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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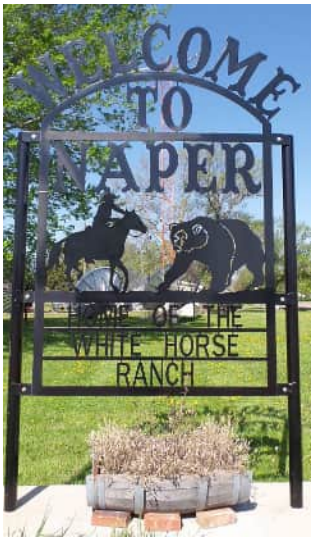

Naper Paper

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The Real Heart of Naper Public School

By Bob Allpress

The brand new Naper Public combined elementary and high school opened its doors when school resumed after Christmas and New Years vacation in January, 1957.

For the students who contended with the cramped conditions of the old frame schoolhouse that stood directly north of the new building, this was a new and exciting place to learn.

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One of the features of the new facility was this strange thing called a cafeteria. No longer would the students have to brown bag their lunches or snacks to school or walk home for lunch! And best of all, the busy mothers or fathers no longer had to make and pack daily lunches for their children.

Thus, the actual heart and soul of the new school was created. And so were the fond memories of the many great cooks who graced the cafeteria and fed us mouth-watering, home-cooked meals every day!

We will never forget the great smells that wafted from that area in the northeast corner of the school. To students who seemed to be perpetually hungry, these tantalizing scents were both a torture and a mouth-watering anticipation of what would be served for lunch.

Our noses detected the fresh aroma of homemade cinnamon rolls, butter buns, chocolate chip cookies, OR on special Fridays, PIZZA pulled fresh from the oven on huge sheet pans!

Even the day-to-day normal meals were always hearty. Some of the favorite foods cited by alumni I surveyed were beef and noodles, goulash, fried chicken, real mashed taters with gravy and of course, a veggie! Then there were always the fish fillets and French fries on Fridays during Lent.

Bertha Fuhrer might have even made, and then stored in the hallway fridge, chocolate chip cookies that somehow made their way into pockets and onto the buses for the rides home.

Researching the women who fed us, I found that the first cooks in the new school, January, 1957, were Marie Schock and Vivian Alexander.

There is no record for who were the cooks in the 1958-59-60 years in the yearbooks, but Vivian was still cooking in the 1960-61 school year, so I am fairly sure she was there from 1958 through 1961.

As my research was from yearbooks, the cooks listed were there for the school year's ending.

Marjorie Kortmeyer - 1961 and 1962

Violet Stahlecker - 1962 through 1967

Olida Sieh - 1963

Alma Gentele - 1964 through 1968

Annie Ullrich - 1966 through 1969 and then 1970 through 1986 (20 years)

Delores Fuhrer - 1968 and 1969

Bertha Fuhrer - 1969 through 1986 (18 years)

Inez Schmitz - 1970 through 1974

Sylvia Gentele - 1975 through 1980

Velva June Blum - 1987 and 1988

Leola Riesselman - 1987 and 1988

We all owe a great deal of thanks and fond memories to these women who toiled daily to provide good, wholesome meals for us.

Ed Note: Velva June Blum was the cook until 2002 when the Naper Café was contracted to provide meals. The students walked to the café every day, hot or cold, rain or shine.

In the student newspaper Naper News, September, 1999, Katie Sachtjen asked the students and teachers about their favorite foods that Velva June made.

Junior	tacos
Mindy	taco and pizza
Marcus	sausage and biscuits
Krista	taco and pizza
Kelsey	pizza, taco and chili
Skye	pizza
Katie	chili and cheese sandwiches
Kody	pizza
Ryon	pizza
Holly	taco and long johns
Logan	fries
Logon	pizza and peaches
Mrs. Hausman	pizza and all the foods
Mrs. Heyden	chili and cinnamon roll

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Howard Camin died December 27, 2024, in California where he had lived most of his adult life. He was a 1947 graduate of Naper High School.

Wilma Higgins Audiss died March 12. The Naper School was important to their family-Wilma was school secretary, Darrell drove a school bus and all three of their children graduated from Naper. Wilma also served as Boyd County Assessor for 28 years.

Pauline Camin Stoltenberg died April 10 in Washington. She is the last of the John and Emma Camin family who grew up along the Keya Paha River southwest of Naper.

Mary Jane Riesselman Katzer died May 9. She graduated from Naper High School (1960) and the University of Nebraska. She taught in the Lincoln Public Schools for 30 years. Mary Jane's husband Ken Katzer graduated from Naper in 1959.

Myrna Muller Payne died May 13 in Colorado. She grew up southwest of Naper and graduated from Naper High School in 1965.

