

A publication
for and about
the town of
Naper, Nebraska

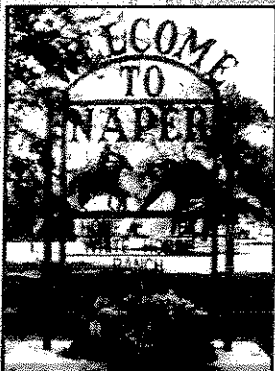
The Naper
Historical Society

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 4

News of 3rd Quarter 2011

Albert Dalldorf and His Truck

By Avis Breyer

My dad, Albert Dalldorf, first started his truck route in the early 1930s. Since Naper was some distance from a railroad line, people welcomed another means of transportation for their produce. He began with hauling livestock for farmers and ranchers from the Naper vicinity to Sioux City and sometimes to the Omaha stockyards. Choice sale day was Monday, so it took all day Sunday from the time he loaded the cattle or hogs until he unloaded in Sioux City, often at dusk. On rare occasions, our family would accompany him. I well recall seeing the many trucks backed up to the river in Sioux City to hose out the box of the truck after unloading the cargo. There were times in the busy summer when he would return to Naper to get another load for the following day. If he was hauling a load of hogs, he sometimes used his "double deck" so he could haul more. He had an electrical prod that he used to keep the livestock on their feet. We stopped often along the way to check the load because you never wanted a critter to get down.

Eventually, he found there was a need for bringing groceries back to towns along the route to Naper. He would pick up merchandise, mostly groceries, in Sioux City, Omaha, and then on to Norfolk. He stopped wherever he had merchandise for delivery in the towns along the way. Once back in Naper, he would unload at the local stores and then go on to Jamison to Blake's Store before his route was finished. My dad was quite innovative, and when the need arose, he would install plywood panels that he had made to fit over the outside of the truck box. He also had pipes rigged to heat the back so his load wouldn't freeze, because he was often hauling fruit and other perishables.



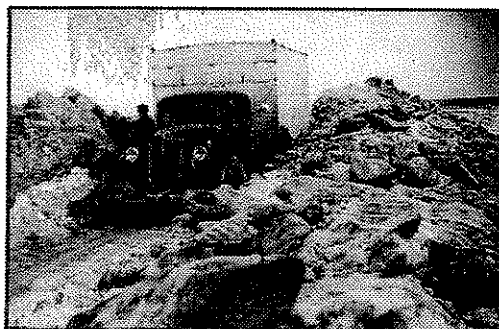
After the fire in 1942, site of Maertins Store and Shorty's Bar, which was a former bank building, thus the vault; L-R: Delma Dalldorf, Cathryn Blakkolb, Yvonne Reber, Donna Weickum, Mariilyn Smith, Delores Zeitner and JoAnn Katzer.

Albert's truck was sometimes used for other purposes. In the winter when the snows came and blocked the roads, he would take a bunch of volunteers out to shovel the roads to the next town or until they met the snowplow. There were times when they would open a road one night and have to open the same road again the next night because it had blown shut. Sometimes a call would come from someone who needed to get to a doctor or to town for groceries, so the men would gather to clear a country road. The men appreciated the enclosed truck box because of the extra warmth Albert would provide by means of a small kerosene stove. There were times during bad roads when Dr. Seasongood needed dependable transportation in order to reach someone needing a doctor's care, so Albert would drive him.

On the night of the big fire in 1942, Albert's truck was also pressed into service. He backed his truck up to the rear door of Maertins Store where the volunteers evacuated as much merchandise as they could into the truck. The merchandise was then hauled to the town hall for temporary storage.

Another purpose for Albert's truck was to haul high school kids to out-of-town games. That was a gay old time! In the dim lights in the back of the truck, we sang songs and tried to get Florence Odenbach to yodel for us as we bounced along.

As with all things, change came with the advent of the big semis and companies sending their own trucks to make deliveries. Albert and Doris bought the drug store in the 1940s, so Albert moved on to other things and gave up his truck. ■



Albert and his truck in a tight spot.



The Circuit Rider

Major Jon Dyer, Ret.: The spirit of the pioneer

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

The Circuit Rider never ceases to be amazed with the wonderful diversities, talents and stories from the fine residents who've chosen to settle in the special community of the pioneers who helped settle Naper. One of these residents is Major Jon Dyer, Ret.

