

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

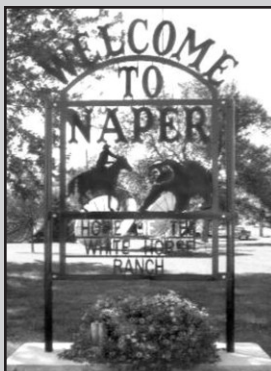
**The Naper
Historical Society**

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

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THIS CABIN WAS HANDMADE!

Marvin Liewer had a dream—a log home built with his own hands and using no power tools!

Marvin grew up on a farm between Naper and Butte, graduated from Butte High School, majored in Forest Management at Colorado State University and worked for USDA Forest Service for 30 years. When he retired in 1994, he set about building that home and fulfilling that dream.

He chose a site near the Niobrara River south of the farm where he grew up. He wanted a comfortable cabin constructed of local wood products. Ponderosa pine logs harvested from the canyons west of Springview, Nebraska, were used for the walls. The logs were cut in March and April and he hand peeled the logs in May and June. They were stacked criss-cross to allow air to circulate and dry the logs. In June and July, he hewed the logs with an axe to a seven-inch width. His cabin is 16 x 24 feet so the trees he

used were cut a minimum of 18 and 24 feet. They are joined at the corners with a notched dove tail joint which is very strong and protects the cut ends from moisture.

The cabin is built over a poured concrete basement with the first course of logs resting on the plywood subfloor. The combined area of the basement and ground floor is 768 square feet. A wood stove in the basement combined with an open stair well allowing free movement of air keeps his home comfortable. In summer time, the basement helps keep the home cool.

It has been Marvin's primary home since 1998. He has since built a "wash house" where he can heat water, bathe and wash clothes with an old-time "shaker" washing machine. (However, he admits he uses that machine only to show folks how it used to get done.) He gets water from a well between his cabin and the river. He waters his garden by damming the creek that flows near his house and gravity

takes care of the rest—sort of. He has installed a solar power generator which allows him to use a few electrical appliances.

It's three-quarters of a mile from the cabin to his mail box and where his pickup is parked. Marvin tries to walk there every day. He "goes to town" about once a week for church and makes another trip for groceries most weeks.

In August, three of his fellow foresters and other friends walked in for a visit and a tour. Walking in was a lot easier than walking out but it was definitely worth the effort involved to see his handiwork—a labor of love.

If you are thinking of building your own cabin, the first step would be to spend the winter reading and planning—and then maybe spend another winter reading and planning! There are many books available to give advice and guidance. If you search "Marvin Liewer Log Cabin" or "Nebraska Log Cabin", Marvin's publication (<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebforestpubs/14>) will show up.



Dennis Adams, Marvin Liewer and Lyndon Vogt with the washing machine.



The cabin



Marvin Liewer relaxing in his cabin.

AND COMING TO YOU IN 2017—NAPER'S QUASQUICENTENNIAL!

First of all, there will be no quiz concerning the pronunciation or spelling of the word that means Naper is 125 years old! Phew!

Several events honoring the history of our town and

community are planned for the Memorial Day weekend, May 26, 27, 28 and 29, 2017. Of course there will be the alumni banquet, Memorial Day service, community potluck, and maybe, just

maybe—a dance, beard contests, chili cook-offs, a flea market (any fleas for sale??), a run/walk and other events. Put that weekend on your calendar and plan to be in Naper celebrating with us!

LEONARD AND THELMA SCHMITZ SHARE THEIR STORY



Leonard grew up a mile east of Naper where his family moved when he was a year and a half old. Now Leonard and Thelma live three miles east of Naper—but oh, the places they've been in-between!

He graduated from NHS in 1947 and was scheduled for induction into the Army January 1, 1952, but there was a powerful blizzard blowing through which made travel nearly impossible. Albert Stoltenberg, who was scheduled to be inducted at the same time, walked from his home to Leonard's home where they saddled a horse and rode into Naper to see Benny Herrmann, the local selective service representative. Benny called the county selective service officer and said, "These boys can't get to Butte."

The county selective service officer said, "It's a government order! They have to be here or else!"

And Benny replied, "They are not coming" and hung up the phone.

