

# THE NAPER PAPER

A publication for and about the town of Naper, Nebraska



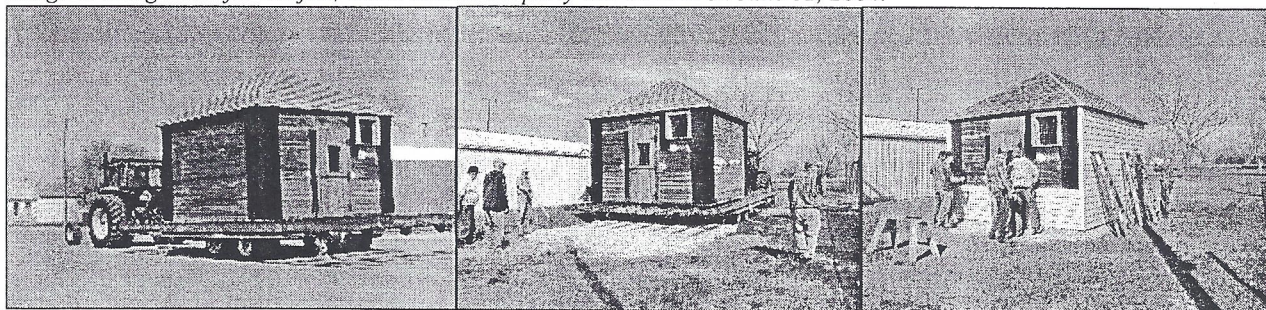
Spring, 2004 - Vol. 1, Issue 3

## Naper Jail Receives Pardon

### Century-Old Cell Saved, Restored by Historical Society

*It was sentenced to life as a grain bin, but our town's old Jail was recently pardoned and allowed to return home... to Main Street in Naper. Thanks to the generosity of Leonard and Thelma Schmitz, the wardens (owners) for the past several years, the jail was given to the Naper Historical Society to be refurbished for future generations to enjoy as a little bit of our town's history.*

Leonard and Thelma bought the jail at auction in 1964 (at the then-steep cost of \$30) after several of their own buildings had been demolished by a tornado in 1962. They used it for grain for many years until they acquired a metal bin. For decades it was abandoned, with weather taking a heavy toll. Funding for the restoration was made possible by a grant from Niobrara Valley Electric's Goodwill Fund. The site on Main Street was generously provided by the town board – THANK YOU! As these photographs show, there is still some work to do before restoration is complete. A sign is being made for the jail, and a dedication party will be held on June 12, 2004.



The old Naper Jail arrived on Main Street to the cheers of onlookers. Restoration efforts are under way. (Photos by Linda Sieh)

### THE NAPER JAIL: A Little History

By Duke Stahlecker

As far back as Dodge City, jails played an important role in rural American society. Ruffians, fighters and drunks had to be contained until a "sobering up" process could take place, when clearer heads would prevail. Naper was no different from other frontier towns. (It had its characters, too.) I could find few descendents and old-timers around Naper that had any stories to tell. No one could remember "escapes," Main Street "gun-fights," or tabloid headlines. This leads this reporter to believe that either Naper was extremely clean and docile, or, more likely, no-one is talking! But all notable reporters have their hidden sources. One of my "unnamed sources," who prefers to remain anonymous, did say (and I quote):

*"One Saturday night at a dance, someone yelled 'fight,' and the dance hall cleared out. These famous fights always took place outside the hall. In the center of the crowd (which was always kind enough to make a circle) two fighters were dancing around each other making lots of 'trash talk.' Much encouragement was coming from the crowd, who always wanted to see a good brou-haha. After several rounds with no apparent winner, the crowd was satisfied and the pugilists were given the night in jail to cool off."*

No documentation of this fight actually exists, but my unnamed source said that one fighter was from Butte and the other a fellow, from Jamison, was named Wilhelm "Bill" Stahlecker. (Talk about honest reporting!)

Some of Naper's town marshals were John Quest, John Radford, Henry Stahlecker, Benny Herrmann, and Gene Putnam. Most of them had the STAR badge and only a "Sap" to maintain order. Several other volunteers were called on for special occasions, and there were many of them.

The first location of the jail was near the old light plant that would be behind Goodman's Farm and Ranch Supply. The second location was in the area behind the fire station, which placed it conveniently behind the dance hall.

