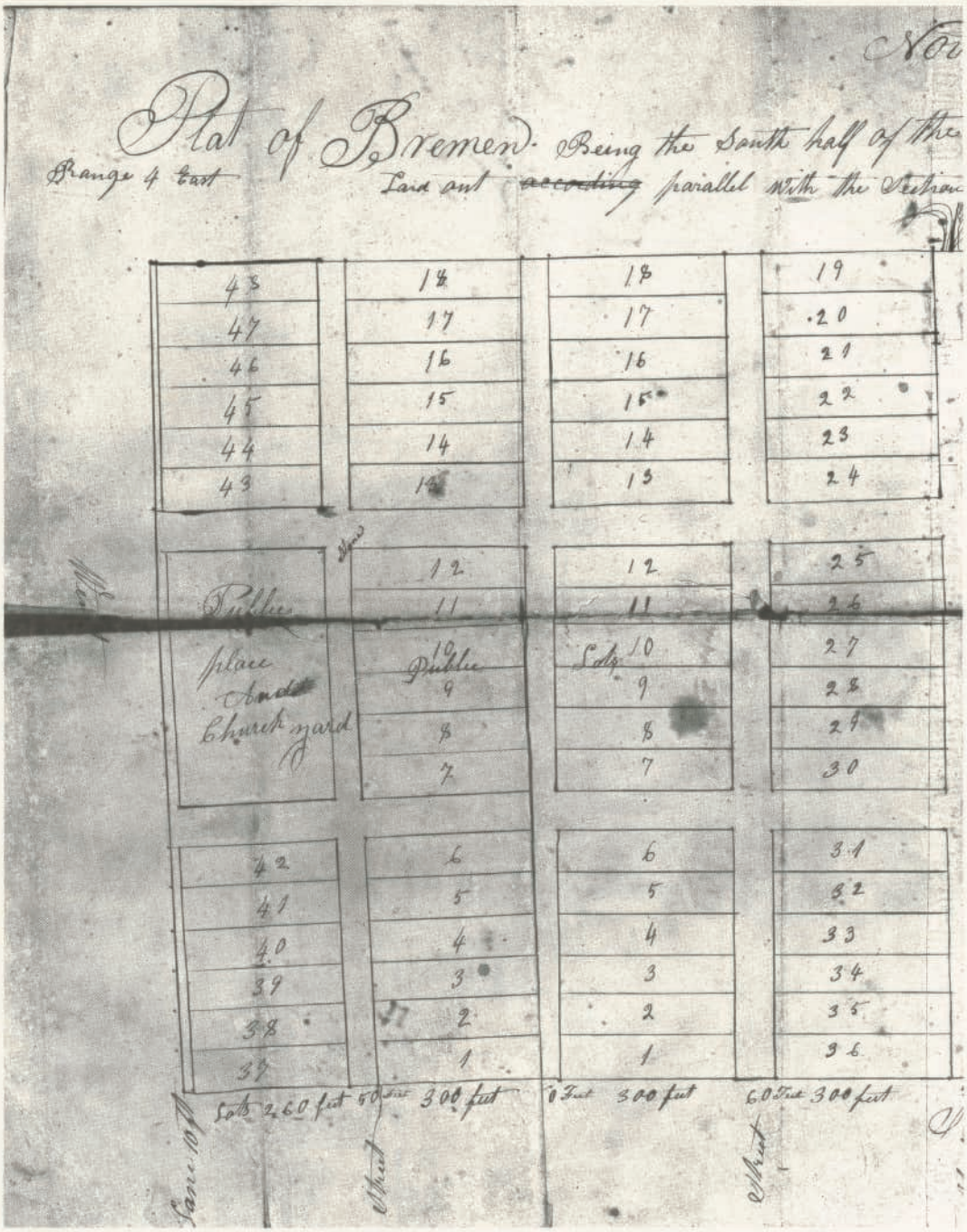
A third group of Germans, known in local history as the Bavarians, came to Bremen at the end of the summer of 1833. They were not members of the City of Bremen Society, nor did they come from northern Germany, nor did they come from Bavaria Proper. Their homeland was the Rhenish (Lower) Palatinate near France and Belgium. (DOCUMENT #7) The Palatinate was a small country that was separated geographically from Catholic Bavaria Proper near Austria. This small country near the Rhine was controlled by the larger country of Bavaria where King Ludwig gained the throne in 1825. During the time that the Jesuits became powerful in Bavaria, the Protestants were harried and oppressed.

This was the situation in the land-locked country of the Bavarian Rhenish Palatinate (Rhein land) that prompted immigration of its citizens to America. One group of families that were centered around Lauterecken began their journey to the New World in the spring of 1833. According to an account of Charles Boesel, one member of this group, they left their homeland in April of 1833. They came across the Imperial Highway which for centuries has been the main route from Germany to Paris, France. In this group of immigrants from the Rhenish Palatinate, there were the families of Jacob Maurer from Kronenberg, the Pauls from Schornborn, and the Boesels from Lauterecken. In a diary entry from the day-book of Phillip Jacob Maurer, he outlined his reasons for coming to America. (DOCUMENT #8)

The group sailed together from the port at Le Havre, France, which was the nearest harbor for them. They arrived on American soil at Baltimore on June 24, 1833. The date was thirteen days after the original plat of Bremen had been officially recorded. After they arrived in Cincinnati, they learned of the Bremen settlement. Some of the men went to German Township and bought land. From the land grant record, Jacob Maurer purchased the whole south quarter of Section 1 (320 A) on August 13, 1833. On the same day, Phillip H. Paul purchased 160 acres in Section 12, which adjoined Section 1. This land was about four miles east of the town of Bremen, and when these men purchased additional land, it was in Shelby County. After the land had been bought, they returned to Cincinnati to get their families. By the early fall of 1833, the Palatinates had become a part of

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Document #6

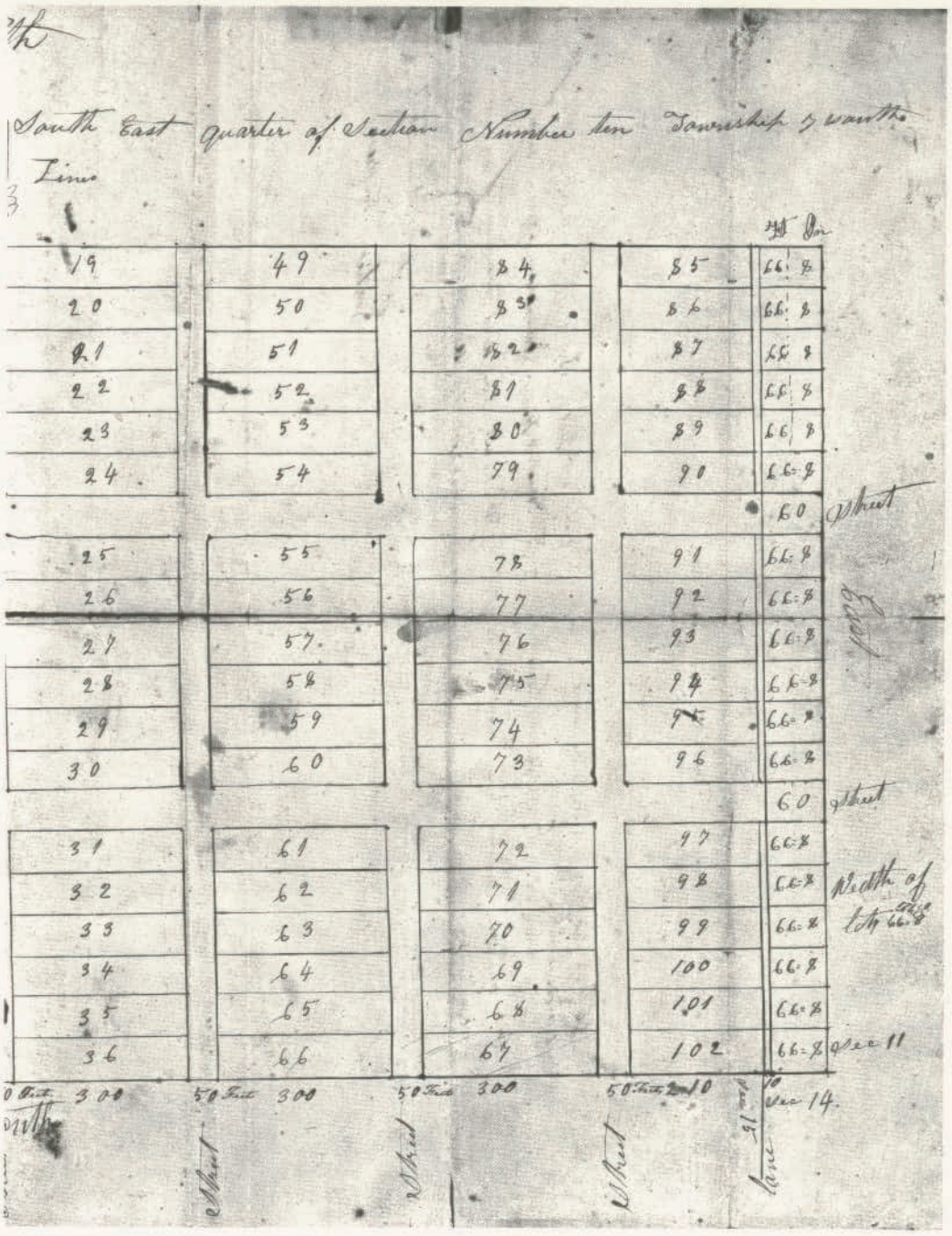


48	18 August Tiemann	18 August Tiemann	19 Joh. Hinr. Buck	
47	17 Diederich Timmerman	17 Diederich Timmerman	20 Gerd Heinrich Mohrmann	
46	16 Johann Diederich Meyer	16 Johann Diederich Meyer	21 Friedrich Siemer	
45	15 Heinrich Evers	15 Heinrich Evers	22 Fr. Bühmann	
44	14 Hinrich Kramer	14 Hinrich Kramer	23 Albert Fried Windeler	
43	13 Johann Heinrich Stöver	13 Johann Heinrich Stöver	24 Friedrich Dickmann	
	SECOND STREET			
Public Place	12 Jacob Reiss	12 Jacob Reiss	25 Diedrich Strassburg	
and	11 Johann Heinrich Künning	11 Johann Heinrich Künning	26 Alrend Heinr. Schreiber	
Church yard	10 Public Lots	10 Public Lots	27 Johann Hermann Windeler	
	9 Public Lots	9 Public Lots	28 Johann Wippenhorst	
	8 Philipp Reiss	8 Philipp Reis	29 Joh. Heinr. Siemer	
	7 Behrend Hinrich Harms	7 Behrend Hinrich Harms	30 Friedrich Linneweber	
	FIRST STREET			
42	6 Johann Hermann Mohrmann	6 Johann Hermann Mohrmann	31 Joh. Philipp Kestner	
41	5 Christian Karrman	5 Christian Karrman	32 F. Hein. Schröder	
40	4 Andreas Kieser	4 Andreas Kieser	33 Joh. Hinr. Willenbruch	
39	3 Behrend Mohrmann	3 Behrend Mohrmann	34 Joh. Hermann Mesker	
38	2 Hermann Heinrich Speckmann	2 Herman Heinrich Speckmann	35 Fried Christian Nieter	
37	1 Johann Koch	1 Johann Koch	36 empty	
	MONROE	STREET		Water Street

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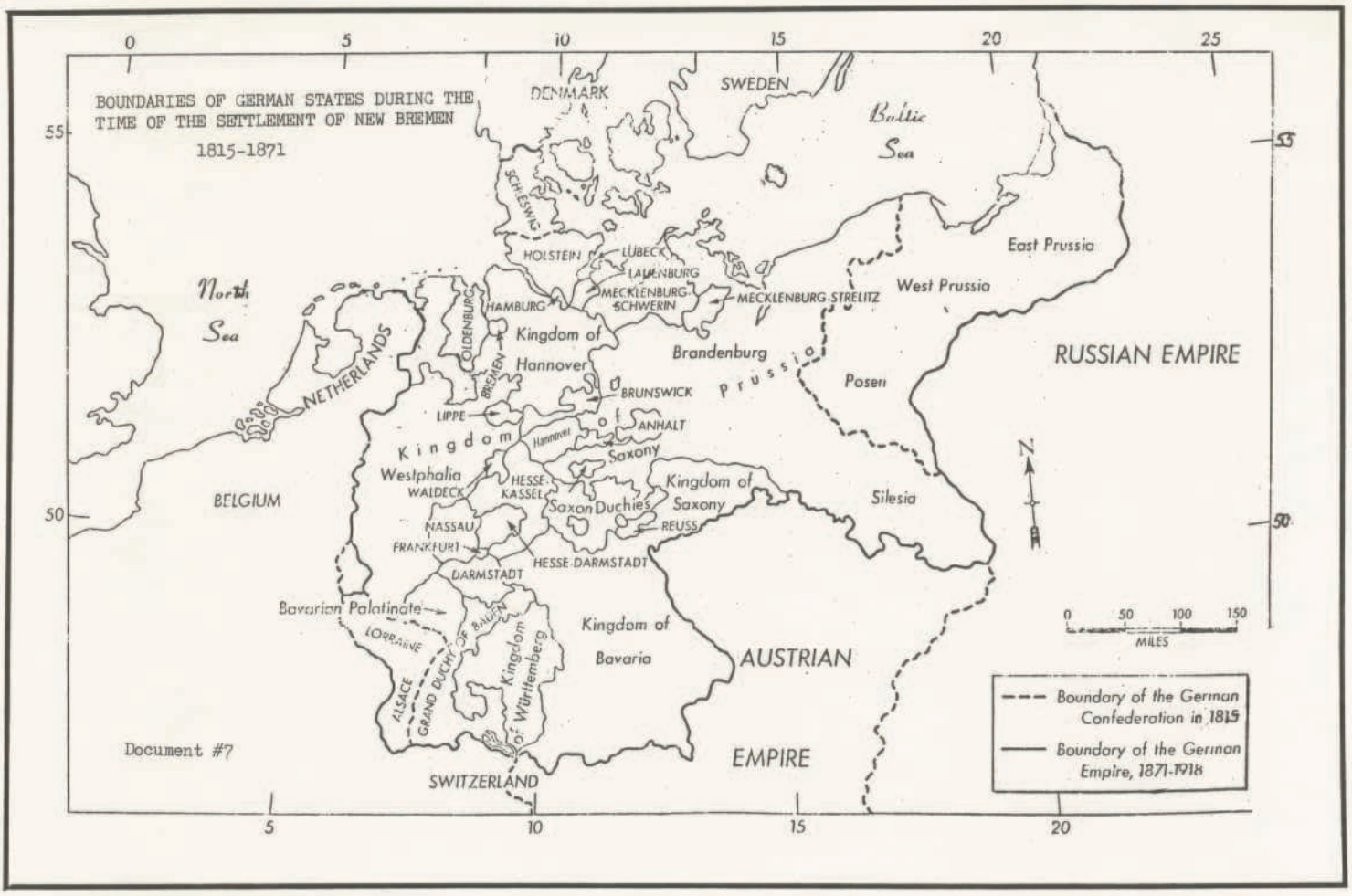
ORIGINAL PLAT OF BREMEN

Recorded June 11, 1832



19 Joh. Hinr. Buck	49 Friederich Christian Nieter	84 empty	85
20 Gerd Heinrich Mohrmann	50 Joh. Hermann Mesker	83 empty	86
21 Friderich Siemer	51 Diedrich Strausburg	82 empty	87
22 Fr. Bühman	52 Joh. Diedrich Meyer	81 Heinrich Kramer	88
23 Albert Fried Windeler	53 Albert F. Windeler	80 Philipp Reiss	89
24 Friedrich Dickman	54 Hermann Heinrich Speckmann	79 Joh. Heinrich Stöver	90
	SECOND STREET		
25 Diedrich Strassburg	55 Fr. Bühmann	78 August Tieman	91
26 Alrend Heinr. Schreiber	56 Philipp Kestner	77 Joh. Wippenhorst	92
27 Johann Hermann Windeler	57 Heinrich Schreiber	76 Joh. Heinrich Mohrmann	93
28 Johann Wippenhorst	58 Joh. Heinrich Künning	75 Gerh. H. Mohrmann	94
29 Joh. Heinr. Siemer	59 Jacob Reiss	74 Behrend Harms	95
30 Friedrich Linneweber	60 Andrew Kiefer	73 F.H. Schröder	96
	FIRST STREET		
31 Joh. Philipp Kestner	61 Heinrich Buck	72 Friederich Siemer	97
32 F. Hein. Schröder	62 Diedrich Timmerman	71 Joh. Heinrich Siemer	98
33 Joh. Hinr. Willenbruch	63 Joh. Heinrich Willenbruch	70 Johann Koch	99
34 Joh. Hermann Mesker	64 Friederick Dickmann	69 Behrend Mohrmann	100
35 Fried Christian Nieter	65 Christian Karrman	68 Friederich Linneweber	101
36 empty	66 Herman F. Windeler	67 Heinrich Evers	102

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Document #8

Reasons for Coming to America

From the Day-book of Phillip Jacob Maurer during the sea voyage to America — 1833.

The thought came to me, early in the month of October, 1832, that I should like to go to America with my children. From the moment I resolved to go, I became happy and carefree. It seemed as though I were transformed. At work and in marching I was never tired. I could make a two-hour march in one and a half hours. Thank God for the wonderful gift of health and for a light and happy heart.

The conditions that influenced me to go to America are as follows:

1. The bad house-keeping of the State where the expenses are so great, and the princely household, the officers and the state officials are paid too high; also the customs and the toll. The land is cut into small parts so one gets into a new land with each day's journey, and each land is encircled by a toll line. Commerce is hindered. The last cent is taken away from the common people. Also the money must be changed and the people are again the losers.

2. Of complimenting and politeness and saluting there is no end. One hardly knows how to frame his sentences so as not to offend. Everyone wants to be addressed as "THOU."

3. In the field and in the home one is robbed. One cannot be careful enough.

4. Poverty is so universal that one has to hand out 10 to 15 pounds of bread daily. Among these are many beggars. One knows them but dares not refuse them, because of what they may do. They live in the next village and are very dangerous.

5. One cannot be too careful in the lending of money and grain. One is cheated often. There is no such thing as keeping one's word among the people. When people need money or other things they give you angel-words (Engleworte) but if you ask them to return what they borrowed, they become your enemies and call you heartless. The returning of things is hard because they are so needy. Many times one loses. All confidence is gone and one dreads to help anyone, but still one has no peace from the borrower.

6. The Sabbath is desecrated. The good and upright person has a battle to stay in the straight and narrow path.

7. In spite of the extraordinary taxes, the State debt gets higher and higher every year. What will things come to when it must be paid? According to the speakers at the Hambacher Festival, the State debt amounted to 124 million florin on the 27th of May, 1832.

8. The military duty is worrying me because of my five sons.

9. Friendship is seldom found. Greed and selfishness have taken the place of true friendship.

10. When it is necessary to go to the law, there is so much expense that many a one loses his right.

11. When one buys land for 100 Fr., the State 14 Fr. and 14 crowns.

12. In the several states of Europe one is robbed of all freedom. A chain is thrown around the people and they are led like animals. For instance, one may not take a dog to the field with him without a fine of 5 Fr. One may not catch a rabbit, for the fine is 3 Fr. Because of these things and many others, I am leaving Europe. For these reasons, wealthy, prominent, and worthy men also officials and spiritual leaders, who are dissatisfied, resolved to migrate to the United States of America, where there is freedom.

Genealogy of Phillip Jacob Maurer of Kronenberg-Lauterrecken, Bavaria and his descendants in America 1738-1968 *by Dorothea Dicke Maurer.*

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Document #9

Translation

Actum Cincinnati, Febr. 3, 1834

All members of the City of Bremen which are still living in Cincinnati are granting to the people which are living around Bremen the right to build a Church under the following conditions:

1. Ground and soil for the church and its thereto purpose is granted to you by this local Society belonging to the City of Bremen and consists of 60 feet frontpart according to the direction of the plan, and these should have the same equal share of the church and church yard as the founding society, however under the condition that the ground and soil of this property should never be sold.

2. On the other hand the people living around Bremen are obliged to erect the fences around those properties free of charge.

To attest this document several members of the Society of the city have signed it by their own hand.

Heinrich Evers . Secretary

FRIEDRICH MEYER
On behalf of the people situated around Bremen.

Jacob Reif (ss)
H.F. Windeler
Hinrich Kramer
Friederich Schulenberg
D.H. Timmermann
A. Kar(r)mann
Georg O. Kiel

the Bremen community. There is no record of the Boesel family purchasing land from the government. By his own account, when Charles Boesel came in the fall of 1833 to visit his relatives, the Maurer family, he reported that the settlement of Bremen had about thirty-five families. Their homes were in a five-mile wide circle around Bremen. The city had only about six cabins which were so far apart that one could go through the town without knowing it. Boesel was convinced that he could not make a decent living so he went to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he found work, probably on the Wabash Canal. After a stay of nineteen months, he returned to the town of Bremen where he opened a store on the post road between Piqua and St. Marys, two blocks from the planned Lock One of the Miami-Erie Canal. The store was located on Lot #36, the undrawn lot that was sold outright after the first lottery by the Society. It was an ideal business location, and by 1846 Boesel owned both double lots at #1 and 36. This prime land stretched for four blocks on the north side of the plank road (now Monroe Street) from the west limits of the village to the canal.

While few people were living in town, the farmland in Sections 1-18 in German Township was filling quickly. Land was purchased primarily by people with German names from 1832 through 1833. The adjoining sections of #6 and 7 at the northwestern corner of the township were listed in the records as alternate sections. They were parcels of land set aside whose sale provided for funds to build the canal. Since the price of this land was set by Congress at $2.50 an acre, it was sold after cheaper farmland was gone. It is this part of the township that became the domain of the Dickes from Hannover after their arrival in the late 1830s and 1840s. Although they did not buy most of their land directly from the government in the west edge of German Township and in Franklin Township which is still in Mercer County, the Dicke families acquired adjacent sections of land that became known as Clover Four farms. These German Protestant settlers, many who are now in Mercer County, are regarded as New Bremen people.

In the southern half of German Township, a group of ninety-seven Catholics from the Oldenburg area formed a society in Cincinnati on September 1, 1832. The leader of the immigrant organization was Francis Joseph Stallo who purchased 640 acres of land in Sections 26, 27, 34, 35 in German Township on September 28, 1832. The settlement was named Stallostown and a lottery was held for 144 lots on April 14, 1833. The plat for the founding of the town was not officially recorded until June 11, 1833, the same date as the platting of New Bremen.

It appears that the settlement of German Township began in Sections 1-18 in the north half which was closest to St. Marys. The men with the English names bought more land there in the 1820s, while they only bought three parcels in the south half of Sections 19-37, land exclusively along the Auglaize Trail.(See Document #3) No land transactions occured from 1827 until the Germans began arriving in 1832. They bought the land in the north half first. Seventy-four percent of the land transactions from the government were recorded in Sections 1-18 by the fall of 1833. In the south half in Sections 19-36, only 34% had taken place by that time. Land in the north half was bought for Bremen on August 4, 1832, but it was not until September 28, that the purchase of the land for Stallostown took place. The German settlement of the land spread further south so that by 1837, Berlin was platted near the site of Loramie's store and old Fort Loramie. All three German towns eventually changed their names. Bremen became New Bremen, Stallostown was changed to Minster, and Berlin returned to its historic name of Fort Loramie.

In the fall of 1833, F.H. Schroeder, the land agent for the City of Bremen Society, died. Reverend L.H. Meyer, the minister of the Protestant Church, assumed his role. On February 3, 1834, a letter was received by the members of the Society at Bremen. It was written by Heinrich Evers who represented the members at Cincinnati. (DOCUMENT #9) In the letter, permission was given to build a church and orders were issued to the people of Bremen that they should build fences around their property. There was no mention of the financial matters discussed in the letter from January of 1833. Two new names, Frederick Schulenberg and Georg O. Kiel, appeared in the list of those who signed for the members in Cincinnati. *(Footnote on page 16)

Although the first church was founded in 1833, the first constitution was not signed by members until August 30, 1835. In the list of fourteen original incorporators, found in the *St. Paul Evangelical Church Centennial Book,* 1833-1933, only four men had the same last name as Bremen Society members. Since it was customary for German immigrants to have two or three given names, they often used different ones in signatures. Other society members were part of the congregation because their names are given in other parts of the church publication. The founding of St. Paul Church in the same year that the town was platted established its dominance so that no other denomination has ever come in to the original plat of the town of Bremen on the west side of the canal. St. Paul's present church is on

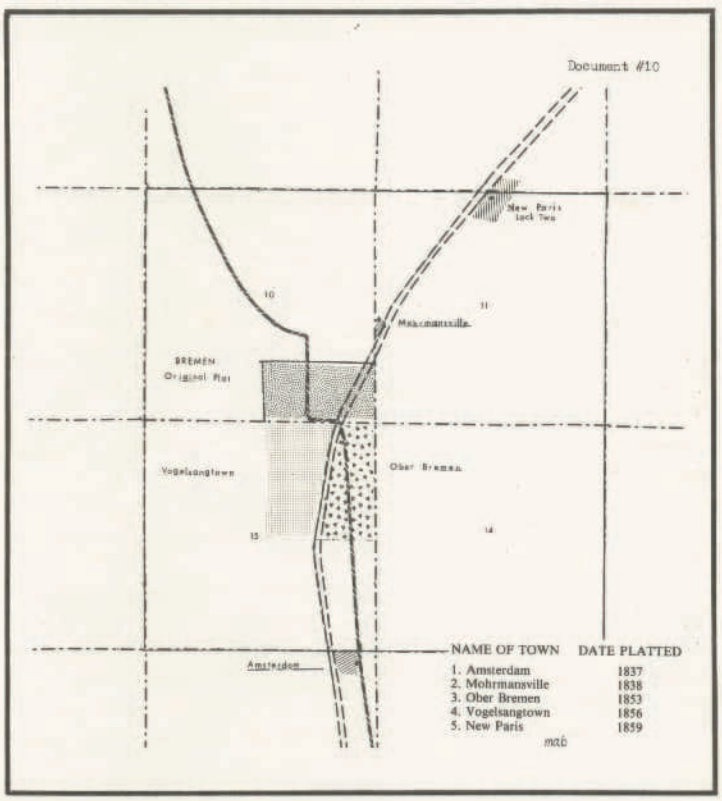
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public ground (old lots #9 and 10) on North Franklin Street.

By 1835, the town of Bremen had achieved enough notice that the name had to be changed to New Bremen. According to the local account, there was already another Bremen near Lancaster in Fairfield County. Curiously, the book *Post Offices of Ohio,* shows that the post office at New Bremen was established in Mercer County on August 12, 1835. It was almost two years later that the post office at Bremen was designated in Fairfield County on July 10, 1837. Two years after the name was changed, the village of New Bremen was incorporated on March 23, 1837. The town has been governed by a mayor and council since that time. Gerhard Kleforth, a school teacher, was the first mayor.

How long the Bremen Society was able to adhere to its charter is not clear. The first requirement was that only Protestants be admitted. Only a good law-abiding man could be a member, and a new member must provide in cash an equal part of the money and other expenses incurred at the acquisition of the 80 acres. Since most of the choice lots in the village were assigned to the original thirty-three persons, newcomers may have sought other ways to settle in the community.

A number of additions extended New Bremen's boundaries through the years because there was little room in the original plat. The numbering of the lots in each new addition always began with number one. The Bremen South Addition was laid out on the east side of the Miami Canal on the E½ of the NE¼ of Section 15 and was entered for record on October 7, 1837. It included the large area from present-day Front Street to South Street, with the lots on the east side of Walnut Street forming the eastern boundary. The canal formed the western boundary. This plat was the first local record that showed the canal running through New Bremen. An area about two blocks wide between Monroe and Front Streets from the canal to Walnut Street was designated as Outlots in the tax records as "Between the Original Plat and the South Addition".



Perhaps the restrictions that were in the Actum promoted the founding of five other towns in German Township within the next twenty-two years. (DOCUMENT #10) Three of the towns, Mohrmansville, Ober Bremen, and Vogelsangtown, were within one-half mile of New Bremen. The other two, Amsterdam and Lock Two, were within one mile. Other nearby villages, such as Minster and St. Marys, did not experience the clustering of hamlets around them.

Amsterdam, the first of the small towns, was platted in late summer of 1837 in the NE part of Section 22 (now in Jackson Township). It lay across the line from Section 15 between the Auglaize Trail and the canal route. This small village of sixty-five lots is part of New Bremen's history. Legend reports that the first people in the Bremen area settled at Amsterdam and later moved into New Bremen. Others have said that Amsterdam was created as a buffer town between the Catholics, one mile south at Minster, and the Evangelical Protestants, one mile north at New Bremen. A cholera outbreak in 1849 which devastated communities along the canal in western Ohio is reported to have completely wiped out the tiny community. No evidence of a village remains today.

The second town to be formed around New Bremen was Mohrmansville. Behrend Mohrman, one of the members of the Society, platted a small town one half mile north of New Bremen in the NW corner of the SW¼ of Section 11 on the ninth day of June in 1838. This plat map included a sketch of the canal flowing northeast; streets named Canal, First, Second and Main; and a triangular lot marked Market Space.

A number of important events took place in New Bremen before the next three towns were platted. The canal was finally completed in 1845 and a boat was able to travel from Cincinnati to Toledo. The town experienced a burst of activity in the next year. According to the tax duplicates and the board of equalization record, more than forty lots in town had property tax values set between $150 and $1150. About half of that number ranged between $400 to $600. These high amounts indicate that some large brick buildings were present.

Closely following the opening of the canal, an incident in July of 1846 brought national attention to the small German village at the summit. A group of 383 free black people arrived in New Bremen by canal boat intent on traveling west to settle on recently purchased land in adjoining Marion Township. The freed slaves were part of the John Randolph estate. He was a United States senator and statesman from Roanoke, Virginia who was influenced by the abolitionist movement that swept the nation before the Civil War. Those who stood to inherit property thought he was mad, and the will was contested for thirteen years following his death in 1833. According to a number of accounts, some from Piqua newspaper stories of 1846, the black families were not allowed to disembark at New Bremen. They were delayed for two days by an armed crowd led by Silas Young and Samuel Grunden. On the next day, the black people were escorted by armed settlers southward across the Mercer County line where they dispersed into Shelby, Miami and Darke Coun-

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ties.

In the fall of 1845, after a few years of discussion, several members of St. Paul Church left the congregation to form a new church. There was a difference of opinion on certain passages in Scripture, according to an account in the *Centennial* book. Other reports indicate that the people who formed St. Peter's Evangelical Church wished to continue services in the German language while the St. Paul congregation was beginning to use English. The records for births, marriages and deaths at St. Peter's were still written in German as late as 1922. They built a church two blocks north of St. Paul on North Franklin Street.

In 1848, a new county was organized from parts of Mercer, Van Wert, Allen, Shelby and Darke Counties. The huge rectangle of land that measured ten miles by twelve miles when it belonged to the Shawnees was too bulky to incorporate into existing counties. The townships of Salem, Noble, St. Marys, and German were taken from Mercer County. They were joined with townships on the east side of the reservation land which were part of the Virginia Military District settled by families of Virginia soldiers who were paid in land for service in the Revolutionary War. The new county of Auglaize was not a cohesive unit, and is culturally divided today. St. Marys and German Townships were already heavily populated and it was hoped that the county seat would be at St. Marys. Since Wapakoneta was more centrally located, the decision was made that the seat of county government should be located there. Wapakoneta was selected shortly after it was incorporated in 1849.

The cholera epidemic of 1849 has always been a popular subject for local canal town historians who have reported high numbers of deaths for each community. In the account by Charles Boesel, he stated that from a population of about 700 people, there were 150 who died of the disease. The death figure is supported by church records for July and August of 1849. There were 113 who died from St. Paul's and 35 from St. Peter's, the only two churches in the town. Almost all of the deaths for those two months were attributed to cholera, although a few were listed as scarlet fever, typhoid or malaria. These lists of deaths must have included people who lived in the township, as well as those in the village. It seems that the size of the village's population may have been overestimated since only 344 people were counted in New Bremen for the census record of 1850.

In 1853, a third new town was platted on the east side of the canal. It was named Ober (Upper) Bremen and swallowed up both the South Addition and the area known as "Between the Original Plat and the South Addition". This village had a separate school, town hall, fire department, and mayor with council. Christian Ellerman served as the first mayor. Main Street of the new town soon rivaled Main Street in New Bremen because of the mills that were located in Ober Bremen along present-day Washington Street.

The birthplaces of the people who bought lots in Ober Bremen were different from those in New Bremen. By 1860 more than 49% of the heads of households in New Bremen were listed with birthplaces in Hannover, 25% were born in Prussia, 10% in Mecklenberg, only 6% in Bavaria, and a few were born in Baden, Hessen, and Oldenberg. Prussia and Mecklenberg lay near Hannover and sometimes their boundaries changed. Many times a Prussian man had a wife who was born in Hannover. Some of the children were born in Germany, but by the 1840s most were born in Ohio. A black family was listed and the father was the only head of a household not born in Germany.

In the same record the 1860 Lensus, for Ober Bremen, only 29% of the heads of households were born in Hannover while 34% were born in Prussia, 5% in Mecklenberg and 2% in Bavaria. The rest of the population was dispersed among the German states of Saxony, Hessen, Hamburg, and Oldenburg; the country of France; the American states of Pennsylvania and Ohio; and one was born on the Atlantic Ocean. Since the town of Bremen was founded for Protestants, when the Catholic parish was established in 1872, a small brick church was built in Ober Bremen. This was only the second denomination to found a church in the community until after the turn of the century. It was one of the few Catholic parishes founded in west-central Ohio that eventually discontinued services. No Catholic cemetery was ever established for the community, and by the 1890s the few members of this faith began attending mass in Minster. The brick church sat empty until it was sold to a Protestant congregation after the turn of the century. A Catholic parish was re-established in 1948.

As Ober Bremen began to dominate the economy of the community due to the canal, the importance of the City of Bremen Society faded as the settlement turned into a canal town. However, it seems that most members of the Society became a part of the community they founded in Ohio. In all the early records studied for this research, twenty-four exact names of the original signers of the Actum at Cincinnati were found. They are given here: F.H. Schroeder, Frederick Siemer, Johann Heinrich Siemer, Johann Heinrich Buck, Phillip Reis, Hermann Freiderich Mohrmann, Albert Freiderick Windeler, August Tiemann, Christian Karrman, Dietrich Timmerman, Friederich Linneweber, Johann Hermann Mesker, Friederich Christian Nieter, Johannes Hermann Mohrmann, Johann Wippenhorst, Gerd. Heinrich Mohrmann, Johann Diedrich Meyer, Herman Heinrich Speckmann, Behrend Hinrich Harms, Johann Heinrich Kunning, Behrend Mohrmann, Friederick Dickman, Fr. Buhman, Heinrich Kramer, Jacob Reiss.

The fourth town, Vogelsangtown, was platted in 1856. It established the first residential area. Located on Frederick Vogelsang's farm south of the original plat, it was across the canal and west of Ober Bremen. This separate village stretched along Franklin and Herman Streets from Monroe Street on the north almost to the southern edge of town. Vogelsang's house was reached by a lane until 1890 when Main Street was extended from Monroe Street. The town lasted only a short time so that by the end of the Civil War in 1865, it was annexed to New Bremen. It became a desirable location after Charles Boesel built his house there in the 1870s and his children built large residences along Franklin Street in the 1890s.

Lock Two, on the north end of German Township, was the last town to be established. It remains today a picturesque hamlet built up around a flour and saw mill. It was not officially platted in the courthouse records in 1859, but was described as fractions of land in the N½ of Section 11 along the canal. John Garmhausen purchased a mill on the second lock of the canal about 1853, and soon dominated the village with a multitude of enterprises. He built a grist mill, saw mill, warehouse, pork packing plant, and had a grocery and general store. While he lived on the east side of the canal

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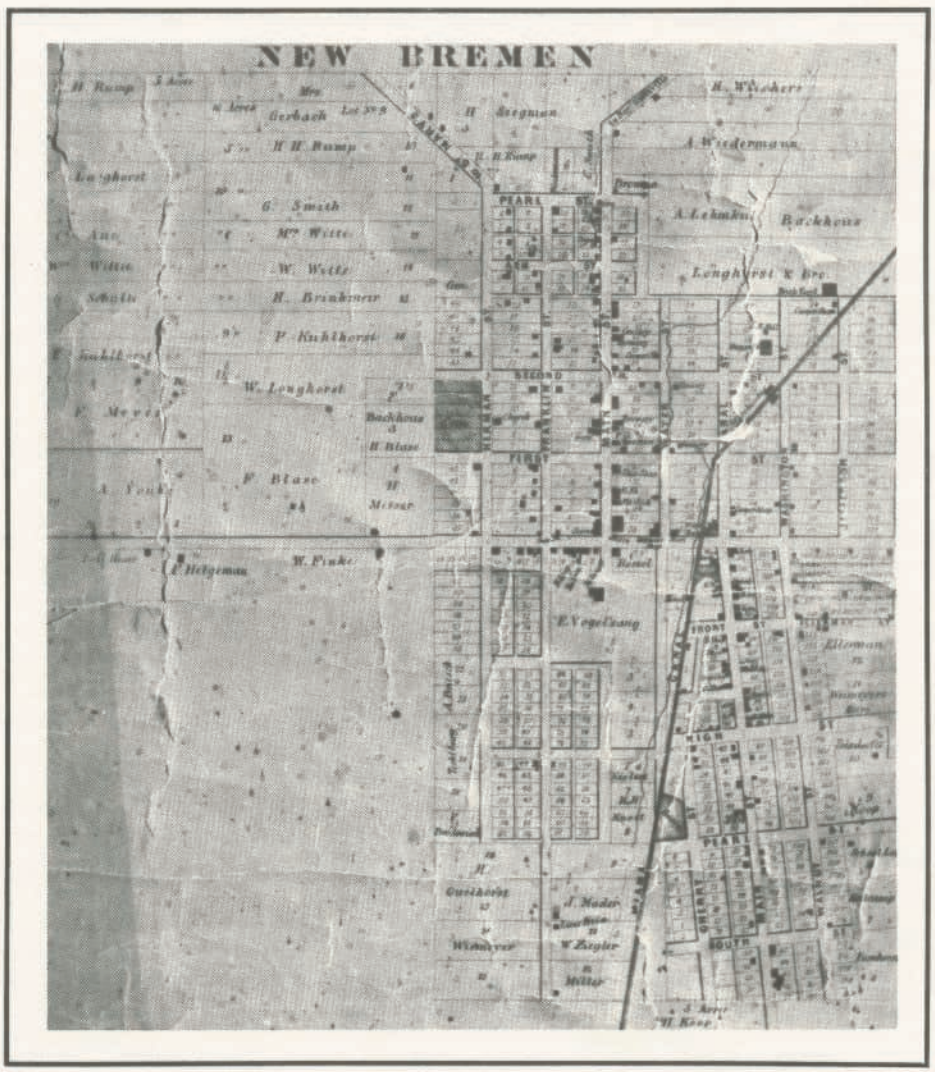
in a brick house, which he built in the 1870s, he also constructed for the miller a frame Gothic cottage and for his sons two Queen Annes which had frescoed angels on the ceilings. Although there never was a church in the hamlet, a school was located about one mile west and was known as the North School or the Lock Two School. When the town was sketched in the 1862 township map, it was called New Paris. In another document filed in the courthouse in 1871 when the lots were resurveyed, a small note on the plat map reads "New Paris". There are no local explanations why a hamlet filled with Germans was named for the capital city of France. It may have been chosen by the Palatinates who lived nearby in Sections 12 and 1 since they had traveled through Paris, France, when they emigrated to America in 1833.

German Township was split in half in 1858. The north half (Sections 1 18) was separated from the south half (Sections 19-36). The north half remained German Township and the land in the south half was named Jackson Township. A wall map made about 1862 shows the townships and villages in the entire county and includes German Township and the towns of New Bremen and New Paris. (Documents #11 and 12) Some of the buildings and businesses in the villages are marked, and the owners and acreage of the farms are identified.

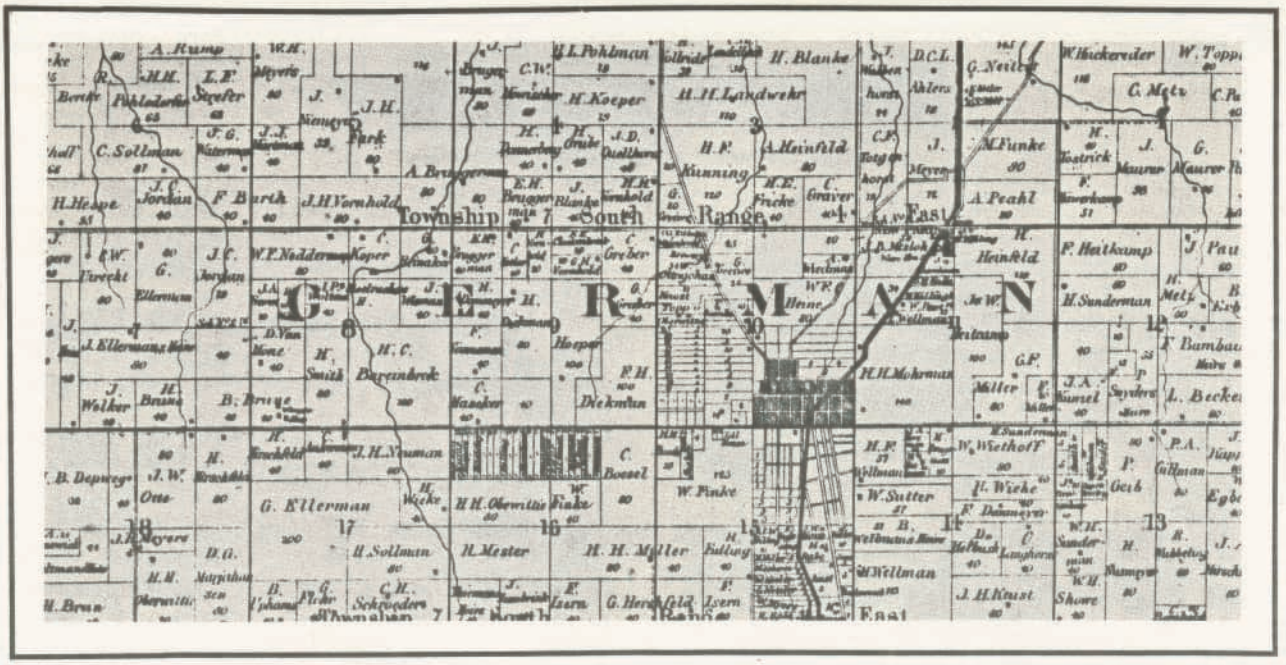
The third Protestant church was organized in March of 1865 when a few members of St. Peter's Evangelical congregation withdrew to form Zion's Reformed Church. The congregation moved to a building on North Main Street. These three churches on the west side of the canal are the same denomination today.

It was the same year that some thought was given to moving the cemetery on Herman Street to another location. According to the village minutes which were recorded beginning in 1846, a new burial ground outside of town was wuggested because ideas of sanitation and public welfare became concerns of the village council during the last half of the nineteenth century. German Protestant Cemetery was established in the SW¼ of Section 2 that same year, and another named Willow Grove was put in the NE¼ of the same section. The old Plank Cemetery on the south side of the plank road (State Route #274) must have been considered far enough west of town.

Civic-minded residents urged that a town hall for New Bremen be built in the market space on Lots #9 and 10 along Main Street. The council and the mayor had met in an individual's home, often at Albert Lehmkuhl's house, and they voted that the construction of a two-story brick building which would also serve as a fire house should commence in 1866. Approval to use the town hall was given to the Gesang Verein, a German social club, as long as their ac-



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tivities did not conflict with council meetings.

According to Boesel's account that was published in the *Der Deutsche Pioneer* in 1869, the town of New Bremen had a population of about 2000 inhabitants. The economy was thriving with about 10,000 hogs slaughtered each year at the five pork packing plants in town and the one at Lock Two. There were seven large warehouses for storage of grain, seven or eight dry goods stores, grist mills at Lock One and Lock Two, a woolen mill and several saw mills in the area.

By that time, Monroe Street was becoming a strong commercial area that was used by the hacks that transported travelers and merchandise to the Dayton and Michigan Railroad that had been put through Botkins in Shelby County in 1858. There were men in New Bremen with visions of obtaining a railroad for the town. They saw it replacing the canal for transporting produce. On March 7, 1870, a petition was presented to council for $25 to pay for the survey of the proposed railroad and to cover the expenses of delegates sent to Covington. It is reported that the citizens of Minster and New Bremen contributed $40,000 to get the railroad through their towns. When the Lake Erie and Western extended its route in 1877 from St. Marys to Minster through New Bremen, the decline of the canal era was insured.

A discussion of the union of Ober Bremen and New Bremen began in the early 1870s, and the hope of getting a railroad through the town increased the need for cooperation among businessmen and elected officials on both sides of the canal. The union of the two towns was officially decided upon in 1876, but it took until 1878 to accomplish the monumental task. All the lots were renumbered again, some for the third time.

At about the same time that Ober Bremen was annexed to New Bremen the idea of a new school was promoted. A three-story brick school named Union School was built on South Franklin Street in the former town of Vogelsang in 1877. It was later called Central School and was used by the community until 1956. When Ober Bremen and New Bremen were joined together in 1878, New Bremen became the town that we know today.

The memory of these two separate towns remained yet at the turn of the century. During that time, a rivalry existed between citizens that lived on opposite sides of the canal. The Ober Bremen side was called "Frogtown" because of the sound of the bullfrogs croaking in the night near Rabe's Pond. It was a large basin of water connected to the canal on the east side. The Bremen side of town was named "Cheese Quarters" which referred to the White Mountain Creamery on the Huenke farm west of town. Large amounts of butter and cheese were produced there beginning in 1884. By the 1940s, young boys who formed baseball teams belonged to either the Frogtown team or the Cheese Quarters team, depending on where they lived. They may have wondered where the frogs and cheese had been, but few of them knew the story of New Bremen during its first fifty years.

FOOTNOTE

The letters of 1833 and 1834 were translated in the sesquicentennial year by Ernst Schmidt, a Sidney, Ohio, resident who was born in Wilhelms haven, Oldenburg, Germany. He stated that when Schroeder wrote the letter in 1833, he used an unpolished style of writing with many insertions of American words, especially when he was referring to financial matters. On the other hand, the letter from Evers in 1834 contained few errors in composition and only two English substitutions. Evers used standard official German without a trace of "Plattdeutsch". Schroeder was probably the type of man who would go into the wilderness and Evers, who was perhaps more educated and of higher class, stayed in Cincinnati. Mr. Schmidt said that many such societies were formed in the seafaring cities and kingdoms along the North Sea. They were business ventures for the stockholders of the company, but the City of Bremen Society that came to Mercer County was somewhat different because the members themselves settled in the colony that was established in the wilderness lands. The normal pattern of settlement would have been for stockholders in Germany to recruit farmers and assorted craftsmen. After the group's arrival in the new country, some would settle the land while others would remain in the city to receive and market the products of the colony. The community of Minster was organized in the same way. There must have been other German Societies that founded communities in Ohio, Indiana and states farther west. More Bremen Company letters in German script remain untranslated and are in the possession of the local library and historical society.

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Bremen Furniture

written by: Monty McDermitt

The author is a native of New Bremen and teaches in the local school. Because he has a special interest in the history of the area and is an expert in antiques, he has researched the furniture of New Bremen for over fifteen years.

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The purpose of this article is an introductory overview that all can understand. A special thanks to all the people who allowed me to photograph their furniture, and for the detailed drawings.

Early German furniture from New Bremen and the immediate surrounding area has a unique style. Many of the cabinet making characteristics are not found anywhere else in the state. Some of the immigrants were carpenters and cabinet makers. Their cabinet making skills and styles reflected their culture and training from Germany.

Generally, early New Bremen furniture was large and massive. Earliest pieces dating from the 1830s and 1840s were usually made of poplar. Later examples from the 1850s through the 1880s were normally walnut or cherry. Of course, there were exceptions and exact dating is often difficult because early cabinet making methods were used over a long period of time.

By comparing the larger pieces of New Bremen furniture, four periods of cabinet-making become apparent. The following pages of furniture are divided into these four periods.

The earliest period spans the 1830s and 1840s. Two of the furniture examples pictured are poplar and one is ash. All have identical raised reeded diamonds. All three pieces were either made by the same person or came out of the same shop. The wardrobes have identical hinges, box locks, and interior wood hooks. Few early examples are available for study and research. This undoubtedly occurred for several reasons. A lot of furniture has left the area because pieces have been sold over the years and people moved away. Also many pieces were just thrown away because they were no longer needed. Finally, there was probably not a big market for furniture at that time. People were making a new start in America and only the basics were used with extra money not available for special made furniture. Undoubtedly much of the furniture made was for personal use by the maker.



Plate #1 - Poplar corner cupboard, 54 inches wide by 93.5 inches tall. Heavy lift off hinges and reeded diamond panels in lower doors.



Plate #2 - Carved cartouche (an ornate carving on top of a piece of furniture enclosing the owner's or maker's name) on cornice of corner cupboard, signed J.H. Knost 1841.



Plate #3 - Poplar wardrobe, 53.5 inches wide, 74.5 inches tall and 20.5 inches deep. Yellow graining over old red. Take down construction, with dovetailed case and bracket feet, Greek key molding down center of doors with reeded diamond panels.

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Plate #4 - Ash wardrobe, 69 inches wide, 75.5 inches tall, and 18.5 inches deep. One piece construction with dovetailed case. Feet and base molding missing. Old red paint with reeded diamond panels.



Plate #6 - Early poplar front door. Came from a log cabin in New Bremen. Old gray paint over blue. Raised diamond panels on both sides, with three lights across top. Early wrought iron thumb latch with whitesmith hinges (cut out hinge from sheet metal or tin), 37 inches wide by 70.5 inches tall.

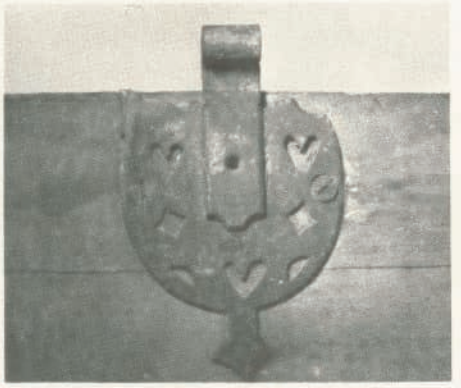
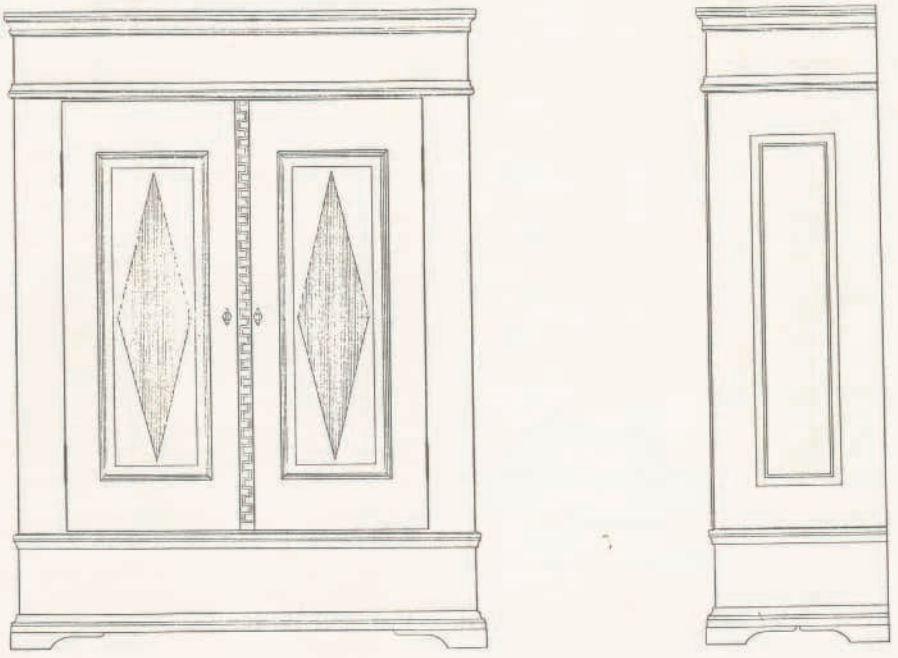
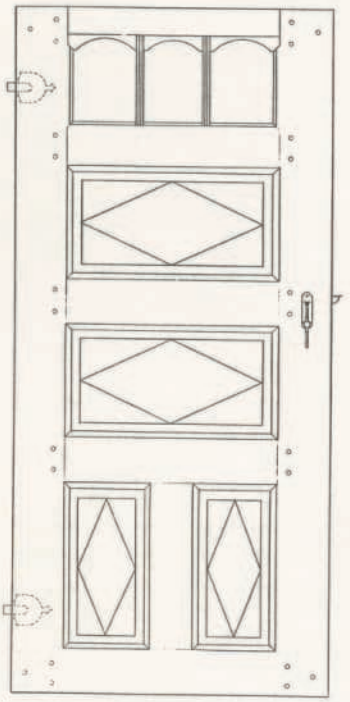


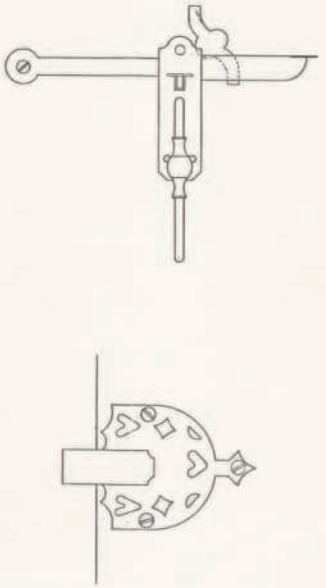
Plate #7 - Close-up picture of hinge.



Drawing #5 - Detailed drawing of Plate #3, showing front and side construction.

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Drawing #8
Detailed drawing of cabin door and hardware.

The middle period covered the late 1850s through the 1870s. German features were blended with the Empire period which was popular at that time. Walnut or cherry was mainly used. By 1860, New Bremen had a population close to 2000 and the canal was actively used. These facts helped the establishment of several cabinet making shops.

The industrial census of 1860 showed the following cabinet makers.

Name		Occupation	Personal Value
1860 Town of New Bremen			
George Buchler	65 yrs.	Cabinet Maker	$500 real estate and $150 personal property
Anna M.	48 yrs.		
George	15 yrs.	Apprentice	
Charles	7 yrs.		
1860 Town of New Bremen			
William Fillings	44 yrs.	Cabinet Maker	$500 real estate and $250 personal property
Catherine	61 yrs.		
1860 Ober Bremen			
William Hitecamp	34 yrs.	Cabinet Maker	$3000 real estate and $1000 personal property
Sophia	34 yrs.		
Henry	4 yrs.		
Anna	6 mo.		
William Elson	24 yrs.	Cabinet Maker	
Fred Shock	22 yrs.	Carpenter	
Christ Sniver	24 yrs.	Cabinet Maker	
Goelop Fornhorst	17 yrs.	Carpenter	
Jacob Prillman	18 yrs.	Cabinet Maker	
William Minihner	60 yrs.	Carpenter	

These cabinet makers had established businesses and apparently were producing enough furniture to support themselves. How much of this furniture was sold locally in comparison to being shipped on the canal we'll never know. There is, however, a quantity of this period of furniture turning up yet today in this area.

Probably the most unique of all New Bremen furniture of this period was the flatwall (in contrast to a corner) cupboard. They had the following characteristics:

1. Lift off hinges
2. Heavy applied and built up moldings
3. No pie shelf (top sits directly on the base)
4. Glass on the sides and front
5. Cup shelf at the top
6. Dark blue interior paint
7. Turn buckle on the lower doors
8. Chamfered sides on top and bottom
9. Ogee drawer fronts (Empire influence)
10. High base

Cupboards found close to New Bremen had chamfered tops and bottoms. Examples found west of town usually had square bases and chamfered tops. The earlier examples had six panes per door with later examples having three panes.



Plate #9 - Poplar cupboard, original red paint. Small panes with side lights, lift off hinges, raised panels in base, ogee drawer fronts, 75 inches wide by 94 inches tall with a 20 inch deep base.

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Plate #10 - Walnut secretary with small panes. Dovetailed case with ogee drop front lid and pull out writing surface. Lift off hinges on top and butt hinges on bottom, with an architectural cornice, 48 inches wide by 92 inches tall and a 19.5 inch deep base.



Plate #11 - Unusual walnut cupboard with punched tins in base. Ogee drawer fronts, scalloped base, wood painted red, tins painted green. Lift off hinges on top and butt hinges on base, 60 inches wide and 94 inches tall.



Plate #12 - Close-up of front tin panel, showing church and trees.



Plate #14 - Walnut chest of drawers, with removable top, scalloped base, and dovetailed drawers, 40 inches wide by 18.5 inches deep by 40 inches tall excluding top.



Plate #15 - Walnut swivel top card table. Ogee sides with turned legs, 35 inches wide by 17 inches deep by 29 inches tall closed.



Plate #13 - Close-up of side panel, showing house and tree.



Plate #16 - Cherry two drawer table, with ogee dovetailed drawers, 25 inches wide by 21 inches deep by 29.5 inches tall.

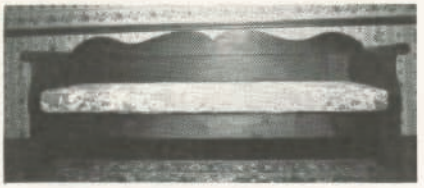


Plate #17 - Walnut sofa with country scallop on back, 82 inches wide by 28 inches deep and 33 inches tall at highest spot.

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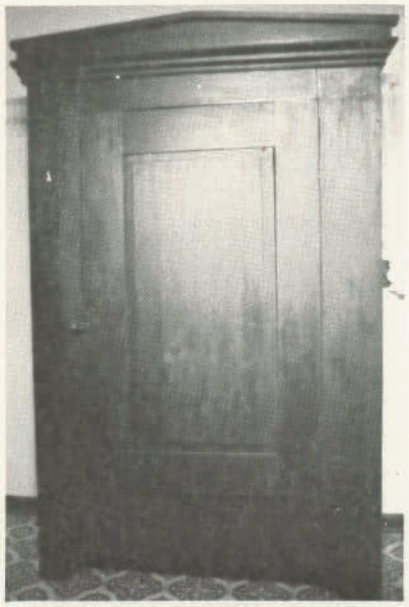


Plate #18 - Poplar one door wardrobe, butt hinges, red paint and removable cornice with interior wood hooks, 48 inches wide by 79 inches tall by 17 inches deep.



Plate #19 - Walnut cupboard. Small panes with side lights, lift off hinges, ogee drawer fronts, 64 inches wide by 84 inches tall with 20 inch deep base.



Plate #20 - Cherry cupboard. Small panes with side lights, lift off hinges, ogee drawer fronts, 61 inches wide and 87 inches tall.

The third period covers the 1880s and 1890s. Although German characteristics were still used, there was a very strong Victorian influence. The two examples shown were made by the same cabinet maker or were made in the same shop. Both are walnut, have three panes per door, blue interior paint, white porcelain knobs, identical carved escutcheons (ornamental shield around keyhole), applied beading and finish.



Plate #22 - Walnut cupboard, 62 inches wide and 84.25 inches tall with a 17.25 inch deep base.



Plate #23 - Walnut secretary, 46 inches wide and 93 inches tall. Drop front lid with four interior drawers.



Drawing #21 - Detailed drawing of Plate 20, cupboard.

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Accessories

The following items encompass the second and third periods.

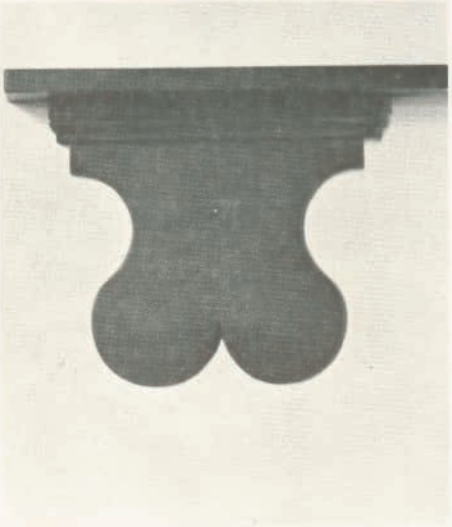


Plate #24 - Walnut clock shelf with two lobes, 12 inches tall. Top is 17 inches wide and 6 inches deep.

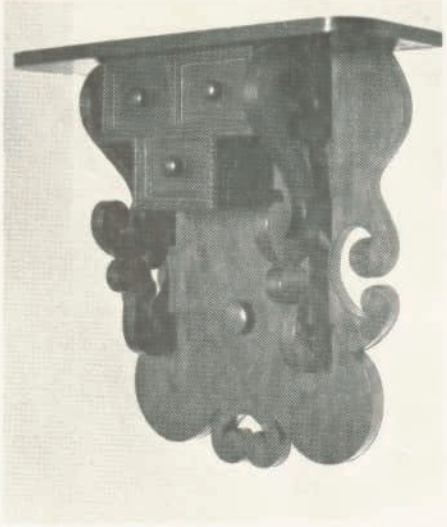


Plate #25 - Walnut clock shelf with unusual cutouts. Three drawers with applied beaded moldings, 21 inches tall. Top is 20 inches wide and 7 inches deep.

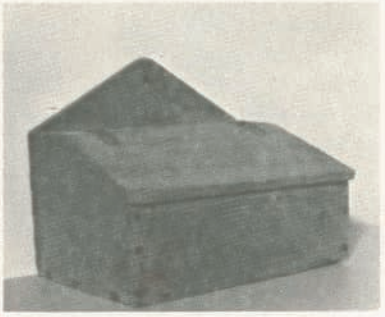


Plate #27 - Ash hanging candle box. Leather hinges and square nail construction, 10 inches wide and 7 inches deep.

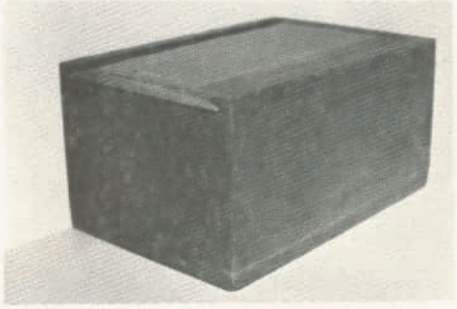


Plate #26 - Walnut slide lid candle box with poplar lid with finger pull. Square nail construction, 14 inches long by 9.5 inches wide by 7 inches tall.

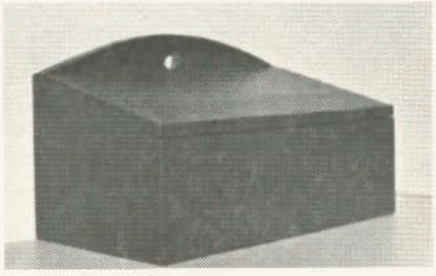


Plate #28 - Ash hanging candle box with red paint and outside applied butt hinges. Square nail construction, 12.5 inches wide and 7 inches deep.

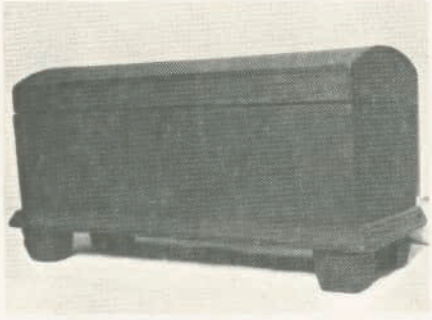


Plate #29 - Miniature immigrant trunk, with chip carved feet. Dome top with canted sides, 14.25 inches long by 8 inches tall. The side is 5.75 inches wide at the bottom and 6.25 inches wide at the top.

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Immigrant Trunks

The following pictured trunks all came from Germany and were found in New Bremen. Early immigrants transported their few prized possessions in these trunks. They were undoubtedly used as blanket chests in their German homes. Although all three examples shown vary greatly in workmanship, they do have some similar characteristics. All three trunks are large, have dome tops, wrought iron side handles and hinges, canted sides, bear trap locks, and are made of German oak. Most sat flat on the ground, but several have been found with dovetailed bracket feet. Most examples have a till (tray with lid mounted on inside of trunk for storage of valuables) with some also having a secret compartment.



Plate #30 - Trunk with dovetailed sides and bracket feet. Old red paint, 49 inches long by 30 inches tall. Has secret compartment.



Plate #31 - Side view of Plate #30.



Plate #32 - Trunk with metal corners, partial shipping label, family name and strap wrap around hinges.

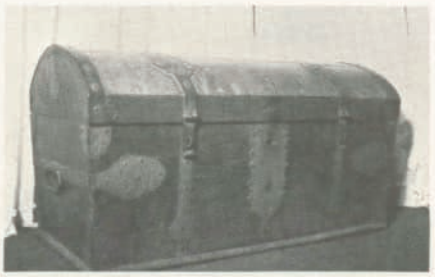


Plate #33 - Trunk with fancy iron work, 50 inches wide and 26 inches tall.



Plate #34 - Close-up picture of iron work from Plate #33.

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Klanke Furniture Company

The fourth and final period covers the Klanke Furniture Company which produced masses of furniture at the turn of the century. The business was known as Klanke Brothers already by 1888 and was managed by George, Ed and William Klanke. It was incorporated in 1899 as the Klanke Furniture Company, and soon after several three-story brick buildings were constructed. The company was destroyed by fire in August of 1913. The furniture that was made reflected what was popular during that era. A catalog from the Klanke Furniture Company was recently discovered. The following examples are from this catalog and give a representative sampling of the furniture they produced. A new furniture factory was reorganized shortly after the fire and it was named the Auglaize Furniture Company.



Left to right: Lawrence Roettger, Herbert Klute, Ed Lanfersieck, Oscar Hirschfeld.



To The Trade

In this, our latest catalog, we present to our old patrons as well as to our prospective customers, a most complete line of Kitchen Cabinets, Tables, Wardrobes, Chiffrobes and a few other pieces of furniture. We have put forth every effort to bring our goods up to the highest standard, both as to Construction and Finish. Each and every article is constructed with a view to durability and under ordinary circumstances should last for generations. Our entire line is made of well seasoned oak, carefully selected, thoroughly kiln-dried and constructed in our own shops under the personal supervision of an expert cabinet maker. Our Finishing department is also in the hands of men who have had many years practical experience in their respective branches. In the following pages we show numerous models and our many years of experience in the furniture building is represented here in a product that merits your confidence. We particularly desire to call your attention to Nos. 1912-A, 1911-A and 1911-B Kitchen Cabinets, the *Roll* or *Sliding Doors* in the top section which is an altogether new and very convenient feature, this arrangement giving easy access to the cabinet without removing or throwing down articles set on the top or working table. Thirty years of Kitchen Cabinet building has placed us in a position to really know what the housewife wants in the way of a Kitchen time and labor saving device, and we have succeeded in meeting their wants, by the production of these new models. The *Roll* or *Sliding Doors* arrangement is a feature in advance of any other cabinet on the market today, patent right for which is now pending in Washington, D.C. We respectfully request a careful examination of this catalog and assure you if favored with an order, whether large or small, same will have our careful and prompt attention.

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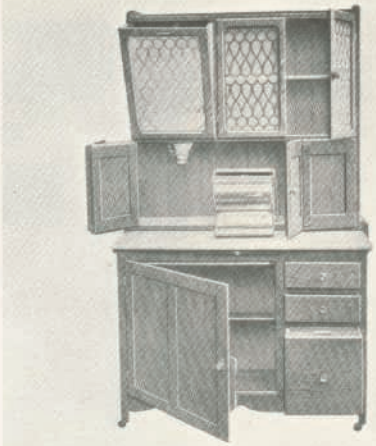


KLANKE OAK CABINET NO. 35.

Light dull oak or early English finish. Size of base, width 30 inches, depth 26 inches, height 30 inches. Extreme height of cabinet 6 feet 3 inches. Base contains double flour bin holding 85 pounds of flour, one drawer over flower bin 11x22x5 inches, two drawers under baking board 12x12x4 inches, baking or kneading board 21x22 inches, and storing space for cooking utensils and other articles 25x33x16 inches. Plain wood top over base. Top section contains three drawers 8x10x3 inches, cupboard space over drawers 20x10x9 inches, two spaces for general cupboard purposes 33x17x10 inches. High class brass trimmings and castered. Shipping weight 300 pounds.

Can be had with art glass in top cupboard doors at an additional cost of 25 cents to list price.

No. 35½. An exact duplicate of No. 35 with the exception that top or working table over base is sanitaire nickeloid covered.



KLANKE OAK CABINET NO. 30.

Light dull oak or early English finish. Size of base, width 41½ inches depth 26 inches, height 30 inches. Extreme height of cabinet 5 feet 8 inches. Base contains metal ventilating bread box, two drawers, plate rack, sliding bread board and large storing space for cooking utensils, tinware, crockery and other small articles. Working table over base, sanitaire full sliding nickeloid covered. Top section, art glass front, containing tilting flour bin holding 60 pounds of flour, with sifter attached, metal swinging sugar bin, can rack and set of glass aluminum covered coffee, tea and spice jars and large china closet. Doors are double hinged, a very convenient feature. High class brass trimmings and castered. Shipping weight 290 pounds.

Inside of top section enameled add $1.50 to list price.

Working table covered with aluminum instead of nickeloid, add 75 cents to list price.



KLANKE OAK CABINET NO. 1912-A.

Light dull oak or early English finish. Size of base, width 45½ inches, depth 26 inches height 30 inches. Extreme height of cabinet 6 feet 3 inches. Base contains metal ventilating bread board, two roomy drawers, plate racks, sliding bread board, kneading board and large storing space for cooking utensils, tinware, crockery and other small articles. Working table over base, sanitaire full sliding nickeloid covered. Top section, art glass front containing swinging flour bin holding 60 pounds of flour, with sifter attached, metal swinging sugar bin, can rack and set of glass aluminum covered coffee, tea and spice jars and large china closet. High class brass trimmings and castered. Shipping weight 225 pounds.

A special and entirely new feature of this cabinet are the *Roll* or *Sliding Doors* in top section, very convenient in gaining access to the inside when working table is obstructed.

Inside of top section enameled add $1.00 to list price.

Working table covered with aluminum instead of nickeloid, add 75 cents to list price.



KLANKE OAK CABINET NO. 43.

Light dull oak or early English finish. Size of base, width 30 inches, depth 26 inches, height 33 inches. Extreme height of cabinet 6 feet 6 inches. Base contains double flour bin holding 85 pounds of flour, two drawers 12x12x4 inches, one drawer 22x11x5 inches, baking or kneading board 20x27 inches, storing space for cooking utensils and other small articles 25x33x16 inches. Top over base has zinc lined sink 16x34x2¾ inches. Top section contains four drawers 11x11x4 inches storing pace over drawers 20x12x12 inches, and general cupboard space 32x34x10 inches. Glass doors instead of panel, if desired. High class brass trimmings and castered. Shipping weight 300 pounds. Can be had with meat block arrangement at an additional charge of 25 cents to list price.



WARDROBE No. 86.

Plain Oak Gloss Finish. Door panels veneered. Dimensions: width 40½ inches, depth 18 inches, height 7 feet 4 inches. Portable. Brass trimmed. Shipping weight 150 pounds. Can be had in polish finish if desired at an additional cost. See price list.



CHIFFROBE No. 87.

Plain Oak Light Gloss Finish. Dimensions: width 40 inches, depth 21 inches, height 71¼ inches. Contains 6 drawers 17½x20x5¼ inches, storing space over drawers double shelved 19x21x25 inches, and place for hanging clothes 64x19x21 inches. Can be had with mirror instead of panel front at an additional charge. See price list.

Very attractive and convenient piece of furniture. Shipping weight 200 pounds.

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KITCHEN TABLE No. 5.

White top, 26x42 inches. Base and legs finished dark golden. K. D. Shipping weight 25 pounds.

KITCHEN TABLE No. 5½.

An exact duplicate of No. 5 with the exception that it has a drawer.



DROP LEAF TABLE No. 6.

Plain Ash Tops, 42x40 inches. Base and legs finished dark golden. K. D. Shipping weight 35 pounds.

DROP LEAF TABLE No. 6½.

An exact duplicate of No. 6 with the exception that it has a finished top.



DIVIDING PEDESTAL TABLE No. 100.

No. 100. American Quartered or Plain Oak. Golden Gloss finish. 9½ inch column with patent lock. 45 inch round top. Made in 6, 8, 10 12 ft. sizes.



DIVIDING PEDESTAL TABLE No. 102.

No. 102. American Quartered or Plain Oak. Golden Gloss finish. 9½ inch column with patent lock. 45 inch round top. Made in 6, 8, 10 12 ft. sizes.

These dividing pedestal tables are also made in 42 inch square tops.



FIVE LEG EXTENSION TABLES Nos. 138-238.

No. 138. American Quartered gloss finish. 3½ inch leg, 42 inch square top. Made in 6, 8, 10, 12 ft. sizes.

No. 238. Plain Oak gloss finish. 3½ inch leg. 42 inch square top. Made in. 6, 8, 10, 12 ft. sizes.



FIVE LEG EXTENSION TABLES Nos. 140-240.

No. 140. American Quartered gloss finish. 3 inch leg, 42 inch square top. Made in 6, 8, 10, 12 ft. sizes.

No. 240. Plain Oak Gloss finish. 3 in. leg, 42 inch square top. Made in 6, 8, 10, 12 ft. sizes.

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Plate #1 6586 County Rd. 66 - North 4/7/10 NW¼.

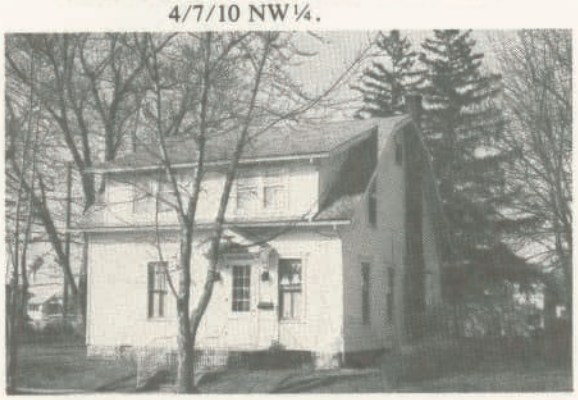
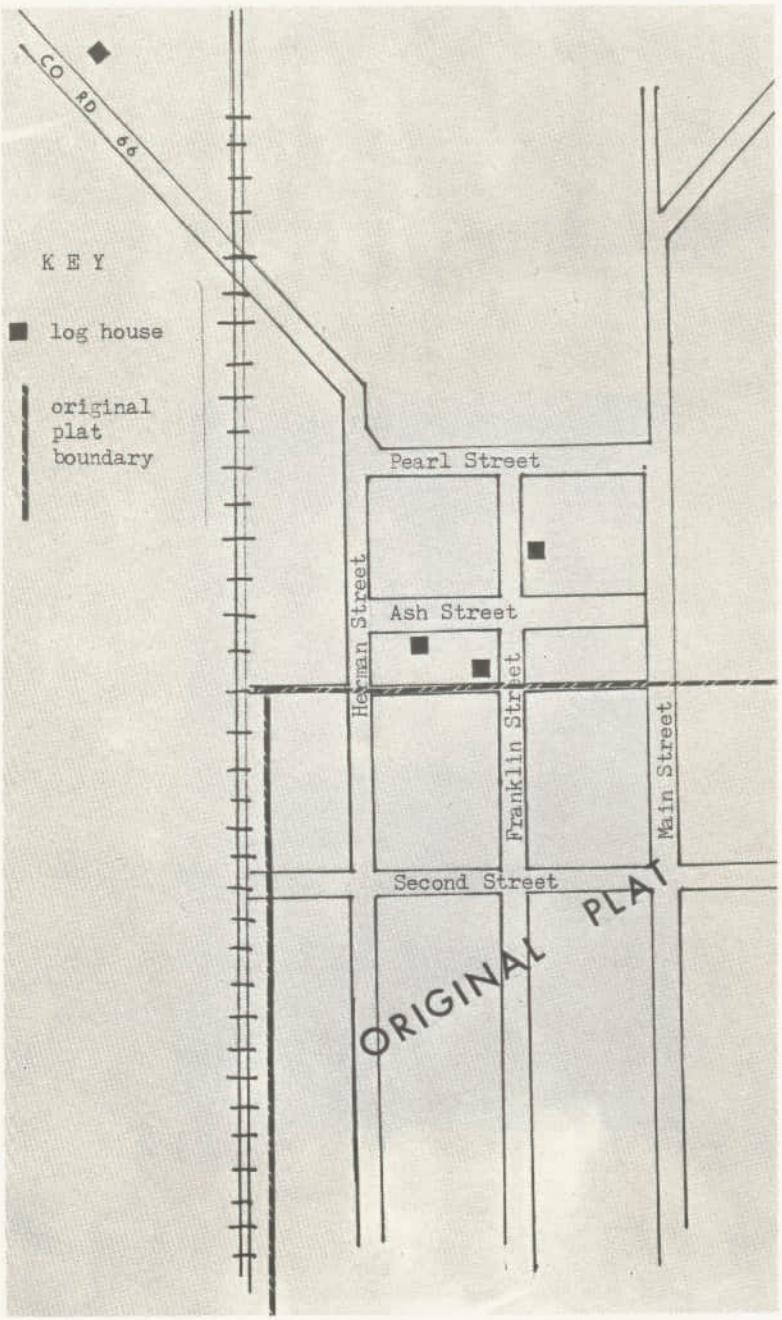


Plate #2 231 North Franklin



Sketch #1

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Architecture of New Bremen and German Township

written by Mary Ann Brown

The author has studied the local history and architecture of western Ohio since 1977 when she began working for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society. A native of Mercer County, she moved to New Bremen with her family in 1969.

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The architecture in New Bremen is an unusual collection of traditional house types and textbook examples of high style. There is more architectural variety in this town than in any small village of comparable size in west-central Ohio.

The ethnic house types can be traced to the group of thirty-three immigrants from Hannover, Germany. In the summer of 1832, they gathered in Cincinnati where they composed a charter to found a Protestant town in the wilderness of northwest Ohio. Eighty acres were purchased for them in the newly opened Congress Lands where the Shawnee Indians had ceded their reservations the same year. The village was platted on June 11, 1833, along the Auglaize Trail (later State Route #66) which became the main street of the town of Bremen. The greatest concentration of ethnic house types is found on the preferred lots on North Main Street near the church and public grounds. The styles built by the early settlers are vernacular with traditional influences from northern Germany where Bremen was the chief port for emigrants. A second major grouping of German vernacular structures can be found near the sites of the grain and woolen mills which were along South Washington Street or State Route #66. This street is on the east side of the Miami-Erie Canal, completed from Cincinnati to Toledo in 1845. This part of town was originally platted in 1837 as the South Addition, and officially became the separate town of Ober (Upper) Bremen in 1853. The early residents who lived in Ober Bremen were not primarily from Hannover, since census records show their birthplaces among other German states. In 1876, the two towns were united, all the lots were renumbered, and both parts were called New Bremen.

The high style architecture that is found in the town is evidence of New Bremen's power and wealth that can be attributed to a prime location at Lock One on the Miami and Erie Canal. Plat maps of the village from 1837 and 1838 indicate that the canal from Cincinnati was already present, almost eight years before it was completed north through St. Marys. Difficulties with the reservoirs near the summit prevented easy passage to the Toledo port for several years after the canal's official opening in 1845. New Bremen was the farthest point north for German immigrants who flooded into the area from Cincinnati during the late 1830s and early 1840s. Large tracts of land were available for purchase because the Shawnee Indian Nation had been moved to Kansas in 1832. When the plank road (now State Route #274) was completed in the 1850s, New Bremen became the market center for farmers from as far west as Indiana and from the east in Shelby County. As the Boesel and Mesloh families took on state-wide roles in legislature and the canal board, the town's political prestige continued past the turn of the century.

For the first fifteen years, New Bremen was a part of Mercer County where other German settlers filled its southern townships above the Greeneville Treaty Line that was established in 1795. When Auglaize County was created in 1848, the enterprising towns of Minster, New Bremen and St. Marys and their townships were assigned to the new county. It was a great loss for Mercer County. However, the building traditions and cultural ties that bound the German immigrants of Mercer County together in the 1830s are still evident in the rural landscape and the small village streetscapes today.

The houses in this study were chosen because they are representative of different periods in New Bremen's history. The research relies heavily on tax duplicates from 1837 to 1869; tax assessor's platbooks from 1853, 1870, 1890, and 1910; atlas maps from 1862, 1880, 1898 and 1917; census records; excerpts from the *New Bremen Sun* from 1888 to 1910; photographs from the turn of the century; interviews with local residents; related studies on canal, German, ethnic and vernacular architecture; and field research in Germany.

Log Houses

Log houses were some of the first structures built in communities in Ohio during the settlement period, and most of those in the New Bremen area were probably built before the 1850s. One is at the northwest corporation limits on old State Route #66, and three are known to remain in the North Addition which was platted in 1865 and includes Ash and Pearl Streets. The presence of the log buildings outside the original plat indicates that they may have been houses on early farms. Log houses generally have a basic rectangular shape, deepset window and door openings, and a slight settling of a gabled roof ridge. Little has been changed in the old John W. Staub property (Plate #1) except for a rear kitchen that was added in the 1930s. Staub's great-great-granddaughter still lives in this house that shows up in records as early as 1853. The old Dietrich log house (Plate #2) is partially disguised with an added second story Dutch gambrel roof that has a full dormer in the front, and an added room to the rear. (Sketch #1)

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Plate #3 - 122 North Main St.

Brick-Lined

There are a number of braced frame houses that are either lined with bricks or with mud and straw in the New Bremen and German Township area. This method of construction was used by immigrant settlers, especially those from the northwestern German states of Hannover and Oldenburg where the land along the North Sea next to the Netherlands was low and wet. It is believed that brick-lined, or wattle and daub, houses are as early as log houses. From the records, it appears that the Luelleman house, now known as the New Bremen Museum (Plate #3), had its present appearance by 1846. Behind it is a brick summer kitchen from 1869. Another house built by 1853 by Peter Schneider (Plate #4) is located on a farm east of town. The New Bremen-Minster-Maria Stein area, with over one hundred brick-lined houses identified, has the largest known concentration of this particular building type in the state.



Plate #4 - 5351 State Route 275 - East 4/7/12 SW¼.

German Canal House

One of the most picturesque nineteenth-century house types in New Bremen is the one-and-a-half story rectangular canal house that was built from the late 1840s until the 1870s. Constructed most commonly of brick, it typically has a low pitched gable roof that reaches down to within several feet of the lintels of the door and window openings of the evenly balanced first floor facade. The first story usually has four rooms down, often with a central hall, and sleeping space in the half-story. It was given the name "German Canal House" by the author because in western Ohio this house type appears almost exclusively in small villages where German immigrants settled along the Miami and Erie Canal. This charming little house from 1853 (Plate #5) faces the old towpath and the canal. Two separate canal houses from 1850 and 1860 were joined together with a glass front jewelry store around the turn of the century to form a row house (Plate #6), and this home (Plate #7) near the first church is ivy-covered with holly hocks that decorate the front door. This house was built between 1860 and 1870, according to tax records.



Plate #5 - 216 North Walnut St.



Plate #6 - 218-224 West Monroe St. (demolished, 1980)

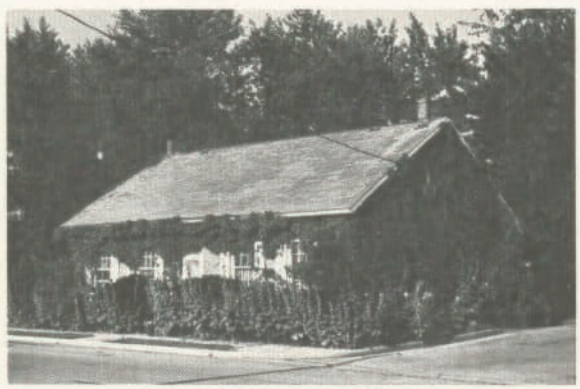


Plate #7 - 107 North Franklin

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One interesting house (Plate #8) that was built in the country is a variation because it has the gable end to the road with a centrally located door. There is brick corbelling at the roofline to suggest Greek Revival returns, a rare feature in a German community. A house (Plate #9) that was built in Ober Bremen has a first floor central door which was once reached from a platform over an English basement. A set of five steps ran to the south along the house to a front sidewalk.



Plate #8 - 5673 State Route 274 - East, 4/7/12 SE¼.

Two-Story German Canal Warehouse Style

There are many examples of this large two-story building type of brick or frame in New Bremen and German Township. Since it was such a versatile building, it was used as a residence, general store, business place, post office, bakery, small factory, hotel, parsonage, and sometimes for a church or school when there was a need. The building style dates from the 1840s to the 1870s, the same as the smaller one-and-a-half story canal house. Both types show strong similarities to buildings in northern Germany. Because they were so well constructed, they continued to be used into the twentieth century.

Similar to a house style popular in the Pennsylvania Deutsche area, these houses usually have four rooms downstairs and four rooms upstairs. Many have a central doorway with a recessed entrance and open hall. Because of this functional room arrangement, the building was often used as a combination residence and store. Several German Canal Warehouse structures are in the original plat of New Bremen along Main Street. The Laut Hotel (Plate #10) (Sketch #2) was built about 1853 with an addition to the rear that was constructed during the Civil War. The stone step at the north door to the former saloon shows the wear of many feet. On the other side of the public lots where the old town hall sat and served the town from 1866 to 1958 was the Lehmkuhl Hotel (Plate #11). The 1858 three-story hotel portion is similar to the mill buildings that lined the canal, and the two-story part was probably the earlier residence built in 1846. Across the street from the two hotels that thrived during the canal days is the F.I. Steinberg general store (Plate #12). A pork packing plant and a brewery during the mid-nineteenth century, the building dates from 1855.



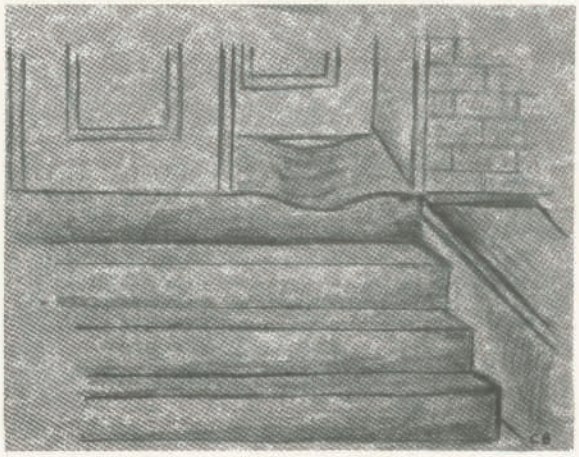
Plate #9 - 15 South Walnut



Plate #10 - 109 North Main



Plate #11 - 119-121 North Main (demolished, 1983)



Sketch #2 - Steps of Laut Hotel

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Further north along Main Street are the 1848 Christian Schmidt general store (Plate #13) in the North Addition at Pearl Street, and the Adam Brueggeman store (Plate #14) from 1849 which later acquired Italianate details probably after Brueggeman and E(c)kermeyer purchased it around 1870. Many times the display windows for the store half were replaced when the building was remodeled to be used solely for residential purposes. The disturbance of the brickwork and dissimilar window lintels and sills indicate these changes.



Plate #12 - 112 North Main



Plate #13 - 315-317 North Main

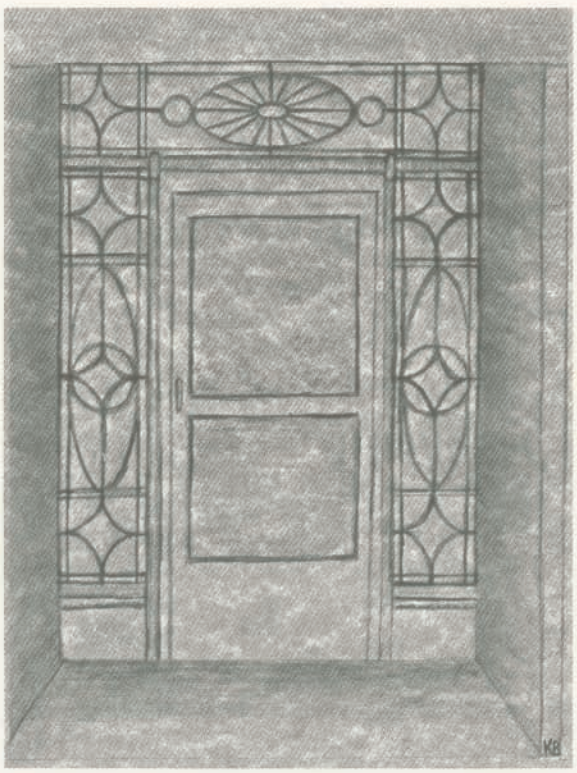


Plate #14 - 222-224 North Main

In Ober Bremen is the 1853 store and residence of Captain John Wiemeyer (Plate #15) with its open porch added to the south side. Closer to the canal and also on South Washington Street, the main business area of Ober Bremen, is the Theodore Rabe house (Plate #16) (Sketch #3) from 1847. It has a recessed doorway that features an added leaded glass transom and sidelights. A most unusual house on South Washington past Plum Street is the Dr. B.F. Schroeder house (Plate #17) that was built in 1853. This two-story brick building, which now has a hipped roof, once served as a very early private hospital before 1880. Then it had Gothic towers and turrets which contrasted with its basic horizontal rectangular shape and made it an architectural curiosity.

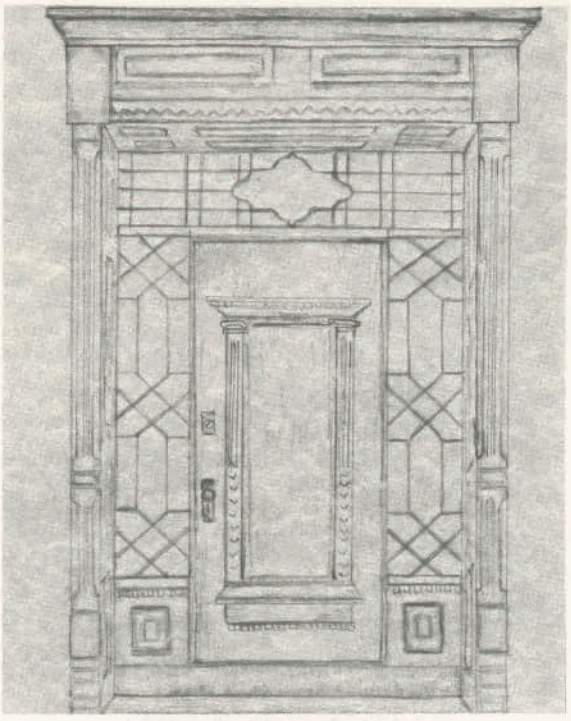


Plate #15 - 104 South Washington



Sketch #3 - Doorway of Theo. Rabe House

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Sketch #4 - Henry Rabe House

When this house type was used primarily as a residence, it sometimes acquired ornamentation at the windows and doors. The Henry Rabe house (Plate #18) (Sketch #4) is one of the few houses in the village with Greek Revival returns at its gable ends. This feature is a clue to its early construction in 1855. The embellishment of the 1853 John H. Mesloh house (Plate #19), which was used for a time as a doctor's office and bakery, was probably added to an early house after Mesloh became a state representative from 1873-1879.



Plate #16 - 36 South Washington



Plate #17 - 206 South Washington



Plate #19 - 8 North Main Street



Plate #18 - 126 South Washington

Sometimes the house type was oriented so that the gable end was to the street. This one (Plate #20) features a trio of full-sized round arched openings for a central stationary window and flanking entrances. Ober Bremen's famed hotel (Plate #21) is of this style, but is frame with brick lining. The style was chosen by the Garmhausen family at Lock Two (Plate #22), and by William Barth, brick mason and nurseryman, (Plate #23) on his farm west of town. More than twelve houses of this style can be found both east and west of New Bremen on State Route #274 from State Route #127 to County Road #25-A.



Plate #20 - Finke Candy Store, 112 West Monroe

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Plate #21 - American House, 30 South Washington

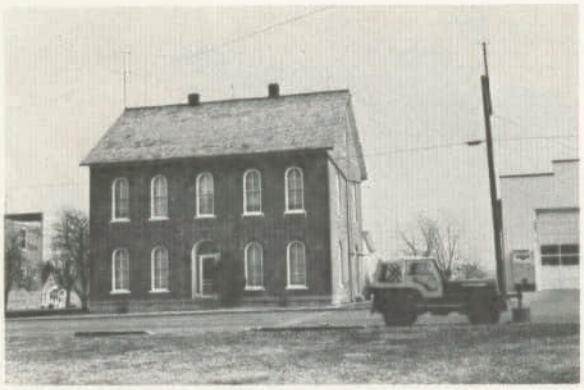


Plate #22 - John Garmhausen residence, Lock Two



Plate #23 - 967 Lock Two Road - West, 5/7/6 SE¼

Italianate or Italian Villa

The first house type found in New Bremen that is an architectural style shown in textbooks came thirty years after the founding of the town. Popular in other regions of the state and the country around the Civil War period, and not a traditional style of German origin, it is named Italian Villa or Italianate. Details of this style include a hipped roof, often over a three-bay facade with an off-center doorway, and a massing of upright "milk carton" house sections. Brackets and dentils at the projecting cornice, heavy entablatures over the doors and windows, and open side porches with cut-out trim are distinguishing characteristics of these handsome houses. Two classic examples of Italian Villa were built in the early 1870s by a prominent family on the west side of the canal. The one on South Franklin Street (Plate #24) (Sketch #5), complete with large park-like gardens and tennis courts at the turn of the century, was built by Charles (Karl) Boesel. He was a state representative from 1862 until 1866 and state senator from 1870 until 1874. His estate was in the separately platted town of Vogelsangtown. Founded in 1856, it was annexed by New Bremen in 1865. Charles Boesel's move to the southwest end of the town established Franklin Street as the most desirable street for residential development. It became the finest street in town at the turn of the century when Boesel's family built houses there.

The other Italian Villa (Plate #25)(Sketch #6) was built on Monroe Street by his son, Jacob Boesel, who served in the state legislature for two terms beginning in 1889. Charles Boesel had established a store at the corner of Main and Monroe Streets in 1835. The east-west street, Monroe, was a plank road that became the main connector between the town of New Bremen and the town of Ober Bremen. When the two towns were joined together in 1876, Monroe Street's development increased rapidly and filled with business blocks. Behind the decorative wrought iron fence that stretches along Monroe Street are the Jacob Boesel house and the little white brick building, the Boesel Bank, which was built soon after the bank's incorporation in 1866. (See Plate #25) Next to the bank is the large brick double store that has Italianate features of a hipped roof and bracketing at the eavesline (Plate #26). Built by the Boesels about 1864, it is one of the few buildings in town constructed during the Civil War when little property improvement occurred. The plate glass windows in the store, which was known as the Boesel and Kunning Dry Good Store, are not original but they do date from the turn of the century. The Italianate style was also used in Ober Bremen where William Rabe built his store (Plate #27) next to his house.



