

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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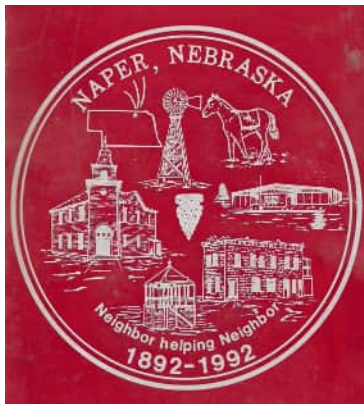
Naper Paper

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NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR

By Lois Vogt

“Neighbor helping Neighbor”—this was the slogan that a group of citizens chose for the Naper Centennial celebration in 1992. It is a great description of how this area was settled and how this small town was started.



It is also how we keep things going today. Volunteers and community service are the lifeblood of towns and cities everywhere and it holds true here in Naper.

The Naper Historical Society, formed in 2003, has a board of nine people volunteering their time to preserve and share the history of this little town. Because of their hard work and with the help of many others, we have the Heritage Hall museum and the White Horse Ranch museum. When visitors come to town and want to see the museums, someone from the café will call a volunteer to lead the tour.

The Historical Society publishes the Naper Paper four times a year. Several volunteers show up to tape and address the 750 copies that are sent.



They organize a road cleanup that covers two miles each east, west, and north of town. (Photo of clean-up crew about 2007: L-R: Ryon Vogt, Loren Sieh, Corby Sachtjen, Heidi Vogt, Charlotte Nicolaus, Holly Vogt, Ann Anderson, Jim Sattler, Mabel Sattler, Velda Stahlecker; kneeling in front: Margaret Ludemann)

They keep flags flying at the Naper 28 memorial site at Knoll Crest Cemetery.

For those of you who enjoy coming back on Memorial Day weekend to attend the Naper Alumni Banquet, you can thank the community members who get together and organize the event, which will be celebrating 70 years in 2024. A few folks get together to choose a menu, address and stamp letters, determine the program and decorate.

A generous donation of books by an avid reader from rural Naper was the start of the Naper Public Library, which is a valuable community resource. The books, both fiction and non-fiction, have all been donated. A group formed a local book club and volunteer their time to sort and catalog books.

We have all heard the stories of the settlers helping each other build their homes and farm buildings. The town of Naper itself was started because of the generosity of two men, R.R. Naper and George Hotaling, who donated the land.

Over the years, there have been many times the local citizens have volunteered their time, labor and equipment to help friends and neighbors who have been affected by natural disasters. What comes to this author’s mind are two significant times. Shortly after the Naper centennial celebration in 1992, a tornado carved a large path of destruction, severely damaged many locations including one family’s homesite and most of their buildings. Trees and branches and debris of all kinds could be seen. For almost a week, teams of volunteers with tractors, loaders, trailers and manpower cleaned up the mess. Women from all over converged on the town hall and had potluck meals prepared for all the workers.

(NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR CONT. P. 4)

SOME FAMILY TIME

A social worker from a big city in Massachusetts recently transferred to the mountains of West Virginia and was on the first tour of her new territory when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life. Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door.

"Anybody home?" she asked.

"Yep," came a kid's voice through the door.

"Is your father there?" asked the social worker.

"Pa? Nope, he left afore Ma came in," said the kid.

"Well, is your mother there?" persisted the social worker.

"Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here," said the kid.

"But," protested the social worker, thinking that she will surely need to intervene in this situation, "have they left you alone? Are you never together as a family?"

"Sure, but not here," said the kid through the door. "This is the out-house!"

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

By Lois Vogt

With winter upon us and more time being spent inside on these long winter nights, there is nothing like a good book!

The library has recently received dozens (yes, dozens!) of boxes of books from many different sources, including the Grattan Township Library in O'Neill.

There are two bookcases in the Naper Café where excess books, duplicates of books already on the library shelves and children's books are placed with the sign "FREE BOOKS". It's surprising how often the shelves need to be replenished!

The library is the repository of old favorites, local authors, best sellers and new interesting non-fiction, many of which are local stories.

