

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.

- NUMBER PLEASE
- HOW TO IDENTIFY RANCHERS
- DISTRICT 44 STORY
- PIANO TUNER
- BUTCHERING
- LUDEMANN
- AMBULANCE
- OLD HOMESTEADER
- LETTERS



# Naper Paper

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Spring, 2024

## Number, please.

In 1955, the town of Naper was growing and changing in many ways. However, the telephone service was still party-line with an operator at the switchboard.

The town hall on the west side of the street was too small for the community and the school. A bond issue of \$25,000 was passed (89 in favor and 9 against) and construction began on the east side of Main Street. Over 700 people attended the opening dance! (This building burned in March of 1983.)

Because Naper had no municipal water supply or sewer system, water had to be provided by a private source. It was piped from the residence of Art Wentz. The hall had showers and toilets so a septic tank had to be provided.

The consolidation of rural schools had taken place also in 1955 and a new school building was in the planning stages. A bond issue for \$115,000 was passed and construction began. Students first occupied the building January 28, 1957.

Finally a well 110 feet deep was drilled a mile west of Naper which would provide an adequate supply of water for Naper residents, the new hall and the new school. A sewer system was developed for the town.

In addition to all of the above expansions in the

community, the telephone service was being updated. The Boyd County Telephone corporation was incorporated July 21, 1955, to provide service to 680 subscribers in Verdel, Lynch, Naper and surrounding communities. Additional subscribers in Keya Paha County were added and a total of 927 homes and businesses were served.

A government loan of \$445,000 was approved by the Rural Electrification Administration to provide automatic dialing equipment for the new system. The office was established in Lynch. In 1956, the Boyd County Telephone Company purchased the Farm and Home Telephone Company at Naper.

By 1961, the entire system had new aerial lines and new dial switchboards installed. The original numbers were TEmple 2-xxxx and only the last four digits needed to be dialed. Because party lines were still in use, there was a six-minute limit on the call with a warning beep sounding when five minutes had elapsed. After a few years, the TE designation was changed to 83 so Naper's three digit prefix was 832. As more users were added and the system became more automated (and complicated, I'm sure), all seven digits of the number had to be dialed. About 10 years ago, it became necessary for users to dial all ten digits—402-832-xxxx.

During 1979-1981,

all lines were buried and new digital switchboards were installed. Subscribers now had the most modern telephone services with all one-party lines. In 1976, the membership voted to change the name to Three River Telco. The company was serving subscribers in five counties.

During 2009-2011, over 300 miles of fiber optic lines were installed. Every update leads to better service for the subscribers.

Three River Telco now has customers in Ainsworth, Johnstown, Long Pine, Lynch, Naper, North Naper (South Dakota residents), O'Neill, Springview (Keya Paha County) and Verdel. There are offices in Ainsworth, Springview, Lynch and O'Neill.

John Davis and Reo Ludemann, elected in 1955, were two of the directors of the newly-formed corporation. LaVern Higgins is the current representative from the Naper area.

The company holds an annual meeting, rotating the location among Lynch, Naper and Springview.

In addition to telephone service, Three River Telco provides internet connection and tech support, cable TV and long distance service. Although cell service has improved in the Naper area, most of the patrons in this part of the service area continue to have a land line. However, there is no one responding, "Number, please."

## RANCH MANAGEMENT TIPS YOU KNOW YOU'RE A

(based on experience and Baxter Black)

Never make a bale heavier than the wife can lift. You can, of course, up it by a couple of pounds every year.

Never admit it was your dog in the gate.

During calving season, never sleep on the side of the bed where the alarm clock is.

Never admit you won't be able to clean, cook and/or eat all the calf fries that accumulate in the freezer.

Never assume your wife knows how to back the gooseneck trailer.

Always insist that any calf you can't catch isn't really sick and doesn't need treating.

Always let the wife or the hired man work the headgate on the first five cows.

Never expect much help from a truck driver wearing new coveralls and ostrich boots.

Never expect good road maintenance unless you live next door to the county supervisor.

Always hire at least one cowboy who can rope, shoe horses, and loves climbing windmills.

Never put any necessary equipment on the north side of the shed in the winter.

Always put your wife in the rig being pulled.

Never assume a cattle guard will stop anything but a drunk on foot.

