

THE NAPER PAPER

A publication for and about the town of Naper, Nebraska



Winter, 2004 - Vol. 1, Issue 2

1890's Pre-Naper

By Bob Allpress

The town of Naper came into it's own with the first transfer of land deeds on the 4th of March, 1899. It wasn't until October of that year that our fledgling development was officially plotted, certified... and had its first crisis. Named Naperville in honor of the co-founder Ralph Naper, it was soon discovered that there was already a Naperville. The town's fathers quickly shortened the name, and Naper was off and running.

What was really amazing is the fortitude and perseverance of the early settlers to have enough hardy stock left to create our town. A look at the previous years in the decade leaves one shaking their head in awe at the courage and drive to own a house and land of one's own that made up the brave souls who came first.

They Came West

The great 1880's exodus from all over Europe is on. The destination of choice is the United States. The American Civil War has also been over for better than 20 years. Veteran soldiers who had developed a desire, derived from their military travels, to "see what was on the other side of the hill" were moving west with the land deed grants in their pockets. Westward they came as most of the open land east of the Missouri River had already been settled. Nebraska and the newly opened Indian lands in north central Nebraska were their goal.

So they came. They entered a land greatly different from what

we see now. The settlers arrived to a prairie sea covered with tall grass waving in the constant wind. Nary was a tree seen on the uplands where Naper would be built. The 1890's began with the sound of picks, spades and shovels chopping through the thick virgin sod. Dugout houses, soddies or combinations of both quickly sprang up on every 160 to 320 acres. (Ambitious homesteaders learned they could double the size of their homestead by claiming another 160 acres as a "tree claim" by promising to plant trees.) Grain plots were laboriously broken from the raw sod to start crops for livestock feed and to provide food for the families through the upcoming winter.

At the Mercy of the Weather

1890 was not a very good year for these pioneers. The rains were few and far between, and by July the temperatures were frequently in the 100's, eventually peaking at around 115°. The grain crops failed and things were pretty bleak.

The intrepid landowners that made it through this first year had more to rejoice about in 1891. Things were looking up. Boyd County was formed and they now had a county seat instead of having to go all the way to O'Neill for legal and land transactions. The other good news came in the form of sufficient and timely rains that fell that year. Crops planted in the rich soil did well. 1892 started a series of
(Continued on Page 2)

Naper Historical Society News

By Margaret Ludemann

The Naper Historical Society is off to a very fast start, and it is all due to the interest and support shown by the people of Naper and also former residents, alumni, and teachers of the Naper School.

Accomplishments

Here is what we have accomplished together, as a community, in a short period of time:

- The Society was formed, and by-laws created.
- A Board of Trustees has been formed providing sound guidance for our activities. The Chair is Jim Sattler. I am the Vice-Chair. Beverly Zink is our Secretary-Treasurer. At-large members are Mabel Sattler, Velda Stahlecker, Loren Sieh, Bob Schultz, Sharon Vogt, and Leonard Schmitz.
- We have been accepted as an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation in Lincoln, which provides us with non-profit status for fundraising.
- Committees have been formed, and numerous volunteers (in addition to Board members) have come forward to help:
School Days Committee: Sharon Vogt, Ann Anderson, Mabel Sattler, Kelly Bendig.
Life In Naper Through the Years: Velda and Duke Stahlecker, Bob Allpress, Art Martins and Marilyn Sieh.
White Horse Ranch: Bev

Zink, Duke Stahlecker, Art Martins, Dean & Carley Daugherty and Maxine McCarthy.

Naper 28 Plane Crash: Jim Sattler, Denny Jorgensen, Mabel Sattler, Loren Sieh, Lavern Higgins.

Fundraising: Loren & Linda Sieh, Grace Bendig, Monica Bendig.

Heritage Hall: Bob Schultz, Tim Whitley, Lavern Higgins, and me

Museum Donations: Jim Sattler, Denny Jorgensen, others to be named.

- The *Naper Paper* has been launched, and this is its second edition.
- Fundraising efforts to date have been successful.

