

A Publication for  
and about the  
town of Naper,  
Nebraska

# Naper Paper

## The Naper Historical Society

### Our Mission:

The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor history, original structures, special places and artifacts of the people and culture of Naper, Nebraska, and the surrounding area. The Naper Historical Society intends to accomplish this mission by operating a museum, publishing a newsletter, sponsoring events, and in other appropriate ways. The Naper Historical Society will initially focus on four themes: School Days, Life in Naper Through the Years, White Horse Ranch, and Naper 28 Plane Crash.

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Volume 5, Issue 2

News of 4th Quarter 2007

## An Old Soldier Remembers...

By Duke Stahlecker

Memorial Day Services in the town hall have always been important in "Our Town Naper." To see your friends, family and neighbors in military uniform is inspiring to all. Memorial Day the next year leaves one sad because maybe one or two who participated last year in the service are no longer there and have gone on to the "Greatest Leader" of all in the sky.

Ninety-three year old Richard Stanek came to the last Memorial Day service in uniform, very proud that he had served in our nation's army during World War II. Richard also has a sister who is a nurse who worked with battlefield wounded and casualties.

In 1942 Richard was inducted into the Army and after basic training was sent to California. Word was that the Japanese were going to invade. Richard was assigned to an Anti-Aircraft Battalion to guard against an attack that never came. From California he was sent back to Texas for more training. In 1944 he was sent to France and landed at the famous Omaha Beach. It was still littered with battlefield debris, from the beach to a small village named St. Lo that was nearly destroyed. Women could be seen washing clothes in puddles of water.

From St. Lo the Americans went to another small village called Conns. Here was mass destruction also. Beneath the debris, soldiers found stacks of weapons and ammunition taken from the water, found on American G.I.s. The French women wanted the G.I.s to take them to America.

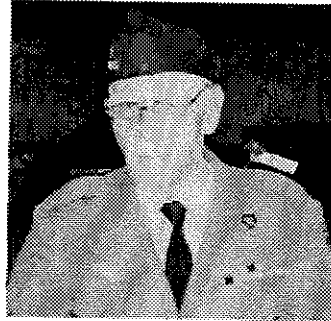
While stationed in France, Richard got to see Paris, where he ate in some fine French restaurants and danced. The French people liked the American soldiers after having to deal with the Germans. Richard was discharged in 1946.

Born in North Dakota, Richard has lots of early memories of the "hard times." Dust bowls, howling winds and blizzards were not uncommon. Groceries were scarce and many meals were of homegrown "spuds" and milk soup.

As a youngster, Richard was an ardent hunter. He recalls shooting jack rabbits and trapping badgers for their pelts. A badger pelt brought \$15. The weasels he trapped had beautiful white pelts with a black tip on the tail. These pelts brought \$2.50.

Times were tough and Richard's wardrobe consisted of two pair of overalls; one for "good" and one for everyday wear. Christmas was "slim". Usually the mail from Grandpa and Grandma brought gifts of socks, knitted caps, nuts and candy. In the winter the six kids rode a bobsled to school.

Richard went from one job to another and then he



Richard Stanek  
in uniform at  
2007 Memorial  
Day program



Lest we forget...

moved north of Gregory, SD, where he lived with his uncle from 1934 to 1937. He decided to finish high school in Gregory and graduated at age 20.

The CCC camp offered Richard a job. A huge steam engine ran a saw and cut rough lumber.

Richard also worked on a farm north of Gregory that raised 3,000 to 4,000 turkeys. At night they guarded against coyotes.

In 1972 Richard married Marie Kahler Schock whom he met at a dance in Herrick, SD. The newly-married couple honeymooned in North Dakota and Canada. Richard's Marie passed away in 2005 after 32 years of marriage.

Today, Richard lives in Parkview Manor in Burke, SD. He has no regrets about the military and says "Life has been good!"

## Historical Society News

**NHS has received two sizeable donations from donors wishing to remain anonymous. The Niobrara Valley Electric Good Will Fund again donated \$1,000 to the society for the refurbishing of the Krotter building. The Naper Historical Society says thank you to everyone who supports us, whether it is with money, time or loyalty. We appreciate each and every one of you. The White Horse Ranch Museum project is still in the planning stages.**

## An Apology

The editorial staff, all of whom are volunteers, apologizes to our loyal Naper Paper readers for the delay in the arrival of your paper. Unforeseen health problems among our volunteer staff created the delay.

