

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

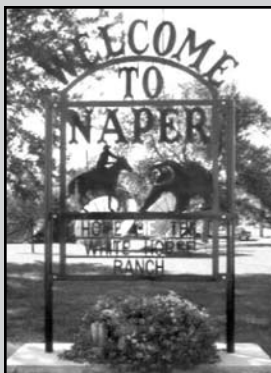
**The Naper  
Historical Society**

**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

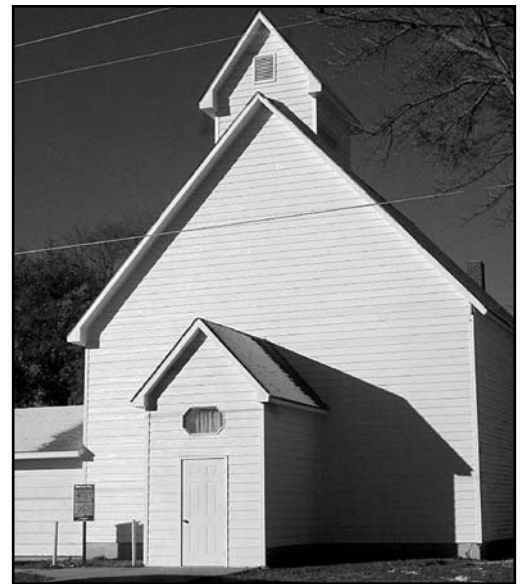
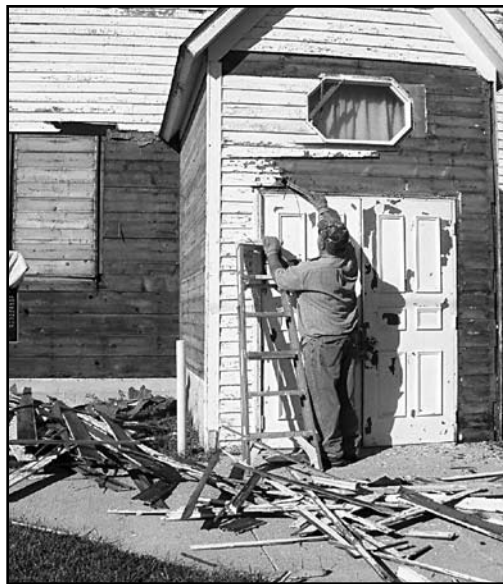
Volume 11, Issue 4

Winter 2013–2014

## A New Look for Heritage Hall

**H**eritage Hall is taking on a new look! Roger Witt (below, left) began removing the old siding about October 1, starting in the northwest corner, then working his way around the building counterclockwise. He replaced a door in the reading room and removed two windows on the south side of that room. He replaced the double doors on the east side with a single door. The doors that were replaced had rotted sills and frames. Several trees on the north and west sides of the building have been trimmed so the project can be completed.

Several donations (Thrivent, NVE Good Will Fund, ModernWoodmen), a fund raiser, and lunch stands at local auctions have increased funds available for this project. However, the Historical Society doesn't have enough money to do the south wing, so work has come to a stop for now. If you have extra cash (seriously? It's Christmas season!), our project can use all the help it can get. Donations can be sent to The Naper Historical Society, Box 72, Naper, NE 68755. Thanks to everyone who has contributed time, material, equipment, money, or labor to this undertaking. ■



### NEW POSTMASTER TAKES OFFICE

Dustie Roth was sworn in as Naper's postmaster on October 8. Beverly Zink (formerly Naper postmaster and now postmaster at Spencer), Dustie, and Velda Stahlecker (former PM at Gentry, AR) are shown in the photo. Dawn Bayer from Lincoln came to do the ceremony.



The Circuit Rider

## Dan Duffy: Life during the 'Good Ol' Days'

*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 years pass swiftly! Memories take us back to about 1953 and the Naper School. After a year of chaos and three different superintendents (including a Lutheran minister), Dan Duffy arrives! A short speech in front of the assembly let all know that a new era of discipline was beginning.