Violet Stahlecker, wife of former marshal Henry Stahlecker, reports that one night Hank was called to stop a fight between two drunken women. He did manage to get between them and get them separated. But when he got home, Violet had to clean all the hair off him that had been yanked.

Old timers believe the jail came into existence about the early 1900s. It's interesting that in all this time, no one I've talked to has admitted to ever having spent a night in the jail!

*Got a good "jail tale"? Let us know!*

### Naper Historical Society Museum

The Naper Historical Society has agreed to purchase the Catholic Church to use as a museum. At press time, the deal had not yet been signed. If the deal goes through, the society will attempt to have the museum open for a reception prior to the Alumni Banquet, May 29. The museum is intended, among other things, to tell the story of Naper School, its students, faculty, teams, activities, and special memories.

Do you have items that would add to this nostalgic stroll? They may be donated or loaned, and may be sent to Naper Historical Society, Box 72, Naper, NE 68755. You might consider: yearbooks; photos or newspaper articles about the schools or its teams, bands, valedictorians, or activities; scholastic honors, trophies, rib-bons, medals, certificates, diplomas, the bass drum, a copy of the fight song, a school desk or other furniture, chalkboard, flags, globe, school board minutes, enrollment records, or the school bell.

The displays would not be fully arranged by the 29th, but many school items may be available for viewing. By the time you read this, the purchase may be old news. Keep your fingers crossed.



## Recollections: An Interview With Marguerite Ludemann

By The Circuit Rider

*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 the favorite 90+ elders and 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..."*



It was January the 23rd, 1910 when a small, curly red-headed girl christened Marguerite was born into the Frederick Rockholm family. The setting was the Rockholm farm close to the Nebraska/South Dakota line and Indian country.

The attending doctor was Zimmerman, a famous doctor in the county, whose fees were garden products such as rhubarb, eggs and chickens.

Dr. Zimmerman collected many Indian relics for efforts among the Indians. Many now belong to the Nebraska Historical Society. Marguerite recalls that Dr. Zimmerman was a good friend to the family and spent much time with them.

### Life in the Homestead

As a small girl Marguerite remembers family life and the times company would come to visit. Perhaps some conversations were not to be heard by the children, so the parents spoke the Danish language. Of course, there were not many elaborate toys, so marble games were played. The floors in the old home sloped and a marble with the "right touch" would roll to the next wall.

Rubber balls were bounced off the walls, carefully tossed, not to hit pictures and wall hangings.

Lots of kids followed the Rockholm kids home for parties. Much homemade ice cream and cake were consumed.

### School Days

Marguerite loved declamatory, especially comedy and drama. She had the honor of being

valedictorian of the first senior class to graduate from Naper High School in 1928. Upon winning a declamatory contest, Mr. Bailey from the old Bailey Hardware Store presented Marguerite with 50 cents. She was a junior at the time and amazed at all the money.

Marguerite attended Wayne State to become a teacher. She taught a total of 10 years. Some interesting stories from her teaching years are related.

The Hoyt School was a rural school to which she walked about a mile to teach. She had four students. Two of the boys weighed nearly 200 pounds - Big Kids!

At this time Naper had three banks. Also very famous to the kids was the Zimmerman Drug Store. In the entry was a parrot named "Polly", who greeted all the kids.

### Oh, The People You Meet

Indians were neighbors to the Rockholm farm and all got acquainted. Marguerite would often ride home from school with Yellowhorse. Yellowhorse had long hair, and Marguerite recalls the man permitting her to braid his long, coarse black hair.

Yellowhorse had a long stick with a whip attached to "snap" at the horses pulling the wagon. One time Yellowhorse came into the Rockholm yard with a carpet or rug protruding from the rear of his wagon. Mrs. Rockholm offered money for the rug. Yellowhorse said, "No, chickens." So a trade was made. When Yellowhorse died, Marguerite said six white men were honored as pall bearers along with Indians.

John Bluebird was another Indian who worked for neighbors. John was well-liked. When he was discharged from the Army, Mrs. Rockholm made him an angel food cake.

One of the homes in which the new teacher roomed was owned by a man who was a "bootlegger;" unknown to Marguerite, he made whiskey. He would hide his operation by feeding his sheep over the top of his still. Weekends, he'd

send the womenfolk to town and he'd peddle his "wares."

