

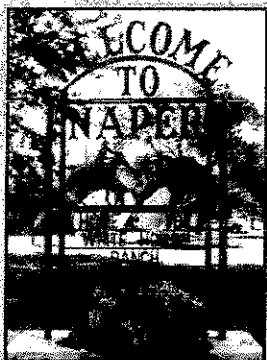
**A publication
for and about
the town of
Naper, Nebraska**

**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.

In This Issue:

The Murder of Caroline Horton 1
 Blizzard of '49 1
 Circuit Rider 2
 Fred and Mary Herrmann 3
 Ernest Graves Family 3
 Naper Paper Index 4
 Grandpa's Stinky Job 4
 The Ol' Homesteader 5
 Letters 6
 Naper 28 News 7
 Who Is It? 7
 Brocksburg Bridge Tragedy 7



Naper Paper

Volume 8, Issue 1

News of 4th Quarter 2009

The Murder of Caroline Holton

By Marilyn Sieh

This is the story that involves rustlers, murder and the infamous vigilantes who at times, when they thought it necessary, executed their own kind of law. This is the story of the hanging of a woman, which was a rare event in western history.

The woman was Caroline Holton, who lived a short distance west of where the Herring brothers lived (*Naper Paper Volume 7, Issue 2, First Quarter 2009*). She lived along the Keya Paha River where she ran a post office. In those days, many small post offices were scattered across the country in homes of the pioneers. She lived alone at the time as her husband was in the Norfolk Institution. When she wasn't seen for a time, a neighbor went to her home and found her on the floor with a rope around her neck. She had been cut down and left where she fell. By the looks of the house, she had been pulled out of her bed and there had been a violent struggle before her death indicating there were several involved.

Her brother, Willy Fickweiler, was working on a ranch in South Dakota. Upon hearing of his sister's death, he took off on horseback for home as soon as he could possibly get there. After arriving home and learning the fate of Mrs. Holton, he bought a .45 Colt revolver, strapped it on and vowed to "find the culprits and seek revenge."

Local citizens held meetings, and threats were made. They vowed to not wait for the authorities to take action, but to capture the evildoers and turn them over to the authorities or hang them from a tree. There was a big uproar over the hanging of Mrs. Holton. She was a well-thought-of citizen, owned much land, and had helped with material aid to the farmers and stockmen in the area in their efforts to check the activities of the rustlers.

The county authorities suspected two men: a neighbor, Dug Hunt, whose dog was found inside the cabin, and a man named Miller. They were questioned but never charged.

The local people had someone else in their sights—the Davis brothers, 19 and 21 years old, who were known rustlers camping about one mile from Caroline Holton's home. Mrs. Holton had earlier caught Jock Davis trying to steal some of her horses. After the hanging, one of Mrs. Holton's horses was spotted in the Davis pasture with its

tail and mane cut short so as to disguise it.

There were two stories converging from this travesty, and I am now following the direction of Manfred Peterson, an upstanding, well-known citizen who has published a book about Brocksburg.

When the brothers were caught, they were not turned over to the county authorities because the local people thought the authorities were overlooking these two suspects. They had a trial without the law—a vigilante trial. It is believed, after much research, that Willie shot these two men, and with the help of neighbors, buried them in shallow graves on the land of a neighbor who was a known vigilante. To cover their tracks, rumors were spread that the two men were ordered out of the county and told never to return.

The Davis brothers' mother (and their best teacher) was named Mary Shelley. She was to have fled to California. Mrs. Shelley was married three times, and there were stories about her last husband drowning in the Niobrara River. However, in Harold Hutton's book, she had been suspected of hitting him over the head with a heavy object and then throwing him in the river. It was reported that on her deathbed, she admitted she had been a part of the murder of Mrs. Holton.

Caroline Holton is buried in the Oakdale Cemetery, which is located southwest of Naper south of the Keya Paha River.

And this is the end of the story which is so unusual and rare and yet happened in our area. We had the wild, wild West right here close by where we grew up, and it all happened during the times of our parents and grandparents. ■

BLIZZARD OF '49

By Clint Davis

In 1949, Jack Adams of Spencer owned the theater in Naper. That year, their trailer house which sat flat on the ground was completely covered with snow after the big blizzard. They kept sticking a broomstick up through a window for air. I was walking to the store and heard the yell for help. I got help, and they tunneled into the trailer house. Jack and his wife were safe. ■



The Circuit Rider

Russell Reber: Submarine chasers and senior softball

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..."

