

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

Volume 18, Issue 2

www.napernebraska.org

Summer, 2020

## STAY HOME STAY SAFE STAY WELL

We who live in the Midwest, particularly in a remote spot like Naper, haven't felt the full blast of the Corona virus. However, we tried to follow the guidelines.

### We were told to: **STAY HOME WASH YOUR HANDS**

Schools and churches closed. Parents became teachers for the duration. Church services were on-line. We ordered groceries to be delivered and food from the café to be picked up curbside until it opened with limited seating after May 4.

The farmers and ranchers carried on their activities with little or no change to their routine save missing some coffee times at A&M or some cribbage games at the lounge.

You know this paper isn't really a "news" paper in that it's delivered to you a few weeks after it is written and published. Our hope is that by the time you get this issue, the corona virus is a thing of the past and we're looking forward to the rest and the best of 2020.

## IT'S A SMALL, SMALL WORLD

Back when all was normal and people could gather for lunch and a good visit, Mary Ludemann and friends Carol Copeland and Susan Andrews drove to Woodbine, Iowa, to visit Carol's friend. Neither Mary nor Susan had ever met Louretta.

On March 12, while they were lunching and playing cards, Lou told them about a little paper she'd got ahold of and how much she enjoyed it. None of them can figure out how she got the paper, but guess what—the *Naper Paper* had made its way to Woodbine, Iowa!

And now Lou is receiving her own copy.

## DO YOU REMEMBER 1966-1967?

Sandra Richter taught 7th and 8th grades in Naper during the 1967-1968 school year. She recently sent the pictures to a friend who sent them on to DeAnne Vaughn. DeAnne shared them with us and provided us an update on Sandra's life.

She moved on to Butte and taught there until 1969. Then she and her husband Allen moved to Orchard, and on to Iowa City, where he continued to get his doctorate in music. They had one son who was handicapped.

Sandra moved to Tempe, AZ, where she started Richter and Associates, a company that provides rehabilitation services for injured persons to help them recover their life style.

Sandra has pancreatic cancer and underwent Whipple surgery. The latest information is that she's recuperating.

Along with the pictures, she included a note for her students in 1966-1967.

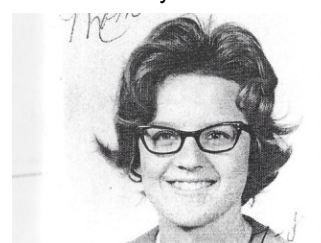
"What a year we all had! I taught with a \$25 library budget (5 books??). No annual, so memory limited. Mr. Pebble (sic) great! Mr. Gondor (sic) I loved. The bad teeth guy? Not so much!

Really I can direct the choir? I sing—I do not direct. Al taught me the moves only. LOL! But you HS guys were good!

Touched my first cow at Vaughns. Watched over like a hawk. Crazy Mrs. Richter in her green VW (1961 sunroof) smashed canned pea green-ugly! Me—a blue person. (winter scary 15 min. drive @ X's)

Still scared of the creek and one swimmer, plus me.

Love,  
Sandy"



Bonnie Moody and Doris Dummer, supported by Mary Sparks



Cindy Higgins, Sharon Ahlers, Pat Schmitz, Marcia Neumiller—7th grade girls



Garlyn Sieh behind Tim Keller, Bob Allpress standing

## A NEW LOOK IN NAPER



Angie McCarthy has recently moved her beauty shop to the building on the south end of town which was formerly Mark and Lauri Zink's veterinary clinic.

With a lot of elbow grease and creativity, Angie and Kevin transformed the clinic to a fine salon where she opened for business on May 4.

Give her a call at **402-832-5573** for an appointment.

(below) Angie at work



## A SIGN OF SPRING!

Merle Riesselman is heading north of Napier to make a lawn beautiful.

**402-832-5422**



## ANOTHER NEW LOOK IN NAPER

In mid-April, Mike Roth opened his business, Roth Small Engine, on Main Street in the building formerly occupied by Cline's Bar. He does repairs on all sorts of small engines and will buy, sell or trade.

On the day we took photos, he was working on a riding lawn mower and a four-wheeler, with other machines waiting.

