

A Publication for  
and about the  
town of Naper,  
Nebraska

## 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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# Naper Paper

Volume 6, Issue 3

News of 3rd Quarter 2008

## The Life and Times of Alfred H. Camin

I was born April 25, 1918, the third child of John and Emma Bettcher Camin. I was named after my dad's brother, Herbert Camin, who was gassed and shell shocked during World War I. He spent the rest of his life in a veteran's home in Indiana.

There were eight of us: Amanda, Edna, Delma, Ruth, Pauline, Howard, Dennis and I. All save for Delma and Dennis are still living as of this writing.

We lived on the Keya Paha River, four miles south of Naper. We raised cattle and hogs, and my mother always had a big garden. Farming was done with horses. We cut wood and sold it to the locals.

To make spending money, I had a trapline. My best catch was five skunks and two raccoons. I caught a blanket beaver which brought me \$44.00 (a very tidy sum in those days; most beavers only brought about \$20.).

Our first mail was delivered via the Windmeyer Bridge by mail-carrier Tim Wilson. Tim was replaced by Carl Cunningham, who always brought the mail right to our place. The dirt roads were usually in very poor condition, so he sometimes used a horse to deliver the mail. My own transportation was a pony.

In 1939, John Sieh, Clinton Reber and I went to Los Angeles, CA. We took jobs in bowling alleys and restaurants to pay for our food and lodging.

When I returned from California, I went to work for Fred Thoene, until I was drafted into the army in March of 1942. Thirty-six of us went for our physical examinations, but only six of us passed: Henry Zeisler, Reuben Schochenmaier, Harold Ellwanger, Ulcan, John Gosch and myself. I was sent to Fort Bragg for Basic Training.

On Christmas Day 1944, I left Fort Bragg to go overseas. I saw many countries: England, France, Germany and Belgium, to name a few. I fought alongside my fellow soldiers in the Battle of the Bulge, and received three battle stars.

While in Germany, I spent some time with my unit in Wittlich, Germany. Frank Broekemeier was amazed when my dad told him where I was; Wittlich was Frank's home town in the old country! He knew every street and alley!

I spent close to four years in the army. My starting pay was \$21 a month. I was promoted to S/Sergeant, and finally discharged in November, 1945. I returned to the United States on the Queen Mary.

While I was in the service, I had the good fortune to marry Miss Doris Brunmeier on October 24, 1944. I was on furlough. She worked as a deputy county treasurer for George Sedlacek.

Doris and I had one son, Marlin, who passed away of a heart attack sadly, in July of 2000 in his hometown of Indianapolis, IN. He was 54. Marlin is survived by his wife and my two grandchildren; a son and a daughter.

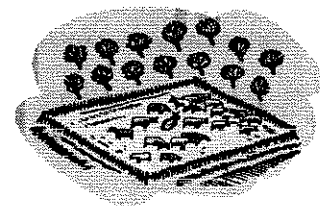
One of my favorite stories of Naper was related to me by Pete Anderson:

During a celebration in Naper, a guy at a carnival challenged all comers to a footrace. A \$10 prize would be awarded to the winner. A rancher named Burkinshaw told him that a boy named Parshall (wearing cowboy boots and a hat) would run, and Burkinshaw bet the carnival guy an additional \$10 that he'd made a bad bet.

Pete held the money, they called to the boy, and sure enough, the small fry won. Later, Pete asked Burkinshaw how he knew the boy would win. Burk' replied, "Easy. I saw him outrun a jack-rabbit this morning."



Albert and Doris Camin, ca. 1947.





The Circuit Rider

## Grace Schultz

### Before the Era of the White Horse Ranch

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 heads into the Niobrara Hills; home of some of the most beautiful countryside in North America, and site of a ranch owned by the Wright Family. John Wright was married to Grace at the time, and even with large families and working hands, guests were always welcome and the coffee was always on.

Early memories for Grace are similar to those of the Circuit Rider. She rode horses all over the White Horse Ranch, and raked hay with a team of mules named Bert and Mollie.

One memory, never to be forgotten, occurred when she was three years old, playing on the cellar door. A lightning bolt struck and she was rolled right off the door!

Grace still remembers Elmer Wright's sister, Sally Green, who used to trade with the Indians. Sally wore two or three dresses over the top of the others.

