

**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 7, Issue 3

News of 2nd Quarter 2009

Boyd County Rural Water District No. 1: Once a Dream, Now a Reality

About 20 farmers near Naper geared everything they did to the tune of "Do we have enough water?" Women hated the hard water. Faucets and water pipes corroded and were soon destroyed. They dug new wells but they were soon pumped dry and new ones had to be dug. Livestock had to drink from stale farm ponds that iced over in winter. Hauling water in huge tanks was a regular job and an expensive one when used for livestock consumption.

The winter of 1967, people around Naper explored the possibility of developing a Rural Water District. Walt Ahlers, Everett Breyer, Lyle Fuhrer, Gene Riesselman and Don Schmitz consented to serve as a temporary board of directors. After many meetings, some of which got pretty heated, the Farmers Home Administration Director James Longen was consulted and application for a loan and grant was made. Finally, in June 1967, the board was notified the district would receive a loan of \$50,000 and a grant of \$41,000.

The meetings started again, now guided by Mr. Longen. Eight engineers were contacted, five responded. Bids were let and the firm of Black and Elliott were awarded the engineering contract. Farmers soon became self-educated enough to negotiate the paper work connected with such a huge project. A lawyer was hired, land easements were secured, right-of-ways to dig along roads were obtained. Some original signers dropped out; others signed up. Eventually the engineers came up with a map of the project; parts of it were rejected; it was revised. At last the farmers and the engineers worked it out satisfactorily.

Bids were accepted for various phases of the project. Land was purchased and then things began to happen. Three wells approximately 120 feet deep were drilled. They produced 15 gallons per minute per well. A 15,000-gallon storage tank was constructed and an underground pit to house the automatic controls and pumping station was also built. About 25 miles of PVC pipe were dug in and prefab meter pits were installed. The district was completed and has been in operation since December 1970. The storage tank is situated atop a high sand hill; thus the only pumping necessary is from well to storage tank. Gravity carries the water through the pipelines at a dependable pressure. When the contractor

turned the finished project over to the district, there was not a leak anywhere. That doesn't happen very often.

Members say it's one of the best things that ever happened in this area of Boyd County, second only to REA. The FHA loan and grant financed 95% of the project. The other 5% was financed by members buying hook-ups. Once the project was under construction, a membership would cost \$500.

Walter Ahlers, chairman of the board when the project was completed, was quoted in the periodical Nebraska Resources (Spring, 1971), "A rural water district certainly was the answer to our water problems, as every one of our present water users had specific problems of some sort. No one had enough water and most of it was extremely hard." Farmers in the district now have a plentiful supply of good water.

Current board members are Jeff Zink, Danny Ahlers, Dale Nicolaus, Jesse Zeisler, and Clark Fuhrer. ■

(Information for this article was taken from local newspaper accounts of the project provided to the editor by Alberta Breyer. Thank you!)

WHO IS IT?

We have some old rural school pictures we'll be sharing from time to time, beginning with the picture below. More will come in future issues. We have named the pupils and would like you, the readers, to help identify any that you recognize and also correct any that we may have incorrectly identified. ■



L-R: Leona Mayer (Mayer), Irene Fischer (Garrison), Edna Mayer (Broekemeier) and Emaline Adams (Radford) at District 70, taken in 1928



The Circuit Rider

Walter Serr: Silver Star to Classic Clocks

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..."

Sixty-six years have gone by since Walter Serr graduated from Naper High School in 1943. As a senior, he was kind enough to give this writer, who was then a first grader, a ride home from school. The Model A Ford seemed to fly!

Now a visit with Walt who lives in Orange, CA, brings a very interesting story from this former Naper farm boy. Like most children of that era, Walt walked and rode a horse to school. Stabling his horse in a barn on the north edge of Naper, a skunk that was in the barn left a scent on Walt and his teacher had to send him home to "air out." Walt's first grade teacher was Gladys Putnam. Lester "Shanks" Andersen was his seventh and eighth grade teacher. Mr. Andersen played a very strong role in the course of Walt's young life.

Julius, Walt's father, was sort of the community home veterinarian. Walt was called on to be his assistant more than once, so the young man had some very interesting experiences with farm animals. During his youth, Walt had his arm broken twice, both times set by his Dad!!