Russell is the nephew of Clinton Reber and cousin of Rudy Becker. His father was Given Reber who was Postmaster at Naper in the '30s. His mother was Julia Becker, a sister to Mrs. George (Anna) Sieh, Mrs. Gust (Lena) Weickum and Rudy Becker Sr. Russell had an older sister Rose who is deceased.

Russell was born August 28, 1922 — threshing season — on his Grandfather Becker's farm about 8 miles northwest of Naper. Threshing sticks in his mind, as one summer as a teenager, he spent two weeks from dawn to dusk loading and pitching bundles of grain into the threshing machine. Russell will always remember this as perhaps the hardest manual labor he ever did during his life.

Russell graduated from Naper High School in May 1939. In September he enrolled in the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

After his second year at the University in 1940-41, he was called to active service in the U.S. Navy in November. In 1942, he was transferred to New York and assigned to a small wooden-hulled submarine chaser that was 110 feet long and had a total crew of 25. On this small ship, he sailed south through the Panama Canal and made his way with a convoy across the Pacific to the western coast of Australia in the Indian Ocean. After two years with the submarine chaser, they returned to the United States and he was assigned to duty in the Seattle, WA, area.

Russell was discharged in April 1946, returned to Lincoln and enrolled in the University for the summer term. He stayed

in the Naval Reserve, and in August 1946, he volunteered to return to active duty where he helped establish a Naval Reserve Training Center in Lincoln. In 1952, he transferred to the Naval Reserve Training Center in Sioux Falls, SD. He was now married to a girl from Hartington, NE, who was with him until the summer of 2000. Their oldest son arrived while they lived in Sioux Falls.

In 1954, Russell had almost 13 years of active service and decided he should make a career in the Navy. He switched from reserve to regular Navy. He soon received orders to report to the cruiser USS Helena, whose home port was Long Beach, CA, where they then made their home. They welcomed their daughter Cathy in December 1955.

After 18 months of serving on the Helena, Russell received orders to report to the Pacific Fleet Headquarters at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu. This was an interesting assignment. During the time there, he was able to attend the University of Hawaii at night to further his education. Their youngest son was born in 1957.

The family returned to the mainland en route to the next duty assignment in the Washington, DC, area. They made their way from San Francisco to DC in their VW Beetle — two adults, three children and baggage — and stopped for a visit at his parents' house in Lincoln, NE. They bought a house in Annandale, VA, a suburb of DC, and 50 years later it is still his home. He had the good fortune of being assigned to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, specifically

to the Naval Reserve Study Group to automate the Naval Reserve records. It was a wonderful opportunity to gain knowledge in the field of computers and data processing. He was able to enroll for night classes from University of Maryland, with classes in the Pentagon. He received his degree from University of Maryland. He was promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer. Because of obligations he had to fulfill, Russell was able to retire from the Navy in April 1964, after 23 years of service.

Almost immediately after leaving the Navy he received an appointment to a position at the Department of Labor. He was in a study group to automate the Employment Security System. In this assignment, he traveled to nearly all the states, retiring after 13 years, with a total of 37 years in military and civil service.

The next several years Russell and his wife traveled extensively, mostly domestic. Russell was an original member of a group who established a senior (over 50) softball program in northern Virginia. They played a regular league and traveled the U.S. to play tournaments. Life has been very good to them. Russell's spouse was a wonderful wife and mother of their children. She left for eternal rest in July 2000. He has three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He lives alone in Virginia, unable to travel but sees all of the family frequently.

Russell Reber
7016 Murray Ln.
Annandale, VA 22003-1825 ■

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

Drueke 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 & 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!*

Fred and Mary Herrmann's Story Part 2

By Lillian Herrmann Wallace

In February 1939, Fred and Mary's last child, Freddie Allen, was born. In the spring of that year, Mary, with her seven youngest children and the help of her brother Rudy, made the sad trek back home to Naper. The two oldest girls were working in Minnesota and too interested in the Danielson brothers, Richard and Alford, to make the trip home with Mom. For the next six years, the family worked hard to "make a go of it" in Naper. As each of the Herrmann children became old enough to work, they got jobs in order to help support the ones at home. Lillian worked at Maertin's Store while finishing high school. Altor worked for Charlie Kern and LaDale and LaVere worked for local farmers during the summer. The older girls sent money home from Minnesota as they were able.