### A New Beginning

Sometime during this era, a tall handsome cowboy came onto the scene. His name was Reo Ludemann. After a courtship period he took Marguerite for his wife. They were married in the Methodist parsonage in Bassett, Nebraska. To this union five children were born - Terry, who died in infancy, Ann, Roger, Mary and Margaret.

Marguerite and Reo lived on several area farms before acquiring the home place north of Naper. Reo was good with horses and broke several. However, his brother-in-law Chris "gave him an ornery buckskin". Marguerite said this buckskin "went nuts and caused a run-away, and broke up lots of stuff." She was very concerned and told Reo to get rid of the horse.

Fence posts from the ranch pasture were disappearing and horses showing up with wirecuts. It was discovered the fence posts were being burned for firewood. Word was circulated that dynamite was now being placed in the fence posts. The stealing stopped.

Not many men will come along who are capable of filling Reo Ludemann's boots. Reo is now deceased. The community, the civic organizations, and the town of Naper have all lost a champion of causes. Marguerite now resides in Bonesteel, South Dakota in the Haisch Haus, an assisted care complex.

This Circuit Rider was indeed fortunate to have had Marguerite as seventh grade teacher in Naper Public School. At the end of the school day, we even walked part of the way home together. Doing this Reminiscence Interview was a special privilege, but now it's time to head for the Stable. - The Circuit Rider



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



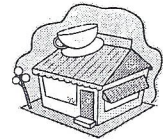
### Naper Grocery Store

The Naper Grocery Store has reopened for business! (And welcome back!). Open Monday thru Saturday, and on Sunday mornings.



### SuperService SALE

After 35 years, Loren Sieh is going to "semi-retire." He's selling the SuperService gas station. Those interested should call Loren at 832-5321. For those interested in buying inventory and tools only, Loren is having a sale on May 7<sup>th</sup>.



### Naper Café and Lounge SALE

The village of Naper is selling the Naper Café & Lounge by sealed bid. Minimum bid is \$40,000. Submit bid to the Village Clerk, Box 288, Naper, NE 68755. Bid opening will be June 8. Questions: Contact the village office at 832-5308.



### Naper School Alumni Banquet

The Naper School Alumni Banquet will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Reception at 6pm followed by the Banquet at 7pm. The honored alumni classes this year are those that end in "4". Cost is \$8 for Banquet, and \$1 for dues. Please send reservations and checks (payable to the Naper Alumni Association) to:

Sharon Vogt,  
90468 470<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Naper, NE 68755



## In the News...

By Ol' Homesteader

*Ol' Homesteader is back with more on the happenings in and around Naper. This ornery spectre has been around for 120 years, and he keeps a close eye on the doings in our fair town.*

Ah, yes, winter in Naper! We've had to turn all the tourists away. Bah, humbug to winter. That's what I say. Well, there are a few more things I might say, but this here is a family newspaper. So, I'll just say it was doggone cold this winter, and I'm glad it's over.

### Happenings Around Town

In January Naper hosted the Annual 4-H Jamboree - actually our Wild Rose 4-H Club did the hosting - at the VFW Hall. My goodness, there was a lot of fun to be had. There was some serious stuff at this jamboree, too:

- For instance, did you know that the Wild Rose Club received a Gold Seal? It's true.
- And there were some individual honors given out, too. **Kelsey Zink** got herself a Sweepstake Plaque; she was the FFA Recipient. Congrat's to Kelsey.
- And the gran'daddy of all them awards went to **Kara Peppel**, who was recognized as the Outstanding 4-H Career recipient. This gal participated in 95 (no, that's not a typo) projects during her time in 4-H. 95, I'm not kidding about that. So, a big slap on the back to Kara.

A number of us also got together in January for a Hamburger Fry for **Ross Vogt**, organized by folks from Thrivent and Naper. That's what friends and neighbors are for! And it was good eatin' too.

In February, the Naper Historical Society (geez, these are nice folks) put on a Valentine Card Party at the VFW. **Linda Sieh** and **Grace Bendig** did lots of the organizing on this really fun evening. (See "Aces Up" article on page 5 for card party champions list.)

We must have been in a mood for games in February because the card party was followed by a Cribbage



Tournament, also held at the VFW Hall. Hamburgers and fries were included in the tourney fee, so even those who didn't win went home with a belly full of good food.

