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 MOVING WALL COMES TO SPENCER

The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington , was displayed at the Spencer Baseball Field in Spencer from August 28 until September 1. The powerful memorial, a tribute to the past, honors the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

It offers a time and place for the community and future generations to reflect, learn and honor those who served. It is an opportunity to pay tribute to over 58,000 men and women who sacrificed their lives or went missing during the Vietnam War.

It is a chance to understand the impact tthe Vietnam War had on the United States and its veterans and to understand the sacrifices made by those whose names appear on theWall. It further gives the observers a chance to honor the courage, resilience and enduring spirit of our Vietnam veterans and ensure that the sacrifices they made are never forgotten.

It also offers a moment of healing.

"Freedom isn't free, and we must never forget the sacrifices made by those who served."

MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORS DECEASED VETERANS

A large crowd attended the American Legion Memorial Day service in Butte on May 26. Naper men who were honored included Duane Kibby, Dale Goodman and Howard Camin.

Commander Cindy Schroetlin gave a brief statement of each veteran's military history while a candle was lighted in their honor.

Howard Tiefenthaler lighted a candle for Duane Kibby.

Above: Dale Goodman's family who lighted a candle for him-daughters Belinda Roth, Brenda Holmberg, widow Melvina and son Dale Goodman Junior.

Phyllis Camin lighted a candle for her brother-in-law Howard Camin.

(Photo credits this page to Marilyn Sieh)

POPPY POSTER WINNERS #

In keeping with the patriotic theme of page 1, the photo below is of the winners of the Poppy Poster Contest sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary to the VFW (about 1973).
Back: Tom Fischer, Lora Sieh, Carol Ahlers, LaVern Higgins, Jerry Klien
Front: Andrea Schock, Brenda Wentz, Sharon Satler, Shelly Sattler

BUTTE FAMILY TAKES HONORS AT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Photos and story by Andrea Sieh Hendry

The Loren and Linda Sieh Memorial Volleyball Tournament brought energy, excitement and community spirit to Naper on Sunday, May 25, 2025. Held at the Naper Sand Volleyball Courts, the event drew a lively crowd and served as both a competitive tournament and a celebration of community.

This year's champions were the Roth family from Butte, who showcased impressive teamwork and skill throughout the day. Coming in a close second was the Cadwallader/Drueke family team, representing Naper with pride and determination.

With sunny skies, enthusiastic spectators, and plenty of action on the sand, the day was filled with friendly competition and fun for all ages. The tournament honored the legacy of Loren and Linda Sieh, whose love for the community and spirit of togetherness continues to inspire events like this.

Participants and attendees alike expressed hope that this event will become a lasting tradition in the years to come.

Thanks to all who participated!

Left: Roth family team

Right: Cadwallader/ Drueke team

Left: The official scorekeepers Linda Sieh and Brenda Lamp

Right: The Sieh family team

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HONOR TO THE 1% ERS

By Cynthia Hixson, daughter of Verna Cline Campbell

During my recent trip to Naper to visit my mother, Verna Campbell, we discussed a conversation she had with Mr. Bob Wentz regarding their respective ages. Upon further discussion, Mr. Wentz learned that my mother was possibly the eldest resident living in Naper. He originally thought he held that honor and seemed disappointed to hear that she may have dethroned him by as little as 4 months.

This got me thinking about age and how our elders are no longer respected and honored as they should, which is a sore subject and a bit off-topic. In any event, coincidentally, my mom came across a posting on Facebook regarding her age group - the "silent generation" (also known as the Traditionalist Generation). The posting begins with "If you were born between 1930 and 1946, you belong to an incredibly rare group: only 1% of your generation is still alive today." At first glance, my mom said this made her feel very old. I was worried she was feeling inconsequential and somewhat depleted. I explained that I looked at this in a different light. I thought it was a tribute and honor to her generation and she should embrace her age.

In part, the posting further went on to read: At ages ranging from 77 to 93, your era is a unique time capsule in human history; and this is why:

You were born into hardship. Your generation climbed out of the Great Depression and bore witness to a world at war. You lived through ration books, saved tin foil, and reused everything-nothing was wasted. Life was simpler and centered around the basics. Discipline came from both parents and teachers, with no room for excuses.

Your imagination was your playground. Without TVs, you played outside and created entire worlds in your mind from what you heard on the radio. The family gathered around the radio for news or entertainment. Technology was in its infancy. Phones were communal, calculators were hand-cranked, and newspapers were the primary source of information. Typewriters, not computers, recorded thoughts.

Your childhood was secure. Post WWII brought a bright future - no terrorism, no internet, no global warming debates. It was a golden era of optimism, innovation and growth. You are the last generation to live through a time when: black and white TVs were cutting-edge; shopping meant visiting downtown stores; and polio was a feared disease.

