

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

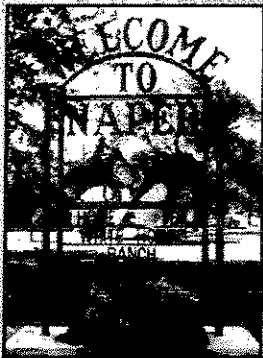
**The Naper  
Historical Society**

**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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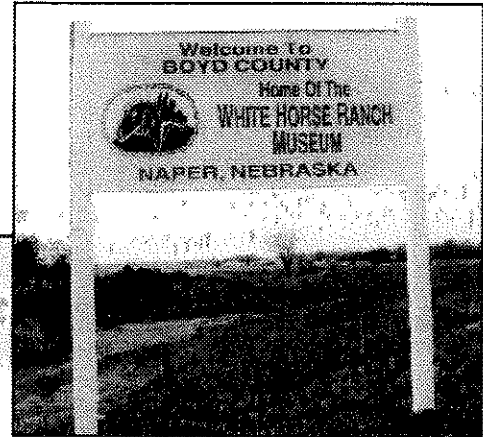
# Naper Paper

Volume 9, Issue 1

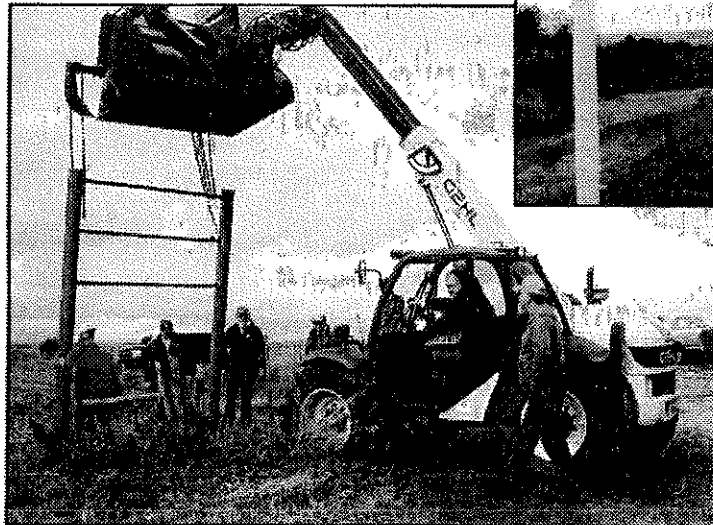
News of 4th Quarter 2010

## New Sign Welcomes Highway 12 Visitors

Travelers along Highway 12 are now welcomed to Boyd County and Naper, Home of the White Horse Ranch Museum, with new signs provided and installed by the Naper Historical Society. One sign is east of Knoll Crest Cemetery on the north side of Highway 12 and the other is about 1.75 miles west of town on the south side of Highway 12. ■



ABOVE: A picture of the new sign.



LEFT: Craig Zeisler operates the telehandler under the guidance of Bob Schultz to set the poles for the signs.

## FISHERMEN FACE THE WEATHER

Forty-five adults and 12 youngsters braved below-zero windchills and blowing snow Saturday, January 22, at the fifth annual Frozen Foot Ice Fishing Derby sponsored by Naper Café and Lounge.

Fishermen from Beresford, Yankton, Dell Rapids, Burke, Gregory and Centerville, SD, and Springview, Long Pine, Butte, Naper, Stuart and Ainsworth, NE, participated. A large crowd enjoyed the fish fry (thanks to a new fish fryer) and karaoke later in the evening.

Brad Kohle won both the bass category and overall pounds to win the trophy for the adult division. Bernie Rattermann topped the bluegill category, Derick Swan the crappie category and Mike Cahoy the perch category.

In the youth division, Noah Beck won the perch and bass categories and took the overall pounds trophy. Blake Ahlers won the crappie category and Braxton Jefferies won the bluegill category.

Tyler Spencer of Burke won the Jiffy Ice Auger. Mike Jones of Burke won the FL-18 Ultra Pack Fishing System. Ted Braaten of Brandon won a guided fishing trip to Pierre. Gift certificates from Tall Tails Taxidermy at Burton, NE, were won by Corby Sachtjen, Bill Schultz and Blake Ahlers, all of Naper, and Roger Witt of Bonesteel. ■





*The Circuit Rider*

## Bob Rowan: Stories of gypsies and outlaws

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

The scent of fall is in the air. The Keya Paha River and its trees are some of Nature's splendors and fascinate the Circuit Rider as he follows the trail to the Bob and Helen Rowan ranch. Nature reflects the aura of fall as a big buck deer bounds across the trail.

