

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

The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor the history, original structures, special places and artifacts of the people and culture of Naper, Nebraska, and the surrounding area. The Naper Historical Society intends to accomplish this mission by operating a museum, publishing a newsletter, sponsoring events, and in other appropriate ways. The Naper Historical Society will initially focus on four themes: School Days, Life in Naper Through the Years, White Horse Ranch, and Naper 28 Plane Crash.

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VFW POST 8256

Hundreds of young men from northern Nebraska served in World War II. When some of those from the Naper community returned, they decided to form a Veterans of Foreign Wars post.

The VFW was established in 1899 and is the largest and oldest war veterans service organization. Veterans who served the United States in wars, campaigns and expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters are eligible to join. The purpose is to speed rehabilitation of disabled and needy veterans, assist veterans' widows and orphans and promote Americanism. In 2016, there were 1,234,985 members nation-wide.

The local VFW received its charter and was designated Post #8256 on September 25, 1946, with 11 charter members: Lester H. Andersen, Ivil J. Bodine, Carl L. Cunningham, Robert D. Fuhrer, Roy E. Gammon, Ben F. Herrmann, Herman F. Nicolaus, Donald E. Putnam, Gerald R. Schmitz, Harold L. Schmitz, and Theodore H. Wentz. Harvey Davis was the first commander, followed by Lloyd Allpress, Harold Fischer, Howard Allpress, Raymond Stoltenberg, Marlan Breyer, George Alexander, Ben Herrmann, Harley Nicolaus, Laurence Nagel, James Cerny, Lyle Fuhrer, Donald Schock, Ben Fuhrer, Ray Fuhrer, Wayne Andersen, Paul Honke, Jim Blum, Tom Brauer and Dale Nicolaus who has served since 2006. Many of the commanders served more than one term. Several local members have held District 11 posts and Wayne Andersen served as state commander.

The first post home was a rural school house that had been moved to Naper east of the former Post Office where the car wash is located now.



Members after a meeting: **Jim Blum, Ray Fuhrer, Don Schock, Jon Dyer, Leonard Schmitz, Tom Brauer, Dale Nicolaus**

At one time the building currently used by the VFW was the Naper Theater. The town of Naper bought it for taxes and rented it to the VFW for \$1 per year. The east end of the building is used by the Naper Volunteer Firemen and houses one of the fire trucks and the ambulance. The rest of the building has had two additions over the years and is used for many community events, from the firemen's steak suppers during winter months to bridal showers and baby showers, from wedding dances and anniversary celebrations to family reunions and birthday parties. Local groups use the building for meetings and for a classroom.

In the past 72 years, the local members have donated hundreds of hours of their time for events enjoyed by everyone in the community. They sponsored a baseball team. Classes to update recently discharged veterans on new farming techniques were held for years. They donate money to the Veterans' Home in

Kearney for vans for disabled veterans. They helped with the White Horse Ranch shows. They furnish the Color Guard for veterans' funerals. (A few years ago, the obsolete M-1 rifles were replaced with newer semi-automatic rifles.) They organize Memorial Day services at the town hall and at Knoll Crest Cemetery where the color guard also serves. They have had a mountain oyster feed every year for 50 years. (Look for the next one in November.)

Two large boards are displayed in the club house, one with names of deceased members and the other with names of current members (51) including 38 life members. Flags, which were given to families of deceased members who then returned them to the post for safe-keeping, are displayed in a cabinet.



Veterans Memorial at Knoll Crest Cemetery



(VFW story continued on page 5)

SIXTY FIFTH ALUMNI BANQUET IS HISTORY!

Do you suppose those brave souls who gathered in 1953 to start the alumni association and plan the first banquet had any idea it might continue this long?

Last year (See Naper Paper, Fall, 2017) lone Mayer Boucher Carstens wrote of some of the challenges facing those pioneers. It was quite a bit more complicated than making a couple of phone calls.

At this year's banquet, classes who graduated in years ending in eight were honored. There were 103 in attendance this year.

Keith Honke, class of 1978, served as master of ceremonies. He did a fine job helping all of us "Remember When." Lois Vogt designed and provided the placemats that featured photos of buildings that are no doubt remembered by graduates.

