

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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MORE NIOBRARA BRIDGE PICTURES

We hope we learn something new every day. One day we learned that there are two levers to use in the big cranes, Lever A and Lever B. Now use your British accent and learn about levers. If you don't know what you use Leaver A for, then Leaver B. And now you can be a crane operator.



Above left: Looking south toward the Niobrara River. The deck is almost done! The machine across the width of the bridge spreads the concrete on the deck. The concrete approach from the Holt County side is done. The work bridge is on the right.

Above right: The concrete mix plant located on the south side of the river on the hill. Concrete is mixed in trucks here, delivered to the bridge and then moved by crane buckets to the deck.



KEYA PAHA RIVER BRIDGE PICTURES

Top photo: The deck on the Keya Paha River bridge is completed. The crew is building forms over the rebar so the railings can be poured. The pour was planned for December 2.

Bottom photo: The rebar is visible but framing wasn't done on the north side at the time of the picture.



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**SANTA WILL BE
AT THE HALL
DECEMBER 18
AT 1:30**

+++++

MEET ANGEL

Angel Guijarro is a 15 year old Sophomore attending Boyd County School in Spencer. His host family is Mike and Dee Roth. His host sisters are Michaela and Brooklyn and his host brother is Jace.



Angel has a younger sister, Maria (13), and a younger brother, Carlos (10). They both wish to visit America as exchange students some day. Angel's home is in Seville, Spain with his father, Angel and mother, Angela.

Angel said, "I never wanted to come to America, but my parents said it would be good for my future and help with my English. I am now happy I came. I love it here."

Angel plays football for the Boyd County Spartans and after never playing before or knowing anything about the game, he really enjoys it. His coach Bradley Wright, said he is impressed with Angel's ability to learn and play the sport. He also nicknamed Angel "Spanish Speed", since he is so quick. Angel plans to play basketball after the football season comes to an end.

Angel will be staying with the Roths until the end of the school year and then will return to Spain to finish his education.

MEET THE AUTHOR JAYCEE JAYE

Dee Rolf Roth began her writing career as a youngster, writing poems, songs, and short stories. Her first novel was finished in 2017. She writes under the pen name "Jaycee Jaye".

When her aunt Gaile Sachtjen would come to visit, she'd say, "Tell me a story" and Dee was always ready with a new one.

She gets her ideas from dreams, events that are happening in her life, events that are happening in the area. She can have a novel done in four to six months.

Dee does her composing on the computer and submits the manuscript to the publisher electronically. It is then sent to a review committee. From there it goes to page production and then a proofreader, the whole process taking a couple of months.

The manuscript is returned to Dee for her approval. A mock-up of the cover is presented to her and when all is confirmed, publication will take a couple of months.

It is the publisher's responsibility to get the copyright and other legal requirements.

From idea to "book in the hand" takes four to six months. Dee receives about 25 copies of the book for her distribution. The books can be downloaded on Kindle or ordered from Dorrance Publishing at DorrancePub.com. You can find them on Amazon. You can contact Dee for a copy also.

May 20 to May 30, 2022, Dee will be on a signing tour in the eastern part of the United States.



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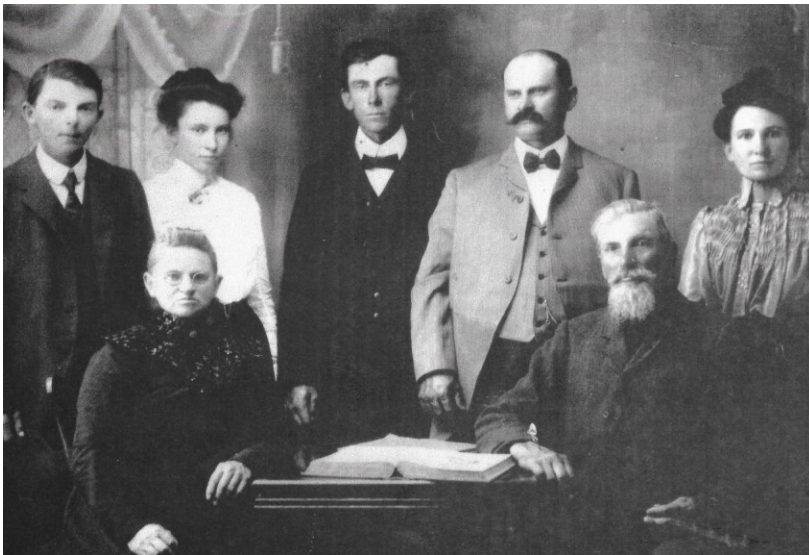
BENDIG CONSTRUCTION