Although regular library hours aren't in effect, you can call Ann Anderson (402-832-5471) or Phyllis Camin (402-832-5777) and they'll be happy to open the library door for you.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES—KEEP NAPER STRONG!

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“SWEET” MEMORIES- SAYIN’ GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

By Janet Cline Eggert

“Skunk: a black and white mammal of the weasel family that ejects a foul-smelling liquid as a defensive action.”

Farm kids and their dogs learn early on to avoid the very attractive but dangerous skunk. Not only is the “liquid” foul-smelling, the spray is dangerous if it hits the eyes. Many a family pet spent weeks sleeping outside after a “close encounter of the skunk kind.”

One of my earliest memories of skunk education dealt with the skunk den that happened several times under the District #44 school house. I suppose cooler days and nights of fall called for a warm home for the skunk families to spend the winter.

So! Soon the word was out—or was it the smell? It was time to relocate the stinky family. For days after, the smell lingered and it was good for at least one day away from school.

I never questioned how or where the family was relocated. Later I learned it was accomplished by snagging them out of the den with a hook made of barbed wire.

My dad, Wilbert “Bill” Cline, had this skunk story to tell. One winter he trapped and skinned out about 150 skunk pelts. He sold the pelts for enough money to purchase a new suit and all the finery that went with it for \$12.00 from Naper’s Clothing store in Gregory, South Dakota. He bought two suits, one for himself and the other for his brother Harney to wear when Mom and Dad were married in 1937.

When we cleaned out Mom and Dad’s house after he passed away 69 years later, we found that suit hanging in the back of his closet. It was well worn, clean and still in the original suit bag. Imagine that!

Harry Neil Helenbolt died September 26. He graduated from Naper High School in 1953 and attended the alumni banquet in June. He and his wife Carol Peterson Helenbolt, class of 1954, raised their family in Stuart where they had an insurance and tax preparation business.

Dennis Green’s death was reported in the last Naper Paper. Dennis was a poet and shared some of his work which is being reprinted here.



THIS OLD HOUSE

This old house looks so forlorn,
With its shingles all tattered and torn.

Its paint is worn and peeling,
You could imagine there may even be
holes in the ceiling!

Its windows and door are all boarded
up,
To help protect it when the storms get
abrupt!

But if you think of it, I am sure,
At one time it had great allure.

For years it was called HOME,
And in the yard, children would roam.

As in any home, I’m sure it saw tears
But I’m quite sure it also heard cheers!

The porch was used for family and
friends to sit
To discuss the day’s work, or maybe
gossip a bit.

So when you see it, don’t just think
of how rough it looks,
Think of the happy times it had, and
maybe some great cooks!
(April, 2013)

Often the message on the back of the funeral leaflet has great meaning.

Loren Sieh’s message is especially fitting.

So God Made Our Dad

One day, many years ago,
God looked down on the little hamlet of
Naper, Nebraska, and said, “I need a
caretaker.” So God made our dad.

God said, “I need someone to
fix everyone’s cars, be a rattlesnake
tamer and be a kind, patient baseball
coach.” So God made our dad.

“I need someone to handle the
4th of July fireworks for the whole town
to see, be a fair umpire and create a
signature belly slide into home plate the
whole town would enjoy.” So God
made our dad.

“I need someone to be the
volunteer school board president, deputy
sheriff, fireman and EMT.” So God
made our dad.

“I need someone to keep the
rowdies under control down at the local
bar and keep a watchful eye on things.”
So God made our dad.

Above all else, when God
needed someone to be a kind, loyal
friend to all, a wonderful son, husband,
father and grandfather, always there to
wipe the tears and bring a smile, He
made our dad.

And when the fateful day
came, when it was time to come home,
God received our dad with open arms
and lovingly said, “Well done, my son,
well done.”

Claudia Kay Sparks Vaughn attended
Naper High School and operated a
meat locker with her husband Merle
Vaughn in Mitchell, South Dakota.

“Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the softly falling snow.
I am the gentle showers of rain,
I am the fields of ripening grain.
I am in the morning hush,
I am in the grateful rush
of beautiful birds in circling flight.
I am the starshine of the night.
I am in the flowers that bloom,
I am in a quiet room.
I am in the birds that sing,
I am in each lovely thing.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there. I do not die!”

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT . . .

- 1. Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
- 2. Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
- 3. If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
- 4. If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
- 5. Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
- 6. Why do "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- 7. Why do "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- 8. Why do "tug" boats push their barges?
- 9. Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
- 10. Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
- 11. Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?
- 12. Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
- 13. Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
- 14. Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
- 15. Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
- 16. If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
- 17. If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- 18. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
- 19. If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
- 20. Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

- 21. Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
- 22. Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
- 23. How come abbreviated is such a long word?
- 24. Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
- 25. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- 26. Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?
- 27. Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR (cont.)



Cleanup at Bryon and Sharon Vogt's farm south of Naper, 1992.

In 2012, severe drought conditions created multiple areas of grass and timber fires that burned out of control. The Naper Volunteer firemen joined many other community departments in helping fight the flames. Others gathered safely nearby supplying food, water and a place to rest.

The volunteer firemen, EMT's, and first responders give of their time to be certified and help out in emergencies. (See story on page 5)

When families come together to mourn the loss of a loved one, they can count on the people of Naper to furnish and serve a meal. Usually a few phone calls set the affair in motion. In fact, (whether for a funeral luncheon or in the past a dinner hosted by the local VFW chapter auxiliary on Memorial Day), this community is well known for the delicious and abundant food that is furnished.

So wherever you live, be it a small town or a large city, check to see where volunteers are needed. You will not only do something good for someone else, you will do something good for yourself, too! Any place can benefit from neighbors helping neighbors.

ED. NOTE:

A wonderful example of volunteers working together was May 8 when several workers cleaned Heritage Hall. They installed new lights, reorganized displays, cleaned excess fixtures and listed those fixtures for sale.

May 15, workers again came together to clean the White Horse Ranch Museum on Main Street. Many hands make light work.

Several times during the summer, a mowing crew gathered at the Knoll Crest and Sacred Heart Cemeteries and made short work of mowing while others did the trimming.

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District 7 Students, Eighth Grade Graduation, May, 1984
Back: Eighth grader Tammy Mitchell, David Reiman
Front: Jeanne Reiman, Jennifer Smith



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NEW EQUIPMENT FURNISHED FOR THE AMBULANCE

BY Rindy Zink

Thanks to a memorial, the ambulance was able to purchase a vital monitor which can take pulse, respirations, blood pressure and pulse oximetry. A portable defibrillator for use when someone is having a heart attack was purchased and has been installed in the Drueke Truck shop. It can be accessed by going through the west door. The defibrillator is hanging on the wall.

The ambulance has also received a portable suction machine and an autism bag. The autism bag is helpful for patients who tend to fidget and are having trouble waiting. There are small weighted lap pads, fidget toys and other comfort items that a child would love.

Another article new to the ambulance is an IGEL, an airway management device, and a Shure Slide, to effortlessly slide patients from stretcher to OR tables (and back) without lifting.

The Naper ambulance crew has two EMTs—Scott Nicolaus and Rindy Zink. Beth Drueke and Tammy Haney are first responders.

The Naper Ambulance is associated with the Boyd County Ambulance. The Boyd County crew will respond if the Naper Ambulance is unable to make it to a call.

The firemen are very supportive of the ambulance crew. Many times when there is a call, they are available to help transport the patient.

The ambulance is here to serve the community. Thanks to

everyone for supporting it. It's great to live in a small community where everyone looks out for each other.

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RIGHT: CONFIRMATION CLASS 1981, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
L-R: Barb Jons, Doug Anderson, Lisa Jons, Hoyt Cline, Cindy Bendig, Jeff Vogt, Kara Kapsa
=====



TINTYPES AREN'T NEW! (and they aren't tin!)



Christina Fast



Henry Fee



Henry Fee seated on right

By Marilyn Sieh

I am so fortunate to have these tintype pictures of my great-grandmother and my great-grandfather.

