

A Publication for
and about the
town of Naper,
Nebraska

Naper Paper

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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 Native Made a Difference Nationally

By Roger Ludemann

He was known simply as "Doug" when he was growing up on a farm southeast of town. In late August 1952, I was one of a group of children, including Doug, running and playing on the sidewalks of Naper on a Wednesday evening. "Town night", as it was called, was the one night of the week when the local stores stayed open to serve farmers and ranchers in the area taking a break in their mid-week chores.

The main street of Naper was unpaved at the time, so there was always a dusty haze that permeated the warm evening air. My mom vividly remembers Doug's brown eyes and beaming smile as he ran and played with me and the rest of the little boys in the group. Our parents watched us from in front of the grocery store while they chatted about the weather and the price of cattle.

Just a few days later on Monday, September 1, 1952, Art and Julia Martin were on their way to Omaha for the first of many trips. Their five-year-old son, Doug, had been stricken with polio and he would need much medical attention for the next several years.

After many years in an iron lung and recuperating from the devastating effects of polio, Doug was able to return to Naper with his family. The Martins moved from their farm into town to provide better accessibility for Doug, who was now in a wheelchair. Their new home in Naper, which Doug's dad, Art, remodeled to accommodate wheel chair access, was next to the Congregational church just west of Main Street.

Doug excelled in school at Naper High and was valedictorian of his 1965 graduation class. He qualified for a four-year regents scholarship at the University of Nebraska, but was later denied access because of his wheel-chair handicap. With little hesitation, Doug and his family decided to apply at other schools and he was accepted at the University of California at Los Angeles. He later graduated with high distinction from UCLA with a Doctorate in Urban Studies.

Dr. Douglas A. Martin then became a leading advocate for the handicapped. He founded the Westwood, California, Center for Independent



Douglas Martin, one of Naper's favorite sons, overcame physical challenges and great adversities to become a champion of those with disabilities.

Living and spent the next many years supporting initiatives locally and nationally. Eventually, he became a leading national advocate in the area of disabilities and access. He was a driving force in abolishing work penalties for people with disabilities in Social Security disability programs. He was also a key developer of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This national legislation represents a key part of Doug's legacy and protects disabled persons throughout the country.

In 1989 Doug returned to UCLA to become Assistant to the Chancellor; a position he held until just before his death in January of 2003. In the words of Winston Doby, UCLA Vice President of education outreach, "Doug's a legend. He's the kind of person that stories will grow about him. That's a true legend."

(Doug's mother, Julia, lives in Ojai, California. Roger Ludemann is a 1967 graduate of Naper High School and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.)

One Hundred Years in the Family! Camin 106-Year Ranch

By Dennis L. Camin

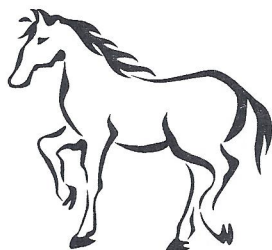
Dust storms, depressions and volatile markets have all had a hand in the turnover of family farms and ranches. Survival was the name of the game. However, a few generations managed to hang onto these early claims even after 100 years, and these are still in the family name. With this issue of the Naper Paper begins a series of stories on farms and ranches still owned by the original family.

William J. Camin purchased the land from William & Elizabeth Butterfield on April 17, 1899. John, the oldest of 11 children, came to the ranch by team and wagon in 1909 from Beemer, NE. John married Emma Bettcher in 1914.

Dennis said his mom always told about the time the tornado came through the area of the ranch around 1901; she was five or six years old. Grandpa Bettcher heard about the storm so they drove down to look at what had happened. He couldn't understand what kind of weather could be so destructive; I guess they didn't have tornadoes in the Old Country. Mr. Grening and three children were killed by the storm just east of where the present place is. Mrs. Grening and the oldest daughter survived.

Mom never once dreamt then that she would later spend 51 years of her life down on the same place. John and Emma acquired the land in the 40's from his parents. They raised eight children – all born in the old house – Amanda, Edna, Alfred, Delma, Ruth, Pauline, Howard, and Dennis. The children are all living except Delma who passed away in April, 2003.

