

The

Naper Paper

Naper Historical Society
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THIS ISSUE

- Snakes!
- The Naper Movie House
- The Alford Homestead
- Naper Alumni Banquet
- Naper Memories
- Plus: Circuit Rider, Ol' Homesteader, and much more!



COMING UP!

Members of the former White Horse Ranch troupe will be returning June 21 for the grand opening of the White Horse Ranch Museum. It's been a lot of hard work but the end result is worth the time it takes to see the displays.

The north side of the building has recently been developed into a replica of a home and a cream station, using memorabilia from the ranch. Just ask someone how much fun it was to move the old cook stove or the car!

The large mural (all 24 feet of it!), which at one time hung in the White Horse Bar, owned by Bill Layh in Naper, was later donated by Reo Ludemann to Dean and Carley Daugherty for display, and is now on the south wall.

The museum as well as Heritage Hall and the Naper Jail will be open from 10-4:30. Sandwiches and cold drinks will be available at the VFW. And as usual--a free will offering will be welcomed.

A Publication for
and about the
town of Naper,
Nebraska

The Naper Historical Society

Our Mission:

"The mission of the Naper Historical Society is to preserve, interpret, display, communicate, promote and honor 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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Volume 7, Issue 2

News of 1st Quarter 2009

Snakes Alive!



In 1948, two World War II veterans, Raymond Stoltenberg and Walter Ahlers, saw a large snake in the Niobrara River just south of Naper. I learned most of the details from Stoltenberg who now lives in St. Paul, NE, where he has a road construction firm.

Stoltenberg had the 1984 contract for building the road grade approach to the Redbird bridge. It was a "real scorcher" that day in 1946, and the two had been doing bulldozer work on the Joe Small farm. On their way back from work, they stopped about a quarter mile east of the Windmeyer bridge and went to the Niobrara River to wash off.

Walter Ahlers (born March 30, 1924) was then 24; he had been an army mechanic in Germany and France during the war, and got out of the service in 1946. Ahlers, a quiet shy sort of fellow, was more precise in putting a date on their strange encounter:

"I saw the snake the year before I was married," he asserted, when I visited him at the John Deere dealership in Spencer, where he was working as parts man.

When they saw the snake, Stoltenberg was already in his fourth year of marriage. He and Walter were working as cat operators for Stoltenberg Construction Company, then owned by Ray's father.

"It was about 6:30 or 7 in the evening and there was still plenty of light, when we saw the thing about a half a block away," Stoltenberg said. "It had its head up high out of the water and was coming toward us. Its body, about 12 to 15 feet long, was visible as it wiggled along on top of the water."

Here again, Ray used the familiar measure: "It was about as big around as a gallon bucket," he declared, and then added, "We got the hell out of there-but fast!"

On the way back to town, they stopped to tell the fellows at the Mobil station run by Jim McLaughlin. But everybody there just laughed at their story.

"We sure took a lot of razzing after that," Ray confided, "but you could never convince me that I didn't see that thing."

Joe Small, an old-timer who had lived all his life along the Niobrara east of Naper, was the only one to sympathize with the two. For many years he had been puzzled by strange distinctive tracks, which some sort of enormous reptile had left along the river, and by the 'tunnels through the grass' that it had made.

Ed Note: The above story was given to the museum by Loren Sieh, excerpted from the book Our valleys: The Niobrara and Verdigris by Danny Liska. Although the Niobrara River is named in this article, Joe Small's farm, the Windmeyer Bridge and the snake sightings were on the Keya Paba River.

THE FIRST (AND LAST) PICTURE SHOW IN NAPER by Velda Stahlecker

The "downtown" theater in Naper started in the 1930s. Before the theater was built, movies would be shown on the side of the old State Shed. The audience sat on chairs, in cars and such on the side street. Frieda Statsman Blak-kolb played the piano.

Ted Ulrich ran the theater. Sometimes the reels would break and the audience would sit and wait for him to fix it. Duane Sieh remembers during World War II, one could gain free admittance to the theater by turning in chunks of aluminum. Many a cooking pot went to the show.

