

A PUBLICATION
FOR AND ABOUT
THE TOWN OF
NAPER,
NEBRASKA,
PUBLISHED BY
THE NAPER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor the 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 15, Issue 3

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Fall 2017

GETTING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOING

By Iona Mayer Carstens

While attending the 64th Naper High School alumni banquet this year, my 70th year honored, I was recalling how the Alumni Association originated.

A handful of us graduates met at the old schoolhouse one evening and discussed the possibilities. Iona Reber deserves most of the credit, urging us to have more meetings and asking others to get involved in the project. Most stepped up and volunteered their help.

We had the first banquet at the town hall. Not knowing how many tickets we would sell, we had big decisions to make because of the limited space. It turned out to be a success that first year and we found more people wanted to come again.

The second year I found myself in a position I was ill-equipped to handle. Our biggest problem was space. We found we had to limit the tickets to graduates and spouses—no extra family members, boyfriends or girlfriends whatsoever.

Everything was running smoothly until Harry and Leatrice "Lee" Bennett decided to get married and we had no extra space. Lady Luck was with us. Someone cancelled at the last minute and I knew I would not have to eat my meal standing up!

I was always amazed when the Congregational Ladies Aid prepared the full meals at home and served them from behind the stage. Didn't even have water in the hall and we were lucky to have electricity that stayed on.

The men gathered chairs from the school and churches and I believe we had to use sawhorses and plywood for tables also. But we had candles and table decorations as for a prom and everyone was dressed to a T.

We tried to have local live entertainment and I remember slipping out the south door with others for one last rehearsal before our great presentations.

I was expected to do a little public speaking but I was also in a position where I could delegate others to take care of it, and I took advantage of that.

Soon the new schoolhouse was built and we had elbow room, plus excellent kitchen facilities.

I can't forget the honored classmen who were asked to write a little history about themselves—some misunderstood and gave us their autobiography!

The best was still to come—we got a new auditorium!



Thank you, Iona, for the photo of the second alumni banquet which was in 1954 in the old hall on the west side of the street. Jim McLaughlin and Helen Schmitz Higgins are facing the camera.



The class of 1947-Iona Mayer Carstens, Thelma Schmitz (a graduate of KPHS) and Leonard Schmitz

There is no photograph available of George Kramer, the earliest graduate of Naper who was in attendance at the banquet. He was a member of the class of 1941 and flew all the way from Palm Desert, California. He was accompanied to the banquet by his grandson Doug Hermesen of Butte.

ALUMNI BANQUET PHOTOS—LOOKIN' GOOD!



CLASS OF 1957-Harvey Dummer, Ann Ludemann Anderson, Wayne Cline, Loraine Bendig Woehl, Gloria Beem Vogt, Phyllis Schock Schrader, Barbara Vogt Schoenefeld, Shirley Schoenefeld Stoltenberg



Class of 1977-Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley and Lois Nicolaus Vogt



Class of 2017-Jerry Neumiller and Ridge Higgins



CLASS OF 1967-Bob Schultz, Dwaine Hoffman, Deb Traphaghan Beem, Roger Ludemann, Mary Reber Schoenefeld, Shirley Honke Lindeman (emcee at the banquet), Carol Moody Buck, Patsy Dummer VanHouten, Bill Peppel, Dennis Schmitz, Dennis Gentele

In 1988, Naper combined with Spencer to form the Spencer-Naper District. There were no graduates from Naper in 1997.



The N125 quilt was crafted by Judy Hansen and won by Macy Ahlers in a raffle. Sorry-last paper said it ws "Mach " Ahlers.

CLASS OF 1987-Cheryl Sattler Cahoy, Travis Heermann, Darcy Neumiller Hoffard



Eddie Magwire, son of Ryan and Tara (Sieh) Magwire shown with the bear he found in the bear hunt. He's Loren Sien's grandson.



CLASS OF 2007-Mindy Haney Spencer, Skye Higgins, Holly Vogt Druke

SONS OF CHAPLIN ROCKIN' OUT "DOWN ON THE CORNER, OUT ON THE STREET" —Roger Ludemann on the keyboard, Susie Sutton with the trumpet, John Gall on drums (hidden by equipment), Riley Gall, Jerry Stevicks, provided music for the free street dance.



