

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's Future

Remember that old song from the 70's, "Just The Way You Are"? It's a love song about a guy who loves his gal just as she is. Well, that's kind of how we feel about Naper, isn't it? We don't want it to be a city. And we don't want her to dwindle down to nothing either. But things are changing in rural America. Like Naper, most small towns are losing people, through no fault of their own. Some villages have died or are dying. Others still are making a few changes here and there to keep their populations up enough to support their businesses, churches, and civic organizations. So, let's take a look at why some towns die and others live.

Why Some Towns Die

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed families to move to places like northern Nebraska to lay claim to 160 acres of land, enough to support a farm family back then. Towns provided services needed by farmers, such as a place to sell and transport their crops and cattle, banking, groceries, soft goods, veterinary and health care. Towns also provided for the intangible needs of the soul (churches) and spirit (social activities).

With the advent of the industrial revolution great cities developed; cities that drew people from rural areas to provide labor for an economy evolving from agricultural dominance to manufacturing. One of the fruits of manufacturing was new and better equipment to make farming more efficient. These tools and machines have brought consolidation in agriculture, allowing a single family, or a corporation, to farm more land. With fewer farmers to support, small towns have gradually lost many businesses and people.

Changes in transportation have contributed to the decline of small towns. The Interstate Highway System caused a massive exodus of travelers from State highways and County roads. Businesses in small towns, orphaned by Interstate Highways which bypassed them, closed at the cost of jobs and, ultimately, population. Entire communities, those with the misfortune of being located only on connecting County roads, folded due to a lack of travelers stopping for fuel, food, and lodging.

The death of a town does not happen overnight. However as schools and churches close, younger families often move away. And as the number of jobs decline, young people move as well after graduating from high school or college. Town populations get older, and they decline in numbers as people die. Eventually the town itself is gone.

Why Some Towns Live

Towns that live are those that find ways to be attractive to families and young adults out of school. Why? Well, because these are the people who have babies who grow up to replace the people who grow old and die.

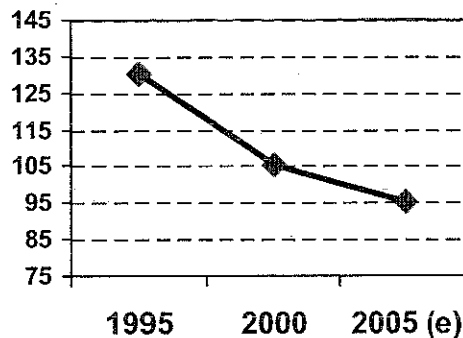
How do towns stay attractive to young people? Basically, they keep money flowing in the local economy so there are jobs. Towns on good highways build big signs with catchy images and phrases to get travelers to pull off the road to buy gas, meals, groceries, lodging, and goods. They also find ways to attract non-locals from within a 50 mile radius to visit their towns for social events, unique attractions, or just for the best darn meal within an hour's drive. By bringing in dollars that are not already in the town, "new" money circulates, finding its way into local businesses, churches and individual bank accounts. With more money in the town, businesses survive and pass to the next generation, jobs grow, and people decide it's a place to build a future.

The other things surviving towns do to keep and attract young families and new graduates are to make the town even prettier (like fixing up store fronts and hanging colorful banners along the main street) and to create fun things to do. It's amazing what a little movie theater, mini-golf tennis court or new playground can do to keep people happy with their community and attract others to visit.

Our town, through no fault of our own, is losing population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, between 1990 and 2000, Naper lost 20% of its residents. The 2003 census-estimate shows continued loss, down to 101 residents from 130

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Naper's Population, 1995-2005 (est.)



2003 US Census Information



An Interview With Elsie Wentz

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..."

During the early 1900's, the Sand Hills of Nebraska must have seemed an "Endless Prairie" to the Homesteaders. Imagine reaching the crest of a hill and for miles ahead seeing more hills which all look like the trail that you just came over. Where would you stop for the night? Where would there be water for livestock and to drink? What would you do if one of the members of the family suddenly became ill? Neighbors were very few and farms were miles apart.

