

*Russia—Cont'd on Page 5*





## An Interview with Janet Cerny Sattler

By The Circuit Rider

*At sundown, a mysterious rider still may be seen drifting along the horizon. Old timers believe he's a Sandhills Ghost or Spirit who actually exists. He's trying to keep the Frontier Spirit from being forgotten. No one person can actually point to specifics, but all swear, "He's out there..."*

Throughout one's lifetime, education never ceases. The Circuit Rider learns from every one of his interviews and visits. This rider's formal education began in the first grade with Janet Cerny Sattler in Naper Public School District #21 and now picks up 64 years later with that same teacher, Janet Cerny Sattler.

One story from a trip down Memory Lane goes like this: One cold day in mid-winter, the '32 Chevy wouldn't start. (Even after starting a fire with corn cobs in a pig feeding pan, and placing it under the engine to pre-warm it.) This necessitated a walk to school across the cornfield into town. Bundled with an "Ear-flapper" cap and a "scratchy" wool mackinaw buttoned to the ears, this little first-grader stumbled into the schoolhouse to be "unwrapped" and "thawed-out" by Miss Cerny.

Drs. Seasongood and Beatty of Butte assisted in the arrival of Janet, the tenth child born to Frank and Anastasia Cerny in their recently built home three miles east of Naper, on April 26, 1910.

At age 7, Janet was saddened by the death of her Mother; at this early age, a terrific loss to a little girl. One of the fond memories still retained was a train ride that she and her Mother took from Anoka, NE to Stanton, NE, to visit her aunt and family for a whole week.

Janet attended District #2 and loved her teachers. In the first grade she had Eva Rockholm Reitz and in the third grade Pearl Stracke Milligan.

On one occasion Janet and her sister Anne took a short cut while walking the one and three-fourths miles to school. They took off across a big corn field and became lost! Finally after a near panic they spotted a house that looked familiar and stopped and asked directions of Mrs. Seivers, who set them in the right direction. Needless to say, this lesson ended shortcuts.

Most school functions were followed with "box socials" as one form of community entertainment. Boxes were auctioned off and bid on by folks who tried to get the box of their favorite lady so they might open the box and lunch with that lady. Sometimes bidding became fierce.

On one occasion during World War I, Janet was asked to memorize and recite a patriotic poem to a group. She received a

prize for doing a good job and to this day still has the prize—a leatherette sewing kit. She also can still recite most of the poem.

Janet's sixth grade was spent with her sister Anne in the Butte Parochial School where they boarded and went home on weekends. It was here she began violin lessons from the Nuns. That old brick school now is the Butte Historical Society's building.

During her freshman year Janet went to Butte, but got homesick and went back to Naper for grade ten. An orchestra leader, Mr. Siegrist and his daughter Millie of Gregory came to Naper on Saturdays and started a school orchestra. They also gave individual lessons. Janet continued with the violin.

Butte was offering a two-year normal training course, which enticed Janet to finish high school in Butte, where she continued also with the orchestra. From there she continued to work on her teaching certificate at Wayne State and Lincoln.

Her first year of teaching was west of Naper in a rural school. She stayed at the home of Connie Sattler, which was about

a ¼ mile walk to the school house.

Among new experiences was the enrolling of 3 home-taught children that had never attended a public school. The eldest was 14 and in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. (Janet was only 17.) They became fast friends and stayed in touch for years.

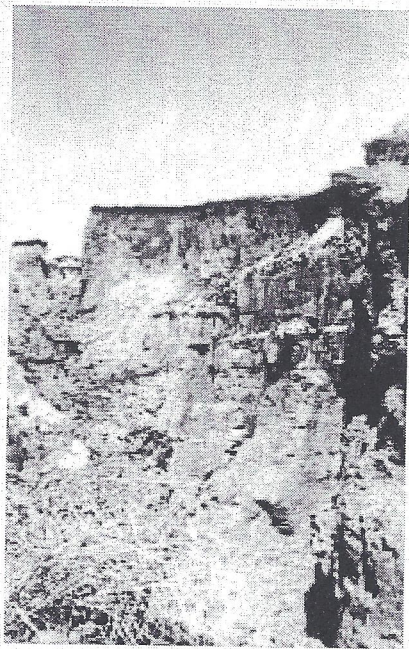
The next several years she taught rural schools in Eastern Boyd County. Janet also had the occasion to teach English and Civics to a group of Nuns, recent arrivals from Germany, who came to operate a hospital. They wished to become American citizens and upon being examined were successful.