Kelly cell phone 402-961-0445
Alex cell phone 402-340-7116

SOME ZIMMERMAN HISTORY

Jake Zimmerman was born June 6, 1833, in Pennsylvania. His family moved to Ohio, then Indiana where Jake, along with five of his brothers, enlisted in the Civil War in 1862. He spent time as a prisoner in Belle Isle and Andersonville Prisons. In 1864, he married Sara A. Bowen in LaPorte, Indiana. They moved to Iowa in 1866 and in 1884, to a place six miles south of Naper. (There was no Boyd County at that time. The boundary was the Keya Paha River.) In 1902, they moved to Naper.

Standing, left to right: Homer, Grace (Anderson), Bert, Charles, Alice (Tienken)
Seated: Sarah and Jake



Jake was the city marshal when Clifford Rohr attempted to rob the First National Bank (current location of the Naper Café) on April 3, 1913. Rohr pointed his gun at the bank cashier and Mr. Erickson proceeded to put money in a grain sack that Rohr was carrying. After Vera Erickson, a bank employee, slipped out and gave the alarm, several citizens, including Marshal Zimmerman, rushed to the bank. When Rohr saw them, he fired at them. No one was hit and Zimmerman fired back, killing him almost instantly. (Naper Paper Volume 4, Issue 1, 2007)

Jake and Sarah had eight children, three of whom died in infancy in Iowa. Jake died of a heart attack in February, 1918, at the depot in Winner while returning from a visit with their daughter Grace. Their son Bert and their daughter Grace Anderson died of influenza and

pneumonia within three days of each other in October, 1918. Their surviving children were Homer, who lived in Colome, South Dakota, and Alice Zimmerman Tienken and Dr. Charles F. Zimmerman, both of Naper. And thus we are lead to:

THE SAGA OF THE DRUG STORE

One of the most recognizable properties on Main Street (yes, I know Main Street is three blocks long so this isn't much of a challenge) is the house next to the Drug Store with the wall in front of it. Many comments have been made on the pages of the Naper Paper as well as around the coffee table about the time spent sitting "on the wall."

Recently the property was sold and, at the risk of telling the same stories over and over, here's some history of that property.

In 1900, lots 9 and 10, directly north of the Post Office, were conveyed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Naper to Dr. Charles Zimmerman for \$20. At the same time, Lots 7 and 8 were conveyed to Bert and Mary Zimmerman, a brother of Dr. Charles, for \$10 each. There's no indication of when the house on lot 10 was added.

In 1907, Lot 8, the location of the drug store, was sold to Dr. Zimmerman for \$500. The same year, Lot 7, where the house is located, was sold for \$250 by "Gracie", most probably Dr. Zimmerman's sister Grace Anderson. In 1927, the house now on the property was moved from another lot in Naper. Newspapers found in-

side the walls when the house was remodeled in 2001 coincide with that date.

Much of Dr. Zimmerman's practice was with the Indians on the reservation just north of Naper. He collected relics and curios and was credited with having the largest collection of Indian relics in Nebraska. There were more than 800 articles, each numbered and tagged.

After Dr. Zimmerman's death in 1931, his wife Mary (Mollie) continued to operate the drug store until her death in 1940. The entire collection was donated to the Nebraska State Historical Society. Many items are on display there and others are in storage.

In 1941, Fred Putnam Jr. bought the property from the Zimmerman Estate. In 1945, the property was conveyed to Albert and Doris Dalldorf. You could buy wallpaper, vaccine, knickknacks, books, ice cream—almost anything you'd need. In 1991, loan Reber bought the property at auction. It was then conveyed to Len Fuhrer also in 1991, to Gary and Roma Jeffords in 1994 and in 1999 to Margaret Ludemann and Dennis Jorgensen. Margaret and Denny had the house remodeled and lived in it for a short time before moving to their home in Chicago. Naper was their vacation home. Most recently, the property was sold by Margaret and Dennis to Damon Vogt.