Never carry more than \$20 into a bar.

And the most important advice at all:

Never build a gate your wife can't open—and close.

## FARMER IF . . .

You come in for supper at 10 pm and you're too tired to eat.

Your house is dirty, your vehicles all need repair and your bank account is empty.

You hear someone talk about how beautiful the snow is and how the wind is making such interesting drifts and you want to choke him. Dad and Mom spell each other off in the combine so one of them will be available to take the kids to school activities.

Your eight-year-old granddaughter handles your tech support.

You're wildly enthusiastic about GPS and self-driving tractors if only you could afford them.

You come in from the shop and have to leave your clothes in the garage because they reek of diesel fuel and parts cleaner.

The first words your wife says when she hears you on the porch are: "Are your feet clean?"

Back in the day, you went to the pump and drank water from a tin can or cup. You carried water to the hay field in a Clorox jug wrapped in a gunny sack that you soaked at the pump. You could repair almost any breakdown while out in the field with a pair of pliers, some wire and a few feet of twine. You milked your cows by hand in the dark because the wind didn't blow and the batteries weren't charged.

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REAL AND URBAN COWBOYS

A real cowboy wears a sweat-stained hat or seed corn cap, faded jeans and old boots. An urban cowboy owns only new gear, including multi-colored boots and stiff jeans.

A real cowboy owns at least one cow or one horse or one dog. An urban cowboy wouldn't recognize a cow if she came up and tried to kiss him. He thinks milk comes in cartons.

A real cowboy owns a horse he considers a family member and a saddle that cost \$400 40 years ago. An urban cowboy has a \$40 hat with a \$400 hat band made of faux snake skin.

A real cowboy wears spurs so he can prod his horse when necessary. An urban cowboy wears spurs because they jingle-jangle and draw attention to his wildly colored boots.

When he gets stuck in the carpet, he knows he has the spurs on upside down.

A real cowboy fears neither bull nor bronc. He works hard all day long, from sunup to sunset, in the heat, dust, dirt and wind. He doesn't drink lite beer. An urban cowboy has never heard of 6 am. He rides only mechanical bulls. The world record from an urban cowboy staying on one of those "critters" was set last year during a power failure.

A real cowboy is bowlegged from years of riding a horse. No one knows how an urban cowboy gets to be bowlegged. And no one cares.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES—KEEP NAPER STRONG!

### A & M ENTERPRISES

Trenching, pump installations, backhoe work, plumbing

402-832-5388

### M&L LAWN SERVICE

Mowing, trimming, fertilizing, tilling, seeding spraying

402-832-5422

### CURL UP & DYE BEAUTY SHOP

Haircuts, styling, coloring, coffee bar

402-832-5573

### ROTH SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

Small engine repair; lawn mowers and four-wheelers—buy, sell, trade

402-925-8814

402-832-5050

### WHITE HORSE RANCH MUSEUM

HERITAGE HALL

### NAPER TRANSPORT

Sand and gravel hauling propane hauling

402-832-5955

### BOB'S AUTO BODY

Auto body repair

402-832-5766

### NAPER CAFÉ AND LOUNGE

Breakfast, dinner, supper, bar

402-832-5272

### GRAMMY AND POP'S

HOLE-IN-THE-WALL MART

Something for everybody!

402-340-3231

### U S POSTAL SERVICE

402-832-5977

### NICK'S AUTO SERVICE

Oil changes, new tires, tire repair

402-832-5166

### K&S MOBILE

Welding and equipment repair, on-site service

402-832-5125

### DRUEKE TRUCKING

Local and long-distance hauling

402-832-5610

### BENDIG CONSTRUCTION

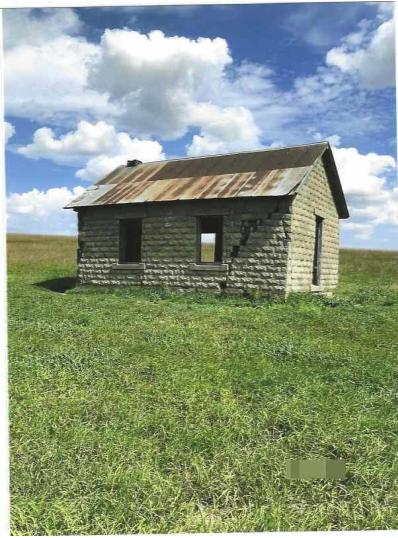
Kelly 402-961-0445

### AK MEATS

Full service butcher shop

Alex 402-340-7116

## DOES THIS LOOK FAMILIAR?



(Photo and story by Riney and Virginia Stahlecker)

This schoolhouse is located about one mile north of the Keya Paha River in eastern Keya Paha County where our farm is located. Among others who attended were Clara Stahlecker Bechtold, the Allpress brothers and others whom we don't know.