Projects for 2004

Our society has decided to focus on a few key projects in 2004. We are renovating the old Naper Jail, currently owned by Leonard Schmitz. We received a grant from Niobrara Valley Electric to complete this work in style, and to provide signs and interpretive displays.

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IN THIS ISSUE:

The Circuit Rider is coming!



'TIS THE SEASON...



Teen members of the Naper Community Choir perform at the Holiday Program sponsored by the Naper Historical Society.

...TO BE CRAFTY



Thelma Schmitz and Marilyn Sieh; two of the charming hosts for Naper's Craft Fair.

NAPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Mission:

"The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor the 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."

Recollections

An Interview With Albert Allpress

By The Circuit Rider

At sundown, a mysterious rider still may be seen drifting along the horizon. Old timers believe he's a Sandhills Ghost or Spirit who actually exists. He's trying to keep the Pioneer Spirit from being forgotten. No one person can actually point to specifics, but all swear "he's out there..."

Before a time of telephones, radios and television, the Circuit Rider was the greatest purveyor of news, gossip and tales among the residents of the prairie, thus the birth of this column - *The Circuit Rider*.

This Circuit Rider will carry to you from the early settlers of the prairie more stories and tales from the boundless Sandhills of Nebraska. An Indian word Nebraska, pronounced "Nebraha", meaning "flat water", obviously derived from the flat gentle rivers.

Never again will such a sense of pristine nature be so real as it was in the 1800's or early 1900's. Listen to the roar of the raging blizzard outside in the night as one cuddled next to the soft, red glow of the big belly of the Great North Western wood burning stove. The smell of mom's freshly washed clothes strung across the living room drying still permeates one's senses today.

Never again will we walk to a rural school and see and hear so many meadowlarks proclaiming spring with their melodious songs of freedom. Nor will we hear the pheasants that once nested in the fields crow in unison like some great mother nature's choir.

Ah, yes... A good horse under him and the Circuit Rider's senses could envision the apple pie baking in the wood cookstove's oven with the wafting of the delicious smell from the kitchen windows. The Rider nudged his horse faster. Just over the next hill rested the Allpress Sod Home.

Born in a Sod House

Born in the sod house in 1908, Albert Allpress came into this world. It's a home with two bedrooms of sod and two rooms added built from corn cribs - seven kids slept in one bedroom - located three miles southwest of Jamison.

Albert's mother died when he was just 13 years old. Bertha, the eldest sister became the matron of the house. Albert recalls the farm

chores. All the kids helped. One chore was to take a sack and scour the prairie pastures for "cow chips." These were fuel for the fireplace and cookstove. Very few trees grew on the plains in early Nebraska.

As a young man and youth, Albert "worked out" away from home. His pay was \$20 a month. His father, Henry, got most of it (as was the custom of the time.)



Albert Allpress:
Witness to 95 years of history

"Tuff Times"

Most of Albert's transportation was a "runt" colt that Uncle Will gave him. It was on this steed that Albert rode to Naper to cash a check in one of Naper's two banks for Uncle Will.

The 30's were "tuff times". Albert recalls being on a tractor one day when one of the famous "dust bowl" dirt storms came up. He saw the storm coming in the distance so he shut off the tractor and began a desperate run for the house. Soon the dust was so thick he couldn't see his hand in front of his face. He lost all sense of direction and when the dust storm passed, he found he was headed back toward the tractor.

Grasshopper stories were Texas size! Albert says a farmer was out shucking corn and came close to the house so he left the team and wagon to get a drink of water. When he returned, "the grasshoppers had eaten the horses and were pitching horseshoes to see who got the harnesses."

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1890s Pre-Naper

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dry years that increased in severity until it reached its peak in 1894.

The year 1893 also saw the onset of a nationwide depression of the economy. Banks back east failed and money was tight. Farmers were unable to secure loans to prepare for the following year. Seed, tools and personal necessities were hard to come by.

The year 1894 saw many strange weather events. The spring was abnormally hot and dry when temperatures topped 105° in early May. Then on May 17th, a late frost caused severe damage throughout the county. Corn that was already up had to be replanted. The wheat and oats, already damaged by the drought, were further destroyed. Some rain fell in June, but it was too little and too late to save the small grain. By then, "rainmakers" were desperately being sought from all over the country. Their prices were steep and results were minimal.