Plate #24 - 17 South Franklin

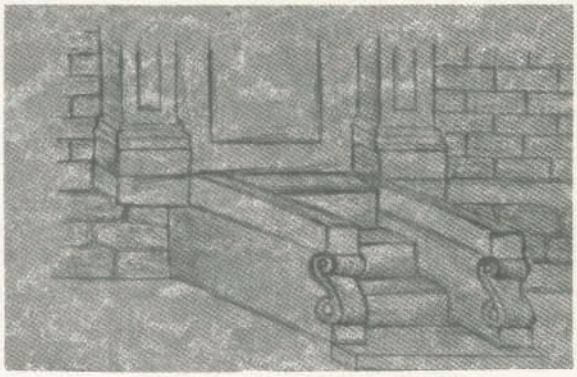


Sketch #5 - Doorway of Charles Boesel House

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Plate #25 - 116 West Monroe



Sketch #6 - Steps at Jacob Boesel House



Plate #26 - 122 West Monroe



Plate #27 - 126 South Washington

Village Stores

Since the German people who lived in the village often operated their shops and businesses from their homes or lived next door to their stores, there was a commercial atmosphere that spread throughout the town. The residential area was not isolated from commercial or industrial sections. Because there was an abundance of large two-story warehouse style buildings in the village, only a few modest village stores appeared in New Bremen around the 1880s when small towns began separating their commercial and residential activities. Two that are shown here are two-story structures with flat or gently sloping rooflines. These buildings often have colossal bracketing at heavy cornices that span the front. An ornate parapet with the name of the owner was sometimes centered above a smooth uninterrupted facade of evenly balanced windows that were decorated with Italianate hoodmoulds and incised ornamentation. The flat facades of these stores contrast with the later brick commercial blocks that erupted with oriel windows and undulating facades. On Washington Street, the Fred Wiemeyer store (Plate #28), handsome in painted white brick, has had its parapet removed. The frame double store (Plate #29), built about 1890 along Monroe Street, had colossal bracketing when it was constructed.



Plate #28 - 38 South Washington



Plate #29 - 103 West Monroe

Boom Town

Sometimes older or smaller buildings with gables to the street were remodeled with "boom town" fronts to give them a more impressive two-story look. The name comes from the gold rush days in the west when stores were put up overnight in boomtowns. A board flat front was hastily erected along the main street, but behind the facade was only a canvas tent for a temporary store. Good examples of

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boomtown buildings in New Bremen are the "Little Store" (Plate #30), the Equity Store (Plate #31), and the later Gruetzmacher (Gritzmacher) Boesel Implement Store (Plate #32). Built about 1908 when buggies and farm implements were common merchandise, the building on West Monroe street was sold about 1921 when service for automobiles became a part of the economic activity of the village.



Plate #30 - 212 North Main (demolished, 1982)



Plate #31 - 22 North Main (demolished, 1982)



Plate #32 - 407 West Monroe

Special Use Buildings

Surviving from the canal days are the bridge-keeper's house built in 1888 (Plate #33), and the old barn (Plate #34) which housed the mules that pulled the boats on the canal. The barn is used by a local craftsman for his woodworking shop. The old Boesel Bank (Sketch #7), built in the 1870s, once had a trefoil star-like window centered in its bracketed gable peak. This barn (Plate #35) was once the church for the Zion congregation from its formation in 1865 until a new one was built in 1897.



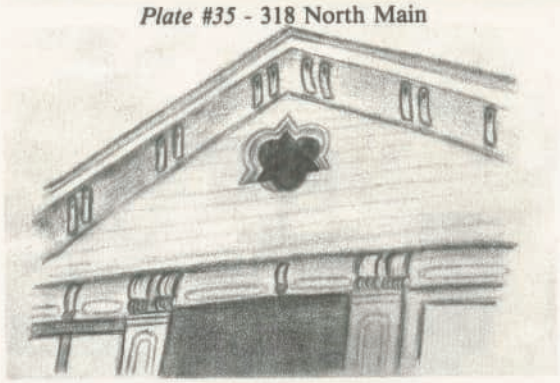
Plate #33 - 3 West Plum



Plate #34 - Outlot #32, Canal Street



Plate #35 - 318 North Main



Sketch #7 - Window on Boesel Bank

Barns and Outbuildings

Structures other than houses help preserve a nineteenth century appearance in New Bremen, especially in a community of frugal people who do not like to waste useful

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buildings. The German tradition that motivates the owners to paint, repair and protect their property has helped preserve some interesting outbuildings. Horse barns once were prominent along the alleys in town, and sometimes were converted into houses when horses were no longer kept for travel. The one that was on Henry Hartwig's farm on the southwest edge of town, now on Franklin Street, was moved up to the street and became a house about 1910 (Plate #36). A handsome barrel-roofed barn (Plate #37) from 1899 marks the importance of the Huenke farm and the location of the White Mountain Creamery on the west edge of town. This company was one of the first in western Ohio to experiment with the building of silos to store feed for cows during the winter. A diminutive building, a brick-vaulted bake oven, (Plate #38) is under a frame shed. It was moved from the Wilbur Dicke farm to the backyard of the New Bremen Museum where it is used for baking bread and rolls on Ice Cream Social Days.



Plate #36 - 213 South Franklin



Plate #37 - 431 West Monroe



Plate #38 - 122 North Main, Mrs. Lewis Poppe

T-Shape or L-Shape Farmhouses

A mass-produced house style, the T-shaped farmhouse, swept the midwest from the 1880s through the 1890s. It can be most easily identified by the front room that projects from the crosspiece. It normally is a gabled one-and-one-half story frame house with an open porch in one of the re-entrant angles that allows a side entrance. Two good examples are the Ella Pape house (Plate #39) that was built on South Main Street before its extension toward Plum Street in the 1890s, and the modest one (Plate #40) in New Bremen's northeast quadrant which did not develop until the turn of the century.



Plate #39 - 107 South Main



Plate #40 - 123 North Jefferson

Victorian Gothic

These houses are similar to the T-shaped farmhouses, and they were built at the same time. However, they are most commonly of brick and were labeled Victorian Gothic because of their massive two-and-a-half story size and pointed arch decorative features. They often have fancy attic windows in a dominant front peak and dragon's tooth trim on the roof ridges. For Sunday afternoon visiting, they almost always had open side porches with delicately turned posts and spindle ballustrades. This period is best represented in town by the stately house (Plate #41) built in 1890 on Franklin Street. In 1896, Henry F. Dickman added a second story to his house. (Plate #42) (Sketch #8) on Monroe Street. This style introduced elegant interiors that often have wall cupboards with glass fronts, heavy wooden doors that slide into wall cavities, stained glass windows, and handsome oak fireplaces that have over-the-mantel mirrors and set-in gas units surrounded by small squares of speckled tile. The finest Victorian Gothic building in the town was the central School, built in 1877 by Gibbs and Moser, architects from Toledo (Sketch #9).

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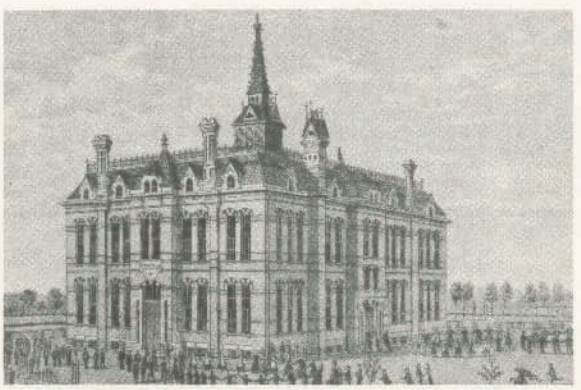
Plate #41 - 16 South Franklin



Plate #42 - 403 West Monroe



Sketch #8 - Window trim on Henry F. Dickman's House



Sketch #9 - Union School

Canal Houses With Gothic Peaks

In an attempt to update earlier canal houses that had a plain balanced facade and gables to the sides, sometimes an owner raised the second story of his house and added a central front peak. Upon close inspection, the different colors and patterns of a remodeled brick house can still be noted. Windows that have flat stone lintels on the first floor may have segmental or round arched windows in the peak and second story gable ends. These inconsistencies often indicate that a portion of the house was built later. Sometimes the small canal houses sat on one of the early streets, and when those lots developed into prime commercial space, the house was moved to a street farther from the canal. A change of location, so easily accomplished at the turn of the century before plumbing and electrical wires were complications, makes research difficult. One of the few houses built in Vogelsangtown by 1880, this brick one (Plate #43) acquired another story in 1896 shortly after it was purchased by Herman Schaefer. He was the contractor for the building of the St. Paul Church parsonage in 1909 so he probably undertook the remodeling of his own house. There are other houses (Plates #44 and #45) that have added central peaks throughout the town. One has an unusually fine entrance (Sketch #10) that is pictured here.



Plate #43 - 102 South Franklin

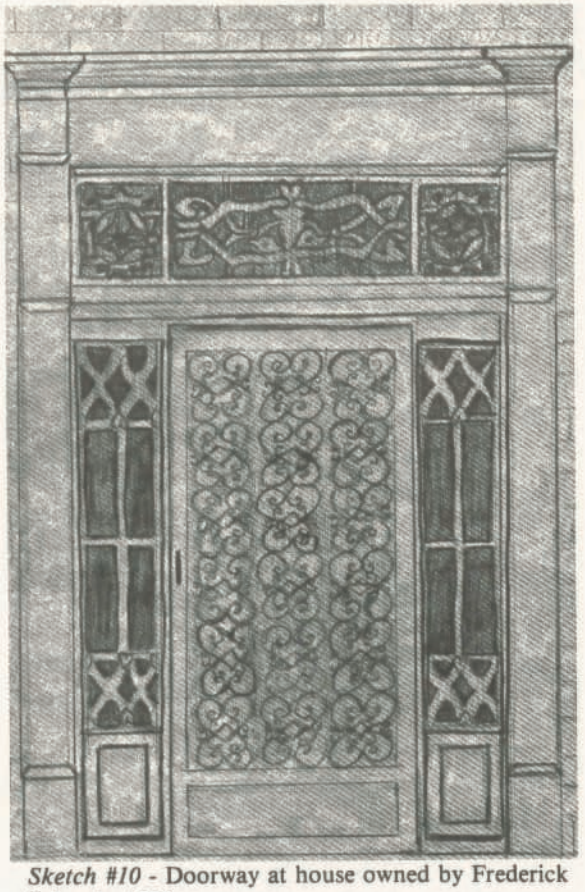


Plate #44 - 17 North Franklin

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Plate #45 - 403 South Washington



Sketch #10 - Doorway at house owned by Frederick Solms in 1870.

Late Gothic Revival Churches

The establishment of the Evangelical denomination in the Congress Lands of Northwest Ohio in 1833 at New Bremen is very important. This flat farm land around St. Paul Evangelical Church became the center for other German Protestant immigrants who arrived by canal boat. According to local legend, as passengers approached Auglaize County on the Miami-Erie Canal, they were asked their religion. Catholics were advised to get off at Minster and Protestants at New Bremen. The early Protestant settlement at New Bremen was especially attractive to those who had come from northwest Germany where the Evangelical denomination is still strong today. In Germany in 1817, the King of Prussia succeeded in uniting Lutheran and Reformed Churches into the Evangelical Church. Many German immigrants who came to America after this event were of this church, and they organized themselves into Independent Protestant Evangelical congregations. In New Bremen, the original charter which contains the Articles of Association still exists, and is a record of the founding of the town and the Evangelical congregation in one act.

In many small towns in northern Germany today there are still only two churches, the Evangelische and the Catholische. They sometimes even share the same road sign that announces Sunday services in the Oldenburgerische-Muensterland, an area of Germany that includes part of Hannover. It was customary through the centuries for the two denominations to co-exist in harmony and sometimes to have services in each other's churches, when restrictions were placed on one or the other by the ruling prince. When German Protestant settlers came to western Ohio to buy land from the government in the 1830s, they found strong communities of German Catholics from Oldenburg. Both Evangelical and Catholic traditions were not easily diluted. They built houses and churches that resembled those in their homeland, and they continued to use the German language in the schools and churches until after World War I. Therefore, the German Evangelical church buildings are different from many other Protestant denominations which often preferred white frame chapels with delicate open belfries or impressive stone structures. The churches in New Bremen are like those in the German Catholic communities, the people who were their neighbors for centuries across the ocean.

The three unaltered nineteenth century church buildings were all built within a decade. They are excellent examples of Late Gothic Revival with dominating towers and soaring spires. The foundation and walls of St. Paul (Plate #46) date from 1891 although the church was rebuilt after a fire



Plate #46 - 119 North Franklin

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Plate #47 - 303 North Franklin



Plate #48 - 103 North Main

on New Year's Day in 1897. The imposing central tower and spire with clock faces on all four sides seem to proclaim this church's importance in the founding of the town. St. Peter's Church (Plate #47) dates from 1887 and has a fine off-center tower and a central Gothic window with keystone and tracery. The cruciform church of Zion's Reformed from 1897 (Plate #48) has a Chateauesque corner tower with turrets that is reminiscent of King Ludwig's Neuschwannstein Castle in Bavaria. The Catholic Church, an 1872 brick church with belfry, was constructed on the east side of the canal in the separately platted town of Ober Bremen. When the Catholic congregation discontinued services after about twenty years, the building was purchased by another congregation in 1907. It was enlarged through the years and is still in use today.

Late Gothic Revival Houses

Several frame houses in town took on Late Gothic Revival corner towers and leaded window panes when they were built at the turn of the century. (Plates #49 and #50). They are found in the southeast part of the town which developed rapidly with the Rabe Manufacturing Company supplying plans and materials. One on Washington Street (Plate #50) was August Rabe's residence.



Plate #49 - 207 South Walnut



Plate #50 - 319 South Washington

Brick Commercial Blocks

There was a great flurry of excitement and surge of civil pride in New Bremen from 1890 until 1910 when the town's newspaper, the *New Bremen Sun*, boasted of the grand brick business blocks that were being discussed or under construction. The constant threat of fire, although New

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Bremen never suffered from one in the commercial area, made frame stores less desirable. Brick commercial blocks were felt to be evidence of enterprising businessmen and stirring economy. One of the first brick business blocks (Plate #51) was built in Lock Two after an explosion in 1893 destroyed an earlier frame store. John Garmhausen constructed a brick two-story building which has fancy corbelling in a tic-tac-toe pattern on the second level over a perfectly preserved store front. The brick work and style are similar to the 1891 Schulenberg-Block (Plate #52), and to the later 1897 Engine House (Plate #53) which has five heavy stone Romanesque Revival arches.



Plate #51 - Lock Two



Plate #52 - 7-17 West Monroe



Plate #53 - 16-18 South Washington

Even though New Bremen's first commercial area was on North Main, by the turn of the century the main street for business purposes had shifted to Monroe Street and the first block of South Washington Street. Four pairs of oriel windows adorn the second floors of stores along these streets and they were all built about the same time. Most outstanding is the Boesel Opera Hall (Plate #54) that also housed the First City Bank on the first floor which has the bank vaults and heavy doors still intact. The building was designed by Kremer and Hart, architects from Columbus, when it was built in 1895. The Hotel Central (Plate #52) and the J.F. Lanfersieck Block (Plate #53) had similar Queene Anne bay windows that were decorated with floral swags and cone-shaped towers. The fourth building with a pair of projecting bay windows is the old Schwaberow Store.



Plate #54

Mill Buildings

From the middle of the nineteenth century, mills have been important for the economy of both New Bremen and Lock Two. Powered by the rushing waters from the locks of the Miami and Erie Canal, the mills and the pork packing plants brought trade and prosperity to both communities. Although all the frame pork packing plants are gone and the flour and woolen mills in New Bremen are now parking lots, one rebuilt mill structure remains in Lock Two. Acquired by the Garmhausen family around 1850, the Lock Two mill served the area until 1981. The brick structure (Plate #55) on the east side of the canal waterway in the small hamlet of Lock Two has the same decorative corbelling as the Garmhausen Store. The structure probably was reconstructed after a 1903 fire destroyed an earlier frame mill building. In New Bremen a multi-story building that is reflected in the water of the canal at Plum Street is the J.A. Long Poultry House (Plate #56). It was built in 1912, just before the 1913 flood put to rest forever the hopes of continued use of the canal waterway.

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Plate #55 - Lock Two



Plate #56 - Plum and Canal Streets

Queen Anne

A fanciful, elegant architectural design, Queen Anne is a favorite for those who yearn for a romantic nineteenth century life style that put great emphasis on enriched surroundings. New Bremen must have experienced an economic upswing between 1895 and 1915 because the town wears her Queen Anne houses like diamonds in a tiara. This small village which had a population of approximately 1,500 at the turn of the century, has more examples of this ornate architectural style than any other town of comparable size in the surrounding counties. The houses are characterized by multi-gable rooflines, a variety of textures and ornamentation, and wrap-around porches with spindle ballustrades stretched between turned posts or smooth Doric pillars. The style sometimes incorporates three-story octagonal towers or second floor balconies. Outstanding houses, already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, are the 1898 Adolph Boesel house (Plate #57), and the 1896 Julius Boesel house (Plate #58). A sandstone sidewalk stretches



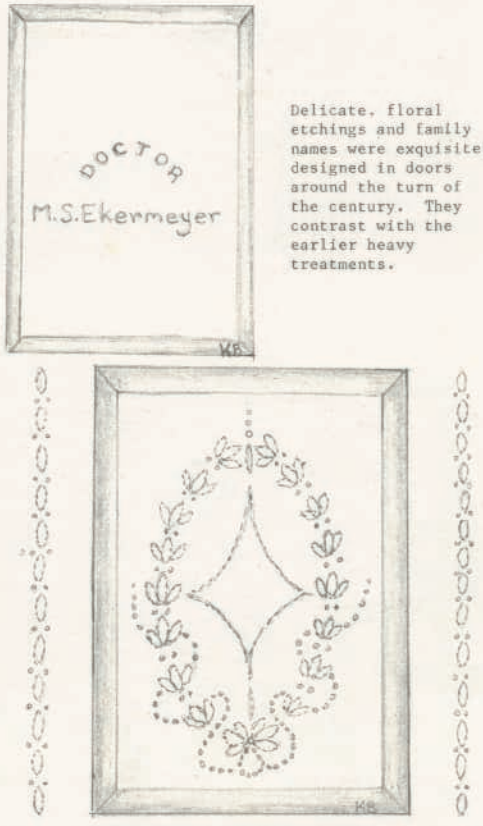
Plate #57 - 110 South Franklin



Plate #58 - 6811 Quellhorst Road



Plate #59 - 120 South Washington



Delicate, floral etchings and family names were exquisitely designed in doors around the turn of the century. They contrast with the earlier heavy treatments.

Sketch #11 - Door and window at Ekermeyer House

past this brick house, a mile north in the country, from town to the German Protestant Cemetery.

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An unusual Queen Anne Style Home of brick and frame from 1900 (Plate #59) (Sketch #11) was built by Dr. M.S. Ekermeyer. After he saw a similar house at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, he ordered the plans and material to build this one with the etched glass at the doorway. Several frame residences with elaborate off-center towers were built by the Garmhausen family in Lock Two. One (Plate #60) was built on the old Fairground Farm east of New Bremen. Two more modest examples are the George Klanke house (Plate #61) and the Gust Kuenning house (Plate #62). Others are sprinkled throughout the town.



Plate #60 - 4978 State Route 274-East 4/7/14 NE¼



Plate #61 - 15 South Franklin



Plate #62 - 101 South Main

Princess Anne

A smaller frame T-shaped house with miniature Queen Anne details is known as Princess Anne in recent books on architecture. Especially attractive on some of these houses from the early 1900s are the cut-out corners that make oblique angles. Built during the period when pressed-tin patterned roofs became popular, these two (Plates #63 and #64) are basically unaltered.



Plate #63 - 123 North Jefferson



Plate #64 - 115 South Main

Stick Style

Only one house in New Bremen (Plate #65) (Sketch #12) even hints of stick style. It features contrasting colors that highlight the vertical end boards, window framing and porch posts. A stained glass window, once at the stairway landing, is now at the entrance.



Plate #65 - 127 South Main



Sketch #12 - Window panel

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American Four-Square

A style popularized by mail order catalogs from Sears, Roebuck and Company of Chicago, material and plans for it were shipped by train to the owner who had local carpenters do the work. This handsome two-story square house with pyramidal roof often had a central dormer in the attic and a veranda front porch. Built from about 1905 until 1920 in New Bremen, it only recently acquired the name "American Four-Square". Two of a dozen houses in New Bremen that fit into this category are the 1914 August Heil house (Plate #66) and the 1912 Otto Boesel house (Plate #67).



Plate #66 - 34 South Herman



Plate #67 - 124 South Franklin

Shingle Style

The most noticeable features of this style are the sweep of the main roof that continues to the first floor to cover an open porch, and the use of wood shingles, especially on a second level that flares to meet the lower story. A forerunner of shingle style in New Bremen, this Franklin Street dainty (Plate #68), with its graceful roofline sweeping over a side porch, appeared in 1899. It is decorated with imbricated shingles in the gable end, and a sunburst pattern fills the space between the painted light green house and the porch's white apron. Three shingle-style houses were built in town from 1905 to 1910. Their full proportions and the precise use of materials make the Fred Ende house (Plate #69) and the Clifford Huenke house (Plate #70) good examples of a house style that originated in California and is seldom seen in small towns in rural western Ohio.



Plate #68 - 22 South Franklin

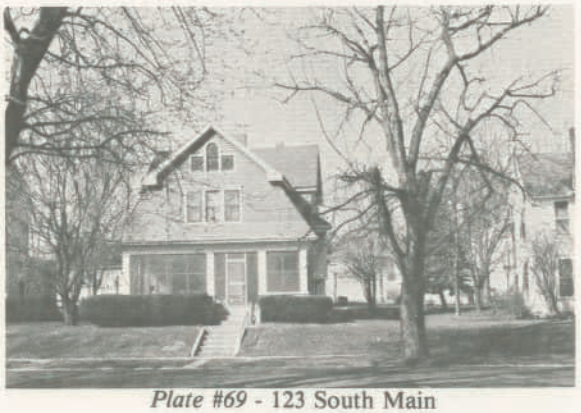


Plate #69 - 123 South Main



Plate #70 - 427 West Monroe

Bungalow

A comfortable one-story house with gently pitched broad gables that often covered an open front porch suited people's needs in the 1920s. Another style from California, it was popularized by the movie industry, and became the rage of the nation. Because the small houses are attractively



Plate #71 - 304 West Monroe

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designed and practical, they are favorites of young couples and retired citizens. A few were constructed of brick, like the Howard Huenke house (Plate #71), which has a designer's touch. Several frame ones in town like this one on Herman Street (Plate #72) have added features of king post and tie beam at the central gable.



Plate #72 - 9 North Herman

Colonial Revival

Only a few examples of Colonial Revival were built in town right before the Great Depression struck the country in 1929. This one (Plate #73) from 1926 has a Dutch gambrel roof, a full dormer across the facade, and an open sunporch with slender columns to the south.



Plate #73 - 110 South Main Street

English Tudor

Little building took place during the trying times of the 1930s. As the decade passed the half-way point and the economy began brightening, a small brick one-and-one-half story house known as English Tudor became one of the first styles to be built in small western Ohio towns as the Depression waned. The house typically has a central, sharply pitched gable that sweeps down over an arched entrance. Sometimes the windows have small leaded panes of glass with pointed Tudor arches. The house style is distinguished by delicate flowing lines, intricate brick patternwork and a look of subdued elegance. This one was built by Reuben Wissman (Plate #74) in 1937.



Plate #74 - 317 South Walnut

Works Progress Administration - WPA

To encourage a stagnant economy and to provide jobs for desperate Americans, the Works Progress Administration was created by President Franklin Roosevelt. Many small towns benefited from the construction of libraries, schools, bridges and public buildings. Construction of the pool in New Bremen along the canal towpath began in 1938 and it was dedicated in 1940. It was one of the first swimming pools built in a multi-county area (Plate #75).

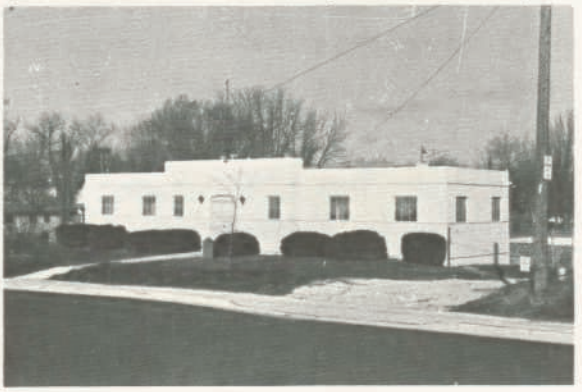


Plate #75 - West Plum at the Canal

Lustron

While World War II captured the attention of Americans from 1941 until 1945, construction of houses was halted since materials were rationed and the labor force was geared toward armaments and defense. When the war ended and the men returned to resume their family lives, there was a shortage of housing and building materials. A new synthetic product that had a steel base with a baked enamel finish in an assortment of soft colors was used for a short time for small one-story houses. Although not a technical house style, a lustron house does dictate a particular house shape that is similar to the ranch type that followed in the 1950s. Lustron houses are rare in small towns, and the only one built in New Bremen was completed in 1949 (Plate #76).



Plate #76 - 102 North Walnut

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Post-World War II Cottages

This curious house type is so modest that it escapes even the observant researcher. The most distinguishing feature of this one-story gabled residence is a front off-center attic gable that often has vertical scalloped shingle siding. It is a small square house that still retains an upright appearance before ranch type sweeps the nation. The interior has four rooms on the first level. A kitchen with built-in cupboards, two bedrooms on the first floor, and a full basement offer compact living space. Sometimes a garage was built on the same lot, but was not attached to the house. Several were built on South Washington Street where the Rabe Manufacturing Company stood, and this one (Plate #77) was constructed in 1948 near the 1929 school.

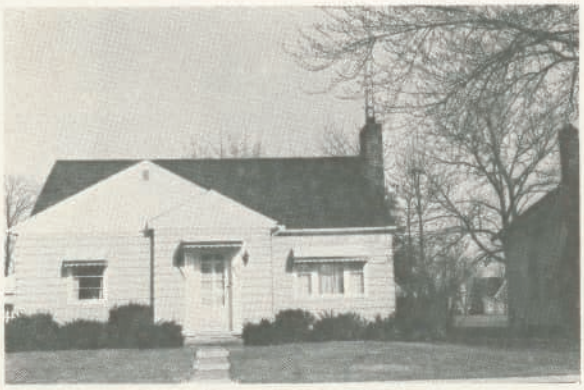


Plate #77 - 218 South Walnut

Ranch-Type

When the men returned from World War II, there was a period of social adjustment that was evidenced in a change in life styles and residential choices. The men took back the jobs in the factories that the women had filled during the war, and a spirit of optimism and a hope for a brighter future evolved into an American Dream. The ideal became a one-family house in a rural setting with a rose garden behind a white picket fence, grassy open space and a housewife who devoted herself to a house and family. A white frame house, all on one floor, became popular across the country. A few were built on some remaining empty lots in New Bremen. However, more space for new houses was needed in this canal village which had experienced intense growth until the turn of the century. Houses continued to be built after 1900 as the town became a retail center. It was fortunate to be located on two major highways and on an interurban route that serviced the village from 1902 until 1931.

To provide more room, small subdivisions with circle drives or cul-de-sacs were platted on the east side of the village after WW II. The west side along the railroad which came in 1877 was already lined with small industries. The lack of through traffic encouraged a rural atmosphere and alleviated the noise of highway traffic. One of the first houses built in Eastmoor Court in 1948 was a frame one-story (Plate #78) along Monroe Street. These early ranch-type versions often had a garage that was similar to the house in size and scale but was attached with a breezeway. Later the style was built in impressive combinations of brick and stone and was spread out under a low-slung roof that enveloped a one or two-car garage at one end. Access to the beauty of nature was assured with sliding glass doors that led to a patio or a screened-in porch for outdoor living. This one (Plate #79) was built by Earl Kuenning in 1957. The house plans were featured in an issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, and it was so popular that other examples can be found in neighboring towns of St. Marys, New Knoxville and Wapakoneta.

Four new homes were built in the newly platted South Haven Subdivision at the southeast corner of the town in 1958. This one on West Haven Drive (Plate #80) is a typical example. The ranch-type house was suited for the winding streets and large yards without sidewalks which could not be found in the older platted sections of town which were laid out in a grid pattern. The rural mystique concept penetrated the lives of the people so that now they lived on drives and in courts instead of on streets and roads as they had in the past century.



Plate #78 - 1 Eastmoor Court



Plate #79 - 5 Eastmoor Court



Plate #80 - 408 West Haven Drive

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Split Level

Beginning in the 1960s, a house type that was built on several levels fascinated the American public. Often the living room, which might have a cathedral ceiling with rustic beams, occupied the one-story level with a fully modern kitchen equipped with wood cupboards and the latest appliances. The bedrooms are typically over a lower level that incorporated a recreation room and perhaps a utility room. The split level style is found in New Bremen in the newest additions like East Front and Canal Streets, but the one constructed by a local craftsman, Reuben Thiesing, from salvaged lumber and bits of old New Bremen buildings is a treasure. With its bargeboard trim, stone shutters, and niches decorated with broken glass, this house (Plate #81) was built in the 1970s near the old Rabe's Pond.



Plate #81 - 214 South Canal Street

Underground or Solar House

During the 1970s, there developed a great concern that the costs of energy and natural resources would become impossible to bear. A house type that was built into a slight hill in this flat land has a southern or eastern exposure to fully utilize the sun's power. It became an interesting option for adventuresome home builders. Several are in the rural areas, and this one (Plate #82) is a good example.



Plate #82 - State Route 66-North

Trailer Courts, Apartments and Condominiums

Although there was an attempt to establish a trailer park within the corporation limits in the 1950s, the petition was denied. The first apartments were built in New Bremen in the 1960s. They were located on the east edge of the village on Front Street. Later pre-fab constructed apartments were placed on newly platted streets named Boesel Avenue and an extension of North Franklin. Condominium living became a possibility in the 1970s when seven units were built in a community-like environment that has a park for a front yard. The development is called GARTENSTADT, a German name that promotes the image of country living in town.

Two-Story Rectangle

A return to a practical house style that has no architectural name was built in New Bremen in the 1970s. As the ranch type declined in popularity, people began to rediscover the economic advantages of two-story living. The ranch type, more appropriate in warm climates, was not ideally suited for Ohio winters. Bedrooms were put back on the second floor. The kitchen, sometimes with a micro-wave oven, a formal dining room and a living room were usually on the first level. The basement became a family room that sometimes acquired a wood-burning stove as heating costs escalated. Multiple bathrooms and garage doors are the hallmarks of the modern era. This handsome house in earth tones of red and green (Plate #83) is on a corner lot in the newly developed Teton Addition.

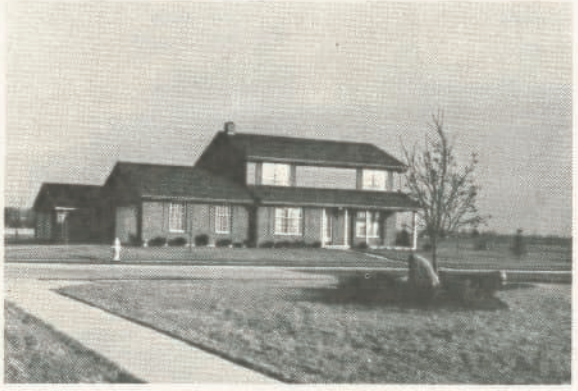


Plate #83 - 104 Elk Drive

The buildings in a community are valuable resources. They tell the history of the people and the area as well as written documents. When a building is altered or discarded without considering alternatives, an important part of the community's story is lost.

List of Properties

( ) building gone
* former owner

#	PROPERTY OWNER	ADDRESS
STYLE		
LOG		
1.	Elda Donnerberg	6586 County Road #66-North
2.	James Pape	231 North Franklin
BRICK-LINED		
3.	New Bremen Museum	122 North Main
4.	Russell Kyburz	5351 State Route #274-East
GERMAN CANAL HOUSE		
5.	Mrs. Harvey Eversman	216 North Walnut
6.	(William Buss house, Purpus Jewelry Store, and Dr. Michael Rabe's Office)	

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7.	Larry Kuhn	107 North Franklin
8.	Robert Bambauer	5673 State Route #274-East
9.	Macallan Lishness	15 South Walnut

GERMAN CANAL WAREHOUSE

10.	Ed Dilger	109 North Main
11.	(Lehmkuhl Hotel)	119-121 North Main
12.	*Steinberg General Store	112 North Main
13.	*Henry Schmidt General Store	315-317 North Main
14.	*Adam Brueggeman General Store	222-224 North Main
15.	*J.W. Wiemeyer General Store	104 South Washington
16.	Ernie Phlipot	36 South Washington
17.	Harriet Woehler	206 South Washington
18.	Hedwig and Pauline Paul	8 North Main
19.	Crown Factory Office	126 South Washington
20.	Menchofer Insurance Agency	114 West Monroe
21.	*American Hotel	30 South Washington
22.	Robert Schaffer	Lock Two
23.	Elizabeth Hoying	967 Lock Two Road

ITALIAN VILLA AND ITALIANATE

24.	Fred Harmon	27 South Franklin
25.	Woodmen of the World	116 West Monroe
26.	Friemering's Warehouse	122 West Monroe
27.	Crown Factory	126 South Washington

VILLAGE STORE

28.	Esquire Shop	38 South Washington
29.	Lyons Electric	103 West Monroe

BOOM TOWN FRONT

30.	(Little Store)	212 North Main
31.	(Equity Store)	22 North Main
32.	Advance Auto	407 West Monroe

SPECIAL USE BUILDINGS

33.	Robert Minnich	3 West Plum
34.	Reuben Thiesing Shop	Outlot 32, Canal St.
35.	Carl Pape Barn	318 North Main

BARNS AND OUTBUILDINGS

36.	Robert Wilson	213 South Franklin
37.	*White Mountain Creamery barn	431 West Monroe
38.	*Wilbur Dicke outside bake oven	122 North Main

T-SHAPED AND L-SHAPED

39.	Emil Fledderjohann	107 South Main
40.	Laverta Strasburg	8 North Jefferson

VICTORIAN GOTHIC

41.	Dr. Ron Riebel	16 South Franklin
42.	Virgil Hirschfeld	403 West Monroe

CANAL HOUSE WITH GOTHIC PEAK

43.	Don Ahlers	102 South Franklin
44.	Frances Kuenning	17 North Franklin
45.	Kermit Freewalt	403 South Washington

LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL CHURCHES

46.	St. Paul	119 North Franklin
47.	St. Peter's	303 North Franklin
48.	The Way Cultural Center	103 North Main

LATE GOTHIC REVIVAL HOUSES

49.	Faith Alliance Parsonage	207 South Walnut
50.	Jerome Wissman	319 South Washington

BRICK COMMERCIAL BLOCKS

51.	*Garmhausen Dry Goods Store	Lock Two
52.	Gilberg's Furniture	7 West Monroe
	Hotel Bar	17 West Monroe
53.	American Budget Company	16 South Washington
	*Engine House	18 South Washington
54.	American Legion	115 West Monroe
55.	Lock Two Mill	Lock Two
56.	Crown Warehouse	Canal and Plum

QUEEN ANNE

57.	Marie Rabe	110 South Franklin
58.	Donald Kuck	6811 Quellhorst Road
59.	*M.S. Ekermeyer, M.D.	120 South Washington
60.	Emil Schroer	4978 State Route #274-East
61.	Jerry Brown	15 South Franklin
62.	Jerry Maxson	101 South Main

PRINCESS ANNE

63.	Mrs. Lewis Poppe	123 North Jefferson
64.	Don Hoelscher	115 South Main

STICK STYLE

65.	Ed Thobe	127 South Main

AMERICAN FOUR-SQUARE

66.	Paul Lietz	34 South Herman
67.	Victor Maurer	124 South Franklin

SHINGLE STYLE

68.	Gertrude Rinehart	22 South Franklin
69.	*Elmer Ende	123 South Main
70.	Dianne Komminsk	427 West Monroe

BUNGALOW

71.	Jack White	304 West Monroe
72.	Benjamin Brockman	9 North Herman

COLONIAL REVIVAL

73.	David Wyen	110 South Main

ENGLISH TUDOR

74.	Reuben Wissman	317 South Walnut

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION - WPA

75.	New Bremen Swimming Pool	West Plum

LUSTRON

76.	Mrs. LaVerne Wint	102 North Walnut
77.	Robert Kettler	218 South Walnut

RANCH TYPE

78.	Walter Behm	1 Eastmoor Court
79.	Earl Kuenning	5 Eastmoor Court
80.	Robert Fledderjohn	408 West Haven Drive

SPLIT-LEVEL

81.	Reuben Thiesing	214 South Canal

UNDERGROUND OR SOLAR

82.	Greg Bornhorst	State Route #66-North

TRAILER COURTS, APARTMENTS AND CONDOMINIUMS

TWO-STORY RECTANGLE

83.	James Jarvis	104 Elk Drive

List of Sketches

#	PROPERTY OWNER	ADDRESS
1.	Map of log houses	North Addition of New Bremen
2.	Ed Dilger	109 North Main
3.	Ernie Phlipot	206 South Washington
4.	Crown Factory Office	126 South Washington
5.	Fred Harmon	27 South Franklin
6.	Woodmen of the World	116 West Monroe
7.	Boesel Bank Window	118 West Monroe
8.	Virgil Hirschfeld	403 West Monroe
9.	Central School	101 South Franklin
10.	Kermit Freewalt	403 South Washington
11.	Dr. M.S. Ekermeyer	120 South Washington
12.	Ed Thobe	127 South Main

Sketches of the entrances are from "Doorways Past", a booklet by Kim and Cindy Bushman of New Bremen. It was published in 1978 through the efforts of Mary Ann Brown of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office; Crown, Inc.; and the New Bremen Historic Association.

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Articles by Ralph May



Ralph May at age 78 in 1971.

Biographical Sketch of Ralph May

Ralph May was born in 1892 and spent his boyhood years in New Bremen. He lived with his grandmother at her house on West Plum Street on the east bank of the Miami and Erie Canal. He was an impressionable youth who grew up in the bustling canal town at the turn of the century. With a curious mind, a memory for details and a used camera, he observed carefully the people, businesses and the events in his surroundings. After his graduation from New Bremen High School in 1910, he moved to Piqua where he married and raised a family. However, he returned frequently to visit his old friends and his childhood home until his death in 1981.

In the 1930s, he began submitting short recollections about his boyhood days to the *New Bremen Sun*, and later his thoughts and reminiscences were printed in the St. Marys *Evening Leader* during the 1960s and 1970s. He wrote over one hundred articles about life in New Bremen, and eight of them were chosen for the sesquicentennial book because they give an insightful view of the history of the town around 1900. They also serve to honor Ralph May, a fine local historian and a talented writer.

Business of Ice Cutting was Big Job Thrilling to Watch, Former New Bremenite Recalls *3/6/1963*

An interesting episode of the old-time winters was the filling of the two large ice-houses located in our New Bremen neighborhood. Some times this came before Christmas, if the winter set in early; but, for the most part it came after the holidays; and once I remember not until early March. This was a great time for the boys. If we could manage it some way or other, or if the work continued till a Saturday, we might have a job pushing the ice with a pike-pole at $1.00 for the day, a large sum back there. This seldom happened, however, except for the boy whose father managed the ice-houses. But as spectators we often gave a willing hand in order to assist with the work.

Some morning, on our way to school, crossing the swinging bridge and looking over towards the Pond, we might see a horse walking back and forth over the ice, followed by an ice plow and a man, by which the ice was perforated before cutting into blocks. The two ice-houses along the canal and some distance from the pond were being put in condition for the long storage, with the erection of the ice way and the platform running alongside leading from the canal high up into the first house. The laborers having been called, and everything placed in readiness for the next day, the actual cutting would begin and a passage-way made leading from the pond to the platform going into the ice-house.

The large cakes, six inches or more in thickness, with sometimes three or four of them together, were pushed on their way to the storage. Here they were picked up, ten, twelve or fifteen at a time and pulled up the chute by a horse, block and tackle until they reached the pivotal point, from where they went sailing down into the ice-house and landing on beds of straw all in a heap. There was an occassional slip as the man bore down on the contrivance holding back the weight of the cakes, and if this happened more than half way up there was a grand splash when the ice slid back into the canal. How we would laugh to see some of the helpers or possibly spectators get soaked!

The job of handling the huge cakes of ice inside the houses was a strenuous task, for these men had to work fast to keep up with the man on the outside. Setting cakes on end, with straw between, underneath and on top, in the damp atmosphere and darkness of these ice mows, was difficult work; but the man who we took our hats off to, and

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RABE'S POND

This pond off the old Miami and Erie canal has long since been filled in. (Editors note - Now the site of the Jaycee Park.) Ralph May, Piqua, recalls it as one of the ponds which supplied much of the ice to serve New Bremen's needs back in the days before electric refrigeration.

who we some day hoped to be, was the fellow whose skill and strength kept the cakes in line for the long pull up before gravity did the rest. We all knew that his wage was the highest of all the laborers.

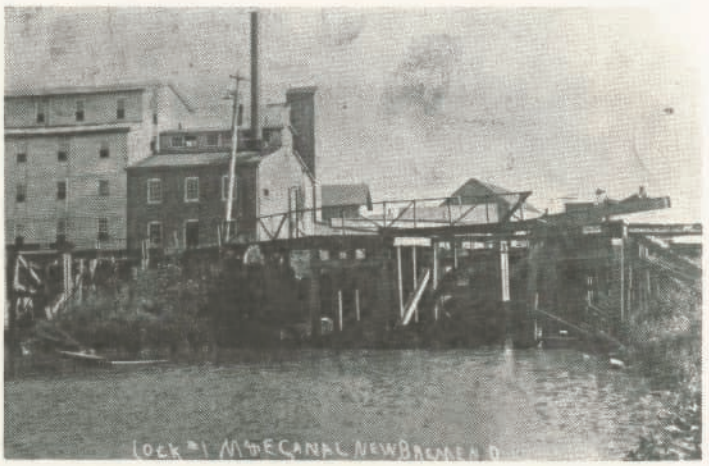
It was not often that we ventured inside the ice-houses while the ice was being put up; but in the summertime it was a fine experience. My mind is still baffled when I think of all this ice with-standing the terrific heat of summer, and how it was taken out when needed, the supply lasting for the entire season and up until the next cutting. Besides the two ice-houses near the canal, another small one was located near the depot, and Schulenberg's store had their own ice house to supply the need for the soda fountain during the summer months.

Underneath the two large ice-houses, on the side to the north, were steps and a cellar door leading to the cooler, where pop, orange soda, soda water and beer was stored—mostly beer—and where water was constantly dripping down from the floor above, the whole place very much like the Ohio Caverns. This cooler was known far and wide by the boys in our end of town, for on certain occasions during the summer months we would pool our resources and with the $.65 collected purchase a case of pop, taking it over into a nearby field under a tree where each of us would have four or six bottles all to ourselves. And what a treat this would be on a hot summer afternoon, with a choice of white, strawberry, and sarsaparilla flavor, for we always purchased the case in mixed lots to satisfy the taste, whims and fancies of each boy making a contribution.

After the ice had been cut all over the pond and both of the houses filled, the open space of the pond would freeze over again in a sheet of ice known especially for its crystal-like appearance and extra smoothness. To skate over this newly-frozen section was very fine, indeed, but one had to be sure of its safety before starting out on such a daring adventure. I recall one Sunday afternoon, when everyone had been warned to keep off. One young man, however, who was a good skater, kept going over it again and again, the ice moving up and down like a piece of ribbon and sending out sharp cracks at almost every stroke. The rubber ice—as we called it—was beautiful in its undulations, but it could not stand for long the weight and the speed of the skater. At last it gave way; and the rescue of this young man from the icy water, under great difficulty, made the rest of the afternoon a nightmare to most of us. I shall never forget it, for I was a mere lad at the time. The story, however, better than I can tell it, is all in McGuffey's Third Reader, under the title "Harry and Annie". Here, however, we saw with our own eyes, and the lesson will long be remembered.

The old ice-houses were still standing up to a few years ago; but the fresh and clean water in the old canal has passed away. Here and there throughout this part of the country we can still see a pond, or an ice-house nearby in a state of ruin, where ice was harvested every year. The old buildings with the sign "Ice For Sale" are reminders of other days and other methods. The old canal, for the communities up north, served many purposes in its day, and one of the most interesting, as I look back, was the week of the ice harvest in winter.

Ralph May, Piqua, O.



LOCK ONE AT NEW BREMEN

The above picture was on a postal card given to Mr. May by Harry Koeper when Mr. May visited with him some years ago in Portland, Ore. The card was sent to Mr. Koeper in 1908 from New Bremen. The message on the card reports two new cases of smallpox in New Bremen. The lock is on the side of the one to which Mr. May refers in his accompanying article.

Old Locks Along M. & E. Canal Bring Memories of Boyhood Swimming Parties to Ralph May *5/22/1963*

One of the interesting places in old-time New Bremen, was the wooden lock opposite the Thompson House. As a short cut home from downtown, I would sometimes go down the towpath from the Monroe St. bridge and cross the lock from the Mill side. The board walk across the lock was entirely open on both sides; and it was frightening to look down to the depth of the water below, especially after nightfall. I remember quite well one evening, when the fire bell rang and it was reported that the Thompson boy was missing. His body was later recovered in the water underneath. Evidently, in crossing this same walk, or in running, he fell overboard.

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There was a time when the older boys of the town went in swimming at the lock in the evening, for in those days swimming trunks were unheard of. You could hear their loud shouting and splashing in the water from the Monroe Street bridge, as you passed by. They would dive from the uppermost part of the lock, into water below, which was quite a feat. For the younger set, our swimming hole was the old boat, south of town, where we cut away part of the towpath and made mud steps to the water.

Lock No. 1, the first lock on this side of the watershed, was already in a decrepit condition when I was a boy in New Bremen. It was leaking badly from both sides; later replaced by the present concrete structure. From New Bremen north, for some distance, it seems that the locks vary little from being a mile apart. My acquaintance, however, did not go beyond lock 3.

It was quite a thrill to ride a canal boat from the Plum Street bridge to the lock, sometimes working the handpump for the free ride. We would wait for the lock to fill up and the gate opened; and then step off the boat after it had entered inside the lock. The clearance on each side was about a foot. Then, after the gates were closed we would watch the boat as it slowly sank to the level of the canal on the other side, as the wickets were opened and the water left out.

The Feeder Lock at St. Marys was no doubt constructed so that boats could enter the reservoir from the canal. On their way to Celina, they would have to be propelled by huge oars operated from the stern, for there was no towpath along which the mules could trod. That would have been an interesting voyage across the lake; but I wonder how often they got stuck on some of the submerged stumps!

North of Piqua, to Lockington, there are the remains, in a good state of preservation, of eight stone locks, all within a distance of four miles. The wooden gates have long since deteriorated; but some of the timbers still hold at the bottom of the locks. There are grooves in the stone from where the towing ropes dragged. And at Lockington, there is an old Lock Tender's House; and you can see where the boats were raised on stiles for necessary repairs.

Some years ago, when I first came to Piqua to live and when the wooden gates were in an up-right position at the lock at Landman's Mill, I found a robin that had built its nest on the decayed part of the middle posts. How strange, I thought, to think that a robin would think of such a thing in connection with this old waterway.

Comment and discussion about the old Ohio canals will never cease. Someone, but too long ago, in the Ohioana Magazine, asked what was the most difficult part of the Miami and Erie Canal to construct? The answer: The forests of Paulding County, and the "deep cut" south of Spencerville, where it was cut through the St. Marys moraine. The shortest and most logical route was not chosen because sufficient water was not available at the summit (or divide) to operate a canal.

Pictures Taken Years Ago of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Churches Evoke Memories of Preacher School *3/17/1964*

"Selig, Selig, ist dat Gottes wort, horen and bewaren." I remember, as a little boy, being taken to St. Paul Church and looking up above at the dome and seeing these words and the cluster of stars depicting the heavens. I no doubt could not read the words at that time; but, later, they have come back to me again and again. I am not sure whether they are still there or not.

And at another time, when still quite small, I remember being taken to see the ruins of the church after the Great Fire in 1897. I was five years old at the time. It is one of the few things I can remember at that age. All that remained of the great church was the tower. An old photograph that I have shows the ruins in the basement, with the firemen still throwing water on the smouldering timbers, and the balcony hanging precariously up above with boys and spectators sitting in the seats that were still available.

Preacher School and Confirmation were very important days in the early history of the church. Memorizing the answers given in Der Kleine Catechismus des seligen D. Martin Luthers, consumed hours and hours of time. And what excitement on Palm Sunday when you were confronted with a question and groped for an answer! At that time every thing was in the German language. I was more fortunate, later, to have my instruction in English.

From an old catechism used at St. Paul's, here is a list of boys that got confirmed in the year 1890: L. Buerkle, F. Boesche, R. Laut, F. Rabe, F. Langhorst, A. Laut, J.



ST. PAUL'S BEFORE TREES HAD GROWN
St. Paul's Church from the old City Park, when the trees were first set out — about 1899.

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REMEMBER ST. PETER'S OF YESTERYEARS
Old St. Peter's Church, with part of the Sunday School room and the parsonage showing.

Kuest, E. Meyer, A. Knost, P. Tomhafe, H. Vossler, H. Shars, F. Otte, H. Poeppenhagen, A. Schroeder, W. Koester, H. Koeper, H. Dickman, H. Tomhafe, A. Havemann, B. Hirschfeldt, H. Heinfeldt, G. Blase, W. Giesicke, L. Donnerberg, F. Warner, C. Westerbeck, W. Kettler, J. Vornholt, T. Koeper, G. Sollman, F. Kohlhorst, A. Heil, G. Bertke, B. Howeischer, E. Howeischer, W. Hirschfeldt, W. Waterman.

So much for old St. Paul's, except that there were many funny things that happened in Preacher School, as related to me by an old friend who lives out West.

St. Peter's was too far away from where I lived for me to know very much about this church. The Rev. Fischer, who served the congregation for many years, was a very beloved pastor. Strange as it may seem, I remember his beard too well. And one of his daughters taught in the lower grades as I was entering school.

These old photos, accompanying this sketch, were taken at the turn of the Century. They have a nostalgic charm that should quicken the heart of any old communicant of either of these two churches. And all these thoughts are most appropriate for this season of the year, when we approach another Palm Sunday and another Eastertide.

Ralph May
Piqua

P.S. - A Gift Book that I have, from one of my aunts or uncles, has this inscription on the inside cover; "Geschenkt von der Sonntag's Schule der St. Paulus Gemeinde, Weihnachten, 1896."

Washington and Monroe Streets in Old New Bremen Held Much of Interest for Boys of That Day *9/18/1963*

These three pictures of Washington and Monroe streets in old New Bremen are particularly favorites of mine. How charming an old picture can be. And how it brings back old times, old faces and old scenes.

The top picture, showing the Schulenberg-Laut Block and the unpaved street has a group of old-timers hanging around the hotel entrance and the saloon next door. Hitching posts are quite prevalent; and there is a horse and buggy tied up to one of them. Looking towards the canal, the small building on the corner was another saloon; and next to it is one of the old warehouses that was built when the canal was an active artery of traffic. The old Dierker building, later destroyed in an explosion, can be seen.

I have some of the fondest recollections of the old K of P and Odd Fellow and Rebecca Hall next to the hotel. The fall and winter season saw many gatherings here of the town's folk. Oyster suppers, amateur theatricals, and the regular Friday evening drill practice of the K of P's. I can still hear the thud of their feet on the floor as I was in Schulenberg's store underneath.

About the only time I ventured inside the hotel lobby was when some important personage came to lecture on our Lecture Course at Boesel's Opera House. On one occasion I encountered Ralph Parlette for his autograph. He tore a piece of paper off the counter and wrote as follows:

"Let's stay acquainted."
Ralph Parlette
Oct. 4/09 Chicago

Parlette died in 1930. He gave his lecture, "The University of Hard Knocks," over four thousand times.

The old picture of Washington Street was taken some time after the Western Ohio car tracks had been laid. It's a summertime picture with the store awnings down and the trees in leaf. As yet, the street was unpaved, and the poles supporting the trolley wire present a gaunt picture. Roy Hoverman took the photo, succeeding F.W. Greber as the town photographer. My bare feet trod these sidewalks many a time, especially on my many trips to the Mill on errands for my grandmother.

The middle photo shows a parade crossing the Monroe street bridge on a gala day when the Woodmen of the World were taking over the exercises for Decoration Day, - I believe, I took this picture from the little balcony atop the building where the post office used to be. It is another

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Monroe Street From Water—'99



LIFT BRIDGE
Looking towards Rairdon's Livery Stable and Hoffman Corner



WASHINGTON STREET
Looking south towards Minster

bird's-eye-view, but not from such a height as the water-works tower! Ha, ha.

It was quite an event when these two streets were paved. The contractor employed a gang of Macedonians who lived in the old Finke House on North Main street. I belonged to a Literary Society that met weekly next door; and I tell you the beer these men consumed was tremendous. The empty cases were stacked ten feet high next to the building. Except for gypsies who came through town occasionally, they were probably the first foreigners with whom we came in contact. And how interesting to know they came from Macedonia, reminding us of St. Paul and his preaching in the early days of Christianity.

Old-time New Bremen was an interesting place in which to live - not meaning, of course, it is not the same today. In a town the size of New Bremen, the boys did not miss a thing. From the coming of the Western Ohio to street paving and all such things, we were eager participants in whatever was taking place.



BOYS "SKINNED" DIAMOND
Skinning the diamond out at the old Fairgrounds, New Bremen, was a regular spring chore. The grandstand in the background was later dismantled and taken to the Auglaize County Fairground.

Baseball was Big Stuff at Old Fairgrounds East of Village on Kettlersville Road; Ralph May Recalls Bloomer Girls Feature Game *7/15/1965*

When I was a boy in New Bremen, it seemed like a long way out to the old Fair Ground east of town on the Kettlersville road. Sometimes, to take a short cut, we would go through the lane back of Speckman's and then on out over to Wellman's farm, approaching the Fair Ground from the south. All the Sunday afternoon baseball games were played out at the Fair Ground diamond, located just across the race track from the grandstand, as you can see from the picture.

One of our first trips out to the baseball field in the spring was when the gang turned out to "skin the diamond". Over the late fall months much of the ground would be taken over with weeds and in the spring it became a tangled mass of growth. Here, again, the picture shows how the work progressed, and I wish I could name each one in the group.

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There are a few who can easily be identified from the photographgic print with the aid of a reading glass. Well grown-up boys are in knee pants, and another in the rear has the old-time shirt waist.

There were some very famous games played out on this field. For one, we will never forget when the Nebraska Indians came to New Bremen and played an exhibition game. Then, again, a more famous outfit, when the Bloomer Girls, assisted with a few male players, gave a highly exciting game when such dress was quite a novelty.

I like to look back to these baseball games played on a Sunday afternoon and how we enjoyed walking out to the old Fair Grounds. Sometimes, if you were fortunate to have a bicycle, it was a pleasure to ride out, even on a very dusty road. One could take several spins around the race track before or after the game. And it was always a pleasure to penetrate the deep woods back of the Fair Ground buildings, many of these trees still standing today.

A famous pitcher of that day that I recall was Anthony from Berlin (Ft. Loramie). He was about the only paid player of that day. His regular occupation was that of a barber. I don't know when he found time to practice. But he was an outstanding pitcher. Most of all the other players were New Bremen boys: Kisser, Schuloff, Huenke, Long, Rabe, Schroeder, Goll, Thompson — to name a few.

As a boy out at these games, it was a pleasure to pick up one of the bats and fondly handle it, with a swing or two. Then, again, to put your palms around a $1.25 ball was heaven, indeed. It was a long time before any of us ever got to play with such an expensive item. Spaulding and Reach were the famous baseball trade names in that day. I was the proud owner of a $.25 pud, purchased at Hoffman's Drug Store, which served me for many seasons of the sport. And I even had a uniform made of grey flannel which I donned on special occasions when the BB's and the Buckeyes played out on the old School Grounds off of Cherry St.

Listening to the game last Wednesday between the Cincinnati Reds and Los Angeles, the old-time enthusiasm for baseball seemed to revive again. That was a real World Series game, and I sat glued to my radio in the kitchen for several hours. I used to read about these games, inning for inning, in the Cincinnati Enquirer. One cannot forget the names of the old-time players in the National League, such as Bob Ewing and Miller Huggins, of the Cincinnati Reds, and Matheson, McGinity and Ames with the New York Giants. Bob Ewing was an Auglaize Co. boy — one of the great pitchers of all time. I can't recall that he ever played out at the old Fair Ground; but having seen the Nebraska Indians and the Bloomer Girls, what more could we youngsters in New Bremen wish for? They were gala days long to be remembered.

Ralph May, Piqua

Swinging Bridges on Miami and Erie Canal were Assembly Points for Children when Boats Approached *2/18/1970*

I was one of those fortunate lads to be brought up within a half block from a swing bridge in New Bremen. There were three of these bridges in the town and one lift bridge over the main street, and boats were still coming through when I was a boy.



PLUM STREET SWING BRIDGE, NEW BREMEN

Geese were plentiful years ago, just as they are today in the area of the Mercer County Waterfowl Refuge. This flock of geese was on the Miami and Erie Canal in front of the Plum Street swing bridge where they were drawing attention of citizens who stopped by to see the birds, and maybe to toss some food to them.

The photo is one in the collection of Ralph May.

Seeing a boat coming round the bend south of town, it was not long until a group of boys and girls would gather on the bridge, leaning over the railing and waiting for the boat and the mule team as it drew closer and closer until the bow would gently bump the bridge open, being guided to the one side by a stretch of timbers extending out into the water from the bridge. You see, the bridge had to be bumped from the one end in order to properly swing it round on its track midway to let the boat pass through.

There was a circular track on which castor-like wheels moved in turning the bridge from one side to the other. The track was located to the one side and that end of the bridge was weighted down with heavy limestones to give it the proper pitch in swinging around.

The approach to the bridge from the highway was in a curved pattern to match with the curved structure of the bridge platform, with an opening of several inches to permit the bridge to move freely.

It was quite a thrill in those days, to get the bump of the bridge when the bow of the slow-moving boat hit the heavy timber on the outer side of the bridge. Sometimes after the boat had passed through, the bridge might only swing back part way, and then the lock tender or whoever might be near-by would have to push the bridge back in place so the children could get off and traffic resumed.

These bridges were convenient for the old threshing machine outfits to take on water. When tractors were steam-operated, a water tank was coupled on behind and on crossing the bridge, it was such an easy task to throw over the large intake hose and by a hand-pump draw water from the canal before going on to the next threshing operation.

Leonard Hill, of Piqua, and I were fortunate in locating the pivot pin and part of the track on which a swing bridge turned, near Bunker Hill in Shelby County on the line of the Miami and Erie Canal. "Towpaths", the publication of the Canal Society of Ohio, reported that we had located the pivot pin in its October, 1969, issue — the same one in which my article on "Swinging Bridges" first appeared.

Ralph May, Piqua

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FIREMEN POSE IN FRONT OF STATION

A very old street scene on Washington Street, with firemen posed in front of the Fire Department. The old warehouse building is shown with a saloon on one side and the Joe Lanfersieck barber shop on the other.



1899 PICTURE OF SCHULENBERG-LAUT BLOCK

Schulenberg-Laut Block, Monroe Street, as seen from Water Street. This picture was taken about 1899.

Early Spring Pictures of Street Scenes in New Bremen Show Roadways of Mud

3/25/1971

In this day of paved streets and macadamized highways, one has to go back to the Turn of the Century to see what the town's streets were like about this time of year after the first spring thaws. These photographs, all taken at that time, clearly show the deplorable condition of what our main thoroughfares in the downtown area presented to the public who had to use them with their horse and buggies or wagons, and even how difficult it was to cross over from one side of the street to the other side even though stones were laid at the intersections.

Those dirt ruts, shown in the picture, served one good purpose, however; for in the winter the snow caught in these crevices and could not get out, it provided a good base for the sleighing which was so common in the long winter days and the cold which seemed more intense than what we appear to have nowdays. I know we had to dress far more warmly then, than we do now; and it may be that it was because our houses were not so well heated. Everybody wore long underwear, and boys and girls wool stockings with the snow and ice clinging to them in such an uncomfortable way.

In the top photo, the two butsmen are Darr Thompson and Emil Laut, August Gobrecht is standing beside the door. I do not know the other party in the winter cap. The rooms up above the vacant store room were occupied, -maybe later, - by The Tip Top Club.

The Schulenberg-Laut block has a large group of bystanders too indistinct to identify and no one would be living now who was amongst that group, I am sure. All these photos are from the collection of negatives that I got from the late, Ferd Rabe, when I bought his old 4 x 5 plate camera.

Henry Schwaberow is out in front, standing at the middle of the building. Lina Taylor (Mrs. Joe Brucken), is one of the two women out in front. Henry kept one of the neatest stores in town, although I am sure he did not have a great deal of a turnover of his merchandise, particularly that in the china and crockery division of his store. None of the stores had cash registers at that time. A drawer under the counter was manipulated in opening it by pulling on four wires underneath. You had to know the combination in order to use the drawer.

I had no thought in going into so much detail in showing these pictures as my main purpose was to show the younger generation what our main streets were like about this time of the year, when I, as a boy, knew them so well.

Ralph May, Piqua



HENRY SCHWABEROW AT HIS STORE

This was Henry Schwaberow's store on Monroe Street. It is now the Western Ohio Hardware. Alongside the building is Water Street.

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Football Team of 1910



Football Team of 1911

Restoration of Football to H.S. at New Bremen Brings Memories *9/17/1971*

Now that the playing of football is being restored to the New Bremen High School, it might be of interest to those who will be playing now and to old-timers in the village to show the two teams of 1910 and 1911.

The football teams in my day practiced in Vogelsang's field just off South Main St., and which today has been developed into a city park west of the canal towpath. It was a lovely, grassy area, close to our dressing room in the basement of the old Central School building. It did not take us very long to change into our playing clothes and get out into the field.

Our games were played on a Saturday afternoon out at the Tri-County Fairgrounds, a mile west of town on the Kettlersville Rd., where two goal posts were erected in the area between the race track enclosure. Spectators stood on the side lines, as there were no bleacher seats to sit on. It was a nice walk out to the fairgrounds and there were no public conveyances except, possibly, for the players.

Here are the names of the players, Team of 1910, seated: Rueben Boesel, Elmer Roettger, William Laut, Al Huenke, Curt Ihle, Louis Poppe, Lawrence Heitman.

Standing: Vernon Neuman, Richard Boesel, Clarence Schroeder, Hunter Kuenzel, Coach Dr. Irwin Boesel.

Team of 1911, standing: Felix Jung, Alfred Rabe, Franklin Grothaus, Clifford Gast, Louis Poppe, Emil Koenig, Homer Buss, Coach (?).

Seated, center: Herbert Garmhausen, Coach (?), Rueben Boesel, Richard Boesel, Chester Kuenning, Curt Ihle.

Bottom row: Leonard Nieter, Elmer Roettger, Heitman.

Zis Boom Bah, Zis Boom Bah,
Bremen, Bremen, Rah, Rah, Rah!

Ralph May, Piqua

Postcard photos: Courtesy Mrs. Emil Koenig.

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Excerpts From The New Bremen Sun

The following excerpts were taken from the *New Bremen Sun,* a weekly newspaper published in New Bremen from approximately 1888 until 1961. The bound volumes are in the possession of the New Bremen Historical Association and microfilmed copies are at the New Bremen Library. Most of the excerpts illustrate the development of the town, and they are arranged in a chronological order as they were printed. *Compiled by: Alice Wissman*

New Bremen Sun.

Single Copy, 5 Cents — DEVOTED TO THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE PEOPLE. — $1.50 Per Year, in Advance.

VOL. II. NEW BREMEN, O., FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 1888. NO. 22.

January 27, 1888

New Bremen is making headway. Its business is in a stirring mood and before long will be like a huge boil on a man's neck, burst open and purge its whole system. A change is surely coming, considering the talk of persons interested in it. There was a time when you could buy everything from a toothpick to an ax-handle in one single store, not so now. Now we have stores that keep only exclusive stock and can satisfy their customers with anything in that exclusive line. Here is Fred Wiemeyer, the clothier; Vogelsang & Son and Heil & Schneider, stoves and tinware; J.A. Koeper, with his boots and shoes; Henry Schwaberow, groceries; Klanke Bros., furniture; Boesel & Kunning and William Rabe, hardware; Jos. Thiedick, dry goods; Gustave Boesel, notions; Fred Ende and J. Halsema, jewelry; J.L. Hoffman, drugs; Fred Neumann, H.G. Barienbrock and Christopher Broerman, harness; Fred Vornholt, confectionery and bread. They all rank with the progressive portion and are up with the times. We are not just laying the foundation of New Bremen; that was started some fifty years ago; but we want to keep on improving and show the world that we don't belong to antiquity. We will soon have gas. We will soon have our railroad extended. We will soon have Fair Grounds. Now let us step up manfully and say we will soon have our business re-arranged.

March 2, 1888

The ALUMNI of New Bremen Schools will in a short time be organized. Nine graduates constitute it.

October 19, 1888

Coal oil lamps of any style can be exchanged for gas fixtures at Henry Schwaberow Enterprise Grocery.

July 6, 1888

For the first time in the history of our town we have the pleasure of witnessing the burning flame of Natural Gas to span the streets of our beautiful little village. The bowels of the earth pour out their voluminous contents and lend to people of New Bremen the right hand to successful business, manufacturing and industrial progress. No more is this town called an out-of-the-way corner, having customs and methods hanging like a "mill stone around its neck." We are now able to compete successfully with any town in America.

August 24, 1888

Who says New Bremen hasn't a building boom? It is getting so that the people have no more vacant lots; they cut down the corn and stand it away in shocks to give room for a house. This is the case in the east side of town.

January 25, 1889

From an agricultural standpoint, New Bremen is the best town in Auglaize County. The pork-packing business amounts to $97,350.00 each year, the creamery business amounts to $30,000.00 each year, the grain business, about twice as much as both each year, and we do not know how much the stock business about amounts to each year. Let alone other minor businesses such as poultry, garden, vegetables, eggs, fruits, etc.

February 8, 1889

THE LANDLORD OF THE FRENCH HOUSE INTENDS TO SELL OUT

A hotel situated in the midst of the gas region and in the heart of enterprising New Bremen is desirous of changing landlords. It is the only hotel in town and doing splendid business. The present landlord is affected with ill health and proposes to retire.

April 19, 1889

WARNING

Notice is hereby given that no more gatherings of boys will be allowed at the depot at the arrival of trains. Boys will stay away, and parents will please see that they do stay away, to avoid the trouble of having them taken in charge by proper authorities.

Herman Pape, City Marshall

April 25, 1890

Theo. Purpus, editor of the STERN, has recently purchased a building site on Franklin Street, and contemplates erecting a fine residence thereon. Franklin Street is the nicest street in town—it is the residence street.

May 9, 1890

The town is spreading out along Franklin and Herman Streets. Ten or fifteen years ago that section was an empty space. Additions have been made year after year until now we have an elegant school building, furniture factory, foundry, a string of houses including some of the finest residences in town, and now a lantern factory will be added. Prospects for more are good. At the terminus of these streets is an elegant grove which in time may prove to our council a convenient site for a city park. We are coming, slow but sure.

July 11, 1890

Louis Huenke's creamery is according to statistics one of the largest establishments of the kind in the United States. His territory covers an area of nearly five hundred square miles, and is steadily increasing. He churns from 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of butter every evening.

May 16, 1891

Marshall's Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners of cattle that it is strictly prohibited for cattle or other domesticated animals to run or graze at large within the corporate limits of New Bremen. Any and all violaters of this injunction will be promptly punished according to the law.

Henry Weinberg, Marshall

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May 13, 1893

The Board of Education of the New Bremen Schools at their meeting Tuesday evening decided to employ lady teachers in the first and second primary rooms. This is their initial step in that direction, and the change involves much interest.

January 13, 1894

Have patience, New Bremen may experience its long looked for revival, after all. Another manufacturing concern has or will soon hitch itself to our industrial well-being. It is a broom factory. Messrs. Wm. Bruns, Louis Huenke, Fred Vogelsang, and Henry Dierker form the lucky four-leafed clover and have resolved to undertake the enterprise. We hope they will succeed. They will occupy the old lantern factory.

March 24, 1894

Electric light is used in the business houses of Messrs. Edward Purpus, Henry Laut, Christ Langhorst and Fred Ende. The lights are connected to the main line, but it is said that a commercial line will soon be put up and an extra engine and dynamo be placed in the power house.

January 26, 1895

Mr. Benjamin Schulenberg received word, last week, from the Pension Department at Washington, D.C. that his pension had been dropped. He drew a monthly pittance of six dollars. The department didn't do even as much as to say why they dropped his pension. Mr. Schulenberg has served nobly in the late Civil War and no one begrudged him this meager allowance from the government. Although not in destitute circumstances he is a man that could appreciate the help now denied him. She is a queer, unpatriotic administration anyhow.

February 9, 1895

Mr. Julius Boesel, cashier of Boesel's Bank, on Wednesday let the contract for building his nice house to Wm. Brinkmeyer, whose bid for the job is $5,290.69. Two competing bids were in. One from Wm. Rabe, $5,309.69 and another from Ziegenfelder and Niemeyer, $5,400.79. Mr. Boesel's residence will be one of the finest in this vicinity. It is located on a splendid site, one half of a mile north of town and will be equipped with all the modern conveniences.

February 23, 1895

New Bremen will have telephone connections with St. Marys. Wire for this purpose is already here and work on it has begun. The station will be in the Ed Purpus store. This is something New Bremen has been in need of for years. Another long felt want supplied.

May 11, 1895

New Bremen will in the near future, have a first class, well-equipped opera house. The man to supply the long cherished object is Mr. Charles Boesel, one of New Bremen's foremost citizens. The entire second floor of his large new block, with exceptions of a few offices, in the front, will be devoted to this purpose. The auditorium will have the dimensions of fifty-five square feet and the stage will be fifteen feet deep. The floor will undoubtedly be inclined and supplied with regular opera chairs. The stage will be equipped with all of the latest accouterments and be entirely modern in its construction.

June 22, 1895

The contract for the new Charles Boesel block was let yesterday (Friday) afternoon to Wm. Brinkmeyer for $6,925, excluding brick, hardware and paint.

March 29, 1901

Gregor Gast is now prepared to rubber tire buggy wheels. Work is neatly and promptly executed and a share of the public patronage is kindly solicited by him. Give him a call.

January 24, 1902

We are still a moving. Another enterprise is to be launched. A company of New Bremen citizens has been formed to engage in the manufacture of brick. It will be a continuation of the firm of Wierth and Son, but the brick yard will be moved to a new location and built on latest and improved plans. It is the intention of the company to erect a building large enough to enable them to operate rain or shine, winter and summer. The period of operation to be governed by the demand there may be for brick.

January 24, 1902

Messrs. Schmidt and Hoffman, manufacturers of Dr. H.J. Schmidt's Remedies, have started business. They are making excellent remedies for ailments among horses, cattle, swine, sheep and poultry, and when once advertised will sell like hot cakes. The doctor prepares these remedies himself and their merits have been tested. Schmidt and Hoffman make a splendid combination. The one a veterinary surgeon and the other a pharmacist. May success crown their enterprise.

July 4, 1902

Auglaize County is now well provided with cannon. All of the larger towns have two or more, and an accompaniment of a supply of cannon balls. The cannons were shipped under the title of "scrap iron", yet who will have aught but reverence for the ancient war pieces? They are relics of the Civil War, and serve to remind us of the struggles of the now grizzled veterans. Give them a proper mounting.

August 15, 1902

The New Bremen High School has organized a football team for the coming season, with the following officers: Landry Keoper, captain; Walter Boesel, manager; and Theodore Tangeman, coacher.

May 1, 1903

To many of the SUN readers it may have come as a surprise, when they read in last week's issue, of the transfer of this paper to the publishing firm of Purpus and Conradi, yet this was to be done. The publication of the SUN however, will continue as heretofore, only it will be an independent English paper instead of some party organ.

This community is in reality too small to support two newspapers, and because the English speaking people are far in the minority, therefore the English paper would naturally be the loser when in the field against a German paper. Yet an English newspaper is almost as great a necessity in this community as the public schools, but can only be made a paying or even self-sustaining business under prevailing conditions by being published and printed in the same office and on the same machinery as the German paper. For this reason the present publishers after long consideration concluded to buy the same, combine the two offices and publish the SUN as an independent English newspaper, under which form it makes its first appearance this week. The management of the SUN is in the hands of F.W. Bruns. The office for the present is still located below the Post Office, but will in course of time be removed to some other location and combined with the office of the STERN.

January 22, 1904

The New Bremen Telephone Company has this week revised its directory and handed the copy of the book to the printer. Within a few days the new list will be ready for distribution and none of the patrons should fail to procure a copy as there have been a number of new names added within the last couple weeks, a fact which really necessitated this early revision of the directory. At the present rate it will be but a very short time until the number of subscribers will have reached the one hundred and fifty mark. The telephone is gradually becoming an instrument of general use, that will soon occupy a place in every dwelling house in town and country. It is a convenience without which a person who values his time cannot get along anymore to say nothing of the comfort it affords.

July 15, 1904

A law passed by the Legislature last winter provides that automobiles shall be operated only at a reasonable speed in the public highways. In closely built up portions of a city or village eight miles an hour is the maximum speed, in other portions of a municipality fifteen miles is the limit, and outside of such municipalities twenty miles. In meeting a horse the driver of the automobile shall give two thirds of the road and must stop when the driver holds up his hand as a signal, remaining stationary until all danger is passed. Automobiles will also be provided with a horn or whistle and with a white light in the front and a red light in the rear.

July 29, 1904

This week is fifteen years ago since the SUN published an industrial edition advertising the rich gas fields and other natural and artificial advantages that New Bremen enjoyed at that time and offering the prospective manufacturers free locations and free gas for a number of years as an inducement for locating here. Of the thirty persons named as actively engaged in business at that time only seventeen live in New Bremen today, and two of these seventeen are retired. Seven have moved to other parts, and six have died. Only four have gone out of existence altogether. These are H.G. & Wm. C. Schmidt who at that time conducted a Dry Goods & Grocery business under the name of Schmidt Brothers, but who sold out their entire stock and have since gone to Chicago where they conduct an extensive Cement business. The

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Hotel French which was at that time conducted by Alex Bourquin has been closed. J.H. Boesche then conducted a Dry Goods & Grocery business which he later transferred to his son, who disposed of the business altogether and moved out West. Henry Dierker has since purchased the entire building. Adolph Steinberg's wholesale egg and poultry industry and F.J. Steinberg's wholesale provision and pelt business has since been acquired by J.A. Long & Company and is still conducted here but on a somewhat larger scale. H.G. Barienbrock's harness business is today conducted by F.P. Jung. Wm. Schulenberg is still in the same business adding his son, Herbert, as a partner. Of the old firm of Boesel there is but one left, Charles Boesel, now president of the First City Bank. The Dry Goods business and the Grocery business are still located in the old corner, the former under the management of L.W. Kunning, and the latter belonging to William Uetrecht, while the hardware business has been transferred to the Opera House block where it is owned by C.J. Boesel. Herman Heinfeldt's planing mill, J.A. Koeper's shoe business, Fred Ende's jewelry store, F.W. Greber's photograph gallery, Louis Huenke's creamery and J.L. Hoffman's drug store are still conducted by the old proprietors without any change other than they are conducted on a larger scale than formerly.

The New Bremen Flour and Woolen Mills has since become the Bakhaus and Kuenzel Company. William Fahrenhorst, one of the oldest citizens of New Bremen, and who at the time was conducting a merchant tailor business has disposed of same to Henry Elbert. Fred Wiemeyer, at that time the only clothing dealer in town, has since consolidated with the Arcade. The Hilgemann Brick and Tile Company has since become the property of The New Bremen Brick Company. J.F. Lanfersieck & Company is today The Lanfersieck & Grothaus Company with its plow and machine works in new and spacious quarters on Washington street. Its former quarters are now occupied by Christ Schnelle's saloon and Jos. Lanfersieck's barber shop. Since moving into their new building they have also added a foundry and bridge building department. Knows & Heinfeld carriage business has since been acquired by Gregore Gast. The New Bremen Foundry & Machine Company at that time located in the buildings occupied now by the New Bremen Broom Company and in which William Langhorst and his son, Christ Langhorst were then the leading figures, has been assimilated by the Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company. And the last of the firms mentioned in the industrial edition is the firm of Boesel Bros., & Co. Bankers, which today is known as Boesel's Bank.

Thus it will be seen that, not taking into consideration the ten or twelve new institutions and industries that have been started since and are doing a thriving business, New Bremen though it has lost a number of its old, influential and progressive citizens, has made continual strides forward, and today may look back with pride at the things that have been accomplished in a business, a social, and an educational way.

August 19, 1904

The Arcade Department Store Company
Largest Department Store
Between Toledo and Cincinnati

November 11, 1904

Long, long years ago, so long that only the oldest inhabitants have any recollection of the matter, there were two little villages up here on the canal banks, the one was Bremen, and the other was Ober Bremen, each with a complete compliment of town officials. One fine day a bright head in one of the communities, just which one it was no one seems to recollect at this time, at any rate it must have been a bright mind for his time suggesting the idea that it would be advantageous and profitable to the two little towns and its citizens individually if they would join the two corporations under one name and one government. So it was done and the present little village—the best on the face of the glove—was born. But with its birth originated a custom that has since been caused the citizens many unpleasant recollections, it is that of insisting upon an equal division of the councilmen between the two sides. Now, dear Reader, this does not mean the inside and outside of the town, not by any means, it means the "east" and the "west" side, in other words "Ober Bremen" and "Bremen" and that custom has through all the years been so strictly adhered to that neither one of the parties dared to depart for fear of suffering the consequences at the next election.

So it went on year after year, three councilmen on the "east" side and three councilmen on the "west" side, and everything was pleasant and serene. But the Democrats came very nearly "getting their foot in it" at Tuesday's election. It will be remembered that Herman Laut was renominated for his second term while residing in his property on Washington Street, but removed into the hotel building sometime this fall, thus bringing him over to the "west" side. He would have withdrawn at the time for the sake of harmony, but on account of the experience the democratic committee had had in filling a vacancy that had occurred on the ticket, it was that advisable to leave matters as they were and brave the storm that might arise on account of it. Well the way the town ticket was scratched was something beautiful to behold.

Laut seemed to have been the one selected to have been knifed, and the way he was stabbed was really astonishing. It was plain that his friends were offering him what they thought to be the proper retribution for his moving to the "west" side, and had there only been some more concerted action taken on the part of his opponents he would undoubtedly have been defeated and some Republican elected in his place but as it was there seemed only to be a determination to scratch without a definite purpose as to whom to select instead. The result was that the vote was scattered among the three republican candidates and consequently no one received the sufficient number of votes to be declared elected.

It is hoped that the backbone of that old mould custom is at last broken and that the matter of electing councilmen in the future be a question of the fittest man for the position regardless whether he lives on the "east" or the "west" side. New Bremen has no such sides, the only two sides that it does have in regard to location is the inside and the outside; in all matters there is a right and a wrong side, and in this instance at least the wrong side has received a tremendous blow, which the good citizens hope has been a regular "solar Plexus" blow. It is bad enough that party politics must be mixed up in local elections to say nothing of such shallow ideas in regard to an "east" and a "west" side.

January 27, 1905

The large two story business and residence block of Henry Dierker at the corner of Washington and Monroe Streets is a large mass of ruins. But Wednesday it was one of the largest and most substantially built structures of the town, standing a veritable monument to the prowess the business enterprise and management of its owners who only a few years ago came into possession of the property and who expended thousands of dollars on improving the building, making it one of the most commodious business rooms, while the dwelling rooms were made as a cozy and homelike as there are any in New Bremen today. Thursday morning wrought a change, however, that made the corner a desolate waste, and Henry Dierker and his family for the moment homeless.

At about eight o'clock Thursday morning the populace was startled by a heavy rumbling sound resembling very much the report that is heard at the shooting of an oil well, in this case, however, was the report so much louder and so much more distinct that even those who lived several squares away from where the accident had occurred rushed out to discover the cause. Within one or two squares from Dierker's corner, the residents needed but to look out to see a dense cloud of dust arise from where the large building had but a moment ago been standing.

For several days past the family had been somewhat disturbed by a gas leak which they were unable to discover, but for which diligent search had been made. At no time during the years that Mr. Dierker lived in that building or conducted his business there had they been troubled with any leak in the gas pipes, but several days ago his meter had been removed by the Gas Company for the purpose of cleaning and regulating and after its replacement the gas leak became susceptible. Wednesday night the gas had accumulated in such quantities in the building that the families had been forced to arise very early and open doors and windows in order to drive out the fumes.

Peter Tomhafe, who for a number of years had been a salesman for Mr. Dierker, decided to go into the cellar and see if the leak could not be discovered there. Gustav Griewe, also employed by Mr. Dierker, accompanied him, and when they got down and did not smell much gas, Mr. Tomhafe struck a match, intending so to test the pipes near and around the meter. No sooner had he struck the match than one terrific explosion followed, demolishing all the north side, not even leaving one brick upon another one, while the south side wherein were the dwelling rooms remains standing, but the walls are so damaged they can not be used anymore.

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Mr. Tomhafe was severely burned and suffered much from shock, but the physicians have good hopes for his recovery. Mr. Griewe was also burned about the face and hands. Nearly all the windows in the buildings near by were shattered by the explosion.

July 21, 1905

WANTED a boy desirous of learning the printer's trade is wanted at once in the SUN office. Must be able to read English and German. Steady work.

April 5, 1912

Messrs. Herman Laut and Herbert Schulenberg have just completed arrangements for the erection of a new business block, on the vacant lot, opposite the present Schulenberg and Laut block on Monroe Street near the canal bridge. The building will be a substantial structure with two business rooms on the first floor. The one room intended for movie pictures and vaudeville exhibitions to be the home of the Crown Theatre, while the other room has not been positively disposed of as yet. The upper story will be converted either into dwelling rooms or a public hall.

September 27, 1912

Sunday, September 22, will perhaps be the last time that Al Huenke will appear in the role as an amateur pitcher on the local ball grounds, as no doubt the majority of the fans here and in the surrounding territory are aware of the fact that next year Huenke will enter the class of professional ball players with Dayton of the Central League. Mr. Huenke has received several letters from Charles Murphy of the Chicago Cubs to go into training with his bunch next season.

September 19, 1913

The most destructive fire that ever visited New Bremen broke out in the large Klanke Furniture Factory, on South Herman Street, last Friday evening at ten-thirty, and in less than two hours had practically devoured the entire factory with all its contents. The total loss amounts to about sixty thousand dollars.

This was the largest factory in New Bremen and employed more men than any other shop, the weekly pay roll running to over six hundred dollars, while often it almost reached seven hundred. By the destruction of this institution a large number of mechanics and laboring men have been thrown out of employment, and the loss will be felt not only by the stockholders and those employed in the shop, but by the business men in general in the town.

Of the cause of the fire practically nothing is known. The fire started in the finishing department, about fifteen or twenty minutes after night watchman, Christ Roettger, had made his round at that very spot!

September 10, 1915

According to present indications, New Bremen will be obligated to procure one or more school wagons for the purpose of hauling children to and from school. At the monthly meeting of the Board of Education Tuesday evening of this week, it developed that parents of certain children over two miles from any one of the school buildings refuse to send their children to school, as the law provides that in such case the Board of Education is obligated to procure conveyance for such children to take them to and from school. In some sections of the New Bremen school district pupils have for years been obligated to walk three miles each way to reach their respective school buildings. In former years such things were not minded at all but with general progress along every other line the time has now apparently arrived when parents and the public in general demands that also this matter which is amply taken care of by the school laws be properly adjusted. The board has taken the matter under advisement and will take final action on the question within a short time.

August 11, 1916

Price Announcement

The following list prices on FORD cards, f.o.b. Detroit, Michigan are effective since August 1, 1916

Ford Runabout	$345.00
Ford Touring Car	360.00
Ford Coupelet	505.00
Ford Sedan	645.00

We guarantee that there will be no reduction in the above prices prior to August 1, 1917; but can give no assurance whatever against an advance in these prices at any time.

Ford Motor Company
Detroit, Michigan
On Sale At
Huenke's Garage New Bremen, Ohio

January 18, 1918

SNOW BOUND

New Bremen Included in Path of Thirty-six Hour Blizzard

A fierce blizzard of thirty-six hours duration and perhaps the worst one in the history of this section of the country struck New Bremen Friday night shortly after ten o'clock, and had it not been for an amply supply of fuel that had been secured by the citizens during the previous two weeks there would surely have been much suffering. The thermometer registered as low as twenty-three degrees below zero with a gale sweeping over the country at the rate of thirty to forty miles an hour. The snow fall which preceded on Friday afternoon and evening was soon picked up by the fierce gale and heaped into drifts that proved impassable in many places. All public highways were hemmed by drifts, principally the north and south roads, depths of from eight to ten feet being reached at some points on level stretches, while cuts and gullies were made level with the surrounding country by the snow which was packed in almost as solid as ice. Clearing tracks became a hard task because the snow was packed so hard by the swift gale, and traffic on railroads could not be resumed before Monday afternoon.

Mail service to New Bremen was interrupted from Friday night until Monday afternoon as well as all passenger and freight traffic, while country roads were equally as impassable as the railroad. Township trustees and farmers in general were busy all day Monday and a good part of Tuesday shoveling paths through the deepest drifts, the task having been made more difficult by a snow fall Monday night, to some eight or ten inches which was however but slightly drifted.

Farmers were kept busy looking after their livestock, the latter suffering very much because of the intense cold. Butcher Schelper lost three valuable porkers, one night, not as a result of the cold but rather because they were smothered by the other fellows piling on top of them in order to keep warm. Monday the weather began moderating and since then excellent winter weather has prevailed. Sleighing is just becoming fine and the younger people are taking advantage of the opportunity.

January 27, 1922

Bill Combs and a large crew of helpers are busily engaged since early Thursday morning filling one of the large storage buildings belonging to the Star Beverage Company. The ice measures about seven inches and is very clear but the ice pond is too small to fill both buildings with the one cutting.

December 15, 1922

The wash out on the line in front of Heitman Brothers electric store is drawing no small amount of attention by passersby and as a result many are anxious to see the free demonstration of the electric washing machine.

March 6, 1924

Radio is daily gaining in popularity and in order to make the entertainment afforded by the installation of proper equipment as enjoyable for all as possible, a number of leading radio men of New Bremen and Minster held a gathering here one evening last week for the purpose of discussing ways of eliminating unnecessary noises and interference which appear to be of a local nature.

August 14, 1924

Dr. Carl W. Ekermeyer, son of the late Dr. M.S. Ekermeyer, has announced that he has opened an office at the home of his mother, Mrs. Martha Ekermeyer, on South Washington Street. The very name of Dr. Ekermeyer bears a familiar sound to local residents who can easily recall the young doctor's father in the years that he ministered to this community. Dr. M.S. Ekermeyer came to New Bremen in 1883 and continued his practice here until 1919.

October 7, 1926

Wm. Wierths, Temperance, Michigan, this week rented the Laut Building on South Washington Street with the expectation of opening a bowling alley in New Brement this winter. Carpenters are already tearing out the rear wall of the building preparatory to adding a 10 foot extension. Mr. Wierth's plans to install two regulation size alleys as soon as the building is completed.

November 4, 1926

New Bremen electors at the election Tuesday voted overwhelmingly in favor of motorizing the local fire department, the bond issue for this purpose carrying by a three to one vote. Although those in back of the measure predicted it would carry it was not believed that such a large vote could be rolled up in support of the proposed improvement. Only a majority vote was required.

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September 24, 1931

Spectators Riot During Sunday's Race Program

The riot grew out of an unwarranted demand, according to the officials of the Speedway, by a group of racing drivers that the purse program be increased. Three of the four events carded for the afternoon were run off without any signs of dissatisfaction. A few minutes before the time for starting the last event, however, several of the drivers approached the management with a demand that the purse of $525 be increased to $750.

The crowd quickly worked itself into an ugly mood. Apparently convinced that matters had reached an impasse as far as racing was concerned, the spectators started throwing pillows, pop bottles, and even chairs and benches, out on the track. Despite warnings from the more thoughtful spectators, who were caught in the milling mob, gasoline was procured and poured over the stands. Fires were started simultaneously in different sections and the whole structure soon was a seething mass of flames. All attempts to extinguish the blaze were stopped by the mob.

The state's investigation was started the following day and since then there has been a steady parade of witnesses giving their versions of the affair. Some of the testimony taken thus far, it is believed, will result in a number of indictments on charges of arson and rioting.

October 27, 1932

What is believed to have been the first official seal of New Bremen now is owned by E.C. Kuenzel, secretary of the Kuenzel Mills Company. It was found recently in the old Kuenzel homestead on South Washington Street, and is believed to have been placed there by Mr. Kuenzel's father, John A. Kuenzel, pioneer New Bremen businessman.

It is made of a solid piece of brass nearly one-half inch in thickness and one and five-eights inches in diameter. A small manul undoubtedly was used whenever it became necessary to make an imprint of the seal.

Settled in 1832 by a company of German colonizers organized at Cincinnati, New Bremen was recorded in Mercer county June 11, 1833, and remained a part of that county for a number of years. The seal now in possession of Mr. Kuenzel was adopted during that period, the wording at the top being in German, "Siegel der Stadt Bremen," and the words "Mercer Co., O." appearing at the bottom. In the center are thirteen stars, beneath which is an eagle with spread wings. A large key completes the design.

December 22, 1932

Harvesting of the first ice this season was completed this week by a force of workmen employed by William Combs, owner of two large storage buildings on West Plum street. The ice measures from seven to eight inches and is of good quality.

This is the first time in several years that ice has been cut here early in the season.

February 16, 1934

A decision reached this week to offer the plant and machinery of The Auglaize Furniture company at public sale promises to be of far reaching consequence to New Bremen. The decision to offer the plant for sale was reached at an informal stockholders meeting. The fact that several prospective buyers have appeared in recent weeks also is believed to have influenced the stockholders in their decision.

May 4, 1934

Village oficials at their meeting Tuesday evening signed a contract with the American Solvent Recovery Corporation, Columbus, for the construction of New Bremen's new sewage disposal plant. The price named in the contract is $17,540. Representatives of the Columbus firm today indicated that work probably will be started next week. Most of the labor will be obtained from New Bremen's unemployed, who are asked to register with William Nieter, street commissioner.

June 1, 1934

Although a field of thirty-three cars started in the annual Memorial Day classic at Indianapolis, most of those in the huge crowd of 140,000 kept their eyes riveted on Bill Cummings and Mauri Rose, two drivers well known to New Bremen race fans.

Both drivers picked up much of their experience at the old New Bremen Speedway. Cummings and Rose staged a thrilling duel throughout the long grind that ended only when Cummings, and Indianapolis boy, flashed across the finish line eighteen seconds ahead of Rose.

July 6, 1934

U.J. Schwieterman this week acquired the Hoffman Building, Monroe Street, through purchase from the Hoffman estate. Mr. Schwieterman is one of New Bremen's best known business men. He came here nineteen years ago this fall from Cincinnati and purchased the drug store operated by the late J.L. Hoffman. Since then he consistently has expanded the business and improved the store until today, it is known as one of the best Rexall stores in the district.

April 12, 1935

New Bremen's industrial affairs took a decided turn for the better this week when it was announced that the newly organized Briggs Furniture company plans to put some seventy workmen to work within the next two weeks at the old Auglaize Furniture plant on West Plum Street.

Officers and incorporators of the new company are Dr. M.H. Briggs, president, secretary and treasurer; Herman Lietz, vice-President and general manager; W.R. Briggs, Orville Ruedebusch and John Speckman.

September 27, 1935

Equipped with a new screen and improved in other ways, the Roosevelt Theatre was reopened to theatregoers this week. The acoustics also have been improved, making the theatre one of the best in this area.

Only the latest and best pictures will be shown, according to a statement by Manager Larkin. A Will Rogers picture was chosen for the opening, while Shirley Temple will be featured tomorrow and Sunday.

March 12, 1937

For the second time within a week New Bremen, along with the rest of Ohio and several adjoining states, was shaken by an earthquake at 12:45 o'clock Tuesday morning. The first tremor occurred Tuesday, March 2.

As was the case in the first quake, the second disturbance was centered at Anna. Estimates of the damage there vary from $50,000 to $100,000. Two churches and the public school building were damaged severely.

April 2, 1937

One of the oldest New Bremen business firms will be dissolved when Mueller Bros. close their doors at the conclusion of a two-weeks sale which opens tomorrow morning. The partnership was formed in 1899 by J.F. Mueller and August W. Mueller and for 37 years has been one of the best known retail firms in New Bremen.

January 21, 1938

Mayor R.H. Dickman today announced that the state highway department yesterday agreed to issue a permit for installing a traffic light at the Washington and Monroe Street intersection, which is also the intersection of routes 274 and 66. The light will be synchronized with the one installed last week at Main and Monroe Streets.

May 20, 1938

Erection of the municipal flag pole at its new site near the Monroe Street bridge is expected to be completed the fore part of next week. The pole was erected at Main and Monroe Streets during the war years but was removed from that site several weeks ago in order to better traffic conditions.

A drinking fountain also is being installed today at the Monroe Street bridge, the work being directed by John Scheer, superintendent of the municipal water department.

June 3, 1938

Like a bolt from a clear sky came the announcement this week that New Bremen finally is to get the swimming pool it planned several years ago. Stakes already have been driven on the lots donated by the Mrs. Amelia Grothaus family and actual work will be started within the next week or ten days.

Revival of the project launched during the administration of the late Frank D. Kuenning is due primarily to the efforts of Mayor R.H. Dickman, who in recent months has been in constant touch with WPA officials at Toledo, Columbus and Washington, D.C. Although discouraged at times, he refused to let the project drop and now has been rewarded by seeing it get under way.

July 1, 1938

Miss Kathryn Klipfel, Wapakoneta librarian, and Miss Thecia Stueve, vice president of the Wapakoneta library association, Wednesday made a preliminary survey of New Bremen with a view toward installing a New Bremen branch of the Wapakoneta association. Definite arrangements probably will be completed next week.

