

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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IT'S A GENUINE FOUR-LEAF CLOVER!

By Marilyn Sieh

This thermometer came from John "Johnny" Sieh and Walt Ahlers when they owned and operated the Naper Super Service. It was difficult to take the picture because the thermometer is a mirror and reflects. Under the four-leaf clover are the words "Genuine 4-Leaf Clover."



Now for a brief history of Naper Super Service, both before and after these two men were partners in the business.

The first owner was Charley Klein in the early 1930s, followed by Gust Weickum who was John Sieh's uncle. Then Harry Bennett and Bob Fuhrer owned Super Service.

John Sieh and Walt Ahlers owned the station from 1950-1952 which is when these thermometers were given to the customers.

Walt sold his interest in the station to Jim McLaughlin, whose wife Velda was John's cousin. John and Jim owned the station from 1952 to 1969. Jim then sold his share of the business to his brother-in-law, Loren Sieh.

John and Loren Sieh were cousins and in partnership until Loren bought out John's share. So 30 years in the business, John retired.

Ed Note: The original building with the curved roof design was destroyed by fire in 1992, shortly before Naper celebrated its centennial. Naper Super Service relocated to the vacant Krotter Lumber Company building next door until the station was rebuilt that same year.

Clay Schonebaum leased the station from Loren for a short time before it closed in 2001.

OTHER THANK YOU GIFTS . . .

It was customary for local businesses to give their customers a "thank you!" gift at Christmas time. Apparently knowing the temperature was a popular thing as three other gifts shown here all have thermometers as part of the display.

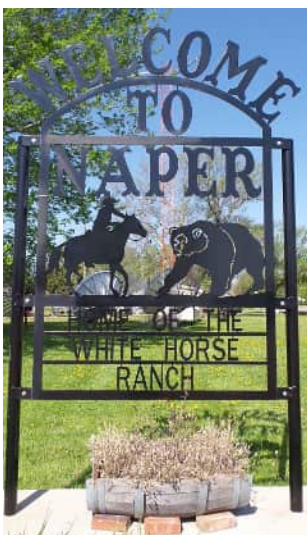


Above: "Ed Jons, Agent Standard Oil Products (1951) Phone 2561 Bonesteel, S.D.

Kaupp Implement Jamison, Nebraska I.H.C. Trucks & Tractors M.M. Tractors and Equipment (1965) Phones— So. Burke 774-2570 Naper 732-5406



Above: Just another thank you from Harold Schultz, Naper, Nebr. (No date)



ROBERT E. NESBITT, JR

By Greg Cantrell

I noticed much information on my uncle is still missing from your webpage. Bobby, as my mother Marilyn and my Aunt Barbara always referred to him, was the eldest of four.

He graduated from Austin High School, Chicago, Illinois, in 1942, and enlisted in Army Air Corp February, 1943. He was not married. He won his wings April 15th, 1944, at Foster Field in Victoria, Texas. This may have been his Basic or Advanced Training (?).

I happen to possess his Cadets of Class 44-D "Gremlins" graduation book from his Primary Training at Hicks Field, Ft. Worth, Texas. This is where I found the photo that I'm attaching.

I've attempted to scan some pages of that book, but without much success. If I succeed I'll forward you a bit more.

A few interesting tidbits may be that my father was (class of '43) AAF pilot at Base Air Depot #2 Warton, U.K., ferrying L-3s, P-47s, P-51s & B-24s, who

taught me to fly in the '60s. I ended up retiring as an Boeing 767 international Captain.

He explained Robert's death simply by saying, "You have to recognize it was **wartime** and sometimes cockpits got staffed with low-time crews".



I did many 757 transcontinental flights and every time I flew nearby, the crash site was always in my navigation display.