While your parents worked hard to rebuild their lives, you thrived in a time of peace, progress, and security that the world may never see again. If you're over 77 years old, take pride in having lived through these extraordinary times. You are one of the lucky 1% who can say, "I lived through the best of times."

Whoever holds the title of being the eldest resident of Naper should be honored and respected. In fact, my mother and all members of the 1%ers deserve a standing ovation. Embrace your age and share your wisdom at every opportunity. I salute you all!

- -

Ed. Note: Marlo "Mike" Sieh turned 91 on August 29 so he is certainly a 1%er! Happy late birthday, Mike!

WHO ARE YOU??

Some weeks ago, Don Herrmann, who has roots in the Naper community, sent lots of unidentified pictures to the historical society. Since the story on the left refers to the older folks, some pictures are being shared with the hope the Naper Paper readers can identify the older folks in the photos.

Did the horses enjoy the music? Notice the accordion player on the horse to the right.

While the men are solving the world's problems, it appears the passenger is taking a nap. Wonder what's in the cream can.

A man and woman are standing in front of a convertible parked in front of a house in a small town.

MAKIN' HAY, BACK IN THE DAY . . .

Back in the 1940s, putting up hay was a summer-long project.

Roger Fischer is on a tractor pulling a double mower with Ann Ludemann riding the trail mower, a total swath of 14 feet. Larry Fischer is following on another tractor and mower with a four foot swath. (1947)

The hay was left to dry for a day or two and then raked and swept into the stacker. Reo Ludemann is operating the sweep which he had built reversing an old truck. Only two gears were necessary to run it—-low gear when you needed to back up and reverse when you went forward. It was loud and rough but it got the job done. By the time Ann was using this machine (1950s), oil was added daily, just like gas. (1947)

The hay was "bucked" and then pushed to the stacker. Reo's team Dick and Rowdy responded to voice commands and pulled the loads up the slide stacker, paused while the load dumped on the stack and then backed up until the platform was down, waiting

for the next sweep load of hay. Ann is standing behind the team thinking she's in control but in all honesty, Reo was in charge with his voice. (1947)

At the end of the season, it was comforting to know there were plenty of stacks of hay available to feed the livestock. (Same field, 1942)

Reo also built haysleds (called underslungs by some) to transport the stacks of hay which weighed three or four tons. Reo is on the tractor and Fred Rockholm, Marguerite's brother, is standing by the sled. (1947)

When it was time to feed, the trusty team Dick and Rowdy would pull a stack on the haysled using a cable which had one end attached to the corner of the sled and the other hooked to the doubletree on the harness. After the stack was loaded, the cable was unhooked and the team again hitched to the sled so they could proceed to the pasture and feed the cattle. In the photo above, Reo and Ann are headed to the field to load a stack. It's likely Ann was not much help. (1944)

All of the photos were taken by Marguerite Ludemann on the farm north of Naper, where Kevin and Staci Koenig now live, except for the last photo, which was taken south of Burton, Nebraska, where Reo, Marguerite and Ann lived from 1943-1947.

So now, 80 years later, the farmer heads to the field in an air-conditioned self-propelled swather, throws the windrows together a few days later with a hydraulic v-rake and then bales nice, neat round bales that weigh close to a ton. Ah, the good old days.

Learn about Someone Who Considers Naper a Part of Their Legacy

By Steve Dygert

As a member of both the Stahlecker and Herrmann families, Naper has really played a part in both my growing up and as an influence of my decision of my career choice.

My name is Steve Dygert and my mother was Vera Erlyne Stahlecker – the oldest child of Jacob Stahlecker and Paulina Herrmann Stahlecker. Mom was born in 1912 and graduated from Naper High School in 1932. She taught in both Naper, Verdigre and Butte over the next ten years until the fire in downtown Naper that started in Grandpa Stahlecker's woodworking/creamery business and burned most of the business district of Naper.

Above: Jake and Pauline Stahlecker

The family moved to Omaha, and after World War II mom married Edwin Dygert Jr. and I was born in 1953, When I was five we attended the Stahlecker Family Reunion in Bonesteel and I was exposed to Klaus Vogt's Polka Band. I was so fascinated with his playing of the accordion I decided to have music be a part of my life.

For years mom and I would spend the summers at Johnny Stahlecker's small farm by the Lutheran Church and I learned to arise in order to work on the farm and had innumerable meetings with fresh cow pies!

In fifth grade I started playing the alto saxophone. Mom had a cousin in Yankton, South Dakota, Johnny Matuska, who owned a music store. He had worked under mom at the Martin Bomber Plant at Offutt Army Air Base where mom was the civilian head of security. When he found out I was going to play alto, he sold his own personal first alto sax he had used while playing on the Lawrence Welk Band in the area.