It is proposed to open the New Bremen branch with from 150 to 200 books, which will be changed every two weeks. The books may be taken from the library for a period of two weeks without charge. A two-cent penalty per day, however, will be assessed if the

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books are held longer than two weeks. Special books will be made available upon request.

August 10, 1939

A daring hold-up such as one is accustomed to read about in the news columns, but hardly thought it possible to ever be staged in New Bremen, was enacted in regular professional style, last night at about 10:45 at the Sunoco filling station, corner West Monroe and Main Streets. The boldmen, there were two of them, got away with a purse of $80. Though police authorities here and the sheriff's office at Wapakoneta were immediately on the trail there has been no clue up to time of going to press other than that they had a green Ford sedan, 1938 model, carrying license number 90KC, which was learned to belong to A.G. Boogher, Santa Fe, where it had been stolen last evening.

May 29, 1940

New Bremen will formally dedicate its new municipal swimming pool on Decoration Day, May 30, with ceremonies including the presentation of the swimming pool by Wm. B. Schmuhl, district director of the Works Progress Administration, the acceptance by Mayor R.H. Dickman of New Bremen, and an address by Congressman Robert F. Jones, of Lima, Ohio.

June, 1940

The Kuenzel Mills Company blanket mills is preparing to put on a number of additional workers within the next week or so to enable them to cope with an order of 10,000 pairs of Army blankets received from the federal government. The necessary raw material for this factory chore will be coming in very soon now, and with additional help in the factory it is figured that about four months will be needed to complete the order. An increasing demand for wool by mills all over the country adds somewhat to the difficulty in procuring the needed supply here.

The Kuenzel blanket has always borne reputation for quality and the management of the factory is more than pleased for receiving the award from the federal department.

October, 1940

There were 2952 men between the ages of 21 and 36 register last week with boards of registration in the forty-one precincts of the county. Total number of men registered in New Bremen and German Township are 233; Minster and Jackson Township 223; New Knoxville and Washington Township, 179; and so on down the line.

Within a short time all registrants will receive questionnaires to be filled out and returned to the proper official. Through these questionnaires the status of the registrant will be determined and he will be placed in the proper classification as to draft.

August, 1943

Following a night of perhaps the heaviest rains this community has experienced in many years, the Miami & Erie Canal Wednesday morning overflowed its banks at two places, threatening serious breaks in the retaining walls, while almost every low place within the corporate limits had taken on the appearance of young seas which in time might have become famous fishing resorts. South Walnut Street was converted into a veritable river of water coursing down the middle of the street because the storm sewer was unable to receive the great volume. Creeks in the surrounding rural territory had become rivers and fields and farms looked like lakes.

December 4, 1947

Upward of thirty people were thrown out of employment, early Wednesday morning, last week when the plant of the New Bremen Broom Company became a mass of ruins within a space of three hours due to undetermined origin which was fought by combined efforts of the New Bremen, Minster and St. Marys fire departments. The loss of the company is variously quoted at from $50,000 to $75,000, including the main factory building, finished stock and material.

March 25, 1948

Establishment of a Catholic Church in New Bremen, to be known as Holy Redeemer Church, appeared definite today, although no date has yet been set for the survey to be made among Catholic families by Father Leo H. Boecke. It was learned from a reliable source that services would probably be held in temporary quarters pending the erection of a permanent church building.

April 18, 1948

Purchase of the old Boesel Bank Building by the American Legion Post 241, was announced Tuesday noon by Legion officials here. The Post will be completely renovating the old building for use as a permanent Legion Post. Purchase price was announced as $12,500.

Present plans call for setting up meeting rooms in what was formerly the Opera House, the scene of many great theatrical productions in the pre-movie era. The upper floor will be used as lounge rooms and for committee meetings.

February 3, 1948

A real estate transaction involving the transfer of a considerable sum of money was consummated this week when Lloyd J. Laut, manager of the American Budget Company, in behalf of his company purchased the J.F. Lanfersieck block on South Washington Street, from Mrs. Fred Wiemeyer, who for a considerable term of years has been owner of the property.

The building, constructed in 1906, is one of the landmarks of the town and has occupied its location on Washington Street for more decades than most citizens are able to remember. It contains three business rooms presently occupied by Mrs. Gast Style Shop, the Wissman Barber Shop, and the New Bremen Appliance Shop, with two sizeable dwelling apartments on the second floor.

April 13, 1950

The till at Schwieterman's Drug Store was relieved of some $325. about noon yesterday, in as slick a robbery as was ever pulled in these parts.

A man, neatly dressed in a grey topcoat, entered the Drug Store and ordered a pack of cigarettes. Druggist Walter Rosselit gave him the cigarettes, whereupon the customer ordered a malted milk and asked permission to use the telephone. Rosselit told him the phone was in the rear, behind the swinging door and began making the malted milk. The customer soon came out, stating that he had forgotten the telephone number and that he would have to go to his car to get it.

Meantime, the noon hour arrived with the usual rush of workers and school children. Mrs. Corrine Schwieterman, proprietor, and Miss Anna Mae Cooper came on duty to relieve Rosselit for lunch. The malted milk customer was temporarily forgotten and it was not until another customer came with a large bill to be changed, that the theft from the store's safe was discovered.

June 15, 1950

Mayor E.R. Haines received a communication from Grover C. McDaniel, District Census Supervisor, yesterday morning, in which he was advised that the count to date of the returns of the Census, taken as of April 1, 1950, for New Bremen, Ohio, is 1,544.

According to the census, the population of New Bremen has increased by only sixty persons since the last census taken in 1940. The 1940 census was 1484. The 1930 census was 1485.

July 6, 1950

A fire of undertermined origin, completely destroyed the large barn on the Tony Fortman farm, one mile east of here, now tenanted by Mr. and Mrs. Alton Schaeffer and family, last Sunday afternoon. When first discovered, shortly after three o'clock, the fire had gained such headway that it was impossible to bring it under control.

The New Bremen Volunteer Fire Department answered the alarm and fought, with neighbors to keep the flames from reaching other adjoining buildings. Water on the farm was exhausted and firemen made six trips back into town to refill the tank on the truck.

With the destruction of the barn, over a hundred years old, went a bit of colorful history of New Bremen, for this was the scene of a bloody gun battle on November 7, 1879, between a posse of citizens and a gang of robbers, in which two persons were killed.

July 27, 1950

Next time, or better still, every time you pass or shop at the Arcade, take a good look at the big building housing New Bremen's popular department store. Then stop for more than a passing glance at the display windows.

In a way it's the last chance to fully remember just what the present structure looks like because the company this week launched one of the most ambitious modernization programs ever undertaken by any institution of its kind in this area.

To begin with, the full-length canopy—long a familiar distinguishing mark and under which several generations have sought shelter against sun and rain—already is disappearing. Like the canopy, the old-style display windows will have to go to be replaced by new visual windows giving an unobstructed view of the interior. Excavation directly beneath the building will add a large basement. As conceived now, it will be used by two departments—houseware and paints.

The building's interior will be redecorated

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in individual color schemes for the various departments and equipped with the latest in modern furniture and fixtures.

Incorporated early in 1903, the Arcade probably has had its share of ups and downs the same as other business ventures that have weathered the test of time. It resulted from a merger of four firms—Rabe's Cheap Store, Speckman and Nieter, Faehl and Nieter, and Fred Wiemeyer's Cash Clothing Store. The late Theo. Rabe generally was recognized as heading the merger. August Faehl, East Monroe Street, is the last surviving member of the original organizers.

Speaking about his plans for the future, Mr. Wiessinger today said, "The Arcade has been here a long time. We like New Bremen and its trading territory and we hope it will continue to like us."

November 30, 1950

Sunday, November 26, 1950, saw New Bremen slowly awakening to a new day and its first glimpse of an almost unbelievable Christmas fairyland—enchanting fairyland of pure, virgin whiteness to open wide the eyes of trusting children and cause adult lovers of old-fashioned Courier and Ives prints to exult ecstatically.

It all started Thanksgiving night when a cold wave swept in abruptly from the north through Ohio. And when the storm was over the ground was covered with snow varying in depth from sixteen to eighteen inches.

All day Sunday traffic remained miserably paralyzed. Church services were sparsely attended. Schools remained closed this week and classes will not be resumed until next Monday.

Further discomfort was caused by low gas pressure Friday and Saturday. Telephone service also was hit hard enough to force operation on an emergency basis the first few days.

A large group of New Bremen fans got more than their tickets called for when they attended the Ohio State—Michigan football game Saturday at Columbus. Played under the most adverse weather conditions imaginable, the game ended in a 9 to 3 victory for Michigan. That, in itself was something that wasn't in the pre-game book.

After the game, traffic conditions were so bad most of the local fans didn't get back to New Bremen until Sunday morning. Some even came limping in at a late hour Sunday afternoon.

June 21, 1951

For the second time in its forty-one years one of New Bremen's industrial firms has changed its name. Coming here from Dayton in 1910 as the O.O. Poorman Company, the firm was acquired by new stockholders in 1918 and operated as The Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company. Now the name has been changed to Stamco, Inc.

January 22, 1953

Often rumored in recent weeks, sale of the New Bremen Rubber company plant, West Plum street, appears a virtual certainty following an announcement made in Akron by T.K. Seiberling, president of Seiberling Latex Products, the parent company. Seiberling's announcement was in the form of a letter advising his firm's stockholders, Sydney L. Albert, Akron manufacturer, has agreed to pay $565,680 for the company's plants here and at Barberton, Ohio.

Organized in 1936, the New Bremen Rubber Company manufactures rubber gloves and drug sundries. Cade Schulenberg, New Bremen, is president of the local firm and J.H. Whitcraft, also of New Bremen, factory superintendent.

November 26, 1954

Dial telephones will be put into use here Tuesday evening, December 28. The changeover, set for nine o'clock, will become effective a year ahead of the date originally announced by the Ohio Consolidated Telephone Company. It is part of a huge state-wide expansion and improvement program started in 1953.

New equipment has been installed in the company's building constructed this year on South Herman street. The project includes new and larger cables and other facilities connected with the new building. Company offices now are on the second floor of the Post Office building at Main and Monroe Streets.

August 18, 1955

Ten short years ago, two brothers, Carl H. Dicke, and Allen A. Dicke, founded the Crown Controls Company of New Bremen. In the ten years just passed, the company, which began with a staff comprised of four persons and a market limited to a handful of customers, has grown to an organization employing one hundred and sixty persons and shipping its products around the world.

Originally Crown Controls manufactured only a heat regulator for coal burning units which maintained a desired—or set—temperature in the place of its installation. Today the company manufactures in addition to its heat control unit, the world famous Tenn-A-Liner antenna rotator, an armor cutter of great promise, and has been called upon to manufacture classified items for the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy.

October 4, 1956

The Auglaize County Retarded Children's Council has made arrangements for the purchase of the former New Bremen Sun building, East First Street, New Bremen as the quarters for the Retarded Children's School. The action was taken by vote by the Council following the recommendation of the Executive Board which had met a few days earlier on the matter.

February 20, 1958

A lone bandit entered the First National Bank at 9:15 a.m. today (Thursday) and left with approximately $2,000 in cash. The exact amount of money will not be known until an audit is conducted.

The man, about 30, weighing about 180 pounds, wore a nylon stocking covering his face to conceal his identity. After entering the bank he huddled the three customers, who were in the building, along with the employees, into a back room while he scooped up what loose money he could find, into his pockets and ran.

Outside he entered a black and white 1955 or 1956 Buick which he had parked in an alley behind the Lester Laut residence. When making his get-away, he found that the alley had been blocked by a beer truck wanting to make a delivery at Wint's Restaurant. Seeing this the bandit brandished his gun at the truck driver and told him to move—which he quickly did.

Clarence Wehrman, the local marshal arrived within a few minutes after the alarm was sounded and other help arrived within fifteen minutes from the State Highway Patrol, as well as the Sheriff departments of Auglaize, Shelby and Mercer counties.

It was later reported that clothing was found along the Amsterdam road, which might have been discarded by the bandit to confuse his pursuers.

E.F. Day, of the local bank, expressed his appreciation for the speed in which the law enforcement officials responded to his urgent call for help.

February 27, 1958

James N. Baker, 40, Celina, dropped his head to avoid a full-view picture as he was being questioned by Sheriff Robert Davison, Prosecutor James Shaw on the New Bremen bank robbery. Baker, a used car salesman in Dayton, formerly operated a used car lot west of St. Marys on the Celina road. He pleaded guilty to armed robbery in the court of Judge William Vossler and was bound over to grand jury under $10,000 bond.

April 10, 1958

The village council has been assured by Solicitor Henkener that New Bremen has what amounts to a clear title to land on which the North Main street engine house was erected in 1866, and Council is going ahead with plans for rasing the old structure now used only for storage purposes. The deed was given in 1837 by A.F. Windeler, one of two scouts who selected the site for New Bremen, and recorded in Mercer county which then included a large area later transferred to Auglaize county.

Razing of the old building has been advocated especially by North Main street residents who long have termed it an eyesore. Its disappearance will mark the elimination of another landmark identified with New Bremen's early history.

January 29, 1959

After being in business in New Bremen for sixty-eight years the Schulenberg Store will close its doors in a few months, thus ending three generations in the same location. The Schulenberg Drugs and Sundries, now owned and operated by Mrs. Cade Schulenberg, with the capable assistance of Mrs. Anna Dammeyer, will begin to sell the entire stock of merchandise this week.

In 1891, William Schulenberg and Herman Laut were the first owners and operators of a store located in a brick building at 7 West Monroe street. A frame addition was erected to the building on the east side in 1897, now occupied by the Purpus and Boesel Insurance Agency. In the early 1900's, William Schulenberg acquired sole ownership of the business, and being the postmaster of the village the location also served as the post office. The Sun Printing Company occupied the basement of the building at that time.

During the next ten or fifteen years Herbert Schulenberg and his wife, the former Lulu Taylor of Degraff, were agents for the Western Ohio Traction Line, while they

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operated the store. The old freight house adjoined the building to the east until about 1928.

Shortly after World War I, Cade and Elton Schulenberg, sons of Herbert Schulenberg, transacted business under the name of Schulenberg Brothers. The partnership was dissolved in 1920 and the store was operated by Cade Schulenberg. For approximately sixteen years the Drug and Sundries store served as Depot for the Columbus-Celina Coach Company until 1956.

August 26, 1959

The past was recently unveiled to Herbert Trautwein, 80-year-old New Bremen resident, when The Dayton Power and Light Company recently acquired for its museum a coal oil lamp which lighted New Bremen streets almost seventy years ago. Mr. Trautwein remembers that the coal oil street lamps were being replaced by gas lamps when he was a boy of twelve. At that time he began to help the night watchman light half of the one hundred gas lamps that were already in service in New Bremen.

October 8, 1959

Congressman William McCulloch announced that the contract for the leasing of the new Post Office in New Bremen has been awarded to the First National Bank in New Bremen. The new dual purpose building will be erected at 111 North Main Street. The Post Office will occupy the south side of the building and the bank the north side.

Building plans for the new Bank and Post Office were designed by Frayne L. Combs, Sr., Professional Architectural and Civil Engineer, of Wapakoneta. The building will be of modern conventional brick and limestone. It will feature such modern conveniences as a night depository, air conditioning and drive-in window. It is hoped to have the plans completed so that bids may be opened by October 20, 1959.

March 24, 1960

CARDINALS IN STATE FINALS

CARDINALS GET ROYAL WELCOME AFTER TOURNEY

A caravan of over 150 cars waited at the intersection of St. Rt. 25 on Highway 274 on Saturday evening after the basketball game in Lima. When the fleet of New Bremen Supply Company station wagon, carrying the Lima regional tournament basketball champions, the New Bremen Cardinals, came into sight, all the horns began to blow. Escorted by the New Bremen Police, the two to three miles procession drove into New Bremen where the people who did not attend the game, already were jubilant after hearing of the victory on the radio.

The annex of Wint's Restaurant was appropriately decorated and a large cake was waiting for the "Cards" at the reserved tables in the restaurant, at which they were served a free dinner. After being driven through the streets of town, and dispersed at the High School, it wasn't long when the boys and the cheerleaders, together with their coach, Mr. Jerry Schacht appeared at their favorite meeting place, Wints. The streets in that area were jammed pack with people with a celebration that seemed like a combination between New Year's Eve and an old fashioned Fourth of July.

There is no school, Friday, March 25, at the New Bremen School, Superintendent, Robert Strahm announced this week. Paul Gilberg, President of the Council for Retarded Children, Auglaize School, also said that school which is located in New Bremen will also close for the day.

This will permit teachers and students to go to Columbus to see the Lima Regional Champions, the New Bremen Cardinals Basketball team play the Frazeysburg team in the state tournament at the St. John Arena, at Columbus.

July 13, 1961

It is with great regret that we are forced to announce that this is the last issue of the New Bremen Sun. Killing a newspaper is a serious thing. After all, a newspaper is part of the community identity. However, economic conditions make it impossible to continue publishing the New Bremen Sun.

We wish to thank all of our readers and our advertisers for the support they have given us in the past and we wish the community of New Bremen the best of luck in the future.

Good bye!

Walter Ernst
Publisher

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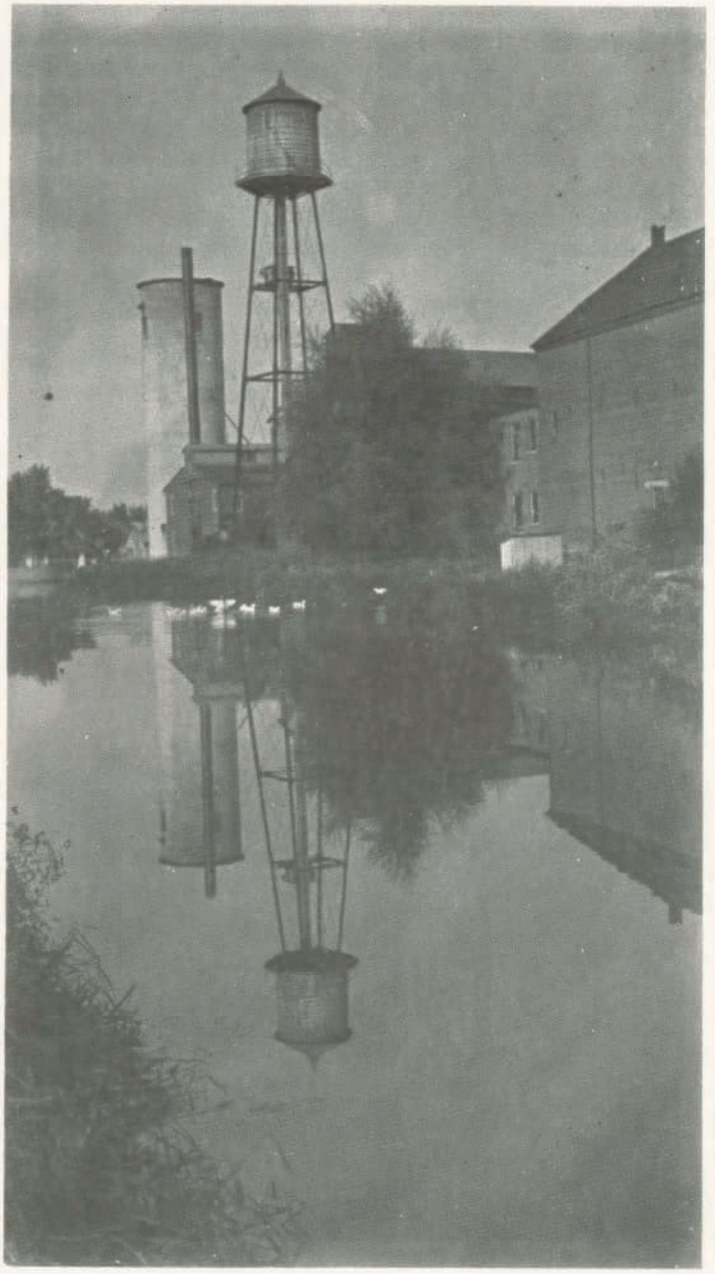
Scenes of the Past

The purpose of this section is to show what New Bremen looked like from the 1880s to 1933, the year the centennial was celebrated. The pictures have been taken mainly from the collections of Delores Stienecker, Vernon Doenges, Fred Luedeke, Harold Meyer and the New Bremen Historical Association.

This pictorial is arranged chronologically into the following sections:

- Early businesses of New Bremen and Lock Two
- Birds-eye views of New Bremen
- Streetscapes of New Bremen and Lock Two
- People and events

Compiled by: Jerry Brown



The Kuenzel Mills tower and the water tower are reflected on the canal as one might see them if approaching Lock One from the south on a canal boat.

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A warehouse and sawmill believed to have been located in Lock Two about 1880.



A grist mill believed to have been located to the right of the above sawmill in Lock Two.



Three unidentified men butchering hogs behind the warehouse shown above.

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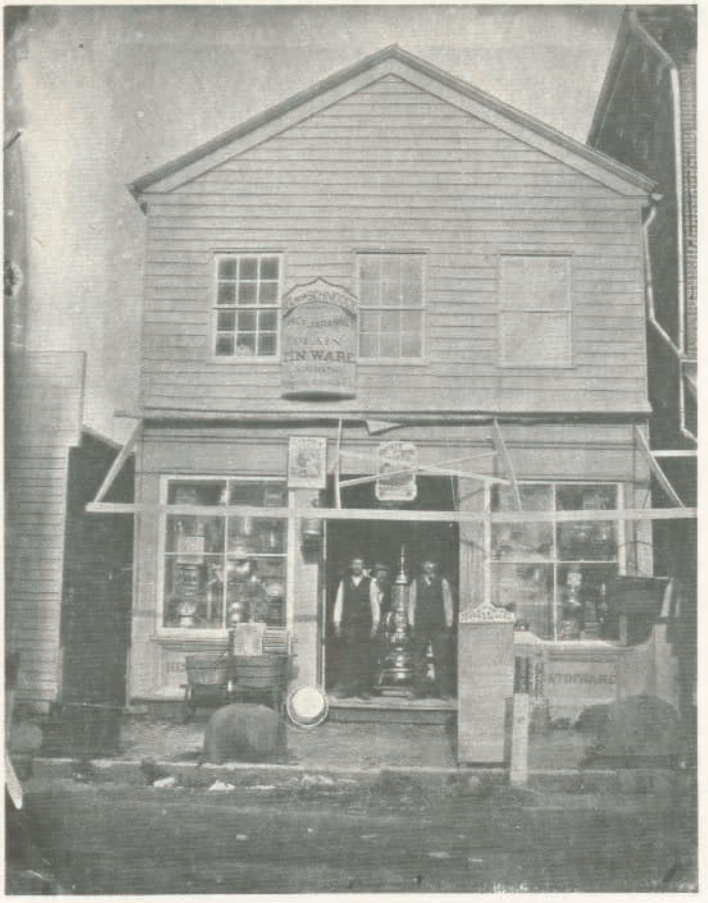
The Ed Purpus Toy and Fancy Store on the northwest corner of Main and Monroe Streets about 1880. Presently the location of Howell's IGA grocery.



Rabe Manufacturing Company in the 200 block of South Washington Street.



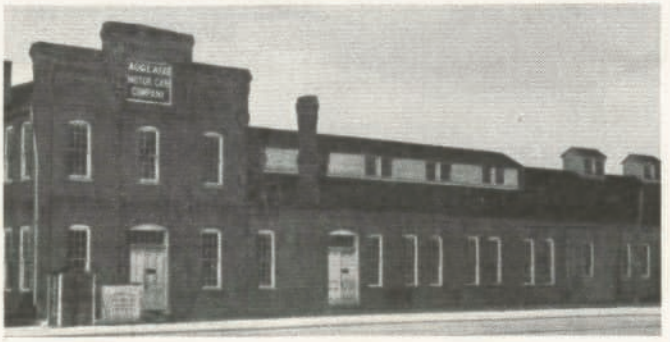
1911 Model Motor Car manufactured by the Case Motor Car Company in New Bremen.



A tintype photo of the Heil and Schneider Tinware Shop on South Washington Street taken about 1880. Now the site of the Crown Controls Offices near Front Street.

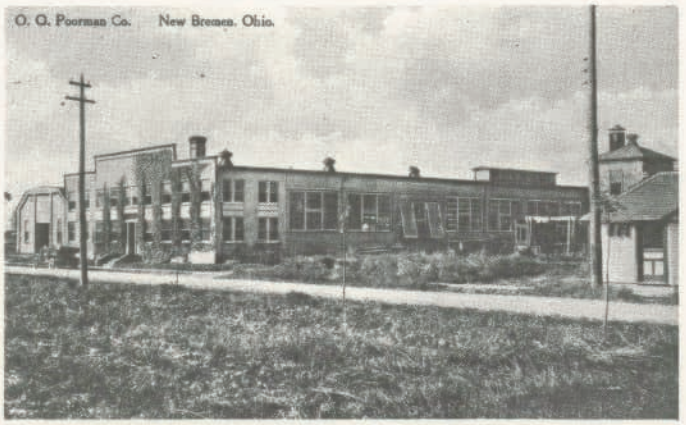


White Mountain Creamery's first buildings in 1884. Note the brick lined walls.



The Auglaize Motor Car Company on First Street about 1910. The building was later used by the McKay Woolen Mills. Now the site of the Auglaize School.

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The O.O. Poorman Company, later the Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company. Now Stamco, Inc. on South Herman Street.



The Auglaize Furniture Company at the corner of Plum and Herman Streets. Later the New Bremen Rubber Plant and now part of Stamco, Inc.



The New Bremen Broom Shop on South Herman Street was directly west of the old Central School.



Kuenzel Mills and Lock One. Presently the location of the New Bremen Public Library and the village parking lot. Notice the name of Gold Lace Flour on the storage tower.



Packaged brooms ready for delivery from the Broom Shop.



New Bremen Water Works on South Herman Street about 1900.

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Front view of the Arcade Department Store, now occupied by Ernie's Barber Shop, the Esquire Shop, and Crown Controls in the first block of South Washington Street.



Interior view of the Arcade shoe store.



Interior view of the Arcade clothing store.



Interior view of the Arcade dry goods store.



Interior view of the Arcade furniture store.



Interior view of the Arcade grocery store.

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Bird's eye view of New Bremen looking northeast from atop the Central School prior to 1910.



Bird's eye view of New Bremen looking southeast from atop the Central School prior to 1910.



View of New Bremen looking south from the top of the Kuenzel Mills tower in 1924.



View of New Bremen looking north from the top of Kuenzel Mills tower in 1924. Rairdon's barn, in the center of the picture, stands where Route #66 now runs.



View of New Bremen looking northwest from the top of Kuenzel Mills tower in the 1930s.

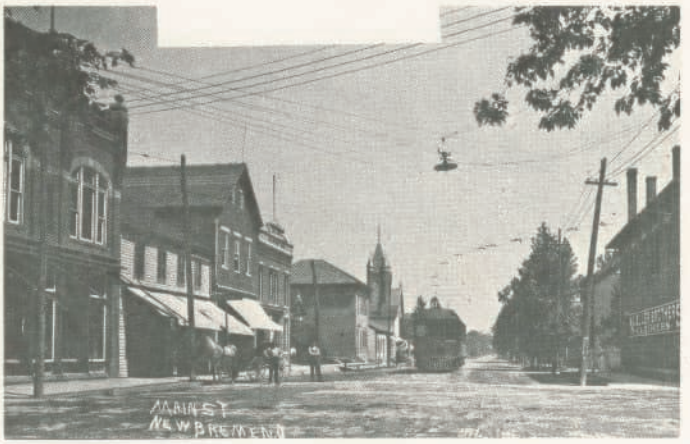


Lock Two looking east from canal bridge at Garmhausen houses and general store.

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South Main Street looking from Monroe Street. Notice the horse trough on the west side. The street was extended from Monroe Street into the Vogelsang farm after 1890.



North Main Street from Monroe Street looking north about 1910.



Looking west on Monroe Street from the corner of Main and Monroe Streets.



Looking west on Monroe Street from the canal bridge. Notice the interurban tracks in the brick streets.



Looking south on a dirt Washington Street from Monroe Street.



North Franklin Street with St. Paul Church tower in view.

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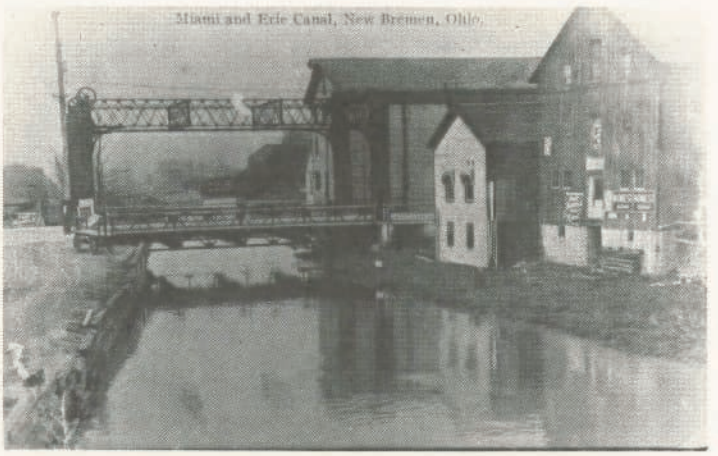
Looking east from North Franklin Street at the City Park prior to 1910. It is now the location of the bank and post office parking lot. The cannon and bandstand are both visible.



Looking west from North Main Street at the Fire Department Building and the Town Hall prior to 1910. It is the present location of the post office and the First National Bank.



The depot on West Monroe Street.



Looking south from the locks toward the Monroe Street lift bridge.



Looking east on Monroe Street from Main Street in the 1920s.



The Boesel Opera House on West Monroe Street. Now the American Legion Hall.

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Ruins of the Dierker building after a gas explosion in 1905. Now the location of the Marathon Service Station at the southeast corner of Monroe and Washington Streets.



An overturned interurban car in front of the old Charles Boesel house, (later the post office) at the southeast corner of Main and Monroe Streets. The tradegy in 1909 killed two people.



Looking south on Water Street from Monroe Street during the 1913 flood.



Ruins of the Klanke Furniture Factory after the fire in 1913.

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Northern Fire Company firemen, unidentified, but probably about 1890.



Civil War veterans at Decoration Day services at New Bremen in 1912. Left to right: Red Tellman, H. Mueller, Herman Hermsmeyer (Mexican War), Henry Schaefer, B. Tschudy, William Waterman, F. Roettger, Ben Schulenberg, H. Dickman, Anton Friedericks (Minster), Fred Behm, William Schulenberg.

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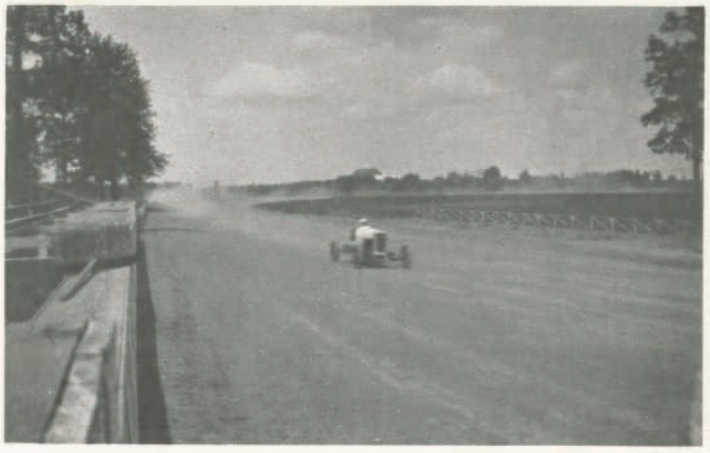
New Bremen Sun employees, left to right: Friedlin Purpus, Emil Conradi, unidentified woman, Otto Schneider, Ruth Wittenbrink, Carl Schrage, unidentified man.



Play given in 1912 at the Boesel Opera House by the International Order of Odd Fellows Dramatic Club.



Employees of Kuenzel Mills about 1910-1915. Left: Fred Schowe; standing in door, Julius Gilberg; Gottfried Kuenzel; William Griewe; Sitting, Omer Packer; standing with hands in pocket, Billie Weinberg; driver, Charlie Good; sitting on wagon, Ed Wellman; Henry Schaefer.



New Bremen Speedway in the 1920s, located one mile north of New Bremen, on County Road #66.

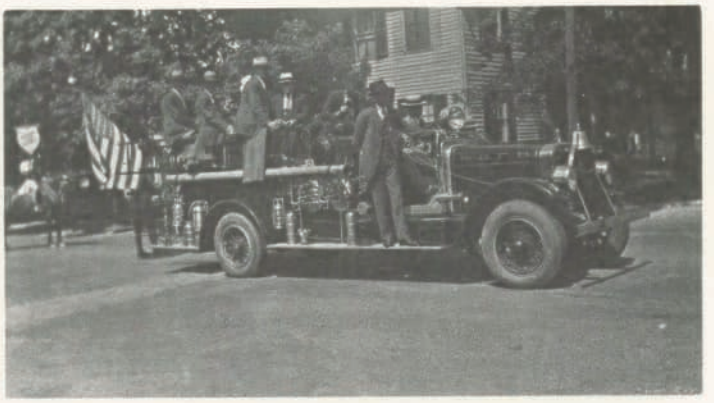


Ben Waterman cutting ice at Combs' Pond in 1932.

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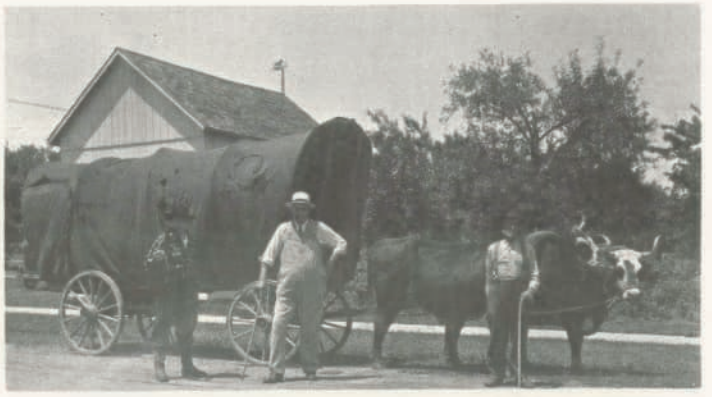
First part of Centennial parade on July 3, 1933.



New fire truck in the Centennial parade.



Equity float in the Centennial parade. The New Deal was Franklin Roosevelt's plan for easing the Depression.



Wm. "Butch" Schelper's covered wagon and oxen in the Centennial parade.



Looking south from First Street is the view one would have when leaving New Bremen and going north on a canal boat.

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Baseball in New Bremen

(As Recalled by Les Blanke)



The above picture shows the members of the New York Giants Baseball Team, led by John McGraw, walking to their training field at Marlin, Texas in the year 1913. Albert "Mac" Huenke, prominent New Bremen baseball player and then a member of the Giants, is shown in the second row, second from the left. This picture appeared in the March 26th issue of Life Magazine in 1963.

Baseball, as the national pastime, played a very important role in the history of New Bremen as well as in other communities during the early 1900s on into the 1950s. Recreational activities were limited during these early days, and baseball served as an outlet for people to get together on Sunday afternoons, enjoy a game of ball and fellowship together while watching the play. It also was a means of uniting the people in a common cause; that of rooting for the home team, thus showing their loyalty to their community. The advent of better means of transportation and the varied recreational facilities now available have changed all this. The smaller communities now look to their high school programs to satisfy their athletic interests and to show their loyalty to their community.

The following discourse of early baseball in New Bremen is not meant to be an accurate account of everything which transpired, but merely a brief summary which may recall memories for the older folks and prove of some interest to other readers of this book. Since I played a part in the baseball picture in New Bremen, please excuse the personal references contained herein. My apologies for the omission of any names or events which perhaps should have been included.

For me, it all began one Sunday afternoon when I was approximately seven years old. My uncle, Ed Schaefer, emerged from an adjoining room fully dressed in a New Bremen baseball uniform, carrying his fielder's glove and a pair of spiked shoes. Boy, a real baseball player all dressed up ready to go to the Fair Ground Park to play a real game of baseball. I believe this event made me determined that some day I, the same as many other boys of that time, wanted to play ball when I grew up. This thought was always in the minds of my brothers and myself as we grew up on a farm seven miles east of New Bremen.

Although this is my first recollection of New Bremen baseball, teams had been organized as early as 1900, playing their games at the Fair Ground Diamond which was located on the now Emil Schroer farm. One of the early managers was Frank Laut, who booked teams such as the Lima Giants (a colored team), the Nebraska Indians, the Bloomer Girls, and many teams from nearby communities. An interesting comment under one of these early box scores was the following: Score, 16 to 7; Attendance, less than 500; Receipts, less than expenses; Umpiring, good, bad, and indifferent. Another interesting account was that on June 17, 1904, the New Bremen team calling themselves "The All German Baseball Club" booked a ten-day tour through Indiana. Rumor has it that during this tour things did not go too well financially, and both the team and the individual players ran out of money and lived on apples the last several days.

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1912 New Bremen Team which played at the Fairground Park. Players from left to right: Ed Wellman, Cort Ihle, Lawrence "Maggie" Roettger, Ed Schaefer, Herbert Garmhausen, Frank "Bully" Wellman, Carl "Cotton" Wehmeyer, Alvin Pape*, Irvin Wissman, Al "Mac" Huenke, Joe Brucken, Mgr.

**Only living member of the team.*

Although actual statistics are not available, baseball continued to be played at the Fair Ground Park until approximately 1915 when a new site for a diamond was obtained on the Louis Huenke farm just west of the railroad tracks along what is now Route 274. Naturally many players, both local and out of town men, were involved during this period. However, this era belonged to one of the finest baseball players this community ever had the pleasure of watching; namely, Albert "Mac" Huenke. After pitching some fine baseball for the New Bremen team, he was rewarded by his being signed by the New York Giants of the National Baseball League. Here he played for the Giants and several of their minor league affilliates until a sore arm ended his big league playing days. He returned to New Bremen and played and managed with the local teams where he had a great influence on many of the younger players.

Nineteen twenty-one became the year when my boyhood dream became a reality. As a seventeen year old catcher, I along with my brothers, Victor and Orrin, were invited by then manager Lloyd Laut and captain Al Huenke to join the New Bremen team for Sunday afternoon baseball. The baseball diamond had now been changed to a new site located across the railroad tracks west of what is now Monarch-Stamco. How well I remember using Emil Topp's white horse, hitched to a sod cutter to clear the grass from the infield. A grandstand was erected to accommodate approximately 200 people. Several years later a board fence was built along the first and third baselines to prevent balls from hitting the spectators.

The years that followed proved to be very interesting. The first two years were played with mostly local talent, including such players as Al and William Huenke, the Rawers brothers, Dick Kuenning, Carl Roettger, Harold Schaefer, Vic, Ore and Les Blanke, Lloyd Laut, Carl Wehmeyer, and Oscar Schneider. Players added to the roster were Ed Schwartz and Stubby Derringer. Teams played were mostly teams from nearby communities. The rivlary between Minster and New Bremen always drew large crowds and sometimes quite heated arguments. These were the years when Ralph Poeppelman was being highly touted as the Minster pitcher, and duels between Ralph and my left-handed brother Orrin and Bill Huenke were enjoyed immensely by the fans of both communities.

In 1923 Mel Wildermuth from Jackson Center was added to the roster of the team. Orrin Blanke, who by then was troubled by a sore arm, began playing the outfield and a pitcher by the name of Sam Herman from Dayton joined the team to help Bill Huenke with the pitching chores. That fall was the beginning of a series of games with the Lima Independent team.

In 1924 New Bremen joined the Ohio-Indiana League which consisted of Celina, Angola, Indiana, Lima, Wapakoneta, Bryan, Ottawa, Delphos, and New Bremen. The desire to win induced many of the teams to hire high salaried players, thereby causing a financial burden for many of the teams. Since each home team was required to guarantee $155 to the visitors, it soon became apparent this trend could not continue. To augment gate receipts, the New Bremen club sponsored Saturday evening dances at Kuenning's Grove, a local picnic area. This plus contributions from local merchants made it possible for the New Bremen club to continue in the league.

The fall series with Lima in 1923 and 1924 proved very interesting. Minor and major league players at that time could go out on their own after the league seasons ended to "barnstorm" with semi-pro teams, thus earning additional money for themselves. During these fall series with Lima, both rosters were filled with minor and major league players. Many old time fans will recall the names of Bill Southworth, Buirley Horn, Charles Root, George Uhle, Steve O'Neil, Harry Schab, and others who played either with New Bremen or Lima during these games. At the time it was quite

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a thrill for me to catch the pitches of George Uhle, star pitcher of the Cleveland Indians. Attendance at these games made it possible for Manager Laut to enter into a contract with the Lima management for $400 per game. Of course, most of this was spent to reimburse the league players. However, it was quite a feather in the cap of the New Bremen team to be selected as a participant in this series.

Nineteen hundred and twenty-five saw a continuation of the Ohio-Indiana League with Greenville, Minster, St. Marys, and Sidney replacing Bryan, Angola, Ottawa, and Delphos in the league. Celina was the winner of the league that year.

During the spring of 1926, Mel Wildermuth and I had the opportunity to go to Raleigh, North Carolina, for a tryout with the Cleveland Farm System. Although neither one of us made the grade, it was quite an experience just to have had the opportunity to see big league baseball in action. The resulting exposure and publicity resulted in my signing a contract to play with the Lima Independent team. One of the greatest thrills I had there was playing on the same team with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, when they came to Lima for several games in the fall of the year.

The New Bremen team continued in the Ohio-Indiana League for the 1926 and 1927 seasons with an attempt to use more local talent, so as to reduce the financial burden of fielding a team. In spite of this, 1927 saw the disbanding of the Ohio-Indiana League, and New Bremen played one more season, 1928 as an independent team. Harold Jung took over as business manager and Al Huenke continued as playing manager. I had returned to the team, thus making this the first and only year when my three brothers and I played on the same team.

The following year saw many of the New Bremen players join other teams in nearby towns. I spent the next 11 years as playing manager for the neighboring Botkins Reds and the St. Marys Independent team. Here in mid-season of 1940, when playing night ball on dimly lit fields, I decided to terminate my playing days after having spent 18 summers squating behind the plate, catching the fast balls and curves of various pitchers. I felt this decision at that time would terminate my affiliation with baseball in New Bremen and the surrounding area, but this was not to be.

Although there had been various teams organized by individuals during the 1930s, the year 1946 marked the renewal of community organized baseball in our town. Many of the men had returned from military service and these, along with other local talent, made it possible to field an interesting team. A citizen's committee, headed by Harry Schroeder, worked hard to secure finances and to put the field, which was located on the southeast corner of the school grounds, into playing condition. I can well remember the great number of players and citizens who contributed to the building of a grandstand and dugouts for the field.

During the 1946 and 1947 years, the team had marked success playing independent ball being managed by Earl Speckman the first year and by Leander Landwehr and Paul Pape in 1947. Paul had returned to New Bremen during the 1946 season after having a tryout with the Cincinnati Reds farm in Peoria, Illinois. These years proved to be a valuable experience for the players who were to dominate the following years of play in the Western Ohio League.

The Western Ohio League was organized in 1948 with



Western Ohio League Leaders in 1948-49. Back row, left to right: Paul Pape, John Wissman, Stan Kuenning, Richard Pape. Center row: Roger Busse, Frank McCune, Les Blanke, Mgr. Vernon Westbay. Bottom row: Merle Belton, Les Howe, Carl Inman, Don Coble, Jerry Brown, Ed Moore, Bat boy Bill McCollum. Other players who were instrumental in the success of the New Bremen team during play in the Western Ohio League during this period were: Richard Dammeyer, Carl Wissman, Burdette Schamp, Roger Hegemier, Dave Hegemier, Bill Hegemier, Tom Anderson, Curt Kruse, Bob Rain, Lennie Goodwin, Don Sharp, Ted Johnson, Jim Berning.

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teams entered from St. Marys, Ft. Loramie, Kettlersville, Maria Stein, Botkins, Osgood, Russia, Houston, Newport, and New Bremen. Minster and Versilles were added in 1950. Lloyd Laut, manager of New Bremen teams in the early twenties, was chosen as the first president of the newly formed league.

In New Bremen, as newly appointed manager of the team, I found little difficulty fielding a winning team, due to the talent available from the previous seasons. These players formed the nucleus for the New Bremen team which enjoyed great success during the tenure of the Western Ohio League. Of equal importance for the success of the team was the work of the baseball committee composed of citizens interested in baseball. They not only were in charge of gate receipts, keeping the ball park in good condition, etc., but they also staged community baseball stag parties to help finance the ball team.

During the eight years that New Bremen was a member of the Western Ohio League, the following is a brief resume of the team's accomplishments:

1948 — League and Play-off champions
1949 — League champions
1950 — Play-off champions
1951 — League champions
1953 — Play-off champions

Due to other personal obligations, I resigned as manager after the 1954 season, and Vernon "Farmer" Westbay managed the team during the 1955 season.

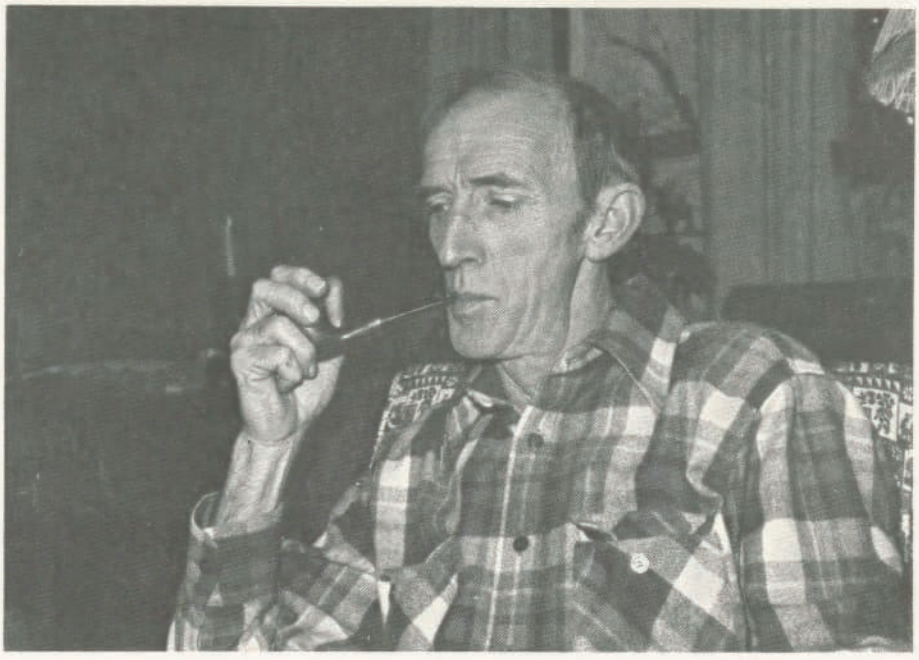
Although league games were given priority during this eight year span, many other games were played. With the advent of lighted fields in many communities, night games became quite common, and many interesting games were played under the lights. Although all the players contributed greatly to the success of the team, much credit must be given to the pitchers during this span of play. Who can forget the work of Ed "Whitey" Moore during the early years of league play? Then when "Whitey" retired in 1951, how the trio of Farmer Westbay, Carl Wissman, and John Wissman took over, not to forget such hurlers as Bob Rain and Dave Hegemier. All these men were handled so ably by Paul Pape, catching. All this adds up to many pleasant memories for me, and I am certain for all the players who so ably participated.

I cannot close this discourse without mentioning the name of Paul Froning. Although Paul did not get an opportunity to play much ball with a New Bremen team, he distinguished himself as a fine pitcher on teams in this area. Several years after his graduation from New Bremen High School, he pitched several years of baseball in some of the better minor leagues on the East Coast.



Typical baseball committee which served the team so well during the years of Western Ohio League play (1948-1955).
Back row, left to right: Al Pape, Richard Pape, Wilbur Fricke, Omer Schroeder, Richard Dammeyer. Front row: Emil Topp, Wilbur Tontrup, Leander Landwehr, Ray Hirschfeld, Walter Behm, Les Blanke.

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Paul with pipe

Fifty Years with Paul Lietz
1933 - 1983

I was born on July 1, 1921, in New Bremen, Ohio at 34 South Herman Street in the same house we live in now. Our town was a canal town. The canal boats were a thing of the past, but the canal meant fishing and ice skating for boys and girls of New Bremen. In 1935 my parents gave me a dark room kit for Christmas. It was a whole new world for me learning to take and develop pictures. My mother encouraged me to photograph New Bremen because her Uncle Fred Gilbert had enjoyed this hobby in his early years.

So, the following pages are happenings of the past, in fact the years 1933 to 1958 were rather quiet compared to the last twenty-five years to date 1983. So, reminisce with me . . .

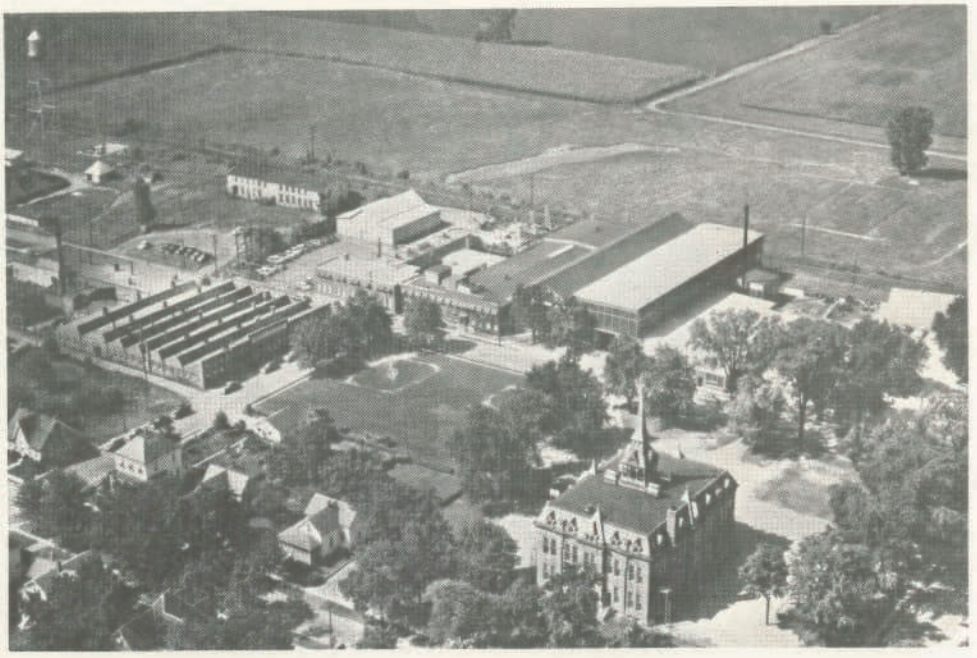


Paul skating



Paul with camera

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Let me start with an airview, showing you the part of town where I grew up. This scene is the Southwest quarter of town, bordered by Poplar Street and South Franklin Street. The street running East and West on the photo was at one time known as Vogelsang Street, now Plum Street.
We can see the old Central School Building, Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company, now known as Stamco, Inc., and the old Lantern Factory. The building with the saw-toothed roof was the Auglaize Furniture Factory. In the far left corner is the water tower, at one time the only tower New Bremen had. On the West side of Stamco, one can see the old baseball diamond in Huenke's field. Sometimes a trap shoot was held there. The air view is a "voice" from the forties.



This photo was taken in the thirties and now these boys are all nearing the Social Security age. *Front row left to right:* Frederick Topp, Norman Meckstroth, Walter Buckloh, Howard Wellman, Paul Stueve. *Second row:* Delmar Hickman, Delbert Scheer, Earl Huckriede, William Frevert, Willis Wittenbrink. *Third Row:* Robert Schnelle, Louis Tontrup, Robert Rempe, Robert Koenig, Ted Purpus, Paul Lietz, Carl Poppe. *Top Row:* Ralph Kuhlhorst, Norman Ruedebusch, Virgil Wittenbrink, Richard Koeper, Paul Bambauer.



In 1957 the Central School building was torn down. Folks came from all over town and watched the razing of their old school with mixed emotions.

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Now only the steps remain. But, just as the sun comes up every morning in the east and shines on the old school steps, it reminds us of the changes that will come and keep on coming with each generation.



Miss Alvina Burk, High School Principal and teacher. Miss Frieda Dierker, R.N., our school nurse for many years.



One of our favorite hangouts was Louie's restaurant! Hamburgers were 5¢, six for a quarter with Mrs. Erma Landwehr's homemade pickles. I loved pickles, so I always ordered a PICKLE SANDWICH with a HAMBURGER! *l to r:* Ted Purpus, Louis Landwehr (holding Bobby Lietz) Rosemary Landwehr and Betty Ann Behm.



Standing on the corner of Monroe and Main Streets, watching the 1933 Centennial Parade. I especially remember the team of oxen pulling the covered wagon with William (Butch) Schelper as the driver.



The New Bremen High School Band marching North on Washington Street, for the first festival of the Woodmen of the World in 1939.



The same High School Band led the parade with a float for an all out effort to pass the 3 mill levy in the year 1939, for their school.

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At the corner of Monroe and Washington was our old drinking fountain. It was used to initiate Freshman boys!



In the late forties Civil Defense came into being. A lookout for airplanes was started and manned by volunteer watchers. The lookout was located on top of the Legion Hall and here we see O.C. Ruedebusch on duty.



When the fire whistle blew on a frosty night in November of 1947, the broomshop employees saw this sight by the morning light when they arrived for work.



While visiting the observation tower, I took this picture looking out on Monroe Street. The year is about 1949, in the distance is Rairdon's barn with the Texaco sign, but we can't see what is playing at the "Picture Show."



If my memory is correct, it was about this time that the local merchants made contributions to help pay for the first ornate Christmas lights in this town. I took my camera and ventured out into the cold to record this big event!

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This is Washington Street looking South. Residents are digging their way out of the big snow of 1950.

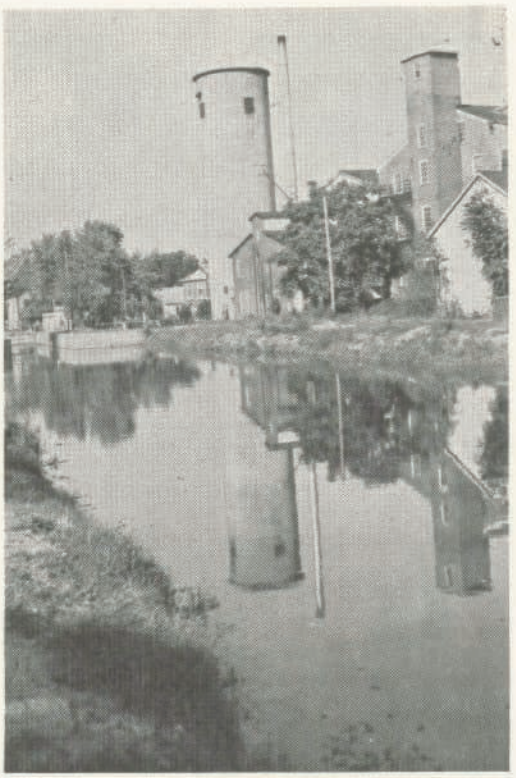


Standing on the east end of Monroe business block, looking west. It is the big snow of 1950 which came in November.

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New Bremen was a canal town. If we stood on the Monroe Street Bridge, we could see the Mill, and the locks.

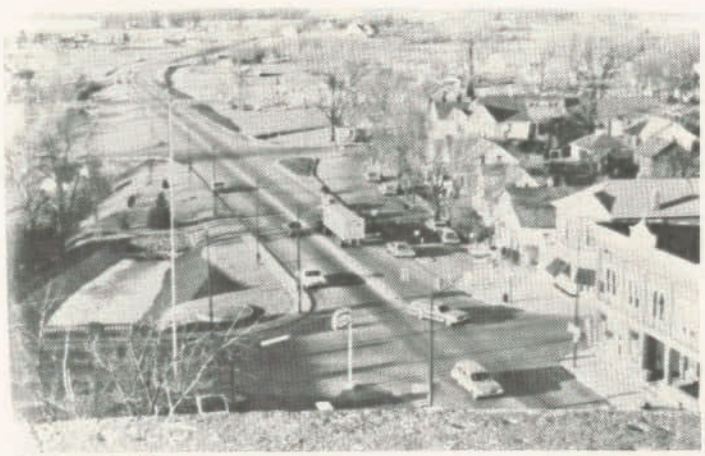


From the Plum Street bridge looking North, watching the reflections in the water, daydreaming of the time when the canal boats came through New Bremen.





Things will start to change now. Rairdon's Barn will be taken down to make way for the new Post Office.



October of 1961
This picture was taken from the mill silo before it was taken down. The State Route 66 was re-routed and is now open for traffic. We are looking north towards St. Marys.



And - as the concrete ball swung to and fro, the mill buildings came down in the spring of 1968.

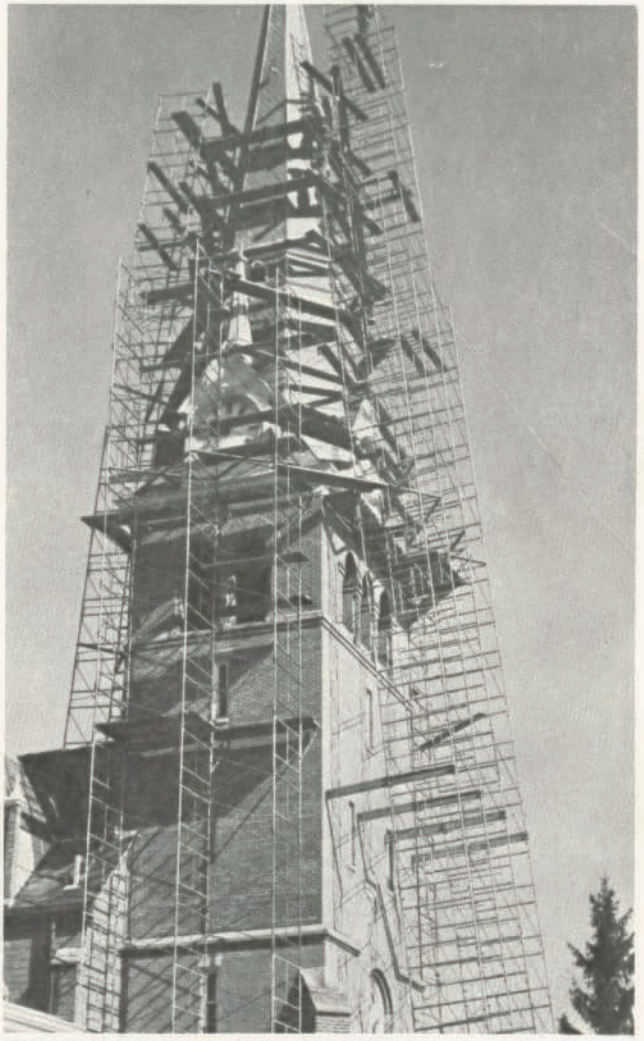
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A crowd gathered, the fire department had practice, and the old Lock Keeper's House went down in flames.



The canal was drained, huge eight foot tiles lay on the west bank, and soon the lower level of the canal would be a flume and parking lot. This was the last look we had of the Monroe Street concrete bridge.



Sight-seers had something to watch when St. Paul Church had a new roof put on the steeple. The small spires above the clock were taken off.

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When a Norfolk and Western coach was parked on the siding on the West edge of town, folks began to wonder what it was all about. Not too many had a chance to see it be moved through town because it was four degrees below zero and cold! The coach was moved onto the James Dicke residence East of South Haven.



Street improvements continued in New Bremen. The Plum Street Bridge was torn out, flumed, the street was lowered and older residents looked at Combs Hill with mixed emotions. It was always a favorite place for sledding in the winter. Town fathers would block the streets from traffic and boys and girls enjoyed the hill covered with snow and ice.



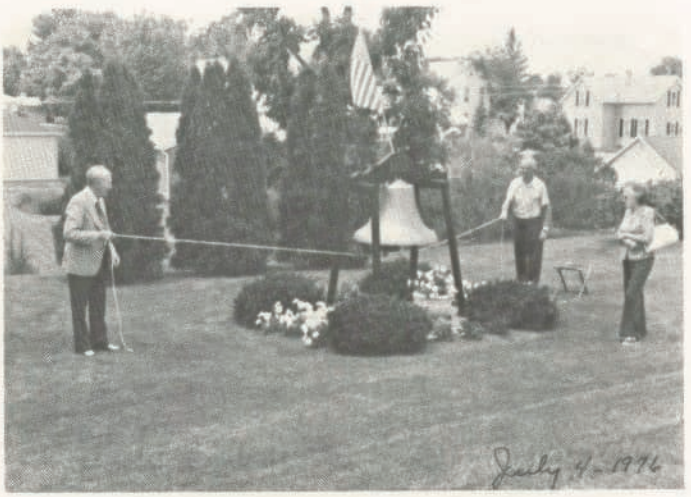
In the late seventies a new water tower was built on the west edge of New Bremen, close to the Creamery and Crown Controls.



A festival or a picnic is always a big event in a small town and I guess the longest running picnic over the years has been the Firemens' picnic. It is still going and always starts with a water battle, then games, food and lots of socializing.



Here we see William Doenges, life long resident of the New Bremen area, eager to entertain the audience. Mr. Doenges is in his nineties, fashions the marionettes, paddles and plays the mouth harp while the little dolls dance. He played on many occasions at the ice cream socials sponsored by the historic association.



On July 4, 1976, our nation celebrated her 200th birthday. New Bremen celebrated too! Here we see local citizens ringing the "FREEDOM BELL" at the given hour. Orville Ruedebusch and Walter Behm.

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Local youth painted the fire hydrants in New Bremen for the United States Bicentennial celebration. The little smiling "people" stayed with us until 1982, when they received a fresh coat of crimson or gold.



The annual BREMENFEST festival started in 1975 and is a big event in New Bremen the last week of August. The flag of our sister city, Bremen, Germany, was presented and is seen flying during the celebration.



Viewing the stage and dignitaries at the 1975 Bremenfest. *L to r:* John Gilberg, Bremenfest Co-Chairman; Mary Ann Brown, Historical Society President; Bev Miller, Treasurer; Don Kuck, Bremenfest Co-Chairman; Dale Locker, State Representative; Mayor Richard Wiedeman is at the rostrum; Queen and Court.



The Bremenfest Queen of 1975 and her Court chose old-fashioned costumes for the big festival. *(l to r)* Lori Poeppelman, Queen Kim Slattery, Deb Philpot, Tricia Dicke and Phyllis Bergman.

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A huge float was built for the occasion. Now each year it is the grandstand at the corner of Monroe and Washington Street inviting folks to stop and enjoy the festival.



I am standing at Lock Number 1 in New Bremen, thinking and day-dreaming. What does the future hold for this little town? With energetic young folks, it can only be good!



One last look at the old Poultry House, a land mark in New Bremen. The snow covered ground was once Rabe's Mill Pond, now in 1983 the Jaycee Park.



We hope you have enjoyed the photos of some of the happenings in New Bremen the last fifty years. We have enjoyed sharing them with you.

Paul and Marjorie Lietz

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Churches



St. Paul Church and parsonage, North Franklin Street

St. Paul United Church of Christ

The first church services were held in the home of Behrend Henry Mohrman at the corner of Main and First Streets in 1833. Rev. Hinsch served as first pastor from 1833-1835. Services were held once a month and the church was known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. L.H. Meyer came in 1835-1838 and at this time the first constitution was written, and the first parsonage built.

Rev. F.W. Fuhrmann became minister in 1839 and left in 1847. While he was here a new constitution was inaugerated. St. Paul Church voted in 1845 to become a free church, and left the synod. At this time, several members left the congregation and formed a new organization which became St. Peter's Evangelical Church in 1845.

Rev. Henry Borchers was the next minister and served the church in 1849. During this time the congregation suffered a great loss of 122 members in the cholera epidemic. The second parsonage was built in 1852, a two-story brick fronting on Franklin Street. This house was moved across the street in 1907 and still stands there today.

Rev. C. Heise's pastorate was from 1858 to 1880. The Sunday School, which was first held in the afternoon, started in 1874 with W.H. Boechenmoele as the first Superintendent. Sunday School picnics were an annual event.

Rev. M. Buerkle served as minister from 1880-1894. He organized the Ladies' Aid Society in 1880 and it terminated in 1970. In 1883 the Parochial School Building was erected. The dedication of the third church on the present site took place in 1891.

Rev. F.W. Bertram came in 1894-1906. An addition was built to the parochial building in 1895. Fire destroyed the church on the night of January 1, 1897. Rebuilding began almost immediately and the dedication services took place on December 5, 1897. The Dining Hall was built by the Ladies' Aid Society in 1903. H.A. Dickman, son of St. Paul Church, was ordained in 1901. Adult Bible Classes were organized in 1909.

Rev. Philip Wittich served the church only a short time from 1906-1907. Much discourse arose and a number of families withdrew their membership and started a fourth church in New Bremen known as Christ Church.

Rev. W.F. Henninger began his ministry in 1907 and remained here until 1922. In 1908 the Sewing Circle and Busy Twelve were formed, and in 1914, the Mission Circle which is presently named Christian Service Guild. Rev. Henninger was also Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1909 the present frame parsonage was constructed.

Rev. J.C. Melchert arrived in June of 1922. He inaugerated classes for Sunday School teachers and the first class graduated in 1928. Ordination services for Herbert Schowe, son of St. Paul Church, was held on June of 1928, and in July of 1928 for Otto C. Doenges, also a son of the church. Esther Quellhorst, daughter of St. Paul, graduated from Oakwood Institute in 1929. The Ways and Means Committee also started in 1929. In 1933 St. Paul Church became affiliated with the Evangelical Synod of North America, and the interior of the church was redecorated. Brotherhood was started in 1922, as was the Young People's League, now known as Senior High Youth Fellowship. Another group in existence for a few years was called the Intermediate Youth Fellowship. Mrs. Melchert started the Girls' Guild, later called the Evening Guild, in 1942. It is now known as the St. Paul Capsule, with individual groups known as Satellites. Rev. Melchert's resignation was accepted in 1947 and Rev. Wobus of Sidney served as interim pastor.

Rev. E.H. Bassler accepted the call in November of 1947. He was instrumental in starting the monthly printing of the

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"Beacon". A Memorial Organ Fund was also established at this time. In 1948 the recreational field and picnic area were developed. In 1949 a Mr. and Mrs. Class was started. In that same year conversation to unite the Evangelical and Reformed Churches and the Congregational Christian Churches began. This merger became effective in 1957 and formed the United Church of Christ.

The Board of Christian Education had its beginning in 1951. Miss Leona Poppe, a daughter of St. Paul, commissioned in June of 1930, became the first Parish Worker from 1944-1950. Miss Ruth Huenefeld followed in 1951. The Educational Building was erected in 1951. It was dedicated debt-free. A Stewardship Board was reorganized in May of 1952. The Church School constitution was revised in 1954. In 1955 Miss Huenefeld resigned and Miss Alice Schrock (Mrs. Duane Hegemier) was hired to fill the position of Parish Worker until her resignation in 1960.

During 1957 and 1958 the church was redecorated and remodeled in honor of the 125th anniversary of its existence. In 1958, two sons of the church, Ralph Casebolt and Eugene Hegemier, were ordained into the ministry. The group, known as the 79'ers, was started in 1959 and terminated in 1977. In 1961, James T. Egbert was asked to serve as clinical supply student, assisting the pastor. He was a son of the church as was Ralph C. Quellhorst and they were both ordained as ministers in 1962. Mrs. Robert (Dolores) Fledderjohn was part-time secretary for several months. Mrs. Lloyd (Janice) Schroer was the secretary from June of 1965 to March of 1973. Miss Judy Scheer filled this position from 1973 until August of 1977. Upon her resignation, Janice again resumed the job. Rev. James Egbert left in 1966 and Rev. E.H. Bassler in 1968. Rev. Meckstroth of New Knoxville served as interim pastor until June of 1968.

Rev. Roger D. Perl began his pastorate in June of 1968. In 1969 the congregation voted in favor of "Operation Face Lift", an improvement plan for the exterior of the sanctuary and the roof of the Educational Building. Mr. Ira Williams was hired as Intern Student from September of 1969 to June of 1970 to assist the pastor in his duties. In 1970, another Intern Student, Keith Heifner, assumed those duties for one year. The Seventh Decade also had its beginning in 1970.

In 1971, St. Paul Church was presented the Northwest Ohio Association Exceptional Lay Person Award, which was awarded posthumously to Miss Hulda Wiehe. The same year the Building and Property Care Fund was organized to provide funds for future large maintenance projects. Also in 1971, an agreement was signed with United Church Directories to publish a pictorial church directory. The same year the Personnel Committee was created and a search for an assistant minister resulted in the calling of Rev. Thomas N. Ward. He served as assistant pastor from April of 1972 to December of 1976. In October of 1973 he started the Shalom Group. In February of 1977 Rev. Perl resigned. Rev. John Tostrick, also a son of St. Paul, ordained in June of 1967, and living here in New Bremen, served as interim pastor until September 1977.

Rev. Larry K. May accepted the call of pastor of St. Paul Church in September of 1977. In 1979 the interior of the sanctuary was completely redecorated and insulation was placed in the ceiling of several rooms of the educational building to conserve heat energy. Also in the summer of 1979, new roof and siding were placed on the parsonage and a new roof was installed on the sanctuary. Sandra Pfeffenberger was hired in June of 1979 as assistant organist to aid the regular organist, Mrs. Robert Topp. On July 22, 1979, Rev. Carolyn J. Mann was elected as Associate Minister and she began her ministering at St. Paul in August. New robes were purchased for the adult choir in November of 1979. An ordination service was held in December of 1979 for Mark Houshower, a son of St. Paul; and in May of 1980 for Linda Marshall Manuel, a daughter of St. Paul in Dayton, Ohio. The Adult Mini-Course was introduced into the Christian Education program. In April of 1980 a Pastoral Relations Committee was established consisting of the elders, pastors, president and vice-president of the church council.

Confirmation robes were purchased in February of 1981 from the St. Paul Memorial Fund. In May of 1981, St. Paul hosted the Northwest Ohio Association Meeting. Dr. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ, was one of the guest speakers. A special congregational meeting was held in September of 1981 adopting changes in the church constitution and by-laws. A new church library was dedicated on September 13, 1981, and Mrs. Robert Topp resigned as organist effective December 31, 1981, after 18 years of service.

On January 1, 1982, Richard Hudson of St. Marys assumed duties of organist and in April of 1982, Rev. Larry K. May submitted his resignation as senior pastor. Rev. John W. Tostrick once again returned to serve as Interim Minister from October of 1982 until April of 1983. In June of 1982, St. Paul church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the United Church of Christ along with all its sister churches, and a Chancel Committee was organized in September of 1982.

On January 9, 1983, Dr. Rev. Wade J. Schemmel was unanimously elected as our Senior Minister beginning April 10, 1983. The present church staff consists of: Dr. Rev. Wade J. Schemmel, Senior Minister; Rev. Carolyn J. Mann, Associate Minister; Mrs. Lloyd (Janice) Schroer, office and financial secretary; Richard Hudson, organist; Mrs. Michael (Sandra) Pfeffenberger, Assistant organist; Erik Hirschfeld, Choir Director; Mrs. Lee (Lynda) Sudman, Junior Choir Directress; Mr. and Mrs. Paul (Violal) Headapohl and Mrs. and Mrs. Robert (Diane) Paul, custodians.

St. Paul United Church of Christ is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 1983. The church dates back to the original founding of the town of New Bremen in 1833. *Submitted by Janice Schroer.*

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

St. Peter's Evangelische Kirche had its origin in 1842 when several members left St. Paul's Church in New Bremen. Services were first conducted in a school, one mile north of New Bremen. They secured a minister from New Knoxville by the name of Tanke. Later when the school board objected to services there, they went to what is now the Luelleman house - the New Bremen Historical Society's Museum on North Main Street. In the fall of 1845, a permanent organization was effected, with J.M. Forschner as their first local minister.

In 1849, their first school house was built. The present

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St. Peter's Church, North Franklin Street

brick church structure was dedicated July 3, 1887, replacing the first frame church. The cost of the brick sanctuary was $8000. In 1904, at the cost of $4700 the Sunday Church School addition on the north side of the sanctuary was completed. A remodeling program was started in 1948 and finished in 1950 at a cost of $41,000. In 1978, new doors were placed on the front entrances and the fellowship rooms were carpeted. The parsonage was built in 1880 and rebuilt in 1915.

In 1918, evening services in the English language were started.

The brotherhood was organized March 4, 1924; and the Ladies Aid and Mission Circle merged under the name of Women's Union on January 12, 1933. For twenty-four years, 1935-1959, the Sunday School was held simultaneously with the church service which was held from 10-11 o'clock. The Girls' Missionary Guild was organized in 1939. The Brotherhood, Women's Union, and Girls' Guild are now all part of one organization called the Lay Life and Work which was formed in the 1970s.

The groups of the congregation are as follows: The Lay Life and Work; the Quilters; the Junior and Senior Choirs; and the Youth Fellowship.

Church School is at 9 a.m. and Worship with Nursery Care is at 10:15 a.m. each Lord's Day, except during the months of July and August, when there is one combined service of Worship and Sunday Church School at 9:30 a.m.

The congregation joined the Evangelical Synod of North America in 1876.

In 1934, the Evangelical Synod of North America merged with the Reformed Church in the United States to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ. St. Peter's in New Bremen is part of the United Church of Christ.

The list of pastors in order: J.M. Forschner, 1845 - May, 1847; Ad. Conradi, died August 10, 1849; A.H. Seipel; C.A. Behrens; Philip Roser; C. Blank; F. Weisberger; Christ Steinhouer; L. Richter who left in 1865 to form Zion; M. Sondhaus; Wm. Ekermeyer, May, 1866 - May, 1871; C. Betz, May, 1871 - April 1882; A. Merkle, February, 1882 -March, 1894; C. Fisher, May, 1894 - April, 1917; H.S. Von Rague, April, 1917 - August, 1923; Henry C. Klutey, December, 1923 - December 27, 1928 (died); Theo. G. Papsdorf, September 1, 1929 - 1948; E.E. Fahringer; H.P. Baur, September 10, 1951 - 1957; Kenneth W. Pheiffer, June 1, 1958 - August 8, 1962; Otto Scheib, June 2, 1963 -July 11, 1971 (died); and present pastor Rev. Dr. Lawrence T. Holmer who began on April 16, 1972. *Submitted by Rev. Lawrence Holmer.*



St. Peter's Church Sanctuary

Zion United Church of Christ

When the citizens of New Bremen organized their first church, called St. Paul's, it was founded on Lutheran belief. Later two other church groups came from that congregation, St. Peter's and Zion.

A meeting was called on March 6, 1865, at the home of Christian Schmidt. In addition to Mr. Schmidt, the following men were present: Herman Vornholt, Johann Vornholt, Heinrich Vornholt, Heinrich Huckeriede, August Huckeriede, Adolph Koenig, Friedrich Broerman, and Johann Fark. They decided to form a new congregation and to call it Zion.

The first pastor was Reverend L. Richter, and the services were held in the second story of the Christian Schmidt residence. Elders selected were Christian Schmidt and Herman Vornholt. Deacons were Heinrich Vornholt and Johann Fark.

A house at the corner of Main and Pearl Streets was purchased for a parsonage, and the decision was made to build a church on the southeast of it. It was built and dedicated in October of 1865, free of debt.

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Zion Church, Knoxville Avenue

On May 15, 1873, Zion was elected to join the Reformed Church. A new lot at First and Franklin was bought for a parsonage. The new parsonage was erected there in 1890. They decided to build a more sturdy church building at a new location at First and Main Streets. The church was dedicated on February 21, 1897, at a cost of $10,223.

In 1906, a new Schantz pipe organ was installed at a cost of $1800 and Andrew Carnegie gave $500 for its purchase. It was greatly enjoyed, and in 1937, it was rebuilt electrically, renovated, and a new console replaced the old one. Many years later, Schulmerich Chimes were also installed.

Eight ministers served Zion between the years of 1873 and 1922. In order of their names and length of service they were: Reverend William Dieckmann, four years; Martin Vitz, seven years; W.E. Shaley, four years; Benjamin S. Stern, four years; Paul G. Kluge, three years; Alfred Grether, seven years; and Rudolph Worthman, three years.

The 75th anniversary of Zion Church was observed on June 23, 1940, under the pastorate of Reverend Nathan E. Vitz. He served the congregation well through the years of 1922-1944.

He was succeeded by Reverend L.G. Fritz, under whose leadership the inside of the church was remodeled and beautified. A basement auditorium and classrooms were added. During his tenure from 1945-1966, Zion's 100th anniversary was celebrated.

Reverend Fritz's successor was Reverend John M. Lindner. He served the congregation well from 1967-1970, when he resigned.

Under the leadership of Reverend Floyd P. Braun, who came in 1971, Zion elected to build a new edifice. Land at the north end of New Bremen was purchased on which a modern church was built and dedicated in 1975. Reverend Braun resigned in November, 1977, and Reverend John Tostrick served as interim pastor. In 1979, Reverend Rick Mortimer was called to serve as Zion's minister, and he is serving us well.

A spiritual church is known by its fruits, not only through the membership, but for Christian servants who have gone out from it to preach the Gospel. Zion has had fourteen people who have gone out from it to proclaim the Gospel. They are Reverend Conrad Hoffman, Reverend Edward Lutterbein, Reverend Julius F. Vornholt, Reverend Edward Vornholt, Reverend Edwin Vornholt, Reverend William E. Huckeriede, Reverend Arthur Steinebrey, Reverend Fred Hoffman, Reverend Rinehart Eschmeyer, and missionary, Ruth Kuenzel Smith.

During the second World War, Reverend Vitz's older son, Reverend Robert Vitz, as Lietenant Commander, served as a chaplain. His brother, Reverend Richard P. Vitz, also became a minister, and has served in Lima, Ohio, for many years.

Reverend John Rinehart was called to the ministry and has served in North Dakota, Illinois, and in Boston, Massachusetts.

After completing his college work, Mahlon Gilbert took his Seminary studies in the East, and served as Minister. The last we have heard of him is that he was doing Pastoral Counseling in an Eastern state. *Submitted by Sandy Frey.*

Faith Alliance Church

In July of 1907, a group of more than forty families formed a church to be known as Christ Church. They chose the Reverend Philip Wittick as their pastor.

At the initial meeting a committee was authorized to purchase a brick building that had stood idle for some thirty years after being erected in 1872 by the Roman Catholics in New Bremen. This property consisted of four lots with the church located on the south lot and was purchased for the sum of $2000.

The first regular service was held on July 21, 1907. In October of 1907, Reverend H.A. Dickman of Hamilton, Ohio, a former resident of New Bremen, preached the dedicatory sermon in the German language.

The present parsonage located at 207 South Walnut Street, was purchased one year later. The three vacant lots to the north of the church were sold to the New Bremen School District in 1928, for the sum of $1500.

Under Carl Brand's ministry in 1944, steps were taken to erect the front entrance of the church with the tower, vestibule, four classrooms and restrooms, as well as the pulpit arch and a baptistry. This remodeled church was dedicated in January of 1947.

In 1953, under the leadership of Reverend H.A. Dickman, Christ Church united with the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

By proper action of the congregation in 1971, the name of Christ Church was changed to Faith Alliance.

In 1963, a Building Fund was established, committees were appointed, and after much prayer, many gifts of labor and money, we now have the third classroom and new sanctuary addition to our church. Under the leadership of the Reverend C.G. Hixenbaugh, the third phase of additional building was completed and dedicated in May of 1977.

As of December 1, 1982, we have just completed renovation of the original sanctuary into a two floor educational unit for our program.

In the seventy-five years of the ministry of the Faith Alliance Church there have been fifteen pastors with service times of duration ranging from seventeen years to one year. The longest pastoral leadership thus far has been the first pastor, Reverend Philip Wittick, serving from 1907-1924 and the present pastor, Reverend C.G. Hixenbaugh who arrived in February of 1974.

Present Elders serving in addition to the pastor in the spiritual direction of the church are: Frederick Luedeke, Virgil Mousa, William Doseck and Ralph Fledderjohann. *Submitted by Rev. Hixenbaugh.*

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Christ Church and Rectory, c. 1910



Faith Alliance Church

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

The Church of the Holy Redeemer in New Bremen was founded in 1872 when a small brick church was built on South Walnut Street at a cost of $3000. More than two-thirds of this money was contributed by non-Catholics of the town.

About twelve families worshipped, attended by the Rev. I.G. Selb, assistant priest of Minster. The church continued to be served by a circuit riding priest of the Society of the Precious Blood.

According to one record, the parish ceased to have services about 1895 and many of the families continued to attend at Minster, where their children were being trained in the faith.

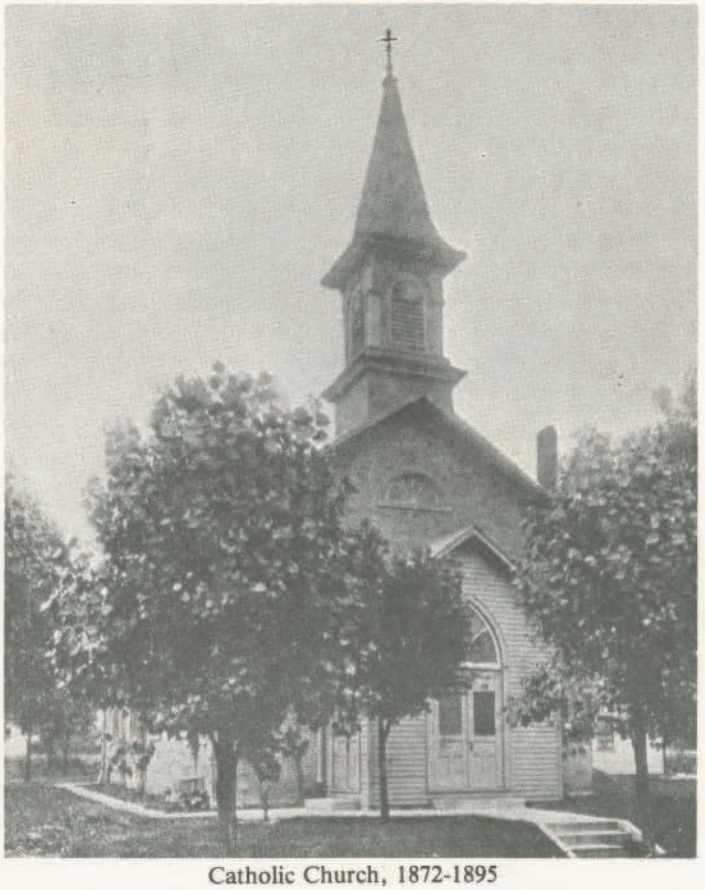
The building was sold around 1907 and became the worship center for what is known today as Faith Alliance Church.

In the spring of 1948, the Reverend Leo Boeke, assistant priest of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, St. Marys, was appointed to make a survey of the community of New Bremen preliminary to the establishment of a Catholic Church here. Property at the northeast corner of Pearl and Herman Streets had been acquired.

In the April 16, 1948, issue of the Evening Leader, St. Marys, it states, "The New Bremen Catholic Church of the Holy Redeemer will hold its service in the Bremco Mill office building, North Main Street, opposite Leo Huenke's garage".

The Reverend Boeke had taken an option on the office building which was to be converted into a church to serve the congregation until such time as a church building could be erected, the newspaper stated. The building was purchased from Arnold Poppe for a sum of $10,000 and was later moved to the Herman-Pearl Streets location. There were 230 parishioners at that time.

On June 28, 1948, 2,500 persons inspected the Catholic Church of the Holy Redeemer at its new location. The Reverend Boeke, pastor, was celebrant of the solemn high mass, the Reverend Lawrence Tebbe of Fryburg, a New Bremen native, was deacon and the Reverend Richard Dircksen, Minster, was subdeacon. This was the first



Catholic Church, 1872-1895

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The Missionary Church (1948-69) in the process of being moved.

Catholic service held in New Bremen for more than 50 years. Representatives of fifty-four families were involved in the planning.

By 1951 the congregation had grown to 112 families. When the church was dedicated in June the debt was paid off and $1000 had been set aside for a "building fund".

Father Boeke was transferred to Withamsville in 1957. By that time the congregation had grown to 150 families.

The Reverend Bernard Felix served Holy Redeemer for one year and was followed by the Reverend William Buchheit. At that time of his departure, early in 1964, the parish had grown to 160 families.

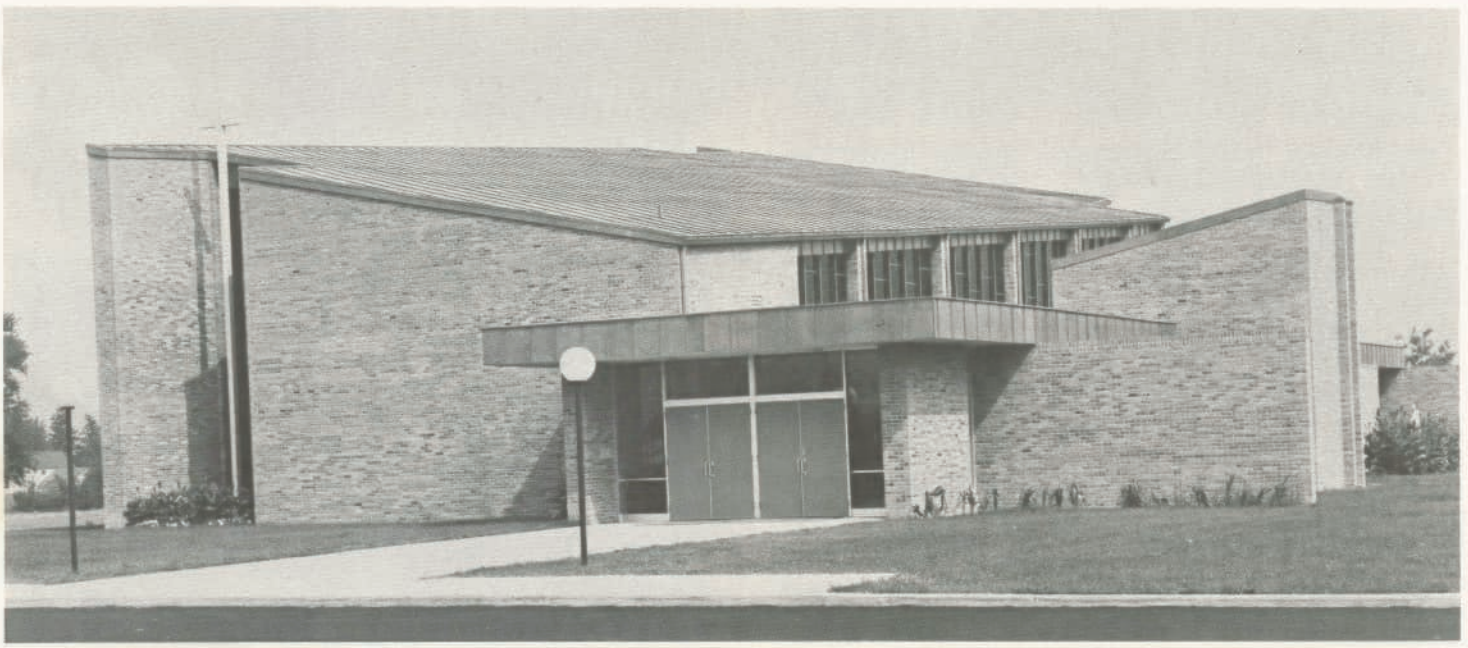
Reverend Buchheit was succeeded at Holy Redeemer by the Reverend Carl G. Will who immediately stressed ecumenism throughout the community. By the end of his first-year, reports showed that there were 1,000 members in the congregation.

In his seventeen years at New Bremen, Father Will oversaw the purchase of a new parish rectory at 21 South Main Street, the construction of a new church in 1969, and a parish center in 1976. The latter two are at 120 South Eastmoor Drive. The former church and rectory buildings were sold.

Father Will was assisted at New Bremen from 1964-67 by the Reverend Pat Sena of the Society of the Precious Blood in teaching the religious (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) classes. He also assisted in the celebration of Mass until they both departed in June of 1981. Also leaving New Bremen at that time was Brother Gabriel Bridges who had served as CCD director the previous five years.

The Reverend William H. Schwartz became pastor of Holy Redeemer Church on June 15, 1981. Mrs. Ernest Eyink is the current religious education director.

At present Holy Redeemer parish consists of 420 families totaling 1300 parishioners. *Submitted by Father Schwartz.*



Holy Redeemer Church, 1969

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Schools



NEW BREMEN HIGH SCHOOL
Built in 1968

New Bremen Schools 1833-1983

The school in New Bremen had its beginning in 1833 when the citizens were able to build a log house and equip it with benches at the expense of $40. This building was both church and school, and the minister was the schoolmaster. It is believed that this building stood where the fire engine house and town hall were located on the southeast corner of the city park between North Main and North Franklin streets on lots number 39 and 40 in the original platted town of Bremen. In 1835, another log house was erected which provided separate buildings for church and school. Rev. L.H. Meyer served as Pastor and teacher from 1835-1838.

An attendance book, designated as a Register for the School Year 1844, contains the names of children then attending school and a quarterly report by the teacher, M. Meier. Sixty seven pupils were enrolled in "Central School" in December of 1844. In 1845, the building was inadequate and it was decided to levy a tax to raise the sum of $354 to pay for the building of a school house and also for the stove and furniture. The school directors at that time were Wm. Finke, B. Wellman and G.W. Sunderman. As a result, a tax of one and three quarter mills was levied on real and personal property located in what was then known as German township, Bremen, Amsterdam and Mohrmanville. In a register, headed "Taxable School List" from September of 1845 to August of 1846, the tax valuation of German Township (both real and personal) was a little less than $20,000.

The school was built in 1846 on lots 27 and 28 on North Franklin Street. The enrollment had increased to 82 pupils by the fall of 1846. The building was a one-room school but later a room of equal size was added to the north. This served as a school house until 1878 when the Central Grade School was built. It was sold in 1878 to Franz J. Jung for $700 and remodeled for residential purposes. Today it is owned by Friemerings and is used for several apartments. Teachers in this school were Gerhard Klefoth, Henry Bernhard, Ph. J. Menges, Julius F. Zwez, and E.G. Boekle. Teaching certificates for Mr. Klefoth and Mr. Bernhard are still intact in the school archives.

The schools of New Bremen were a part of the German Township School District. There were four schools in the German Township School District: Central School, Ober Bremen School, North School, and West School.

The Ober Bremen School stood on Cherry Street, east of Walnut Street, on property consisting of lots 392, 393, 394,

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This picture was taken in 1877, when Julius F. Zwez, was teacher of the intermediate class of the New Bremen, Ohio, grade schools. At that time school was held in the brick residence building on North Franklin St.

Person shown on picture are as follows; Bottom row, reading from left to right: Theresa Wolf, Augusta Fritz, Ida Boesel, Katherine Dinkel, Alinda Bakhaus, Cora Kent, Ida Jung, Louisa Blase, Mary Moeller, Anna Vossler. Second row: _____ Waterman, Emil Laut, Theodore Dickman, G.A. Kunning, Henry Schulenberg, O.H. Boesel, Gustav Greiwe, Wm. Kuhlhorst, Wm. Wolf, Henry Brueggeman. Third row: _____ Fuelling, unknown, Fred Schuette, Wm. Buchholz, Phillip Hoffman, Emil Solms, George Thompson, Gustav Schulte, Theodore Pohlman, Julius F. Zwez, Teacher.

395, in the vicinity of the present school bus garage. When the Central Grade School building was completed, the Ober Bremen building was used a number of years for summer school and as a meeting place. Eventually it was torn down. Early teachers in the Ober Bremen School were H.W. Bockemohle and Theodore Purpus. The registers of 1860 and 1872 shows that ninety-five pupils were enrolled.

The North School, or New Paris School, was better known in later years as the Lock Two School. It was erected in 1857 on the northeast corner of the New Knoxville and Lock Two Roads, southwest of the German Protestant Cemetery. In 1898 the original North School was torn down and a new school was erected at a cost of $1453. In 1923, the North School was abandoned and the children were transported to the Central School in New Bremen.

The West School was operated by the New Bremen School District from its date of construction until 1913 when a law allowed them to withdraw from the district and operate independently. This school was again in later years placed in the New Bremen School District but the New Bremen Board of Education permitted them to continue to operate independently until 1953.

In 1876, following annexation of Ober Bremen by New Bremen, there was considerable opposition to a consolidation of schools. However, the first elected members of the first board of education of the New Bremen School district met in regular session to organize. The board consisted of six members, four from the village and two from the rural district. They were: Fred Vogelsang, President; F.H.L. Nieter, Secretary; E.H. Lameyer, Treasurer; and J.H. Boesche, Wm. Barth and John Garmhausen, members. There were four schools in the New Bremen school district under this board. In later years the number of board members was cut from six to five, three from the village and two from the rural district, and a paid clerk was added.

On April 22, 1876, it was decided that a suitable school house for the New Bremen School district should be erected. It was placed on eight lots purchased from Wm. Otte, Hy. Sunderman and Wm. Busy for the sum of $840. The lot numbers were 197-8-9-200, facing Herman Street and bounded on the north by Poplar Street, and lots number 221-2-3-4, facing Franklin Street.

The building was completed on March 5, 1878, at the cost of $17,460.07 and the furniture and equipment cost $1,637.70. The architects were Gibbs and Moser of Toledo and the contractors were G.W. Mannix and Dennis Dwyer of Greenville. On September 30, 1878, a school census of the New Bremen School District indicated that there were 858 persons between the ages of six and twenty-one although less than half were in school because there was no high school.

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1846 School

The only change in the exterior of the 1878 building was made in 1928. The fancy brick work such as towers and chimney extensions were removed because of their unsafe condition and in order to conform with a more modern construction. The building contained six class rooms, four on the first floor and two on the second floor and one large hall across the east end of the building from north to south on the second floor. This room was used for an assembly room. In 1892 the assembly hall was abandoned and divided into two classrooms, making at this time eight classrooms in the building. All of these changes requiring additional classrooms were necessary due to increased attendance and additions to the course of studies.

After the 1878 building was completed and occupied, the two-room Central Building on North Franklin Street was sold and the Ober Bremen school building was abandoned. The New Bremen school district continued to operate the West School and the North School. The first Superintendent was W.F. Torrence, while the first teachers of record were Julius F. Zwez, Theo. Purpus, D.S. Bricker and C.L. Rose. In 1885, a total of 385 students were enrolled at Central (Union) School, 33 at West School, and 25 at Lock Two School.

In 1879, a high school was organized with a three-year course, which was changed to a four-year course in 1899.

On May 11, 1893, the board decided to eliminate men teachers for the first and second grades. As a result, the services of Julius F. Zwez were regretfully dispensed with after he had served for twenty-five consecutive years as first and second grade teacher. Miss Della Murch, of Granville, Ohio, and Miss Augusta Grothaus were the first female teachers in the New Bremen Schools. The high school enrollment was 35 in 1897 and had increased to 115 by 1908.

