

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

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

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Naper Paper

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DUCK PINS? WHAT ARE DUCK PINS?

You just never know where conversations will lead, do you?

One Wednesday afternoon at the card table in the Naper Café, someone talked about how much they had enjoyed bowling in years past. Art Martins said there used to be a duck pin alley in Naper.

Duck pins is a game similar to bowling. The pins are somewhat smaller than bowling pins and the ball is about the size of a softball, but has no finger holes. The lanes are the same length as bowling lanes with a gutter on each side.

Scoring is similar to bowling, but three balls can be thrown instead of two. If all the pins fall on the first ball, it is a strike. If the pins fall on two balls, it is a spare. If it takes three balls to get all of them, they are still counted but as single pins.

Chris Neumiller and Roy Gammon were partners in the duck pin business. Harry Fuhrer and Gene McLaughlin owned a tavern on the east side of Main Street but it wasn't long enough to accommodate the duck pin alley. It was decided to extend the building and Lawrence Antoine was hired as the block layer and Lester Neumiller mixed concrete.

Two teams of four members each competed at once. The pinsetters, among them Art Martins, Neil Helenbolt, Duane Sieh and Mac Broekemeier, earned \$1 an hour or 5c a line. (In 1953, an automatic pinsetter was invented that had over 1,000 moving parts! However one of them never made its appearance

in Naper.)

Some of the duck pin players were Art Martin (not the pinsetter), Clem Cerny, Fritz Sieh, Everett Smith, and Ed Cerny. The teams competed in other towns, as far away as Winner. Elsie Stoltenberg was a member of one of the women's teams.

Since the ball was smaller and lighter than a bowling ball, it could produce some powerful pin action. One evening, Ernie Zeisler threw the ball overhand and the pins flew like crazy, nearly injuring Glenn Brown who was setting pins that night.

When Louis and Midge Kortmeyer built their café on the west side of Main Street, they moved the duck pin alley and converted it to a one-lane bowling alley in the basement. Jim Blum, as one of the pinsetters, made 10c per game. They also had a pool table in the basement. The café was a "split foyer" building. After you entered the front door, you could either go up several steps to the café or go down to the "game room."

ANOTHER RIVERSIDE BASEBALL PICTURE



AND ALSO ON MAIN STREET . . .

In 1947 on Main Street in Naper, there were three grocery stores, Maertins, Blakkolbs, and Bouchers. There were four gas stations, one on each corner of Main Street. Two of them also were cream stations.

The Woodmen of the World building (with the duck pin alley) housed a tavern, owned at different times by Harry Fuhrer, Gene McLaughlin or Art Wentz. It was on the east side of the street, north of where A&M is now located.

Later Jerry and Sarah Schmitz operated their cream station in that building. Remember how heavy a ten-gallon can of cream was? Little Sarah would take a sample of cream and test it for butterfat, grab the can and empty it into another can provided by the creamery. Then she would hoist the can up on the drain-board and hold it over the steam vent to clean it. Jerry and Sarah also bought eggs. Most families bought their groceries, plus dry goods and occasionally clothing, at one of the grocery stores with that precious cream and egg check.

Barney and Bertha Smith had a café in the building on the north side of Wentz's tavern. They had a small window/door on the side of the building from which they could serve liquor. Alfred "Butch" and his twin Alberta Boucher ran the café after Smiths.

Ivil Bodine, who carried mail on the Star Route from St. Charles to Naper, operated his barber shop in a little building north of the café before moving his shop to the back of the old post office.

LEFT: Bob Allpress found this photo of the Riverside team playing in Naper, 1910. The picture was taken just south of the old Congregational Church (now UCC). Some of the buildings at the far right are most likely part of Krotter's Lumber Yard.

MARCH 14, 2019 FLOOD PICTURES

It began to rain March 13. The winter had already been long and cold with plenty of snow and ice. The ground was still frozen and the rain had no where to go but run downhill. Precipitation varied from 1.5 to 2.5 inches that night and about 4:30 a.m, March 14, the bridge south of Naper was swept away entirely by huge blocks of ice and rushing water. The ice built up on the river banks at least 20 feet deep and extended for many yards on either side.



Photo taken March 15, looking south at the Niobrara River south of Naper.