Ol' Homesteader doesn't usually mention things like anniversaries or engagements, since it would fill up the whole paper. But when a couple is married 70 years, well that's something special. **Everett & Francis Smith** celebrated seven decades of wedded bliss in March. I remember when those young'uns got hitched way back in 1934.

We also had a bunch of card showers like we always do... with birthday wishes going to **Adolph Schultz** who turned 93 and **Ella Bechtold** at 94. Get-Well cards went to **Terry Muller** and **Rick Sieh**. There were others too, my friends, but I can't list 'em all.

### School News

Ol' Homesteader sure did enjoy basketball this year. The Spencer-Naper varsity team had another great season, ending up with 21 wins against only 3 losses. They won the Creighton Holiday Tournament for the fifth straight year. Naturally, we went to State again this season, too, and ended up 3rd in Division D-1. These boys are really something. Did you know that this group of roundballers won 58 games in a row at one point, and over four years their record was 103-4. That's amazing! Congratulations to every member of that team over those years. It's been fun watching you, and you've made us proud.

It looks like basketball will continue to be good at our school. The Junior Varsity boys completed a perfect season, winning 15 games with not a loss to be found.

The Lady Pirates varsity team had a lot of great players, too. They beat Cody Kilgore in the Sub-Districts before losing to Pope John to finish the year. The girls junior team won the Butte Tournament, and beat Orchard to win 3rd place in the Lynch tourney.

Oh, I almost forgot. School is about learnin' too. Ol' Homesteader recently did a read-through of the first and second quarter Honor Rolls, and here are some names you'll recognize: **Heidi Vogt**, **Jamie Zeisler**, **Corby Sachtjen**, **Tina Schmitz**, **Kelsey Zink**, and **Marcus Alford**. All of us here in Naper are

mighty proud of each of these bright, young scholars.

### End of the Road

It's always sad to recount the neighbors, nearby friends and relatives we've lost during the past few months. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to...

- **Art Bentzen**, Raymond's brother, age 87, who died in January, in California.
- **Myrtle Tienken**, 100 years old, who also passed away in January.
- **Cindy Schochenmaier**. She was only 49 when she died in February.
- **Emma Katzer** was 89 at the time of her February passing.
- **Mary Swallow** was 92 when she said goodbye to us.
- **Harley Nicolaus**, 71, passed away in February.
- And just as this issue was going to press, we got the double bad news of the deaths of **Dennis Cline** age 63, and **Red Rockholm** (of Reno, formerly of Naper), age 89.

Goodbye old friends. Rest in peace. We'll miss you, and we'll never forget you.

### Looking Forward to Spring

Spring is now upon us, as Ol' Homesteader finishes up this winter column of Naper news. We've had some mighty nice days, with many more just ahead. It's wonderful to be in this beautiful little town when the weather turns nice. I can't wait to tell you about everything we've done when I come back in July to visit with you again.

*Ol' Homesteader, April, 2004*

### HOMECOMING IN NAPER



This Royal Beauty is Naper's own **Heidi Vogt** (daughter of **Bryon** and **Sharon Vogt**). Heidi was honored as **Spencer-Naper School's Homecoming Queen** for 2004. **Jamie Zeisler**, also of Naper, was named **Princess of Hearts**. Long may they reign!





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402-832-5766

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*(temporarily closed)*

Beer, wine, spirits & munchies

**Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop**

402-832-5573

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**Goodman Farm & Ranch and**

**Lynn's Upholstery**

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furniture

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**Naper B & B**

402-832-5129

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Breakfast, dinner, supper & bar

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**Naper SuperService**

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Gas, oil, auto repair, & limited  
groceries

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402-832-5833

Tire dealer, warehouse outlet

**US Postal Service**

402-832-5977

# **Memories of:**

## **The "Old" Naper School**

**by Donna Windmeyer Luehmann**

I have so many memories of the "old" Naper School, the white two-story building, where the janitors, Glen and Alma Brown, lived in the basement.

Alma was so talented. I remember going down into their home and getting fitted for costumes which she constructed for us out of crepe paper. She also decorated the classrooms for holidays. I remember she once put glass over blue paper for an ice pond and sprayed "snow" on a branch to make a beautiful winter scene. She also drew a picture in my autograph book to illustrate a verse she had written. I remember Alma coming into the classroom in winter to put coal in the large stove; she must have also been the one who carried water to classrooms for drinking.