Extra spending money was earned during the summers of his 10th and 11th grade. He worked for a neighbor and received \$14 for the summer's work.

Walt, along with Tom Reimer, did not go on Senior Sneak Day. Instead, they visited the Air Force recruiter. Just a few days went by before he was notified that he was an 18-year-old in the Air Force, so this country boy from a sod house took a train from St. Charles, SD, to Miami Beach, FL. Here he had to really study lots of math and celestial math. Walt was trained for B-17s, but was assigned to Materials Transporting. He flew materials all over during World War II. One of the planes was shot up so badly they had

to belly land.

In 1949, Walt was called back to the service to go to Korea. He flew 50 missions. In 1946, the Silver Star was awarded to him. He remained in the reserves and has never been officially released because the government lost his records in a fire in St. Louis.

Back to the states in 1951 and an interesting trip to California with two other guys in a 1932 Ford. The Ford had a cracked block and about every 500 miles the driver had to add a can of "Condensed Milk" to keep the fluids in the block.

Walter went to work for Anthony Pools. Working hard and planning led to the next step — the organization of a new company of his own called "Sir Pools." The success of Sir Pools grew. Being able to build a pool in three days allowed them to build about 100 pools per year. Sir Pools became the leading pool builder in southern California. Walt's company built pools for some famous clients, including President Nixon, Betty Grable, Elizabeth Taylor, President Eisenhower, Edwards Air Force Base, Marx Brothers, 29 Palms, and the Irvine Company.

Walt retired in 1977, and with his wife, Etta, planned to travel in two or more foreign countries a year. This was accomplished for each of 25 years. Etta, whom he had married in 1948, passed away in 2005.

Walt is very much into the hobby of antique and classic clocks which he can work on himself. He is associated with an antique clock collector's association. Some clocks sell for as much as \$50,000.

Walt would enjoy hearing from his old friends. His address and phone number are:

Walter Serr
1515 Riverview Ave.
Orange, CA 92865
714-637-9207 ■

GUESS WHAT?

Someone told me that when he was a young lad, in the late 1930s and early 1940s, he went to Maertin's Grocery Store where he bought a "Guess What."

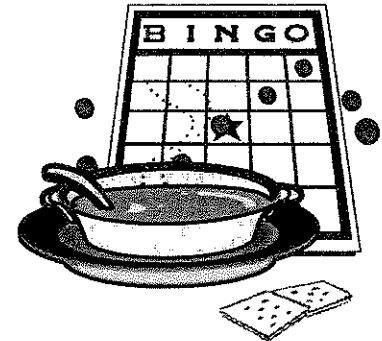
I asked, "What in the world is a 'Guess What'?"

He explained that a "Guess What" consisted of two candy kisses with a little prize between, wrapped in a small piece of construction paper which was rolled up with the ends tucked in. A "Guess What" cost two cents. He wonders if the Maertins handmade these for sale or if they were commercially produced.

We have a question for our readers — who remembers a "Guess What"? Let us hear from you. ■

Come Join Us!

Naper Historical Society
is having a fundraiser
November 1 at the VFW.
Soup, sandwiches and dessert
served from 5–8 p.m.,
followed by bingo.



Proceeds will go toward:

- The roof of Heritage Hall, which needs to be shingled.
- The west wall on the north side of the White Horse Ranch Museum, which needs renovation, including a walk-through door.
- Four dehumidifiers, which were purchased this summer to keep the collections dry and protected.

The Naper Historical Society appreciates the donations of time, money and talent everyone has so generously given.

Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW ...

The Naper Paper is a reader-produced publication? This means that we thrive only 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
Naper, NE 68755

Fred and Mary Herrmann's Story Part 1

By Lillian Herrmann Wallace

Fred was the son of Fred and Christina Herrmann, Mary was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Boes. Some of their kinfolks are Hertha Mogck Sieh, Velda Sieh Stahlecker, Loren Sieh, Julie Berg Broekemeier, Hulda Herrmann Boes, Gottlieb Herrmann and Don Herrmann.

Fred (Fritz) Herrmann and Marie (Mary) Boes were married in June of 1917 in Naper. They were young, strong and ready to start their lives together. Fred had rented a farm near Herrick, SD, and he and Mary lived there for several years during which they became parents of four children: Marcelle, Luree, Altor (Sonny) and Lillian.