Clara came to see us before we moved and said they came often to our house when she was young because the man that lived there always had peanut butter and bread. I assume it was Mr. Her-ring.

=====



Thanks to Bob Wentz for the picture taken in Wentz's Bar some years back. That's Harold Schmitz, his wife Irma, Gerald Schmitz and his wife Sarah. Did you know they were identical twins?

## THE OLD GRAY MARE-Many Long Years Ago

By Janet Cline Eggert

As I remember—correct me if I'm wrong—the Goodman family and everyone else always called her “the old gray mare.”

Wild Rose School District #44 had its own designated, fenced horse pasture with a battered metal water bucket upside down on a fence post. Did any of the other rural schools have a pasture?

My dad often told about riding his horse to grade school and even attempted to ride to Naper for high school. But that is another story for another time.

I am guessing that the “old gray mare” carried a whole generation of Billy and Dottie Goodman's children to school. Do you remember Reba, June, Opal, Roy, Billy Jr., Donnie, Jerry and little sister Donna?

By the time I went to school with Billy, Donnie and Jerry, the “old gray mare” was very old, sway-backed and tired. Jerry, who was probably in first grade, rode while his brothers walked along side. There was really only room for one because of the sway back!

The Goodmans lived a long way from school along what is now Highway 12, but I don't suppose traffic was a big problem in about 1946. Weather must have been a problem as I only remember them riding in the fall and spring.

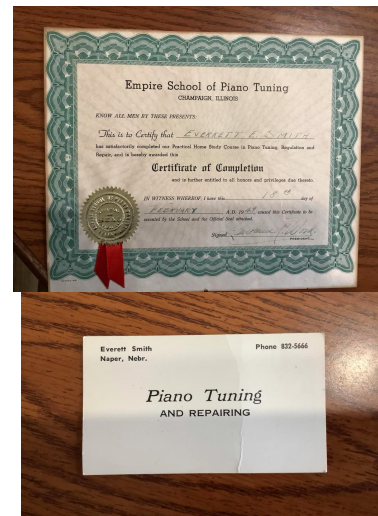
In the next Naper Paper I'll tell you how my sister, brothers and I got back and forth to school, and also about our old horse who cost Dad 100 pennies at a local farm sale.

I know there is a special place God has reserved for pets that give us so much pleasure and comfort. That “Old Gray Mare” and our Bell are surely there and we are left with memories from “Many Long Years Ago.” Imagine that!

## FROM PIANO LESSONS TO PIANO TUNING . . .

By Marilyn Smith Sieh

Many years ago, my dad, Everett Smith, took piano lessons from a man named Professor Siegrist from Gregory. He used to get to the house via a trail going down a steep hill to the Keya Paha River bottom where the Smith family lived. He either traveled horseback or with a horse and buggy. He apparently traveled the country because my mother, Frances Fast Smith, said she had also taken some lessons from him.



I remember listening to Dad play the difficult ragtime, waltzes and, of course, modern music of the time. I still have much of his sheet music.

He gave piano lessons to many students while living in Naper.

In 1949 he learned, through correspondence, how to tune and repair pianos and had many customers throughout the area. After tuning a piano, he would sit down and play a couple of ragtime songs. His customers would come into the room and listen to him play.

He would then fine tune the piano so it was ready for others to play and enjoy.

Notice on his business card that the phone number started with 832 which indicates it was printed in the 1960s. He tuned pianos for 39 years before retiring.



## BUTCHERING – A WINTER HOLIDAY

GRFC Reader Written and Contributed

The subject of butchering is sure to come up when reminiscing with elderly farm folks. Nowadays some people abstain from eating meat and cannot fathom the slaughtering process, but there was a time when children learned early on that "Babe The Pig" was going to be eaten for breakfast.