The aroma of coffee drifts from the house as the Circuit Rider ties his horse to the hitchin' post. A visit to the Rowans is always a pleasant stop for the Circuit Rider. The Rowan Ranch history goes back into the Vigilante Days of the famous outlaw, Doc Middleton—lots of history here.

Bob Rowan came into this world September 8, 1927, in the Springview home of Aunt Ella Johnson with pioneer doctor Hooper attending. Bob's parents were Andrew F. and Fanny Bauld Rowan.

Pioneer youngsters learned to work early. At 5 years old, Bob was milking cows and clearing weeds from the garden. Getting an education wasn't easy either. Bob rode horseback to Payne school near Jamison, Neb. In the famous "Dirty Thirties," a dust storm hit the school at about 11 a.m. Barely able to see outside, teacher Sadie Sherwood's sister came to the school with a car and took the students to John Graesser's place. The wind blew until

about 10 p.m. Bob's dad came with a team of horses and a wagon to pick them up.

Childhood memories include the story of a group of Indians that crossed the ranch and scared the kids into hiding. All the Indians wanted was some food. They were friendly enough. Another story recalled when a group of traveling gypsies drove by the kids in an old car with wooden spoke wheels, cutting across the pasture.

There weren't too many highlights on the farm, but town days included going to Jamison and Brocksburg to get groceries and sell eggs. Sunday School was in Brocksburg.

One of the few winter sports was ice skating on the river in December and January. Some members of the Eric Anderson, Axel Peterson and the Rowan families took part. Dora McNitt had her first skating party at age 65!

Keya Paha County had the reputation of sometimes being the place for outlaws to hide out. One time the sheriff came down and asked for a couple of neighbors to assist him in apprehending a horse thief. They arrived about daybreak and loaded their .30.30s early. One neighbor, who was quite excited about being a

"lawman," rested his rifle on his foot while riding to the log cabin to arrest the horse thief. The gun discharged and the enthusiastic deputy shot off his toe. Hearing the shot, the horse thief came out of the cabin with his hands up. It was the only shot fired!

Bob went to Springview High School and graduated in 1945. He was drafted into the Army in November 1950 and stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. In January 1951, Bob married the love of his life, Helen Birkel, at Junction City, Kan. They returned to Mills in 1952.

To this union a son, Steve, and a daughter, Sandy, were born. Now, there are four grandkids and eight great-grandchildren.

Good things happen to good people. In 1973, Bob and Helen were presented the Good Neighbor award by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben. This award is given only after someone in the community nominates the recipients.

The sun dropping over the hills at sundown has been the subject of many artists' paintings. The Circuit Rider never ceases to enjoy the Sandhills as he and his steed head for home. One more great visit was just had. Until next time, Adios! ■

## MEMORIES OF THE WALL

By Donna Windmeyer Luehmann

I have many memories of sitting there with friends, among them Bernice and Lou Ann Stahlecker, Shirley Bechtold, Judy Bentzen, Karen Gentele, Karen Reber, Adela Klien and more. Kathy Vance's father would push her wheelchair by the wall and we would talk with her. I can still see her sitting there with her legs just dangling and feeling so sorry for her that she couldn't walk. Her parents are to be commended for caring for her all those years.

We would sit there and discuss all sorts of things, like when the next dance would be in Fairfax, Bonesteel or Naper and what we would wear. Those were the days of the "can-cans," big puffy things made of netting that we would sugar starch and wear under our circle skirts to really make them puff out.

We would go into the drug store and have a Pepsi float for 15 cents. The latest comic books were always fun to look at. They were a dime, and the ones without covers were only a nickel. Some of my favorite ones were "Archie and Veronica" and "The Lone Ranger." Then there were the Junior Illustrated Classics, which I usually didn't buy because they cost a quarter! Our cousins, Ralph and Genene Kulm, usually had a good supply of them, and my sisters and I loved to go to their house to look at them. ■

## 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

# The Anton and Mavis Becker Hambek Story

By Mavis Becker Hambek

I was born June 26, 1927, to Rudolph and Zelma Becker at their farm right across the state line in South Dakota, north of the Ole Blele farm, later owned by his son Gilbert, then by Albert Bechtold, and now by our son Rudy.