Reinhold Boes, another of Mary's six brothers, had been living in Oregon for several years. While visiting in Nebraska, he talked of the many opportunities for work in that area. When he went home, he took Altor with him and left the rest of the family dreaming of the wonders of the West. They were a bit skeptical about some of the tales he told, though. Did people really cook and eat outside their houses and go potty inside the house?

In 1942, after World War II began, Altor joined the service. While serving in the Pacific, he became seriously ill and was hospitalized in the military hospital at Spokane, WA. Marcelle and Luree were married to the Danielson brothers by then and living in Oregon. Lillian was working at Camp White Military Base near Central Point, Oregon, where she met her future husband, Frank Wallace.

So, with the older children already out west, it was time for Mary to make another move. In the summer of 1945, the Naper house and furniture were sold and all the worldly goods reduced to just what would fit

into one trunk, one fairly large box, two duffel bags, a couple of shopping bags, and Mary's purse. Her children were always amazed at how much that purse could hold! With the help of Uncle Herman Rabe, all this, along with Mary and her five youngest children, was loaded onto the train at Mitchell, SD, and the Herrmanns headed west.

The train ride across the country was long and filled with anxiety for Mary and excitement for the children. The war had ended and the train was crowded with servicemen on their way home. In Portland, they boarded a bus for the final leg of the journey to southern Oregon. Again, they had a whole new world to get acquainted with. The Rogue River Valley was surrounded with mountains and beautiful with orchards and trees. It also had more people than they were used to seeing. Uncle Reinhold had converted his two-car garage into an apartment where they lived. Altor had been transferred from Spokane to the military hospital at Camp White. He died there soon after the family arrived in Oregon. Mary bought a house in Central Point and spent the next years working to support her children as a housekeeper for a local family. Later she ran a small nursery school in her home with up to eight children at a time. Mary died at the age of 88 in July 1988.

All these years later, the Herrmann children marvel at the strength and perseverance of their parents as they struggled to give them all the best lives possible. The eight children range in age now from 70 to 89. They have all lived, worked and raised their families in Oregon. They have all had long-term marriages with their original spouses. Three of them — Luree, Lillian, and MaryLou — are widows. They produced 22 grandchildren for their mother. No one has counted the number of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, but the number is still growing. ■

Ernest Graves Family Story

By Ernest Graves

Julius Samuel ("Dude") Graves was born November 21, 1870, in Ida Grove County, IA, and died September 30, 1957, in the Naper/Butte area. He married Blanche Augusta Harper on October 14, 1896, at Tilden, NE. Blanche had been born July 4, 1878, and died February 12, 1920, in Butte during the flu epidemic.

Their children were:

- Chester Graves, who died in infancy;
- Mary Graves (1898–1978), who married Marcus Nelson;
- Norman Benjamin Graves (1901–1934), who married Pauline C. Bechtold;
- Clara H. Graves (1902–1976), who married William King;
- Georgia Graves (about 1906–), who married a brother of William King;
- Daisy Graves (1907–1979), who married Claus Vogt in 1926; and
- Clifford Clyde Graves (1910–1992), who married Maxine G. Rose.

I (Ernest Graves) am the grandson of Julius Samuel Graves. My dad, Clifford Clyde Graves, was the youngest of Dude's seven children. For as long as I can remember (I was born January 6, 1932), my grandfather lived with Aunt Daisy and Uncle Claus Vogt in Naper. I have several cousins living in the Naper area. I saw my grandfather only three or four times, the last after my 1950 graduation from Page, NE, High School. By my count, my grandfather had 12 granddaughters and nine grandsons, each of whom is now located nationwide and has children of their own. I served 20 years in the Air Force, including eight on Air Force One for Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy, then 22 years with the United States Secret Service.

My grandfather was the fifth child of Julius John Graves and his wife, Helene Barto Graves. He had seven brothers and five sisters. I've traced several Graves from Virginia, Texas and Oregon, all with varied careers. There is an annual Graves family reunion at The Graves Mountain Lodge, Syria, VA. I wonder now and then how Dude would react if he could be there. But I suspect he would prefer sitting on his old wooden chair in Naper, enjoying his same old pipe! ■

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

Index to Naper Paper Articles

Issue 1 • Fall 2003 • Volume 1, Issue 1
Historical Society organization; Naper 28; closing of the Naper School; Naper churches; old sayings.