On one occasion, a group of gypsies came by the homestead. Some of them tried to divert Grace's attention while others could swipe from the garden. Hobos occasionally used to come by the Midway Store to look for handouts.

John and Grace lived on the Elmer Wright homestead in a small house. The house burned down, sadly, and they all moved on to the Dick Wright place. In 1938, Cal and Ruth Thompson

bought the place, and it became known forever more as the White Horse Ranch.

On one occasion, one of Nebraska's infamous blizzards came along and trapped Grace and her family on the road. Grace's husband John found shelter for them with a neighbor family, the Zeislars. They spent three days with the family before they could get back out onto the road; the car was completely covered with snow!

After several local moves, Grace and John moved to North Hollywood, CA. Grace worked in the "Ivy House" as a cook and John worked in a service station in Riverside Park.

John suffered from asthma at the time, and as a result, they had to move to several different states. For a time, they lived in Washington, Idaho, and Arizona. John passed away in 1970 and Grace moved back to Arizona, where she lives during the winters. Then she moves back to Butte in the summers. Raymond Schultz took Grace to be his wife in 1971, and Sterling became Grace's stepson.

Grace has worked hard in her lifetime, with various jobs. In California, she sprayed cherry trees, and worked with peaches for

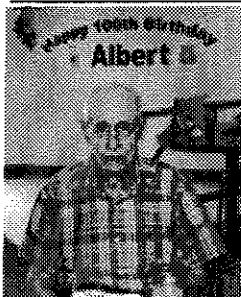


the Smuckers Company. She worked in the kitchens of many restaurants, and many's the weary traveler brought joy by her down-home cooking. While in Idaho, Graced worked in potato plants in a variety of positions.

Dear Grace has had a difficult and hard-scrabble life, but Circuit Rider always remembers her as a frontiers-woman of class and distinction!

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Time passes fast when you're with good company. But the Circuit Rider has other stops to make! Seems as another neighbor, Mrs. Smith, is "down with the croup" so once more, the horse is brought around, and it's time to head down the trail!



## NAPER'S CENTENARIAN

August 21 was a red-letter day for Albert Allpress, who celebrated his 100th birthday with a party at the Naper Café, complete with TWO cakes, ice cream, and lots of friends to help him devour it! Albert's nephews, Doug, Bob and Paul Allpress were present as were many of Albert's friends and neighbors. Albert doesn't wear glasses, lives independently in his own home in Naper, and still drives his pickup to Jamison for a card game or two. Albert was the subject of the very first Circuit Rider article way back in 2004. Happy Hundredth! Here's to a hundred more!



## Looking for you...

Stanley Rupiper is looking for information about his grandfather, Henry Rupiper, or family member Will Rupiper. The family lived in the Naper area before 1925. Can anyone help with this? If you know any of the family members, or know of them, please send word to:

The Naper Paper, Box 72, Naper, NE 68755.

**Hint:** When trying to locate family members or old friends, there are a variety of sources to assist you. The library, public records offices, hospitals, tax assessor offices, school yearbooks, photo albums, old newspaper clippings and magazines are good places to start.

Also, do some homework. Write down a list of vital statistics about the person you are looking for, including full name, birthdate, christening dates, military service, wedding dates, parents' names, number/names of children and grandchildren, former addresses,

schools attended, societies or clubs they belonged to, and the like. Did your mom ever volunteer? Was your great grandfather a Mason? Was your cousin on the swim team at his High School? Maybe your grandparents sat on the wall in front of the drug store.

Every bit of information you can piece together will give you a larger picture of the person you are trying to locate. And the larger that picture is, the more likely it is you can jog someone's memory!

- Editor

## Where Are They Now? Stan McLaughlin



Naper, Nebraska will always be "home" to me, regardless of where I live. I've had the pleasure of living and working in just about every state west of the Mississippi River during the last 40-plus years. Still, some of my happiest memories are of my childhood and teenage years growing up in Naper.

I started school in Mrs. Dawson's first grade class in the old school building in 1954, and finished high school in the new building, twelve years later. Our 1966 class had 12 students, and I was definitely one of the more "mischievous" of the lot. Much to the relief of my mother (Velda Sieh McLaughlin), I never got into any big-time trouble.

Attending school in Naper had many advantages. I particularly enjoyed participating in football and basketball. Our eight-man football team ended the season 6-2. Our 1965-66 basketball team finished 16-4, including two tournament championships; a record for Naper High School for many years to come.

