

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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[www.napernebraska.org](http://www.napernebraska.org)

Autumn, 2022

## Three-Mile Strip Problem Solved

By Ralph Kulm

We all learned in school that Nebraska became a state in 1867. We may **not** have learned that the northern border was not established in its present location until about 1890.

In 1867 the plan was for the northern border of Nebraska to follow the 43rd degree of latitude from the western edge of Nebraska on a straight path east to the Missouri River just as it does today. However, there was a problem—the Fort Randall Military Reservation and the Sioux and Ponca Indian Reservations had been established across that line. As a result, it was decided the state line would follow the 43rd degree east to the Keya Paha River and then follow that river to its confluence with the Niobrara and then finally to its confluence with the Missouri River.

The people in Washington, DC, didn't like the idea of a small river like the Keya Paha being the state border but had no choice. The border was surveyed in 1874. The opening of the problem boundary area was finally made possible by the Dawes Act of 1887 which allowed for the allotment of reservation land to American Indians. The land not allotted would be opened for settlement. The Ponca Indians were removed to Oklahoma. The Sioux signed a treaty in 1889 agreeing to the plan that the land they hadn't signed up for would be sold by them to the government for a small price and could then be opened for settlement.

North and South Dakota became states in 1889. Land north of the Niobrara River was opened for settlement and Boyd County was organized in 1891. The Fort Randall Military Reser-

vation was officially abandoned in 1892.

Joseph Jenkins then surveyed the new northern border of Nebraska from the intersection of the 43rd parallel and the Keya Paha River to the Missouri River in 1893. He set quartzite monuments at every mile and every half mile on the survey. The letter N was inscribed on the south side of the monuments and the letters SD on the north side along with the distance east of the intersection of the Keya Paha and the 43rd degree of latitude.

The mile monuments were seven feet long, ten inches square and weighed 790 pounds. The half-mile monuments were six feet long and weighed 440 pounds. Each one had to be set in the ground half of its length. Can you imagine hauling these monuments by horse and wagon and then burying them?

I grew up on a farm owned by the Ahlers family from 1906, when my great-grandfather Dietrich Ahlers purchased it, until 1990. The farm had land on the border between Nebraska and South Dakota. Gilbert Blele owned pasture on the South Dakota side of the boundary and had built his fence north of the actual line. As a result, we farmed the state line since there was no road on it.

One year we had corn in the field on the border. My uncle Otto Ahlers or my brother Ronnie Kulm planted the rows dodging around the 23 1/2 mile marker. My brother Gerald was cultivating the corn (and probably not paying enough attention) and didn't dodge the monument. He bent the monument over a little but the biggest damage was to the cultivator!

Good brothers that we

were, Ronnie and I told Gerald the government would probably be coming to see him. Ha!

My great-grandfather Wilhelm (Bill) Meyer lived about a mile east of the Ahlers farm. He had homesteaded land in 1895 on the Nebraska side of the border. He built his home and then found out his home was located in South Dakota. He had to take down his house and rebuild it a short distance to the south.

As I said earlier, Jenkins had surveyed the border and buried the monuments but the section lines on the "three mile strip" were not surveyed until 1895 by Robert Harvey. The 24 1/2 mile marker should have been close to where my great-grandfather was building his home. It's possible he didn't understand what it meant. However, I've found most of the markers in the area between the 23 1/2 mile and the 26 mile marker but have never seen the 24 1/2 mile marker. It's possible that it fell in the area where Squaw Creek intersected the border.

In 1909, Turtle Creek Precinct, located between the Keya Paha and the Niobrara and part of Holt County then, was added to Basin Township. Boyd County was finally whole.



## UPDATE

on [The History of Naper High School Sports](#)  
by Stan McLaughlin

**WORKING DRAFTS** of the History of Naper High School Sports are now available for your review on the [www.napernebraska.org](http://www.napernebraska.org) website. There are five sections to the NHS boys' sports history as follows:

(1) Basketball, (2) Cross Country, (3) Football, (4) Track & Field, and (5) Best Athletes. Any comments you have should be addressed to Stan McLaughlin at [sjmclaug@aol.com](mailto:sjmclaug@aol.com). I look forward to your feedback and hope to complete the history and post updated sections on the website by early December, 2022.

The (2) Cross Country (1970-1987) and (4) Track and Field (1957-1988) sections are complete unless somebody can find some errors or omissions in my work. I started the Track and Field section of the history in 1957 after Naper switched from baseball to track and field for the school's primary spring sport. The NSAA website indicates NHS had no track and field medalist at State prior to Ken Katzer in 1958. NHS never ran cross country until the football program was

dissolved after the 1969 season.