Jim Sattler at the door to the Drug Store in 2014. He got an ice cream float there in 1960. (And probably many

more at other times.)



HERE'S A NEW BUSINESS FOR NAPER!

Angie McCarthy has recently opened a coffee bar in her hair salon **Curl Up and Dye**. The selection of coffee is incredible!! Plus you can have tea, frappes, cold brew, and probably a bunch more unknown to us.

Below: Des McCarthy, the barrista.



After you get your coffee at the coffee bar, there are several areas where you can sit and relax with friends or let your children play in the play area. It's just wonderful!



Above: One of several conversation/reading areas where you can enjoy your cuppa.

MUSEUM NEWS

There are two museums in Naper plus the jail on Main Street. Since the museums have been open, visitors from 32 states and three Canadian provinces have visited. Jon Vanderford from KOLN/KGIN "Pure Nebraska" visited in 2014.

Visitors sometimes add comments. "My grandmother was at the ranch." "Very nice place. Good memories." "I rode for the Thompsons in 1947." "I rode Cover Girl" "I grew up right near Tuthill, SD." [Ruth Hackenberg taught school there before marrying Cal Thompson.] The editor's personal favorite: "Great memories. We met here over 60 years ago."

JAKE AND LYDIA FIND EACH OTHER

Two miles west of Naper and a mile south on the west side of the county road is a place now called "the Ring place," because it was home to Dan Ring and his family.

In 1902, Dan Ring brought his family from Germany to the United States and finally settled near Naper. Their daughter Lydia was 12 years old.

This same year, another family in Germany was plotting how to send their son to America before he would be taken into the Germany Army. In 1903, Jake Schmidt was sent by his family to America where he joined a brother near Naper. Later one of his sisters also came to the United States. Jake went to work for local farmers where he learned to speak English.

Lydia attended a school near Naper which was taught by the minister but only German was spoken so it took Lydia much longer to learn English.

Community gatherings on Sunday were the only form of entertainment. The horses needed to rest after working in the fields all week, so the families walked to spend the day with friends. Jake was 21 and Lydia 18 when they began to notice each other at the community gatherings.

By this time, Lydia was working away from home for a family with four children. She was chore girl and housekeeper with six or seven cows to milk morning and night and a long busy day in-between. Once she received \$85 for her entire year's work.

Lydia's brothers and sisters and the children of the family where she worked all had light hair. She told her friends she liked Jake Schmidt because he had black hair.

When Jake smiled at Lydia, she smiled back. That good-looking young man with dark hair had a nice buggy and a fine team of horses. He had homesteaded 120 acres of land near Millboro, South Dakota. It was a two day drive from Millboro to Naper but Jake made the trip twice a month to see Lydia.

In the fall of 1910, Jake began to have serious thoughts of winter coming; how lonesome it would be on the homestead; how impossible trips back and forth to Naper would be.

So, one Sunday early in November he said, "Lydia, let's get married." Lydia said, "Yes" and the date was set for November 20. Jake's attendants would be his friend Jake Berg and Lydia's brother Fred Ring. Lydia's sister Martha and her friend Christina Burr would be her attendants.

Lydia started sewing her wedding dress and Jake was getting a house moved from Dallas to the homestead—a 16' x 24' house moved by horses which took a very long time.

The wedding was on a Sunday morning. It rained but it wasn't cold. Lydia baked all the cakes for the wedding herself. After the wedding and the dinner, everyone left only to gather again for a big charivari party at the Ring home that went on all night.

The next morning the couple boxed up nine chicken hens, a duck and a drake and Lydia's belongings into the top buggy and headed for Millboro herding three cows that Lydia's folks had given them.

It took three days and three more charivaris before they arrived at the homestead. The house had no chimney and was set on blocks. It had to be lowered and banked with sod. They had to dig a cellar and a well. Jake didn't have the potatoes dug so Lydia dug them, took them to the neighbor's cellar—and oh, no! They still froze! There was little or no wood to burn so they had to travel a distance to get some.