When the weather cleared somewhat and the roads were open, Albert and Leonard obeyed the government order and showed up at the selective service office. Leonard spent 18 months in Germany where he became a parts man for the motor pool.

Thelma Higgins grew up in eastern Keya Paha County. One day, when Thelma was hardly more than a toddler,

her sister Opal and cousin Joyce were playing in the yard by the tank that had a layer of ice over it. They were having fun breaking the ice and Thelma thought she was big enough to do that too. Thelma was a petite little girl and as she was reaching to take her turn hitting the ice, she toppled into the tank and went under. Joyce and Opal ran to the house for help and after Thelma was pulled out, they put her on the oven door to dry out and warm up. Thank heavens for the old cast iron wood ranges that

were hot most of the time. When Thelma started school, she rode a horse to District 1. Years later, she rode a horse to District 1 as the teacher.

Their wedding was scheduled for February 19, 1955, at Sacred Heart Church in Naper. They were in Naper the previous evening for the rehearsal and to decorate the hall for the reception. It had

blocked. They put all the food prepared for the reception in the freezer, Thelma's bouquet of roses was put in a cool upstairs bedroom, and all the guests were notified of the change of date. Then Tuesday, February 22, dawned clear and cold, and the wedding ceremony took place.

Leonard thinks he was a pretty good talker to get Thelma to marry him in February in Nebraska but when it was time to celebrate their 50th and 60th anniversaries, Thelma had the last word. They celebrated in the summer time!

Leonard and his dad (Joe Schmitz) had built a home just west of Joe and Bertha's farmstead along Highway 12 where Leonard and Thelma set up housekeeping. That little house was later moved to Naper and became Jerry and Sarah Schmitz's home and now is home to Carl and Donna Ludemann.

Their next move was north of Naper to the farm where Sterling and Sheila Melton presently live. Jerry and Natella Hamling had been living there and had a farm sale. The Sacred Heart Church altar society served the lunch. While working at the lunch stand in the cold house, Thelma said, "I feel sorry for whoever has to live in this cold old house next." Guess who—Thelma.

After living north of Naper for a time, Leonard and Thelma bought the Frank Cerny farm in 1959. Frank and Anna



started snowing but Leonard delivered her home to Keya Paha County and returned to Naper. Once again, a blizzard came along that changed their plans. The weather was terrible and the roads were

had raised their family on the land they homesteaded three miles east of Naper where they had later built a house big enough for a family with 10 children. Frank received the patent on the land in

1902 and a copy of that patent is attached to the back of a photo of the farm hanging in the Schmitz home.

The two-and-a-half story house was no match for the tornado that tore through the area about 5:30 pm May 14, 1962. The storm took all the buildings on the farm and ripped the roof and top story off the

on Highway 12. The trucker installed the siding instead of going home. A new roof replaced the upstairs floor that same winter.

In 1992, another tornado bore down on their farm and took the machine shed and a lot of trees but left the house untouched.

However, not every day was filled with

where Leonard had been stationed along the Rhine River near Frankfurt.

Leonard was a member of the Lions Club, the NRD board of directors, the Naper Historical Society board of directors, and was named Farmer of the Day by station WNAX in Yankton. He is a member of the VFW. Thelma was a member of the Sacred Heart Altar Society.

Their son Doug is an electrician in O'Neill. His wife Renee is an accomplished stained glass artist. Doug and Renee's daughter Emily lives in Omaha with her family, son Matthew lives in New York City and son Joseph lives in Lincoln. A few years ago they flew to New York to visit Matthew who lives and works in Manhattan. On Saturday night, he told them they'd be going to church at St. Patrick's Cathedral. When they arrived there on Sunday morning, every pew was filled and a rope extended across the back of the church behind which there were hundreds of people standing. It appeared they wouldn't be going to church after all, but Matthew had a plan—and a friend! The friend had arranged for them to be seated on chairs in front of the church. What an experience!

Their son Dave lives south of Leonard and Thelma. He retired from teaching at West Boyd and now farms full-time. His wife Carmen kept the farm running smoothly while Dave taught. Their son Tony and family are in Sioux Falls, son Travis and family are in Omaha and daughter Tina is in Kearney.