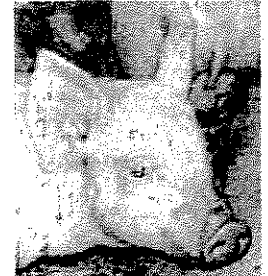
If May and June hadn't been bad enough, the worst was yet to come. No rain fell during the long hot days of July. The rains of June had been enough to bring up the corn, and the farmers were hopeful to make a crop. These hopes were dashed on the 26th of July. Starting that day, a hot wind blew in from the southwest. For two days these hot winds blew. Some later compared these hot winds to the effects felt from sitting in front of a blast furnace. By nightfall of the 29th, it was over. The only thing left was the sight of withered corn leaves blowing in the roads and the odor of parched corn.

Total Crop Loss

Faced with total crop loss, the farmers were obliged to sell or mortgage everything to provide food for their families. The livestock they couldn't sell or mortgage was turned loose on the prairie to rustle

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This Little Piggy Bites the Dust



Local Porker makes ultimate sacrifice.

It was a nice pig, as pigs go. And believe me, this one went.

The Naper Historical Society's first fundraising event was a raffle for a pig donated by Jim and Mabel Sattler. Loren and Linda Sieh donated the processing. Our board members and a few volunteers showed up at every event this Fall selling raffle tickets to anyone with a buck in their pocket. The "Great Naper Pig Raffle" was a huge success, providing us with the seed money to get our organization off the ground. The winner of the pig was Rochelle Karnes Haun. Congratulations!

Everyone seemed to be happy contributing to this raffle. Everyone that is, except for the pig.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

A & M Enterprises

832-5388

Trenching, pump installations, backhoe work, plumbing

Bob's Auto Body

Box 223

Auto body repair

Clive's Bar

Beer, wine, spirits & munchies

Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop

832-5573

Haircuts, styling, coloring

In the News...

By Ol' Homesteader

Ol' Homesteader is back with another update on Naper News. After his debut column last Fall, everyone has been trying to figure out just who he is. The Naper Paper believes the guy. He says he's a 128-year-old ghost of a Naper homesteader.

That's good enough for us...

It's an absolutely beautiful day in Naper; as Ol' Homesteader sits down to write you a little update on the comings and goings of our home town. The sun isn't quite up, but it's starting to get light out. The eastern sky is a wonderful blue and pink, as it has been since the start of time. I can tell you first-hand that the early settlers of Naper were just as amazed at that sight in the 1890's as all of us are today. There's nothing quite like a Nebraska sky, is there? It's so big and you can see forever. City folks don't get that about living in rural Nebraska.

Well, no one seems to be up and about in town just yet, though I'm sure even at this early hour a number of our friends have already fed cattle and others have done their milking. It's the middle of winter now, but while it's cold outside my hot cup of coffee will accompany me on this little literary journey as we visit a bit about Naper over the last couple of months. I wrote to you about Summer last time, so let's talk about Naper this past Fall and into the holidays.

Celebrations Abound

Fall was really pretty this year, but now that I think about it, Fall is beautiful here every year. The air turned crisp, the leaves turned red and yellow, and the Huskers turned in another winning season. Fall and the holidays are very busy times in Naper.



There were a number of celebrations where everyone in town was invited. For instance...

- **Jim and Velva June Blum** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 15th. Yesirree, those folks were married in 1953. Ike was President and yours truly, Ol' Homesteader, turned 78 that year. Anyway, Jim (don't call him Raymond) and Velva June did it up big, inviting one and all to an open house and dance at the VFW Hall on the 18th. The cake was tasty, and the party was fun.
- **Denny Jorgensen** (better known as Mr. **Margaret Ludemann**) turned 55 in September. He's kind of a newcomer to our town, but a lot of folks turned out anyway, when Margaret threw an "AARP" birthday party for him at Cline's Bar. His 3 year old son, **Reo**, helped **Dennis Cline** keep track of the candy counter, and Denny's brother, Bert, came in from Omaha to tell embarrassing stories on the birthday boy. **Gaynell Keller** baked the biggest and best cake in the history of Naper!
- Talk about a bash! Wow! **Mike and Darlene Sieh** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a dance at the Naper Hall. The Lonnie Lynn orchestra, what's called a "big band", played for the special occasion, and it was so much fun dancing the night away. There was a great turnout, particularly when you consider that there was a blizzard that night. The Siehs were married

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WHAT A SHOW!



