

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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SOME FOLKS HAD A GOOD IDEA!

In September, 2003, a group of Naper folks started talking about preserving Naper's history and the best way to do it.

There was discussion about what needed to be gathered and saved, where it should be displayed, who should be responsible for the process, how to finance the endeavor. . . Endless questions, not many quick or easy answers.

And thus was the Naper Historical Society formed. A board of directors was named and a mission statement and a set of by-laws were developed.

The original members of the board of directors were Jim and Mabel Sattler, Margaret Ludemann, Velda Stahlecker, Beverly Zink, Loren Sieh, Sharon Vogt, Bob Schultz and Leonard Schmitz. Jim was elected chairman, Margaret was elected co-chair and Beverly was elected secretary-treasurer.

In the ensuing 20 years, some members of the board retired and others were recruited. The current board is Craig Zeisler, chair; Bob Allpress, co-chair; Ann Anderson, secretary-treasurer; and members Mabel Sattler, Sharon Vogt, Deb Vogt, Janet Eggert, Linda Schultz, and Rindy Zink.

It was decided to join Nebraska Community Foundation so the local organization would have 501(c)3 (tax-exempt) status. NCF also handles administrative, financial and legal responsibil-

ities for the local organization. Officers are covered by NCF liability policy. There is of course a small quarterly fee for these services.

In the spring of 2003, the Naper Attendance Center closed and the building and contents were sold at auction. All of the school memorabilia (class photos, trophies, awards, etc.) had to find a home so the board of directors began a search.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church had closed and was available. Krotter Lumber Company on Main Street had closed and was available. Leonard Schmitz had the original Naper jail at his farm where he used it for a granary. Over a period of time, all three of those properties were acquired.

As an affiliate of NCF, the Naper Historical Society can't own real estate so the three properties maintained and operated by the local group are owned by the village of Naper.

In the last 20 years, the Naper Historical Society has renovated the Krotter building for the White Horse Ranch Museum. The contents of that museum are owned by the heirs of Ruth and Cal Thompson, except for one room (the former office) where memorabilia from troupers is on display.

The Sacred Heart Church is now Heritage Hall and contains family, school, White Horse Ranch, Naper 28 and local history items. The building has been shingled and has had the siding

replaced.

The jail has been moved to Main Street. The building was repaired and the siding replaced.

All of this takes LOTS of money. In addition to the over-whelming donations from the public, several local hogs (thanks, Mabel and Jim) were raffled off as fund raisers. Members donated food and worked at countless lunch stands. Community auctions were organized. Grants were received from Niobrara Valley Electric and Three River Telco. Modern Woodmen provided matching funds at several fund raisers.

In addition to renovating buildings, the Historical Society members have picked up trash twice a year along Highway 12. The society provided money for the park improvement project and sponsored a quilt show, a Christmas program, an Outlaw Trail meeting, a benefit for the firefighters and open houses for Heritage Hall in 2004 and the White Horse Ranch Museum in 2009.

The Historical Society sponsored the dedication of the Naper 28 memorial at Knoll Crest Cemetery in 2004. They sponsored a Nebraska Humanities Council presentation by Buffalo Bill and a "branding" (ranchers could brand a board now displayed at the museum) at the time of the jail dedication in 2004.

(Continued on page 2)

PICTURE THIS!

A DISTRICT 44 MEMORY

By Janet Cline Eggert

Picture this—four skinny kids running as fast as they can across a flat prairie pasture. It's early spring so all four are wearing four-buckle overshoes, stocking caps and coats with mittens flapping at the sleeve end, the mittens attached by a heavy cord so they don't get lost. Mittens are not easily replaced when you're part of a large farm family. Everyone carries a battered lunch box in one hand and a book in the other—book reports due on Friday! No excuses!