Leonard's hobby was "tinkering" and building with iron. Many a neighbor stopped by to see if Leonard could come up with a solution to a problem. He made the first L-S calf catcher, a sled that provides protection from Mama Cow while tagging or treating her calf. Unfortunately, after he received a pacemaker, he could no longer use a welder, but Dave has taken over the project and manufactures sleds for farmers and ranchers in the area.

After some health issues last winter, Leonard and Thelma are home enjoying every day! But that's not to say they won't be traveling again . . . and who knows where!



house. As Leonard, Thelma, Doug (age 6) and Dave (age 4) climbed down in a crawl space under the house, they saw about six inches of daylight when the house was lifted from the foundation. All the windows were sucked out of the house. The stool in the bathroom was lifted off the floor. Dirt and grime were everywhere. Because of the widespread damage, there was no electricity for several days but Lowell Kern brought his generator for them to use. Imagine bringing the garden hose inside the kitchen just to get started on the clean-up! One day two ladies from the Cleveland Church area showed up to install windows and help clean.

They lived in the house with only the upstairs floor for a roof and with no siding from May until December. At Christmas time, a truck loaded with siding wrecked

work and watching for storms. Leonard played baseball back in the day when there were enough guys around for Naper to have TWO teams. Leonard was catcher and Jerry Hoffman played third base—the batter hit a pop fly and they both raced for it. CRASH! It was a head-on collision that left Leonard with a broken kneecap so he spent the summer in a cast.

Leonard and Thelma loved to dance and attended many a "Big Band" performance. They traveled to grandchildren's graduations and weddings, to New York, to the National Plowing Contest in Minnesota (where they happened upon Duke Stahlecker representing his real estate company!), and many other local and distant events. In 1995, Leonard and Thelma toured seven countries in Europe, including Germany,

fasteners and incidentals.

Instead of a fund raiser this year, we are asking for your financial support by sending a donation to:

Box 72, Naper, NE 68755

We appreciate your support for this project and all the others we have done. **Thank you!**



NOTICE! Naper Historical Society Needs Help!

The fellowship hall on the south side of the Heritage Hall Museum needs the siding replaced. Local carpenters and helpers will donate their labor but we need funds for the siding,

SO WHAT'S WITH THE WEATHER ANYHOW?

So, is it cold enough for you? Yes, it's cold enough for me. The frigid days we have out here on the flatland hardly receive a mention from the East Coast TV weather folks. They talk about their six or eight inches of snow (or 26 or 28) in whiny, high-pitched voices guaranteed to spread alarm. Hey, we've been there, shoveled it, scraped it and used the tractor and loader to shove it out of the way so we can get to the barn. We actually publish stories and books to commemorate the Big One! And everyone has a picture of themselves atop the snow drift that was higher than the roof on the sunporch.

The following observations could have been made by anyone who survived a Nebraska winter or summer. Maybe you can relate. . .

Let me tell you just how cold it really was! One day my mom set her cup of coffee outside to cool off a bit and it froze so fast, the ice was still warm. We went out to milk one night and it was so cold, the milk formed skinny little icicles before it hit the pail. Of course we took the icicles to the house and stood them

on the top of the wood-burning stove to thaw before we put the milk in jars in the refrigerator.

About that same time one of my uncles bought a ranch north and west of town. They were having quite a time deciding if the house was located in South Dakota or Nebraska—he thought Nebraska and my aunt thought it was South Dakota so they finally called a surveyor to put the issue to rest. Let me tell you, my uncle was really relieved when he found out he was right. The house was actually in Nebraska so he didn't have to put up with South Dakota blizzards any more.

And then when it warms up. . .

When it is hot in the flatland, we use cold irons to press our clothes. If it gets too hot, we start a fire in the fireplace or the wood-burning stove and take turns sitting near it to cool off. One hot summer day, it rained after a long drought (was this in 2012?) and a drop of rain hit my neighbor on the head. It knocked him cold and we had to throw three buckets of dust in his face to bring him around. That same summer it was so dry, the creek behind

the house ran only three days a week and alternate weekends. It was so dry the raccoons were hauling water to the sweet corn.

I met one of my mother's friends coming out of the grocery store one day—it was a hot day, probably 105, and I was suffering. "So, is it hot enough for you?" I asked.

"Well," her friend answered, "I was concerned about the pipes in the kitchen so I turned the thermostat up a few degrees before we left home."