According to newspaper obituary, Robert E. Nesbitt Sr. is believed to have died just prior to August 29, 1951. Funeral services for him were held at St. Barnabas Episcopal church in Chicago, Illinois, and he was buried in the Forest Home Cemetery nearby. I believe it most likely that is where Robert Jr. would also of been buried. I'm awaiting verification.

Ed. Note: A general description of the Naper 28 crash and names of the men who were aboard the plane can be found at napernebraska.org. Thank you, Greg Cantrell, for this history of your uncle. If family or friends of others who were killed in the crash have information to share, please send it to papabear@threeriver.net.

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Quartzite State Line Monuments

By Jerry Penry
Chief Deputy State Surveyor
Nebraska State Surveyors Office

Nebraska's northern border is conspicuously marked every one-half mile with large pink-colored quartzite stone monoliths. For the past 130 years, they have stood as lone sentinels, often providing the only physical location of the line between neighboring states. When Dakota Territory was created from a portion of the original Nebraska Territory on March 2, 1861, the boundary between these two territories became the 43rd Parallel to the west of the intersection of the parallel with the Keya Paha River. East of this location, however, in what is now Boyd County, the original boundary between the two territories was the channel of the Keya Paha River flowing southeast to the Niobrara River and then following this river east to the Missouri River.

The territorial boundary which later coincided as the state boundary west of the Keya Paha River to the common corner of Nebraska, Dakota and Wyoming was surveyed in 1874 by Omaha surveyor Chauncey Wiltse. Wooden posts in mounds of earth were placed at one-mile intervals starting with Milepost 0 (zero) at the Keya Paha River and increasing in number to the west for just over 224 miles.

On March 28, 1882, an act of Congress extended the 43rd Parallel east from the Keya Paha River to the Missouri River to create a new boundary between the State of Nebraska and Dakota Territory. South Dakota attained its statehood on November 2, 1889.

On August 5, 1892, Congress appropriated \$20,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to resurvey the original northern state line of Nebraska and the new portion obtained in 1882 that had not been surveyed. On December 23, 1892, the government began advertising for bids which needed to be accompanied with a certified check in the amount of \$500. The quartzite posts were to come from a quarry at Sioux Falls. Full mile posts were to be 10" square and 7' long. One-half mile posts were to be 8" square and 6' long. Engraving would be "N" on the south face, "SD" on the north face and the mile or half mile number with the letter "M" on the east face of each post.

Bids were opened on January 28, 1893. Receiving the lowest bid in the sum of \$9535.50 was Samuel C. Shelton of Springfield, South Dakota. Others who had bid on

the project immediately became vocal that Shelton was not a surveyor, nor did he possess any equipment or expertise to perform the job. Shelton then admitted that he had only bid on the project as a money-making venture and had intended to sublet it to a competent surveyor. Upon revelation of the low bids, several qualified engineering companies said the project could not be performed for less than \$17,000 by anyone, noting that the cost of the stone monuments alone would be at least \$5,000 and it would likely cost an equal amount to freight them to the various sites along the line. By comparison, the lowest bid to perform the survey and place the similar posts along the South Dakota/North Dakota boundary in 1891-92 was \$21,300.

After much debate, Shelton was removed from the contract and a re-advertisement was made on April 3, 1893, containing wording that bidders needed to be a bona fide surveyor. This second time, the bids were opened on May 6, 1893, and Joseph H. Jenkins of Winona, Minnesota, was the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$11,700. Twenty bids had been received with a high bid of \$24,950 to the low bid by Jenkins. The contract to have Jenkins survey the entire state line and to place approximately 525 quartzite posts was made with the government on May 20, 1893. His first task was to resurvey the state line west of the Keya Paha River and place the stone markers where the wooden posts had been placed in 1874 and to also place one-half mile stone posts between the full mile posts. This work was performed between July 24 and August 16, 1893.