CRUISE NIGHT-JUNE 7

It was a beautiful evening and more than 60 cars were displayed on Main Street. A live band played good old rock and roll tunes and cruising started at 8 pm. Good times!

Right: The cars and spectators on the south end of Main Street

Left: 1947 Chevy Sedan owned by Rylan Lindgren of Fairfax, South Dakota

Right: 1933 Ford Coupe owned by Dennis Swanson, Bassett, Nebraska

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NAPER NEWS—from NAPER ATTENDANCE CENTER 1999-2003

The elementary students at Naper wrote a newsletter, beginning in 1999 and continuing until the attendance center closed in May, 2003.

You might enjoy knowing what was going on in school (and out of school) as seen through the students' eyes.

In September, 1999, students started a club as reported by **Junior Corkle.**

The students formed a club on September 19, 1999, and the meeting started. We have to pay one cent each Wednesday for dues. We might have a garage sale. We are selling Humanitees for our club and prizes. We have 15 cents already.

We had penalties if you didn't dress up for Spirit Week.

We're going to make a flag for our club.

Logon Vogt reported on A Snaky Story in October, 1999.

One day when I was going outside to get leaves for my diorama, a little garter snake crawled in. It got behind the freezer. After school, Ryon and Kody were looking for it and trying to catch it. I came over to help. When it started to come toward me, Mrs. Anderson yelled, "Grab it, Logon!"

I caught it and Ryon took it outside. The snake was mad and struck at us. We came back inside. We're lucky it wasn't a rattlesnake.

Levi Bengtson and Allyson Hamling reported on Star-Lab in the Naper Auditorium in the October, 2001, issue.

On September 30, students and their teachers from Burton, Mills and District 1 joined the Naper students in the Naper Auditorium for a viewing of a big hollow dome that is called a Star Lab.

You have to go in a little hole that you have to crawl into to get to a big dome where you can look at stars and constellations.

There is a projector fitted with a cylinder that revolves to imitate the movement of the stars. Other cylinders showed mythological creatures, the zodiac, Native American myths, the world map and a cell of the body.

Some of the constellations the students saw were the Big and Little Dippers, Casseopeia, Draco the Dragon and Leo the Lion.

Jon Alford told of visits by veterans in the November, 2001, issue.

On November 12, some veterans came to tell us about their experiences in the war. Tom Brauer, Jon Dyer, Jim Blum, Harley Nicolaus, Leonard Schmitz, Don Schmitz, Bob Schultz, Duane Sieh, Duane Zeisler and Don Schock talked to us and brought pictures and things they used in the war for us to look at and ask questions about.

Marilyn Sieh and Inez Schmitz also came to school to hear the men talk. Marilyn gave each student a flag and a pencil with the pledge of allegiance on it. The students really liked them. The students and teachers appreciate the time and effort taken by the veterans, Marilyn and Inez to come visit us. Lunch was served after the presentation.

In January-February, 2001, **Macy Ahlers** reported on the Hoops for Heart event.

We went to the hall. We dribbled around the hall first. Then we shuffled down the hall with a partner. Katelyn went with Thomas. Macy was with Elizabeth. They shot baskets.

Then we lined up and shot three baskets. We dribbled around again and lined up in front of the bleachers. We told people "SMOKING STINKS!"

After we jumped and shot hoops, we ate homemade ice cream and cake!

There was a creative writing project reported in October-November, 2002. **Riley Bengtson** tells it this way.

Mrs. Anderson was on her way to the kitchen to get a cup of coffee. She stopped in the kitchen doorway because she saw a mouse on the floor about six feet ahead of her. She took an empty milk case and hit it. It splatted! It was a mess so she cleaned it up.

Later Mrs. Bendig came. She saw it and thought it was alive so she hit it about 100 times with a broom. It looked like a pancake!

She took a shovel and picked it up and threw it out the door. A person who was walking by slipped on it.

In the same issue, **Jon Alford** and **Alex Bendig** reported on an accident

After lunch on November 7, we were playing freeze tag. Alex was running from Macy. Everyone was having fun. Suddenly Alex crashed into the door and the glass broke.

Alex was OK, but the door was not OK. It will be fixed this Friday. Alex was very lucky that he didn't get hurt. We will have a new base the next time we play freeze tag and it won't be near the door!

January-February, 2003, **Alex Bendig** reports another accident.

On Sunday night, January 5, I was playing a game. I cut my arm on a nail. I was OK but the nail was not OK. I got ten stitches. I went home. On Friday the doctor took them out. He said I won't have a scar. On Sunday, January 12, I cut my foot and didn't get stitches.

Katelyn Haney reported on all the fun students had on the 100th day of school.

