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

Volume 23 Issue 4 www.napernebraska.org Winter, 2025

A 1%ER RESPONDS-A LIFE WELL LIVED!

By Norma Keller Vanderbeek

I was born during a blizzard on January 20, 1935, in Lynch, Nebraska. Dr. Kriz waited behind the heating stove for my arrival. My parents were Elmer Keller and Nellie Eva Davis Keller.

Shortly after my birth, I became very ill with dust pneumonia. My dad farmed a bit and worked for the nuns at the Lynch Hospital —starting their stove, making toast, running errands and even Dr. Ira and Dr. Kriz on house calls. In his spare time, he was a barber. Whenever we traveled from Naper to Lynch, he proudly pointed out the road he helped build.

My mother Nellie was raised by her father after her mother died of tuberculosis when she was just three years old. Her baby sister Mae was raised by their grandparents.

My grandfather traded his ranch in Winner, South Dakota, for a shoe shop in Lynch, sight unseen. When they arrived , all they found were outdated shoes and empty boxes. He and my mom ran a cream station together. Eventually he remarried a woman from South Dakota and my mom gained four lovely half-sisters. She didn't reunite with her full sister Mae until I organized a family reunion in Bristow, Nebraska, 40 years later.

After my parents married, my mom took on the farming. She was a skilled seamstress and made all of my clothes from flowered feed sacks. She was also a talented carpenter and the best cook I've ever known.

I had two brothers and two sisters, all of whom have now passed. I recently lost my dear sister-in-law, Gaynell Keller. I have two remaining cousins—one is 94 and I recently helped my 90-year-old cousin on my mom's side celebrate her birthday in Yankton.

We moved from Lynch to Naper when I was two. I attended District 50 and later Naper High School. For a time, there were only two students at District 50—Roy Gossard and me. To attend high school, I worked as a nanny for Naper Gas and Electric. I lived in a round, wooden house three miles from Naper, without electricity or a telephone. At one point, we had only a horse and buggy. And yes, I was one of those who had to walk to school—uphill1

During high school, I lived with LaVerna Broekemeier Sieh. We've been close friends since 1948 and still talk weekly and meet up a few times a year. We've lived it all—and we're not done yet. It just takes us a little longer now.

In 12th grade, my dad bought me a 1942 Ford Coupe. I wasn't supposed to drive it out of town, though I may have disobeyed that rule once.

After graduating, I attended Wayne State College for one semester before moving to Kentucky to begin married life. My husband, Don Vanderbeek, was serving in the Korean War. Together we had seven children and raised a granddaughter. All our children graduated from Spencer.

Over the years, I worked many jobs. I was a waitress and sold Avon, Watkins, Raleigh, Tupperware and Fuller Brush products. In 1973, I began working at the Butte Nursing Home in various roles: cook, housekeeper, laundry aide, CNA, activity director and social work. I retired after 35 years of service, deeply grateful for the wonderful residents and staff I met along the way.

Above: Norma and LaVerna at the 2025 Alumni Banquet.

(continued on page 2)

(1% story continued)

After retirement, I began working with North Star Services, helping young adults reach theii personal goals, often at the Davies Memorial Library in Butte. I officially retired on January 17, 2025, just days before my 90th birthday.

We celebrated my retirement and birthday in style with family, friends and North Star supervisors on a bus trip to Sioux City. While some 90-year-olds go skydiving, I chose to mark the occasion with a tattoo of a library book, symbolizing the start of a new chapter.

In my spare time, I've taken up painting. I'm no Grandma Moses, but I'm learning to leave my legacy.

God has blessed me with seven children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even a great-great-granddaughter. What a life it has been!

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Janelle Blum Hanzlik died August 30 in Yankton. She graduated from Naper High School in 1963 and lived in the Niobrara area most of her life.

Garry Jeffords, a 1952 graduate of Naper High School, died in Burke September 21. He had operated several businesses in the area. Garry and Roma, his wife of 70 years, were featured in a Naper Paper story Winter, 2020.

Barry Sieh, a 1973 graduate of Naper High School, died in Omaha September 17.

JoAnn Putnam Mitchell died October 3 in Atkinson. She graduated from Naper High in 1955 and taught school in the area for several years. JoAnn came from a family of teachers—her father Gene taught in Naper Public School in the 1920s and her sisters Marie, Mavis and Gwen taught in Nebraska schools.

Nathalie Sattler died September 28 in Connecticut. She attended UNL and became a registered nurse. She had lived in New York and Connecticut for most of her adult life.

Dennis Heermann died October 24 in Lincoln. Both Dennis and his wife LouAnn (Stahlecker) graduated from Naper High School, Dennis in 1956 and LouAnn in 1960. He spent four years in the Air Force, attended the University of Nebraska and was a civil engineer.