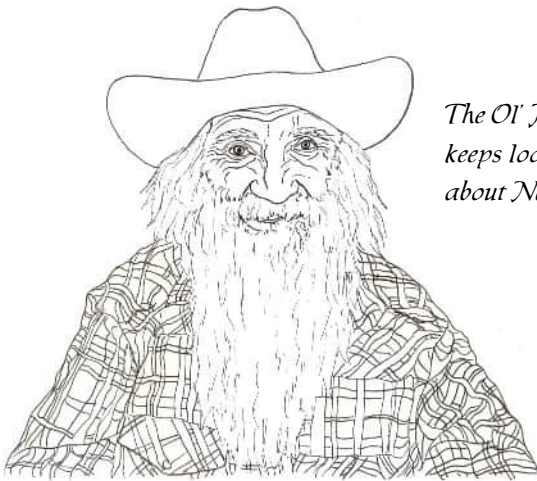
Christina Drexel Fast was born in 1860 and lived west of Naper where Alan Nicolaus now lives. My mother was Frances Fast Smith and Christina was her paternal grandmother.

Henry Fee lived along Morris Creek southwest of Naper, across the road from where I now live. He was my mother's maternal grandfather. (According to the 1904 map of Boyd County, it is "Morris" Creek but if you Google it, it is spelled "Morse" Creek.)

Henry Fee is seated to the right in the picture of the four young men smoking cigars. The photo was taken before 1900.

Tintypes came existence in the mid-1850s and were still used until the 1930s. A chemical process was used on the steel (not tin) plate, inserting it in the camera for exposure to the subjects being photographed. After exposure, the photo was coated with a dark lacquer to protect the image.

The tintypes were very inexpensive, easy and quick to make. In only a short time, the persons could have the photo in their hands.



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

WHAT THE SCHOOL KIDS ARE DOING!

Paige Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Drueke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) and Kyla McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) played volleyball for Boyd County. Paige was named to the all-conference team.

Brett Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandson of Louise Neumiller Zink), Austin Cadwallader (son of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, grandson of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) and Evan Brewer (son of Kip and Rachel Heermann Brewer, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) played football for Boyd County. Brett was named to the all-district team.

Kaci Koenig (daughter of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughter of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-granddaughter of Louise Neumiller Zink) and Ethan Zeisler (son of Jesse and Kimberly Zeisler, grandson of Sheryl Zeisler) ran cross country for Boyd County.

Jacob and Noah Corrado (sons of Amber Hollingsworth), Lanie and Jaylee Lechtenberg (daughters of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughters of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughters of Bob Wentz), Paige Drueke, Brett and Kaci Koenig,

Kinsley Cadwallader (daughter of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, granddaughter of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) Juliana Cline (daughter of Hoyt Cline, granddaughter of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline) and Ethan Zeisler were on the honor roll.

Students with perfect attendance for the first quarter include Jacob and Noah Corrado, Lanie Lechtenberg, Evan Brewer, Shaeden Polenske (daughter of Guy Polenske and Trudy Waterman), Kinsley Cadwallader, Juliana Cline, Liam Karnes (son of Randy Karnes and Amber Hollingsworth), Emerson Higgins, Aaron and Landon Melton (sons of Shelby and Heidi Vogt Melton, grandsons of Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandsons of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) and Baleigh Koenig (daughter of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughter of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-granddaughter of Louise Neumiller Zink).

Kyla McCarthy, Paige Drueke, Austin and Kinsley Cadwallader, Evan and Preston Brewer, Lanie and Jaylee Lechtenberg, Wyatt Heermann (son of Casey and Jill Heermann, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) and Kaci Koenig are playing basketball for Boyd County.

SOME FAIR NEWS

Emerson and Jayden Higgins (daughters of Skye and Allison Higgins, granddaughters of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins and great-granddaughters of Margaret Vogt Schmitz) won several honors at the Boyd County Fair. Gray-

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!"

son Vogt (son of Ryon and Emma Vogt, grandson of Bryon and Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandson of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) won a Clover Kid award.