Of course there will be the perfect weather occasionally. One year stands out in my memory. The spring days were balmy. Summer came with just the right amount of rain at the right time. The breezes were gentle. Gardens yielded exceptional produce—in fact the pumpkin vines grew so fast, holes were worn in the pumpkins from being dragging along behind the vines.

Unfortunately, the perfect weather happens about three days a year—but not every year.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS/WAS BASIN?

The Zink family knows where Basin was because Louise Zink lives in the middle of Basin, so named because of the low, flat areas located there.

Did you know there was a store in Basin? Indeed there was, a store that provided everything local folks needed from flour to gun powder, from calico (6c a yard) to cornmeal, from buggies to burlap. The store had a lumber shed and a lime house which provided lime to mix with other materials for plaster for the interior walls of the house. A seven by seven room was built in one corner of the store to provide space for the Basin Post Office.

Eugene Smith was born in West Union, Iowa, May 26, 1861, and worked in Holt County for several years before going into business at Spring Creek Mills. The town of Mills was named for the mill on Spring Creek which was owned by the Hagemeister family. Eugene married Mary Hagemeister

In 1891, he came to Boyd County and started the Basin Store. He bought 140 acres of land and raised livestock in addition to operating the store and serving

as postmaster, a position to which he was named on November 24, 1891. According to the book, *A Brief Appreciation of Boyd County Nebraska and Its people and Institutions* by John H. Sexton (published in 1903 by Hensen and Brown, Publishers and Bookmakers, Naper, Boyd County, Nebraska), "Mr. Smith came to this country about 10 years ago, and at that time his capital consisted of \$10 in money but an unlimited amount of energy, brains, and business sense. . . He has the confidence and respect of the entire community and is in all respects a good citizen." Native Americans who traded at the store called Eugene "Jim" because they had no word in their language for Eugene.

In 1903, Eugene went to New York to visit his mother who was ill. On October 8, while he was gone, the store and post office were burglarized. Outlaws dynamited the safe which caused the store and post office to burn. His wife Mary and two children, Eunice (age 5) and Eugene (infant), escaped unharmed. In 1904, a petition was circulated to consolidate the post office with Naper and the Smith family

moved to Gregory.

Eunice Smith moved to Arizona and died in Kingman, AZ in 1992. Eugene Smith, who was a baby at the time of the robbery and fire, married Alice Wood and lived in Keya Paha County for a time. They had four children, Joan, Donald ("Porky"), Kay and Mary John. Kay Smith married Orion Fischer and lives northwest of Naper.

Thank you, Kay, Louise and Jeff for your help with this story.



This barn is on the Louise Zink farmstead where Basin was located. The siding on the barn came from the Basin store.

STORIES HEARD AROUND THE COFFEE TABLE... AND OTHER PLACES

Did you know beer and liquor were rationed in World War II? Is it because sugar was rationed and sugar is an important ingredient in spirits? At any rate, men would sit on the chairs in Ivil Bodine's barbershop on both Wednesday and Saturday nights waiting for their turn for "shave and a haircut, six bits". If, while they were waiting, the weekly ration of beer was announced, customers would ask if they would lose their place in line while running across the street for their beer quota. Ivil allowed them to make their trips across the street and just kept cutting hair.

During World War II, cigarettes were also rationed. However, a local entrepreneur always could get them for his customers. If you wanted a carton, it's possible there would be several brands represented in the ten packs, but you'd

get the smokes. The same entrepreneur and a friend made a trip to Sioux City to break in a new pickup. They were lucky (?) enough to obtain a lot of black market sugar which they covered with a tarp. On the way home, they were stopped by a law enforcement officer who admired the new pickup and lectured them on speeding, but never did look under the tarp. Yes, I guess they were lucky.

Gasoline and tires were rationed. So even though you could receive only a certain amount, it was inexpensive. Spec Whitley once advertised five gallons for 95c. We're guessing five gallons would be the maximum amount you could buy at one time. When Marguerite Ludemann was hospitalized in Omaha in 1944, Reo borrowed four tires from their neighbor Mike Lowe, mounted them on the wheels of their 1938 Plymouth, and drove

Marguerite to Omaha. The tires were removed from the Plymouth and returned to Mike. When it was time for her to return home, the process was repeated.