Wayne Schoenefeld, a 1956 graduate of Naper High, died November 11. He and his wife (Barbara Vogt Schoenefeld, NHS class of 1957) raised their family on the farm where Wayne's grandparents had also lived northwest of Naper.

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STAHLECKERS MEET IN CALIFORNIA

This past September at Bakersfield, CA, there was a small reunion of Walter and Vera Stahlecker's remaining children: Marge Zauner, Earl Stahlecker and Bernice Spitzenberger. It was a time to reminisce and talk about the old days. Memories like: Having to walk up hill, both ways, in a blizzard, to go to school; Mom and Dad treated you better than me; I had to work harder than you did and the big one; Daddy loved me more cuz I was the baby. There was laughter and somber times remembering way back when. But they were glad to get together.

Left to right: Bernice, Earl and Marjorie.

Thanks to Cheryl Stahlecker for the picture and the information.

[**Ed. Note**: All Naper High School graduates—Marjorie in 1954, Earl in 1957 and Bernice in 1960. Earl lives in Yankton, South Dakota, and Bernice in the Houston, Texas, area. Marjorie is the Bakersfield resident.]

NOT QUITE READY FOR THE SUPER BOWL

Some weeks ago, a couple stopped in the Naper Café for lunch and visited with the group around the card table. Gloria Larsen Anderson had photographs of her grandpa Marcus Larson and his brothers Fred, Louis and Dick who played on Naper's football team in 1912!

According to the caption on the bottom photo, it had been a great season—the scores were Naper 30, Gregory 0; Naper 21, Bonesteel 0; Naper 13, Spencer 9.

Front row: Leonard Logerwell, Herman Andersen, Reuben Logerwell
Middle row: Charley Tienken, Fred Larson, ___ Johnson, Mike Larson, Louis Larson, _____ McKenna
Back row: Roy Hazen, August Andersen, Art Limmer, ___ McKenna, Dick Larson, _____ Phell
Dare we assume Roy Hazen and Phell were coaches considering their style of clothing?

A Life of Service—Dr. George J. Frazier

George Judson Frazier was born at Santee, Nebraska, May 6, 1876, the son of Francis and Margaret Smith Frazier.

Francis Frazier was a Congregational minister, whose father Ehnamani participated in the Minnesota Massacre and while in Mankato Prison was converted to Christianity. Ehnamani was the first full-blooded Indian ordained in the Congregational denomination.

George Frazier's only brother was the Reverend F. Philip Frazier who served as a missionary among the Indians.

Francis Frazier brought his family and a group of Santee Sioux from their home near Niobrara to Milk's Camp northwest of Naper in the late 1800s. The group didn't like Milk's Camp as it wasn't as lush and productive as their land at Santee was.

George went to work for the Zimmerman family on their farm (where Kevin and Staci Koenig now live) at an early age and his father would come to collect his pay of 50c a day rather than allowing George to have it.

George received his early education in the public schools, graduating at age 13, and then attended Hampton Institute hoping to attend Dartmouth. Family finances prevented his attendance so he made other arrangements.

He first cared for a doctor's office, his barn and buggy to earn enough money to attend the University of Nebraska. The doctor died of a heart attack so plans were changed again.

A friend of George's father arranged for him to be admitted to Denver Homeopathic Medical college and soon he was keeping 50 kerosene lamps trimmed between classes. He graduated second in his class (now a part of the University of Denver) in 1903.

After a short time in Center, Nebraska, Dr. Frazier moved to Naper where he had a practice from 1904-1914. Most of his patients were Germans from Russia, many of them living in sod houses with dirt floors. He delivered many babies under those conditions.

All of his patients were white and a lot of them spoke broken English but they were able to understand each other. He joked that they spoke "high" Russian (German) or "low" Russian (German) while he was "high" Indian.

Telephones were available in the Naper area while Dr. Frazier practiced there, but almost all travel was by horse and buggy or wagon. He had many phone calls asking if he was the Indian doctor in Naper. The calls might result in a 80-mile trip.

In 1914, Dr. Frazier left his all-white clientele and entered the Public Health Service. He moved to Santee where he also served as physicial to the students and faculty of Santee Normal Training School.

He met Emma Jones, a member of the Crow tribe and a home economics teacher at the girls' school in Springfield, South Dakota. The Missouri River was an obstacle to their courtship—it was a choice of taking the ferry or waiting for the river to freeze so they could cross the channel.

It didn't take long before Emma moved to Santee and they were married in Sioux City, Iowa, November 8, 1916.

Photo below taken in 1930.