Like many who have written to or for the Naper Paper, I fondly remember the hustle-and-bustle of Wednesday and Saturday "Town Nights" in Naper. Many a Saturday Night I helped my dad, Jim McLaughlin, at Naper Super Service, until closing at 10pm, at which point I raced home to shower, and then was off to a dance in Naper or one of the surrounding towns!

I was fortunate enough to attend college at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, graduating with a BS in Civil Engineering in 1971. Dale Reber, our NHS Class Valedictorian, was my dorm-mate for the first two years of college, then I lived off-campus with Roger Ludemann and Larry Ahlers until graduation.

In 1969, my parents moved to Arkansas, but I continued to visit my friends and relatives in Naper through the years. My dad passed on in 1982, and my mother decided to stay in Arkansas, working as postmaster until her retirement. She and my stepfather, Harlan "Duke" Stahlecker, presently live in Naper from May through October, and in Canyon Lake, TX during the winter months.

I started working for the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, after graduation in 1971 to 1975. The railroad had an aging work force at that time, with a very high percentage of its workers and managers close to retirement age. Promotional opportunities were plentiful if you were willing to travel and relocate.

I worked railroad construction projects all across the western United States from 71 to 75,

until I was appointed Division Engineer for the UP Nebraska Division; the youngest division engineering officer in the history of the company. In 1976 I obtained my Professional Engineering License.

I remember Chief Engineer Bob Brown boosting my confidence when he called me into his office to inform me of my selection for the job. He said, "This will probably be the biggest mistake I've ever made!" I somehow managed to conquer this assignment and then served as District Engineer in Salt Lake City, UT, and in Omaha.

Then in 1982, the railroad decided this country bumpkin needed a little more educating. I was sent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow under the railroad's sponsorship, obtaining a Masters Degree in 1983. I then returned to the railroad office in St. Louis as Assistant Chief Engineer-Track for a couple more years of "seasoning."

I was appointed Chief Engineer for the Union Pacific in 1985. I served as the company's VP and Chief Engineering Office from 1985 until 1998 through a whole lot of mergers and acquisitions throughout the Midwest and West. By 1996, I found myself managing a \$2 billion annual budget, and an employee work force of 12,000, responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of tracks, bridges, buildings and signals on a 33,000 mile railroad system! (Whew!) Quite a contrast for a small town boy who once owned one milk cow, and sold the milk and cream for just \$5 per week to get a little extra beer (Oops! I mean pop and ice cream!) money.

From 1985 to 1998, I served on the Board of Directors of the American Railway Engineering Association (AREA) and was president of that organization 1988-89.

My first wife died suddenly of a heart attack in 1998, and I found myself the single-parent to three teenagers. I decided then that the Chief Engineer's job required too much travel and too many hours for me to function as an effective dad, so I transferred to a vice-presidential position in the executive department in Omaha, and remained there until I retired in 2005. My kids are all grown up now, living in different parts of Nebraska, and doing quite well on their own.

In 2001, I married Barbara Hughes, originally a ranch girl from Basset, NE. She presently owns a ranch with her brother on the Kansas-Oklahoma border, and also devotes considerable time trying to supervise me! My family purchased a couple of sections of land on the Keya Paha and Niobrara Rivers, south

## Support Our Local Merchants

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832-5388  
*Trenching, pump installations,  
backhoe work, plumbing.*

*Bob's Auto Body*  
832-5766, Box 223  
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*Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop*  
832-5573  
*Haircuts, styling, coloring.*

*Lynn's Upholstery*  
832-5461  
*Covering chairs, couches and  
other furniture.*

*M & L Lawn Service*  
832-5422  
*Mowing, trimming, fertilizing,  
tilling, seeding, spraying*

*K & S Mobile*  
832-5125  
*Welding & equipment  
repair; on-site service*

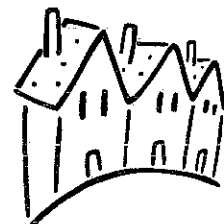
*Naper Café and Lounge*  
832-5272  
*Breakfast, dinner, supper, bar.*

*Naper Transport*  
832-5955  
*Propane delivery, sand & gravel  
hauling*

*Nick's Auto Sales and Dish  
Satellite TV*  
402-832-5166  
*Used cars, oil changes, parts,  
tire repair, new tires*

*U.S. Postal Service*  
832-5977

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



*Continued on Page 6*

## The Rockholm/Ludemann Anderson Homestead

*The Naper Paper continues its look at farms that have been in the same family for 100+ years.*

In February, 1908, Fred and Anna Rockholm and their children arrived in Boyd County.