The Circuit Rider, a student at the time, now 60 years later had the pleasure of talking "old times" with the former superintendent.

Duffy recalls some interesting early stories. His dad bought a 1926 Model T. This was a time when some still carried pistols to protect their property. School was a one-room school with all eight grades and one teacher. During high school, he started a three-piece band. His group played for many weddings and barn dances. Tickets were \$.25 for men and \$.10 for ladies. [Ed Note: He still plays his accordion for many events. Note picture with Mildred.]

After high school, Southern State Teachers College (Springfield, SD) was attended and a certificate was granted to teach rural school. After one year, Duffy joined the Navy. He was stationed in Washington, DC, with the Naval Department. While he was there, he met Mildred Ring, who became his wife and mother of his four children. Mildred had lived in Gregory, yet he hadn't met her!

After being discharged, the next step was the university and earning a master's degree. He served as superintendent in Naper and a total of 15 years in other schools. After a college position, he retired in Arkansas.

Duffy's recollection of the "Good Ol' Days" reminds us that many of those old days weren't that good! During the thirties, many dust storms darkened the skies. Grasshoppers ate everything, including all but the buttons on a jacket that his neighbor left hanging outside on the fence! Government bought the cattle for a very low price because there was no feed on the farms.

Even considering all the trials and tribulations, life in the USA is great. Once again, a great visit and time for the Circuit Rider to ride on. ■



### Naper High School Junior Class, 1949–1950

Standing: Marvin Neiman, Marlo Sieh, James Talmadge, Don Vogt, and Sponsor Mr. Duffy. Seated: Neita Schock, Betty Zeitner, Roxanne Mayer, and Nathalie Sattler.



Dan and Mildred Duffy, 2001

# Reminiscing About Dr. Zimmerman

*Most folks who have lived around Naper for a few years remember Red Rockholm. He grew up two miles north of town and was the youngest son of Fred and Anna Rockholm. He had a great memory, and what he couldn't remember, he made up — a trait shared by several of his nieces and nephews! He wrote the following letter in 2000 to his niece Margaret Ludemann who, with her husband Dennis Jorgensen, had just acquired the Drug Store. It is printed with her permission.*

When I was a little kid, my mother used to farm me out for a few weeks to the Carlsons where brother Chris [Chris Rockholm, father of Gaynell Rockholm Keller] worked. One evening he took me along to town in his Model T touring car. At the fountain there in the drug store, he bought my first ice cream cone and I went back to the car to eat it. On the way home he noticed the shell of the cone laying on the floorboards. When he asked about it, I told him I didn't like that part. In truth, I simply wasn't aware that the cone was edible too. I remember that fancy ice cream parlor Old Molly [Mrs. Zimmerman] maintained there by the fountain—the marble table tops and fancy chairs made of that twisted bronze and copper metal. Sitting there on the sidewalk on a hot summer evening with a root beer float in hand listening to that beautiful parrot saying “Polly want a cracker” must have been a real kid's delight.

In the early days Dr. Frazier was the area doctor but when he got through “practicing” on us “white people,” according to his wife Emma, he moved up into the Rosebud country and Dr. Zimmerman became the family doctor. He took care of all of us kids for all those years. What a man he was! He was all that could be attributed to a kind and gentle man, even being without the use of one leg. That is why my older sisters and brothers went along on his calls out in the Indian country to drive the car after he gave up the top buggy and team of roans. I guess he had the contract to take care of the Indians on the Ponca Reservation [Milk's Camp] and as such he collected a lot of Indian gear and artifacts. Now and then he would have my dad come into the office to see all the stuff and I remember brother Roger and I were there

along with Charley and Johnny Vance and my dad when he dug out all sorts of memorabilia—clothes, guns, arrows and bows, baskets, shoes, bags, whatever, and a lot of items from the Custer Massacre. He had all that Indian gear in a separate room off from his office. Later he arranged it as a huge display. Sometime in the late '20s, Marie [Red's sister] drove him up to the last big powwow at Pine Ridge where all the remaining big chiefs were present. She told us that she ate some of the dog soup and they all sat around in a big circle and smoked the pipe. The doctor often spoke of He Dog and other chiefs. Of course our [local] chief was Yellow Horse.