Mrs. Edeen Fischer, the grade school teacher I remember most, taught grades 5-8. We would have folk dancing once a week, in the shop room. We really enjoyed that! I still remember some of those dances, "Oh, Johnny, Oh", "Trip to Helsinki", "Put Your Little Foot", and "Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow."

When we were in grade school, we would be so excited if we could go upstairs to the "High School" to watch a film. The boys would put cardboard in the windows and we would sit two to a seat to watch a film that was usually about making steel or some other manufacturing process. We didn't care what it was about; at least we got to see a film!

At recess we would play softball (or kitten ball, as we called it), hopscotch or go on the swings, giant stride or merry-go-round. Once, a teacher organized a marble tournament which brought on fierce competition!

Of course we brought our lunches to school. I remember when I was in the "little" room, grades 1-4, my older brother, Neal, had gotten a large aluminum lunch pail and thought I should have one, too. I was so embarrassed to carry that to school!

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*Donna Windmeyer Luehmann grew up on the Windmeyer "Ranch" south of Naper. She was the oldest of 3 Windmeyer girls. The Naper Paper wonders if her brother, Neal, still has his metal lunch pail?*

## **Growing Up in Naper**

**By Clarice (Ahlers) Alons**

Greetings. It's great to see the Naper community preserving its history! I was surprised but very interested to see your first paper earlier, and I appreciate receiving the most current issue. Enclosed is a donation to help you continue your work. I haven't lived around Naper since my high school graduation in '64, but I get back there often to visit family. I'm always impressed with the clean, well-maintained appearance of your town. You haven't let smallness distract you from being neat, aggressive and appealing.

I fondly recall the days when Naper was a bustling town, complete with two grocery stores. I remember the busy Saturday nights in town when friends and I walked up and down the streets, stopping at the drugstore for a soda or a float. And then we'd sit awhile and talk in front of the store, sitting on the long cement "bench." Those were the days when the Naper Theatre was going strong - who could forget the smell of fresh popped popcorn?

Of course, I always loved the old white wood Lutheran Church with its two wings of seating. Vacation Bible School there was a special summer treat for a country girl like me! I came into town to go "trick or treating" on Halloween, and we always had a grand time marching door to door. In the 8<sup>th</sup> grade I went from Goodman country school to Naper School, where I continued through graduation. As I've seen so many cliques and groupings in my daughters' school years, I can't say that was true for me in Naper, and I'm forever grateful for the fairness I felt I received there.

You have a wonderful community of people, and I thank everyone for giving me special memories of growing up in your area. Good success on the paper. I think you're doing a great job, and it's so important for the next generations to know their legacy. Each new generation is standing on the shoulders of those who blazed a trail before them!

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*Clarice is a resident of Hull, Iowa. The "bench", affectionately known as "the wall", fell into disrepair over the years; one entire side collapsed and blocks were removed. But good news: the blocks were recovered and the wall was rebuilt and painted. The current owners threw a "Come Sit on the Wall Again" party with ice cream and pictures. You're welcome to come for a sit any old time.*



## Aces Up for the Naper Historical Society

By Linda Sieh

Players trumped one another during a tournament of 6-Point Pitch at the Naper Historical Society's Valentine Card Party and Silent Auction. The event (an effort to raise money for the Historical Society) was held on February 15 at the VFW Club. Winners were **Mary Ludemann Davis** (Ladies' High), **Delores Stahlecker** (Ladies' Low), **Kelly Bendig** (Men's High) and **Tom Brauer** (Men's Low) with the Travelling Prize going to Kelly Bendig.

More than 70 items were auctioned off, and a scrumptious potluck luncheon was served. A great time was had by all, and everyone is quite interested in a rematch!



### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MAY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Larry & Ann Anderson 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance, Naper Hall.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reception & potluck for Keith Mayer returning from Iraq, VFW Hall.
- 7<sup>th</sup> SuperService Sale of inventory and tools.
- 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm Alumni Banquet at Naper Hall, preceded at 6pm by reception and (hopefully) sneak preview of the new Historical Society Museum

#### JUNE

- 8<sup>th</sup> Opening of sealed bids for Naper Café and Lounge
- 12<sup>th</sup> Trail Ride - For information, call Jo Schaaf, 402-924-3142
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dedication of restored Naper Jail on Main Street
- 12<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Bill Show. Yes, he's coming to Naper!

