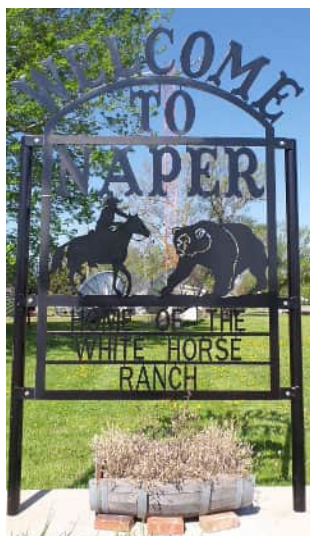


The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor the history, original structures, special places and artifacts of the people and culture of Naper, Nebraska, and the surrounding area. The Naper Historical Society intends to accomplish this 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 24 Issue 3

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Autumn, 2026

NAPER HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD RECORDS

In the Naper Paper, summer, autumn and winter editions, 2022, Stan McLaughlin presented a comprehensive accounting of Naper High School boys' sports. Girls' sports didn't come into being until Title IX became law in 1972. Naper then began offering volleyball, basketball and track and field competition for the girls. Boys had three sports available also: cross country, basketball and track and field.

The boys' and girls' track and field records for Naper High School are displayed on the "glory board" at the museum, thanks to Blair Vogt who rescued the board after it was removed from Naper Public School.

Girls' track and field record holders and their events are as follows:

50 yard, 100 meter, 200 meter dash	Diane Schmitz	1973 and 1974
400 meter	Ellen Reiman	1977
800 meter	Lisa Ahlers	1987
1600 meter	Carla Vaughn	1977
3200 meter	LaRae Vaughn	1980
50 yard hurdles	Paula Higgins	1971
100 meter high hurdles	Shelda Cline	1986
300 meter hurdles	Sheila Vaughn	1986

High jump	Elaine Bendig	1981
	Carla Ulmer	1985
Long jump	Lisa Schmitz	1972
Shot put	Karen Audiss	1975
Discus	Shelda Cline	1987
Shotput (4 kg)	Elaine Bendig	1981
400 meter relay	Diane Schmitz, Paula Higgins, Pat Schmitz, Cindy Higgins	1972
800 meter relay	Lora Sieh, Melanie Neumiller, Leanne Audiss, Lynelle Breyer	1977
1600 meter relay	Leanne Audiss, LeAnne Vogt, Ellen Reiman, Lynelle Breyer	1976
3200 meter relay	Cindy Bendig, Shellie Sattler, Sheryl Sattler, Sheila Vaughn	1984

Boys' track and field record holders and their events are:

100 meter and 200 meter dash	Jacques Davidson	1983, 1984
400 meter dash	Bryon Vogt	1979
800 meter race	Lyndon Vogt	1982
1600 meter race	Eldon Vogt	1972
3200 meter race	Kevin Blum	1979
110 meter high hurdles	Gregg Honke	1972
165 meter low hurdles	Bill Peppel	1967
300 meter intermediate hurdles	Jeff Ulmer	1981

High jump	Randy Vogt	1979
Long jump	Jacques Davidson	1984
Triple jump	Keith Cline	1979
Pole vault	Jeff Ulmer	1981
Shot put	Ron Blezek	1966
Discus	Willie Sieh	1981
400 meter relay	Jared Blum, Richard Blum, Hoyt Cline, Jacques Davidson	1984

800 meter relay and mile relay
Larry Ahlers, Wes Fuhrer, Dennis Gentele, Bill Peppel

Two mile relay
Gordon Vogt, Rich Ahlers, David Schmitz, John Bentzen

Katie Vogt's accomplishments were highlighted in the last issue of the Naper Paper.

Lots of Vogts have run in the state track meets. Eldon Vogt won the mile run in 1972 and came in second in the two-mile run in 1973. He was a member of the two-mile relay team (Eldon, Steve Ahlers, Dwight Fuhrer and Barry Sieh) that won second in 1973. Gordon Vogt was fifth in the mile run in both 1975 and 1977 and a member of the two-mile relay team (Gordon, Rich Ahlers, John Bentzen, and David Schmitz) that won second in 1976. Bryon Vogt ran sixth in the 440 yard dash in 1979. Lyndon Vogt was fourth in the 1600 meter and fifth in the 3200 meter in 1981. He won first place in the 1600 meter in 1982.