After Molly died, my father was administrator of the estate and we ended up with some of his things. The Indian artifacts are in the museum at Lincoln and Fort Robinson. Once when in Lincoln, I asked the receptionist at the museum about Dr. Zimmerman's collection. She was unaware of it, but as I was going through the place, I came upon a big display, a “gift from C.F. and Molly Zimmerman.” Of course she was well-informed about it when I left.

The home and drug store were well-maintained and made for the better part of the buildings on that side of the street. On one side was Baily's old two story hardware store and on the other was “Dummy” McCoy's barber shop (he was deaf and dumb). Out behind the building the doctor grew a garden and many big sunflowers for the parrot. One time when we were digging in the garden, Doc [brother Roger] and I uncovered a skeleton pistol, some buttons and junk—stuff he had discarded. The block wall out in front along the sidewalk was the Dr.'s work. He even made the blocks. We ended up with the forms for making the cement blocks. ■



Dr. C.F. Zimmerman

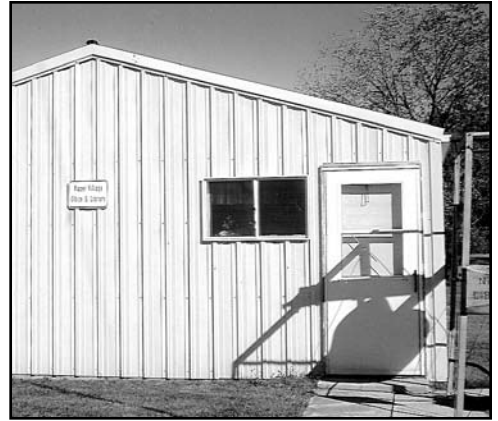


Molly Zimmerman

# Naper Library Revamped

Who would ever have guessed that when LeAnne Schultz donated a box of books, the end result five years later would be a book club (the brain-child of Joan Zeisler) and an ever-expanding library of over 4,000 volumes! During July and August, Phyllis Camin and Ann Anderson spent several days sorting, classifying, reorganizing and decluttering the space. The book club spent a couple of afternoons checking cards and books and hosted an open house October 19 during the gun show. At that time, local authors were highlighted and excess books were sold. Duplicate books and VHS tapes were donated to the Veterans Home in Norfolk. Thank you, Charlotte Nicolaus, for delivering them.

Currently Linda Sieh, Theresa Goodman and Mandy Keller are library staff. They'd enjoy seeing you. ■



Yes, we had lots of rain this year, and it wasn't only the corn and beans that grew! This spider was spotted on the west side of 123 Main Photography Studio, just hanging around waiting for Halloween. The coffee crowd appears to have no fear. Pictured from left to right are Duane and Marilyn Sieh, Bob and Barb Wentz, Loren Sieh, Mabel and Jim Sattler, Duke and Velda Stahlecker, and Herman and Grace Bendig.

## 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

### Druke 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

*If we don't support our local merchants ...  
who will?*

*Spend here: Keep Naper strong!*



## Letters

Send your cards and letters to:

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

Dear super dedicated volunteers:

Thank you for the gracious hospitality we were shown. The work you people have put in shows! Ruth would be proud of Naper.

Sorry I am so slow I thanking you. Have gotten into the "fall rush"—done with beans, are into corn. So thankful for the yield. Even with this dry summer, got an August rain that saved us.

Have friends west river who have lost so many cattle—some 40%, some up to 80%. [They spent] years building the right blood lines. Makes us cry. [Referring to the unseasonal blizzard that wreaked havoc in western Nebraska and South Dakota]

Thank you for all the hours you put in the museum. Will talk to my friends—they should stop at Naper.