In 1925, Fred's parents, Frederick and Christina Herrmann, retired from farming and moved into a new house they had built in Naper. (That house is still standing, now owned by Vionne Berg Forsch.) Fred and Mary moved their family onto the Herrmann farm north of town and spent the next 12 years trying to make a living in spite of drought, dust storms, grasshoppers and, of course, the Great Depression. During those years, they added four more children to the family: LaDale, LaVere, MaryLou and Emmett (Bud).

Some years before, Mary's brother Rudy moved his family to Minnesota and had been sending letters home telling of better living conditions there. Fred and Mary decided it was time to make a change. They were going to Minnesota!

In March of 1937, they sold off the livestock and farm equipment and moved into Naper, spending the next three months preparing for the big trip north. Fred bought a 1932 truck, extended the back, built up and enclosed the sides, and installed a back door and two small windows. He and his son Altor had turned the two-ton stake bed truck into an original motor home. By the time school was out in June, the Herrmann family was ready to go. As many of the household furnishings and as much of their personal belongings as possible were fitted into the truck along with eight excited children. One can only imagine how "exciting" that was for Mom and Dad.



After goodbyes to family and friends, the Herrmanns headed north with high hopes.

They were on the road for about a week and no one recalls any particular problems. Since there were no McDonald's along the way, they ate food Mary had prepared and brought with them. They stopped at grocery stores only for fresh supplies. Any necessary cooking was done on a portable kerosene stove and served on a small folding table. The children still have fond memories of the large batch of cinnamon rolls with frosting that Grandma Boes had sent with them. The rolls were stored in the hand-operated washing machine and doled out only by Mom.

At night they camped in farmers' fields or yards or country school yards. One farmer gave Dad permission to park in a field next to his house. However, when the farmer's wife observed eight eager children escaping from the back of the truck, she firmly and loudly reversed that permission. The embarrassed farmer suggested they go on down the road to a nice little church yard.

Each evening the truck had to be unloaded enough to make room for mattresses to be laid between the built-in benches for the family to sleep and everything reloaded in the morning before take-off. Luckily there were several children willing and able to help.

Upon their arrival in Minnesota, they stayed for several days of much-needed rest at the home of Mary's brother and sister-in-law, Rudy and Velma Boes. The home was a few miles from Bemidji. It was an exciting change for the little band of prairie dwellers from Naper to the forests of Minnesota and the big city of Bemidji, population 8,000.

For the first year, Fred and Mary rented a farm west of Bemidji. In the summer of 1938, the family moved to a home in the village of Wilton. Fred and a neighbor worked in the woods cutting and hauling poles. On December 8, 1938, their truck became stuck in a mud hole. In order to free the truck, Fred placed one of the poles under the back wheel. When the neighbor started the truck, the pole was thrown and struck Fred, seriously injuring him. He died later that day in the Bemidji hospital. Life for the Herrmann family was forever changed.

Mary was seven months pregnant with her ninth child at the time of Fred's death, but somehow, with the help of her older children, she found the strength to go on. After a memorial service in Bemidji, Fred's body was sent back to Naper to be buried in the family plot at the Lutheran Cemetery. ■

Support Our Local Merchants

A&M Enterprises

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

Bob's Auto Body

Auto body repair
832-5766, Box 223

Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop

Haircuts, styling, coloring
832-5573

Druke Trucking

*Local and long-distance
grain hauling*
832-5610

K&S Mobile

*Welding and equipment repair,
on-site service*
832-5125

Lynn's Upholstery

*Covering chairs, couches
and other furniture*
832-5461

M&L Lawn Service

*Mowing, trimming, fertilizing,
tilling, seeding, spraying*
832-5422

Naper Café and Lounge

Breakfast, dinner, supper, bar
832-5272

Naper Grocery

832-5276

Naper Transport

Sand and gravel hauling
832-5955

Nick's Auto Sales and Dish Satellite TV

*Used cars, oil changes, parts,
tire repair, new tires*
832-5166

U.S. Postal Service

832-5977

*If we don't support our local
merchants ... who will?*

*Spend here:
Keep Naper strong!*

Liptaks Compliment Naper Community on Naper 28 Memorial

Mr. and Mrs. Liptak of Wayne, NJ, stopped in Butte for information on the Naper 28 Airplane Crash of 1944 and Kathy Hansen directed them to Loren Sieh.