Anna Rockholm was a widow with five children (Eva, Chris, Pete, Soren and Emma) when she and Fred were married. Their son Frederic Carl was seven months old when they moved from Avoca, Iowa.

Anna's cousin, Thora, and Thora's husband, Carl Nelson, lived on a farm east of the Rockholms (which is now owned by the Peppel Family). Thora encouraged Anna to move to the farm in Boyd County because it had a live stream on it; an advantage then as it is now.

Ben Zimmerman had received the patent on the land, recording it February 12, 1902. He sold it to Alice M. Gardner; the deed was recorded December 11, 1901.

Fred and Anna purchased the farm (described as "Lots 2, 3 and 4, and the NE1/4SE 1/4 of Section 20, Township 35 North, Range 15 East, of the 6th Prime Meridian") from Alice and her husband, L.G. Gardner. The warranty deed was recorded February 19, 1908.

When the Rockholms moved to the farm, the only buildings were a house, a straw hog shed and a chicken coop. A barn was added in 1914, another hog house in 1919, a wash house, machine shed, hen house, brooder house, and a shop in later years. All of the buildings except the house are still on the farm north of town, although the machine shed has been relocated and converted to a hay shed in the calving pasture.

Six more children joined the family between 1908 and 1916. Marie, Marguerite ("Curly"), Darro ("Rocky"), Roger ("Doc"), Norman ("Red"), and Wilma all managed to fit into the little farmhouse. All of the children went to school in Naper and the five girls went to college to become teachers.

During World War II, Pete, Darro, Roger, along with Emma's husband Herb Allgood, all served in the Army. Norman was in the Navy, Soren ("Boat") worked for the army as a painter. All of the children are deceased except for Marie (who will turn 100 on Christmas Day 2008), Marguerite (who will be 99 in January 2009), and Wilma (who turns 93 in March 2009).

Marguerite and her husband Reo Ludemann agreed to buy the farm in October 1946. They and their daughter Ann moved there on March 1, 1947.

In the ensuing years, they added more land to the farm, and more children, Roger, Mary and Margaret, to the family. Roger was born in December 1948, and slept in a crib next to the oil burner in the living room. When the wind blew (And when

doesn't it blow in Nebraska?) the lace curtains on the living room windows, which were closed, fluttered in the breeze. One of the neighbors commented on the condition of old houses by saying that if the baby slept next to the stove, one side of the baby would be red, and the other side would be blue.

A new house was built in 1949. Gunnar Bloomquist laid the walls made of tile (produced in Endicott, NE) and local carpenters (including Albert Dalldorf, Glen Brown, and Ben Herrmann) helped with construction. The family moved in just before Thanksgiving, 1949.

Neighbors came to help dismantle the old house in stages, but during the infamous March 7-10 Blizzard of 1950, the remaining walls came tumbling down on the garage of the new house.

In 1979, Ann and her husband Larry Anderson moved to the farm. They raised sheep, hogs and cattle, corn, milo, oats, soybeans and alfalfa. Once in a while, they raised a little dust and once in a while, they raised Cain!

Reo and Marguerite built a new house in Naper, and moved there in December of 1982. In 1987, they deeded the farm to their children, reserving a life estate holding for themselves. Reo passed away in 1999 and Marguerite lives at Butte Health Care Center.

The original 148 acre farm received the Pioneer Farm Family Award at the Boyd County Fair on August 1, 2008. Kevin and Staci Koenig and their sons, Austin, Isaac and Brett now live there and operate the farm.

Even today, the land and its surviving buildings provide a bit of inspiration to the families and friends of Naper, Nebraska, reminding us of the true grit and determination of our farm families of yore...



Clockwise from Top Left: Darro 'Rocky', Fred 'Cleeche', Roger 'Doc', Marie, Marguerite 'Curly', and Norman 'Red' in front of the old house, 1916.