Above: Edwin and Vera Stahlecker Dygert with the author

I played this until college. I was a member of the Nebraska All-State Band in 1970 and decided to become a music major at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This was a great opportunity for me as I later became a member of the Glenn Miller Orchestra for one summer while the baritone saxophone player recovered from surgery,

In 1978 I taught at the University of Exeter, in Exeter, Devonshire, with the International Education Institute. We had a program of both American and United Kingdom students in both a concert band and a jazz ensemble. Major Jimmy Howe Ret, of the Scot Guards Pipes and Band was the band director and I directed the jazz ensemble.

We performed a royal concert at Royal Albert Hall in London on July 4th, 1978, with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in attendance. We performed first, and then the Pipes and Band of the Black Watch Regiment performed the rest of the concert.

Before the last number, Queen Elizabeth gave a short speech on the closeness of the British and American peoples. The last number on the program was Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever.* The Queen announced we had a special guest in attendance, an American Band Director who we would like to direct this number with the Black Watch Band. Would Steve Dygert from Alta, Iowa, please take the stage.

I have to admit I was stunned. Then Major Howe hit me on the arm and said , 'Get up there! Don't keep the Queen waiting!'

Needless to say when the Queen of England commands you to perform – you perform! I told the band we were going to do the *Star and Stripes* Sousa style with starts and stops and tempo changes going from slow to fast. "So watch me!"

The band performed flawlessly and Queen Elizabeth led the audience in a standing ovation.

Above: Sharon Walstrom Welna, daughter of Blanche Stahlecker with the author

Naper has been a big influence in my life and I have attended the Stahlecker Reunion a few times and when I drove through and ate at the Naper Cafe, a lady came up to me and asked if I was a Stahlecker. You can take the boy out of Naper, but you can't take Naper out of the boy!

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!"

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Boyd County High School Band marched on opening day of the State Fair August 23 in Grand Island. They did a fine job!

Kylie Bendig, Dale Mitchell, Kenny Bendig, Keith Mayer and Kevin McCarthy all were winners in different divisions in the Butte Pancake Days Tractor Pull.

The theme for the Pancake Days parade was 1970s Songs. Drueke Trucking won fifth place with "Convoy."

Juliana Cline (daughter of Hoyt Cline, granddaughter of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline) received an award at the FCCLA National Leadership conference held in Orlando, Florida, July 5-9,

Tate Zeisler (son of Luke and Chaney Zeisler, grandson of Sheryl Zeisler) had a turtle named Teddy in the Turtle Races at the Boyd County Fair.

Grayson Vogt (son of Ryon and Emma Vogt, grandson of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandson of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) received a field crop special certificate "Knowledgeable about His Project" on his corn exhibit at the Boyd County Fair. He also received the Champion Crop Exhibit Plaque on his corn display, as well as many other awards that were eligible for the state fair.

Other youngsters with Naper ties who competed and did well at the Boyd County Fair were Grayson's sister Hadley Vogt, Emerson, Jayden and Bergen Higgins (daughters of Skye and Allison Higgins, granddaughters of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins, great-granddaughters of Margaret Vogt Schmitz), Evie and Jane Alford (daughters of Marcus and Candace Alford, granddaughters of Jim and Becky Alford, great-granddaughters of Lois Alford) Elsie and Nicklyn Haglund (daughters of Cory and Jessica Cline Haglund, granddaughters of Keith and Lora Sieh Cline, great-granddaughters of Marilyn Smith Sieh and Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline) and Gage and Sophie Schochenmaier (children of Joe and Kelsey Zink Schochenmaier, grandchildren of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandchildren of Louise Neumiller) .

Elsie, Nicklyn and brother Kevin Haglund were winners in the Boyd County Fair Bike Races.

BALL PLAYERS!

Grayson and Hadley Vogt, Luke and Jane Alford (children of Marcus and Candace Alford, grandchildren of Jim and Becky Alford, great-grandchildren of Lois Alford), Aaron and Landon Melton (sons of Shelby and Heidi Vogt Melton, grandsons of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandsons of Mabel Riesselman Sattler), Kyler Hespe (son of Mike Hespe, grandson of Dave and Cora Hespe), Cash Nordstrom (son of Bob and Jamie Zeisler Nordstrom, grandson of Craig and Stacy Zeisler), Elsie and Nicklyn Haglund and Kolson McCarthy (son of Kendall and Des McCarthy, grandson of Kevin and Angie McCarthy, great-grandson of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) were on several different ball teams for Boyd County this summer.

Austin Cadwallader (son of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, grandson of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) is playing football for Boyd County High School while Aaron and Landon Melton, Cash and Lane Nordstrom are on the junior high team.