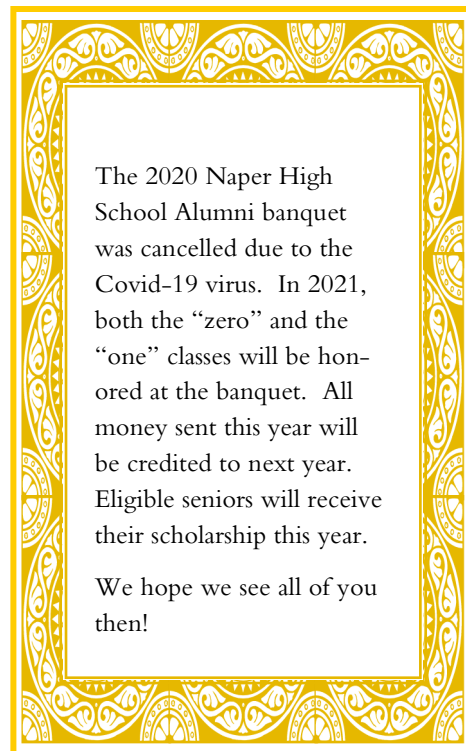
Part of the space is used as a wood shop.



A new phone number:  
**402-925-8813**



Above: Mike Roth in his shop



The 2020 Naper High School Alumni banquet was cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus. In 2021, both the "zero" and the "one" classes will be honored at the banquet. All money sent this year will be credited to next year. Eligible seniors will receive their scholarship this year.

We hope we see all of you then!

## NAPER HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUTS THE PARK FUND OVER THE TOP

Thanks to all of you who have sent money to the historical society indicating your interest in the park improvement project!! The historical society presented a check for \$2,000 which is enough to get the project completed. Now it is wait for good weather, willing workers and no virus threat before it gets done.

Pictured below: Historical Society board members Mabel Sattler, Linda Schultz and Bob Ahlers with Tara Ahlers, representing the Park Improvement Committee, holding the check.





## ANOTHER SCHOOL STORY

by Mary Schumann

School District #40 in Anoka began around 1910 with first through eighth grade. In the 1920s a four-year high school was opened in Anoka.

The school house sat on a hill in the northwest corner of Anoka. The school had three rooms on the main level and a basement. There was a teacher for first through fourth grades in one room, a teacher for fifth through eighth grades in another room and the high school used the third room and the basement.

The last high school graduating class was in 1941. K-8th grades continued until 1983, when the doors closed.

My mother-in-law, Clara Emme Baumeister attended grade school and graduated from high school in the early 1930s from Anoka. My sister, Helen Frasch Mohr, my husband Val Baumeister and I attended K-8 in Anoka, as well as our children, Wes and Wendy.

In the early years, the school was heated with a coal furnace in the basement. The older boys scooped coal into the stoker that fed the furnace. Later the furnace was replaced with an oil-fueled stove. During very cold days the fuel jelled and the stove wouldn't light, so we were sent home. A propane heater was used after that.

There was an outhouse west of the school, but when our children went to school, indoor restrooms replaced the outhouse.

Drinking water was pumped from a cistern and poured into a crock water dispenser.

In the spring, we went on adventures, walking up the railroad tracks. Can you imagine today a teacher letting children walk on railroad tracks? The train ran through Anoka

twice a day.

The Christmas programs were the most fun. I believe those were the "Good Old Days."

## AND ANOTHER THING. . .

One of the surprising events during the Corona Virus scare was the hoarding of toilet paper. So here's everything you ever wanted to know about TP.

Packaged toilet paper wasn't sold in the United States until 1857. It wasn't until 1935 that a manufacturer was able to promise Splinter-Free Toilet Paper.

Americans use an average of 8 sheets of toilet paper per trip to the bathroom. The average roll has 333 sheets.

Global toilet paper demand uses nearly 30,000 trees every day. That's 10,000,000 trees a year.

Toilet paper isn't used in 70-75% of the world because it is too expensive or there is not sufficient plumbing.

Toilet paper disintegrates quickly when wet because the fibers used to make it are very short.

Regular toilet paper was used on the International Space Station, but it had to be sealed in special containers and compressed. During Desert Storm, the US Army used toilet paper to camouflage their tanks. The Pentagon uses on average 666 rolls of toilet paper per day.

The most expensive toilet paper in the world is Renova, a three-ply paper that is perfumed and comes in black, red, blue and green. Beyonce uses only red Renova. Kris Jenner uses only black Renova.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES—

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## WHITE HORSE RANCH PICTURES SHARED

When you're 15 years old and you discover a place in Nebraska where you can ride horses all day long and have a warm, dry place to sleep, good food to eat and lots of people your age to associate with—well, why not sign up??