The reason for their terror is not far behind them. Two very tall, ugly dark-colored work mules are chasing the four kids. Their ears are laid back, a sure sign of anger. They have big bloody red eyes and worst of all, huge yellow grass-stained teeth! They seemed to be enjoying the chase and I remember thinking that if the teeth didn't get us, the feet would.

Then, and not a moment too soon, a three-strand barb wire fence was in front of us. Lunch boxes and

books were dropped as we rolled under that fence. Never mind the scratchy weeds or the barb-wire fence.

We were so tired and still in shock with fear that the last half-mile walk on home went by fast. By now we realized our lunch boxes and books were back in the pasture. Would Mom and Dad holler at us?

Mom and Dad heard our story about neighbor Ward Barnes' new mules. Not much was said, but Dad said he'd go get our lunch boxes and books and talk to neighbor Ward.

It seems that Ward had always wanted to work with mules. He found the pair "down the line" at a farm sale—CHEAP! Worst of all, the day before our scary experience, he found two dead baby calves in that same pasture and wondered what could have trampled them.

Some day a dusty archaeologist searching for dinosaur bones will be surprised to find mule bones down in the bottom of a ravine that runs between the old Ward Barnes place and the farm I grew up on. Imagine that!

SOME FOLKS HAD A GOOD IDEA

(Continued from page 1)

A website has been developed (napernebraska.org) with all of the class photos, each edition of the Naper Paper, the story of Naper 28, the White Horse Ranch story, a comprehensive history of sports at Naper High School, stories of the cemeteries in the area and a story of the jail as well as many photos of the Naper community.

The Naper Paper started in December, 2003, as a newsletter sent to local addresses (per the now extinct telephone book) and all alumni whose addresses were available. The paper is published quarterly and nearly 750 copies are mailed. The last edition was #70.

Several volunteers cleaned and organized the museums this month. Two new displays were developed, including lab equipment of Dr. Zimmermans (donated by Ramona Bentzen) and costumes worn by Dean and Jean McCroskey who trained at the White Horse Ranch in the 1950s before starting their own training school (Twins Albino Ranch) in Missouri.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES—KEEP NAPER STRONG!

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LET'S CELEBRATE!



When Frieda Ahlers Voll (Naper High School, 1940) turned 100 years old March 18, her neighbors asked what she wanted for her birthday and she said “a parade”. So they put together a parade of 3-4 fire trucks, a couple of cop cars, the local high schools’ drum section and about 100 neighbors walking and waving. The mayor showed up with a swag bag (certificate honoring her day, pens, etc.) from Redwood City. The San Francisco Giants sent a nice letter and a swag bag with a hat, more pens, a Giants’ shirt and a Buster Posey Bobblehead. Frieda watched the parade from a very queenly looking chair under an arch of balloons. There was an abundance of punch and water and cupcakes and cookies and ribs and tri-tip. Groan. It could not have gone better.

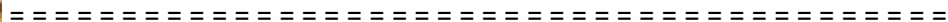


KIDS DO LOVE HORSES!



The memory is a little fuzzy as to dates, but Winston Stahlecker is the wrangler, Tenny is the horse, and the children are Stanley Stahlecker, Roger Ludemann, Greg Stahlecker and Mary Ludemann. The bottom picture shows Winston and Greg. The photo is probably taken summer time, 1956 in front of Reo and Marguerite Ludemann’s farm home north of Naper.

Tenny was a Tennessee Walking Horse that Reo bought for \$75 at the Pat Hiser sale held at their ranch north of Burwell in 1955. She was Roger’s horse and so tall that he had to crawl on the fender and hood of the Willys Jeep to get his foot in the stirrup so he could ride.



JACOB BOUCHER

Jacob Boucher was the youngest of seven children of Jacob and Libby Moses Boucher. He graduated from Naper High School in 1950.



After high school, he served in the US Air Force. While he was home on leave from the Air Force, he met Betty Teachout. They corresponded until he was discharged from the service. They were married for 66 years.