The Circuit Rider

## The Memoirs of Clinton Reber



At sundown a mysterious rider is seen drifting along the horizon. 'Old timers believe he's a Sandhills Ghost or Spirit who's trying to keep the Pioneer Spirit alive. His mission: To interview favorite long-time residents of Naper, in order to help us remember our noble past. No one can actually point to specifics, but all swear, "He's out there..."'

The Circuit Rider found Clinton Reber living in Hoskins, NE, long since retired from many different professions. A jack-of-all-trades (and master of many) Clinton's handwritten account follows:

I, Clinton Reber, was born on April 2, 1919, on a farm five miles west of Naper on Highway 12 (known as the Reber Corner) to John and Ada Reber. After 12 children, Dr. Seasongood came right to the farm to deliver me. Thankfully, five of the 12 — Ruth, Naomi, Grant, Harlan and Glades — were still at home to help out.

Living so close to the highway, our place became a second home to hobos, gypsies, and people needing water for their vehicles. Most just wanted food, drink and a place to rest their heads. My mother never turned a single one away; she always said, "He's some mother's son". That I will never forget.

When I was five or so, our enormous barn was struck by lightning and caught fire. I remember just staring out of the upstairs window and watching it burn as my three brothers were rushing to save the horses, cattle and pigs.

We also had an old Chandler parked inside that had to be cranked before it'd move an inch. Harlan got the ol' devil started and drove it right through the side of the burning barn. Thank heavens! We drove that car several more years until we could come up with the money for a Model T Ford.

In 1932, I started high school in Naper. I was driving the family car, a 1929 Chevy, when my father told me he could no longer afford the cost of gas. So I quit after the first semester. (Talk about being lonely; after being with kids your own age for six months and then alone with two elderly parents...) Then my brother Given said he'd give me \$1.05 a week to start back to school.

I graduated in 1937. My best buddies were John Sieh, Henry Ahlers, Don Moody and Alfred Camin. We were like Siamese twins; when you saw one, the others weren't far behind. We boys had the best times with hardly a dime.

Wednesday and Saturday nights were "town nights" in Naper. Those of us who lived on the outskirts usually piled into one car and came that way. The town was bursting with people. Cars lined both sides of the street. Activities of all sorts happened. Dances, shows... good, clean fun.

After high school, John Small talked Dude Carmichael and me into moving to L.A. with him. On the spur of the moment, we decided to go. The three of us took a '37 Ford coupe, a two-passenger car, to L.A. Cramps... 1,600 miles, two days, and three big boys in a coupe.

Dude and I rented a room for \$7 a week. My first job there was digging fountains with pick and shovel at 40 cents an hour. Dude gave word that the café where he was working needed a dishwasher, so I took that job at \$21 a week for six days a week.

I came home to Naper shortly to help farm. All in all, it was a good learning experience, but the time comes when you've got to



Clinton and Joan Cunningham Reber, 1945

head home.

I stayed and helped farm until 1942 when the war started heating up. I did NOT want to be drafted to the Army so I went to Norfolk and enlisted in the Navy Air Corps.

A week later, I was in Kansas City being sworn in as an aviation cadet. I flew patrol bombers my first two years and was promoted to being an instructor in Florida by the end of the war. I was discharged in 1946.

I married Joan Cunningham in 1944. Together we had three children: Lynn, Carla, and Paula (who was killed by a drunk driver when she was 24).

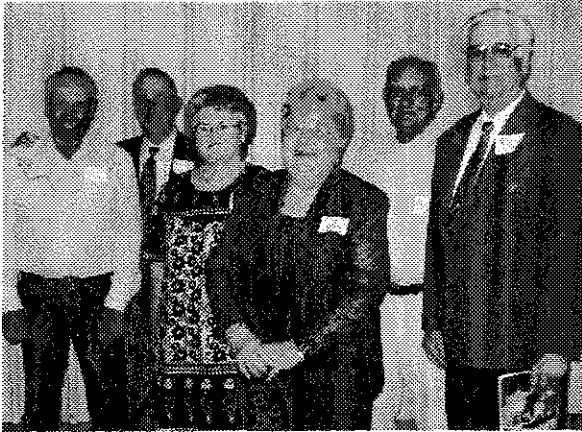
My wife and I farmed Carl Cunningham's land until 1958 when I accepted a mail carrying position in Arvada, CO. I wanted to get away from the city and back into small-town living so I traded routes with the carrier from Hoskins, NE, and relocated in 1961. The route was splendid; a hundred miles and home everyday by noon. I retired from the mail route in 1980. However I did not retire, and instead became a Federal Crop Insurance adjuster. I did this for 18 years to retire in 1999 at age 80. Also, I took on guardianship of my granddaughter Monica in 1996.