A great time was had by all when Cowboy Poet R. P. Smith (right) performed along with musical group "In the Loup" at an event sponsored by the Naper Bible Fellowship.

1890s Pre-Naper

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what living they could eke out. Many who were renters or hadn't proven up on their claim pulled stake and went back east, or in to cities like Omaha to find work.

Others who were too prideful to admit defeat, too stubborn to hope for anything less than a better season next year, or so bad off that they had no place else to go, stayed. It was reported that by fall, two out of three homesteads stood vacant. Winter loomed as the final test.

The drought and plight of the settlers was the hot news topic throughout the newspapers that fall. In January of 1895, the nationally famous news reporter, Nellie Bly of the *New York World* newspaper, turned her attention to Nebraska's plight. On January 21st she arrived by train in Stuart, from which she disembarked and took the stage to Fairfax, stopping for dinner at a house called "The Rapids" on the Niobrara River. Her description of the stage is an ordinary grocery wagon, completely filled with mail and freight, and pulled by two small ponies. The passengers rode on a board bench covered with robes under which a lantern was set to keep them from freezing on the trip.

From January 22nd to the 25th, Ms. Bly toured our area and visited with those left on the prairie. She reported finding some of the most destitute people she had ever seen. Encompassed in her writings are descriptions of folks living in miserably squalid conditions with virtually no food or clothing. There was little or no money to spend on clothing so they patched and repatched everything they had, and often wore everything they owned. Meat was virtually non-existent; chickens and eggs long-gone. All had been traded, sold or killed off to feed the family. By this time, most folks had been subsisting for months on a daily diet of flour, mixed with water and fried on the griddle. There was nothing else.

Then on January 25th, Boyd county was hit by a blizzard and received its heaviest snowfall in years. This was soon followed by another storm on February 6th. The year of 1895 went on to get more moisture. By year's end, things were looking up for those who stayed and for the new arrivals replacing those who had left or died. Although the drought was ended, its effects lingered for several years and were still being felt when Naper became a town.

How *did* they do it?

In the News...

(continued from page 3)

on a very famous date: Nov. 22, 1963... The day President Kennedy was assassinated. While that was a sad thing, at least it was easy for Mike to remember his anniversary every year!

Other Fun Stuff, Too

Halloween is still a fun time in our town. All of the kids dressed up and went door to door, just as they always have. It was a cold night, but almost every porch light was on this year, and the little ghosts and goblins collected a lot of loot.

R.P. Smith, known as "The Cowboy Poet", visited Naper in the late Fall. He entertained a nice crowd in the Naper Hall, along with a musical group called *In The Loup*. The musicians are native Nebraskans who perform far and wide. Their unique brand of humor and music, most with religious and agriculture themes, was well received. The event was sponsored by the *Naper Bible Fellowship*.

The Naper Craft Fair was held December 6th, and it was a big success again this year. The *Naper Historical Society* benefited from sale of baked goods. Speaking of the historical society, those folks put on a wonderful Christmas program at the Naper Hall. They organized a *Community Choir* this year, composed of adults and kids, and they did a splendid job singing all of our favorite, old holiday carols.

The *Naper Post Office* provided coffee and homemade cookies on December 11th. I understand that the Postmaster General in Washington failed to bake his share of goodies, so **Bev Zink** and other employees did the honors.

The *State Roads Dept.* held an open house on December 4th so everyone in town could get a close up look at their new building on the highway. The place sparkles, and it's a fine addition to our town. For Ol' Homesteader, this place is like

the old blacksmith shops that used to be on Main Street!