Jon was born September 7, 1936, in Long Beach, CA, where his family had moved from Wisconsin. In the woods of Michigan, Jon's dad and family cut trees in winter and floated them down the river in the spring—lots of snow! His mother was born in a log cabin. Grandpa lost his arm in a shotgun accident. These pioneers were tough too!

Jon's dad worked in the oil fields of California and then owned a gas station where his brothers could also work. Jon, who was born and raised in the Compton-Long Beach area, said his early years were ideal. He rode a bicycle to high school until a Super '88 Olds was bought. Jon was the 1,000th member to register at David Starr Jordan High School. When he was 16 years old, he joined the junior ROTC.

Jon's dad and a friend took son Jon on a San Jacinto Mountain hike. Jon, lingering behind and sitting on a log with his shoe off, was surprised when a rattlesnake crawled out and bit him on the toe. While he was suffering alone, a one-armed Indian came down the trail. This Good Samaritan went farther down the trail and found a ranger on horseback to move him to safety.

Jon served in the California National Guard during the mid-fifties. In 1962, he was activated for the Berlin Crisis for one year. Then, as a lieutenant, he went on active duty and was stationed in Ft. Hood, TX. From there, to Heidelberg, Germany, where he spent three years as an analyst in technical intelligence. Jon achieved the rank of Major before he left.

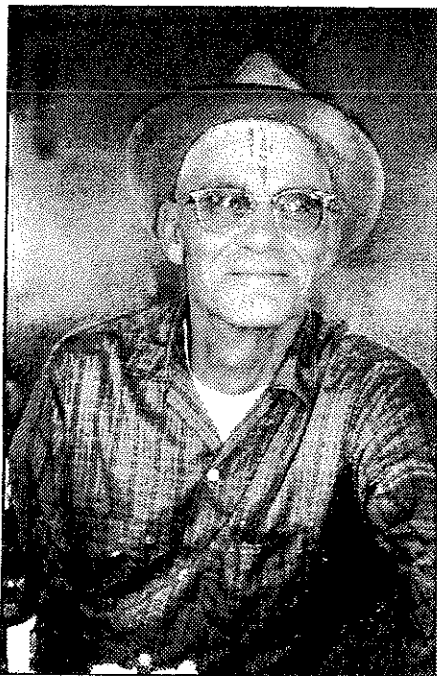
About that time, Viet Nam was heating up. He spent a year in school, then back to Viet Nam in the 4th Infantry for one year. From Viet Nam to Aniston, AL, as a chemical security officer, then back to Germany as ammunition officer for the 5th Army Corps in Frankfurt. The next stop was Ft. Carson, CO, in division maintenance

for the 4th Division, where Jon ended his career as a Major after 23 years in the service.

After retirement, Jon lived in Colorado while he attended Colorado Technical College, where he earned a BA degree. Following this, Jon worked for Western Electric and then AT&T. He moved from Thornton, CO, to Widefield, then to a home in the Westcliff Mountains.

While living in Colorado, Jon's first wife had passed away and so had Donna (Weickum)'s husband. Fortunately, the two met and married. While living in the high altitude, Donna contracted a respiratory infection that required a move to a lower altitude, thus the move to Naper. They purchased the home that had at one time been the home of Donna's grandparents, Gust and Lena Weickum, where Donna had stayed while she attended high school. Unfortunately, Donna passed away in 2002.

As long as America has people like the Dyers moving back to Naper, there will always be the spirit of the pioneers in the air. ■



WHO IS IT?

Who was this handsome man? When and where was this picture taken? (Answer on page 7)