Lester Neumiller and Delores Zeitner Stahlecker represented the class of 1948. Delores had eleven members of her family join her for the evening.



Lori Goodman Clarkson, Tammera Mitchell Mashino and Tammy Wentz Haney, class of 1988

The class of 1958 has set the bar pretty high for years to come. There were 13 in their class, two of whom are deceased (Elmer Sattler and Sandra Putnam Colfack), and all of the remaining class members were at the banquet!

The class of 1968 managed to avoid a photo but Barry Schochenmaier, Mary Ellen Moody Ellwanger and Joyce Blum Mohling attended.

Dale Vogt, Steve Higgins, Ellen Reiman Boshart, Nancy Schmitz and Kem Ahlers attended from the class of 1978, as well as Keith Honke who was the emcee.

Tammy Mitchell Mashino, Tammy Wentz Haney and Lori Goodman Clarkson represented the class of 1988.

No graduates from 1998 or 2008 attended the banquet. Adrienne Bengtson and Blake Ahlers, class of 2018, were present and received the Naper Alumni Association Scholarship.

Bob Wentz (1958) and his daughter Tammy (1988) were both in honored classes. Janet Cline Eggert (1956) and her granddaughter Adrienne (2018) also attended.



Dale Vogt, Steve Higgins, Ellen Reiman Boshart, Nancy Schmitz, Keith Honke (master of ceremonies for the evening) and Kem Ahlers, class of 1978

Delores Zeitner Stahlecker and Lester Neumiller, representing the class of 1948.



Delores Zeitner Stahlecker had eleven family members join her at the banquet! Children Cindy and husband Cal, Doug and wife Jan, Lorena and husband Dale, Rex, Russell and wife Sally, Joe and his daughter Emma. Sorry, names are probably not in the correct order.

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WHAT AM I BID FOR THIS FINE SET OF DOUBLETREES?

Marilyn Sieh has several books her uncle, Dorwin Smith, used when he called and clerked auctions in the Naper vicinity. Some of the entries are worth noting, both the items sold and the prices.

From the H. Truhe sale, March 25, 1936, Henry Ludemann bought a horse collar for 10 cents, Otto Bentzen bought a set of canvasses for \$2.00, Joe Engelhart bought a set of doubletrees for \$1.45 and a neckyoke for 20 cents. Harold Bennett bought check wire for 30 cents and a cob fork for 60 cents. Dan Herrmann bought fly nets for \$1.25. Gus Adams bought cow chains (kickers?) for 20 cents. Dan Klein bought 50 steel posts for 24.5 cents each—\$12.25. Bill Vogt got the corn planter for \$10.00. Zeisler (no first name) bought a black horse for \$39.00. Alfred Stahlecker bought two horses, one for \$106.00 and one for \$97.50.

At G. C. Boyd's sale on June 6, 1936, Mrs. Holmgren bought the cookstove for \$9.00. W. E. Nicolaus bought the washing machine for \$5.00. Mrs. Fuhrer paid \$3.00 for the organ. Orville Vance paid \$1.00 for the phonograph. Dan Herra paid \$2.50 for a coon dog. Because everyone canned their food, dozens of jars were available and sold for four or five cents each. Grover Wilson, Clem Cerny and Orville Vance all bought traps. Fred A. Putnam bought a coyote pen (???) for \$11.00. Fred Spahn bought a sow and five pigs for \$37.00. Fernau (no first name) bought a shed for \$20.50. E. E. Conrad bought the house for \$300!

You might think these were real bargains but in 1936, a man would furnish his team, his hayrack and his labor hauling bundles for \$1.00 a day. Everything is relative.



Class of 1958: Shirley Bechtold Olivier, Lois Kibby Chittim, Margaret Bendig Hein, Lorna Sieh Dillon, Bill Schultz, Bob Wentz, Ken Stoltenberg, John Peterson, Melvin Bentzen, Marvin Cline, Duane Kibby

THANKS! To the group who shows up in February and makes the plans, to the group who shows up in March and stuffs the envelopes, to the group who shows up the night before the banquet to set up and decorate, to Lois for making the placemats, to Mary Finnegan’s crew from Nebrask-Inn who provide such good food, to the clean-up crew, to Tara Ahlers who took photos this year, to everyone who attends. We’re well aware our numbers are becoming fewer so the worker bees are happy to see so many attendees.