Santa found his way to Naper again this year. The *Village of Naper* invited the old guy to attend, and sure enough he was right on time. Santa provided presents to all of Naper's kids on December 20th, and he handed out merchant gifts to adults, too. **Isabel** and **Sterling Schultz** provided a sleigh for Santa pictures, and the Village Board members and wives served up refreshments.

Good Works

Naper had a blood drive on September 4th in the back of the Naper Café. **Bob Wentz** and **Linda Goodman** did the organizing, and our town continues to do its share in this important area.

The *Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Post 8256*, Naper, held their 18th annual Veterans Day Program. Checks and flag pins were awarded to **Amber Henderson**, **Sarah Berg**, **Amber Wickersham**, and **Amanda Brockmann** as Voice of Democracy Winners for 2003.

Kelsey Zink, **Krista Vogt**, and **April Vogt**, representing the *Wild Rose 4-H Club*, presented important gifts to the town and its EMT. The town received two large fans for the Hall, and the Naper EMT received \$100 for supplies for their new defibrillator.

Saying Goodbye, One Last Time

In the last issue of the Naper Paper I told you about the passing of two of Naper's best...**George Higgins** and **Paul Honke**.



Little Halloween Goblins (l-r) Garrett Shepperd, Logan Titus Ahlers, Katelyn Haney and Macy Ahlers brought "spook-tacular" fun to Naper's annual Halloween festivities.

Sadly we lost other friends and neighbors from Naper and nearby areas in 2003, including **George Alexander (79)**, **Ed Peppel (79)**, **Carl Vogt (91)**, **Maggie Blum (95)**, **George Doyle (Keya Paha County, 89)**, **Anna Ullrich (96)**, **Linda Beem (83)**, **Della Brown (100)**, and former residents **Henry Bohnet (77)** and **Doug Martin (55)**. Ol' Homesteader wishes he had the space to write volumes about each of these wonderful men and women. Suffice it to say that these were people we cared about; people with whom we shared our lives in this little corner of the plains. Ol' Homesteader tries to acknowledge every Naper death, but if I've missed mentioning someone, please don't be angry. I'm trying. Just write me a little note and I will be sure to include them next time.

Looking Forward

For those of you already looking forward to the next issue of the Naper Paper in April (and who isn't?), I'll fill you in then about our January through March doings. Even at this early date, I predict that I'll write something about how cold it is in Boyd County in January and February. I know that The Circuit Rider will have another interview for us; this one with **Marguerite Ludemann**.

Until then, the Ol' Homesteader says goodbye, and keep warm.

Ol' Homesteader



Mike & Darlene Sieh dance at their 40th Wedding Anniversary Party. Two of Naper's favorite long-time residents, the Siehs were wed on November 22, 1963.

NAPER PAPER QUIZ

1. Where was Naper's bowling alley?
2. Where was Naper's jail?
3. Where was the old electric generating plant?
4. Where was the old Post Office?
5. Where was Naper's first telephone exchange located?

(answers on page 6)

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

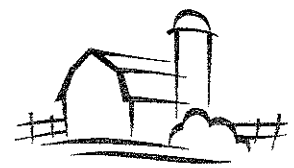
Goodman Farm & Ranch and Lynn's Upholstery
832-5461

Covering chairs, couches and other furniture

Naper B & B
Lodging & breakfast

Naper Cafe and Lounge
832-5272
Breakfast, dinner, supper & bar

Naper Gas
832-5381
Propane, sand and gravel



A Word About Money

Thanks for Your Generosity

The Naper Historical Society wants to thank everyone who has so generously contributed to get our organization off the ground. We've sold you pig tickets, baked goods, and anything else we could think of. We've solicited donations, and we've received some out of the blue. Those sending money to "subscribe" to the Naper Paper were especially appreciated, since we didn't even charge for it!

Don't Feel Pressured to Give

But, we want everyone to know that this organization is not about money. It's about all of you, and your Naper ancestors. It's about our town, and its history. We want and need financial support, but we want you to feel comfortable giving when and how much you please. Your Naper Historical Society Board wants you to know that you should never feel pressured to give us money. We may ask, and we hope you'll contribute, but you should always feel comfortable saying "not this time." We're just happy you are interested in what we do.