Anna and Fred Rockholm, 1943



Eva Rockholm Reetz and Norman Rockholm in front of the old house, 1944

### DID YOU KNOW...

The Naper Paper is a reader-produced publication! That means that we only thrive when we hear from you. Got a great story? A memory? A joke? Maybe a bit of history of the region? Or do you know someone in the area that has something interesting and exciting to say? How about an upcoming event that you want to publicize? Write and let us know.

The Naper Paper  
c/o The Naper Historical Society  
PO Box 72





## The Ol' Homesteader

*Ol' Homesteader returns with another heap of news and happenings from in and around our fair town...*

It's been a fine summer, despite the fickle runs of weather we been having here on the Back 40. And as we bring in another year's bountiful harvest, it's time to stop and ponder all the fun and exciting things that have been happening in our town.

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### WELCOME

Ramona Bentzen has a new great-grandson, Andrew Dean Beranek, son of Jeremy and Joy Bentzen Beranek. R.C. Bentzen of Ashland, NE is grampa.

ReNae Lois Kluckman was born June 23 to Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman of Naper. Kelly and Lois Vogt are grandparents. Don and Gloria Beem Vogt and Charlotte Nicolaus are great-grandparents.

Richard and Elaine Best have a new great-granddaughter, Mylee Ray, born to Macaela Best and Ryan Christensen. Jerry and Rana Teichman of Naper are grandparents.

Always happy to report them beautiful new babies!

### THE KIDS

Macy Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara, granddaughter of Wayne and Virginia Schoenebaum Ahlers), Samantha and Jessa McCarthy (daughters of Darrin and Connie, granddaughters of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) played softball on the Boyd County team this summer.

Brooke Reiman (daughter of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman, granddaughter of Jack and Jean Reiman and Wayne and Virginia Ahlers) is again running cross-country. (This Old Homesteader remembers many a cross-country run... but probably not for a medal!)

Logan Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara Ahlers) and Elizabeth Honke (daughter of Keith and Gina Honke, granddaughter of Gertie Honke) are playing volleyball for West Boyd.

Kendall McCarthy (son of Kevin and Angie McCarthy, grandson of LeRoy and Maxine), Paul Honke (son of Keith and Gina, grandson of Gertie), Jon Alford (son of Jim and Becky Alford), and Michael Jons are all playing football for the West Boyd Spartans.

Jessa and Samantha McCarthy, Luke Zeisler (son of Richard and Sheryl Zeisler), Brooke Reman and Mandy Keller (daughter of Randy and Carol Keller) were big winners at the Boyd

County Fair and the Nebraska State Fair.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Crystal Keller, daughter of Randy and Carol Keller, granddaughter of Gaynell Rockholm Keller, married Kyle Kruse of Scotland, SD on August 2 in Yankton.

Heidi Vogt, daughter of Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt, and Shelby Melton, son of Sterling and Sheila Melton, were married on Sept. 27.

Ralph Kulm retired on July 31 after 45 years working for the state of Nebraska; most of that time as an extension educator. That's a lot of years working for us, folks!

Mandy Keller was the guest of honor at an Open House on September 11 at Davies Memorial Library in Butte, showcasing her artwork.

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Larry Anderson and Jim Selle road their Harleys from Naper to the Arctic Circle—9,500 miles—before they were back in Nebraska. Ann and Rose were with them for 5,000 of those miles. They left on June 25, and Ann & Rose joined them on July 10 in Anchorage. They arrived home again on August 5.

The Red Dodge pickup saw a lot of parades this summer, advertising for the Naper Historical Society and the museums. Duke and Velda Stahlecker and Loren Sieh passed out a bunch of candy. (Ol' Homesteader is still enjoying his box of July fruits!)

### GOODBYE

Jenna Kibby Davis, 90, passed away on June 26. She spent most of her life "between the rivers".

Basil Zink, 84, a brother-in-law of Louise Zink, passed away on August 2.

Frances Smith, 96, left us on July 4. She and husband Everett were voices of "Central" when Naper had the crank telephone system.

Raymond "Jim" Blum, who spent all his life in Naper except for a stint in the Army, passed away August 24. He was 75.

Janis Blakkolb Broekemier, 71, died August 26 in Central City. Graveside services were held in Naper.

Gone but never forgotten...



The Red Dodge helps get the word out about White Horse Ranch Museum, the Historical Society, and lots of other doin's 'round town.