#### JULY

- 3-4 Sieh Family Reunion, descendents of Hans & Helena. 6pm cookout on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Potluck dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Hall. (Family only)
- 4<sup>th</sup> All-American 4<sup>th</sup> of July Hot Dog & Apple Pie Party. Details soon.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jim & Mabel Sattler 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance (and food, too!), Naper Hall.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Faatz Family Reunion, VFW Hall.

#### AUGUST

- 8<sup>th</sup> 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Naper 28 Plane Crash. Dedication of new grave marker and reception at Naper Hall.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Stahlecker Family Reunion. (All are welcome.)

*Everyone is welcome to all events, except where noted. Trail Ride is by reservation.*

*In addition to these events, every Saturday is Burgers & Fries Night at the VFW Hall, and most every Friday evening, the Naper Café has a "special" which is usually very... well... special!*

## Thanks for Giving!



Hats off to the Niobrara Valley Electric Goodwill Fund, who presented the Naper Historical Society with a check for \$1,500. These funds will be used to help rehab the old Naper Jail as a historical landmark. Pictured (left to right) are Ann Anderson, Beverly Zink, and James Sattler. THANK YOU!

### EDITORIAL

#### DOING THE IMPRACTICAL

Some might say that fixing up an old rotting jail is a waste of time. *"It's outlived its purpose"* the cynics would argue. They would make the same argument, no doubt, about restoring the old drugstore's concrete wall where, for decades, Naper's kids ate ice cream and held hands. Or saving a poem written here on the prairie 50 years ago (see *"Memories"*, right).

The Naper Historical Society believes differently. We believe that saving parts of our history is interesting, important and fun. The jail was built before anyone now living in Naper was born. It is a way to touch a little piece of our town as it was in the early days. It allows us to learn how a prairie town dealt with justice, and to imagine the incarcerated characters, and the deeds (some large, some small) that put them there.

Life on the prairie has always been hard. We are instinctively thrifty, cautious, and focused on those hard, practical things that allow us to make a living. There's nothing wrong with being practical. It is an enviable trait of ours. Part of being so practical, though, is that we may not take enough time to do some very impractical things... like preserving an old building, or saving a country poem, or fixing up the place where we courted as kids. These are the things, though, which inspire our imagination and trigger memories of our youth. So, here's a vote for impracticality... for saving, fixing, restoring, remembering, and imagining.

### Memories

Old Home, Old Town, Old Friends  
Old Times we all hold dear.  
All locked within our Memory  
Grow dearer every year.

And when we use the key  
That open's memory's door,  
We see Old Home,  
Old Town, Old Friends  
We loved long years ago.

- Anonymous

### What's Our Motto?

*"Nothing! What's the motto with you?"*

The Naper Paper is looking for the ideal slogan (as in the NY Times' "All the News That's Fit to Print...")

Since this is your paper, we are putting out the challenge to all takers: Can you come up with a suitable motto for the Naper Paper? If so, write it down on a postcard along with your name, address and phone number, and send it to:

**What's Our Motto?**  
The Naper Historical Society  
PO Box 72 Naper, NE 68755







### Letters to the Naper Paper

The Naper Paper, what a great idea. Received two copies, and enjoyed reading them. We don't get to Naper much any more since my folks, Walt & Vera Stahlecker, passed away. My husband and I have been in California since 1960, but enjoy going back to see some of the classmates that I graduated with. This year will be 50 years, so come on classmates of 1954, let's get together and celebrate. Enclosed is a check to help with the paper. Keep up the great work.

*Harold & Marjorie (Stahlecker) Zauner  
Bakersfield, California*

**(H&M: If you promise to share, we'll start sending you only one copy! NP)**

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Thanks for remembering me by sending the Naper Paper. I, among others, set pins in the bowling alley on the west side of the street, in the basement of the new building south of Cline's Bar.

*Neal Windmeyer*

**(Neal: The bowling alley and a few balls are still there... buried underground, if you can believe that! Be sure to read your sister's column in this issue. Do you still have the metal lunch pail? NP)**

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Thanks to each of you for the Naper Paper. I really enjoy reading it. Enclosed is a contribution to help defray costs. Keep up the good work.