Paying for the Naper Paper

Having said that, we need to find a way to pay for the production and mailing costs of the Naper Paper for the long haul. All of the time and equipment, and much of the production costs, are donated. But each issue is pretty expensive, so we are starting a "Voluntary Naper Paper Subscription Program." That's a fancy way of saying that we would appreciate a donation each February or March to help pay for the paper. If you've already given generously to the historical society, thank you! If you haven't found a way to contribute as yet, this would be a nice way and a good time. If you can't afford it right now, that's OK too. You'll still get your Naper Paper every three months.

Again, thank you all for supporting us so well.



Naper Historical Society News

(cont'd from Page 1)

On June 12, the Naper Historical Society brings Buffalo Bill to town!

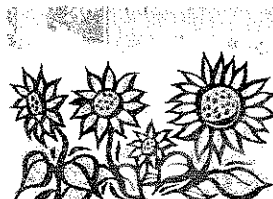
In August we will have a memorial event honoring the 60th anniversary of the plane crash that killed 28 brave pilots near Naper. The society is also working on plans for a Heritage Hall museum, and possibly purchasing the Catholic Church building.

Special Thanks

The Naper Historical Society wishes to thank many people and organizations:

- Thanks to the Village Board for use of the Hall and enthusiastic support. I would say that it's great having you on our side, but with this society there are no sides. It's just all of us pulling together. We appreciate your help.
- Thanks to Jim Alford and Vern Goodman for offering to part with the Naper School. It wasn't possible to work out the deal just right, but we appreciate the offer very much anyway.
- Thanks to the Board of Niobrara Valley Electric for providing a grant of \$1,500 to aid in renovations. Your "Goodwill Fund" is creating a lot of good will in Naper.
- Thanks to the Butte State Bank for your \$500 contribution.
- Thanks to the Spencer Advocate for printing our paper at such a low cost to help out.
- Thanks to the Butte Historical Society for showing us how you did it.
- Thanks to Super Service, the Naper Café and to Clines Bar for allowing us to use your businesses for a couple of our meetings.

And, of course, thanks to everyone who has contributed an idea, volunteered time or money, or just kind words of encouragement. If anyone wants to serve on a committee or help in any way, let us know. Everyone is welcome to participate. We're all in this exciting venture together, and so far it's quite a ride!



SUGGESTED READING

Our Smallest Towns
**Big Falls, Blue Eye, Bonanza,
& Beyond**



**Our Smallest Towns:
Big Falls, Blue Eye,
Bonanza & Beyond**
Author: Dennis Kitchen

In this celebration of the small, photographer Kitchen takes us on a tour of the tiniest incorporated towns in each of the 50 states. Brief bits of background and local color or quotes from residents on life in any particular community accompany the photos. The cover of this edition features a photo of Nebraska's smallest town, Monowi (population 6 at time of photo!).

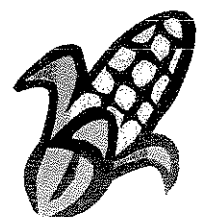


Lost & Found

The Naper Paper has bad addresses for the following people:

- Carol Moody Buck
- Margaret Katzer Reem
- Delores Mayer Rymers
- Nikki Seybert
- Tim Ulmer

If anyone knows how they can be reached, please let us know at Box 72, Naper, NE 68755.





Letters to the Naper Paper

My husband and I live on the Windmeyer-McCarthy Ranch, 3 and a half miles south of Naper, and just wanted to share memories about WHR. When I was a child growing up on the family farm-ranch, on the days of WHR celebrations, there would be cars going and coming for all day to go see the shows there with Ruth and Cal Thompson. It was unbelievable how many people always attended! People from all over the U.S.

We still have some people stop by our place looking for the WHR after all these years. Our family went to watch the white horses (and even to ride a few!) That's probably how I got interested in the horses. Our two sons and their family are in a family business with LeRoy and I, and I tell the 5 grandchildren about the WHR and what a joy it's been for many years!

LeRoy & Maxine McCarthy

Thank you for starting the "Naper Paper". We read it from front to back and enjoyed everything. We're enclosing a small donation, and hopefully others will do the same. 'Tis the season to give to help one another. My mother is a Rockholm (Marie) and aunt to Ann Anderson and Margaret Ludemann. We do wish you a lot of luck. May everyone in Naper have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2004. Miles of smiles to all.