I have resided here in Hoskins for 45 years now, but I will always consider Naper to be my true home: a small town with a big heart.

Clinton and wife Joan, who was the Circuit Rider's high school teacher, will always be remembered as a handsome couple, respectfully remembered. Photo submitted by Clint.

# SAY CHEESE!

2007 Naper High School Reunion,  
Memorial Day, 2007



Class of 1947

Herman Neumiller, Leonard Schmitz,  
Adeline Martin Austin, Iona Mayer Carstens,  
Marvin Stoltenberg, Howard Camin.



Class of 1957

Lorraine Bendig Woehl, Bernie Ludemann,  
Barbara Vogt Schoenefeld, Shirley Schoenefeld Stoltenberg,  
Harvey Dummer, Gloria Beem Vogt, Earl Stahlecker,  
Ann Ludemann Anderson, Wayne Cline, Gerald Kulm



Class of 1967

Duane and Linda Hoffman, Roger Ludemann,  
Carol Moody Buck,  
Darrell and Marge Broekemeier



Class of 1977

Dan and Mary Higgins Cerny, Brad Ludemann,  
Lois Nicolaus Vogt, Betsy Becker Raymer



Memorial Day, May 28, 2007. Sterling Shultz, Ray Fuhrer, Pastor Jeff  
Wallace (Keynote Speaker) and Art Martins in foreground.



Memorial Day. Ladies' Auxiliary Members Pat Martins,  
Nancy Schmitz, Mary Jane Katzer, Marilyn Sieh, Velda Stahlecker,  
Darlene Sieh, Front Row: Charlotte Nicalous, Velva June Blum,  
Lila Schochenmaier and Inez Schmitz

## The Life and Times of Almon Gustave Adam

Albert, Alice, and Almon Gustave Adam were born October 21, 1930, two miles south of Naper, triplets born to Gustave and Mabel Kortmeyer Adam. The farmhouse was modern in the sense that the well was only about fifteen feet from the house. The house was heated by a wood stove.

Gustave and Mabel were expecting twins. On October 21, a midwife was present to assist with the birth, but it was soon apparent that a doctor's help was needed. So Dr. Kenaston of Bonesteel, SD, was summoned. Albert Fred was born first, followed by Alice Mabel about two hours later. Then after fifteen minutes, Almon Gustave arrived. Albert weighed right at five pounds, Alice about the same, and Almon a little less. When the doctor left, the young parents were advised that Almon might not live until morning. When he arrived back at the farmstead the following day, his statement was, "I didn't expect to see this little fellow alive this morning."

Being prepared for twins, not triplets, the story goes that Almon got his mother's petticoat for a blanket and the dresser drawer for a bed. Before names were selected, the babies were called "Pinky", "Bluey", and "Polka Dot".

It was during the "Dirty Thirties". Times were rough, with the government paying farmers to kill and bury livestock. Grasshoppers, dust storms, and harsh winters plagued the farmers. Hoppers were so hungry they ate holes in fork handles. Dust storms would come and often the family would go to the cellar. Only dust (which made it dark as night) would result from the storm.

Albert, Alice and Almon attended first grade in Naper with Janet Cerny as their teacher. The janitor was Glenn Brown, especially remembered for going downtown and getting the triplets each a pair of mittens, as it was cold and they had none. Many times the triplets walked to school, as the only transportation was a Model T Ford or a horse & wagon.

They were told by their parents that if it seemed too cold when they walked to school, they should turn around and come back home. One morning when they were only a quarter mile from school and decided it was too cold, turned around and went home!

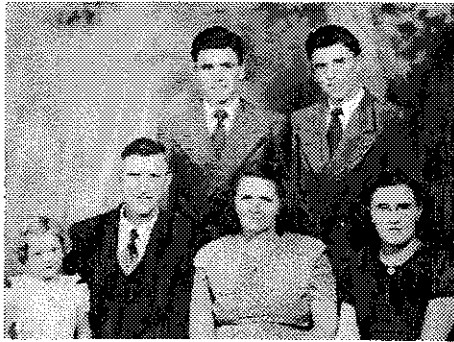
Another memory is the butchering being done at Grandpa Kortmeyers, where everyone had gathered to cut meat, make sausage, etc. The children were told to "cut across" from Naper toward Grandpa and Grandma's house after school, as that is where their parents would be. Somehow they got to playing with their cousin Freddie Ulrich, skating on some thin ice near his house and then went to Freddie's house. Aunt Rose and Uncle Fred were there, and Aunt Rosie made supper.