During this early time, the roles of pioneer men and women often were separated by a thin line as both helped in the struggle for survival. It was into a world such as this that Elsie Ullrich was born at home November 26, 1917. Kids grew up fast helping the family with the daily chores. Elsie's dad took her along as a regular hand when he went to North Dakota to harvest flax. Elsie was only ten years old when she drove a team of horses pulling the Header Machine. It was a hot, dry job and when they quit for noon, Elsie's Gramma gave her a glass of rhubarb wine that put her "out" and to sleep.

Elsie had four brothers and one sister. The family also shared a Shetland pony that they rode to school. Shetlands were ornery little rascals and one day the cinch came loose and the saddle and Elsie both were bucked off.

At Christmas time, clothes were always sewed for the children by the Elsie's mother. Most of the clothing came from Marty Mission and didn't fit so Mom had to re-do and re-sew them. She was a great seamstress and could do a lot with "second time around" clothes. Elsie referred to the song made famous by Dolly Parton—"A Coat of Many Colors."

When Elsie was 17, her folks decided to move the family to Western Nebraska. At this time, a robust young man named Art Wentz had set his cap for the blossoming attractive 17 year old lass. It appeared to Art that unless he beat out the competition and asked her to marry him, that she would be gone forever and he didn't want to lose her so he asked her to marry him. So in 1935, Elsie became Mrs. Arthur Wentz.

Setting up housekeeping during that era was a bit more difficult than during this modern day era of gadgets and automation. Getting started with the bare minimum of stock

was quite the challenge. One of Art's sows had seven pigs and they all died. Art had two colts with a chance to sell and the mare died. Grampa gave them a cow that had a calf and then the cow died. Love had to be the bond that held people together during such trials.

The weather was extremely inclement. There was no rain; the wind blew and the dust darkened the sky. To keep dust from sifting into the old house, Elsie tore strips of sheets and wetted the strips which she laid along the window sill cracks to keep out the sifting dust. One time while working in the garden, a dust storm came up so fast that she barely made it back into the house. These storms piled dust so high that dunes were made across the tops of fences.

Art loved the sport of coyote hunting with hounds. It was the week before Christmas and Art went into town. What did he do but bring home two buckskin colored hounds that were sisters! Art took them hunting and caught two coyotes which he promptly skinned and hung the hides in the barn. The hides were later sold for \$103.00 which permitted Art and Elsie to shop the Sears catalog for Christmas gifts.

Often Art had friends that were daring enough to hunt with him. On one of the famous hunts, Art got his friend up at 4:30 A.M. Bouncing across the hills at high speed chasing a coyote, the vehicle lost a wheel. Nothing stopped Art from chasing the coyote! (This was the friend's last hunt—it was too wild for him!) His son Bob, has hounds, too. (It must run in the family!)

Art and Elsie farmed until 1947 when they bought the Naper Bar from Herman and Harry Fuhrer. Art's brother Ted came home from the service and became Art's partner. In 1950 a new building was built; and in 1959, Art bought out brother Ted.

During the early years of Naper, electricity was furnished by the local light plant, which operated during certain hours of the day. At 11:00 P.M., the town lights would blink to let all residents know that in 15 minutes the lights

would go out. It was now time to "round-up the kids", finish the pitch games and go home.

Elsie's lifetime partner and coyote hunter passed away in 1975. Art had one of the finest collection of whiskey bottle decanters that could be found.

Art and Elsie spent 28 years in public bar life. This Circuit Rider remembers Wentz's Bar as a good clean place for a teenager to shoot pool or play a pinball machine. After grocery shopping the wives would find a booth in which to sit and visit and gossip, waiting on husbands to finish the card games. Wednesday and Saturday nights were "town nights" and all the rural folks came into town. Both sides of Naper's main street and the center would be full of parked cars.

Elsie continued a busy lifestyle with buying and remodeling homes around town in Naper. One can point to at least 5 homes in town that Elsie had a hand in re-doing.

Art and Elsie have two sons, Bob and Dennis. Bob has given several years to Naper. He and Barb have given much time to keeping Naper "alive." Bob and Barb have three daughters, Nancy, Brenda and Tammy.

Dennis is a school superintendent at Coon Rapids, Iowa. Dennis and wife, Carol, have three children: Renae, Sheryl, and Brett.

In 1998 Elsie moved to Park View Manor, P.O. Box 417, Burke, South Dakota, 57523.