After becoming properly certified, Janet taught primary grades in Naper for six years; followed by six years in Spencer. From Spencer she moved to South Dakota, teaching in Burke, Bonesteel and Gregory. In Gregory she taught kindergarten for two years. After teaching for 25 years, Janet retired.

*Circuit Rider—Continued on page 7*

### FOSSIL DISCOVERED NEAR LANDSLIDE

In 1949 a huge landslide of about 40 acres occurred on the north side of the Niobrara River between the Point and the Frank Clausen Ranch. Many visitors came to view this unusual development. In the fall of 1965 a huge mastodon skull was discovered in a ditch along the road which had been graded so that people could visit the landslide. The University of Nebraska at Lincoln was notified that a valuable fossil had been found. Their geologists came, dug out the skull, casted it, and took it to Morrill Hall at the University. This mastodon skull was so heavy when casted, that it required eleven men using ropes to load it into a pick-up truck.



**A 1965 landslide along the Niobrara unearthed a centuries-old Mastodon skull!**



## In the News

By Ol' Homesteader



Ol' Homesteader has returned with another heapin' helping of news from in and around our fair town. Speculation is still rampant about the identity of this kindly cowpoke. He claims to be a 128-year-old ghost of a Naper homesteader...

And who are we to argue with that?

Isn't October through the holidays the best durn'd time of the year? And isn't Naper about the best'est place to be? Every October I say the same thing – there's nothing like a crisp Fall morning on the northern plains. A sweater and coffee to take just a bit of the chill off the bones. Staring off at a golden and blue scene as far as the eye can see. Sounds of cattle, a creaky screen door, and boots on the front steps. It doesn't get better than that. Well, Naper has been a fun place to be these past few months, and we've stayed mighty busy 'round these parts.

### In October...

- The **VFW Auxiliary** held its Annual Soup Supper at the Posthome, and it was a success (as they always are).
- The **Naper Historical Society** organized a road clean up, which produced billions of tons of trash. Nice job, folks.
- **Pam Vogt** got herself hitched up to Doug Tillman.
- **Mike & Tanya Stangle** (Naper Café & Lounge) sponsored a Halloween Dance at the auditorium with a big crowd on hand. **Lee Conroy** won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the costume contest.

### In November...

- There was a Mountain Oyster Feed at the VFW hall. Ol' Homesteader keeps hopin' some citified slicker will wander into town that day cornfusing "mountain oysters" for seafood. *Heh, heh, heh...*
- The last Senior Bingo of the season took place November 6<sup>th</sup> at the VFW, sponsored by the **West End Club**. They'll start up again in the Spring.
- The **Tyndall Accordion Band** returned to Naper to get a few hundred feet a stompin' real fast.

- And **Amy Gosch** taught interested folks how to make holiday cards using stamps. Even this ol' ghost learned a thing or two that day.

### In December...

- The Naper Craft Fair brought a lot of neighbors and friends out to the auditorium on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Santa** visited town for the annual town party in the auditorium put on by the good folks on the village board, who made sure every kid in town received a nice present or two. There were even gifts for many all growed up kids, too. The **Community Choir** entertained with Christmas carols. (*Take a gander at the "Holiday Heppenings" section in this issue for photos!*)
- **Santa** was sure a good guy about all them letters he got from Naper kids this year. Amazingly, he answered every letter with a personal letter of his own, usually in one day. Imagine getting those letters to the North Pole, then return letters to Naper, all in a day... what great service by Santa and the Naper Post Office!
- And the service got even better – **Post Office Employees** baked home-made cookies, and welcomed everyone in town to stop by December 14<sup>th</sup> for the goodies and some good ol' fashioned neighborliness.
- The **Naper Historical Society** did another nice thing for our town, sponsoring Carriage and Wagon Rides on Main Street. Thanks go to **Sterling Schultz** and **Glenn Zink** for the gear and horses. The day was cold, but it sure was fun. And thinking ahead, the society even provided hot cider to everyone who showed up.
- The **VFW** held a Christmas Party and Pot Luck supper on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Milestones