The first 14 graduating classes through 1900 included:

1882 - Charles W. Mesloh
1883 - Minnie Torrance
1884 - A.C. Buss
1886 - Edmund Grothaus, Phillip Dinkel, Henry Bakhaus
1888 - H.A. Schrage, Ed. Conradi, Herman Steinberg
1889 - Cornelius Williams, Amanda Frey, E.G. Conradi
1890 - William Brueggemnan, Augusta Grothaus, Ida Rabe, William Gagle
1893 - John Halsema, Alfred Steinebrey
1894 - C.R. Bakhaus, Otto Schmidt, Albert Conradi, Henry Heitmann, Julius Vornholt, Thomas W. Stone
1895 - Benjamin Wiedeman, Henry Meyer, Maud Stone, Lydia Finke, Lillie Dierker
1897 - Frank C. Kettler, Theodore Tangemann, Christ. Dieckmann, Charles Steinebrey, Adolph Klanke, Lucius Halsema, L.M. Gagle, Lillian Grothaus, Bertha Voeckel
1898 - Bessie L. Stone, Dora C. Schmidt
1899 - Frank Steinebrey, Emil Finke, Eusebius Halsema, Emma Mesloh, Emma Garmhausen, Luetta Boesel, Clara Thiesing, Lizzie Fischer, Sadie Barienbrock, Dore Jung
1900 - Letitia J. Feather, Bertha A. Schmidt, Clara M. Tangemann

There were no Commencements held in 1885, 1887, 1891, 1892, and 1896.

Due to crowded conditions in the Central School Building, an additional building was proposed in 1900 on property east of the canal, and in 1907, another attempt was made to build east of the canal.

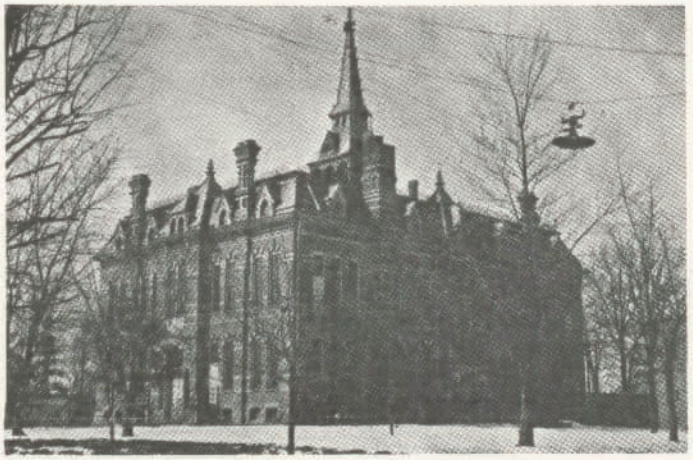
As a result of the continued crowded conditions, the board rented the Vogelsang building for one year beginning on August 1, 1907. This building was located on the south half of lot No. 61 on North Main Street and later occupied by the Equity Union Creamery Company. At this time the board also made use of the Town Hall, situated on the southeast corner of the City Park property on North Main Street for classroom purposes. The crowded condition was relieved and these buildings were abandoned for school purposes when a frame building was erected on Lot No. 189 on the northwest corner of Herman and Poplar Streets in the year 1908. The building was first used by the seventh and eighth grades, and later was set aside for the first and second grades.



Lock Two School in 1916

Football was organized at the turn of the century and the teams were undefeated between 1903 and 1908. The first issue of the "Mirage" was published in 1908. Baseball was started in 1909 and the high school received North Central Accreditation in 1913. Boys basketball was begun in 1915 and with the gaining popularity of baseball and basketball, football was discontinued. By 1920, track and girls basketball were underway. There was no floor for basketball

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Central (Union) School built in 1878.

available and the Hespe Hall (New Bremen Auto Parts Store) was rented for basketball purposes. The rental of this building was secured by charging admission to the games, but because it was necessary for the spectators to stand, the games were poorly attended.

In 1917, crowded conditions again began to develop. An attempt was made to remodel one or more old buildings in town for school purposes, but no suitable building was available. Building an addition to the west side of the Central School building was considered but the state building laws would not permit an addition of suitable size. Efforts were then made to finish the third floor or attic of the Central School building, but again the state department refused permission. To temporarily relieve the condition, the Sunday School room of St. Paul Church was rented and one room was rented in the Herman Laut building on North Main Street adjoining the City Park property on the south side.

The erection of a two-room building, north of the Central School building was proposed, but a committee representing some two hundred citizens strongly objected. On May 14, 1918, at a special election, a bond issue for $20,000 carried and a building of brick construction was erected on the northwest corner of the Central School property facing east. This building was a two-story structure with two rooms on each floor and a basement consisting of two rooms. Wm. F. Brodbeck of St. Marys was the contractor. The building was completed in 1920 at a cost of $20,500.29.

At the same time that the Central High School was built, the 1908 building on the northwest corner of Herman and Poplar Streets was remodeled at a cost of $2,851.27. The building, when reconstructed, was so arranged that the south half was a modern six-room residence and was used by the Superintendent. The north half had one large room and was used as a community room for many years. This building today is the residence of the Kenneth Bensman family.

It was soon discovered that the new Central High School, which housed grades 9-12, was not large enough and the need of an assembly room was apparent. The Board of Education leased the Boesel Opera House and used the second floor until 1930. The Boesel Opera House was used for commencements, plays, etc. and a picture of the 1915 Commencement is in the school file.

Between 1925 and 1928, several attempts were made to pass a bond issue for a new building. Also during this time, it was discovered that the 1920 building was unsafe and the south wall continued to settle. An attempt was made to hold the building together by reinforcing rods. In November of 1928, at a regular election, a bond issue for $80,000 to erect a new high school carried. There already was a cash reserve of approximately $10,000 in the treasury.

Several locations were considered and the board finally decided on the site located in the southeast portion of the village. Three lots, Nos. 401-2-3, facing Walnut Street were purchased from Christ Church. Land to the east and south of these lots was purchased from the Stroefer estate. Ferd F. Freytag was the architect and the general contractors were Opperman & Harmeyer of New Knoxville. Ground for the building was broken in March, 1929. The high school classes moved into the new building in January, 1930. During construction, the 1920 building was sold to the contractors for $2,600 and part of the materials were used in the 1929 building.

The curriculum was expanded with the increased facilities. A band was organized although there had been an orchestra group for many years prior. Drama productions and commencements were held in the school, and shops, labs, and athletic facilities were available in one building. The "Crimson and Gold" student newspaper was begun in 1931. Grades 7-12 were housed in the new building and the Central Grade School of 1878 continued to serve Grades 1-6.

The construction of the new high school and the expanded curriculum created increased enthusiasm in the community. The gymnasium-auditorium could comfortably seat 300 at the boys and girls basketball games and for stage programs, the seating exceeded 500. In addition to the music and athletic programs of the early 1930's, there was "Hi-Y", "Girl Reserves", "F.F.A.", etc. A new Dodge six-cylinder, 40 passenger school bus was used to transport the pupils from the rural areas of the school district. The bus, owned by Leo Huenke, was driven by him under School Board Contract. Earl Kuenning also contracted with the School Board to drive his own bus during the 1920s. In 1933 there were sixteen faculty members and the student enrollment in grades 1-12 totaled 382.

In June of 1933, the American Legion Post 241 presented a flagpole to the school and it was dedicated during Centen-



School at Corner of Herman and Poplar Streets — built in 1908.

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nial Week of July 1-4. In 1935, a sundial was presented in memory of Frank H. and Caroline Streine, founders of the New Bremen Parent-Teachers Association. The flagpole and the sundial remain today as reminders of earlier events in the history of our school.

The "Mixed Chorus" was organized in 1934 and by 1937, there was both a "Girls' Glee Club" and a "Boys' Glee Club". By 1940, there was also an "Archery Club" and a "Latin Club". The Girls' Basketball team had ceased to exist by 1938. Interclass activities during the 1930s and early 1940s included boys and girls basketball and volleyball. By the mid 1940s, the "Student Council" was organized and other organizations such as the "German Club" and the "Commercial Club" were active.

With the advent of World War II, there were "shortages", there were "scrap drives", and there were boys who entered the military service. In 1945, a plaque was hung in the high school which honored New Bremen students who went into the service and also those who died in the war. A number of ex-service men returned to take courses at the high school in order to receive their diploma. In 1947, the school cafeteria was started at the Central Grade School.

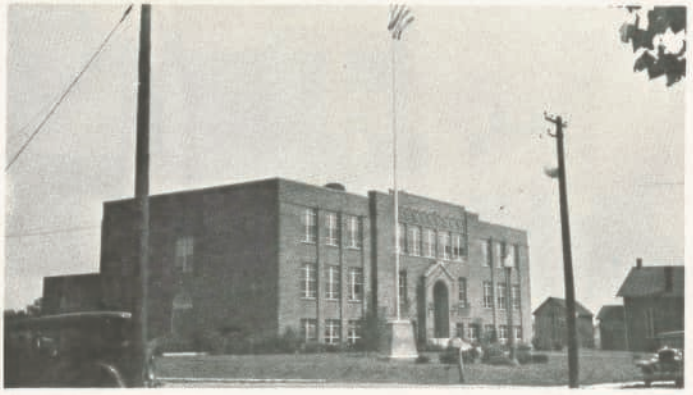
In 1952, the band room and the north section of the boys locker room was constructed without a bond levy by Peterson Construction Company for $27,879. In 1953, there were nineteen faculty members and a total of 478 students. Also in 1953, the West Side School was closed and the students were transported to New Bremen. In 1954, the West Side School property was sold for $1,985.

In November of 1954, a bond issue in the amount of $490,000 was approved to build an addition to the high school which would include a new elementary school, vocational education classrooms and labs, and a school cafeteria. Peterson Construction Co. was the contractor and Ferd Freytag was the architect. On October 14, 1956, the dedication of the new building was held. Since the 1878 Central School building was no longer needed, it was sold at public auction on June 15, 1957. Stamco purchased the property for $15,000.

The enrollment in 1957 had reached 608 with the addition of kindergarten. In 1961 the boys basketball team played in the state tournament in Columbus and Mrs. Doris Howe



Central High School — built in 1920.



High School built in 1929.

was employed as school secretary. In 1962, a bond issue in the amount of $130,000 was approved to build an addition to the east wing of the elementary school because of the rapid growth in student enrollment. H.A. Dorsten was the contractor and Ferd Freytag was the architect. In the fall of 1963, the student enrollment totaled 816 and the faculty total was thirty-five.

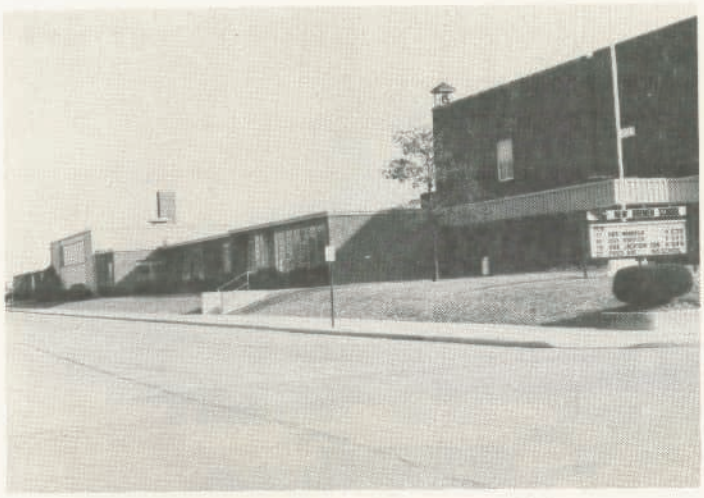
In 1965, Miss Alvina Burk retired after forty-five years in the New Bremen Schools and after more than fifty years in education. She came to New Bremen in 1920 and became High School Principal in 1923. Miss Burk passed away in 1981 at the age of 87. In November of 1965, a bond issue was approved in the amount of $490,000 for a major addition to the high school. Ferd Freytag was again employed as the architect. J.C. Shappie Company was hired as general contractor. The student enrollment was 909 and the faculty totaled forty-two.

Mrs. Irene Jarvis became Treasurer in January of 1969 and Elementary Principal Myrl Smith retired in the Spring of 1969 after twenty-nine years in New Bremen and forty-four years in education. During the summer of 1969, R. Jay Stauffer assumed the positions of Superintendent and Elementary Principal, and Jerry Brown was employed as High School Principal. For the 1969-70 school year, the "Student Handbook" and the "Faculty Handbook" were both revised and printed as annual publications. During this school year, the "Newsletter" was begun, the "Board Policy Manual" was rewritten and adopted, and the "Citizens Committee" was organized.



Rear view of Westside School in the 1940s -Bernice Ludeka, teacher.

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New Bremen School Elementary Addition



New Bremen School Gymnasium — built 1968.

Cross Country and Track were both reorganized during the 1969-70 school year and Girls Basketball and Volleyball were part of the GAA program. In May, 1970, a 1 Mill Replacement Fund levy was approved providing money for facility improvements and major equipment purchases on an annual basis. Also on the same May ballot, the first of several Auglaize-Mercer JVS votes was rejected. During the 1970-71 school year, the football program was started. The first high school musical in many years was presented in the Spring of 1972.

The student enrollment in 1972-73 started to decrease with a total of 887 and there were forty-one classroom teachers. Fifty-four academic units were offered in grades 9-12 and extracurricular activities included the "Mirage" staff, "Crimson & Gold" staff, National Honor Society, F.F.A., F.H.A., History Club, French Club, F.T.A., "B" Pep Club, Latin Club, Student Council, Science Club, Drill Team, Band, Chorus, German Club, Cross Country, Football, Track, Boys Basketball, GAA Basketball and Volleyball, and Baseball. The football field and facilities, provided by the Athletic Boosters, were ready for the first varsity season of 1972. The Cross Country team ran in the State Meet for the second straight year.

Mrs. Trudy Kuenning became Elementary Principal in 1977-78 and R. Jay Stauffer assumed only Superintendent duties. Carl Watkins retired after thirty years as a teacher, coach and counselor. The P.T.A. was discontinued after forty years due to a lack of attendance at meetings and no officers for 1978-79. The student enrollment was 772 in K-12.

During the 1978-79 year, the elementary school was accepted into the North Central Association and the 1929 repository was opened on April 29, 1979 during the Open House. Included in the contents was a letter from the Board of Education, faculty, and pupils of 1929.

The 1929 container and all items, along with a new container and current items were sealed in the same 1929 repository on December 19, 1980.

The New Bremen Schools were selected to participate in a study involving 12 districts nationwide to develop new evaluation materials K-12.

The Elementary School and the High School were the first in Ohio to have a combined North Central evaluation and a K-12 State Inspection under the new 1983 Minimum Standards.

Today, the enrollment in K-12 is slightly over 740 students but the course offerings and variety in educational programs are the largest in the history of the local schools.

Former School Superintendents of the district were:

W.F. Torrence	1878-1883
C.W. Bente	1883-1884
C.W. Williamson	1884-1887
K. VanDerMaaten	1887-1894
E. Ward	1894-1895
William Reeder	1895-1896
G.W. Tooill	1896-1901
W.F. Trump	1901-1903
William Beachler	1903-1906
Charles W. Limbach	1906-1909
Charles C. Garman	1909-1915
Clyde Fogel	1915-1918
H.E. Ridgeway	1918-1918
Elmer W. Jordan	1918-1926
S.M. Archer	1926-1933
D.R. Bendure	1933-1946
Roger Downing	1946-1951
Carl Stebbins	1951-1953
Mark Houshower	1953-1959
Robert Strahm	1959-1966
James Abele	1966-1969

1983 School Staff and Administration

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Allen Paul, President
Lowell Ziegenbusch, Vice President
Adrian Moeller
Ned Dammeyer
Rita Heinkamp
Irene Jarvis, Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION

R. Jay Stauffer, Superintendent
Jerry Brown, High School Principal
Trudy Kuenning, Elementary Principal

ELEMENTARY FACULTY

KINDERGARTEN
Mary Alice Settlage
GRADE 1
June Jones
GRADE 1
Dorothy Hertenstein
GRADE 2
Marsha Wierwille
READING/MATH
Pam Hirschfeld
Miss Linda Kleinhenz
GIFTED EDUCATION
Margery Stueve
LEARNING DISABILITIES
Beverly Poppe
Cathy Maurer

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GRADE 2
Leah Wente
GRADE 3
Mary Jo Bey
GRADE 3
Dianne Dicke
GRADE 4
Sally Dicke
GRADE 4
Eugene This
GRADE 5
Karen Smith
GRADE 5
Bonnie Clark
GRADE 6
Monty McDermitt
GRADE 6
Dennis Burnell

LIBRARY/REM. READING
Marie McClurg
MUSIC
Edith Wissman
Randall Clark
ART
Elaine Crisp
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Edith Wissman
Sue Ritter

HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY
Keith Brooks - Guidance Counselor
Randall Clark - Music
Elaine Crisp - English
Terry Davis - Art
Nicholas Dingledine - English
Dan Drees - Science, Biology
Burton Fiser - Social Studies
Jan Fiser - English & Gifted Education
Val Harris - Social Studies, Physical Education
Alvin Hoying - Vocational Agriculture
Mary Jane Kaylor - Business Education
Jane Koenig - Learning Disabilities & Reading
Anita Martin - Business Education
Greg Maurer - Science, Health, and Physical Education
James Maurer - Math
Jerry Maxson - Math
Donald McDermitt - Industrial Arts
Daniel Miller - Chemistry, Science, Physics
Wendy Poppe - Librarian
Sue Ritter - Physical Education, Business Education
Sandra Schwartz - Vocational Home Economics
Vickie Shell - German
Barbara Seiter - English, Spanish
Gary Stueve - Social Studies

STAFF

SECRETARIES
Doris Howe
Nan Scheib
Nancy Waterman
NURSE
Nancy Conradi
CAFETERIA PERSONNEL
Catherine Grilliot
Dolores Opperman
Iva Lou Bergman
Betty Ahlers
Rita Schwartz
Irene Brussell
Betty Bergman
Mary Heitkamp
KINDERGARTEN AIDE
Nancy Gough

MAINTENANCE
Eugene Schwieterman
CUSTODIANS
David Waterman
Bonnie Schwieterman
Howard Scheer
Roger Busse
Laverta Scheer
Steve Patterson
BUS DRIVERS
Jerry Maxson
Don McDermitt
Monty McDermitt
Bonnie Rismiller
Dennis Burnell
Martin Topp

R. Jay Stauffer
February 7, 1983

Auglaize School, Workshop, and Group Home

In the early 1950s, there was a growing concern to provide a proper educational setting for children and adults in Auglaize County who were mentally retarded. For anything like this to become a reality, the parents of those children and adults with mental retardation would have to initiate such a program. With this in mind, parents of twenty-one potential students met at Memorial High School in St. Marys on July 21, 1953, to discuss such a program.

The requirements for a child to attend a class for the mentally retarded at that time were:

1. The child must be mobile
2. The child must be toilet trained
3. The child had to have an I.Q. between 25 and 50

Also, classes must have no fewer than eight or more than twelve pupils.

Much interest was shown toward getting a class started at this first meeting so temporary officers were elected. They were Mrs. Pauline Gilberg, President; Mrs. Henry Gruebmeyer, Vice President; Mr. Carl Apple, Treasurer; and Arline Caywood, Secretary.

Dr. Purcell, a consultant in the area of mental retardation, gave a presentation to the parents one week after their original meeting. He discussed teacher and pupil requirements, state aid, financing and also answered a lot of questions. Plans were also made to secure psychological testing for our children - one of the requirements for the school. The next question was where to find a room and teacher for a school for the mentally retarded.

Mrs. Quentin Bowers, mother of a retarded child, had been conducting a private kindergarten in her home in St. Marys for several years prior to this time. This was before public school kindergartens were in operation. Mrs. Bowers agreed to teach the class and enlarged their heated breezeway to provide ample room. Dr. Purcell agreed to approve this set-up for one year only.

Even though financing and transportation were major problems to be solved, school was scheduled to open on September 28, 1953.

Mrs. Harry Corderman spoke at one of the early meetings. She suggested incorporating as a non-profit organization and securing a "board of trustees". The name "board of trustees" was later changed to Advisory board. This board included superintendents, doctors, ministers, etc.

The teacher was paid $2900 per year and the helper $500. The driver using her own car received 6½¢ per mile plus $1.00 per hour. Parents paid $3 per week plus a lunch fee. After a trial period, children began carrying lunches.

Letters describing the work being done for the retarded and appealing for financial aid to run the school were sent to school boards, county commissioners, crippled children's society, churches, service organizations, and to individuals. The response to these letters was gratifying. The Auglaize County people have supported the school wholeheartedly from the very beginning.

In January of 1954, Mr. Paul Gilberg became the president of the council. The other three officers remained the same.

In the Fall of 1954, the commissioners agreed to pay the teacher's salary of $522 per month. Again letters appealing for funds were mailed out. Again the response was good.

In September of 1954, the class was moved to the basement of the elementary school in New Bremen. The old Boy Scout room (then being used for storage) was emptied and renovated. This work was done by parents and helpers. Father Meyer sent a group of men from Minster who painted the room.

Mrs. Bowers moved to Columbus to further her

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education in teaching retarded children, so it was necessary to acquire a new teacher.

Mrs. Donna Watkins was asked to teach the class. She finally agreed to give it a try. The try proved very successful, and the program progressed under her twenty-seven years of leadership.

The School started with eight pupils, but gradually more enrolled. The first bus was purchased in 1956.

During 1956 and 1957 a new elementary school was being built in New Bremen and the old one was torn down. At that time the building formerly housing the *New Bremen Sun* newspaper was up for sale. The building was purchased for $12,000.

The building (now the largest section of the workshop) was remodeled inside to provide two classrooms, an office, a kiln and storage room, a kitchen and a multi-purpose room.

The state funds, commissioners' funds and monies received from school boards paid the greater portion of operating the school.

In 1956, the Council was asked to share from the United Fund drive of St. Marys, Noble and St. Marys Townships.

In January of 1957, nineteen pupils were enrolled, three were from Shelby County. Shelby County paid its share of expenses on a pro-rated basis after a year's total expenses were calculated.

In March of 1957, Mrs. Watkins was made Principal of the School and Mr. Paul Gilberg, the council president, the mediary. Later his title was changed to superintendent.

The newly remodeled building was dedicated and an open house held on June 2, 1957, with Easter Streaker of Lima as guest speaker and the New Knoxville singers furnished the music. A letter was received from Dr. Purcell stating that ours was one of the top ranking schools for the mentally retarded in the state. In January of 1958 the council was able to complete payment of the school.

By this time the school was governed by a board of directors or school board. This board was composed of members from the advisory board. These people helped decide school policies, make decisions as to building repairs, school buses, hiring teachers, salaries, etc.

More children kept enrolling both from Shelby and Auglaize County and soon we outgrew our quarters. In 1959 the first addition to the original building was erected at a cost of $10,600.

In February of 1961, the third class was started. In October 1961, the revised code of the State of Ohio put the operation of the school under the County Welfare department. The council then leased the school building to the county for $1 per year. The titles of the school buses were transferred to the county.

In November of 1962 a .5 mill levy was passed by the voters of Auglaize County for operation of the school.

In 1965 the property north of the school was purchased for $14,000. That same year another addition (the room just west of the first addition) was built at a cost of $9,025. This room as well as the other one had to be equipped. The school now had forty-six pupils enrolled. In 1966 the .5 mill levy was renewed.

In October of 1967 the County Board of Mental Retardation (as required by the state) was formed. This replaced the County Welfare department as the governing body (169 Board) for the school.

Since the .5 mill levy had been passed and since the Number 169 board was operating the school, all council owned property was transferred to the Auglaize County Commissioners.

Shortly after this the commissioners at the request of the Number 169 board purchased the McKay Woolen Mill property just west of the school. The old brick woolen mill was demolished, and the house was moved. A new portion of the school was built, and the old one was remodeled into a sheltered workshop.

By a ruling of the attorney general of the state of Ohio, county levy monies for operating Retarded Classes could be used for building schools for the retarded as well as for operating expenses. And so it was that the new school was built and the old one remodeled at a total cost of $296,979.

This did not include any equipment, so again the council with the help of individuals and organizations plus pecan profits, was able to spend in excess of $18,000 for kitchen equipment, drapes, desks, chairs. At one time enrollment went just over the 100 mark.

For some years Shelby County had been planning on facilities of their own. So from 1976 through 1978 the Shelby County pupils withdrew from our school and workshop as their facilities were made available.

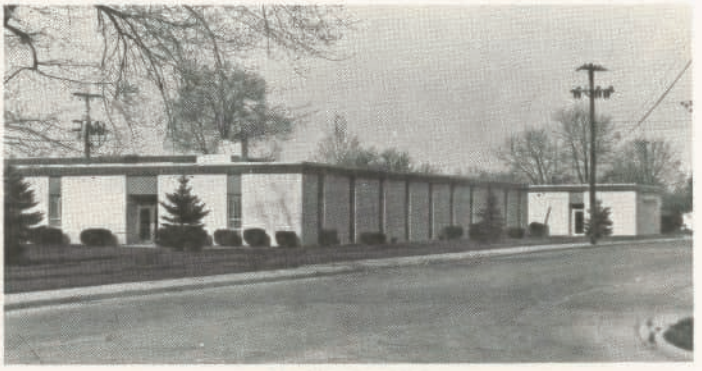
During the mid 1970's, parents started working as problem solvers again. There was a great concern about what would happen to their sons and daughters when parents were no longer around to take care of them. It was decided that a residential home for the mentally retarded was a must.

In 1976, an appeal was made to the Number 169 board. Then in January of 1977, a parent advisory committee from the council met with the Number 169 board and the commissioners to see what could be done.

The board and the commissioners agreed that such a home was needed. The council was able to turn over $65,000 to the board toward this project. Plans for this structure went forward and bids were let on May 8, 1978.

The Residential or Group Home was constructed just east of Auglaize Acres (Wapakoneta) on land owned by the county. The first residents moved in to the Group Home in January of 1980. There are presently twelve adults living at the Group Home and attending our Adult Workshop Program. They live at the Group Home under the supervision of houseparents employed by the Board.

At the present time, the Auglaize County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities provides programming for the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled of Auglaize County.



Auglaize School

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Village Offices

Village and Township Governments



Mayor Richard Wiedeman

New Bremen Village Council

The council consists of six members, who are elected for a term of four years. Four members are elected in one year; then two years later, two council members, plus the village clerk and mayor are elected.

The council has six working committees, which are appointed by the mayor each year. The 1983 committees are:

Finance	Karl Hagerstrand - Chairman Bev Miller Don Applegate
Fire	Bev Miller - Chairman Tom Kuenning Don Applegate
Park & Recreation	Nancy Waterman - Chairman Tom Kuenning Don Hoelscher
Police	Don Applegate - Chairman Nancy Waterman Karl Hagerstrand
Street & Sewer	Tom Kuenning - Chairman Nancy Waterman Don Hoelscher
Utilities & Refuse	Don Hoelscher - Chairman Karl Hagerstrand Bev Miller



NEW BREMEN VILLAGE COUNCIL
Standing, left to right: Karl Hagerstrand and Tom Kuenning. Seated, left to right: Don Applegate, Don Hoelscher and Bev Miller. Nancy Waterman absent due to illness.

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VILLAGE OFFICE STAFF
Pictured left to right: Office Clerk Diane Gast, Village Administrator Clarence B. Art, Office Clerk Sue Hirschfeld, Deputy Clerk Rosemary Martin and seated, Jean K. Ahlers, Clerk-Treasurer.

Various projects of the village through the 70's, and 80's included the following:

1974-1975 - New water tower, constructed on West Monroe Street.

September 11, 1973 - Council passed an ordinance for a 1% city income tax, effective January 1, 1974.

In the late 70's, the following land was annexed to the village: Teton Subdivision, Beatrice Foods, Riggs Trucking and Crown Controls property west of New Bremen.

In 1975, the New Bremen Emergency Squad was established by the village council.

1980 - A new utility building was constructed for the electrical trucks and equipment on South Herman Street, by the water plant.

1981 - A new sanitary sewer was put in from Plum Street, down main to Water Street, and then to the sewer plant.

In 1981, the construction of a new Municipal Building was started. This building was dedicated in May of 1982. The building contains the Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Squad, and administrative offices. The old Fire Department was formerly housed at 24 South Washington, the Police and Emergency Squad in the utility building at 307 South Herman, and the administrative offices at 17 South Walnut.

In 1982, a project was started for a new water treatment plant west of New Bremen on the Rod & Gun Club property, where a new well was dug.

Also in 1982, a new storm sewer was constructed from First Street, along the railroad to Rt. 66A.

Other ongoing projects include the repairing of at least one street (paving, repairing of water lines, sewer lines, gas lines, curbing & sidewalks) per year, along with the maintenance of other emergency repair work as required.

Plans are presently being developed for the construction of an electrical substation on South Herman Street.

The approximate budget for the village of New Bremen in 1983 is $4,000,000. Of that amount, approximately $2,250,000 is for the operation of the Electrical Department. The balance of the budget covers police, fire, administration, street construction, state highway, library, water department, sewer, refuse, revenue sharing, 5 mill levy, recreation, and swimming pool.

Village Council

Taken from council minutes from 1875-1983. Summarized by Sue Maxson.

Since the early days of New Bremen, records show that a mayor and elected officials have always been responsible for the government of our town. The times may be different, but the problems are quite similar. Early councils were concerned with gravel and bricks for streets and sidewalks. In 1881, gravel cost 65¢ a load. In the middle to late 1800's, each citizen was expected to work two days on the streets.

Items of great concern are shown in the minutes regarding the bridges over the canal and their keepers. Various fire companies presented their expenditures, and there were numerous instructions for the marshall about animals running loose, tramps to be fed or the local calaboose that needed cleaning.

To light the streets, someone was hired each year to light and extinguish the lamps. In 1880, Henry Koeper was paid $120 for the year. In 1888, natural gas was brought into New Bremen from local wells. The cost for the first year which included heating the town hall was $177.50. By 1893, the village was negotiating to buy the proper equipment for our own electric company.

Another point of discussion that came up often was the building of cisterns on various corners in town to supply water for the fire hoses. The fire chief even requested holes in the bridges for this purpose.

During the late 1890's and the early 1900's, there were great changes with the addition of electricity and natural gas. With the coming of the telephone in 1897 and the water works in 1903, the village felt very progressive.

Standing committees in 1887 were: Improvements, Fire Departments and Public Buildings, Finance, Street Lighting, and Ordinances and Resolutions.

New Bremen Street Department



Pictured left to right: Operator Tim Garman, Assistant Superintendent Larry Wissman and Street Superintendent Richard Plattner.

The Village Street Department is responsible for the maintenance of all streets and alleys and also for the maintenance of all the sewers in the village. The department has a Wayne street sweeper and also two backhoe's which are shared with the water department. The Village has three

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dump trucks, two of which are used to plow snow. The Village garage is located at 304 South Herman Street. The department has three full time employees.

New Bremen Sewer Department



Pictured on the left is Operator Dave Goodwin and Second Class Wastewater Operator Jerry Fischbach.

The flow to the activated sludge sewer plant is approximately 260,000 gallons per day. The sewer plant built in the early 1930's is getting to the point where it is going to have to be replaced. The village for some years has been trying to get a 75% Federal grant with no success at the present. The new plant being considered would be an aerated lagoon system and would include the sewage from Beatrice Foods which at the present has their own plant. The present plant has a BOD & SS removal of over 90% with our biggest problem being excessive flow in rainy weather. At this time, the sewage bill is based on 35% of the water bill. The department has two full time employees who also are responsible for the reading of electric and water meters.

New Bremen Electric Department



Pictured left to right: Superintendent Roy Houseworth, Assistant Superintendant Charles Garman, Lineman Jon Belton and Lineman Robert Moeller.

New Bremen has 1062 customers with three being industrial, Crown Control, Beatrice Foods and Stamco, and 107 being commercial. The Village buys power from Dayton Power and Light at 12470 volts but before the year is over we should have completed a 69000 volt substation. The Village is responsible for the distribution of electric to all our customers and for the collection of all accounts. Presently, the village has two McCabe Power bucket trucks and one digger truck to service the electrical system. The department has four employees who also work on all repairs to the water system.

New Bremen Water Plant



Pictured on the left is Class I Water Plant Operator James Cox and on the right Operator Herman Dircksen.

Presently, New Bremen pumps approximately 280,000 gallons of water per day. Our largest customer being Beatrice Foods who uses approximately 70,000 gallons per day. At this time we have three wells by the water plant at 307 South Herman Street and one well at the Rod and Gun Club for an emergency back up well. The water is softened by four zeolite softeners. Sodium silicate is added to coat the lines. Polyphosphate is added to keep the iron in suspension, caustic soda is used for PH adjustment and chlorine for disinfection. The Village has two water towers, one being 100,000 gallon and the newest one being 200,000 gallon. The Village has 1001 metered customers. The plant is operated by two men except for weekends where the duties are also shared with the Electric department.

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New Bremen Fire Department



1983 New Bremen Voluntary Fire Department - First row: Clarence Topp (Ret.); Ross Rupert (Ret. Chief); John Wissman (Ret. Capt.); Paul Pape (Ret. Asst. Chief); Richard Tontrup (Ret.); Jack Scheer (Ret. Lt.); Richard Wissman (Ret. Capt.); Don Poppe (Ret.), Robt. Niemeyer (Ret.). Second row: Wm. Meiring, Pres.; Robt. Wissman, 2nd Sgt.; Dennis Gruebmeyer, 1st Sgt.; Neal Hittepole; Chas. Garman, Asst. Chief; Dave Kuck, Chief; Everett Topp, 2nd Capt.; Dennis Klingler; Stan Quellhorst. Third row: Tom Wente, 2nd Lt.; Steve Hartwig; Robt. Kuck; Lee Kuck 1st Lt.; John Turner; Robt. Moeller, Sec. Treas.; Robt. Ziegenbusch; Jim Pape; Richard Howell. Fourth row: Fred Opperman, 1st Capt.; Doug Hartwig; John Pape; Stan Kuenning; Don Ruese, Vice Pres. Absent: Greg Gast and Rod Miller.

The New Bremen Voluntary Fire Department had its start in the early history of New Bremen. The Northern Company was formed by order of the Village Council on June 9, 1857. The Cataract Fire Company was formed about 1869. Two other companies were the Alert Hook and Ladder Company and the Old Reliable Fire Company, but the histories of the latter two can not be verified at this time.

The Northern Fire Company was housed in the Fire House and Town Hall located in the old City Park on North Main Street. That building was demolished in 1955 to make room for the United States Post Office and the bank building which now stands at that location. The Cataract Fire Company was located in the Fire House on South Washington Street, where the trucks were housed until February 27, 1982. At that time, the equipment was moved to the new Fire Station on North Washington Street. The Alert Hook and Ladder Company and the Old Reliable Fire Company were active until about 1920, but it is unclear where they were housed. Each of the four companies worked together, but remained separate companies until about 1920.

In the early days of the fire alarm system, there was nothing more than a fire bell. After that came a steam whistle and then the electric siren. Today the firemen are alerted by pagers which each fireman carries or keeps close by twenty-four hours of every day. All emergency calls go to the Auglaize County Central Dispatch at the Sheriff's office and they dispatch our firemen through radio communications.

On March 1, 1892, Henry Hartwig, a member of the Northern Fire Company was killed in an explosion at Garmhausen Store in Lock Two. To our knowledge, no other firemen was seriously hurt in the line of duty.

The early equipment consisted of hand pumpers and hose carts. Then came horse drawn pumpers and then the motorized equipment.

The Fire Department equipment today consists of a 1962 Chevrolet Midship Pumper which carries an 800 gallon tank and pumps 750 gallons per minute, a 1969 Chevrolet Equipment Van, a 1972 Chevrolet Front Mount Pumper which carried 1000 gallons and pumps 750 gallons per minute, a 1973 Chevrolet Grass Fire Pickup, a 1981 Pierce Midship Pumper, and a five-man cab which carried 1250 gallons and pumps 1500 gallons per minute.

The Fireman's Picnic is held every year in the park on Plum Street in July to help raise money for additional equipment. Water ball contests are held with neighboring Fire Departments competing for the trophies.

L. Dorfer was named the first Fire Chief of the combined Fire Departments of New Bremen in 1884. Others have been Chief Schwepe, Chief Schulte, Chief Block, Chief John Scheer, Chief Robert Gruebmeyer, Chief Ross Rupert, Jr.

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and the present Chief is Dave Kuck. The Assistant Chief is Charles Garman.



Moved into new Fire Station February 27, 1982.

New Bremen Police Department

The New Bremen Police Department as of January 1, 1983 is manned by five full time police officers and one part time officer. With five full time officers the police department is able to maintain full twenty-four hour police coverage of the Village with two man, two car, coverage during the peak hours of activity. Due to the fact that the New Bremen Police Department is a young department over half of the full time officers have college training in the field of law enforcement. Training for the officers is important to provide effective law enforcement services and it is strongly stressed to the officers.

In March of 1982 the New Bremen Police Department moved into their new facilities located at 214 North Washington Street, which enabled them to become more centrally located within the community. The police departments new facilities have expanded the police officers ability to better serve the community by improving communications between other law enforcement agencies and by serving as a place to house new up-dated equipment.



NEW BREMEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Left to right: Steve Hertenstein; Doug Harrod, Chief; Ronny Tontrup; Dale Wilson; Ken Boyd.

The New Bremen Police Department attempts to work closely with businessmen, school officials and the local citizens to meet the community's demands for effective police services. The police department has started several new programs to better serve the community such as the "bad check program" and will continue to meet the communities needs with such new programs as "Neighborhood Watch Areas" and "Operation Crime Alert".

The present members of the New Bremen Police Department are: Douglas F. Harrod, Chief of Police; Ronny N. Tontrup, Sergeant; Dale A. Wilson, Patrolman; Kenneth R. Boyd, Patrolman; Steven W. Hertenstein, Patrolman; Jon Belton, Part-time Patrolman.

German Township Trustees

At the time of its settlement, German Township was in Mercer and Darke Counties and included both German and Jackson townships in present-day Auglaize County.

Auglaize County was formed in 1848. The township divided into two portions by a special act of the legislature in 1858, although it had already been separated into two precincts by the legislature of 1851. The northern portion kept the original name while the southern portion was designated Jackson township.

The township history is so closely interwoven with that of the village of New Bremen that it is necessary to treat both together. It is believed that the first settlements in the township were located in the town and the townships growth can be accurately followed by a study of New Bremen.

Nearly the entire township is composed of black loamy soil. It has been well ditched and its roads are among the best of the county. It can be safely said that no farmers in the county are more up-to-date and progressive than those found in German township.

The first township trustees were appointed on March 5, 1838. They were Peter Opdyke, J.W. Roap, Hamilton Meyer, and J.B. Mesloh. The job of township trustee has changed over the years. Their first job was to take care of the poor. Later on, taking care of roads outside the corporation limits and taking care of the cemeteries were added to their duties. Today their jobs differ from those of 1838. They take care of 12.6 miles of roads in German Township. All three trustees sit on the Board of Trustees of Joint Township District Memorial Hospital, on the Auglaize County Regional Planning Board, and they meet with the New Bremen-German Township Fire Department. They take care of one cemetery and have various other jobs.

The history of the board shows that up to 1855 the trustee was an appointed position. Then in April of 1855 it became an elected position as it continues today. All three trustees and the clerk and treasurer were elected for one year term. In 1887, this was changed, and all trustees ran for a three year term, while the clerk and the treasurer ran for a two year term. In 1923, the positions of clerk and treasurer were combined into one job of clerk.

Early records show that the first farm land in German Township sold for $1.25 an acre. It is also interesting to note that in the 1850s only two meetings were held per year. In 1894, it was decided to hold as many meetings as were needed to carry on township business. Today there are twelve monthly meetings.

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In June of 1913, the Board of Trustees put before the voters an issue to construct sidewalks from the north corporation limits to German Protestant Cemetery. The issue passed and the sidewalks were constructed for a cost of $1500.

On September 3, 1946, the Trustees of German Township passed by resolution a motion to join with Jackson, Noble, and St. Marys Township to form the Joint Township District Memorial Hospital. This project has grown throughout the years, and today the hospital is one of the largest employers in Auglaize County.

In the fall of 1980 the voters of German Township were asked to approve a 1.15 mill levy for the purchase of a new fire truck. The issue passed, and because of this action the New Bremen-German Township Fire Department is one of the best equipped Fire Departments in the area.

There is a list of those who have filled the offices of Township Trustees, Township Clerk and Township Treasurer as they are taken from past records. Following are the officers from the years 1853 and 1982.

1853	1982
John B. Mesloh	Allen Bushman
Elerhard Fricke	Vernon Paul
Wilhem Balgenort	David Albers
Christian Schmidt - Clerk	Dennis Dicke - Clerk
B. Koop - Treasurer	

New Bremen Branch Library Auglaize County Public Library

When the Friends of the New Bremen Library demonstrated the need for library services in New Bremen, the Board of Trustees of the Auglaize Public Library on September 21, 1962, designated ours an official branch.

Our first official librarian was Judy Dietrich Horn. The Friends continued their support, and Elaine Johnston served as liaison to the library and helped order books. Irene Wellemeyer and Betty Komminsk helped with the cataloging, for now the book collection was into the thousands. Our increased status made us eligible for a $500 donation from the Bettelini Fund of St. Marys. The Tinnerman Dance Fans donated $400 and the Lions Club continued their support.

In 1964, the County Board took over the finances and the ordering and cataloging. There was still much to be done on the local level. Eileen Dicke suggested that we have a record collection; we had the first in the county system. It was provided by the County Board and Betty Komminsk who also provided a record browser. Recently, the Friends purchased two new record browsers. An American flag was given to the library in 1963 by the American Legion Auxiliary, and Otto Purpus gave us an outdoor flag.

In 1965, Melba Roediger became librarian. Soon Sue Maxson joined her as assistant. They have served us admirably ever since. In 1963, the first story hour was led by Ann Kuhn. Eighty-six children took part in the program. In 1967, the story hour became a regular feature except during the time of the building program. Since moving into our new building, two sessions are held weekly during the school year. Occasional story programs are held in the summer with volunteer help.



Public Library — built in 1973.

Because of growing interest in the history of New Bremen, the Friends decided to have the defunct *New Bremen Sun* bound. Eugene Bielefeld had donated issues of 1888 to 1961 to the library. The Lions Club helped with this project. Later it was decided to microfilm the English issues. Betty and Diane Komminsk provided for this and also gave the library a microfilm reader to give the public access to bygone days. To complete the news file, the German issues of the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio,* which were in the possession of the Ohio Historical Society, were also microfilmed.

When the state required the bank building to be torn down in 1969, the New Bremen School Board made room for the library in the new wing of the high school. Paul Lietz built a partition in the lower hall so the library premises could be separate.

The library was growing and needed a place of its own. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Komminsk made a generous donation to build a building. The Village added to these funds and donated the park land as a site. The trustees of the Auglaize County Public Library signed a contract to repay the village funds in rent in ten years with a further lease for an additional twenty years.

Architects Freytag and Freytag were hired. The building was built on Washington Street and opened in August of 1973.

To paint the inside and lay the carpet, a group of young couples were called upon. They were Cal and Esther Slattery, Carl and Melba Roediger, Sue and Jerry Maxson, Barbara and Lowell Ziegenbusch, Marge Stueve, Bob and Mary Finke, Lowell Quellhorst and Wayne Brady. David Schwieterman, a long-time friend of the library, led a fund drive to furnish carpeting. The village and the JC's transported the furniture. Jackson Jewelers provided the library with a clock. The Ritters donated outside lighting. The Twig Benders purchased a display case for the entry. The 20th Century Club and Reuben Thiesing donated the charge desk. The Friends purchased furniture for the lounge area. The children's section was furnished with the original shelving and the County Board bought new furniture for the adult section. Paul Headapohl through the years has furnished flower displays on a regular basis. The Women's Club gave shrubbery, and the JC's and the Men's Garden Club helped with the landscaping. The Village Council purchased lettering for the outside of the building and a grand opening was held in October of 1973.

Over the years, many have donated both new and used books. The James Dicke family has frequently added to the

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collection. Many have taken advantage of the Memorial Fund to honor family and friends, and at the same time to enhance the library. One special acquisition was the Elmer Ende Collection, now housed on special shelves. Mrs. Ende's gift of Professor Ende's books enriched the library because it included many classics, special reference books, art books, and books in foreign languages. It also included reproductions of famous paintings which have been processed and are now available for loan.

From the distribution of a few hundred books in 1955-56 by small volunteer groups, the library has grown into a multi-service institution. By 1982, the collection numbered thousands, and the circulation for that year reached 37,697.

As we go into the information age, the Library hopes to continue its service to the Village of New Bremen at a high level.

The County Board Trustees from New Bremen have been: Mr. Walter White, 1964-65; Mrs. Lewis Komminsk, 1965-67; Mr. James R. Cumming, 1967-81; and Mrs. James R. Cumming, 1981-present.

New Bremen Post Office



Post Office and First National Bank

The name of this German settlement was changed from Bremen to New Bremen in 1835 because there already was another Bremen post office in Fairfield County. Reverend L.H. Meyer of Cincinnati, who joined the colony in 1835 as the first resident pastor, was appointed the first Postmaster by President Andrew Jackson. The post office has been located at a number of places. It was once at 36 South Washington Street, the Koeper Building at South Washington Street with George Golbrecht as Postmaster, at the southeast corner of Main and Monroe in the home built by Charles Boesel, at the corner of North Washington and Monroe in 1955 and on North Main Street in old City Park.

Through the years, some of the postmasters have been:

1835 -	Rev. L.H. Meyer
- 1863	J. Adam Kuenzel
1868 - 1869	John C. Mesloh
1869 - 1880	Dr. William Schulenberg
1910 - 1914	G.C. Golbrecht
1914 - 1922	L. Kunning
1922 - 1930	R.W. Kuck
1930 - 1934	Cade Schulenberg
1934 - 1963	Herman J. Laut
1963 - 1975	Orville C. Ruedebusch
1975 -	Kenneth R. Wissman

Submitted by Ken Wissman.

New Bremen Postal Service

The following article concerning the New Bremen Postal Service goes back in the memory of the writer to about the year 1915. The post office was located at that time in an old frame two-story building on South Washington Street near Monroe Street. There were living quarters upstairs, a millinery store on the north side ground floor and the post office was on the south side. August Gobrecht was the postmaster, and two or three of his daughters clerked during the afternoon rush hour, when the *Evening Leader* arrived. The lobby was usually filled at that time with folks waiting for their newspaper. Each patron rented a pigeon hole for his mail, but he had to be served by the clerks since there were no lock boxes at that time. All mail was handed to the patron by the postal clerks, Postmaster Gobrecht resigned and accepted a position as rural mail carrier on Rural Route One and Lafe Kunning became postmaster about 1918.

The post office was moved to the Grothaus Building at the corner of West Monroe and South Main Street. Shortly thereafter Congress passed a bill establishing village mail carrier service to small qualifying post offices. New Bremen qualified, but Postmaster Kunning did not apply for the service. He felt he would be denying the elderly people of their one big event each afternoon of going to the post office for their *Evening Leader.*

After Lafe Kunning's term expired, R.W. Kuck became postmaster. One of his first actions was to apply for carrier service in New Bremen. Before applying for the carrier service, Mr. Kuck contacted Frank Buckloh who had worked for him in his implement business and Walter Behm, this writer, with whom he was well acquainted. Mr. Kuck had called on me quite often when he was in need of a substitute, either on one of the rural routes or dumping mail bags during catalog arrival or some other need.

Frank and I both accepted. The Post Office Department granted village mail delivery service effective on July 1, 1923. Mr. Buckloh undertook the task of delivering the mail for the entire village. Mr. Kuck was disappointed in the Department's action but gave Mr. Buckloh the task of carrying out the Post Office Department's orders. Starting on July 1, 1923, Frank attempted to serve all the New Bremen patrons. With the help of all employees available in the Post Office for the tasks of sorting, casing, strapping out bundles for delivery, Frank worked from 6:30 in the morning until after dark with a flashlight for the first four days. This included July 4th, which was supposed to be a holiday, but he never got any mail delivered on the west side of town.

On July 4th a grand homecoming celebration was planned for President Warren G. Harding in his hometown of Marion, Ohio. Mr. Kuck invited my father, J.W. Behm, to go with him to Marion to see the Post Master General about allowing only one carrier to serve the entire town of New Bremen.

During the parade, Mr. Kuck spotted the Postmaster General in his big black limousine, which was moving slowly down the street. Mr. Kuck dashed out into the street, leaned over into the back seat of the Postmaster General's car and said, "I am R.W. Kuck, Postmaster at New Bremen, Ohio. You granted me village carrier service in New Bremen, but with only one carrier. Either you grant me another carrier or take off the one you did allow." The Postmaster General said, "Alright, Mr. Kuck, starting tomorrow, July 5th, put

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on another carrier. Have a telegram on my desk tomorrow and I'll sign the necessary forms making the appointment official."



J. Wilson Behm, rural carrier, 1914

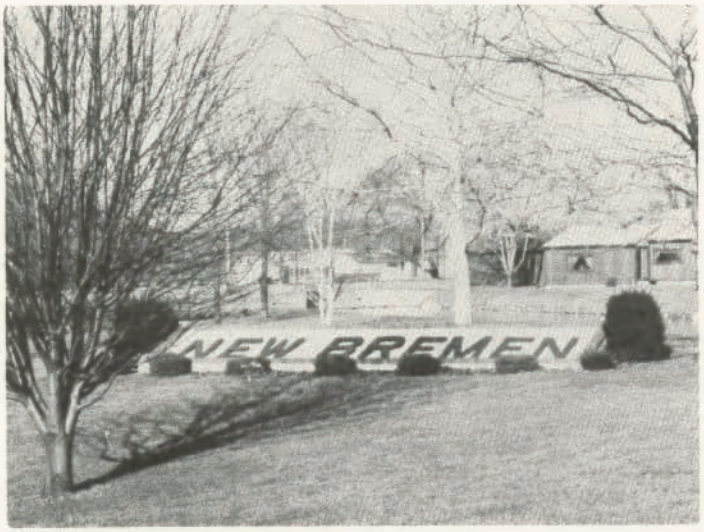
On July 5, 1923, my appointment became official and during the next forty-six years I served as carrier, Assistant to the Postmaster during the war while Mr. O.C. Ruedebusch was in the service, then back again to carrier until the death of Postmaster Herman Laut. Then I again became Assistant to the Postmaster until my retirement after forty-six years and four months of service.

The requirement to be a rural carrier in the early years was to own a carriage and two horses. The starting salary was $9,000 per year.

I cannot begin to remember all the persons who were employed at the Post Office during my time, but I'll name the postmasters. R.W. Kuck, Cade Schulenburg, Herman (Bud) Laut, and Orville C. Ruedebusch. Regular rural carriers were J. Wilson Behm, A.M. Steinebrey, Otto Schneider, a substitute, and Lester Blanke.

In conclusion, our post office went from a third class to second class and then to first class during my years of service. *Submitted by: Walter Behm.*







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BUSINESSES OF NEW BREMEN

Present Businesses

Advance Auto
American Budget
Auglaize Landmark
Aurora's Gifts
Barn 66
Beatrice Foods
Alvin Bruns
Deb's Hair Styling
Cornerstone Shop
Crown
Dicke's Service Station
Doris Beauty Shop
Ernie's Barber Shop
First National Bank
Friemering's
Gagel Plumbing
Gilberg's
Roger Henkener Law
Nathan Hirschfeld
Paul Hoffman Decorating
Hotel Bar & Restaurant
Howell's IGA
Jackson's Jewelry
Kinninger Welding
Kuck Welding
Lampert's Super Market
Lee's Printing
Lietz Furniture Shop
Lone Pine Nursing Home
Minnich Carry Out
Minster Farmers Exchange
Minster State Bank
Moeller Insurance
Moeller's Refrigeration
Nationwide Insurance Co.
New Bremen Auto Parts
New Bremen Ins. Agency
New Bremen Machine & Tool
New Bremen Post Office
Nupco Plastic Tubing
David Pape, Accountant
Pohlman Bros. Supply
Prenger's Marathon
Ray-Ann Lanes
Ron Riebel, DDS
Ritter Electric
Rump's
Ruth's Beauty Shop
Schwartz Brothers Garage
Schwietermans Drug Store
Serendipity Nursery School
Stamco
Roman Stueve Plumbing
Gene Topp Drainage
Vornholt Funeral Home
Walt's Hair Styling
Warehouse Carpets
Western Ohio Hardware
White Mountain Restaurant
Wint's Restaurant
Ziegenbusch Plumbing

Businesses (No longer operating)

Arcade Dept. Store
Auglaize Furniture
Case Motor Company
Consolidated Products Co.
First School Bus Driver
J.F. Lanfersieck
Lanfersieck & Grothaus
Mueller's Mens Wear
New Bremen Postal Service
New Bremen Rubber Co.
Schulenberg's Store
Shelper Meat Market







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Earl and Robert Kuenning

Advance Auto Company, Inc.

A Chevrolet dealership since October 20, 1928, the business was started by Earl E. Kuenning and is still operated today by his son, Robert E. Kuenning.

From January, 1921, Earl Kuenning became the principal operator of the Advance Implement Company, which then handled Ford cars, trucks, tractors and related farm equipment until 1927. A Pontiac franchise was held for a brief time during 1928.

On October 20, 1928, Mr. Kuenning was granted a franchise from Chevrolet under the name of Advance Auto Company. The location and main building at 407 West Monroe Street, are still being used today.

Earl Kuenning also purchased and operated the first New Bremen School Bus in 1923. He drove the bus until 1928, then Leo Huenke operated the bus for the next five years until 1933. It then returned to Earl and he again operated the bus for thirteen more years until 1946, after which the school then began purchasing their own buses. The Chevrolet dealership was operated by Earl until 1957, at which time he retired from active daily participation, but remained as an officer.

On January 1, 1957, the business was incorporated. Robert E. Kuenning assumed daily operations and still does to the present day. *Submitted by Robert Kuenning.*

American Budget Company

American Budget Company was incorporated under the laws of Ohio on October 8, 1928, and is not a subsidiary of any other corporation. Its Executive Offices are located at 16 South Washington Street, New Bremen, Ohio. Operating loan offices are located in Lima, Sidney, St. Marys, Versailles, Coldwater, Wapakoneta, and New Bremen.

The Company owns and controls 100% of American Budget Mortgage Company which makes loans in amounts

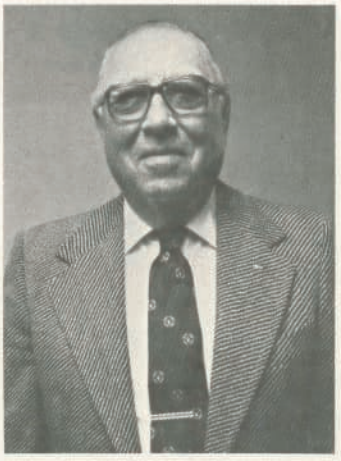


greater than the $5,000 small loan limit, securing same by a first or second mortage on real estate and/or other collateral.

The Company also owns and controls 100% of New Bremen Life Insurance Company, an Arizona based insurance affiliate which functions as a reinsurer of credit life and accident and health insurance related to loan and retail accounts.

As a licensed lender in the state of Ohio, the Company makes installment loans to credit-worthy borrowers on signature only, chattel property and real estate collateral. These loans are made for consolidating outstanding bills, home improvements, college tuition, medical expenses and many other worthwhile purposes.

American Budget Company also purchases retail installment contracts from selected dealers and merchants selling services, automobiles, household goods, appliances and other items on a time payment basis, thus permitting the consumer to acquire chattel goods when needed and to pay for their purchases in monthly installments from future income.



Lloyd Laut



Charles Wierwille

Mr. Lloyd J. Laut is Chairman of the Board and President. He joined the Company in 1936, became chief operating officer and general manager in 1942, retired from operations in 1968 and has always been active in the affairs of the Company.

Mr. Charles Wierwille is Executive Vice President and Treasurer. He joined the Company in 1951 and has been ac-

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tive in the management of the Company since that date. He became chief operating and administrative officer, general manager and treasurer in 1968. Mr. Wierwille is a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Ohio Consumer Finance Association.

Mrs. Dorothy M. Quellhorst is Assistant Treasurer. She joined the Company in 1966 and is responsible for all financial reports of the Company.

Mr. John Wierwille is Branch Manager and Assistant Secretary. He joined the Company in 1977.

Miss Bernice Bertke joined the Company in 1982 and is Cashier. *Submitted by Charles Wierwille.*

Auglaize Landmark, Inc.
(Formerly Auglaize County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association Inc.) Wapakoneta, Ohio

In November, 1933, a group of Auglaize County farmers met in St. Marys, Ohio, for the purpose of forming a cooperative association under the provisions of the General Code of the State of Ohio. On December 9, 1933, Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State of Ohio, for the Auglaize County Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, Inc. The five originally appointed directors of the newly formed cooperative who signed the Articles were: Elmer F. Kruse, Route 3, St. Marys; Carl E. Lawler, Route 1, St. Marys; Lafe Moeller, Route 2, St. Marys; George H. Holtkamp, Route 2, Botkins; and Clyde Copeland, Route 1, Wapakoneta. Mr. Kruse served as the cooperatives first president. Mr. Lawler and Mrs. Ruth Arnold Steva served as secretary pro-tem until March of 1934 when Mr. Roy Williams was elected as Secretary.

The association's offices were in St. Marys. Mr. Willard Burgess was appointed as the cooperatives first manager. At first, activities centered around livestock sales and feed distribution. Also, during the first few months of existence, (quoting from March, 1934, minutes) "fertilizer was being trucked from the plant at Lockland by trucks which had delivered livestock to Cincinnati; 100 bushels of soybeans have been bought." In those same minutes, it was reported that monthly sales amounted to $2,250 with profits of about $200.

As the months rolled by, the operation of the livestock functions were accepted by Producers Cooperative Commission Association. The Farm Bureau Coop then concentrated its efforts in the providing of supplies for its members and patrons. Main emphasis was placed on feed, fertilizer, petroleum and grain marketing. This is true yet today. The one great change is that sales during the fiscal year 1982, amounted to just over $25 million. The purpose then as today is to serve the members and patrons in those areas in which there is benefit in working together.

In December of 1972, the name of the cooperative was changed to Auglaize Landmark, Inc. The main office has been moved to Wapakoneta. Branches operated in Auglaize County include New Bremen, New Knoxville, St. Marys, and Uniopolis. Products offered, services rendered and available facilities and equipment are constantly evaluated to be sure they still meet the needs of patrons in this two-county area.

Present officers of Auglaize Landmark, Inc. are: President Richard Lowry, Uniopolis; Vice President Arden Brown of R#1, Wapakoneta; Secretary David Dickman of R#1, New Bremen; and Treasurer Ken Ankerman of #1, St. Marys. Other Board Members are Vic Fledderjohann of R#2, St. Marys; Mike Lehman of R#6, Cridersville; and Marvin Homan of R#1, New Bremen. The present Manager of Landmark is Cliff Byers of St. Marys.

Through the years, patrons, board members, managers and employees have changed and will continue to change. The name may even change from Auglaize Landmark, Inc., but the cooperative will continue to exist as long as it fills the needs of its members, patrons and owners.

Current employees in New Bremen are David Tebbe, Mgr., Elmer Will and Jean Schroer. *Submitted by Jean Schroer.*

Aurora's Gifts and Ed's Sports-Pro Shops

The vigor and the resiliency, the desire for change, and the belief in wood-working characterized the beginning of Ed's Novelty Shop, owned by Edward August Bushman of R. #1, East State Route 274, of New Bremen. It is a full five years since the wood shop started as a hobby. The machines were bought and set up in two buildings and the art of making children's musical rockers, chairs of different types of woods, shapes, sizes and colors, wooden cars, trains, barns, doll-houses, picture frames and doll furniture was begun. It was a most promising ground. Its hopes of making big production have changed because of frustrations in some areas, but fulfillment in others.

Through the years, the store was expanded to include tools, bait, fishing equipment and novelties of all kinds.

The year of 1982 marked the change of management and expansion. With getting to know a little bit more about the different segments of competitive marketing without falling victim to the recession and inflation, Aurora B. Catalan took over. The store had a slight facelift and was named Aurora's Gifts and Ed's Sports-Pro Shop. With the addition of designer shirts, sweaters, jeans embroideries, jewelries, and shoes in its offerings, there is the hope of further expansion in many more years to come. *Submitted by Aurora Catalan.*

Barn 66 Carry-out

In 1895, the building was built by Julius Boesel and was used as a carriage house and barn, and was part of the entire estate. In 1953, Luther Hirschfeld bought the building from Arlie Wiessinger. Mr. Hirschfeld sold the home to Herbert Barlage.

Luther Hirschfeld started the carry-out business, now known as Barn 66 Carry-out, in March of 1955.

Luther Hirschfeld sold the business to William and Edna Moore in January of 1977. The drive-thru addition was added to the building structure in May of 1978. The Moore family is William B. Moore, Edna E. Moore, William N. Moore (age 12), and Joseph A. Moore (age 6). *Submitted by Edna Moore.*

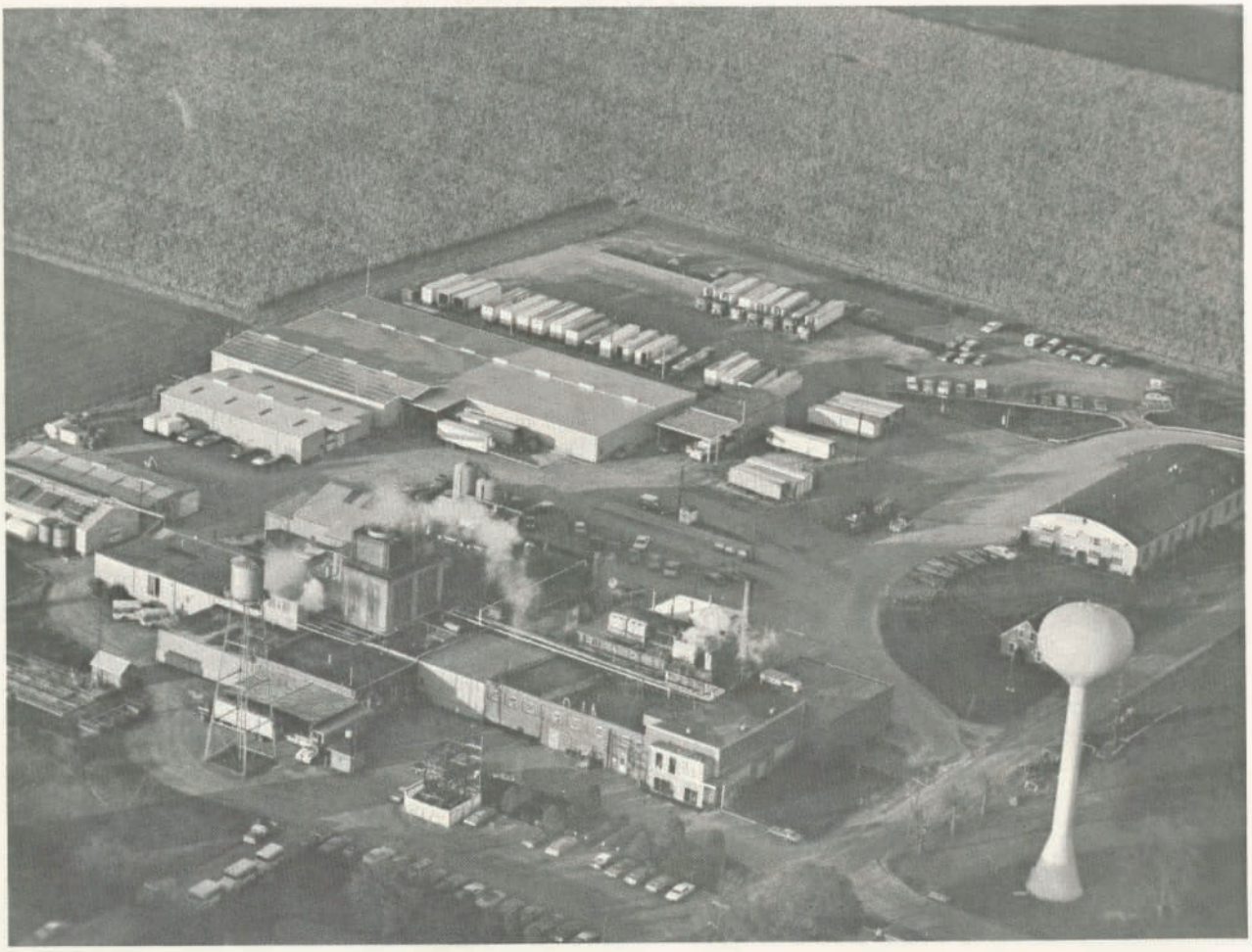
Beatrice Foods
(White Mountain Creamery)

In 1882, there was laid the groundwork for a business project of far-reaching consequence for in that year Louis Huenke began the sale of milk and butter. Two years later

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White Mountain Creamery, 1909



Beatrice Foods Plant, 1970s

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Meadow Gold milk truck, used in the 1950s.

he opened a creamery — the first in Northwestern Ohio. Adversity, it seemed, was his constant companion at the start, but his efforts resulted in the founding of the White Mountain Creamery Company in 1884. It was incorporated in 1908.

At the time of Mr. Huenke's retirement some years ago, the firm not only had a large creamery in New Bremen but also operated branch plants in a number of Ohio cities, New Bremen, St. Marys, Lima, and Ottawa.

White Mountain Pioneers the Silo

Before the days of the silo the winter months were hard on the dairy cow and her keeper. Milk production dropped. When warm spring days brought green to the pasture lots, the cows produced more abundantly. The need of green feed to increase winter production brought the silo.

White Mountain, aware that good farmers were leaving forty per cent of the corn crop to spoil in the field, conducted early experiments. One of the first silos in Western Ohio was erected on White Mountain Farm. Many different kinds and types of silos were tried before White Mountain's battery of big, stave silos were erected. When a type was found that would provide green feed in an appetizing condition, White Mountain lost no time in broadcasting the news to its patrons.

White Mountain Farm Used As Experiment Station

Appreciating the value of alfalfa as a forage crop, C.V. Huenke encouraged Joe Wing to conduct experiments in its culture in western Ohio. Acres of White Mountain farm were placed at Mr. Wing's disposal, experiments were conducted and much attention was given to the raising of alfalfa under Western Ohio soil and climatic conditions.

Alfalfa is the "better half" of the silage ration, and combined with corn silage brought June dairy conditions in the dead of winter. Its actual returns were nearly as great as wheat bran. Because of its unusual root growth, crops planted on an old alfalfa field produced much greater yields.

Mr. C.V. Huenke helped spread the gospel of the better crops, greater productiveness and the value of alfalfa on the farm.



White Mountain Creamery - milk truck with Ray Tomhafe, 1921.

The Creamery Patron

The Creamery Patron, first published in 1909 results of experiments at White Mountain Farms and plants, and general information regarding dairying, farm equipment and management. It was discontinued only after Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations had supplanted its educational phases.

White Mountain merged with Beatrice Foods in 1928, and by 1933, the firm engaged in manufacturing and processing butter, milk, ice cream, condensed milk and allied products. Its annual sales reached a total of two million eight-hundred thousand dolars. Officers of the company in 1933, were: Mr. C.V. Huenke, President; Mr. Harry Komminsk, Secretary and Treasurer. Than expansions started to take place in 1941, 1957, 1960, 1963, and a chemical plant was added in 1965. The last addition in 1982, increased capabilities for processing dairy blended products.

Beatrice Foods Company with corporate headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, consists of the following five divisions, each having numerous plants of their own: Dairy-Soft Drink and Bottled Water-Wine and Spirits, Agri Products and Warehouse, International, Domestic Grocery Operations, Consumer Industrial and Chemical. Manufacturing name brands including: Samsonite, Spiegel, Stiffel, Bonanza (Trailors), LaChoy, Peter Eckrich Meats, Martha White, Sexton Foods, Tropicana, Cutty Sark, and Shedd's Foods.

This conglomerate of companies is publicly held by stockholders and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange at twenty-three dollars and fifty cents in December of 1982.

Today, the plant in New Bremen is one of the approximately fifty-three plants in the dairy division and happens to have the same name, Beatrice Foods Company. Other than two sales distribution points elsewhere in the state, all manufacturing and distribution operations take place in the ninety-five thousand square foot complex on seven-and-one-half acres at the west edge of New Bremen on State Route 274.

The normal work week is one-shift, five-day week, but one department operates twenty-four hours a day, six days a week. We presently employ about one-hundred sixty people. The present officers are: Lester Fredrickson, General Manager; Ross Rupert Jr., Plant Superintendent; Edwin J. Phlipot, General Sales Manager; John Eckstein, Administrative Assistant; James Hardesty, Group President, Eastern Division; Tom Wyman, District Quality Control;

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Harry Brewer, Engineer; Ray E. Reck, Chemical Sales Manager.

The Dairy Division has experienced forty-five consecutive years of sales growth which is unprecedented in the dairy industry. Products are shipped worldwide and include: Meadow Gold, Viva, Viva-Yo, Kaptain Kidd, Beatreme, Sanalac, Swiss Miss, Keller's, Louis Sherry, County Line, American Hostess, Hotel Bar, Dell Foods, plus bottling franchises for Coca Cola. The manufacturing departments in New Bremen produce the first five brands listed above that incorporate bottle milk (thirty percent of production), Fruit drink, Cottage Cheese, Sour Cream, Yogurt, Bulk Condensed Milk, Bulk Sweet Cream, Nonfat Dry Milk. The last three make up about fifty per cent production and the balance blended cocoa powders, chemical cleaners and dried whey products.

The Grade A milk for bottling is obtained from Auglaize, Mercer and Shelby County dairy farmers, whereas raw cocoa powders come from Holland and some of the chemicals from refiners. Marketwise, the bottle milk is supplied to a radius of forty miles and other products are shipped to various divisions of Beatrice Foods or to other food manufacturers.

The long-produced products of butter and ice cream are no longer manufactured at the New Bremen plant but are distributed. *Submitted by Edwin Phlipot.*

Bruns Construction

The business began in November of 1965, at 315 South Washington Street with one employee. As the business grew over the years we usually had three or four full-time employees. In April of 1972 we moved to the present location at 312 Canal Street.

Our work is basically home remodeling, room additions, siding, roofing, driveways, and some commercial. *Submitted by Alvin Bruns.*

Cornerstone Shop

The Cornerstone Shop at 10A North Jefferson Street opened for business on October 1, 1977. There are two rooms of Christ related gifts and books. It is owned and operated by Ruth Meckstroth with the help of her husband, Earl, and her daughter, Judy. *Submitted by Ruth Meckstroth.*

Crown Controls Corporation

"As long as we have productive and imaginative people to manufacture, design and market our products, we'll continue to grow." - James F. Dicke.

Based on that philosophy, Crown Controls Corporation, New Bremen, Ohio, has grown from a tiny one-room operation to a worldwide diversified company.

Although the firm had a very small beginning just at the end of the World War II, Crown has managed to grow into a worldwide operation with manufacturing facilities and sales offices in Australia, Ireland and Mexico; international sales branches in England and France; and domestic sales branches in Chicago, Dayton, Los Angeles, New York and Toledo.

Originally, Crown manufactured temperature controls for coal-burning furnaces, serving a handful of customers. The production of these units, which eventually became obsolete, took place in the former Rabe Hardware Store building on Washington Street.

By 1949, with the growing interest in television, the company made its move into the production of antenna rotators. The move was successful and the company remains a leader in this field today, with the units marketed and distributed by Channel Master Corporation.

The year 1951 brought another diversification opportunity. This time it was in the repair and manufacturing of mechanical and electronic components for private industry and government. After a short time and several successful bids, the company began doing and continues to do a strong business in this area.

As versatile as it was successful, Crown diversified again, moving into the production of lift trucks. Crown's lift truck production began in 1957, with the belief that the material handling industry needed a smaller line of lift trucks for intermediate-duty use. They produced an up-to-date range of equipment and soon became the fastest growing material handling company in its range of products. Today, Crown manufactures a wide variety of heavy-duty lift trucks, all electric powered. The line includes narrow-aisle stacking equipment, powered pallet trucks, orderpicking equipment and fork lift trucks. Capacities range from 1,000 to 6,000 lbs. with lifting heights varying from five inches to 40 feet.

In addition to Crown's own branch offices, sales are handled in the United States by a network of more than 100 independent dealers located in or near all key markets. Complete sales and service are available at each location. Dealer staffs are factory-trained in all phases and backed with national advertising and sales promotional support. Export sales are also handled by Crown branches and a network of international distributors selling in nearly 100 foreign cities.

On another level, Crown's physical growth has been just as stimulating. From the original Rabe building, Crown purchased the Arcade Department Store. General offices were moved there, as well as light machining, painting and assembly. The first lift trucks were actually made in the first floor at the north end of the Arcade building. Today, this facility serves as the corporate headquarters for Crown's worldwide operations.

In 1961, Crown purchased the Excello building on State Route 274, just west of the railroad tracks. That building became the basis for much of Crown's manufacturing facilities which have continued to expand farther to the west.

Presently, the company's New Bremen operations are broken into three manufacturing categories:

Lift Trucks - Crown's position in the industry is well-defined. It is the largest manufacturer of walkie lift trucks and stockpickers in the United States. With the introduction of narrow-aisle reach truck models, Crown is now ranked third in the narrow-aisle lift truck market. Crown achieved this ranking in less than five years.

Antenna Rotators - Crown's relationship with Channel Master, founded in 1956, continues to be a strong segment of Crown's business.

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Crown Corporate Headquarters
40-44 South Washington



Crown Plant 1, Antenna Rotator Division
126 South Washington

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Contract Services - The products have continued to provide a wide range of advantages for the company. Over the years, it has not only been an important part of Crown's success, but also provided a great opportunity to develop new types of manufacturing expertise instrumental in the engineering of Crown lift trucks and other products.

According to Jim Dicke, the company's president, "Good people are what make Crown go and have always been the secret to Crown's success." *Submitted by Crown Controls Corporation.*

Deb's Hair Styling

Deb's Hair Styling which is located at 3 Deer Drive is owned by Nick and Deb Miller. We moved to New Bremen from Wapakoneta on December 1, 1980. The salon was opened on March 24, 1981, after the birth of our first child, Jennifer Marie. *Submitted by Nick Miller.*



Dicke Service Station

Dicke Service Station

The building was rented from Charles Block on February 1, 1947, by Paul E. Dicke. At that time the business consisted of full service gas, car washes, and servicing. In 1950, Paul Dicke bought the building, and the cement block building was added at which time truck service work was added to the operation.

In 1960, the business was turned over to Don Dicke.

In 1977, Don and Lois Dicke purchased the business from his father, Paul E. At this time it is operated by Don, along with the help of his son, Mike, and the full-time mechanic, Roger Greber, who has been with them for four years.

They deal in full service gas, complete car and truck work including lubrication, wash, brake work, tune-ups, tires, shocks and oil. *Submitted by Lois Dicke.*

Doris' Beauty Shoppe

On September 16, 1956, Doris, Delbert, Susan and Rick Lunz moved from the Wapakoneta area to 209 North Walnut Street in New Bremen. Delbert remodeled a single car garage into a beauty shop, and the shop opened on July 4, 1959, as a one operator shop.

We soon outgrew home and shop and moved to 229 North Herman Street on October 1, 1962. We started a shop in the family room of the house and added several operators, namely: Erline Maich, Ann Poppe and Diane Bornhorst. After a couple of years, there was need for still additional room, so we added an extra room and took over the two-car garage. An office and bath were added in the garage, and a new garage built to the back of the house.

The Shoppe now had four shampoo bowls, seven comb-out stations and eighteen dryers. In 1972, Susan joined the shop as operator. Twenty-four years later, the shop averages six or seven operators: Ann Poppe, Cindy Storer, Judy Luedeke, Donna Pape, Susan Koenig, Theresa Luebke and Doris Lunz, the owner and manager.

In December, 1981, Delbert built a glass doll display in the shop that houses approximately two hundred and fifty dolls. The oldest doll is from 1886 and the display also includes modern dolls.

The family has added a son-in-law, Ned Koenig, and two grandchildren, Amber and Andy Koenig. *Submitted by Doris Lunz.*

Ernie's Barber Shop

On October 12, 1951, I came to New Bremen to start my business. I started in the building which is now the Esquire Shop. In 1958, Hoeft Dry Cleaning went out of business. Then I bought the building where I am now. On August 14, 1958, I moved into the building, continued my barbering and have been there ever since. *Submitted by Ernie Phlipot.*



First National Bank

First National Bank in New Bremen

The First National Bank in New Bremen was chartered on August 22, 1934. The original capitalization was $50,000, consisting of 500 shares of common stock and 500 shares of preferred stock, both with a par value of $50 each. The first Board of Directors included: C.V. Huenke, Walter W. Grothaus, F.W. Rabe, F.A. Ende, A.H. Albert, Edward Hirschfeld, and John C. Halsema. Officers elected to operate the bank were Walter Grothaus, President; C.V. Huenke, First Vice President; F.A. Ende, Second Vice President; and Ferd Rabe, Cashier.

The first location of the bank was on the corner of Washington and Monroe where the Marathon Gas station is

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now located. In 1960, a new building was constructed at 115 North Main Street and the bank moved to its present location.

Since the bank's organization there have been five presidents: Walter Grothaus, Harry Komminsk, Elwood F. Day, Paul Lewis Komminsk and Mrs. Betty L. Komminsk.

From the beginning of the bank's original capital of $50,000, it has grown to have assets of over $32,000,000.

Present officers are: Mrs. Betty L. Komminsk, President; James A. Jarvis, Executive Vice President; Jefferey W. McCollum, Cashier; and Rena A. Veit, Assistant Cashier. *Submitted by Jim Jarvis.*

Friemering's Home Furnishings, Inc.



Home Furnishings, Inc., prior to 1927



Home Furnishings, Inc., after 1967

In 1927, Mr. Alvin H. Friemering and Mr. Henry Meyer bought the Klanke Furniture Company. They formed a partnership known as Home Furniture Store. It continued to operate until 1942, when Mr. Meyer retired.

Mr. Friemering operated the store until 1952, at which time his son, David, joined him. After two years in the service, his son, Jack, also joined him. In 1967, the father sold his interest to his sons and retired. The firm was then incorporated as Friemering's Home Furnishings, Inc. In 1981, a second store was opened in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

At the present time the firm has five full-time and two part-time employees, plus three carpet and linoleum installers and three interior decorators. The two stores serve the people of northwestern Ohio and sell quality furniture, carpeting and custom draperies. *Submitted by Velma Friemering.*

Gagel Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Gagel Plumbing and Heating had its first day of business on October 7, 1963. Wilbert A. Gagel had purchased the former Wilkens Hardware in Minster from Norbert Wilkens. The new business was known as Bill Gagel Plumbing and Heating. In 1970, he opened a second store at 24 North Main Street in New Bremen. Bill's son, Don, had just returned from the Air Force and settled with his wife and children in New Bremen; he took over management of the New Bremen store, with Alice Hartwig working as bookkeeper and clerk.

In 1973, the practicality of consolidating the two businesses arose, and once the location was decided upon, it was not long before the new building was under construction. In June, 1974, Gagel Plumbing and Heating opened its door at 4574 State Route 66, halfway between Minster and New Bremen, where the business has continued to grow.

Through the years, Phyllis Gerkey has taken over the responsibilities of bookkeeper-secretary and sales clerk. Ralph Wolfe joined the company and John Mescher, one of the original employees of the company, continues as a full-time employee. In 1979, the business was incorporated, with Don Gagel as president, and Janice Gagel as vice president. Bill Gagel died in 1981. His wife Luella, although retired, continues to spend time at the store, contributing to its smooth operation. The company continues to strive to offer the best service available to cover the needs of the people of the area. *Submitted by Don Gagel.*

Gilberg Furniture and Gilberg Funeral Home

One of the oldest businesses in New Bremen is the Gilberg Furniture Store and Funeral Home. It had its beginning in 1926 as "The People's Radio and Gift Shop", and was founded by Paul Gilberg and Earl Hegemier. The store was originally housed in the old John Blase building on South Washington Street. In later years, the Koeper Shoe Store occupied this space. In 1929, the business was moved to 5 North Main Street where the Don Hout Restaurant had been. This building was remodeled with new display windows. Because of the larger area for display, a line of furniture was added.

In 1929, Gilberg and Hegemier bought the Irvin Speckman funeral business located at the southeast corner of Main and Monroe. They established the Gilberg and Hegemier Funeral Home. Customs changed as more services were held in the funeral homes. By 1949, the funeral business was moved to its present location at 225 West Monroe Street. John Gilberg, son of Paul Gilberg, was employed by the firm and later became the third partner in 1956.

They sold the building on Main Street because they needed more floor space for their furniture store. The IGA demolished it and added on a new addition to their business.

The former Schulenberg building was purchased by Gilberg and Hegemier in 1959. They rennovated it to make a modern display area with two floors. Several years later, the lease to the Woodman Hall was purchased to add another

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furniture display area. Earl Hegemier sold his portion of the business to the Gilbergs in 1962 because of ill health. Earl Hegemier was a licensed funeral director until his retirement. The business name was changed to Gilberg Furniture and Gilberg Funeral Home. Mr. Hegemier died in 1965.

Paul Gilberg received his embalming and funeral director's license after graduating from the Cincinnati College of Embalming in 1924. John Gilberg attended Heidelberg College from 1954 until 1956, and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1964. In 1974, John and Joyce Gilberg purchased Paul Gilberg's share. They are now the present owners. *Submitted by John Gilberg.*

Henkener and Miller Law Offices

I began my law office in New Bremen in May of 1953 at 5 West Monroe Street. The original building in which I started was a warehouse for the Interurban Railroad. I remodeled the front part of it, but as time progressed, I tore it down and replaced it with a new office building. Sometime later, I added the south part to it. It was originally a District Office for Beatrice Foods, but it is now the location of Dr. Wellman's office.

I became the village solicitor sometime in the mid-1950's and have been at the same location continuously. At present my office has three members. Besides myself, they are Ronald H. Miller and Dennis P. Faller. *Submitted by Roger Henkener.*



Nathan Hirschfeld, Jerry Kiefer, Bruce Kiefer

Nathan Hirschfeld Building Contractor, Developer, Realtor

Nathan Hirschfeld, a veteran of the Korean conflict from 1952 until 1954, started his business on a part-time basis from 1955 to 1957. In 1958 this became a full-time business. In 1963, Nathan Hirschfeld and Charles Wierwille converted a gas station at the corner of Monroe and Main Streets into a laundry and dry cleaning service. In 1965, a car wash was added. They sold the building in 1971 and it was changed back into a service station.

Mr. Hirschfeld became an active realtor in 1970. His organization has built in excess of 125 homes in this area. Originally they built houses on odd lots in town for speculation and on contracts. In 1970, Nathan bought ten acres and developed thirty lots along South Canal Street. He purchased 32.88 acres on the east side of town in 1976, now known as the Hirschfeld's Teton Subdivision. There are 104 lots with forty-three sold and thirty-six units constructed by 1982. Jerry Keifer and Bruce Keifer are construction foremen. *Submitted by Nathan Hirschfeld.*

Paul Hoffman Decorating

Hoffman's Wallpaper Paint has begun its second century of business in New Bremen. It is believed to be the oldest business in one family in New Bremen.

It was started by Philip Hoffman, a native of Durkham, German, who came to Cincinnati and then to New Bremen. He made baskets and brushes during the winter months when there was no painting to be done. He mixed paint from raw materials for his own use and also for selling to the retail trade.

Upon the death of Philip Hoffman, one of his sons, Henry, took over the business. He was assisted by his brother, Philip. They also hung the signs on billboards in town. Along with selling paint, they went into the retail wallpaper business. In the early 1950's Henry retired and his son, Paul, bought the business. From then to now they have expanded the retail paint and wallpaper business to accomodate the growing number of people who do their own decorating. Besides a complete line of paint, handling most of the well-known brands, a large selection of wallpaper books are made available to customers to coordinate their room's decor.

Paul is assisted by his son, John and also his grandson, Craig. Another full-time employee is Earl Dicke, who has been with them more than twenty years. Paul's brother Ezzra Hoffman, who taught paper hanging when he lived in California, now resides at Sidney and is employed part-time. *Submitted by Amy Hoffman.*



Front: Philip and Marie Hoffman. Back: Daniel, Fred, Philip, Conrad, Henry.

Hotel Bar and Restaurant

The Hotel Bar and Restaurant was originally two separate businesses, Laut's Hotel and Laut's Bar. The buildings date back to 1890 and 1891. In 1906 or 1907, Franklin Hollingsworth bought the hotel. Emil and Frank Laut continued to operate Laut's Bar.

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Monroe Street, Schulenberg's Store, Laut's Bar, Hotel Hollingsworth, c. 1910.

Over the span of years in which the Hollingsworths operated the hotel, salesmen rode the Interurban into New Bremen, spent the night or the week at the hotel, and displayed their wares in a "sample room" provided by the management.

During this same period of time, Laut's Bar had a front outside entrance to the basement. A bowling alley was located in the basement and two lanes are still partly intact. Several pool tables were located on the main floor and thus it was called the Pool Hall by many.

The ownership of the Hotel Hollingsworth eventually became William Hollingsworth and Corrine (Hollingsworth) Schnell. In 1945, an expansion was made to the hotel with the purchase of Laut's Bar. A major remodeling job was then undertaken in order to combine the two separate businesses and buildings into one. Rooms were rented to travelers until 1965, when the owners closed most of the rooms, except for their own private living area on the second floor.

In 1966, Jim and Shirley Schnell, Corrine's son and daughter-in-law, purchased the business. They initiated a remodeling program in late 1972, changing the entrance and the front of the buildings and remodeling the bar and dining room.

In June of 1977, Duane Hartwig and son, Dean, purchased the buildings and the business, and are now operating as the Hotel Bar and Restaurant.

If you stop in today for a cup of coffee you can still find many items of interest dating back to those early years. The focal point of the smaller dining room to the rear of the building is the original tin ceiling and ornate cornice which has been restored by the present owners. In the barroom is a backbar with a mirror, three feet high by twelve feet long, which was moved there from its original location in the hotel. You will be able to sit at any one of three round tables with unfinished oak tops and heavy metal bases which are said to have been there since the Lauts owned the bar. Almost every afternoon at least one table enjoys a good game of rummy. The cigarette burns on the tabletops indicate how engrossed the card players sometimes are in their cards.

The mixture of old and new blend easily. The video and pinball machines are here to accept your quarters. The television has a football or basketball game on for your enjoyment. Or, just as it was fifty or seventy-five years ago, there is always someone here with whom to pass the time of day. *Submitted by Alice Hartwig.*



Howell's IGA

Howell's IGA

In 1948, this building was occupied by a Kroger chain grocery store. It was closed by them in December. The building sat vacant until June, 1949. It was then purchased by William Scheer and Wesley Howell, who began remodeling it into an IGA Store. Orville Lampert and Wesley Howell formed a partnership and functioned as the Corner IGA Market until 1959, when the partnership was dissolved. Wesley and Margery Howell then took their son, Dick, into the business as a partner and enlarged the selling area from 2000 square feet to 3000 square feet with all new modern fixtures. It continued this way until 1979, when Wesley and Marge retired and sold their half to Dick. It was time to enlarge the store again as the business was too much for the crowded facilities.

The properties behind the store were then purchased, the vacant buildings torn down to make available land for expansion.

The retail grocery as it is now is 9000 square feet selling area. There is all modern equipment and parking space is available for thirty cars. *Submitted by Mary Lou Howell.*

Jackson's Jewelry

Bill and Jane Jackson, owners of Jackson's Jewelry, came to New Bremen in June of 1960. The store was purchased from Mel and Leona Laut. They owned the store from 1921 to 1960. They had purchased the business and building from Fred A. Ende, who had owned the business since 1880. The building was owned by William Schroeder from 1876 to 1890, and before 1876, when it was a stable, it was owned by Adam Helwig and wife, Anna. *Submitted by Jane Jackson.*

Kinninger Production Welding, Inc.

Adrian Kinninger of Minster, after working for Thieman Stamping Company for fifteen years, started Kinninger Production Welding in 1967. Originally production welding was done for IE Industries and Crown Controls. In 1974, business was expanded to include the manufacture of backhoes for Rich Kunk of Versailles. In 1978, Kinninger began the assembly of backhoe and front loader over the Hefty tactor which is manufactured in Juneau, Wisconsin.

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In 1982, Mr. Kinninger developed his own tractor to be assembled in the present plant.

The building used by Kinninger Production Welding, Inc. was acquired by Mr. Kinninger in 1962. In 1981, a 36' x 70' addition to the building was constructed.

Presently the business includes production welding for Crown Controls and other businesses and manufacture of tractors with backhoe and front loader. It is located at the northeast corner of Main and Second Streets in New Bremen.

The officers and employees are: Adrian Kinninger, President; Jack Thobe, Vice President; Jim Brining, Secretary-Treasurer; James Meyer, Accountant; Don Seyfried, Engineering Consultant; Gary Wendeln and Mike Kuck. *Submitted by Adrian Kinninger.*

Kuck Welding

In 1947, Robert Gruebmeyer opened a welding shop in the barn west of his home at 25 North Water Street. It became known as Gruebmeyer Welding. A few years later the barn was moved south, and an addition was put on. In 1964, the house and shop were purchased by David E. Kuck, and the name of the shop was changed to Kuck Welding.

The Central Auto Service building which is located at 24 South Main Street, and lies adjacent to the west of Kuck Welding property, was bought by David E. Kuck in 1966, from Lee Schroer and Mrs. Clifford Quellhorst. Kuck Welding moved to this location in 1973, and it is operated by David E. Kuck and son, Robert Kuck.

Kuck Welding is equipped to handle cutting, bending, drilling, welding, and machining; welding of steel, cast aluminum and stainless steel, plus portable welding and cutting. For retail, the shop carries a complete line of steel and welding supplies. *Submitted by Dave Kuck.*

Lampert's Super Market

On September 2, 1959, Orville Lampert purchased some farm land from Allen and Amber Dicke on State Route 66, on the south edge of New Bremen. This land was later annexed to the village of New Bremen. In the spring of 1960, Orville and Norma (Kettler) Lampert started the project of building a super market. A brick building was constructed by Baumer Construction. After everything was completed, they had their Grand Opening in July of 1960. It was operated as a family grocery store as Lampert Super Market. All of their five children, Beverly, Bernard, Nancy, Jane and Judy, were employed there. Today, after twenty-two years, it is Lampert Super Market, Incorporated, and is operated by Bernard Lampert, President, and Nancy Busse, Vice President. *Submitted by Orville Lampert.*



Lampert Super Market



Richard Custis and Larry Kuhn

Lee's Printing

Lee's Printing was formed in May of 1972. It is co-owned by Larry Lee Kuhn and Richard Lee Custis. They have been at their present location at 106 West Monroe Street since December of 1972. Much of the original building was damaged by fire on March 13, 1976. A new building was constructed by Cooper Construction using the original east and west walls only.

They have letterpress and offset printing equipment and engage in printing forms, catalogs, envelopes, books, letterheads, brochures and a variety of printing needs.

Lietz Furniture Shop

In 1939, Herman C. Lietz, wood craftsman and wood carver, decided to get back into woodworking, the kind of work he enjoyed. He started his career in the Klanke Furniture Company, working on a turning lathe. Mr. Lietz also served as Plant Superintendent of the Auglaize Furniture Company for years. However, in the thirties, our country was suffering from a depression, factories were being closed down and no jobs were available. The Furniture Factory was suspended and Mr. Lietz worked as maintenance man in the Seiberling Rubber Company for a couple of years. The desire to work with wood and furniture led Herman Lietz and son Paul to embark on a small scale business of their own. The workshop in the backyard at 34 South Herman Street was originally a barn. The materials to remodel the barn into a workshop cost $140.00. The purchase of machinery to start the business cost $270.00. A sign was placed above the door and read:

Lietz Furniture Shop
Upholstering
Custom Made
Repairing

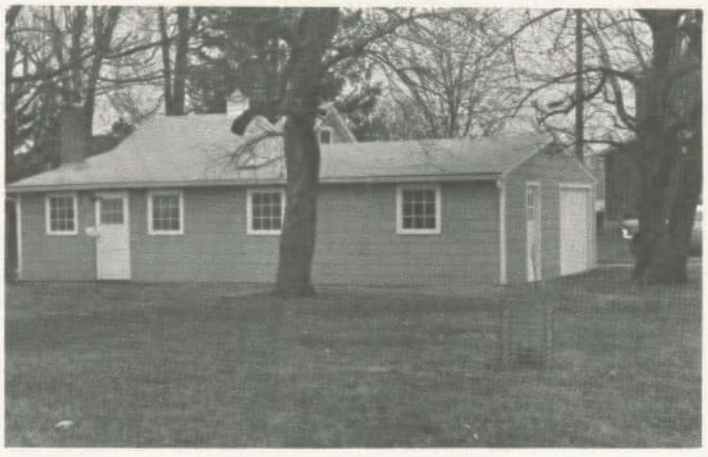
The price was right with rates at 40¢ an hour for repair and 60¢ an hour if the power machinery was used. Soon the business was established and folks were happy to have their broken furniture repaired.

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Herman Lietz (1883-1943) and wife, Alma Sophia (Heil) were the parents of one son, Paul. Paul graduated from New Bremen High School in 1940 and after forty-two months in the service during World War II, he became a full-time workman in the Lietz Furniture Shop. The last twenty years have seen some changes and a new line of work was added, specializing in repair and refinishing antique furniture. The Lietz Furniture Shop, as of December of 1982, is in full operation. *Submitted by Paul Lietz.*



Lietz Furniture Shop, c. 1939



Lietz Furniture Shop, 1982

Lone Pine Nursing Home
403 North Main Street

Lone Pine Nursing Home had been operating for several years prior to Mariann Riley taking over its management in March of 1976. The two story building was named for the single pine tree in the front yard which was also the name of a service station on the corner of Pearl and Main Streets. In August of 1976, Mariann Riley purchased the Lone Pine Nursing Home. The home was then licensed by the State of Ohio and certified for Medicaid (a state and federally funded program) for fifteen beds. In 1978, the home was remodeled to add three additional beds. In 1980, more remodeling was done to add one more bed. To date, the home is licensed and certified to house nineteen people. It is an intermediate care facility.

Many changes have been made since 1976 with the increase of beds being the major change. An extensive activity and recreation department is headed by Sandra Frey who is certified by the State of Ohio as an Activity Coordinator. She has just completed an Advanced Activity Program course at the Lima Campus of OSU. Residents can select what interests them from card games, bingo, movies, television, group singing, field trips, crafts, baking and much more.