This Circuit Rider and wife had a most rewarding visit with Elsie. We were entertained with "lively" organ music played by Elsie and even got to participate in a "sing-a-long." Elsie is a great hostess, loves company and would love to have you call.

As we saddle up and move on to the next guest we hope that maybe, someday, Elsie will put all her stories together in tabloid form and pass them on. The sun is going down and it's getting cold so we need to move on across the Sand Hills.

Until next time,
THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Naper's Future

Continued from page 1

in 1990. We've lost additional residents since the 2003 estimate. It's likely our town now has fewer than 100 people. This means we've lost about one-fourth of our population in 15 years.

We also have a relatively old population. The median age in the U.S. is 35 years. In Naper our median age is over 50. In 2000, 41 Naper residents were 65 or older, nearly 40% of our population. Based on published life expectancy data and Naper population trends, it is logical to assume our population will decline to 50 - 60 residents in the next 15 years.

With only 50 - 60 residents our community likely would lose its core institutions. In just the last two years we have lost our school, the Catholic Church, our gas station, Cline's Bar, and the clinic. Less obvious, but quite significant, are the losses of community programs such as the Lion's Club and a baseball team for kids. Naper can support its restaurant, a gas station (it's on a well traveled highway), grocery store, two remaining churches, the volunteer firemen, and the VFW Hall at our current population level. Dropping to 50 - 60 people may make them financially unsustainable. What we do in the next year or two will determine our town's fate.

Since the *Naper Paper* is a publication of an historical society, let's put it this way. Can we MAKE history by further improving our town so that we gain population rather than lose it? The *Naper Paper* would like to hear from you. Please send us your thoughts about how to improve Naper. You can sign your name or not. That doesn't matter to us. We'll print your ideas either directly or in summary form



FROM NAPER NEWS c 1901:

"The editor is requested to announce that a supposedly exemplary citizen of Naper was seen swiping kindling and testing the lock on the coal box at the school house. If the offense is repeated, disagreeable disclosures will be made."

Naper's Hardware Stores

By Velda Stahlecker

Boyd County, NE was opened for settlement during the years 1889-1892. The first years were spent getting the basics in place. The homes were dugouts in the hillside. They would hollow a place into the hill. The dugout was three sides of the home. Limbs & grass would be used for the roof, sod or poles for the front even blankets or hides. They also started building sod houses.

The necessities of life were needed to survive. Enterprising men realized they needed to have towns to survive, stores for staples as flour, sugar, hardware & lumber, these were freighted in by team & wagon. Merchants started businesses for the needed articles.

This is the story of the early lumber, hardware stores in the area. The earliest records I could find were J.W. Small's Hardware and Tienken's Lumber Yard. Dick Wright built a lumber yard and store on his homestead. It ran until the early 1920's.

Jere Bailey came to the area in the early 1900's from Cherry Co. NE. His large two story hardware was on the lots between Blakkolb's store & the Zimmerman drug store. The building was sold in the early 1930's to John Stack of Jamison. When moving the building, it fell off the moving timbers, it destroyed the lower floor. Mr. Stack salvaged the upper story to start a small store & blacksmith shop. It was just North of State Line on highway 12, before you came to Jamison.

In 1900 Solomon Blakkolb opened a



hardware store in Naper, along with his sons John & Jacob. The store was sold in 1904 with the stipulation that they would not open another hardware store. At that time they started Blakkolb General Merchandise.

Sam Statsman, who was also the Blakkolb girl's grandfather, along with Karl Reichel bought a hardware store in 1902. They remained in business until 1920 when the partnership was dissolved. Samuel remained in the store until 1924 when he sold to Jim Wright. Mr. Wright was in business until 1928 when he sold to Paul & Minnie Stoltenberg.