Dennis and Phyllis Camin are the present owners since 1974. They have two children: Michelle and Wade. Dennis tells about the life on the Keya Paha River, which runs very closely on the south side of the ranch. In winter time, it provided ice skating parties; and in summer, swimming holes. In the spring, we would always be watching and waiting for the ice gorges to come down and push the ice out onto the banks. Dennis, his friends, and hunters have converted the old house into a hunting cabin and have get-togethers throughout the yearly seasons. We sit around the campfire in our chairs – surrounded by our 4-wheelers. We remember the past and ponder the future.



Naper Historical Society News



Heritage Hall has seen some nice changes. New steps have been built, the many brands have been displayed, and we have new additions.

The old Naper School clock was purchased by **Jim & Mabel Sattler**, and it is now proudly hangs in the museum. **Everett Smith's** old hand-crank wall telephone has been hung, too, next to the switchboard thanks to **Marilyn Sieh**. **Loren & Linda Sieh** have found a couple of historical items related to Naper on e-Bay. One is a picture postcard of the town taken around 1903 (see inset, page 3). We believe this may be the oldest surviving photo of Naper. It is currently being restored and blown up for display. An article from the *Pittsburgh Gazette* in 1901 has also been purchased by Loren & Linda. It tells of a very bad tornado which came through the area in that year (Camin Ranch, left). We'll make sure this treasure is also enlarged for display in the museum. The next stage of development of Heritage Hall will be a series of large photos and storyboards that sequentially tell the story of our town. **Margaret Ludemann** is heading up this effort which will involve many people, and they hope to have it substantially done by the end of the year.

Naper 28 – We were honored to have Naper 28 family members visit us recently. A great nephew of **Capt. Leslie Roberts**, the flight surgeon on the downed aircraft, traveled to Naper to see the monument and tour the museum. As the *Naper Paper* reported in its last issue, we have learned that Capt. Roberts was Jewish. To properly honor this fallen hero, the society has acquired a Star of David which will be displayed with the 27 crosses on Memorial Day, 2006. **Danny Hutslar** and his wife

visited the cemetery and museum in August. Danny was 6 years old when his father died in the crash. He was deeply touched by and appreciative of what our community has done to honor his dad. The historical society is gratified that the project was so successful, due to everyone in the community. So many people from Naper and elsewhere made financial contributions which allow us to have the lights on and the flags flying. Doesn't the memorial look wonderful at night from the highway! We also want to thank **Dale Husky** who kept the Naper 28 story alive all these years, and continues to keep track of our progress.

The Naper Paper wouldn't be such a huge success without those of you who write letters, contribute articles, send money, and constantly ask, "When is the next issue coming out?" So, a special thanks to all of our readers and supporters! We also appreciate receiving your ideas about the paper. Because of suggestions from the community we have added series of articles on the history of Naper businesses and on farms & ranches in the area that have been in the same family for 100 years or more. This paper belongs to ALL of us, and we appreciate your many suggestions, story contributions, and financial support.

Permanent Signs are being ordered for the museum and the jail. These sturdy, beautiful metal signs will tell the story of the museum and jail, and they should last a lifetime. These were made possible by a recent grant from the Niobrara Valley Electric Goodwill Fund. We sure appreciate the support from the great folks at REA.

Thanks - It would be impossible to thank everyone who helps the historical society, however we do want to give special thanks to the ladies in Naper who work so hard and then give profit money to the historical society. We also wish to thank **Jon Dyer** who has done an excellent job keeping the flags flying and changing them to

Historical Society News, continued

half staff when needed, everyone who has mowed the lawn at the museum and in the cemetery, and all of the volunteers who open the museum for visitors, and of course all of the wonderful people who have donated time to give tours of Heritage Hall to visitors.

Awesome Aerial View

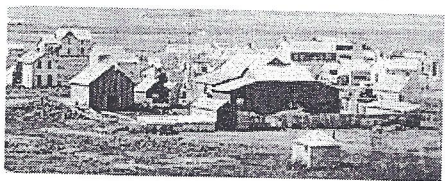
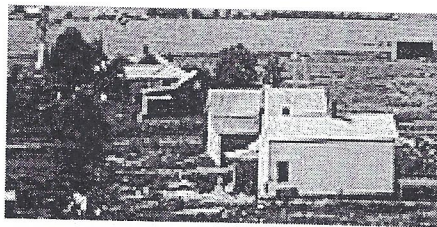


Loren and Linda Sieh spotted this postcard around 1903 listed on eBay, and snapped it up.