Since my parents thought I was ready, I started school at age five. No kindergarten in those days, so I started learning the "3 R's" right away. Reading and arithmetic came easy but my writing was atrocious all the way through high school. When I became a teacher, I decided I'd better shape up and so I developed decent handwriting. I loved learning and still do. I attended the Goodman School  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile north of our farm for eight years. The last two years, my teacher was my sister Opal. She was an excellent teacher. About that time, the government began giving commodities to the schools—the best fruit we had ever tasted and staples like rice and potatoes. The teacher had to be cook as well as teacher. No wonder the potatoes sometimes boiled dry. One patron remarked to his child (and of course it got carried to school!), "I wonder if Miss Becker could boil water without burning it?" One had to have a sense of humor.

I was too young in the 1930s to realize how bad conditions really were. We never went hungry. Of course, my parents had to be worried when there was practically no crop and therefore, little money. Christmas presents were simple, but there was always something. We were not encouraged to have big expectations, so we weren't disappointed. One year, my brother and sister found a big thistle (something that DID grow abundantly during the '30s) and decorated it up like a Christmas tree.

Several years ago, we went to a Christmas party where someone had sprayed a thistle silver and used it for a decoration—we were just ahead of our time!

I went to high school in Naper and graduated in 1944. Due to World War II being in progress, there was a shortage of teachers. A high school graduate could attend college during the summer, take an exam and teach that fall. Since I was only 17, I had to have a special certificate. I had toyed with the idea of other careers, but since my father, mother, sister and brother had all been teachers, it was assumed I would be a teacher, too.

In 1945, I married Harry Cressman of rural St. Charles. That marriage was short-lived but produced our daughter, Margaret Ann. I returned to teaching, and in June 1949, I married Anton "Tony" Hambek of rural Gregory. Tony was born July 29, 1918, at his parents' homestead northwest of Gregory. After attending school, farming became his life's work. We had four sons: Andrew "Andy," born in 1950, Rudolph "Rudy," born in 1952, Jeffrey in 1955 and Steven in 1957.

My parents retired in 1965. We sold our farm and moved onto the home place. I was happy to be back in sandy soil where you could raise a good garden, but it was a big adjustment for Tony. In the next few years, we bought the Bert Spencer farm to the west and some Pothoff land to the south. The land was better suited to alfalfa, meadow hay, and sorghum than to crops, so we went from farming to ranching.

Tony believed in following conservation practices. Many trees have been planted which provide a wonderful windbreak for the farmstead and a haven for the cattle

when the bitter winter winds blow. In 1971, I ended my teaching career, and in the fall, we began dairying and continued that for 17 years. In 1988, Tony turned 70, so we decided it was time to retire and sold the milk cows. That fall, we went to California to visit his sister.

We decided it might be nice to go south in the winters and escape the cold and snow, so the next winter, we went to Harlingen, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley, and rented a trailer in an RV park. Later, we bought a trailer and had it tied down. We enjoyed deep south Texas winters for a total of 19 years. In 2008, we decided to sell the trailer and stay home due to our age and Tony's health. The last two winters we have spent in an apartment in Gregory to be close to the doctor.

At a young age, Tony had learned to play his brother's concertina. After we were married, I urged him to buy one of his own. It has given him a lot of enjoyment over the years. During the '60s, Tony, my dad on the violin and my brother on the piano accordion played for old-time dances. In later years, Tony played at nursing homes and assisted living facilities. In Texas, he participated in jam sessions. An activity that both of us have enjoyed since our early years and into our 80s was dancing—polka dancing for most of our married life, square dancing for 26 years. I also line danced in Texas for many winters. Finally, our knees said, "Enough already!"

Our son Rudy now owns the farm and has added the Rudolph Becker Jr. farm and the Albert Bechtold farm. He raises purebred black Angus cattle. Margaret lives in Springview, Andy in Kearney, Jeff in Sioux Falls and Steve in Seward. ■

## Support Our Local Merchants

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backhoe work, plumbing  
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tire repair, new tires  
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*If we don't  
support our local  
merchants ...  
who will?*

*Spend here:  
Keep Naper strong!*

## Where in the World Are We? (Part 4)

**L**et's start on the east end of town, middle row of blocks, where there is a green ranch-style home, currently unoccupied, which was moved from the Hayward Muller farm southwest of Naper.