Loren guided them to the monument and then the museum in Naper. The guests were pleased that a small town and community could erect a memorial of such honor and proportion. William Acree, Mrs. Liptak's uncle, was one of the pilots killed in the crash. The couple were given an original cross marker, a video of the 2004 ceremony, a copy of the Congressional record, and the 1976 Naper history book.

The next stop was the site of the crash on the Sattler ranch where Jim and Mabel Sattler greeted them. Photos were taken of the Iron Cross from Bruning, NE. Pieces of glass and bits of the airplane parts found at the site were given to them.

The Liptaks were on their way to California to meet relatives. Extra programs were given to share with them. Liptaks asked that their gratitude be relayed to the Naper community. ■

Charitable IRA Gift Opportunity

As part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, a two-year extension of Charitable IRA legislation was passed on October 3, 2008, making it easier for you to give to causes you care about. The Charitable IRA provision, first enacted for 2006 and 2007, can help local charities weather the current economic crisis.

- You must be 70.5 years old or older to take advantage of this tax-free rollover of an IRA.
- This tax-free rollover qualifies as the Required Minimum Distribution from an IRA.
- Gifts from IRAs may be any amount up to \$100,000 until Dec. 31, 2009.
- The gift must be made directly from the custodian of your IRA to the charity of your choice, or to the Hometown Community Foundation, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Naper Historical Society participates in Nebraska Community Foundation.

You can contact Jim Gustafson, Gift Planning Director of the Nebraska Community Foundation, by phone at 402-323-7341. ■

The Difference Between Rich People and Poor People

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father. The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have

imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them." The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are." Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. ■

ONLY 59 YEARS AGO, SOMEBODY SAID ...

- I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$10.00.
- Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$1,000 will buy only a used one.
- If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. Twenty cents a pack is ridiculous.
- Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging 4 cents just to mail a letter?
- If they raise the minimum wage to \$1.00, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store.
- When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 25 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage.
- I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying "damn" in *Gone With the Wind*, it seems every new movie has a cuss word in it.
- I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it.
- Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$50,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.
- I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now.
- It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet. It won't be long before young couples are going to have to hire someone to watch their kids so they can both work.
- I'm afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business.
- Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to government.
- The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.
- There is no sense going on short trips anymore for a weekend—it costs nearly \$2.00 a night to stay in a hotel.
- No one can afford to be sick anymore at \$15.00 a day in the hospital. ■



The Windmeyer Farm

By Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy

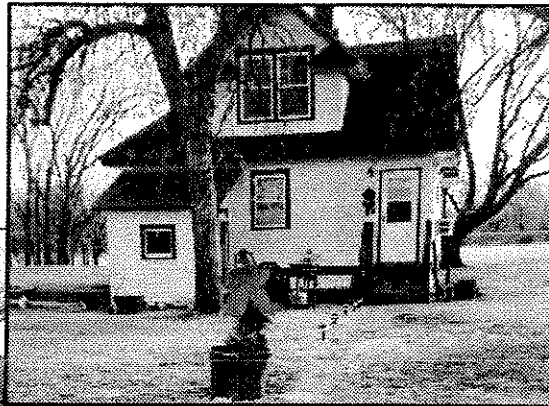
The Naper Paper continues its look at farms that have been in the same family for 100+ years

Urich and Amelia Wehmeyer Windmeyer, my grandparents, came to Boyd County from Dawson County, NE, in 1903. They first settled near Butte and then bought the ranch south of Naper along the Keya Paha River in 1905. They had three children: Herman, Alfred and Connie.

Alfred and Christina Kulm Windmeyer were married in 1939. Their children are Neal, who lives in Norfolk, Donna, who is married to Gary Luehmann and lives in Lewiston, MN, Sandra, who is married to Lee Wade and lives in Wahoo, NE, and I, Maxine, married to LeRoy McCarthy. We've lived on the ranch since 1972 and raised our two sons here. Darren is married to Connie Mellor and they have four daughters—Samantha, Jessa, Gina, and Kyla. Kevin is married to Angie Reiser and they have two children, Kendell and Kelly. Our sons live nearby on the Kibby Ranch. They help us farm and ranch and also the grandchildren are good workers! LeRoy and I are thankful we could purchase some of the ranch. Neal Windmeyer owns his land along with us.