Two of the recipients of the Naper Alumni Association Scholarship-Adrienne Bengtson and Blake Ahlers, class of 2018

The Naper Alumni Scholarship (currently \$150) is presented to all local graduates who go on to post-high school education. We appreciate all who send separate checks or add a little to their check for the banquet because it adds up in a hurry. This year, \$735 was designated for scholarship. Adrienne and Blake attended the banquet and received their scholarship award at that time. Jesse Cline and Harmony Tapley received theirs later. The scholarship checks will be distributed in September. So, to everyone who helps with this project, THANK YOU!

LIBRARY NEWS . . .

The library has received dozens and dozens of new books, thanks to folks who have down-sized their homes. Not all of these books will end up on the library shelves because space is limited.

The library staff (aka book club members) look at all the books and decide if they will be shelved, sent to the local care centers or hospital waiting rooms, or put in the “Free Books” bookcase in the Naper Café. Sometimes the members know of someone who likes a certain author or specific genre of books. Books are then selected and delivered to them.

There are local and regional history

books, United States and world history and geography books, cookbooks, gardening books, craft books, poetry, biography and autobiography, as well as fiction—mystery, inspirational, humor, historical drama. Whatever your interest is, there’s probably a book in our library for you!

If you have a favorite author or genre, stop in and check out the selections available. You’ll find Louis L’Amour, David Baldacci, Danielle Steel, Nicholas Sparks, John Grisham, Jodi Piccoult and Mary Higgins Clark, among others, plus our local authors Blair (Vogt) Kluckman, Travis Heermann and Marge (Kortmeyer) Saiser.

The “Free Book” bookcase in the café sees lots of activity. Recently a large box of Westerns was placed on top of the shelves. Once in a while someone brings books and trades them.

This summer, Ross and Jessie Vogt’s daughters started an “Afternoon at the Library” on Thursdays when book club members had the library open. They chose books to read, involved the guests in games and stories, and brought treats. Such ambitious and creative young ladies. Thanks, Ellie and Elizabeth.

KEEP THOSE PAGES TURNING!

WHAT CAN I PERSONALLY DO TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM IN MY SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY?

By Zander Kluckman

There are many things I can do to promote Americanism in my school or community.

One thing I can do to promote Americanism is volunteering around the school and fundraising. I could raise the flag every morning and lower it after school. I could wear patriotic shirts or clothes to school. I can also speak what is on my mind to show what I believe in.

To promote Americanism in my community I could start something where you send a thank you card to a veteran. I could also go to a cemetery and put flowers on the graves of fallen veterans on Memorial Day. On Veterans Day our school could make pictures or different crafts to give to veterans. I could go door-to-door to veterans' homes and give them gifts for serving our country.

I could volunteer to do things around the community or the school. I could pick up trash in the ditch and around town or rescue hurt animals. I could make sure people don't litter anywhere. I could also save animals for a shelter, and help families adopt some.

If there is a tornado that destroys a town I could help rebuild their town. I could donate to a place that has had a natural disaster or a terrorist attack. I could send clothes or toys to countries that need

them. I could also donate to poor or homeless people that need clothes, money, or even a home.

Some things I could do to help the environment in my community is plant trees or seed grass. I could build greenhouses to plant flowers or fruits. I could send the fruits to families or countries that need it. I could make bird feeders to keep the birds around.

Something I could do is try to stop bullying at the school. I could do that by standing up for somebody that is getting bullied or I could tell an adult. I could tell the bully's parents to help stop bullying. In the school I could behave in class because good American children should behave in classrooms and make school enjoyable. If everybody listened and was good, school would be much more fun because we would have more privileges.

As you can see there are very many things you or I can do to promote Americanism in the school or community. Will you strive to promote Americanism?

(This essay was a prize winner in the American Legion Americanism contest. Zander is the son of Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman, the grandson of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, the great-grandson of Don and Gloria Beem Vogt and Charlotte and the late Harley Nicolaus.)