This past quarter, Cline's Bar closed its doors, perhaps for good. There was a birthday dance for **Earl Faatz** at the VFW Hall, and card showers celebrated birthdays for **Lovera Reber** and **Wilbert Cline**. **Donna & Carl Ludemann** and **Wayne & Virginia Ahlers** celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries. **Ally Lynn Conroy** was born December 7<sup>th</sup> with Naper grandparents **Tim & Bonnie Whitley** and great-grandparents **Lyle & Esther Fuher** beaming with pride.

## What Are the Odds?

If there is a mathematician out there in *Naper Paper* land, please tell us what the odds were of the following happening. The Naper Historical Society for the second straight year sold raffle tickets for a hog, donated by **Jim & Mabel Sattler**. 542 tickets were sold with two tickets drawn, one each for winning one-half of the hog. Multiple tickets that were folded together (bought by the same person) were separated, then all of the tickets were stirred up several times. In spite of this, when the two tickets were drawn, the same name appeared on BOTH tickets. That's right, **Rochelle Haun** of Spencer, won both halves of the hog! But the story doesn't end there. Last year, the historical society sold over 600 tickets with one person winning the whole hog. Care to guess who won last year? Yup, it was Rochelle. Now that's something for *Ripley's Believe It Or Not*.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Carl and Donna Ludemann celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 12, 2004 at the VFW Club, with a supper and card party hosted by their children.



# Blakkolbs Store—continued from Page 1



Hans Sieh and Bill Blakkolb

Grandma Katie enjoyed slipping little bags of candy into people's grocery bags for the kids. Our grandpa spent thirty-five years in the business. During hard times for families, he never turned people away if they needed groceries and didn't have the money to pay for them immediately. Most of the time, he eventually got paid, but when he didn't, he managed to pay his bills anyway, and he had the satisfaction of helping those in need. We're proud to say that our dad continued with this policy.

After Jacob retired in 1944, Bill and Frieda took over the business. We girls began working in the store as soon as we could see over the counter. On late nights when we were little, we often fell asleep on bags of potatoes, an empty shelf, or on the old roll-top desk while waiting for people to pick up their groceries. Before we went "modern" with self-service, we wrote down the items people wanted and ran back and forth all over the store filing their orders! Sometimes we were pretty tired by eleven or twelve o'clock at night! When Grandpa was still in the store, if we were lucky and he remembered, he would give us a quarter for a night's work! But we always had access to the candy case! By then, most of the merchandise came in by a Nash Finch truck from Norfolk, and we had weekend sales to attract customers. Vera Lund, Pauline Davis, Eleanora Kortmeyer, and Lucy Heermann, were long-time clerks we remember. Also, Stanley and Greg Stahlecker, and Earl and Mike Stahlecker were box boys. We also had a number of Indian customers. Some that we remember are Mark and Ella Stonearrow, the Antoinnes, the Chasinghawk family, John Bluebird and Lucille Buckman, and Peter Crowhead Thompson. We still have an Indian Chief's headpiece from Mark Stonearrow. Charles Antoine, though not a chief, looked just like one would imagine an Indian Chief should look; tall and dignified.

When our folks retired in 1968 and sold the business, it climaxed sixty-eight years of a store under the ownership of the Blakkolb family. For all of us, it was a rather traumatic experience, because the store had played such a dominant part in our lives. It was like losing a member of the family, and it seemed strange to go into the store after it was sold.