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KEEP NAPER STRONG

BUY LOCAL WHEN YOU CAN

THERE ARE PENS. . . AND THEN THERE ARE PENS

By Marilyn Sieh

Fountain pens went by the wayside, replaced by the ballpoint pen.

However, long before this, many, many years ago citizens wrote with a quill which was a large feather. The feather-free writing end was whittled to a point which could be dipped into ink. Later came a pen consisting of a tapered wooden handle with a metal point inserted in the end. Then came the fountain pen which we remember from high school. Still have them! We have two different types—both unscrew from the top. One has a snorkel that appears underneath the writing tip and the other has an opening underneath the writing tip.

Remember the glass inkwell and the round hole in the upper right-hand side of our student desks that held the ink well?

Looks like the ballpoint pen is here to stay. How many do you have in a drawer somewhere in your home? ☺

WORDS OF WISDOM

You know you're getting old when you go into an antique shop and the toys they have for sale are the same kind you played with as a child.

Whenever you have troubles, 80% of the folks won't know or care if you have them and the other 20% will be glad you do!



The Zink Family

Royal Hawley Zink came to Boyd County by covered wagon and oxen from Union Star, Missouri, with his parents. He worked at various jobs in the Naper area, hauling freight, hauling mail, and at the local livery barn. Vera Thibault came from the Clearwater, NE, area with her parents (Naper Paper, Volume 14, Issue 2) and attended high school in Naper. After graduating from 10th grade (Naper didn't have grades 11 and 12 at that time), she taught school. They were married October 22, 1907.

In 1917, they moved to a farm southeast of Naper, the site of the former Basin Store (Naper Paper, Volume 14, Issue 4). Hawley served as Basin Precinct Assessor and on the Basin School Board. They somehow survived the depression and provided a good home for their family of nine children.

They milked lots of cows, fed

hogs, and raised chickens, turkeys and guineas. Having cows and chickens meant the family would have milk, cream, butter, and eggs, as well as meat to put on the table. Having guineas meant they had watchdogs with feathers—guineas will squawk loudly whenever someone or something startles them!

Their children were Gail, Lillie, Lila, Allen, Royal, Mildred, Basil, and twins Wayne and Elaine. Four sons, Gail, Allen, Royal and Basil graduated from Naper High School, the other children from Butte.

Three sons, Allen, Royal and Basil, served in the Navy during World War II. Mildred attended school in Butte to take advantage of the school's "normal training" which allowed her to teach school for three years after high school graduation without renewing her certificate. She married L. J. (Lawrence) Lechtenberg in 1943 and shared some memories with us (Naper Paper, Volume 15, Issue 2).

Mildred said she remembers her mother on wash day bending over the washboard when they left for school in the morning and still being at the washboard

Dear Friends:

Please join me in remembering a great icon. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday at the age of 71 of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. Doughboy was buried in a lightly greased coffin.

Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies and Captain Crunch. The gravesite was piled high with flours.

Aunt Jemima, a long-time friend, delivered the eulogy, describing Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded.

Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He wasn't considered a very smart cookie and wasted much of his dough on half-baked schemes.

Despite being a little flaky at times, he was still considered a roll model for millions.

Toward the end, it was hoped the crusty old boy would rise again, but alas, he was no tart. Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough, two children John Dough and Jane Dough, plus it is reported they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart. The funeral was held in the EZ Bake Oven at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

when they came home. Of course, all the water was pumped by hand from the well, then carried in buckets and heated on a coal and wood range, then carried out again when the washing was finished. Every bit of ironing was done with a sad iron heated on that same coal and wood range. (Were they called "sad irons" because that's how you would feel while doing that chore? "Back in the day", there was nothing like permanent press or double knits.) Imagine doing that kind of work on a hot summer day with no air conditioning or even a fan.

Despite the intensive labor involved, there was always a tablecloth on the table. And I daresay all the pillowcases and dishtowels were ironed, too!

Hawley and Vera's daughter-in-law Louise Neumiller Zink (Wayne's widow), now lives on the Basin farm and two of her sons, Hawley and Vera's grandsons, live close by. Jeff and Rindy Zink live a short distance north and east while Glenn and Beverly live a short distance south and east. Louise's other son Mark and his wife Lauri live in Wayne, NE,



THE OL' HOMESTEADER IS A-GETTIN' OLDER EVER' DAY BUT HE STILL HUNTS UP SOME NEWS .