Before modern refrigeration, butchering was done on a cold day because there was less risk of spoilage and cold meat is easier to cut. Prime butchering time was late November through February.

Butchering was an annual major event on the farm. The work began the day before the hog/s were killed. Butcher knives were sharpened to a fine edge. Large cast iron kettles were lugged from storage and positioned so a fire could be built under them. The sausage stuffer, hog scrapers, meat cleavers, meat saws, washtubs, and other essential tools were brought out of storage. Someone awakened long before sunrise to fill the cauldrons with water and build a fire so water could be boiled for scalding the hogs. Many young children remember being in charge of keeping the fire going under the kettle. Often a community individual noted for their butchering expertise would oversee the day's activities, including the killing and dressing of the hog/s.

"The difficult first step was the killing of the hog/s which was supervised by the older men. It was an early Mennonite custom that the honor of shooting and stabbing the hog go to the oldest boy in the family where the event was taking place. It was a significant time for boys who took pride in shooting a hog with a first shot." (Revised: Mennonite Foods & Folkways from South Russia, Volume II, Norma Jost Voth, page 207)

Modern-day folks may consider the process gross and disgusting, but rarely do oldsters express that view. They speak fondly of a huge job carried on in a festive atmosphere, a day that family and friends looked forward to, one of camaraderie and fellowship. Butchering Day had holiday excitement and often occurred during Thanksgiv-

ing or Christmas vacation so children would be home from school to help. Not all families were able to butcher during holiday vacation days which created special excitement for their children who later would have a day off from school.

After the animal was killed, the blood was drained and saved to make blood sausage or blood pudding, unless the family had a religious or personal aversion to eating blood. The job of catching the blood in a pail or dishpan and stirring it with a stick to prevent coagulation was generally designated to a child-in-training.

Hogs were seldom skinned in olden days but scalded and scraped. As soon as a hog had been scalded, all hands participated to quickly scrape the animal before it had a chance to cool. Once the animal had been scraped and washed, it was hung to be gutted and cut into halves. Many Germans from Russia cut the hog into thirds. The carcass was strung up by each hind leg plus a third cord tied to the tail. The animal was cut down the back where the ribs begin to curve away from the backbone. When this is done on both sides of the backbone, a third piece is left hanging by the tail. You then have two chunks of side meat. The middle portion (the fine meat of the loin) was cut into butterfly chops.

Every part of the hog was used but the squeal! The intestines were carefully washed to use as sausage casings and the heart, liver and other organs were saved for delicious meals. Many times the brains were fried for breakfast and the head used to make headcheese or gritzwurst, a German-Russian sausage made with boiled meat/skin from the hog's head. This meat was seasoned and mixed with a filler like cracked buckwheat or other cracked cereal grains.

Once the animal was skinned, scalded and drawn, it was hung out in the cold away from cats and the family dog who was often tied up for the day. When the meat sufficiently cooled to where it could be cut, both men and women cut the carcass. Chops would be cut with a sharp knife and meat saw. Hams were carved out for curing and smoking in the family smokehouse. The flank was cut away from the ribs to be cured and smoked for bacon. The process

of smoking and curing meat kept the host family busy for days, sometimes weeks, after butchering day.

Many in our "fat free" modern society would be appalled at the fat amount that was ground into the sausage and bologna. Whereas modern hogs are bred to have very little back fat, the hogs of that bygone era were bred to produce fat. They were butchered at a much heavier weight than pigs processed in modern-day packing-houses. People used to brag about how many gallons of lard they rendered from one hog.

Lard was needed for cooking, baking, and making soap. It was also used to preserve meat. Before deep freezers, meat was fried in patties and put in large 10 - 30 gallon stoneware crocks. Hot lard was poured over the meat sealing it from air exposure. Kept this way in a cool cellar, it would last for months; other meat was salted or smoked for preservation. Fresh meat was left hanging in a smokehouse or summer kitchen as long as cold weather kept it frozen.

As you linger over the meat counter at your favorite grocery store or meat market, remember this article and all involved in the long process of hoof to mouth.