Continued on Page 7

## Ol' Homesteader—cont'd from page 3

### School News

- Shane Melton, son of Sterling & Sheila Melton of Naper, was crowned the Homecoming King at Butte.
- Both Butte and the Spencer-Naper schools performed plays last Fall. Spencer-Naper's play was "Serendipity Circus" with Haily Cline in a key role. Butte's "Property Rites" included Shane and Shelly Melton and John Higgins, and it won 1<sup>st</sup> place the One Act District Competition.
- In addition to plays, both schools also participated in the Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Nebraska State Bar Association. Each performed well and advanced in the competition.
- Jessica and Kendell McCarthy, Macy Ahlers, and Jennifer Higgins had perfect attendance at Butte. The school's Honor Roll included Kaitlyn and John Higgins, Junior Corkle, and Shane Melton.
- Spencer-Naper Honor Roll members included Tina Schmitz, Matt Alford, Corby Sachtjen, Kelsey Zink, and Holly Vogt.

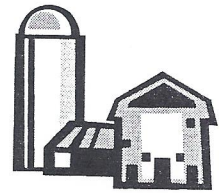
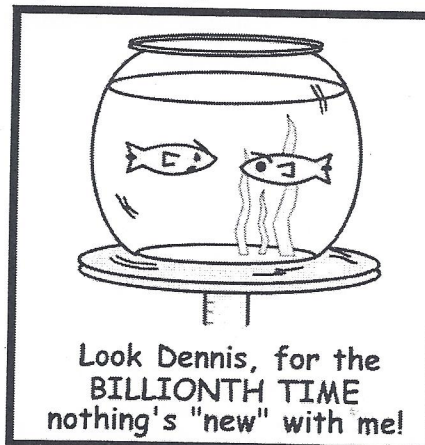
### Deaths...

We lost some old friends recently. Verlin "Pete" Peterson was born in our town in 1926. Delilah Anderson, 93 years old at the time of her passing, was also born in Naper. Unfortunately, we also lost Leona Muller and Christina Parks; both passed in December. We will miss these dear friends, and our town will be the poorer because of their passing.

### Ol' Homesteader

#### KORNFIELDS

By Kevin O'Connor



### Support Our Local Merchants

A & M Enterprises

832-5388

Trenching, pump installations, backhoe work, plumbing.

Bob's Auto Body

832-5766, Box 223

Auto body repair.

Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop

832-5573

Haircuts, styling, coloring.

Goodman Farm & Ranch

and Lynn's Upholstery

832-5461

Covering chairs, couches and other furniture.

M & L Lawn Service

832-5422

Mowing, trimming, fertilizing, tilling, seeding, spraying

K & S Mobile

832-5125

Welding & equipment repair; on-site service

Naper B & B

832-5129

Lodging & breakfast.

Naper Café and Lounge

832-5272

Breakfast, dinner, supper & bar.

Naper Store

832-5276

Full line grocery store

Naper Gas

832-5381

Propane, sand and gravel.

Naper Super Service

832-5321

Gas, oil, auto repair, & a few antiques

U.S. Postal Service

832-5977

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

Spend Here: And keep our town strong.



## Russians—continued from Page 1

and cherished a person's word? To these immigrants, their word given was as good as a signed and sealed contract.

So the saga begins. In 1734, a young daughter of a German prince had caught the eye of the Russian Empress Elizabeth. She, Sophia Augusta Frederica was brought to St. Petersburg at the Empress' request. She was chosen to become the affianced of the Empress's nephew, Grand Duke Peter, designated heir to the Russian throne. They were wed in 1745 and Sophia's name was changed to Katherine or Catherine.

The Grand Duke turned out to not be her Prince Charming. Not only was it reported that he was of diminished mental capacity, some said imbecilic, he was mean and vicious. He had other physical problems too. After years of no heirs produced to continue the line to the throne, Empress Elizabeth encouraged the young duchess to take on a lover. Catherine chose the captain of her personal guard and they soon produced a male heir.