They were parents of Wilford, Pearl and Emmajean. They transferred to Lower Brule, South Dakota, then to the Rosebud Reservation. He was stationed at Wood, South Dakota, and affiliated with the Rosebud Hospital. Later he was stationed at Gregory, South Dakota, until his retirement in 1941. In 1943, he was recalled to the Public Health Service due to the shortage of doctors during World War II. He retired for the second time in 1951.

Photo at left Dr. Frazier and Emma who is holding Ann Ludemann 1942.

Photo below of Norman "Red" Rockholm, Eva Rockholm Reetz and Emma Frazier, 1983.

He was named South Dakota Doctor of the Year and later inducted into the south Dakota Hall of Fame posthumously in 1965. He was elected to the South Dakota Cowboy and Western Heritage Hall of Fame in 1978.

Dr. Frazier died in Tacoma, Washington, in 1964. They had lived there for several years to be near their children and grandchildren. Emma enjoyed many trips to Naper where she visited the Ludemann and Anderson families. She joked that she loved to fly when traveling because she was a Crow. She died in 1989.

RECIPES FROM THE CLASSROOM

Phyllis Camin has been finding some treasures! In 1974, Miss Hicks and her class produced a cookbook given to parents and teachers. Richard Blum and Sheila Vaughn were first graders; Shellie Sattler, Jill Schmitz, Andrea Schock, Jeffrey Vogt, Hoyt Cline and Clark Fuhrer were second graders. Mrs. Camin's class (Leann Audiss, Karen Bechtold, Diana Moody, Julee Casteel and Ellen Reiman) typed the book. It was reproduced on a Ditto machine! Who remembers that intoxicating smell and the purple ink?

The first recipe in the book is

Recipe for Friendship

Take two heaping cups of Patience
one heartful of Love
two handsful of Generosity
a dash of Laughter
one headful of Understanding
Sprinkle generously with Kindness
and plenty of Faith.
Mix well.
Spread over a period of a lifetime and
Serve everybody you meet.

On the next page was a list of

Mental Vitamins

Vitamin A-our friends
Vitamin B1-our self-respect
Vitamin C-usefulness
Vitamin E-work with our hands
Vitamin K-fun
Vitamin B6-personal freedom
Vitamin B12-Faith in God

Phyllis also found a book given by Blakkolb's Store Carefree Meals for Modern Homemakers by canning 'n freezing. It was produced by the Kerr company which makes canning jars. She had a Gregory County Extension Homemakers recipe book from Christmas, 1976. You can bet there are some awesome recipes in those books and they are now at the museum.

IT LOOKS LIKE A PARTY!

Ludwig (Louis) Jensen was born in Denmark in 1850 and immigrated to the United States in 1873. Mr. Jensen took up a homestead three miles southwest of Naper in 1892 where he lived until 1904. He bought property in Naper (most recently lived in by Lawrence and Bertha Nagel in the southwest corner of town) and went to work as a janitor in the school. He died December 15, 1943.

Bill Peppel passed along photos of what seems to be a celebration for Louis. Note the bouquet he's holding.

L-R: Unidentified, Stella Cunningham, Etta Bennett, Unidentified, Lida Snider Hughes, Vera Peppel, Luree Barnes
Seated: Louis Jensen The unidentified woman in the middle could be Louis's daughter Anna.

L-R: Herman Windmeyer, G. E. Peppel, Carl Cunningham, Ward Barnes
Seated: Louis Jensen

SOME HOMESPUN WISDOM FOR YOU

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision.

Just once, I want the prompt for username and/or password to say, "Close enough."

Even duct tape can't fix stupid—but it sure does muffle the sound.

I hate it when I can't figure out how to operate the iPad and my tech support guy is asleep. He's five years old and it's past his bedtime.

Tip for a successful marriage—don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn.

Seriously—you drive across town to the gym to walk on a treadmill?

Does anybody else have a plastic bag full of plastic bag or am I alone in this?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes and then come out wrinkle-free? And three sizes smaller!

Lately I've noticed people my age are much older than I am.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

All of our prayers are answered. Sometimes it's "Yes." Sometimes it's "No." Sometimes it's "You've got to be kidding!"

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!"

KEEPIN' UP WITH THE KIDS IN SCHOOL . . .

Gage Schochenmaier (son of Joe and Kelsey Zink Schochenmaier, grandson of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-grandson of Louise Neumiller Zink) won the 2025 Wild Turkey Days Fun Run in Spencer.

Boyd County runners won the Niobrara Valley Conference cross country meet. Baleigh Koenig was first place in the junior high girls (1600 m) race. Kaci Koenig was sixth place in the varsity girls race. Baleigh and Kaci are daughters of Kevin and Staci Zink Koenig, granddaughters of Jeff and Rindy Zink, great-granddaughters of Louise Neumiller Zink.

