

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

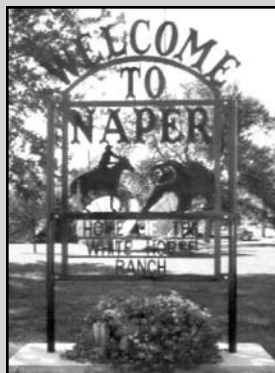
**The Naper  
Historical Society**

**Our Mission:**

*The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor history, original structures, special places and artifacts of the people and culture of Naper, Nebraska, and the surrounding area. The Naper Historical Society intends to accomplish this mission by operating a museum, publishing a newsletter, sponsoring events, and in other appropriate ways. The Naper Historical Society will initially focus on four themes: School Days, Life in Naper Through the Years, White Horse Ranch, and Naper 28 Plane Crash.*

**In This Issue:**

Look What's Happening on Main Street! . . . . . 1  
 Cruise Night . . . . . 2  
 It's Been 10 Years! . . . . . 3  
 The Circuit Rider . . . . . 3  
 Alumni Snapshots . . . . . 4  
 White Horse Ranch Rider's Memories . . . . . 5  
 The Ol' Homesteader . . . . . 6  
 Letters . . . . . 7



# Naper Paper

Volume 11, Issue 3

Fall 2013

## WOW! Look What's Happening on Main Street!

June 22 was the grand opening of two businesses on Main Street, as well as Naper's Cruise Night (see page 2). There was plenty of eye candy for art lovers, flea market fans, shoppers and car-aholics.

### 123 Main Photography Studio

Trudy Waterman's 123 Main Photography Studio is set up for portrait photography and also has photos, pottery, paintings, quilts, and leather work on display and for sale. Currently featured are prize-winning works by Linda Schultz, Staci Koenig, Barbara Waterman-Peters, Twila Emme, Austin Koenig, Larry Peters, Guy Polenske and Trudy's own original work.

Trudy plans to be open Saturdays and by appointment (call 402-832-5137). Her business is located in the former Naper Grocery building. She is interested in artists and artisans, and if you have some hand-crafted items, you might want to visit with Trudy about them.



**Trudy Waterman is the owner of 123 Main Photography Studio.**

### The Garage Sale on Main

The Garage Sale on Main is south of 123 Main Photography in the building formerly occupied by Cline's Bar. Derek and Gail Putnam Auclair have been in the hotel business for several years, moving to West Yellowstone, Montana, from Rhode Island about 10 years ago. Gail's father, Chuck Putnam, a graduate of Naper High, bought a house in Naper a few years ago and moved here. When his health declined, he moved to West Yellowstone with Gail and Derek. After his death, Gail and Derek decided to move to Naper and have opened their ongoing Garage Sale on Main. They are busy remodeling and renovating both their house and the uptown location and plan to be open every Saturday and Sunday. Stop in and see what's for sale—items change frequently!



**Derek and Gail Putnam Auclair are the owners of the Garage Sale on Main.**

### Also on Main—Kids "Dig" the Library

Thirteen children enjoyed the summer reading program in June, where each week they studied something from the ground—animals, insects, vegetables, Indian artifacts, and gardens. They made a craft each week and read books about nature. Mandy Keller, Tammy Guthmiller, Linda Sieh, and Kathy Hansen coordinated the program. Many thanks to Mr. McGregor (Loren Sieh), who let the children explore his garden. ■



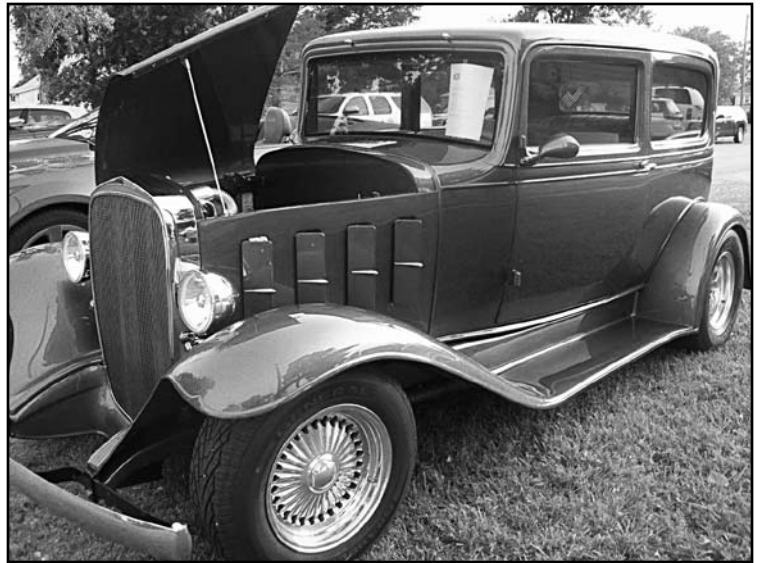
**Thirteen children participated in the summer reading program at the Naper Library.**