A bit of digital cleanup work was done by the Naper Paper to the card to reduce some of the smudging and wear and tear of a century on the item. The original image is being restored for display in Heritage Hall.

Below are some close-up detail enlargements of a few of the buildings. Does anyone recognize any of these places?

The small building closest to the camera in the bottom photo is the old Naper Jail, which was recently restored by the Naper Historical Society. The jail is shown approximately 100 yards west of its current location.



An Interview with Albert Nicolaus

By The Circuit Rider

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 summer winds hit gusts of 30 mph. Temperatures were in the mid-90's as the CIRCUIT RIDER headed north from Nebraska to South Dakota to call on Albert Nicolaus. The wind was hot and made it nearly impossible to keep the straw hat on. By the middle of the afternoon the comfort of the living room was welcome. Albert, like many other children of the time, was born at home November 14, 1915. Times were hard during that era, and Albert's mother was only 28 when she passed away. Albert's little brother Herman was still in diapers. All the members of the family certainly had to help out and look after each other.

One of Albert's early memories was breaking his arm, and his sister put him in the little wagon and pulled him part way to see Dr. Seasongood, an early Naper doctor. Albert was a good student. All country kids had to take a county exam, and Albert's score was the second highest in the county – a plus 94! Albert's teacher was Edith Windmeyer who taught many rural students. One of the teacher's habits was to write everything on the black board, and each kid had to copy it into his or her wallpaper "Sampler Book."

Albert's dad was a farmer. Farming was tough then, too. One farm was lost because of drought and payments couldn't be made. One farm was in the river bottom. In the spring when the ice thawed, the farm flooded and water would come into the buildings. One accomplishment of which Albert is quite proud is attending high school in Naper. In 52 years he has not missed on Alumni Banquet. (Albert's wife, Elva, has missed just one.)

World War II came along, and like many other young men, on February 18, 1941 Albert went into the Armed Services. Albert was stationed at ADAK in the Aleutian Islands just a short distance from Alaska. There were no Japanese on the Aleutians, but living was no picnic. The weather was cold and damp with the wind blowing 30 mph, but most of the time more like 60 – 80 with gusts up to 110. Often it was hard to

keep tents fastened down. The only wildlife included blue fox, geese, and ptarmigan. Life for the most part was really quite boring except for the times the soldiers would come up with some type of entertainment. They had a band with a couple of mouth harps, two guitars, and one man even had "rib-bones." Finally, a projector was obtained, and about once a week they could see a movie. Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland came to visit the troops sponsored by the USO. What a treat!

Just before Christmas the Japanese dropped thousands of brown paper oak leaves on the troops in Kiska. It's an old superstition of the Japanese that if oak leaves fall before Christmas, bad luck will follow. It was bad luck for the Japanese; the American troops landed on Attu on May 11, 1943.

Albert came home on furlough for the second time in January of 1945, and married Elva Gosch to whom he stayed married for over 60 years! Albert first asked Elva to go on a date to The White Horse Ranch, when she was 15. One of the wedding gifts was an artist's drawing of a horse head within a big horseshoe. Elva still has this in her scrapbook. During his time in the service, many letters were mailed back and forth. In 1945 Albert was discharged in Texas. To get back to Nebraska, Albert shared gasoline costs with another soldier from Norfolk.

The newlyweds took up farming. The tractor that Albert used and owned, as he recalls, was a 1929 Regular Farmall, it was his dad's; his was a 1935 F-20 Farmall and later a 1949 John Deere that cost \$2,175. At one time Albert did some custom farming. He had 500 acres. He could do about 80 acres per day. He was paid 25 cents per acre. Fuel costs were 25 cents per gallon. Later LP gas was used that cost 11 cents per gallon.