After World War II, Jack and LaVerne Adams ran the theater. They did a lot of upgrading and had first-run movies. Bertha and Barney Smith, Earl and Eileen Cressman, Russ and Sandy Whitley, and Merlin and Dennis Green also operated the theater at different times. The theater closed, and in 1964 the town purchased the building for a fire hall, with the back part rented to the VFW for a meeting hall.

The VFW has built onto the building twice and it is still in use as a community gathering place. The front part of the building is used for the ambulance. Fire trucks are now parked in a building (formerly the State Department of Roads shed) on the north end of town.

There were always stories about what went on in the balcony; how much of that was true and how much was imagination one can only guess!

Duane Sieh recalls smoking was allowed in the balcony. The audience could look up to the beam of light from the projector and see the smoke swirling about. Youngsters would climb into the rafters and watch the movie from there.

If you went to the show on Sunday night, you could get in free on Wednesday night when the same movie was playing. If you went on Friday night, you could get in free on Saturday night. A quarter would get you in, and buy some popcorn, too! That's a far cry from today's \$10 tickets and \$5 popcorn.



*Do you remember any stories about the theater? Share them with us!
Box 72, Naper, NE 68755.*



The Circuit Rider

Verlyn Sieh: A Lawman's Lawman

At sundown a mysterious rider is seen drifting along the horizon. Old timers believe he's a Sandhills Ghost or Spirit who's trying to keep the Pioneer Spirit alive. His mission: To interview favorite long-time residents of Naper, in order to help us remember our noble past. No one can actually point to specifics, but all swear, "He's out there..."

Life is fragile and fast-paced! The circuit rider lays his saddle blanket on his saddle and prepares to bed down under the stars on this starry night on the plains. How often we say, "Where have all the years gone?"

Whatever happened to Verlyn Sieh, one of his old cronies of whom he has lost track? The last time our trails crossed a few years back, Verlyn was in law enforcement. Tomorrow, this rider will stop at the home of Verlyn and LaVerna Sieh.

A young man painting in the yard welcomed the rider but sadly informed him that Verlyn was no longer with us. Dick, son of Verlyn, was host and greeter. The visit was like old-home week. LaVerna fixed a strong morning cup of coffee and brought the rider up to date.

Verlyn graduated from high school and enlisted in the Army. After an honorable discharge from the service in 1955, he joined the Omaha Police Force. Later, he also joined the Army Reserves. Verlyn was a very active member of the American Legion Post #374. While on the police force, Verlyn also earned a degree from Omaha U.

What a future this young man would have! During his career in law enforcement; job descriptions included about all levels: patrolman, motorcycle cop, traffic control, criminal investigation, homicide, narcotics, SWAT, undercover investigation and crime prevention programs.

A policeman faces daily challenges and danger. At one time, in an attempt to remove a barricaded gunman from a home, an officer next to Verlyn was killed with a blast from a shotgun. That officer left a wife and two children.

Being a motorcycle cop was full of surprises. One time a nest of wasps attacked him; a number of them got into his shirt. He had to stop and strip off his shirt; by then he'd been stung eight times.

Another time, as a result of a car crash while he was on duty, Verlyn suffered a severe back injury.

Officers continually had to be alert for prostitution and gambling in Omaha and surrounding areas. On a three-day weekend during NFL season, football bookies placed about \$450,000 in bets. Of this the

bookies received about 40%.

Prostitution was rampant in certain areas of Omaha; fights among prostitutes and pimps were like wars. Undercover sting operations were the order of the day.

Lawsuits against police officers were not uncommon. Officers always had to be very careful of protocol.

Suicides were frequently difficult to resolve, hard to handle, and just plain sad.

William Webster, director of FBI national headquarters, sent Verlyn a personal letter of commendation for his organization and management of an undercover sting investigation. Countless stories of congratulations and compliments are evidenced with, among others, letters from Michael Boyle, mayor of Omaha, and also the mayor of Fremont on Verlyn's investigations into the narcotics business. Part of Sergeant Sieh's undercover garb included long hair and a huge beard to permit him to fit in with the drug buyers and suppliers.

After 29 years, 9 months, Sergeant Sieh was honored by the police force with a large retirement gathering.