The (3) Football (1957-1969) section is very close to complete but I may not have captured the correct won-lost records for some of the early teams as I had to reconstruct some of the records from available newspaper articles. I might also be missing some NHS football all-conference selections (e.g. players on the 1963 Rosebud Conference Championship team?). Naper started their modern day football program in 1957 but it is possible NHS fielded teams prior to 1950 that I have been unable to document.

The (1) Basketball (1950-1988) section still needs considerable work; in particular I need to add or verify NHS won-lost records for the following school years: 1951-52 through 1953-54, 1955-56 and 1956-57, 1967-68, 1973-74 and 1974-75, 1977-78 and 1978-79, 1980-81 through 1984-85 and 1986-87 and 1987-88. I might also be missing some all-conference selections and a few player's 30 point games (documentation please). Note that I started the basketball history section with the 1950-51 school year as records for the 30s and 40s are few and far between. I can tell you that based on what

newspaper articles I can find, NHS was not very competitive in the late 40s and part of the early 50s, winning very few games. A Butte Gazette article from February 9, 1950, covering the Boyd County Tournament (1949-50 school year) documents Butte's 52-5 win over Naper where the Bears were held scoreless for the entire first half. (Naper **never** won the Boyd County Tournament from its inception in 1938 until the school closed.) Another Butte Gazette article from December 27, 1956, covers a Naper 46-44 win over Niobrara stating this was the Bears first win in two years. Be that as it may, there have been a number of good seasons with winning records and tournament victories after the mid-1950s that I have captured for posterity.

The (5) Best Athletes section presently contains the profiles of the following NHS athletes: Ken Katzer (1959), Dennis Wentz (1962), Lyle Graesser (1964), Ed Peppel (1966), Jeff Hamling (1966), Larry Ahlers (1967), Bill Peppel (1967), Eldon Vogt (1973), Steve Ahlers (1973), Lyndon Vogt (1983), and Jacques Davison (1984) plus  
(Continued on page 6)

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# ALL THESE TOKENS . . .

By Bob Allpress

In the last edition of the Naper Paper, an article was published about a trade token from Staplehurst, Nebraska. Even though I was able to track the proprietors from southeast Nebraska to Winner, South Dakota, how the token ended up in a yard in Burke, South Dakota, is still a mystery.

Trade tokens are one of the most popular classes of tokens. Their primary purpose was purely financial. They served as a monetary substitute, in locations where federally issued money may not always be available, and to help stimulate trade for specific businesses. Many general stores used tokens as a means of extending credit to customers while guaranteeing return visits to their store. All of the tokens specific to Naper were used for trade stimulation.

To be classed as a trade token it should be good for some specified amount, goods or service. Most such tokens are good for a certain monetary amount in trade, hence their popular nickname of "good fors," though locally it was called "good fers"! Various forms of trade tokens date back at least to the seventeenth century. The heyday of trade tokens is generally considered from after the Civil War until around World War II. Merchant token use dropped off markedly during and after World War II.

Naper also has an extensive history of tokens. The most interesting Naper token, found while I was metal detecting in Naper, was one for Arthur Martin's bar, circa 1909. I coincidentally found it in the late Art Martins' yard. I took it to Art and told him I found something he lost. He was amused and said, "Do you think I am that old!"

Other names (with no token pictures) found are: A. Odenbach, Tienken, Blakkolb and Sons, G. Hansen, John Her-  
ra, Logerwell & Son, and J. J. Marek.



# ALUMNI BANQUET-MAY 28, 2022-HONORING YEARS 0, 1, 2



Don Vogt, 1951



Norma Keller Vanderbeek 1952

Right: Even the scoreboard knew "It's About Time!"



Above: 1958-John Peterson, Lorna Sieh Dillon, Lois Kibby Chittim, Shirley Bechtold Olivier, Bob Wentz, Duane Kibby, Bill Schultz, Marvin Cline; to the right—Margaret Bendig Heien who got outside before the picture was taken



Margaret Bendig Heien



Judy Hoyt Cline, 1961

Below: 1960-Ralph Kulm, Jerry Goodman, Grace Faatz Bendig, Barb Stoltenberg Wentz, Mary Jane Riesselman Katzer



Above: 1970-Dale Neumiller, Joe Higgins, Rudy Hambeck, Gary Engelhart, former classmate Greg Stahlecker

1970-Keith Fuhrer, Bonnie Vogt Geckler, Joel Sieh, Bob Allpress



1971-Doug Allpress, Sharon Ahlers Pavelka, Marcia Neumiller Hogan, Dave Engelhart



Above-1980-Randy Vogt, LaVern Higgins, Keith Cline, Lora Sieh Cline, Kenny Bendig

Below-Bryon Vogt (1981), Brenda Klien Higgins (1982), Paul Allpress (1981)