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

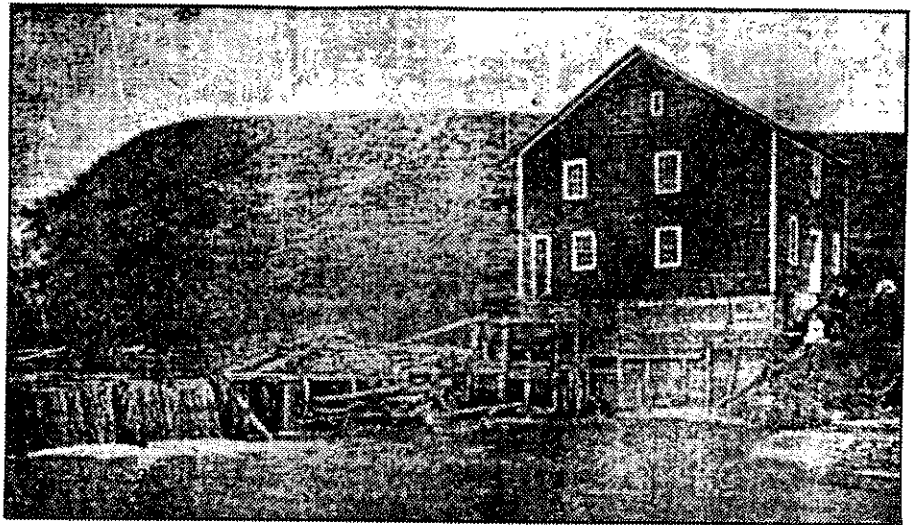
BRUCE MILLS

By Marilyn Sieh

History tells us about the foods of the early settlers in this area: garden produce, livestock, homemade breads and pies. What about the bread? Where did they get the flour to bake the bread and anything else for the table that needed flour?

So begins the story of Bruce Mills, which supplied the flour. After the farmers knocked the grain from the straw, either by hand or later by machine, they would sell most of the grain, reserving grain to make enough flour for the coming year. That grain went to the Bruce Mills on the Keya Paha River, six miles southwest of Naper.

Andrew Bruce was born in New York City in 1850. He engaged in the milling business and farm work. In 1882, he came to Franklin County, Nebraska, where he started one of the first rolling mills of its kind in the state. In 1901,



Bruce Roller Mills

he came to Boyd County and put up a mill on the Keya Paha River. This mill was one of the best equipped and most widely patronized of all the mills around, although there is no mention of any other

mills in the area.

He had a fine family of four children, his oldest son being a member of the firm of Bruce and Son, who were proprietors of the mill on the Keya Paha. ■

MAYLON TELLS ALL . . .(ALMOST)

By Maylon Kern

I remember breaking football training and going to the Powder River Days dance and staying over with "Puddy" (that's what his momma called him) and helping milk cows the next morning.

They had a new-fangled milking machine. It was nippy that early fall Sunday dawn just east of town, but I remember his momma, barefoot, in her full-length, threadbare, faded old nightgown, frying heaps of eggs, bacon, ham and pancakes, juice or milk or both and even black coffee with grounds in the bottom of the cup, and the first warmth of the day in that kitchen.

The Bonesteel outing was worth Coach's harangue the following Monday: dimly-lit dancehall, an array of bobbysoxers anxious to two-step, jitterbug and slow-dance as well, and of course, SoDak 3.2! Coach would have dumped me from the team in a heartbeat, but "Puddy" was a damned good center—in fact, he was the only center Coach had.

My Uncle Warren attended NHS his freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Butte. He told me about how he and one of his classmates circled the ball diamond just after it had rained; the problem—they circled the bases with

a couple of new-at-the-time, vintage now, Fords. Back then, they used single alpha letters to denote car models. Maybe that's why my uncle finished high school in Butte? He claimed it was because they offered typing classes.

Later, the wife of my uncle's classmate had me modeling clothes for a style show and playing "Come Back to Sorrento" on my old six-string guitar with the Gibson amp for Wynn Speece, the WNAX Neighbor Lady.

My Uncle Don Moody told of my dad thirsting for a cache of homebrew on a hot Sunday afternoon during Prohibition. So Lowell and a buddy of his hatched a plan to retrieve the frothy brew from its hiding place and carry the bottles in a tub of cold water back to a certain gas station in town. I was told that Lowell's buddy owned the place at the time. By the time they got back to the store, all the bottles had exploded, punctuated each time with Lowell's well-chosen expletive. ■

(Ed. Note: In subsequent issues of the Naper Paper, letters from members of the armed forces in both World War I and World War II will be published. Two letters Maylon sent will be included then.)

The Honor Flight I Won't Forget

By Dan Duffy

On May 21, 2011, 96 World War II vets boarded a plane (sponsored by Tyson and Walmart) at XNA Airport, Highfill, Arkansas, for a non-stop flight to Washington, DC. There we had a police escort through the city to the memorial walls, where we were welcomed by a large group of people and a band, too.

From there, we boarded buses that took us to the various memorial walls, followed by a short tour of other memorial buildings.

The police escorted us back to our plane and we flew back to XNA. All three meals were served on the plane.

Other activities were planned by a large group of Arkansas folks to welcome us back and to say thanks for the part we did in World War II. This trip was great in every respect and will live in my memories forever. ■

RURAL SCHOOL REVIEW

How about a sign to mark where each rural school used to be? A worthy cause, still in the planning stage, the Naper Historical Society board decided. Then comes the tricky part—determining where these schools once sat.