On October 26, 2005, Verlyn passed on to his final reward. The letter excerpted below was received after his passing, written by one of the young men with whom Verlyn worked:

"I am so sad to hear of Vern's passing. I found out Friday, and it turns out I talked to a VFW post friend of Vern's on the very day of his passing. I was trying to find out how to get ahold of him so we could talk.

Vern had more impact on my life than any other man including my family members! He taught me how to be a man, and a policeman, and a sergeant. He taught me how to survive. He taught me to do what I felt was right regardless of consequences. He taught me about obligation and duty. Without Vern's influence I never could have made it through the major problems of my life.

You will never fully understand the impact Vern had on a lucky group of young men during the 60's, 70's and 80's; and the resulting impact those men had on younger generations of police officers. Countless lives have been saved and improved because Vern taught us how to take care of business, and to get it right the first time.

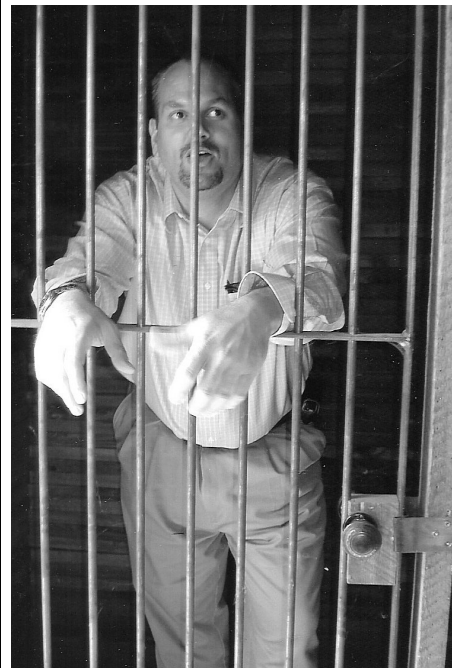
Vern Sieh was the best policeman I have ever known, and he will always stand as the benchmark of what a police sergeant should be. Please know that we share your loss of a man we all loved. But thank God he was there when we needed him. I will always regret not seeing him one last time."

Verlyn and LaVerna have two sons, David and Dick, two daughters, Becky and Audrey, and three grandchildren, twins, Nick and Jackie, and Morgan.

The sun is getting low and once more it's time to "hit the trail." There are more old acquaintances to renew.



DOIN' HARD TIME!



Christian Hornbaker, director of the Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism, accompanied Mary Rose Pinkelman and Twyla Witt on a three-day exploration of the Outlaw Trail Scenic By-way, beginning in South Sioux City and ending in Valentine. They stopped in Naper May 27 and somehow Hornbaker ended up inside a cell! Luckily someone found the key to the jail so they could continue the trip!

fornia, not just Napa.

I make a lot of jerky--about 150 lbs a year and give it all away. Here is a little donation to the paper. Thank you.

Harold G. Stahlecker

Harold, we enjoyed the jerky, fruit bars and fudge you sent. Thanks! They were served at the Spring Community Get-Together. -Editor

Enclosed a check for the Naper Paper as we'd hate to miss it. It is so good to keep in touch with old friends who write in. So many memories of growing up: walking down the aisle of Blakkolb's Store, sitting on the bench after trading in the store and visiting with the ladies, Indian ladies wrapped in their large shawls, listening to the White Horse Ranch kids singing in the street. Later, as I got older, the best place to see and hear of things going on was sitting on the stone fence by the drug store. Thanks to all who write the articles.

Lavonne Klien Boes

Always look forward to getting the Naper Paper. Reading it always dusts off old memories. Keep up the good work. Enclosed is a donation to help with expenses.

Orland Cline

We received the Naper Paper and as always enjoyed reading all the news. My sister Marcelle ordered *Reminisce* (the magazine that brings back good old times) for me. So, I ordered the Naper Paper (the paper that brings back a lot of old memories) for her. It's such good reading; usually gives a good reason for a phone call. So I'm sending a donation from both of us.

Lillian Wallace

Thanks once again for the Naper Paper. It is always so interesting to read about people that my mother talked of while I was growing up here in Oregon. Please use the enclosed to support the paper, the museum, or your new library. Naper really seems to be a "happening" town.