# Cruise Night – And What a Night It Was!

The annual Cruise Night, sponsored by Naper Café and Lounge, Naper Village, and the Burke Street Bandits Car Club, pulled a large crowd and 33 entries from as far away as York and Kearney. Five judges chose winners in several categories, including pickups, convertibles, motorcycles, and sedans. Tom Fernau of Fairfax had the winning pickup; Rex Pfaff of Bonesteel, convertible; Larry Anderson, motorcycle; and Norbert Koenig, sedan. ■



Jerome "Hoop" Reiman's car



Norbert Koenig's prize-winning car

## IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS!

In September 2003, a few people gathered to discuss the possibility of forming a historical society and publishing a paper. The original group who took on the job of board of directors were Mabel Sattler, Velda Stahlecker, Margaret Ludemann, Bev Zink, Bob Schultz, Leonard Schmitz, Loren Sieh, Sharon Vogt and Jim Sattler, who assumed the duties of president. The current board of directors include Craig Zeisler, president, Bob Allpress, vice president, Ann Anderson, secretary-treasurer, Rindy Zink, Janet Eggert, Deb Vogt, Sharon Vogt, Blair Kluckman and Mabel Sattler. Although the board of directors makes most decisions regarding activities and responsibilities, they depend on volunteers from the community to keep the ball rolling.

The *Naper Paper* celebrates 10 years with this issue. Currently, 747 papers are sent to 33 states and one foreign country each quarter. The staff is always looking for stories or story ideas, so get your thinking cap on.

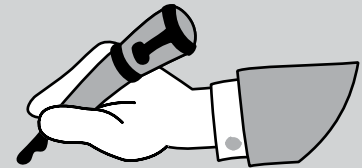
One of the first projects of the historical society was to relocate the old Naper jail from its home as a granary on Leonard Schmitz's farm to Main Street. Then the former Catholic Church was renamed Heritage Hall and became a repository for school photos, trophies and equipment, Naper 28 memorabilia, family histories, and documentation of pioneer life. The Krotter building on Main Street received extensive

renovation, including a roof and siding, before it became the home of the White Horse Ranch Museum.

The society sponsored an appearance by Buffalo Bill, a camp cookout, and a trail ride June 12 and 13, 2004, the weekend the jail was dedicated. A large crowd attended the dedication of the Naper 28 Memorial at Knoll Crest Cemetery, August 8, 2004, the 60th anniversary of the plane crash. The society erected signs along Highway 12 east and west of Naper publicizing the White Horse Ranch Museum. They sponsored a three-day quilt show in October 2011. They pick up trash in the roadside ditches east and west of Naper twice a year.

In the past 10 years, dozens of fund raisers have been held, including card parties, silent auctions, consignment auctions, calendar productions, bake sales, craft fair sales, pork raffles, serving lunch at various events, and selling merchandise at the museums. (In case you haven't been at the museums, there are DVDs of the White Horse Ranch, centennial cookbooks, t-shirts, WHR cups, Naper cups, and other items for sale. Contact NHS, Box 72, Naper, NE 68755 or papabear@threeriver.net if you want information regarding these or other items.)

Thanks to the foresight and determination of those folks who met 10 years ago, the Naper community has experienced many interesting and enjoyable events. ■



### 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 Circuit Rider

## Artie Martins: A life filled with adventures

*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 pulls into the yard of Artie Martins, always interesting to talk "old times" at this house. Artie's thoughts and feelings go way back in the history of Naper. He was born in 1925 in the house behind Martin's old grocery store. One of his chores as a 4-year-old boy was to hook up his little red wagon and get kerosene for lamps for the house.