After rationing was over, another enterprising businessman was a marketing genius. He advertised "Post Toasties—1 box 11c or 2 for 25c". Can you believe he sold lots of them at 2 for 25??? And bragged about selling them to his mother-in-law! The same fellow had some old, hard, tasteless gingersnaps which he offered free with the purchase of a quart of whiskey. A local guy thought that was a good deal, bought the whiskey and got the free gingersnaps. He proceeded to the dance in Bonesteel. When he went out at intermission to have a little nip, he found his whiskey had been stolen and the gingersnaps left behind. I think there's a lesson here.



Grades K-1-2-3 at Pleasant View District 1, Keya Paha County, 1963-1964

Back row: Mrs. Reber, Kevin Connell, Steven Lanz, Linda Haugen, Nancy Haugen, Janet Connell

Middle row: Janet McCumber, Rodney McCumber, Dewey Peterson,

Carl Bechtold, LeRoy Krejic, Donald Connell, Terri Rowan, Paula Huggins

Front row: Kevin Connell, Steven Lanz, Linda Haugen, Nancy Haugen, Janet Connell

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE, I LEARNED FROM A COW

1. Try to be in a good mooood.
2. Don't cry over spilled milk.
3. Remember this about chewing your cud—no fat, no calories, no cholesterol, no taste.
4. The grass isn't always greener on the other side of the fence.
5. In times of crisis, turn the udder cheek and moooooove on.
6. It's better to be seen and not herd.
7. Honor thy fodder and thy mudder and all your udder relatives.
8. Don't believe all the bull you hear.
9. It's good to be bossy from time to time.
10. Cow-nt your blessings every day.
11. Careful that you don't kick the bucket.

THE OL' HOMESTEADERS IS STILL HUNTIN' AROUND FOR NEWS...

HELLO, BABIES!

Joan Zeisler said hello to two great-grandbabies the same day! Alexander Joseph was born September 7 to Derek and Amanda Zeisler. Craig and Stacy Zeisler are grandpa and grandma, Dorothy Frank is great-grandma. Emerson Grace was born September 7 to Riley and Jamie Schmitz. Rick and Jane Zeisler Schmitz are grandpa and grandma. Won't those little cousins have fun together!

JoAnn Jons is great-grandma again! Elizabeth JoAnn Kitzan was born August 24, 2016, to Heather and Josh Kitzan.

Kyle and Catherine Hipke's son Orrin Finn was born July 29 so Gus is now a big brother!

Tristan has a brother! Kohle Wesley was born August 14 to Brandon and Kindall Zeisler. Denice Zeisler, Gregory,

and Jess and Cindy Evans, St. Charles, are grandparents.

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION AND THE KIDS ARE BUSY!

Henry Ahlers (son of Dean and Roxie) was named to the President's List at Mitchell Tech for the spring semester.

Gina McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) and Hannah Druke (daughter of Tony and Beth, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) played on the Boyd County Spartan volleyball team. Beth Druke was an assistant coach. Daydra Zeisler (daughter of Mark and Tiffany, granddaughter of Richard and Sheryl) and Kaci Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy, granddaughter of Gaylene

DANCES THROUGH THE YEARS... by Marilyn Sieh

Shivaree (also spelled charivari)—a noisy demonstration or celebrating, especially a mock serenade with kettles, horns, etc., to a couple on their wedding night.

This is an event that happened to some newly married couples years ago. Friends and neighbors with their families gathered at the newlywed's home with their pots and pans used as drums and any other objects that made lots of noise. They would serenade until the couple came to the door to offer the crowd treats or the promise of a dance at a later date.

We were shivareed after we were married even though we had a dance scheduled at the Naper town hall for the following Saturday night. A young Jerry Kehn and his band from Butte played for our dance. Many readers will remember him.

Years ago, local farmers, who had those big beautiful barns that you don't see any more, had barn dances. Local citizens with musical talent played for these dances which were held in the haymow of the

barn. The haymow was the "upstairs" of the barn where hay was stored which enabled the farmers to feed their livestock during the winter months. A few barns had stair steps leading to the haymow but most barns had a ladder which consisted of boards nailed to the upright 2 x 4's on the walls which, of course, went straight up the side, reaching a large hole in the floor of the haymow.