A couple of folks think the unidentified girl (last issue, back page) is Patty Wedge. Her parents ran the Krotter store for a while and then operated a café. Her brother Don is in the picture also.

KIDS ARE BACK AT SCHOOL . . .

Jamie Mashino, daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino, graduated from UNL in August.

Hannah Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Drueke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) and Gina McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) are playing volleyball for the Boyd County Spartans. Justin Drueke (son of Tony and Beth, grandson of Vern and Linda) and Jesse Cline (son of Hoyt and Julie Cline, grandson of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline) are on the football squad.

A NICE GIFT

Niobrara Valley Electric Goodwill Board recently presented the Naper Volunteer Firemen with a check for \$500 that they will use for repairs and construction costs to build or add to existing buildings to house equipment.

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

John Tienken left this world June 8. He had lived "between the rivers" his whole life until recently moving to Atkinson. Dolores Schock, who taught school in Naper for many years, had been living in Bloomfield near her daughter Andrea. She died June 15.

Helmuth Holmgren, a 1940 graduate of NHS, died June 17 in Yankton. His sister Nola lives in Bonesteel.

Russ Whitley, a 1954 NHS graduate, died June 26. He and wife Sandy had lived in Winner and owned Whitley Distributing Company.

Mavis Becker Hambek died August 23. She was valedictorian of NHS class of 1944, taught school in the area and raised her family on a farm northwest of Naper.

LETTERS, LETTERS, AND MORE LETTERS—JUST KEEP 'EM COMIN'!

[If you want to contact the Naper Historical Society, you can mail us a letter at Box 72, Naper, NE 68755; you can call 402-832-5471; you can look at our website napernebraska.org; or you can e-mail us at papabear@threeriver.net.]

It's me, again! I feel I can claim the Lucky Number Seven! I am 87 years old, graduated at the age of 17, 70 years ago in 1947. I married Marlin Carstens on September 17. (My parents, Reinhold and Hattie Mayer were married January 7, 1917.)

I have seven grandchildren and seven great-grandkids. I live in apartment #77 at 1701 Riverside Blvd. My phone number has three sevens. I live in Madison County which is number seven for vehicle registration. My zip code has a seven in it. I'm enclosing a check for the alumni association and notice its number is 4877. I need to remember Lucky Seven when I go to a casino!

Thanks for a great banquet.

Lona Mayer Carstens

Enclosed is a token of my appreciation for the Naper Paper. Good memories and good times! How fortunate I was to grow

up in Naper. I really enjoy coming home—it's still home to me! I thank all of you people for making it a great place to come back to.

Stan Stahlecker

Time to order the Naper Paper for myself and Janice Engelbart. We both enjoy it. Enclosed is a check.

Barbara Schochenmaier

Enclosed is a check for expenses. Please use where needed.

Donna Wittmeier

A great big "thank you" to all of you for making the Naper Paper something special, especially to all of us who live at a distance. I don't make it back that often. Every issue is informational and full of Naper happenings as well as historical happenings on events and people. It makes us feel like we still are part of Naper. Thanks again and I do appreciate your hard work. God bless you all. There is a check enclosed.

Lois Kibby Chittim

Thanks to everyone who works on the paper. I enjoy it and look forward to receiving it. It's time I contributed something again! Please use the money where it is most needed.

Lorna Sieh Dillon

Please pardon my writing. The arthritis is doing its thing.

I'm sending a little help. Read the paper from one end to the other, but my hands play out. Keep up the good work.

Florence Wetzler Porter



Activity on the sand volleyball lot



Cruise Night on Main Street

Lyle “Red” Fuhrer was born on a farm near Bonesteel in 1927. His family moved to a farm just two miles south of Naper when he was a small boy and lived there until he was drafted into the service in World War II where he served two years in the Navy.

John and Esther Stahlecker were playing cards with Herman and Lucy Fuhrer, Red’s parents, December 7, 1941. Red’s brother Allen came downstairs and said, “I have to go the Army. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.”