(continued on page 7) □

NAPER HISTORY . . .

The townsite of Naper was developed on land donated by Ralph Naper who operated a general store south of where Naper now stands. Recently a bank book from the Bank of Naper was donated to the museum by Patrick Naper, Ralph Naper's great-grandson.

Robert Ralph Naper was born in Naperville, Illinois, July 19, 1863, and died in Gregory, South Dakota, October 10, 1930.

Harold Ralph Naper was born April 27, 1896, in Naper and died September 19, 1951, in Gregory. Harold Naper's bank account was opened October 25, 1905, with a deposit of \$4.78. Several deposits were made and checks in the amounts of \$1.00, \$0.50 and \$1.20 were charged to the account.

The By-laws and Ordinances of the Village of Naper, Nebraska, adopted and enacted January 5, 1903, was also donated by Mr. Naper. At the time of the adoption, R. R. Naper was the clerk of the village board and Chas. Serr was the chairman of the board.

Harold Naper's son, David Ralph Naper, was born December 7, 1924, in Burke, South Dakota and died October, 2005, in

Denver. He served in the Army in World War II as well as tours in Korea and Viet Nam. He also served a tour with NATO in France and Belgium. He received a medical retirement from the Army in 1969 and moved to Denver.

Patrick Harold Naper was born in Zuma, Japan, August 15, 1961, while his father was on duty there. He now lives in Colorado and graciously donated the bank book and the ordinance book to the museum. Thank you!

A FEEL-GOOD STORY

Long ago (January, 1965) and far away (Spearfish, South Dakota), Ann was attending college (Black Hills State) to complete her degree.

When it was time to enroll for the second semester of her senior year, there was no money to pay tuition (\$175) but she was determined to get the job done. She went through all the lines, filled out all the forms and then faced the registrar and announced she had no money to pay for the tuition.

The registrar told her to go talk to Dr. Jonas, the college president. Ann asked if she needed an appointment. No, just knock on his door and go in. Ann did

that. She explained that she had only a semester to finish but had no money. Dr. Jonas's first question was, "Have you taken International Relations from Dr. Camry?" (It was a notoriously hard class, required for graduation.)

Ann said she had just finished it. "Did you pass?" Ann said she got an A. Dr. Jonas said he wished Dr. Camry had graded on the curve and passed more students (which meant Ann would have had a C) but alas. . .

"How much money do you need?"

"Just enough for tuition--\$175"

Dr. Jonas pulled out his personal check book, wrote a check to Ann--not to the college!-- for \$175 and handed it to her. "Pay me back when you can."

About six weeks later, Ann knocked on his door again to repay the loan. Was there interest collected? No.

Dr. Jonas said, "I collect my interest when I see you walk across the stage at graduation."

She walked.

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TRAGEDY ON THE TRAPLINE

Those who knew of this tragedy firsthand have all since passed away, but the story has been preserved in a new book. Approximately 13 miles south and 6 miles west of Naper, an alleged murder took place in 1932 that captured the attention of the entire area. Two men had formed a trapping partnership as a way to earn money during the winter months. The first was a one-armed local man named Coy who was well-known in the area south of the Niobrara River. The other man named Treppish was an urban outsider from Wisconsin. After they had ended their trapping in the spring, it was assumed they had both returned to Wyoming where they had initially met to resume work on the sheep ranches. After several months of not receiving any communication, the brother of Coy began asking questions to determine why he had not heard from his brother. A large search party then discovered the scattered remains of the missing brother near their last known trapping camp on Otter Creek. It was immediately assumed by the local community that the outsider had surely murdered him.



Treppish, the man from Wisconsin

The evidence indicating guilt was substantial, yet nearly all of it was circumstantial or conjecture. No one had actually witnessed a murder take place and the stricken Coy whose body had been found was known to have had local enemies who had earlier tried to kill him. The jurors deciding the case came under intense pressure from the residents to seek justice for "one of their own" even though the deceased had previously been viewed as a local nuisance by many in the area. Those testifying could not agree as to whether Coy has said he was staying or going back to Wyoming.