(Every subsequent issue has Letters, The Ol' Homesteader and Circuit Rider)

Issue 2 • Winter 2004 • Volume 1, Issue 2
1890 pre-Naper; Naper Historical Society news; first Circuit Rider interview-Albert Allpress; sports

Issue 3 • Spring 2004 • Volume 1, Issue 3
Naper Jail; Catholic Church Museum; Marguerite Rockholm Ludemann interview; memories of Naper School; growing up in Naper

Issue 4 • Summer 2004 • Volume 1, Issue 4
Heritage Hall Opening; Naper 28 ceremony; Adolph Schultz interview; new businesses; jail dedicated

Issue 5 • Fall 2004 • Volume 2, Issue 5
Naper 28 monument dedication; John Schonebaum interview; Naper Super Service history; 1900 census

Issue 6 • Winter 2005 • Volume 3, Issue 1
Blakkolb Store; Janet Cerny Sattler interview; Russian immigration; 100 years ago

Issue 7 • Summer 2005 • Volume 3, Issue 3
Tornado 1962; Historical Society donation to firemen; Christina Kulm Windmeyer interview; Alumni banquet; mail delivery in Naper

Issue 8 • Autumn 2005 • Volume 3, Issue 4
Doug Martin; Camin farm; Albert Nicolaus interview; Naper Historical Society News; Drug Store; Covered Dishes; Storm Cloud (Naper 28)

Issue 9 • Winter 2006 • Volume 4, Issue 1
Naper's future; Elsie Wentz interview; Town Night; hardware stores; Mom's Pet Goose; Schock farm

Issue 10 • Spring 2006 • Volume 4, Issue 2
Early Life at the Point; Sattler Farm; Irene Martin Weickum interview; Alumni Banquet pictures; Naper Historical Society news; Town Night; Pete Wilhelmsen blacksmith

Issue 11 • Summer 2006 • Volume 4, Issue 3
White Horse Ranch memorabilia; Farm and Home Telephone Co.; Albert Holmgren interview; Hoyt Ranch; Sam Hoyt's trip up the Niobrara; family reunions

Issue 12 • 4th Quarter 2006 • Volume 3, Issue 4

Naper Historical Society news; Iona's Beauty Shop; Violet Sieh Stahlecker interview; John Schonebaum 96th birthday; Atkinson Homestead; When I Was Young

Issue 13 • 1st Quarter 2007 • Volume 4, Issue 1

Naper Bank Robbery; Manfred Peterson interview; Wayne Anderson; Allpress Farms; Autographs

Issue 14 • 4th Quarter 2007 • Volume 5, Issue 2

Remembering Veterans (Richard Stanek); Clinton Reber interview; Alumni Banquet; Dan Duffy; Almon Adam

Issue 15 • 1st Quarter 2008 • Volume 5, Issue 3

How My Father Escaped from Russia (Frieda Fischer); Clarence Mayer interview; Winter Storms; Goose on the Sattler Farm; Claus Vogt farm; Adrienne in the "Naperhood"

Issue 16 • 2nd Quarter 2008 • Volume 6, Issue 2

Remembering Veterans (George Alexander, Marvin Stahlecker); Lovera Peterson Reber interview; Schoenefeld Farm; White Horse Ranch Museum work; BRAN Riders; Brocksburg; Alumni Banquet

Issue 17 • 3rd Quarter 2008 • Volume 6, Issue 3

Alfred Camin story; Grace Schultz interview; Albert Allpress 100th birthday; autographs; Stan McLaughlin; Rockholm-Ludemann-Anderson farm; The Way It Used to Be; White Horse Ranch Museum; Ode to the Naper Town Hall; You Might Be From Naper if . . .

Issue 18 • 4th Quarter 2008 • Volume 7, Issue 1

Naper Library; Mabel Fontaine Rothschild interview; Bon Voyage and Good Flight; Fee Homestead; Remember When; Season of Joy; Even More Uses for Sacks

Issue 19 • 1st Quarter 2009 • Volume 7, Issue 2

Snakes Alive!; Alford Farm; Verlyn Sieh; Bruce Ahlers; Remember When; Alumni Banquet and Memorial Day pictures

Issue 20 2nd Quarter 2009 • Volume 7, Issue 3

Rural Water District; Windmeyer Farm; Walter Serr; Fred and Mary Herrmann Story Part I; Guess What; Remember When; School picture

Grandpa's Stinky Job

By Austin Koenig

One day Grandma told Isaac, Brett, and me that we had a job to do with Grandpa. The next day we went to Grandma and Grandpa's house. We found out what our job was. We had to take out the floor of the grain bin, but first we had to take out the bolts so we could take out the floor.