*Mary Sparks Schmidt*

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Wow, what a great job you all are doing. I love the Naper Paper. Enjoy reading about the history and founding of Naper. I still call Naper my home town. Also enjoy the current events section. Have a hard time with there not being a school at Naper. So this helps me keep up on what is going on. Things change all the time. Keep up the good work!

*Lois Kibby Chittim*

What a delight to receive the vehicle that allows me to be a part of the Naper community once again. I refer, of course, to the auspicious birth of the Naper Historical Society, and The Naper Paper. My version of an old adage would be, "You can take the girl out of the community, but you can't take the community out of the girl." While the paper carries some names and events with which I am not familiar, there is much that reminds me of the resourceful people and enduring community spirit which helped to lay the foundations of my life. The ability of the Naper community to sustain, reinvent itself and look to the future remains unrivaled. In heartily wishing brilliant success to the historical society, we remember to thank all who have, and who will, lend their time, materials and abilities to beginning and sustaining the project. Good job!!! Oh yes, Ray, having grown fond of Naper, reads and enjoys the paper from cover to cover, too.

*Nathalie (Sattler) and Ray Taranto  
Easton, Connecticut*

**(Nathalie: You sure write better than we do. How would you like a job? NP)**

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Enclosed please find a check. Please print the cost to print and send this. I do enjoy the paper. Thanks.

*Juliette Broekemeier*

**(Juliette: We're still experimenting with the most economical ways to print and mail the paper, so we don't yet know how much it will cost on an ongoing basis. NP)**

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We received the copy of the Naper Paper today and have enjoyed it very much. We have been away from Naper for many years, but a lot of the names still sound familiar. I was born and raised just south of Naper, and Barney's dad ran the café and bar in Naper for years. I am sending a donation and hope it helps to keep this project going.

*E. Jane Kastmeyer Smith and Barney Smith*

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Enclosing a check to help defray costs of the Naper Paper. My dad has so enjoyed your first press releases and is looking forward to your next issue. Mother and Dad still call Naper home after 52 years in Oregon. In December we moved them to a 24-hour care facility. My mother needs the care after several small strokes. Dad continues to do

well, and plays cribbage most days with one of the nursing assistants. He will be 95 soon, and mother 94 in September.

*Betty Funke,  
Eugene, Oregon*

\*\*\*

What a nice idea – a Naper Paper! And so much information! Keep up the good work. Enclosed is a donation for expenses.

*Iola Frank  
Burke, South Dakota*

\*\*\*

Thank you for providing us with your Naper Paper. Roots go deep, and it is a pleasure to note your activity to keep the community alive. Check enclosed.

*Wayne & Neita Andersen*

\*\*\*

Really enjoy the Naper Paper. Brought back so many memories.

*Edna Camin Aylin  
Revilak*

\*\*\*

Margaret Katzer Reem passed away last year. She was in her 90's. I enjoy reading the paper, keep up the interesting reporting. Enclosed is financial support of the historical society. Thank you.

*Ruth Katzer Lewis*

\*\*\*

We really enjoy reading the Naper Paper. Keep up the good work.

*Pete "Jr" Wilhelmsen*

\*\*\*

I just finished reading the last issue of your paper, and really enjoyed it very much. I have a lot of memories of Naper, having lived on a farm near there and later living in town. My wife, Shirley, passed away December 19, 2001, so I have sold my home and am living in an apartment that is nice and comfortable in Norfolk. Enclosed is a check for the Naper Paper. Have some pictures and saloon chips from my dad's collection. Keep up the good work.

*Norven Mayer*

\*\*\*

First, thank you so much for sending the Naper Paper which I enjoy thoroughly. Naper was my hometown until 1941 when the family moved to Lincoln. I have made a few return visits mostly for high school reunions. I have many interesting memories, some of which my children are a bit skeptical of. One such memory is that we had electricity only from dusk until 11pm weekdays. Do you have an email address so that we "outsiders" can easily communicate with you? Again, thank you for

*(Continued, Page 7)*



Letters (cont'd)

including me on your mailing list. Enclosed is a small donation.