Coy, the one-armed man who lived south of the Niobrara

After the guilty verdict was reached in Holt County District Court, it was later appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court for an outside view from the justices who had no local involvement or friendship with the deceased man. Did the Holt County jurors render the correct decision or were they pressured to reach a verdict to ward off a potential angry mob who said they would take matters into their own hands if necessary? Did a local man murder Coy and know that Treppish would be blamed for it? Perhaps a murder did not even take place and this situation was so one-sided that no one locally could look at it objectively to speculate Coy's death might have been from natural causes?

A native of northern Nebraska, historian and author Jerry Penry details this true story in his latest book *Tragedy on the Trapline*. It centers in the Dustin and Cleveland communities in northern Holt County as well as on an island in the Niobrara River east of the Stuart-Naper bridge then referred to as Grand Rapids. Penry is the Nebraska Deputy State Surveyor out of Lincoln and has authored several books on Nebraska history. This book is also available online at www.BlueMoundPress.com.

Penry also authored *Stuart Silver Fox Ranch*, the story of the "Fox Farm" located about 20 miles south of Naper on the Naper-Stuart road. From newspaper accounts, it was portrayed as a truly magnificent operation. It was the largest facility of its kind in the entire Midwest, the sole purpose of which was to raise silver fox, coyotes, rabbits and mink for their fur. They were raised not to produce warm clothing, but to provide furs for valuable and highly desired luxury apparel.

The author sent a complimentary copy of *Tragedy on the Trapline* to the Naper Historical Society. It is available in the Naper Library. A good read!

CRUISE NIGHT JUNE 13, 2026



Contrasts on Main Street on June 13-the reclaimed pickup and the shiny Corvette!



Abby Forbes was painting faces, arms, hands--whatever you wanted! Left: Sofia and Nora Lenz, Roger Ludemann's granddaughters visiting from Kansas City, display their arms. Right: Luca Forbes (grade 4) and Ember Forbes (grade 6) had their faces painted by their sister.



BIKERS IN NAPER

Some BRAN (Bike Ride Across Nebraska) riders stopped for breakfast at the Naper Cafe June 7. Thanks, Tara Ahlers, for the picture of Tom from Atlanta and Matt from Scotts Bluff. Riders were overnight in Spencer that night. Word has been received that Spencer was chosen as the best host town by the BRAN 44 riders!



SOME HALLOWEEN FUN-FORMATION!

Which of these is not a real place?

Halloweentown, Oregon Tombstone, Arizona Pumpkin Center, Indiana
Frankenstein, Missouri

Which one of these films was not directed by Tim Burton?

Frankenweenie Beetlejuice Coraline Edward Scissorhands

In 2025, this organization celebrated 75 years of its trick or treat donation program which has raised \$200,000,000 for humanitarian aid.

United Way UNICEF the Salvation Army Girl Scouts

Which stage production is based on the infamous Salem witch trials?

Wicked Long Day's Journey into Night The Crucible Les Miserables

Which of these is not the name of a bone in the human skeleton?

Radius Humerus Sirius Coccyx

According to a 2021 survey, how many Americans say they believe in ghosts?

21 percent 41 percent 61 percent 81 percent

What was the original name of Candy Corn?

Scary Corn Sweet Corn Chicken Feed Bits of Terror

GUS HOLMGREN TELLS HIS STORY

So often, a family member or a neighbor dies and someone will comment, "Well, there goes a lot of history. I wish they'd have written their story down." As the commentator on CBS Evening News says frequently, "Everybody has a story." Somebody did write it down.

Gus Holmgren wrote the story of his life (A Little Story of My Life Before I Was Married to Mom) and shared it with his family. The family had it printed in 2023 and his son Ken Holmgren recently gifted a copy of the book to the Historical Society. The book is in the Naper Library.

Gus was born in 1903, to Philipp and Katharina Wetzler Holmgren. They were living a mile and a half west of Naper, a farm now owned by Shane Lechtenberg. Gus had two older brothers, Henry and John.