He was a power lineman for Niobrara Valley Electric, the Air Force Academy and the Bureau of Reclamation. He worked all over the Midwest and western United States until settling in Boulder City, Nevada.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, two daughters and three grandchildren.



WHO IS IT? WE NEED SOME HELP!

The photos were in an album owned by Vera Donason Adkinson who lived west of Mills. Her mother was Ellen Higgins Donason. Could this be a relative of the Higgins family?

Teresa Wenger would appreciate any help identifying this man. Naper Paper contact information on page 6.

THE WAY IT USED TO BE DONE. . .



Sterling Schultz is discing with Casper (white horse) and Rex south-east of Naper. Notice the Twin Buttes in the background.



Sterling is harrowing the plot of ground with Casper and Rex. Glenn Zink is observing.



Glenn Zink is driving the team pulling the road grader used on Basin Township roads by his grandfather Royal Hawley Zink. Craig Zeisler is operating controls on the machine.

Photos taken in 2007 by Beverly Zink.

ALSO THE WAY IT USED TO BE DONE . . .

Thanks to Marilyn Smith Sieh who provided the advertisement and news article from the Naper Enterprise, 1907, from her parents' scrapbooks.

T. E. Smith, President of the Bank of Naper, was Marilyn's great-uncle.

T. E. SMITH, President. C. GUY CROSBY, Cashier.

Bank of Naper.

Banking in All Branches.

Have a complete personal tax list of Basin Township. Pay your taxes here.

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People's Bank.

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Transacts a General Banking Business

Farm Loans at very Lowst Rates.

Don't Fail to see us if you want a Loan.

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We handle Sale Papers.
Will draw all Legal Papers.
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Naper, Neb.

The road stallion, "Storm B" and the draft stallion, Fitch, will make the season of 1907 in Naper and vicinity. Call and see them before breeding your mares.

For Sale:—At a Bargain, if taken within thirty days. The NE 1/4 of Sec. 1, T. 33 N., R. 15 W., 9 miles southeast of Naper. There is living water on this land, and it will be sold for \$500 each, if taken within 30 days. Call on or address S. Weekes, O'Neill, Neb.

FOR SALE:—Several hundred oak and ash fence posts; 250 telephone poles 14 feet long; thoroughbred

Notice the ads—

Above left: Stallions, both a road stallion and a draft stallion, will be available for service in the Naper area.

Above right. Land for sale—at a bargain!—if taken within 30 days. The NE1/4 of Section 1, T 33 N, R15 W, nine miles southeast of Naper, for \$500.

DISTRICT 21 STARTED—AND ENDED

OTHER NEWS FROM 1907

Adam Schoenefeld and Miss Anna Kortmeyer were married Tuesday, April 30, 1907, at the German Lutheran Church, Rev. Henry Weertz officiating. The ceremony took place in the presence of a large number of friends who accompanied the newly married couple to the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Kortmeyer, at which place a wedding feast was served, the festivities continuing all afternoon and far into the night. The bride received numerous beautiful presents in honor of the occasion. These popular young people have grown up here, and have the best wishes of a large circle of friends. They will make their home on the farm owned by the groom, northwest of town.

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John Hoyt is married. The ceremony took place last Thursday evening at the home of the bride, Miss Martha Wilhelm, near Gross, Nebraska, in Gregory county.

John and his bride arrived in Naper Friday evening, and went to the Hughes restaurant for supper. While there, some one remarked the fact he was married and in almost less time than it takes to tell it, the restaurant was surrounded by as noisy a charivari party as ever pounded a tin pan or fired a gun. The crowd gave John 15 minutes to finish supper and the time expired with John eating as he never ate before and the crowd hustled him up to the "life saving station" where it took two cases of beer to satisfy the overpowering thirst of the party, besides a quantity of candy for the real noise makers, the small boys.

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The Odd Fellows and their wives and the Rebekahs gave surprise party at the hall Monday night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Erikson who are about to start on a trip to Europe. They were both cleverly surprised. All present shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Erikson and wished them a pleasant journey and a safe return. About 60 guests and members of the two lodges were present.