Proceeding west is a vacant block owned by Denny Jorgensen and Margaret Ludemann. In the next block west is a mobile home which was moved to town by Rev. and Mrs. Alipio Ramos where they lived until moving to O'Neill. Reo Ludemann bought it for use as a rental property until Nancy Gross bought it in 2009. It is vacant at this time.

To the west of the mobile home are several vacant lots now owned by Rob Johnson. South of the vacant lots is the former hotel, possibly called Naper House, then owned by Mike Maertin who lived there until his death. The John Forsch family lived there, then Clarence and Linda Beem, then Jennifer Hamling and family, and now owned by Chuck Putnam. East of this house is the house owned by Holt and Mary Martin for many years, then by Adolph Schultz, now by the Gerald Teichman family.

The next block west, northeast corner, contains many vacant lots where trees from the 50 states were planted during the United States Bicentennial in 1976. The west side of this block is Main Street (City Office and Library, bowery, auditorium and café) and just east of the café is the Car Wash owned by Tim Whitley. East of the car wash is the home moved to Naper by Harry and Mildred Fuhrer. For many years, Jane Fuhrer's beauty shop was in the west end of the house. The house is vacant, owned by Ed Main. Many years ago, the livery barn owned by Mr. Briggs was in this area.

Corby Sachtjen lives in the next house east. It was moved to town and remodeled by Art and Elsie Wentz. It was their home before they built living quarters on the side

of the bar, then the house became the home of Luree Barnes for many years.

Crossing Main Street and heading west is the home of Terry and Michaela Sachtjen. Many years ago, this was the site of a blacksmith shop, then the first state Department of Roads shed. At one time, a sheet would be hung on the wall of the shed and free outdoor movies would be shown. The house on this site was built by Swede Hansen, then owned and occupied by Iona and Marlin Carstens. Gene and Twyla McLaughlin moved to this house when they moved from the ranch north of Bonesteel.

Directly north of Sachtjen's house is the home built by Gene and Ada Riesselman when they retired from their farm east of Naper. It is owned by Jim and Mabel Sattler. Bryon and Sharon Vogt lived there after the tornado destroyed their farm home south of town in 1992. They have recently moved to a newly remodeled home on their farm, and son Ryon Vogt is living in the house in town.

Cross the street west to the home of Janet Eggert, formerly the home of Philip Holmgren. Sr. Elsie Wentz lived in the home for several years after buying and remodeling it. West of Janet's house is where Terry Muller lives. It was moved to Naper by Ed Stoltenberg and was the home of Ed and Annie Stoltenberg for many years.

South of Terry's house is the former Harry and Leatrice Bennett home. Harry's mother Etta lived in the small house which Harry and Leatrice remodeled. They also built the garage. Rick and Elaine Best live there now. South of the Best house is the home formerly owned by Herman Dalldorf, subsequently by Bob and Elsie Stoltenberg, Claus and Olida Sieh, Fritz and Hertha Sieh and Linda Nicolaus Vomacka. Dennis and Caroline Ritchey, Ponca, Neb., now use it as a vacation home.

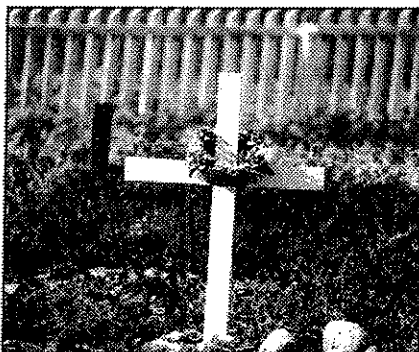
Across the alley east is Brad Ludemann's

home. It was originally owned by Jake Blakkolb. Barbara Vogt moved there in 1951, then Emma and Connie Sattler made it their home for many years. North of Brad's home is the house formerly known as the Reichel house, later the Stahlecker house, then Bud and Vivian Alexander's home for many years. It is now owned by Hoyt and Julie Cline but unoccupied since they moved to the farm southwest of Naper.

On the northwest corner of the next block west is "Ted's House," at one time lived in by Minnie Wentz and her son Ted Wentz. It is now a rental. West of "Ted's House" is a new metal building, combination house and garage, built by Stan McLaughlin on the site of an old frame house that had seen many families. Loren and Linda Sieh live in the house south of this, at one time owned and occupied by Rudy and Irene Weickum, and later Jim and Velda McLaughlin.