## ENTRIES IN HARLAN STAHLCKER'S AUTOGRAPH BOOK, 1946

*Harlan Stahlecker, one of Naper's most upstanding citizens, was fond of keeping notes and autographs of friends and family. Here is some of the collected wisdom of the Naper community of days gone by...*

True friends are like diamonds, precious and rare. False friends are like Autumn leaves, found everywhere.

Our Christmas program is over, successfully. But we'll never forget it, will we?

Edeen (Peppl) Luna

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Dear Harlan:

When evening draws a curtain  
And pins it with a star  
Remember that you have a friend  
Though I may have wandered far.

Betty Wedige

Way out west, carved on a rock,  
Four little words, "Forget me not".

Happy New Year! And much happiness in 1946.

Betty Wedige

Dear Harlan:

Life is a volume from youth to old age. Each year forms a chapter, each day a page. May none be more charming, more manly true than that pure and noble, sketched yearly by you.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Brown  
(or just "Alma and Glen")

Dear Harlan:

I hope that the best things in life are yours. And may you get \$15 soon so you can get a pair of boots. And a few more \$\$ so you can get a horse.

Your teacher,  
Mrs. Reo Ludemann



## The Way It Used to Be

Velda Hannahs



In the "olden days" things were a little different than they are today. And if you don't believe it, check with some of the Naper-ites from the early part of the 20th century!

In 1903, a lady who taught usually had about 33 students, all different grade levels, for three months at a time. Salary was \$30 a month! She worked morning to night, and on the weekends, she worked for room and board.

Because of the lack of doctors and hospitals at the turn of the century, our grandparents and great-grandparents had a wide assortment of tricks and home remedies to cure what ailed us. Do you remember your mom's home cures? Turpentine for ticks and sagebrush root tea to ease a fever.

Many children and adults died of diphtheria. To help with the disease, onions and catnip boiled together made a medicine for colds. Others used kerosene and sugar for colds. When you received a burn, cattails mixed with lard was spread over the burnt area. Molasses and sulfur mixed together was used as a spring blood thinner; horehound was sweetened with sorghum or honey (to take away the bitter taste). A green powder mixed with cream was used as a cure for poison oak.

Our folks got creative at dinner-time too. Pokeberry, curly dock, dandelion and wild mustard were cooked to add some variety to dull meals.

And who needed Home Depot in the early 1900s? Government-furnished poison oats were used to control gophers, and some horse manure with mud mixed together made plaster for walls and floors. Yucca plant (soap weed) was also used for fuel.

For celebrations, our folks made do any way they could. Sometimes a gift to the wedding party was a hen and some eggs. Some people gave a wagonload of "prairie fuel" (cow chips!). Imagine putting some of that stuff on your bridal registry!

The first phones in Naper were introduced in 1901, when President William McKinley was assassinated. Families called each other together for prayers.

Today, even with all our modern conveniences and instant communication, it's nice to know that although our ancestors didn't have much, they did have each other... And their sacrifices while setting the west is what made our present standard of living possible...

## White Horse Ranch Museum Completed

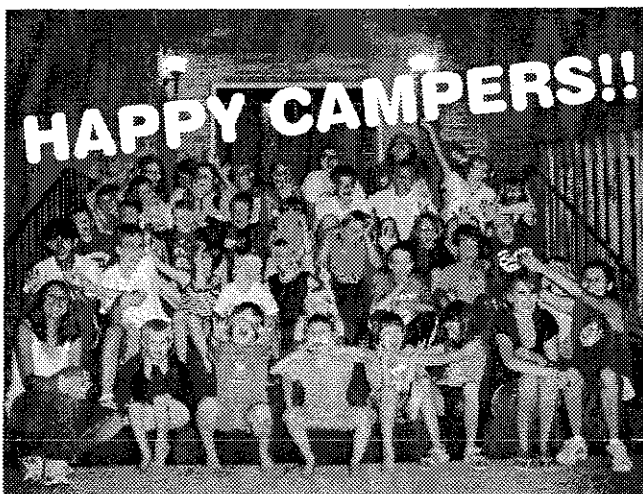
Hurrah!! After hours of work - cleaning, nailing, packing, moving, hauling, carrying, caulking, scraping, painting,, arranging, siding,, roofing - you name it! - the White Horse Ranch Museum was opened to the public for the Memorial Day Weekend. On June 15-16, the WFR Troupe of 1955, '56 and '57 came to visit, bringing more memorabilia, making suggestions and commenting on the displays. The museum is organized around the themes of Cal and Ruth's life, the ranch history, training school and the white horse registry. There is a retail corner where t-shirts, cups, books and other souvenirs are sold. Volunteers made the museum come to life and volunteers make visitors feel welcome. Check in at the Naper Café for names of those who will open the museum.