Photo taken March 15, 2019, just north of the Keya Paha River bridge south of Naper. Notice how high the ice is on the road sign and on the trees.



Photo taken March 15, on the road south of Naper. This is a corn field on the prairie between the Keya Paha and Niobrara Rivers. The water had run across the road earlier. Notice how high the ice is on the fence posts.

About five miles east of the above photo ("The Point"), the Keya Paha River and the Niobrara join. All of that water rushed toward the Highway 11 bridge south of Butte. Although the bridge wasn't washed away, it was damaged and the approach was seriously torn up. Jack Engelhaupt, who lives just north of the river, thought all of this happened about 5:30 a.m. on March 14. Butte's water supply, which comes from wells between Engelhaupt's land and the river, was compromised.

RIGHT: Niobrara River bridge on Highway 11 south of Butte. The bridge is intact. Notice the huge blocks of ice on the bridge and approach.



The Niobrara River water and ice chunks rushed downstream toward the Spencer Dam which had been built in 1927. An employee of the dam attempted to reduce the size of the ice blocks with a specially equipped chain saw but soon decided it was of no use. The men at the dam notified Kenneth Angel who lived on the south side of the river that he needed to get away. The employees got back across the bridge before the dam washed out. A huge block of ice took out a chunk of the powerhouse. The river then tore a new channel through the area where the Straw Bale Saloon, the camp ground and the Angel house stood. Mr. Angel is still missing. The water line that provided water for Rural Water District #2 was destroyed. Replacement costs are astronomical.

Much of Bristow and the east half of the village of Lynch were underwater from Ponca Creek. [No photos from that area]

At the time of this publication, there are no plans in place to repair or replace the bridges south of Naper or Spencer. However, it is hoped the bridge south of Butte will be approved for travel by the end of August.

If you would like to contribute to flood relief for Boyd County, you may send donations to:

**Farmers State Bank,
Box 217,
Spencer, NE 68777**

**Nebraska State Bank
Box 75,
Lynch, NE 68746**

PRAYER TO THINK ABOUT

For some, nothing important happened today. For others, *everything* important happened today. *Everything* changed today.

Today, much of Nebraska woke up to a world completely unrecognizable. Today, roads connecting ranchers and farmers to their livestock were severely compromised. Today, highways connecting small communities were washed away.

Today, businesses that families spent their whole lives building disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Today, bridges that took years to build are in ruins.

Today, tears are shed.

Today, homes are gone.

Today, lives were destroyed.

Today, lives were changed forever.

Today, "The Good Life" doesn't feel so good.

But other things happened today, too.

Today, the sun came out . . . if just for a moment.

Today, the wind is dying down.

Today, the angry storm clouds have disappeared.

Today, electricity was restored in some parts of the state.

Today, selfless men and women, EMTs, first responders, nurses, doctors, law enforcement officers, linemen, and emergency crews all risked their safety to help others.

Today, people have been rescued.

Today, people's lives have been saved.

Today, people acted selflessly.

Today, people have shown love and compassion.

Today, people thanked God for their loved ones.

Today, people folded their hands.

Today, people hit their knees.

Today, we prayed harder than we have ever prayed.

And because we survived today, there will be hope God will bring a better tomorrow.

[Poem from Butte Gazette, April 4, 2019, written by Jazmin Bentz-Sedlacek on March 15, 2019.]



Above: Looking west toward the dam and powerhouse.

Below: The Niobrara River Bridge south of Spencer on Highway 281. The bridge seems to be intact but at least a quarter mile of approach to the south has been destroyed. [Photos taken March 15, 2019]



WHAT MADE THE NEWS AT NAPER HIGH IN 1945?

There is a campaign on now for scrap paper. Prices paid are: catalogs and newspapers-\$12 a ton; magazines-\$16; cardboard \$17. Don't put off turning in that waste paper! [March 17, 1944]

The Victory Growers was Naper's 4-H Garden Club. Kathryn Truman, Paul Cunningham, LaVerre Herrman and Cathryn Blakkolb received medals as the four highest ranking members of Garden Clubs in Boyd County. Kathryn Truman also won a \$25 war bond in a contest sponsored by International Harvester Company.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stahlecker were charivariated and promised a dance on February 10. They later had a post-nuptial shower at their home.