Marguerite Rockholm Ludemann loved to recite poetry, and one of her favorites was, "Still sits the schoolhouse by the road, a ragged beggar sunning. . ." ("In School Days" by John Greenleaf Whittier).

Rural schoolhouses in the Naper area are no longer sunning by the road. In 1920, there were 7,264 school districts in Nebraska. In 2002, the most recent information available to the *Naper Paper*, there were 534.

While the number of districts dropped significantly, Nebraska still has more districts than most states, even those with many more school-age children.

DISTRICT 2

In Boyd County, the districts were numbered in the order in which they were organized. District 2 (known as Sunnyside School), just a couple of miles east of Naper in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 35 North, Range 15 West, was organized November 18, 1891, the second district to be organized in Boyd County. Some of the early settlers were Fred Crosby, Frank Cerny and Ol Sprenkle. The original building was sod, replaced by a frame building in about 1910. After the school was closed, the building was sold and now is owned by Bob Wentz. It sits on the east side of Main Street in Naper.

DISTRICT 4

District 4, organized November 23, 1891,

was called the Basin school and located in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, T34N, R15W. The frame building was built in 1902. The first teacher was Hannah Dillon. Early settlers were D. F. Cronk, Timmerman, Horst, Smith, and Knievel. The first orchard in the area was at Cronks. Gene Smith opened a general store and post office about a half mile south of the school and called it Basin. In October, 1903, burglars entered the store, blew up the safe, and escaped. The building wasn't replaced.

MCCULLEY SCHOOL

In 1904, the original District 7, organized November 30, 1891, combined with District 10 in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9, T34N, R14W, organized December 1, 1891, to become McCulley School.

DISTRICT 7

August 31, 1955, three districts (51, 54 and 23) "between the rivers" consolidated and became District 7. The school was on the west side of the Naper-Stuart road, in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 32, T34N, R15W. A family of skunks took up residence under the school one fall and a bull snake enjoyed the shade of the propane tanks. One spring a yellow-shafted flicker began attacking the west end of the old frame building. It made holes a few inches across and the blow-in insulation would come swirling out of them. The rat-a-tat-tat was annoying to the students and teacher so David Reiman, a fifth grader, offered to take care of the problem. With the permission of his teacher and his parents, he brought a shotgun and one shell to school. The flicker's next rat-a-tat-tat proved to be the

flicker's last rat-a-tat-tat. The school was the last rural school to operate in Boyd County and closed in May of 1989. Jim Mellor bought the building at auction that fall and moved it to his farm northwest of Butte.

DISTRICT 18

District 18, located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21, T34N, R16W, was organized December 17, 1891, and combined with District 78 August 27, 1931. R. J. Kibby was one of the organizers of this district. Later the school was moved east of the George Higgins farm in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 9. Joy Helenbolt Vogt was one of the teachers and Sattler, Muller, Kibby and Bohnet children attended there.

DISTRICT 19

District 19, the most southwesterly district in the county, was organized December 17, 1891.

DISTRICT 22

District 22 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15, T34N, R15W) was organized December 29, 1891, north of the Keya Paha River and south of the town of Basin. Early settlers included Lappin, Smith, Lukens and Small. Etta Bennett was one of the first teachers.

DISTRICT 23

District 23 (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T34N, R15W) was organized December 29, 1891, between the Keya Paha and Niobrara Rivers. It was called the Point School. The first school board members were Joseph Leatherman, John Wright and George Allen. The first teacher was Elizabeth Leatherman. Students of Edith Fee Fast (Windmeyer) who taught there about 1915 were Nicolaus, Springer and Wright children.

DISTRICT 44

District 44 was organized February 15, 1892, west of Naper in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, T34N, R16W. Early settlers were Jesse Fast, Hamey Hughes, Pete Wentz, Henry Schock. School was held in several homes before the building was erected. It was called the Wild Rose School and was located across the road from Ken and Elaine Ellwanger's home.

DISTRICT 49

District 49, called the Twin Butte school, was organized March 22, 1892. It was in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, T34N, R14W. Anna Hazen was the first teacher with 20 pupils. Many years later, Ethie Reber was a teacher in District 49. The schoolhouse was on the north side of the road, one-half mile east of where Craig and Stacy Zeisler live.