It took a long time. I got to play sometimes. Then Grandpa called me so I got in to help him. Isaac and Brett were playing around inside the bin. Grandma stayed out because Grandpa had to hand some stuff to her. Their dog, Chase, was inside with us. All day long Chase was sniffing and scratching on the floor.

Finally when we had only two parts left, Grandma started hollering very loudly about something. She grabbed Brett and pulled him out. It scared him so bad that he started to cry. Isaac jumped out next. I never knew he could move so fast! Grandpa and I still didn't know what was going on because we were in the back of the bin. But we soon found out!

Chase started barking and trying to get something. It was a skunk! Chase went to get it and the skunk sprayed him so much his white hair turned yellow. Grandpa and I were stuck in the back of the bin, so we saw it all happen. When the skunk went out the back, I climbed out. Chase jumped out and started rolling around. Then I went back in the bin. Another skunk came out! Grandpa thought it was blind because it kept running into things. Finally it went out the back too.

When we got home, Mom thought we smelled bad so she made us take a shower. The smell came off of us but Chase smelled awful for a long time!

(Austin is the son of Kevin and Stacy Zink Koenig; grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink.)





The Ol' Homesteader

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

Well, say, have we been keepin' busy or what? There's always somethin' to do in this town.

■ **AT THE TOWN HALL:** In October, Jack and Jean Reiman celebrated 50 years of marriage with all of their families and lots of friends and neighbors.

The annual Craft Fair was December 5, with lots of new vendors, good weather, and good food. The Naper Historical Society had a booth of baked goods and country store items.

Santa came callin' December 19. Seems everybody was good and there was no coal passed out.

Some young and energetic folks play volleyball—leaves the Ol' Homesteader out on both counts—not young, not energetic.

■ **AT THE LIBRARY:** In 2009, 941 books were checked out! Terrific! The greatest number was 135 in September.

Loren Sieh told some historical tales and will resume his talks soon.

Teresa Goodman and Mandy Keller had an art show in September. They have produced a line of greeting cards for sale. Kids stopped by for treats on Halloween. There was a very successful silent auction in November and another art show in January. The talent is amazing!

■ **AT THE VFW CLUB:** The Firemen sponsor steak suppers as fundraisers one Sunday night each month and it is good eatin. Mrs. Ol' Homesteader wants to know if they cook at home.

The Circle of Friends club has bingo on the first Saturday of each month—good fun, good visits, good prizes.

Lotsa folks at the Historical Society fundraiser—more good fun, good food, and bingo.

The VFW had its 42nd!!! Annual mountain oyster feed. That's a lotta years of work and lotsa good eatin'.

■ **AND ELSEWHERE:** Ol' Homesteader saw a bunch o' those Historical people pickin' up trash and scarin' up pheasants October 11.

Several local stitchers took their handiwork to the Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway quilt show in Butte.

Circle of Friends sponsored a fall yard decorating contest, and Shelly Melton

won "most original," Verna Campbell "scariest" and Tammy Haney "cutest." Ol' Homesteader thought they were all original, scary and cute, but judgin' was done by a ghost doin' a fly-by!

VFW Auxiliary served coffee and cookies for the POW/MIA Remembrance at the Café.

More coffee and cookies (it's what we do best) at the Post Office before Christmas. Yummy!

A whole buncha singers gathered up and sang carols around town on a beautiful Sunday night right before Christmas and the Christmas storms. Good timin', gang.

Marguerite Rockholm Ludemann celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at Butte Health Care Center.

■ AND THE KIDS ARE BUSY TOO:

Basketball players for the Spartans include Kendell McCarthy (son of Kevin and Angie, grandson of LeRoy and Maxine), Jon Alford (son of Jim and Becky, grandson of Edward and Lois), Alex Bendig (son of Kelly and Monica, grandson of Grace and Herman), Samantha McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine), Macy Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara, granddaughter of Wayne and Virginia), Amber Bendig (daughter of Kelly and Monica, granddaughter of Grace and Herman), Kelly McCarthy (daughter of Kevin and Angie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine), Jessa McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine), Janet Ahlers (daughter of Dean and Roxie).