There have been many changes in 100+ years. There have been floods from the Keya Paha River and that goes with the fertile river bottom land. The red barn was built in 1910. For years the words "Weona Stock Farm" were visible in white paint on the big east haymow door. We still live in the 1920 Sears Roebuck home, a two-story home that has been remodeled several times in 100+ years! Stop in! ■

Keya Paha River flood



1920 Sears Roebuck home



The "Weona Stock Farm" barn



The Ol' Homesteader

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

WHAT THE KIDS ARE DOIN' . . .

The Naper Bible Fellowship sponsored Vacation Bible School at the VFW in June. Pastor Justin and Amy Gosch hosted the annual camp-out-sleep-over for a lot of youngsters—don't know who had the most fun! Judy Cline organized the Children's Story Hour at the Library—guess they all got a little "buggy" before it was over! Samantha and Jessa McCarthy (daughters of Darren and Connie) did very well at the Boyd County Fair. And of course—school started. Kendell McCarthy, Jon Alford, Alex Bendig, Henry Ahlers and Michael Jons are working hard on the football field for the West Boyd Spartans. Lisa Ahlers Reiman is helping Dave Schmitz coach cross-country track and her daughter Brooke is on the team.

WHAT THE OLDER KIDS ARE DOIN' . . .

Loren Sieh and Bob Allpress have been telling Naper history stories at the library one Saturday every month. The White Horse Ranch Museum Grand Opening was June 21—nice day, nice crowd—thanks! Ed and Lois Alford celebrated 60 years of marriage with their children and grandchildren. That's a LONG time! A lot of ambitious, fun-loving athletes played in the Co-ed Softball tournament—lotsa action there! Mad Dawgs from Bonesteel came in first. The race car drivers are still running around in circles—ovals—whatever—Kendell McCarthy (son of Kevin and Angie), Brad Vogt (son of Clyde and Jane), Casey Heermann (son of Jerry and Dorothy), Tony Druke (son of Tom and Pat), and Kevin McCarthy (son of LeRoy and Maxine) have all made lotsa "tracks" this summer.

NEW FACES . . .

Emma Rose Bachman was born May 31, 2009, in Lincoln, NE, to Marshal and Sarah Nicolaus Bachman. Grandparents are Linda and Sherman Vomacka and Dale Nicolaus.

Darren and Connie Mellor McCarthy welcomed Kyla Ann July 9. Grandparents are Jim and Mary Mellor, LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy, and Sophie McCarthy.

GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS . . .

Max "Bud" Higgins, age 81, passed away June 26, leaving four daughters, his brother Merv, and sisters Joyce Stahlecker and Lorraine Peppel to mourn him.

Marie Rockholm Bunch, who would have been 101 years old on Christmas Day, left us August 1. She was a teacher and had lived in California since the mid-1930s. ■



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

Regarding your story on the Naper Theater, Volume 7, Issue 2:

My name is Claus Ervin Sieh, better known in Naper as Junior, the seventh child of Claus Senior and Olida Sieh. Velda Stahlecker is my cousin.

In 1953, we owned and operated the Naper Theater for 11 months. My wife Norma (nee Behrens) still has the book of all the movies we showed and the receipts of that time. We bought the theater from Midge and Louie Kortmeyer and sold it to Barney Smith. I'm not quite sure who the Kortmeyers bought it from. It seems to me it was Ted Ulrich. At least I know the Ulrichs used to own it.

I will never forget Jim McLaughlin's laughter when we showed the movie Niagara and Marilyn Monroe wriggled across the screen. At least I always attributed it to Jim as the laugh floated up to the projection booth. Notice the movie's first letter is N. We showed mostly westerns on Friday and Saturday, although you couldn't beat Ma and Pa Kettle movies for drawing the crowd. Sunday and Wednesday movies were a bit more diverse.

I could tell many stories of growing up in Nebraska—my family's life and work habits. Oh, well.