What a surprise when Grandpa Kortmeyer opened the door and saw them! "Get your coats," he said rather gruffly. The triplets got into the wagon and went directly to their house south of town. Almon remembers the kerosene lamp on the table. People had been out searching for them so they waited there for everyone to congregate.

March 1, 1937, the family moved to Grandpa Kortmeyer's homestead just north of Jamison, NE. It was a small house, modern for those days, with a path. This is the house where their mother was born, and where they first experienced modern electricity. Their dad went to Burke, eleven miles north, and purchased a wind charger from the Gamble Store for the roof of the house, so they were able to have an electric light bulb in one of the rooms.

School was at the McCumber School, about two miles west and a half mile south. Teachers were Harry Caddes, Ruth Tarr, Grace Klinger, Almon Johnson. Many of the students were as old or older than the teacher.

Almon can still remember the Christmas Programs, Armi-



**The Almon Adams Family, circa 1951.  
Pictured L-R: Sharon, Gus, Albert,  
Mabel, Almon, Alice**

stice Day Programs, and others. He remembers singing a solo, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear", at a program. Lights on the Christmas tree were candles that were watched closely while lit.

Betty Gosch and Almon sang the song "Billy Boy" at one program. Betty would sing, "Oh, where have you been, Billy Boy, Billy Boy?" and Almon would answer, "I have been to seek a wife, she's the joy of my life, she's a young thing that cannot leave her mother." The whole song was questions and answers.

Other things remembered are the hours spent shelling corn by hand, and getting ready for corn planting in the spring. They would cut potatoes left in the cave for planting on Good Friday.

They left that place when they were in fifth grade and moved to a place south of Jamison. They went to Spotted Tail School, named after an Indian Chief. Miss Kenaston was the teacher there.

Their farm was on Spotted Tail Creek south of the school. Otto Bentzen owned it then. They walked most days up across a prairie dog town to school. One memory: When the weather was bad, the neighbor, Fred Hitchcock would bring them home in his horse-drawn sleigh.

Town trips with cream and eggs were to Jamison, to Hazel Blake's store and Sophie Wilhelmsen's cream station. Martha Zimmerman was the postmistress. Pete Wilhelmsen ran the blacksmith shop.

Some of the school children remembered are Leon Zimmerman, Virvil Zimmerman, Betty Wilhelmsen, Junior Wilhelmsen. They were called Betty Pete and Junior Pete, probably because their dad's name was Pete.

In the seventh grade they moved to Fort Randall and attended Randall Valley School with Vivian Northrup as the teacher. They lived at the Swan Nelson place. Grandparents Fred and Amelia Adam lived on the old Pearson place south and across the creek from us. They later moved to California.

The house they lived in was later moved across the hills, south of the church and school, and was the home of Almon and Joy in the 1950's.

The family then moved to the Nyquist place just north of the church and school. High school was in Fairfax, SD, starting in 1945.

## Support Our Local Merchants

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backhoe work, plumbing.*

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**If we don't support our  
local merchants...who will?  
Spend Here: Keep Naper  
strong.**

Continued on page 6



## The Ol' Homesteader

*"Do politicians influence the weather or does the weather influence the politicians??? All I know is they're both plenty windy!" - Ol' Homesteader*

### NEWS OF THE YOUNGER FOLKS

Evan Reiman (son of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman) and Austin Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig) graduated from kindergarten. And in the future? Evan plans to play quarterback for the Chicago Bears and Austin plans to become a farmer and mechanic.