Jon Alford, Alex Bendig and Brook Reiman (daughter of Casey and Lisa,

granddaughter of Jack and Jean, Wayne and Virginia) were named to the Nebraska School Activities Association Fall Academic All-State Awards. To receive the honor, the student must be a varsity player or organizational leader with a minimum 3.7 grade point average. Wow! Nice goin'! Yep, reminds me of the time...

■ **BIGGER KIDS:** Kara Peppel (daughter of Bill and Karen) graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with a degree in journalism.

Matt Alford (son of Jim and Becky, grandson of Edward and Lois) graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural and biological sciences.

Pamela Vogt Tillman (daughter of Kelly and Lois, granddaughter of Charlotte Nicolaus and Don and Gloria Vogt) received her master's degree in counseling from the University of Nebraska in Kearney.

Lovera Reber had two grandsons get married this fall—Wyatt Reis (son of Myra and Don) married Jessica Geiman October 10 in Plankington. Donn and Kathy's son Nick married Britany Mayer in Gregory December 19.

■ **AND WE SAY GOODBYE:** Anita Martin Waterman passed away October 27.

Charlotte Davis passed away January 4. Yvonne Reber Cahoy passed away January 6.

Gladys Sieh Ahlers passed away January 18 in O'Neill.

Alvin Schochenmaier passed away January 28. He had lived in the Naper area his entire life except for military service. ■



Ann Anderson, member of the Niobrara Valley Electric Good Will Board, presented a check for the Naper Historical Society to Mabel Sattler. They are standing in front of Ruth Thompson's Nash Rambler that is in the White Horse Ranch Museum.



Letters Keep A-Comin'

Send your cards and letters to:

The Naper Paper, c/o The Naper Historical Society,
PO Box 72, Naper, NE 68755

Congratulations, Naper Community, for adding another "jewel" to the crown of your society—the library! Being an avid bookworm, I'm so proud to know my hometown recognized and acted on the importance of reading and exploring.

As Helen Keller said, "Truly each new book is a ship that bears us away from the fixity of our limitations into the movement and splendor of life's infinite ocean." (Wish you were next door, so to speak, so that I could give you some of my collection.)

I am so grateful that, via the Naper Paper, I am able to keep in touch with and am updated on people and happenings in the community of my childhood and youth. Eagerly look ahead to the next issue.

Nathalie Sattler Taranto

Season's Greetings! Hope you have a happy holiday. Thanks so much for sharing the history of my uncle's plane crash.

Lynn Acree Liptak

You are to be commended on the work that is involved in preparing the Naper Paper. I enjoy it very much. How nice to have my two older sisters on the front page in the last issue. Would you please send the Naper Paper to my sister Leona Mayer? Thank you so very much.

Darlene Mayer Sieh

Enclosed is a check for the Naper Paper. We like your old news of people we knew. We enjoyed your article about our farm (the Herring brothers story).

R. and V. Stahlecker

Enjoy your paper very much. Here's something to keep it coming!

Walter and Betty Ahlers

Would you please give some of this amount toward the Naper Paper and the balance to the Historical Society to help with the cost of the new roof.

Bernie and Carol Ludemann

(Ed. Note: Thanks for the help with the roof—hopefully an early 2010 project.)

Enclosed is a donation to keep the Naper Paper coming. Thanks, and keep up the good work.

Ronald Sieh

All is fine in California. I'm sending the address of a person to be put on the mailing list of the Naper Paper—Harlan Nicolaus who lives in Hawaii. Donation enclosed.

Beverly and Howard Camin.

Love the paper!

D. Jorgensen

Marilyn Sieh's article (Duke being with Roy Rogers and visiting with Bob Feller) as Bob Feller is our grandkids' (Abigail and twins John and Chad Jamison) third cousin. We are enclosing a check for a fine paper and thank all the people that make it so.

Clint and Jo Davis

P.S. Bob Allpress is also our nephew.

I was in Naper visiting my father John Schonebaum and had the opportunity to go through the White Horse Ranch museum in the old Krotter building. It was very interesting to see all the items on display.

I have an old program from 1948 which I presumed they handed out at the shows. I would like to donate it to the museum.

Dan Schonebaum

(Ed. Note—Thanks, Dan. We appreciate all donations and display them as well as we can.)

Always think of sending our donation to the paper—then forget. We got the Naper Paper today, so will get the check in the mail while fresh in my mind! We both grew up at Naper in the '40s and '50s and have many good memories of those times. We attended the 50th class reunion of 1959 and was so good to see everyone again. Hopefully all of you from the class of 1960 will attend

next year! Keep up the good work with the paper and a big thank you to all that make it possible.