*(Thanks to Bob Allpress who found this article on the Germans from Russia Facebook page.)*

## A PENNY ON THE HEAD STONE MEANS . . .

Often when the volunteers are mowing Knoll Crest Cemetery, they see stones or coins on the stones. A stone means you've recently visited and left a part of yourself behind; it's a sign of respect and remembrance.

If you find a coin on a headstone, it is most likely on the stone of a veteran that has been visited by a person who is or has been in the military.

A penny means you visited.

A nickel means your trained at boot camp together.

A dime means you served somewhere together.

## A LUDEMANN HISTORY

Reo Ludemann married Marguerite Rockholm in 1938. The United States and the world were still in the grip of the Great Depression. Not many couples had fancy weddings during the depression and Reo and Marguerite were no exception. They drove from Naper to Springfield where they picked up Reo's brother Orley and continued to Ainsworth to get married. Alas, no one was available, so they went to Bassett where they found the Methodist minister who married them in the parsonage.

They lived with Marguerite's parents until the next spring when they were able to rent a farm for a year. They moved again the next spring and lived there for three years. In 1943, they moved south of Burton to a ranch owned by Pete Stoltenberg and stayed there until 1947 when they bought the farm north of Naper where Marguerite had been born and raised.

Reo and Marguerite's son Terry was born in July, 1939, and lived two days. Ann was born in 1941. When the family moved to Naper, Reo still used his team Dick and Rowdy in the hayfield and to feed cattle. Ann, age 6, thought she was 10-foot-tall-and-bullet-proof when she got to drive the team on the slide stacker. She didn't realize they responded to Reo's commands whether she was "driving" them or not.

Roger was born in 1948 and survived an extremely cold winter sleeping next to the oil burner. Lester Neumiller's observation was that in an old drafty house, you put the baby next to the stove so one side was red and the other side blue. In due time, you turned the baby over. In 1949, a new house was built, and the family thought they had moved into a palace. Mary joined the family in 1952 and Margaret in 1957.

Ann was the only one lucky enough to enjoy the dairy side of the farm—Reo bought Jersey cows, converted milking equipment to 32 volt and they were in business. At that time, cream was the commodity that kept the family in groceries and there were several 10-gallon cans of cream going to town every week. Some days the wind didn't blow and the batteries didn't charge. Ann was too wimpy at age 10 or 11 to get the "light plant" (generator) started with the flywheel, so she'd head to the barn, get the cows in and start milking

by hand. Usually Reo would show up before she had two or three milked and he'd get the generator going. Phew! The milk had to be separated and then the skim milk was fed to the hogs. Great fun. When Ann left for college at age 16, the milk cows soon went to town.

Reo was instrumental in getting Three River Telco started. He served on the school board, received several awards for conservation and was named Ak-Sar-Ben Good Neighbor in 1968. He helped organize the rural fire district and served on the extension board. He was elected moderator of the South Dakota conference of the United Church of Christ.

Marguerite was valedictorian of the class of 1928, the first year Naper had four years of high school. She taught rural schools for 10 years and had many a story to tell about weather, walking to school, rattle snakes, pie socials, community plays and dances. She loved her students and had wonderful memories of the hospitality of their families.

Their children graduated from Naper High School and went on to college: Ann in 1957, Roger in 1967, Mary in 1970, and Margaret in 1975. Over time, there would be nine grandchildren joining the family and visiting Grandpa and Grandma.

Ann and her husband Larry Anderson rented the farm so, in 1982, Reo and Marguerite built a new house in Naper (now Lee and Steph Cadwallader's home) and enjoyed having room for all the family to come visit. Reo served on the town board and the church board and was active in the Lions Club. He had a large storage shed built, known by one of his neighbors as the Hobby Shop. They enjoyed trips to visit the children and grandchildren and also traveled to Nashville, New Orleans, San Francisco, Reno and points in-between. Life was good.

In 1998, Reo was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. He was grateful to be in remission for some months but passed away New Years Eve, 1999, just minutes before the new millennium started.

Marguerite spent several years in assisted living and in Butte Health Care Center. She accepted the Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Farm Award in 2008, an honor given to farms that have been in the same family for 100 years or more. She lived to be 101 years old. Reo and Marguerite are buried at Knoll Crest Cemetery next to their son Terry.

## NEWS FROM THE OUTHOUSE

Did you know there was a presidential-endorsed model outhouse?