Laverne Stoltenberg Adams remembers staying with her grandparents when she went to high school in Naper. A memory is, her grandfather went to work before she went to school. One morning he came back home before she had gone to school. He said "guess what happened"? Her grandma said "we have been robbed." It wasn't the first time, always by the same man. He would spend time in the pen, when he got out, he would break in the store again. A typewriter was stolen on this occasion. Laverne's grandmother would

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Town Night

By Shirley Honke Lindeman

When the *Naper Paper* comes in the mail, I can't help but smile because I know the stories will bring back such fond memories. Roger Ludemann mentioned "town night" in his well written and informative article about Doug Martin. What was more fun than town night? Mom would get that egg check cashed at the grocery store, and I was off for a night of adventure wondering how I was going to spend my allowance and which boy I was going to chase! I think we got a dime on Wednesday nights and a quarter on Saturday nights. When there was a dance, I remember that quarter would buy either a malt and a bag of chips at Dalldorf's or a hamburger at Blum's Café during intermission time. One needed that snack at intermission to survive the rigors of the "Flying Dutchman" dance that was always played after intermissions. See what I mean...the memories just come flooding back!

Dear Readers: Please send us your memories of "town night", and we'll print them in the next issue!



The Ol' Homesteader

The Ol' Homesteader returns with more news and reviews of what's been going on in Naper, Nebraska.

Ah, winter in Nebraska... a time of peaceable slumber and rejuvenatin'. A time to think about hunkerin' down with loved ones, enjoyin' Mam's homemade pie and hot cider, and tellin' ghost stories by the light of the fireplace. And it's from my cozy chair by the fire that I compile another set of news and updates on the happenin's in our lovely little town.

Congratulations Are In Order

Kurt Cline and Cindy de la Rosa were married near Atkinson, NE, June 4, 2005. They are living in Santa Clara, CA, where Kurt is attending the school of chiropractic medicine.

Trista Lyn Vogt, daughter of Gordon and Sharon Vogt of Winside, NE, and Mike Stone were married at the Little White Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas, NV, June 28, 2005. Trista is currently in graduate school. Mike farms near Carroll, NE.

Amy Burger and Wade Camin, both of De Smet, SD, were married July 30, 2005, at the United Church of Christ in De Smet. Wade's parents are Dennis and Phyllis Camin. They are both employed in De Smet.

April Vogt, daughter of Randy and Bonnie Vogt of Utica, NE, and Dustin Dummer, son of Roland and Debra (Whitley) Dummer of Bonesteel, SD, were married October 1, 2005, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Naper. They are living in Hastings, NE, where both are employed.

Merv and Helen Higgins were honored on their 55th anniversary with a dance in the Naper VFW Hall. Howard and Jan provided some good dancing' music.

Dick and Florence (Wetzler) Porter celebrated their 60th anniversary on February 2.

Jack and Jean Reiman have two new granddaughters in their family, thanks to son Lawrence and wife Jane, and daughter Jeanne and husband Brian Tagel.

Verlyn and Dana Jons welcomed son Matthew.

And Ella Bechtold is about to turn 96! There is a card shower for her, so send in those cards!

The Naper Historical Society received \$1500 from the Niobrara Valley Electric Goodwill Board. The money is raised through the coop's "Operation Round-Up" and will be used for signage projects at Heritage Hall. Stop in to see all the changes. It's looking' good!

Kelsey and Rindy Zink were both honored by Boyd County 4-H Clubs. Kelsey was the outstanding 4-H'er for 2005 and Rindy received a 10-year leader pin. Ol' Homesteader is proud of all of you!

Busy-ness

The annual Naper Craft Fair was held December 3. The crowd was small due to the wow-zer of a storm the previous week, but there were lots of goodies and bargains. Santa came to town December 17 and shared gifts and treats with the audience. The Community Choir sang a few selections and the village board and wives provided refreshments--Thanks! It was great.

The Naper Café and Lounge have sponsored several karaoke sessions and dances. Ol' Homesteader never knew so many friends and neighbors were so talented!

EMTs and First Responders sponsored a soup supper to raise money for equipment. The soup was worth a trip to town!

The Butte Nursing Healthcare Center voted Marguerite Ludemann as its "Queen of Hearts" on Valentines Day. Congratulations to her majesty!

The VFW held its 38th-- yes sir, its 38th! -- annual mountain oyster feed. The postal employees once again tempted all of us to go off our diet with their cookies and punch served at the open house. Ol' Homesteader didn't want to step on a scale after all these meetin', greetin', and eatin' events.

Stormy Weather

A real old-time winter storm hit the area the Sunday and Monday after Thanksgiving. At least 12" of snow fell, and the wind blew hard from every direction. Made Ol' Homesteader think of the good old days when snow was knee-deep all winter! And I had to walk uphill to school (both ways!).