Until we visit again, take care,

Donald and Dolores (Wood) Benson

**Ed. Note: Dolores rode at the White Horse Ranch in the early years and came back for the reunions (see photo below). They've been married 57 years and stopped to visit the museum September 2 while on their annual trip.**



I did appreciate the paper so much that you people published. I am thinking that I probably better write and let you know one of the triplets is still here. I will enjoy my 83rd birthday in a few days. My folks were Gus and Mabel Kortmeyer Adam. I am enjoying good health. Once in a while I meet someone from Naper.

I have seven children, 18 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Two of those are twin boys.

Seeing the wall on Main Street in Naper brought memories. We played there while Mom shopped. One of my children wants to make a trip back to Naper yet this fall. Thank you again for the paper.

I might have added that I met Janet Cerny, my first grade teacher, in Naper. She was at home on Main Street in Colome at that time, that being a few years ago. I have heard nothing of her since.

Almon Adam

Thanks for the paper. There are a lot of strangers as I've been gone so long—but enjoy it anyway. Here is a small contribution. Hope it helps.

Ruth Horn Kibby

We thank you for keeping the memories alive—check enclosed.

Wayne and Neita Andersen

Please use the enclosed check for the siding project on the museum. I would like it in honor of Reo and Marguerite [Ludemann].

Our snow is melted!! Rapid City sounds awful yet. [referring to snow of early October that caused major damage and loss of livestock in western SD and NE]

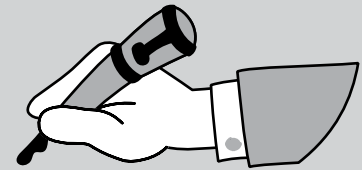
Mary Ludemann and Scott Davis

Thanks for the paper. I enjoy it.

Leta Shelden

Enclosed is a check to help cover expense of the paper. Enjoy having the noon meal on Memorial Day weekend with relatives. Also look forward to getting the paper.

Viola Cline



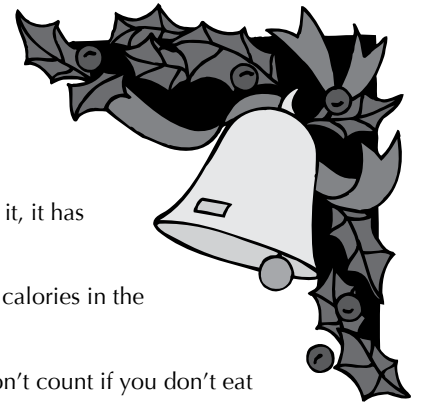
## THIS IS YOUR PAPER!

The *Naper Paper* is a reader-produced publication. Your stories—and your donations—keep this paper going.

We thank all our readers who have helped us out in some way. If you would like to make a gift to the paper, or would like to share your story-telling talents, please write to us at:

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

# JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



## HOLIDAY DIET

### BREAKFAST:

½ grapefruit  
1 slice whole wheat toast (dry)  
8 oz. skim milk

### LUNCH:

4 oz. broiled chicken breast  
1 c. steamed spinach with vinegar  
1 cup herbal tea  
1 Oreo cookie

### MIDAFTERNOON SNACK:

The rest of the Oreos in the package  
2 pints of Rocky Road ice cream  
8 oz. hot fudge sauce  
Nuts, cherries, whipped cream

### DINNER:

2 loaves garlic bread with cheese  
Large sausage and mushroom pizza  
Large pitcher of beer  
Assorted Christmas cookies

### LATE EVENING NEWS SNACK:

All leftover Christmas candy

## RULES FOR DIETING

1. If you eat something and no one sees you eat it, it has no calories.
2. If you drink a diet soda with a candy bar, the calories in the candy bar are canceled out by the diet soda.
3. When you eat with someone else, calories don't count if you don't eat more than they do.
4. Food used for medicinal purposes, such as hot chocolate, brandy, toast, Sara Lee cheesecake, NEVER counts.
5. If you hang out with larger people, you look thinner. Try to fatten your friends.
6. Movie related foods do not have additional calories because they are part of the entire entertainment package and not part of one's person fuel. This includes Milk Duds, buttered popcorn, Junior Mints, Tootsie Rolls and king-size sodas.
7. Broken cookies have no calories—the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
8. Food licked off knives and spoons have no calories if you are in the process of preparing something. For example, peanut butter on the knife when making a sandwich and ice cream on a spoon when making a sundae have zero calories.
9. Foods of the same color have the same number of calories. Spinach and Key lime pie for instance are equal as are mushrooms and caramel rolls. Please note chocolate is a universal color and may be combined with any other food for a match. We hope this has been helpful.