Shelly Melton (daughter of Sheila and Sterling Melton), Mindy Haney (daughter of Mike and Tammy Wentz Haney), Katie Sachtjen (daughter of Terry and Mikela Wolff Sachtjen), Skye Higgins (son of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins), Kody Whitley (son of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley), Holly Vogt (daughter of Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt), John Higgins (son of Joe and Mary Higgins), and Marcus Alford (son of Jim and Becky Alford) are 2007 high school graduates. Holly played for the White Team in the Niobrara Valley Conference All-Star Basketball game May 24; and the White Team won! Marcus Alford won several post-season basketball honors. Marc also was chosen to attend All Star football camp in Hastings and played in the All Star game on June 16. Mindy, Holly, Katie, Jon Alford (son of Jim and Becky Alford) and Brian Abeyta (grandson of Roger and Verna Cline Campbell) received honors at the Niobrara Valley Conference Art Show.

Gertie Honke's grandson Michael D. Lindeman (son of Wenlyn and Shirley Honke Lindeman) graduated from Creighton University with a Juris Doctor degree. The Midget boys won the League Tourney Championship; Alex Bendig (son of Kelly and Monica Bendig), Jon Alford (son of Jim and Becky Alford), and Paul Honke (son of Keith and Gina Honke) were team members and Keith Honke coached. Jessa McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy) was the winner of the Champion Small Animal Show plaque and Champion Junior Division Model Award at the Boyd County Fair. Brooke Reiman (daughter of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman) did well at cross-country track this fall. Logon Vogt (son of Lyndon and Kara Kapsa Vogt) ran for Chadron High School and qualified for state cross-country in Kearney. Trenton Zink (son of Gregory and Renee Zink) went to the National Soap Box Derby in Akron, OH, after he won five races in the soap box derby in Ogallala, NE. Way to go, Trenton! Jack and Jean Reiman's grandchildren, twins Jacob and Leah (children of

Lawrence and Jane Reiman) were homecoming royalty at St. Mary's High School in O'Neill. Jamie Warnke, Teresa Goodman, Mandy Keller and their coach Linda Sieh participated in the State Bowling Meet in Lincoln. Jaylon Zeisler (son of Mark and Tiffany), Gina McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie), and Ridge Higgins (son of LaVern and Brenda) all did well in the Pedal Pull Tractor contest at Pancake Days. Kenny Bendig, Kevin McCarthy, and Keith Meyer all placed in the other tractor pull; the one where you use horsepower instead of leg power. Samantha McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie) was recipient of the Champion Intermediate Division Shooting Sports, BB Gun Trophy, also awarded at the fair.

### NEW FACES

A son, Cael Andrew, was born on May 24, 2007 to Joie and Raef LaFrenz. Joie is the daughter of Wenlyn and Shirley Honke Lindeman and granddaughter of Gertie Honke. Delmer and JoAnn Cerny Jons are grandpa and grandma again. Maurice and LeAnn Jons Cox welcomed Jenna Allison Cox on June 24.

Hayden David Muirhead was born April 24 to Traci Zink and Dan Muirhead. That makes seven grandsons for Jeff and Rindy Zink! Louise Neumiller Zink is great-grandma and Clara Ahlers Kulm Neumiller is great-great grandmother. Merle and Leola Riesselman's son Tedd and wife Angie Riesselman welcomed Allison Mae on May 17. Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader are parents of Austin Lee born August 15. Grandparents are Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley; great grandparents are Lyle and Esther Neumiller Fuhrer; great-grandmother is Clara Neumiller.

### WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING

Jeremy Riesselman (Merle and Leola's son) and Shannon Horton were married August 3. Todd Dummer (son of Roland and Deb Whitley Dummer) and Pamela Liewer had an August 18 wedding. Chad Warnke (son of Bruce Warnke and Jolene Bechtold Warnke) and Sandi DeJong were married September 15.

On June 16, Dr. Barbara McAbee and Kenneth "Babe" Woehl were married at the White Horse Ranch 51 years after they first met as teenagers while working there. Talk about a fairy tale ending! Sarah Nicolaus (daughter of Dale Nicolaus and Linda Vomacka) and Marshal Bachman were married in Lincoln on June 30. Jamie Zeisler (daughter of Craig and Stacy Zeisler) and

Bob Nordstrom were married June 30 in the park in Wahoo. Traci Zink (daughter of Jeff and Rindy Zink) and Daniel Muirhead were married September 1 in Kearney. Jon Zeisler (son of Richard and Cheryl Zeisler) and Ashley Holtgrew were married September 29.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Duane and Marilyn Sieh received the Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Award since their family has owned the farm west of Naper for 100 years. Mighty long time--lots of memories. Pastor Jeff Wallace of the First Congregational UCC in Naper and Anna Bohnet were recognized for receiving Associate of Divinity Degrees from Yankton College. Pastor Wallace moved October 31 to Selby, SD to serve the UCC church there. Bob and Lorraine Bendig Woehl celebrated 50 years of marriage in September. Charlotte Nicolaus was awarded the Sunshine Award by KOLN-KGIN TV in Lincoln on August 28. We all know Charlotte is a hard-worker and does our community proud.