Bob Schultz, Barb McAfee, Woehl, Donna Merten Franklin, Jim Sattler share some fond memories.



Standing: Donna Merten Franklin, Lois Lundahl Miltello, Carley Gilbert Daugherty, Nancy Dickey Woehl, Barb McAbee Woehl. Seated: Jean and Dean McCroskie.



Lots of happy campers from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Summer 2008, having more fun than should be allowed!

## Stan McLaughlin

Continued from Page 3



of Naper, where I spend many happy days hunting and enjoying the great outdoors.

We also built a small lodge across the street from the Catholic Church (now Heritage Hall) in Naper, a couple of years ago. That lodge is now our home-away-from-home.

We are enjoying retirement and have traveled much, including several trips overseas in the past two years. I pass my time playing golf, softball in an Over-50 league, hunting and fishing. I still do some consulting engineering work and serve on the Board of Directors of R.J. Corman's Railroad Group in Lexington, KY. We especially enjoy returning to Naper to visit relatives and friends whenever we can.

I can't think of a better place to grow up, and I am still proud to call Naper "home."



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

I just recently realized I'd forgotten to provide you with my new mailing address! And I've so missed receiving the Naper Paper! I always enjoy finding a new issue in the mail and reading through it. I am also enclosing a donation to help with the expenses of publishing the paper.

Sharla Mills

*Sharla: We've missed you too! Keep reading and keep writing! -Ed.*

I just read the last copy of the Naper Paper. I was really impressed with the paper, and I am sending a donation to the Historical Society. Keep up the good work!

Betty Lambert

I enjoy the Naper Paper more every issue. So many memories. My husband and I have been married 68 years, and are a five-generation family. Enclosed is a small donation so the memories can keep on coming.

Ruth Kibby Horn

*Ruth: 68 years! Whoa! Now that is a match made in Heaven! Glad you're enjoying the NP. We'll keep producing it if you keep on reading it! -Ed.*

Enclosed is a donation to the Historical Society to receive the Naper Paper. Have read my son-in-law Butch Harry Swallow's copies. Would enjoy seeing articles and histories of my distant Broekemeier/Heermann families.

A.J. Lowe

Thank you for the wonderful Naper Paper. I enjoy every bit of it. In my life's journey, it's great to touch "home" with memories of the past. Keep up the good work. I'm sending a donation to help with expenses.

Mavis Putnam Collins

Keep up the good work. I sure enjoy reading the Paper. Congratulations on the White Horse Muesum. That Krotter Building was good sized, if I remember correctly. My best to all of you!

Alice Bennett Hansen



YOU MIGHT BE FROM NAPER IF:

- You walked to the Keya Paha River for a school field trip.
- You climbed the Twin Buttes and carved your initials on the sandstone.
- You drove the tractor to town to pick up a cold drink at Super Service.
- You rode a horse to school.
- You sat on the wall in front of the Drug Store.
- You had Coke with peanuts in it at Leo & Liz's Café.
- You think alfalfa field in bloom is a heaven-sent heavenly scent.
- Your cruise down Main Street was only three blocks long.
- You played on a local softball team.
- You saw a branch of bananas in Jake Boucher's grocery store.
- You pumped the swings at school until you hit the "jerks".
- You got your mail delivered with a two-line address.
- You remember your phone number and the ring on the old crank telephone system.
- You could talk on the phone for hours... even if it was a wrong number.
- You rode the giant strides and didn't get hit in the head with the metal handholds.
- You used six four-wheelers to move one cow down the highway.
- You got a haircut at Ivl Bodine's barber shop.
- You were on the receiving end of one of "Shanks" Andersen's practical jokes.

PHOTOGENIC PHOTOGRAPHER!

Professional photographer Trudy Waterman along with some of her best photography works. Trudy graced us with a photo display on September 5 at Olive's Market. Say Cheese!