TORNADO ALERT! 1962

(As told to Barb Jons by Elaine Noonan, daughter of Jack and Frances Peterson. Elaine and husband Johnny live in Ankeny, Iowa.)

It was the day after Mother's Day, 1962, and the only ones there were Mom and Dad, myself, my ten-month-old son Terry and Carol Ann's second-to-the-oldest child Lori Anne, age four. (Lori turns 60 this year.) I was pregnant with son Chris at the time.

[When the tornado hit,] Dad pulled Lori Anne down and stuck her under the washing machine. The tornado seemed like it lasted forever, but it really didn't last long. It took everything on the place but the car. It turned the car around and broke all the windows.

After the storm they found us in the car because that's all that was left. Our neighbor Gertie Honke came and took Terry home, dried him off and kept him warm. The rest of us were taken to the hospital in Lynch.

Mom had broken ribs and needed a lot of stitches. Dad had gravel embedded in his head because he was bald. They were able to get some of it out, but the rest had to work itself out over time. Terry did not have a scratch on him.

The tornado took a pretty good strip (one-half mile wide) and hit many farms including those of Paul Honke, Adolf Klien, Andrew Blum, Alnard Heermann, Leonard Schmitz (formerly Frank Cerny place) and our place.

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KEEP NAPER STRONG
BUY LOCAL WHEN YOU CAN

Lovera Reber Remembers Her Neighbors

(Ed Note: A few weeks ago, several old interviews surfaced. When Lovera's interview was in the Naper Paper (Spring, 2008), not all of these recollections were included. We think you'll find them interesting.)

In June, 1954, we made a trip to Neligh, Nebraska, where we met Marlan Breyer to purchase our farm. Milo took his brother Galvin and an attorney from Burke. His parents stayed with our four kids while we were gone. I don't recall the attorney's name but Milo always called him "Freeze" as he wore ear flappers year round! We moved June 18, 1954.

There had been a terrible hail storm on June 6 and broke the west windows but Marlan Breyer and Albert Dalldorf had them repaired before we moved.

Ethie and Grant Reber lived within two miles and had brought a big roast beef with potatoes and carrots for our dinner that day—oh, so good! Ethie was a good cook and our kids enjoyed the antics of Karen as she was older and cooked up a lot of fun things.

Bill and Emma Vogt lived north of us and had five daughters. The youngest, Bonnie, and our daughter Myra were playmates. They made a playhouse down by the creek under some big trees. Nails in trees can still be found where pans hung.

Harold and Marian Schultz family lived east of us on Ward and Luree's [Barnes] property. Sattlers, Connie and Emma, lived south of us. Emma and Hazel Helenbolt from the United Church of Christ were the first to call on us. Rhiney and Bertha Fuhrer and Joan lived about a mile northeast. Later Joan taught our four oldest children.

Bill and Annie Ulrich and Dallas and Lorraine Ulrich were wonderful friends. Vicki and Myra were friends. She spent nights here and vice versa. Once she was here and Milo was in the Burke Hospital. Those two girls helped me pull a calf! Annie helped me a lot, papering and giving a lot of advice. One night we were visiting Bill and Annie and Dale whispered to me, "I'm kinda hungry", smelling the homemade bread that was on the counter. She knew kids were always hungry and began slicing a loaf, smearing it with chokecherry jelly—YUM!

Ward and Luree returned to their farm after Ward had recovered from a heart attack. Milo and Ward hayed together.

I taught school for 30 years, the first was Spotted Tail southwest of Jamison. Some students are still around. My last semester of teaching was in Spencer where I helped with the kindergarten class.

My father, Axel Peterson, was notified he'd have to return to Sweden or serve in the United States Army. He chose the Army and gained his citizenship by doing so. Five of my brothers, my husband Milo, and my sons Nilo and Dale all served their country in some branch of the service.

(VFW story continued)

Although membership has declined the past few years, you will still see a crowd gather every Saturday night when the aroma of hamburgers and fries fills the air and folks gather around the tables to enjoy good food and good company.

Next issue: The story of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the VFW Post 8256

REMEMBER WHEN...