Lots of folks in Boyd County were without power for a while.

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The Naper Christmas Party featured a performance by the Community Choir, and a special visit from the North Pole!

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.

Carl 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 our
local merchants...who will?

Spend Here: And keep our
town strong.

Hardware Stores, *Cont'd from page 3*

take her bobby pins down to the store and Laverne would come to the store after school and fix her hair.

My memories of the store were that it was cream or gray colored block building trimmed in green. Frank Clausen would bring cantaloupe and watermelon to town in the late summer to sell. They would be sold in front of the store. Duke sold pop bottles he had collected after dances and Saturday night for 2 cents each. When he had 75 cents he bought a baseball glove at the store.

Vernon and Liz Ike bought the store in 1943 or 44 from Paul Stoltenberg. These are some of Chief and Marcelline's memories. Liz was the shoe repair lady. There was a heavy duty sewing machine and an iron shoe last that had several different size sole pieces. She would cut a sole from a several thicknesses of hide. These would be attached to the bottom of the shoe for a new sole. She also stitched and patched the tops. The store had everything from nuts & bolts to harnesses, horse collars and reins. There was a barrel of oil to soak harness to remove sweat and soften the leather. They also did harness repair. My brother Verlyn and husband Duke also remember going into the store with their dads to have the harnesses soaked and repaired.

The Ike family sold the store to Alfred & Liz Broekemeier in 1947 when they moved to Calif. Lavera has some memories of the store. When they did inventory they would count each nut & bolt, what fun! She has a set of Pyrex dishes that was sold in the store. They sold the store to Harry, Hazel Helenbolt and Barney Smith in 1949. At that time it ceased to be a hardware store. It was converted into a Locker and Meat Processing plant. The store burned in August of 1966.

The Krotter Co of Naper was established in July 1900 on lots 8 and 9; additional lots were purchased in 1901, 1902 and 1903. G.W Erickson served as first manager; additional managers through the years were Frank Stracke, Glen Stracke, Punk McCoy, Fred Putnam, Fred Putnam Sr., George Wedige, John Schonebaum, John Bentzen and Kelly Vogt. This business ceased operating in Naper in 1992.

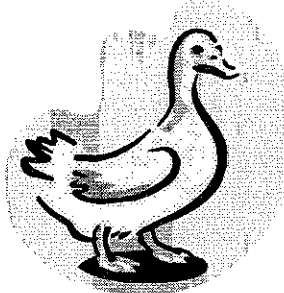
Ben Herrmann built and operated a new hardware store on the West side of Main Street until 1948 when he sold it to Harry Bennett and Bob Fuhrer. Ben built a shoe store between the Auditorium and Post Office on the east side of the street, where he sold Red Wing and other brands of shoes. He also repaired shoes.

Several years later Bob Fuhrer sold his part of the hardware business to Harry Bennett. Harry operated the Hardware Store until 1979 when he sold it to Leo Lampman. He ran the business for 4 years. Vernon & Linda Goodman moved back in 1983, when they purchased the business. They had a few hardware items and a feed store. They phased out the hardware and feed business in later years. They now have Lynn's Upholstery business in the building. The business has customers over a large area.

There are currently no hardware or lumber yards in Naper.

Mom's Pet Goose

Memories related by Connie Sattler and
Nathalie Sattler Taranto, c 1942



When I was about 13, the neighbors gave Mom a goose for Thanksgiving. However, the goose looked at her so pathetically that Mom felt sorry for her. Thus, the goose ran around our farm yard for about 3-4 years. We got a gander for her, but the coyotes got him.

The goose loved Mom. He would follow her everywhere so closely that the goose was practically between her

legs! If Emma would shoo her away, the goose would go around in a circle and come behind Mom again. The goose had to stay outside. If Mom went to church or into town, she'd find the goose waiting on the wooden door steps for her, sometimes covered with snow!

The goose was definitely Mom's protector. When Mom went into the barn to milk the cows, the goose found a space in the gate to squeeze herself through to be with Mom. All the cows went crazy. They'd sway back and forth and run from one corner of the pen to the other. The cows were so worked up, Mom couldn't milk them. So Emma had to put the goose out. Cows don't like large fowl. The small birds are OK because they land on the cows and pick off the ticks.