In 1762, Empress Elizabeth died. Peter now becomes Emperor Peter the III. This

didn't last long though as Peter suddenly died. It is rumored that Katherine, or actually probably her lover, strangled Peter. Our heroine becomes "Catherine the Great", Empress of all Russia.

This young Empress was very shrewd with great ambition. She had just won a large tract of excellent farming ground by defeating the Tartars and the Turkish Ottoman Empire. The land was along the Volga River and in Ukraine. Basically, this was the entire peninsula on the west side of the Black Sea. Although she now had all this great farmland, it was sparsely settled and Katherine needed industrious farmers to make it profitable for the Empire.

Remembering all the hard working and frugal farmers back in her native land of Germany, she sent emissaries to convince these farmers to join her. Catherine issued a decree in 1763 known as "Catherine's Manifesto". Catherine's Manifesto was a great offer to her former countrymen. Just at the time they were suffering from tyrannical rule and having also survived through the

Seven Years' War, there came an offer they couldn't refuse.

Catherine said: Come to my country and I will pay your transportation to the new land. You can settle in your own segregated colonies. I will give every farmer 162 acres each and enough land in the town site for you to build your house, put in a garden and keep your livestock, all with tax free loans to establish yourselves. She promised they would have religious freedom and the right to build your own churches, which by implication meant schools, too, as they were then church run. Also promised were the rights of local self-government, exemption from military or civil service (that was a biggie as military service was mandatory in Germany), and finally the right to leave Russia at any time. All this was guaranteed to the new settlers and their descendants forever.

Within 4 years of this issuance, 25,000 Germans had settled in 104 villages along the Volga River. For the next 100 years, these "Volga Germans" turned the area into an eminent farm production area, became fairly well off and the Russian crown prospered.

Then in 1871, Tsar Alexander II, the great grandson of Catherine, for political reasons of his own, revoked the preferential rights and privileges granted by the Manifesto. The Volga Germans were reduced to the level of Russian peasants and treated as such. This was followed in 1874 by the drafting of the Volga Germans into service of the tsar's army. The draft was the last straw, as the Germans saw this a breach of contract by the Russian crown.

Germany didn't need them, and after 100 years of being gone there were few ties back in Germany any way. They heard about the wide-open plain of the United States, much like the land they now lived on, that was being opened up for settlement. A massive exit from Russia began. Sometimes whole villages picked up and moved in one block exodus. I can personally verify this as I searched for my "Volga German" ancestors. I found the same neighbors time after time and place to place as I went through the censuses. Some of the names of neighbors in Naper can be traced back to names of neighbors in the same Russian town.

*If it hadn't been for a broken promise, how many of us would be speaking German or Russian right now? Now you know why our ancestors put so much stock in a person's word and why we are here today.*







## Letters to the Naper Paper

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

Thanks for the Naper Paper; it is read cover to cover. I remember, as a member of the Lutheran Church Choir, going caroling before Christmas. One of the houses was Vera Lund's. We sang outside and then she would invite us in to warm up. She always had dandelion wine. Standing in her kitchen beside the cook stove warmed us up in a hurry. Enclosed is a little something to keep the paper going. It is truly enjoyed.

*Vivian Alexander  
 Kearney, Nebraska*

We enjoy your little paper. Keep it up! We like knowing what goes on in Naper since we both came from that area. Al graduated from Naper High in 1934. On February 18, 1941, Al went into the Army, serving for 55 months, 21 months of that was overseas. I graduated from 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the McCumber School in Gregory County. I didn't go to high school because I was working at home. Al and I were married in 1945 at Naper. We lived in Texas for 8 months. In 1946 we moved to a farm east of Fairfax. In 1952 we bought a farm 5 miles east of Fairfax and lived there until 1989 when we moved to Burke. We enjoy being retired and living in town. Al and I have attended all the alumni banquets for Naper School. Al is a Charter Member of the Naper VFW.

*Al & Elva Nicolaus,  
 Burke, South Dakota*

I was in Naper and talked to Jim Sattler. He suggested I look at the jail, museum, and 28 monument. I did that one Sunday. I picked up a coffee mug and Centennial history book. I am enclosing a check for those items and a little extra for the Naper Paper. I have enjoyed those immensely. Thank you and keep them coming.