We've been to three barn dances in recent years which were put on for the novelty of the event. In fact, we attended a barn dance last month at the Lowell Fisher farm when Spencer celebrated their 125th year. They put down a plywood floor on the ground next to the barn for people who didn't want to climb the stairs to the dance floor. The other two barn dances were held at the Craig Zeisler and Bruno Boettcher farms. What a treat!

Years back, there were dances almost every Saturday night somewhere in the area. Bonesteel held dances on Tuesday nights. "Big band" music would entertain the crowds, young and old alike.

Don't forget Herrick! Lots of fun dances, but everyone remembers that there would be at least one fight outside every dance night and that is why you stayed inside!

Guests at the 50th anniversary party for George and Annie Sieh



THE OL' HOMESTEADERS IS STILL HUNTIN' AROUND FOR NEWS...(continued)

Mitchell) played for the junior high volleyball team.

Ridge Higgins (son of Lavern and Brenda, grandson of Margaret Vogt Schmitz), Jerry Neumiller (son of Brent, grandson of Lester), Jesse Cline (son of Hoyt and Julie, grandson of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline), Justin Druke (son of Tony and Beth, grandson of Vern and Linda Goodman), Austin Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink) and Jory Zeisler (son of Mark and Tiffany, grandson of Richard and Sheryl) played on the Boyd County Spartan football team.

Isaac Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink), Evan Reiman (son of Casey and Lisa, grandson of Jean Reiman and Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers), and Blake Ahlers (son of Dan and Tara, grandson of Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers) did a fine job for Boyd County Spartan Cross Country team. They headed to state and came home with 13th place as a team; Blake ran 19th. Lisa Ahlers Reiman was one of the coaches.

Ridge Higgins was crowned King at the West Boyd Homecoming. Other members of the court were Justin Druke and Hannah Druke.

Many local young folks did well at the county fair and some advanced to the state

fair—Taylor and Avery Zeisler (daughters of Jon and Ashley, granddaughters of Richard and Sheryl), Elly Zeisler (daughter of Mark and Tiffany, granddaughter of Richard and Sheryl), Ethan and Natasha Zeisler (children of Jesse and Kimberly, grandchildren of Richard and Sheryl), Kyla and Jessa McCarthy (daughters of Darrin and Connie, granddaughters of LeRoy and Maxine), Kaci, Brett, Isaac and Austin Koenig (children of Kevin and Staci, grandchildren of Jeff and Rindy). All that hard work paid off.

Adrienne Bengtson (daughter of Matt and Ellen, granddaughter of Janet Cline Eggert) and Kelli Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy, granddaughter of Gaylene Mitchell) were leaders in the small group discussion at the Kindness and Courage Retreats at Niobrara Public School.

LOTS GOIN' ON AROUND HERE!

Historical society folks and a few other willing helpers cleaned up the road ditches October 10.

The annual gun show was held at the hall October 15 and 16.

The United Church of Christ had a "singspiration" October 15. A lot of people enjoyed the music offered by local talented folks and the fellowship and lunch later.

The firemen are serving up their steaks again—always good food and visiting to be found there. Come on over to the VFW on the third Sunday of each month October through March.

The 21st (or more) annual craft fair was held November 12 at the hall—such variety of things to look at and buy! Then that evening, the annual mountain oyster feed at the VFW—we think this is the 49th year for that event!

Niobrara Valley Electric Good Will Fund made another donation to the museum siding project. Thanks!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jackie Bentzen and Tony Jacobsen were married October 1 in Brookings, SD. Ramona Bentzen is Jackie's grandma and John and Jan Bentzen are her parents.

SAYING GOOD BYE...

George "Bill" Dawson died September 30, 2016. He graduated from Naper High School in 1960 and had lived in Boyd County his entire life except for time served in the Army.

Betty Wedige Vlach died in Omaha October 18, 2016. She graduated from Naper High in 1947.



MORE AND MORE LETTERS... (keep 'em comin')

Send your cards and letters to:

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

Just wanted you to know I was in your town last Friday and was very impressed. Was looking for information on Caroline Holton. Found Mrs. Satterly (Mabel Sattler), who put me in touch with Marilyn Sieh who directed me to the web site. Found the information I was looking for and found the Oakdale cemetery where she is buried. Every one we met were very friendly and helpful.