During World War II, six of the seven Fuhrer brothers (Ben, Harry, Bob, Ray, Lyle and Allen) were in military service. Miraculously, all of them returned home! Red served on an aircraft carrier. Harry was a gunner in the Navy. Bob was in a foxhole in Germany 13 days and then walked to a farmhouse. Because he grew up in a home where German was a second language, he could converse with them. Ben served in the Army in Europe and received the Purple Heart. Franklin, the youngest son, served in the Air Force after his graduation from Naper in 1950.

Esther was born in 1927 to Chris and Lydia Neumiller who were also living near Bonesteel at the time. They moved to the Naper area in 1943 and Esther graduated from Naper High School in 1945. She worked in Omaha and Lincoln for a few years until she and Lyle were married in 1948. They lived on various farms in the area before moving into Naper (to the house that was just north of Art and Pat Martins’ home) and operating the Corner Bar in Naper for a time.

Red told a story about the threshing crew going in to eat dinner at one of the farms where they were working. The farmhouse wasn’t the Hilton. It wasn’t even the Super 8. While the men were seated around the table, the housewife dropped the butter dish on the not-so-clean floor. She picked it up, flicked the dirt off with her finger, and put the butter on the table. Red recalls several sets of raised eyebrows but no comments and the hungry men all began to eat—like threshers, no doubt.

In 1961, they bought the farm northeast of Naper where they operated a dairy for many years and Red sold Moor-man Feeds. Their youngest son Clark now operates the farm.



Red and Esther had eight children: Wes (NHS 1969), Keith (NHS 1971), Dwight and DeAnne (NHS 1973), Lee (NHS 1975) and Len (NHS 1976), Bonnie (NHS 1977) and Clark (NHS 1985). On September 30, 1956, Red and Esther were parents of two children, Wes and Keith. Dwight and DeAnne were born October 1, 1956, and Lee and Len were born September 23, 1957. One year on September 30, they had two children and on September 30, a year later, they were parents of six! Consider this was before the era of automatic washers, instant pudding and permanent-press clothes-- and even more far-fetched, Pampers.

Wes and his wife Teri owned and operated the Naper Grocery Store for several years and now live in Lincoln. Keith taught school in Newman Grove for many years and still lives there. Dwight and Lee both live in Lincoln. DeAnne lives in Sioux Falls and Len lives in Norfolk. Both Bonnie (Whitley) and Clark live at Naper.

Esther passed away in 2011 and Red has recently moved to Bonesteel.

Red loves sweets. He doesn’t drink water, but has a cup of coffee at hand most of the time. He’s an avid pitch player, even when he tells you he can’t see what suit was lead. A little suspicious, I’m thinking.

The day we were chatting he told me he could tell me stories I wouldn’t want to print—but he never told any of that kind! When he was done with his coffee, he said, “Well, I have to go home

and milk the cows.” And certainly he would know how to do that.

SOON . . . VERY SOON . . .

The Naper Historical Society website has been undergoing some major renovations and will soon, very soon, be on-line. Photos of all the graduating classes currently on display in Heritage Hall will be available. Other areas of interest have been updated.

The siding project which will renovate the south end of Heritage Hall (formerly the Catholic Church) should be underway by the time you receive this Naper Paper. Thanks for all the help we’ve had, both “moral support” and financial aid, which allowed us to reach that point! Pictures and details coming in the next issue.

The Naper Paper is your paper. We rely on you, our readers, for support, both financial and “pat on the back”. We count on you for stories and ideas about what we need to write, print, explore, photograph. Thanks for all you do to make this paper what it is.

NAPER PAPER

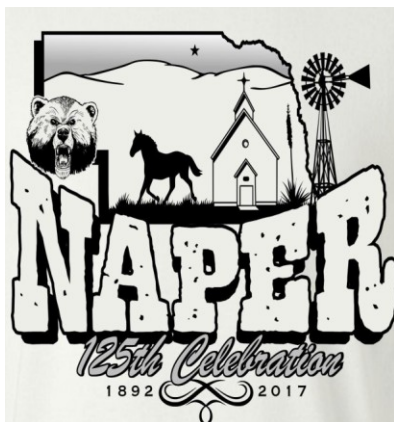
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... AND MORE!



BEARD CONTEST WINNERS:

Darrell Hoffard (fluffiest), Larry Anderson (whitest), Kelly Bendig (most colorful), Tim Mayer (bushiest), Randy Vogt (best trimmed), Jim Sattler (longest)