K. E. Sprenkle and other interested parties filed a petition with Emma S. Warner (then county superintendent of schools) January 13, 1892, asking to form a school district. On January 21, a meeting was held at the Sprenkle home and Jake Zimmerman was elected moderator, George Gulick, director, and K. E. Sprenkle, treasurer, of the new district.

The first building was built of logs and \$48 was spent on books and apparatus. Mrs. Marcia Dudley received \$25 a month for a five-month school term.

When the school was later located in the town of Naper, Mrs. Sam Wyatt was the teacher. That building was later used as a blacksmith shop by Arendt Hanson. Soon enough, the school population grew and a new building was necessary to accommodate the students. A two-story, four-room school valued at \$3,000 was completed in 1903.

The ninth grade was added in 1908; the tenth and eleventh grades were added as there were students for those grades. In 1928, the first four-year class of students graduated. They were Lester Andersen, Marguerite Rockholm Ludemann, Olga Hanson James, Margaret Hotaling Salmen, Chris Holmgren, Dorothy Putnam and Wayne Putnam.

The next year, 1929, a two-story, two-room addition with a basement was built on the south side of the building.

In time, that building became inadequate and the equipment was obsolete. In 1955, Districts 2, 4, 18, 44, 22, 53, 60, 70 and 71 joined with District 21 to form Naper Consolidated School District 21. That fall, a bond election of \$115,000 was held to finance the construction of a new school, 115 x 132 feet.

The new building was occupied for the first time January 28, 1957. The village of Naper had built a new hall in 1955 which was used by the school for a gymnasium and auditorium.

Over time, 646 students graduated from Naper High School. In 1988, Tammy Wentz, Tammy Mitchell, Lori Goodman, Laura Nicolaus, Aaron Hamling and Rhonda Hamling were members of the last the last senior class to graduate.

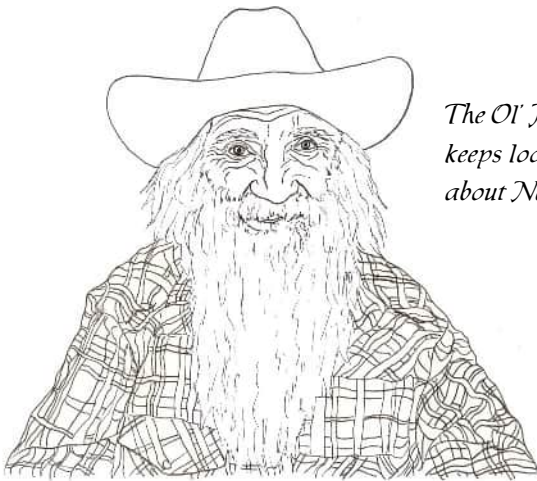
The previous year, Naper had merged with Spencer to become Spencer-Naper School, District 38. Beginning in August, 1988, students in grades 7-12 attended Spencer and grades K-6 attended in Naper. In May, 2003, the Naper Attendance Center closed its doors.

In August, 2003, the school building and many pieces of equipment, boxes of books and an assortment of other "stuff" was offered at auction. Jim Alford and Vern Goodman bought the building and later sold it to Derek Auclair.

Below: Students at the last Christmas program in Naper, December, 2002

Left to right: Alex Bendig, Riley Bengtson, Katelyn Haney, Allyson Hamling, Jonathon Alford, Thomas Hamling, Macy Ahlers. (Katelyn's mother Tammy Wentz and Thomas and Allyson's father Aaron Hamling were members of the last class of seniors in 1988.)





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

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!"

BOYD COUNTY SCHOOL NEWS

Zander Kluckman (son of Jim Kluckman and Blair Vogt, grandson of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-grandson of Don Vogt) was named to the Omaha World Herald All State Boys' Basketball team. Paige Druieke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Druieke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) and Natasha Zeisler (daughter of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, granddaughter of Sheryl Zeisler) were named to the Omaha World Herald All State Girls' Basketball team.