DISTRICT 50

District 50, Ponca Hill School, was organized March 22, 1892, located in Lot 1 of Section 30, T35N, R14W. Early settlers were Ezra Bennett, John Ludemann, Claus Vogt, Hans Vogt and Frank Jonas. The schoolhouse



District 7, October, 1985; L-R George and John Noble (turkey hunters from Iowa who wanted to see the school), teacher Ann Anderson, students Jeanne Reiman and Jenny Smith, and visitor Reo Ludemann.



Students at District 44, 1946; L-R: Marvin Cline, Billy Goodman, Wayne Cline, Verlyn Sieh, Donnie Goodman.

was built in 1917. Alta Berg Small was one of the last teachers in District 50. Students were Ludemann, Vogt, Heermann, Kline and Keller children. There are still some concrete pieces in the school yard, north of Jerry and Dorothy Heermann's place.

DISTRICT 53

District 53 was organized April 2, 1892. Early homesteaders were Ludwig Siewert and Louie Thibault. The first teacher was Lille Thibault. The present school was built in 1896, located south and west of Herman Neumiller's farm, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7, T34N, R15W. Helenbolt, Cline, and Camin children would have attended.

DISTRICT 60

District 60, also called the Becker School, was organized November 23, 1893 and was the farthest northwest district in the county in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20, T35N, R16W.

Jennie Carmichael was the first teacher in a little sod building which was also her home. In 1897 a frame building was built but was destroyed by a tornado in 1904. Another frame building was erected with lumber hauled by Ole Blele and Joe Becker from Stuart. Bertha Keller was the first teacher in this building.

DISTRICT 70

District 70, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26, T35N, R16W, was just east of District 60 and organized December 11, 1897. Ahlers, Fischer, Kulm, Broekemeier and Mayer children attended there. When the school was closed, Ray Bentzen bought the building and moved it to his farm. The old pump organ which Frieda Fischer donated to District 70 is now in Heritage Hall.

DISTRICT 71

District 71 was organized October 21,

1899 and called the Hillside School. It was located just south of District 60 in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, T34N, R16W. Early members of the community were Dwight Brown, Christ Fedde, H. Alexander, George Forde. The schoolhouse was built in 1905 and also provided a place for Sunday School.

DISTRICT 78

District 78, organized March 2, 1901, was on the north side of the Keya Paha River, east of District 18 in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, T34N, R16W. It was joined with District 18 by petition on August 27, 1931. Early settlers were Jake Berg and Henry Anderson. It was close to the Bruce Mills. (See Bruce Mills story on page 3 of this issue.)

DISTRICT 80

District 80, just south of the Keya Paha River on the west end of the county, was organized January 13, 1919. Early settlers were John Hoyt, John Davis, Clarence Kibby, R. B. Smith. A small frame schoolhouse was built in this area but there was no school in it for some time. It suddenly disappeared one night and no one seemed to know where it had gone. It was located later in Naper! Until 1919, this district was part of District 19. In 1919 the district was divided and a frame building was built.

What do you remember about the rural schools? Share your stories with our readers. ■

(Ed. Note: Much of the information for this article was taken from *History of Boyd County*, compiled by Luree Snider Barnes, 1938.)

SCHOOL BOY'S LAMENT

I'm kep' in when I'm tardy
 An' I'm kep' in when I'm late,
 I'm kep' in for position—
 That means not settin' straight.
 I'm kep' in on my joggerfy,
 My readin' an' my writin'
 An' I'm kep' in some for laughin'
 But I'm kep' in most for fightin'.
 I'm kep' in if I whisper,
 An' I'm kep' in if I chaw
 The piece of gum I've borrowed
 An' am warmin' in my jaw.
 The truth is that I'm kep' in
 For 'most ever' thing I do!
 But one jolly thing about it is,
 The teacher's kep' in too!

—Author unknown



Class of 1939 at their 50th-year reunion in 1989.



The Ol' Homesteader

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

The Ol' Homesteader gets plumb tucked out just watchin' all that's goin' on around here.

Velva June Vogt Blum has had a real big increase in great-grandbabies! January 4, Cody and Melissa Vosika (Dan and Lori Blum Peppel VandenBos are grandparents) welcomed Austin Lyle. Then May 18, Andrew and Melanie Linnaus (Dave and Wanda Blum Linnaus are grandparents) welcomed Allison Lauren. July 2, Gavin Ryan was born to Derek and Audrey Blum; Kevin and Regina Blum are grandparents. And then Kevin and Sarah Thiele (Dave and Wanda's daughter) welcomed Clayton Robert on October 2.