*(from Food Rap, March 1988, reprinted in Rural Electric Nebraskan)*



## MAKE-UP TIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

My face in the mirror  
isn't wrinkled or drawn,

My house isn't dusty—  
the cobwebs are gone!

My garden looks lovely  
and so does my lawn.

I think I might never  
put my glasses back on!

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)



## 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...

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Matt Alford and Katie Erdahl were married August 30.

Corby Sachtjen and Chas Yellow Hawk were married August 31.

Ryan and Tarra Sieh Magwire became parents when Edward William was born September 10. Loren and Linda Sieh are grandpa and grandma.

Richard and Sheryl Zeisler are grandpa and grandma again. Noah Richard Thayer arrived July 18. Parents are Kris and Sarah Zeisler Thayer.

### BUSY KIDS

Dylan Reiman (son of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman, grandson of Jack and Jean Reiman and Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers), Jessa McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) and Kelly McCarthy (daughter of Kevin and Angie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine) ran well in West Boyd Cross Country competition. Evan Reiman (son of Casey and Lisa) ran in junior high CC.

Macy Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara, granddaughter of Wayne and Virginia) and Amber Bendig (daughter of Kelly and Monica, granddaughter of Herman and Grace Faatz Bendig) worked hard on the volley ball court. Adrienne Bengtson (daughter of Matt and Ellen, granddaughter of Janet Cline Eggert) played for the junior high volleyball team.

Dylan Reiman, Jamie Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino, granddaughter of Gaylene Mitchell) and Macy Ahlers were candidates for homecoming royalty. Macy was crowned queen.

### KEEPIN' THE REST OF US BUSY . . .

The photos of alumni at the banquet and the Naper School in the last issue came to you thanks to LeRoy Ahlers, class of 1963. Neil (class of 1953) and Carol Peterson Helenbolt attended the banquet but missed the "photo op."

Those folks who love auctions had several chances to get a number and wave their hands this summer and fall. Irene Weickum's Estate, the Allpress family, and Ray and DeAnne Vaughn provided the opportunities.

The annual gun show had a fine display of merchandise thanks to many vendors. A good crowd showed up both October 19 and 20 to look and shop. October 20 was also the first of this winter's steak suppers sponsored by the firemen. Again, a good crowd who enjoyed a lot of good food.

For the past 18 years, Linda Sieh and Ann Anderson have presented the craft fair so they were happy to have Tara Ahlers and Amy Gosch assume the duties this year. It was scheduled for November 16, which coincided with the first day of deer season, which meant it was mountain oyster time at the VFW. How many years have they done that?? FORTY-SIX! That's a whole bunch of slicin', fryin' and eatin'!

### SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS. . .

Carl Bechtold passed away July 25. He graduated from NHS in 1975.

Shirley Kramer Higgins who lived east of Naper and attended grade school here passed October 26.

Opal Goodman Chapin passed away in February. She had graduated from NHS in 1945 and lived in Oregon for many years.

Merlin Green, a 1959 graduate, left us November 23. He had lived in Red Oak, IA, for many years and often attended the alumni banquet.

### THANKS!

A lot of folks donate and loan things to the museum and those items are appreciated. Rob Johnson recently made a unique addition of a set of 1934 Boyd County license plates. Thought for a while it was from Ol' Homesteader's first Hupmobile but it must have been some other flashy car owned by some other ol' homesteader.