Larry and Karen (Reber) Juracek

I apologize for being late in sending our thanks to the lady that took us through the museum and left her friends at the café in August to unlock the door of the museum. We truly enjoyed her telling and showing the history that has been collected of the families, the school, etc. Wasn't time to see and read it all. Need to have at least couple days!

A special thank you to all that worked many hours to put this history together. What a wonderful job, and what a treasure for families that once lived and had families there to be able to come and relive the history of relatives and friends.

God Bless You All—With Many Thanks,

Ern and Esther Nelson

P.S. Here is a donation to be used where ever there is a need for it. Also, how about Loren Sieh taping his talks of and around the area so some of us that live far away can have a chance to hear also. Could sell the tapes—this would be money that could help with the upkeep of the museum. Just a suggestion! I know I sure would like to have one.

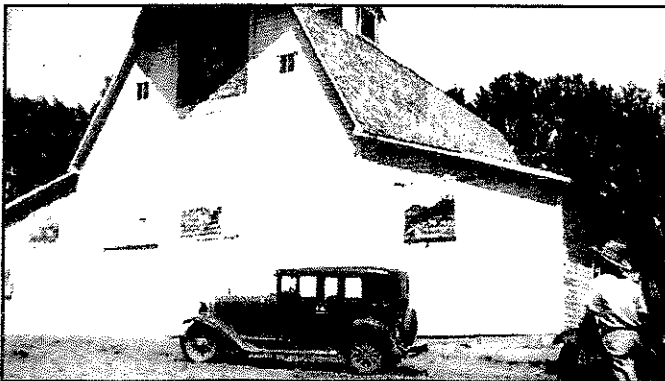
(Ed. Note: What about that, Loren?)

Thanks a lot for the memories. It makes me think back when I was young and in school—memories of the dust storm days, the grasshopper days, all the snow in those days, Carl Cunningham and his snowmobile (also the mud mobile!) but the mail got through, seeing the plane plowing into the storm clouds, Wednesday and Saturday nights in Naper, my parents waiting for the cream and egg check. My Dad had a couple horses from the White Horse Ranch.

Am sending a little to help out. Thanks for sending the paper to my sister Nola. She always tells me when she gets it.

Thanks a lot.

Helmuth Holmgren



Horse barn at the White Horse Ranch with Cal's paintings on the doors.

NAPER 28 NEWS

(From Torrance, CA, Daily Breeze, John Bogert's column, October 12, 2009)

The ongoing hunt for that downed World War II pilot in Santa Monica Bay brought this memory from Richard Krown of Rancho Palos Verdes: "I had the same experience as Frank Jacobs back in 1944 when I was living in La Crescenta. As the area was largely rural then, military aircraft used to fly over frequently."

"On one Sunday I observed what I think was an AT-6 flying over... and a few seconds later, I saw the plane crash. I was 12 years old... Later that afternoon, my father took us by the crash site. The two airmen were killed instantly... I have been trying to find out information about the crash, and maybe the names of the airmen. As with Frank Jacobs, I was the only person to see the plane crash. Your article brought back a lot of memories."

George Bearcroft of Redondo Beach wrote, "You mention that Gertrude Tomkins was just one of an appalling mass of 30,000 airmen killed in 16,000 training-mission crashes inside the US. The worst of these crashes took place near Naper, NE, about two months before her (Gertrude Tomkins) disappearance. An entire P-47 graduating

class of 24 fighter pilots was lost, along with the four-man crew of the C-47 when the plane was torn apart by a storm on August 3, 1944.

"An uncle I never knew (Lt. Anthony Paladino) was one of these P-47 pilots. I was born two years after his death and never knew the real story until recently. A documentary about the Naper 28 is currently being made.

"My mother never spoke about her brother's death. However, I grew up seeing Uncle Tony's photograph. She was upset when I took flying lessons and became a private pilot, and I could never bring myself to ask her about the accident. It has only been in recent months that I learned the story behind the crash that killed him. He died with 27 others and was found the next day. Tomkins-Silver died alone. She is still waiting."

Beverly Kentzelman of San Pedro added this, "May God continue to bless Frank Jacobs for keeping that memory in his heart for 65 years... Somebody did care."