In the spring, Lydia traded four pounds of butter to a neighbor for a setting hen. She baked up 50 pounds of flour into bread for \$1.50 for neighbors who didn't know how to make bread. Jake worked for neighboring farmers for \$35 a month so Lydia cut, raked and stacked the oats by herself.

That fall, Martha was born. The little farm house was too big so they used one room for a granary for the corn. A few years later, Lydia got tired of two small rooms so after Jake went to town, she took a hammer to the partition and made one big room out of the two!

In 1915, Albert was born and in 1923, Elsie joined the family. When the children started school, Lydia learned to speak English.

The family moved to several farms in the area and in 1944 bought a farm south of Dallas where they retired. Lydia was born June 24, 1890, in Odessa, Russia and died December 3, 1970, in Gregory. Jake was born June 22, 1887, in Russia and died in 1968 in Gregory.

Thank you, **Kelly Anbach**, Jake and Lydia's granddaughter, who provided this history. She is seeking more information about Jake's siblings and their stories. Does anyone have something to add? Send it to the Naper Paper and we'll share it with her.

OCTOBER 16—NEW KNOLL CREST CEMETERY SIGN IS IN PLACE

Photo on left: Mike deKuyper and Ray Bentzen walking the new sign into place with help from Larry Anderson in the tractor.

Photo on right: Ramona Bentzen and Mike deKuyper, the designer and builder of the sign which was donated by Ramona and her family. The white building on the far right center of the photo is Ramona's house. . (Photos by Karen Bentzen Richardson)



The Sod House Is No More

The sod house in the photo below is no longer standing. It was built in the early 1900s, probably by Michael and Paulina (Serr) Maertins who came to America from Russia and settled west of Naper in 1900. They had 11 children, five of whom died in Russia.

Among their descendants are the family of Rinehold (Holt) and Mary Rabe Martin. Holt was a carpenter. He and Mary had three daughters: Irene (Weickum), Mildred (Fuhrer) and Twila (McLaughlin). Michael and Pauline's son Adolph (Buffalo) married Igena Schweigert who grew up about two miles northeast of Naper with siblings Johnny, Helen, Bob, Jake and Henry. Adolph and Igena had six children: Art, Lester, Adeline, June, Lucille

and Earl. They lived on various farms in the area. Lena Maertins married Henry Fischer. Bill married Ida Blum and they had one daughter, Mardell.



Michael and Pauline moved into Naper in 1923 and purchased the J. H. Sieler general store. They, and later their son Bill and wife Ida, operated the business as Maertins' Store until it was sold to George and Vivian Alexander in 1969. Their 60th anniversary picture is above.

Left: Photo of the sod house (looking west) was taken by Austin Koenig and won prizes at the county and state fair.

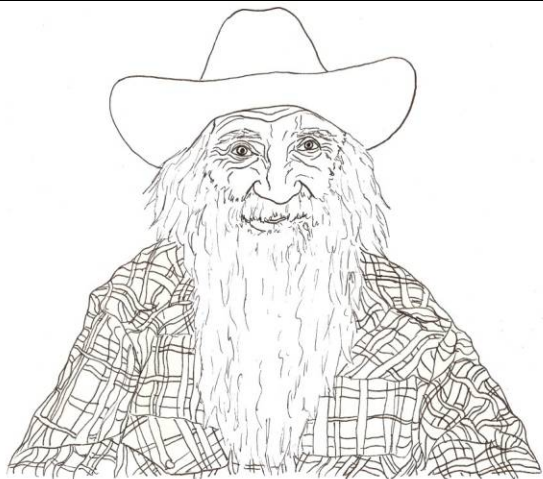
The Jesias (Joe) Stahlecker family lived in the sod house when they first lived in the Naper area.

In 1939, Julius and Martha (Giedd) Serr moved to the farm and lived in the sod house. It had two rooms (bedroom and living room) running east and west and then a frame addition on the south side which was the kitchen and an entry porch. Julius and Martha put a concrete coating on the north and west sides of the sod house and covered the rest of the sod with special clay. It was cool in summer and nice and warm in winter. The walls were about two feet thick and plastered on the inside. The window sills were deep, a perfect place for potted plants.