WOMEN'S HAIR STYLES THROUGH THE YEARS

by Marilyn Sieh

I remember my great-grandmother putting her curling iron, which was shaped like the modern electric curling irons, into the hot chimney of her kerosene lamp making the long cylinder warm enough to create the heat needed to shape curls.

When Mom was young, she sported a marcel hair style. Pictured below is the tool which I have that was used to make this wave. I wonder how you would protect this beautiful hair style from being ruined. When did hair nets come into being?



Remember when we had pincurls? We wrapped a small section of hair around our finger, pressing the curl to our head and fastening it with a bobby pin. Later we could fasten the curl with a spring-loaded metal clip which opened and closed by squeezing the end of the clip with our fingers.

And curlers—we wrapped our hair around a hollow plastic cylinder and stuck plastic picks through the hair and roller which secured it to the scalp. There were women who slept with these curlers at night. My question was: "How could they get any sleep with those hard curlers in their hair?" From hard plastic rollers we went to sponge rollers with a plastic fastener which ran across the roller and snapped on the other side.

In the late 70's, long straight hair was the popular style in school. The girls parted their hair in the middle.

Later the ladies started wearing "teased" hair with lots of hair spray to hold it in place until the next weekly appointment. Some bought satin pillowcases to sleep on to protect the style.

Now the styles are more relaxed and anything goes. I left out a couple of short-lived styles and I am also pretty sure I missed a few styles.

Anyway, this will refresh your memories and that is what "Remember When" is all about.

Frances Fast Smith
with her marcel wave.





THE OL' HOMESTEADER KEEPS A-LOOKIN' AND A- LISTENIN' FOR NEWS

HELLO, WORLD!

Jaelyn Nicole Hilger was born February 12 to Tanner and Susan Nicolaus Hilger.

Dale and Cheryl Nicolaus and Linda Reiman Vomacka are grandparents.

Aaron David was born May 24 to Tony and Becky Schmitz. Grandparents are Dave and Carmen Schmitz; great-grandparents are Leonard and Thelma Schmitz.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Blair Kluckman was in Naper May 26 for a book signing at the Naper Library.

Dylan Reiman (Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman's son) and Laura Ohri were married July 7 in Spencer.

Alex Bendig (Kelly and Monica Hausmann Bendig's son) and Kerstyn Rysebol were married July 14 in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

Jamie Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino) and Dylan Haul were married August 11 in O'Neill.

Tina Schmitz (daughter of Dave and Carmen Schmitz) and Adam Dethlefs were married August 11 in Kearney.

MUSEUM VISITORS

The White Horse Ranch Museum was of great interest to Liz Dykstra and her friend Carol as Liz's mother and aunt (Betty and Gail Holloway) lived at the ranch and rode with the troupe in 1947 and 1948. They found a picture of Gail displayed!

Delores Benson and Elaine Kramer stopped by one day and reminisced about their days at the ranch.

The annual report of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation features a photo of a White Horse Ranch trouser executing a jump bareback. The caption reads: "White Horse Ranch near Naper, Nebraska, 1953. Founded by Caleb "Cal" Thompson, the White Horse Ranch thrilled

audiences throughout the United States and Canada. Guiding their horses through spectacular tricks, the White Horse Troupe toured the United States and Canada from 1938 to 1963. The ranch's archives, plus many photos and objects are in the collections of the NSHS." Thanks to Roger Ludemann for providing us with a copy.

FAIR DAYS . . .

The Boyd County Fair was held the first week in August and many youngsters from the Naper area received ribbons, including Natasha, Ethan and Savanna Zeisler (children of Jesse and Kimberly), Gina and Kyla McCarthy (daughters of Darrin and Connie), Emerson Higgins (daughter of Skye and Allison), Shaeden Polenske (daughter of Guy Polenske and Trudy Waterman), and Kaci and Baleigh Koenig (daughters of Kevin and Staci).

Lucas Alford, son of Marcus and CJ, won the pedal pull for four-year-olds.

SCHOOL DAYS

Evan Reiman (son of Casey and Lisa), Austin and Isaac Koenig (sons of Kevin and Staci), Kaci Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy) and Natasha Zeisler are running on the cross-country team for Boyd County Schools.