*Harvey Dummer*

I recently had the pleasure of reading the Naper Paper, and found it really interesting. I grew up about 15 miles west of Naper or 4 miles south of Jamison. My father and mother were James & Dora Johnson. They are both deceased.

I would like to receive the Naper Paper to read the old and new news in that area. Enclosed is some money to help with expenses. Keep up the good work.

*Linda Chambers,  
 Pierre, South Dakota*

We enjoyed your publication of history. We were there to the dedication. It was very impressive. Thank you for including us in your mailing.

*Merlin & Florence Anderson,  
 Carmel, NY*

The house is slowly growing on me, and this visit during the Fall of 2004 is the longest visit I've been able to stay in Naper to get to know the rhythm and lifestyle of the town and the surrounding area. I have met only wonderful people in this town, in the restaurant, the grocery store, gas station and post office. I apologize for not always immediately remembering the names of people when I meet them the second and third time because they deserve better, and they almost always remember my name. So please forgive me and continue to wave. I am enjoying the change of seasons, the still warm and sunny mid-days when I drive through the Sandhills on well maintained roads, cows still out there grazing, even though some mornings already show the first frost on the prairie grasses, glittering in the early sunshine. These are the wonderful times when I enjoy the pleasures of idleness. These are also the times I feel happy about the opportunity given me to arrive in Naper when I did. Life has certainly unexpected ways to introduce us to new experiences. Fascinating, I must say. A big thank you to all the helpful people. I feel welcome in Naper, Nebraska – USA.

*Helmi Ludwig  
 Wilmette, Illinois  
 and Naper, Nebraska*

*(Editor's Note: Coincidentally, Helmi's Illinois home is only 5 miles from the Glenview, Illinois home of Margaret Ludemann and Denny Jorgensen who also live in Naper. Wilmette and Glenview are adjacent towns north of Chicago.)*

Received your great newsletter. I read every word even though I know none of the people mentioned. And the great memorial to the Naper 28 was perfect. The whole community should be proud. All the articles were very interesting. Thank you. Check enclosed to help publishing costs.

*Ron Melbye*

Thanks for sending me the Naper Paper telling more about your memorial. I hadn't heard anything about it for some time. I have been widowed, ill in the hospital, changed assisted living quarters, been moved, but I never quit thinking about the folks at Naper.

*Dale E. Westerbuhr*

Holiday Greetings. Also a belated thank you for your most welcome newsletter. Was so happy to get it. I think it's wonderful the interest and work you put into preserving the history – past, present and future. A little city with a Big Future with the right developments going on. You have sure drawn the interest in that direction.

*Elayne Weickum*

Just a brief letter of thanks for sending a copy of the Naper Paper. I appreciate receiving information on dedication of the monument to the airmen lost near Naper. Although absent from residing in the state for nearly 60 years, I am a native Nebraskan with deep roots in your area. My great grandfather, Isaiah Lightner, following service in the Civil War, served as an Indian Agent to the Lakota Sioux in Dakota Territory, and my grandfather Stephen was born there and was fluent in Sioux. I believe Stephen ran a lumberyard in Butte, and my father George (born 1896) ran a lumberyard in Bristow. My brother Jack was born in Winner, and I spent a year in Vermillion and came within a gnat's eyelash of accepting a job in Atkinson. Finally, my father participated in the O'Neill "Fathers Day" golf tournament for 36 years in a row. So I do have empathy for the Naper airmen, the Naper community, its environment, and the fine people in the Naper area.

*Jerry P. Lightner, PhD  
 DeLand, Florida*

*An informative letter with a first hand account of the Naper 28 crash was received from 95 year old Edwin C. Zeitner of Eugene, Oregon. While too long to print, it is available for review at the Naper Historical Society's Heritage Hall museum.*

*The Editor*



## Circuit Rider—Continued from page 2

Growing up memories include the camping of Gypsies near the Cerny farm. This encampment always concerned locals because of stories about the Gypsies. In addition to the camp, the Gypsies also got water from the Cerny well. The Gypsies did move on without trouble and there was a sigh of relief. Traveling peddlers came through occasionally with goods to sell. Janet remembers with much fondness a red coat and cap that was bought for her.