The last family to live there was Lenora Serr Sparks Klein and her children. Steve Sparks slept in the attic which he accessed from an outside stairs.

Julius and Joy Vogt bought the farm. The next owner was their son Eldon and his wife Machele, a granddaughter of Julius and Martha Serr. They sold it to Don Gross and he sold to Dave Fischer who wanted to preserve it. However, the requirements concerning fencing and public access to the property were complicated. After the drought of 2012, the sod was crumbling and Dave had Randy Anderson bury the house. Nothing is left but the picture and some memories.

Thanks to Art Martins for sharing the photos and stories.



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!”

SCHOOL NEWS

First quarter A Honor Roll students include Zander Kluckman (son of Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman, grandson of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-grandson of Don Vogt), Natasha and Ethan Zeisler (children of Jesse and Kimberly Zeisler, grandchildren of Sheryl Zeisler), Bret and Kaci Koenig (children of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, grandchildren of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandchildren of Louise Neumiller Zink), Michaela Roth (daughter of Mike and Dee Roth), Kyla McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) and Shaeden Polenske (daughter of Trudy Waterman and Guy Polenske).

A/B Honor Roll students include Angelita Arellano (daughter of Jessica Vogt and granddaughter of Vernon and Deborah Vogt), Austin Cadwallader (son of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, grandson of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) and ReNae Kluckman (daughter of Jim and Blair Vogt Kluckman, granddaughter of Kelly and Nicolaus Vogt, great-granddaughter of Don Vogt).

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Natsha Zeisler (who has qualified for state cross country three times!) competed in State Class D Cross Country meet in Kearney on October 22. She placed 32nd in a field of 127 runners, with a season's best time of 22:10

MORE HONORS!

In D2, District 4, all-district football, Zander Kluckman was named to the first team offense and Brett Koenig received honorable mention.

In Niobrara Valley Conference Volley Ball, Daydra Zeisler (daughter of Mark and Tiffany Zeisler, granddaughter of Sheryl Zeisler) and Paige Dueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Dueke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) were named to the all conference team.

SAYIN' GOODBYE

Franklin Fuhrer, a 1950 graduate of Naper High School, died September 29 in Mesa, Arizona, where he had lived for many years.

Karen Gentele Williams died October 2. She graduated from Naper High School in 1960, lived in Kansas for many years and most recently in Neligh.

Debra Traphagan Beem died October 11, 2021. She graduated from Naper High School in 1967, married her high school sweetheart Norman Beem, and lived in Kansas. Only eight days later, their son Tim was hit by a car in Lincoln, Nebraska, and died.

Lester Neumiller died October 17. He graduated from Naper in 1948 and lived in this area most of his life except for several years at Fullerton, Nebraska, where he was a rural mail carrier. He loved to reminisce and play cards.

Ronnie Sieh, a 1957 graduate of Naper High, died November 30. He had lived in Denver for many years.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

Always yield to temptation—it may not pass your way again.

If you're too open-minded, your brains will fall out.

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, you'll be a mile away and he'll be barefoot!

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel SO good.

No husband has ever been shot while doing dishes.

There's a new diet that will probably work—eat all you want of everything you don't like.

Talk is cheap—unless you're talking to a lawyer.

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, LETTERS, AND MORE LETTERS!!

In our last issue, Heidi Kohle had questions about the history of the Niobrara River. Thanks to June Sherrett, some of those questions may be answered.

Grand Rapids was a hotel and post office I have been told on the south side of the Niobrara. I found some concrete sticking out of the ground in the area of where the little settlement probably was just east of the Stuart/Naper Road. I also found a piece of the old wooden bridge across a spring where the old freight wagons and travelers came from Stuart and Atkinson to get to Naper. Grand Rapids didn't last as a post office long because Dustin was just up the hill.

The recent flood may have changed everything and covered the old concrete footings. Pryor's Island would have been in that area also. Dad (Jim Hupp) told me that the man whose last name was Pryor lived on the island in a little house that he built. He raised lots of vegetables and goats. He canned the goat meat and vegetables to have healthy meals.

When the land was owned by the Horne family we had a tradition of going to Pryor's island to get the best cedar trees for Christmas. The last time I was on the island about 20 years ago, the cellar hole Mr. Pryor dug for his vegetables and canned goods could still be seen.