The Albert Stahlecker family moved to Burwell.

Avis Dalldorf visited home folks Friday and Saturday.

First and second graders had a spelling test of 28 words. Mardell Martin wrote all of them correctly, Delbert Forsch was second with 26 correctly spelled and Carol Bechtold, Donnie Wedge and Joan Putman tied with 24 correct.

[February 15, 1945]

Seniors went on a Sneak Day trip to York and Lincoln.

Delma Dalldorf wrote a poem for the sophomore news:

There really isn't much to say,
All we do is work and play,
In mornings we are very lazy,
And our minds are a wee bit hazy;
In afternoons we are more wakeful,
And so our lessons are less hateful;
Last week pictures were the fad,
Those that didn't get theirs were very sad.
Next week we will be having tests,
And my! But they are really pests.
Here's hoping they are all made,
With us making the best of grades.

Orion Fisher was master of ceremonies at the junior-senior banquet. Mavis Becker was editor of the newspaper.

[no date on this issue]

The Blakkolb Store has been taken over by Wm. Blakkolb.

Mr. and Mrs. George Higgins were entertained at a post-nuptial shower at the parental Ed Higgins home Friday evening, January 27.

Winston Stahlecker has the highest average grades in the fourth grade. Janis Blakkolb leads the third grade. Joan Putnam leads the second grade. Carol Bechtold and Mardell Martin tied for first place in first grade. [February 2, 1945]

loan (Iona) Mayer wrote the following poem:

In memory of you, dear Brother,
Who so gallantly was in the strife;
Who served your country with all you had-
Your courage, your blood, and your life.

Yes, you left your home and beloved,
To enter the forces of woe;
To help save and protect God's country,
Because you loved it so.

To make this old sinful world
A better place in which to live
Was your most emphatic ambition,
You gave everything you had to give.

Your very long strain and suffering
That ended the ninth of July,
Earned the Purple Heart for your Parents,
In your grave you now peacefully lie.

For your braveness you will be awarded,
In the book of Heaven is your name,
In memory of you dear Brother,
You may peacefully rest without shame.
[Edwin Mayer, Iona's brother, died in Europe in 1944. This poem was in the March 14, 1945, Bear Tracks.]

Orion Fischer, class of 1945, saved many of his high school newspapers and other memorabilia. Kay Fischer, his widow, was kind enough to share them with us. See photo on page 8 of this issue.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

A&M ENTERPRISES

Trenching, pump installations,
backhoe work, plumbing
832-5388

M&L LAWN SERVICE

Mowing, trimming, fertilizing,
tilling, seeding, spraying
832-5422

CURL UP & DYE BEAUTY SHOP

Haircuts, styling, coloring
832-5573

GRAMMY AND POP'S

Hole-in-the-Wall Mart
Something for everybody
832-5030

NAPER TRANSPORT

Sand and gravel hauling
832-5911

BOB'S AUTO BODY

Auto body repair
832-5766

NAPER CAFÉ AND LOUNGE

Breakfast, dinner, supper, bar
832-5272

US POSTAL SERVICE

832-5977

NICK'S AUTO SERVICE

Oil changes, new tires,
tire repairs, parts
832-5166

K&S MOBILE

Welding and equipment repair,
on-site service
832-5125

DRUEKE TRUCKING

Local and long-distance
grain hauling
832-5610

KEEP NAPER STRONG

BUY LOCAL WHEN YOU CAN

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

If you live in Butte or the surrounding area, it's going to be a little more than a quick trip downtown to grab something for supper tonight. Bill's Market is closed.

In 1945, Bud and Lelia Snider bought the store (current location of the gazebo) from Pete Andersen. Lelia had been working for Pete in the store where they bought cream and eggs and sold groceries and dry goods.

After Sniders bought the store, they wanted to expand so they bought the building that had been Soper's Hatchery. Before the hatchery, it had been a tractor repair shop! And now it became a grocery store.

Bud and Lelia's son Bill and his wife, Cleone, bought the store in the 1960s. They worked in the store for 45 years.

Randy Schmidt grew up in a military family which meant they moved a lot. However, the family had ties to Burke and Fairfax. After graduating from high school, Randy moved to Butte. While working at S & S Trailers, Bill Snider asked him if he'd like to come work at the grocery store.