When the website for Naper was set up, it was necessary to provide a telephone number and an e-mail address. The secretary-treasurer of the Historical Society provided hers and in the years since, many interesting messages have been received.

Recently, following a phone call and e-mail messages, a package of photos and the 1943 LIFE magazine featuring the White Horse Ranch was received from Warren Johnson's son. There were also letters from the young man to his family.

Warren Johnson was 15 years old in 1943. He was born and raised in Saegertown in northwestern Pennsylvania, south of Erie where his father worked for the railroad and his mother was a school teacher.

It's unclear how he found out about the White Horse Ranch but perhaps he saw a brochure and talked his parents into letting him go there. Such a brochure from the ranch was found in his things.

He trained with the horses and became part of the troupe that performed in various towns between Nebraska and Pennsylvania later that summer. It is assumed that the troupe performed in Saegertown and his family attended the performance.

Warren finished high school and college in Pennsylvania before moving to New Mexico in 1958. It's not likely he ever made it back to the White Horse Ranch but it certainly made a huge impression on him.

What an adventure for a teenage boy to have!

[Photos, letters and magazine are on display at Heritage Hall. Thank you, Kurt Johnson, for contacting us and sharing the memorabilia.]



Above: Warren Johnson on Wings Beauty at Jefferson, Ohio, July, 1943

Below: Warren Johnson, Betty Julius and Leonard Higby at Jefferson, July, 1943



Below: Mabel Fontaine on Lady White

Above left: Bob Bull on White Wings



Above: Cal and Ruth Thompson

Below: Ranch house, June, 1943



Above right: Betty Julius on Snowdrop

## EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS WARREN SENT HOME

(Warren's letters were written in cursive! His handwriting was very neat and easy to read. He used official stationery

### RANCH-IN-WHITE TRAINING AND RIDING SCHOOL NAPER, NEBRASKA

June 6, 1943

Dear Family,

How are all the folks back home? It sure is swell out here. Well, we crossed the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. We got here at the ranch June 5, about 3:30 in the afternoon. They've got a nice swimming hole near by and probably will go in this afternoon. I'll never regret coming out here. Everybody is swell and the food is good and the bunkhouse is all right. It cost each of us forty dollars for the whole trip. On the way out here we got a sixty cent meal each time.

I think I ought to tell you more about the trip. We took four horses to Cleveland to some people. Then we picked up a 1942 convertible coup DeSo to in Cleveland and brought it out. We would sit in the car and play the radio and have a good time. We drove both day and night. Oh, yeah, we picked up a young man in Cleveland and he came out here.

Love,  
Warren Johnson

June 8, 1943

Dear Mom and Family

Well, I suppose you got my other letter. How's the weather back there? Today I took my shirt off and got a little burn. It was really hot today.

O, yeah, the 20th of this month the ranch is putting on a show here at the ranch. We're all going to be in it. We're going to square dance on horses.

Love,  
Warren Johnson

June 13, 1943

Dear Folks,

For the first time we went to Naper last night. It seemed like there were more people there than in Meadville every Saturday night. Did we have fun!

Right before we went we were out to the arena and jumping our horses. I'm jumping a horse over a 4-foot hurdle riding bareback. Boy, is it fun! I go up in the air about 1 foot every time.

I'd better tell you more about the 20th. I'm in a flag drill, jumping, and a pyramid. I forgot to tell you that I'm in the rodeo. I'm going to ride a bucking calf. Yippee! I'm thinking about going on with the show till October.

I tried to roman ride, that is stand on three horses, but didn't succeed very good.

Love,  
Warren Johnson



## The Kortmeyer Family Story

Henry and Lena Berger Kortmeyer came to Nebraska from Iowa in an ox-drawn wagon in the early 1890s. Their homestead was about a mile and a half south of Naper and their four children, Julius, Henry Jr., Annie and Louis, were raised there. There was good spring close to their home and Henry dammed it to make a fishing pond and a place where folks from Naper could get water. In the winter, they could come cut ice to fill the ice house in Naper.

**Julius Kortmeyer** worked at Krotters and married Grace Thatcher, one of the “hello” girls at the telephone office and the daughter of A. B. Thatcher, the editor of the *Naper Enterprise*. After their marriage in 1906, they lived on Julius’ homestead in South Dakota until 1918 when they moved back to Naper to assist his father whose health was failing. Until 1940, they lived in the sod house referred to in the Philip Holmgren story on page seven, about almost two miles west of Henry and Lena.