Our Nursing Department is run by licensed and qualified personnel headed by Peggy Leugers, RN, a key person since 1976. The Dietary Department makes enjoyable and delicious meals. Our head cook is Mary Ann Nieter, and Betty Schwenzer is involved in the purchasing. The housekeeping is headed by Henrietta Barlage, but all personnel chip in when cleaning needs done. Dr. Harboard is our medical director, although any doctor may have a resident at the Lone Pine. Ralph Schwaberow is the maintenance person and he just recently played an important part in replacing our boiler.

We have nursing service twenty-four hours a day. Laundry service is daily, and many have seen our laundry blowing in the breeze on a beautiful spring day. *Submitted by Mariann Riley.*

Minnich Carry-Out

I am Robert Minnich, owner of Minnich Carry-out on Plum Street. I was born and raised in Auglaize County in the Wapakoneta area. We moved to New Bremen in 1956 when we purchased the property formerly owned by William Coombs.

There is no real history to my business, but the property is the site of what once was the old ice house and the ice ponds. The ice house had been torn down by the time I bought the property, but the ice ponds were still there. I am not sure when they quit cutting ice or using the ice house. Since I came I have filled in the ponds with grass. *Submitted by Robert Minnich.*

Minster Farmers Cooperative Exchange, Inc.

Greenbelt Chemical Company was founded by a Bud Miller, President, who purchased land on which to build a fertilizer plant from Wilbert Dammeyer in the spring of 1959.

Greenbelt Chemical Company later sold its operation to Occidental Chemical Company of Houston, Texas, in the spring of 1967. They ran the fertilizer, chemical and seed operation until its present owners, Minster Farmers Co-op Exchange of Minster purchased the operation on March 1, 1979. The following are present employees: Larry Rismiller, Vernon Paul, William Bruns, Tim Berning and Eileen Boerger. *Submitted by Larry Rismiller.*

Minster State Bank

The Minster State Bank was chartered January 27, 1914, and commenced business in Minster on February 10, 1914. It succeeded the Citizens Bank, a partnership banking house which had been established in 1888 at The Minster Banking Association.

The first officers were: John W. Eiting, president; O.E. Duncan, vice president; August Schunk, cashier; J.T. Haverbeck, assistant cashier; and Bernard Nagel, Frank J. Thieman, Joseph E. Schmieder, C.H. Dickman, and John

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Minster State Bank

C. Halsema, directors. August Schunk was in charge of operations. At the end of 1914 total assets were $315,000 and total capital was $30,000.

In 1976, approval was obtained from the Superintendent of Banks of Ohio to open a branch at New Bremen. A building was built immediately south of New Bremen on the west side of State Route 66 and was opened for business on August 1, 1977. Richard L. Bergman was named branch manager. By that time assets of Minster State Bank had increased to $22,000,000 capital to $1,750,000.

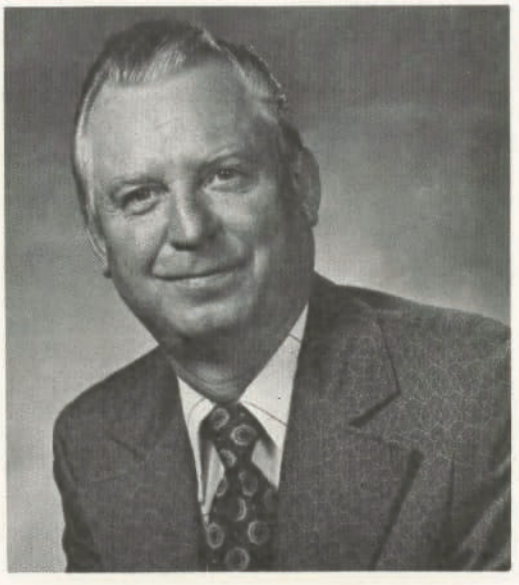
Present assets total $42,083,000, total capital $2,935,000, and the number of employees is twenty-one. *Submitted by Richard Bergman.*

Moeller Insurance

In 1955, Jim Moeller was licensed by the State of Ohio to sell all types of insurance including life, auto, homeowners, health, etc. From 1955 to September 1, 1982, Jim sold insurance on a part-time basis, concentrating on life insurance until 1976, when he became affiliated with the Hein Insurance Agency and re-entered the auto and homeowners field. During his part-time selling he obtained many awards, found time to attend insurance seminars and schools, and qualified to attend conventions based on production. On September 1, 1982, Jim left Stamco, Inc. to become a full-time insurance agent and his office is in his home at 102 South Walnut Street. *Submitted by Jim Moeller.*

Moeller's Refrigeration

Frederick and Barbara Moeller purchased the Garman's store building and began Moeller's Refrigeration in August of 1978. The business sells and services Maytag, Amana, Roper, Admiral and Speed Queen appliances. Fred has had seventeen years of experience and does all the service work for the business. Barbara works in the store and Rose Marie Wehmeyer helps with bookkeeping. *Submitted by Fred Moeller.*



Everet Topp

Nationwide Insurance Company

Nationwide began operations in 1926, with the main office in Columbus, Ohio. Agent Everet Topp started with Nationwide Insurance Company in 1953 and is still with them. Nationwide started by writing automobile insurance. Later in 1934, they wrote fire insurance. A life insurance

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company was formed in 1935. During the 1950's Nationwide began writing Mutual Fund Investments and later added the money-market fund. Nationwide Variable Life was formed in 1981 for investment oriented life insurance. Nationwide Insurance Company, a growing company interested in people's needs, operates in all of the United States, Puerto Rico and West Germany.

Everet Topp is located on Knoxville Avenue in New Bremen. *Submitted by Everet Topp.*

New Bremen Auto Parts, Inc.

New Bremen Auto Parts, Inc. was established in October of 1978 with the purchase of the old New Bremen 5¢ & 10¢ Store by Wilfred and Carol Prenger. Dave Heinfeld was employed as store manager. Later, in October of 1980, he became Vice President. Wilfred Prenger is Chairman of the Board and Carol Prenger is Secretary-Treasurer. Greg Bergman was employed in May of 1982 as part-time counter man.

The business was opened under the Bumper to Bumper name which was used until December of 1981, when the store changed to the Auto Parts system of Indianapolis, Indiana.

New Bremen Insurance Agency, Inc.

The New Bremen Insurance Agency, Inc., as it is today, had its beginning in 1925 when Fridolin T. Purpus opened the Purpus Insurance Agency in the Schulenberg building on West Monroe Street. Now it is a part of Gilberg Furniture Store.

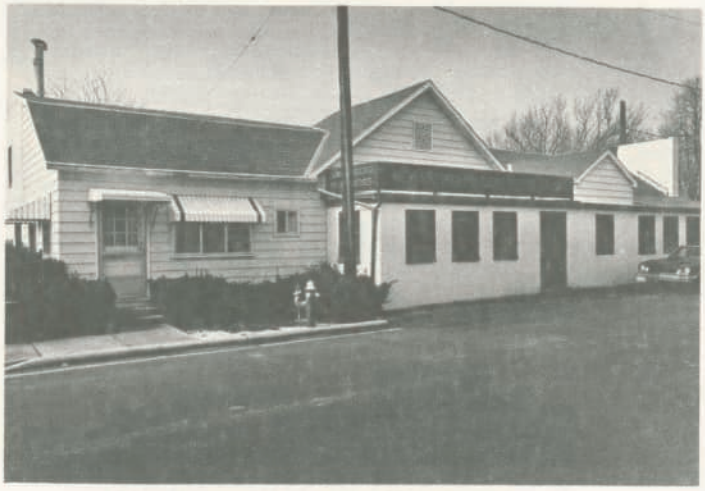
In 1941, Jacob W. Boesel joined the Purpus Agency, and it became known as the Purpus and Boesel Insurance Agency. Four years later Boesel purchased the remaining interest from Purpus, but continued to operate under the same name.

The Schulenberg building was sold in 1955, and the agency moved to the American Budget building at 20 South Washington Street. It continued to operate there under Boesel until 1960 when Henry Westerheide, a local milk distributor and life insurance agent, purchased the agency from Boesel.

Westerheide continued the growing business, however, he changed the name to Westerheide Insurance Agency. In 1965, Don R. Hellwarth of Celina, a former underwriter with the Celina Insurance Group, joined the agency and the name was broadened to Westerheide and Hellwarth Insurance Agency. Westerheide retired in 1968, and the name was shortened to Hellwarth Insurance Agency, Inc.

Donald L. Kuck of New Bremen joined Hellwarth in 1970 as a general agent soliciting life and general insurance. On May 1, 1974, Hellwarth sold the agency to the New Bremen Insurance Agency, Inc. and left the business. At this time Kuck remained with the agency, became manager, and has operated the agency since that time.

Still located in the American Budget building, the agency continues to solicit general insurance. Along with Kuck, employees include Lois A. Wissman as secretary and licensed agent; and Jane C. Moore, the company's bookkeeper and secretary. *Submitted by Don Kuck.*



New Bremen Machine & Tool Company, Inc.

New Bremen Machine & Tool Company, Inc.

New Bremen Machine & Tool Co., Inc. was originally started in 1928 by Edward Wehrman under the name of Wehrman's Machine Shop. In 1946, the owner died and the business was purchased by Robert Brewer and Robert Ellis. They retained ownership for approximately one year and then leased the business to Norbert Roettger in 1947. Roettger purchased the business in 1948 and changed the name of the company to New Bremen Machine and Tool Company.

The original business was started as a repair shop for all types of machine and metal working. In 1948, the company started contracting machine work with local companies and started in the tool and die field. Six years later the company also began a tool design service. In 1981, the decision was made by the present owners, Gene Bergman of Maria Stein, Ohio, and Bernard Schroer of St. Marys, Ohio, to purchase a traveling EDM machine to make their company one of the most progressive tool and die companies in the area. Present employment numbers ten in addition to the owners.

The company today specializes in designing and building of special dies, jigs, fixtures and special machinery. The firm is noted for its progressive form and blank dies and precision machine work.

They have manufactured for various kinds of industries including automotive, bicycle, food handling, truck and trailer, lawn and garden care hardware, farm equipment, medical equipment, electronics, appliance, machine and tool industry, fluid power industry and rubber industry. They also offer turning, boring, milling and grinding services. *Submitted by Marilyn Schroer.*

Nupco Plastic Tubing

In 1946 Robert W. Niemeyer bought his first ditching machine and started Niemeyer Farm Drainage. After his marriage in 1949, his wife, Irene Elizabeth Aselage Niemeyer, became his secretary. Robert (Bud) invented and patented a new ditching machine in 1953, called the Ohio Ditcher.

In 1957, the Niemeyers started making concrete drainage tile, sizes four inch to twelve inch, at their present location

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Irene and Robert Niemeyer

of 66A North, New Bremen, Ohio, German Township, Auglaize County. In 1971, new facilities and equipment were purchased for the production of polyethylene drainage tubing and the subsidiary was called Nupco Plastic Tubing. They manufacture four inch thru six inch tubing. In 1975 the Niemeyers sold their ditching business to work full time in the concrete tile and tubing manufacturing. *Submitted by Robert Niemeyer.*



David Pape Building

David Pape, Public Accountant

This business originated in 1947 with Robert G. Shafer, CPA, as the founder. It was known as Robert G. Shafer and Associates, with Mr. Pape as the first employee. In 1953, Mr. Shafer divided the business, selling to the late Leon E. Kellermeyer of St. Marys and James Meyer of New Bremen. In 1956, Mr. Pape purchased the business from Mr. Kellermeyer, and has continued the practice.

The office was first located upstairs in the former Arcade building, now Crown. In the late fifties Mr. Pape purchased the Gast property on the corner of Washington and Front Streets for the new location of his business. In 1965, the warehouse was razed and a new office building was constructed. Thomas Beech, MD, opened his medical practice in the south portion of the building and practiced in New Bremen for three years. Ronald Riebel, DDS, has rented the office since 1968.

Mr. Pape has operated the business by himself with the assistance of his wife, Carolyn, and several part-time employees. *Submitted by Carolyn Pape.*

Pohlman Bros. Supply Inc.

In February of 1969, Melvin and Gilbert Pohlman of Delphos, Ohio, opened a Dairy Supply and Service Store on North Herman Street in New Bremen. Because this area is heavily populated with dairy farms it was felt that New Bremen would be a good location for a branch store. (They already had a business in Delphos.) They rented the service station on old State Route 66 from Herman Schmidt, who retired. Several years later they purchased that building from him.

The present owner is Gilbert Pohlman and he employs Ruth Dabbelt of New Bremen as store keeper and book keeper, and Allen Bushman of New Bremen as part-time sales and service help. *Submitted by Ruth Dabbelt.*



Prenger's Marathon Service Station

Prenger's Marathon

Prenger's Marathon, 8 South Washington Street, was built in the summer of 1970 on the former site of the First National Bank. The business is owned by Wilfred Prenger and run by Will, Carol and Jim Prenger. Part-time employees are Dean Heitkamp, Mark Bergman and Ron Bergman. The first day of business was October 12, 1970. *Submitted by Wilfred Prenger.*

Rayann Lanes and Dairy Freeze

The Dairy Freeze, built by Leonard Widau, was purchased by Ray and Irene Sanders in 1954.

The Rayann Bowling Lanes was built in 1957, on ground purchased from Harry Gilbert.

The building was built for twelve lanes but the first year only eight lanes were installed. The following summer four more lanes were added and it has remained a twelve lane center ever since. There have been no additions or major changes made to the building, but the interior has been redecorated several times. The last time was in 1982, with

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the addition of extra seating in the bar area. The food service has been expanded from soup and sandwiches to include pizzas and sub-sandwiches.

The Sanders came to New Bremen in 1951. They both worked at the Goodyear plant. They have one daughter, Ann, who now lives in Angola, Indiana. Ray was born in 1953. The bowling lanes were named after Ann and Ray. John was born in 1960, and is now employed in Texas.

The bowling lanes were run by Ray and Irene until his death in 1981. They are now run by Irene and her son, Ray. There are leagues every night, and special programs for the senior citizens and the youth of the area. *Submitted by Irene Sanders.*

Doc Riebel

New Bremen presently has one dentist in the person of Dr. Ronald L. Riebel. August 15, 1983, will be Doc's fifteenth anniversary as New Bremen's dentist and he's glad he settled here. His totally Germanic family background fits in well with the town's predominately German heritage.

Doc is forty-five years old, born on September 1, 1937, in Columbus, Ohio. His educational background includes graduation from North High School in 1955; B.S. degree in Speech & Hearing Therapy in 1963 from OSU; D.D.S. degree from OSU College of Dentistry in 1968.

Susie (Mrs. Merlin) Hirschfeld and Rita (Mrs. Lee) Wissman started with Dr. Riebel in 1968, each as part-time receptionists. Jane Mauer (now Wyen) and Deb Heil (now Carmean) were his part-time chairside assistants. Today, Barb Chittum from St. Marys is the receptionist-office manager, Jackie Heitkamp Winner from Maria Stein is the chairside assistant, and Linda Kuess from Coldwater is his Dental Hygienist. The office is still located in accountant David Pape's building at 105 South Washington Street south of the New Bremen Public Library where Doc originally started in 1968.

Doc Riebel's professional activities include three years as chairman of Dental Lab Relations Council for the Ohio Dental Association and several offices that include president of the Northwestern Ohio Dental Association. These are in addition to the normal continuing education courses and seminars.

Doc Riebel is looking forward to practicing dentistry in New Bremen for many years to come. *Submitted by: Doc Riebel.*

Ritter Electric Inc.

Ritter Electric was founded in July of 1948. After being persuaded by friends to devote full time to electric service, Paul Ritter began the business from his home. At various times, all three sons were associated with the work. Bill continued with his father after completing his service in the United States Navy. Paul retired in 1972, and Bill has accepted the responsibility of the management since then. That same year, Ritter Electric was incorporated. They are proud of the many finer homes, the various plants and super markets, as well as schools and churches they have been privileged to contract.

Ritter Electric is a member of the Associated Builders and Contractors - Southwest Chapter. Their slogan through the years has been "You call for us - We'll wire for you." The business is located at the rear of 17 South Main Street in New Bremen, Ohio. *Submitted by Ruth Ritter.*

Rumps Union 76

201 W. Monroe St.

The corner was the original site of a home owned by Dr. Fledderjohann. The house was demolished in 1936. After the house was down a service station was built. This first station was operated by Arnold Hegemeier. Mr. Hegemeier conducted the station under the Sunoco name. He continued with the service station until 1941.

In 1941 Irwin "Butch" Koeper took over the Sunoco Station. He managed it until 1943, followed by Ralph Fogt who owned it until 1946. In 1945 the station was purchased by the Pure Oil Company.

On September 26, 1946, Edgar Rump took over the management of the Pure Oil Station. Mr. Rump managed the station with his son until July of 1965. At this time, the son, Ed Rump Sr. took over the management of the station.

In 1966 the Pure Oil Company was sold to Union 76. The station is still owned by Ed Rump Sr. who manages the station with his son, Ed Rump Jr. *Submitted by Ed Rump.*



Martha Hirschfeld, model, and Ruth Luelleman

Ruth's Beauty Shop

Ruth's Beauty Shop first opened in the basement room of the Roosevelt Theatre building in the spring of 1949. This room is now being used by the Senior Citizens. A shampoo and set cost one dollar and permanents were priced at four, five and six dollars.

The shop was moved to its present location at 24 Water Street in August of 1955. I received my training at the England Beauty School in Lima and served my apprenticeship at the Vogue Beauty Salon. This was owned and operated by Mrs. Webster Geib and Mrs. Richard Simon (Selma and Helen Hoffman.) In 1960, I attended the Werner Academy of Advanced Hair Design in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

I served as president of the Northwest chapter of the Hairdressers Guild of Ohio during 1961 and 1962. With Miss Martha Hirschfeld as my model for the Master Shield styling contest of Northwest chapter of the Hairdressers Guild, we achieved second place.

The co-operation and assistance of my family, especially my husband, Richard Luelleman, has enabled me to devote more of my time to my loyal friends and patrons through the years. *Submitted by Ruth Luelleman.*

Schwartz Brothers Garage

Lawrence E. Schwartz and Louis C. Schwartz purchased the shop and house on March 27, 1946, from Edward and Amelia Bambauer.

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Old garage



Schwartz Bros. Garage, 1982

Edward H. Bambauer had purchased the shop which is now Schwartz Brothers Garage from August and Sarah Dicke on October 8, 1913. Edward H. Bambauer had purchased the house and tract of land, which is now the Lawrence E. Schwartz residence on June 3, 1914, from Elizabeth Kettler and all.

Today Schwartz Bros. Garage specialize in automotive repair, automatic transmission and auto-air-conditioning.

Schwieterman's Drug Store

The history of pharmacy in New Bremen is directly attached to Schwieterman's Drug Store.

J.L. Hoffman started a drug store in New Bremen prior to 1880. An ad in the *New Bremen Sun* in 1883 indicates that he already had a thriving business.

In approximately 1889, Mr. Hoffman decided to move his store to a new location. He built a brick building on the corner of Washington and Monroe and completed it in early 1893. He also built his residence attached to the store building. He opened the store in late 1893.

U.J. Schwieterman, a farm boy from St. Sebastian, moved to Cincinnati to live with his sister so he could receive a high school education. After graduating from high school, he went to the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy and graduated in 1915. He purchased the J.L. Hoffman drug store in late 1916 and officially opened it under his name in 1917.

After spending a few bachelor years in New Bremen, he married Corinne Woehrmyer of Minster in 1928.

The Schwietermans ran the drug store successfully through the Depression, through the second World War, and then death intervened. Urban Schwieterman died in 1945.

Corinne Schwieterman assumed management of the pharmacy and hired Walter Rosselit to be pharmacist. This arrangement continued for many years. David Schwieterman, the oldest son, graduated in pharmacy from the University of Cincinnati in 1951. He went into the Army and after his discharge, worked for Davis Drug in Lima. He came home to run the family store in 1953. David Schwieterman purchased the store from Corinne Schwieterman in 1964. This is the year that he married Ruth Ann Kremer of Maria Stein, Ohio. The couple decided to revert back to the old custom of J.L. Hoffman and live in the same building with the pharmacy. In 1970 the Schwieterman drug store opened a branch in Coldwater, Ohio, and in 1979 they built a new building in Coldwater.

The firm has four main areas of interest. There are two stores, a nursing home division and a hospital division.

The following are two articles which appeared in the *Evening Leader*. "Twenty children homeless. Sad news. Since we could not get any help from the Community Chest we wish to announce after seventy years we are closing our soda fountain. This dastardly deed will be accomplished in the next four weeks. Give a fountain stool for Christmas." and "Attention Lovers Be It Proclaimed." It is the policy of Schwieterman's Drug Store (established 1917) that, on the occasion of the marriage of the owner of said establishment, the business will be closed on this day. In accordance with the above custom, Schwieterman's Drug Store, in New Bremen, Ohio, will be closed on Saturday, February 8, 1964. The store will resume operation the following day. We apologize for any inconvenience this will cause you and thank you in advance for your kind indulgence. We are counting a lot on the old adage "The whole world loves a lover." Thanks again for my bride, Ruth Ann, and myself."



Mrs. Dale Schaefer, Mrs. Larry Kuhn and Mrs. Jerry Kiefer of Serendipity School.

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Serendipity Nursery School

Serendipity Nursery School was conceived to be an early learning center for pre-school children to promote the utmost development of each child.

Two sessions are available: Three mornings or two mornings, nine to eleven-thirty. Only morning sessions are offered. The school is housed within the educational building of St. Paul Church.

The staff consists of Mrs. Larry Kuhn, head teacher and owner, Mrs. Jerry Keifer, full-time aid, and Mrs. Dale Schaefer, part-time aid. The school has been in operation for nineteen years. Its first location was at 107 North Franklin Street, Mrs. Kuhn's home. The school enrolls approximately forty-five students from New Bremen and nearby communities.



Stamco, 1968 - Aerial View from East

Stamco

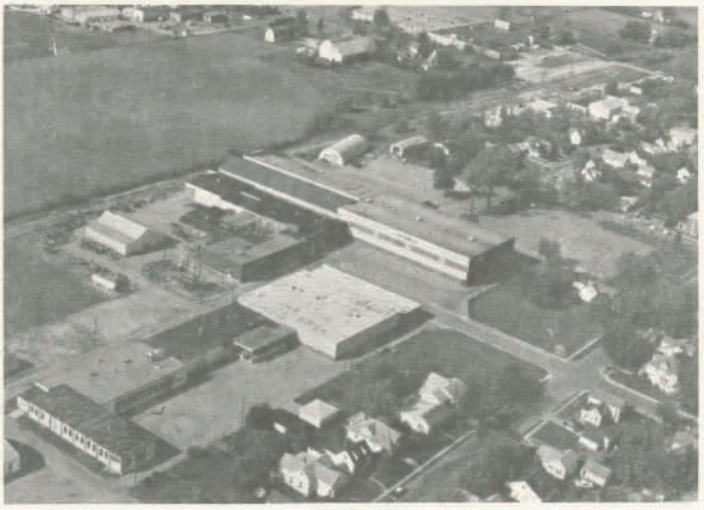
The company was originally organized in 1885 by O.O. Poorman in Canton, Ohio, with assets of $30,000. They relocated at Piqua in 1897 and at Dayton in 1902 under the name of The O.O. Poorman Company. Oscar and Frank, sons of O.O. Poorman, managed the business next. The scope of manufacture included screw type corrugating and seaming machines for manufacture of downspouts, eaves trough, slip joint and roll roofing equipment, light gauge shears, and other hand-operated units.

During May 23-29, 1920, the business incorporated with a plant and principal offices were moved to New Bremen. The plant of concrete, iron, and glass was 160 feet by 60 feet with a cupola and core room for producing castings. The work force totaled twelve to twenty people.

Known as The New Bremen Manufacturing Company from 1912 to 1918, it belonged to a group of New Bremen businessmen that last four of those years. On January 15, 1918, the organization reincorporated under the name of The Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company, Inc. when the entire property and assets were purchased by Anton Herkenhoff, Frank Streine, Charles Herkenhoff, C.L. Dine and John Eiting. They retained family ownership for fifty years. "Stamco" became the trade name, and the official company name was changed to Stamco, Inc. in 1950. The company converted to public ownership through a merger and stock transfer with The Monarch Machine Tool Company on September 19, 1968. Subsidiaries have been established in England, France and Spain.

During this period of growth, the product line expanded from light gauge metalworking units to toggle presses, press brakes, shears, mechanical corn pickers (1919), rotary slitters (1930), heavy gauge shears, slitting lines (1936), automatic resquaring units (1940), uncoilers (1948), shearing lines (1950), press feed lines, roll form corrugating (1960), horizontal annealing, light gauge/dead soft slitting, tension leveling, pickling, painting lines (1966), and turnkey installations (1968).

Today Stamco serves a worldwide market and its name and that of New Bremen are to be found on equipment in many countries. The product line continues to broaden in both types of machines and application. A leader in the field of coil processing, Stamco is known for their quality engineered, built and serviced products. The Company is a credit to the community and all those past and present who contributed to their existence.



Stamco, 1982

Roman Stueve Plumbing

The building now occupied by Roman Stueve's Coin Operated Laundry and Roman Stueve's Plumbing and Heating Shop was built in the 1860's by Jacob Schneider as a livery stable. It was used by the patrons of a three story frame hotel which was located on the lot south of the building.

Jacob Schneider purchased the south half of lot 289 in New Bremen in 1857 and on it built the present building. In 1871, Wm. Rabe purchased the building and ran the stable until 1877, when it was acquired by Sophia Kuest. In 1879, Henry Huenke purchased the building and in 1886, sold it to Fred Weimeyer. Mr. Weimeyer closed the business in 1891, and in 1901, lost the building to the Boesel Bank.

The building was not used for eight years and became very run down. Otto Boesel bought the building in January of 1909 from the bank, in March he sold it to Lafe Kunning and in May sold it to R.B. Crane of the New Bremen Gas Company.

The New Bremen Gas Company completely remodeled the building. The brick foundation was replaced with concrete and a concrete floor was poured when the sewer and water lines were installed. A new front was put on and a tin ceiling, still existing, was put in. George Hall purchased the building from R.B. Crane in February of 1918 and he sold it to Wyen and Grieshop in March of 1920. John Stueve purchased Mr. Greishop's half of the tin shop business in July of that year and the partnership of Wyen and Stueve continued until Mr. Stueve bought Peter Wyen's half interest in

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Shop, 1959

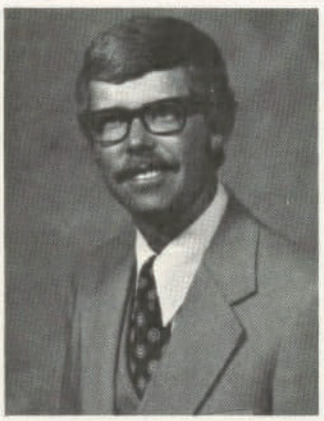


Shop, 1970s

April of 1937. John Stueve operated his sheet metal shop until his retirement in January of 1957, and sold it to his son, Roman, in March of 1963.

Roman continued the trades started in the building in 1920. One of the tools, a ten foot sheet metal brake built in 1864, is still in use.

Apartments were added and the front was remodeled in 1965, while the Laundry was started in 1971. *Submitted by Roman Stueve.*



Gene Topp

Gene Topp Drainage Service

"Gene Topp Drainage Service" opened for business on March 1, 1975, following the purchase of Robert Niemeyer's 1968 Buckeye Super-D Trencher. Gene had previously worked for Niemeyer Farm Drainage for six years. Since 1975, various equipment has been added to the business. It now includes a 1977 Buckeye Super-D Trencher, two Case bulldozers, one Case backhoe and a Mack tractor-lowboy combination. Gene Topp Drainage Service presently installs farm drainage tile, constructs grass waterways and stone structures, removes fence rows, grades building sites, performs backhoe work and removes snow in the winter. *Submitted by Gene Topp.*



Vornholt Funeral Home

Vornholt Funeral Home

The Vornholt Funeral Home was established in 1926 by Wilson and Lillian (Gress) Vornholt at 209 East Monroe Street in New Bremen. They had acquired the funeral business of the Arcade Department Store of New Bremen with which Wilson Vornholt had previously been associated. Harry Vornholt, brother of Wilson, and his wife, Bertha (Roettger) Vornholt, joined the firm in 1928. Wilson, the senior partner, graduated from the Cincinnati College of Embalming in 1919, and became a licensed embalmer and funeral director. Harry Vornholt graduated from The Columbus School of Embalming in 1931, and became a licensed funeral director.

In those years many of the funerals were held in the family homes. In 1931, the residence was remodeled. A large chapel, a casket display room, a music room and a preparation room were added, and other decorative changes were made inside and out. It was arranged so a funeral could be conducted in the funeral home if the family so desired.

At that point in time, the funeral homes were the only means of ambulance service. The Vornholt Funeral Home operated an ambulance service for forty-six years in the New Bremen community and surrounding area until 1975 when the New Bremen Emergency Squad was formed.

Wilson and Harry Vornholt operated the funeral and ambulance service until 1948 when Charles Vornholt, son of Wilson Vornholt, joined the firm.

Charles was born and raised in New Bremen and graduated from New Bremen High School in 1942. He attended Ohio State University, and served three years in the United States Army Medical Corps during World War II. Two and one half years were in the European Theater. He

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attended and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Embalming in 1948, and received his embalming and funeral director's license at that time. He married the former Edna Kuck of New Knoxville, and they have three children.

In 1966, they purchased a residence at 200 West Spring Street in New Knoxville and converted it into a modern funeral home. It is a branch establishment of the New Bremen home. At this time the firm serves the New Bremen, New Knoxville and Kettlersville communities and the surrounding areas.

Wilson Vornholt retired in 1953 and the business was operated by Harry and Charles Vornholt as partners. Harry Vornholt retired in 1966, and Charles and Edna Vornholt became the owners on January 1, 1967.

The firm is a member of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Director's Association, the 3rd District Funeral Director's Association and a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

The Vornholt Funeral Home is most grateful and proud to be a part in this sesquicentennial celebration. We have served the New Bremen community for the past fifty-seven years with funeral service, and hope to continue for many years in the future. *Submitted by Charles Vornholt.*

Walt's Hair Styling

I started business in the Grover Wissman Barber Shop at 14 South Washington Street (American Budget Building) which my brother, John purchased in 1957. In 1959, I bought the barber shop and my brother started in business in St. Marys.

Grover Wissman had cut hair in New Bremen for fifty-six years. In those years there was quite a number of face shaves given yet and also showers were available in the back room for 35¢—towels, soap, powder furnished. Hair cuts were $1.25.

In 1974, I moved to 320 West Monroe Street (Route 274) formerly the Mrs. Rev. Bassler's Beauty Shop. *Submitted by Walt Schmitmeyer.*



Walt Schmitmeyer

Warehouse Carpets

Warehouse Carpets opened in the New Bremen area in November of 1980. They have since moved from their first location on Quellhorst Road, to the present location at 11 West Second Street.

The owner, Larry Fultz, came to Ohio in 1969, from Los Angeles, California. He came with his wife, Yelonda and one son. Two more sons were born here in Ohio.

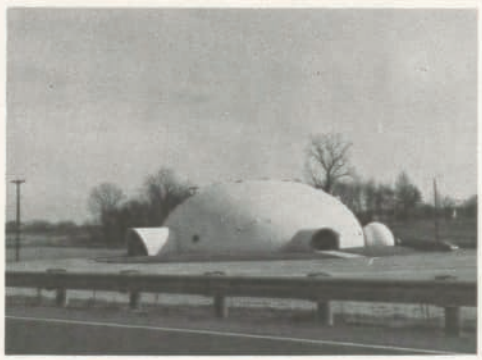
Warehouse Carpets was originally founded by Larry Fultz and Bruce Scheer. Bruce and Larry do all their own installation, sales and service. Combined they have over twenty-five years experience in the housing and related industry.

Western Ohio Hardware

1983 marks the 30th anniversary for the present owners of Western Ohio Hardware. Stanley and Dona Mae Kuenning purchased the business on February 16, 1953. The origin of Western Ohio Hardware began in 1926 when Harry F. Schroeder opened the New Bremen Hardware and Supply in its original location on West Monroe Street in the building now housing the American Legion. It remained in the location until 1946 when Mr. Schroeder's son, R.J. Schroeder, moved it to the building previously occupied by Gast's hat shop and Erhardt's dress shop (now Lyon's Electric). In 1951, the retail operation was moved across the street to its present location on Monroe and Water Streets, the former Schwaberow General Store. At that time the name was changed to Western Ohio Hardware and ultimately sold to Lester Neuman and Richard Tontrup, who operated the business until it was sold in February of 1953 to the Kuennings.

Western Ohio Hardware, an independent family operation, currently serves hardware needs of the area from two locations, the parent store in New Bremen and a satelite store opened in 1976 in Minster. Tim Kuenning, who manages the Lawn & Garden Departments from the New Bremen location, joined the firm in 1969. Scott Kuenning, his brother, is manager of the Minster store.

Western Ohio Hardware is a modernly equipped establishment that operates on the principles of helpfulness and reliable service. Lawn and garden supplies, lawn mowers, chain saws, paint, electrical and plumbing supplies, housewares, sporting goods, tools, sundries, nails, glass, gifts, small appliances, as well as a window and screen repair section make up the core of the merchandising for this business. *Submitted by Dona Mae Kuenning.*



White Mountain Restaurant

White Mountain Restaurant and Hall

From the structure itself to the menu and interior of the recently-opened White Mountain restaurant standing at the New Bremen village corporation limits, the owners concen-

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trated on offering something different to the area.

Why was it named White Mountain? "A lot of people think it's because it's white and looks like a hill," says Pat Lampert, one of the three owners. Actually, the name was selected because they wanted to "stay with the history of New Bremen." The White Mountain Creamery was one of New Bremen's biggest businesses, which eventually became Beatrice Foods.

The unique rounded contemporary structure was built by Fibercrete of Columbus. A balloon mold was blown up with air just before Thanksgiving last year. Due to the winter weather, construction - consisting of spraying the balloon's interior with insulation and concrete reinforced with steel fibers - was delayed several times. Ist took about three months to complete the outer shell.

Owners Charles and Pat Lampert and brother-in-law Larry Wissman at first decided upon a "conventional square block building." At the suggestion of a friend the three men decided to look into something different. They knew there was a need for a dance hall in the area, a definite "market for what we were planning on doing," says Pat Lampert. Tom Lampert, father of the two men, let them use some of his farmland as site for the building. "He was 100 percent behind us" and gave them advice on the project.

Once the structure was completed, Heyne Construction of Minster began work on the interior. Dealing with the rounded interior required "a lot of desk work and a lot of pushing the calculator" on the part of Jack Heyne, Pat Lampert explained, but the contractor also came up with a contemporary look for the interior. *Submitted from newspaper clipping.*

Wint's Restaurant

In the beginning Wint's Restaurant, 128 South Washington Street, was primarily a saloon complete with spitoons and an array of tobacco products.

The building that houses Wint's has always served alcoholic beverages. Before Ferd Wint bought the business it was a saloon run by Fred Kamman. The restaurant was operated by Ferd Wint from 1919 to 1946 and then taken over by the partnership of his sons, Paul and Laverne, after World War II. Paul, himself owned the restaurant from 1967 to December of 1981. It was a family business for over sixty years until it was sold in December of 1981 to Paul and Virginia Rosenbeck of Chickasaw.

The dining room was added in 1930. It has always been a gathering place for friends, out of town guests and students. Especially after a basketball or football game it is customary to stop and enjoy good home cooking and meet friends.

In the early days of the Wint Restaurant, Ferd Wint did most of the cooking and his wife, Georgianna, made pies, home-made sauerkraut, pickles and other food at home. Sunday was the big day for dining out. In the old days many came to New Bremen Speedway and stopped at Wint's either before or after the races.

In later years the restaurant was noted for its Friday night special of fresh Lake Erie perch and later, all the white fish with french fries and cole slaw, you could eat for a nominal price. The present owners, Paul and Virginia Rosenbeck, have continued this special, plus the regular menu. They serve the same good cooked food and are now open on Sundays. *Submitted by Mary Wint.*



Wint's Restaurant, c. 1920s

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Ziegenbusch Plumbing

Ziegenbusch Plumbing was started in April of 1975 by Wayne Ziegenbusch. The business is operated out of his residence on Amsterdam Road, southeast of New Bremen. This has been the Ziegenbusch homestead since the late 1800's, when his grandfather, August Ziegenbusch, purchased the property.

For the past five years Jon Rohrbach of St. Marys has been a chief employee of Ziegenbusch Plumbing. Secretaries for the business have been: Jane Moore, Yvonne Garman, and presently, Janet Garman, all of New Bremen.

Wayne is married to Margery (Voskuhl) Ziegenbusch, and they have two sons, Joshua and Adam. *Submitted by Wayne Ziegenbusch.*

Businesses No Longer In Operation

Arcade Department Store

I am expected to say a few things about the business I am connected with, The Arcade Department Store, and in this connection, it may interest you how far back this retail line really goes. Grandfather Wiemeyer came to New Bremen in 1836, as he had a contract to build the Miami and Erie Canal in this section, and after the completion of this work, he entered the retail mercantile business and pork packing and grain business. He build the first brick warehouse in New Bremen, and owned a large canal boat. Business was so good that the boat was always operated to capacity with his own business. A few years later, Grandfather Rabe entered the hardware business in partnership with his brother William. Grandfather Rabe also owned a canal boat. Since there were no checkbooks in those days, grandmother would sew the money into his clothing, and he would travel to Cincinnati with his boat to buy goods for his store. He continued in the hardware business for five years when he sold his interests to his brother, and devoted his time to the wine making business. The large wine cellar fourteen feet deep is still to be seen in the Julius Hoeper home in the south end of town. I am told that most of the wine was sold for communion wine, or did they tell me that, to put a halo on the head of the family skeleton. This was also a prosperous business. Uncle Fred Wiemeyer followed in the merchandising footsteps of his father, and my dad started as a clerk in uncle's clothing store sixty years ago. In going over all this data, it interested me to find that the family had been in the mercantile business for one-hundred years.

At the turn of the twentieth century, at the present location of The Arcade, there were four mercantile establishments. Speckman and Nieters had a grocery and drygoods store, Faehl and Nieter a furniture store, Fred Wiemeyer a clothing store, and my father had Rabe's Cheap Store, which consisted of a stock similar to the five cents to dollar stores of today.

Father talked to those neighborhood merchants about a department store, and after several discussions, they decided to merge their stocks and start a department store.

And so The Arcade Department Store was founded in



Arcade Department Store, 1953

January, 1903, with seven stockholders. This list of stockholders has since grown to sixty-eight due to stock subscriptions in later years and divisions of stock among heirs of deceased stockholders. One instance enables me to recall the opening day of the store. The New Bremen Band was hired to play for the day, and I can still see Otto Boesel sitting to the front of the band playing a slide trombone.

In the early years of the store, we conducted a pork packing business, but with the advent of the packing houses in the larger cities, this business was discontinued. We also operated a shoe store the first twenty years we were in business. The store thrived as it enjoyed the trade of the entire countryside. Those were the horse and buggy days, and people did not drive to the city to buy, and the local merchants could figure that the community would buy his wares. Today it is different, and the automobile is the small town merchant's worst competitor.

However, we have managed to survive all this, and are still on top. We have seen many of our fellow merchants throughout this territory succumb to the depression, but although the going was hard, we managed to survive.

Our store covers fifteen thousand square feet of sales floor, and we stock two-hundred seventy thousand salable items. We aim to carry our stocks complete, and have just as few "outs" as possible. We like to impress the public with the fact that you can enter our store, and do all your shopping under one roof. Our Bazaar Department is unique because we stock many items not found in other stores. Our store is the second largest in Ohio for a town of fifteen hundred people. We do all our business on our own money, and at the close of each year for the past ten years, we have shown a balance sheet with no liabilities whatsoever. There are times of the year when we have twenty-five percent of our capital stock in cash.

I look upon The Arcade as a servant of this community, and it is with this idea in mind that we try to carry the merchandise supplies you need, and if we can serve our community satisfactorily, then we can regard our store as a great asset to the community.

A mild form of inflation has swept the country, and many items have advanced in price, and merchandise is hard to get. However, we are holding prices in line with what the community can afford to pay. Also, we have bought far enough ahead to maintain a completely stocked store.

The Christmas season is our busiest time, and the community has found our store the best Christmas shopping center for miles around.

You can well imagine what a task it is to have just the merchandise in stock that the next customer will call for. In

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many of our lines, the matter of sizes enters in, and when you buy this merchandise, you must buy it so you have it in the sizes your customers will ask for. It requires careful buying to keep your size ranges correct. If we fail you at times by not having the merchandise you call for, do not condemn us, but overlook our failing when you realize from our large stock of merchandise that we really try to supply the community. The Arcade Department Store is our contribution to keeping the home fires burning in New Bremen. *A speech by Alfred Rabe to a Civic Club in New Bremen about December of 1939.*

The Auglaize Furniture Company

The Auglaize Furniture Company was organized about 1912 by all New Bremen people. It replaced the Klanke Furniture Company which was housed in a three story wood construction building and was totally destroyed by a disastrous fire about 1911.

The main plant was located on the southeast corner of South Herman and Plum streets, with the warehouses and shipping facility located across Herman Street adjacent to the railroad.

The new plant was built in 1914 of all brick construction, single story and had a "saw tooth" roof. One side of the saw tooth was all glass, for daylight penetration, with louvers at intervals for ventilation. The building was heated with steam heat by a low pressure steam boiler built as a part of the plant. It also served the "dry kiln" in which the wood was cured. For that period of time it was a very modern structure.

Various types of furniture were built, with the main item being a "Library Table". This was a combination desk and bookcase, which was built in several models. It was a well built and beautiful piece of furniture. Many are still in use in this area.

This company operated successfuly until the depression years, which hit the entire furniture industry prior to the stock market crash in 1929. *Submitted by Elton Bruns.*



Case Motor Car, c. 1910

Case Motor Company

The Case Motor Company was established in New Bremen about 1909. It was located in a building on the northwest corner of First and Walnut streets, presently the location of the Auglaize School.

It was mostly an assembly plant. The truck bed, seat and frame were fabricated in the local plant while the engine, transmission, wheels and steering gear were purchased from outside sources.

Ben Vornholt, who lived at 16 North Washington Street, was one of the early owners of these trucks. He operated a cream gathering route between area farmers and the White Mountain Creamery. The truck was housed in a car port between the barn and the chicken coop. He started his route about five o'clock in the morning, and needless to say, everyone for blocks around were awakened when he started the engine. It had no muffler and was accompanied by the cackle of the chickens.

The building which housed the Case Motor Company was originally built as a plow factory. After the failure of the Case Company, about 1918, it was tenanted by a number of firms. To my knowledge, the next tenant was The Auglaize Hoist and Body Company. They built steel body dump mechanisms which were attached to conventional truck chassis to form a dump truck. These dump trucks were manually operated by a lever. This method of dumping worked very well as long as the load was evenly distributed. When the load was not evenly distributed, it was necessary to re-distribute the load or alternately use a long crow-bar to assist in dumping the load. *Submitted by Elton Bruns.*

Consolidated Products Company

Consolidated Products Company of Danville, Illinois, started to condense buttermilk in the year of 1930. This operation was done here in New Bremen in a building located near what is now Beatrice Foods. This building was located south of the present Beatrice Foods water tower. The first employees of this operation were: Lawrence Hietman, Plant Manager; Roy Huckriede, Pan Operator; and Paul Kettler, Salesman. Leroy Kettler and Elton Tontrup were the truck drivers. In 1939, Paul Kettler resigned due to health reasons and Henry Dicke was hired at that time.

The process of making this buttermilk was done as follows. The buttermilk was piped from the White Mountain Creamery, known today as Beatrice Foods, into one-thousand gallon vats. There were five of these vats. The buttermilk was heated and then pumped into a condensing pan. The buttermilk was condensed at one hundred and forty-five degrees which was done under a vacuum. This process took about five or six hours to complete. The finished product which was twenty-seven per cent solid would then flow into fifty gallon barrels or one hundred pound drums. After one day of cooling the buttermilk was ready for delivery. It was then delivered to many farmers in this area by Henry Dicke. This product was fed to hogs and chickens. During World War II buttermilk was rationed to the farmers.

In 1947, the plant was closed due to a lack of raw buttermilk. A warehouse was then opened on Front Street, which is now the storage building on the Paul Headapohl property. This warehouse could hold four carloads of buttermilk. The buttermilk was shipped here from Washington Courthouse, Ohio, and Chicago, and Danville, Illinois.

In 1956, Consoliidated Products Company sold out to National Dairy. After this action, buttermilk was no longer available to the farmers in this area. Therefore, the warehouse was closed permanently.

At the present time in 1983, Leroy Kettler and Henry

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Consolidated Products Company

Dicke are the only living employees of this former company.

Henry Dicke and his wife, Esther, reside at 237 East Monroe Street in New Bremen. They have two children, Dennis and Karen. Dennis married Lois Tangeman and they have two children. Karen married George Voress, Jr. and they have three children. *Submitted by Henry Dicke.*

First School Bus Operator New Bremen School District

Earl Kuenning, at the age of twenty-five, owned and operated the New Bremen School District's first school bus.

According to the minutes of the New Bremen School Board meeting of August 28, 1923, Mr. Kuenning presented his proposition to the board to purchase a bus, furnish a driver, and stand all operating expenses for a monthly fee of $220.00.

At the following meeting, on September 3rd, the proposition was accepted by the school board for a one-year contract. School board members were: O.H. Boesel, President; H.A. Schrage, Clerk; Superintendent, E.W. Jordan; Brandt; Fledderjohann, and Koenig.

Mr. Kuenning purchased a 1923 Model T. Ford bus from the Wayne Body Company of Richmond, Indiana. He owned and operated the bus for five years, after which Leo Huenke obtained the contract for five years. Mr. Kuenning then regained the contract and operated the school bus until 1946, at which time the school officials purchased their own bus and hired drivers. *Submitted by Earl Kuenning.*

J.F. Lanfersieck and Company

The Lanfersieck and Company began practically when the Lanfersieck family came to Auglaize County. In 1859, Herman Lanfersieck moved to New Bremen and bought lot 335. Sometime in 1863, Victor Lanfersieck, probably Herman's brother, came to New Bremen from Germany and together they formed Lanfersieck and Brothers. In February of 1864, Victor bought lots 357-361 (located on the west side of Walnut Street between East Front and Plum Streets) and formed Lanfersieck and Company. The shop was located on lot 359.

John F. Lanfersieck took over the ownership of the company after his father, Victor, died on May 31, 1871. He did this by buying the interest in the company his mother, brothers, and sisters had inherited. Complete ownership did not come until the later part of the 1870's, when his brother Gerhard's children came of age to sell their inheritance. After taking control of the firm in 1871, he changed the name to J.F. Lanfersieck and Company.

The company's main business was the manufacturing and selling of cast iron plows. The plow shares were cast in the shop with the wood handles made in the back part of the upstairs. Henry Weinberg was the head carpenter. William and August Lanfersieck also worked for their brother, John. These four men did all the work until the business grew larger and more help was needed. The firm branched into rakes, threshers, and steam engines as the demand for more mechanized farm equipment grew.

In 1881, John H. Grothaus, who started working for the company around 1874, became a partner in the firm. After J.F. Lanfersieck's brother-in-law, William Grothaus, Sr., died in December of 1885, some of William's sons were hired to help support William's wife and eight children. The first to be hired was William, Jr. Later when Edmund came of age he was hired. William Grothaus, Jr. during slack periods went to the surrounding areas selling plows. For a short while William quit the company and ran a hardware store in Celina. When he sold the hardware store, William returned to the plow company.

On August 24, 1889, J.F. Lanfersieck sold the property the company was located on to his brother, August. Grothaus and Lanfersieck on July 14, 1890, bought lots 94, 95, and 96, excepting that part west of the Miami-Erie Canal. At this location they could have their needed supplies shipped to them on a canal boat and unloaded in the wide water behind their buildings. The firm was then located between First and Walnut Streets and the Canal. On November 15, 1895, Grothaus and Lanfersieck combined their interests and formed Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company. *Submitted by Dan Bennett.*

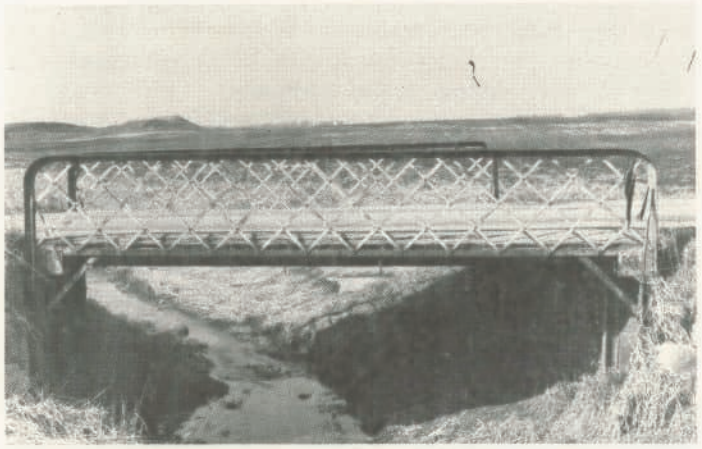
Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company

The Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company was formed by John Frederick Lanfersieck and John Henry Grothaus on November 15, 1895, when they combined all their interest they had in the old plow company. J.F. Lanfersieck became the President and J.H. Grothaus became the Secretary. (While J.H. Grothaus served as County Treasurer, Edmund Grothaus was the Secretary of the Company.) Lots 94, 95, and 96, excepting that part west of the Miami-Erie Canal was the location of the firm. This location is between First and Walnut Streets and the Miami-Erie Canal. Since they owned along the Canal, they could have the steel they bought shipped by boat and unloaded in the wide water behind the shop. They bought their steel from Cambria or from Jones and Laughlin.

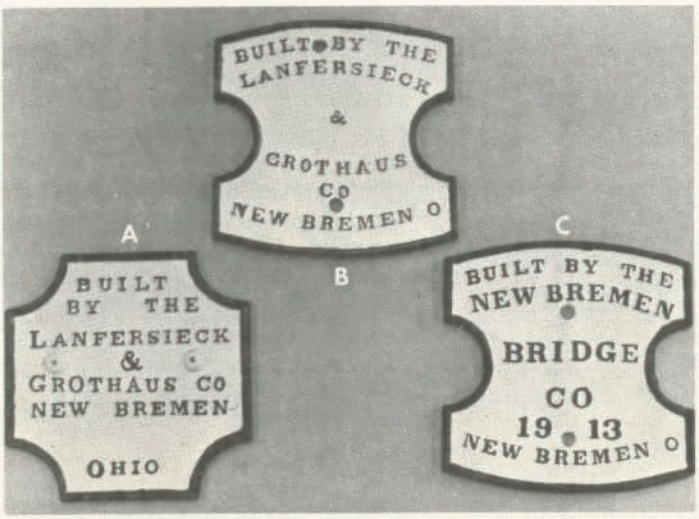
On October 5, 1897, the firm won their first bridge contract. It was for a sixteen feet wide structure with a span of twenty-four feet. The cost was two-hundred and sixteen dollars. The site is on present day State Route 219, a little more than a mile east of the Auglaize-Mercer County line.

Four different types of structures were built by the Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company. The first two, steel lattice and trussed steel lattice, were a simple type of construction. The steel lattice was basically a simple beam bridge with the railing carrying some of the load. The trussed steel lattice was an inverted kingpost truss united to a steel lattice.

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No longer existing - Valley Road over Willow Creek in Auglaize County.



These two types of bridges were designed to carry from six to about twelve tons. Steel abutments and mudsills were the most common type of substructure. The name plaques used on these types were Type A shown in the picture of name plaques. Several other companies built bridges very similar to these two types.

The other two types of structures were the truss leg bedstead and pony truss. Spans up to seventy feet were built using these types. Most of their work was in the shorter spans of ten to forty feet. They did not even bid on spans over seventy feet. As with the other two types of bridges, steel abutments with mudsills were the most common substructure. The trusses could withstand over fifteen tons, but the floor system was designed for about ten tons. The name plaques used on these types of bridges were Type B shown in the picture of name plaques.

Most of the bridges they built had wood decks; however, some had concrete or brick decks. The "b" or "c" after the type of bridge in the List of Known Structures designates brick or concrete respectively. A brick floor was constructed using a one-fourth inch steel plate bolted to the floor beams. Four inch bricks were laid over the plates with a cushion of sand. The brick and concrete decks were basically used on Inter-County Highways.

An ingenious method was used to construct a concrete floor. Between the floor joist 1½" x 5¾" boards were placed on two feet centers. On top of the boards, 1" x 9½" rough cut boards were nailed. Steel plates were riveted to the exterior joists. A five inch concrete floor was then poured. This type of form work can still (1979) be seen on Bridge No. 90 Washington Township, Auglaize County.

A Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company truss is apparent by their use of a C4 x 5.4 for the railing. The other bridge companies used steel lattices. The use of the channel iron resulted in a very simple connection to the truss and would be cheaper than a steel lattice since less steel was needed and far less construction time.

The cost for one of their structures varies with the length of span and if abutments were needed. One of the least expensive bridges they built was for one-hundred and fifteen dollars in 1905, at Bridge No. 302 Noble Township. The abutments for Bridge No. 132 Duchouquet Township cost five-hundred eighteen dollars, while the superstructure cost nine-hundred and sixty dollars. Most of the bridges they built cost between four-hundred and fifty dollars to nine-hundred and ninety-five dollars.

By the end of the 1900s J.F. and August Lanfersieck were reaching retirement age, so it was decided to form a new company. Mr. Case had earlier contacted the firm about building trucks, called Auglaize Trucks, at their shop. So on August 22, 1910, the company sold their property and buildings to Case Motor Car Company, which then sold the property to Auglaize Motor Car Company. With John H. Grothaus as President, A.C. Settleage as Treasurer, and F.W. Bruns as Secretary, production began. But with so many other firms also building good quality trucks, the company was soon bankrupt. *Submitted by Dan Bennett.*

Mueller Brothers Clothing Store

John and August Mueller (brothers), owners of Mueller Brothers Men's and Boy's Clothing, opened their business in the year of 1900.

They began at 103 West Monroe Street, then moved to 1 West Monroe Street. Finally they bought the building at Main and Monroe Streets which is now used as a Warehouse for Friemering's business. The Muellers continued business in the building until 1936.

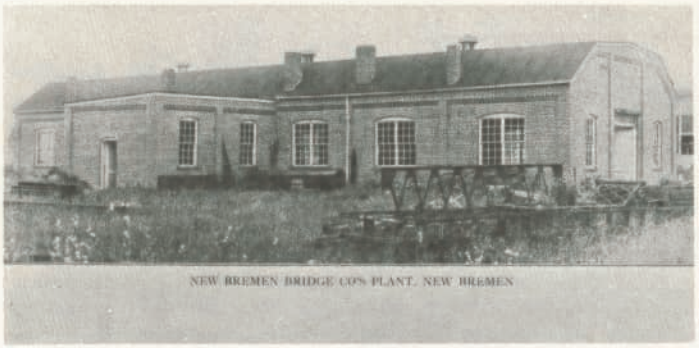
Theophil (Tafe) Mueller started in business in 1937. He called his store Mueller's Menswear. It was located at 115 West Monroe Street until 1950. At that time, he moved into the new building at 117 West Monroe Street, until he retired in 1969.

The Mueller families enjoyed sixty-eight years in Men's Clothing business in New Bremen. *Submitted by Irene Bay.*

New Bremen Bridge Company

On April 25, 1911, John H. Grothaus, August Lanfersieck, and William Lanfersieck, some of the owners of the former Lanfersieck & Grothaus Company, purchased outlot twenty-five and the south part of outlot twenty-six for their new plant. These outlots are located between Herman Street and the former Lake Erie and Western Railroad (now part of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad) just south of Vogelsang Street in New Bremen. This was an ideal location to receive their steel, which was usually bought from Cam-

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New Bremen Bridge Co's Plant, New Bremen



Schooler Road over Willow Creek in Auglaize County

bria or Jones & Laughlin. The office for the Company was located on West Monroe Street.

In the late 1900s, the Auglaize County Engineer began specifying concrete superstructures. Concrete had been used for abutment construction since the late 1890s in Auglaize County. With the development of concrete design, the use of concrete in decks was fast in coming. Concrete was a more desirable material, since it requires less maintenance than wood or steel. Concrete can also be formed into any shape. To be competitive with concrete contractors, the Company started using concrete decks almost exclusively starting in 1909. This brought the carrying capacity of the structures up to one hundred fifty pounds per square foot from the one hundred twenty-five pounds per square foot for the wood deck bridges.

Having fewer Auglaize County contracts hurt their business, since most of their work had been in this county. The New Bremen Bridge Company then started bidding more jobs in surrounding counties, especially Mercer and Shelby Counties. However, they were not as successful bidding against local contractors of the surrounding counties as they had been in Auglaize County.

In 1912, the Company experimented on Bridge No. 120, Washington Township, Auglaize County. By using steel plates of different thickness, they were able to build a crown in the wood floor. The exterior joists set directly on the floor beams. Under the first joists in from the sides, two 0.375 inch plates were placed between the joists and floor beams. Under the second joists in, two 0.4375 inch thick plates were put, while under the middle joist a 0.25 inch plate and a 0.75 inch plate were places. A wood deck was nailed on with 6" by 4" nailing boards.

The flood of 1913 was a boom for their business, because so many bridges were destroyed or damaged. They built only about fifteen bridges as a direct result, but were suppliers for many of the reinforced concrete bridges built. By the end of the 1910's, the Company was doing mostly repair work and furnishing reinforcement for the counties. Other steel products, such as bolts, sewer pipes, scraper blades, and structural steel, was also sold by the Company.

When John H. Grothaus and August Lanfersieck died, the Company passed on to their heirs, Alvin and Walter Grothaus (John's sons) and Roscoe and Fred Lanfersieck (August's children). However, they were not interested in keeping the business going and it was too much work for William Lanfersieck to carry on alone in his poor health. Therefore, the Company was sold to Streine Tool Manufacturing Company on March 25, 1929. The family business came to an end after sixty-six years. *Submitted by Dan Bennett.*

New Bremen Rubber Company

The New Bremen Rubber Company was established around 1936 by Seiberling Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. They bought the Auglaize Furniture Company property which was located at 215 West Plum Street. The building is now owned by Stamco. Some of the people who were sent by Seiberling to organize this factory were Oscar Belton, Porter Belton, and Albert G. Inman. In the early days, this company manufactured rubber toys, baby pants, and rubber gloves. Later they restricted their operations to the manufacture of rubber gloves only. The name was changed sometime during this period to Seiberling Latex Products, possibly when the company was purchased by Standard Industries, Inc. The company was sold again to Crane Carrier Industries, and finally to Meco, Inc. In June of 1967, the Meco president, Mal Greenberg, moved this factory to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where it operated until the early or mid-1970's when it went out of business. *Submitted by Mrs. Lowell Francis.*





Seiberling Latex Products in 1961

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Schelper's Old Reliable Meat Market

Schelper's Old Reliable Meat Market was founded by Heinrich Casper Schelper, who was born on April 19, 1836, in Munden, Goettingen, Hannover, Germany. He immigrated to New Bremen along with his wife-to-be, Anna Adelheid Woebse on June 7, 1866. Anna was born on October 22, 1843. They were married on August 11, 1866, and had seven children and five grandchildren. Two of their grandchildren are still living in New Bremen: Alton Schelper and Mrs. Lafe (Marie Otte) Topp. Another granddaughter, Bendetta (Schelper) Wallace, lives in Dayton. Henry learned the butcher trade from his grandfather in Bremen, Germany, which is where he met Anna, and practiced this trade from the age of twenty until his death on December 6, 1895. Anna died on September 8, 1925. The original slaughter house and meat market were located at the corner of Water Street and Second Street, which is where Alton and Alvera (Stroefer) Schelper now live. Later the slaughtering operation was moved north of town. The butcher shop was brought down town to Monroe Street (the present location of Moeller's Refrigeration and Bev's Stitch 'N So.)

William Schelper was born on September 30, 1867, and quit school at the age of thirteen to work with his father. He became sole proprietor of the business in September of 1897. He and his wife, Lizzie Ellerman, had no children of their own, but they raised their nephew, Alton Schelper. He was the son of Henry Schelper, Jr., who died on July 31, 1906, and Laura Vanderhorst. Alton became associated with William in the butcher business. In 1932, they added a grocery, and changed the name of the shop to Schelper's Old Reliable Foodmarket. They also dealt in live stock. William died on October 10, 1933. Alton continued to operate this business until 1957, when he sold it to Thomas Moeller. He ran it for ten years until 1967, when he went out of business. When slaughtering was discontinued north of town, the buildings were torn down and houses were built by Alton. This area is called Shanverton Court. *Submitted by: Mrs. Lowell Francis.*

Schulenberg's Store

William Schulenberg, better known as Captain Schulenberg, started his business in the two front rooms of his residence on North Main street. Early advertisements in the newspaper told that his inventory included guitars, mandolins and other musical instruments. Later, in 1891, William Schulenberg and Herman Laut, Sr. built the building on Monroe street which at the present time houses the Hotel bar and Gilberg Furniture.

Mr. Laut operated the hotel and Mr. Schulenberg had his place of business in the two rooms at the east side of the building. At this time, in addition to musical instruments, Mr. Schulenberg sold such items as toilet articles, tobacco, stationary and also operated a soda fountain.

When the interurban cars came to New Bremen, Mr. Schulenberg built an addition to the east side of the building. This portion consisted of two parts: one room housed a barber shop, which was operated by William Patterson, and the second room was the freight house for the electric line. Mr. Schulenberg was the ticket agent for the interurban line, and also managed the freight which came in daily.

When William Schulenberg retired his only son, Herbert, became the owner of the business. Herbert soon decided he would rather be in the real estate business, so it was at this time that Cade and Elton Schulenberg, sons of Herbert, took over the store and the ticket and freight agency of the interurban line.

In later years the electric line was discontinued, and Cade continued to be the sole owner of Schulenberg's store until his death in 1958. At one time the Purpus Insurance Agency was housed in the east room of the store, and the public library was housed in a part of the store. In 1958, Norma Schulenberg, wife of Cade, started to dispose of the merchandise and closed the store for the last time in April, 1959. At the same time she sold the building to Paul Gilberg, and Gilberg Furniture still operates at that address. Norma now makes her home in St. Marys, Ohio. *Submitted by Norma Schulenberg.*

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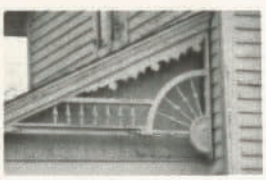






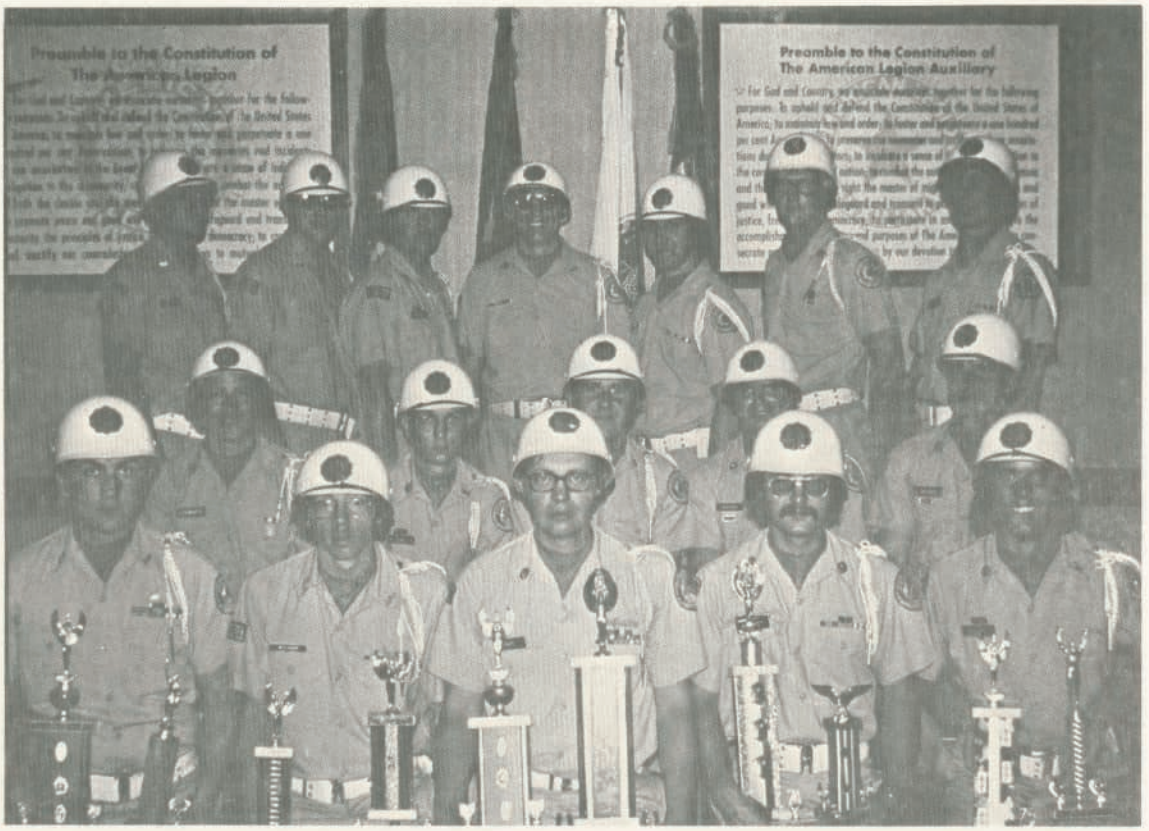
Organizations

American Legion Post #241
American Legion Auxiliary
Bremenfest
Child Guidance League
Friends of Library
Men's Garden Club
New Bremen Athletic Booster Club
New Bremen Jaycees
New Bremen Senior Citizens
Tender Loving Care CCL
Twig Benders CCL
Twentieth Century Mothers
Women's Club
Woodmen of the World
Woodmen Circle



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Drill Team
and Color Guard
First row, left to right: Kyle Michaels, Bob Wissman, Jim Pape, Bill Phlipot, Bob Phlipot. Second row: Ed Schwartz, Joseph Rosenbeck, Bill Moore, David Bergman, Mike Ahlers. Third row: Jim Suchland, Harold Krieg, Dennis Bushman, John Pape, Dennis Wente, Steve Dabbelt, Mike Suchland.

American Legion Post #241

On September 2, 1920, a charter was issued to New Bremen Legion Post #241. The following names are on the charter membership roll: Richard E. Boesel, George Taylor, K.E. Berend, Herman Laut, Leo F. Sunderman, Vernon B. Newman, Clifton W. Bosel, G.H. Ruedebusch, Herbert H. May, John Stueve, William H. Rabe, Ivan H. Koeper, Irwin H. Koeper, Ray D. Knipple, Ward H. Pape, Carl F. Solms, Irwin Dammeyer, Leander H. Heitkamp, Erwin Heinfeldt, Frederich Speckman, Arley C. Moeller.

From 1920 to 1948, the Legion meetings were held above the Fire Department on South Washington Street.

On December 28, 1948, the Legion bought the old Opera House in New Bremen. The building had been erected in 1895 by Charles Boesel. The upstairs was then converted into the modern up-to-date quarters of the New Bremen Legion. Herman Laut was chairman of the project. Harry Vornholt was director of the volunteer work group. The Legion paid $12,500 for the building and had it paid off by 1956.

On May 23, 1973, Nathan Hirschfeld was elected commander and provided leadership in building a modern canteen and meeting room downstairs. Over 4200 working hours were donated towards the remodeling and total cost of the remodeling was $40,000. On November 12, 1979, the Legion had this lien paid off and had a mortgage burning ceremony.

Those men who gave their lives in World War I were: Curt E. Ihle, Fred C. Klute, Leo J.H. Silk, and Herman H. Soelmann.

The men who gave their lives in World War II were: Vernon Dickman, George Gensler Jr., Warren Knipple, David Koenig, Frederick Luebkeman, Donald Mohrman, Richard McNett, Gerald Shaffer, and John Zahn Jr.

In 1974, we started a Drill Team and Color Guard. In four years we won over sixty trophies. *Submitted by Nathan Hirschfeld.*

American Legion Auxiliary #241

New Bremen Unit #241 of the American Legion Auxiliary was founded on February 7, 1934, and received a charter on March 19, 1934. There were sixteen charter members. Now in 1982, five of these ladies still remain members of this Unit. Eight members are deceased and three are non-members. Our present membership in 1982-83 is 109 members. There are 102 senior members, and seven junior members. Mrs. Raymond (Louise) Knipple was the first president of the Unit and now at the present time Mrs. Donald (Clara) Greiwe is serving as our Unit President. Twenty-six ladies have served this Unit at president. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the Legion Home which is located at 115 West Monroe Street. This building was formerly The Boesel Opera House, where many school activities were held. Plays and shows were given there and many events for the good of the community were held in this building. The Legion purchased this building in 1948 and the dedication of their new home was in June of 1949. *Submitted by Helen Dammeyer.*

Bremenfest

A community picnic for New Bremen was the primary goal of the Bremenfest. The organizers of the first Bremenfest met and began planning the festival in August of 1974. One year later on August 23 and 24, 1975, the first Bremenfest became a reality in downtown New Bremen.

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As in most festivals, the Bremenfest was designed to raise money for various projects that would benefit all of New Bremen. The festival's manpower was dominated by many of the non-profit organizations already in existence at the time. A formal constitution was developed, which stated all profits of the Bremenfest would be held collectively and distributed through the wishes of the majority, whenever a request for funds was presented.

Providing a mixture of German and American foods, games, rides, and musical entertainment, the Bremenfest expanded from its original two-day celebration to a three-day format highlighted by the annual Heritage Parade on Sunday afternoon.

Sucessive profitable years allowed the organization to make a sizable down payment on seventeen acres of land in the northeast section of New Bremen along the Canal Road on August 6, 1980. Papers were signed and the Bremenfest began to formulate development plans for a Community Park.

When completed, the park will include four baseball diamonds, volleyball and tennis courts, plus picnic areas along with room for future expansion and additional facilities. Currently, two baseball diamonds have been completed and are available for use.

In August of 1982, due to the generosity of local industry donations, the Bremenfest exercised its option to acquire an additional four acres of land. This brought the total acreage to twenty-one acres, the original projected size of the park. Upon acquisition of the land, a specific park board was established to plan and develop the land along with overseeing the future development of the area.

It is the hope of the Bremenfest committees that the festival will eventually be held at the park, continuing to provide a weekend in August where the people of New Bremen and the surrounding area will enjoy themselves.

Past presidents of the festival are: Donald Kuck, 1975; John Gilberg, 1976; Edwin Heuker, Sr., 1977; Karl Hagerstrand, 1978; Robert Weinberg III, 1979; Richard R. Bergman, 1980; John Knost, 1981; Donald Kuck, 1982; and Robert Klein, 1983. *Submitted by Don Kuck.*

Child Guidance League

An organizational meeting of the Child Guidance League, an affiliate of the Ohio Child Conservation League, was held in the fall of 1953. In October of 1953, it was chartered with Mrs. Robert Kuenning as President, Mrs. Walter Maich as Vice President, Mrs. Ben Furry as Secretary, and Mrs. Paul A. Dicke as Treasurer.

The first project and express purpose of the league was to foster and promote a New Bremen Kindergarten. This was accomplished with the combined efforts of the Twig Benders, a second league formed in 1954. After the local school system incorporated a kindergarten in their system the league continued with other projects, and is now in its twenty-ninth year of promoting the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of themselves, their children, grandchildren, and community.

Four charter members are: Mrs. David Pape, Mrs. Lester Howe, Mrs. Dale Fledderjohn, and Mrs. David Anthony, and one honorary member is Mrs. Robert Kuenning. The fourteen members in this year's club are presided over by President Mrs. Adrian Moeller. *Submitted by Lois Moeller.*



Left to right: Jean Harris, Betty Herbst, Frieda Schroeder, Jenny Klose, Jane Jackson, Alice Cumming, Irene Wellemeyer.

Friends of the New Bremen Library

In 1954, a movement developed involving many groups of the community that was to establish a support group for a local library. The Auglaize County Public Library (then Blume Memorial Library) had serviced a book rack in a local store for many years, but when the store closed, only the Bookmobile was available to New Bremenites.

Eight women spearheaded the movement. Original board members were: Frances Bailey, Dottie Boesel, Alice Cumming, Katherine Grothaus, Ruth Howard, Betty Komminsk, Verona Huenke, and Mary Wint. Encouraged by Miss Louise Miller, county librarian, these women agreed to handle the distribution of county books to local patrons.

Finding a location for the provisional library was the most difficult problem as there were no vacancies in the business district. Cade Schulenburg kindly gave space and shelves in his drugstore. The county gave starter collection and patrons donated many books. Most useful in those early days were the donations of children's and young people's books by Emily Grothaus, Melinda Cumming and Dianne Komminsk. Boy Scouts carried books and the Girl Scouts helped man the desk for a community service badge.

As the operation became larger, the city fathers let us move to village headquarters above the fire department. The CCL groups cleaned the premises and the Boy Scouts moved the books again. The Women's Club voted to help on a regular basis, and their representative, Jean Harris, and Girl Scout, Martha Leisner serviced the desk with board members filling in.

When the old bank building (Dierker) at Monroe and Washington became available in 1962, the Lions Club, encouraged by Cliff Harris, rented the building for the library. Again the CCL members cleaned windows and walls and Stamco Union #3211 painted the building on the inside. Local businessmen and individuals bought shelves, and the County Library named New Bremen officially a Branch Library.

By this time the Board had assumed the name of Friends of the New Bremen Library, and local organizations were encouraged to send representatives as members. James Moeller represented the Village Council. Membership drives were held and the general membership swelled to the hundreds.

Betty Komminsk instituted a major program that for many years provided income for the Friends' activities. Frieda Schroeder named it the Gute Gebrauchte Sachen,

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which means "good used things". It was no rummage sale. Jewelry, fine clothes, collectibles, and nice household furnishings, donated by good friends of the library, were ready for the crowd waiting for the door of the German Township Building to open on Thursday afternoon. Marie Anthony's ability to price right was legendary. The Women's Club and CCL Clubs donated baked goods, Chester Young sent his "honey bears" and many friends were on hand to help. Mai-Beavin Kuenning and Eileen Dicke provided trucks from Advance Auto and Crown Controls for transportation of merchandise. The churches loaned us clothes racks until we had our own. Librarians Melba Roediger and Sue Maxson served at every Gute Sachen held. Later, the Friends substituted for the Gute Sachen their Bake and Book Sales, a project still carried on.

Regular contributions of the Friends include a yearly season of adult programs, materials for a summer reading program and the story hour for children, materials for displays, audio-visual machines and supplies, and a copier much in demand by the public.

Over the years the structure of the Friends has remained basically the same. There is always a central board with a wider general membership. From time to time, different groups send representatives. In general the Friends operate an organized basis, but when we look back at the help given by so many individuals and groups, we feel everyone in New Bremen has become friends of the library.

Presidents

1954 - 1964	Mrs. James Cumming
1965 - 1967	Mrs. Lewis Komminsk
1968	Mrs. Robert Kuenning
1969 - 1971	Mrs. Lewis Komminsk
1972 - 1974	Mrs. James Cumming
1975 - 1976	Mrs. Chester Young
1977 - 1978	Mrs. Larry Kuhn
1979 - 1980	Mrs. Karl Hagerstrand
1981 - 1982	Mrs. Paul Wint
1982 - 1983	Mrs. Chester Young

Submitted by Alice Cumming.

New Bremen Men's Garden Club

On February 25, 1963, six men from New Bremen met to organize a Men's Garden Club. Men from the St. Marys and Wapakoneta Men's Garden Clubs were present to explain the steps necessary to affiliate with the Men's Garden Clubs of America. The first officers elected were: J.A. Ashbaugh, president; Leon Kellermeyer, 1st vice president; Ray Minert, 2nd vice president; and Harold Suchland, secretary-treasurer.

The Men's Garden Club of New Bremen was selected as the name of the Club. The Club meets the fourth Monday of each month. The purpose of the organization was "for the beautification of New Bremen". At the March meeting eight more members joined, making a total of fourteen, the number necessary to apply for a charter in the National organization. The charter was granted on May 27, 1963.

The first project was to plant a petunia bed on the island east of State Route 66, just south of First Street. Petunia plants were donated by the Wapakoneta Men's Garden Club. The second project was the planting of shrubs around the stage at the Community Park. The third project was landscaping and planting the area north of Monroe Street to First Street and west of Highway 66. This included cleaning up the Canal, putting heavy stone and concrete on the banks to prevent erosion, and covering with white limestone.

In May of 1964, the Women's Club furnished concrete flower boxes for the Monroe Street bridge railings and the Garden Club agreed to plant and care for them. Also in May of 1964, the Club sponsored its first Petunia Day. Petunias and geraniums were made available to the public for donations to the Club. This became an annual money-raising project.

The first shrubs were planted in the Canal area in May of 1964. On September 12, of the same year, the first Flower and Garden Show was sponsored and the theme was "Our First Attempt". In November of that year, a row of pre-cast concrete slabs were presented to the Club by the Superior Silo Company to be used for a raised flower bed. It was first located on the northwest corner of Monroe and 66, later moved to the location between Monroe and the Library.

In January of 1966, the Club published it's first bulletin. In keeping with New Bremen's German heritage, it was named "Garden Plauder" which is German for "Garden Chatter".

Through the efforts of Professor Elmer Ende, the old firebell was saved and the Club agreed to locate it in the Canal Project area about half way between Monroe and First streets. The Volunteer Firemen assisted with this project. On October 24, 1966, the Constitution and By-laws of the Club were adopted.

In November of 1966, the Women's Club donated money for a tree to be planted in the Canal Project area. On Arbor Day of 1967, the tree was planted with appropriate ceremonies to which the public was invited.

In March of 1967, the Club planned the landscaping of the area of 66 to the Canal. The first trees were planted in March of 1968. In May of 1968, a riding mower was purchased to mow the grass in the project areas; prior to this Club members used their own equipment.

On April 27, 1970, a tree was planted as a memorial to Martha Huenke. On October 26, 1970, the Club began sponsorship of the Senior Girl Scout Troop.

In April of 1971, the Women's Club purchased another tree for the project. A Junior Gardening Project was started in April of 1971, and Harold Opperman made some of his land available for the garden plots.

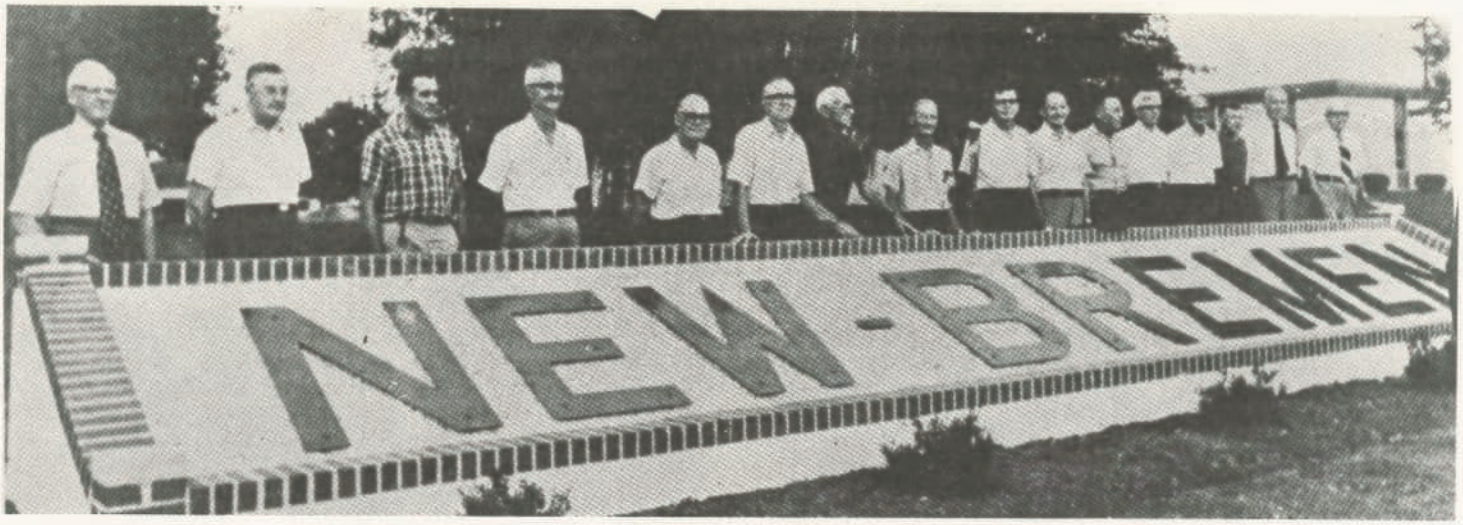
On April 23, 1973, the Club was incorporated. On August 27, the "New Bremen" marker was dedicated in the North project area. Shrubs planted there were dedicated to the memorty of two deceased members, Gordon Fox and Walter Schroeder.

In 1974, with funds from the Twentieth Century Mother's Club, the Village Council and the Men's Garden Club, shrubs and trees were ordered and planted by Benanzer Nursery in the mall area between Monroe and the Library.

In January of 1975, the membership reached its peak of thirty-two members. In April of 1975, a Community Garden Project was sponsored. Land was plowed, fertilized and layed out in plots. The plots were rented to citizens of New Bremen for gardening. In August of 1975, and again in 1978, the Men's Garden Club floats won trophies in the Bremenfest Parade.

In December of 1975, the Club participated in the "Festival of Trees" at the New Bremen Museum. Their tree

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Dedication Services
New Bremen Marker presented to village by Men's Garden Club, Aug. 27, 1973.

Left to right: Rev. L.G. Fritz, James Ashbaugh, Stanley Hertenstein, Willis Holdren, George Gensler, Walter Behm, Leon Kellermeyer, Clarence Schroer, Harold Opperman, Paul Headapohl, Leonard Mohrman, Steve Jagoditz, Harold Mouk, Robert Casebolt, Orville Ruedebusch and Lester Blanke, members of the New Bremen Men's Garden Club stand with pride behind the newly constructed marker, dedicated last night. Aug. 27, 1973, Walter N. Behm.

was decorated with all natural ornaments such as gourds, pine cones, nuts, and cranberries.

A new tractor mower was purchased in January of 1978, with funds received from the Bremenfest committee.

The past few years pumpkins were grown in the Community Garden by the Club and then harvested and sold in the fall. Profits from the sale were used by the Club to help with beautification projects.

Currently the Club has twenty members. The current officers are: President, Bill Star; Vice President, Jim Angles, and Secretary-Treasurer, Jerry Newman. Past Presidents of the Men's Garden Club were: 1963-65, Jim Ashbaugh; 1966-67, Harold Opperman; 1968-69, Stanley Hertenstein; 1970, Leonard Luntz; 1971-72, Leonard Mohrman; 1973-75, Lester Blanke; 1976-77, Stephen Jagoditz; 1978-80, Paul Headapohl, and 1981-82, Jim Ashbaugh. *Submitted by Jerry Newman.*

New Bremen Athletic Booster Club

The New Bremen Athletic Booster Club was started in 1969 with the general purpose of promoting athletics at New Bremen High School. A more specific purpose for its formation was to help start a football program at the school. New Bremen had not had football since the early 1900's. The original money to start the program came in the amount of $2500 from donations of the townspeople. In 1971, nineteen interested persons signed five one hundred dollar notes at the bank so the club could borrow $9500 to equip the football field for spectators. These notes were all paid off by the club in 1976.

Some of the major things the Booster Club has done for the school are as follows:

1970 - Purchased the original football equipment, leveled and seeded the football field.
1971 - Purchased home bleachers, fence, and scoreboard, built goalposts and a pressbox.
1972 - Built a concession stand and baseball dugouts.
1974 - Purchased visitors bleachers.
1977 - Added on to visitors bleachers, including a spotting tower.
1979 - Purchased and installed a fence around the baseball field.
1980 - Purchased a scoreboard for the gymnasium.
1981 - Purchased a large storage building for track, baseball and football equipment.
1982 - Purchased a video camera and recorder for football and basketball.

These projects were financed through money making activities such as selling concessions at football games, selling football and basketball programs, dances, raffles and hosting volleyball tournaments. Since its formation the Booster Club has spent over $35,000 on the athletic programs of the high school.

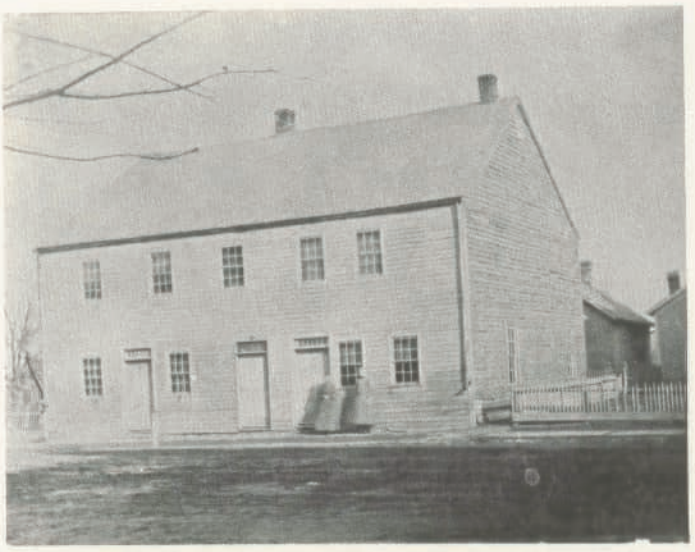
Many people have contributed to the success of the Booster Club. They are too numerous to name, however, much of the credit for its success must go to the club presidents listed here: 1970, Ferd Wint; 1971, Dick Howell; 1972, Dave Hoffman; 1973, Dave Sherrick; 1974, Ed Rump; 1975, Urban Bertke; 1976, Nick Pleiman; 1977, Bill Lear; 1978 and 1979, Dr. Ronald Riebel; 1980, 1981, and 1982, Larry Dicke; and 1983, Dennis Bey.

The New Bremen Historic Association

When a few people held a friendly gathering in a backyard the fall of 1973, they discussed the sad loss of the Thompson Hotel and Livery at Lock 1 on the canal. They determined that another such building that was to be remodeled should be preserved. Thus the N.B.H.A. was organized as a non-profit group dedicated to the collection and preservation of history of New Bremen and German Township.

The association is headed by a board of nine trustees serving three-year terms of office, who in turn elect officers annually. Past presidents in respective order since 1974 have been: Victor Maurer, John Hoffman, Mary Ann Brown,

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Old Building



1982 Building

Fred Wellemeyer, Mary Ann Brown, Arnold Poppe, Nancy Brooks, and Ruth Meckstroth. Trustees for 1982 are: Ruth Meckstroth, President; Craig Hoffman, Vice President; Jill Bielefeld, Secretary; Jane Jackson, Treasurer; Melba Roediger, Clarence Quellhorst, Harold H. Tangeman, Michael H. Koesters, Anna Mae Hudson. Historian is Ludeen Fledderjohann and Genealogy Researcher is Irene Bay. Those serving as curator for the museum have been Gregory Parrott, 1974-75; Janet Fledderjohn, 1975-77; Rosemary Heitkamp, 1978; Janet Fledderjohn, 1980-.

A twelve-room, two-and-a-half story house on North Main Street became the immediate subject of a community restoration project. The "Luelleman House," so named because that family lived in it for more than seventy years, is one of the first non-log-cabin structures in the original plat of 1833 in Bremen. The building is believed to have been constructed about 1837 with an addition about 1846 and rennovations about 1876 and 1930s. It is a fine example of German architecture. the exterior was walnut clapboard siding while the inner walls are brick "noggin" with mud and wattle lining between the hand-hewn oak beams. Floors, ceilings and some walls are ash and yellow pine. The plain symmetrical design of windows and doors as well as the building being adjacent to the sidewalk show a carryover of German heritage.

The museum houses a collection of artifacts and memorabilia of New Bremen's history and serves to disseminate information as well. Through continued support of the community, the initial purchase price of $15,500 was paid in three years and subsequent major restoration of exterior clapboard siding (but not walnut), chimneys, moving walls or doors or windows, rewiring, new flooring, plastering, and so forth valued at another $20,000 has been accomplished in the last seven years. Included on the grounds are also a summer kitchen and small barn, the latter of which still needs restoration.

Various committees function for the organization. Members work on genealogy with cemetery research, translation and indexing of local church records, crafts, building preservation, social events, ways and means projects, house tours, newspaper indexing, museum archives, and museum tours. Facilities are open by appointment or Sunday afternoons May to October. *Submitted by Janet Fledderjohn, December, 1982.*

New Bremen Jaycees

The New Bremen Jaycees began in 1964, as the New Bremen Junior Chamber of Commerce. Charter Members were: Donald Applegate, Edward Bushman, James Cooper, Hugh Casebolt, James Cumming, Jr., Jack Dicke, Neil Good, Richard Howell, Larry Kuhn, Dwight Kurtzman, Donald Miller, John Poppe, Don Ruese, Edward Rump, Lloyd Schroer, Harold Stammen, Merlin Stolzenburg, Jerry Tontrup, William Tostrick, Gary Wiedeman and Lee Wissman. The officers were: President, Daryl Koenig; Internal Vice President, John Gilberg; External Vice President, Joe Ritter; Secretary, Reverend James Egbert; Treasurer, George Heitkamp; Director, Nick Pleiman; and Director, Walt Schmitmeyer.

The purpose of the Jaycees is to build better communities, states, and nations. The local Jaycees work for community improvement through their projects. All money taken into the Jaycees is in one way or another returned to the community. We are a non-profit organization. We believe that young men can better the world and learn while doing it.

The Jaycees are open to any young men from the age of 18 to 35 years who care about their community.

Present officers are: Gery Thobe, President; Carl Giere, Internal Vice President; Joe Zehringer, External Vice President; Ronald Bertke, Secretary; and Robert Thobe, Treasurer. *Submitted by Gery Thobe.*

Senior Citizens

On March 20, 1969, a steering committee composed of representatives of our local churches met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Heinfeld to determine if organizing a Senior Citizen club would be of interest to the people sixty years and older in New Bremen. Present at the meeting were: Miss Leona Poppe, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Schroer,

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Mrs. Amanda Fark, Lewis Tangeman, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gilberg, and Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Heinfeld.

On April 17, this group elected Clarence Schroer as temporary chairman and Mrs. Amanda Fark as temporary secretary. They announced the first meeting of interested persons at the Rod and Gun Club with sixty-seven in attendance.

At the second meeting on May 28, Mr. Harry Leyes, president of a Dayton Senior Citizens, was the guest speaker. He offered his assistance and advice in procedure, and action was taken to form a permanent organization. A nominating committee was appointed to submit a slate of officers at the June 25th meeting.

The first duly elected officers were: Paul Gilberg, President: Clarence Schroer, Vice President; Cornelius Heinfeld, Treasurer; Mrs. Elmer Wittenbrink, Secretary. Our official year started on September 1, 1969, with a charter membership of one hundred and fifty.

By this time we felt the need of a meeting place which would be centrally located, have no steps to the entrance of the building, and ample parking space. The former movie theater building on 10-12 West Monroe Street had been unoccupied for a number of years and was in a deplorable condition, but it had possibilities. The most recent occupant had been the Bielefeld Printing Company. With a vote of eighty-nine for, nine opposed, and seven blank ballots the building was purchased from the owner, Roger Henkener.

With much planning, all the remodeling work was volunteered by the members with the exception of the plumbing and electrical work. The men worked very hard and were pleased with the work accomplished.

Members, friends, business, industry, and town officials all helped financially to make the building possible.

State Aid under the Older Americans Act was applied for and granted. It was received for six years. The organization was required to match the funds which we were able to do.

The building was dedicated on May 12, 1972, with Mrs. Rose Papier, the coordinator of the Ohio Division of Administration on Aging, as guest speaker.

A complete and varied program of information on health care, available through the health department, educational programs, transportation was provided, personal aid, legal help was offered and craft and recreation programs were carried out.

The organization is continuing its activities with approximately two hundred members. The center is open four days a week for members wishing to participate in shuffleboard, ceramics, cards, quilting and various crafts.

Overnight and one day trips are offered each year with everyone enjoying the many places visited. During this past year, eighty-four persons enjoyed a four-day trip to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The business meetings are held the fourth Wednesday evening of the month, opening with a varied program of entertainment or of an educational nature. Cards and bingo are enjoyed after light refreshments are served. There is an average attendance of one hundred and thirty-five at these meetings. The officers for the year 1982-83 are: Mr. James Ashbaugh, President; Mrs. Wilbur (Marcella) Tontrup, Vice President; Arnold Schrolucke, Secretary; and Mrs. Paul (Marjorie) Lietz, Treasurer. *Submitted by Jim Ashbaugh.*

Tender Loving Care OCCL

This Club was organized in 1974 by Nan Scheib and Cindy Dicke.

The object of the League is to promote spiritual, mental, physical and moral development of our children and the children of the community.

Our non-profit organization has eighteen members. Some projects we do through the year are as follows: have a card party, provide a sack lunch for the Auglaize School Camp, and sponsor the St. Jude Bike-a-thon. Beneficiaries from monies raised from various projects have been the New Bremen School, the New Bremen Public Library, Auglaize School and the New Bremen Emergency Squad.

The officers for 1982-1983 are: Sue Belton, President; Janice Kitzmiller, Vice President; Karen Voress, Secretary; and Jane Gruebmeyer, Treasurer. *Submitted by Cindy Dicke.*

Twig Benders CCL

The Twig Benders, a part of the Ohio Child Conservation League, began in New Bremen in 1954 with twenty members. They currently have seventeen members and two of them, Sally Fark and Irene Wellemeyer, have been with the group since its inception. Other current members are: Lois Dicke, Linda Bushman, Mary Heitkamp, Jan Holcomb, Linda Meyer, Barb Moeller, Dot Ouwerkerk, Diane Paul, Julie Paul, Rosie Quellhorst, Shirley Schaefer, Janice Schroer, Ruth Tangeman, Sandy Thieman, and Michele Ziegenbusch.

During these years, many informative and enjoyable meetings with different friends have come and gone. However, the main thurst has always been the children. The list of our projects to help the children of New Bremen is long and varied, including starting a kindergarten in New Bremen in 1955, because there was none. Eventually we saw this become a part of the local school system. We then equipped the kindergarten room in the school building. Additional school projects included dishes for the school to be used for banquets, playground equipment, school nurse's equipment, television set, sound projector and library books. We have also supported in some way the Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl's State program, New Bremen Public Library, baseball uniforms, the Auglaize School, New Bremen Swimming Pool, the Summer Recreation program, the city tennis courts, and the New Bremen Community Park.