When Gus was about two and a half years old, his mother Katharina died. Katharina's mother and her sister Elizabeth came to help Philipp with the children and after some time, Grandma Wetzler told Philipp "This is no time to think of the dead but to think of the living." So . . .

Philipp married Elizabeth (Aunt Lizzy to Gus) and the family grew with the addition of Chris, Frieda, Rudolf, Clara, Albert and Philip.

+++++
Answers to Halloween Fun-formation
Halloweentown, Oregon

Coraline
UNICEF
The Crucible
Sirius
41 percent
Chicken Feed

+++++

Gus went to school in Naper and then worked for Ed Peppel when he and Vera lived south of Naper. Gus was about 16 years old and earned \$50 a month. He got to keep \$5 and the rest went to his father. Gus thought that was OK because that's the way everybody did it and his dad would be helping him get started farming.

After Ed and Vera moved north of Naper, Gus continued to work for them and started farming on his own. Soon the 30s were upon us and Gus had to quit farming and look for another job. He moved to Iowa where his brother John lived.

John was married to Rose Faatz and lived in the Estherville, Iowa, area. When Rose's sister Clara Faatz graduated from high school, she was looking for work and moved to Iowa to live with John and Rose.

Gus and Clara married June 4, 1939, and had three children-Kathryn, Karen and Kenneth.



Philipp and Elizabeth Holmgren with their children Frieda and Chris (front) and Henry, Gus and John standing in back. Photo was taken probably in 1911.

More News from the Butte Gazette in 1971

Dale Reber returned from his two weeks in guard camp at Camp Carson, Colorado.

Donn Reber, Ken Voigt, Vernon Hitchcock and Wes Fuhrer left for Deadwood to attend the Days of '76.

Mort Mortinson of Omaha and Roger Ludemann have spent the past week visiting in the Dale Kapsa home in Belle Fourche and touring the Black Hills. This week they left to visit relatives at Reno, Lake Tahoe and California.

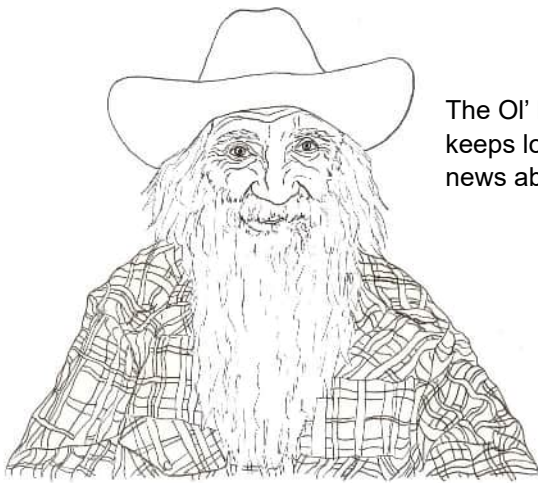
Doug Martin, a 1965 graduate of Naper High School and a graduate of UCLA, was awarded a Chancellor's Intern Fellowship, the highest distinction a graduate student can earn at the University of California.

The ladies of Our Saviour Lutheran Church of Spencer sponsored the August birthday party at the Butte Nursing Home. Among the honored guests were Edith Windmeyer and Sally Green, both formerly of Naper.

Sara Olerich and Dale Schoenefeld were married in Rolfe, Iowa.

At Marie's Style Shop in Butte, you could get school dresses, 2 for \$5.00. Double knit was available at \$3.98 per yard.

Kayl's Super Saver was offering six cans of peas and carrots for \$1; pork roast was 39c a pound; cantaloupes were three for 89c; Folger's coffee was \$2.49 for a three pound can; grapes were 39c a pound; five 10 ounce packages of frozen corn for 98c.



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

Bob and Nancy Allpress celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 11.

Bill and Karen Peppel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 11.

Doug and Noel Allpress celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary August 14.