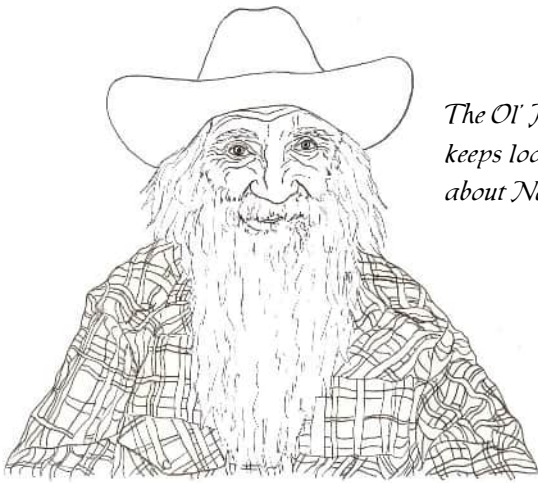
Camden Brewer, 2022, with the Alumni Association scholarship



Rick Sieh, 1992

Ninety alumni and guests enjoyed an evening of good food (catered by NebraskInn) and reminiscing, because **“It’s About Time!”** Emcees were Bob, Doug and Paul Allpress who shared trivia and news about the classes. Some honored guests escaped before picture time—1962 classmates Dennis Wentz, Mabel Riesselman Sattler and Gene Kulm Sand attended but missed the photo session.

Thanks to everyone who helped get the event organized and accomplished; to everyone who attended; to everyone who donated scholarship dollars. Hope we see all of you next year!



*The Ol' Homesteader  
keeps lookin' for news  
about Naper!*

Added to the list of "lunch ladies" from the last edition—do you remember when Violet Stahlecker, Leola Riesselman, Judy Cline, Linda Beem and Sylvia Gentele were behind the counter?

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Keith Mayer won first place with his 7500 Stock Tractor at the Butte Pancake Days Tractor Pull.

Evelyn Alford (first place, seven year olds), Lucas Alford (third place, eight and nine year olds) and Jace Roth (sixth place, eight and nine year olds) were winners at the Butte Pancake Days Pedal Pull. Evelyn and Lucas are children of Marcus and Candace Alford, grandchildren of Jim and Becky Alford, great-grandchildren of Lois Alford. Jace's parents are Mike and Dustie Roth.

## WELCOME!

Bill and Karen Peppel have a new grandson, Lennox Reid Vallow, born June 22, 2022, to Brett and Kara Vallow of Downers Grove, Illinois. He joins siblings Lilliana, age 7, and Luca, age 4. He is the great-grandson of the late Edward and Doreen Peppel.

## SAYIN' GOODBYE

Duane Sieh, a 1950 graduate of Naper High School and a US Navy veteran, died June 10. He and his wife, Marilyn Smith Sieh, farmed west of Naper for 63 years.

Steve Sparks, a 1960 graduate of Naper High School, died June 12 in Round Rock, Texas. Steve lived in a sod house

on his grandparents' farm northwest of Naper while attending school here.

Pat Valentik died August 9. She and her husband, Art Martins, moved to Naper in 1999. Art died in April, 2022. Pat had most recently been living at TLC in Burke.

Wendell Muller, a 1966 graduate of Naper High, died August 11 in St. Paul, Minnesota, as a result of a traffic accident. He had lived in Ogilvie, Minnesota, operating a masonry company for many years.

## (NHS Sports Continued from page 2)

Ray Vaughn (Head Coach 1961-1971). I am presently trying to find more documentation on a few more NHS athletes from the 1950s through the 1980s that might make the list. Before you make any recommendations in this regard, please review the profiles for the individuals listed above on the website and ask yourself the question "Does my candidate's performances stack up to these individuals?". If so, email me your recommendation with as much documentation of the person's accomplishments as possible.

Based on the newspaper articles I have found, I think there might be a few athletes from the 1950s who might make the list pending additional documentation. I'm also looking for documentation on a few more NHS best athletes candidates from the 70s and 80s. I think I have exhausted most of the available on-line and local on-site newspaper research options for the 70s & 80s but I am hopeful I will find some more NHS sports related newspaper articles on microfilm at the Nebraska Historical Society in a trip to Lincoln in the near future. (The Butte

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!"

Gazette/Spencer Advocate apparently discarded most of their newspaper archives from the 1970s & 1980s but I think they are on microfilm in Lincoln.) I doubt we will be able to document accomplishments for NHS athletes from the 1930s and 1940s but you never know?

Unfortunately this project wasn't undertaken shortly after the school closed in 1988 when lots of alumni from the early years (1930s and 40s) of Naper High School were still living who would have been a great resource for the NHS sports history. Thank you in advance for your interest and any information or documentation you can provide for this project.

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

## LETTERS FROM THE ALUMNI BANQUET

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood, when fond recollections present them to view. The orchards, the meadows —"

Our farm in Boyd county, about seven miles from Naper, did have an orchard and meadows, so we were blessed with springs to supply some small swimming ponds and fishing spots, as well as meadows for hay.