*Russ Reber  
Annandale, Virginia*

(Russ: Those kids! You're absolutely right about electricity... Show them this as evidence! We don't have a society email address yet; good idea! We'll work on that. If you like, though, you can send an email to the Secretary-Treasurer of the historical society, Bev Zink, at [zink@inebraska.com](mailto:zink@inebraska.com). NP)

\*\*\*

A big Thank You to those that had the foresight to begin putting out the Naper Paper. It was a wonderful surprise. Both my husband and I really enjoy reading it. Good luck on future editions.

*Glenna (Becker) Burns*

(Glenna: We're blushing! Thanks. NP)

\*\*\*

Please accept our donation for the Naper Paper and the historical society. We really enjoy receiving the paper and learning about all the news from back home. Please include events that will be happening in and around Naper during the summer months as that is when we come "home" to visit.

*Jerry & Valerie Schmitz  
Newark, New York*

(J&V: We've added a new "Calendar" section to this edition at your suggestion, thanks. NP)

\*\*\*

How wonderful it was to get the Naper Paper, and to learn that you've started a historical society. I remember seeing a plane explode in the sky as a young boy but we lived in Doniphan or Trumbull at this time, so I don't know whether one could have seen it (the one that crashed at the Sattler ranch) from there. The article by Ol' Homesteader was informative and fun to read. I wish I had been there for the bidding on the school. It makes me sad to see a school close. I hope Naper does not end up like Anoka where I was born. Maybe with people like you we can keep the town alive. I will go through my stuff to see if there is anything that I might add to the museum. Do you plan to do a website for the historical society?

*Paul Sprenkle  
Clovis, California*

(Paul: Thanks for the idea for a website. Because of your suggestion, we're looking into it. NP.)

\*\*\*

*Send your cards and letters to:*

*Letters  
The Naper Paper  
Naper Historical Society  
PO Box 72  
Naper, NE 68755*

## Heard 'Round Town



I child-proofed my house... but they still get in.

Slogan on a T-shirt:

(Front): 60 is not old...

(Back): ...If you're a tree.

I'm not 50... I'm \$49.95 plus tax!

Lincoln: A drinking town with a college problem.

Every time I hear the dirty word "Exercise", I wash my mouth out with chocolate!

Live your life so that when you die, the preacher will not have to tell lies at your funeral.

My wife comes with instructions... LOTS of instructions.

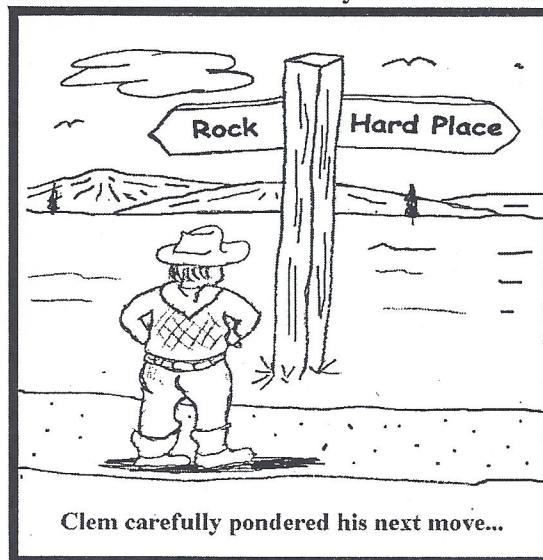
Overheard at Naper Lounge:

Patron: My son is wanted by the police.

Bartender: Well there's no accounting for taste.

### KORNFIELDS

by Kevin O'Connor



Clem carefully pondered his next move...

The Naper Paper is published by

The Naper Historical Society.

PO Box 72, Naper, Nebraska 68755

Volume 1, Issue 3. Spring, 2004

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Edited by Kevin P. O'Connor



## IN THIS ISSUE

*This issue is a real page turner! Just look inside!*

- The slammer is back: The return of Naper's Jail!
- Second in a series interview with Naperites over 90, by The Circuit Rider
- 58 in a row! (What does it mean?)
- News, stories, pictures, jokes, scores & more!
- Debuting This Issue: KORNFIELDS Comic Strip  
(found ONLY in the Naper Paper!)

*All of this and more!*

*Don't wait another moment.*

*Open the third edition of the Naper Paper.*

### THE **NAPER PAPER**

Naper Historical Society

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Naper, NE 68755

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*Spring has finally arrived... And so has the Naper Paper!*