January 24, 2003, was the 100th day of school. We did lots of things to celebrate. We blew up 100 balloons and popped all 100 of them! We counted 100 M&Ms, sorted them by color and then we ate them! Everybody counted money until they had 100 cents. Alex brought 100 pennies. Thomas and Allyson's mother, Jennifer Hamling, brought a cake and we cut it in 100 pieces. Then we got to eat it at milk break-yum! Mrs. Bendig brought a cake and we put 100 candles on it. It took a long time to light all of them.

Another Alumni Banquet Is History- May 24, 2025

About 75 alumni and guests gathered at the Naper Auditorium May 24 to celebrate the 71st Alumni Banquet. The Fire-house Café, operated by Naper Alumni Loren and Barb Schmitz Nicolaus, catered the meal which was served at 7 pm. Cindy Keller Schroetlin, class of 1975, was the emcee and provided information about what was going on in the "fives". She presented the alumni scholarship to Liz Arellano who will be enrolling in Northeast Community College in Norfolk, in the nursing program.

Left: Class of 1965
Vernon Goodman, Ernest Broekemeier, Stan Stahlecker

Right: Class of 1995
Beth Goodman Drueke, Jennifer Whitley Conroy

Cindy Keller Schroetlin presenting the alumni scholarship to **2025** graduate Liz Arellano.

Above: Class of 1975
Tim Whitley, Margaret Ludemann, Lori Schochenmaier Colson, Cindy Keller Schroetlin, Alan Nicolaus, Wanda Blum Linnaus, Ella Vogt Schulz, Jeff Zink, Lee Fuhrer, Vernon Vogt, Loren Nicolaus

Right: Class of 1985
Jill Schmitz Thompson, Andrea Schock Abbenhaus, Shelly Sattler Sieh, Doug Anderson, Kara Kapsa Vogt, Clark Fuhrer
(Doug was a member of the class through the junior year but graduated in England.)

Parents and children, brothers and sisters, friends . . . Check out these pictures

Above: Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley (1977), Tim Whitley (1975), Jennifer Whitley Conroy (1995), Lee Fuhrer (1975), Clark Fuhrer (1985)

Above: Bob Wentz (1958), Tammy Wentz Haney (1988)

Below: Mike Sieh (1983), Mabel Riesselman Sattler (1962), Shelly Sattler Sieh (1985)

Below: Vernon Goodman (1965), Beth Goodman Drueke (1995), Jennifer Whitley Conroy (1995), Tim Whitley (1975)

Above: Kara Kapsa Vogt (1985), Ann Ludemann Kapsa Anderson (1957), Doug Anderson (x1985)

Above: Norma Keller VanderBeek (1952) and LaVerna Broekemeier Sieh (1953)

Below: Judy Small Schmitz (1960) and Grace Faatz Bendig, (1960)

The Men's Coffee Group—every morning about 10:30 (or whenever they show up) at the Naper Café

Left to right-Bob Wentz, Vern Vogt, Vernon Goodman, Terry Sachtjen, Dave Engelhart, Merle Riesselman (Thanks to Marilyn Sieh for the photo)

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!"

LOOKIN' AT THE KIDS' ACTIVITIES—

Taya Schmaderer (daughter of Jon and Jennifer Riesselman Schmaderer, granddaughter of Merle and Leola Riesselman) was elected to membership in Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest collegiate honor society, at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Lane Nordstrom (son of Bob and Jamie Zeisler Nordstrom, grandson of Craig and Stacy Zeisler) was on the junior high golf team at Boyd County.

Emerson Higgins (daughter of Skye and Allison Higgins, granddaughter of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins, great-granddaughter of Margaret Vogt Schmitz), Savannah Zeisler (daughter of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, granddaughter of Sheryl Zeisler), Aaron Melton (son of Shelby and Heidi Vogt Melton, grandson of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great -grandson of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) and Cassidy Heermann (daughter of Casey and Jill Heermann, granddaughter of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann) were on the junior high track team for Boyd County.

Ethan Zeisler (son of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, grandson of Sheryl Zeisler), Jaylee Lechtenberg (daughter of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughter of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughter of Bob Wentz), Kaci Koenig (daughter of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughter of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-granddaughter of Louise Neumiller Zink) and Kyla McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) were on the varsity track team for Boyd County. Jaylee qualified for the state track meet.

Liz Arellano (daughter of Ross and Jessica Vogt) received "gold" for her presentation at the FCCLA State Leadership Conference in Lincoln.

Hadley Vogt (daughter of Ryon and Emma Vogt, granddaughter of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-granddaughter of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) received a purple ribbon at the Boyd County 4-H Communications event.

Jaylee Lechtenberg was a state qualifier in Environmental Science and Natural Resources for FFA. Kaci Koenig received the Chapter Star Award which recognizes exceptional performance, leadership and service to the FFA chapter and community.