Izabella Zoie arrived two months early on March 9, 2026, weighing 4 lb. 3 oz, and measuring 16 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed home by siblings Lilly, Luca and Lennox. Parents are Brett and Kara (Peppel) Vallow of Downers Grove, Illinois. Grandparents are Larry and Kim Vallow of Orland Park, Illinois, and Bill and Karen Peppel of Naper. Little Izabella is the great-granddaughter of the late Edward and Doreen Peppel, the great-great-granddaughter of G. E. and Vera Peppel and the great-great-great-granddaughter of Gus and Louisa Erikson, all of whom were early residents of Naper.

Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers celebrated her 90th birthday was honored at an open house on July 11.

SAYIN' GOODBYE TO OLD FRIENDS

Viola Woehl Cline, a sister of Velma Woehl Vance and widow of Clarence Cline, died at the age of 103 in Sioux City, Iowa. She had been a long-time reader of the Naper Paper.

COUNTY FAIR NEWS

In open class, Gage Schochenmaier had the largest zucchini. Sofie Schochenmaier's terrarium received a purple ribbon and is eligible for state fair. They are the children of Joe and Kelsey Zink Schochenmaier, grandchildren of Jeff and Rindy Zink.

Jessica Haglund exhibited textiles in open class.

Nicklyn and Elsie Haglund were winners in the pedal pull. They also entered crafts, food, floriculture and cat show and tell. They are daughters of Cory and Jessica Cline Haglund, granddaughters of Keith and Lora Sieh Cline, great-granddaughters of Marvin and Judy Hoyt Cline and Marilyn Smith Sieh.

Grayson Vogt received the Reserve Champion Crops Award, a purple ribbon for a citizenship entry and blue ribbons for corn, soybeans, silage and his terrarium. Hadley Vogt was entered in clover kids horticulture judging contest, family and consumer science judging, crafts, food, horticulture and vegetable sculptures, safety and building. They are the children of Ryon and Emma Vogt, grandchildren of Sharon Sattler Vogt, great-grandchildren of Mabel Riesselman Sattler.

Jayden Higgins received the Champion Citizenship Exhibit Award and Emerson Higgins received Reserve Champion Citizenship Exhibit Award. Their scrapbooks are eligible for state fair. Bergen Higgins entered crafts, food, building items, sewing and other events. They are the daughters of Skye and Allison Higgins,

granddaughters of LaVern and Brenda Klien Higgins, great-granddaughters of Margaret Vogt Schmitz.

PLAY BALL!

Lucas, Jane and Evie Alford (children of Marcus and Candace Alford, grandchildren of Jim and Becky Alford, greatgrandchildren of Lois Alford); Gage Schochenmaier; Jayden and Bergen Higgins; Hadley Vogt; Aaron, Landon and Jameson Melton (children of Shelby and Heidi Vogt Melton, grandchildren of Sharon Sattler Vogt, greatgrandchildren of Mabel Riesselman Sattler) and Cash Nordstrom (son of Bob and Jamie Zeisler Nordstrom, grandson of Craig and Stacy Zeisler) all played ball on the Boyd County teams this summer.

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, ceremonies, and historical photos.

If you need to contact the historical society, you may:

call 402-832-5471,

mail to Naper Historical Society
Box 72
Naper, NE 68755

e-mail at papabear@threeriver.net

LETTERS! LETTERS! LETTERS!

Really appreciate the listing of all past Naper Hi graduates in the last Naper Paper. However, I graduated in 1963, not my brother Larry (1967).

Leroy Ahlers (1963)

Please accept this donation for the Naper Paper [in memory of Dennis Schoenefeld] for the Naper Paper! He enjoyed reading it, loved the articles!

Once a Naperite, always a Naperite.

Mary Schoenefeld

The Naper Paper continues to inform and entertain. A big thank you to all who make it possible, great job!

Larry and Judy Seger

OUR APOLOGIES--

The last issue of the Naper Paper included a comprehensive list of Naper Alumni. While trying to make the list more readable, names were moved around and Dennis Schmitz was inadvertently left off the 1967 graduates list. Apologies to Dennis. And apologies to LeRoy Ahlers, who graduated in 1963, but was listed as "Larry Ahlers."

For several years, the Naper Paper has been produced using the Publisher app. It no longer is supported so please bear with us while a new design app is learned. Old dogs, new tricks--you know the rest of the story.