Folks never seemed to lack for entertainment. Girls had "kitten ball" teams. (Softball) They even had tournaments and played other towns. Sunday evenings, movies were shown at the town hall or outdoors on the side of the "state shed." (A big flat-sided building off on a side street in which the state high way department stored equipment.) Imagine sitting under the stars watching a Tex Ritter movie. A recent Chautauqua in Gregory brought to memory, one which Janet had seen as a little girl in Butte.

Janet's first car was a 1936 Plymouth. When the brothers left home, Janet's job was to help the family with transportation.

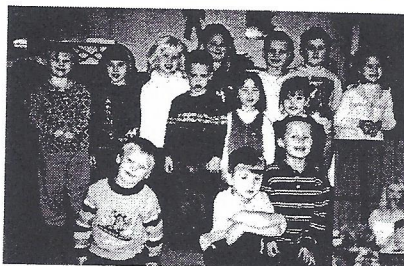
Emil Sattler came into Janet's life 51 years ago. Emil's family of three (Mary age 7, Arthur a freshman, and Donald, a junior in high school) also became her family. Emil passed away a few months after retirement. He and Janet had been married for 22 years. All the children are married with homes in South Carolina, Missouri and California.

The home in Gregory was sold and Janet moved into Nemer Apartments, where she spent 25 years. Two years ago, her doctor advised her to move into an assisted living quarters, so she moved into Pheasant Meadows in Gregory where she lived until its closure. Now, Janet resides in Rose Manor in Colome, South Dakota.

The Circuit Rider had many old memories rekindled with this visit. Not all are so fortunate to have first grade teachers like Janet. There's an extra "Star in the Sky" for this special teacher and old friend.

- The Circuit Rider

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS 2004



Pre-schoolers from Butte, Naper and surrounding towns performed holiday songs for residents of Butte Nursing Home. Thanks, Kids!

Plenty of holiday spirit to go around in Naper and its neighbor communities this year. Check out the fun!



Naper's Community Choir performed Christmas Carols for a large crowd.



The Naper Historical Society sponsored wagon rides before the town's annual Christmas Party.



Santa Claus put in a special appearance with gifts to all the kids.

## PAYING FOR THE PAPER

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> quarterly issue of the *Naper Paper*, which we launched in 2003. By the many letters received, it is obvious people enjoy the paper and want it to continue. Financial support of the paper has also been strong, and here's a big "thank you" to everyone who has contributed. We do not charge a subscription fee because we want everyone with an interest in Naper to enjoy it regardless of their financial means. In last January's issue we asked for contributions, and said that we would print a reminder for donations only once each year. So, this is your friendly reminder. If it's been a year or so since you last sent in a contribution, we sure would appreciate anything you can send this year. It will ensure that we continue to publish the *Naper Paper*. If this isn't a good time for you to contribute, we understand completely, and you'll continue to get your paper. Thanks to everyone for your interest in the *Naper Paper*, Heritage Hall Museum, the jail, the Naper 28 Memorial, the historical society, and the great town of Naper, Nebraska.

Your friends and neighbors at The Naper Historical Society

## Blakkolb Store (continued from Page 4)

A little bit of history died when the building burned to the ground on April 1, 1974. We have always been grateful that our dad and mom were not in town when it burned.

Some of you may remember sitting around the old stove in the middle of the store, or sitting on the wooden benches in front on a Wednesday or Saturday night, socializing and enjoying one another's company. Gone are those long-ago days, but the memory lingers on. Looking back, we

would not have exchanged those days in that old store for anything. We encountered all kinds of people and learned how important it was to appreciate and get along with all of them.

Greetings and best wishes from the Blakkolb "Girls"—Joyce, Kathy and Jan