Some of these projects were completed along with other C.C.L. Clubs of New Bremen and some were Twig Benders alone. We have been a part of the Bremenfest since it began. Our biggest project, probably, has been sponsoring and staffing the visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile to New Bremen since 1963. This has resulted in the collection of approximately 2,686 pints of blood.

The raising of the money for all these projects has been accomplished in many ways including selling Christmas trees, selling light bulbs, baked goods sales and bazaars, selling Christmas wrapping paper and vanilla, and printing and selling our own cookbook.

It has been fun and has given us all a sense of accomplishment to be part of New Bremen's history. We hope to continue our work for all the future children of the community. *Submitted by Irene Wellemeyer.*

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The 20th Century Mothers O.C.C.L. observed their 25th anniversary recently. Current members who were present, first row: Carol Stauffer, Melba Roediger, Sue Maxson, and Jane Koenig. Second row: Dorothy Hertenstein, Dianne Dicke, Bev Applegate, Rosie Plieman, Sally Dicke.

Twentieth Century Mother's Club

Twentieth Century Mother's Club, Division of Ohio Child Conservation League, was founded on November 13, 1957, in New Bremen. There were twenty charter members. Officers at that time were: Anne Mae Hudson, President; Velma Friemering, Vice President; Jean Schroer, Secretary; Betty Quellhorst, Treasurer; Helen McEvoy, Reporter; Jeanette Quellhorst, Historian.

The purpose of this organization is to make the relationship of parents and children in the home and community more effective and worthy. It is to provide an avenue for closer understanding, cooperation, and encouragement, in the interest of children and their needs, through education, philanthropy, legislation and enforcement of existing laws. It is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-profit.

Currently the club has eleven members and is now a service league. *Submitted by Bev Applegate.*

A Women's Club is Born

In October of 1912, a letter was sent out by Superintendent C.C. Garman, of the New Bremen Public School, addressed to the parents of children who were below school age. The letter read as follows: "Dear Friends: I am writing this letter to all parents in New Bremen, as far as I am able -who have children between the age of three to six years, to communicate with me. We are desirous of organizing a private Kindergarten affiliated with and supervised by the Public School. It is not feasible at present to finance a Kindergarten although the Board of Education is heartily in favor of the movement. If there are enough patrons interested to justify it, we shall organize at once in a suitable building with Miss Verona Langhorst as teacher. The cost of same would depend on the number attending; it would not exceed fifty cents per week. The Kindergarten would be in session in the forenoon only, from 8:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., enabling the brothers and sisters in school to take the children and bring them home. Regular attendance will not be required as long as the child is registered. The children will be taught songs, games, clay modeling, paper cutting, story telling, etc. I shall be glad to give you further information upon inquiry."

This letter brought a good response from parents and a Kindergarten was soon organized with fourteen pupils, eight girls and six boys. Miss Verona Langhorst was the instructor. The Kindergarten's first location was in the East Town Hall on Washington Street, but later two rooms were obtained in a residence on Franklin Street, which is now owned by the J and D Rental Company.

Shortly thereafter, also in 1912, Superintendent Garman assisted in the organization of a "Mothers Club", made up of the Mothers of the Kindergarten pupils, to help assist with the Kindergarten and to help develop their own latent abilities. The organization meeting was held in the home of Miss Verona Langhorst, the Kindergarten instructor. Officers elected were: Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel, President; Mrs. Ed Langhorst, Vice President; and Mrs. Charles Garman, Secretary and Treasurer. The club met once a month, in the homes of the members.

In 1924, by agreement with the Board of Education of the New Bremen School, we were given permission to use the north side of the Teacherage Building on South Herman Street. It was named the "Community Room". No rent was charged but we were to pay all expenses for painting, decorating and upkeep of the interior of the room to make it a suitable place. Our first club meetings were started there in 1924-25. In 1927-28, the Mothers Club Members built a new kitchen to the back of the building. They also contributed to the cost of painting the exterior of the building as well as a new roof.

In May of 1927, we adopted universal membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Then we incorporated under the laws of Ohio on January 25th, 1955. Nine meetings are held each year, beginning in September and continuing through June.

Presently we are meeting in the Senior Citizen Building on Monroe Street. The present membership is, Active members: Mrs. James Ashbaugh, Mrs. Lester Blanke, Mrs. Wilson Braun, Mrs. Arnold Dammeyer, Mrs. Wilbert Dammeyer, Mrs. Oscar Dicke, Mrs. Paul Gilberg, Mrs. Karl Hagerstrand, Mrs. Albert G. Inman, Mrs. Emil Katterhenry, Mrs. David Klein, Mrs. Herman Laut, Mrs. Lloyd Laut, Mrs. Frederick Luedeke, Mrs. Howard McKay, Mrs. Earl Meckstroth, Mrs. Virgil Mousa, Mrs. Harold Opperman, Miss Alma Reiselt, Mrs. U.J. Schwieterman, Mrs. Don W. Smith, Mrs. Reuben Thiesing, Mrs. Harry E. Wierwille, Mrs. Ferd Wint, Mrs. William E. Wolf, and Mrs. Reuben Wissman. Associate Members: Mrs. Carl Dicke, Mrs. Earl Kuenning and Miss Leona Poppe. Honorary Members: Mrs. Cornelius Heinfeld and Mrs. Howard Huenke. Much of the decline in the present membership is due to the organizing of Child Guidance Groups.

We would go amiss if we did not mention some of the projects we have helped to promote locally. Here are a list of just a few of them. Sponsored Girl Scout Troop 410; donated money to the Garden Club for tree planting in Canal Project area, (1966); purchased trees and shrubs for the library area, (1974); purchased a book for each deceased club member to be placed in the library; sponsored a sewing contest for adults and students in High School Home Economics with contestants being judged at district meetings. *Submitted by Mrs. Leola Wissman and Mrs. Lorraine Blanke.*

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Women's Club Members present at January, 1983, meeting held at the New Bremen Library. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Lester Blanke, Mrs. Carl Roediger - librarian, Mrs. Carl Inman, Mrs. Jerry Maxson - librarian, Mrs. Frederick Luedeke, Mrs. Earl Meckstroth, Mrs. Reuben Thiesing, Mrs. Wilbert Dammeyer. Sitting, left to right: Mrs. Harry Wierwille, Mrs. Harold Opperman, Mrs. David Klein, Mrs. Karl Hagerstrand, Mrs. Herman Laut, Mrs. Reuben Wissman.

Women's Club
Past Presidents

Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel	1912-1916	Mrs. Howard Huenke	1954-1956
Mrs. L.W. Brockie	1916-1917	Miss Lola Patterson	1956-1958
Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel	1917-1922	Mrs. Arnold Dammeyer	1958-1960
Mrs. Frank Streine	1922-1923	Mrs. Paul Gilberg	1960-1962
Mrs. Elmer Jordan	1923-1924	Mrs. Arnold Dammeyer	1962-1964
Mrs. Hilda Burk	1924-1926	Mrs. Clifford Harris	1964-1966
Mrs. E.C. Kuenzel	1926-1936	Mrs. U.J. Schwieterman	1966-1968
Mrs. Minnie Quist	1936-1938	Mrs. Howard McKay	1968-1970
Mrs. C.V. Huenke	1938-1940	Mrs. Harold Opperman	1970-1972
Miss Alvina Burk	1940-1942	Mrs. George Voress	1972-1973
Mrs. Reuben Wissman	1942-1944	Mrs. Earl Meckstroth	1973-1976
Mrs. Lester Blanke	1944-1946	Miss Leona Poppe	1976-1978
Mrs. Herman Laut	1946-1948	Mrs. Earl Meckstroth	1978-1980
Mrs. Esther Quist	1948-1950	Mrs. Harold Opperman	1980-1982
Mrs. Harry Schroeder	1950-1952	Mrs. David Klein	1982-
Mrs. Louis Kohl	1952-1954		

Compiled in January, 1983 for Sesqui Centennial by Mrs. Lester Blanke.

Woodmen Circle

The Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle, Good Hope Grove 6141, a fraternal insurance organization, was chartered on September 7, 1948. Its organizational meeting was held on July 15, 1948, at the Woodmen Hall, formerly the Odd Fellows Hall in New Bremen. Thirty-six members were present. The officers elected were: Marcella Tontrup, President; Helen Dammeyer, First Vice President; Laura Landwehr, Second Vice President; Lucille Huenke, Secretary; Ruth Meckstroth, Treasurer; Dorothy Ruedebusch, Auditor; Ruth Prueter, Chaplain; Adella Dammeyer, Attendant; Marie Fishbach, Assistant Attendant; Irene Hegemier, Captain; and Lillian Stovelbeck, Musician.

On September 2, 1948, forty-five members were initiated into the grove. The grove meetings were held in the Woodmen Hall until 1952. At that time, they moved to the E.J. Conradi home, at 116 West Monroe Street. This home was built in the 1870s by Jacob Boesel.

A drill team of eight members participated at the meetings throughout the years. They also performed at a number of district and state conventions. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. A sorority, an affiliate of the grove, was chartered in 1957 and disbanded in 1961. Through the years, the Grove worked with Good Hope Camp 149 in promoting the Woodmen Festivals, until the last festival in 1973. Now we contribute our efforts to the Bremenfest. It has given a helping hand to some local needs and has sponsored a Girl Scout Troop.

The grove presently has a membership of ninety-two. The year 1983 marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the inception of Good Hope Grove 6141 in New Bremen. The officers for 1983 are: Anna Mae Hudson, Past President; Susie Hirschfeld, President; Helen Dammeyer, Vice President; Elodie Sollman, Corresponding and Recording Secretary; Inez Fox, Treasurer; Marie Wissman, Escort; Frances Ahlers, Watchman; Corinne Schwieterman, Sentry; Viola Hegemier, Laverta Scheer, Katherine Knost, Trustees. *Submitted by Marie Fischbach.*

Woodmen of the World - Good Hope Camp 149

The Woodmen of the World was chartered in New Bremen by the national organization which is based in Omaha, Nebraska, on March 8, 1906. Its national emblem has been WOW for one hundred years. The original charter signers were: G. Gobrecht, Escort; V. Nieter, Advisor Lieutenant; I. Weinberg, Watchman; E.M. Phelps, Banker; H. Staas, Sentry; E.E. Allen, Clerk; G.A. Haverman and E.M. Phelps, Physicians; L. Kellermeyer, J. Paul, F. Fredrick, Managers.

The Woodmen is a fraternal insurance society. The local camp, Good Hope Camp 149, has 156 male members. It meets twice monthly, the first and third Tuesdays. It covers

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1948, the year the Woodman Circle was organized in New Bremen.

a large area from Dayton to Lima, west to the Indiana state line. There are members scattered throughout this whole area belonging to the New Bremen camp.

The early meetings were held in the Odd Fellows Hall, the top floor of the Laut-Schulenberg building. When the Odd Fellows organization became inactive, the Woodmen inherited the Hall. They later sold it in the early 1960s to the Gilberg Furniture Store, the owners of the lower half.

The Woodmen bought the E.G. Conradi residence in August of 1952, at 116 West Monroe Street following the marriage, retirement, and subsequent moving to Washington state of E.G. Conradi, owner of the Sun Printing Company, the local newspaper. This house was built by the Honorable Jacob Boesel in 1870. He was born in New Bremen in 1841, and was one of its leading citizens.

The Woodmen have been a very active local organization over the years. They started the Annual New Bremen Woodmen Festival and Homecoming in 1939. This became a traditional event and was held for thirty-five years. The festival drew large crowds from surrounding towns and featured a queen and court, chosen from local high school girls. There were also a midway, rides, concessions, and free shows nightly with well-known radio and television personalities.

The Woodmen were also active in local community affairs and annually held an Easter Egg Hunt for local children with sixty-five dozen eggs colored by members each year. A Christmas visit with Santa Claus, who presented free treats to the children, was an annual event for forty years.

Currently, the Woodmen are active in the community Bremenfest in operating the Bingo Stand. The 1982 officers are: Merlin Ahlers, President; Walter Topp, Vice President; John Knost, Secretary; Henry Kuest, Escort; Louis Topp, Sentry; Len Sollman, Treasurer; Howard Scheer, Merlin Hirschfeld, Alfred Scheer, Trustees. *Submitted by Marie Fischbach and Merlin Ahlers.*

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Families



Biographies

Merlin Ahlers
Lester Blanke
Charles Boesel
Jerry Brown
Elton Bruns
Roger Busse
Forest Combs
Wm. Combs
Lambert Conradi
Oscar Dammeyer
Dicke Family
Larry Dicke
Ralph Dicke
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Vernon Doenges
Gary Farley
George Fark
Emil Fledderjohann
Max Fledderjohann
Silas Fledderjohn
John Grothaus
Dennis Gruebmeyer
Karl Hagerstrand
Halsema Family
Fred Harmon
Adam Heil
Johann Heitkamp
Paul Heitkamp
Stanley Hertenstein
Christopher Hirschfeld
Hoffman Family
Malinda Horn
Wesley Howell
Henry Huenke
Johann Klein
Conrad Koeper
John F. Koop
Don Kuck
Thomas Kuenning
Kuest Family
Larry Kuhn
Kunning
John Lanfersieck
Lloyd Laut
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Fred Luedeke Family
Fred Luedeke
Anita Martin
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Earl Meckstroth
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Carl Moeller
Ned Moeller
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Cletus Niekamp
Robert Niemeyer
Adolph Pape
David Pape
Pape Family
Willis Quellhorst
Dr. Michael Rabe
Rabe
William Rabe
Ron Riebel
Carl Roediger
Elmer Roediger
Ruedebusch Family
Don Ruese
Henry Schmidt
John Schowe
Lawrence Schwartz
Louis Schwartz
Urban Schwieterman
Sollman Centennial Farm
Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman
Frederick Speckman
R. Jay Stauffer
John Tangemen
Louis Tangeman
Ernst Thiesing
Lafe Topp
Topp Family
Henry Topp
William Tostrick
Johann Venneman
Herman Vornholt
Wilson Westerbeck
Richard Wiedeman
Johann Wiemeyer
Jerome Wissman
Kenneth Wissman
Edwin Wittenbrink
Harry Wittenbrink
Chester Young







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Merlin and Mary Ahlers

Merlin Lewis Ahlers was born on October 14, 1920, in Lock Two. He attended New Bremen High School and was forced to quit in his junior year due to ill health. He has worked at Monarch Machine and Tool, Stamco division for forty-one years. He is active in Citizens Committee and served as President in 1981. He is a member of the Bremenfest (W.O.W. Bingo), and Woodmen of the World, in which he served as president for twelve years. He was general chairman for the annual New Bremen Woodmen Festival and Homecoming for many years until it was discontinued. He was an M.P. in the United States Army for three years when he was stationed in England and France in World War II.

Merlin has two children. Patricia Ann was born on September 27, 1956. She married Greg Martin Allenby of Cleveland. They are both graduates of Ohio Northern University of Ada, Ohio. Patricia is a chemist and Greg is an engineer. Patricia worked for two years as a chemist in the Cardiovascular Department of Northwestern University in Chicago. She has had several articles published in national magazines on cardiac enzymes research. Patricia is now in her third year at Northwestern Medical School. Her husband, Greg, is attending the University of Chicago working for a MBA part time, and is full time in Operations Research at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. They live in Chicago, Illinois.

Kenneth Donald was born on November 26, 1957, in St. Marys. He graduated from New Bremen High School and RET Technical College at Centerville, and has certification in Refrigeration and Heating. He is presently working at Crown Controls and lives at Cedarwood Apartments in St. Marys.

Merlin was married on August 27, 1955, to Mary Ellen Berlet Archer. She was graduated in 1953 from SRN School of Nursing in Lima and was a practicing registered nurse for twenty-five years. Her parents are Donald Miller Archer and Mary Elizabeth Berlet whose grandfather emigrated from Hesse Darmstadt, Alsace-Lorraine, to the United States in 1850. He was a farmer who settled south of Wapakoneta near Shinbone. Mr. and Mrs. Archer were in the monument business for thirty-five years and inherited the business from his father. They are presently living in Wapakoneta.

Merlin's parents were born in Lock Two. His father, Heinrich Dietrich Ludwig was born on April 17, 1879. His father was Dietrich Christian Ludwig Ahlers who was born in Hanover on September 30, 1825. He emigrated to this country in 1840 and settled on a farm adjacent to the Lock Three Cemetery East and North. Dietrich was married to Caroline Marie Regina Thieman in 1849 and they had five children, four boys and one girl. Caroline was born in 1829 and died of typhoid in 1873. Dietrich was then married two and one-half months later to Dorothea Rudebush who was born in 1837. She had been married to Gerhard Schulte who was born in 1825. Dorothea and Gerhard had two children who died. She then married Gerhard Heinrich Wehmeyer in 1869 and they had three children. Dorothea and Dietrich had two children, they were Hanna, who married Louis Conradi, and Heinrich Dietrich Ludwig known as Louis. Both were born in Lock Two. Louis and his mother, Dorothea, lived in the house beside the Lock Two schoolhouse on the southeast corner of the Lock Two road and Knoxville Avenue until her death of stomach cancer in 1914. Louis married Adeline Henrietta Heinfeld in 1918. She was the daughter of John Arnold Edward and Rosina Dickman. They had one child, Merlin Lewis. Louis died in 1959 of old age, and Adeline in 1955 of heart disease and asthma. They are buried in German Protestant Cemetery. All of the Ahlers family members are buried at Lock Three Cemetery. *Submitted by Merlin Ahlers.*

Lester and Lorraine Blanke

Although a thorough genealogy would trace my ancestors back to Germany, I will begin with my grandparents, Frederick and Louise (Reinacher) Blanke who lived on a farm two miles northwest of New Bremen. It is now owned and occupied by a great-grandson, Richard Blanke and his wife Doris.

Frederick and Louise Blanke were the parents of five boys, namely: Henry, Frederick, Herman, William and August. The father died at an early age, leaving my grandmother to rear the five boys.

On October 31, 1895, my father, Henry, married Florence Schaefer, the daughter of Henry and Louise (Brune) Schaefer. My grandfather was a Civil War veteran and was known as "Cap" Schaefer by his many friends. The family consisted of four girls and three boys.

Immediately after their marriage, my father and mother, along with my Uncle Fred, moved to their recently purchased farm approximately three miles south of Kettlersville. This eighty acre farm was mostly trees and brush when it was purchased. It took several years of hard labor to clear it to make it suitable for farming. It was on this farm that the four Blanke boys, Victor, Orrin, Lloyd and I were born and reared. (Mother's first two children died at birth.) All four boys attended the local rural one-room school then known as the Weiskittle school. At quite a sacrifice to my parents, we all attended and graduated from New Bremen High School. There were no school buses in those days so during the first two years of high school, I, along with my brother Orin, drove the seven miles each morning and evening by horse and buggy. The last two years we had acquired a model T Ford which was then used for transportation.

After graduation in the spring of 1922, I continued my education by attending the Shelby County Normal School at Anna, Ohio. This one year of schooling entitled me to teach in the elementary schools. In later years I attended the Ohio Northern University and received my degree in elementary education.

On August 31, 1926, I married Lorraine "Toots" Laut, daughter of Clarence and Luetta (Speckman) Laut. The history of the Laut and Speckman families goes back to the early settlement of New Bremen, and the names are quite prominently mentioned in the business and entertainment history of New Bremen. Fred Speckman, Sr. was the founder of the pork packing industry which contributed greatly to trade on the Miami and Erie Canal; and the Lauts; besides their business interests, were prominent in the bands and orchestras during that time.

Our daughter and only child, Edith, was born on May 2, 1928, in our home, then located at 323 South Franklin Street. Dr. Fledderjohn was the attending doctor and it might be of interest that his fee was $25.00. After graduating from New Bremen High School, Edith attended and graduated from Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, in

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1950. After several years of teaching in Waynefield, Moulton, and New Knoxville schools, she came to New Bremen in the year 1961 and has taught music and physical education in the elementary school ever since. Besides her work in the school system, Edith has found time for many other community activities. She is active in church work and directed the St. Paul UCC choir for a period of nineteen years. Presently she is serving as president of the church capsules. She is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, a teacher's honorary sorority, of which she is now serving as president.

Edith was married to John Wissman on August 6, 1950, and to them were born two daughters, Mary Christine and Cynthia Kay. Chris, now Mrs. William Poeppelman, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in nursing, is now working in the intensive care unit at St. Marys Memorial Hospital. Cindy, now Mrs. Jerry Newman, received her degree in education from Wright State University and is now teaching in the Auglaize School for the handicapped children. There are two great-grandchildren, Jeff and Janelle Poeppleman, to complete the family history as of now. (One great-grandchild, Jennifer Lynn Poeppleman, died several days after birth.)

Continuing my personal activities after graduating from high school and receiving my elementary degree, I spent sixteen years as a teacher in the elementary schools. Seven of these years were in one room rural schools and nine years as teacher and principal of the New Bremen Elementary School. While in New Bremen I served as boys' basketball coach in the high school from 1931 to 1935 and again in 1942 when no coach was available during World War II.

With some regrets and a great deal of soul-searching, I retired from teaching after the 1939 school term. In August of 1940 I began my work as rural letter carrier on rural route one emenating from the New Bremen Post Office. The next thirty-three years were spent serving the rural patrons in the New Bremen area. I retired in June of 1973. I have many pleasant memories of my teaching years and the years I spent on the rural mail route. It is always delightful when former pupils or former patrons of the route meet me and want to talk about the days when I played a small part in their lives.

During all these years we made our home in New Bremen, taking part in the many community activities found here. My church activities at St. Paul Church consisted of being president of the congregation, superintendent and twenty-five year teacher of the Sunday School, president of the brotherhood for several terms, Chairman of the building committee for the new educational building, and served on various boards within the church. In community affairs I was a member of and served as president of the New Bremen Civic Association, New Bremen P.T.A., Men's Garden Club, and served five years as scoutmaster of the local troop. Of my outside activities, I served for twenty-eight years on the Auglaize County Board of Education with eighteen years as the chairman of the board. During my postal career, I was always active in the Rural Letter Carriers' Association and served as both committeeman and president of the Ohio Rural Letter Carriers. I was appointed to the Board of Governors of Joint Township Memorial Hospital and served as treasurer for several years. And, as listed elsewhere in this book, I played and managed semi-pro baseball in New Bremen for many years.

The above mentioned activities resulted in my being awarded the New Bremen Jaycees Distinguished Service award in 1979 and being named Grand Marshal of the 1980 Bremenfest parade.

Mrs. Blanke also was active during this time. Before our marriage and for some time after, she worked as a telephone operator for the New Bremen Telephone Company. Then it was located in the old post office building at the southeast corner of Main and Monroe streets. She also worked for several years as postal clerk in this post office. She has always been active in church work, having taught and served as departmental superintendent in St. Paul Sunday School. She is still active in the Women's Guild, having served as president for this organization. She served as president and is still an active member of the New Bremen Women's Club; helped organize the Girl Scout movement in New Bremen, and still is active in the Rural Carrier Auxiliary, for which she served as an officer in the Ohio organization.

Mrs. Blanke and I are still active in community affairs, although we find it more enjoyable to sit back and watch the younger generation take over. The community of New Bremen has been good to us, and to our many friends and fellow workers we say "Thank You". We are proud to be residents of New Bremen and cherish the memories we have of serving in various activities of the community. We feel we have been blessed and are hoping the coming generations will realize the pleasure and satisfaction of serving when called upon.

Some statistics for the records. My mother, Mrs. Flora Blanke, died on August 26, 1936, at the age of sixty-nine years. My father, Henry Blanke, died on January 10, 1961, at the age of ninety years. My Uncle Fred, who had lived with the family since the marriage of my mother and father, died in 1963 also at the age of ninety years. Mrs. Clarence Laut, Lorraine's mother, died May 9, 1967, at the age of eighty-six. Clarence Laut, Lorraine's father, died on September 14, 1980, at the age of one hundred. Three Blanke brothers, Victor, Orrin and I, had the privilege of observing our fiftieth wedding anniversaries. My brother Lloyd, died in 1965, at the age of fifty-six of a heart attack while in the classroom teaching in the New Bremen Schools. On the Laut side, all four children, Lloyd, Arnold, Nettie, and my wife observed their fiftieth anniversary. However, Nettie's husband, Ray Bertke, died shortly after reaching this mile-stone. *Submitted by Lester Blanke.*

Charles (Karl) Boesel

Charles (Karl) Boesel was born in Rhenish Bavaria, Germany, on February 1, 1814. At the age of eighteen he came to this country in 1832 accompanying his widowed mother and the three other children of this family. In 1833, this family joined the Bremen settlement, but Charles could find no employment and he pushed on to Ft. Wayne and later, to Dayton, Ohio. In 1836, he returned to New Bremen where he started a general store and gradually enlarged it. In 1845, he built a warehouse and began buying grain in connection with merchandising and dairying. Soon after entering the business world, he was appointed Postmaster of New Bremen by President Polk. This position he held for nine years.

During the 1850s, Charles Boesel had a very flourishing

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business, and established a bank which he continued to operate until his death in 1885. He represented Auglaize County in the State Legislature from 1862 to 1866, and the thirty-second district in the State Senate from 1870 until 1874.

The Charles Boesel residence was a beautiful home on the southeast corner of Main and Monroe streets, which in later years housed the New Bremen Post Office, the New Bremen Telephone Company, the A.H. Albert Funeral Home, and the Taylor Photographic Studio. The home was later dismantled, and now the corner lot is owned by the Crown Control Company of New Bremen.

Charles Boesel was married three times. His first marriage was to Wilhelmina Sophia Maurer in 1838. To this union were born two children. Jacob Walter was born on February 6, 1841, and died on August 17, 1896, and Karl (Charles II) was born on March 5, 1843. Karl owned and operated a hardware store. Karl married Louise Vockell on November 8, 1866. Eleven children were born of this marriage. Four died as infants and the surviving children were: William, Charles, Alexander, Oscar, Wilhelmine, Alice and Frieda.

The Honorable Jacob Walter Boesel was the eldest son of Charles Boesel. Jacob received his schooling in New Bremen, St. Marys, and later at Bartlett's Commercial College in Cincinnati.

In 1858, he returned to New Bremen and took charge of his father's business in which he continued until 1866. At the same time he entered into business ventures with C.H. Kunning and his brother, Karl, with particular reference to the pork-packing industry, which during the canal days was an extensive one. Boesel and Kunning were engaged in the hardware business in an adjoining store to their dry goods store, until 1891, when Karl, Jr. assumed charge.

Jacob Walter became the president of the Boesel Bank which was reorganized under the name of Boesel Brothers and Company Bankers. Julius Boesel was the cashier and the directors were: Charles Boesel, Henry G. Schmidt and William C. Schmidt.

Jacob was an ardent Democrat and very active in politics, holding positions such as township clerk, city clerk, mayor and president of the school board. In 1889, he was elected to represent Auglaize County in the State Legislature, and he was reelected in 1891. He was a delegate to every Congressional District and State Convention for many years. He was also president of the New Bremen Natural Gas Company.

In 1867, Jacob Walter married Louise Wolf, the daughter of Peter Wolf and Dorothea Fritz Wolf. Louise was born in the old country on February 17, 1847. When but six years old she came with her parents to America and soon thereafter the family settled in New Bremen where she lived nearly all her life. To this union six children were born: Adolph, Ida, Alma, Otto, Walter Jacob and Dorothea, the latter died in infancy.

Adolph Boesel was born on August 3, 1867, and married Ida Havermann. Five children were born of this marriage: Grace Boesel Ende, Reuben, Elsa Boesel Bunten, Mildred Boesel Wolfe, and Eunice Boesel Brucken. Adolph was president of the First City Bank in New Bremen. The Adolph Boesel residence is situated at 110 South Franklin street and the beautiful home is now owned by Mrs. Marie Rabe.

Ida Boesel was born in 1869, and died in 1955. Ida married Emil G. Conradi. They lived in the Jacob Boesel homestead, now owned by the Woodmen of the World.

Alma Boesel was born in 1874 and died in February, 1933. She married Fridolin Purpus. Their home stands next to her brother Adolph's house on Franklin street and is now owned by the Michael Koesters family. Alma and Fridolin had two children, Carl and Eleanor.

Otto Jacob Boesel was born on February 6, 1882, and died in December of 1940. Otto built the home on the corner of Plum and Franklin streets - now the residence of Victor Maurer. Otto married Bessie Stone and practices law in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Three children were born of this marriage: Paul, Kenneth and Jacob James.

Walter Jacob Boesel, youngest son of Jacob, was born on February 10, 1885. He was the last of the family members of the late Jacob Walter Boesel and Louise Wolfe Boesel. Walter's early education in the New Bremen Schools was followed by his graduation from Ohio State University. He started his business career as an accountant in Columbus. Later he was with the H.G. Schmidt Construction Company in Chicago, and then the White Mountain Creamery Company in New Bremen. Upon his return to New Bremen he purchased the former Otto Boesel residence. In the 1930s he established his home in Dayton, Ohio, where he was named secretary of the Permanent Building and Savings Association. In 1943, he became Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington Federal Savings and Loan Company, after it absorbed the Permanent Company. Forced into early retirement by a heart ailment, he reestablished his residence in New Bremen. He died on December 24, 1955. Walter married Ida G. Laut, the daughter of Christian and Catherine Laut, on June 15, 1908. Two sons were born of this marriage.

Harold Walter Boesel graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Chemical Engineering and was affiliated with the Pure Oil Company. Harold was born on October 4, 1910. He was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy during World War II and took part in the invasion of Normandy. He married Barbara Virginia Wynkoop in 1934, and they have one son, Stephen Roger. Stephen married Junell Louise Williams on October 26, 1968. They are the parents of three children: Brandi Ann, born September 15, 1971; Christopher Stephen, born March 31, 1973; and Sherri Lee, born August 31, 1974. Harold and Barbara live in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Jacob Walter Boesel was the last of this line of Boesels to carry the name of his illustrious grandfather, Jacob Walter, and great-grandfather, Charles. Jacob was born on May 6, 1917. He graduated from New Bremen High School and attended Ohio State University. He served five years in World War II in the European Theater, as a Captain in the Forty-fifth Infantry Division. In March of 1945 he was wounded at Aschaffenberg, Germany - losing the sight in one eye, and he was given an honorable disability discharge from the United States Army. Upon his return to civilian life he was first employed by the Huntington National Bank in Columbus, Ohio. In 1946, he returned to New Bremen and went into the insurance business as a partner with his Uncle Fridolin Purpus. In 1960 he sold his agency and was then employed by the First National Bank in New Bremen as cashier, retiring in 1979. He married Dottie Lois Schmidt, daughter of Leonard and Helen Schmidt. Dottie graduated from New Bremen High School and later graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Education. She

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taught home economics in the New Bremen High School, and later taught government and social studies at the Minster High School. After teaching for thirty-five years, she retired in 1977. They have two children. Constance Ann, who married Theodore H. Frericks in 1964. They reside in Wayzata, Minnesota, and have two children, Pamela Catherine and Jon Jacob. Sandra Kay Boesel married John H. Bitler in 1964, and they reside in Montpelier, Ohio. They have two children, Douglas John and Debra Kay. *Submitted by J.W. Boesel.*



Left to right - Mary Ann, Joe, Julie, Steve, Jerry and Dan

Jerry and Mary Ann Brown

Jerry Brown was born February 28, 1932, in Uniopolis, Ohio. His parents were John and Ora Fox Brown. The family moved in 1936 to New Bremen where Jerry attended school and graduated from New Bremen High School in 1950. He graduated from Findlay College in 1954 and began teaching the same year at Fort Recovery High School where he also coached varsity basketball and baseball. After obtaining a Master's Degree from Ball State University in 1967, he became the high school principal, his present position, at New Bremen in 1969.

On June 1, 1957, he married Mary Ann Olding. She was born April 7, 1939, at Fort Recovery, Ohio. Her parents were Joseph and Luella Magato Olding, owners of a large turkey farm and hatchery. She graduated from Fort Recovery High School in 1957, and from Wright State University in 1971 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and in 1976 with a Master's Degree in Secondary Education. From 1971 until 1976, she taught at St. Henry Junior High School in St. Henry, Ohio. Beginning in 1977, she was the regional director of a seven-county area for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society. In 1982, she became the regional coordinator for fifteen counties in Southwest Ohio for the same department. Mary Ann has been active in the New Bremen Historical Society which was founded in 1973. She was one of the founders and original charter members, served as trustee from 1974 until 1979, and was president twice in1976 and in 1978.

While living at Fort Recovery, Jerry and Mary Ann had four children. They were all born at Otis Hospital in Celina, Ohio, began school at Fort Recovery and graduated from New Bremen High School. Joseph Alan, born March 19, 1958, received a B.S. Degree from the University of Toledo in 1980 and graduated from the School of Pharmacy of the University of Toledo in 1982. Daniel Anthony, born June 2, 1959, graduated from the University of California in Los Angeles with a B.S. Degree in 1981. Steve Anthony, born November 8, 1961, is presently a junior at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Julie Ann was born January 30, 1964, and is now a freshman at Eastern Michigan University.

Jerry's mother, Ora Fox Brown, was born on June 10, 1894, north of Wapakoneta in Allen County. She was a member of the Busy Twelve of St. Paul United Church of Christ, where the family has long been a member. She died of a stroke on April 8, 1960, just two days before their fiftieth wedding anniversary. John Allen Brown, Jerry's father, was born at Hicksville, Ohio. He was a farmer in Auglaize County until 1929 when he started a barbershop in Uniopolis, Ohio. He later operated a barbershop at 214 North Main Street in New Bremen from 1936 until 1956 when they moved to Cridersville. Following an automobile accident, he died of pneumonia on November 9, 1960. *Submitted by: Mary Ann Brown.*

Elton and Daisy Bruns

Elton William Bruns was born on August 18, 1907, in New Bremen, he was confirmed in St. Paul Church in 1921 and graduated from New Bremen High School in 1925. He started work in the machine shop of Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company (STAMCO) and studied mechanical drafting under Mr. F.H. Streine. He undertook further Engineering Design study at North Side Tool Company in Dayton, Ohio and Mackintosh Hemphill in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He was employed as a Design Engineer at United Engineering and Foundry at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1936, he returned to Stamco, Inc. as Assistant Chief Engineer and later as Chief Engineer. In 1972 he retired as Director of Engineering and Research.

He held a membership in Iron and Steel Engineers and was a member of the Monarch-Stamco Twenty-five Year Club. He served as a four term member of the New Bremen Board of Public Affairs, with one term as president. He served as a four term member of the village council with one term as president. He helped organize and was first president of New Bremen Rod and Gun Club. He is a former member of the executive committee of the Auglaize County Republican Party, a former member of the Lions Club and a member of the Wapakoneta and Mercer County Elks Club.

He is married to Daisy L. Bruns (Gilmore) who was born in Mercer County on April 6, 1908. She graduated from St. Marys High School in 1926.

Their son, Attorney William Gilmore Bruns, was born on November 10, 1936, at Gibbons Hospital in Celina. He was confirmed in St. Paul Church in 1951, graduated from New Bremen High School in 1954, Heidelberg College in 1958 and Indiana University School of Law in 1961. He served three years in Judge Advocate Corps of the United States Air Force and attained rank of Captain. A member of the Law Firm of Cannon and Bruns of Muncie, Indiana, he married Juanita Wehner of Wapakoneta in 1964. They have two sons, Edward William and David Patrick.

Elton's father was Fernando William Bruns. He was born

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on August 29, 1872, in New Bremen. He was confirmed on April 3, 1887 in St. Paul's Church. A bookkeeper by trade, he was Secretary-Treasurer of The Citizens Building and Loan Company and Secretary-Treasurer of The Auglaize Furniture Company, both of New Bremen. Later he conducted his own Insurance Agency. Elton's mother was Anna L. Bruns (Weinberg), born on December 25, 1877, in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. She was confirmed in April, 1892, in St. Paul's Church and married on May 3, 1900, in New Bremen.

One sister is Mrs. Frances M. Bishop of West Des Moines, Iowa, and another sister is Erline (Mrs. Howard England) of Oceanside, California.

Elton's grandfather was William Bruns, born January 6, 1848, near Lubbecke, Germany. As an infant he emigrated to America with his father, Fredrick William Bruns, and mother, Wilhelmina Bruns (Lange). They sailed from Bremerhaven in September of 1848. He was confirmed on April 20, 1862, in St. Paul Church in New Bremen. He served two terms as Mayor of New Bremen and was a stone cutter by trade. Many of the monuments he made are located in area cemeteries and still bear his name.

He married Magdalene Buckloh in New Bremen on November 6, 1871. Five children were born to this union and were all baptized in St. Paul Church. They were: Fernando William, Elnora (Mrs. Frank Hollingsworth), Rosalia (Mrs. James Collins), Elmer and Wilhelmine (Mrs. Cliff Battie). The maternal grandparents were Henry Weinberg who was born in 1854 and Mina Schwaberow born in 1855 in Shelby County on a farm three and one-half miles due east of New Bremen. They were married in New Bremen on December 9, 1875. Mina was the eldest child of Christian Schwaberow and his wife, Maria (Eversmann). When she was very young her mother died and her father placed her with the Wehrman family across the road and left for Germany to find another wife.

Henry Weinberg was a blacksmith by trade and he served several terms as town marshal. Part of his duty included that of lamplighter, since New Bremen streets were illuminated by gas lights at that time.

Five children were born to this union and all were confirmed in St. Paul Church. They were William, Anna Louise (Mrs. F.W. Bruns), Malinda, Charles and Cora. *Submitted by Elton Bruns.*

Roger and Leota Busse

Roger Busse was born in New Bremen on November 19, 1921. He is the only child of Raymond and Lola Hirschfeld Busse. He grew up in New Bremen and graduated from New Bremen High School in 1939. Roger is a World War II veteran and served from May of 1942 until December of 1945 in the Air Force in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations.

He married Leota Fark on March 5, 1946. They are the parents of one son, Larry.

Leota was born on January 10, 1923. She is the youngest of four children of George and Fredonia Hirschfeld Fark. Leota grew up in New Bremen and graduated from New Bremen High School in 1940.

Roger was employed for thirty-five years at Stamco and for six years as custodian for the New Bremen Schools. He retired in 1983.

They reside at 20 South Herman street in a home built in 1903 by Roger's great aunt and uncle, Katie and Henry Althoff. They are members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. *Submitted by Leota Busse.*

Forest W. and Hazel B. Combs

Forest William Combs (deceased) was born March 27, 1908, in Newport, Ohio, the son of William Combs and Christine (Griner) Combs. His sister, Florence (Combs) Cottrell, resides in Piqua.

He attended school in St. Marys, Coldwater and New Bremen. He lived and worked with his father, William Combs, at 3 Plum Street, delivering ice, beer and soft drinks to customers in the New Bremen area. He also worked at Streine Tool & Manufacturing Company for several years.

In 1934 he began work as a truck driver for the Wooden Shoe Brewing Company of Minster, and continued there until 1950 when he was employed by the Minster Machine Company. He retired in 1965. He enjoyed retirement by fishing and woodworking. After a short illness, he passed away on May 1, 1982.

On August 11, 1931, Forest married Hazel Edna Kies of Jackson Center, Ohio. She was the daughter of Jacob Nicholas Kies and Anna Elizabeth Caroline (Lawhead) Kies.

Prior to her marriage, Hazel was employed at the Piqua Cotton Mills in Piqua, and by Lyman's Central Restaurant in Wapakoneta.

After their marriage they lived with Forest's father, William Combs, at 3 Plum Street. In 1934, they purchased and moved to the Ernest Counts home at 306 South Washington Street where Hazel still resides.

They have one daughter, Lois Ann (Combs) Wissman, of New Bremen and one grandaughter, Valerie D. (Wissman) May, of Botkins. *Submitted by Lois Wissman.*

William Combs

William Combs was born in a log cabin south of Newport, Ohio, on April 21, 1867. He had three brothers and five sisters. His childhood years were spent along the Miami-Erie Canal where he often worked with his father, William Combs, Sr., on their canal boat. Eventually he became captain of his own canal boat, the DeCamp Statler. For more than thirty years "Captain Billy" navigated the old canal between St. Marys and Dayton.

The last trip ever made by a canal boat on the Miami-Erie Canal was between the Snipp gravel pit that was two miles southwest of Newport to Ft. Loramie. It was made by William Combs of the DeCamp Statler in the year 1912.

He also owned and operated a saloon in Newport where the family lived. His wife was Christine (Griner) Combs of Ft. Loramie. They were the parents of two children, Florence (Combs) Cottrell and Forest W. Combs. Another child, Ruby, died in childhood.

The saloon was sold and the family moved to Ft. Loramie where William sold "Metz" touring cars. Later, they moved to St. Marys where he operated a grocery store, and then to Coldwater where he was an agent for the Star Brewing Company of Minster.

In 1918 he moved to 3 Plum Street, New Bremen, where he operated a beer, soft drink and ice business for thirty-seven years. During the winter months, ice was made from

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the pond behind his home, and was stored in the "ice house", a huge frame building near the pond.

William Combs owned the land east of the canal between Plum Street and Cherry Street. For many years this land was used by the Village as a city dump. Later he gave the land to the Village and it was developed into the present "Community Park."

He passed away on July 23, 1964, at the age of ninety-seven. His descendants include his daughter, Florence Cottrell of Piqua; Forest W. Combs (deceased); two grandchildren, Kenneth Rasor of Piqua and Lois (Combs) Wissman of New Bremen; two great grandchildren, Valerie (Wissman) May of Botkins and Deanna (Rasor) Cline of Piqua; and one great-great grandson, Justin Cline of Piqua. *Submitted by Lois Combs Wissman.*

Lambert Emil and Amelia Ruth Kyburz Conradi

Lambert Emil and Amelia Ruth Kyburz Conradi own and reside on a thirty acre farm in section 13 in German Township, 1½ miles east of New Bremen. Lambert was born in New Bremen in 1903 to August and Rosina Miller Conradi. He had one brother, Vernon William, who was born in 1900 and died in 1934. Lambert lived in New Bremen until 1911 when his father bought the farm where he now resides. August Conradi worked at Klanke's Furniture Factory as a cabinet maker from 1902 until 1911. August was born in 1866 in German Township on the Conradi farm one mile east of New Bremen to Carl and Gertrude Bruetsch Conradi. Carl came to the New Bremen area from St. Andreasberg, Hanover, Germany, in approximately 1847. He was born on August 7, 1817, in St. Andreasberg. His first marriage was to Juliana Dickman with whom he had three sons, Carl, Jr.; William, and Fredrick. With Gertrude Bruetsch Conradi, he had seven children, Wilhelmina Conradi Poppe (Mrs. Joseph), Louis Conradi, August Conradi, Dr. Edward Conradi, Louisa Conradi Kuest (Mrs. William), Emil G. Conradi and Albert Conradi. Carl was a farmer and a cobbler, making shoes for many families of the New Bremen area. He died on August 10, 1891.

Amelia was born in Woodburn, Indiana in 1909. She is the daughter of Gottlieb and Anna Korspeter Kyburz. Gottlieb was the son of Joseph and Anna Suter Kyburz and was born in Oberentfelden, Switzerland.

Lambert and Amelia are both graduates of New Bremen High School, Lambert in the class of 1922 and Amelia in the class of 1927. After their marriage they continued farming with August and later bought a seventy acre farm in Shelby County. They are the parents of three children.

William, born in 1929, is married to Donna Greber, the daughter of Henry and Carrie Roettger Greber of New Bremen. William served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953 and in the 930th Ord. Co. in Korea. Bill and Donna are engaged in farming and bought the Charles Geib farm, 1½ miles east of New Bremen in 1957. Donna is a work shop specialist at the Auglaize School for the Retarded. They are the parents of one son, William Conradi, Jr. He was born on October 6, 1952, and is maried to Karen Wente, daughter of Jerome and Mildred Franzer Wente of Minster. He served in the United States Army Reserve in the 983rd Engineer Bn. from 1971 to 1977. Bill is engaged in farming and Karen is a secretary at Crown Controls Corp.

Edythe was born in 1942 and is married to Bill Henschen, the son of Elmer and Dorothy Eschmeyer Henschen. They live ½ mile east of New Knoxville on a small farm purchased from Bill's parents in 1970. Bill is a carpenter for Lee Schroer Construction and Edythe is the secretary for the German Farmers Mutual Insurance Association. They are the parents of two daughters, Michelle Elizabeth, born December 20, 1966; and Christa Ruth, born September 16, 1969.

Ned was born in 1944 and is married to Nancy Brockman, the daughter of Earl and Yvonne Scheer Brockman. Ned served in the United States Army Reserve as a medical corpsman from 1965 to 1971. He is engaged in farming and he and Nancy purchased the aforementioned farm in Shelby County in 1973 from his parents. Nancy is the New Bremen school nurse. She graduated from Good Samaritan School of Nursing. Ned is a member of the Bumblebees Band. They are the parents of three children, Angela Joyce, born November 2, 1966; Susan Amelia, born October 29, 1967; and Michael Ned, born August 2, 1969.

Lambert and Amelia are now retired and are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ. Lambert is the president of the German Farmers Mutual Insurance Association.

Oscar and Anna Dammeyer

Oscar was the son of Fred and Auguste Dammeyer and was one of twelve children. He was born in Mercer County, but moved to New Bremen at an early age. He worked first for Steinebrey's Bicycle Shop and then for Huenke's Garage. Eventually he had his own automobile agency—selling Hudson, Terraplane cars and International Trucks. At one time his agency was located at 311 North Main Street and later at 202 North Main Street.

During World War II he manufactured his own line of hog feeders and chicken houses, called Nu-Way Company. This was located in the old store building in Lock Two. Mr. Dammeyer was also an inventor and was the holder of several United States patents in various playground equipment. This line was about to go into production at a plant in Springfield, Ohio, when World War II put an end to all manufacturing of that kind. However, he had built his own working models of these various pieces of playground equipment, and a lot of New Bremen children had a chance to play on them at his home at 311 North Main Street. Later the Hyro-Gyro swing and the teeter-totter were transferred to the old elementary school building and were used at recess for several years.

Oscar married Anna Luelleman, a native of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. She, however, had roots in New Bremen, because her father, Henry Luelleman, was born in New Bremen. In fact, he was born in the house now known as the New Bremen Historical Museum. He went to work at a dairy in Ft. Wayne and married there. They always maintained their connection with his home in New Bremen and visited here often. Henry Luelleman rode his bicycle from Ft. Wayne to New Bremen several times.

Eventually Oscar and Anna had two daughters: Irene and Elaine. Elaine died at the age of three years in the 1936 scarlet fever epidemic. Irene has been a life-long resident of New Bremen. She graduated from New Bremen High

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School, married Fred M. Wellemeyer, (a Minster native and graduate of Minster high school) and they established their home in New Bremen. Fred's ancestry also lay in New Bremen through his parents, Fred D. Wellemeyer and Lillian Thieman Wellemeyer, who were natives of New Bremen. They were married at Lillian's parents' home at 22 South Walnut Street in 1903. They had three children: Willis, deceased, Edna Wellemeyer Hoffman (also a New Bremen resident), and Fred M. Wellemeyer. Fred D. and Lillian moved to Route 119 between Minster and New Bremen and operated a greenhouse and nursery there for several years.

Fred M. Wellemeyer worked at the Arcade Department Store until its closing. He then operated the Lone Pine Sohio Service Station on North Main Street for a number of years, and is now employed at Crown Control. He is a past president of the New Bremen Historical Association and a twenty-five year member of the Masonic Lodge in St. Marys. Irene has been active in several New Bremen Associations: Twig Benders, C.C.L. Club, New Bremen Library Board, New Bremen Historical Association, St. Paul's Church School as Superintendent, Citizen's Committee and the Auglaize County Humane Society.

Fred and Irene have one daughter, Wendy. She is a graduate of New Bremen High School, with a Bachelor's Degree from Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, and a Master's Degree from the University of Dayton. On July 21, 1973, she married Richard Poppe, son of Paul and Doris Coil Poppe of Kettlersville, Ohio. Richard is a graduate of Anna High School, with a Bachelor's Degree from Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, and a Master's Degree from the University of Dayton. Wendy and Dick have established their home in New Bremen. Wendy is librarian at New Bremen High School and Dick is a teacher and coach in the Hardin-Houston School district. They are both involved in school and community activities. *Submitted by Irene Wellemeyer.*

Dicke Family - Clover Four Farms

In January of 1983, new signs were erected on Auglaize County Road #80. They read Clover Four Road. The county had been asked to re-establish (thru signs) this historical name as it has been known locally for quite a few years. This particular road received its unique name from the area north west of New Bremen, Ohio, known as Clover Four. The four farm homes on this St. Marys-German Twp. Auglaize County Road are placed as to suggest this Clover Four - the road being intersected by the north-south creek. Three of these farm homes have been in the Dicke family name for over one hundred years. The present residents in each of the homes (1983) are Willis & Helen Dicke, Kenneth & Carolyn Dicke and family, Norman and Donna Dicke Jacoby and family and the fourth Johnny & Linda Fleck.

Larry and Dianne Dicke

My name is Larry Dicke. I was born on October 17, 1939, on the homestead farm of my parents, Ralph and Lavon (Wiehe) Dicke. Both my parents were raised in the New Bremen area. I attended West Side School on State Route 364 until it closed. My eighth grade year was completed in New Bremen High School where I became active in Future Farmers of America. I was also active in 4-H and Farm Bureau Youth Council.

It was through Farm Bureau Youth Council that I met my wife, the former Dianne Schmiesing of Cassella, Ohio. She is the eldest daughter of Walter and Mary Anne (Grievenkamp) Schmiesing. Dianne graduated from Marion Local High School, Wright State University and has her Master's degree in curriculum from the University of Dayton. After teaching in Coldwater and Maria Stein for seven years, she began teaching in New Bremen Elementary when our children entered school.

Both Dianne and I are active in community activities which include New Bremen Athletic Boosters Club, Buckeye Hustlers 4-H Club, 20th Century Mothers OCCL Club and Bremenfest Committee. We are members of Holy Redeemer Church where Dianne is serving on the Parish Council.

I am also active in the Foreman's club at Avco New Idea Company where I am employed as a supervisor in the receiving department.

We are the parents of three children. Michelle is a student at Ohio State University where she is majoring in Home Economics Education. She is active in both our local 4-H Club and the Ohio State University 4-H Club. She is also student representative to the Home Economics Advisory board on campus and active in Silver Wings.

Denise is a junior at New Bremen High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, band, chorus, and is co-captain of the girls' basketball team. Denise is also a lector at Holy Redeemer and a member of the Catholic Youth Organization. Another of Denise interests is Girl Scouts. She is the president of the Senior Girl Scout troop.

Tim is an eighth grade student. He is active in 4-H as are both of his sisters. He is a member of the band, the Junior High football, basketball and track teams. He is serving as President of his eighth grade class.

Our family has considered New Bremen our home for the past sixteen years and we plan to continue to be active in the community for many more years. *Submitted by Larry Dicke.*

Ralph and Lavon Dicke

My name is Ralph Dicke. I was born to Alvin and Laura (Bertke) Dicke. I attended school on Clover Four Road through the eighth grade. I attended New Bremen High School and was the first president of the Future Farmers of America in New Bremen.

I married Lavon Wiehe, the youngest daughter of Erwin and Emma (Schnelle) Wiehe.

We purchased the home farm from my father and engaged in farming. We are the parents of three children: Stanley of Mendon, Ohio, Larry of New Bremen, and Oneta Lyda of Celina, Ohio. There are nine grandchildren.

Both Lavon and I were active leaders in 4-H Clubs in Mercer County. Lavon has been an Avon representative since 1964. I was elected Franklin Township Trustee and since 1974 have served as Mercer County Commissioner. My term ended in December of 1982. We have been faithful members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in New Bremen. We plan to continue to be active in the community during our retirement years. *Submitted by Ralph Dicke.*

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Fred Henry Dickman

Fred Henry Dickman was born on October 25, 1834, and married Anna Dorthea Haeseker in 1866. Both were born in Auglaize County. He was the son of Henry Dickman who had a tract of eighty acres of uncleared land in Section 29 of St. Marys Township. Fred was an honored Civil War veteran who had come through three years of war without injury, but on his way home the train he was riding in wrecked and he received an injury to one leg that crippled him. However, he returned to the land in St. Marys Township where he began a good farm with the help of his sons. He and his wife had ten children, Emil, Emma, Henry, William, Charles, Mollie, Herbert, Mary, Minnie and Omer.

Omer was the youngest and married Emma Dorothy Dammeyer on June 28, 1916. Omer continued farming on the same eighty acres. To them was born Dorothy who married Everett Koenig, also from Auglaize County. They moved to Van Wert County where they own and operated Flat Lands Supply. They have three daughters, Beverly, Deanna and Karen, and one son, Jerry.

Omer and Emma's son, Vernon, was killed in 1943 while on duty in California during World War II. Howard was married to Ruth Clausing. He has carried on farming on the same farm. Together with two of his sons, David and Thomas, they specialize in hog production. They also have a son, Keith, and a daughter, Susan.

Lois is married to James Kellemeyer. They live near New Knoxville and have a daughter, Judy, and a son, Larry.

The Dickman family farm is on Southland Road and in 1979 was honored by the Auglaize County Historical Society for being owned by the same family for at least one hundred years.

Omer Dickman's wife, Emma Dammeyer, was the daughter of Henry F. and Louise Waesch. They were married in 1875 and lived on a forty-three acre farm in St. Marys Township before moving to New Bremen in 1911. Emma had a brother, August, who married Lillie Neumann. Their children were Wilfred, Alvin and Marie. Emma's sister, Amalia, married Lafe Haeker and had five children, Leroy, Norman, Charles, Fredrick and Pauline. Emma's grandfather was Fredrick Dammeyer who was born in Germany in 1821. He married Mary Finke who was also born in Germany. They were married in Auglaize County and were the parents of Henry F., born on November 27, 1850. *Submitted by Mrs. Everett Koenig.*

Vernon and Eileen Doenges

Vernon E. Doenges lives at 312 West Pearl Street in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He was born on February 18, 1922, in St. Marys Township near New Bremen. He was married to Eileen M. Hasson on September 11, 1948, in St. Joseph's Church in Wapakoneta. She was born on September 1, 1921, in Sidney. They have four children. Nicholas R. was married to Tomoe Fujii and they have two children, Vernon and Donna. Nina Eileen married David Stuckey and they have two children, David and Kelly. Noreen Marie married Nick Wise and has a stepdaughter, Victoria. Nell Ann is married to William Chadwick.

Vernon's father, William J. Doenges, Jr., was born on October 7, 1896, in St. Marys Township in New Bremen. Vernon's mother was Marie Oldiges who was born on August 23, 1901, at Minster. She died on February 25, 1965.

Eileen's father, Philip Hugh Hasson, was born on May 5, 1882, in Big Shanty, Bradford, Pennsylvania. He died on March 16, 1945, in Wapakoneta. Eileen's mother, Mary Bridget Doorley Hasson, was born on December 7, 1883, in Moulton Township of Auglaize County. She died on November 16, 1956.

Vernon's paternal grandfather was William Doenges, Sr. who was born on March 14, 1865, on the same farm as William Jr. and Vernon. William Sr. was the son of Louis and Elizabeth Wagner Doenges. William Sr. died on March 15, 1955. He was married to Elizabeth Hespe who died on November 25, 1918.

Louis Doenges was born in Germany on March 25, 1840. He was the son of John Ludwig and Elizabeth Rea Doenges. In 1846, Louis came with his parents to the United States and lived in the vicinity of New Bremen. One of his occupations besides farming was driving mules for the Miami and Erie Canal boats for a number of years. In 1864, he married Elizabeth Wagner, born in Pennsylvania on December 12, 1833. To them were born four children: William, August, Charles and Kate. The mother, Elizabeth, died on November 19, 1917.

Vernon has a sister, Mary Lee Doenges Wissman, and two brothers, Louis W. and Ralph A. Doenges.

Prior to becoming the Auglaize County Auditor in 1959, Vernon worked at different occupations in Toledo and Dayton. He has also played in dance bands as a vocalist and bass man for all of his adult life. *Submitted by Vernon Doenges.*

George Fark

Adam Heinrich (Farck) Fark was born on January 3, 1843, in Holtern, Germany. He was the son of Christian Heinrich Farck. He married Anna Marie Elizabeth Kettler, who was born on May 30, 1850, in Broxton, Germany. She was the daughter of Christian Kettler, born October 5, 1812 and Marie Engel (Riepe) Kettler, born August 9, 1811. The year they came to America is unknown. Adam and Anna were the parents of fifteen children: Anna, Henry, Chris, Edward, William, Herman, Fred, George, Charles, Amanda, Bertha, Hilda, Irvin, Herbert and Alma.

George August, the eighth child, was born on December 28, 1882. On November 14, 1907, he married Fredonia Louise Hirschfeld, born June 28, 1887. George was a brick mason and in 1910 built his home at 23 South Herman street. To them five children were born: Lucile, Richard (died in infancy), Robert, Louis and Leota. They were members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. George died on October 11, 1966, and Fredonia died on March 29, 1952. *Submitted by Karen Farley.*

Gary Farley

Gary was born on July 18, 1945, in Sidney, Ohio. The youngest of three children, he is the son of Lester and Wonsie (Abbott) Farley. He grew up in Anna, Ohio, and graduated from Anna High School. Gary has a sister, Janet, and a brother, Doug.

He is married to the former Karen Moeller and they are the parents of three children: Dawn, Greg and Jill.

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Karen, the oldest of three children, was born on November 13, 1964, and is the daughter of Carl and Lucile (Fark) Moeller. She grew up on a small farm one mile west of New Bremen on State Route 274 and graduated from New Bremen High School. Karen has two brothers, Ned and Ron.

Gary and Karen are both employed by Crown Control Corporation. Gary is a lift truck assembler and Karen is a secretary.

The home they reside in is at 23 South Herman street and it was built around 1910 by Karen's grandfather, George Fark. He was a brick mason, and it is the home where Karen's mother, Lucile, was born and raised.

Gary and Karen are members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. *Submitted by Karen Farley.*

Emil and Carol Fledderjohann

Emil A. Fledderjohann was born on December 25, 1906, on the Fledderjohann farm at Lock 6 on the Miami Erie Canal. On July 1, 1937, he was married to Carol Luedeen Neitermayer from St. Marys. In September, they moved to their home on 107 South Main Street which they purchased from Ella Pape. They have two sons, Thomas and Max. Tom is married to Diane Lammers and they have three sons. They live on the Fledderjohann farm. Max is married to Beverly Widau. They have three sons and a daughter and they live on Circle Drive in New Bremen.

Emil was a Motorist Mutual Insurance Agent for forty years in New Bremen. He was also a truck driver for Beatrice Foods and for the Kuck Oil Company. He is now retired. *Submitted by Emil Fledderjohann.*

Max and Beverly Fledderjohann

Max was born on July 29, 1945, to Emil and Luedeen (Nietermayer) Fledderjohann. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1963 and received religious training through Zion United Church of Christ in New Bremen. Max served four years in the United States Army. He is employed by Crown Control Corporation.

Beverly was born March 1, 1947, to Leonard and Virginia (Parrett) Widau. She graduated from New Bremen High School in 1965 and received religious training through St. Peter's United Church of Christ in New Bremen. She was employed by Crown Controls as a receptionist prior to the birth of the children.

Max and Beverly have four children: Scott, born May 21, 1969; Andrew, born November 16, 1970; Skip, born June 28, 1974; and Joy, born July 7, 1978. Max and his family live in New Bremen at 33 Circle Drive. *Submitted by Max Fledderjohann.*

Fledderjohn

Silas Benjamin Fledderjohn (1/10/1894-4/26/1961), a farmer and machinist at Stamco for 25 years, was the ninth child of ten children of Frederick Henry (3/9/1848-8/1/1928) and Sophia Fredericka nee Meckstroth (5/10/1855-7/8/1931), who changed the family name spelling to "john" from "johann" and who farmed southeast of New Knoxville. F.H. Fledderjohn's parents had come from _____, Germany, and died with other family members in a cholera epidemic. F.H. and his only other surviving sister were raised by the Hoelscher family.

Silas married Irma Marie Greber (12/1/1898) and worked the family farm on Fledderjohn Road. After thirteen years there and four years east of New Bremen (Ruese and Miller farms), they moved to New Bremen for several years and then to the Greber homestead where Irma was raised with her sister, Clara, who died at age 12, and her two brothers, George and Henry. This 16 acres was known as the Black Walnut Hill Fruit Farm in earlier years and was the early morning destination for the townspeople in late spring and summer to pick fruit, especially strawberries.

Four sons and a daughter were reared by them:

1) Robert Silas (10/23/1919) in maintenance and assembly at Stamco for 25 years married Dolores Caroline Mohrman (6/6/1935), advertising secretary/Crown, and had three children: Debra Dee married to David Hirschfeld, Steve Robert in aerospace engineering at U.C., and Stan Lee in high school.

2) Donald William (4/13/1921), Cmdr. of U.S.N. (retired), who married Bernadine Amanda Luedeke (10/24/1925) and reared five boys: Thomas Robert married to Pamela Arrivee with two children, Jerry Bruce married to Judith Ann Row with three children (Sherborn, MA.), Alan Lee, Craig Donald (Reno, NV.), and Dean Ross (Vandenberg A.F.B.). They reside in Coronado, CA.; Don tinkers on automotive and woodcraft projects and "Buzz" is a partner in a tax clinic and accounting firm.

3) Dale Henry (7/14/1923) in Production Control/Crown married Winifred K. Saunders of Lexington, Kentucky, and have two boys, both living in Cincinnati: Gary Lee married to Donna Wilker and Rex Dale married to Shirley Homan.

4) Kenneth Edward (3/18/1933), a jet airplane mechanic, lives in the Chicago area.

5) Janet Irma (12/11/1937), sales secretary at Stamco for twenty-six years, serves interests in the community having held various offices in sport and civic organizations or fund drives as well as being one of the first two women on St. Paul U.C.C. church council and current curator of the local historic museum. *Submitted by Janet Fledderjohn.*

John Henry Grothaus

Born on February 20, 1859, in Van Buren Township in Shelby County, John Henry Grothaus was the second child of William F. and Elizabeth Marie (Lanfersieck) Grothaus. A good description of William F. Grothaus' life can be found in "History of Western Ohio and Auglaize County" by C.W. Williamson published in 1905. Briefly though, William emigrated from Germany, while Elizabeth was born in Van Buren Township. Their other children are Elizabeth, Emma, Adaline, William, Edmund, Augusta and Lillian.

John H. Grothaus was educated in the public schools in New Bremen and at the age of fifteen started working for his uncle at J.F. Lanfersieck and Company. While working there, he became an agent for the Johnson Reaper, Russel Reaper, Portable Atlas Engines and Dodge and Taylor Rake. He also ordered parts for sawmills and corn crushers. In 1881, he became a partner in the J.F. Lanfersieck and Company. In 1895, Mr. Lanfersieck and Mr. Grothaus formed Lanfersieck and Grothaus with J.F. Lanfersieck as President and Mr. Grothaus as secretary. When the com-

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pany re-organized in 1911, Mr. Grothaus became Secretary-Treasurer of the new company. This position with the firm he held until his death.

Being an active democrat, Mr. Grothaus served the public in several offices. He was the Village Clerk for six years, Village Councilman for six years, on the New Bremen School Board for six years, and on the Board of Public Affairs of New Bremen for two terms. In 1901, he defeated John Brandewie for the 1902 to 1906 term as Auglaize County Treasurer.

Amelie Vogelsang was united to Mr. Grothaus on November 14, 1888, and to them were born two sons, Alvin and Walter. Mr. Grothaus was a member of St. Paul German Lutheran Church, I.O.O.F., Masonic Order, and the B.P.O.E.

Mr. Grothaus was also associated with other businesses. He was a stockholder, director and president of the Auglaize Motor Car Company, stockholder in the Poorman Manufacturing Company, and vice president of the First City Bank. In 1902, he was elected director of the First National Bank. Later he became vice president and in November of 1921 he was elected president.

Mr. Grothaus passed away on January 24, 1924, in New Bremen and is buried in the German Protestant Cemetery. *Submitted by Dan Bennett.*

Dennis and Jane Gruebmeyer

Dennis Robert Gruebmeyer (Barney) was born on March 27, 1949, at Lima Memorial Hospital to Robert and Carole (DuBois) Gruebmeyer. He was baptized and confirmed in St. Paul's United Church of Christ. He graduated from New Bremen High School and served four years with the United States Air Force. Dennis is presently employed at Crown Controls Corporation.

Jane Ann (Moore) Gruebmeyer was born August 2, 1949, at Wilson Memorial Hospital to Walter and Doris (Harmon) Moore. Jane was baptized and confirmed at Zion United Church of Christ. She graduated from New Bremen High School and then completed a secretarial course at Miami Jacobs Junior College of Business in Dayton, Ohio, and was employed at the Minster Machine Company. Jane is presently serving as organist at Zion United Church of Christ.

Barney and Jane were married on October 22, 1972, at Zion United Church of Christ and started their family on January 10, 1974, when Sherri Beth was born. Julie Ann was born on August 21, 1975, and Becky Kay was born on October 16,1980. *Submitted by Jane Gruebmeyer.*

Karl D. and Dorothy E. Hagerstrand

The Hagerstrands have lived in New Bremen at 215 East Front street since 1973. Karl is presently serving on the New Bremen Village Council having just completed a year as its president. He was director of the fund campaign and first president of the New Bremen Emergency Squad. He serves on the board of the Western Auglaize County Chapter of the American Red Cross. He was the chairman for the fourth Bremenfest. Dorothy is currently president of the Joint Township District Memorial Hospital Auxilary. She is a member of the New Bremen's Women's Club and the Child Guidance C.C.L. Club and is on the board of the Friends of the Library.

Karl was born in 1914 in Newark, Ohio. His mother, Mary Danner, was born in Tiffin, Ohio, of German immigrants from Sulz-on-the-Nechar, near Stuttgart. His father was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, of Swedish immigrant parents. Both families were Lutheran. Karl attended Newark Public Schools. He graduated from Denison University, with an A.B. in Economics. He sold business machines in the Pittsburgh area, then served five years in the Army Infantry during World War II. He was a Captain at the time of his discharge. He married Dorothy Edge in 1942. They are the parents of three children. While living in Cincinnati, Karl was with the Rainbo Bread Company, in management at the general offices of the Kroger Company and Vice President of Sales with Imbs Milling Company. He received his Masters degree in 1971 from the University of Cincinnati. He taught Geography at that school and at the Wright State University.

Dorothy was born in Whitford, Pennsylvania, on a grant of land from William Penn to her forefathers. Some of the family still live there. She is a Quaker and attended Downingtown Friends School and Westtown Friends Boarding School. She received her B.S. in Education from the University of Pennsylvania in 1940, and taught school in Sewickly, Pennsylvania, for two years. She has been a housewife and substitute teacher since her marriage. *Submitted by Karl Hagerstrand.*

Johannes and Veronica Halsema

Johannes and Veronica Halsema were latecomers to New Bremen, arriving in the summer of 1874, forty-two years after the founding of the community. They were from the Netherlands. Most of their countrymen who emigrated to America settled in southwestern Michigan. They were Roman Catholics in a town that was mostly Protestant in faith, yet they and their children became an integral part of the town, and New Bremen's public schools gave those children a solid foundation for future achievements.

The dead-level plains of Auglaize County reminded the Halsemas of the below sea level flatlands of their native Groningen province which their ancestors had laboriously redeemed from the North Sea by centuries of backbreaking dyking and drainage. They were not Dutch, but Frisian, and as such shared a common dialect, with the East Frieslanders of Bremen and Hamburg and even islanders on the west coast of Denmark. When they came to New Bremen there was a missionary Catholic Church, although this soon had to be closed. For years they walked every Sunday in every kind of weather to Minster's St. Augustine Church.

Johannes was born on July 12, 1843, in Mensingeweer, a village northwest of the provincial capital of Groningen. He told his granddaughter, Betty, that as a child he had fun vaulting over the canal with the aid of a long pole, but often landed in the water. In winter he skated on its frozen water. As a child he lost the sight of one eye when he fell upon an open pair of scissors. The Halsemas, like most other villagers of the area, had no family name until it was imposed upon them during the Napoleonic era for police convenience. Everyone knew his neighbors and there was no need.

Veronica Dutmers was born on April 24, 1850, at Uithuizen, a short distance east of Mensingeweer. She mar-

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ried Johannes on May 19, 1874, shortly before they left for America. Their children included the first Eusebius (who died as an infant), John, Eusebius Julius, Bernard, Lucius (who died as a teenager), Geciena and Elizabeth.

The Halsemas lived in a house at 206 West Monroe Street which also served as workplace and shop for Johannes. He had learned watchmaking and repair as a trade, and also sold watches and other jewelry. The house stood until it was torn down to make way for the enlargement of the adjacent furniture store. He installed the clock in the tower of St. Paul's church and served twenty-five years as its sexton. He anglicized his name to John and never returned to his homeland. His wife died on June 4, 1923. In his later years John lost the sight of his other eye and was cared for by his daughters. Both were operators for the New Bremen Telephone Company.

Several generations of New Bremen residents remember Geciena and Elizabeth and their memories for names and telephone numbers. That was in the day that connections had to be made on a switchboard by plugging the person calling to the one being called via a plug inserted in a jack. When their nephew, Jim Halsema, visited New Bremen as a college student they could always tell him what girl would be free for a date. They knew and kept all the town's secrets and were ready at any hour they were on shift to handle emergencies in a way that no computer yet can. If the doctor wasn't available they could find one who was. Gradually they connected customers farther afield until at the time of their retirement (Geciena worked forty-five years at the same post) they could call most overseas countries.

The Halsema girls owned a Model T Ford for many years but they could not travel far afield until after their father's death on December 7, 1930, at the age of eighty-seven. After that they visited most parts of the United States and eastern Canada, taking long trips. Elizabeth died in New Bremen on November 16, 1965. Geciena died on December 5, 1975,at Coldwater, Ohio.

John was born on August 1, 1876, and was the first member of the family to attend Ohio State after graduation from New Bremen High School in 1893 and Miami University in 1897. He received his master's degree in education and returned to New Bremen as a teacher and later became principal of the high school. On June 21, 1922, he married Constance Durbin at Danville, Ohio. Their four daughters include Mary, who retired from nursing after thirty-eight years and who lives in Florida , Rita, now Sister Corinne, a member of the order of Franciscans of Stella Niagara, New York, who is currently stationed with Franciscan world headquarters in Rome after heading her order; Margaret, a dietitian in a Columbus hospital; and Juliana, a secretary in the office of a Columbus school. Constance met her husband in 1921 when she went to Minster to teach in the high school where he was superintendent. John died on April 4, 1941, after twenty-eight years in his Minster position. He was widely known throughout Ohio for his work in educational organizations.

Esebius Julius, named for two of his uncles, was born on March 2, 1882, and graduated from New Bremen High School on May 25, 1899. He was the first speaker at the exercises in Boesel's Opera House and chose as his topic "A National Issue" - the then burning question of whether the United States was right to have annexed the Philippine Islands as a result of the Spanish-American war of the previous year. He began engineering studies at Ohio State that autumn but found it impossible to meet the demanding requirements and support himself simultaneously, so he became an assistant cashier at Boesel's Bank until he had accumulated enough funds to resume. "Jay", as his friends called him, graduated as a civil engineer in 1907 and attempted to set up a real estate business in Los Angeles with a classmate, but was foiled by the economic recession of that year. The following year both passed the Civil Service examinations and went to the Philippines for its Bureau of Public Works.

"Jay" spent thirty years in the Philippine government service, becoming one of the best known Americans in the islands for his accomplishments as a builder, administrator and friend of everyone from rice farmers to the first two presidents of that country after it achieved independence. On September 12, 1912, after he had constructed the Osmena Waterworks for Cebu, the second city of the Phlippines, he invented a new type of concrete dam in the process. He returned for his first home leave and married Marie Boesel, daughter of Julius and Amalia. They returned to the Philippines where their daughter Helen Elizabeth (Betty) was born on December 23, 1914, when Jay was district engineer of Pampanga province near Manila. During World War I he volunteered for service in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Their son, James Julius (Jim), was born in Warren, Ohio, on January 1, 1919. Again the family returned to the Philippines. He contracted a severe case of blackwater fever while building a railroad to a coal mine on the island of Mindanao. Then Jay was assigned to the mountain resort town of Baguio as its mayor and city engineer and district engineer of surrounding Benguet province. During seventeen years in these positions he built Baguio into an international resort, regional educational and business center and headquarters of the Philippine gold mining industry. He also constructed a spectacular ninety mile highway on the crest of a mountain range. He retired in 1937 as the last American to hold an administrative position in the semi-independent Philippine Commonwealth. As president of the Marsman Construction Corporation he built what is now the American Embassy in Manila.

During World War II the Halsemas were interned by the Japanese invaders. The senior Halsemas were allowed to live outside the internment camp after the first two years of the enemy occupation. Betty, who had married Rupert M. Foley, a Michigan metallurgist, in 1938; her first son, Michael, born in the camp in 1942; and her brother, Jim, remained behind barbed wire. Jay was killed on March 15, 1945, when American planes bombed the hospital in which he and his wife had sought refuge. His children were liberated in Manila on Feburary 1, 1945, and Jim remained in the Philippines as a war correspondent for the Associated Press. He helped rescue his mother when Baguio was freed by units of Ohio's 37th Division on April 27, 1945.

One of E.J. Halsema's proteges, Florencio Moreno, who built the roads on which the Bataan defense was conducted and later became a member of the Philippine Legislature, sponsored a bill that named the Mountain Trail Jay had built in his honor. This vital artery is now known as the Halsema Mountain Road. Marie lived with the Foleys in Westport, Connecticut, until her death on June 9, 1958. She and her husband are buried in Baguio.

Both Betty and Jim attended Duke University and

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graduated in 1936 and 1940 respectively. In 1949, he received his M.A. from the School of Advanced International Studies in Washington D.C. He married Alice Cleveland of Devon, Pennsylvania, and was assigned to Singapore by the United States Information Service. In nearly thirty years of Foreign Service the Halsemas served in Manila, Bangkok, Cairo, Santiago (Chile) and Washington, D.C. They have six children and as of December, 1982, one grandchild and they live in Glenmore, Pennsylvania. The Foleys have three children and five grandchildren and live in South Pasadena, California. Jim attended the National War College in Washington, D.C. in 1957-58.

Bernard Silvius Halsema was born on February 17, 1885, and received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Ohio State. He married Mattie Center at Muenster, Texas, about 1910 and spent his career in Chickisaw, Oklahoma. Their daughter, Mrs. Marie Steele, lives in Midwest City, Oklahoma. *Submitted by James Halsema.*

Fred and Sharon Harmon

Fred and Sharon and their children, Anthony, Amber and Aaron moved to New Bremen in April, 1978, after purchasing the old Boesel/Barth house at 27 South Franklin Street. The Harmons moved from Olney, Illinois.

Although they are one of New Bremen's newer families, the Harmon's ancestors were early Ohio settlers. Peter Harmon and his wife, Elizabeth Little, moved to Ohio in 1828. They had previously lived in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Another ancestor, Jacob Windland, son of Revolutionary war soldier, Henrich Weidlandt, moved to present day Monroe County prior to 1810. Henrich immigrated to Pennsylvania from Germany in 1771. He served as a private in Captain James Board's Company of Rangers from 1778-1783. Ancestor Alexander Brown, also a son of a Revolutionary war soldier (Josias Brown), moved to Ohio in 1818. Josias served in the Revolution in Captain Alexander Peebles Company from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania from 1777 to 1782. James Allen, another Harmon ancestor, immigrated from England about 1805 and settled in Ohio in 1815. These pre-1820 Ohio settlers are qualification for membership in the "First Families of Ohio". *Submitted by Fred Harmon.*

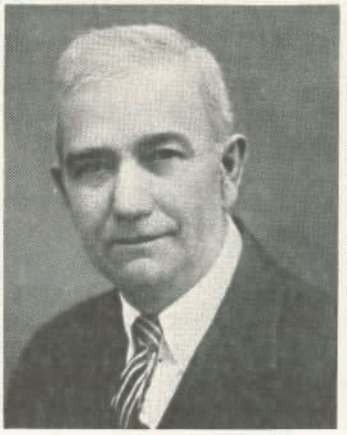
Adam Heil Sr. Family

An agreement made in Mainz, Germany, on May 8, 1851, between Adam Heil, Sr. and G.H. Paulsen, agent for the London-New York line of Packet Ships, provided for passage for his family of six, and one other person, from Bingen, Germany, to New York.

Adam Heil, Sr., age 50; his wife Julianna, age 40; and sons, Carl, 21; Peter, age 17; Adam, Jr., age 8; Jacob, age 5; and Catherine Maurer, age 21; were the 7 persons who would depart from Lauterecken, to Bingen, Germany. There they would board a Rheinland Steamer for London. In London they would board the Margaret Evans a ship of 1000 tons register, bound for New York with Captain T. Pratt in charge.

On board they were allowed 20 cubic feet per adult for luggage and possessions, and 10 cubic feet for each child. The trip was to cost 390 gulden.

In addition to any provisions which the family could bring, the Master of the ship was to provide as requested by law, for each person, medicine and access to the ship's hospital, fires and a suitable place for cooking, 3 quarts water daily, 5½ oz. bread, not inferior in Quality to Navy Biscuit, flour, rice, tea and sugar each week.



Charles Heil



Emilie Showe Heil, Charles wife

Utensils for eating and drinking and bedding were to be provided by the passengers.

The passengers were reminded to guard carefully their contract even after their arrival in America that it would vouch that they were legitimate immigrants.

The trip was probably not an easy one. Crossing usually was a matter of six weeks at best. Many such trips were made on overly crowded ships. Many became seasick and some were so for the entire trip. It is not known exactly where they landed but the family apparently came directly to the New Bremen area possibly to join relatives already here.

Adam Heil purchased eighty acres of land from Christian Rotger for $640 on July 29, 1851. This land was located at the intersection of State Route #29 and the Lock Two Road, just three miles east of New Bremen. A son, Carl August, was born on June 17, 1851. This child evidently died at an early age. Julianna died on August 23, 1851, at the age of forty-two.

Adam then married Elizabeth Felz. They had one son, August, who was born in 1859. Elizabeth died on November 30, 1872. Adam lived until 1889.

Carl Heil, the oldest son of Adam, born on April 23, 1830, in Lauterecken; and Catherine Maurer, who came with them to America, were married not long after they arrived. A son, Peter Carl, was born on October 20, 1852. Catherine died a year or two later. In February of 1855, Carl married Dorothea Maurer, who was born in Weiswiller, Rheinphalz, Germany, on April 24, 1834. They had a large family. Wilhelmina was born on January 1, 1858; August Johannes was born on October 23, 1860; Mathilda Margaret, born on June 19, 1863; Dorothy Louise, born on February 25, 1866; Ida Magdalene, born on December 21, 1868; Gustave Heinrich, born on May 29, 1872; Emilie Elizabeth, born on May 29, 1872; and Amanda Pauline, born on November 3, 1874.

Carl was a brick mason. They lived for a time on Washington Street in New Bremen and then on the corner of First and Herman. They were members of St. Paul's Church. Their children were baptized and confirmed there. In 1888, consumption hit the family. There were eight deaths in six years, Wilhelmina in 1888, Mathilda in 1889,

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Emilie in 1890, Dorothy in 1892, Mother Dorothea in 1892, Gustave in 1893, and Amanda in 1894. Carl died in September of 1895.

Peter Heil, the second son of Adam Heil, was born in 1834 in Lauterecken and at the age of seventeen he came to America. Apparently he never married and may have lived on the family farm with his parents all his life.

Adam Heil was born on November 27, 1842. At the age of eight, he came with his family to America. He grew up on the farm and married Louisa Koch on April 19, 1866. Louisa was born on October 30, 1845, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They lived on the family farm with the parents and had six children. Charles was born on May 12, 1867; Katherine was born on July 4, 1869; August, born on April 29, 1874; Adam Edward, born on March 6, 1876; William Allen, born on November 11, 1879; and Alfred August, born on April 26, 1882. Louisa died on May 28, 1885, at the age of thirty-nine. Adam married Fredericka (Geise) Paul on March 16, 1886. She had previously been married to John Paul and had three children, Edward who was born on January 21, 1879; John Henry who was born on February 27, 1882; and Caroline who was born later.

Adam and Fredericka had four children. Clarence was born on May 17, 1887; Bertha was born on May 17, 1887; Albert was born in 1869 and Esther was born in 1900. These children except for Esther attended the Kappel School. The family belonged to St. Paul Church where the children were baptized and confirmed. On April 18, 1889, ownership of the farm was transferred to Adam, Jr. He paid each of his four brothers the sum of $300 for his share. Adam died on September 19, 1905. On January 10, 1906, Fredericka sold the eighty acres farm at public auction to Herman William Wierwille for the sum of $5535. This was the highest and best bid and more than two thirds the appraised value. Fredericka then purchased from Sophia Dorfer Lot #395 at 302 South Walnut in the village of New Bremen. She moved there with her younger children. She also raised two of her grandchildren. She lived in this house until her death on September 11, 1934.

Jacob Heil was born in 1846. He was five years old when he came to America. He grew up on the farm. He married Catherine Elizabeth May and they had four children. Emma was born on November 16, 1871; Carl Jacob, born on December 18, 1873; Henry Edwin, born on December 2, 1875; and John Gustave, born on July 2, 1878. It is not known for certain where they lived.

August Heil was born in 1859, in Ohio after the family arrived. He married Anna Tangeman. Their children were Anna Mary Amanda, born on March 14, 1875 and died at three months; Albert Edwin, born on April 20, 1878; Emilie Louise, born on September 15, 1880; and Carl Gustave and Cord August, twins born on August 10, 1883. The twins lived less than one month. The family may have lived in New Knoxville.

Charles Heil was the oldest son of Adam Heil, Jr. He was born on May 18, 1867, on the family farm and attended Kappel School. On November 19, 1890, he married Emilie Schowe, who was born on November 15, 1866. She was the daughter of Henry Schowe. They took up housekeeping in New Bremen on South Walnut Street. Eight children were born. Nora Louise was born on March 24, 1892, and died at nineteen days. Alma Dorothy was born on May 22, 1893; Carl Adam, born on August 8, 1895, and died on August 29, 1900; Clara Elizabeth, born on April 15, 1898; Lawrence Henry, born on November 15, 1900; Lillian Catherine, born on November 15, 1905; Ethel Wilhelmina, born on April 5, 1907; and Homer Adam, born on September 15, 1911.

For some years Charles operated a dray business, hauling freight by horse and wagon from the Western Ohio Railway Depot to merchants in the village. The family moved from South Walnut Street to the corner of Franklin and Monroe. They then lived for a while at the corner of Monroe and Main above the Printing Shop. On September 8, 1921, they purchased the home on Lot #62 at 20 North Main Street from Herman Laut. This lot extended the full length of the block with the house facing Main Street and a large barn was near Water Street. There was a small brick building with a large garden and lawn in between. Charles did an extensive remodeling job on this large home. Emilie always had boarders. They were active members of St. Paul's Church where the children were baptized and confirmed. Charles worked at the Auglaize Furniture Company at this time. He died at this residence on June 5, 1936. Emilie lived at the same place for a number of years after his death. She died at the home of her daughter, Alma, on November 10, 1945. A favorite memory of the grandchildren was the Equity Ice Cream Store that was next door during the later years.

Kathyrn Barbara was the second child of Adam, Jr. She was born on July 4, 1869, on the family farm. She married Charles Davis and settled in Springfield, Ohio. She died very suddenly of a heart attack on a visit to the Charles Heil home in New Bremen.

August Heil, the son of Adam, Jr., married Minnie Bushman on October 18, 1900. They had four children. Aurelia was born on May 30, 1902 and married Ray Eschmeyer. They live in New Knoxville. Raymond was born on April 7, 1904, and is deceased. Wilbert was born on January 15, 1906, and lives in Willshire. Arnold was born on April 23, 1908, and resides in Port Richey, Florida.

Edward Heil was born on March 6, 1876. His wife's name was Dora. They lived on Washington Street. He was a beer distributor for the Star Brewery in Minster. One daughter, Francis, was born in 1899 in New Bremen. They then moved to Lima where Adam worked as a bottler for a T.B. Thompson Dairy. A son, Rolland, was also born. Edward died in 1927 and Dora lived until 1964.

Allen Heil was born on November 24, 1879. He was a well driller and his work took him to Gaylord, Minnesota.

Alfred Heil was born on April 26, 1882, on the farm. As a young man he worked for Doc Schmidt. He married Amanda Diedrich on May 26, 1909 and they lived at the corner of Second and North Walnut. They had one son, Orville, who was born in July of 1913. Amanda died on January 1, 1914, of diptheria. Orville grew up with the Gust Diedrich family on a farm between New Bremen and St. Marys. The home in New Bremen was sold to Fred Grothaus in April of 1916. Alfred worked at the B & O Railway in Lima, and the Auglaize Furniture Factory in New Bremen. He lived in boarding houses and later purchased a home on Columbia Street in St. Marys, and worked at Crane and McMahan. He died in 1958. Orville married Alvera Schroer and he died in 1976. Alvera still lives in St. Marys.

Clarence Heil was born on May 17, 1887, and grew up on the farm. He married Katherine Franzer of Minster on December 1, 1915. They had two children, Arthur who was born on March 2, 1917; and Katherine, who was born on

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November 8, 1918. His wife, Katherine, died in childbirth on November 16, 1918. Clarence's mother, Fredericka, took the two children. Clarence worked at the Auglaize Furniture Company and later built furniture in partnership with a Mr. Bertram. He later worked at Crane and McMahan in St. Marys. On January 22, 1929, he married Bernadette Weghorst at St. Paul Church. Bernadette still lives at 203 South Walnut. Clarence died in 1942. Arthur, his son, married Virginia Kettler on April 22, 1950, and they have one daughter, Debbie, who lives in St. Marys. Art was a city mail carrier in New Bremen until his retirement. Katherine, the daughter, married Clair Grundish on February 24, 1941, and they live on a dairy farm on State Route 219. She has four children and now resides on State Route #33-A east of St. Marys.

Bertha Heil was born on May 17, 1887. A twin, she came to New Bremen with her mother to live on Walnut Street. She worked for Kuenzel Mills in the blanket department for over fifty years. She assisted her mother in the raising of her niece and nephew. She was an active member of St. Paul Church and died in 1972.

Albert Heil was born in 1889. He graduated from New Bremen High School and Ohio Northern University. He was the first in the family to go to college. He served in the Armed Forces and went to Akron, Ohio, to work for Firestone.

Esther Heil was born in 1900. She came to New Bremen with her mother in 1906. She attended the New Bremen School and later worked at the Cigar Factory in Minster. She married Rolland Boyce, lived for a while in St. Marys and then moved to Rockford, Ohio. She is the only living member of the Adam Heil family. She has three children.

Alma Heil was born on May 22, 1893 in New Bremen. She graduated from New Bremen High School in 1912 and attended the normal school in Wooster, Ohio, in preparation for being an elementary teacher. She taught school at the Kappel School east of New Bremen for several years. She married Irwin Westerbeck on November 29, 1916, and took up housekeeping on the Kappel farm two miles east of New Bremen. They had four children. John was born on January 12, 1918; Marjory was born on April 8, 1920; Lois, born on June 12, 1922; and Kenneth, born on January 19, 1925. Alma and Irwin lived approximately five years on the Kappel farm. They moved to a farm one mile south of St. Marys where they lived on the Quellhorst farm for eight years on State Route #66. They returned to New Bremen to live at 210 North Herman Street. They were active members of St. Paul's Church all their married life. Irwin died at this residence. Alma lived with her daughter in St. Marys the last several years of her life and died in November of 1969.

Clara Heil was born on April 15, 1898. She attended New Bremen School and married William Huenke on August 23, 1923. She took up housekeeping with the Huenke family at the Huenke farm on State Route 66A. They had two daughters, Mary Katherine and Dorothy. Clara lived her entire married life on the Huenke farm. She was an active member of St. Paul's church and other organizations in New Bremen. She died on March 17, 1979. William continued to live on the farm until his death in 1982.

Lawrence Heil was born on November 15, 1900, and attended New Bremen Schools. He was active in sports, especially basketball, and graduated in 1919. He married Eleanore Rentz. They lived most of their married life in New Bremen, and lived for a number of years at 107 North Franklin. They had one son, Charles (Larry). Lawrence worked for a number of years at White Mountain Creamery. He died on June 21, 1972.

Lillian Heil was born on November 15, 1905. She attended New Bremen School and was also active in girls' basketball. She graduated in 1923 and married Sam Dixon of Celina where she moved. They have one son, Sam, Jr. The Dixons still live in Celina on Linden Avenue.

Ethel Heil was born on April 5, 1907. While she attended New Bremen School, she played basketball and graduated in 1925. She went to Dayton to secretarial school and then went to work for Bell Telephone. She lived in Dayton all of her adult life. She was married to Paul Trout, and she died on May 16, 1979.

Homer Heil was born in September of 1911. He attended New Bremen Schools and participated in sports, especially basketball. He graduated in 1929 and went to Dayton to work for Bell Telephone. Later he was transferred to Columbus. He married Ethel Hess and they have two children, James and Tom. Both boys are Lutheran ministers. Homer is now retired and he and Ethel still live in Columbus and spend their winters in Venice, Florida.

While not many of the Heils remain in New Bremen today, they were an important part of the New Bremen history. *Submitted by Mrs. R. Schmidt.*

Johann and Elsabein Heitkamp

Johann Heinrich Heitkamp (born 5/8/1797, died 9/30/1853) and his wife Elsabein Christina, nee Meckstroth (born 3/20/1804, died 9/23/1874), came from Ladbergen, Germany, to Bremen (now New Bremen), in December of 1836. The ocean crossing had taken a miserable twelve weeks and their food storage was running dangerously low. Normally the crossing took six weeks.

They arrived with his wife's parents, Herman H. and Anna Christina Meckstroth; her youngest brother; and her sister Maria and Maria's husband, Heinrich Sunderman. Elsabeins's two older brothers came in 1834 to look for land they could buy. The land they found available was near what was later the town of New Knoxville. The brothers had cleared a bit of land and built two log cabins for the families to stay until each family had a place to live. The Heitkamps and Sundermans bought the northwest quarter of Section 12 of Germany Township in 1837. The Heitkamps had the north half and the Sundermans the south half.

Within a few years, more members of the Meckstroth family came from Ladbergen and settled at Bremen and New Knoxville. Mother Meckstroth died in January of 1837 after being here only a few weeks. The trip had been too hard for her. She is buried in the old cemetery just west of New Bremen. The father, Herman Heinrich Meckstroth, died in December of 1841 and is buried in the church cemetery of New Knoxville.

Johann Heinrich and Elsabein Heitkamp had six children. Only two lived to adulthood. They were Friedrich (born 2/26/1840, died 2/28/1917) and Christina Louisa (born 11/28/1842, died 8/9/1913) who married Heinrich Schowe.

Johann Heinrich Heitkamp had several brothers who came to America a few years later. One lived in Ober Bremen and the others in Section 11 of German Township. Friederich married Louise Schrolucke and they were the

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parents of seven children including William Henry Heitkamp (born 9/13/1885, died 12/6/1938) who married Alvine Marie Louise Fenneman (born 9/13/1885, died 2/23/1973). They were the parents of Lilas who married Leroy Erwin Poppe on October 12, 1940. They have one daughter, Rosemarie Louise, who is married to John Goodwin and one grandchild, James. Leroy died on May 26, 1977, and Lilas lives on State Route 219. Lilas has one sister, Inez Louise, who married Gordon Fox in 1949. They are the parents of one son, Gene. Inez resides at 309 North Herman street in New Bremen. *Submitted by Lilas Heitkamp Poppe.*

Paul and Rosemary Koeper Heitkamp

Paul Heitkamp was born on October 21, 1925, on a farm just outside of Minster on State Route 66 south. He lived there for several years, then the family moved to Cassella, Ohio. His parents were Roman and Eleanor Schemmel Heitkamp, both deceased. Paul was the second of eight children. His brothers and sisters are Mildred, Rogene, Albert, Robert, Janet, James and Joseph (deceased).

Rogene, (deceased) married Russel Brown of Botkins, Ohio. They had five children: Sandra, Gary, Steven, Karen and Keith. Sandra married James Wehrman of Ft. Loramie. They have two daughters, Jessica and Milissa. Steve married Edna Paguio of the Philippines. They live at Port Jefferson, Ohio, and have one daughter, Melinda. Karen has a daughter, Nichole.

Albert married Connie Sue Stetler of Rockford, Ohio, and they have two children, Vicki and Mark.

Robert married Charlene Muhlenkamp of St. Anthony, Ohio, and they have four children, Michael, Sharon, Diana and Jeffry, all residing in Cassella. Michael attends the Wright State Branch at Celina.

Janet married Thomas Stevens and they have two daughters, Judith and Jennifer. They live at Lompoc, California.

James married Barbara Fergus of Piqua.

Paul married Rosemary Koeper. They have two sons, Dale, who is a third year student at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He is majoring in radio and television. Dean is a senior at New Bremen Local, and works at Prenger's Marathon after school and on weekends. Her parents are Erney and Elenora Dammeyer Koeper, both deceased. Rosemary's older sister, Annabelle, is married to Lavern Wenning. The Wennings live on the Koeper homestead which has been in the family for over one hundred years. The house was built by her great-grandfather, Henry Christian Koeper, in 1853. They have one son, David, who is married to Linda Gehle, and they reside in Celina. They have two sons, Steve and Craig.

Paul served in the United States Navy for two years, and obtained the rank of Motor Mechanic Third Class and was stationed in the Southwest Pacific. After being discharged from the Navy, he was a truck driver for Beatrice Foods Inc. for ten years. He then worked for Landmark Farm Bureau for several months. He has been employed at Stamco, Inc. a division of Monarch Machine and Tool, since 1956. Rosemary worked ten years as bookkeeper after graduation at Advance Auto Company and then worked two and a half years as a curator for the New Bremen Historical Association. She is presently employed at Riggs Food Express, Inc. Paul is a member of the Holy Redeemer Church and his wife and sons are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen. Paul is past treasurer and a member of the New Bremen Rod and Gun Club, the American Legion Unit 241, William Thieman V.F.W. Post in Minster, and is a member of the United Steelworkers of America, Local 3211. His wife belongs to the St. Paul Church Capsule, and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 241. The family resides on North Washington street in New Bremen. *Submitted by Rosemary Heitkamp.*

Stanley and Dorothy Hertenstein

I was born on March 4, 1926, to Lance A. Hertenstein and Mary Elizabeth (McConnell) Hertenstein in St. Marys, Ohio. I attended Noble Township grade schools and St. Marys High School. After being drafted into the Army in 1944, I served in the South Pacific with the Forty-first Division.

I have two brothers, George Hertenstein of Wapakoneta, and Darell Hertenstein of St. Marys, and one sister, Mrs. Kurt (Sue) Piper of Neptune, Ohio.