Ethan Zeisler finished third place in the varsity boys race and Savannah Zeisler placed sixth in the girls junior high race. They are children of Jesse and Kim Zeisler, grandchildren of Sheryl Zeisler. Gage Schochenmaier placed 13th in the junior high boys race.

The Boyd County boys' cross country team of which Ethan Zeisler was a member competed in the state cross country meet in Kearney on September 26. Kaci Koenig also qualified individually. They all ran well on a brisk fall day. Congratulations to each and every one!

"FAIRLY" GOOD SHOTS

Gage and Sofie Schochenmeier, Kaci and Baleigh Koenig, Grayson Vogt (son of Ryon and Emma Vogt, grandson of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandson of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) and Emerson and Jayden Higgins (daughters of Skye and Allison Higgins, granddaughters of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins, great-granddaughters of Margaret Vogt Schmitz) received blue and purple ribbons in 4-H shooting sports and archery competition at the Boyd County Fair.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jaylee Lechtenberg (daughter of Shane and Beth Nelson Lechtenberg, granddaughter of Ivan and Nancy Wentz Nelson, great-granddaughter of Bob Wentz) was crowned Homecoming Queen at Boyd County Schools.

TIME FOR A CHANGE!

After about 15 years of hanging letters on the marquee, Ann Anderson is happy to announce that Jamie Warnke has volunteered to do that job. Good luck, Jamie!

SANTA WILL BE AT THE AUDITORIUM DECEMBER 13 AT 2 PM! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

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 . . .

I wanted to send a donation and this picture of Riney and his family on Uncle Jake Stahlecker's hearse that Adolph traded him for a pig. They got many good years of use out of that hearse turned truck.

Riney enjoyed reading about his Stahlecker relatives last month. We always enjoy the paper.

Jake was the undertaker in Naper.

Riney and Virginia Stahlecker

Right:

District 7 students 1984:

Back: Tammera Mitchell, David Reiman

Front: Jeanne Reiman, Jennifer Smith

I am enclosing some money to help you with the Naper Paper. We all enjoy it here in Louisiana where I am now living with my daughter and her family.

Mardell (Honke) Schroeder

Always special to get the Naper Paper. Especially liked the article "Makin' Hay, Back in the Day." It brought back memories.

Frieda Ahlers Voll (1940 graduate)

From the Butte Gazette, May, 1954, listing Boyd County rural students who had graduated from the eighth grade: Lorna Sieh, District 71 ranked first; John Peterson, District 4, ranked third; Ken Stoltenberg, District 4; Lois Kibby, Duane Kibby, Elmer Sattler, District 18; Verna Cline, William Schultz, Marvin Cline, District 44; Margaret Bendig, District 48. (Did they have to take an eighth grade exam?)

Above: Students at Sunnyside School, District #2, two miles east of Naper, 1943. L-R: Harley Nicolaus, Ronald Sieh, Arlene Nicolaus, Loretta Faatz, Melvin Roth, Wayne Faatz, Roger Roth in front Wayne. The building now is on Main Street, Naper.

PUZZLE ME THIS . . .

(This is a puzzler from Otto Bentzen, shared by Ramona Bentzen. Thanks!)

A local farmer had three sons and 17 head of cattle. One son had stayed on the farm and worked along side his father diligently for years. The next son lived in town and helped whenever he was needed but also had another job. The third son had gone to college and moved away so he came to the farm only on holidays.

The farmer was thinking dividing his cattle herd among the three sons in a way that would reflect their time working on the farm. The oldest son should receive one-half, the middle son one-third and the youngest one-ninth. But how do you divide 17 by two, three or nine?

Along came a neighbor riding a mule. The farmer explained his dilemma and the neighbor had the perfect solution! Aha!

If the neighbor added his mule to the mix, the farmer could divide the herd as he wished and it would come out even. Let's see:

One-half of 18 is nine, one-third of 18 is six, one–ninth of 18 is two. Nine plus six plus two—Voila! The answer is seventeen.

Surely there is a moral to this story about the neighbor's mule but it's not coming to me right now.

NAPER PAPER

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Grades 1 and 2, 1964-1965, Naper Public School
Back row: Kevin Neumiller, Bill Beem, Karen Audiss, Ella Vogt, Margaret Ludemann, Jan Alford, Jeff Zink, Kelly Vogt, Miss Weber
Middle row: David Schmitz, Beverly Vogt, Lori Helenbolt, Edith McLaughlin, Cindy Keller, Wanda Blum, Debbie Goodman, Lori Loewe, Vernon Vogt
Front row: Richard Ahlers, John Bentzen, Tim Whitley, Len Fuhrer, Lee Fuhrer, Hale Neumiller, Glenn Zink, Alan Nicolaus