The Nebraska State Colleges Multi-Activities Student Award recognizes students who participate in at least three NSAA sanctioned activities during the academic year. Honorees include Natasha Zeisler, Paige Druieke, Zander Kluckman, ReNae Kluckman (daughter of Jim Kluckman and Blair Vogt, granddaughter of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-granddaughter of Don Vogt), Wyatt Heermann (son of Casey and Jill Heermann, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) and Jaylee and Lanie Lechtenberg (daughters of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughters of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughters of Bob Wentz).

Paige Druieke received awards at the FBLA State Leadership conference in Kearney.

Liz Arellano (daughter of Jessie Vogt, granddaughter of Vern and Deb Vogt) and Shaeden Polenske (daughter of Trudy Waterman and Guy Polenske) participated in the AAU Powerlifting competition in Orchard.

Paige Druieke, Natasha Zeisler and Lanie Lechtenberg were medalists at the North-

east Community College Scholastic Day.

Paige Druieke won awards at the state FBLA leadership conference.

Natasha Zeisler advanced as a National Qualifier at the state FCCLA leadership conference. Kyla McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) received a Silver rating.

Natasha Zeisler has been selected for Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) at Chadron State College. Her chosen field is physical therapy.

Preston Brewer (son of Kip and Rachel Heermann Brewer, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heerman) did well at track for Boyd County Junior High. Ethan Zeisler (son of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, grandson of Sheryl Zeisler), Paige Druieke, Natasha Zeisler and ReNae Kluckman all participated in Boyd County High School track.

Paige Druieke and Natasha Zeisler qualified for the state track meet at Burke High School in Omaha.

Zander Kluckman will play in the North Central Nebraska All-Star Basketball game in O'Neill May 26.

CONGRATULATIONS

Zander Kluckman and Natasha Zeisler graduated from Boyd County Schools on May 6. They each received a Naper Alumni Association scholarship. Zander plans to attend University of Nebraska at Kearney and Natasha plans to attend Chadron State College.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Sandy Brauer became a great-

grandmother on February 6. Charlene Brauer of Norfolk, Sandy's mother-in-law, is the baby's great-great-grandmother, Sandy's daughter Trudy is grandmother and Taylor and Erandi Morrow are parents of Amelia. Quite a family tree.

Sandy also became a grandma on February 18 when Ari was born to Jake and Meg Brauer who live in Sioux Falls.

Nash Lee Druieke was born March 29 to Justin and Hannah Druieke. Tony and Beth Goodman Druieke are grandparents and Vern and Linda Goodman are great-grandparents.

Ellie Ann Bendig arrived May 7, to keep sister Gracie Marie and parents Alex and Kirstyn Bendig busy! Grandparents are Kelly and Monica Bendig; great-grandmother is Grace Faatz Bendig.

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, LETTERS

We enjoy this newsy paper. Keep it coming. Enclosed is a long overdue check to help wherever it is needed.
Roy and Shirley Vogt

Thanks for the good news you send out to all of us. We appreciate it. We are sorry for the good Naper people you have lost.

We have had a lot of snow here so anxious for spring so Riney can plant his garden.
Riney and Virginia Stahlecker

Thank you for all you do to make the Naper Paper what it is. I enjoy the articles and share them with my sisters.
Barb Jons

Just a note to let you know we're still kicking down here in southern Illinois. The weather has been wet (no snow, just lots of rain), makes calving a mess, but better than snow, I guess. I see a little corn has been planted so spring must be here.

Carolyn and I both wish you folks a wonderful summer. We so enjoy the paper.
Orland and Carolyn Cline

Thank you to the volunteers of Naper Historical Society.

I am sending a donation and memorial for Jake D. Boucher, Jr., former Naper graduate. He was my mother's youngest brother. I am also sending his obituary and picture.