When he was about 9, he was babysitting Gottlieb Herman's kids. His pay was a tobacco tin full of Indian Head pennies. Gypsies would come to Naper and set up tents. They would tell your fortune for 50 cents—but you'd better leave your billfold at home!

Art's dad (Adolf, nicknamed Buffalo) talked about the old country. He told a story of wolves that caught a man and ate him to the waist. His clothes covered him above the waist. His team of horses pulled him and the wagon into his yard at home. Another story involved a huge snake that escaped from a carnival in Naper and was thought to have been seen years later at the Keya Paha River, now having grown to about 20 feet long and as big around as a stovepipe. At one time, Buffalo played a saw and mouth harp in the "Martin Boys" band. Bill played the saxophone and Holt (Reinholt) played the fiddle.

In 1929, the Martin family lived in Mitchell, SD, next door to the famous Bob Barker. Artie attended grade school at District 70 with Anna Ahlers for his



Artie Martins

teacher. The walk to school was 3.5 miles through dust storms and blizzards. Before walking home during one dust storm, he found a ball of twine in a closet. He used the twine to tie himself to his three sisters so they wouldn't get lost. Then he followed a fence line toward home. After a while, they met their dad on horseback looking for them.

As a 14-year-old, Art was driving an M Farmall tractor making rows a mile long. His employer, Rudy Weickum,

complimented him on his straight rows.

March 15, 1944, Artie was 19 and went to the Army, spending six months at Camp Maxie, TX. From there, he went to the Philippines, where he spent 27 months. The war was over, but bodies were still floating in the sea. While a soldier, he was a chauffeur. Some of the famous folks he hauled were Bob Hope, Marilyn Monroe, and Dorothy Lamour. Soldiers landed at Replacement Center, and while there, they were entertained by celebrities. Marilyn asked Artie if he were coming back. Bob Hope cautioned him, "You'd better look out for her."

When the military plane crashed in the pasture west of Naper, it was witnessed by several people. Art saw a "ball of flame" in the stormy sky, an engine fall, and the crash of the airplane. Art was one of the first to arrive at the tragic scene, where all 28 military passengers were dead. A very sad time in his memory.

Art and "Squirt" Stoltenberg went to see Ernie Ford entertain in Stuart. Two guys were trying to get in free. Management called Ernie Ford to come down. The culprits were going to cut off Ernie's tie. Well, Art and "Squirt" threw them out!

While living in Rockford, IL, Art was superintendent of a labor union.

It's time to get the horse out of the barn and continue the circuit. More good friends to visit and recall the history of the great community of Naper. Until then, adios. ■



## Support Our Local Merchants

### 123 Main Photography Studio

Works by local artisans  
832-5137

### 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

### Garage Sale on Main

New items each week  
832-5018

### 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 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

Spend here: Keep Naper strong!

# Alumni Snapshots

The 60th annual Naper High School alumni banquet was May 25, with nearly 100 guests attending. The theme, appropriately enough, was “Celebrating 60 Years!” Happy Hour began at 6 p.m., and at 7 p.m., Mary Finnegan of NebraskInn once again served a terrific meal.

Many thanks to Sharon Sattler Vogt, who has done a great deal of work keeping the alumni association and banquet organized for the past several years. She announced at the banquet this year that she was retiring and asked for a volunteer or volunteers to take over her job. It is hoped someone has been found. ■



Vernelle Peppel Anderson Kibby, class of 1943.



LEFT: Class of 1963 — Gary Reber, LeRoy Ahlers, Carolyn Honke Swanda, Jerome Blum, Janelle Blum Hanzlik, Marilyn Vogt Lewis and Sandra Windmeyer Wade.



Class of 1973: Del Fischer, Myra Reber Ries, Janet Becker Vargas and Barry Sieh.



Class of 1983: Lawrence Reiman, Lyndon Vogt, Tim Mayer and Joy Cline Bechtold.

Velva Vogt Blum and LaVerna Broekemeier Sieh, class of 1953, attended but weren't photographed.



RIGHT: Members of the Class of 1955 (left to right) Myrna Gosch Beauchamp, JoAnn Putnam Mitchell, Nola Dummer Ulmer and Shirley Vogt Neumiller gather together each summer to have lunch and enjoy each other's company. Who could believe it's been 58 years since they graduated from high school?