Geese have a different way of biting than ducks. Their beaks are sharp like a pair of pliers, and when they bite, they don't let go. When they catch their prey, they flog the prey with their very strong wings.

That's what I was afraid of all the time.

This goose did not like men. Dad and I tried our best to keep away from her, lest she bite us. Dad would use a stick to keep her away, and I'd run like anything. Dad never got bitten, but I did. Quite a few times she bit me on the legs, leaving black and blue spots. I'd pull like crazy to get away from her, or yell for help. I didn't like that goose very much.

My sister Nathalie tells of incidents with the same goose. She remembers that the darn goose would trap her in the outhouse for what seemed like hours, till it would leave so she could go back into the house. Then, when she finally did get back into the house, she would be scolded for frittering away precious time when she should have been working.

Another vivid memory she tells of follows the return from a visit to Uncle John and Aunt Margaret Sattlers', and Woody (our younger brother) had fallen asleep in the car. So Sis was instructed to stay with him until he awoke, and then take him into the house. Meanwhile the rest of us went to do our chores.

It wasn't long before Woody awoke and started to cry. The car was parked back of the house near the chicken coop, and it was dark (I don't know if the dark was why Woody cried.) but Nathalie was scared of the dark, and who was sitting in wait just outside the car? You guessed it... Goosy! So Woody and Sis both stayed in the car and cried until someone (I can't recall who) came to their rescue. Nathalie didn't like that goose very well either!

Editor's Note: At the age of nine, this editor came into possession of three ill-tempered white geese that remained members of our family for a year. He was bitten in a "sensitive area" by one of them, "Lady" (A lady she wasn't!), and attests to the excruciating pain that resulted. If you are considering such a purchase for yourself, it is strongly recommended that you also have a side of stuffing and cranberry sauce! Better you bite the goose, than the goose bites you!

The Schock Family Farm: 100 Years in the Family!

For those growing up in the Naper area, the Big Red Barn on the Schock farm was a landmark which was visible from two highways. The farm always looked like a "Benchmark" for other farm comparisons. Henry Schock homesteaded in 1891. Henry became a citizen of the United States June 6th, 1900. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the papers April 8th, 1903. The first house was built on the land east of where today's buildings stand. Learning this was school land, buildings were constructed where the farm is now. The first buildings were constructed of adobe. A part of the old smokehouse still stands.

In 1897 a larger house was built. Later this was one of the very first in the area to have electricity and running water. In 1914 the Big Red Barn was built. A tall windmill was put close to the barn. The barn was large and became well known throughout the community. Work was no stranger to the "old timers." In his spare time Henry hauled freight from Stuart and Herrick. Johnny, the youngest brother came to live with Henry and family. Johnny was just 10 years old at the time. An Indian trail ran close to the farm and when Indians came by, Johnny would run and hide.

In 1941, Bill and his family moved to the homestead from a farm south of Burke, SD. During corn picking season, Bill would need

extra help to pick corn and he would often hire Indians to help pick. Corn picking was done by hand pulling the corn from the stalk and husking the ear and throwing it up into a wagon. The hired Indians would come to the farm and set up their tents during this season. Often it was very cold with snow on the ground. The entire Indian family came including the children. The Indians did their cooking on campfires next to the tents. Vivian (Schock) Alexander has a necklace of blue beads given to her by an Indian woman who was with the crew.

The Schock family was one of the first in the community to have a tractor. This one was a WATER LOO BOY (c 1920). Many farmers purchased their Hereford bulls from the Schocks. In 1959 Don, the grandson, bought the farm from family members. Don then proceeded to build a new home, and did most of the work himself. He also lowered the roof on the old red 2 story barn. The windmill also came down. During the era of CB Radio, Don's handle was "BIG RED BARN".

At the end of the lane into the farm is a cemetery and at one time stood a Baptist church. In 1896 these two acres were donated by the family to the

church.

Don and wife, Delores (Higgins) are very much involved in the VFW organization. They can usually be found in the VFW club in Naper on certain Saturday nights frying Hamburgers and tending bar.

Families such as this Schock family helped communities to survive throughout the years. Nebraska is strong because of such families.