Mary Lou Herrmann Clark

Am sending a donation to keep your wonderful paper coming. Enjoy it so much.

Nellie J. Siewert Parker

Thanks so much for keeping me posted on things where I was born and spent a small part of my life. I hadn't included anything on the other two of us triplets. **(Ed. See story in issue published 4th quarter 2007.)**

Sister Alice passed away after being in a Home in Corsica with an illness. She was married and her husband has also passed away. Brother Albert is in a Home in Pierre. His wife Darlene passed away December 31 after a bout with cancer. They had 6 children, all married. Albert served in the Army in Germany during the Korean War where I did.

I am enclosing a donation for the paper. Thanks so much.

Almon Adam

Dear Naperites,

Do so enjoy your clever little newsy Naper Paper. I am moving mid-May, 2009, so please notice my change of address. Enclosed is a check to help cover postage, printing, and whatever.

Lorraine Creasey

Happy New Year!

Every issue of the Naper Paper is so interesting recently; especially the stories of the Schoenefelds and "The Life of Alfred Camin." I knew Alvin and Vera (Sieh) Schoenefeld well, corresponding with Vera until her death, when daughter Shirley wrote the sad news. The Camins were our neighbors, attending the same country school and Lutheran church where Amanda, Edna and I were confirmed in 1928. **(Ed. See story "Season of Joy" Fourth Quarter 2008)** We continue to correspond, Amanda in South Dakota and Edna in California. Anna (Berg) Walkington, also a resident of Prestige Assisted Living, is pleased when I share the Naper Paper with her. In appreciation, I am enclosing a check with a message of thankfulness to you.

Martha Clausen
93 years of age

Recently while visiting the Naper Cafe, I saw Naper Library books displayed. It's very exciting to see this new addition to your town! I've always loved reading and also worked in libraries. I often thought how I would have loved access to a library in my childhood years. Now Naper is enjoying that great resource! Way to go! (PS. Check enclosed to help cover the cost of the Naper Paper.)

Clarice Ahlers Alons

Continue to enjoy each issue of the paper and appreciate all of the effort that goes into publishing it. I am enclosing a contribution. It is exciting to read about the plans to keep Naper alive and an exciting place to live.

We received a recent Taxing Times Newsletter and my husband spotted an item of interest: a lady, Marie D. Bunch, who was born on a farm in Naper, NE, and who became 100 years of age on December 25.

It would be interesting to know if there is any record of this family living there. She sounds like quite a lady. I am including the article.

We will not be coming to Naper this year, but hopefully next year. Thanks for all the hard work.

Frieda Ahlers Voll

Ed. Marie D. Bunch was born December 25, 1908, to Fred and Anna Rockholro. They lived four miles east of the Ahlers farm. Marie's youngest sister Wilma and Clara Ahlers graduated from Naper High School together in 1934. Marie attended the Rockholm family reunion in 2005 and the alumni banquet in 2006 which was the 80th anniversary of her graduation.)

Great show. Wonderful pictures. Recognized a few people, including Anderson, Nicholas, Sieh, and a couple of others. Nice little town. I was very fond of the cafe.

Susan Cragin

Ed. Susan Cragin is author of *Nuclear Nebraska*. She is commenting on "Naper Nebraska: A History in Pictures" - a video posted online by Naper Paper Editor Kevin O'Connor. It is a compilation of photos gathered over several years of production of the Naper Paper and can viewed by searching for "Naper Nebraska: A History in Pictures" at Youtube.com.

LEST WE FORGET...



On May 25, 2009, an Honor guard and Women's Auxiliary Members held a Memorial Day Service at Knoll Crest Cemetery. Many of Naper's honored servicemen and women turned out for the event.

Remember When

Continued from Page 5

Herring walked to the second floor of his home following the shooting. His brother, Elmer, who lives nearby, heard the shots and came to the Herring home, inducing his brother to come down and surrender.

Quoting a July 17, 1924, article in the Springview Herald, "Herring was a long-time resident and had an unsavory reputation of being criminally inclined and a bad man with a gun. It was believed that he had served time in the penitentiary and boasted that he would never again be taken alive."