# WHITE HORSE RANCH RIDER'S MEMORIES

By Vernice Rathjen

I went to the White Horse Ranch in the fall of 1953. It was too late in the year for me to get in much training, so I went back in the spring of 1954. Trained 'til that summer when Cal and Ruth Thompson still didn't have any shows booked until that fall. So I went to work for a couple in an eastern state and rode in shows for them until fall, then I came back to the White Horse Ranch to ride for them in the American Royal Livestock and Horse Show in Kansas City, MO, in October 1954.

Then I went back to the White Horse Ranch in March 1955, to train and condition horses for the Shrine Circus Show in Omaha, NE, in April 1955. I rode for the White Horse Ranch until the fall of 1955, when they had the national Tennessee Walking Horse Show.

The name of the horse I had to ride in the White Horse Troupe was Show Drift, a 3-year-old. He was a beautiful horse and was a pleasure to work with. At a show in Louisiana, a woman wanted to buy him. I was so glad when Ruth said no.

## THE POOR OL' RANCH COOK

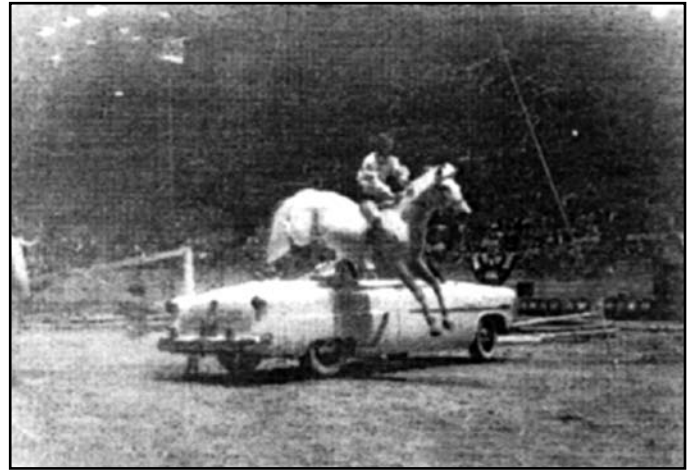
By Vernice Rathjen, 1955, to the tune of *Bad Brahma Bull*

I was working out show nags for the ol' WH  
For my board each month, I thought that was great,  
When our lady boss comes around and says, "Say now, my gal,  
At riding high jumpers, now you do quite well.

But you see now we've got no more horse shows to book  
So I'll keep you right here and then make you cook.  
As for sticking on the high ones, you've got what it takes,  
But we need someone here to flip our hotcakes."

So while I'm tyin' these ol' apron strings,  
The hotcakes are a-sizzling and the gong I'll soon ring.  
One by one as the crew comes in,  
I'm wishing I was back on my ol' show horse again.

I can see the big arena and hear the band play  
Hear the pounding of hooves as we rode hard that day.  
They can show all their ribbons and the pictures they took,  
But there's another great star called "The Poor Ol' Ranch Cook."



Vernice Rathjen riding Misty at the Shrine Circus in the Civic Auditorium in Omaha, April 1955.

## STORY OF MY LIFE

By Vernice Rathjen, 2011, to the tune of *Little Joe, the Wrangler*

A little girl who could do no harm,  
Growing up on her daddy's farm,  
She wanted a little pony she could ride.  
She waited all her childhood years  
But her pleas fell on Dad's deaf ears  
So she sat down on the barn doorsill and cried.

She swore she'd leave the farm someday  
And go far, far away  
To maybe a horse ranch somewhere,  
Where she thought she could get a start.  
Horses had a soft spot in her heart,  
So she left the farm without a care.

On a horse ranch with a hundred head or more,  
Bringing in the herd was one of the chores;  
Cutting out the mounts we chose to ride,  
Grooming and training all day long,  
'Til the setting sun was gone  
The joy in her heart she could not hide.

Then in the early morning dawn  
It was time to load the snow white horses on  
A special painted semi-truck,  
And head out on the long highway  
To another big show day  
And hoping for successful show day luck.

Now in a small apartment place  
Where you never see a friendly face,  
Her memories go back to those happy days.  
City life cannot replace  
The peaceful, wide open space,  
So back to ranch country, she's on her way.



## The Ol' Homesteader

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

It's never dull in the little ol' town of Naper...