In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt had the WPA (Works Progress Administration) build 2.3 million outhouses across rural America. They had several nicknames, but whatever they were called, the people who received them were very grateful. The new outhouse had a concrete slab which served as the foundation. The "pot" had a square hole and a wooden seat with a lid that closed tightly so flies couldn't get in. The concrete vault had a screened ventilation shaft to keep flies out. Families could choose a one-hole or a two-hole, the second hole being built lower for children.

For families who could afford to pay, the supplies cost about \$17 and WPA provided the labor. It took about three days to build them. The toilets were also built for schools, filling stations and tourist camps. And now you really know the rest of the story.

### ATTENTION ALUMNI!

**Alumni banquet will be  
May 25 at the hall, social  
hour at 6; food served at 7.  
Letters will be sent to all  
alumni except Boyd County  
residents, unless your  
class is honored.**

**Reservations (\$10 per  
meal) due May 15. Mail to  
90479 470 Ave., Naper, NE  
68755.**

**PLAN TO ATTEND!**



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

## Keepin' up with the kids

Academic All-state honors, fall of 2023, went to Paige Drueke (daughter of Tony and Beth Goodman Drueke, granddaughter of Vern and Linda Goodman) for volleyball; Ethan Zeisler (son of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, grandson of Sheryl Zeisler) for cross-country track; and Brett Koenig (son of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandson of Louise Neumiller Zink) for football.

Natasha Zeisler was honored at the Capitol in Lincoln on November 20 at the Commissioner's Recognition Ceremony for excellence in her second place finish at the national FCCLA Conference.

At the national FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Jaylee Lechtenberg (daughter of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughter of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughter of Bob Wentz) and Ethan Zeisler received eighth place in the Agriscience Fair Division.

Wyatt Heermann (son of Casey and Jill Heermann, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) and Evan and Preston Brewer (sons of Kip and Rachel Heermann Brewer, grandsons of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) are playing basketball for Boyd County School.

Paige Drueke, Jaylee Lechtenberg, Lanie Lechtenberg (daughter of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughter of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughter of Bob Wentz), Kyla McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy), Kaci Koenig (daughter of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughter of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great

-granddaughter of Louise Neumiller Zink), Cassidy Heermann (daughter of Casey and Jill Heermann, granddaughter of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) and Kinsley Cadwallader (daughter of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, granddaughter of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) are playing basketball for Boyd County School.

Kyla McCarthy, Paige Drueke, Lanie and Jaylee Lechtenberg and Shaeden Polenske (daughter of Guy Polenske and Trudy Waterman) participated in the FFA Leadership Development Events January 10.

Honor Roll students include Paige Drueke, Jacob Corrado (son of Amber Hollingsworth), Brett Koenig, Lanie Lechtenberg, Ethan Zeisler, Kaci Koenig, Shaeden Polenske, Kinsley Cadwallader, Rylen Cadwallader (son of Lee and Steph Whitley Cadwallader, grandson of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley), Juliana Cline (daughter of Hoyt Cline, granddaughter of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline), Cassidy Heermann, Jaylee Lechtenberg, and Kyla McCarthy.

Cassidy Heermann was champion in her age division (13-year-old girls) at the Boyd County and District Knights of Columbus free throw contest. Lucas Alford (son of Marcus and Candace Alford, grandson of Jim and Becky Alford) was champion 10-year-old boy and Memphis Brabec (son of Josh and Ashley Vogt Brabec, grandson of Vern and Deb Vogt) was champion of 13-year-old boys. State free throw championship will be in Grand Island April 6.

Lanie Lechtenberg and Brett Koenig were crowned as royalty at the midwinter ball at Boyd County Schools.

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!"

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Lanie Lechtenberg, Paige Drueke, Brett Koenig and Jacob Corrado will be graduating from Boyd County Schools on May 4. Congratulations!

## Sayin' Good Bye to old friends

Jeff Hamling, a 1966 graduate of Naper High School, died in Rapid City January 27. He and his wife Norma operated a dairy north of Naper for many years.

Dale Goodman, age 85, died January 30. He was a member of the class of 1957 as a freshman. He and his wife Melvina farmed northwest of Naper.