Their children were Arthur, Laura, Mabel, Louis, Mildred, Grace Mary, Almon, Alice and Esther Jane. Mabel Kortmeyer married Gus Adam and gave birth to triplets in 1931—Almon, Alice and Albert.

In September, 2018, several of Julius and Grace’s descendants came to the area to visit and look for the homes of their ancestors. The photo below is at the site of the sod house two miles west and one and a half south of Naper, part of Larry and Ann Anderson’s farm. Alberta Adam Barquist, daughter of Albert and Laura Kortmeyer Adam, is in the forefront. The couple shown on the right are Ruth and Joe Reiser, daughter and son-in-law of Almon Adam and granddaughter of Mabel Kortmeyer Adam.



### Henry Conrad Kortmeyer Jr.

married Maria Schultz and homesteaded in South Dakota. Their children were Vera, Henry (“Hank”), Clara, Erwin., Alma, Dorothy, Howard, Darlene, Leonard and Mavis. After retirement, they moved to Burke.

On May 7, 1949, Henry and his daughter Mavis were in a boat fishing on Burke Lake. Henry was having trouble lifting the anchor, possibly suffering a heart attack. His son-in-law Kelly Lyman tried to come to his aid but Henry, Kelly and Mavis all drowned that day. The family erected a memorial at Burke Lake in their honor.

**Anna Lena Kortmeyer** married Adam Schoenefeld who had come to the United States when he was seven years old. When he was 21, he applied for a homestead entry on the recently opened Rosebud Reservation in Gregory County. He received the patent in 1912. The first house on that quarter was believed to formerly have been a grain bin at Fort Randall in the late 1800s. Their children were Clara, Ida, Alvin, and Marie.

Anna and Adam moved to Burke in 1945 but the farm is still owned by the Schoenefeld family. Alvin’s son Wayne and wife Barbara Vogt Schoenefeld have lived there since 1967.

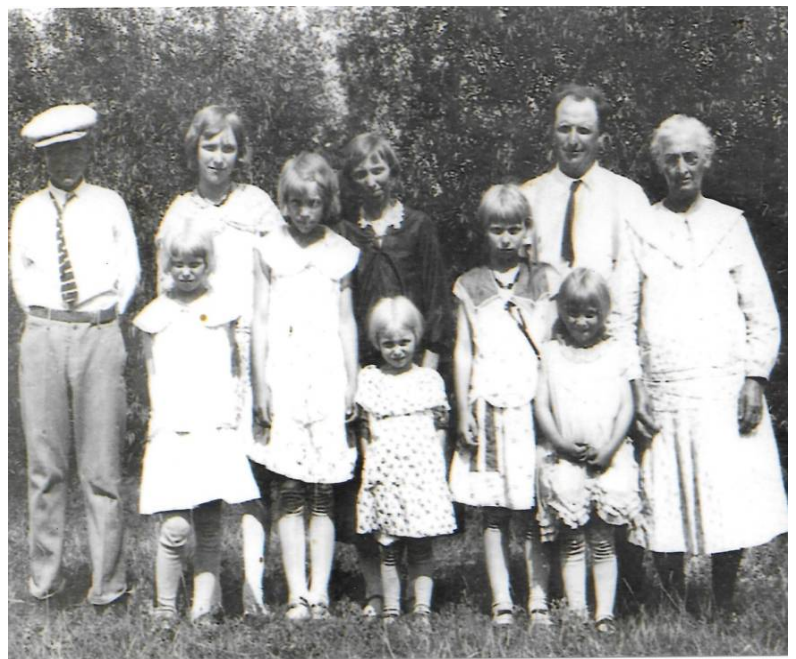
### Louis John Kortmeyer

married Anna Schultz, a cousin of Henry’s wife Martha, in the Lutheran Church that was located west of Naper where the Lutheran Cemetery is now. (Almost all country churches had cemeteries within their church yards which accounts for several other small cemeteries found in the area.) Louis was very talented and played several musical instruments. He taught his daughter Alma to play the organ and his son Louis the cornet!

Louis and Anna had eight children—Alma, Louis, Anna, Clara, Edna, Margaret, Elenora and Wilma.