Jenkins then focused on the unsurveyed line going east from the Keya Paha River. Since the 43rd Parallel is a curved line, a transit with a solar attachment had to be utilized to stay on the curve instead of merely surveying in a straight line. Similar to the line going west, the mileposts would also begin with 0 (zero) at the Keya Paha River and increase in numerical order going east. Therefore, the mileposts along the state line are duplicated in number going both east and west of the Keya Paha River. Jenkins began this work going east on the state line on September 21, 1893. The line between Keya Paha and Boyd counties was crossed two days later on September 23. This northwestern corner of Boyd County on the state line falls between Mileposts 20 and 20½. The line was surveyed and marked until reaching Milepost 57½. Since the remaining distance to the Missouri River was less than a full mile, a special monument known as the Terminal Monument was placed in a protected location west of the river on October 2, 1893. It was marked 57 M 72.70 C

which represents 57 miles and 72.70 chains. As the line was measured by two independent set of chainmen (measurers), temporary stakes were placed at the locations for the permanent monuments. Jenkins finished placing the quartzite monuments on October 12, 1893, and returned to Minnesota.

Jenkins submitted his notes and plats to the government on May 21, 1894. An examination was then made of his work in August of 1894 and was found to be complete and well performed. Formal acceptance was made on December 15, 1894, and Jenkins was subsequently paid. Soon thereafter, on July 11, 1895, Jenkins became ill and died at the age of 59. It is highly doubtful that Jenkins made much money on the project and most likely had lost quite a bit. He had to pay his crew and pay the expense of the monuments during the survey, but he would personally not get paid by the government until his work was approved.

The portion of the state line along Boyd County is approximately 38 miles long. Beginning with Milepost 20½, and continuing east to the Missouri River, there were a total of 76 quartzite posts placed along Boyd County's northern border consisting of 37 monuments at the full mile locations, 38 monuments at the one-half mile locations and one for the terminal monument. Exactly how many of these monuments still remain in their original locations today is unclear. At least one at Milepost 28 had to be removed when it fell within the highway curve north of Naper. Despite their size, other posts have been the victims of theft along the entire state line since they possess a fascination to curio seekers who do not understand their importance. Although these stone monuments are not section corners that define the boundaries of land, they were used when the section lines needed to terminate upon the state line and distances were measured from the mileposts to the section corners



ALUMNII BANQUET IS HISTORY

The theme for the annual Naper High School Alumni Banquet was “Remembering the Way Things Used to Be”. Butte Firehouse Café catered the meal for 75 guests. LeRoy Ahlers, class of 1963, was MC. Scholarship donations this year totaled \$707.



CLASS OF 1953—LaVerna Broekemeier Sieh, Neil Helenbolt, Velva June Vogt Blum (seated)



Zander Kluckman received one of the 2023 scholarships at the banquet. His is the son of Blair Vogt, grandson of Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-grandson of Don Vogt and the late Gloria Beem Vogt, Harley and Charlotte Karnes Nicolaus, all Naper High alumni.



Class of 1963—Jenelle Blum Hanzlik, Jerome Blum, Sandra Windmeyer Wade, LeRoy Ahlers (MC for the evening), Carolyn Honke Swanda

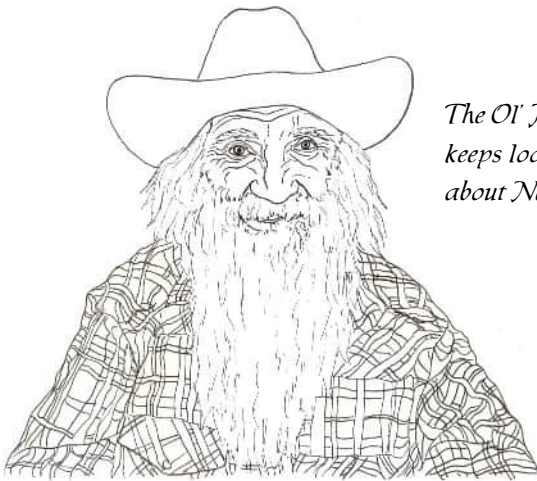


LEFT: Class of 1973 -Janet Becker Vargas, Eldon Vogt, Myra Reber Reis, Steve Ahlers, Laurita Bentzen McNulty, Del Fischer