Junior Sieh

We enjoyed our last trip to Naper very much. When I get fully recovered from my hip replacement maybe we will come again. Thanks for all you do and have done to keep the memories of the Naper 28 alive. Will you please see that the check gets to the Naper 28 Memorial Fund?

DeLores Henehan

Naper Paper! Sending you a check to help out with costs. Enjoy my paper. I baby sit my six great-grandchildren as well as care for Delbert's health. Thank you.

Velda Hannahs

Greetings! Thank you for sending me the Naper Paper. Enclosed is a donation to help cover your expenses. It's obvious you put a lot of work into it!

Greg Stahlecker

This is in regard to the Herring brothers story that was printed in the last Naper Paper.

I visited with Wayne Kibby at one time and he told me that the Herrings lived across the river from the Lee Byers farm. Lee was Wayne's stepfather. Wayne said he visited the brothers several times and they were nice and sociable to him. Their names were Frank, Elmer, and Harry. Wayne said it was Elmer who was shot. The bullet intended for Frank glanced off an object and hit Elmer instead of Frank. I'm going on what Wayne said.

They always drove Buick cars and bought them new.

Alfred Camin

I remember the balcony in the theater very well.

Walt Serr

Enclosed is a donation to keep the paper coming and—whatever. I look forward to each issue, even though I was misidentified in the 2008 alumni photo. Those who know me, know who I am; those who don't know me, don't care.

It's wonderful information and/or reminder of the past. Thanks to all who contribute.

Lorna Sieh Dillon

(Ed note: Whoops. We apologize.)

My long-time friend Harlan Nicolaus informs me you may be putting out a newsletter and if so, I would like to receive it.

I graduated at Springview, 1948, and got to be friends with the Naper crowd about 1950—Nick, Orion Fischer, the Siehs, Neita Schock, the Broekemeiers and more—lots of fun at Naper and Herrick dances. Howard Camin went to the Navy about that time so didn't know him—Nick and I did drive up to St. Helena (?), CA a few years ago and had lunch with him. Dennis was a little younger and I didn't hang out with him but always have remembered him. Kay Fischer and I were great friends and guess we have known each other since she was born—grandparents were friends going way back.

Anyway, I enjoy hearing about all the old friends. I do get the Burke and Springview papers which help me keep up.

Lawrence McKenzie

Thanks for sending us the Naper Paper. We really enjoy it. Thank you!

Gary and Mary E. Vogt

Friends at Naper: You people did such a wonderful job on the displays of the [White Horse] ranch. It was perfect. I am so pleased that things will be taken care of and enjoyed. I can't thank all of you enough; it was such a beautiful day remembering and learning more about the ranch. My grandsons enjoyed the stories and had fun at the ranch. We had good luck going home and it has been very warm.

Thanks again.

Love, Betty (Betty Ruth Whipple,
Ruth Thompson's niece)



Moving Ruth's car to the White Horse Ranch museum, May 2009

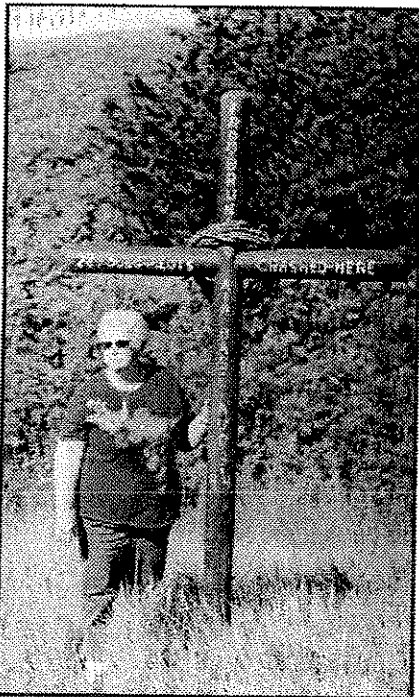
We are into summer, yes, and I must say the year has been hectic for me. My garden is demanding so much time which this year I have a problem to find. I've been doing voluntary work for my library here and have been asked to do translating work for the German/American Chamber of Commerce.

I will miss my irregular trips to Naper. How are the farms doing? Will the harvest be a good one?

I am sending you a check for the historical museum and the Naper Paper to split. Hopefully you will continue to mail the quarterly issue to me for a while. Greetings and good wishes for you.