Across the alley east is the Blakkolb home where Bill and Frieda and their three daughters lived for many years. Interestingly enough, Frieda was born and raised in the house Loren and Linda now live in (Statsman home) and when she married, she had to move her things only across the alley. Duke and Velda Stahlecker have purchased the home and spend their summers in Naper. North of their house is a vacant lot where a house moved to Naper by George Ford stood for many years. It was the home of Esther Dawson before being razed.

Head to the next block and across the street west is the house now owned by Dennis and LouAnn Heermann. It was originally built for Dennis' grandmother in the 1940s, then owned by John and Emma Camin, later Bill and Kate Heermann. Next door to the south is a modular home moved in by Charles Humpal in 1980. Herman and Grace Bendig have owned and lived in the house for several years. ■



### KNOLLCREST CEMETERY STARTS FENCING PROJECT

**K**noll Crest Cemetery, located one-half mile east of Naper and site of the Naper 28 Memorial, is raising funds to replace the fence along Highway 12. The cemetery board is researching several types of fencing as to durability, attractiveness, maintenance, and cost. The fence currently along the highway is decorative woven wire. It's been in place many years and is showing its age.

The cemetery board is also raising funds to purchase markers for unmarked graves. An engraved metal plate which can be set on a concrete pad can be purchased for less than \$100.

If you'd like to donate to either of the projects, contact Ramona Bentzen, Charlotte Nicolaus, or Ann Anderson. Donations can be mailed to Ann Anderson at 90479 470 Ave., Naper, NE 68755, or to Box 72, Naper, NE 68755. ■

## IS IT TIME?

*Comes May and graduation ceremonies are everywhere. And then in 10 years or 20, we get the reunion request...*

### THE CLASS REUNION

*Author unknown*

Every five years, as summertime nears,  
An announcement arrives in the mail.  
A reunion is planned; it'll be really grand;  
Make plans to attend without fail.

I'll never forget the first time we met—  
We tried so hard to impress.  
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars  
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole class was there.  
It was held at a fancy hotel.  
We wined and we dined and we acted refined,  
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first  
To achieve great fortune and fame.  
Meanwhile, their spouses described their fine houses  
And how beautiful their children became.

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean,  
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.  
The jocks who were there had all lost their hair,  
And the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd  
Who'd guided a spacecraft to the moon;  
Or poor little Jane, who's always been plain,  
Has married a shipping tycoon.

The boy we'd decreed "most apt to succeed"  
Was serving ten years in the State pen,  
While the one voted "least" now was a priest;  
Just shows you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys  
Who seemed to have aged the least.  
Another was given to the grad who had driven  
The farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture  
Of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties.  
Tall, short or skinny, the style was the mini—  
You never saw so many thighs.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether  
They impressed their classmates or not.  
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;  
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

It was held out-of-doors at the lake shores;  
We ate hamburgers, coleslaw and beans.  
Then most of us lay around in the shade,  
In our comfortable t-shirts, no tie, and our jeans.

By the fiftieth year, it was abundantly clear  
We were definitely over the hill.  
Those who weren't dead had to crawl out of bed,  
And be home in time for their pill.

And now I can't wait; they've set the date;  
Our sixtieth is coming, I'm told.  
It should be a ball, they've rented a hall  
At the Shady Rest Home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid;  
My pacemaker's been turned up on high.  
My wheelchair is oiled and my teeth have been boiled;  
I've bought a new wig and glass eye.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party  
I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light.  
It'll be lots of fun, and I just hope there's one  
Other person who can make it that night. ■

## DO YOU REMEMBER...?

*By Marilyn Smith Sieh*

... **W**hen you went to the café and ordered the best-tasting ice cream money could buy? It came in 2½ gallon tubs made of strong, thin, brown cardboard. They were kept in a chest-type freezer with clear, sliding glass doors so you could check out the various flavors before you ordered your choice of either vanilla, chocolate or strawberry ice cream. You could have a dish of ice cream, a sundae, a banana split or a malt. But generally you ordered a one-dip ice cream cone.

You had the choice of one dip, two dips, or a triple dip cone for 5¢ per dip, and you could mix or match your favorite flavors. Of course, with the triple dip, it would involve some skill to get it all eaten without the ice cream tipping or falling off the cone. The hotter the weather, the faster you licked the top part of the ice cream cone. Otherwise, it would melt all over outside of the cone and onto your hand.