On Monday, March 25, 1940, the day after Easter services for which he had played, Louis lost his life when the blade of the buzz saw he was using broke. Anna sold the farm (now owned by Larry and Ann Anderson) and moved to Naper, later to Rapid City, South Dakota. The family home is still standing and was occupied until November, 2009. In 2008, many Kortmeyer descendants visited the three homesites.

In the photo below, left to right: Louis Leonard, Edna, Alma, Anna, Elenora in front of mother Anna, Clara, Margaret in front of father Louis John, grandmother Lena Kortmeyer. Wilma had not joined the family at the time this photo was taken.



[Information for this article was gleaned from the Naper Centennial Book, interviews with family members and letters.]



The Naper Paper is your paper. We rely on you, our readers, for support, both financial and "a 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!"

## THE OL' HOMESTEADER SHARES SOME NEWS: STUDENTS SHINE!

Hannah Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Drueke, granddaughter of Vernon and Linda Goodman) was named to the All-Conference basketball team.

Hannah Drueke, Kaci Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino), Natasha Zeisler (daughter of Jesse and Kimberly Zeisler, granddaughter of Richard and Sheryl Zeisler), Paige Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth, granddaughter of Vernon and Linda), Brett Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandson of Louise Neumiller Zink), and Zander Kluckman (son of Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman, grandson of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-grandson of Don Vogt and Charlotte Karnes Nicolaus) were named to the honor roll at Boyd County Schools.

Kaci Mashino and Natasha Zeisler qualified for state competition in FCCLA.

Kaci Mashino received her state degree in FFA and received a gold with her proficiencies. Kaci is the president-elect of FFA and Natasha the reporter.

Hannah Drueke graduated from Boyd County Schools and plans to attend Northeast Community College in Norfolk. She received the Naper High Alumni Scholarship.

## SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

JoAnn Burke Stoltenberg died in Omaha at the age of 92 on February 26. She and husband Ray Stoltenberg lived in Naper many years while he operated Stol-

tenberg Construction Company, later moving to St. Paul and then Omaha.

Larry Ulmer who lived south of Naper died February 12, 2020. His wife Leola died in 2018. All four of their children, Cindy, Jeff, Carla and Tim, graduated from Naper High School.

Elton Serr died April 5, 2020. He and his wife, Georgia Hamling Serr (NHS class of 1964), operated a dairy south of Jamison for many years.

Kathryn Blakkolb O'Donaghue, class of 1950 and a registered nurse, died April 10 in California. She and her sisters worked in their parent's store (Blakkolb's Store) on Main Street while growing up in Naper.

Word was received of the death of Sandra Carter in Lincoln on April 24. Her husband Milton Carter died January 31, 2019, also in Lincoln. Milt had taught and coached at Naper in the late 50s and early 60s.

Marvin Bendig, Class of 1963, died April 25 at his home in Great Falls, Montana. He made a career of the Air Force and retired in Great Falls.

## WELCOME!

Kendall and Desiree McCarthy welcomed Kolson Dean on March 30. Grandpa and grandma are Kevin and Angie McCarthy; great grandparents are LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy.

Joshua John Zeisler was born May 1 in Hastings, Nebraska, to Derek and Amanda Hausmann Zeisler. Zach and Alex, his two big brothers, were excited to welcome him. Grandparents are Greg and Kathy Hausmann (Bonesteel, SD), Craig and Stacy Zeisler; great-grandmother is Joan Zeisler.



At the end of our self-isolation, social distancing time we have four options: we can be a hunk, a chunk, a monk or a drunk. Or there may be some combination of those options.



Have you looked at the Naper Historical Society website? ([napernebraska.org](http://napernebraska.org)) You'll find every issue of the Naper Paper (photos in color on the website!), photos of all the classes from Naper High School, stories of Naper history, the White Horse Ranch, businesses, cemeteries, and historical photos.

If you need to contact the historical society, you may: call 402-832-5471,

mail to Naper Historical Society  
Box 72  
Naper, NE 68755

e-mail at [papabear@threeriver.net](mailto:papabear@threeriver.net)

# LETTERS

## LETTERS

### LETTERS

Sending a donation to the Naper Paper and the park project in memory of my parents, Larry and Leola Ulmer. It's so hard to believe they are both gone.

Carla Ulmer Warnke

[Ed Note: Our condolences on the loss of your parents who lived south of Naper for many years.]