Gypsies at one time used to come through the countryside. One such group had a wagon with a broken wheel that flopped sideways, and it could be tracked because of the wavy track that was imprinted in the dirt. Albert says the gypsies

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The Ol' Homesteader

The ol' Homesteader returns for another heapin' helping of the doings, news and reviews of what's been going on in Naper, Nebraska. Though few have seen him, and fewer still know for sure his identity, he claims to be a 120-year-old ghost of a Naper resident from a bygone era... And who are we to argue?

Weddings, Engagements, Babies, Anniversaries

There's lots of doin's around our fair town of Naper to tell you about. Kevin & Angela McCarthy hosted a 10th anniversary dance at the hall, and Dale & Sandra Neumiller celebrated their 25th. A 60th wedding anniversary open house was held for Helmut & Ona Holmgren. Stephanie Whitley and Lee Cadwallader got themselves hitched up. So did Kurt Peppel to Becky Drake; Timothy Ahlers, to Katie Stimart; and Casey Heerman to Jill Fritze-meier. New babies were born to folks with Naper ties, including Elizabeth Ann Sattler (daughter of Charles & Michelle), Ethan Michael Skott (grandson of Mike & the late Cindy Schochenmaier), Addysyn Marie Dummer (granddaughter of Gertie Honke), and Nathan Kelly Tillman (son of Pam & Nathan Tillman, grandson of Kelly & Lois Vogt, and great-grandson of Charlotte Nicolaus and Don & Gloria Vogt.) Beth Ann Nelson, granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wentz, recently wed Shane Anthony Lechtenberg, and there was a bridal shower for April Vogt. Paige Elizabeth Druke, daughter of Tony and Beth Druke of Naper, and granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman of Naper, was born September 1, 2005. Congrats to all!

Meetin's, Doin's, Good Times & Snakes

The Stahlecker Family Reunion was a big success this year, as it always is. Our town had another successful blood drive, again in the back room of the café. The Naper Historical Society sponsored a big ol' Roadside Cleanup recently. Loren Sieh and Ann Anderson came across a live bull snake all coiled up and not entirely happy about being cleaned up! There was a 6 family garage sale at the Naper Super Service, and the Senior Citizens Bingo has been going on monthly with lots of prizes and food. Dean & Carley Daughtery of the White Horse Ranch took Morning Star and Snow Queen to the Knox County Fair; they also sponsored vacation bible school this year at the ranch.

The local United Church of Christ held its annual roast beef and chicken dinner this Fall, and Ol' Homesteader found the pie to his likin'. Save Boyd County had a meetin' in the Naper Auditorium with a lot of dancin' afterwards. The Firemen moved into bigger digs, taking over the old State Shed. All kinds of folks showed up to sweep, scrub and paint. Thanks to them, and congratulations to the firemen. Thanks, too, for the nice Open House they threw for the community on

October 2nd. Ol Homesteader had his'self a dandy hamburger. Speakin' of good eats, coffee and cookies were served at the Naper Café for a POW/MIA Remembrance get-together, sponsored by the VFW post. Finally, Amy Gosch put on a "Stamp-a-thon" in her home, teaching everyone about the hobby of stamping.

School & Kids News

Kelsey Zink is a senior, on the Spencer-Naper Lady Pirates team. Juniors include Mindy Haney and Holly Vogt. Sophomores include Haily Cline, who is also on the track team. Holly & Haily were also attendants at the Homecoming Coronation.

The Butte Lady Wildcats team includes Shelly Melton. The SN Pirates football team includes Marc Alford and Skye Higgins. Logan Ahlers is a Junior High runner for S-N. Heidi Vogt made the spring honor roll at Northeast Community College. Erin Honke graduated from the University of South Dakota, and is doing graduate work at Arizona State University. Leonard & Thelma Schmitz's grandson, Joseph Schmitz, was selected to be a Congressional Page in Washington, D.C. His dad and mom, of course, are Doug & Rene Schmitz of O'Neill.

Friends Who Have Passed

Raymond Bentzen, who lived his entire life a mile east of Naper, passed away at 77 years old. Marjorie Kortmeyer left us, too. She was a 1939 graduate of Naper High. Thomas Vogt of Port Orchard died recently; he was born in Naper in 1939. Ed Zeitner, 95, of Eugene Oregon passed away; he lived in Naper until 1952. Milo Reber died just short of his 86th birthday. He was a lifetime member of the Naper VFW. Marie Stanek, 97, was born in Naper, lived much of life here, and she is now gone. Delbert Gentele, who attended Naper School until 8th grade, died recently in Stuart. And Verlyn Sieh of Omaha died in October. He was born and grew up in Naper.