### GETTIN' TOGETHER

A whole bunch of us got together at the hall on June 10 to say "Good bye and good luck" to Mike and Darlene Vogt Sieh who moved to Creston, IA, where their daughter Meri and her family live. Sure goin' to miss those folks.

Duke and Velda Sieh Stahlecker hosted a reunion for Johnny and Esther Stahlecker's children. Bet there was plenty of story-telling goin' on there! August 12, the annual Stahlecker reunion was held at the Naper VFW. The Cerny family reunion was held September 2, hosted by the Jim Cerny family.

Lots of youngsters came from lots of directions to attend Vacation Bible School at the White Horse Ranch June 25-27 with Dean and Carley Daugherty. 130 graduates and guests attended the 54th annual alumni banquet May 26 honoring classes from 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, & 2007. Roger Ludemann (1967) was the emcee. The Alumni Association presented scholarships of \$100 to each of the 2007 grads. Marguerite Ludemann, class of 1928, was the oldest graduate present. The Naper Firemen again sponsored the dance for all the old timers who could still shake a leg.

**O! Homesteader** continued from Page 5

Yeah, O! Homesteader was there tryin' to boogie. And O! Homesteader was at the Naper Fun Run/Walk the same morning... no wonder we was all stoved up!

West End Extension Club is playin' Bingo again on the first Saturday of every month. Might be less work than dancing' or runnin'.

Pastor Jeff Wallace delivered the address at the Memorial Day program in the hall on May 28. The community chorus sang two songs. The service was continued at the Knollcrest Cemetery after which a potluck dinner was served in the hall. Food: it's what we do best! POW-MIA remembrance coffee hour was held on September 21. Love that warm java and reflection!

The Naper Historical Society and the EMT's had a soup and pork sandwich fundraiser October 28--again it was food that brought us together. The UCC women served up their famous fried chicken and roast beef supper September 22. Lots of visitin', biddin' and eatin' went on at Dolores Schock's farm sale August 4 and the "Main Street" sale September 23.

**THANKS**

Charlotte Nicolaus organized her troops to keep the Knollcrest Cemetery mowed and trimmed. Some stones that had overturned were set upright this spring. Art Martins has been faithfully mowin' and trimmin' at Heritage Hall--hard work but it looks good. Dorothy Heermann painted a sign for the Heritage Hall. Lookin' good!

**AND SO LONG**

Arlene Nicolaus Neumiller passed away July 24. She and Lester had lived in Fullerton, NE for many years. Roger Hoyt passed away in Omaha August 9, 2007, after a lengthy illness. Ella Mae Boucher Bentzen passed away in Norfolk in August. She and husband Jack had operated a service station in Naper for many years. Julia Weickum Martin left this world October 8 in Ojai, CA. The family had lived in California for about 40 years. Dorothy Blum Eilers of Spencer passed away September 3.



## Dan Duffy Brought Education to a Generation of Naper Residents.

*This issue inaugurates a new feature in the Naper Paper, spotlighting the lives and careers of the special people who made Naper's School System a world class teaching institution.*

As do many young men after graduating from high school, I was undecided as to what to do career-wise. A school friend and I discussed two options: teachers college or barber college. We flipped a coin: "heads" would be teachers college and "tails" would be barber college. The result was teachers college.

At that time (1940), one year of college would entitle you to teach rural school three years. We attended Southern State Teachers College at Springfield, SD, for one year. I then took a teaching job in a rural school at a salary of \$55 per month which was considered a fairly good wage.

Finding a place to live in that area was difficult so I had a small cabin built and moved to the school ground. This small cabin became my home. I was teacher, janitor, nurse, coach, head cook, etc. (See photo and related article, page 7)

The following year I volunteered to join the U.S. Navy when World War II was declared. After four years of Navy duty, I returned to college and completed my Bachelor of Science Degree.

My first high school job was as Principal at St. Charles, SD, for one year. The school closed due to small enrollment.