How many of you remember the double cone, which consisted of two "wells" side by side on top of the cone which then tapered to a point. Homemade ice cream was always a treat, but sometimes, when ice wasn't available, a rural school would order the big tub of ice cream from the café for a treat after the picnic and games they held to celebrate their last day of school. ■





## Letters... We Get Letters!

Send your cards and letters to:

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

Just wanted to say how much I enjoy the *Naper Paper*. I also enjoy coming back for the Alumni Banquet; it is so fun to see former classmates and friends. The nametags really come in handy. We all just don't look like we did 50 years ago! My sister, Maxine McCarthy, took us around town the day after the banquet and I was so impressed with how well-kept the lawns, flowers and homes were. You Naper people should feel so proud! Keep up the good work! Enclosed is a donation. Thanks!

Donna Windmeyer Luehmann

Enclosed find a check to keep the news and paper coming. Enjoy the history of Naper and community—kinda lived some of it ourselves. Thanks again.

Lorraine and Bob Woehl

Enjoy the paper. Here's a few \$\$\$\$. Paper brings back so many memories. Doc asked me what my secret is—I'm 94, sister Amanda 95, Alfred 90, Ruth, Howard and Pauline. I told the doctor, "I was born in Nebraska." He said, "MMMM. Interesting." I'm just old but do all my work and enjoy life.

Edna Camin Revilak

I so enjoy your paper. Keeps me up-to-date with everything at Naper. I am starting to work on the Becker family history and thought the picture would be interesting for your paper.

Betsy Becker Raymer

I'd like to make a donation so I can keep the *Naper Paper* coming. Special Hello! to the Circuit Rider.

Mary Rose Pinkelman

Please find enclosed a donation for the *Naper Paper*. We look forward to each issue.

Bernie and Carol Ludemann

Enclosed is a check for the paper. We enjoyed the article "Ghosts of Naper" and the ghost at our farm. Although I have never seen a ghost there, I have seen a UFO. Thanks again.

R. and V. Stahlecker

Once again we are enjoying reading the *Naper Paper*. Enclosed is a donation. Keep the paper coming.

Neil and Carol Helenbolt

Jim and Mabel —Thanks for your great work in Naper through the historical society. We enjoy watching all the good projects that are supported through the organization. Keep up the good work.

Jon Schmaderer/Tri-County Bank

I'm enclosing an envelope of odds and ends I got in Naper some years ago at an auction. I did not know the lady whose auction it was and do not remember her name—maybe she was even dead and it was an estate sale. I always meant to give this bundle to someone in or near Naper but just never did. Well, I ran across it again today. I have since moved to Stratford, Wis., nearer my children.

In one of the last papers was a letter from Lawrence McKenzie who is my second cousin. He lives at Medford, Ore. His mother and my father Lloyd Heyden were first cousins. I was surprised to see his letter in the paper. It is surprising the letters you must get from faraway places and from Naper—but so interesting!

Thanks for the *Naper Paper*. I do enjoy the articles. I've been thinking I should send more money to the *Naper Paper* so I'll just do it all up in one envelope. Enclosed is a check.

Lorraine Heyden Creasey

**(Ed. Note: The bundle of odds and ends were passed on to the right person. Thanks for the donation and the kind words.)**

Our visit with you was an excellent start for our vacation this summer. Thank you so much for taking the time and having the patience with us when we were on our trip in August. We certainly enjoyed our visit to the White Horse Ranch Museum. You did an excellent job of showing us and describing all the articles of interest. It is so nice that you have preserved so many things. They are wonderful keepsakes and memories. (The pie was really good, too!)

We continued on our vacation through South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Canada and Idaho, seeing more museums, wonderful scenery and enjoying great friends along the way.

Happy Trails,  
Robert and Gloria Vogel

I was told that you had an article in your *Naper Paper* this past year (I think) about Ray Stoltenberg and Walt Ahlers seeing a large snake in the Keya Paha River. I would appreciate a copy of this if it's available. Ray was my brother-in-law. Thanks.

Glenn Burke

**(Ed Note: That was Volume 7, Issue 2, and it's on its way to you. Thanks for asking and for sending a donation.)**

Enclosed a check for the good old *Naper Paper* that we do enjoy so much. Hope it never stops as long as I can read. Told my kids I was going to live to be 100. Mom almost made it. She was 97 when she passed away. Would like to know what books were written about Naper's history.