We will all miss these fine folks who we've known for all of these years.

Until next time.
Ol' Homesteader

From The Old Naper Dictionary:

BIG SHOT: A little shot what kept right on shootin'...

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.

U.S. Postal Service
832-5977

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

Spend Here: And keep our
town strong.



Naper's Drug Store By Avis Dalldorf Breyer

This is the latest installment in a continuing series of articles relating the history of Naper businesses.

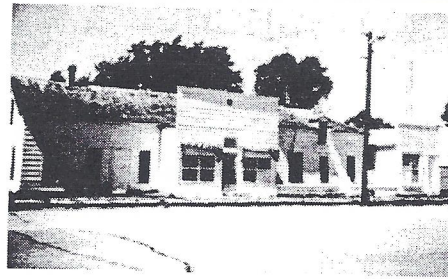
Little were we thinking when we prepared for the sale of the contents of our folks' store in 1991 that we were seeing the end of an era of almost a hundred years. In addition, it was just short of 50 years during which our folks had kept those doors open 7 days a week. Today we think that there was probably no one in the community who did not enter those doors at one time or another. It was so seldom the store was locked that on the rare occasion someone was unable to gain access we could hear them say, "Doris must be sick."

Dr. Charles and Mollie Zimmerman came in 1898 and established themselves in the building that became the store and the south building. This was the start of Naper's only drug store. Eventually the Zimmermans moved the present house to the property. That house once stood on the Hazel Helenbolt lots. What was called the north building was occupied by McCoy's barber shop and then by a series of ladies who operated a cream station. Outbuildings included a barn, a chicken house, and a storage shed. The Dalldorfs built a garage on the premises in the 1970's.

Dr. Zimmerman died in 1931, and Mollie continued to operate the store until her death in 1939. A lot of us will remember the 2 parrots Mollie owned which were caged out in front of the south building when the weather was nice. Mac was the red macaw, and Polly was a green smaller variety, but she would talk if you were patient. Doris Dalldorf was employed by Mollie to work in the store, and was working there at the time Mollie passed away. Rumor was that she had money on the premises, so a search was made. The search included breaking into a huge safe which was in one of the back storerooms. Nothing of monetary value was found. Previously, an extensive collection of Indian artifacts, accumulated over the years by Dr. Zimmerman, had been donated to the State Historical Society.

Alice and Fred Putnam were the next owners of the store. By this time the only medicines dispensed were of the packaged variety. Fred was employed at Krotters, and Alice, who had been an elementary teacher in the Naper district, ran the store with the help of 2 local girls, Mildred Martin and Avis Dalldorf. Hiring of extra help was largely necessitated because Alice began selling ice cream along with pop, etc. Ice cream came with the mail from Norfolk via Stuart, and was packed with dry ice. Often it arrived soft and had to be put in the bottom of the ice cream case where it was coldest and could be restored. Wednesday and Saturday nights, the big "town nights", three of us were kept running all evening selling sundaes, malts, banana splits, etc. Many times people had to wait for a booth before being served. The Putnams sold the store when Fred's employment took them out of the community.

In 1942, Albert and Doris Dalldorf bought the store. Albert had been driving a truck hauling groceries between Naper and Sioux City/Omaha/Norfolk. Doris had been boarding high school students and teachers at their home which was the Seasongood/Alexander home a block west of the store. Albert continued driving the truck for a few years after the purchase of the store. The Dalldorfs added livestock medications, wallpaper and paint to their stock of merchandise. Wallpaper had to be trimmed once it was ordered but before it was picked up. Luckily, there was a machine for this – but not for the border which had to be trimmed manually. Prices were remarkably cheap: 5 cents for an ice cream cone or a packaged treat, cigarettes were less than 15 cents a package. Of course, as the war progressed a lot of things became hard to get. About the only ice cream available was sherbet. Eventually and much later, the Dalldorfs put in



Dalldorf's Drugstore; Formerly Dr. Zimmerman's pharmacy and office.