Track and Field Records Continued from page 1

After Naper merged with Spencer in 1988, Gayle Vogt was a member of the 4 x 100 and the 4 x 400 meter teams which won fifth at state in 1992. He placed fourth in the 800 meter run. In 1993, Brad Vogt was first in the 3200 meter event and in 1994 was sixth in the 800 meter run and second in the 3200 meter event also at state.

Other runners have represented Naper High School at the state track

meet. Kenneth Katzer placed fifth in the mile run in 1958 and second in the mile run in 1959. In 1967, Naper High runners (Dennis Gentele, Larry Ahlers, Bill Peppel and Wes Fuhrer) placed second in the mile relay. Larry Ahlers was second in the high jump. In 1971, Dennis Katzer came in third in the two mile run. In 1979, Kevin Blum was sixth in the two-mile run. In 1981, Jeff Ulmer was third in the pole vault. Jacques Davidson won first in both the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes and fourth in the long jump in 1984.

After the county school merger, Blake Ahlers, representing Boyd County Schools, won first in the 3200 meter and second in the 1600 meter races in both 2017 and 2018 state meet.

RANCHING TIPS-- (SOME YOU PROBABLY NEVER THOUGHT OF!)

An hour in the morning is worth two in the afternoon

Glamour tends to dissolve in sweat.

It's easy to cut a big strap if you're using someone else's leather.

The only way to move cattle fast is to move them slow.

An extra inch of rain takes the place of a lot of management.

get a lot more done than a poor cowboy on a real good horse.

A good horse is never a bad color.

And some statistics about our neighboring counties-- Cherry County, Nebraska, is bigger than the state of Connecticut. In 2024, there were 466 cow/calf operations with 184,716 beef cows--31 cows per square mile! In the top 10 beef cow counties in the United States, three of those counties were in Nebraska: Cherry (#1), Holt (#2) and Lincoln (#6). (Information from Drovers magazine, April/May, 2024)

NEBRASKA PIONEER FARM AWARD PRESENTED TO THE BENTZEN FAMILY

The AkSarBen Pioneer Farm Award was presented to the Bentzen family at the Boyd County Fair on July 22, 2026, by Brenda Wendt. j

Otto Bentzen Sr. bought the NW1/4 of Section 34, Township 35 North, Range 15 West in 1926. He, his wife Hannah and sons Otto Jr. (Jack) and Arthur moved there in 1927. Their son Raymond was born there in 1928.

Raymond lived his entire life on this farm with the exception of two years spent in the U. S. Army. Raymond and Ramona (Westland) were married in 1954. They have five children--Laurie, Ray, Mike, John and Karen -- all graduates of Naper High School.

Raymond passed away in 2005. Ramona owns the farm now. Renters are Daniel Ahlers and Mike Haney.



Photo taken at the presentation ceremony at the County Fair July 22. Left to right: John Bentzen, Laurie Bentzen McNulty, Ray Bentzen, Karen Bentzen Richardson and Brenda Wendt who presented the award. Ramona Bentzen is seated in front. Mike Bentzen was unable to attend.

NAPER PAPER

Naper Historical Society

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NAPER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS 1952-1953

Back: Velva June Vogt, Janis Blakkolb, Marlin Dummer, Jim Dawson, Neil Helenbolt, Winston Stahlecker, Delores Putnam, Shirley Vogt, Carol Peterson, LaVerna Broekemeier

Row 3: Mr. Koplin, Wilmer Bohnet, Marjorie Stahlecker, Louise Neumiller, Marlin Green, Dennis Camin, Russell Whitley, Wayne Stoltenberg, LaVernTech, LeRoy Erickson, Joan Fuhrer, Virginia Schonebaum, Mr. Pesicka

Seated: Mrs. Koplin, Nola Dummer, Carol Bechtold, Mardell Maertin, Elaine Peterson, Janet Cline, Marilyn Smith, Margaret Vogt, Nina Bentzen, JoAnn Putnam, Myrna Gosch

Seated on floor: Donald Swallow, Norman Davis, Ronald Kulm, Larry Stoltenberg, Earl Tech, Wayne Schoenefeld, Wayne Faatz