Enclosed is a check to help with expenses for publishing and mailing the Naper Paper. Thank you to everyone who is involved with its publication. It's a great paper and I enjoy every issue.

Mary Schumann

For the Naper Paper! Thank You!

Margaret Bendig Heien

Thanks! We really enjoy the paper. Love to all.

Joyce Blakkolb and Kathryn  
Blakkolb O'Donoghue

Just a note with this. I would like to thank you for sending me your paper for so many years. I ran the County Bake Shoppe [in Stuart] for over 20 years; it has been closed since 2012. I really enjoy reading the paper although I don't recognize a lot of the names. Once in a while I see a name or picture that I know.

Just wanted to thank you for all your hard work in keeping up the paper.

Marilyn Miksch

Just a line to let you know how much we enjoy the paper.

I got a kick out of the stories about the country schools. We Cline kids went to Wild Rose School District #44. I could tell a thousand stories about our school days, but they were pretty much the same as the other schools. The highlight for us was the Christmas play and the box social after. Hope this finds everyone in Naper in good health. We're fine here, but extremely wet for this time of year. Grass is green and calves are on the ground. Life is good and the Chinese flu hasn't got us.

Sincerely,

Orland and Carolyn Cline

Enclosed is my donation for the paper. I'm so happy to be part of it. I've found friends and family through the paper. I'm so thankful to Darrell and Ann Schrader for letting me know about it. And I found a friend I'd had for years and she found me in the paper. Also Virginia Stahlecker who her and I were great friends.

Again, thank you, enjoy it very much.

Melba (Mulford) Cook

Thanks to all you great people for all the news. Enjoy all the articles! Remember most of the people.

I'm sending the obituary of JoAnn Stoltenberg (Glenn's sister) for your paper. Will let you write it as you like for your paper—thanks.

Enclosed is a check in support of the paper.

Glenn Burke and Gretchen Hausmann

## Read on only if you are old enough to compare 1970-2020

1970-Long hair

2020-Longing for hair

1970-KEG

2020-EKG

1970-Acid Rock

2020-Acid reflux

1970-Moving to California because it's cool

2020-Moving to Arizona because it's warm

1970-Rolling Stones

2020-Kidney stones

1970-Disco

2020-Costco

1970-Parents begging you to cut your hair

2020-Children begging you to let them  
shave their heads

1970-Passing the driving test

2020-Passing the vision test

1970 -Left knee, right knee

2020-Good knee, bad knee

1970-Whatever

2020-Depends



## In Loving Memory of Philip Holmgren

Philip Holmgren was the youngest in the family of Philipp and Elizabeth Holmgren. His father was born in the province of Georgia, Russia, in 1874 and came to America in 1894. He assisted his father Samuel in building an adobe block house on the homestead three miles southeast of Naper, land now owned by Larry and Ann Anderson. (The sod house is but a memory now although a couple of blocks were salvaged before it disintegrated.)

Philipp married Kathryn Wetzler and they had four sons—Henry, William, John and Gus. After Kathryn died, Philipp married her sister Elizabeth. Their family increased by Chris, Frieda, Rudolf, Clara, Albert and Philip.

Philip graduated from Naper High School in 1938, attended Wayne State College where he earned his B.A. degree in three years, then taught school in Minden, Iowa, and Naper. He met his wife Lois while teaching in Minden and married her a few weeks before going to England.

He served in the US Medical Corps for four years. He attended graduate school at the University of Nebraska and after receiving his Ph.D. in American history, he began his career at Kearney. He taught there for 42 years and gave his best effort to his students and to the college.

He was an authority on the history of Nebraska and of the Native Americans of that region. He wrote a history of Kearney State College in 1980 when the college reached its 75th anniversary.

After a courageous struggle with multiple myeloma, he died in 1992. He will be long remembered.



# NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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### **1967 7th and 8th grades**

Back row: Gregg Honke, Robert Allpress, Daniel Schoemann, Randall Schoemann, Timothy Keller, Johnny Joel Sieh, Dennis Katzer, Garlyn Sieh  
Middle row: teacher Mr. Bullard, David Engelhart, Keith Fuhrer, Paul Honke, James Martin, Larry Martin, Douglas Allpress, teacher Mr. Ghandour  
Front row: Cindy Higgins, Bonnie Vogt, Daletta Ulrich, Sharon Ahlers, Marcia Neumiller, Patty Schmitz, teacher Mrs. Richter