Brock Thomas arrived July 12, 2011, parents Shane and Tami Schechinger. Mike Bentzen and Linda Bentzen of Harlan, IA, are grandparents and Ramona Bentzen is great-grandma.

October 14, Shelby and Heidi Vogt Melton welcomed twins Landon and Aaron. Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt and Sterling and Sheila Melton are grandparents; Jim and Mabel Sattler and Joy Vogt are great-grandparents.

Loren and Linda Sieh celebrated their 50th anniversary a few months early with a family gatherin' on Lost Island in Schuyler, NE.

Marvin and Judy Cline had a fine time October 2 when they celebrated their 50th with open house at the VFW. Lotsa friends and family stopped by to say "Howdy" and "Best wishes."

A whole lotta Stahleckers stopped by for their family reunion and a whole lotta Faatz-Esterling relatives stopped by another weekend this summer.

In September, Margaret Ludemann was named Rookie of the Year by the North Shore Barrington Association of Realtors, an association for all of the towns/cities north of Chicago.

The people who go 'round and 'round were doin' that again this summer and Gale Vogt, Brad Vogt, Kevin McCarthy and Kendall McCarthy all had successful racing seasons.

Gina McCarthy and Jessa McCarthy (daughters of Darrin and Connie, granddaughters of LeRoy and Maxine) played softball with the Boyd County teams.

Jaylon Zeisler (son of Mark and Tiffany Havranek Zeisler, grandson of Richard and Sheryl) won the slow race (bicycle relay) at the Boyd County Fair. Slow race—now there's a race where Ol' Homesteader might have a chance.

Keith, Lora and Jessica Cline participated in the Walker North Country Races in Walker, MN, in September—and no, they didn't walk, they ran!

Luke Zeisler (son of Richard and Sheryl) was one of four people chosen to compete at the National FFA convention for National FFA Proficiency Award in Dairy Production.

Alex Bendig (son of Kelly and Monica, grandson of Herman and Grace) was named 2011 Homecoming King at West Boyd. Jon Alford (son of Jim and Becky, grandson of Ed and Lois) and Alix Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino) were also candidates for royalty.

Macy Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara, granddaughter of Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers) and Amber Bendig (daughter of Kelly and Monica, granddaughter of Herman and Grace) played volleyball for West Boyd.

Henry Ahlers (son of Dean and Roxie), Dylan Reiman (son of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman, grandson of Jack and Jean Reiman and Wayne and Virginia), Jessa McCarthy and Kelli McCarthy (daughter of Kevin and Angie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine) ran cross-country for West Boyd. Dylan Reiman placed 63 at the state Cross Country Meet.

Austin Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, grandson of Jeff and Rindy), Jaylon and Jory Zeisler (sons of Mark and Tiffany), Samantha McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie), Jessa and Gina McCarthy, and Alex and Amber Bendig all had fine exhibits at the Boyd County Fair. Now there's a buncha determined, dedicated kids.

Jon Alford, Alex Bendig and Amber Bendig went on a mission trip to the Chicago area. They were with a group of teens representing five churches from Boyd County and presented a program about their experiences August 14.

Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 8256 held their annual recognition of POW/MIA Day September 16. Lotsa folks stopped by to reminisce and have a cuppa coffee and a cookie.

The second annual gun show at the auditorium drew a big crowd October 22 and 23.

The Historical people walked ditches again in October. They had their annual fundraiser November 6. Ken Stoltenberg built a barn with all the fixin's (gate, corrals, water tank, feed trough) and donated it to the historical society. Raffle tickets were sold and the barn was won by Joan Zeisler.

Knowin' that we all do food so well (fixin' and eatin'), the firemen started their steak

suppers agin in October.

The Ol' Homesteader is sad to report our post office is one of many in the state of Nebraska that may be closed due to declining volume of business. The post office is our what's happenin' place and provides a vital service to our community. Meetings to express our concerns were held October 3 and October 5. Ol' Homesteader will keep you informed.

Also sad to say, someone broke into the café September 27 and took some things that didn't belong to them. Sure hate to think there are folks who think they can act that way in our community—and get away with it.

There was some building relocating goin' on a few weeks ago that didn't turn out quite the way it should have. If you bought one of the buildings sold in June in the west end of town and it disappeared...well, it musta been a case of mistaken identity.