(I took this story from more than one source and there are a few discrepancies which I decided to include anyway.)

Ed. Marilyn is a long-time contributor to the Naper Paper. This series of articles on the Herring Brothers is an incredible piece of history, and made for some mighty fine reading! Thanks Marilyn!

Remembering Naper
Bruce Ahlers

I have had the privilege of serving as a missionary for much of my adult life; 14 years in Indonesia and most recently, six years in Albania.

In both countries, the people are very friendly to and look up to Americans, which is not true in all countries.

Both countries are supposedly Muslim, but very different. Indonesians, in general, would put their Muslim faith first and choose to identify with Muslim brothers rather than Americans, if they had to choose.

Albania is at best nominally Muslim; actually quite secular, and one of the few countries in Europe to support the US in the Iraq war. There was once a movement that wanted Albania to be the 51st state!

When President George W. Bush visited a couple of years ago, he was welcomed as a hero with much fanfare. I don't think there is another place in the world where he would have gotten that kind of welcome...

My mother (Betty Conklin) graduated from Spencer High School, from the normal (teaching) program, at the age of 16. She immediately started teaching in country schools around Naper, boarding with local residents, the last one being the home of my father's parents (August Ahlers), and the rest is history.

She would have to get to school early and start a fire in the stove each morning, as it was often very cold.

I was born in the Burke Hospital. My parents (Walt and Betty Ahlers) were then living on the west side of Naper, in a house north of the Catholic church. No covered wagon; I'm not that old!

When I was young (4-8 years old, in the mid-1950's) we lived on a farm between Naper and Butte.

Dad got some dairy cows, installed a milking machine and bought a new cream separator. It was electric and didn't need to be cleaned between each use as did earlier models. It had a special way of back flushing with water; high-tech in those days!

The cream was collected in a cream can, which was simply covered between milkings and picked up by Jerry Schmitz once or twice a week on his cream-and-eggs route. The skim milk was fed to the pigs. We also had chickens and packed the

eggs in cardboard crates which also were picked up by Jerry. (Those methods probably wouldn't meet health standards these days!)

Among my earliest memories of Naper are coming to town on Wednesday and Saturday nights, although we didn't do it very often. It seems Main Street was so full it was not easy to find a parking place; all the while teenagers were driving up and down Main Street. Did they use just the two main blocks or all three?

I'd go to Super Service and sometimes get a pop out of the machine where you slid bottles around to get the one you wanted. I also remember getting soft ice cream at Dalldorfs Store.

And then there was Sunday grocery shopping at Blakkolb's Grocery Store. They would leave church quickly to open the store for those stopping after church.

Mission Festival at our Lutheran Church was an anticipated event with a potluck noon meal at the Naper Hall. Of course Naper Hall was the center of other social events in town: wedding dances, basketball games, etc. I remember vividly the building of the new Lutheran Church with its brick facade and usable basement—both unusual in Naper. We no longer needed the hall for mission festivals.

When my kids had to transfer to a school with 3,000 kids (from one with about 60) I told them I knew what it was like to go from a small school to a big school.

I graduated from eighth grade at Twin Butte School, District 49 which was located just a mile east of the Twin Buttes on old Highway 12, where there were 12 students K-8 and I had one classmate.

Then I went to Naper where there were 50 kids just in the high school, and I had ten classmates! I went only two years to Naper High School, finishing my high school years in Minnesota in preparation for becoming a pastor.



Letters to the Naper Paper



Send your cards and letters to:
The Naper Paper
c/o The Naper Historical Society
PO Box 72
Naper, NE 68755

So enjoy the Naper Paper! Thanks to all who make it possible. I have fond memories of our years at Naper. May God bless. Please find enclosed check to help with postage.

Gaylene Mitchell

Thank you so much for the gift certificate to the Naper Cafe that you gave on Santa Day. You should be proud of all you've done for Naper and preserving history. Thanks again.

Larry and Carol Shepperd

Time to send a little help to Naper Paper. We enjoy it--thanks, guys and gals, I know it's a big job.

Alberta Breyer

Just a little gift for you and keep the paper coming. We enjoy it, as it has been a few years since we were there, but plan on coming this summer.