My next challenge (at age 28) was a job of Superintendent of Naper Public Schools; a school [system] that had had some real problems the previous year. I tackled the job with some concern; however, I found some fine students there that only needed some direction and guidance. During the summer months I attended the University of South Dakota at Vermillion and completed my Masters Degree.

After three years in Naper, the summer of 1952 found me in Lincoln, NE, taking special classes; this led to moves along Highway 12; first to Wynot, then Niobrara for five years, and on to Crofton for four years.

While there, I was elected and served as president of District 3 NEA, served as Lay Member of Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD, and supervised planning

**Almon Gustave Adam** cont'd from Page 4

World War II had just ended and everything was rationed--gas, tires, sugar, coffee, etc. Transportation at the time was a 1936 Chevy. Machinery was shared with another farmer, Paul Connot.

Almon's dad purchased a Model A John Deere from Spitzenbergers in Bonesteel through a rationing program. Paul Connot also purchased a tractor.

The triplets graduated from high school while living there. They spent a year or so at the old Trustee Place which was purchased from Charlie Havranek. The old Pete Hanson place was purchased later and their dad modernized the house. Electricity came through and it had a flowing "soft water" well.

Almon attended one year at Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, receiving a First Grade Certificate. He was drafted when the Korean War started, and served in the army from April 22, 1952 to April 1, 1954.

Almon married Joy Marilyn Hanson, daughter of Hans and Mary Hanson of rural Burke, SD, on August 29, 1954. They resided on the Adam family farm in Randall Valley. Their children are Robin Joy, Roxanne Jolene, Roland Almon, Rebecca Joanne, Ruth Jeannette, Ronald Allen, and Ralph Gustave.

Joy passed away in 1978, after living nearly 13 years after being diagnosed with leukemia. Almon continued to live on the farm and later built a home in Pickstown, moving in 1995. He has 21 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Almon has been active in the American Legion, the First Lutheran Church in Lake Andes, the Fire Department and Town Board in Pickstown, the Selective Service Board, and many historical groups. He served as a school bus driver for 26 years. He serves Good Samaritan Center in Wagner with devotions and piano music. He received the Modern Woodmen Award for Community Service.



and building of an addition to Crofton School. By then our four children were all in school and my wife had finished her BA degree and signed a contract to teach home economics at Crofton. Two weeks before school started, Mankato State University, Mankato, MN, offered me the position of Director of Student Housing.

After finding replacements for both of us, we resigned our positions at Crofton and moved to Mankato for the next six years where Mildred taught three classes at the college as a graduate assistant, completing her Masters Degree just in time for the oldest son to start college. Our daughter was a freshman in high school and our three sons were attending Mankato State when we left in 1968. We took similar positions at Kearney State University, Kearney, NE, for 15 years.

We retired from education in 1983. I had completed two years as a rural school teacher; 14 years as superintendent of schools; 21 years as director of college student housing; and Mildred had completed 21 years as a college professor.

## Dan Duffy

(cont'd from page 6)

While serving as student housing director, I had been appointed National Chairman of ACUHO (Association of College and University Housing Officers) which gave me the opportunity to meet many housing directors nationwide. Within a month after our retirement and moving to Bella Vista, AR, Mildred and I accepted an interesting part-time job. For five years we traveled to many colleges in many states to rent small refrigerator units to college students.

Today we live in Bella Vista, spending the winter months in Texas. Mildred spends hours with the computer and genealogy research. I play some golf and play the accordion entertaining patients at six different adult institutions.

### Housing Shortage Prompted Teacher to Build His Own Home!



**HOME SWEET HOME**—Dan Duffy lived right on the school grounds, in this tiny cabin he had built!

When I accepted a teaching position in a remote area of South Dakota in 1941, at age 19, it was impossible to find a place to live. So I had an 8 x 12-foot cabin build and delivered to the school grounds.

The cabin was heated with a wood-burning stove, although in emergencies it was fueled with corn cobs, coal, and even "cow chips".

Water was carried in a three-gallon bucket from an outdoor pump. A few times, I went outside in the morning and found the dipper frozen in the bucket!

My trusty Montgomery Ward battery-operated radio provided my nightly entertainment, and my transportation was a 1930 Model A Ford Coupe with a rumble seat, which cost \$85.00. That car was my link to the rest of the world, carrying me the 37 miles home on weekends, and to the grocery store five miles away.