The Outlaw Trail Quilt Show, October 7, 8 and 9, was very successful, with more than 60 quilts and 9 wall hangings displayed. Many folks stopped in to look, visit, have a cup of coffee and a cookie, and patronize the vendors. On Sunday, the group listened to Gaylean Olson from Sargent present her Biblical quilts and block variations. Seems like Mrs. Ol' Homesteader used to do some piecin' and stichin' way back when.

The library is keepin' the folks entertained and readin'. In August, folks shared favorite canning and preserving recipes; in September, folks brought in what they exhibited at the state fair; Roxie Ahlers' paintings were featured in October (and they are mighty fine ones, I must say) and in November, the annual silent auction was under way.

And we say goodbye to our old friends: Clara Eva Schlacht, age 101, one of 13 siblings and daughter of Adam and Mathilda Voss, passed away July 10 in Portland, OR.

Lyle Graesser, who graduated from Naper High School in 1964, passed away July 30.

Everett Breyer, who lived south of the Twin Buttes for many years before moving to O'Neill, passed away September 27 at the age of 93.

Donald "Porky" Smith, who lived in Naper for many years, passed on September 29, 2011.

Chuck Putnam passed away October 11, 2011. He graduated in 1950 and spent some time living in Naper a few years ago.

Delilah Weber, who taught first and second grade at Naper several years ago passed away at Parkston, SD, August 25. While she lived in Naper, she roomed with Vera Lund. ■



More Letters... The More the Better!

Send your cards and letters to:

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

ANSWER FROM PAGE 2: The handsome man was Herman "Hap" Gentele in Bill and Marie Layh's White Horse Bar, 1960.

We enjoy your paper! Would like to have you add a couple of more names to your mailing list. Would appreciate it if you would mail the last issue (Chief Yellow Horse) too. Mail to: Gary Hausmann and William Misner. "Billy Joe"'s dad played piano in Johnny Schonebaum's band in the late '30s and '40s (I think). Misners lived just north of Naper just a little beyond the threshing machine on the right wide of the road. All that's left are the tress and foundations. Billy Joe was a good friend of mine when I was in grade school in St. Charles.

Glenn Burke

Enjoy the paper. So many things I remember—dances, no shows at my time, but the walks up and down the street and the laughter. My first date was with Al to the White Horse Ranch. They had a show there. Al was at the gate. Oh, yes, and he was my last date. We were married 61 years. Went back to the ranch many times.

Sending two checks and you can get them to the right places.

Elva Gosch Nicolaus



L-R: Unidentified woman, Fern Sieh Sondergroth, Elva Gosch Nicolaus and Gertie Fuhrer Ahlers, a while back.

Enclosed are checks for the *Naper Paper* and the cemetery fence fund. Thank you to the cemetery crew who did a great job putting up the fence. It is a great improvement to the cemetery. My parents, my brother, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are buried there and at the Lutheran cemetery. Keep up the good work. Naper is a great place to remember.

Myrna Gosch Beauchamp

Our sincere thanks to the many of you who have worked with such dedication and giving of time and talent on the fence.

Wayne and Neita Andersen

Hello, everyone,

We were removing old black paint from my grandmother's china cabinet and came across these two names. Now the question is, does anyone know this name and what he did or where he lived? Who is this person?

Like getting the *Naper Paper*—it's like getting a letter from home, where the good times and families once came together. Now all are scattered but still remain in hearts and minds of the past.

Love and blessings, Esther Nelson

(Ed note: The Naper Centennial book says Henry Anhorn owned a furniture store in 1901. It was later sold to John and Fred Anhorn. In your next letter, you could tell us your grandmother's story.)

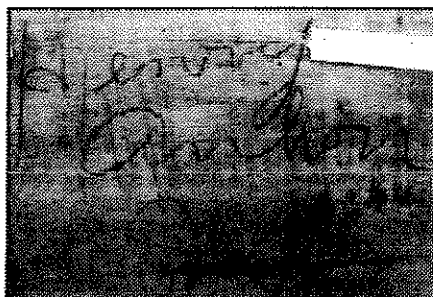


Photo of board with "Henry Anhorn Naper" written on it.

Here's a check to help for mailing the paper. Thank you all for you good job. I sure enjoy reading the history of Naper. Some additional information about "Where in the World Are We?"...My two grandmas lived in Naper. Bill and Alma Gentle lived on the corner to the east going to Butte. They had 40 acres, a big white house and sheds, near Jack Bentzen's gas station. They lived there from 1962 to 1968, then sold the place to Claus Vogt who built a new home there. Bill and Alma moved to Spearfish in 1968. Bertha Gentele, Bill's mother, lived on the north side of the Catholic church in the 1940s until her death in 1949.