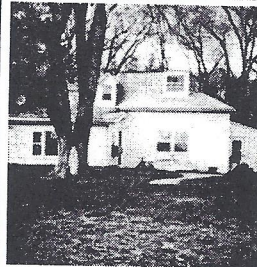
a soft ice cream machine which was a huge hit.

All this time, Albert and Doris were active in the community. Albert served many years on the town and school boards. He also was an unpaid custodian of the cemetery. He took great pride in keeping the cemetery looking nice as well as keeping the mower operating. Doris served on the cemetery board and kept the cemetery plot up-to-date. She also was active in the VFW Auxiliary and the Church Fellowship where making coffee and pies when needed was her specialty.

Some memories include the local Indians who came in on a regular basis. One day an elderly Indian couple came to town in their horse-drawn wagon. The horses spooked, and they took the corner by Blakkolb's Store too fast. The wagon upset and threw the couple out. They were brought to the store where Doris "doctored" them. Another memory is of standing at the

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My House by Samantha McCarthy, Age 10



The home of Darren and Connie McCarthy as it looked in the late 1800s (above), and as it looks today in 2005. The property was originally homesteaded in the 1870s by John Henry Wright, before the area was even open for settlement. Pictured by the horse-drawn buggy are Wright's son Richard and daughter Sally. Wright's son Elmer is also seen standing near the house. While the house's exterior has changed somewhat, and the tower has since been

removed, the basic shape of the house remains as it was originally designed. (Note the gabled roof and windows on the left side.)

"Sometime in the 1800's this house was built with stones from the Twin Buttes. They carried the stones with horse drawn wagons. The stones had to be carried across the KEYA-PAHA River. They built a look-out tower which the soldiers used to look for Indians."

- Samantha McCarthy

The Miracles of Covered Dishes

By Ann Anderson



In a community the size of Naper, everyone knows everyone, and everyone knows everyone likes to eat. So, whenever there is an occasion for a group to gather, whether it is a happy occasion (Welcome home! New baby! New house! Retirement! Happy birthday!) or a sad occasion (moving away, funeral, illness), there shall be FOOD.

The Miracles of the Covered Dishes occur when the group has assembled in the hall, the VFW Club, a church meeting room, or the park. The men are seated in groups visiting about the weather and farming. The women are bustling in the kitchen/dining area making sure the trays, plates, silverware, napkins and food are displayed in an orderly fashion. Is it time to remove the lids from the Covered Dishes? The Miracle is about to happen.

The first miracle is the Miracle of Quantity. Just like the loaves and fishes, the covered dishes will always contain enough food to feed the multitude gathered. Many times there will be a smidgen of this or a pinch of that left in the bottom of the bowl to prove that yes, indeed, there was an abundance of food and an even larger crowd could have been fed.

The second miracle is the Miracle of Quality. Every woman in this community is a certifiable Good Cook. Those words should be embroidered in gold on the pot holders and dish towels in each kitchen. It matters not if they have 24 hours or 24 minutes to prepare food, the food will be appealing and delicious.

The third miracle is the Miracle of Variety. Although some dishes are seasonal (pumpkin pie, cucumber salad, rhubarb torte), at every gathering there is an assortment of every kind of food. Never does it happen that everyone brings scalloped potatoes and no desserts or there are 23 Jell-O salads and no meat. There will always be a spread of food that would make Betty Crocker hug her food pyramid and smile. How about a cup of coffee and a piece of sour cream raisin pie?

Circuit Rider—(Continued from Page 3)

were credited with bringing the first "leafy-spurge" into the country.

Elva and Albert had 2 daughters, Mary Lee and Connie, and two sons, Stanley and Jimmy. Stanley was killed in an accident. There are 12 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Along with farming, Albert has done his share of civic responsibilities. He was Legion Commander of Post #187 in Fairfax for 25 years, served on church council for 38 years, county Legion commander for 3 terms, served on the A.S.C.S. committee, and served as county commissioner for 6 years.