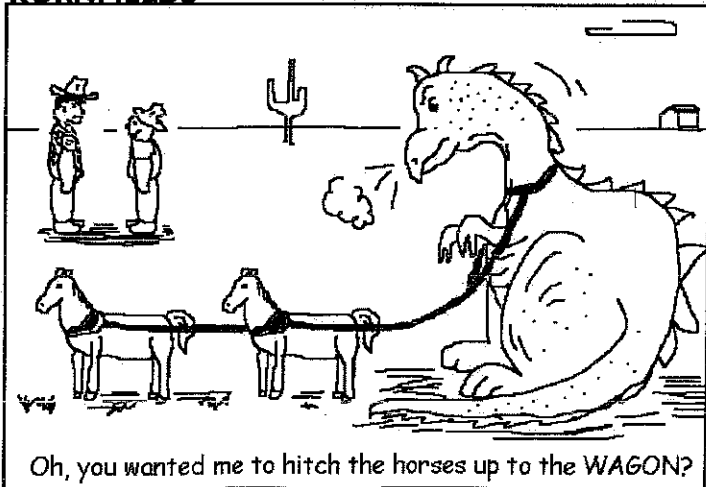


4-A-LAUGH



How do YOU know you were from Naper? Send your memories to the Naper Paper, Box 72, Naper, NE 68755.

KORNFIELDS



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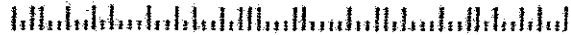
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## Ode to the Old Naper Town Hall Donna Windmeyer Leuhmann

How many of you remember the old Naper Town Hall? It was located on the west side of the street, next to Bertha and Barney's "Show House", across from the blacksmith shop run by Pete.

The old hall was really the hub of the community. With many events held there, the whole year through; from class plays, church dinners, dances and funerals, and boxing matches where the boys probably ended up black-and-blue.

There was a large furnace in the northwest corner that certainly did give off the heat. If the basketball players didn't want their backsides scorched they had to be pretty nimble on their feet!

The curtain on the stage would be rolled up and down. It had a colorful street scene painted on the fabric. The person in charge of pulling the rope had to have lots of muscles and also be pretty quick!

There were outdoor "conveniences" of course. They were out back, probably somewhere near the alley. There was one for the ladies and one for the gents. In the bitter Nebraska winters, one certainly didn't dally!

The yearly high school carnival was always fun. Confetti would literally cover the floor. How I loved the fish pond game... The tiny bottle of cologne was the

prize I hoped for!

One year the carnival had a raffle; The prize was a black-and-white TV. I don't remember who won it but it was probably one of the first in Boyd County!

The grade school kids put on programs there. Alma Brown, the school custodian, made crepe paper costumes I recall. We were dressed and "ssshhhed" and made to wait in the two dressing rooms that seemed incredibly small.

There was an ecumenical Vacation Bible School held there. Kids turned out from the whole community. What I probably remember most was lustily singing out, "I'm in the Lord's Ar-meeeee!"

Each year those Lutherans used the hall when they had their annual Mission Fest. The noon pot-luck meal would be held there. I still remember those long tables of food; it was the best!

One year, Governor Val Peterson was the speaker for the eighth grade and high school graduation. It must have recently rained because the muddy "highways" of rural Nebraska led to much frustration!

There were many wedding dances held there. One I remember in particular was the one held for Leonard and Thelma Schmitz. They were the cutest couple; that's for sure!

Talent contests would be held there— Bernice Stahlecker once sang "Too Old to Cut the Mustard." I believe she won the contest that year, and she didn't

even look a bit flustered!

One of the bands that played at the old hall was Johnny Schonebaum's, known as the "Five Stars". When people heard they would be playing, they would all pile into their pickups and cars!

They would hear Sylvia Gentele play on the drums and listen to Lyle Misner on the sax, while Johnny played the trumpet or accordion. They either enjoyed dancing, or just sat back and relaxed.

The old hall has been gone for over 50 years. Most people no longer give it a thought. It's sad but we can no longer say, "If only these walls could talk!"

\*\*\*

Thanks to my brother Neal Windmeyer, and Virginia Ahlers, who helped refresh my memory. There is a "slight" chance that I could have made some mistakes. If so, let the Naper Paper hear from you! Marge Kortmeyer Saiser, not to worry!