*Gene & Joan Grimm
Torrence, California*

A Naper Paper. What a great idea. I was so surprised when it was in my mail box here in Burke, South Dakota. Your articles are very interesting. I remember when we went to visit my aunt and uncle, Harold and Marian Schultz, at their ranch between the rivers. We went past the spot (of the plane crash), and it was pointed out to me. Keep up the good work with the Naper Historical Society. Enclosed is a check for my yearly subscription.

*Myrna (Gosch) Beauchamp
Class of '55*

Congratulations. Superbly done. Pleasant surprise. Greatly enjoyed. Keep up the good work. Check enclosed.

*Robert & Helen (Cerny) Putnam
Meridian, Idaho*

Holiday greetings! I really enjoyed the Naper Paper. What a nice surprise! Couldn't see anywhere to sign up for a subscription so thought I'd send a little donation. Keep me posted & keep up the good work!

Laurita Bentzen

I received my copy of the Naper Paper and want to say thank you so much. I enjoyed it SO much. I don't often get to Naper but I have some very fond memories of that little town. My folks moved there about 1943 from Stuart to take over the Krotter Lumberyard. They later bought the café. My sister, Mary Ellen, and I graduated from Naper school in 1947, a class of 12 - 6 boys and 6 girls. I'm sorry to hear of so many places closing. Thanks again.

Betty Wedige Vlach

I am interested in being on your mailing list for the Naper Paper. Enclosed is a copy of my father's 1926 calendar and his closeout sale in 1934. I also have some pictures from my dad, Jack Johnson, Charlie Klein, Paul Stoltenberg and Gene Putnam with geese and ducks shot on the Tienken ranch. My dad bought some Indian-made clothes, a beaded purse and a pair of moccasins. He traded many Indian relics and clothes for groceries. Most of the Indian items were sold to Dr. Zimmerman. He also managed the baseball team. Everett Smith was the pitcher. Gilbert Chasinghawk, Barney & Rex Wright played too. I have gone to see Everett a few times. I use to ride with his uncle D.R. Smith when he fixed phone lines. We sold our store in Tilden because of my health. I will gladly pay for your paper.

*Merrill Johnson
Tilden, Nebraska*

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

The Circuit Rider

(Continued from Page 2)

Sears Roebuck Home

One of the Allpress homes was bought through Sears and Roebuck; it was delivered to the depot in Herrick, South Dakota and hauled to the farm and built - (four bedrooms, kitchen, pantry and porch).

During the era of the 30's prohibition was active. So later, when Roosevelt ran for President, and came out against prohibition, Albert voted for Roosevelt.

Albert Goes to War

In 1943, like other patriots, Albert enlisted in the Army for WWII. A ship flanked by two destroyers took him to England. From England he went to France where he drove a semi truck delivering ammo to his unit from a depot. Sometime later, Albert was sent to Marseilles, France as a prison guard for German POW's. In 1945 Albert boarded a troop ship and sailed for the States. He was discharged November 11, 1945.

At this time Albert began farming and ranching with his brothers until he moved into Naper in 1997.

Ridin' On

Since 1946 Albert and a few of his friends have met at 3:00 in the afternoon to play cards in the old Blake Equipment Building in Jamison when chores and work permit. Albert still resides in Naper and drives to Jamison to play cards.

Well, it's time to put the horse in the barn, curry him and give him a good helping of oats until the next trip to another "old timer."

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

Naper Super Service

832-5321

Gas, oil, auto repair, & limited groceries

Naper Supply & Repair

832-5833

Tire dealer, warehouse outlet

U.S. Postal Service

832-5977

NAPER PAPER QUIZ (Answers)

1. In the basement of the old cafe, which is now underground in the lot south of Cline's Bar.
- The alleys, some balls and an old snooker table are still buried there. A second alley, small pin was on the east side of the street.
2. It moved around a bit. But it was once just north and west of the VFW Hall, which was then a theater, and another time, west of the Super Service.
3. Just west of Krotters.
4. Where the Naper Cafe & Lounge now sits.
5. Above the old Post Office.