LaVonne Klien Boes

**(Ed Note: The *Naper Centennial Book*, written in 1992 to commemorate the centennial, is out of print. We have copies of the 1976 book written for the bicentennial celebration of the United States. They are available for \$5 plus \$1 shipping.)**

Great *Naper Paper* issue. We enjoy them all. So many interesting facts, even though we don't know the people. Lots of work putting all the facts together for each issue. We read it and pass it on to Jeff Rockholm. He enjoys all the articles, too. We're enclosing a donation to help with postage.

Hope you and yours had a wonderful Christmas and you'll all have a healthy 2011. Peace on earth is our greatest wish.

Gene and Joan Grimm

After talking to you on the phone, I also ran across an autobiography written by my mom. She talks about her White Horse Troupe experience while on the show road. She talked about how things were handled when they were traveling with the horses and the songs the band played during the various acts of the show. I thought you might be interested in the autobiography to also add to the museum, so I made copies of it. You might ask some of the other people if they would be interested in writing or doing a video of their experiences.

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving, and keep warm.

Roxane Ferreira

**ED. NOTE: THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TAKES TIME TO SEND AN ADDRESS CORRECTION AND/OR A DONATION TO THE NAPER PAPER. WE APPRECIATE IT!**



## The Ol' Homesteader

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

**T**here's no end to the excitement in town and out and about...

**BUSY KIDS:** Jon Alford (son of Jim and Becky, grandson of Edward and Lois), Kendell McCarthy (son of Kevin and Angie, grandson of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy), Alex Bendig (son of Kelly and Monica, grandson of Herman and Grace Faatz Bendig), Macy Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara, granddaughter of Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers), Kelly McCarthy (daughter of Kevin and Angie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine), Amber Bendig (daughter of Kelly and Monica, granddaughter of Herman and Grace), Janet Ahlers (daughter of Dean and Roxie), Samantha McCarthy and Jessa McCarthy (daughters of Darrin and Connie, granddaughters of LeRoy and Maxine) have all kept the basketball courts busy for West Boyd School. Both boys and girls West Boyd Spartan teams took first place in the Boyd County Tournament.

Janet Ahlers, Amber Bendig, Alex Bendig, Jon Alford, Luke Zeisler (son of Richard and Sheryl), Kelly McCarthy and Kendell McCarthy all were named to the honor roll at West Boyd.

Kendell McCarthy was named king and Luke Zeisler prince at the West Boyd Winter Ball.

Zander Gosch (son of Pastor Justin and Amy Gosch), Zander Kluckman (son of Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman), Isaac Koenig, Austin Koenig (sons of Kevin and Staci

Zink Koenig, grandsons of Jeff and Rindy Zink great-grandsons of Louise Neumiller Zink), Ridge Higgins (son of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins, grandson of Leila Boucher Higgins and Margaret Vogt Klien Schmitz), and Amber Bendig had perfect attendance.

**BUSY ADULTS:** Friends gathered at the VFW to celebrate with Merv and Helen Schmitz Higgins for their 60th wedding anniversary.

Bob and Barb Stoltenberg Wentz celebrated 50 years.

The VFW served its 43rd annual mountain oyster feed. Bet that's a record of some kind.

Sandra Bernt Rivera received her BS degree from Wayne State College December 17.

Marguerite Ludemann celebrated her 101st birthday January 23 at the Butte Health Care Center.

**BUSY COMMUNITY:** The gun show in October, co-sponsored by Lee Cadwallader, was very well attended by vendors and buyers from near and far. NHS had the lunch stand—thanks to all who helped prepare or consume the food! The annual Naper Craft Fair had a lot of vendors and a good crowd.

The firemen's steak suppers continue to be well attended and enjoyed by all.

Santa came to town December 18 and made a lot of people happy with his presence and his presents.

**NAPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS:** The historical people served soup and

sandwiches and then had lots of games of bingo at their fundraiser in November. Lovera Reber won the adult's door prize and Brianna Fuchs of Wagner won the youngster's door prize. Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way. The new signs along Highway 12 look great.

Velda Stahlecker has placed several notebooks of historical and family interest in the reading room at Heritage Hall. Lucille Sieh's family donated several of her scrapbooks and they will also found in the reading room. Interesting stuff there!