**RIGHT-Class of 1983
Joy Cline Bechtold, Tim Meyer, Lyndon Vogt, Scott Cline, Lawrence Reiman, Michael Sieh**



LEFT: Neil Helenbolt with four of his nephews, two of whom were in honored classes. Bryon Vogt (1981), Eldon Vogt (1973), Neil Helenbolt (1953), and Lyndon Vogt (1983)



*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!"

Back to School August 14

It is striking to think of the "history" our Naper students have. Some families are sending the fourth generation of students to Boyd County Schools this year! This list includes parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who attended school in Naper, either grade or high school. We hope this list is comprehensive but read on and please let us know if anyone was missed. So, in alphabetical order:

Lucas, Evelyn and Jane Alford's father Marcus Alford and grandfather Jim Alford;

Preston and Evan Brewer's father and mother Kip and Rachel Heerman Brewer, grandparents Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann;

Austin, Rylen and Kinsley Cadwalader's mother Stephanie Whitley Cadwalader, their grandparents Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley and their great-grandmother Esther Neumiller Fuhrer;

Julianna Cline's father Hoyt Cline, her grandparents Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline;

Paige Druke's mother Beth Goodman Druke and her grandfather Vernon Goodman;

Kaylor Hespe's father Mike Hespe;

Emerson, Jayden and Bergan Higgins's father Skye Higgins, grandparents LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins, great-grandmothers Lelia Boucher Higgins and Margaret Vogt Klien Schmitz;

Liam Karnes grandfather Lyle Karnes;

ReNae Kluckman's mother, Blair Vogt, grandparents Kelly and Lois Nicolaus Vogt, great-grandparents Don and Gloria Beem Vogt and Harley and Charlotte Karnes Nicolaus;

Brett, Kaci and Baleigh Koenig's mother Staci Zink Koenig, grandfather Jeff Zink and great-grandmother Louise Neumiller Zink;

Kyla McCarthy's father Darrin McCarthy and grandmother Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy;

Aaron, Landon and Jameson Melton's mother Heidi Vogt Melton, grandparents Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandparents Jim and Mabel Sattler and Julius and Joy Vogt;

Lane and Cash Nordstrom's mother Jamie Zeisler Nordstrom;

Shaeden Polenske's great-grandmother Florence Wetzler Porter; Ellie and Liz Arellano's father Ross Vogt, grandfather Vernon Vogt, great-grandparents Julius and Joy Vogt;

Grayson and Hadley Vogt's father Ryon Vogt, grandparents Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandparents Jim and Mabel Sattler and Julius and Joy Vogt.

NEW FACES AT THE NAPER CAFÉ!

For 16 years, Terry Sachtjen had been in charge of the Naper Café. This year, Terry said it was time for someone else to take over.

August 11, Tony Hoffman began his turn as grill-master and host. Tony grew up near Spencer, Nebraska, and graduated from there in 1988. He and his wife Amy are the new faces.

At this time, the staff has stayed on, the usual hours will be maintained, and the menu is the same so stop by and enjoy some good food, a cup of coffee or tea and a good visit.

Sayin' Goodbye to Our Old Friends

Gloria Andersen, a 1961 graduate of Naper High School, died February 3, 2023. She had lived in Omaha for many years.

Loren Sieh died June 23. Loren and his wife Linda owned Naper Super Service for years. Loren wore many hats as a member of the Naper community—school board member, fireman, coach, event organizer, bartender.

Dennis Green, a resident of Rapid City for many years, died July 22. He grew up west of Naper and was a 1961 graduate of Naper High School.

Claudia Sparks Vaughn attended the alumni banquet this year to spend time with her former classmates from the class of 1963. She died August 5.