John Christopher e-mailed, "Thanks for keeping these stories alive and informing the

public. If not for guys like you, the rest of us would not know anything about people like Gertrude. Keep up the good work." ■

(Ed. Note: Thanks to Joan Grim of Torrance who sent a copy of the column to the Naper Paper.)



William Acree's niece, Lynn, visited the crash site with her husband on September 12, 2009 (see Volume 7, Issue 3, page 4). Acree was one of the pilots who perished in the crash in 1944.

WHO IS IT?

The photo below was taken on June 3, 1910, at the District 44 schoolhouse, which was located just east of the lane going to the farm where Ken and Elaine Vogt Ellwanger now live. Do you have this photo in your album and can help us with names? ■



Back row, left to right: Belle Fast, unidentified, teacher Thea Aarhus, Anna Heimendinger and Edith Fee. Middle row: Two unidentified girls, Ullrich girl, four unidentified boys. Front row: Ford girl, Olive Snider, unidentified, Ford girl, John Snider, unidentified.

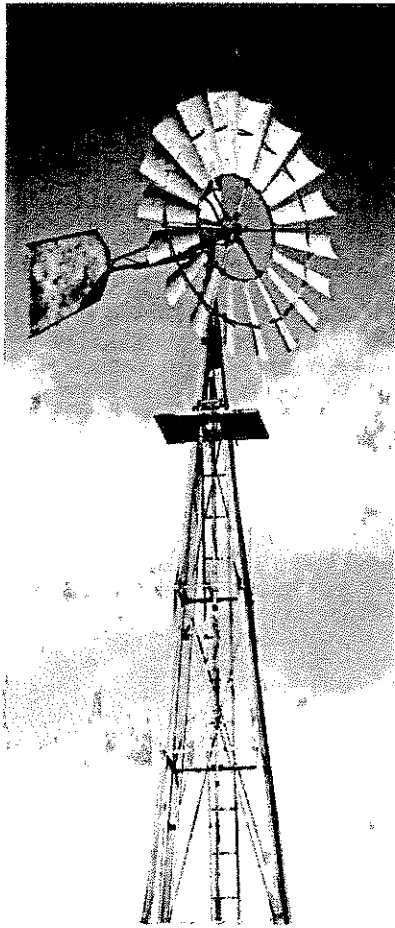
Brocksburg Bridge Icy Gorge Tragedy

By Alfred Camin

A father and his two boys lost their lives when an ice gorge tipped them off the Brocksburg Bridge. This event is probably recorded in the Brocksburg archives.

A psychic predicted that one of the bodies could be found under a big tree in the river on the John Camin farm, which is four miles from Naper. Two men, probably from the Brocksburg area, came to the farm and asked for permission to conduct a search. I was about 12 years old, and I went with them. There was no road. We walked about 80 rods and there was a big tree in the river, but it was on the other side of the river. The two men waded across and poked and prodded with sticks, but they needed better equipment. The water was quite deep around the tree. After a short while, they quit the search. None of the bodies has ever been found.

I am wondering if there are any relatives or friends of this family that remember this incident. To this day, I still recall the event. ■



Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society
PO Box 72
Naper NE 68755

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

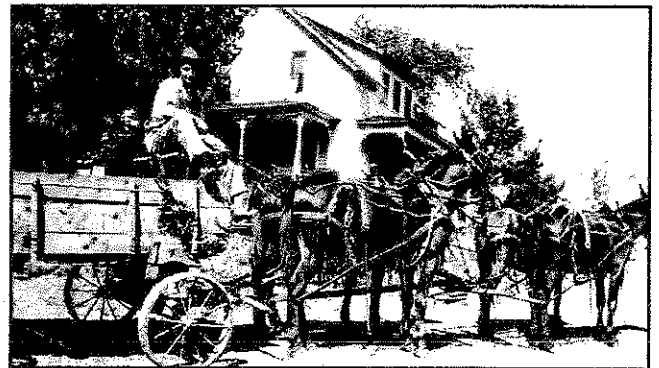
NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
NAPER NE
PERMIT # 1

IN THIS ISSUE...

- The Murder of Caroline Holton
- Fred and Mary Herrmann Part 2
- Ernest Graves Family Story
- Grandpa's Stinky Job
- Naper 28 News
- Plus: Circuit Rider, Ol' Homesteader

... AND MUCH MORE!

WHO IS IT?



Mabel Sattler has this photo and is wondering if anyone can identify the man or the location in the picture.