

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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Autumn, 2020

THE PARK PROJECT IS DONE!

For more than three years, the community has been raising money and making plans for playground equipment for the park just north of the old schoolhouse. Tara Ahlers, Stephanie Cadwallader and many others have spent countless hours working on this project and on August 30, it happened!



The first step—preparing the site

Beginning construction—getting the upright poles in place



At the same time, the volunteer firemen and Thrivent were sponsoring a benefit for Pam Muller who has been hospitalized since April.



Sharon Vogt and Connie McCarthy were among the workers at the hamburger-hotdog benefit.



Pam's children, Chad (who lives in Richardson, TX) and Chandra Muller



THE WORKERS GATHERED FOR A PICTURE WHEN IT WAS DONE!

Back row: Mike Haney, Kelly Bendig, Brad Ludemann, Lawrence Reiman, Jesse Reiman, Shelby Melton, Dan Ahlers, Kendall McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy
Front row: Andy Langdon, Tony Drueke, Lee Cadwallader, Aaron Melton, Landon Melton, Jameson Melton, Desiree McCarthy holding Kolson McCarthy, Tara Ahlers, Angie McCarthy
There were other workers who missed the photo.

THE PLAYGROUND IS DONE!

By Cindy McCarthy

The Naper community came together this past Sunday and got a big portion of a project completed that they've spent the last three years working on. Residents gathered to erect a play system at the Naper Park, located east of the ball field.

The Naper community has been seeing a group of younger people deciding to settle down in and around Naper and those couples are now having children. An upgrade to the park in town seemed like a community project that everyone could get behind, so fundraising began.

Three years ago, in preparation for the Q125 celebration in the community, an amount was decided upon and small donations began to come in. During the Q125 held in 2017, a Fun Run and Quilt Raffle were held with the proceeds going directly to the Playground fund. Over the last three years, t-shirts have been sold promoting the area with a portion of the proceeds going to the playground fund. A portion of the Annual Cruise Night proceeds have been donated to the project.

Area groups have also been involved in donating to the project including the Naper Historical Society, Niobrara Valley Electric (which donated the last two years) and Thrivent, which donated paper products to be used during fund-raising events. The women in charge of the Annual Craft Fair earmark their event money each year for Community Projects. The Naper Fire Department held a Silent Auction and Playground Benefit, serving hamburgers and raised a large portion for the play system. The Girl Scout organization from Butte also made a donation.

No grants were applied for as no one in the community is familiar with the grant writing process, so the project has been 100% community funded. A number of families have contributed memorial money to the project as well, making this a true community effort.

A while back, a decision was necessary as to what the play system would look like, so head organizer Tara Ahlers went straight to the community to decide what would be best with two possible options. The one that was chosen cost \$14,000 which included paying for freight to Naper and for an overseer to help with the construction and site preparation. A black block border was also purchased for \$1,150 to outline the site and contain the pebble rock that was graciously donated by Tim Whitley for the project.

The project wasn't completed without a little setback. Tara shared that a wheelbarrow was one of the items needed that nobody seemed to have anymore. Finally, one was found, and then the wheelbarrow blew a tire just as they got started but after it was full of cement to fill the first of 19

holes. The guys just picked up the wheelbarrow and began to carry it to the next hole. Luckily, Andy Langdon came to the rescue and had a wheelbarrow at his place. The rest of the holes were filled with ease, much to the relief of the workers!

The project completion drew quite a crowd on Sunday and it was decided that more needs to be done. The group is now looking to replace swings on the existing swing set, replace the boards on the merry-go-round, add a large sand pile with more of the black block border for containment and work on land-scaping with the possibility of replacing some of the trees that have been in the park for years. Fundraising will continue until these projects can also be completed.

Tara said that without the help of all the contributions, big or small, this project would not have been possible, "I don't want to inadvertently forget someone who donated, so thank you one and all for your support to see the biggest part of this project completed."

DO YOU KNOW THESE CUTE LITTLE CHILDREN?

The little girls in this picture are Donna Faye and Sarah Mae Davis, daughters of Roy "Mike" and Lenora Kramer Davis.



Donna graduated from Naper High in 1950 (see photo p. 4), taught in rural schools in South Dakota and married Carl Ludemann. They lived in Naper until 2017.