Anna Kortmeyer and her two daughters, Eleanora and Wilma, lived north of Bertha

Gentele in the '40s. They walked to St. Paul's Lutheran Church each Sunday. They later moved to a small house east of the Lutheran church. Anna cleaned and started the fire each Sunday for church services. Anna, with Eleanora and Wilma, moved to Rapid City in 1945 and got cleaning jobs. She passed away in 1983 and is laid beside her husband Louis Kortmeyer at the Lutheran Cemetery. God bless.

Velda Hannahs

Hello, Everyone,

I just got to thinking I better write you a note and tell you how I enjoy the paper and better send you some money for everything you do. Pardon my writing, you probably won't be able to read it. I can hardly read it myself! Thanks for the good news and the paper. This is just a little of what you should get. Thank you again.

Harold G. Stahlecker

I want the monies to go toward the *Naper Paper* as my sister Berneita and I really enjoy ours and look forward to reading about the times of the past. When things slow down sometime, I will write a little note on some of my memories of the past. May all of you be appreciated for the work that you do to get this paper out. This is one person who looks so forward to the paper. I know that many hands, hearts, work and hours go into making all of us so happy for your physical support of all the projects that our town of NAPER accomplished. Blessings on all of you.

I pray that the post office continues to function there, too. Many people don't realize what a misfortune it would be for so many people if it were closed.

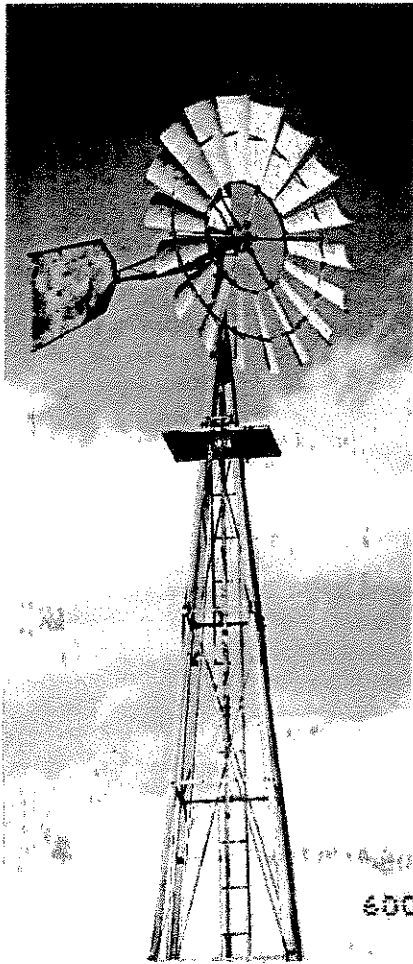
Special prayers and thoughts for my brother Harold who is fighting cancer. He has sent several shipments of homemade jerky, fruit bars and fudge. He so enjoyed making it and having you enjoy it. It was his way of saying thank you to his hometown and to those wonderful people that still live there and do so much. Thank you all.

Bernice Stahlecker Spitzenberger,
Class of 1960

(Ed Note: Thanks for the donation and for the update on your brother. You're right—we all enjoyed the treats he sent that we shared at our annual fund raiser. He's in our thoughts.)

I look forward to the *Naper Paper* and enjoy reading it. I'm sending a check to help keep it running.

LeRoy Erickson



Naper Paper

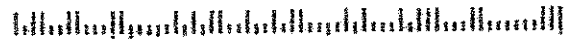
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IN THIS ISSUE...

- Albert Dalldorf and His Truck
- Bruce Mills
- Maylon Tells All... (Almost)
- Rural School Review
- Plus: Circuit Rider, Ol' Homesteader, Letters

... AND MUCH MORE!

TEN REASONS WHY SANTA COULD HAVE BEEN A FARMER OR A RANCHER . . .

1. He works all year just to give his stuff away.
2. He's good with livestock.
3. He knows how to get by with the same equipment season after season.
4. He works outside even when there's bad weather.
5. He's good with kids.
6. His wife is an excellent cook.
7. He could stand to lose a few pounds.
8. He's used to getting in and out of tight spots.
9. He covers a lot of ground when the pressure is on.
10. He takes care of the needs of the whole world.