Randy worked for Bill and Cleone for ten years and bought the store in 1991. The first person Randy hired was Doris Kocian. Norma Hostert, Pete Reiser, Dorothy Larsen, and Penny Bernt are among others who worked there. Over the years, lots of high school students helped out—Tim Hansen, Kody LaPointe, Tara Bailey, Will Reiser, Valerie Kocian, Doug Liewer, Deb Liewer, Shelby Kocian, Sam Schulte, Kara Schulte, Steve Hostert, Tara Tiefenthaler—the list goes on.

Randy operated the grocery store in Naper for several years also. Grace Bendig and Scott Whitley were two of his employees there.

In the 28 years Randy owned the store, they were part of the Affiliated Grocers group and later AFG. We'll miss his support for our historical society projects.



Thanks, Mabel Sattler, for the photos of the sign and Randy Schmidt.



ARE WE IN NEBRASKA?

(Each answer is the name of a county in Nebraska—how many do you know???)

Once upon a time, George _____ and Abraham _____ were _____ down the _____ when they met Daniel _____ who was returning from the _____ where he had been hunting for _____. His _____ were bleeding and his clothes were covered with _____.

The three of them walked along, telling about the hard _____ they had received when they came to the home of _____.

They were asked to stay for dinner and have _____ for dessert. George walked over to the _____ to warm his hands. Abe went outside to check the rain _____.

The _____ took them to a small _____ of ground near a _____ in the river where Tom had planted a _____. The _____ trees were in bloom and the _____ berries were growing.

Daniel's hounds spied a rabbit and gave _____. Daniel picked up a _____ to throw at the rabbit. The

rabbit tried to _____ it but couldn't.

They cooked the rabbit and when it was _____, they sat down on a _____ log to eat their supper.

[There are 93 counties in Nebraska. You can use this partial list to fill in the blanks. Good luck.]

Valley	Lincoln	Cedar
Dodge	Washington	Rock
Cuming	Buffalo	Loup
Thomas	Cherry	Brown
Nucholls	Garden	Clay
Frontier	Boone	Chase
Jefferson	Furnas	Gage
Butler	Platte	Logan
Custer	Knox	



These girls who look as if they are up to some mischief are Marguerite Rockholm and Hertha Mogck. The photo was taken about 1918—just a guess as they look to be about eight years old. Marguerite married Reo Ludemann and they had four children: Ann (Anderson), Roger, Mary and Margaret. Hertha married Fritz Sieh and they had three children: Velda (McLaughlin Stahlecker), Verlyn and Loren.

Three ways to contact

Naper Historical Society:

papabear@threeriver.net

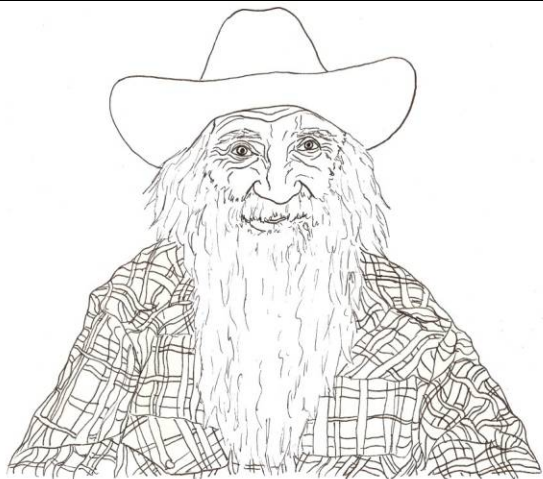
402-832-5471

Box 72, Naper, NE 68755

CRUISE NIGHT

MAIN STREET

JUNE 8



AND ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR ENDS. . .

Cassidy Boshen, Axell Bosio and Austin Koenig are 2019 graduates from Boyd County School.

Boyd County FCCLA chapter was very successful at the state leadership conference in Lincoln April 7-9. The chapter received the Gold Chapter Award and the Nebraska National Program Community Service Award. The team of which Kaci Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino) was a member won the championship round in the Knowledge Bowl. The qualifiers will compete in Anaheim, California, June 30-July 4.