The other photo is a Christmas card from the Gerald Schmitz family in 1961—their children, Dennis (NHS 1967), Kim (graduated from Butte after the family moved) and Barbara (NHS 1974).



Sarah graduated from St. Charles High School in 1947 and married Gerald Schmitz. They lived in Naper where they ran a cream station for many years.

A CREAM STATION

Some of you may ask what a cream station is. Before everything had to be bigger, Bigger, **BIGGER**, every farm had some hogs, chickens and some milk cows. The check received from selling eggs and cream usually bought the groceries. The operators of the cream station are the ones who bought the eggs, the cream and the poultry.

The cows were milked by hand, the milk separated, and the cream stored in a can for a few days until it was taken to the cream station.

At the cream station, the can of cream was weighed. The attendant opened the can, stirred the cream well and dipped out a tiny amount (probably a couple of tablespoons) and poured it in a little glass bottle. It was transferred to a "testing" bottle which had a long neck inscribed with numbers. A few drops of acid were added to the cream (so it would separate) and then it was placed in a centrifuge to spin.

After the spin, the butterfat content was indicated by a number on the neck of the bottle. The optimum butterfat was 38-39%, a number which could be adjusted by the speed with which the separator handle was turned or by a screw in the separator itself.

The cream was then dumped in another can and the farmer's cream can cleaned with steam, wiped dry and weighed. The net weight of the cream times the test equaled the pounds of butterfat. Pounds of butter fat times the price equaled the amount of the check.

The cream accumulated in the cream station and once or twice a week, a truck from the creamery picked up the cans and delivered the cream to Orchard, Randolph, or other nearby towns where the cream was converted to butter.

Over the years, there were many cream stations and operators in Naper. Do you remember Minnie Wentz, Gladys Putnam, Pauline Davis, Jake Stahlecker, John Andersen, John Murchand, Lydia Stahlecker, Gerald and Sarah Schmitz, Nate and Georgia Jeffords? Sophie Wilhelmsen had a cream station in Jamison. Without a doubt, there were many more we didn't name.

Thanks to Garry and Roma Jeffords for information included in this article.

REMEMBER WHEN?

By Marilyn Sieh

We, the class of 1956, were thinking about getting our class rings. We were very excited. We had two companies to choose from: Joslyn and Herff-Jones. Our teacher advised us to wait until salesmen from both companies could meet with us before ordering our rings, but, of course, everyone was too anxious to wait so we ordered our rings from the first salesman who showed up which, in our case, was Joslyn.

The class of 1950 received the same advice from their teachers about waiting but the first salesman to come to school represented Herff-Jones and they, like us, didn't wait either. I don't remember what our rings cost but in 1950 the rings started at \$11 and increased in price from that. There were different sizes of the ring top—small, medium, large and knucklebuster.

One could choose to have a stone inserted under the crest (at an additional charge, of course), so some decided to have their birthstone added to the ring.

The girls were advised to meas-

ure their right hand ring finger because some day they would be wearing a wedding ring on their other hand. When couples started "going steady", they might exchange class rings. The girls would either use tape wrapped around the band to make the ring smaller or put it on a chain and wear it like a necklace.

Now these pretty rings are probably tucked away in our jewelry boxes along with other jewelry we never wear anymore.



The companies selling rings also sold the announcements that seniors sent to advise friends and family of their graduation activities. Included with the announcements were the little calling cards with the graduate's name engraved on them. Ah, memories. . .



THE CORN CRIB STORY

by Joan Zeisler

The corn crib on our farm served two purposes—corn storage and a "café". The corn had been shelled, the weather was perfect and my sister and I headed to the corn crib with brooms to sweep it clean so once again we could set up our play house. The excitement and ambition were almost more than we could handle.

All our possessions were packed away from the previous year in boxes—boxes full of carefully chosen items that with a little imagination were the treasures needed to furnish a café.

The thing that made the corn crib so fascinating to us was the space between the slats. We would slip a 1x12 board between the slats on one end and set a couple tree stumps on top of each other on the other end to hold the board that made into our counter. We set tree stumps on one side to make the stools. The corners of the crib were perfect to tuck boards at an angle between the slats and make however many shelves we needed, one above the other.