My maternal grandparents, William and Susan (Metzger) McConnell lived in Jennings Township of Van Wert County, Ohio. My maternal great-grandparents were David Beale and Louisa (Hare) McConnell. He came to Van Wert County in 1853.

My paternal grandparents, George and Amelia (Koop) Hertenstein, lived in Noble Township of Auglaize County. This farm is still owned by my uncle Dan Hertenstein and has been in the Hertenstein family since 1877. My great-grandparents were George and Fredricka (Heil) Hertenstein, and George and Magdalena (Moser) Kopp. George Hertenstein came to Columbus in 1824 from Baden, Germany. George Kopp came from Germany in 1860 and he settled in Columbus.

In 1949 I married Dorothy Nuesmeyer. We lived in Kettlersville for eleven years, then moved to New Bremen in 1960 and have lived here ever since. While living in Kettlersville, we had three children. Kay Ann was born on January 19, 1951, and is married to Bruce Feiten. They live in Mentor, Ohio, and have two children, Jennifer Anne and Amanda Kay. June Marie was born on April 7, 1955, and is married to James A. Wagner. They live in Sidney, Ohio, and have two children, Joshua Aaron and Jacquelyn Ann. Steven Wayne was born on April 16, 1957, and lives in New Bremen.

Dorothy Malinda Nuesmeyer was born on December 31, 1928, to George and Frieda (Hehr) Nuesmeyer on their farm north of Kettlersville. She attended VanBuren Township grade school and graduated from Anna High School in 1946. She went to Bowling Green State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education. She has one sister, Mrs. Warren (Eunice) Roney of Dayton. Dorothy's grandparents were Heinrich and Sophia (Brockriede) Nuesmeyer and Christ and Christina (Zahn) Hehr. Her maternal great-grandparents were Frederick and Christine (Frey) Zahn. They lived in Grombach, Wurtenberg, Germany.

Henry and Christina Brockriede came to VanBuren

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Township, Shelby County, from Ladbergen, Germany, in 1881. Heinrich Nuesmeyer came to Ohio from Ladbergen, Westfalen, Germany.

After being honorably discharged from the service in November of 1946, I went to work for the state of Ohio as a dredge operator on Lake St. Marys. In 1971 I went to work for the Auglaize County Highway Department as a heavy equipment operator.

Dorothy taught school at the VanBuren Township School in Kettlersville for four years. She is now teaching first grade at New Bremen Local School. *Submitted by Dorothy Hertenstein.*

Christopher Hirschfeld

Christopher Hirschfeld and his three sons, Ludwig, Charles and Ernst George, emigrated from the village of Ottenstein, which is in the county of Holzminden, duchy of Brunswick. This small farming village lies four miles west of the Weser River, twelve miles south of Hamelin and eight miles north of Holzminden, in the highlands of the Weser Mountains.

Christopher Hirschfeld earned his living as a small farmer and a blacksmith. His two sons, Charles and Ernst George, were confirmed in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ottenstein. The year after the death of his second wife, Maria Elizabeth, in June of 1833, Christopher and his three sons decided to emigrate to the United States.

On June 14, 1834, at Bremen, Germany, they boarded the brig Serene with John Staples as master of the ship. There were one hundred and twenty-five passengers aboard of which thirty-eight were children under the age of twelve. They arrived in Baltimore on July 31, 1834.

Christopher Hirschfeld and his sons traveled to Mercer County in western Ohio, which is part of the Congress Lands of 1819. On September 12, 1834, Charles purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Marion Township. Forty acres lay on the east side of St. Johns Road, and south of Amsterdam Road. Eighty acres were across on the west side of St. Johns Road. Later Charles received a patent from President Andrew Jackson, which he signed on September 15, 1835. Charles transferred the one hundred and twenty acres to his father, Christopher, on January 30, 1835. On September 29, 1837, Christopher transferred sixty acres to Charles and sixty acres to Ernst George.

Christopher Hirschfeld died on May 24, 1842, and Ludwig died on December 21, 1842. The Hirschfelds who reside in Mercer and Auglaize Counties are descendants of either Charles or Ernst George Hirschfeld.

Charles Hirschfeld married Catherine Hoseman on June 18, 1837, in St. Paul Church at New Bremen. In 1838, Charles sold this sixty acres of land in Marion Township and purchased forty acres in German Township, at the junction of Routes 274 and 364. Six children were born to this couple: Adam Henry, John William, Mary Louise, Christian Adam, Anna Maria, and John Herman. After the death of Catherine, Charles married Maria Carolina Sundbrink nee Heheman, and to this union Adam Ludwig was born. When his second wife died, Charles married Eva Margaretha Wehmeyer, nee Goldschatt, and to this union twins were born, Sophia Lenore and John Bernard. His third wife died on July 27, 1855, and Charles died on March 28, 1856, leaving behind small children. The three youngest children were raised by their mother's relatives and Adam was given the responsibility for his brothers. The two girls died of cholera a day apart, in 1849. Later, John Hoseman, the grandfather, took Adam's three brothers to Richmond, Indiana, where the two oldest married and settled to raise their families. John Hoseman and the youngest, John Herman, went on to Terra Haute, Indiana, where they settled.

Adam Henry married Sarah Fark on June 2, 1859. At first he rented his father's farm from the estate and later he purchased the shares of the legal heirs. He purchased his grandfather's farm on November 23, 1863. He now owned one hundred and twenty acres. On August 25, 1868, he sold the farm and moved to New Bremen. Then on March 4, 1870, he purchased eighty acres in Franklin Township of Mercer County, located at the junction of St. Johns and Clover Four Roads. Seven children were born to Adam Henry and Sarah while they lived on the farm in German Township. They were: John, Catherine, George, Edward, Mary Alvina, Emma and Martha. Six more children were born on the farm in Mercer County. They were: Charles, William, Benjamin, Franklin, Alias and Levi. Adam and Sarah built an eight room house in 1879 which replaced a double log cabin. This house stood until the spring of 1981, when it was torn down and replaced with a new house built by Nathan Hirschfeld for his Uncle Gilbert Hirschfeld.

Adam Henry was a farmer, but he also owned a separator and did custom threshing. After his death in 1885, his sons, John and Edward, operated the threshing rig for their mother and they eventually bought it. Edward bought the farm from his mother on July 15, 1896, and Sarah moved to New Bremen to live with her son, Benjamin. She died on May 26, 1913, and is buried beside her husband, Adam Henry, in the German Protestant Cemetery, north of New Bremen. They were life long members of St. Paul Church in New Bremen, and all of the children were baptized and confirmed there.

Our lineage continues through Edward Hirschfeld. He married Elizabeth Bergsieker from Cleveland, on November 26, 1896. They lived their entire married life on the farm in Mercer County. Edward expanded the threshing business, and at one time he covered the territory from Montezuma to Route 66 near St. Marys and south to the White Mountain Creamery at the west edge of New Bremen. He also hauled clover, shredded corn and sawed logs into lumber. Edward and Elizabeth were the parents of Victor, Edwin, Leroy, Gladys, Ada, Frieda and Gilbert. They, too, belonged to the St. Paul Church in New Bremen and associated themselves with the community. Edward was a director of the New Bremen Bank. Elizabeth died on February 15, 1942, and Edward on March 31, 1944. Both are buried in the German Protestant Cemetery, north of New Bremen.

We trace our line through Edwin Hirschfeld who married Esther Schmidt on June 11, 1924. Reverend John Melchert performed the ceremony in the St. Paul Church in New Bremen. They were farmers and lived on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on the south side of Clover Four road between St. Johns and Chickasaw Roads. In 1933, Edwin purchased his second eighty acre farm from his brother, Victor. It was across the road north of his place. He was always quick to apply better methods of farming. From his one

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hundred and sixty acres he was able to produce above average yields. During his career he witnessed the change from horse drawn equipment to gas powered machinery, from kerosene lamps to electric lights, from windup victrolas to radio and television.

Edwin served on the local School Board, and held many offices at the St. Paul Church in New Bremen. Esther also contributed time and talents to the community and church. Both loved to entertain friends, play cards, fish and Edwin liked to hunt. They loved to travel in the United States and overseas.

Edwin and Esther retired from farming and moved to New Bremen. Esther died on August 20, 1978. Edwin and Esther are the parents of six children: Robert, Nathan, Laverne, James, Frederick and Stanley. Nathan married Jeannine Sheely on November 10, 1956, and they have two children: Neil and Karen. *Submitted by Robert and Evelyn Hirschfeld.*

Philip and Marie Hoffman

Philip Hoffman moved from Durkham, Germany, to Cincinnati in the 1850s. While in Cincinnati he married Marie Bissance, also a German immigrant. In 1875, they moved to New Bremen and started a painting business which has grown and prospered to this date. The couple had five sons (Fredrick, Philip, Henry, Conrad and Daniel.) The third son, Henry, stayed in New Bremen and had six children (Ezra, Paul, Arnold, Elsie, Selma and Helen) after his 1901 marriage to Helen Kuck. Their second son, Paul, married Edna Wellemeyer in 1932. They have a daughter, Virginia, and a son, John. In 1956, John married Mary Ellen Schemmel. They have four children: Craig, Michelle, Amy and Linda. *Submitted by Amy Hoffman.*

Malinda Emma (Gieseke) Horn

The Gieseke family came to New Bremen in 1846 from Hagenburg, Furstenturm-Shaumberg-Lippa, Germany. Henry Gieseke and his wife, Margarite, settled on a farm one mile east of New Bremen. They had four children, all born in Germany, namely Wilhelm Henry Conrad, Wilhelmina Sophia, Fredericka Saraphina and Carolina Charlotte. Their son, Wilhelm, before his marriage was a mule driver on the Miami-Erie canal. In 1856 Wilhelm and Anna Margaretha (Schierholt) were united in marriage and became the parents of five children, Christian, John, Emma, William and little Emelie who died in infancy. Wilhelm and his wife were engaged in farming. After years of hard work, he and his wife decided to make New Bremen their retirement home. The house located at 215 South Franklin Street was built by them and here Wilhelm (1834-1909) and Margaretha (1836-1910) enjoyed the rest and quiet which was well earned. They were privileged to celebrate their Golden Wedding in the company of their children and grandchildren.

John Gieseke, the second son of Wilhelm and Margaretha, was also engaged in farming. In 1886 John and Mathilda Josephine (Dicke) were united in marriage and they became the parents of seven children. Their first baby, Saraphine, died in infancy, then came Anna Dorothea (Dora), Lawrence, Arnold, Benjamin, Milton and Malinda. When Malinda was eight years old, her parents retired from the farm and moved to New Bremen. John (1860-1932) and



Malinda Gieseke Horn

M. Josephine (1864-1926) purchased the home at the end of South Franklin Street and to the members of the family it became known as Southend.

Arnold, Milton and Malinda spent the greater part of their lives in New Bremen.

Malinda Emma Gieseke was born November 15, 1902, in Mercer County. When Malinda was eight years old, her parents moved to New Bremen. After High School graduation, Malinda worked in the New Bremen Telephone Office. In 1922 Malinda and Virgil L. Horn of New Knoxville were united in marriage. They became the parents of one daughter, Betty Lorraine.

After the death of her husband, Virgil, in 1972, Malinda makes her home with her daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Curtis Schroer, 424 West Haven in New Bremen. There are two grandchildren, Dwight A. Schroer of Morris, Illinois, and Kathleen Emma Schroer, a student at Bowling Green University.

The maternal grandparents of Malinda (Gieseke) Horn were Christian Wilhelm Dicke and his wife Dorothea Anna (Wiessenberg). They emigrated from Germany in 1832.

They were the parents of nine children, namely, Anna (Dicke) Koehn, William Dicke, Josephine (Dicke) Gieseke, Henry Dicke, Julius Dicke, Florentina (Dicke) Frahm and Alvina (Dicke) Pierstorff. Two babies died in infancy.

Christian Wilhelm Dicke first worked on the canal, then became the manager of the French Hotel in New Bremen. Sometimes the hotel was referred to as Frenchies or The Dicke House. This hotel catered to canal trade and was located on the Southeast corner of North Main and First Streets. *Submitted by Malinda Horn.*

Wesley and Margery Howell

Wesley Howell and Margery Scheer Howell are parents of Richard and Margene Howell. Wesley was born and raised in Wapakoneta. Margery was born in New Bremen. Margene resides in Beavercreek and works for Mead Corporation in Vandalia, Ohio.

Richard Howell married Mary Lou Koch from St. Marys. They live in New Bremen and own and operate Howell's IGA. They have two sons, Bill is a junior and Tom is a freshman. *Submitted by May Lou Howell.*

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Henry and Louise Huenke

Henry Huenke was born in Barrien, Lyke County, Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, on September 16, 1812. He emigrated to America in August of 1839, at the age of twenty-seven. He was the only member of his family to come to America.

Henry married Louise Dorothy Stroefer on July 13, 1843. Louise was born on March 19, 1826, and had come to the New Bremen area with her family from Germany in May of 1837.

Henry Huenke worked on the Miami and Erie Canal when he first came to New Bremen. Later he worked on the farm on John Fredrick Koop.

After the marriage of Henry and Louise they built a small log building on the southeast corner of Main and Front Streets in New Bremen. Here they served meals, which were cooked over a large fireplace to travelers going from Piqua to Ft. Wayne on the Wayne Trail. They later were able to buy or receive a land grant for acreage just across the Wayne Trail from the Koop home. This became the Huenke homestead, and it is to this day farmed by a descendant of Henry Huenke.

On this farm their five sons and four daughters were born. The sons were the oldest and they later either helped to develop and add to the homestead farm, or established their own businesses in New Bremen or tended their own near-by farms. Henry, Jr. was a cattle buyer and shipper in New Bremen. Albert owned a farm next to the home farm. William was a farmer located on the Dry Feeder Road. Louis formed the White Mountain Creamery, and August farmed the family homestead, where the aged parents were cared for until their deaths.

The daughters were Alice, who married Dr. Henry J. Schmidt; Emma, who married Cornelius Koop; Louise, who married Charles Heil; and Anna, who married Albert C. Buss.

Henry Huenke, Sr. died on January 31, 1892, and his wife Louise, died on October 26, 1909. *Submitted by Marguerita Kunning.*

Johann and Mary Klein

Johann and Mary Klein reside on Tri Township Road in German Township, Auglaize County.

Johann Klein was born in a little German village of Ober-Eidisch, Transylvania, Rumania, to Johann and Katharina Emrich Klein on March 22, 1927. He was educated in the school in Ober-Eidisch. He worked on their farm until September of 1944. One day in September during World War II the Russian troops moved into the village, bombing and burning homes as they moved along. The German Air Force evacuated all the German residents and they became refugees, taking only the clothes that were on their backs. They were taken by trucks to Hungary, Austria and Germany passing through bombed railroads, cities and air raids and hunting food along the way, which took about two months. All members of the family were separated not knowing the whereabouts of each other. Then through correspondence of friends of many months, the family was again reunited. Johann was taken to a farm in Germany where he worked until March of 1945. Then he worked in Lenzing, Ober Austria in Zellwoll Fabrick till March of 1952. As a displaced person, he and his parents and sister applied to come to America. They sailed on the General Sturgiss Army ship for eleven days until it reached the harbor at New York, New York.

Sponsor CWS (Church World Service) brought the family from New York to St. Marys, on March 16, 1952. Johann then worked at the St. Marys foundry for two years, then Stamco in New Bremen for twenty-five years.

In November of 1953 he married Mary Brueggeman. They now reside on the home farm which is the ancestral farm of Mary's great grandfather, Johann Wm. Brueggeman, then her grandfather, Wm. J. Brueggeman and in 1926, her father, Emil H. Brueggeman who bought an eighty acre section of this farm.

Mary F. Brueggeman was born on May 5, 1934, on this farm where they now reside, to Emil and Lydia Schrolucke Brueggeman. She graduated from New Bremen High School and after her marriage became a farm homemaker and mother of four children.

Johann's parents were Johann, 1900-1969, and Katharina Emrich Klein, 1908, who came to America on March 15, 1952, from Austria. They first settled in St. Marys and later moved to New Bremen where Johann, Sr. worked at Stamco until his death in 1969. Katharina yet resides in New Bremen and is a member of the New Bremen Senior Citizens.

Mary's paternal great great grandparents were Johann Friedrich, 1775-?, and Maria Elizabeth Kruse Dicke, 1777-?, who was born at Hemsche, Germany. Her great grandparents were Conrad and Maria Christine Elizabeth Dicke Koeper who later came to America. The great grandparents were Henry Christian, 1826-1913, and Anna Maria Siemer Koeper, 1831-1890. Henry Christian, at the age of nineteen years, and Mary's great grandparents, Johann Henry, 1823-1870, and Anna M. Eversman Brueggeman, 1830-1902, came to America in 1849. Johann and Anna were captain and cook on the canal boat where they met each other. The boat traveled from Cincinnati to Toledo. Her grandparents were William J., who was born on Easter Sunday, April 11, 1852 and died on June 19, 1933; and Mary Dorothea Koeper, born on November 3, 1858 and died on July 3, 1949, Brueggeman. They lived on the Brueggeman home farm, which William inherited from his father in German Township.

Mary's maternal great grandparents were Herman, 1836-1909, and A. Henschen Elshoff who came from Ladbergen, Germany. Her great grandparents were William and Mary Heitkamp Schrolucke. Her grandparents were Herman W., June 17, 1860, died September 19, 1943, and Fredericka Elshoff Schrolucke, April 6, 1864, died May 25, 1945. They farmed in Noble Township until his retirement, then he filed saws and did carpentry work until his death on September 19, 1943. His wife Fredericka came to America when she was six years old.

Mary's parents were Emil, June 16, 1885, died November 16, 1960, and Lydia Schrolucke Brueggeman, July 30, 1896, died June 1, 1979. Emil was a farmer and retired thresherman. Lydia worked for the St. Marys Woolen Mill before her marriage to Emil in 1926. They cleared forty acres of woodland of the eighty acres of land in Section 5 of German Township which was bought from his father. They built a house and barn in 1926-27 where they have since resided. The farm was later acquired by their only child, Mary, and her husband, Johann Klein, who presently live there. They are the parents of four children: Robert E., Carol S., Donald J. and Joyce A.

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Emil and Lydia Brueggeman Wedding Picture, 1926



Johann and Katharina Klein



Johann and Mary Klein and children Robert, Donald, Carol and Joyce

Robert Emil, born May 1, 1955, graduated from New Bremen High School in 1973 and from Cleveland Electronics Technical Institute in 1975. He is an electronics engineer at Crown, Inc. in New Bremen. He is the president of the Bremenfest in 1983, the Sesquicentennial year. On September 24, 1983, he will be united in marriage to Michelle Gayer, born October 12, 1958, of St. Marys. She is an employee of Central Trust Company.

Carol Sue, born December 27, 1956, is a 1975 graduate of New Bremen High School, CTI in 1977, ODC in 1981. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Medical Technology and is employed as an Assistant Supervisor as a Medical Laboratory Technician at Grant Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. On August 6, 1983, she will be united in marriage with Bernhard D.W. Deeg, born March 22, 1957 in Wurzburg, Germany. He is a graduate of Woodstock Academy High School in Connecticut. He received an associate degree at St. Thomas Jr. College and ODC in 1980 with a Bachelor in Philosophy and Biology and graduated with a Master's degree at Ohio State University in Preventive Medicine in 1983. Now he is employed at Grant Hospital in Columbus.

Donald Johann, born October 10, 1959, is a 1978 graduate of New Bremen High School and earned an American Future Farmers of America degree in Agriculture. He is a grain and dairy farmer with his father. On July 18, 1981, he was united in marriage with Debra Kay Vornholt, born October 13, 1961, of St. Marys who is employed at Central Trust Company.

Joyce Ann Klein, born July 24, 1963, is a 1981 graduate of New Bremen High School. She is employed at Schwieterman's Pharmacy and is going to college working up to a degree in Pharmacy.

The Brueggeman (Klein) farm woods was formerly famous for the Great Blue Heron from the years 1920 till 1960. The birds arrived here from the South on the 4th of March and left every year in mid September. They stood and had a wingspread of 4 to 6 ft. At the peak of years there were as many as 200 families of herons nesting in the tallest trees. There were many as 20 nests in one tree. After 2 or 3 years the largest trees died because of the damage done by the birds by breaking off all new young sprouts thus bleeding the trees to death. *Submitted by Mrs. John Klein.*

Conrad Christian Koeper

Conrad Christian Koeper was born in Germany. He was the son of Conrad and Marie Elizabeth Dicke. He was married in New Bremen to Marie Elisabeth Brueggeman, who was born in German Township of Mercer County. Eleven children were born in this order: Henry Adam Koeper who remained in New Bremen; Marie Wilhelmine Koeper Kamman who remained in New Bremen; Johann Heinrich Koeper who moved to New York City; William Friedrich Koeper who moved to New York City; Anna Dorothea Koeper Greber who stayed in New Bremen; Herman Dietrich Koeper who moved to New York City; Louise Emma Koeper who died young and was buried in New Bremen; Catherine Mina Koeper Gehrke who moved to New York City; Emil August Koeper who moved to New York City; and Eberhard Benjamin Koeper who moved to New York City. All seven Koepers who moved to New York City were married there.

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After the death of Conrad's wife, Marie, in 1881, Conrad was married to a widow, Mrs. Maria Louise Stork. Her maiden name was Wissman and she had been born in New Bremen. They had one child, Irma Margaret, who died young in New Bremen.

Conrad Christian Koeper had a sister, the eldest child of Conrad and Marie Elizabeth Dicke. Her name was Maria Koeper Gruebmeyer. She was born in Germany in 1821 and came to America with her husband, Wilhelm. They settled in New Bremen where other family members were already located. In the winter of 1890 Wilhelm died of lung fever, and was buried in German Protestant Cemetery at Lock Two near New Bremen. Maria moved to New York City to live with her son, Henry, and his family. She was buried in New York City. *Submitted by Robert C. Slane.*

John Fredrick Koop

John Fredrick Koop was born in 1801. He came from the small town of Dreeke, near Barnsdorf, where his father had owned a farm. He left Germany for America in 1835 at the age of thirty-four, along with a company of friends and relatives from the same town. The company emigrating to America were on the storm-tossed Atlantic Ocean for fourteen weeks before landing safely in the United States. Some of them, including John Fredrick Koop, went to Cincinnati, where acquaintances from Germany had previously settled. All his worldly goods which he brought from Germany were in a walnut trunk, which is still in the family.

In Cincinnati John Fredrick Koop married Meta Adelheid Wuellenbruck, a young seamstress thirteen years younger than he. They had known each other in Germany. Two years later, in 1837, the young couple left Cincinnati for a spot perhaps one hundred miles north, New Bremen, in Auglaize County, where they received a government land grant of at least eighty acres. On this land they lived, worked, and raised their family, and here they died, more than fifty years later. They are buried in the Lock Three Cemetery.

John Fredrick Koop's farm was two miles north of the town of New Bremen, along the "Mad Anthony" Wayne Trail. This trail had been cut through the virgin forests by General Wayne and his men, as they were opening up the surrounding territory for the early settlers, heading on to what is now Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The trail was marked merely by trees which had been felled, and until the tree stumps had been cleared away much later, the trip into New Bremen could only be made on horseback.

A two-room log cabin was built on the farm near the trail. This was "home" until the year 1841, when carpenters were hired for twelve months to build all the permanent buildings needed for a farm. They were built of black walnut from the trees that had been cut down to clear land for raising crops. The house was a plain two-story eight room building with many windows and two front doors. This house stood along the Wayne Trail, which later grew into a fine country road, and still later became Highway 66. From 1841 until 1899 it housed the Koop family. For awhile, in the early days, there was a wrought-iron sign which said "Koop Inn" that hung beside one of the front doors. Here travelers from Piqua, to the south, to perhaps Ft. Wayne would stop for overnight shelter, while their teams of horses found food and shelter in the large walnut barn.

The barn was huge, and had hand-hewn cross-beams fourteen inches square made of solid black walnut, all put together with hand-made walnut pegs. It still stands, with a new outer "shell", but inside the same structure remains.

John Fredrick and his wife were the parents of eight children: Henry, Fredrick, Edward, Margaret, William, August, Theo and Cornelius. Five of the eight Koop children, Fredrick, Margaret, William, August, and Theo traveled to and settled in the western United States. Their father had encouraged them to see the world as he had done, if they so desired. None of them left any male descendants.

Henry Koop married Caroline Markus, the daughter of Christopher Markus, a farmer in St. Marys Township. They lived in the large Victorian house on old Route 66, near St. Marys. This home is now owned by The Minster Machine Company.

Henry and Caroline Koop had five children: Wilson, Fredonia, Lula, Minnie and Allen. Wilson and Minnie also left the area to travel to and settle in the western part of the country. Lula died at the age of sixteen. Allen and Fredonia continued to maintain the family farm. Allen Koop had one son, Howard, who now lives in Florida, and a daughter, Jean, who presently lives in California. Howard has a son, Roger Allen, also of Florida, who is the only remaining person of his generation to carry the Koop name.

Cornelius and Edward Koop remained at home, running the family farm and taking care of the aging parents. Their father, John Fredrick, died in 1892 at the age of ninety-one. Their mother, Meta Wuellenbruck Koop, died in 1907, at the age of ninety-three.

In 1888, Cornelius married Emma Charlotte Huenke, daughter of Henry Huenke, a longtime friend and next-door neighbor. After the wedding at the Huenke farm, Cornelius and Emma Koop walked across the fields to live at the old Koop home. In 1898, this house, which had served as an Inn as well as a family home, was taken down and a new house built on the site where it had stood. In 1899, the family moved into this new house.

Cornelius and Emma Koop were the parents of three daughters: Bernice, Gladys, and Marguerite. Gladys married John J. Walsh of St. Louis, Missouri, in 1927. Marguerite married Richard A. Kunning of New Bremen in 1928.

Emma Koop died in 1901 at the age of thirty-seven. In 1906, Cornelius married Estelle Homerick. They continued to live on the Koop farm until their deaths in 1929. *Submitted by Marguerite Kunning.*

Donald and Jacqueline Kuck

Donald L. Kuck was born to Myron L. Kuck (deceased) and Helena (Moore) Kuck on January 10, 1949. A brother, David John, was born on March 9, 1952, and he lives in Wapakoneta.

Raised in New Bremen, Donald graduated from New Bremen High School in 1967. He entered the field of radio broadcasting and worked at WCSM Radio in Celina, Ohio, for two years. In October of 1970 he returned to New Bremen and joined the Hellwarth Insurance Agency as a general agent. The agency changed ownership in May of 1974, becoming the New Bremen Insurance Agency, Inc. with Don managing the operation since that date.

On November 27, 1969, he married the former Jacqueline Krites of Bloomer, Ohio. She is the daughter of Arabella

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(Monnin) Krites and William H. Krites. She attended Russia High School and graduated with the class of 1969. Jacqui is a Workshop Specialist employed by the Auglaize School for the Mentally Retarded in New Bremen.

The couple have two children, Kristian Lee, born October 11, 1970, and Heather Dawn, born February 1, 1974. *Submitted by Don Kuck.*

Thomas and Doris Kuenning

Thomas Earl Kuenning was born in New Bremen in 1920. He is the son of Earl and Esther (Dicke) Kuenning. He attended Miami University for two and one-half years before entering the service in 1941. He graduated from the University of Maryland in 1963 with a degree in Business Administration. He married Doris L. Heidgerd, born in New York City in 1923. She is the daughter of Gustav H. and Henriette (Wischhusen) Heidgerd. Doris graduated from Syracuse University in 1944 with a B.S. in Hospital Dietetics. Tom and Doris have four children: Thomas E., born in Patterson, New Jersey, in 1945; Nancy L., born in Celina in 1947; John R., born in Celina in 1948; and Matthew P., born in Ramstein, Germany, in 1965.

Thomas E. Kuenning, Jr. graduated from Miami University with a B.S. in Business Administration. He married Shelley J. Lane in 1972 and they have one child, Kristen Lee, born in Lompoc, California. They are presently stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Montana, where Tom serves as a missile squadron commander. He is a Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force.

Nancy L. Kuenning graduated from Miami University in 1969 with a B.S. in the College of Fine Arts. She married Harry P. Wetzler in 1971 and they have three children: Erica Ann, born in 1974, at Salt Lake City, Utah; Lynn Elizabeth, born in 1977 at San Antonio, Texas; and Brian Parker, born in 1980 at Bethesda, Maryland. Harry is presently a Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force, instructing at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland. Harry attended the United States Military Academy and the University of Utah School of Medicine, from which he received his degree in 1975.

John R. Kuenning graduated from Miami University in 1970. He married Noel McKeon in 1977. He is presently employed by American Airlines in the air freight division.

Matthew P. Kuenning has lived in Germany and the Philippines and at several bases in the United States prior to entering kindergarten at New Bremen. He is in the class of 1983.

The parents of Tom Kuenning were born in New Bremen. Earl was the son of Emil Kuenning, who was born in New Bremen in 1868 and died in 1959; and Wilhelmine Vornholt Kuenning, who was born in New Bremen in 1873 and died in 1959. Tom's mother, Esther Dicke Kuenning, was born in New Bremen in 1896. She was the daughter of Henry E. Dicke, who was born in New Bremen in 1859 and died in 1938; and Emma C. Maurer Dicke, who was born in New Bremen in 1866 and died in 1963.

The father of Doris Kuenning was Gustav H. Heidgerd, who was born in New York City in 1885 and died in 1960. He graduated from Columbia University in 1907 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. His wife, Henriette Wischhusen Heidgerd, was born in New York City in 1884 and died in 1972. She attended Froebel Normal School of Hunter College, New York City, and acquired a Kindergarten Certificate. *Submitted by Doris Kuenning.*



Mr. and Mrs. John Kuest — Golden Wedding Anniversary, February 11, 1958. Back, left to right: Esther (Mrs. Emil Schroer), Henry, Hilda and Alma Kuest. Seated, Wilhelmine and John Kuest.

Henry, Hilda, Alma Kuest

Henry, Hilda and Alma Kuest reside on their eighty acre farm located on Amsterdam Road, southeast of New Bremen in German Township, Auglaize County. Their sister, Esther Kuest (Mrs. Emil Schroer), and her husband live on a farm one mile east of New Bremen.

Their parents were John Herman Kuest, born December 8, 1875, who died May 13, 1973, and Wilhelmine Anna (Brueggeman) Kuest, born March 15, 1880, who died January 16, 1968. They were married February 11, 1908. After their marriage they moved to the farm on Amsterdam Road, which John purchased from his uncle in 1906. They lived their entire married life on this farm.

John was a farmer and former German Township Trustee. For many years he served as a Democratic Central Committeeman and was on the Board of Elections in Auglaize County. He was the son of Gerhard Heinrich Kuest, born January 7, 1841, who died February 12, 1902, and Elise Wilhelmine (Nussmeyer) Kuest, born January 10, 1845, who died June 19, 1931. They were married on April 15, 1869. He had two brothers and three sisters.

Wilhelmine (Brueggeman) Kuest was the daughter of J. Wm. Brueggeman, born on April 11, 1852, who died on June 19, 1933, and Marie Dorothy (Koeper) Brueggeman, born on November 3, 1858, who died on July 3, 1949. She was born on the home farm on Clover Four Road. She had ten brothers and sisters. She was a homemaker. They were members of St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen.

Esther M. Kuest was born on January 5, 1909, on the family farm. On May 4, 1940, she married Emil Schroer, who was born in New Knoxville on November 26, 1911. Esther was an employee of the Arcade Department Store in New Bremen. Emil is a retired farmer. He was a member of the Auglaize County Fair Board for many years. They live on the Fair Ground Farm, the former site of the Tri-County Fair. They have one child, James Emil Schroer, born February 17, 1943. On August 12, 1967, he married Martha Kohler who was born July 27, 1946. James is the General

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Manager of St. Marys Trucking Company and an original member of the "Bumble Bees" band. They live on a farm east of New Bremen. They have two children: Daniel Schroer, born on December 6, 1968, and Diana Schroer, born on June 12, 1970.

Hilda A. Kuest was born on August 14, 1912, on the family farm. She graduated from New Bremen High School and is also a member of the St. Paul United Church of Christ where she taught Sunday School and was a member of the choir for many years. She was an employee of the Arcade Department Store in New Bremen, and then worked for twenty-six years as a bookkeeper at the Lock Two Grain and Milling Company until her retirement in 1976.

Alma E. Kuest was born on January 5, 1916, on the same farm where she resides. She graduated from New Bremen High School and is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ where she was a Sunday School teacher and a member of the church choir for many years. She was also an employee of the New Bremen 5¢ & 10¢ Store.

Henry A. Kuest was born on March 2, 1919, on the family farm. He is a farmer and also an appraiser for the German Farmers Mutual Fire and Wind Insurance Company and a member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Reinsurance Bureau in Newark, Ohio. He was also a Democratic Central Committeeman and served on the Board of Elections. He graduated from New Bremen High School and is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ. The farm on which the Kuests reside is an Auglaize County Centennial Farm. It was purchased from the government in the year 1845, by their great grandfather, Jergen Heinrich Kuest, who was born on June 18, 1805, in Badbergen, Hanover, Germany. He died on August 22, 1865. His first wife and several children died in Germany. He and his son, Gerhard Heinrich Kuest, who was only four years old, came to this country in 1845. On November 19, 1846, he married Christine (Beckman) Nedderman, who was born on November 23, 1818, in Konigreich, Prussia, and died on August 5, 1904, on the Kuest farm. *Submitted by Alma Kuest.*

Larry Kuhn Family

The Larry Kuhn family reside at 107 North Franklin Street. Larry is the son of Joseph and Grace Kuhn of Minster. Ann is the daughter of Anna Kocsis of Toledo and the late Edward Arway. Larry is co-owner of Lee's Printing in New Bremen. Ann operates The Serendipity Nursery School in New Bremen. They are the parents of two sons. Tim is a senior at Defiance College at Defiance. Jamie is a freshman at Wright State University at Celina. The Kuhns have been residents in New Bremen for twenty-one years. *Submitted by Ann Kuhn.*

Kunning Biography

The family name, Kunning, can be traced back to the word Ingi, which was the name of an ancient tribe of north central Europe. The word "kun" meant "descended from". Many similar German family names have this same origin. The first recorded member of the Kunning family in Germany is Henke Kunning, who is listed in the tax records of the County of Diepholz as a "free-holder" or land owner, in the year 1411.

The first members of the Kunning family to emmigrate to the United States were Herman Henry Kunning (born 1780) and his wife Margareta Koop Kunning (born 1789) and their four surviving children: Elizabeth (born 1819), Lucy (born 1822), Herman Frederick (born 1825) and Cord (Court) Henry (born 1831).

The father had been a dairy farmer in the tiny village of Dreeke, near Barnsdorf, in northern Germany. Both his family and his wife's family had lived in this small farming community for many generations. In the year 1835 at the age of fifty-five years, Herman Henry Kunning sold his farm and left Germany to take his family to America. It is thought that the extremely unsettled political conditions of the time probably led to this action.

The family sailed from Bremen on May 17, 1835, in the company of a group of friends and relatives from the Dreeke area. They arrived in New Orleans on July first of the same year. The following year, in 1836, they arrived in New Bremen and took possession of a tract of land about one mile north of the town. At that time the land was still uncleared forest, and many trees had to be felled before it could be cultivated. By the year 1840 a substantial brick and timber home had been built on the land to house the family. It was built in the same style as the buildings on the old family farm in Dreeke. The bricks were all hand-made by the members of the family, and according to the German custom a biblical quotation was carved on the walnut timber above the door. A mill adjoined one end of the house. It was the first mill in the locality. This house remained standing until well into the twentieth century.

Herman Henry Kunning and his wife lived and worked on this farm for the remainder of their lives. He died in 1856 at the age of seventy-six, having established his family in the New World. Margareta Koop Kunning continued to live on the farm with her son's family. She died in 1880 at the age of ninety-six. She was, at that time, the oldest living member of the New Bremen community.

Herman Henry Kunning's son, Herman Frederick, inherited the family farm from his parents. His children, thirteen altogether, were born in the same brick family homestead. He was married first to Christena Dammeyer in 1846, and later to Maria Schulhoff in 1864.

The two daughters of Herman Henry, Elizabeth and Lucy, both left New Bremen when they married. Elizabeth made her home in Louisville, Kentucky, and Lucy went to Syracuse, Nebraska. Neither one ever returned to New Bremen.

The younger son, Court Henry, who was just four years old at the time his family came to America, moved to the town of New Bremen after he was grown. For twenty-two years he was associated with the firm of Boesel and Kunning, merchants, and later with C.H. Kunning and Sons. He retired in 1900 after fifty years as a New Bremen businessman. He was married to Maria Clara Schulte in 1853. They had seven daughters and two sons. He died in 1904 at the age of seventy-two.

Court Henry Kunning (known in New Bremen during his fifty years as a businessman, as C.H. Kunning) and his wife, Maria Schulte, reared five daughters (two died as infants) and two sons. The latter were the youngest children. The daughters were: Minnie, Mrs. Henry Laut; Amalia (Molly), Mrs. August Heinfeldt; Alvina, Mrs. John Pohlman; Josephine, Mrs. Edward Patterson; Dorretta, Mrs. Will Boesche. The two sons included in the C.H. Kunning and

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Sons Company were Gustave A. Kunning and Lafayette W. Kunning.

Gustave and his wife, Alvina Rabe Kunning, had two daughters (one died in infancy) and three sons. The daughter was Myrtle Kunning Harris, and the sons were Chester Henry (C.H.), Paul William and Richard Alvin.

Richard and his wife, Marguerite Koop Kunning, had one daughter, Molly Chochorns. There were no other children.

Lafayette (Lafe) and his wife, Ida Rabe Kunning, had one daughter, Dorothy Kunning Reynolds.

In 1845, a younger brother of Herman Henry Kunning, Herman Frederick Kunning, (born 1797) also immigrated to this country and to the New Bremen area. He brought with him his wife, Anna Margareta Speckman Kunning, (born 1801) and their three children: Sophie (born 1829), Herman Frederick II (born 1831) and Wilhelmina (born 1836).

Upon arrival in the New Bremen area, Herman Frederick and his family went to stay with his brother, Herman Henry, on the farm north of New Bremen. After living there for a short time, they settled on a farm of their own about three miles north of the town. Herman Frederick Kunning died of the cholera just four years after his arrival in America, leaving his wife and three teen-age children to continue farming their land. He died in 1849 at the age of fifty-two years. His wife, Anna Margareta, died on March 12, 1891, at the age of ninety.

Sophie Kunning, the eldest of Herman Frederick's children, married Herman Wellman in 1860. They lived on a farm south of New Bremen. Several years later her husband died, leaving her with five small children. In 1868, she married Edward Holste. They had one child. Her second husband died in 1877. In 1888, she left for Kansas, where she died in 1905 at the age of seventy-six.

Herman Frederick Kunning II lived all his life as a farmer on the farm he had inherited from his father. In 1853 he married Anna Strassburg, and to this marriage five children were born. She died in 1862, and the following year he married Anna Wissman. This marriage produced six children. In the summer of 1892 Herman Frederick visited his old home in Germany. He reported that everything was just as when he left it. All of the homes and buildings were the same, but he did not recognize any of the people. He returned to his old school and sat in the same seat where he had sat as a child. Along with his cousin, Herman Frederick (son of Herman Henry) he was a founder of the German Protestant Cemetery and the German Farmers Insurance Company. He died on August 31, 1902, at the age of seventy-one.

Wilhelmina Kunning, the third child of Herman Frederick, also lived in New Bremen her entire life. She married Frederick Vogelsang at the age of sixteen. They had ten children. She was one of the founders of the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul Church. She died on October 20, 1909, at the age of seventy-three.

In 1935, the time of the Kunning Centennial, there was a booklet published from which we learn that Herman Frederick Kunning is the grandfather of Emil Kuenning. Emil Kuenning and his wife, Minnie Vornholt Kuenning, had two children, Erma Kuenning Kuck and Earl Kuenning. Earl Kuenning married Esther Dicke and they had three sons and a daughter: Thomas Kuenning, Robert Kuenning, David Kuenning, and Erline Kuenning Campbell. *Submitted by Richard Kunning.*

John Frederick Lanfersieck

The son of Victor and Catherine Engel (Knost) Lanfersieck, John Frederick Lanfersieck was born on May 14, 1842, on a farm in Shelby County. His parents were born in Germany and emigrated to the northwest part of Ohio. Herman, Henry, William August J., Gerhard, and Elizabeth Marie (wife of William F. Grothaus) were his brothers and sisters, J.F. Lanfersieck took over the plow manufacturing business his father started in 1864 after his father's death in 1871. With John H. Grothaus' assistance, he expanded his business. They formed the Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company in 1895. A more detailed description of these businesses is found in the business section.

Mr. Lanfersieck was not politically inclined. Once he was selected to run for a council seat, but actively campaigned for his opponent so he would lose. His campaign was successful.

In 1870, Caroline Ahlers was united with Mr. Lanfersieck and to them was born three daughters and a son. Mrs. Lanfersieck died in 1880 leaving him to raise the children. In 1884, Mr. Lanfersieck married Mary Wellemeyer. After her death in 1915, he lived with his daughter on Walnut Street until his death on April 25, 1923. He is buried in the German Protestant Cemetery.

J.F. Lanfersieck was a life long member of St. Paul German Lutheran Church, being baptized in the faith shortly after moving to New Bremen. *Submitted by Dan Bennett.*

Lloyd and Esther Laut

Lloyd J. Laut, was born on December 16, 1902, in New Bremen. He is the son of Clarence H. and Luetta Speckman Laut. After graduating from New Bremen High School in 1920, he started his business career in commercial printing with the Creamery Patron Printing Company in St. Marys. One and a half years later he accepted a position with the Evening Leader Printing Company, in St. Marys.

In 1924, Laut married Esther E. Hoeper, who was born on August 16, 1903. She is the daughter of Julius and Elisa Hoeper. Lloyd and Esther have two daughters, Shirley Jane Werling, deceased, and Joyce Ann Hauck, a vocational teacher in the Dayton, Ohio, school system. The Lauts have seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The family of John Laut and Bertha Kelling Laut, Lloyds' grandparents, is noted for the longevity of its members. Bertha attained the age of ninety-four. Clarence, their eldest son, lived to the age of one hundred years, eleven months, and twenty days. Two daughters lived to be ninety-two years of age. A second son died at the age of ninety years. Their youngest child, Naomi, is approaching her eighty-sixth birthday.

After working for eight years with the News-Gazette Printing Company in Lima, Ohio, Lloyd Laut returned to New Bremen to take employment with the Sun Printing Company. In 1935, he joined the American Budget Company. In 1942, he was named Executive Vice President and General Manager. The company now operates seven offices in mid-western Ohio. Laut retired from active duty in 1968. He still remains on the directorate as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

In 1956, Lloyd Laut was elected Mayor of the village of New Bremen, an office he held for three terms, until 1962. He also served on the Board of Education for eight years

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Lloyd Laut

and was very active in several civic organizations. In 1968, Laut was the recipient of the Ohio Consumer Finance Association Distinguished Service award.

Laut is affiliated with the Mercer Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, The Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Dayton and the Antioch Shrine. He and his wife have been life time members of the St. Paul United Church of Christ. In 1982, Laut was selected as Grand Marshall of the Bremenfest Heritage Parade. *Submitted by Lloyd Laut.*

John and Sophia Lietz

Joachim Fredrick Lietz, born on December 10, 1789, in Mecklenburg, Germany, and Dorothea Sophia Freese Lietz, born on November 22, 1788, in Grossinfill, Germany, were the parents of Johann Joachim Fredrick. He was born April 18, 1825, in Glambeck, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Germany. Johann, or John, as he was later called, began farming while still in his teens. When John was a little older he became a soldier, and served from 1846 until 1856.

On May 14, 1852, John married Sophia Wilhelmine Draewe. Sophia was the daughter of Joachim Draewe. John and Sohpia were the parents of four children: Carl Fredrick (Charles) born on February 5, 1853; twin infants, born on February 15, 1854, who died en route to America; and Caroline Wilhelmine (Minnie), born on November 25, 1855.

On June 2, 1856, the Lietz family landed in New York. They settled in the New Bremen area. Two children were born to this union after their arrival in New Bremen. Sophia Henrietta was born on March 16, 1859; and an infant son was born on September 4, 1863. Sophia died from complications of child birth on September 13, 1863, and the baby died on the twenty-first of September.

John wed Caroline Tottgenhorst on December 18, 1863. In 1864, John bought a farm near Lock Seven. The Lietz family lived on this farm for over forty years. John and Caroline were the parents of eleven children: Alvina (1864-1935), wife of Christ Prueter; Rosena (1866-1934), wife of F. Carl Lietz; Christian (1867-1868); Martha (1869), wife of Henry Essman; Wilhelm (1871); Julius (1873); John (1875-1949), married Mary Ellen Moeller; Otto (1877-1953), married Alvina Boeker; Ida (1881-1968), wife of Edwin Farmer, and after his death she was wed to Jess Foor; Amil (1882); and Herman (1883-1943), who married Martha Heil and after her death he married Alma Heil. These children were all born in St. Marys Township in Auglaize County.

Carl Lietz wed Cornelia Aue, and he died May 2, 1941. Minnie married Henry Timmerman, and she died April 26, 1938.

In 1904, John sold the farm and moved to a house on Herman Street in New Bremen. John was eighty-one years of age when he died on May 10, 1906. Caroline was eighty-three years of age when she died on July 1, 1927. Caroline and John were members of St. Paul Church in New Bremen. They are buried in the German Protestant Cemetery.

Sophia Henrietta Lietz married the boy next door, Wilhem Miller. They were wed on June 8, 1877. To this union were born three children: Rosena (1878-1960), the wife of August Conradi; Augusta (1880-1962), the wife of Arthur Zwez; and Leonard John (1890-1963), who married Viola Hammond.

Bill Miller worked on the Miami and Erie Canal which divided his parents' farm from the John Lietz farm. After his marriage, Bill quit the canal and began farming and he later started his own milk route. Bill died on his farm on March 16, 1931, at the age of eighty-one years. Sophia died at the home of her daughter, Augusta, on December 27, 1946. *Submitted by Sue Miller.*

Paul August Lietz

I was born in New Bremen at 34 South Herman Street on July 1, 1921, in the southeast upstairs bedroom. I didn't like the cradle my father made for me, but was more content in a dresser drawer. The house is the same house we live in now and was built by my maternal grandfather, August Heil, and my Uncle Walter Heil. Grandpa was a brick mason and also laid many of the early sandstone sidewalks in New Bremen. The Heils came from Germany and grandmother's maiden name was Maria Gilberg. To please my Grandfather Heil, we spoke High German in our home. For this reason I spent two years in the first grade because I could not speak, read or write English.

My paternal grandfather John Lietz (1825-1906), born in Germany, came to the United States in 1856. My grandmother's maiden name was Carolina J. Toetgenhorst (1844-1927). Their occupation was agriculture. In 1904, they retired from farming and purchased the home at 23 North Herman Street where they lived the rest of their lives.

My father Herman C. Lietz (1893-1943) was a cabinet maker and a wood craftsman. At my early age of four years he introduced me to the art of wood working. It was my mother, Alma Sophia (Heil) (1888-1973), who encouraged me to follow my hobby of photography. Three years after graduating from high school, I was inducted into the Army and spent forty-two months in the Signal Corps, most of the time in the South Pacific.

On April 3, 1975, Marjorie (Gieseke) Conradi and I were united in marriage in the Ward Parsonage with Reverend Thomas Ward officiating. *Submitted by Paul Lietz.*

Marjorie L. Lietz

I was born at 213 South Franklin Street in a little house that was fashioned from a barn. It was a cold winter day, on January 4, 1918, and the snow was deep that year.

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My father, Arnold C. Gieseke (1893-1950) was of German parentage. His occupation was a tool and die maker at Streine Tool and Manufacturing Company (now Stamco). He was a charter member of their twenty-five year club. My mother, Elsie Jane (Awrey) born in 1892 in Hawley, Minnesota, is of English-French Canadian parentage. She made her home in New Bremen for sixty-one years but at the present time is living with her grandson, Dr. Edward Conradi, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

At the time of this writing, December 1982, the house wherein I learned to walk is being razed. In the canal days it was a large Inn (the Lehmkuhl Hotel), later to become apartments, location just north of the present day Bank and Post Office on North Main Street.

I graduated from High School, then married Carl L. Conradi, (1913-1944). His parents were Louis and Johanna Ahlers Conradi and they were engaged in farming. Left a widow at an early age, I worked in the Arcade Department Store, for seven years, then at the Federal Land Bank Association in Celina, Ohio, for twenty-nine years.

The names of my children are: Dr. Edward C. Conradi, Charleston, South Carolina; and Genevieve Conradi Malik, Washington, Pennsylvania. She is a Registered Nurse. There are five granddaughters: Diane, Elaine and Karen Conradi and Johanna and Rebekkah Malik.

On April 3, 1975, Paul A. Lietz and I were united in marriage and we live in the Lietz home at 34 South Herman Street. We are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ. *Submitted by Marjorie Lietz.*

Arnold and Norma Luedeke

On July 19, 1934, Arnold August Franklin Luedeke (born 8/15/1911, died 3/19/1971) married Norma Rose Heinfeld (born 8/27/1915, died 3/23/1976). Arnold was the son of Julius William Luedeke and Amanda Minnie Blumhorst and the grandson of August and Anna Kawell Luedeke. Arnold lived his entire life in Shelby and Auglaize Counties.

As a young man, Arnold worked in the New Bremen Furniture Factory. During the Great Depression he served in the CCC in California. Later Arnold drove a truck for the Sunoco Oil Company based in Anna for several years. He spent the remainder of his life as a self-employed contractor until heart trouble forced him to quit. After that he worked for the New Bremen village utilities department from 1965 until his death.

Norma was the daughter of (John Arnold) Edward Heinfeld and Rosina Elisa Dickman. She lived all of her life in and around Lock Two and New Bremen. Upon turning age sixteen Norma worked at the White Mountain Creamery wrapping butter until her marriage. From that time on she was a homemaker.

Arnold and Norma were the parents of four children. Donald Julius (born 9/22/1936) worked for nine years as lineman for the Village of New Bremen. During that time he also served as a lineman for the United States Army and spent nineteen months in Germany. From 1968 until 1980, Donald was a self-employed excavator. Since 1981, he has been a truck driver.

On December 9, 1961, Donald married Shirley Clara Hirschfeld (born 11/16/1938) daughter of Victor Edward Hirschfeld and Amanda Anna Topp. Shirley worked at Midwest Electric in St. Marys from 1956 to 1962. She is currently a homemaker.

Donald and Shirley are the parents of four children: Gordon Arnold (born 11/22/1962) who is a dairy farmer; Kimberly Ann (born 10/26/1965); Kevin Victor (born 2/19/1970); and Pamela Norma (born 10/29/1971). They reside on a farm southwest of New Bremen.

Arnold and Norma's second child is Janice Rose (born 9/26/1938) who married Eugene Joseph This (born 12/26/1922) on June 2, 1962. Janice worked for the New Bremen Supply for four years and for Stamco from 1961 until 1963. Since then she has been a homemaker.

Eugene was the son of Leslie Frank This and Louise Heinrich and was raised at the Mooseheart Child Village in Illinois after the death of both of his parents. He served in the United States Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He served in World War II as a radio operator in Italy, Africa, Sardinia and Yugoslavia. In 1948, he began as a music teacher in various Auglaize county schools and also spent two years in Texas. Since 1964, he has been an elementary teacher in the New Bremen School System.

Eugene and Janice are the parents of three sons: Stephen Craig (born 12/22/1963) who is a freshman at Ohio State University and is in ROTC majoring in engineering; Jason Eugene (born 11/28/1966), and Peter Franklin (born 5/30/1970). They have resided in New Bremen all their lives and currently are at 113 South Walnut Street.

Drusilla Adeline (born 5/27/1948) is the third child of Arnold and Norma. She attended Ohio Northern University and also worked for five years at Crown Controls Corporation.

On June 21, 1969, Drusilla married Michael James Meyer (born 2/10/1941). He is the son of Joseph Edward Meyer and Lucile Virginia Finfrock. Mike was born in Middletown, Ohio, and raised in Sidney. He served in the United States Air Force as a radio operator from 1959 to 1963. He served sixteen months of that term in Turkey. After discharge he worked for nine years in the printing department of Crown Controls Corporation. Since 1972, he has been co-owner of Hunter Printing and Office Supply in St. Marys.

Mike and Drusilla are the parents of three daughters: Kristina Norma (born 2/20/1971), Jennifer J. Lucile (born 6/24/1976), and Carrie Rosina (born 4/28/1981). They have resided all their married life in New Bremen and currently in the family homestead at 243 East Monroe Street.

Richard Arnold (born 6/28/1956), the fourth child of Arnold and Norma resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He worked summers at Crown Controls Corporation. In 1974, he entered Cedarville College in Cedarville, Ohio, and graduated in August of 1978 with a Bachelor of Music Education. In August of 1983, Richard will earn his M.S. from Indiana University in elementary education. He has been a music teacher at Blackhawk Christian School in Fort Wayne since 1978.

On June 15, 1979, Richard married Lydia Ruth West (born 3/19/1956) daughter of Robert Paul West and Delores Jean Stalker. She was born in Munich, Germany, and raised in Illinois. Lydia also attended Cedarville College and graduated in June of 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and English. Lydia taught one year at Blackhawk Christian School and currently is an executive secretary for an insurance company. *Submitted by Drusilla Meyer.*

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Luedeke Family

Friedrich Christ Carl Luedeke was born in 1823 in Verlehausen, Canton of Uslar, Principality of Goettingen, Hannover, Germany, and came to America in 1829 at the age of six with his parents. He married Rosine Caroline Charlotte Thieman who was born in 1836 near Hudemuenden, Germany, and came to America with her parents at the age of one year. They lived on a farm four and one half miles northwest of New Bremen and had ten children: Henry Wm. August, Frederick Wm., August Wm., John, Rosina Caroline, Louis, Wm. Julius, George Wm. Daniel, Benjamin Franklin and Carl Leo Luedeke.

Henry Wm. August Luedeke was born in 1852, and married Anna Rosina Thieman, born in 1855. They had nine children: Rosine Marie, Wm. Frederick, George H., Emil Frederick W., Emma C., Alvina W., Alfred August, Clara Caroline, Hilda Luedeke. Rosine Marie Luedeke was born in 1877 and married Eberhard Dietrich Julius Topp, born in 1866. They had five children: Mrs. Frank (Alma Anna) Mueller, Laura Catherine who died at seven months, Lafe William who married Marie Anna Elizabeth Otte, Mrs. Leonard G. (Edna Emma) Dickman, and Wilson Henry who married Ruth Kohlrieser. William Frederick Luedeke was born in 1880 and married Sophia Katharine Louise Topp, born in 1879. They had six children: Mrs. Walter (Lillian Sophia) Wuebbeling, Mrs. Robert (Elsie Anna) Arnold, Mrs. William (Frances Caroline) McNamee, Henry who married Louise Steineman, Mrs. Earl (Verona Wilhelmina) McCalley, and Mrs. Herbert (Laura Sophia) Schulte. George H. Luedeke was born in 1882 and married Mathilda Kellerman, born in 1891. They had four children: Harold who married Virginia Weber, Mrs. Vernon (Viola) Sollers, Mrs. Francis (Lucille) Seitz, and Virgil Luedeke.

Emil Frederick W. Luedeke was born in 1884 and married Martha Elise Louise Dickman, born in 1885. They had three children: Wilbert Henry who married Marian Nolte, Melvin August who married Mildred Bertha Thuman, and Orlando who married Esther Munch. Emma C. Luedeke married William L. Schwaberow, born in 1877. They had seven children: Mrs. Oliver H. (Mabel A.) Brandt, Walter who married Peg Kettler, Vernon who married Velma Katterhenry, Mrs. Robert (Mildred) Engle, Paul, Orville and Mrs. Donald (Delores) Packer. Alvina W. Luedeke was born in 1888 and married Harvey C. Gritzmaker, born in 1887. They had four children: Mrs. Alton (Eunice) Quellhorst, Mrs. Ernest (Evelyn) Curtiss, Mrs. Curtis (Eldora) Gruebmeyer, and Mrs. Donald (Leonteen) Jackson. Alfred August Luedeke was born in 1890 and married Clara Dorothea Conradi, born in 1894. They had four children: Frederick who married Dorothy Sunderman, Mrs. Byron (Marjorie) Kuck, Pearl, and one child died in infancy. Clara Caroline Luedeke was born in 1893 and married Lytle H. Fogt, born in 1890. They had four children: Mrs. Clarence (Edith) Metz, Mrs. Vernon (Ethel) Heintz, Paul, and Willis who married Patsy Ammon. Hilda Luedeke was born in 1900 and married Melvin Fogt, born in 1899. They had two children: Alberta and Earl Fogt.

Frederick William Luedeke was born in 1853 and married Caroline Greber, born in 1858. They had two children: Edward F. and Flora Luedeke. Edward F. Luedeke was born in 1881 and married Christine Behrens. They had five children: four children died as infants and Warren Luedeke. Flora Luedeke married Edwin Schwepe. There are three children: Paul, Ferd, and Mrs. Victor (Ruth) Koenig.

August William Luedeke was born in 1857 and married Anna Kawell, born in 1861. They had five children: Frank F., Julius Wm., Alice, Laura C., and Mahalia Luedeke. Frank F. Luedeke was born in 1884 and married Alvina A.K. Luelleman, born in 1886. They had five children: Merlin, Orlando W., Larue Anna who died at the age of three, Mrs. Karl Henry (Cleora Alvina) Block, and Mrs. Verlin (Enola) Hirschfeld. Julius William Luedeke was born



Luedeke Families

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in 1886 and married Amanda Minnie Blumhorst, born in 1886. They had eight children: Arnold August Franklin who married Norma Rose Heinfeld, Lester Wm. who married Hazel Gersina Wittenbrink, Elmer Emil who married Louise Hope Packer, Andrew Wm. who died at eleven years of age, Mrs. Eugene (Henrietta Anna) Mowery, Ferdinand Julius who married Mary Louise Kailus, Mrs. Donald Wm. (Bernadine Amanda) Fledderjohn, and Edward Wm. who married Gloria Kettler. Alice Luedeke was born in 1887 and married Clarence Ott. They had four children: Mrs. Wm. (Marcella) Gilletly, Mrs. Oscar (Marjorie) Smith, Mrs. Charles (Thelma) Ladner and Helen U. who died at the age of one year. Laura C. Luedeke was born in 1890 and married Alfred H. Roettger, born in 1889. They had five children: Mrs. Wm. (Ruth) Dustman, Mrs. Patrick F. (Mary) Moran, Ralph who died at the age of seven days, an unnamed son, and Vernon C. who was killed in World War II.

Mahalia Luedeke married Irvin Fark. They had one daughter, Beverly Fark. John Luedeke was born in 1858 and married Mary Elise Fuelling, born in 1868. They had three children: Frederick Wilson, Omer and Frieda M. Luedeke. Frederick Wilson Luedeke was born in 1893 and died in 1903. Omer Luedeke was born in 1895 and was a bachelor. Frieda M. Luedeke was born in 1898 and married Clifford Fogt. They had two children: David and Mrs. Isaac (Dorothy) Selby. Rosina Caroline Luedeke was born in 1860 and died in 1886.

Louis Luedeke (Ludeka) was born in 1863 and married Anna Haeseker, born in 1871. They had three children: Harry, Bernice and Frances Anna Ludeke. Harry Ludeka was born in 1898 and never married. Bernice Ludeka was born in 1901 and never married. Frances Anna Ludeka was born in 1903 and died in 1909.

William Julius Luedeke was born in June of 1865 and died in January of 1866. George William Daniel Luedeke was born in 1866 and died in 1899.

Benjamin Franklin Luedeke was born in 1871 and married Emilie Caroline Wagner, born in 1874. They had five children: Ella Rosina Sophia, Herbert, Alva, Ray Wagner and Carrie Amelia Luedeke. Ella Rosina Sophia Luedeke was born in 1897 and married Jacob H. Lutterbeck. They had two sons: Myron Jacob and Eugene Benjamin Lutterbeck. Herbert Benjamin Luedeke was born in 1900 and married Caroline Mary Anders, by whom he had a son, Louis Herbert Luedeke. Caroline died in 1929 when Louis was six years old. Herbert later was married to Clara Zeibernacht. Alva Franklin Luedeke was born in 1904 and married Marie Emma Geib, born in 1907. An infant son died in 1929. Ray Wagner Luedeke was born in 1911 and married Dorothy Maud Bouknecht, born in 1909. They have four children: Mrs. Herman (Virgene Amelia) Mohrman, Clifford Ray who married Elizabeth Plieman, Mrs. Preston (Betty Lou) Belton, and Benjamin Lee who married Adelgunde Dinges. Carrie Amelia Luedeke was born in 1913 and married August Wolf who was born in 1905 and died in 1971. She was later remarried to Herman Hegeman. She had four children: a son, Ronald August Wolf, and three daughters.

Carl Leo Luedeke was born in 1873 and married Wilhelmine Christine Wissman, born in 1882. They had four children: Erie William, Liebert Leo, Garnet and Mrs. Harold (Delores) Fogt. *Submitted by Mrs. Lowell Francis.*



Dorothy and Fred Luedeke

Frederick and Dorothy Luedeke

New Bremen is our home. We were born here and have lived here all of our lives. All of our great-grandparents emigrated from Europe to America and settled here in New Bremen and surrounding area, giving us deep roots in this community. My name is Dorothy Sunderman Luedeke. I was born in 1916. My husband is Frederick Louis Luedeke. He was born in 1914.

Both of us graduated from New Bremen High School. After graduating from Bowling Green State University, I taught a number of years in the New Bremen public school system. Fred worked forty-one years at Stamco, Incorporated, serving in later years as Shop Superintendent.

My parents were Bertha Thiesing and Frank Sunderman. Bertha Thiesing was the youngest child of John and Mary Knipple Thiesing. Great-grandfather, Ernst Thiesing, was a shoe cobbler. Frank Sunderman was the oldest son of seven children born to Henry and Louise Keuthan Sunderman. Henry was the youngest son of Wilhelm and Sophie Meckstroth Sunderman.

Records of the Sundermans date back to 1577 in Ladbergen, Westphalia, Germany. The elder Sundermans crossed Pennsylvania in a covered wagon to Wheeling, West Virginia, where they then sailed by boat down the Ohio River to Cincinnati. From there they traveled north through Piqua to New Bremen purchasing farm land east of town.

I have one brother, James F. Sunderman, born in New Bremen in 1919. He is a retired Air Force Colonel, now living in Palm Harbor, Florida. He married Thelma Fentress. They are the parents of three boys: James, Jr. (killed in 1975), Blake and Michael. Jim is a writer and has edited a number of books.

My husband's parents were Clara Conradi and Alfred Luedeke. Clara Conradi was a daughter of Louis and Hannah Ahlers Conradi. Alfred Luedeke was a son of Henry and Anna Thieman Luedeke. Frederick has two sisters: Marjorie Kuck of New Knoxville and Pearl Luedeke of St. Louis, Missouri.

We are the parents of four children: Kathleen Louise Luedeke was born in 1943. She graduated from Taylor University and the Miami Valley Nursing School. She is married to A.J. Mascaro, Jr., and they live in Nyack, New York. They have three children: Stephen, born in 1972; Anita, born in 1977; and Daniel, born in 1979.

Suzanne Elizabeth Luedeke was born in 1945. She graduated from Asbury College and received her Master's Degree from Ohio State University. She is married to Rudy D. Broyles, and they live in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They

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have two children: Betsy, born in 1975 and Christopher, born in 1978.

Jonathan Frederick Luedeke was born in 1947. He graduated from Asbury College and Ohio State University. He married Twyla Merrill and they live in Columbus, Ohio. They have two children: Jonathan David Luedeke, born in 1975 and Mica Marie, born in 1977.

James David Luedeke, M.D. was born in 1954. He graduated from Asbury College and the Medical School of Ohio at Toledo. He is married to Kathleen Fennick and they have two children: Justin David, born in 1981, and Jason Benjamin, born in 1982. They are temporarily residing in North Canton while James completes his residency. *Submitted by Dorothy Luedeke.*



The Ray Luedeke Family

Ray Luedeke

Friederich Christian Carl Luedeke was born on January 18, 1823, in Verlehausen, Canton of Uslar, Principality of Goettingen, Hanover. He came to the United States in 1829 with his parents. He was married on October 30, 1850, to Caroline Thieman. They were the parents of ten children. Their youngest was Benjamin F. Luedeke, born February 21, 1871. He was confirmed at St. Peter's Church on March 29, 1885.

Amelia Clara Wagner was born on June 3, 1874. She was baptized and confirmed in 1888 by Reverend Merkle at St. Peter's. She and Benjamin were married on April 16, 1896, by Reverend Fisher. They were the parents of Ray Wagner Luedeke who was born on January 21, 1911.

Ray, who lives at 214 North Walnut, was married to Dorothy Bonknecht in Covington, Kentucky, on April 27, 1929. They are the parents of: Virgine Amelia, born January 31, 1930; Clifford Ray, born June 7, 1931; Betty Lou, born August 5, 1933; and Benjamin, born February 14, 1942.

Virgine Amelia was married to Walter Kanorr, now deceased. They had one child, Walter, who was born on May 5, 1958. She is married to Herman Carl Mohrman. They live at 313 North Walnut. Clifford married Elizabeth Plieman. They are the parents of Danny, born September 3, 1951; Joyce Ann, born February 21, 1953; and Robert. Betty married Preston Belton, now deceased. They are the parents of Todd, born December 7, 1964. They live at 218 North Washington Street. Benjamin Lee married Adelgunde Dinges on January 17, 1965. They are the parents of Christi, born December 19, 1965; Betty, born February 25, 1967; Herbert, born January 29, 1969; Leslie, born July 5, 1971; Sean, born June 19, 1972; and Dorothy, born May 15, 1973. *Submitted by Ray Luedeke.*

Anita Jane Schelper Martin

I was born on May 11, 1929, in New Bremen. My husband is Richard E. Martin. We were married in June of 1977. I have two sons: Anthony P. Cook (born November 28, 1955) who lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and is a salesman/district manager for Burroughs. Dane C. Cook lives in Los Angeles, California and is a part time student/worker. My parents are Elton L. and Alvera Stroefer Schelper who live at 205 North Water Street in New Bremen. I also have a sister, Colonel (Retired) Shirley A. Schelper. She was a physical therapist for the United States Army. She is retired and living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. My maternal grandparents were Edward and Malinda Stroefer. An interesting note about my grandparents is that part of the New Bremen Schools is built on land purchased from my grandfather. My maternal great grandparents were Ben and Margaret Schulenberg. Grandpa Ben was employed by the Grothaus Plow Shop. On my paternal side of the family, I had a great Uncle and Aunt named William and Lizzie Schelper. They raised my father after his father had passed away when he was two years old. Uncle Willie was the owner of Schelper's Meat Market. After the death of William Schelper, my father became the owner of the store which later became known as Schelper's Old Reliable Meat Market. On my mother's side I had an Aunt Helen H. Stroefer. She is deceased. My mother, father, aunt, sister, sons and myself are all graduates of New Bremen High School. This marks my twenty-fifth year of teaching — twenty-three of them in the New Bremen Schools. I previously taught at Sidney High School and Ross Township High School in Hamilton County. I am also a graduate of The Ohio State University (B.S.Ed.) and Wright State University (M.A.Ed.). Now I teach Business Education classes. *Submitted by Anita Martin.*

Jerry and Sue Maxson

Jerry and Sue Maxson moved to New Bremen at 101 South Main Street in July of 1960. Jerry is a teacher and coach in his twenty-third year at New Bremen Local High School. Sue has been the Assistant Librarian at the New Bremen Public Library since June of 1965.

Jerry was born on April 13, 1935, in Troy, Ohio, to Robert and Ruby Billing Maxson, who still reside in that city. He married Sue Browder on December 28, 1957, in Arcanum, Ohio. Sue, a native of Arcanum, was born on July 21, 1937, to Tom and Mid Browder, who reside in New Bremen.

Tom, a graduate of Arcanum, was born there to Grover Thomas and Ola Worch Browder. He attended Ohio State University where he was a member of the marching band. He worked for the Darke County Auditor, was co-owner with his wife of a dress shop, was with Aeroproducts Division in Vandalia and retired as a purchasing agent for Texas Eastern in Houston, Texas. Mildred Riegle Browder was the

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Back, Sue and Jerry; front, Beth and Suzanne.

daughter of George Theodore and Ethel Banta Riegle and was born in Arcanum. She is a graduate of Arcanum and Miami University. In addition to managing the dress shop, she taught school in Troy and Arcanum, and retired from the Houston School System in Houston, Texas. The Browders moved to New Bremen in 1975. They are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Jerry graduated from Troy High School, received his B.S. degree from Wittenberg College, attended Kent State, Miami University, University of Nebraska and Ohio Wesleyan College. He obtained his Master's degree from Wright State University. He taught three years with the Cleveland School system before coming to New Bremen. He coached boys' basketball from 1960 until 1969 and has been the girls' basketball coach since 1977. Sue graduated from Arcanum High School and attended Wittenberg College and Wright State University. She worked in the Tax Department of Sherwin Williams Company in Cleveland prior to moving to New Bremen.

Jerry and Sue are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ and are founders and charter members of the New Bremen Historical Association. They are the parents of two daughters. Beth Anne was born on November 11, 1960. She graduated from New Bremen High School in 1979 and Hanover College in May of 1983. She was active in Girl Scouts, band, cheerleading, and was the fourth Bremenfest Queen. She has been a four year cheerleader at Hanover and spent five summers working for the All Star Cheerleading Conference. Suzanne was born on February 21, 1964. She graduated from New Bremen in 1982. She was active in Girl Scouts, chorus, band and was a cheerleader and basketball player. She is currently attending Hanover College where she is a member of the schools Acapella Choir. She works for Manbeck Nursery in the summer. *Submitted by Sue Maxson.*

Earl and Ruth Meckstroth

Earl and Ruth Meckstroth live at 104 North Jefferson in New Bremen. This home has been in the family for over sixty years. Jacob and Henrietta (Nolte) Mesenbrink retired there from their farm in Shelby County. They had four children. Fred Mesenbrink was married to Leona (Burmeister) and both are deceased. Fred was police chief in town for a number of years. Christina Mesenbrink was married to Albert Bambauer and they had two children: Paul J. Bambauer, deceased; and Henrietta Wilson, now living in Canadian, Oklahoma. Leo Mesenbrink purchased the home about 1934 after his father's death. Herwin Mesenbrink married Laura Wiegers, the daughter of Herman and Martha Strasburg Wiegers, all deceased. Herwin and Laura had three daughters: Mrs. Wilson (Maire) Moeller, Mrs. Marvin (Esther) Nedderman, and Mrs. Earl (Ruth) Meckstroth, and two sons. One son was stillborn and the other, Roger, lived about three days. Earl and Ruth took over the family home in 1956. They have one son, Ray E., married to JoAnne Berning, daughter of Herbert and Dorothy (Howe) Berning. Ray E. retired in May of 1981 from the United States Air Force. He and JoAnne and three children, Dianne, David and Michelle, are now living in Anchorage, Alaska. Earl and Ruth have one daughter, Judy Ann Meckstroth who lives at home. She works at the Joint Township District Memorial Hospital in St. Marys. *Submitted by Ruth Meckstroth.*



Back, Todd and Kimberly; front, Adie and Lois.

Adrian and Lois Moeller

The families of Adrian Frederick and Lois Gensler Moeller have long been members of the New Bremen community. Adrian, known as Adie, has been employed by Crown Controls Corporation as an accountant for over thirty-one years and is now semi-retired. Lois retired after working over thirty-six years at the same company. The two were married in 1947, and have two children, Todd William and Kimberly Susan.

In 1842, Adrian's great great grandfather, Christian Moeller, sailed from Germany to the United States with his wife, Wilhelmina Koch Moeller, and their four sons, Christian, Henry, Fred and Herman, and two daughters, Henrietta and Hermine. In Hanover, Germany, Christian had been an overseer of the King's land. Christian bought eighty acres of farm land southwest of New Bremen.

Christian's son, Herman, married Lizetta Wiehe, who was also born in Germany. To them, ten children were born. Herman bought one hundred and twenty acres of land next

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to his father's farm. Herman's youngest child, Frederick, later bought this property.

In 1901, Frederick married Anna Fenneman, daughter of Frederick and Juliane (Neumann) Fenneman. (Anna's sister, Minnie, married Fred's brother, Cort Moeller.) To this union were born four sons: Edgar, Carl, Wilson and Elton. Edgar, Adrian's father, married Olga Hegemier, daughter of Frederick and Martha (Brueggeman) Hegemier. Martha was the daughter of William and Wilhelmina (Neumann) Brueggeman. Frederick Hegemeier was a farmer and painted barns.

Edgar Moeller worked at Mersman's in Celina and then for twenty-five years worked at the Lone Pine Filling Station in New Bremen. Then he worked for Stamco until he retired. He and Olga had four children. They are: Adrian, Warren, Martha and Dorothy.

Lois Gensler Moeller's great grandfather, Frederick Solms, was born in Germany and came to New Bremen when he became of age. He married Louise Havemann. He became involved in a grocery business and later in the packing industry. His specialty was sugarcured hams, for which he gained a wide reputation. One of their seven children, Oliver, worked as a farm hand when he was nine years old, and following his father's death became a teamster for a time. After this he became involved in the general lumber business and became known for his "Buckeye" handles. In 1919, he started Burden and Solms Lumber business with Fred Burden of Wapakoneta. He married Clementine Gagel in 1895. She was the daughter of David C. Gagel, a New Bremen cement mason, and Johanna (Donnerberg) Gagel. Oliver and Clementine's daughter, Anna Marie, a secretary, married George Wilmore Gensler. His family was from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Piqua, Ohio. George worked in his father-in-law's lumber business for a number of years and then worked as a truck driver for the White Mountain Creamery, and later he worked for Crown Controls Corporation until his retirement.

George and Marie Gensler had three children. George William was a pilot in the China, Burma, India theater. He was one of nine New Bremen men who died during World War II. His two sisters are Martha Jean, now of Lima, Ohio, and Lois. *Submitted by Kimberly Moeller.*

Carl and Lucile Moeller

On July 3, 1842, Christian Moeller with his wife, Wilhelmina Koch Moeller, his four sons, Christian, Herman, Henry and Fred, and his two sisters, Henrietta and Hermine, came to America. At this time young Christian Moeller was ten years; Herman was eight years; Henry was six years; and Fred, four years of age. In Hanover, Germany, Christian Moeller was an overseer of the King's Island. They met with great peril at sea, encountering storms, losing their course, and going so far north that it was necessary to drop anchor to keep away from the icebergs. They landed somewhere on the East Coast.

After embarking on the mainland, they made their way up the river by boat to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From there they sailed down the Ohio River to Cincinnati. We would assume from the method of travel in that day that they came from Cincinnati to New Bremen on big wagons. At first they lived on what is known as the Isern farm. Later they bought eighty acres, forty of which is now the Benjamin Tangeman farm. Christian, the father, died at the age of forty-four and Wilhelmina, the mother, died at the age of eighty-five. Henry and Fred died while they were still small, leaving only Christ, Herman and Sophia. Sophia was born in America.

Herman Moeller married Lizetta Wiehe. To them were born Ernest, Minnie, Henry, Christ, Sophia, William, Mary, Cort, Martha and Fred. Herman bought one hundred and twenty acres adjoining his father's farm. Upon his retirement from farming, his son, Fred, and wife Anna (Fenneman) Moeller, who were married in 1901, took over the farm. Fred and Anna were the parents of four sons: Edgar, Carl, Wilson and Elton. Fred died on September 7, 1937, at the age of fifty-nine and Anna resided on the farm until her death on July 1, 1980. She lived to be ninety-eight years of age.

Carl Moeller, second oldest son of Fred and Anna (Fenneman) Moeller was born May 14, 1910. He married Lucile Fark on August 22, 1935. Lucile, the oldest of four children, was born on March 30, 1915. She is the daughter of George and Fredonia (Hirschfeld) Fark. Lucile graduated from New Bremen High School with the class of 1933. Carl was employed for thirteen years by White Mountain Creamery and thirty-three years as a molder in the foundry of the Minster Machine Company. They resided on a twenty-one acre farm west of New Bremen from 1941 until 1977 at which time, due to health reasons, they moved to Green Valley, Arizona, until 1981. Carl and Lucile are the parents of three children: Karen, Ned and Ron. They both are life long members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Carl died on May 22, 1982, at the age of seventy-two. *Submitted by Karen Farley.*

Ned and Susan Moeller

Ned Moeller, son of Carl and Lucile (Fark) Moeller, was born on June 23, 1951. He graduated from New Bremen High School and is employed in sales by Crown Controls Corporation at their branch in Los Angeles, California.

On February 27, 1971, he married Susan Phlipot. She was born January 14, 1951, and is the daughter of Edwin and Mary Phlipot. Ned and Susan are the parents of two children, Lee Ann and Amy. They currently reside in Irvine, California. *Submitted by Karen Farley.*

Ron and Diane Moeller

Ron Moeller, youngest child of Carl and Lucile (Fark) Moeller, was born on April 11, 1955. He graduated from New Bremen High School in 1973 and from The Ohio State University in 1977 with a Bachelor Degree in Business. On September 2, 1978, he married Diane Bergman. She was born August 16, 1955, and is the daughter of Richard and Ivalou Bergman.

Ron is presently employed by Parker Hannifin Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio as an accountant. Diane is employed as a secretary. They currently reside in Willoughby, Ohio. *Submitted by Karen Farley.*

Cletus and Hilda Niekamp

Cletus Niekamp is the son of Bernard and Matilda (Schmitmeyer) Niekamp of Chickasaw, Ohio. He married

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Hilda (Eckstein) on November 27, 1947. Hilda is the daughter of Clem and Teresa (Rammel) Eckstein of Ft. Recovery, Ohio. Cletus and Hilda Niekamp purchased the William Nedderman farm on Lock Two Road west of New Bremen in March of 1947. The deeds to the farm date back to 1857. Cletus is engaged in farming and also in masonry work. Hilda is a part-time cook for the Hotel Bar in New Bremen. They are members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and the parents of eight children: Robert, Barbara, Madonna, Lois, Susan, David, Joseph and Richard. Their children attended New Bremen Elementary and graduated from New Bremen High School. The grandparents of Cletus and Hilda originated from Germany.

Robert, who graduated in 1966, attended Miami Jacobs Business College in Dayton, Ohio. He then served two years in the Army, including six months in Vietnam. Later he attended Tiffin University at Tiffin, Ohio. He is employed at Hobart Corporation as a sales quotation estimator. He married Rita Knapke of Maria Stein, Ohio, on August 21, 1971, at St. John Catholic Church in Maria Stein. Rita, a graduate of St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, works part-time for Dr. D.J. Schwieterman of Maria Stein. They are the parents of three children, Scott, Amy, and Julie. On November 1, 1975, they moved to their present home, the former Ed Sudman property outside the corporation limits. Robert is a member of the New Bremen Emergency squad. Their children are active in scouting. They are members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in New Bremen.

Barbara graduated in 1968. She married William Meiring on June 12, 1971. They live at 328 Canal Street in New Bremen. Barbara is a member of the New Bremen Fireman Auxillary and she also does babysitting in their home. William also graduated from New Bremen High School. He is employed at Good Year in St. Marys as a Foreman. He is a volunteer fireman for New Bremen. They are the parents of five children: Patrick (deceased), October 10, 1972 to October 28, 1972; Michael, Mary, David, Andrew. The children are active in scouting and baton. They are members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Madonna graduated in 1969, and attended the Carousel School of Cosmetology in Dayton. She married James Pape on October 9, 1971. They live at 231 North Franklin Street, the former Ralph Dietrich home, in New Bremen. The deeds to the house date back to 1857. Madonna, employed at Doris' Beauty Shop, is a member of the Fireman's Auxillary and of the Parish Council of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. James also graduated from New Bremen High School. He served two years in the Army, with one year in Vietnam. He is employed at Crown in New Bremen and is a volunteer fireman for New Bremen. They are the parents of two children, Tracy and Steven. The children are active in scouting. They are members of Holy Redeemer Church.

Lois graduated in 1971 and attended the Lima Branch of Ohio State University. She married Timothy McKibans on September 7, 1974. They reside at 623 East Front Street. Lois is employed by Dr. Victor Stegall as a receptionist. Timothy also graduated from New Bremen High School and attended Ohio State Technical College and is employed by Crown. They are members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and Zion United Church of Christ.

Susan graduated in 1973. She is employed as a receptionist at Stamco. She married Jeffrey McCollum on November 8, 1975. They reside at 173 Shanverton Court. Jeffrey also graduated from New Bremen High School, and attended Sinclair Community College in Dayton. He is employed at the First National Bank of New Bremen as Cashier. He has been involved with the Bremenfest for the past four years, and was past president for the New Bremen Jaycees. They are the parents of one child, Jay. They are members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

David graduated in 1975, and furthered his education at the Lima Branch of Ohio State University. He was employed at Nupco in New Bremen for six years. On November 18, 1978, he married Elaine Niemeyer. They lived on the Frank Niemeyer farm on Lock Two Road west of New Bremen. David died on October 6, 1979. Elaine married Todd Meinike of Dayton on January 8, 1983, in Immaculate Conception Chapel in Dayton. They reside and work in Cincinnati.

Richard graduated in 1982. Presently he is attending the Celina Branch of Wright State University. He is a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Joseph graduated in 1979. He is employed at Hoge Lumber Company of New Knoxville. He married Caryn Schrolucke of New Knoxville on August 20, 1982. They reside at 102½ South Washington Street in New Bremen. Caryn is employed at Stamco in the Engineering Department. They are members of the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. *Submitted by Cletus Niekamp.*



Left to right: Janet, Robert W. (Bud) Niemeyer, Pamela Niemeyer Steinmetz, Irene E., and Elaine — 1974.

Robert and Irene Niemeyer

Robert William (Bud) Niemeyer and Irene Elizabeth Aselage Niemeyer own and reside on a twenty acre farm. Their farm and establishment, Niemeyer Farm Drainage and Nupco Plastic Tubing, is located on 66A North in German Township. Robert was born in German Township on October 9, 1924. He is the third child of four children born to Frank Leander Niemeyer, Sr. and Ruth Brockman Niemeyer.

Robert was educated in the West Side Country School of the New Bremen Public School, Hobart Welding School and Ohio State University. During World War II, he entered the

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United States Army on May 8, 1943, at Camp Perry, Ohio. He was stationed at Brownsville, Texas, in the Headquarters Troop of the 124th Horse calvary. In 1944, he served in the China-Burma-India Theater of the war. His troop was called "The Marsman of Burma" of which many books were written. He returned to the United States on December 7, 1945, and was honorably discharged on January 8, 1946, at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. Later that year he purchased his first ditching machine and this was the start of the Niemeyer Farm Drainage Company.

Robert and Irene were married in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ft. Loramie on February 8, 1949.

Irene was born in Ft. Loramie on May 28, 1926. She is one of ten children born to Bernard H. and Elizabeth M. Schlater Aselage, Jr. Irene was educated in the Ft. Loramie Public Shcool. Upon graduation she was employed as a secretary to the Copeland Refrigeration Corporation in Sidney. After her marriage she became a homemaker, mother and secretary at the Niemeyer Drainage Company.

Irene's father is Bernard (Ben) Henry Aselage, Jr. born December 22, 1886 in Ft. Loramie. He was a retired farmer when he died on December 26, 1960. Her mother is Elizabeth Mary Schlater Aselage, born December 9, 1889, in Ft. Loramie, and died on May 28, 1961. They were married on February 22, 1911 in St. Michael's Church at Ft. Loramie.

Irene's paternal grandfather, Bernard Aselage Sr., was born on July 17, 1860, in Oldenburg, Germany and died on November 12, 1952, in Ft. Loramie. He married Magdelena Bruns from Herzlake, Germany. She died on March 8, 1916. Their occupation was farming. A maternal grandfather of Irene was Bernard H. Schlater, born on September 6, 1858, in Ft. Loramie and died on July 12, 1948. He married Anna Mary Rottinghaus, daughter of William Rottinghaus and Elizabeth Unterbrink. She was born on April 9, 1860, in Ft. Loramie and died on February 13, 1939.

The Niemeyers purchased their farm in 1950 from Theodore and Mattilda Dickman and Henry and Emma Landwehr. In 1957, Robert invented and patented a ditching machine called the "Ohio Ditcher". In 1971, they started NUPCO Plastic Tubing, a subsidiary of Niemeyer Farm Drainage.

Robert and Irene are the parents of three daughters. Pamela Ann Niemeyer was born in Lima on July 5, 1950. She is a graduate of New Bremen High School and Wright State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work. Pamela and Henry Alvin Steinmetz of Greenville, Ohio, were married in Holy Redeemer Church on June 22, 1974. Henry's parents are William and Margery Steinmetz of Greenville. Pamela and Henry are the parents of one son, Nathan Michael Steinmetz, who was born on October 27, 1980, at Dayton. They reside at 1175 Union City Road, Greenville.

Janet Marie Niemeyer was born in St. Marys on October 2, 1954. She graduated from New Bremen High School and Vogue Career College in Cincinnati with a degree in Fashion Merchandising. Janet and Harry LeRoy Fritz, Jr. were married in Holy Redeemer Church on August 2, 1975. Harry's parents are Harry LeRoy and Jean Fritz, Sr. of Loveland, Ohio. Janet and Harry are the parents of three children: Liza Nicole Fritz, born September 3, 1977, in St. Marys; Casey Renee Fritz, born December 2, 1979, at Louisville, Kentucky; and Benjamin Joel Fritz, born July 13, 1982, at St. Marys. They reside at Lock Two Road near New Bremen.

Elaine Mary Niemeyer was born on February 22, 1958, in St. Marys. Elaine graduated from New Bremen High School and attended Ohio State University. Elaine and David G. Niekamp, son of Cletus and Hilda Niekamp, were married on November 18, 1978, in Holy Redeemer Church. David died on October 6, 1979. Elaine and Todd J. Meineke were married in Immaculate Conception Church in Dayton on January 8, 1983. Todd's parents are Paul and Doris Meineke of Dayton. Elaine and Todd reside at 2633 Thomasville Drive in Cincinnati.

Robert and Irene are members of Holy Redeemer Church in New Bremen. They were former choir members. Robert is a member of the Holy Name Men's Society, New Bremen-German Township Volunteer Fire Departments, New Bremen Lions Club, American Legion Post 241 and the United States 124th Horse Cavalry Association. Irene is a member and former secretary of the St. Anne Rosary-Alter Society, American Legion Auxiliary and was a Girl Scout Leader for ten years. *Submitted by Robert Niemeyer.*



Frederick Pape Family — Left to right: Adolph, Linda, Carl, Frederick, Wilhelmina, Alvin.

Adolph and Mariann Pape

Adolph August Pape, son of Frederick August Pape and Wilhelmina Heil, was born on December 10, 1881, and was killed in an automobile accident on December 7, 1960. He was a retired employee of Beatrice Foods Company where he worked as a boiler operator. On April 24, 1920, he was married to Mariann Louise Blanke, born on March 26, 1902. She is the daughter of Herman and Fredonia (Kuenning) Blanke. They were the parents of two daughters.

Marjorie Fredonia was born on May 17, 1921. She graduated from New Bremen High School. On June 12, 1946, she was married to Ned William Metzger who graduated from Waplakoneta High School and served in World War II. They now reside in Alliance, Ohio, where Ned is employed by Robertson Heating and Plumbing.

Barbara Ann Wilhelmine was born on January 28, 1927. She graduated from New Bremen High School. On April 18, 1953, she married Everett Frederick Schmidt, the son of Arlando and Irene (Tontrup) Schmidt. He attended New

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Bremen High School and served in the Korean War. He died on May 4, 1982. Barbara is an employee of Beatrice Foods Company and Everett was plant superintendent of Stamco, Inc. at the time of his death. They had two children. Sue Marjorie was born on July 19, 1954. After graduating from New Bremen High School, she married Ronald William Greber on May 26, 1973. He graduated from St. Marys Memorial High School. Ron works at Advance Auto Company. They are the parents of two children: Carrie Ann, born August 14, 1975; and Steven Mark, born January 10, 1977. Mark Everett was born on December 18, 1961. He graduated from New Bremen High School and now attends The Ohio State University. *Submitted by Barbara Schmidt.*

David and Carolyn Pape

Hilda Dorothy Dicke was born on March 30, 1894, in New Bremen and died on April 6, 1949. On August 22, 1917, she married Carl William Pape who was born on October 29, 1894, and died on March 28, 1979. There were four children, all born in New Bremen. They were: Carl William, Jr., born February 27, 1919; Don Edwin, born June 11, 1923; David Dicke Adolph, born May 19, 1925; and James Frederick Louis, born January 17, 1928.

David Pape married Carolyn Louise Schilling on May 12, 1951. She was born on February 20, 1928, in Darke County. There were four children: Cynthia Louise was born on July 18, 1952, in Coldwater. On November 29, 1970, Cynthia married Roland Wilton Dicke who was born on November 6, 1950. Cynthia and Roland have six children: Angela Sue, born May 25, 1971; Keith Matthew, born April 23, 1973; Kay Carolyn, born March 16, 1978; Keri Carla and Gayle Louise, born July 22, 1979; and Stephanie Ann, born April 10, 1981.

Charlotte Ann Pape was born on September 12, 1953. On August 30, 1975, she married Mark D. Schwabero, born November 18, 1952. They have two children: Anna Louise, born March 1, 1978, and Emily Annette, born November 10, 1980.

Cheryl Diane Pape was born on June 11, 1956. On July 9, 1977, she married Roger T. Barlage, born January 14, 1956. They have two children: Janelle Diane, born December 14, 1978, and Julie Marie, born January 12, 1982.

Scott David Pape was born on September 15, 1962. He is a junior at The Ohio State University. *Submitted by Carolyn Pape.*

Pape Family

Ernest Weilhelm Pape was born on March 9, 1818, in Hemeln Mecklenberg Schwerin Hanover, Germany. Ernest married Sophie Rosine (Thieman). Sophie was born on March 11, 1819, and died on February 10, 1900. Ernest died on September 6, 1900. They had a son Frederick.

Frederick August Pape was born in German Township on October 20, 1855. Frederick was a skilled mechanic and was employed at The New Bremen Foundry. He married Wilhelmina Heil, born March 6, 1858. She died in 1936. Frederick died on May 28, 1922. They lived at 17 North Franklin and had four children: Adolph, Linda, Carl and Alvin.

Adolph was born December 10, 1881, and married Mariann Blanke, who was born on March 26, 1902. They were married on April 24, 1920, and Adolph was employed at Beatrice Foods. He died on December 7, 1960. Mariann resides at 121 North Water Street. They had two children, Marjorie (Pape) Metzger and Barbara (Pape) Schmidt.

Linda was born on June 9, 1884, and married Roy Hoverman, born in 1884. They were married on November 2, 1915, and Roy died in 1926. Linda and Roy lived in Delphos, Ohio. She retired in 1948 as owner and operator of Hoverman Studio in Delphos and died in 1968. They had two children, John Roger Hoverman and Gene Phyllis Myers.

Carl was born on October 29, 1894. Carl married Hilda Dicke, born on March 30, 1894. Carl was employed at Beatrice Foods and they resided at 318 North Main Street. Carl died on March 29, 1979, and Hilda died on April 6, 1949. They had four sons: Carl Jr., Don, David and James.

Alvin (Allie) was born on October 20, 1890. He married Magdalena (Hon) Gobrecht, born on March 18, 1893. They were married on April 14, 1915, and she died on April 23, 1955. Alvin was employed at Stamco and retired from there in 1962. Alvin was very active in baseball in the early 1900s and he enjoyed bowling until 1979. He also enjoyed fishing and hunting. Alvin is a member of St. Paul Church. He resides at 116 Walnut Street. Alvin and Magdalena had three children: Richard, Mary Ellen and Paul.

Richard (Dick) was born on January 10, 1916. He married Estella Sommers, born January 20, 1917, from Minster. They were married on June 8, 1940. Richard was a New Bremen Volunteer Fireman and served as assistant chief. He worked as a foreman at Stamco. Richard died on November 26, 1955. Estella was employed at Crown Control, and she resides at 108 South Washington Street. They had one son, Frederick, who married Margaret Bricker from St. Marys. They reside at 214 South Franklin Street. Fred and Margaret have three children: Bruce, Penny and Robert. Estella, Fred and his family are members of Holy Redeemer Church.

Mary Ellen was born on March 5, 1922. She married Paul Ketzel, born on December 28, 1916. They were married on August 3, 1944. Paul was employed for twenty-five years with the Postal Service in Piqua. He died on October 24, 1972. Mary Ellen worked at Don Woods Excavating as a secretary. She resides at 1105 Young Street in Piqua.

Paul was born on April 8, 1919. He married Margaret Ritter from Minster. She was born on November 3, 1918 and they were married on October 5, 1940. Paul is a World War II veteran and served two years with the United States Army stationed in Germany. Paul was a New Bremen Volunteer Fireman and he served as assistant chief until he retired from the department in 1975. Paul worked at Siberling Latex in New Bremen from 1938 until 1968 when the company moved to Oklahoma. Paul was then employed at Beatrice Foods as a supervisor until he retired on December 31, 1982. Margaret was employed at Crown Controls from November of 1968 until she retired on January 14, 1983. Paul and Margaret reside at 409 South Walnut Street. They are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ and Holy Redeemer Church in New Bremen. They have three sons: James, John and Jeffery.

James was born on September 16, 1948. He married Madonna Niekamp, also from New Bremen. She was born on June 27, 1951, and they were married on October 9, 1971. James is a Vietnam veteran who served two years with the United States Army. He is a member of the New Bremen

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Volunteer Fire Department and employed at Crown Control. Madonna is employed at Doris' Beauty Shop in New Bremen. James and Madonna reside at 231 North Franklin Street. They have two children, Tracy, born July 27, 1972; and Steven, born October 13, 1974. They are members of Holy Redeemer Church.

John was born on January 1, 1951. He married Janet Lampert, born December 24, 1950. They were married on November 22, 1973. John served in the Air Force Reserves. He is a member of the New Bremen Volunteer Fire Department and is employed at Crown Control. Janet is employed at Rosalee's Beauty Salon in Minster. John and Janet reside at 410 East Cherry Street. They have three children: Renee, born May 18, 1976; Christopher, born April 29, 1978; and Kelli, born September 13, 1980. They are members of St. Paul United Church of Christ and Holy Redeemer Church.