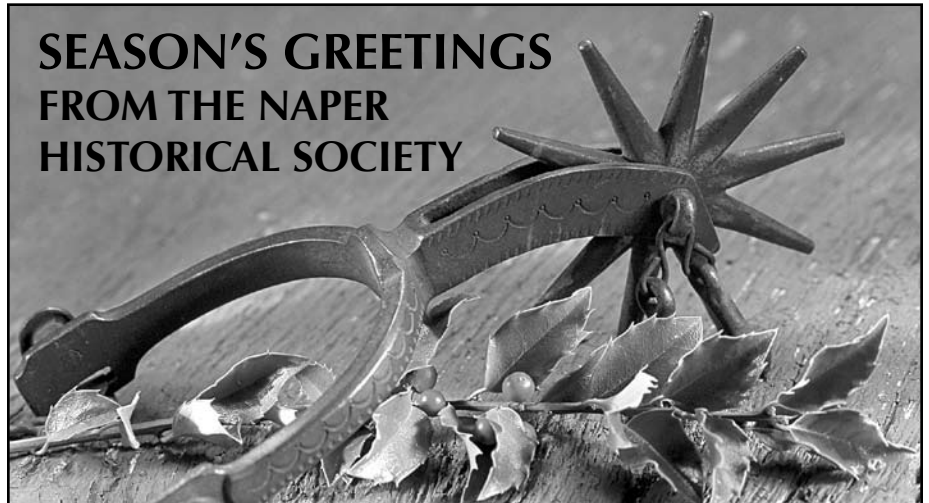
### GET READY TO GET COLD!

January 18 is the date of the eighth annual Frozen Foot Fishing Derby sponsored by the Naper Café and Lounge. There are lots of prizes for different categories of fish, lots of items to be raffled, lots of fish to eat, and lots of fun to be had. Hope to see you there!

### LONG AGO BUT NOT FAR AWAY . . .

Exerpts from 1955 Naper Public School Christmas Program: Mrs. Windmeyer's classes presented Christmas Jacks in the Box (Patsy Dummer, Linda Broekemeier, Terry Stoltenberg, LeRoy Ludemann, Ernest Broekemeier); Christmas Pageant (Sandra Ludemann, Geneene Kulm, Carol Dummer, Diana Broekemeier, Darlene Ludemann); and Santa on the Range (Dennis Schoenefeld, Dale Schoenefeld, Ralph Kulm, Willard Dummer, Darrel Juracek). The Christmas Story was presented by kindergarten through fifth grade, directed by Miss Ellis and Mrs. Dawson. The cast included Sandra Windmeyer, Larry Malerbi, Clinton Swallow, Norman Garrison, Glen Van Houten, LeeAnn Stoltenberg, Eileen Berg, Dennis Schmitz, Dwaine Hoffman, Carol Moody, Earl Faatz, Maxine Windmeyer, Carol Ann Luna, Roger Ludemann, Renee Porter, Jerry Hoffman, Henry Martin, Jerome Blum, Stanley McLaughlin, Eddie Joe Peppel, Stanley Stahlecker, Charles Small, Jane Small, accompanied by Ann Ludemann. Additional numbers included Gifts of Christmas Time (Dale Nicolaus, Crystal Cline, Jeffrey Hamling, Barbara Sangster, Georgia Hamling, Norman Beem, Myrna Katzer, Kathy Kortmeyer) and Silver Bells (Darlene Swallow, Jane Small, Karen Berg, Jenelle Blum, Jane Fuhrer, Carol Ann Luna). ■

## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE NAPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY





# Naper Paper

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## IN THIS ISSUE...

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- New Postmaster Takes Office
- Circuit Rider: Dan Duffy
- Reminiscing About Dr. Zimmerman
- Naper Library Revamped
- Plus: The Ol' Homesteader, Letters

... AND MUCH MORE!



### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS, 1939

Back row left to right: Alfred "Butch" Boucher, his twin Alberta Boucher (Breyer), Donley Klein, and Delma Daldorf (Turgeon).  
Front row, left to right: Velda Sieh (Stahlecker), Connie Sattler, Barney Smith, Gaynell Rockholm (Keller), JoAnn Cerny (Jons), and Paul Cunningham.