We had our different size cans to display, plus water glasses, malt glasses, several size dishes for ice cream and sundaes, float glasses and banana split dishes. We

had a special board set up for holding the ice cream and toppings. The toppings consisted of the green and brown seed of different weeds and flower petals and leaves. Most customers chose the brown seed decorated items first.

We also made pies, cookies and cakes and decorated them with the same items plus small colored rocks.

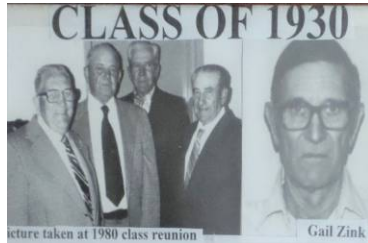
The boxes we had our possessions in were just as valuable as what they were used for. They were wooden boxes oranges, apples and grapefruit had come in. They had a divider in the middle so when you set these up the long way, you had three shelves, a top, a middle and a bottom. When cans were put inside, it gave a very neat and attractive appearance. A vase of wild flowers on top gave that Café just the right touch to inviting people into a comfortable home atmosphere.

We would have a few customers if we had company, but it seemed the most fun was always putting it up and getting everything ready.

The hard part always came when the crib needed to be filled with corn and our play house had to be once again packed up for another year.

THE GRADUATES

Usually the autumn issue of the Naper Paper contains photos of those who attended the alumni banquet. Since the banquet this year was cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus, the photos of the classes which would have been honored are featured. (* indicates deceased)



1930 Harry Bennett*, Rudy Weickum*, Carl Vogt*, Martin Vogt*, Gail Zink*



1940 (top) Katherine Katzer*, Walter Cline*, Frieda Ahlers, Roscoe Swick*, Blanche Stahlecker*
(bottom) Harry Cunningham*, Florence Odenbach*, Helmuth Holmgren*, Edeen Peppel*



1980 (top) Randy Vogt, Lora Sieh, Kip Sieh, Nancy Wentz, Lavern Higgins
(middle) Milton Reiman, Carla Vaughn, Kenny Bendig, Ethel Alexander, Keith Cline
(bottom) Kent Vogt*, Phyllis Camin (sponsor), Edward Peppel* (superintendent), Mark Zink, Jerry Klein

1970 (top) Gloria Breyer*, LouAnn Ahlers, Rita Ahlers, Patsy Moody, Linda Katzer, Dean Ahlers, Kathleen Beem
(middle) Dale Neumiller, Joseph Higgins, Becky Alford, James Schmitz
(bottom) Gary Engelhart, Mary Ludemann, Edward Peppel* (superintendent), Richard Wearn (sponsor), Rudolph Hambeck, Lynnette Sieh



2000 (top) photo 3-Trista Vogt, photo 4-Tyla Vogt
(row 4) photo 4-Sara Nicholas
(row 5) photo 2-Nicole Tangeman, photo 3-Blair Vogt, photo 4-Jessica Vogt, photo 8-Michael Sieh, principal



1950 (top) Paul Neumiller, Rose Marie Zeitner*, Helen Schmitz*, James Talmage*, Donna Weickum*, Art Neumiller*

(second row) Jake Boucher, Donna Davis, Charles Putnam*, Yvonne Reber*, Frank Fuhrer, Cathryn Blakkolb*

(third row) Arlene Nicolaus*, Joy Helenbolt*

(fourth row) Harley Nicolaus*, Ioan Reber*

(sponsor), Dan Duffy (superintendent), Avis Breyer (principal), Duane Sieh

The last graduating class from Naper High School was 1988. Subsequent classes graduated from Spencer-Naper so in the composite photos, only those students or faculty members from Naper have been identified. There were no graduates from Naper in 2010.