Dan Duffy, Bella Vista, Arkansas



## Letters to the Naper Paper

Send your cards and letters to:  
The Naper Paper c/o The Naper Historical Society PO Box 72 Naper, NE 68755

Enjoy the paper and stories of old. Enclosed is a check to help with expenses.

Larry Stoltenberg

I do enjoy reading this publication. Even though I do not know most of the people that you write about it is interesting to read about the old days in Naper. I remember many times visiting my uncle Con Sattler's farm near Naper. It was a treat to visit my cousins Jim and Elmer who were nearer my age. We rode horses, ate great food that my Aunt Emma made, and tried to dam up the creek for our own swimming hole. Enclosed is a check to help keep this nice publication going.

Art Sattler

I am a new reader of the Naper Paper and I enjoy it very much. In September of 2006 I attended a Ludemann reunion in Naper (a great gathering!) and put my name down to receive the paper. I have so many memories of Naper and still have ties to Naper as my brother Carl still lives there. Since 1975 my family has held an annual family reunion the first weekend in August. This year we plan to go back to our old home town of Mills and gather at the Sylvester Hall. Sending a donation for your paper. Thank you.

Donna (Ludemann) Vroegh

I enjoy receiving the paper and appreciate all the efforts that go into writing and publishing it. Thanks very much.

Sharla Mills

Just a short note to let you know I'm still kicken here in Calif. I am enclosing a check to help with expenses, for Earl Stahlecker, Bernice Spitzengerger, and myself. Hope this finds everyone back in Naper in good health and spirits. As ever, Naper relative forever.

Harold G. Stahlecker.

We just wanted to let you know how much we enjoy the Naper Paper. It is starting to catch up to us and we really did miss it. Enclosed is a check to help in all your work.

Donald Goodman

Keep that interesting little paper coming. I really enjoy it. Here's a bit of money to help with the publication.

Lorraine Heyden Creasey.

Memories of Naper are rekindled with each issue of "The Paper." For those of us who no longer live in the area, this is a great way to 'go home' with each issue. Keep up the great work and reporting.

Bill Cerny (class of 1952)  
billc@Cerny.net

I enjoy reading the Naper Paper very much and look forward to receiving it in the mail. I enjoy reading about the past and present around the Naper area. Enclosed is a check for the expenses. Keep up the good work. Thank you.

Linda (Johnson) Chambers

I am sending memorial money to the paper and museum in my Dad's memory, Fred Weickum. I love your paper. I was hoping they have a video of the 1930's White Horse Ranch for purchase. I love Naper. I played on the sand streets as a child, 65 years ago. Please keep things working.

Fred D. Conour Weickum

**Mr. Weickum also sent a clipping from his local paper concerning Hoofed Animal Rescue and Protection Society that has helped protect some white horses from the White Horse Ranch bloodlines. -Ed.**

As you may already know, Roger Hoyt has passed away recently. He would always pass his copy of the Naper Paper on to me. My family enjoys reading it. When I went in for radiation treatments this summer and they found out I had family in the Naper area, one of the techs asked me if I knew about the Naper 28 plane crash. He is an aviation history buff. I copied the issue of the Naper Paper for him. He was thrilled. I am enclosing a gift check in honor of Roger Hoyt. I do not know what is an appropriate subscription amount but I would like to have your paper sent to my brothers and sister.

Thank you.

Terry Vraspir

We really enjoy the Naper Paper. Here's a little something to help with expenses.

Tammy (Mitchell) Mashino

Where does time go?! I can't believe it has been 30+ years since I left Naper. And speaking of "time", I've meant to send this a year ago. Thank you for the Naper Paper and enclosed you'll find a donation. Keep up the great work.

Bonnie (Vogt) Geckler

I just received Vol 4, Issue 1 and regret that I overlooked this order form. I note there are calendars left and would indeed like to have one. Also a donation for the good work you do. Thanks.

Russ Reber

Enclosed is a donation for the Naper Paper. It is interesting to read. I enjoy it. Thank you.

Mary Kerbel

The

# Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society

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Naper, NE 68755

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**A PUBLICATION FOR  
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NEBRASKA**

The Naper Paper  
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Naper, Nebraska 68755

## 2008 CALENDARS

The Naper Historical Society is once again publishing commemorative Historical Calendars for 2008! Historic photos and clippings from Naper's past, along with exciting articles and tidbits of information about our town. A unique and special collector's item that will help us to preserve the history and memory of Naper for generations to come. Makes a great gift for the Naper-ite in your life! Order yours now!

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