Ol' Homesteader, Continued from Page 4

Then the weather took a turn for the better and there were 50+ days of above-average temperatures. Took a while to thaw Ol' Homesteader out.

Friends Who Left Us

Earl Faatz was killed in a tragic automobile accident south of Bonesteel. He'd lived at Naper all his life and is missed by all of us.

Zoe (Brown) Higgins was 95 years old when she passed away. She'd lived near Naper until 1964 when she moved to Gregory where she was very active and busy until suffering a heart attack in November.

Adeline Becker had lived west of Naper for nearly 50 years. She passed away in February.

Jerry Hamling, who operated a dairy north of Naper for many years, also passed away in February.

Kids' Doin's

The Spencer-Naper varsity basketball team earned another trip to the state tournament, their 6th in a row. At the time Ol' Homesteader had to finish up this story, they hadn't yet played a game. But they've made us proud just to be there again.

Holly Vogt and Marcus Alford have been shootin' and scootin' for Spencer-Naper during the basketball season. The Boys' Varsity team qualified for the State Tournament for the sixth year in a row.

Logan Titus-Ahlers played for the junior high girls' team.

Shelly Melton played for the Butte Wildcats. Kaitlin Higgins played for the junior high team. Samantha McCarthy won the Boyd County KC Free Throw contest in the 10-year-old girls' division.

Kaitlin Higgins, Kendall McCarthy, John Higgins, Marcus Alford, Holly Vogt, and Kelsey Zink made Ol' Homesteader proud when they made the honor roll!

Ryon Vogt was chosen Prince of Hearts at the 2006 Spencer-Naper Carnival of Hearts.

And with that, I'm gonna sit me back and have another glass of warm cider fore I drift off to sleep. 'Til next time, I remain yours truly...



COME ON DOWN!

SPRING FLING

Thursday, March 30, 2006
7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall
Sponsored by the Village Board and the Naper Historical Society
Potluck Supper
Games for the Kids
Bingo for Interested Adults

ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, May 27, 2006, at the Town Hall
6:00 P.M. Social Hour
7:00 P.M. Banquet
Cost: \$8.00 for the banquet
plus \$1.00 dues for graduates.
For more information, contact
Sharon Vogt at 402-832-5549.

Something To Think About

(I bet Naper's homesteaders did!)

Life is easier than you think –
All you have to do is this:
Accept the impossible,
Do without the indispensable,
Bear the intolerable,
And be able to Smile at Anything.
- Anonymous

Memorials to Loved Ones

The Naper Historical Society has received several contributions to Memorials honoring friends & family.

We would like to suggest that this is a great remembrance to our loved ones.

In view of the interest shown in this kind of Memorial, we will start a plaque honoring these special people in our lives that will be placed in the Museum.



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

Hi! A short note of thanks for your latest edition featuring the picture of Doug Martin. Well written as were all the articles. I think Naper and surrounding area can well be proud of your honest endeavors. I'm sending a check as I do so enjoy getting your paper. May 2006 be well blessed for you and yours! Best wishes.

Elayne Weickum

Enclosed a check to the Naper Paper. What a joy to read. Keep up the great work.

Allen & Lavonne Boes

Looking at the picture of 1903, wish we could have done this history back then. My dad Bill Gentele was born in 1903. I could have gotten history from my Grandma Gentele. My Grandma Anna Kortmeyer lived behind the jail in 1940. She got the house from Sally Green. I sure enjoy the news of the Naper Paper. Will help out anytime I can. God Bless. Love,

Velda Hannahs

Look forward to the Naper Paper. Always interesting.

Bob & Donna Wittmeier

Enjoy the Naper Paper and all the memories. Am enclosing a donation. Thanks again.

Ron Sieh
Class of 57

Greetings! Thank you for the Naper Paper I received a while back. I truly enjoyed reading it. I live here in Pierre and don't hear much news from my community where I grew up, in and around Jamison and Naper. I am sending a check to help the publication. Please keep the good work of publishing the Naper Paper. I always look forward to receiving it in the mail. Thank you.

Linda (Johnson) Chambers
Pierre, South Dakota

Enjoy reading the Naper Paper and the letters from people who I remember growing up on the farm in Naper, and the life I had back before coming to California

in 1948. Enclosed is a check to help with publication costs.