1990 (top) photo 3-Dale Reber, superintendent (row 3) photo 2-Angel Cline

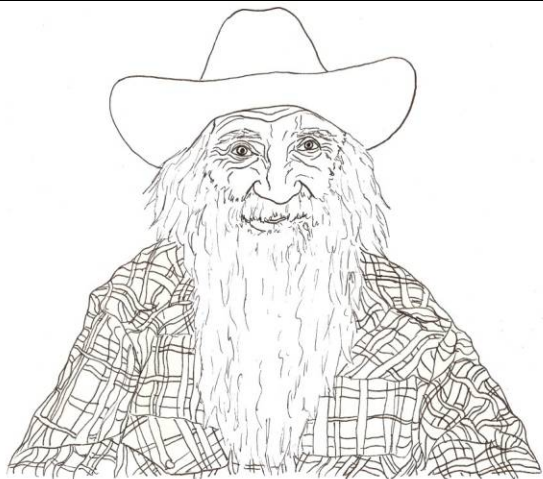


1960 (top) Ruth Katzer, Jerry Goodman, Doris Goodman, Grace Faatz, Barbara Stoltenberg, Karen Gentele, Mary Jane Riesselman, Judith Small

(row 2) George (Bill) Dawson, Delores Kreuger, LouAnn Stahlecker, Ralph Kulm, Bernice Stahlecker, Karen Reber, Steve Sparks

(row 3) Patty Peterson*, Harry Swallow, Marjorie Kortmeyer, James Sattler

(row 4) Denzel Hermsen, Lyle Larsen, Lewis Carter, Robert Titus



THE OL' HOME-STEADER HAS BEEN LOOKIN' FOR NEWS!

BUSY STUDENTS

Gina McCarthy (daughter of Darren and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) graduated from Boyd County Schools and will attend NECC in Norfolk this fall. She excelled at power lifting meets this year and received the Naper Alumni scholarship.

Jory Zeisler, son of Mark and Tiffany Zeisler and grandson of Richard and Sheryl Zeisler, graduated from Boyd County schools and will attend MTI in Mitchell, SD.

The Boyd County Prom was held July 11 and Hannah Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Drueke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) was named queen.

Kelli Mashino (daughter of Dustin and Tammy Mitchell Mashino) was on the Deans' List at UNL.

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Kyle Dean Daugherty, who with his wife Carley, lived on the White Horse Ranch for several years (1989-2006) during which time they repaired and restored many of the ranch buildings. He died March 23, 2018, in Phoenix.

Arlen Ahlers, the youngest of August and Anna Ahlers children, died March 22 at the age of 89. He was a 1949 graduate of Naper High. He was a teacher and school administrator. His wife Dottie and his three children survive him.

Wayne Ahlers (brother of Arlen Ahlers) died June 24 at the age of 91. He married Virginia Schonebaum (NHS 1954) and they raised their family east of Naper, then retired in O'Neill. Their children (Steve, Marian, Rich, Carol, Danny and Lisa) all graduated from Naper.

George Kramer, a 1941 graduate of Naper High School, died July 6 in Palm Desert, CA. He often attended the alumni banquet.

Betty Mae Neumiller, age 88, died August 8 in Atkinson. She and husband Herman raised their family on the farm southwest of Naper and all four of their children (Dale, Hale, Dion and Darcy) graduated from Naper.

HELLO THERE!

Trenton and Bailey Zink are parents of Ella Anne, born May 18. That means Gregory and Renee Zink are grandparents, Jeff and Rindy Zink are great-grandparents and Louise Neumiller Zink is a great-great grandma!!

Leo Robert Menning joined parents Steve and Sara Bentzen Menning and his brother Silas on June 25. John and Jan Bentzen are grandparents and Ramona Bentzen is great-grandma.

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 to see all of you May 29, 2021!

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!"

THANK YOU!!

The words "Thank You" seem inadequate to convey the gratitude felt for the contributions of time, effort, money, equipment, material, tools and sweat that made the park project a "done deal" on August 30.

After the group photo was taken, the curbing was installed and pea gravel put in place under the playground equipment. In the coming months, hopefully other improvements will be completed—new boards on the merry-go-round, new seats on the swing set, repairs to the toilets.

So, to everyone who helped in any way, thank you from the Naper community and all the children who will have good times and good memories in years to come.

Have you looked at the Naper Historical Society website? (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

LETTERS

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Thank you for sending the paper to me. Enjoy it always.

Donna Ludemann Vroegh

Enclosed is a small donation to be used wherever needed. I so enjoy the paper. Keep it coming! Thank you.

Viola Cline

Use as you wish. I'm enjoying the paper.