Use the donation for whatever is needed. As a member of several historical organizations, I know there is never enough.

Thank you for the paper and keep up the great work you do.

Hope to revisit you soon.
Edward G. Higgins

A donation in memory of Uncle Jacob Boucher.
Dan and Mary Cerny

You do a great job with the Naper Paper.
Bonnie Moody

Thank you for your hard work on the Naper Paper. I am enclosing a memorial for my Uncle Jake Boucher, Mom's brother. Enjoy your many stories.
Joan Waring

This is a small memorial in honor of Jim Sattler.
Edward G. Higgins

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A NEW YORKER COMES TO THE RANCH

By Valerie Schmitz

For quite a while I was confused about when "dinner" was in Naper. I had flown from New York to visit Jerry. The men had gone to the field and I was to stay around the house and yard to help Jerry's mother, Irma, with chores and household duties.

It was early and shortly after breakfast, my mother-in-law put before me a great number of potatoes and asked me to help her peel them. I thought it was quite early to start peeling potatoes for "dinner" but I did as I was asked. She shortly thereafter started a good-sized roast in the oven. Again, I thought it was early but did not question.

Wow! Was I amazed to find out that "dinner" on the ranch at Naper was at 12 noon and was quite a feast compared to what I was used to in New York. Dinner in New York usually refers to a big meal about 2 pm on Sunday afternoon or a special holiday feast such as Thanksgiving or Christmas.

The noon meal in New York is called lunch and my family's lunch usually consisted of a small meal of sandwiches, a salad, a bowl of soup or a combination of them. Now, whenever I am in the Midwest and someone invites us to "dinner", I always say, "You mean 12 noon, right?"

One day Irma told all of us we were going to town to have dinner. (By this time I figured out dinner in Naper meant the noon meal.) We were all going to go "to town" to Goodman's Feed Store as they were having a "feed" of "taverns". Now I really did not know what this could possibly mean other than thinking it would be another great adventure in Naper for this New Yorker.

I found out that "taverns" are what I call a "Sloppy Joe" sandwich of ground beef and spiced tomato sauce. I'll never forget how neighborly everyone was and how they loved to visit with each other. And when I looked out the window of their store, there wasn't a car in sight—just pickups! I always wished I had a picture of that.

ANOTHER NAPER AUTHOR

Judy Hoyt Cline (Naper High School class of 1961) recently compiled family history and memories in a book titled Marvin and Judy. Judy has kept a diary for many years and also had diaries from other family members as well as newspaper accounts of local activities.

Shelda, Marvin and Judy's daughter, coordinated the work with the publisher, Storyworth Publishing. After the book was sent to the publisher, it took about six weeks for Judy to have a hard copy in her hand.

All of the local stories make the book very interesting to her family and anyone else who is lucky enough to read it. Congratulations, Judy!

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OUR OLD FRIENDS

LeRoy Erickson, a 1955 graduate of Naper High School, died October 20, 2022, in Mesa, Arizona. He had lived in Denver for many years before moving to Mesa. His daughter Debbie lives in Naper.

LouAnn Stahlecker Heermann died February 25 in Grand Island. She graduated from Naper High in 1960. Her husband Dennis Heermann graduated in 1956.

Jim Sattler, a life-long resident of the Naper area, died April 11. He was the first president of the Naper Historical Society and was a tireless worker for the museums and the community. He graduated from Naper High School in 1960. His wife Mabel Riesselman Sattler graduated in 1962 and their five children all graduated from Naper.

Jerry Goodman, also a 1960 graduate of Naper High School, died April 23. He grew up west of Naper. He and his wife Janet raised their family west of Fairfax.

NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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CONFIRMATION CLASS FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1948

Left to right: Harley Nicolaus, Arlene Nicolaus, Yvonne Reber, Nathalie Sattler, Joy Helenbolt, Donna Weickum, Rev. Edwin Gutjahr