### NEW FACES

Myra Reber Reis is excited about being a first-time grandma! Brock Thomas Kickhafer was born January 7 to Tom and Marcy Reis Kickhafer, Clearwater, MN. Lovera Reber is great-grandma.

Terry and Michaela Sachtjen are enjoying a new grandson, Ty Hayden, born March 18 to Corby and Chas.

Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg welcomed Ally Beth, born July 19. Elsie Wentz is great-great grandmother; Bob and Barb Stoltenberg Wentz are great-grandparents; Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson are grandparents.

Nash Donald Hansen was born July 6 in Wayne, NE, to Tom and Sandra Bernt Hansen. Bill and Linda Schultz are grandpa and grandma.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUNG 'UNS

Alix Mashino, daughter of Dustin and Tammera Mitchell Mashino was on the Dean's List at UNL.

Brook Reiman, daughter of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman (granddaughter of Jack and Jean Reiman and Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers), and Erica Engelhaupt, daughter of Leonard and Karen Bechtold Engelhaupt, were on the Dean's list at UNK.

Several local writers (grades 4-12) prepared essays for the Spencer American Legion Auxiliary. Among the winners were Hannah Druke, daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Druke (granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman); Adrienne Bengtson, daughter of Matt and Ellen Bengtson, (granddaughter of Janet Cline Eggert); Blake Ahlers, son of Dan and Tara Ahlers, (grandson of Wayne and Virginia); Janet Ahlers, daughter of Dean and Roxie Ahlers; and Jamie Mashino, daughter of Dustin and Tammera.

### JUST A LOT OF GOOD WET FUN

The Dust Bowl co-ed softball tournament June 8 was anything but a dust bowl—it rained and it rained and then it rained some more. Play began at 9 a.m. and ended at 1 a.m. on June 9. Seven area teams participated, with Mad Dogs from Bonesteel coming in first and the Troopers from Naper second. Did winning guarantee you a place in line at the laundromat??? The tournament was organized and sponsored by Angie

and Kevin McCarthy and family. Lots of fun—good wet fun!—for all involved.

### MANY THANKS

Credit for the fire fighter photos on the back page of last issue go to Tara Ahlers—thank you!

### HELP WANTED

The Historical Society is planning to get Heritage Hall museum (the former Catholic Church) re-sided this fall. Cost is estimated at more than \$20,000. Help is always appreciated!

### CONGRATULATIONS

Travis Heermann stopped in the library recently and left a copy of his fifth and latest novel, *Sword of the Ronin: Part 2 of the Ronin Trilogy*, which has just been released. Travis was spending a few days at the home of his parents, Jerry and Dorothy Heerman, and then heading to Omaha where he had a book signing at Barnes and Noble and a vendor table and book release party at the Omaha Science Fiction Convention. Congratulations, Travis! ■



### RURAL SCHOOL, 1946

Clockwise from left: Nola Holmgren, Nathalie Sattler, Wilmer Bohnet, Elmer Sattler, Lois Kibby.



### DISTRICT 70 SCHOOL

Back row (left to right): Lester Maertins, Ada Mae Vaughn, Irene Mayer and Wayne Bennett. Middle row: Adeline Maertins, Delores Mayer, Iona Mayer, teacher Irene Fischer, Roy Bennett and Lyle Vaughn. Front row: June Maertins, Lucille Maertins, Inez Vaughn and Roxine Mayer.



## Letters

Send your cards and letters to:

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

Thank you for the *Naper Paper*. We really enjoy it. Enclosed is a check and thanks to all who make it possible.

Art and Jan Hysell

It's been way too long since I sent a check to support the *Naper Paper*, which, by the way, is an excellent publication! Please use the enclosed for anything needed by the paper or Naper Historical Society. Naper is a great town and its citizens should be proud of the community spirit and support that is so evident there.

I am sorry to report that we Herrmanns have lost one more of our family. Our sister, Lillian, passed away in November just days before her 88th birthday. There are just six of the nine Hermann kids left now but we are all grateful for the time we have together.

Want to say a warm "Hello" to Velda and Duke and all the other many cousins there in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Thanks again for the *Naper Paper*—it's always a special day when it shows up in the mail.

Marylou Herrmann Clark

Enclosed is a check for the *Naper Paper* for me and my sister Janice Engelbart. We both enjoy reading it. Keep up the good work.