Cheryl Crandall

I am enclosing a donation for the Historical Society/Naper Paper. I intended to send it after the last paper as a memorial to two of my husband's classmates (NHS '59), Milo Stahlecker and Wardell Alexander; however, time got away from me. Now I see that Elton Serr has passed, such a nice man, my thoughts and prayers are with Georgia and her family. I remain in our country home where we moved in 1973. I miss Garry terribly, however, I have so many happy memories here especially over the ten years since we retired and traveled SO much. Garry was a wonderful man who loved God, his family, his friends and his kitties. My neighbors watch over me because of his goodness, (not mine). Thank you to those members of the Historical Society who work so hard to keep it going.

Diane Hoyt

I enjoy the paper, keep up the good work!

Donna Ludemann

A big thank you to all who work on the Naper Paper. Keep up the great work. Enclosed is a check to help with the expenses.

LaVerna Broekemeier Sieh

Thanks for sending me the Naper Papers. I enjoy them. Leola always shared them with me.

Enclosed is a check to appl for postage or whatever you need it for.

You have had a lot of storms and rain. I hope the hail and wind don't damage the crops.

Kathleen Raasch

Enclosed is a check to help with expenses of the Naper Paper. Great paper and enjoy every issue.

Elaine (Peterson) Noonan

Memorial funds on behalf of Marie Ida Volquardsen Jones, former White Horse Ranch rider and friend to Ruth Thompson. (Sent by her children Terri Shafer and Bill Jones.)

Friday travels to Naper brought many emotions to our family. Made it to the cemetery where Mom requested, beautiful view of the valley, and interesting to read Joseph Leatherman's headstone and VFW stand.

Met Casey and Dillon fixing fence along the roadside, nice to put a face to the kind person who helped our family reach some closure. He allowed us to take a drive down to where the ranch outbuildings stand. Time and neglect sure has taken a toll.

Well after lunch time, ate a delicious hamburger and hot beef lunch at the Naper Café. Time did not permit lingering any longer in Naper, so headed to Niobrara and Bloomfield to complete family business.

With that said, please accept the enclosed donation on Mom's behalf. Please use funds to help with

repair of white horses at Ruth's headstone, support community newspaper and then the museum.

Thank you for helping with contacting Casey.

Terri Shafer

Bill Jones

AND JUST FOR FUN

A fellow walked into the doctor's office and after the receptionist checked his temperature, asked what he had. "Shingles."

The receptionist took his name, cell phone number, insurance information and told him to be seated. A nurse came for him and asked what he had. "Shingles".

He was weighed, measured and had his vitals taken. He disrobed, put on a gown and waited for the doctor. The doctor came in and asked what he had. "Shingles."

"Where are they?" asked the doctor.

"Outside on my truck. Where do you want them.?"



The Pete Kramer family May 2, 1976, Pete and Mabel's 60th anniversary
Standing: Kathryn Kramer Parlett, Paul Kramer, Shirley Kramer Higgins, Frank Kramer, Stella Kramer Hermesen, George Kramer
Seated: Mabel (Cunningham) Kramer and Pete Kramer

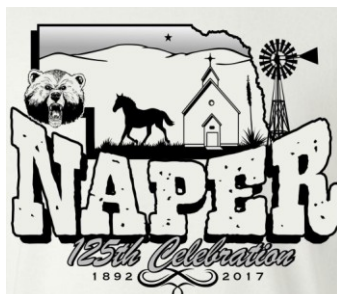
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District #71 (Hillside School) seven miles west and one mile south of Naper, taken about 1940

Back: Yvonne Reber, Lucille Vogt, Marvin Stoltenberg, Clara Camin, Erma Camin

Front: Eddie Camin, Wayne Stoltenberg, Donna Vogt, Donald Vogt, Duane Camin, Jim Buckels

Yvonne Reber (daughter of Grant and Ethie) married Bob Cahoy, Bonesteel. Lucille Vogt married John Sieh, Naper. Lucille and Don were children of Claus and Daisy Vogt. Donna Vogt, daughter of Raalza (Rowsie) Vogt was Don and Lucille's cousin. Marvin and Wayne Stoltenberg were children of Bob and Elsie Stoltenberg.

No information on the other students.