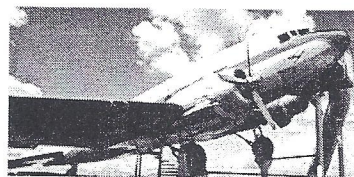
Some other interesting notes: For 28 years Albert was the Fairfax high school scorekeeper at all games. He also helped out by running one end of the chain for football games. All communities should have more volunteers such as Albert.

The CIRCUIT RIDER is fortunate, indeed, and privileged to be welcomed into homes to reminisce with good folks that grant these stories which we share with our readers. During an era of electronic gadgetry, gizmos, and TV, the feelings that come from participating in these family room chats with a good cup of coffee further reminds the CIRCUIT RIDER of the folks who did more than their share to make AMERICA GREAT! As readers we are reminded of the "tuff" times as well as the other times gone by in the GOOD OLD DAYS. Once again, it's time to move on to the next round of conversation and great American stories.

Storm Cloud By Orland Anson

I will never forget that day. My family lived north of Atkinson. I was about 10 years old when my mother and dad and I were standing in the yard. A plane flew extremely low over our house. It was a big plane, a military plane probably flying 500 - 800 feet above us. Unexpectedly, it began flying northwest, directly into a dark storm cloud. I heard my dad cry out, "What are those guys thinking of, flying into that storm?"

Several days later we heard that the plane had crashed. As the crow flies, it had gone only 8 - 10 miles from our yard. The sad thing was that 28 men on board were killed. I can still see that big plane, big for those days! It's hard for me to think that we had actually seen it minutes before it crashed.



Orland Anson (right) was one of the last people to see a C-47 Army transport plane (like the one pictured above) before it crashed in Boyd County on August 23, 1944. The crash killed all 28 men on board. A memorial was recently dedicated on the site of the crash, to commemorate the victims of the terrible tragedy.

Drug Store—(continued from Page 5)

window in 1944 when a truck bearing the carcass of the crashed plane was hauled through town. It was well known that Doris was a night owl.

One of her favorite pastimes was reading the paper at the kitchen table after the store was closed for the night. It was from that vantage point that she saw the grocery store engulfed in flames. She called in an alarm, then proceeded to hose down the south side of the store to keep it from catching fire, too.

The 2 large store windows had to be decorated on a regular basis - usually to commemorate whatever holiday was closest. During the war the pictures of servicemen were displayed in the window around Memorial Day. Also, the pictures of the senior class were on display at the time of commencement each year.

Another memorable part of the store property was "the wall" out in front of the house. I'm sure many people have memories of visiting there with friends. It certainly was a social gathering place. Albert had quite a time keeping it repaired as years progressed.

On June 8, 1991, the property on Main Street and all contents were sold at auction. Volunteers helped take sale items outside where they lined the sidewalk in front of the store with some things overflowing into the street. The back yard, too, was filled with the accouterments of the lives of this old couple, now in their 90's. As many others can attest from their own experiences, it was difficult to watch the old folks as they saw their things, the accumulation of their life time, being carried off here and there. It was a sad day. That was their last day in Naper except as called there by death. They are both buried at Knoll Crest Cemetery, Albert having passed away on February 11, 1995 and Doris following on July 29, 2000.



Letters to the Naper Paper

Send your cards and letters to:
The Naper Paper c/o The Naper Historical Society PO Box 72 Naper, NE 68755

While visiting my parents, I had the privilege of touring the Naper Historical Society museum. It is obvious that a lot of time, effort & pride went into establishing this tribute to "Our Town." For those who have contributed your ideas, talents & enthusiasm, congratulations and thank you.

Merry Sieh, Creston, Iowa

Thank you so much for sending the Naper Paper. The day it comes I read it from cover to cover. The article "The Russians Are Coming" got me thinking. My great grandfather, Christian Wetzler, left Neudorf, So. Russia, along with his family. They came to New York by ship on May 13, 1894. He filed a homestead certificate on June 15, 1903. This 160 acres is southeast of Naper. My grandfather, Jakob Wetzler, filed a homestead certificate on August 4, 1904, this is 2 miles west of Naper. That 160 acres was known as the Seasongood place for many years. I recently had access to some letters that were written to my family here from relatives in Russia. Their life was very hard; many nights they went to bed hungry. The situation hasn't changed a lot today. I still have relatives over there. We need to count our many blessings. Keep the Naper Paper coming. You're doing a super job. The next time we get to Naper we want to see the museum and all the other new things around your little city. I was born and raised west of Naper, graduated from good old Naper High, was married and started a family there, so I have many cherished memories.