Roxane Ferreira, daughter of Irma McCubbins Ferreira, sent two scrapbooks to the White Horse Ranch Museum detailing her mother's summers on the ranch. Irma was married to George Ferreira, who played in the band that traveled with the WHR troupe. Very interesting reading and great pictures.

**AND WE SAY GOOD BYE:** Marjo Schonebaum Segers passed away at her home in Alabama Christmas morning after a courageous battle with cancer.

A good many of us took our first turn around the dance floor to the music of Alice and Her Orchestra—Alice Nemeck passed away January 17 at the age of 98.

John Davis who grew up about three miles north of Naper passed away January 18 at his home in Fairfax.

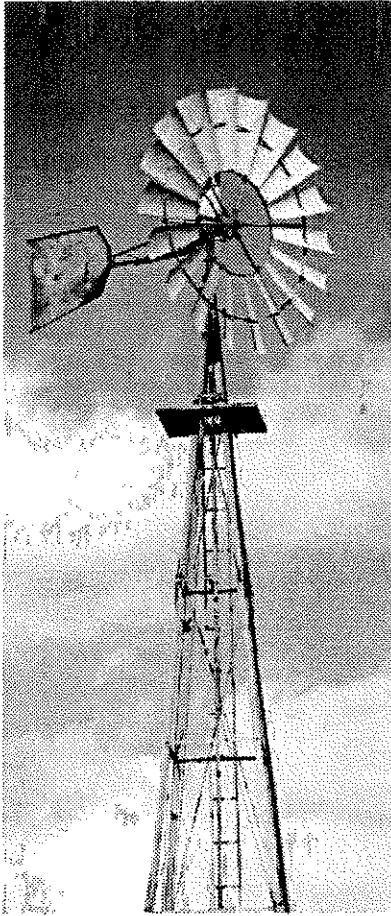
Esther Neumiller Fuhrer passed away February 26 after struggling with cancer for several months. She'd been a part of the Naper community her entire life. ■



**LEFT:** "I found this picture of our first school days at Naper in 1941-1942," says Velda Gentele Hannahs. "Our grandma, Anna Kortmeyer, sewed paper angel dresses for the Christmas program. How many still remember that play? Grandma sewed them all by hand for us. It was a windy, cold day, but sunny. I remember that day so well and how Grandma sat and sewed these by hand by lamplight. Glad to read the story of the Naper fire. God bless. Thank you." Pictured left to right: Esther (white paper dress), Velda (pink paper dress) and Wilma (blue paper dress).



Mavis Becker Hambek gave the photo above to Betsy Becker Raymer. The young ladies would be Betsy's great aunts. Left to right are Anna (Mrs. George Sieh), Julia (Mrs. Given Reber), Magdalena (Mrs. Gust Weickum), and a cousin whose last name was Ritzdorf.



# Naper Paper

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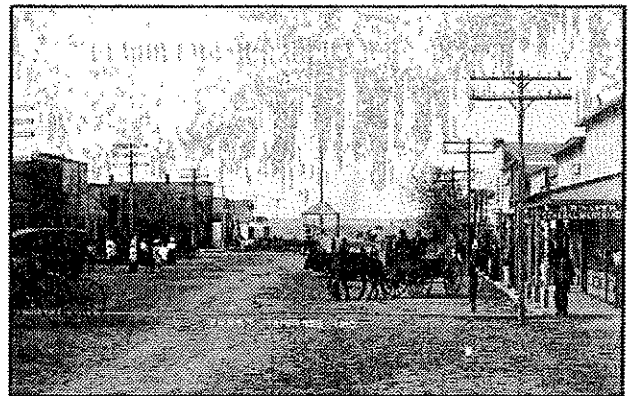
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## IN THIS ISSUE...

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- **New Sign Welcomes Visitors**
- **Memories of the Wall**
- **Anton and Mavis Becker Hambek**
- **Where in the World Are We?**
- **Do You Remember?**
- **Plus: Circuit Rider, Ol' Homesteader**

**... AND MUCH MORE!**



This photo was received November 1, postmarked Quad Cities, IL, with the following message: "Found this among some old family photos. Thought somebody in town might enjoy it. I've never been there but hope it's changed a bit since 1910." There was no signature so we can't say thank you to whomever sent it, but we'd love to know more. If those walls could talk...