Hannah Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth) and Gina McCarthy are on the volleyball team.

Simon Arellano (son of Ross and Jessie Vogt) is playing football.

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Wilma Merle Rockholm Butler who was featured in the Winter, 2018, Naper Paper, died in Hesperia, California, May 25. She was a 1934 graduate of Naper High School and lived 102 fine years.

Marlin Green, a 1954 graduate of Naper High School, died July 27. He and his wife, Joan Fuhrer Green (also a 1954 graduate), operated a service station in Burke for many years.

The Naper Paper is your paper. We rely on you, our readers, for support, both financial and "pat on the back". We count on you for stories and ideas about what we need to write, print, explore, photograph. We appreciate you and want to say "Thanks!"

UPDATE ON UPKEEP

In the last issue, caretakers' names for the Lutheran Cemetery west of Naper were inadvertently omitted. Randy Karnes and his sons Jacob, Noah, and Liam are the crew who do a fine job there.

On one of the hottest days of the summer, Barb Jons, Bill Peppel, Ross Vogt, Amber Bendig, Grace Bendig, Kelly Vogt and Ann Anderson spruced up Knoll Crest Cemetery. Other helpers on other days include Bev Zink and Carmen Schmitz. Since the Naper area has been blessed with such an abundance of rain this spring, it has been a real challenge to keep ahead of the grass.

Jessica Vogt and children Elizabeth, Ellie, Simon and Harmony painted all 160 panels of the fence along Sacred Heart Cemetery and Knoll Crest Cemetery. It looks great!

NAPER HIGH SCHOOL FANS



Some of the crowd at the Keya Paha County vs. Naper High School volleyball game, 1981.

Top: Darrell and Wilma Audiss, Ann and Larry Anderson, Judy Cline holding Pamela

Middle: Marguerite Ludemann, Carmen Schmitz holding Tony, Adamae Moody, Bernice Tuton

Front: Kathy Vance, Jim Blum, Thelma and Leonard Schmitz, Ada Riesselman

LETTERS—AND THEN MORE OF THEM!

Sure do enjoy the Naper Paper! Those “good ole days” were still the good days. At times I wished we were still there. Sending a check to help with expenses. Keep up the great work.
Jean Reiman

Enclosed is a donation for the Naper Paper in memory of my two brothers. Bernie Ludemann graduated from Naper High School and Carl Ludemann lived forever in Naper. Miss them always. Thank you for sending the paper.
Donna Ludemann Vroegh

Here is our donation to be divided between the paper and the museum. It is always fun to take tours through the two museums when we are “back home to visit” and to remember our heritage along with new items presented there.
Wayne and Betty Cline

Please cancel my mother Barbara Schochenmaier’s subscription. She passed on May 1st but did enjoy reading it.
Pat Petersen

(Ed. Note: Our condolences to you.)

Thank you for mailing your information about Naper and what happens there. I am missing you—that’s for sure—but as you can see, I am still alive and Life is good to me.

How is Jerry Heermann’s family doing, his children et cetera, everybody now is grown to adulthood.

So are my granddaughters. Michelle is at the University of Chicago, Carina at the University of Wisconsin, Lisi just finished high school and is planning to start university in California. My eight year old granddaughter Julia is in third grade and probably the smartest of all of them.

My son Marc married a second time after divorcing Susi who now lives in Galena, IL. Thank you again for remembering me, please give my best wishes to everybody.

Helmi Ludwig and family
(Ed. Note: Included in Helmi’s letter is the following essay.)

Down to the Lake I Go . . .

Down to the Lake I go, anytime, regardless of the season. Spring, Summer, Fall are, of course, my preference to go, be near Wilmette’s waterfront, my Lake Michigan.

You don’t have to be in the ‘right mood’ or have the ‘right’ combination of influencing circumstances to go and stand there, maybe, sit on a favored bench, close to where the waves try to reach you.

In back of you stretches Gilson Park and a little to the right towers Baha’i Temple. You know they are there but I am here to look at the waves; sometimes I just look with patience at one individual wave.