June Hupp Sherrett

Enclosed is a small donation to your historical society for the fun visit my husband and I had to the White Horse Museum in October. We so appreciated one of your members opening the museum on the spur of the moment for us! We hope to stop in again someday when traveling through northern Nebraska (and giving you a little more notice of our coming!)

I had one of the off-colored ponies from the ranch back in the early 1960s. We visited the ranch at that time and I have always wanted to go back. Thank you!

I took a couple of your interesting newsletters home to read and saw a notice about a book that Marci Broyhill had written called "White Horse Dream A True Story." I would love to get a copy of that book. Could you let me know where I might be able to purchase it?

Thanks again for the visit!

Linda Bergman Meaden

Ed. Note: Although the policy of the Naper Paper is to not share personal information, many folks have inquired about the book. Marci Broyhill can be reached at PO Box 648, Dakota City, NE 68731.

Thank you—thank you for all your work on that great Naper Paper. You make it great! Enclosed is a check for expenses.

Jan Hysell

Thanks for all you do to keep the Naper Paper what it is! Your love and compassion for this little community can be read between the lines!

Barb Jons

Thank you for all the work you do to get the Naper Paper published. My husband and I enjoy reading it. Please find the enclosed check to help with expenses that you have.

Please note my new address.

Sharon Ahlers Pavelka

A thank you for your interesting paper. I found my best friend through your paper—Melba Cook—who I have known forever and lost track of—thank you for that!

We are praying that everyone stays safe and well over winter.

Riney and Virginia Stahlecker

GRAVES

God grant you lightness in your step,
A smile on every face you meet,
Loved ones gathered at your hearth,
and at your door, good friends to greet
A holy hymn upon your lips,
A window candle burning bright,
And may the Good Lord bless your heart
And come to dwell there Christmas night.
(An Irish Christmas blessing)

Ernest Eugene Graves

[Son of Clifford Clyde Graves, Clifford a brother of Daisy Vogt; son and daughter of Julius Graves.]

A Note from the Editor to the readers:

I love to get hints about articles or the articles themselves or pictures—anything that makes the paper more interesting for me and for you.

It takes some time to gather the stories and make up the paper. It is sent electronically to O'Neill where 770 copies are printed quarterly. After a few days, someone makes a trip to O'Neill to pick up the papers and the troops are called in to label them.

The last issue (September) had 748 copies mailed to readers in 34 states plus one to Canada. It costs about \$2500 a year to print and mail the Naper Paper so the checks you send to help with expenses really do help!

We appreciate your kind words. We appreciate your financial support. We appreciate having your addresses when they change. In short, we appreciate you!

Did you know. . .

You can survive entirely on a diet of potatoes and butter which provide all the necessary nutrients the human body needs.

About half of your body is bacteria.

Most of the dust under your bed is actually your own dead skin.

25,000,000 of your cells died while you were reading this sentence.

Without your pinky finger, your hand would lose 50% of its strength.

Humans have more empathy for dogs than they do for other humans.

Dogs are capable of understanding up to 250 words and gestures. The average dog is as intelligent as a two-year-old child.

Hugs that last over 20 seconds release a chemical in your body called "oxytocin" that makes you trust someone more.

Bananas are curved because they grow against the pull of gravity. They start off hanging downwards but as they get bigger, they start growing upwards to get more sun and end up with a curved shape.

Beer reduces the risk of developing kidney stones by 40%

NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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GRAMMAR ROOM 1953-1954

Back row: Dennis Cline, Judy Bentzen, Melvin Bentzen, Lou Ann Stahlecker, Bob Wentz, DeLoris Krueger, Harry Swallow, Anita Martin, Bill Dawson

Middle row: Edeen Fischer (teacher), Bernice Stahlecker, Shirley Bechtold, John Schmitz, Mike Stahlecker, Rolland Hart, Sandra Putnam, Lyle Karnes, Donna Windmeyer, Steve Sparks

Front row: Gloria Anderson, Gwen Putnam, Judy Small, Grace Faatz, Earl Martin, Jean Cline, Dolly Dawson, Marjorie Kortmeyer, Roger Cline

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