Florence Wetzler Porter

My wife and I enjoy receiving the Naper Paper and reading the interesting articles. Since I am a 1949 graduate of NHS, I especially enjoy reading about my classmates. In appreciation for the Naper Paper, we are enclosing a check to help pay your expenses.

Arlen G. Ahlers, Pierce, NE

Thank you for putting together a great paper. I am learning and re-learning about my home town. My sympathy to the Windmeyer families on the loss of their mother. I enjoyed reading her biography, especially since I went to school with her children. I am enclosing a donation.

Lorna Dillon, Rainbow, CA

I've been meaning to send a check for the Naper Paper. I enjoy it so much.

Marjorie Kortmeyer Saiser

Enclosed is some money to get the Naper Paper. I share with Iowa Mayer Carstens. Is it very interesting. Thank you.

Alice Bennett Hansen, Norfolk, NE

(Note to Alice from Naper Paper: Thanks for your 4 pages of memories. We will include some of them in future issues.)

Received the current Naper Paper. We really enjoy it. Am enclosing a check to help with expenses. Thanks so much.

Melvin & Phyllis Schrader

I want to tell you how much my 91 year old mother "Alta Luree Billeter Tonniges" enjoys reading your paper. She has such good memories of Naper. Please keep up the good work, and we will be looking forward to reading more about Naper.

Jean Tonniges Scott, El Cajon, CA

Here's a check for the Naper Paper. I enjoy it along with sister Ruth & brother Howard.

Edna Aylin-Revilak, San Leandro, CA

Your kindness is greatly appreciated for a great little paper. Keep up the dedicated work.

Iola Tech Frank

To show my appreciation for the nice Naper Paper, I am enclosing a small check to help pay expenses. I am very happy my name is on the mailing list.

Midred Tiefenthaler

Thank you for keeping the Naper Paper coming. I just got the summer issue. I very much remember the tornado of 1962. My father and I laid on the barn floor when the storm passed over our farm. Your stories bring back many memories of the Naper area. Enclosed is a donation to help keep the Naper Paper coming.

Barry Schochenmaier, Grand Island, NE

Hi! Time to send a few dollars for mailing costs. I got my paper and Nathalie Sattler letter, and what a hoot. Of course I remember when we were locked out of the car. I called Jim and got her address and am going to write to her. I DO LOVE THIS PAPER!

Jan Blahkolb Broekmeier

Enjoying another Naper Paper. I'm sending another donation in hopes it will keep coming. What a great idea to bring back old memories. I don't get to visit much anymore so this newspaper helps to keep in touch. I remember our first electric light. What a joy! Even though it was turned off at 10pm. My first movie theater. Never missed very many. We walked to the dances on Saturday night and back home. My girlfriends and I used to walk each other home. We walked to town to get groceries & carried them home. My mom used to buy grapes and wild plums from Indians. We lived in 3 different houses in Naper. Never went much by car. Always walked. So I remember a lot of things & enjoy reading everything in the Naper paper. Thanks for a great paper!

Irene Forsch Green and Duane Green



Thanks to those of you who sent in your annual subscription \$ for the Naper Paper. Actually, we don't have a subscription charge. Instead we rely on your generosity to send what you can on an annual basis to pay for our production and mailing costs. If you sent a donation in 2004, we've spent that money on the issues of that year. We sure would appreciate a donation for this year's issues, too. They will ensure that we can continue to publish the Naper Paper and send it to everyone regardless of their means. Again, thanks for your interest in the paper and for your support.

A PUBLICATION FOR
AND ABOUT THE
TOWN OF NAPER,
NEBRASKA

The Naper Paper
PO Box 72
Napier, Nebraska 68755



This amazing photo, circa 1903, was recently discovered for auction on eBay. Loren and Linda Sieh snapped it up and presented it to the Napier Historical Society. Details inside.

The
Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society

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