My parents were Dick and Lydia Ahlers, and I had three brothers and four sisters. I was the youngest and now the last survivor.

I attended District 60 through the 8th grade and then Naper High School. In the fall of 1940, I started attending Tri State Business College in Sioux City, Iowa. Having completed my course in December of 1941, and with World War II being declared on December 8, I reported for duty in the Signal Corps, War Department, and worked in the Pentagon until I retired in 1946.

I married Stan Voll on November 10, 1946, in Washington, DC, in the church where we first met in 1942. He served in the Navy during World War II. Our honeymoon was a trip to California, including a 10-day stop in the Naper area to visit relatives and friends. Our stop included wedding showers, a charivari and a wedding dance.

We settled in our home in Redwood City, California, and started working for the telephone company in January, 1947, and retired in 1981, as secretary to the president.

Life has been good. Lots of travels in our RVs in the United States as well as to far away places in our world.

Lost my husband after over 71 years of marriage in 2018. Grateful to still live in our home with the help I need.

Love hearing about Naper area news from special nephews and nieces and in the Naper Paper.

**Frieda Ahlers Voll-1940**

Dear classmates of 1971:

I am so very sorry that I'm not able to attend our 50th class reunion this year due to health issues. Since I live in Pawnee, Oklahoma, I'm about a nine-hour drive away from Naper.

Even though I attended Naper High for only one semester, it was one of my dearest school memories. Everyone was so accepting and friendly to me and my parents. We landed in Naper in August, 1970, for a water line job and we so enjoyed our short time on those northern plains. It was a bit of a culture shock considering I had previously been going to school in Kansas City. However, after meeting Bonnie, I felt right at home and had many adventures as the team of "Bonnie and Clyde", adventures which shall remain undisclosed!

In 2001, received my BS degree in criminal justice from Friends University. I've had many jobs but currently am owner of the Red Door Flea Market in Pawnee. I'm attending classes to get my real estate license for Oklahoma. My son Brian and his wife Anna have blessed me with a grandson, Joshua.

Bonnie and I had planned to meet but we just have to roll with what life throws at us. May you all stay blessed and healthy and enjoy these new Senior years.

**Norma Gaddis DuFont-1971**  
(letter edited for length)

## AND MORE LETTERS

Thank you so much for hosting us at the museum last week.. What a beautiful treasure you have worked hard to develop and grow. Please accept this small token of our appreciation and let us know how we can help in the future.

**Jon Schmaderer**  
Great museum.

**Don Schmaderer**

Wonderful to see you—I have so many memories I cherish of my hometown. Thank you.

**Jennifer Riesselman Schmaderer**

Thanks to all who put together the Naper Paper! After reading Stan McLaughlin's article on "The History of Naper High School Sports", I feel obligated to thank everyone who ever played sports at Naper. We may have been small in numbers, but we were large in team spirit.

I'm proud to be able to call myself a NAPER BEAR! Enclosed is a donation to keep the Naper Paper going!!

**Steve Ahlers (Class of 1973)**

## HEADDRESS REPATRIATED

Many years ago, while owning and operating Blakkolb's Grocery Store, Bill Blakkolb received a headdress from a local Indian, perhaps Chief Yellow Horse. The headdress made its way to California and for years was in the possession of Bill's daughters, Joyce Blakkolb and Kathryn Blakkolb O'Donoghue.

After the deaths of both Joyce and Kathy, Kathy's family contacted the Naper Historical Society to see if the headdress could be displayed in the museum. The Historical Society was happy to receive the headdress but non-natives may not possess eagle feathers so the Rosebud Sioux tribe was contacted.

On July 22, Ione Quigley, Rosebud Sioux historic preservation officer, met Naper Historical Society board members at the museum. The headdress and a beaded war club were presented to her. They will be displayed in Rosebud.

Naper Historical Society was honored to receive the headdress and happy to repatriate it and the warclub to the tribe. (See article in the last issue of the Naper Paper.)

Below: Ione Quigley, Ann Anderson, Bob Allpress (holding the headdress), Nancy Allpress. Ann and Nancy are holding sage bundles which had been given to them by Ione.



# NAPER PAPER

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### LADIES AUXILIARY TO VFW POST 8256-(DATE UNKNOWN)

Standing (left to right) Sandra Brauer, Mary Schoenefeld, Joan Zeisler, Donna Ludemann, Darlene Sieh, Inez Schmitz, Marilyn Sieh, Nancy Schmitz, Mary Fuhrer  
Seated: Joy Vogt, Lovera Reber, Bertha Nagel, Velva June Blum, Dolores Schock, Delores Schmitz  
Front: Dorothy Cline, Velda Stahlecker