State FFA convention was held April 3-5 in Lincoln. Camden Brewer (son of Kip and Rachel Heerman Brewer, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann), Kaci Mashino, Gina McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy), Natasha Zeisler (daughter of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, granddaughter of Richard and Sheryl Zeisler), Jory Zeisler, Jaylon Zeisler, and Daydra Zeisler (children of Mark and Tiffany Zeisler, grandchildren of Richard and Sheryl Zeisler) all did very well. Austin Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink) received his state degree which is the highest degree a student can earn.

Brett Koenig (son of Kevin and Stacy Zink Koenig, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink), Zander Kluckman (son of Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman, grandson of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-grandson of Charlotte Karnes Nicolaus and Don and Gloria Beem Vogt) and Paige Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Drueke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) did well in junior high

track for Boyd County.

Austin Koenig and Gina McCarthy represented Boyd County in track. Austin qualified for the state meet in the 3200 meter run!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Desiree Stephen and Kendell McCarthy were married April 27 in an outdoor wedding near the Keya Paha River.

Duane and Marilyn Smith Sieh celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with an open house at the VFW on May 4. Many friends and relatives gathered to enjoy the day.

SAYIN' GOODBYE

Dorothy Radford Rust, a 1936 graduate of Naper High School, died November 7, 2018, in Washington, at the age of 100.

Mildred Zink Lechtenberg died February 25, 2019, at the age of 97. She grew up east of Naper and lived near Butte after her marriage to Lawrence Lechtenberg in 1943. (See Mildred's interview in the Summer, 2017 Naper Paper)

Amanda Camin Schochenmaier, the oldest of the eight children of John and Emma Bettcher Camin, died March 15. She and Henry Schochenmaier were married in 1939. She had celebrated her 104th birthday on March 1. (See Amanda's story in two issues-Winter 2015 and Spring 2016)

Billy Goodman was born and grew up two miles west of Naper. His first wife, Udona, taught school in Naper for many years and preceded him in death. He died March 26, age 82.

Joyce Higgins Stahlecker died April 13 in Albion, Nebraska, at the age of 87. She grew up west of Naper and was married to Howard Stahlecker.

Charles Small, class of 1965, died January 14, 2019, in Arizona, of leukemia.

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!"

Janet Watts, whom many of you will remember as the librarian for Spencer-Naper/ West Boyd/ Boyd County schools, died in Iowa April 29.

Dr. Charles Zidko, a Boyd County dentist for 50 years, died May 2. Many a student visited his office for dental education and for dental procedures.

A bit of humor . . .

When their son got to be about 10 years old, Hortense decided he didn't look like anyone in the family. She spent some money on a DNA test.

The results confused her—he had no connection to their family. Hortense told her husband that the child wasn't their son.

"Well, Hortense, I don't know why you're surprised at this. Don't you remember when we were leaving the hospital after he was born? The little guy pooped in his diaper and you told me to change him, so I went back inside the hospital and got a clean one. I left the dirty one there."

Hortense fainted.

Students preparing to raise the flag (note 48 stars) at a rural school in Gregory County about 1941-Viola Eagle Star, Gaynell Rockholm (Keller), Dallas Leading Fighter, JoAnn Cerny (Jons)



LETTERS

LETTERS

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Always look forward to reading the Naper Paper. I reminisce about the years and events past and the people named.

I am blessed having just passed my 96th birthday. I think I am the only one left of my 1940 graduation class. I lost my special husband and best friend last October but am still able to be in my own home.

When I see or write the name "Naper", I get a warm feeling—the paper keeps it alive. Thank you.

Frieda Ahlers Voll
[contribution enclosed]

Enclosed is a check from my wife's memorial money to be contributed toward the Naper Paper. Naper has always been my home away from home. Enjoy reading every issue.

Stan Stahlecker

Would you please change Betty Stoltenberg Bentz's address? They have moved to Butte and love getting your paper. Thank you.

Lori Koenig

Please change the mailing address for Harry Swallow. Thank you for all your help!

Harry Swallow

[Ed. Note: Thanks, Lori and Harry. We really appreciate readers notifying us of an address change. Redeeming them from the post office and remailing them first class costs \$1.10! We are happy when we know the change before we mail.]

Enclosed is a donation. We truly enjoy this paper. Darrell especially enjoys it as his mother's family was from Naper.