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

## ON THIS DAY. . .

On this day, mend a quarrel,  
Search out a forgotten friend.  
Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust.  
Write a letter to someone who misses you.  
Encourage a youth who has lost faith.  
Keep a promise.  
Forget an old grudge.  
Fight for a principle.  
Express your gratitude.  
Overcome an old fear.  
Take two minutes to appreciate the beauty of nature.  
Tell someone you love them—tell them again—and again—and again.

(Ed. Note: This lovely thought came from a clipping in my scrapbook. No author was indicated.)

I really enjoy the Naper Paper and always look forward to the next issue. A big thank you to all who make the paper so interesting and informative. You do such a great job.

I'm sending along a check to help with expenses.

Mary Schumann

Enjoy the paper. Use donation where needed. Please change my Naper Paper address—not necessary to use the Mr.

Thanks.

Harvey L. Dummer



Long ago and far away—Donnie Goodman, Ann Ludemann Anderson, Shirley Schoenefeld Stoltenberg, "Mr." Harvey Dummer Senior sneak trip, 1957

We so enjoy receiving the Naper Paper. Here is a contribution to help with expenses. Also sending some addresses!

Thank you for your hard work.

LeRoy and Lila Ludemann

Here are some "funds." For the life of me, I can't remember the last time I sent money. . . Sorry. Love the Naper Paper.

Jim and Darlene Doyle

Always a happy day when the Naper Paper arrives. Life has been good to me. Keep up the good work.

Today (12-5-23) would be my brother Henry Ahler's 103rd birthday!

Frieda Voll

Please use my check as needed.

Donna Wittmeier

Enclosed is money for next year. I really enjoy your paper. My wife's name was Madonna Hovey. She passed away 5 1/2 years ago.

Sending my new address.

Neal Peterson

Dear family and friends in Naper!

We so enjoy reading the Naper Paper and connecting all the dots to the NAPER-HOOD!!

Gift enclosed to thank you all.

Michael and Shellie Sieh

Enjoy reading the Naper Paper. A lot of the people we don't know but keep up the good work anyway.

You all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Am sending a check to help you all out.

Marjorie (Stahlecker) Zauner

Earl Stahlecker

Berniece (Stahlecker)

Spitzenberger

Enclosed is a check for the Naper Paper. Don't want to be without it.

[Also enclosing] a note I found in a paper that might be of interest to you. "The Good Old Days" when we sat on the hillside and watched Cal at the White Horse show and didn't have to worry about our cell phones ringing!

June 10, 1948

Cal Thomsen, of Naper, co-owner and manager of the famous White Horse Ranch, was seriously injured the opening day of the annual White Horse show on Saturday, June 5.

One of the White Albino studs bit a large chunk of the forearm muscle out of Mr. Thomsen's arm as he attempted to part a horse fight.

LaVonne Boes

## ASK ME A QUESTION. . .

The Naper Bears Traveling Trivia Team has met with some success at competitions in Ainsworth and Butte. One of the team members says it has a lot to do with random guesses that turn out to be correct answers. Or not.

## MORE UPDATES ON THE NAPER AMBULANCE

by Rindy Zink

We are so excited to announce we were able to get a Lucas Device for the ambulance. The Lucas device is an easy-to-use mechanical chest compression device that helps life saving teams around the world deliver high-quality consistent chest compressions to sudden cardiac arrest patients, in the field, on the move, and in the hospital..

It will deliver consistent chest compressions at a rate of 100 compressions per minute at a depth of at least 2 inches. It will also allow for complete chest wall recoil after each compression.

It works by creating a positive intrathoracic pressure when the chest is compressed. This increased pressure is transmitted to the blood inside the heart.

\*\*\*\*\*

Below: Elsie Wentz playing the organ—one of her favorite pastimes. Thanks, Bob, for sharing the photo. (no date)



# NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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The John and Mary (Blakkolb) Nicolaus family. They moved to Boyd County by covered wagon in 1901 and in 1903 to the farm southeast of Naper where they built a new farmstead. Don and AdaMae Moody lived on that farm for many years.

Back row, L-R: Freda, Clara, John Jr., Ed, Jake, Vera, Metha  
Front row, L-R: Martha, John Sr., Esther, Harry, Ern, Mary, Gertrude, Lydia.