Chelsea Ciserella (daughter of Joe and Jessica Vogt Ciserella, granddaughter of Vern and Deb Vogt) was on the team that won the 11U Trojan Volleyball Tournament.

Liz Arellano, Ethan Zeisler, Kaci Koenig, Kyla McCarthy, Cassidy Heermann, Emerson Higgins, Landon Melton (son of Shelby and Heidi Vogt Melton, grandson of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandson of Mabel Riesselman) Lane Nordstrom, Savannah Zeisler and Evan Brewer (son of Kip and Rachel Heermann Brewer, grandson of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heermann), Jaylee Lechtenberg and Kinsley Cadwallader (daughter of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, granddaughter of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) were on the honor roll at Boyd County Schools.

Ally Lechtenberg (daughter of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughter of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughter of Bob Wentz), Baleigh Koenig (daughter of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughter of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-granddaughter of Louise Neumiller Zink), Emerson Higgins, Julianna Cline (daughter of Hoyt Cline, granddaughter of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline) and Cassidy Heermann were winners at the Boyd County Art Show.

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 and more . . .

Here is a donation to keep the Naper Paper coming. We really don't know many of the people, but it's written so well we enjoy reading it. Thank you for all the research you put into it.

Please check my address—I believe part of the number is wrong.
Maxine Brink

Always look forward to reading the Naper Paper when it arrives.
Donna Wittmeier

We sure enjoy the Naper newsletter. Here's some money to do with whatever! Not much but keep up the good work.
Darrell and DeAnna (Doyle) Schrader

Hello friends,

How time gets away. Here it is the middle of April and I haven't sent you Naper folks a note to let you know how much we enjoy the paper.

Weather here has been pretty rough with heavy rains and strong winds. But we have gotten through with no problems, so that's a blessing.

Hope everyone up there is fine. Both Carolyn and I are still perking along, just getting older.

Take care everyone.
Orland and Carolyn Cline

CONGRATULATIONS!

Abbigayle Mausbach graduated May 9 from South Dakota State University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She has accepted a community pharmacist position with Lewis Drug serving the South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa regions. Abbigayle is the daughter of Laura Nicolaus Mausbach (Naper High School 1988) and the granddaughter of Dale Nicolaus (NHS 1965) and Linda Vomacka (NHS 1972).

The Boyd County Cross-Country Track team, which includes Ethan Zeisler and Kaci Koenig, received the Currency Academic Excellence Award. Varsity teams must have a combined GPA average over 3.3 for the fall semester. This is the second year the team has won.

Winners of the Naper Volunteer Fire Department raffle were Agnes Engelhaupt, Larry Allyn, Nolyn Mikkelsen, Rochele Lyon, Austin Cadwallader, Duane Tejral, and Todd Boettcher.

Mark McLaughlin and his sons Brooks and Harris have a collection of football helmets from almost all high schools in Nebraska. Their story was featured on KOLN-TV last winter. Mark's dad is Stan McLaughlin (Naper High School, class of 1966) and his grandmother is the late Velda Sieh McLaughlin Stahlecker, class of 1948.

Evan Brewer and Liz Arellano are 2025 graduates of Boyd County Schools. Evan is joining the work force and Liz will enroll in the nursing program at Northeast CC.

Photo at left:
District 18, taken about 1949

Back: Elmer Sattler, Lois Kibby, Wilmer Bohnet, Nola Ann Holmgren
Front: Nyal Franch, James Sattler, Duane Kibby, Frank VanderLinde

A LITTLE HUMOR TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY. . .

A Nebraska farmer went on vacation to Australia. He met up with an Australian farmer who proudly showed off his wheat field.
"That's nothing" said the Nebraskan. "Back home, we have wheat fields that are twice as large as this."
Next the Australian pointed out his cattle.
"They're nothing," said the Nebraskan. "Back home, we have angus that are twice as big as your cows."
Just then, half a dozen kangaroos bounded across the road.
"What are those?" asked the Nebraskan.
The Australian replied, "Don't you have grasshoppers in Nebraska?"

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Age is not a number. It is clearly a word.

Nothing tops a plain pizza.

To the thief who stole my glasses:
I will find you. I have contacts.

I put my grandma on speed dial.
I call that Instagram.

My son said he didn't understand cloning. I told him that makes two of us.

They said to follow your dreams.
So I went back to bed.

Someone stole my coffee cup.
I'm headed to the police station to look at mug shots.

When does a joke become a dad joke? When it becomes apparent.

NAPER PAPER

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CHEERLEADERS 1967-1968
Photo left: from top clockwise-Linda Katzer, Joyce Blum, Rita Ahlers, Kathy Higgins
Photo below: from left: Linda Katzer, Kathy Higgins, Joyce Blum, Rita Ahlers