Naper Sports News

The Spencer-Naper varsity FOOTBALL team had a great season, winning 7 games against only 2 losses, and being named D1-6 District Champs. They beat Butte, Winside, Newman Grove, Osmond, Norfolk Lutheran, Rock County, and Hartington, while losing only to Bloomfield and (in the playoffs) Cedar Bluffs. The Pirates' offense scored 40 points or more in six of their games, three of which saw scores in excess of 50 points. The junior varsity football team went 5 and 1, and it also put up big offensive numbers, beating Butte 46-0, Lynch 46-6, and St. Mary's 42-0.

The VOLLEYBALL team also had a great season, winning 17 matches against 11 losses. The Pirates were 6 and 2 at home, 7 and 6 away, and 4 and 3 at neutral sites. Hey, let's schedule more home games next season!

The Lady Pirate varsity BASKETBALL team is off to a 3 and 4 start, and had a thrilling 63 - 60 overtime win against Bonesteel. The boys' varsity is off to an exciting start for their season. At the time of this writing, the team has won 6 games, while losing only 1. Our Lady Pirates JV basketball team is off to a slow start at 0 and 5, but the girls are working hard, and the team is improving. The JV boys are undefeated at 5 and 0 at the time of this writing.

And speaking of sports, how about the following article from a Gregory, South Dakota newspaper in 1913....sent to the Naper Paper by former superintendent Dan Duffy. What a team Naper had way back then!

1913 - Gregory Loses to Naper...

Sunday, the Naper football team and the Gregory team met on the local gridiron. This was the first game between these two teams and the way the Naper fellows outplayed their heavier opponents was a surprise to the Gregory football fans. Right from the start, it was evident that the local team was outclassed in every particular excepting weight. Naper made [the] most of her gains by end runs, forward passes and fake plays. Naper had the ball most of the time in Gregory's territory. The final score was 27-0

SPORTS SCHEDULE: WINTER 2004

(Scheduled home games ALL CAPS)

BOYS' & GIRLS' BASKETBALL

February

Feb 2-3, 5	NVC
7	NVC Finals
10	Chambers
13	BUTTE
16-17, 19	Girls Sub Districts
20	CLEARWATER (boys only)
23-24, 26	Boys Sub-Districts
27	Girls Districts

March

2	Boys Districts
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Heard 'Round Town



Naper is the kind of place where you can talk on the phone for hours... even if it's a wrong number.

Eldon Vogt and Carl Bechtold are out camping in the field one summer evening. Eldon says to Carl, "Look up in the sky and tell me what you see..."

"Well," says Carl, "I can see that the moon is in its last quarter. There are no clouds in the sky. Mars is entering the constellation of Capricorn. And it's about five hours before sunrise. What do you see when you look up in the sky, Eldon?"

"Well, what I see is that someone has stolen our tent."

There once was a psychic who was also a midget bank robber. He came through Spencer one day and, sure enough, he robbed the bank. The headline in the next Spencer Advocate read, "SMALL MEDIUM AT LARGE."

Alan Nicolaus went on vacation to Kentucky, and visited the Jack Daniels bottling plant. Leaning over the rail to get a better look, he fell into the processing vat. Two workers jumped in to save him, but he fought them off bravely.



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IN THIS ISSUE

- The Circuit Rider makes his debut in the *Naper Paper*, with his “first in a series” of interviews with long time residents over 90 years old.
- 1890’s Pre-Naper: a fascinating article by Bob Allpress.
- Update on the Naper Historical Society, by Margaret Ludemann.
- Naper news by Ol’ Homesteader, ghost written (literally) by Ol’ Homesteader!
- A Quiz...where was Naper’s jail, bowling alley, and generator?
- Spencer-Naper Pirates team scores and highlights. The big 63 – 60 overtime win!
- Oh no! The pig bites the dust.

*All of this and more!
Don’t wait another moment.
Open the second edition of the Naper Paper.*

THE NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society
PO Box 72
Naper, NE 68755

It’s back! Another helping of the Naper Paper!