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

It's been a "minute" since I sent any \$ for the paper. I enjoy it so much!

Lauri Bentzen McNulty

Enclosed is a check for the paper. I enjoy it a lot as I know people there as my mother was from there. She was a Gentile and had a brother there. Enjoy reading the paper.

Melba Mulford Cook

The last issue (V21, Issue 2) included a photo of the 1948 confirmation class from the First Congregational Church in Naper. I am one of the class members in that photo so it elicited several painful and some happy memories.

The first recollection is that the confirmation ritual was on Sunday, May 30, when it is reasonable to expect somewhat warmer weather. As my parents and three brothers drove to the church, the weather was COLD and it was snowing. I was shivering, freezing cold! My mother had sewn my beautiful white taffeta and tulle gown (first I'd ever had). It was my utmost and utterly strong intent to "show it off." While other members of my family were sensibly dressed for the weather condition, I refused to wear a coat. I was insufferably cold but too intent to relent. Adding to my discomfort were the white summer sandals I insisted on wearing. (How could my parents bear such wrong-headed stubbornness?)

As I recall, the recitations went well even with my chattering teeth and goosebumps. (The church had one potbellied stove which was not anywhere near me and the reciting class.) Further, as I recall, during the preparation classes and learning time, I perceived Reverend Gujahr as such a VERY old man. In the photo and from my perspective at this stage of my life, he appears quite young and attractive. I cannot recall what happened to the gown. Did I ever wear it again? I have no idea.

Thanks to all who keep this unique publication coming!

Nathalie Sattler Taranto

To all the work you people put in the paper—I really enjoy reading and keep up with Naper news. I appreciate all you people do.

Please use the money wherever you want.

Sandra Jons Whitley

We enjoy the paper so much. Use this wherever it is needed.

Garry and Roma Jeffords

I received the Naper Paper today, third of June and as usual, I read it from first page to last page. Always enjoy the paper.

I grew up northwest of Naper across the Nebraska border into South Dakota on my dad's farm. It laid right along the Nebraska and Dakota line. I always considered Naper as my home town and was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church.

In later years we moved to Naper and Shirley and I had eight children, five girls and three boys. They attended Naper School for several years.

We ended up moving to Norfolk, Nebraska, and made our home here per-

manently.

All eight children finished school here and some went to college. All five daughters worked for the postal department and retired from there. Alan is retired but Andrew and Adrian are not.

All eight are married and have families—20 grandchildren and now I have 24 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

My wife Shirley passed away December 9, 2001. My birthday is June 15th—I'll be 93!

I am going to enclose a check. Use it for the Naper Paper and keep up the good work.

Norven D. Mayer



Pupils of Frances Evelyn Lyon Sprenkle taken about 1923 near Naper



Frances Evelyn Lyon Sprenkle b. 1902-photo about 1940s

To all my new relatives and friends in Naper-

Here are copies of some pictures I found recently. If you can find out more about my mother as a teacher, I would love to hear it. She was not married until she was 21 so she could not have taught school but a short time.

Evelyn Sprenkle Tanner

Ed. Note: Evelyn Sprenkle Tanner's grandparents owned the farm north of Naper later owned by Ed and Frieda Nicolaus, then Lester and Arlene Neumiller. Evelyn's stories have been published in the Naper Paper and last year she stopped in the Naper Café and was pleasantly surprised to meet a couple of "shirt-tail" relatives. Can anyone help us with the pictures?

NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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And 60 years ago, this was the seventh and eighth grade group!
Back row: Teacher Marjorie Kortmeyer, Earl Faatz, Bob Schultz, Denny Schmitz, Roger Ludemann, Dennis Gentele, Dwaine Hoffman, Terry Layh
Front row: Marsha Sparks, Patsy Dummer, Debra Whitley, Vicki Carstens, Shirley Honke, Eileen Berg, Joyce Blum, Mary Reber