We do a virtual cemetery tour on power point and Mrs. Holton is one of the two women lynched in Nebraska. The other was Mrs. Taylor at Spring Ranch.

Thank you for all your help. Just the info I was looking for.

Bill Bolte

I received my Naper paper yesterday and am always glad to get it. I have known most of the people you write about. Am sorry to hear of people who have passed on. My neighbors on the farm were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hovey. They were good neighbors.

Am enclosing a check for the Naper Paper and Historical Society. Keep up the good work. I always enjoy reading it.

I'll soon be going into the Veterans Home. Will let you know when I do.

Norven D. Mayer

(Ed. Note: We appreciate it when we are notified of address changes. Thank you and good luck.)

Enclosed is a check to help the Naper Paper.

DeLoris Taliaferro

Use part for the siding project and part for the Naper Paper.

Ramona Bentzen

A great story about brother Duke. I really enjoy reading the Naper Paper. You do a great job! Enclosed is a check for expenses—thanks!

Winston Stahlecker

Some of you readers may know that my 10-year-old grandson Alexander and I made a brief visit to Naper this past July. With her usual efficiency, Mabel arranged a family party allowing me (us) the joy of seeing and visiting with all my immediate nieces and nephews, most of the spouses

and offspring. What gladness to see them grown and accomplished. Thank you for your warm hospitality, Mabel and James.

One of my intents in visiting was to introduce Alexander to the home, farm and community where I grew up. To my chagrin, he was less than enthralled as I pointed out the route and orated tales of walking through four feet snow drifts to get to school. A visit to the District 18 one-room school house site received a "ho-hum" response. He did applaud the geographically flat aspect of Naper as being ideal for bike riding. Encouragingly, he has inquired as to when we can take his mother to Naper so she may see it for herself. Having said that, I must say he was a top-notch traveling companion.

Back to Naper itself, as usual we were heartily greeted, welcomed and hosted. The Café is a jewel for the community—food, society, pleasure and more!

I have a question for the Circuit Rider. In his interview (Fall 2016 issue), he did not tell us how his first name, Harlan as I remember it, morphed into "Duke." I'd like to hear that tale.

I hope this epistle adequately demonstrates the delightful nostalgia and appreciation I feel for all of you and the fruits of your labors—the Naper Paper. Thank you again and again!

Nathalie Sattler Taranto

Keep up the great job—thanks.

Gary and Renee Hausmann

I found this card in some of my mother's (Goldie M. Bennett Bodine) papers and would like to give it to either the historical society or some of his relatives. I have no idea the age of this card.

Loretta M. Roach



Francis Thibault

(Ed. Note: This young man was mentioned in the summer issue in the story about the Thibault family. The picture will be displayed at the museum. Thank you!)

Enclosed is a check to help with the museum siding and the Naper Paper. We appreciate all of you and the work you do to keep things going. We miss everyone in the Naper area. We like our apartment in Wagner—people are very friendly.

Come see us sometime and thanks to all who have stopped.

Ed and Lois Alford

Naper is a special place to me, has played an important part in my life and along with that are the people whom I recall with warmth. I am 91 and believe in saying things while you still can so I want to thank Duke and Velda for all the great work they did on the Naper Paper. When I lift it out of the mailbox, I find a comfortable chair and tune everything else out while I immerse myself in "the latest." For me, it often is a "puzzlement" putting names with people after so much time but once I've mastered that, it's about as good as a reunion.

Avis Dalldorf Breyer

(Ed. Note: Enclosed with this letter was a newspaper clipping reporting on the yoga class Avis attends in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She had been struggling with balance issues and had a choice—do yoga or get a cane. She chose yoga.)

Enclosed is a check to help out with the paper. I enjoy reading tales of Naper, past and present. I also enjoy seeing photos of my cousins when they were young and current photos of same. Gee, they've gotten old!

Grandson of Otto and son of Arthur. Hi to Aunt Ramona.

Gary A. Bentzen



Naper Paper

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- Basin
- Need to Know
- Dancing
- Letters
- Plus: The Ol' Homesteader

... AND MUCH MORE!



Thanks to Francie Johnson for the postcard pictured here. Do you suppose that is a local couple?