Barbara Camin Schochenmaier

Enclosed find a check to help cover expenses for the *Naper Paper*.

Recently Vicki and I spent some time in Naper. It always brings back some good memories. It reminds me of a ditty a lady I knew wrote for her sister's birthday party.

*When I was twenty, my shoes were red;  
I very rarely went to bed.*

*When I was thirty, my shoes were blue,  
And I could dance the whole night through.  
When I was forty, my shoes were white,  
And I could dance just half the night.*

*When I was fifty, my shoes were brown,  
But I could walk all over town.*

*Now I'm 100, my shoes are black;*

*I wish I had my red shoes back.*

Iona Mayer Carstens

Enjoy reading the *Naper Paper*. Have relatives on Camin and Gentele side who did or still reside in the Naper area. I like

reading articles on history of life and what living was all about when my parents visited when I was young and growing up. It's interesting to read events that are still going on and people who know or knew them and relatives when I'm up that way. Keep up the good work. Sending check to renew newspaper or help wherever you need it. Thanks.

Janice (Camin, Gentele) Engelbart

As some of you know, earlier this spring, I had the enjoyment of visiting my "home." Yes, "you can take the girl out of the country, but you can't take the 'home' out of the girl." Once again, I had the pleasure of reveling in the abundant and good hospitality of James and Mabel, nephews and nieces, grandnieces and nephews and some old friends. (Some old friends, however, were missing—such as Joy Vogt, who like me, no longer lives in the area.)

This was my first visit to the retirement home of James and Mabel. While I missed the "farm setting," I take comfort in the content of their warm and inviting new household and lovingly wish them years of health and enjoyment.

Another of the purposes for my visit was to join in the celebration of my Aunt Ada Sattler's 100th birthday and to visit my Aunt Janet Cerny Sattler in her 103rd year. We also paid a surprise visit to Sandy Kibby.

Mother's Day dinner at the Café was almost as good as Mabel's home cooking. Seems a "gourmet" addition to the community.

A further highlight of being in Naper was that of climbing up and over the Twin Buttes. It was a great way to awaken old and dear memories. I telephoned my son Paul from the top to invite him to guess where I was standing, knowing his fond memories of the same trek.

When I returned to Connecticut I reread *Nuclear Nebraska* by Susan Cragin and was once again awed by extraordinary people of my hometown and their personal sacrifices to have accomplished their goal. What true grit!

The "Paper" gets better and better. Hope the enclosed [check] helps.

Nathalie Sattler Taranto

I want to thank my classmates of 1963, Gary Reger, Leroy Ahlers, Sandra

Windmeyer Wade, Carol Luna, Jenelle Blum Hanzlik, Marilyn Vogt Lewis and Jerome Blum for their generous contributions to the Naper Scholarship Fund at our 50th class reunion. We had the best time remembering our school days at Naper and agreed that it seemed like just yesterday.

We appreciate that our reunions are still at Naper and thank everyone involved who make that happen.

Enclosed is some money for the *Naper Paper*—keep it coming! I really enjoy keeping up from a distance.

Carolyn Honke Swanda

Hello, friends,

I have moved and would like to continue to receive the *Naper Paper*. Hope all are doing well. I will be back in your area around Memorial Day 2014. I'm now about 70 miles from sisters and brothers in western Iowa and in Nebraska. Lots going on in my life. I'm doing well. Need to get used to "humidity."

Anna Bohnet

Again, I want to thank you for the *Naper Paper*. It is a joy to read. There's nothing I admire more than small towns strong in their effort to keep going.

Here is a picture of the B-17 Memorial we have in Laurel, NE (below). It was wonderful to get to know Paul and Gertie Honke and family. Paul was a B-17 pilot of one of the 18 bombers in the formation the day (August 5, 1944) when two of the bombers collided killing 17 veterans. Paul and the co-pilot of one were friends.

Again, thank you. Here is a small donation for the paper.

Sincerely, Gene and Jan Twiford





# Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society  
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Naper NE 68755

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

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- **Look What's Happening on Main Street!**
- **Cruise Night**
- **It's Been 10 Years!**
- **Circuit Rider: Artie Martins**
- **White Horse Ranch Rider's Memories**
- **Plus: The Ol' Homesteader, Letters**

**... AND MUCH MORE!**



Naper school building—does it bring back memories???