Jeffery was born on May 30, 1957. He married Kathy Imwalle, born June 28, 1958, from Ft. Loramie. They were married on November 16, 1979. Jeff is employed at Crown Control and Kathy is employed at the First National Bank in Ft. Loramie. Jeff and Kathy reside at 101 East Plum Street. They have a son, Andrew, born on July 17, 1981. They are members of Holy Redeemer Church. *Submitted by Donna Pape.*

Willis and Leta Quellhorst Family

This is the geneology of Willis Fredrick Quellhorst and his wife, Leta Carolina (Bertke). Willis' grandparents are Cord Heinrich Quellhorst who was born on September 13, 1818, in Haselkorn, Hannover, Germany, and Marie Louise Sophia Bordewisch who was born on February 18, 1829, in Delingen, Germany. They were married in New Bremen on January 18, 1850. He died on February 11, 1879, and she passed away on May 26, 1911. Willis's father and mother are Cord Frederich Quellhorst (born April 20, 1854, died in 1932) and Mary Schulhoff (born 1856, died 1932). They were married on April 1, 1880. They had seven children: Carrie M. who married Gustave A. Vordermark; Edwin J. Quellhorst; Franklin Emil who married Alvina M. Schlesselman; George Quellhorst who married Harriet Meschket; Herb Quellhorst who married Catherine Eisenstein; Albright Quellhorst who married Mildred Miller and Willis who was the youngest. Willis died on November 27, 1971.

Leta's grandparents are Rudolph Bertke (died 1906) and his wife Carolina Wilhelmine Dorothea (Bokelman). She was born on February 21, 1841, in Bramsche, Hannover, Germany. She came to America in 1858. They had twelve children. Caroline died on August 2, 1916. Leta's mother was Ida Wilhelmine (Kuenning). She was born in 1873 and died in 1960. She married Gustave H. Bertke who was born in 1876 and died on March 2, 1937. They had five children: Leta was born on March 21, 1902; Lorma Lilly was born on January 12, 1905, and married Eugene Linker; Vern Fredrick Bertke was born on January 11, 1908; Roy Rudolph Bertke was born on March 29, 1906, and died in 1923; and Lilas Ida Bertke Haberkamp who was born on January 4, 1916.

Willis and Leta have four children: Gloria Ida Marie Quellhorst Goodwin was born on November 5, 1929. She and her children came back to New Bremen in 1967 from St. Mary's, Ohio. Her children are Deborah Kay Goodwin Boyd who was born on February 1, 1950. She was married to William Boyd and she died in 1980. Bradley Jay Goodwin was born on June 16, 1952. He presently lives in St. Marys. David Lee Goodwin was born on December 1, 1956. He was married to Teresa Marie McCullough on September 18, 1976. They have one child, Curtis Lee Goodwin, who was born on May 26, 1981. Kimberly Sue Goodwin was born on May 18, 1959. She was married on May 5, 1979, to Michael Lawrence Egbert. They are the parents of two sons, Aaron Michael who was born on September 14, 1977, and Adam Lee who was born on June 5, 1982. Kevin Joe Goodwin was born on September 20, 1963. He is a student at Heidelberg College. Thomas Alan Goodwin was born on September 9, 1965.

Lowell Gustave Quellhorst was born on September 7, 1931. He was married on September 17, 1955, to Betty Holdren who was born on March 9, 1934. They have three sons. Brian Keith Quellhorst was born on September 28, 1956. He married the former Pamala Sue Egbert. They have two children, Joshua Allen who was born on October 7, 1978, and Jamie Lynn who was born on May 21, 1980. Ricky Lowell Quellhorst was born April 6, 1958. He has two children, Sharon Irene who was born on August 2, 1977, and Fredrick Lowell who was born on October 10, 1978. Philip Willis Quellhorst was born on May 31, 1965.

Joyce Lorma Quellhorst Gilberg was born on January 31, 1936. She married John Paul Gilberg on June 14, 1958. John was born on August 11, 1935. They have four children. They are Jack Paul who was born on January 17, 1961; Jill Leta who was born on June 19, 1962; James Willis who was born on June 6, 1967; and Jay William who was born on December 10, 1969.

Stanley Willis Quellhorst was born on August 7, 1937. On February 1, 1964, he was married to Roseann Louise Steuve who was born on April 18, 1941. They have three children: Susan Theresa, born on November 28, 1964; Theresa Susan, born on September 1, 1966; and Steven Richard, born on November 24, 1970. *Submitted by Gloria Goodwin.*

Michael Rabe

Michael Rabe was born October 21, 1889, in the Ukrainian Dnieper River city of Kremenchuk. One of seven children of Isaac and Braina Rabinowitsch, his father was a miller and baker. Michael chose to travel to Germany in 1912 to take pre-medical training at the University of Strasburgh.

Interned as an enemy alien during World War I, he worked in various factories and mines before the war's end allowed him to complete his M.D. degree at the Martin Luther U. in Halle/Saale. Having fallen in love with a local girl, and having no desire to return to now Communist Russia, he decided to remain in Germany and became a German citizen. On January 24, 1921 he married E. Margarete Beer (b. 10/29/99), the only child of August and Louise Beer (the latter a New Bremen resident from 1955 to her death 11/29/72). Their first son, Peter L., was born in Halle 11/3/21.

Moving to Hanover to begin his medical practive, two more sons were born in that city: Valentin H. (1/30/30) and Andreas J. (5/16/34). The increasingly restrictive policies of the Nazi regime made it impossible for him to continue his practice, and in October of 1938 he sailed to the United

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Parade Marshalls—Dr. and Mrs. Michael Rabe were the parade marshalls for the Bremenfest Bicentennial Parade held Sunday afternoon (Aug. 29). *September, 1976 - St. Marys Leader.*

States with Peter. While learning English and acquiring an American medical license, he lived with his brother in Detroit. His wife and younger sons left via Genoa on the last scheduled liner to leave Europe, two days before Italy entered WW II in June, 1940.

A month later the family took up residence in New Bremen, a location picked from a list of small towns needing doctors provided by the AMA, at least in part because the German name seemed to promise easier adjustment for the non-English speaking new arrivals. During a 31 year practice of family medicine in New Bremen, Dr. Rabe also served as Chief of the medical staff of Joint Township Memorial Hospital, and was elected president of the Auglaize County Medical Association. He retired from active practice in 1971, and died in St. Marys on November 9, 1981. *Submitted by Valentin Rabe.*

Rabe Biography

Rachael Rabe and her younger brothers made the long ocean voyage from the Province of Prussia, Germany, in 1847 by way of New Orleans to Cincinnati. The family group separated at New Bremen with Rachael and her two other brothers traveling on to eastern Indiana, near Ft. Recovery. There they established a very successful horse farm, which they ran for many years. Rachael kept in touch with her two brothers in New Bremen, and visited them occasionally until she was quite elderly. She drove a buggy and spirited horse all the way from Ft. Recovery by herself. She never married.

Prior to 1868, William Rabe operated a flax mill in New Bremen. In 1868, he opened a hardware store in town which grew into a business enterprise that endured until 1940. William Rabe's younger brother, Henry, was at first in partnership with William in the hardware business. At that time (1868) it was the only hardware store between Piqua and Lima. Later, Henry bought a farm south of New Bremen. He died at an early age, leaving two young daughters and an infant son, Theodore.

William Rabe's hardware business developed into a lumber company and building company, which he ran under his own name until 1901, at which time it was incorporated into the Rabe Manufacturing Company.

William Rabe was married twice. First to Louisa Griewe and after her death to Mary Schowe. He had three children by the first marriage: Minnie, August and Matilda, and four by his second marriage: Alvina, Ida, Ferd and Lillian. August Rabe became an architect for his father's building company after receiving his professional training at Defiance College, at Defiance, Ohio. Most of the outstanding Victorian structures in New Bremen and in the surrounding towns were designed by him and constructed under his supervision. The building company received a contract from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for designing the depots in the smaller towns and cities in the New Bremen area during the Victorian era. August Rabe designed all of these. He had one daughter, Hazel.

William Rabe's younger son, Ferd, had charge of all business operations of the Rabe Manufacturing Company until the company was dissolved in 1927. After that he became a cashier at the First National Bank of New Bremen until his retirement. Ferd Rabe and his wife, Laura Garmhausen Rabe, had two daughters, Marie and Louise.

Alvina Rabe married Gustave Kunning of New Bremen. Her younger sister, Ida Rabe, married Gustave's brother, Lafayette Kunning. Lillian Rabe married Oscar Roettger, also of New Bremen.

As an adult, Theodore Rabe operated a variety store in New Bremen. He imported toys from Germany which were enjoyed by many New Bremen children of that period. Theodore Rabe had two sons, William Rabe of Columbus, Ohio, and Alfred Rabe of New Bremen, and one daughter, Katherine Rabe Grothaus of Denver, Colorado. Alfred and Katherine each had two daughters. *Submitted by Marguerite Kunning.*

William Rabe

William Rabe, b. 12/6/1828, d. 12/10/1915. In few branches of trade has the march of progress wrought such a veritable revolution as in the hardware business. What with invention, improvement and the development of skill, something closely akin to perfection has been reached in this department of industrial activity. A popular and prosperous establishment in this line in New Bremen is that of William Rabe, who has been most fortunate in establishing and maintaining a high reputation.

Like many of the best citizens of the county, he is a native of Prussia, born on the 6th of December, 1828, and the second of seven children, five of whom are living, born to John and Eliza (Wilderbrant) Rabe, natives also of Prussia, the father born in 1804. John Rabe came with his family to America in 1847 and settled on a farm in Mercer County, where he began clearing his land of the shrubs and trees with which it was covered. He bought eighty acres, erected a log cabin, and there began his career as a pioneer. His death occurred in 1890, when eighty-six years of age. While in his native land he had served three years in the Prussian army. He was an upright, honorable gentleman and was well

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respected by all who knew him. He was a member of the Lutheran Church as was also his wife, who died when sixty-four years of age.

The original of this notice was eighteen years of age when he came to America with his parents. He enjoyed excellent educational advantages in his youth and was early trained to the duties of the farm, having passed his entire life while in Germany on the farm. He took passage for the United States from Hamburg, and at the end of eleven weeks landed in New Orleans. Soon afterward he came up the river to Cincinnati and thence by canal to Mercer County. He assisted his father in clearing the home place but found time to try his skill as a marksman on the deer and turkeys then so plentiful.

In 1852, he came to New Bremen and worked out by the day for four years, thus learning that in a large measure he must depend upon himself. In 1856, he branched out in the hardware and grocery business in partnership with his brother Henry, and they continued together for three years. After this, our subject purchased a farm in this township, and resided on it for about two years, but in 1860 he abandoned agriculture pursuits and bought the entire hardware business of his brother, continuing the business by himself up to the present time. In 1880, he purchased a large planing-mill and lumber yard, and is engaged in manufacturing doors, sashes, etc. He deals in all kinds of lumber, and as his facilities for transacting business are of an unusually complete character, he is enabled to offer special advantages to customers and to fill all orders in the promptest and most satisfactory manner. He owns a large business block of two stories, 26 x 80 feet, on Washington Street, and is one of the most prominent businessmen of New Bremen.

In 1855, Miss Louisa Grieve, a native of this county, became his wife. Her parents came to America from Germany in 1837. Three children were born to this union: Minnie, August and Matilda. Mrs. Rabe died in 1869 and in 1870 Mr. Rabe married Miss Mary Showe, a native of Auglaize County, Ohio, who was born in 1852, and to them have been born four children: Olivia, Ida, Ferd and Lillie.

Mr. Rabe is, and always has been, a Democrat. He has been a member of the City Council several terms, also City Treasurer, and has held other positions. He and Mrs. Rabe are members of the Lutheran Church, and he has been Trustee of the same for some time. He owns a large brick residence near his business block, and has a very comfortable and pleasant home. *Written before 1912. Submitted by Mrs. Viola Laut.*

Doc Riebel

Dr. Ron Riebel, New Bremen's dentist, is a native of Columbus, Ohio. He came to New Bremen shortly after graduating from Ohio State University College of Dentistry in June of 1968. He opened his practice on August 15, 1968, at 105 South Washington Street. Further professional information is contained in the business section of this book.

Dr. Riebel currently resides at 16 South Franklin Street. The large Victorian style brick home was built in 1890 by Theo. Purpus. Doc has one son, Matthew Ames Riebel, born on April 8, 1962, and one daughter, Julie Anne Riebel, born on April 1, 1964. Matt is presently a junior at University of Dayton majoring in secondary education and Julie is employed as a dental assistant in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Matt, Doc and Julie

Doc's community activities include Lions Club, New Bremen Rod & Gun Club, Athletic Boosters Association, and American Legion.

In addition, his leisure sports interests are golfing, tennis, bowling, archery, trap shooting, muzzle loader shooting, skiing, hunting, fishing, camping, and playing poker. *Submitted by Doc Riebel.*

Carl and Melba Roediger

In 1893, Carl's grandfather (Johann Heinrich) emigrated to America from Tann, Germany. He became a farmer and married Anna Eschmeyer of New Knoxville on March 3, 1898. They purchased a farm from her father in 1926 and this became the Roediger home place.

Carl's father, Elmer, was one of twelve children and grew up working on the farm as did all the children. He married Geraldine Fledderjohann of New Knoxville on March 30, 1933. He continued to farm and also got into the timber buying business later on. They had just two sons, Carl and Gene.

After graduating from high school, Carl took a course in drafting from CIT and then served two years with the U.S. Army. On his return from the service, he was employed by Stamco, Inc. of New Bremen, where he is now a Design Engineer.

Carl and his wife, Melba (Weed), of Columbus, Georgia, are the parents of two sons, Gregory and Douglas. Both graduated from New Bremen High School. Greg attended Morehead State University and now resides in Texas. Doug is married to Keri (Wellman), daughter of Charles and Marian Wellman of New Knoxville. They were the parents of one son, Benjamin Lee, who died in infancy. Doug is employed by Hoge Lumber Company and is also a student at Wright State.

Melba is employed as Librarian for the New Bremen Branch Library. *Submitted by Melba Roediger.*

Elmer and Geraldine Roediger

In 1954, Elmer and Geraldine Roediger bought the

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Roediger Family farm from the estate of his mother, Anna, who died on February 19, 1958. The farm is located on Lock Two Road, Lot 2, Section 1, about two miles from New Bremen.

This property belonged to Anna's father, Adolph Eschmeyer, the first mayor of New Knoxville. It had been purchased in 1901 from Christian Kettler. Anna and her husband, John Henry (Johann Heinrich) Roediger had bought the farm from her father in 1926.

Elmer's father emigrated to America in 1893 from Tann, Germany. He married Anna on March 3, 1898. She was born in New Knoxville, the daughter of Adolph and Elizabeth (Fenneman) Eschmeyer.

John Henry was a farmer, beekeeper and an avid sportsman, all of which he enjoyed until his death on February 4, 1952. He and Anna were the parents of thirteen children, twelve of whom survived.

Elmer and the former Geraldine Fledderjohann of New Knoxville were married on March 30, 1933. Her parents were George and Sarah (Holtkamp) Fledderjohann. He was engaged in farming and they lived nearby the family farm, moving onto it a second home on the property in 1941. This house was later sold and moved across the road.

They are the parents of two sons, Carl and Gene. Carl is married to the former Melba Weed of Columbus, Georgia. He is employed as a Design Engineer for Stamco, Inc. of New Bremen. They also are the parents of two sons, Greg and Doug.

Gene and his wife, Grace (Settlage), live on and farm the home place now. They are the parents of two children, Barbara and David.

Elmer retired from farming in 1975, but continues to work at his timber buying business on a part-time basis. They will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1983. *Submitted by Melba Roediger.*

Ruedebusch Family

Earliest records of the family found in Germany are of Ahlert Ruedebusch who was born in 1764 in Bigstedt, Amt Harpstedt, Hannover. Albert and his wife, Margaretha Heitshausen Reudebusch, were parents of Johann who was born in the same village in 1797. Records show that Johann married Anna Stover of Hiligenloh, Ehrenburg, Hannover, in 1824. This couple and their first two children, Margaretha and Gerhard, emigrated from Germany in the span of years between 1829 and 1834.

Once in the New Bremen area, the family resided in St. Marys Township of Mercer County. In 1854, the son, Gerhard Ruedebusch, married Anna Neins who was born in 1836 in St. Marys Township. Their first child was a son, John Gerhard, who was born on December 10, 1855. John lived his entire life in the New Bremen area engaged in farming with his family. On June 1, 1882, he married Rosina Rempe of New Bremen. This couple's first child was also a son, Henry Deitrich, who was born on April 19, 1883, in Jackson Township. Their son followed the family tradition of farming, living at various locations in Jackson Township and in later life moving to the Lock Two area.

Emma Kuest became the wife of Henry Ruedebusch on October 29, 1908, in a ceremony held at the bride's home. They became the parents of seven children: Orville, Paul, Richard, Willis, Wilfred, Margaret and Norman.

Three of the family are living. On December 25, 1934, Orville married Dorothy Lietz. They have one daughter, Joyce. She is a teacher in the South Western City School District, Grove City, Ohio. After the death of Dorothy on February 21, 1967, Orville was married to Irene Blanke on September 30, 1971. Orville was the Postmaster at New Bremen and retired with forty-seven years of postal and military service.

Margaret married Byron Slattery on May 10, 1941. They became the parents of three sons: Douglas, Charles and Kenneth. On August 31, 1982, Margaret retired from the office of the Probate Court in Auglaize County.

Norman married Althea Slattery on September 6, 1952. They have one son, Bruce, and a daughter, Susan Ruedebusch. Norman owns and operates the Slattery Service Station in Wapakoneta, Ohio. *Submitted by Orville Reudebusch.*

Donald and Carol Ruese

Donald Allen Ruese, born on June 12, 1939, is the son of Howard and Alice Bushman Ruese of New Bremen. He married Carol Sue Oldiges, born on November 14, 1940. She is the daughter of Wallace and Martha Doak Oldiges of Minster. They are the parents of three children: Timothy Lee, born on August 5, 1962; Caren Annette, born on September 6, 1966; and Suzanne Nicole, born on July 21, 1972.

Don graduated from New Bremen High School and has been employed at Beatrice Foods since his graduation. Carol graduated from Minster High School and St. Rita's Hospital School of Nursing. She is employed at Joint Township District Memorial Hospital in St. Marys. The Rueses reside at 119 North Jefferson Street. *Submitted by Carol Ruese.*

Henry J. and Alice Schmidt

Dr. Henry J. Schmidt, a well-known veterinary surgeon, was a native of Auglaize County, and resided in New Bremen nearly all his life. He was born on January 13, 1867, and was the son of Henry and Louise (Koch) Schmidt, both natives of Germany. Henry J. Schmidt, Sr. started his veterinary practice in New Bremen in 1836 - three years after the town was founded. Henry, Sr's. mother was a medical doctor in Germany before coming to the United States. Dr. Henry Schmidt, Jr. was widely known as a master in his profession and had a clientele that extended into the far reaches of the area around New Bremen. His activity covered fifty years of intensive application. He operated a hospital in connection with his practice and invariably had a stableful of patients to enjoy his ministering care. He manufactured stock foods and medicine and was equipped with a battery of electrical devices for specific treatments.

Dr. Schmidt was reared on the home farm and received his early schooling in the district schools of his home neighborhood. At fourteen years of age he entered the Columbia Veterianary College in New York and graduated from that institution in 1886. Returning to New Bremen, he opened his office for the practice of veterinary medicine. One year later he moved to Delphos for three years, and then returned to New Bremen where he continued his practice until his death in 1934.

He married Alice Huenke, daughter of Henry Huenke, a

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well-known farmer in the New Bremen area. To this union were born two children: Leonard H. and Goldie G. Dr. and Mrs. Schmidt also raised Marguerite Koop from the age of six months. Marguerite married Richard Kunning and now resides in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Goldie Schmidt graduated from New Bremen High School, attended Denison University, and graduated from Miami University with a degree in Education. She also attended Columbia University, Ohio State University, Chicago University, Wisconsin University, and the University of Cincinnati. She subsequently taught Home Economics in Covington, Grandview and Cincinnati. Goldie now resides at Friendship Village, in Dayton.

Leonard H. Schmidt graduated from New Bremen High School and after attending the Veterinary College in Toronto, Canada and the Indiana Veterinary College, he graduated from Ohio State University with his degree in Veterinary Medicine. Leonard started the practice of veterinary medicine in New Bremen in the year 1924, and was active in that profession until his death in 1973. He manufactured some of his own medicines and sold them under the name of The Schmidt Chemical Company.

In 1914, he married Helen (Klopf) of Piqua. To this union were born three children: Dottie L., who is married to J.W. Boesel; Alice C.; and one daughter who died in infancy.

Alice Schmidt married Paul K. Wissman, son of Grover and Amanda (Deitemeyer) Wissman. Paul graduated from New Bremen High School and entered The Ohio State University. In 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force and served as a pilot in the European Theater of Operations. After three years in the service, he was employed by the Minster Machine Company where he worked in the Engineering and Service Departments and he presently serves as Manager of Technical Publications. Alice graduated from New Bremen High School and attended Miami University and Wright State University while being employed at the Auglaize School.

Paul and Alice have two sons: Terry Leonard, who after graduating from New Bremen High School, attended The Ohio State University and graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He spent four years as a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. He was stationed at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, California, and while there earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Golden Gate University. He is a registered Professional Engineer and presently serves as Vice President of Engineering at the Minster Machine Company. Married to Sally Andrews, daughter of Charles and Joan Andrews of Dayton, they have two daughters, Sherri and Tracy. They reside in New Bremen.

Jack Paul Wissman graduated from New Bremen High School and graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1974, with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He is a Certified Public Accountant. He accepted a position with Arthur Anderson and Company in Tampa, Florida, where he worked six years. Two years ago he became Vice President of Finance and Administration with Lamalie Associates of Tampa. Jack resides in Temple Terrace, Florida. *Submitted by Alice Wissman.*

John and Marie Schowe

Johann Heinrich Schowe was born in Liener, Kattenvenne, Germany, and died in Lengerich, Westfalen, Germany on December 3, 1827, at the age of fifty-eight years and eleven months, according to the records of the Evangelische Kirchengemeinde, Lengerich, Wechte, Germany. His wife was A. Marie Sophia, born Schmiehrs.

Their son, Heinrich Wilhelm Schowe, was born on May 15, 1807, in Lengerich, Wechte, Hanover, Germany. He emigrated to America in 1838, with his wife Sohpia Elisabeth Brockriede Schowe, who was born in 1801, and their three children: Sophia Catherine Bernhendine, born on April 26, 1830; Anne Sophia Elizabeth, born on April 25, 1883; and Herman Heinrich Wilhelm, born on October 26, 1837. They settled in German Township, Auglaize County.

Another son, Henry William, was born to them on February 15, 1839, and the mother died on March 31, 1839.

Heinrich Wilhelm then married Katharina Maria Koster on January 14, 1840. They had several children.

The youngest son, Henry William, married Christina Louise Heitkamp, born on November 28, 1842. Her parents were Henry Heitkamp and Christine Elsabein Meckstroth. Their children were Amelia Schowe (Heil); Eliza, who married a Maurer; and a son, Henry William, Jr., who was born on February 17, 1873. He married Emma Wilhelmina Soelman, born on July 16, 1880, and the daughter of Herman Henry Soelman and Anna Catherine Caroline Wuebbling. They had four children: Reverend Herbert Herman Henry, born on May 12, 1905 and married to Helen D. Weasch. Herbert and Helen are the parents of Walter James and Susan (Schowe) Helgeson. Esther Caroline Louise, born on March 29, 1909; Bertha Marie, born on October 3, 1914; and Lillian E., born on June 15, 1919, are the other three.

Bertha Marie married Walter Louis King. Their daughter is Gloria Ann (King) Ludlum, who was born on February 22, 1943, in Lima and married Nathaniel Ludlum, Jr. *Submitted by Lilian Schowe and Bertha Schowe King.*

Lawrence and Louise Schwartz

Lawrence E. Schwartz is the son of Adam and Josephine (Schulze) Schwartz of Rural Route 1, New Bremen. Lawrence had six brothers and two sisters. Four of the sons served in the service in World War II.

Lawrence graduated from New Bremen High School in 1937. After working a few years he was called into the service on January 7, 1942, at Camp Perry. He was an automotive mechanic in the Tank Batallion. He served three years, eight months and sixteen days. He returned to the United States from Marseilles, France on September 7, 1945, with an honorable discharge on September 29, 1945. While in the service he was in various campaigns and battles which included Naples, Foggies Rhineland, Rome Arno, Southern France and Central Europe.

After his discharge, Lawrence and his brother, Louis, purchased what is now Schwartz Brothers Garage from Edward H. Bambauer.

On September 25, 1946, Lawrence married Louise M. Rutschilling, daughter of Henry and Magdalena Rutschilling of Maria Stein. Lawrence and Louise have four children: James of Wapakoneta; Betty, Mrs. Eugene Will, of Minster; Roger of Midland, Michigan; and Beverly, Mrs.

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Thomas Strasburg of St. Marys. Lawrence and Louise are members of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in New Bremen, the American Legion Post 241, Knights of St. John of Maria Stein, the New Bremen Rod and Gun Club and the Fraternal Order of Eagles 1391. *Submitted by Louise Schwartz.*

Louis and Rita Schwartz

Louis Schwartz and Rita Dues Schwartz of Rural Route 1, New Bremen, were married on October 20, 1946. Louis is co-owner with his brother of Schwartz Brothers Garage in Lock Two. They are the parents of Roseann Shelby, born on July 19, 1947; Dale, born on October 9, 1948; Carl, born on August 25, 1951; Werner, born on May 11, 1954; Karen, born on October 7, 1957; and Mark, born on February 13, 1963. *Submitted by Louis Schwartz.*

Urban and Corinne Schwieterman

Urban John Schwieterman (more familiarily known as "Doc" Schwieterman) was born at St. Sebastian in Mercer County on March 2, 1897. He was the seventh child of Joseph and Elizabeth (Ronnebaum) Schwieterman.

The Schwieterman family tree traces its ancestry to John Harmon Schwieterman who was born in Ankum, Hanover, Germany, on October 31, 1803, and to his wife Mary Katherine Busher. The couple emigrated to Ohio in 1836. Joseph, Urban's father, was one of the children born to that union after reaching America.

Urban attended a public school in Mercer County and then went to Cincinnati where he enrolled at Withrow High School. In 1915, he was graduated from the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy. He moved to New Bremen where he purchased the J.L. Hoffman Drug Store.

In 1928, he married Corinne Woehrmyer from Minster. She was born on December 31, 1901, to Joseph and Josephine (Fortman) Woehrmyer. She was the seventh child born to that couple.

Joseph Woehrmyer was the son of Carl August Woehrmyer, born on November 21, 1821, in Osthof, Germany. He was married to Maria Pielage, born on January 28, 1829, in Neuenkirchen, Germany.

Anton Fortman, the father of Josephine Fortman, was born on December 25, 1831, in Lohne, Germany. He was married to Maria Gerwels, born on December 7, 1841, in Minster.

Corinne was graduated from Minster High School and from Miami Jacobs Business College in Dayton. On completion of her studies she worked as a secretary for the Aetna Insurance Company in Dayton and Cincinnati. Upon the death of her mother she returned to Minster to be with her father. There she worked for the Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Urban Schwieterman and Corinne Woehrmyer were married on June 27, 1928.

Four children were born to this union. David was born on July 22, 1929. He was graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a B.S. degree in Pharmacy. He married Ruth Ann Kremer from Maria Stein. They have no children.

Donald, whose birthday is September 4, 1931, received a B.S. degree in Pharmacy at the University of Cincinnati and then received his Doctorate in Medicine from the same school. He married Marilyn Willke from Maria Stein and they have five sons: William, Joseph, James, Robert and Thomas.

Betty Jo was born on February 6, 1934. She was graduated from the College of Mt. St. Joseph in Cincinnati with a B.S. degree in nursing. She married Donald Gormley from Washington, D.C. They have one son and three daughters: David, Nan, Mara and Marijo.

Trudy, born on April 17, 1937, received her B.S. degree in education and her Master's degree in Administration from the University of Dayton. She is married to Franklin Kuenning from New Bremen and they have three sons: Kirk, Keith and Kevin.

Urban Schwieterman was a very successful businessman. He held membership in the New Bremen Civic Association, Elk's Lodge, Knights of Columbus, Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association and the National Association of Retail Druggists. For several terms he was a member of the Board of Education in New Bremen and was president of that body when he was taken in death by a heart attack on September 7, 1945.

Corinne retained ownership of the store and with the services of a pharmacist, ran the store for twenty years. She then sold it to her son, David Schwieterman, who still operates the pharmacy under the same name and at the same location.

Corinne Schwieterman is a parishioner of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in New Bremen. She is a member of the Women's Club, American Legion Auxiliary, The Circle of the Woodmen of the World, and the New Bremen Senior Citizens. *Submitted by Corinne Schwieterman.*

Lendor Sollman

My great grandfather, Christian Sollman, was born near Osnabruck, Germany, in 1811. He and his wife, Clara Maria Meyer Sollman, born in 1816, also in Germany, came to this country and settled at Brookville, Indiana. They had two children, Anna Maria Louise Sollman, born on January 23, 1839; and J. Heinrich Sollman, born on February 9, 1841.

They came to New Bremen on May 10, 1849, to a farm of about eighty-eight acres they had purchased from Herman Duhme, who had bought the farm from the Governor of Ohio, Robert Lucas, in 1835. It was known as the Piqua Land District. Mr. Duhme bought the acres from the State of Ohio for $109.88 and we still have the original deed.

Anna Maria Louise Sollman married Johann William Otte in 1863. He was born west of New Bremen on a farm. After their marriage they lived on a farm west of New Bremen. J. Heinrich Sollman married Anna Sophia Elise Hoff, who was born near New Bremen in 1843.

Then in 1867, Christian Sollman sold the farm to his son, J. Heinrich Sollman, my grandfather, for $1,000.

J. Heinrich Sollman and his wife had six children: Elizabeth, J.F. Christian, Anna, Amanda, Louise and Leander.

After the death of J. Heinrich in 1930, the land became the property of his children. Then my father, J.F. Christian Sollman, bought out his brothers and sisters and became the sole owner of this land.

My father was married to Emma Fricke in 1893. They had two sons, Lendor, born in 1904; and Arlon, born in 1907. Lendor was married to Leola M. Teeters in 1941. She was

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born in St. Marys Township in 1904. Arlon was married to Milda Waterman in 1939. She was born in 1909 near New Bremen.

After the death of J.F. Christian and his wife, Emma, the land became the property of his sons, Lendor and Arlon. In 1975, the Auglaize County Historical Society awarded a Centennial Certificate, showing that this land had been in the same family for one hundred years or more.

In 1978, Leola, wife of Lendor, died, and the following year in 1979, Arlon and his wife, Milda, died.

In September of 1981, Lendor married Elodie M. Lanfersieck, who was born in 1915 in New Bremen. Lendor Sollman is the last surviving member of his family, making this land in the Sollman family for one hundred and thirty-four years. *Submitted by Lendor Sollman.*

Elodie (Lanfersieck) Sollman

My great grandparents, Victor Lanfersieck and Catherine Knost Lanfersieck, were born in Germany. He was a stone cutter by trade until 1834, when they decided they could do better in America. They bought farm land in Van Buren Township in Shelby County. They were the parents of nine children, one of whom was my grandfather, J. August Lanfersieck, 1850-1919.

My grandfather and his brother J.F. Lanfersieck, 1842-1923, founded the Lanfersieck Plow Works in 1880. They manufactured the sulky plows and single plows, which did much to lighten the labor of the farmer. Later, a half interest of the business was sold to J.H. Grothaus, and was known as the Lanfersieck and Grothaus Company. In 1891, they erected a large new brick establishment one hundred feet wide and seventy feet deep with two stories high. Their business expanded to the assembling and manufacture of steel bridges. At this time J.H. Grothaus joined the Company and it became known as the Lanfersieck-Grothaus Company, which was maintained until 1911. These bridges were common in this area and surrounding areas and there are still some to be found. After the manufacture of plows was discontinued, the building was sold to the Auglaize Motor Car Company, where motor trucks were manufactured, and later it was known as the Auglaize Hoist and Body Company, where they manufactured dump bodies for trucks. This business went defunct and the building was later sold to McKay Woolen Mills. Later it was dismantled to make room for the Auglaize School.

My grandfather was first married to Amanda Mary Hutter of Upper Sandusky, Ohio. They had one son, Joseph William, 1880-1934, who was my father. My grandfather worked for several years in Upper Sandusky where he met my grandmother. They lived in Upper Sandusky until her death in 1882, when my grandfather and father, who was only two years old, returned to New Bremen. My father was raised in the homes of his uncles, J.F. and William H. Lanfersieck. Later my grandfather married Cora Behm, 1867-1950, and they had two sons, Fred A., 1888-1966, and Roscoe W., 1896-1956. Neither married.

On January 25, 1912, my father, Joseph W., married Josephine Bruns, 1877-1963, of Minster. They had two children. One died in infancy and Elodie Marietta was born in 1915.

My father was a barber by trade and operated his barber shop in what is now the American Budget Company, which was then known as the Lanfersieck Building. His health forced him to sell his barber shop to Grover Wissman and he continued in the insurance business, known as the Lanfersieck Insurance Agency, which he started while still barbering. He was Treasurer of the Village of New Bremen and the License Registrar at the time of his death.

My mother, Josephine, operated a millinery store in New Bremen for twelve years prior to her marriage.

I am the last surviving member of my family. I have lived all of my life in New Bremen and have worked at several office jobs. My last was in the First National Bank, where I was Assistant Cashier and Cashier for over thirty years. I retired in December of 1981. On September 12, 1981, I married Lendor Sollman of New Bremen. *Submitted by Elodie Sollman.*

Frederick Speckman

Frederick Speckman, b. 10/28/1824, d. 4/19/1912, a retired merchant, but formerly one of the most successful and prominent grain and pork dealers in New Bremen, has accumulated all his wealth by industry and good management and by shrewd, practical business principles, for he started out on his own responsibility with very little means. No man in the town is better respected or more highly esteemed than Mr. Speckman and he has a very pleasant and comfortable home here. He was born in Hanover, Germany, October 28, 1824, and comes of very long-lived families on both sides of the house, the longevity of some of his ancestors being remarkable. His father, Henry Speckman, lived to be ninety-four years of age, the grandfather was ninety-seven at the time of his death, and our subject's maternal grandmother lived to the very unusual age of one hundred and five years. The mother of our subject died at the age of seventy years.

The parents were originally from Germany and both were members of the Lutheran Church. They were the parents of seven children, only two whom are now living. The eldest son, Henry, is now residing in the Fatherland and is engaged in cultivating the soil. He is very successful in this occupation and is now seventy-four years of age. Our subject and one sister were the only ones who came to the United States. The former passed his boyhood days engaged in agricultural pursuits on his father's farm and in attending the common district schools in his native country. When seventeen years of age, he became convinced that he could better his condition in the New World and his parents at first objected to his leaving home. When fourteen years of age, he was given charge of a flock of sheep and he managed to get a few of his own. In three years' time, his own flock had increased so that when he sold them and had received the wages due him he had enough money to bring him to America.

On the 7th of October, 1841, he sailed from Bremen, and after being on the ocean seventy days and experiencing some severe storms, he landed in New Orleans, about two weeks before Christmas. He came up the river to Cincinnati and there found employment, and learned the cooper's trade. After residing there for about six years, or until the spring of 1847, he came to New Bremen, Ohio, where he had relatives and friends living, and worked at his trade here for about fifteen years, opening a shop of his own about the first thing. When he first settled here, New Bremen was quite a small village and the surrounding country was wild and

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unsettled. Mr. Speckman manufactured various kinds of barrels, for which he found a ready market either at home or in Cincinnati.

In 1863, he embarked in the grocery business and finally added drygoods, etc., until, when he retired, in 1889, the business was conducted in a double-store building. His partner, F.H.L. Neiter, had been associated with him from the very first. Mr. Speckman was twice married, first in 1846, to Miss Catherine Johnson, a native of Germany, who came with her parents to this country when quite young. She died in 1862. Nine children were born of this union, all deceased except Fred B., who has now succeeded his father in business. Mr. Speckman's second marriage took place in 1866, to Miss Lizzie Polsderfer, a native of Hanover, Germany. Three children were the fruits of this union: Wilhelmina (deceased), John and Alvena, both at home. John is associated with his elder brother in business.

When Mr. Speckman first engaged in the dry-goods business, his son Fred B. was associated with him and the firm finally became Speckman, Son & Co. A few years afterward, the firm engaged in the grain and pork business and were very successful in this. In 1889, both Mr. Speckman and Mr. Neiter retired from business, the successors being Speckman, Goll & Co., the two eldest sons of Mr. Speckman being at the head of the business. Mr. Speckman is a Republican in politics and has served two terms in the Village Council. He was also a member of the School Board eleven years and served several years as a member of the Pioneer Fire Company, being President of the same for some time. Both he and Mrs. Speckman are members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject and Mr. Neiter own three hundred acres of land in partnership besides considerable town property. He has stock in the Natural Gas Company and is one of the Directors. When he first came to this country, he had but a few dollars, and about two weeks after arriving here he was taken sick and upon recovering was $10 in debt. By industry, economy and good management, he has succeeded in accumulating a considerable amount of this world's goods and can pass the remainder of his days in peace and plenty. Written before 1912. *Submitted by Mrs. Viola Laut.*

R. Jay and Carol Stauffer

R. Jay Stauffer was born on August 30, 1939, and he lived in New Knoxville until age seventeen. His parents, Roger J. and Beatrice Cochran Stauffer, both teachers, moved from Indiana to New Knoxville in 1938. His father was with the school system there for fifteen years. R. Jay was baptized and confirmed in the First UCC (E&R) Church and in 1956, the family moved to Lima. He graduated from Shawnee High School in 1957 and received the B.S. degree from Ohio Northern University in 1961. He taught science in the Mendon-Union Schools form 1961-65 and received the M.A. degree from Ball State University in 1964. In 1965, he assumed the position of superintendent of the Mendon-Union Schools and in 1969, he accepted the position of Superintendent of the New Bremen Schools. He has held this position longer than any previous Superintendent in the local school system.

R. Jay served as president of St. Paul United Church of Christ, 1981-1982, and is currently president of a State Superintendent's Organization. He previously served as president of the Western Ohio Lung Association and also served on that board for ten years. He is a twenty-year member of the Lions Club, a 32nd Degree Mason, and a member of several other civic, service, fraternal and professional organizations. He is the oldest of three sons and his parents live in Celina. Both of his brothers and their wives are also in public education.

On July 23, 1960, he married Carol Sue Yoder in the First United Church of Christ in Lima. Carol was born on November 25, 1942, and is the daughter of Marion K. and Pearl Butcher Yoder. She grew up on a farm between Geneva and Berne, Indiana, and she graduated from South Adams High School in 1960. She was baptized and confirmed in the Cross United Church of Christ in Berne. Carol has taken college classes at Ohio Northern University and through Utah State University. She has served on the staff of the Auglaize School for ten years.

Carol is a member of several community organizations and the Eastern Star. She is the oldest of four children, two girls and twin boys, and her parents live on the same family farm today. Her father farmed and managed a coal and supply firm in Berne.

R. Jay and Carol are the parents of two sons. Ronald J. was born on June 15, 1961 and he graduated from New Bremen High School in 1979. He will graduate from The Ohio State University in 1984 with a degree in aeronautical-astronautical engineering and a Second Lieutenant commission in the United States Air Force. Robert J. was born on April 29, 1966, and will graduate from New Bremen High School in 1984. Both Ron and Rob are active in various college and school organizations.

Both R. Jay and Carol have predominately Swiss-German ancestry. The Stauffers and the Yoders both migrated from the same Alsace area adjoining Switzerland in the early nineteenth century. Both families were Mennonites and settled in the Berne, Indiana, area. The Shoemakers, on R. Jay's maternal side, and the Ridenours, on Carol's maternal side, migrated from Germany in the mid-18th century. *Submitted by R. Jay Stauffer.*

John and Mary Tangeman

John Tangeman (1848-1923) and Mary Heinfeldt Tangeman (1851-1927) lived north of New Bremen on a farm on Tangeman Road. In addition to farming, John was also a German Township Trustee. They had six children: Bill, Ed, Benjamin, Frank, Clara Tangeman Haller and Hannah Tangeman Mohrman.

Ben Tangeman married Louise Borgerding in 1903. Louise worked in a hotel on the corner of Main and First in the early 1900s. This hotel building later became Central Auto. Ben's occupation was hauling logs to the Heinfeld Saw Mill. It was located at the end of North Jefferson Street on the Lock Two Road and the horse barn is still there today. He worked at Burden and Solms Saw Mill, located on North Franklin Street and the Bell Handle Factory which is still in use today by Landmark Farm Bureau. Ben hauled logs during the day, and when the fair was running he hauled water at night to the fairgrounds. This water was used to fill a large tank which mules would jump into from a high distance above the ground. Shortly after they were married, they moved to a farm, south of Lankmark Farm Bureau, on Erie Road. They had three sons: Omer, who presently

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resides on North Main Street; Carl who presently resides in Circle Drive; and Walter, on South Canal Street. In addition to farming, Ben bought and sold horses, and plowed gardens in town.

Ben's youngest son, Walter, bought the farm later. He was married to Leola Dicke, and they had three children: Beverly Tangeman Applegate, Lois Tangeman Dicke, and Larry. After they were married, Walter worked as a mechanic at Rairdon's Garage which was located on the northwest corner of Main and Monroe, across from Schwieterman's Drugstore. He also worked for Otto Heinfeldt, who drilled wells for water. His job was to fire the boiler for the steam engine which produced the power for drilling. Along with farming, in later years he worked at Crown Controls, drove a school bus, and worked at Stamco.

Walter's son, Larry and his wife, Ruth Wuebker Tangeman, now live on this same farm today, making this the third generation to live there. They have two sons, Mark and John.

Lois Tangeman married Dennis Dicke. They presently reside on Knoxville Avenue and have two children, Doug and Lisa.

Beverly Tangeman married Don Applegate. They live on East Front Street and have three children: Diane Applegate Rose, Barbara Applegate Brodbeck and Donna Applegate Kuffner. Don moved to New Bremen in 1957. He worked at Stamco for nineteen years and is presently employed by New Bremen Machine and Tool. He has been on the New Bremen Village Council for nine years. Don has also worked part-time as an electrician for Nathan Hirschfeld Builders. He is serving in the capacity of co-chairman for the Sesquicentennial this year. *Submitted by Bev Applegate.*

Louis and Clara Tangeman

Dederich Heinrich Tangeman was born in Tweistern, Holingen, Hanover, on June 10, 1815. He was the son of Johann and Adelheid Mattson Tangeman. Dederich married Anna Margaret Wuerdemann on February 2, 1884. They purchased the present Tangeman farm on June 15, 1847, from Deiderich Henry Harms. Harms bought the farm from the State of Ohio.

Dederich and Anna were the parents of five children: Heinrich Cord, Wilhelmina, John Heinrich, Marie Anna Margaret and John Herman Henry.

Heinrich Cord married Sophie Lisette Berghorn on November 9, 1871. They had five children: Sophia M., Theodore Deitrich, Emma Wilhelmina, Bertha and Louis Henry Franklin.

Louis married Clara Catherine Niederhaus of Evansville, Indiana, in July of 1914. They moved on the home farm in August of 1919. Louis and Clara had one son, Harold Henry, born in 1919. Harold was confirmed at St. Peter's in New Bremen on March 25, 1934. He married Helen Margaret DuBois on October 9, 1942. Harold and Helen had five sons. Richard Harold, was born on April 28, 1944, and married Sharon Kaye Henschen in 1968. They have two children, Aaron Richard and Heather Janel. Ronald James was born on September 23, 1949, and married Mary Ann Scheib on November 17, 1950. They have two children, John Louis and Joy Elizabeth. Timothy Wayne was born on October 5, 1950. He married Martha Faye Moorman on August 6, 1971, and they have two children, Matthew Allen and Leslie Helen. Anthony Cort was born on December 28, 1952, and married Terri Lynn Gow. Michael Jan was born on May 24, 1954, and married Christy Lee Knasel on June 20, 1975. They have three children, Joel Michael, Joshua Harold and Daniel Lee.

Harold Tangeman attended and graduated from New Bremen High School. He entered the Air Force and served during World War II as a Second Lieutenant. His wife, Helen, graduated from the New Knoxville High School and the Lima School of Nursing.

Harold and Helen's son, Rick, graduated from New Bremen High School. He also entered the Air Force and spent time in Europe and North Africa. He later received two degrees from The Ohio State University. He studied Vocational Agriculture and graduated with a B.S. in Education. He also received a Master's degree from Ohio State. His wife, Sharon, is also a registered nurse. Rick teaches Vocational Agriculture in the high school at Maria Stein.

Ron graduated from New Bremen High School, and like his father and brother entered the Air Force. He served in Vietnam during the war. After he returned home he entered Ohio State and graduated with a degree in agriculture. Presently he is a partner in the Ful-Ri-Tan Hog Farm in Forest, Ohio.

Tim entered the army and served in the war in Vietnam after graduating from New Bremen High School. Tim attended Ohio State for several years, and then went to work for Manbeck's Nurseries in New Bremen.

Tony attended Tennessee Temple University after receiving his diploma from New Bremen High School. He graduated from TTU with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education. He taught for one year at Providence Christian School in Riverview, Florida, and then took over the operation of the print shop in the same ministry. He and his wife, Terri, who also received a B.S. in Education, are presently headed for short term missionary service in Europe and later in Africa with Trans World Radio.

Mike also attended Tennessee Temple University after graduation from New Bremen High School. Mike returned to New Bremen to assume the position of youth pastor at Calvary Chapel in Minster before graduating from Temple. He is presently in charge of the young adults at Calvary Chapel. *Submitted from "Tangeman Family History" by Terri Tangeman.*

Ernst and Christine Thiesing

Ernst Thiesing (1827-1917) married Christine Stegeman (1829-1880). Ernst was born in Germany and was a cobbler by trade. They were the parents of five children: John, Henry, George, Elizabeth and Dorothea. Two of the boys remained in New Bremen. John was a woodworker and George a miller.

John married Mary Knipple and had four children: Kathleen, Bertha, Oscar and George. Kathleen is the mother of Robert Paul; Bertha is the mother of Rachel, Dorothy Luedeke, and James Sunderman. George married Amanda C. Kettler on November 24, 1909 and they were the parents of Paul, Helen, Reuben and Grace.

Reuben, a woodworker, has followed the trade of his father and grandfather and now resides with his wife at 214 Canal Street. Paul, a pharmacist, lived in Pleasant Hill,

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Ohio, and had one son, Paul, Jr., who lives in Covington and is the father of two sons, Neil C. and Lafe M. *Submitted by Helen Herkenhoff.*

Henry Topp

Sophia Caroline Fredericka Staub was born on February 8, 1820, in Hendemtenden, Muenden, Hanover, Germany. She was married to Heinrich Carl Ludwig Topp. He was born on December 12, 1812, in Lauenforde, Nienover, Hanover, Germany. He died on July 12, 1849, of cholera. Mrs. Topp died on November 13, 1854.

Their one son, Wilhelm Johann Topp, was born in New Bremen on August 12, 1842. He was left an orphan and raised by his grandfather Staub. He married Anna Marie Klute who was born on July 15, 1840, in Kirchspiel, Belm Amt, Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany. She came to New Bremen when she was thirteen years old. They had thirteen children and four of them died at a young age.

The second oldest child was our father, Henry Topp, a prominent farmer, who lived one mile west of New Bremen for many years. He was born on November 1, 1863. On May 25, 1893,he and our mother, Sophia Tostrick, who was born on October 11, 1875, were married. She passed to her reward on May 25, 1959. Our father preceded her in death on May 27, 1953. They were blest with eight children. One was a baby girl, Bertha, who died ten days after birth.

The oldest child, William J. Topp, was born on May 29, 1894, and died in March of 1963. He married Anna Topp who was born on April 3, 1899. She died in 1967. They had six children with one who died as a baby. They are Helen, born on June 15, 1915; Irene, born on July 11, 1916; Vernon, born on March 7, 1918, and died on November 10, 1940; Kenneth, born on December 1, 1926; and Donna, born on September 15, 1931.

Kenneth Topp's two daughters are Kaye Ann (Anderson), born on April 2, 1949; and Kendra Sue (Bonifas), born on July 4, 1952. Donna Topp married Robert W. Haarmeyer and they have four children. They are Robert W. Haarmeyer, Jr., born on September 17, 1952; Kathie Ann, born on October 21, 1953; Douglas Kenneth, born on October 24, 1957; and Don Wayne, born on June 29, 1966.

Another child, Oscar Wilhelm Topp was born on August 17, 1896. He died on December 15, 1918, during the influenza epidemic.

Another child was Emil J. Topp, who was born on August 30, 1898. He was married to Luetta Wietholter, born on September 15, 1899. He died in 1977 and she died on July 24, 1931. They had two sons: Willis Topp and Everett Topp. Willis married Virginia Sollman. They are the parents of David who is the father of Tina, David, Jr., Christofer, Chad and John; and Barbara who married Tom Elsass, with one child Tonya. Everett Topp was born on May 30, 1928, and is married to Anna Mae Quellhorst. They are the parents of three sons. Gary, the oldest, is married to Katherine Bassitt and they have two children, Andrew Thomas and Elizabeth Diane. Gene Topp married Ellen Thaman, and Greg Topp married Kathleen Rupert.

Emil then married Edna Griewe Wierwille. She was born on April 20, 1902, and had one son, Charles, from a previous marriage. She died in 1979. Charles married Shirley Laut, now deceased. Their children are Michael, Rick, John and Kaye Ann. John is married to Elaine and their children are Kristin and Kent. Kaye Ann is married to Michael Pax, and they have a daughter, Emelie. Charles Wierwille married Joan and they have two sons, John and Eric.

Amanda Topp was born on June 27, 1902. She was married on May 10, 1922, to Victor Hirschfeld, born on February 3, 1898. They have four children. Wallace, born April 11, 1923, married Edna Wiehe, born on August 24, 1921. Their marriage was on April 11, 1946. Their four children are Judy, born on November 1, 1948, and married to Dale Stemen; Brian Hirschfeld, born on April 18, 1951; Craig, born on August 10, 1955, and died on March 27, 1978; and Eric, born on July 18, 1958, and married to Jana Rheinhardt.

Gloria Hirschfeld was born on April 7, 1929. She married Howard Katterheinrich and they have four children. They are Dennis who is married to Carol Alstetter; David who married Sara; Wayne who married Debra; Rhonda; and Vaughn who married Lisa Lehman.

Eldora Hirschfeld was born on August 21, 1925. She married Dan Orwig on January 21, 1946. Their children are Cherie, born on September 9, 1946; and Kathi, born on May 9, 1951, and married to Gary Hoenshell on April 19, 1969.

Shirley Hirschfeld was born on November 16, 1934, and married Donald Luedeke. They have four children, Gordon, Kimberly, Kevin and Pamela.

Leo William Topp was born on May 26, 1905, and married Luella Juliane Blumhorst, who was born on March 1, 1906, on June 28, 1928. They are the parents of three children. Robert Henry William was born on June 30, 1930. He is married to Betty Lou Lutterbeck who was born on May 10, 1930. They had two sons. The eldest was Michael Shayne who was born on December 21, 1949. He married Michele Bambauer, born on March 12, 1951. Michael died on December 11, 1972. They had one son, Michael Shayne, Jr., who was born on August 28, 1973. Their second son, Mark Robert, was born on January 31, 1952. He married Lorma Wietholter, born on April 10, 1952. Their three children are Scott Allen, born on January 14, 1974; Steve Aaron, born on May 5, 1975; and Susan Joan, born on July 30, 1976. Leo's daughter, Janice Bertha Elizabeth, was born on May 12, 1938. She married Lloyd William Schroer, born on October 22, 1935, on September 7, 1957. They have three daughters. Vicki Lynn, born on May 12, 1960 and married Timothy Scott May, who was born on August 27, 1961, on February 7, 1981. Debra Kay was born on March 9, 1963, and Lori Renee was born on May 2, 1973. Another daughter of Leo's is Bonnie Luella. She was born on January 22, 1947, and married Orville Christ Heidt, born August 8, 1945, on August 24, 1968.

Hilda Emelie Topp was born on April 24, 1908. She married William Ludwig Klute who was born on October 18, 1903. Their marriage was on June 30, 1927. One daughter, Karen Elizabeth, was born on April 20, 1941. She died on February 14, 1981. Their only granddaughter is Hollie Emelie Elizabeth who was born on January 13, 1968.

Clara Caroline Topp was born on June 12, 1912. She was married to Harry B. Schroer on June 4, 1931. He was born on October 4, 1906, and died on April 4, 1955. Their daughter, Delores, was born on June 21, 1936. She married Elton Stienecker on May 15, 1954. He was born on May 4, 1935. Their three sons are Len, born on November 26, 1960, and died on November 27, 1960; Rick who was born on

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November 9, 1961; and Mark who was born on November 20, 1963. *Submitted by: Hilda Klute.*



Henry and Sophia Tostrick Topp, May 25, 1893.



Clara Topp and Harry Schroer, June 4, 1931.



Clara Schroer, Emil, Amanda, Hirschfeld, William, Hilda Klute, Leo, Henry and Sophia, Oscar (insert).



Back: Charles Wierwille, Willis Topp and Emil Topp. Front: Everett Topp, and Edna Greiwe Wierwille Topp.



Emil Topp and Luetta Wietholter Topp.



Mark, Robert, Betty Lutterbeck Topp and Michael.

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Delores Schroer and Elton Stienecker and Mark and Rick, 1965.



Hilda (Topp) and William Klute.



Leo and Luella Blumhorst Topp.



Bonnie Topp, Orville Heidt and girls.



Victor and Mandy Hirschfeld, 13 of our 14 living grandchildren.



1982, 60th Anniversary. Shirley Luedeke, Gloria Katterhenrich, Mandy and Victor Hirschfeld, Eldora Orwig, Wallace Hirschfeld.



Karen and Hollie Klute.



Janice (Topp) and Lloyd Schroer, Debbie, Vicki May and Lori Schroer.

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May 10, 1972, Golden Anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hirschfeld.

Lafe and Marie Topp

Lafe William Topp was born on August 18, 1905, in German Township. He is the son of Julius and Rosine (Luedeke) Topp. He was married on October 12, 1933, to Marie Anna Elizabeth Otte, the daughter of Christian and Dorothea (Schelper) Otte. Marie was born on March 12, 1907, in New Bremen. Lafe and Marie spent most of their lives farming west of town. When they were younger, Lafe worked at the New Bremen Furniture Factory and Marie worked at the New Bremen Woolen Mill. They retired and moved to town in January of 1974. They have three children: Lucille, Kathleen and Stanley, all from New Bremen.

Lucille Marie Topp was born on February 28, 1938, in German Township and was married on July 1, 1961 to Lowell Joseph Francis of Russia, Ohio. He was born on December 15, 1928. They have no children. Lowell is employed as a foreman at Crown Controls. Before that, both he and Lucille were employed at Seiberling Latex Products (the former New Bremen Rubber Company). Lowell was a foreman and Lucille was a payroll clerk and bookkeeper.

Kathleen Louise Alma Topp was born on January 9, 1945, in German Township. She is not married and is employed at Crown Controls as Sales Statistician.

Stanley Lafe Topp was born on November 13, 1946, in German Township. He was married on April 18, 1970, the Jane Ellen Muter of Celina. She was born on June 21, 1947. they have one adopted son, Steven Michael, who was born on February 21, 1978. Stanley is Assistant Manager of Lyon's Electric in New Bremen. Jane graduated from the Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing and is employed as a registered nurse at Joint Township District Memorial Hospital in St. Marys. All of the above are members of St. Paul Church except Lowell, who is a member of Holy Redeemer Church.

Both Lowell and Stanley served in the United States Army, Lowell in the Korean War and Stanley during the Vietnam Conflict. *Submitted by Mrs. Lowell Francis.*



Lafe Topp family, Christmas, 1981: Back, left to right: Stan, Jane, Kathy, Lucille, Lowell. Front: Marie, Steven, Lafe.

Topp Family

Heinrich Carl Ludwig Topp was born in 1812 in Lauenforde, Nienover, Hannover, Germany, to Johann and Ernestine (Gluch) Topp. He was married to Sophia Caroline Fredericka Staub. Sophia was born in 1820 in Hedemunden, Munden, Hannover, Germany, to Johann Wilhelm and Anna Margaretha (Wolff) Staub. They had at least three children: Johann Wilhelm Johann Heinrich, who was born February 21, 1846, and Anna Margaretha Friederieke who died at the age of eleven months in September, 1848. It was not known what became of Johann Heinrich.

Johann Wilhelm Topp was born in 1842 in New Bremen and was married to Anna Marie Elizabeth Klute, born in 1840 in Kirchspiel Belm, Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, She came to America in 1853 at the age of thirteen with her parents, Heinrich Wilhelm and Marie Elizabeth Klute. They had thirteen children: Marie Magdalene, Anna Maria Wilhelmine, Herman Heinrich Wilhelm, Eberhard Dietrich Julius, Louise Caroline, Carl Frederick, Marie Sophie Lizzette, Johann Heinrich Wilhelm, Ludwig Friedrich Wilhelm, Wilhelmine Johanna, Sophia Katharine Louise, John Frederick, Ernst Carl A. Topp. Marie Magdalene was married in 1877 to Johann Friedrich Brueggeman. They had three daughters: Mrs. Fred (Emma) Brush, Mrs. Clara Anderson, Mrs. Louise Anderson. Anna Maria Wilhelmine Topp was born in December of 1861 and died in January, 1865. Herman Heinrich Wilhelm was born in 1863, and married Sophia E. Tostrick, born in 1875. They had eight children: William John who married Anna Marie Topp, William Oscar who died at the age of twenty-two; Emil J. who married Louetta Sophia Wietholter. After her death he was married to Edna C. (Grewe) Wierwille. Bertha Wilhelmine died at five days of age; Amanda Anna married Victor Edward Hirschfeld; Leo William married Luella Juliane Blumhorst; Hilda Emilie married William Ludwig Klute and Clara C. married Harry B. Schroer. Eberhard Dietrich Julius was born in 1866 and married Rosine Marie Luedeke, born in 1877. They had five children; Mrs. Frank (Alma Anna) Mueller; Laura Catherine who died at seven months, Lafe William who married Marie Anna Elizabeth Otte; Mrs. Leonard G. (Edna Emma) Dickman; Wilson Henry who married Ruth Kohlrieser.

Louise Caroline was born in 1867 and married Herman Henry Mohrman, born in 1860. They had eight children: Wilhelmina Anna who died at one month of age; Mrs. Ernie (Flora) Scheiderer; Elmer Henry who married Hermine Topp; Raymond William who married Marie Rosine Topp; Mrs. Wm. (Grace W.) Gottschalk; Leonard Herman who married Edna Wilhelmine Wittenbrink; Harold W. who

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married Ruby Hittepole and another infant who died. Carl Frederick was born in 1869 and married Wilhelmine Marie Thieman, born in 1871. They had five children: Mrs. Wm. John (Anna Marie) Topp; Mrs. Raymond William (Marie Rosine) Mohrman; Mrs. Leo Joseph (Ida Caroline) Barhorst; Mrs. Elmer Henry (Hermine) Mohrman; and Walter Henry who married Angela Catherine Berning. Marie Sophie Lizzette was born in 1871 and died in 1874. Johann Heinrich Wilhelm was born in 1873 and died in 1874, one day after his sister. Both died of whooping cough. Ludwig Friedrich Wilhelm was born in 1874 and died in 1878.

Wilhelmine Johanna was born in 1877 and married Henry William Donnerberg, born in 1866. They had six children: Wm. John who married Helen Cora Baumgardner; Herbert Frederick who married Leona Elise Kettler; Mrs. Raymond (Anna Marie) Plattner; Elmer Henry who married Mary Elda Catherine Kauffman; Elda Henrietta and Emil William who married Grace Spees. Sophia Katharine Louise was born in 1879 and married William Frederick Luedeke, born in 1880. They had six children: Mrs. Walter (Lillian Sophia) Wuebbeling; Mrs. Robert (Elsie Anna) Arnold; Mrs. William (Frances Caroline) McNamee; Henry who married Louise Steineman; Mrs. Earl (Verona Wilhelmina) McCalley and Mrs. Herbert (Laura Sophia) Schulte. John Frederick was born in 1881 and married Clara Sophia Luise Wiehe, born in 1894. They had seven children: Louis William who married Anna Wilhelmina Becker; Mrs. Sherman (Erma) Shroyer; Mrs. Harold L. (Wilhelmina) Shroyer; Frederick who married Hilda Lefeld; Carol who married Connie Barga; Mrs. Charles (Erline) Garman and Mrs. Wilbur (Louise) Barga. Ernst Carl A. was born in 1885 and married Lucinda Amelia Stienecker, born in 1890. They had twelve children: Mrs. Richard (Adelia) Anderson; Mrs. Gerald (Viola) Sanders, Clarence who married Gertrude Magato; Frank who married Elizabeth Schaffer; Lorinne Cecilie who died at one year; Israel G. who married Rosemary Fenton; Frederick who died at birth; Mrs. Merle (Lola) Werts; Warren E. who married Patricia Ann McCollum; Mrs. Robert (Goldie) Byram; Mrs. Lester (Iva) Covault and Lester who married Ruth Stutz. *Submitted by Mrs. Lowell Francis.*

William and Sophia Tostrick

Herman Henry Tostrick was born on October 29, 1806. He came from Ladbergen, Tecklenburg, Germany, with his wife, Christina Schroder who born in 1809 and died in 1887. Accompanying them were two children, Sophia Elizabeth Tostrick who was nine years old; and William Henry Tostrick, who was five years old in the year 1845.

The home farm came into the possession of the Tostrick family on February 15, 1849, from Jacob Maurer to Adam Paul to Herman Henry Tostrick for $317. The original deed is still in the posession of the Tostrick family.

William Henry Tostrick, born on October 15, 1840, married Sophia Aufterhaar who was born in Ladbergen, Germany, on April 22, 1846. The original passport of Sophia Aufterhaar, for emmigrating to North America from Prussia allegiance, of January 28, 1870, is still preserved. They had three children: Carl Henry, born on May 23, 1871, and died on August 29, 1871; Christina Emilie, born on May 10, 1873, and died on November 21, 1958; and Sophia Wilmena Elizabeth, born May 10, 1873, and died on November 21, 1958. Sophia Aufterhaar Tostrick died on October 31, 1875. Then William Henry married Wilhelmina Brunsman who was born on June 2, 1851, in Lengrich, Prussia. They had two children: John Edward, born on June 22, 1878, and died on August 13, 1878, and William George, born on October 6, 1879, and died on September 16, 1969. They continued to operate a forty acre farm and started a business with a grist mill for grinding grain.



Esther and Wilson Tostrick



Beverly, Barbara, William and Brian Tostrick



Steven, Diane, John and Karen Tostrick

William George Tostrick married Anna M. Wehrman on January 28, 1904. She was born on March 20, 1880, and died on September 6, 1950. They had three children: Esther, born on December 12, 1904; Walter, born in 1906, and died in 1906; and Wilson, born on April 14, 1910, and died on February 28, 1980.

Wilson Carl Tostrick married Esther Alma Thielk on June 6, 1934. They have two children: William Edward, born on June 20, 1939, and John Wilson, born on November 3, 1943. Wilson was active in the Farm Bureau Council, president of the County Farm Bureau, president of St. Paul's United Church of Christ and was on the Board of Directors of Miami Valley Milk Producers' Association.

William Edward Tostrick married Barbara Ellen Schwarck on April 4, 1959. They have two children: Beverly Ann, born on July 18, 1967, and Brian William, born on July 12, 1970. William is presently vice-president of St.

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Paul's United Church of Christ, a member of the New Bremen Emergency Squad and was a member of the Board of Education for eight years with two years as president.

John Wilson Tostrick married Karen Sue Moyer on August 29, 1964. They have three children: Diane Sue, born on December 6, 1968; Mark John, born on November 24, 1970, and died on November 25, 1970; and Steven Jonathan, born on September 20, 1972. John is active in the Farm Bureau Council, was past president of Landmark and served on the New Bremen Emergency Squad. He is an ordained minister and serves as interim minister for churches in the area when they are in need.

William Tostrick and family are presently residing on the original forty acre farm and are engaged in farming with the John Tostrick family. The farm presently includes four hundred and thirty acres, a ninety-five cow dairy and beef feeding operation. *Submitted by Barb Tostrick.*

Johann Friedrich Venneman

Johann Friedrich Venneman was born in Hannover. He had two sisters, Anna Margaretha and Maria Dorothea, born in Kirchspiel, Osnabruck, Hannover. Maria was born in 1812 and married Berend Friedrich Harms, who was born in 1802 in Prussia.

Johann and Catherine had a son, Gerhard Wilhelm, born in German Township on July 14, 1848, and died on May 30, 1914. He married Luise Peter on May 22, 1873. She was born in Levern, Westphalia, on July 1, 1851, and died on March 20, 1949. Gerhard and Luise had three children, Friedrich Wilhelm who was born on February 9, 1874, and died in 1957; Jacob August who was born on August 6, 1875, and died on July 14, 1877; and Franz Gerhard who was born on July 5, 1878, and died on June 24, 1964. Friederick Wilhelm's children were Rosina Fenneman Linninger, who was born on December 17, 1881, and died on March 22, 1972; Alvine Marie Louise Fenneman Heitkamp who was born on September 12, 1885, and died on February 23, 1973; Emila Sophia Fenneman Waterman who was born on February 12, 1888, and died on August 2, 1962; and Lillian Marie Fenneman Gilmore who was born on August 17, 1890, and died on August 3, 1980. Franz Gerhard Vennemann, also known as George Fenneman, married Elsie Irene Redman on August 13, 1917. Their daughter, Georgia Irene Fenneman, was born on May 7, 1918, and she married Chester Quellhorst. They had two daughters, Patricia Irene, born in 1947, and married to Joseph Ambrosic; and Craig George, born in 1949, and married to Jacqueline Curl.

Herman Heinrich Vornholt Family

Herman Heinrich Vornholt was born in Bersenbruck, Hanover, Germany, on April 18, 1829. He came to the United States with his parents at a very early age. Marie Elizabeth Meier was born in Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany, on September 7, 1834. She came to the United States at the age of three in 1837. She was raised by foster parents after her parents' deaths. The time of their arrival in New Bremen is not known. Herman and Marie were married in January of 1853 and lived on a farm just west of old 66 on Lock Two Road. The farm is now owned by Nicholas Dicke.

Herman and Marie Vornholt were one of the families that helped found Zion's Reformed Church. They had ten children, namely: Elizabeth Vornholt Albers, Louise Vornholt Schaefer, Frederick Vornholt, Anna Vornholt, William Vornholt, Caroline Vornholt Mesloh, Benjamin Vornholt, Clara Vornholt, Edwin Vornholt, and Julius Vornholt.

The seventh child, Ben Vornholt, was born on the home farm on December 15, 1868. He married Anna Kuck, who was born in New Knoxville on December 20, 1871. They were wed on the home farm, where they continued to live, on August 15, 1891. They had nine children, namely: Alfrieda Vornholt Moeller, Esther Vornholt Conradi (Mrs. Herman Freytag), Olga Vornholt, Huldreich Vornholt Vaughn, Norma Vornholt Sharp, Pauline Vornholt Gilberg, Mildred Vornholt Schulenberg, Helen Vornholt Tecklenberg, and Herman Vornholt.

Ben and Anna farmed until 1905, when they moved to New Bremen. He then gathered cream for the White Mountain Creamery. He used a large wagon drawn by two horses. His route covered a thirty-five mile area and several times a week he would go as far as Willowdell and Osgood. In severe cold weather he would use heated bricks and a kerosene lantern to keep warm. He later worked afternoons and evenings hauling cream from the St. Marys White Mountain plant to be processed in New Bremen. He then purchased the first truck off the assembly line from the Auglaize Hoist and Body Company. That proved to be very costly because the truck still had many flaws, and he had many breakdowns and repairs needed to be made.

In 1919, he was hired as custodian of schools by the Board of Education. He took care of both the old elementary and the four room Central High School. In severe weather, many times he stayed all night to keep the coal furnaces going. When the new high school was built on Walnut Street, he was transferred there. At that time he was the only custodian, but if extra help was needed he hired young boys to help sweep. He had to retire at the age of 70 which was in 1939.

During the war he was hired as janitor at the Seiberling Rubber Plant. He was also the custodian of Zion Reformed Church. Later, he also did janitorial work part-time at Crown Controls. Mrs. Vornholt helped with the family income by rooming and boarding teachers during the school year. She was a lover of flowers and had a beautiful garden in the yard. Ben and Anna Vornholt were privileged to celebrate their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary with family and friends. Ben died at the age of 89 on March 17, 1957, and Anna died on June 16, 1958, at the age of 87.

Pauline Vornholt married Paul Gilberg on June 8, 1926. They have five children: Alice who married Duane Hartwig, John who married Joyce Quellhorst, Jane who married Albert Talan, Kathryn who married Arthur Beel, and William Gilberg. Pauline attended Bowling Green State University for one year, and taught fifth grade in New Bremen for five years. Later she taught first grade. She attended summer school and took extension courses to complete two years of study. She is the past president of the Parents and Teachers Association, the Women's Club, and the Auglaize Council for Retarded Children.

Paul Gilberg graduated from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and received his embalmer's and funeral director's license in 1923. His business experiences are listed elsewhere in the article about the Gilberg stores. He was on

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the Board of Education for twelve years, and served as president for eight years. He was the Past Commander of the Woodmen Lodge. Paul and Pauline helped organize the Auglaize School for Retarded Children in 1953. Paul was president of the council for several years and was also president of that school board. They helped organize the New Bremen Senior Citizen's group in 1969. Paul was director of the program for about ten years. They are both still active and are presently serving as tour directors. They will have the privilege of celebrating their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary in June of this year. *Submitted by Pauline Gilberg.*



December 11, 1982, Wilson, Ethel and Thomas Westerbeck.

Wilson Westerbeck

John Casper Westerbeck, Wilson's great grandfather, was born on August 19, 1823, in Dielingdorf, Amt Groneberg, Hannover, Germany. He was a laborer on the Miami and Erie Canal after his arrival in America. On September 2, 1846, he married Anna Engel Wissman. She was born on August 17, 1820, in Ellerbeck, Amt Osnabruck, Hannover, Germany. John Casper died on April 27, 1849, in German Township, but Anna did not die until December 3, 1900, also in German Township. They had one son, John Frederick, who was born on October 29, 1847. He was married on March 4, 1875, to Lisette Sophia Luebkeman. She was born in Caarver, Hannover, Germany, on October 30, 1853. John Frederick died on July 19, 1901, in Van Buren Township in Shelby County, and Lisette died on November 3, 1920, in Van Buren Township.

John Frederick and Lisette had ten children. Charles was born on February 26, 1876, and died on August 2, 1937. His sisters and brothers were: Maria Charlotta Louise, 1877-1881; Amanda, 1878-1938; Albert C., 1881-1938; Frederick A., 1882-1925; Maria D., 1883-1918; Hilda M., 1885-1974; William A., 1886-1951; Irwin H. 1888-1957 and Harry J., 1893-1910.

Charles F. Westerbeck married Amanda May on November 16, 1906. She was born on September 1, 1886, and died on July 4, 1969. Charles was a farmer. They had seven children: Elmer, 1908-1977; Wilson, 1909-; Lavera, 1911-; Mildred, 1913-; Carl, 1915-; Lucille, 1916-; and Clara, 1918-.

On September 14, 1940, Wilson Westerbeck married Ethel B. McCay, born on January 21, 1911. Wilson retired from Stamco, Inc. in 1974 as a machinist. Ethel graduated from the Christ Hospital School of Nursing in Cincinnati in 1932, and retired from the Joint Township District Memorial Hospital in January of 1976. One son was born to this marriage. Thomas W., born on January 30, 1946, graduated from New Bremen High School in June of 1964. He graduated from Ohio Northern University at Ada with a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering in June of 1969, Miami of Ohio at Oxford with a Master's in Business Administration in June of 1971, and from the University of Dayton with a Juris Doctorate in May of 1982. He passed the bar exam in February of 1982, and is a district sales manager for Motorola in Dayton. *Submitted by Wilson Westerbeck.*



Richard and Anna Louise Wiedeman

Richard and Anna Louise Wiedeman

Richard H. Wiedeman of 28 South Main Street was born on July 6, 1918, at Minster. He was married to Anna Louise Nieter on October 3, 1940, at St. Paul's Church in New Bremen. Anna was born on March 31, 1918, near New Bremen. Their children are Gary R. and Ronald P. Gary married Emily Harlamert and they have four children: Neil, Russ, Dana and Shelly. Ronald is living in Champaign, Illinois, and is married to Robin Weil.

Richard's father, Emil H. Wiedeman, was born on December 22, 1877, and died on June 16, 1957. Richard's mother was Emma Niehing Wiedeman. She was born on May 27, 1885, and died on September 15, 1954.

Anna Louise's father was Wilson W. Nieter, who was born on January 24, 1892, and died on November 10, 1975. Her mother is Rose Sophia Gruebmeyer Nieter, who was born on December 12, 1895. She lives at 6 North Herman Street.

After graduating from the International Business College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Richard began working for the Republic Shoe Company. A short time later, he joined the purchasing department of the New Idea Farm Equipment Company in Coldwater, Ohio. After more than forty-two years with New Idea, he retired in 1980. He is presently serving his third term (twelve years) as mayor of New Bremen.

He served in the European Theater of Operations during World War II with the United States Navy. He is an Assistant Commander of the American Legion Pose #241, and has been both president and treasurer of St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

Anna Louise worked as a secretary to the late Harry Kominsk, General Manager of Beatrice Foods in New Bremen.

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Since her marriage, she has been a homemaker and has been active as a Sunday School teacher, and a member of the Busy Twelve organization, and various other church related activities.

Claus Heinrich Wiegman

Claus Heinrich Wiegman was born in Schledehausen, Osnbruck, Hanover, Germany, on June 24, 1805. He married Maria Elizabeth Koester. They came to America in 1855. They had four daughters and two sons. He died on February 25, 1898, and his wife died on September 3, 1898.

Claus Heinrich and Maria Elizabeth's son, John Henry Wiegman, who was born on January 12, 1835, married Wilhelminia Elizabeth Schwaberow on April 26, 1860. They had six sons and two daughters. They lived on East Monroe and his occupation was a cooper. Wilhelminia Elizabeth was born on February 2, 1838, and her parents were Christian Henry Schwaberow and Anna Catherine Sophie Schmidt. She died in 1914. John Henry died on March 19, 1914.

John Henry and Wilhelmina Elizabeth's daughter, Louise Dorothea Carolina Wiegman, was born on January 21, 1861. She married John Henry Schneider from New Knoxville. They had five sons and one daughter. They lived in New Knoxville and owned a grocery store. Around 1896, they moved to New Bremen. John Henry's parents were Henry Schneider and Charlotte Wusthauf. He was born on August 20, 1857, and died on September 25, 1916. Louise Dorothea died on September 23, 1944.

Louise Dorothea and John Henry's son, Lendor Carl Ludwig Schneider, was born on December 9, 1899, and he married Salome Timmerman in 1922. She was from Kettersville and her parents were Frederick Timmerman and Martha Theiman. Salome was born in 1899 and died in 1957. Lendor and Salome had one son and one daughter. They lived in different places in New Bremen, and Lendor Schneider worked at the woolen mills at one time and finally at Stamco where he retired from. He will be eighty-four years old this year and still lives in New Bremen.

Lendor and Salome's son, Donald Frederick Schneider, was born on October 23, 1926. He married Dorothy Rogers from St. Marys on October 23, 1946. They have four daughters. Dorothy was born on December 3, 1930. Donald and his wife live in New Bremen.

Lendor and Salome's daughter, Leta Wanta Schneider, was born on October 17, 1922. She married Vernon Nicholas Cunningham from Toledo, Ohio, on December 4, 1948. His parents were Floyd Cunningham and Mary Lorang. He was born on May 1, 1924. They have one daughter and one son. Leta Cunningham died on December 5, 1967. Vernon Cunningham retired from Goodyear and still resides in New Bremen.

Leta and Vernon's daughter, Sandra Kay Cunningham, was born on December 23, 1946. On June 26, 1965, she married Richard Charles Bauer from Spencerville, Ohio. He was born on December 1, 1945, and his parents are Floyd C. Bauer and Elsie M. Lois. Sandra and Richard have two daughters, Ronda and Susan and one son, Bob. They live in New Bremen.

Leta and Vernon's son William Kenneth Cunningham, was born on June 19, 1949. On March 1, 1968, he married Mary Beth Colvin from St. Marys. She was born January 19, 1951, and her parents are Walter S. Colvin and Harriet Frances Judy. They have two daughters and still live in New Bremen.

Sandra and Richard's daughter, Rhonda Sue, was born on February 15, 1966. On June 12, 1982, she married Gregg Alan Wibbeler from St. Marys. He was born on June 27, 1960, and his parents are Henry Wibbeler and Dorothy Timmerman. Rhonda and Gregg have one daughter. They live in St. Marys, Ohio. *Submitted by Sandra Bauer.*

Johann William Wiemeyer

Johann William Wiemeyer was born on March 1, 1815, in Kirchspielbelen, Osnabruck, Hanover, Germany. He came to the United States in 1834 and settled in Springfield. He came to New Bremen in 1836 where he was a contractor on the Miami-Erie Canal. He married Maria Engel Bruggemann, born on September 23, 1817, in Dalter Belm, Osnabruck. Their marriage took place on November 10, 1840. His parents were Christoph Heinrich Wiemeyer and Catherine Elizabeth Grotman. Her parents were Eberhard Heinrich Bruggemann and Maria Elise Dovelmeier. Johann and Maria were the parents of Christopher Heinrich, born on August 27, 1841; Anna Maria, born on November 27, 1842; Eberhard Heinrich, born on December 25, 1845; and Adam Wielhelm, born on April 9, 1847.

J.W. Wiemeyer next married Louise Adelaide Wilhelmina Knost on October 10, 1848. She was born on April 24, 1832, and died on July 30, 1849. His third wife was Henerietta Charlotta Christine Schwetter. Two children were born of this marriage; Christian Frederick Wilhelm, born on September 2, 1854; and Sophia Henerietta Charlotta, born on March 7, 1852.

J.W.'s fourth wife was Sophia Elisabeth Solms who married him on November 8, 1855. They were the parents of Catherine Maria Louise, born on December 10, 1856; and Johann Frederick Wilhelm, born on July 8, 1858.

Johann William worked on the construction of the canal until the opening of naviagation when he procured a boat which he operated until 1845. At this time his brother, Christopher, entered into the partnership and assumed the position of the captain of the boat. J.W. gave his attention to the home business which consisted of an extensive trade in general mechandise and produce. He also conducted heavy operations as a grain and hog dealer which he continued until his brother's death in1849. At this time, the boat was sold, but it really remained in the service of Mr. Wiemeyer, whose trade was fully equal to the capacity of the boat. The present brick warehouse at Washington and Front Streets and a packing house are evidence of his industry and enterprise. He continued in thise enterprises until his death on April 19, 1858.

One of J.W.'s sons, Fred, who was born in 1858, ran a general store in New Bremen. He was married to Mary Reichle. They had a daughter, Bertha, who married Ray Hawkey. He later married Alinda Lanfersieck.

One of J.W.'s daughters, Sophia Charlotta Henerietta, born on March 7, 1852, married Louis Kettler. He was born on November 9, 1843, and died on April 15, 1911. She lived until December 3, 1935. They were the parents of Oscar, Clara, Flora, Frank, Amanda, Pauline, Lydia and Hugo. The Kettlers were the grandparents of the Jacob S. King family and the George Thiesing family. *Submitted by Helen Herkenoff.*

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Jerome and Doris Wissman

Jerome Anthony and Doris Ruth (Oldiges) Wissman moved to 319 South Washington Street on May 1, 1952. At that time they had three children: Mary Elena, Margaret Kay and Dale Joseph. Later Jean Alvina and Rose Marie were born. A native of New Bremen, Jerome had moved to Ft. Loramie when he was several months old, after the death of his father, Toney Wissman. Jerome's mother, Alvina Seger Hoelscher Wissman, who was eighty-nine on September 21, lives in Fort Loramie. Doris grew up in Minster and is the daughter of Albert and Nora (Beckman) Oldiges.

Jerome and Doris were married on May 18, 1946, after he was discharged from the United States Navy in which he had served three years. He was employed as a machinist at Stamco for the past sixteen years and has also been a chef at the Wooden Shoe Inn in Minster for seventeen years. He began as a huckster driver for Willman's Department Store in Fort Loramie before World War II, sold Meadow Gold Ice Cream and Moorman's Feed. He drove the bus for the Auglaize School for the Retarded Children.

Doris is also a former employee, from 1942-1946, at the Wooden Shoe Inn. While the family lived in Minster, she began a writing career, and was the Minster news correspondent for the St. Marys Evening Leader for three years. After the family came to New Bremen, Mrs. Wissman served as the New Bremen news correspondent for eight newspapers and two radio stations between the years of 1957 and 1969. At that time she became a full-time employee of the Evening Leader and later dropped the correspondence affiliations. She served as reporter and later as area news editor until she quit her position on January 15, 1981.

Mary Wissman Giambalvo is a dispatcher with the Fairborn Police Department. She and her children, Elena, Anthony, and Cherie reside in Fairborn. Mary served three years in the United States Air Force and is studying economics at Wright State University.

Margaret Wissman is married to Michael George. They and their two children, Angela and Earl, live in Osgood. Mike is a machinist at Minster Machine Company, and Margie is manager of the Technical Publications Department at Baumfolder Corporation in Sidney, and editor of the Baumfolder quarterly.

Dale Wissman married Nancy Grieshop of Osgood. They and their children, Eric, Andrew, and Jennifer, reside in Beavercreek. Nancy is a practical nurse who specializes in physical therapy. A three-year veteran of the United States Air Force, Dale has a master's degree in psychology. A Civil Service employee, he is a research chemist with the Air Force Human Research Division.

Jean Wissman is married to Clayton Harmon, formerly of St. Marys. They and their daughter, Andrea, live in Muscatine, Iowa. Clay is in his final year in undergraduate work in electrical engineering. He attends Iowa State University in Iowa City. A graduate of Wright State University at Dayton, Jean is a teacher in the learning disabilities and educable mentally retarded division of the Muscatine School System.

Rose Wissman is the wife of Victor Miller, a salesman with the Amway Corporation. The couple lives in Burkettsville. Rose is employed as a cook at the Hotel Bar in New Bremen. *Submitted by Doris Wissman.*

Kenneth R. and Lois A. Wissman

Kenneth Richard Wissman was born in Dayton on May 3, 1927. He is the son of Richard Wissman (deceased) and Marie H. (Metz) Wissman. His mother resides at 16 North Main Street. He has two brothers, Lee Robert of Vandalia, Ohio, and Thomas Paul of Sterling Heights, Michigan. A sister, Delores is deceased.

Kenneth attended elementary schools in Botkins, Wapakoneta and Toledo. He attended high school in Ft. Loramie and is a graduate of New Bremen High School.

He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 and served aboard an LST ship in the Pacific and China Seas during World War II. He was discharged from the Navy in 1946. He attended Miami University in Oxford, and worked for his Uncle Wilbur Hegemier's Caulking Service in New Bremen. In 1949 he became a life insurance agent for Western and Southern Life Insurance Company. In 1959, he began work as a substitute clerk-carrier for the United States Post Office in New Bremen. In 1969, he became Assistant Postmaster, and upon the retirement of Postmaster O.C. Ruedebusch in 1975, he was appointed Postmaster and still remains in that position.

On April 27, 1952, he and Lois Ann Combs, New Bremen, were married in Zion Church by the Reverend Lewis G. Fritz. Lois is the daughter of Forest W. Combs (deceased) and Hazel Enda (Kies) Combs, who resides at 306 South Washington Street. She was born on December 26, 1931, in the home of her grandfather, William Combs, at 3 West Plum Street, New Bremen. She attended school in New Bremen and graduated in 1949. In 1946 she was employed at Schulenberg's Drug Store and Purpus and Boesel Insurance Agency. After graduation she worked in Accounting at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company at St. Marys until 1953. In 1967 she began working at Westerheide and Hellwarth Insurance, and continued working for the Hellwarth Insurance Agency until 1974, when it changed to The New Bremen Insurance Agency, Inc. She is still employed there as a licensed agent and secretary.

After their marriage, Ken and Lois lived in the William Mackenbach apartments, St. Marys. After the birth of their daughter, Valerie Dawn, on April 16, 1953, they purchased a home on Lake Avenue, St. Marys, and lived there until 1958, when they moved to South Washington Street in New Bremen. In 1971, they purchased the former Clarence Ley home on North Jefferson Street, and still reside there.

The Wissman's daughter, Valerie, is a graduate of New Bremen High School and Ohio State University, Columbus. On April 3, 1976, she married Joe D. May, and resides near Botkins, Ohio. *Submitted by Lois Wissman.*

Edwin and Brunhilda Wittenbrink

Edwin Gustave Wittenbrink and Brunhilda Marie (Egbert) Wittenbrink reside on their centennial farm of fifty-three acres, north of New Bremen on 66A.

Edwin was born on September 18, 1919, in Shelby county, about three and one-half miles east of New Bremen. He was the youngest child of six born to Charles and Anna (Brueggeman) Wittenbrink. Edwin was educated in New Bremen Schools all the years of his schooling. He moved to the Wittenbrink farm with his parents and brothers and sisters when

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Standing l to r: Tom and Patricia, Edwin and Brunhilda, Joann and Barry Boyer. First row: Christina and Dale Wittenbrink and Paula Boyer.

he was seven years old. Carl Wittenbrink, who came over from Germany, had bought it on December 6, 1847. After his death it was bought in 1891, by his son, Henry Wittenbrink. After Henry's death, Edwin bought it in 1945. Henry was Edwin's grandfather. Besides farming, Edwin worked at Crown Controls Corporation for twenty-four years until he retired in 1981.

On May 10, 1945, Edwin and Brunhilda were married by Reverend J.C. Melchert of St. Paul's Church.

Brunhilda was born about three miles east of New Bremen in Shelby county on April 13, 1926. She is the oldest of seven children of Roscoe and Lillian (Bushman) Egbert. After her schooling she worked at Kuenzel mills in New Bremen as a blanket weaver, until her marriage. Then she was a homemaker, mother and farm helper.

Edwin and Brunhilda are the parents of one daughter and two sons. Joann Edna Wittenbrink was born on July 6, 1948, in Sidney. A graduate of New Bremen High School and Miami Valley School of Nursing in Dayton with a R.N. degree in 1969, she worked at Piqua Memorial, then Joint Township Hospital. She married Barry Boyer, son of Dorothy Jean (Cox) Boyer of New Bremen. They have a daughter, Paula Jo Boyer.

Tom Edwin Wittenbrink was born on February 27, 1951, in Sidney. He is a graduate of New Bremen High School. He is employed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company at St. Marys and also farms. He married Patricia Warner, the daughter of Kermit and Arlene (Phillips) Warner. They are the parents of a daughter, Christina Patricia, and a son, Dale Thomas.

Dale Roscoe Wittenbrink was born on October 21, 1955, in St. Marys. He was a graduate of New Bremen High School and started farming, but he entered his eternal rest in 1976.

Edwin and Brunhilda are life long members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in New Bremen. *Submitted by Ed Wittenbrink.*



Harry Wittenbrink

Harry F. Wittenbrink

Harry F. Wittenbrink was born on February 17, 1886, and died on June 19, 1948. He married Orrel Fisk on October 8, 1912. She was born in March of 1888. They had one daughter, Mary Ellen, who was born on November 5, 1915.

Harry was the son of John and Martha Kuenning Wittenbrink. John was born on August 27, 1861, and died on December 22, 1948. Martha was born on January 19, 1865, and died on November 28, 1925.

Harry graduated from college in 1911, and started an office in Cleveland. He opened an office at 202 East Spring Street in St. Marys on July 23, 1931. He was the Probate Court judge in Auglaize County from 1934 until 1948. Rosie Ice, a friend of his daughter, worked in the office for him. *Submitted by Henry Wittenbrink.*

S. Chester Young

S. Chester Young and family moved to their newly purchased farm in German Township in 1947. Mr. Young was born in Piqua, Ohio, on July 17, 1916, to Stanley D. Young and Nora Schenck Young, whose families were among the early settlers of Shelby county. He graduated from Sidney High School, attended Miami University at Oxford, and graduated with a B.S. in Horticulture from Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado in 1941. He also took extension courses from Ohio Northern University. During World War II he worked at the Monarch Machine Tool Company in Sidney. He engaged in farming until 1966 when he joined the Ohio Department of Transportation, Division 7, as Landscape Architect Aide. He was a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ. He served on the Advisory Board to the Auglaize County Council of Retarded Citizens. He was a 32nd degree Mason and Member of the Free and Accepted Masons Temperance Lodge No. 73 of Sidney, and the Aug-Mer Shrine Club of St. Marys. He belonged to the Shelby County Farm Bureau and to the New Bremen Historical Association.

He retired in 1979, but continued his hobby of beekeeping until his death on October 1, 1982. In 1938, Mr. Young married Beatrice Clerke, daughter of Reverend Harold Clerke, a Methodist minister, and Bessie Southers Clerke, a native of Cincinnati. Mrs. Young graduated from Riley High School in South Bend, Indiana. She graduated cum laude from

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Western College at Oxford, Ohio with a B.A. degree. She has a B.S. in Education from the University of Cincinnati, and a M.S. in Sociology from Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado. She is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ, the New Bremen Historical Association, the Friends of the New Bremen Library. Her professional organizations are Delta Kappa Gamma, National Retired Teachers Association, the Ohio Retired Teachers Association and the Auglaize County Retired Teachers Association. She taught second grade in the New Bremen schools from 1961 until she retired in 1981.

They have three children. Beatrice Ann Young was born October 30, 1944, in Sidney and presently resides in Durango, Colorado. She graduated from New Bremen High School, attended the University of Denver, and graduated with a B.S. in Horticulture from Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado. She also attended Ft. Lewis College in Durango. In the summer she is employed by Colorado Rivers as a white water river guide. She is a cook for Timberline Outfitters on fall hunting and spring fishing expeditions. In the winter she works at the Purgatory ski area. She is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Thomas Harold Young was born March 6, 1947, in Sidney. After graduation from New Bremen High School, he worked at Le Roi in Sidney. In 1966, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Okinawa and Vietnam. He is married to Cynthia D. Webb. He has a daughter, Heather, and two step-daughters, Julie and Amy Webb. He is presently stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station, Havelock, North Carolina. He is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

William Alan Young was born July 3, 1953, in Sidney. After graduation from New Bremen High School, he was employed by Crown Controls, Inc. He married Sharon Sidenbender in 1981, and they reside in New Bremen. In 1976 he joined the New Bremen Emergency Squad and has been a Paramedic with them since 1977. He is an Instructor-Trainer in CPR for the American Heart Association. He is a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ. *Submitted by Bea Young.*



This photograph was taken in 1983 from the same place as the one on the title page of this book. That photograph of the canal boat was taken in 1893 during an outing of the Cataract Fire Company, one of the four fire companies in New Bremen at the turn of the century.

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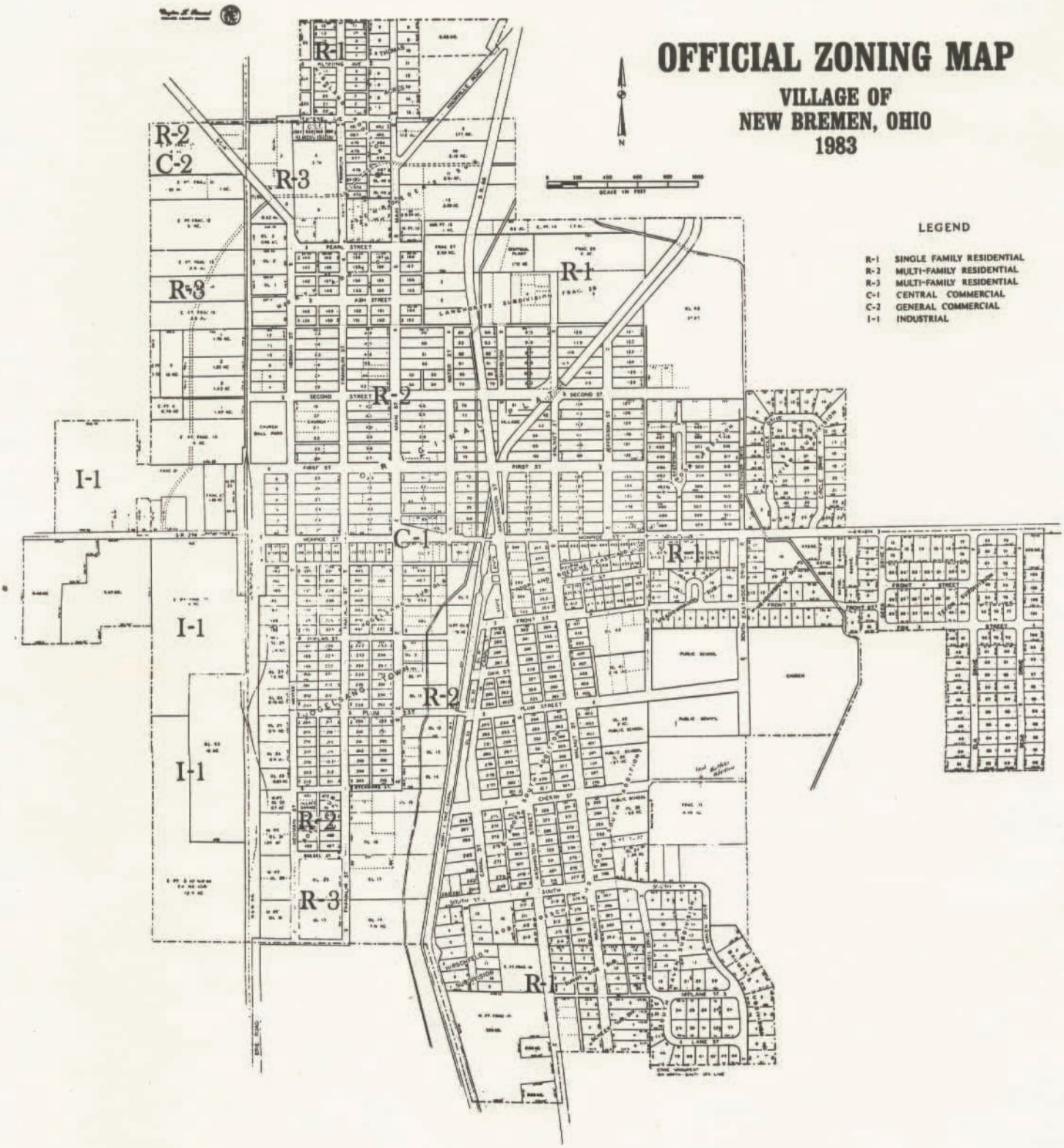
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