Elsie Haglund (daughter of Cory and Jessica Cline Haglund, granddaughter of Keith and Lora Sieh Cline, great-granddaughter of Marilyn Smith Sieh and Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline) won both the slow and fast bicycle races for four and five year olds at the fair. Cassidy Heermann (daughter of Casey and Jill Heermann, granddaughter of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) and Gage Schochenmaier (son of Joe and Kelsey Zink Schochenmaier, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandson of Louise Neumiller Zink) both won in the slow race division for 10-12 year olds.

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

I see that cousin Lauri Bentzen McNulty took a minute and sent some \$\$ for the Naper Paper. That reminded me to send a contribution.

Gary Arthur Bentzen

To all involved with the Naper Paper:

It is always such a treat when the Naper Paper arrives in the mail. I read every story and smile at every picture. On the last page of the most recent issue was a picture of our seventh and eighth grade group with Vicki, Eileen, Joyce and me in our cheer-leading outfits. Sixty years later, I can still recite all our cheers.

Thanks for keeping all these memories alive through your dedicated work with the Naper Paper.

A check is enclosed to help defray expenses.

Shirley Honke Lindeman

Dear Naper Paper people:

I really do enjoy receiving the Naper Paper and usually read it through immediately after it comes.

You always manage to come up with interesting, informative articles about Naper each issue.

Several years ago I was on a bus trip down to Kentucky to the Creation Museum and The Ark. I met a Minnesota couple who were retired farmers. After we talked a bit, I found out the wife had some relatives buried in the cemetery west of Naper. It would be interesting to look for their markers—if I could remember the name! Small world, isn't it?

Keep up the good work and happy hunting for more articles about Naper!

Donna Windmeyer Luehmann

Thank you for sending the Naper Paper. We thoroughly enjoy it. Keep up the good work!

Rich and Bev Rubel

To help with Naper Paper expenses.

Gary L. Cline

Just wanted to send a donation. We really enjoy the Naper Paper. Such fond and wonderful memories of all the people in this great community. This was truly like home.

John and Marsha Broad-books

LOTS OF BUSES PARKED ON MAIN STREET

By Marilyn Sieh

Tuesday, September 19, I was coming in for a cup of coffee at the café and was surprised to see the north half of Main Street filled with young people and vehicles.

They were gathered in Naper for a range judging contest sponsored in part by the Lower Niobrara Natural Resource District.

There were 202 FFA students from eight schools: Pierce-Emerson-Hubbard, Boyd County, West Holt, Keya Paha County, Stuart, Chambers, Rock County and Valentine. Their assignment was to identify native grasses and forbs at a site on a ranch west of Naper. Fifty volunteers working at the VFW checked their work.

West Holt teams won both the Junior Division and the Senior Division.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Lyle and Carolyn Schultz Karnes were chosen Wild Turkey Days Queen and King at the annual celebration in Spencer. Lyle graduated from Naper High in 1958 and Carolyn in 1961.

Paige Drueke was Boyd County School's homecoming queen!

Boyd County Spartans Football team made it to the playoffs.

Boyd County boys Cross Country team came in second in District D3 and went to state where they finished tenth out of 17 schools!

Ramona Bentzen is great-grandma again! Tony and Jackie Bentzen Jacobson, Watertown, South Dakota, are parents of Mariah Brielle, born November 27. John and Jan Bentzen are grandparents.

Thelma Schmitz celebrated her 90th birthday December 2 with an open house at the Naper Café and Lounge. Happy birthday, Thelma!



SANTA WILL BE AT THE AUDITORIUM DECEMBER 16, 10 AM!

NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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Ready to rock and roll—Naper High School junior-senior prom, 1955.

Picture on the left: Ronald Kulm, Wayne Schoenefeld, Larry Stoltenberg, Wilmer Bohnet, LeRoy Erickson, Earl Tech, Dennis Heermann, Wayne Faatz, Donald Swallow

Picture on the right: Carol Bechtold, Mardell Martin, Margaret Vogt, Janet Cline, Nina Bentzen, Marilyn Sieh, Joan Reber (sponsor), Elaine Peterson