Yours in Christian Love,
Ruth Camin Compton,
San Martin, California

Naper Historical Society, Kudos! Keep up the great work! You make us proud.

Kem Ahlers,

Apex, North Carolina

Thank you for sending the Naper Paper. Enjoy each issue.

Russ Reber

Thanks for the Naper Paper. We enjoy reading it. Enclosed is a contribution to help with costs. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Marv Stoltenberg

Again I am glad for the Naper Paper. It brings back a lot of fond memories. My husband and I have been married 65 years, enjoy good health and a great family. Keep up the good work. Enclosed find a check to help cover costs.

Ruth (Kibby) Horn

Sweet Home, Oregon

I always enjoy receiving the paper & don't want to miss an issue! Thanks to all those whose efforts keep the publication going. Kind regards,

Sharla Mills

Scottsdale, Arizona

We continue to enjoy reading the Naper Paper.

Don & Joyce Stukel

Although I left Naper in 1936, I have continued to correspond with friends - Clara Ahlers Kulm Neumiller, Bunko; Edna Camin Aylin-Revilak, San Leandro, California, and more recently with Amanda Camin Schockemaier, Bonesteel; also Vera Sieh Schonefield kept in touch before her death. The news published in the Naper Paper, selected by members of the Naper Historical Society, is most remarkable. In one of the issues, I enjoyed the story of Adolf Schuitz, and in the Autumn 2005 issue "100 Years in the Family" by Dennis

Camin. Every issue has been so interesting. Those two articles brought back memories because the Clausen family also lived along the Keya Paha River. To show my appreciation for the Naper Paper, I am enclosing a check. Thank you for the wonderful publications.

Martha Clausen

Green Valley, Arizona

We sooo enjoy the Naper Paper. When it comes in the mail everything stops until I get it read. My family really enjoys the camaraderie. Keep up the good work. I'm enclosing a contribution.

Jean Reimen

Thank you for the Naper Paper.

Ruth Katzer Lewis

Keep the presses rolling. I enjoy this little paper. Always,

Dorothy Graves

Dear friends at the Naper Paper, Thank you for a most interesting paper. Please keep them coming. I have a question. Are the items in the museum insured? Thank you and have a very great New Year.

Paul Sprenkle

(Note to Paul: Most of the items in Heritage Hall have enormous sentimental and historical value, but little monetary value. There is no blanket insurance policy on the items, however people who loan items can include them in their policies.)

We look forward to receiving the Naper Paper each time. Enjoy reading the events about the home town. Enclosed is a check. Happy New Year to all.

Howard & Beverly Camin

Always a pleasure to assist such a nice link to the past. Thanks to the many of you that bring it together.

Wayne & Neita Andersen

p.s. I'm soon to be eligible for an interview with the Circuit Rider.

(Note to Wayne & Neita: Since the Circuit Rider happens to also be a subscriber to this paper, you just might hear from him!)



A PUBLICATION FOR
AND ABOUT THE
TOWN OF NAPER,
NEBRASKA

The Naper Paper
PO Box 72
Naper, Nebraska 68755

The Naper Paper blows into town again!

(Kinda' like a big dust storm!)

IN THIS ISSUE

- The Future of Naper, NE
- Tales of Naper's Hardware Stores
- Schock Family Farm Celebrates 100 Years
- Small Goose Brings Large Headaches
- Memories of Town Night
- Ol' Homesteader
- Circuit Rider
- Letters to the Naper Paper

... And much more!

YOUR PAPER

In reading the letters that were sent to the Naper Paper for this issue, it occurred to us that this little paper has become exactly what we hoped it would be. This isn't a big, fancy newspaper that takes itself seriously. It's really like an ongoing letter among friends, each of us sharing memories of our home town and reading the memories of others. Do you know that over two dozen people have written articles since we started three years ago? And that's not counting the 200+ people who have written letters. We have printed nearly everything we've received. We don't have a staff of writers. In fact we don't have a staff at all. This paper is truly your paper... or rather "our" paper... it exists because those of us who live in Naper (or formerly lived here) want it to exist, and because we contribute to it with stories, letters, time and an occasional donation. Thanks to each and every one of you!

The

Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society

PO Box 72

Naper, NE 68755

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