Kaci and Baleigh Koenig (daughters of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughters of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-granddaughters of Louise Neumiller Zink), Gage Schochenmaier and Savannah and Ethan Zeisler (children of Jesse and Kimberly Zeisler, grandchildren of Sheryl Zeisler) are running cross country for Boyd County. .

Emerson Higgins, Kyla McCarthy (daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy, granddaughter of LeRoy and Maxine Windmeyer McCarthy) and Kinsley Cadwallader (daughter of Lee and Stephanie Whitley Cadwallader, granddaughter of Tim and Bonnie Fuhrer Whitley) are playing volleyball for Boyd County.

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 . . .

A big thank you to those who are sharing their journalism skills to make the Naper Paper a successful and ongoing production.

I taught in Naper High School 1974-1977. With that in mind, didn't the Alumni 50-year class (1975) look awesome?

Larry Seger

I am enclosing some money to help with the Naper Paper. I really enjoy it. Keep up the good work.

Thanks.

Neal Peterson

Thank you for all you do to make the Naper Paper so special. I appreciate receiving it.

Lois Alford

Please use this donation for whatever for the paper. I enjoy the paper so much.

Sandra Whitley

Just want to send a donation for all your work. I am stopping the paper, as I told Marilyn, since John isn't here to read it. He was the one that knew the people of the Naper area.

You do a good job with the paper. I'm sure the people from Naper area really enjoy it. Keep up the good work.

Really miss not being able to come back to Herrick and Naper. Miss the card playing.

Blessings to all of you!

Connie Smith

While doing Cline research on Newspapers.com, I came across this. I thought you might like to include it in the next paper.

(From The Daily Sentinel, Grand Junction, Colorado, Friday, April 28, 1944)

Naper, Neb. (AP) Wilbert Cline drove his truck three miles on a country road to the farm of his brother Clarence Cline.

Opening the door on his arrival, Wilbert found his 2-year-old son Marvin sitting on the fender.

Cline said his son did not seem the least concerned about his hazardous ride

Gary Cline.

NAPER AMBULANCE GETS NEW EQUIPMENT

By Rindy Zink

News from the Naper Ambulance! We have some new equipment for the ambulance, a Stair Chair.

A stair chair is an ambulance stretcher that fold into a chair position rather than a flat bed position. It is used to transport patients in a seated position through narrow halls or up and down stairs. Stair chairs are used not only in multilevel buildings, but also airplanes, businesses, schools and any location that could require an emergency evacuation in a confined space.

Featuring a lightweight frame, only 34 pounds, it can accommodate patients up to 200 pounds with one operator and 500 pounds with two operators.

WHEN KIDS MADE THEIR OWN FUN!

Before video games, before social media, before cell phones, before life became a series of electronic gadgets each more complicated than the last, kids would get together and figure out any and all kinds of fun that required nothing but some time and some energy.

Lora Sieh celebrated her birthday by inviting friends and neighbors to spend the afternoon in the sand draw just north of where they lived along Highway 12.

Back row: LaVern Higgins, Ethel Alexander, Leanne Vogt, Nancy Wentz, Carla Vaughn, Brenda Wentz, Mary Higgins, Fonda Vaughn, Kip Sieh
Front row: Mike Sieh, Lora Sieh, Whitey (the Sieh's family dog), Lois Nicolaus

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SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Charlene Brauer died April 29 at her home in Norfolk. Richard and Charlene lived on a ranch south of the Niobrara River and attended church at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Naper for many years. Her son Tom Brauer preceded her in death.

Earl Tech, who attended high school in Naper 1952-1955, died June 9. He lived near Burke for several years after his retirement.

Clyde Vogt, a life-long resident of the Naper community, died July 19, Clyde graduated from Naper High School in 1965. His sons Gayle and Brad graduated from Spencer-Naper Schools.

Maylon Kern, a 1959 graduate of Naper High School, died August 4. He had lived in Marshalltown, Iowa, for many years.

Ken Sieh died August 8 in Denver. He was a member of the class of 1961 at Naper High School but moved to Denver with his family in 1958. He had lived in Denver since then.

Judy Small Schmitz died August 18 in Stuart. Judy graduated from Naper High School in 1960 (picture in the last Naper Paper) and was an educator for 29 years.

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NEW MANAGEMENT AT THE CAFE

Scott Nicolaus assumed management of the Naper Café as of September 1. We wish him the best! It's a great place to meet your friends for a visit and a cup of coffee (also good food).

NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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Naper High School 1954-1955 Basketball team

Back row: Wayne Schoenefeld, Larry Stoltenberg, Coach Ray Frederick, Dennis Heermann, Harvey Dummer
Front row: John Peterson, Kenneth Stoltenberg, Bernard Ludemann, Donald Swallow, Ronald Schonebaum