Joann Bentz

Enclosed are school pictures from when I was in the first grade 1939-1940. If there is any question about who people are, ask Harlan (Duke) Stahlecker as he was in the same class.

I'm also enclosing a check. Hope you find these pictures helpful.

DeLoris Serr Taliaferro

P.S. I enjoy the Naper Paper so very much. Thank you again and again. I do have contact with Charlotte Nicolaus and LaVerna Sieh and Norma VanderBeek from my class.

DeLoris

[Ed. Note: Thanks for the class photos 1939-1952. They have been labeled and are displayed in the museum. You'll probably see some of them in the Naper Paper in coming issues.]

So sorry to hear about all the flooding and disaster in Boyd and neighboring counties.

All the runoff from the Missouri River dumps into the Mississippi so we go into flood down here too. Our farm is on high ground so we're lucky that way. But with all the rain and cold, it's been hard on livestock (not near as bad as you folks though) and farming will be a slow start.

Is there a fund being started for disaster relief? If so, I'll be glad to help.

Both Carolyn and I are getting along OK so that's a blessing.

We are sending along something for the paper.

Orland and Carolyn Cline

[Ed. Note: Yes, there is a fund. See the photos and story on pages 2 and 3 of this issue.]

In answer to LouAnn Ahlers Pribil's letter, yes, there was a parade in Naper. I am remembering it as the celebration of the state of Nebraska's 100th and Naper's 75th in 1967.

The parade followed what seemed like a week of festivities such as bingo, watermelon eating contest, beard contest and carnival. Lots of derby hats and mustaches appeared on men and some centennial dresses on the women.

We did ride horses in the parade. Fairly certain my dad Reo and brother Rog rode also.

It was a busy time for the little town of Naper and for those organizing it.

The picture of the church on the front of the last Naper Paper brought back memories also. I was in grade school—not sure what grade, but our minister at Naper UCC was Rev. Alipio Ramos.

He and his wife organized a bible school at the Ponca Creek Church one June and asked me to play the piano every day that week. Mom would drive me down in the morning and pick me up late afternoon. I still have the beaded Indian pin I was given on the last day. The big check of \$25 is long gone and probably never even covered the cost of the gas for Mom to get me there!

Mary Ludemann

I'm writing on behalf of Walter Serr. He would like to continue receiving the Naper Paper. He has a new address. I've enclosed a check I hope covers the subscription. If not, please let me know.

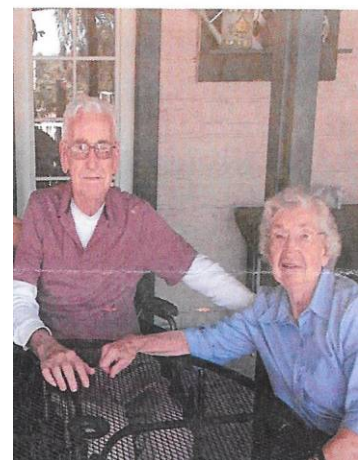
Also, I helped Walt clean out and pack up his house. I found a few things that may be of interest to Naper folks and have included them in the envelope. I thought the pineapple menu card was pretty cool!

Dawn



[Ed. Note: It's the menu and souvenir pages from the junior-senior banquet in 1942. It is hand-written and colored with crayons.]

BELOW: Howard Camin (NHS 1947) and his sister Ruth Camin Compton



NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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NAPER HIGH SCHOOL 1944

Back: Herman Neumiller, Raymond Bentzen, Dean Broekemeier, Gilbert Stahlecker, Orion Fischer, Jiggs Reimers, Ray Stoltenberg, Fritz Vogt, Alfred Boucher, Dick Stahlecker, Mrs. Truman (teacher)
Middle: Howard Camin, Donald Schock, Joyce Blakkolb, Delores Wentz, Irene Mayer, Ardiss Siewert, Mavis Becker, Irene Forsch, Mavis Putnam, Alberta Boucher, Alvin Forsch, LaDale Herman, John Fedderson (superintendent)
Front: Betty Gosch, Juliette Berg, Jane Kortmeyer, Nellie Siewert, Adeline Maertins, Esther Neumiller, Opal Goodman, Delma Dalldorf, Iona Mayer, Barney Smith, Connie Sattler, Leonard Schmitz, Paul Cunningham