My eyes follow that wave, rising way out in the distance, gain volume, come closer, lap higher, change color when light hits its always changing form from different angles. The wave falls into itself, disappears, and, then, starts flowing again.

This continuity of action in its monotony is mesmerizing. Sometimes, the one wave I am watching seems determined to make it all the way towards the sandy shore, to lap at my bare feet and, maybe, be content to reach this point. The waves in front and following won’t let this happen. They all strive to make it to shore, if necessary together, adjusting their speed, shape, direction.

The force behind it all is so complex, that the individual wave originates and then becomes part of the unified goal, where the end is the beginning of the whole game.

When I can accept that all is repetition I go home, knowing I will be back another day. When one cannot have the world and its wonders, the big oceans and towering mountains, Wilmette is the very best place to be and stay.

How lucky we are here, on the North Shore, where Sheridan Road runs alongside the Lake we love.

Helmi Roling-Ludwig

Just a note to let you know how very much we enjoy the Naper newspaper. A lot of the folks we don’t know but the stories about them are very interesting. For our 59th wedding anniversary, we came over to Naper for lunch—we really enjoy their café—so clean and good food. Keep up the good work.

Brenda and Bob Prill

I really enjoyed the baseball story from the Spring paper. It reminded me of when I played ball in the late 80’s to early 90’s. We always played before the adults softball games. I can remember dad (David Schmitz) playing along with Keith Cline, the Nicolaus brothers, Tim Whitley, Tom Brauer, Larry Baumeister, Brad Cerny and others I don’t remember. My friend Matt Cerny often worked as their bat boy. We would collect cans after the game to earn a free rope licorice from the concession stand and you could take a foul ball to Ted Wentz in the crows nest for a dime! Speaking of Ted. He was the one that introduced me to scoring. I volunteered to help one summer in high school in the mid-nineties.

I do remember what was probably the last fireworks night. Me and Matt still often relive those days. Such fond memories.

Thought you may be looking for family updates to add to the paper for the summer issue. Back on May 24th my wife and I (Tony and Becky Schmitz) had our 4th. A boy. Aaron David Schmitz. David and Carmen are the grandparents, Leonard and Thelma are the great-grandparents.

Also my sister Tina Schmitz is getting married on Aug 11th in Kearney to Adam Dethlefs from Kearney. Thanks for taking the time to publish the paper.

Tony Schmitz
(Ed. Note: Thank you for all the good memories. Do you also remember the clouds of insects that flew around the lights at the ball field? I was always amazed there could be that many insects in one place that could find room to fly.)

I’m sorry this is so late. I thank you so much for sending me the Naper Paper. I remember many of the names, since my aunts, JoAnn Mitchell and Mavis Collins, talked about them. I (and my brother Don) stayed with my grandparents, Charles Eugene (Gene) and Gladys Putnam, when my mom, Marie Putnam Pretzer, was in the hospital in Omaha. For a few months I even went to school at Naper and was in the class picture.

It’s wonderful to have those memories kept alive by the Naper Paper.

Thanks again for the good job you are doing.

Brenda Pretzer



Bob Wentz and Tim Whitley cleaning up debris left after a summer storm.

AND JUST A LITTLE HUMOR TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY . . .

Why do golfers take an extra pair of socks when they head to the golf course? So they can get a hole in one!

How much does a pirate pay for corn? About a buccaneer!

Why couldn’t the bicycle stand up by itself? It was “two” tired.

Don’t interrupt someone working intently on a puzzle. Chances are you’ll hear some crosswords!

Middle age is when the kids leave one by one, only to return two by two.

As a child, my family’s menu consisted of two choices—take it or leave it!

Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.

NAPER PAPER

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Standing (left to right): Olida Sieh, Clara Neumiller, Annie Stoltenberg, Frances Smith, Mary Maertin, Emma Sattler, Esther Stahlecker, Emma Camin, Vera Stahlecker, Annie Ulrich, Frieda Blakkolb, Marie Schock, Annie Sieh,
Seated: Hattie Meyer, Louise Schaible (Chris Neumiller's sister), Minnie Wentz
Photo about 1970 by Elsie Wentz; loaned to the Naper Paper by Bob Wentz