Helmi Ludwig

(Ed note: Read Helmi's poem on the back page—it's great!)



Linda Davis with cross on Sattler farm

Thanks so much for your kindness. Going up to the site gave some closure to my mind. I love your museum—it was great. If you ever get to southwest Missouri, come see us.

Harry and Linda Davis

A donation for the Naper Paper!
Ernest (Ernie) Graves
(USAF 1950-1970; USSS 1971-1992)

(Ed. note: Watch for a Graves family update in a future issue.)

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU: Remembered Out of the Past

By Marilyn Sieh



A story told to this reporter by Duke Stahlecker is a story about a once-in-a-lifetime happening. The time was fall 1972, during Nebraska hunting season. Duke was living in Kansas City at the time working in the home office of a real estate company named United Farm Agency. The company sponsored a TV show called "A Sportsman's Friend," hosted by Harold Ensley.

One morning, Harold called Duke and invited him to go on a "Mixed Bag Hunt" at Silver Creek, NE, as his guest. The hunt would last four days and nights and team members would be some rather famous folks: Roy Rogers; Bob Feller, the famous pitcher with the Cleveland Indians now in the Hall of Fame; Harmon Killebrew who was with the Minnesota Twins; and the famous bow hunter, Fred Bear. They'd all be companions and hunting partners and staying in the same lodge as guests of Outdoor Life and the State of Nebraska. Needless to say, the invitation was hastily accepted.

The evening of the group's arrival found everyone in the cabin except Roy. Finally a car drove up outside the cabin, the door opened, and in walked the "King of the Cowboys" singing "Happy Trails to You." He walked directly over to Duke's bunk where he was sitting and said, "I'm Roy Rogers." From that corner, he went around shaking hands. Duke, the kid from Naper, was speechless.

The next day, riding next to him in the car going to the cornfields and chatting

like old friends, really gave a chance to get acquainted with the hunters.

Roy was a humble man. He handled noisy groups and boisterous camera "bugs" with patience and dignity. After four days of watching him get pushed and shoved around by crowds, Duke said, "I used to think I'd want to be Roy Rogers, but witnessing this lifestyle after four days and seeing the rudeness of folks and the pushing and shoving, I believe it's much simpler just being plain Duke. How do you handle it?"

Roy answered, "I talk to God every day on my knees in the morning."

A lasting friendship developed with these hunters. A couple of years later, Duke visited Roy's museum in Victorville, CA.

Bob Feller has a museum in Van Meter, IA. Duke has been his guest there. Bob has also called Duke in Texas to visit.

Harmon Killebrew corresponded with Duke for years looking for the "right piece of real estate."

Fred Bear was an excellent shot with the shotgun as well as the bow and arrow. When asked if he was ever scared, he related a story of sitting in the branch of a tree one night with a sow grizzly beneath him swinging at the tree branch. He was out of arrows and he was scared! He spent the night in the tree until rescued by a fellow hunter.

Unfortunately, time and the hunt went too fast and Happy Trails have all gone in different directions over the years. ■



A hunt to remember:
(L-R) Dusty Ensley,
Roy Rogers,
Duke Stahlecker,
Harold Ensley and
Fred Bear



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... AND MUCH MORE!

Auf Wiedersehen!

The gate and road was reached at last,
Half hid in cornfields down the lane;
I hesitated, slowed a bit, and as I passed,
A wistful look I backward cast,
And said, "Auf Wiedersehen!"

With hand on steering wheel, my vision white,
I lingered reluctant, and again
Half-doubting, if I did all right.
Soft as the dew that falls at night,
I said, "Auf Wiedersehen!"

The sun is rising, makes leaving hard to bear;
I linger in delicious pain;
Ah, in this house, whose special air
I breathe in thought, and then I dare
To think, "Auf Wiedersehen!"

The memories I treasure like a piece of art!
The English word seems short of what I mean;
But these, they leave an open door, have heart,
Yet tenderly they do make us part;
I said, "Auf Wiedersehen."

*Greetings to the people of Naper, especially
to my friend Beverly, who always had a little
extra time to talk and listen. Thank you for the
good times I had at my visits. Goodbye —
Auf Wiedersehen!*

Helmi Ludwig