Al and V. Stahlecker

On Memorial Day, 2009, Laurel will mark the 20th anniversary of our B-17 Memorial on Highway 20 north of Laurel. It was dedicated to the 17 brave veterans that lost their lives on August 5, 1944.

On August 3, 1944, Naper had a plane carrying 28 servicemen that crashed. As we worked on Laurel's Memorial we had the honor of learning about Paul Honke from Naper, and that he was a pilot on one of the 18 bombers over Laurel. We got to be very good friends of Paul and Gertie Honke.

My wife and I were in Naper in 2004 when you folks dedicated your wonderful Memorial to the lost Airmen. It has been an honor meeting and getting to know the great and friendly people of Naper.

We do so enjoy receiving your Naper Paper and look forward to reading it when it comes. Please accept this small donation for your paper.

Gene and Jan Twiford

Here's a donation for the Naper Historical Society. Enjoy reading about the area and points of interest. You do a great job and we know it's a lot of work. Keep up the good work. We also enjoy stories of the families in the area too. Thanks for all the work involved.

Joan Grimm

Keep the paper coming. I enjoy reading about Naper and especially about people from years ago. Here's a small donation to help with costs.

Russell Reber

I enjoy reading the paper. I don't know how you get all the information and still work but keep up the good work. I still call Naper home even though I've been out here since 1950; that is Cali-



100 Year Farms

The Alford Family Homestead

The Naper Paper is back with another look at farms and homesteads that have been in the same family for a century or more.

On August 14, 1905, and March 6, 1906, William Alford of Monowi, NE, purchased the farm five miles northeast of Naper, located in sections 23 and 26, Township 35, Range 15. William and Eleanor were the parents of Edward Alford.

In March of 1927, Edward and Elsie Alford and their three children, Loraine, Lula Mae and Edward D., age 3, moved from Monowi to the land owned by William Alford. With the help of family and friends, the machinery and household goods were brought to the farm. The cattle were driven by riders on horseback. Edward and Elsie went through many hardships with drought and grasshoppers during the 1930s. They resided on the land for their entire lives.

June 16, 1949, Edward D. married Lois Reel of Spencer. They set up housekeeping on the same farm where Edward and Elsie lived. It was here they raised their three children, Becky Jo, Jan LuRae, and James.

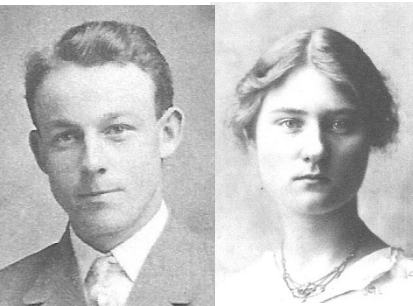
On March 5, 1983, James Alford married Rebecca Holmquist from Rapid City, SD. Since their marriage, they have farmed and ranched on the Alford farm. Their three sons, Matthew and Marcus, who attend college at SDSU, Brookings, SD, and Jonathan, a sophomore at West Boyd Schools, are also involved as members of the fifth generation on this land.

Additional land and buildings have been added each generation. Ed and Lois continue to live in the original house which has been expanded and remodeled over the years. In August, 2008, Ed and Lois received the Nebraska Pioneer Farm Award sponsored by Ak-Sar-Ben, and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, which honors families whose land has been owned by the same family for 100 years or more. The land is currently owned by Ed and Lois Alford and James and Rebecca Alford.

(Fourth and Fifth Generation) James Alford (top right) and wife Rebecca (bottom right) and their three sons, (back) Matthew, Marcus, and Jonathan (front).



Mr. and Mrs. W. Alford
(First Generation) William and Eleanor Alford, parents of Edward Alford



(Second Generation) Edward and Elsie Alford, parents of Edward D. Alford



(Third Generation) Edward D. and Lois Alford, parents of James Alford

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

A & M Enterprises
832-5388

Trenching, pump installations,
backhoe work, plumbing.

Bob's Auto Body
832-5766, Box 223
Auto body repair.

Curl Up & Dye Beauty Shop
832-5573
Haircuts, styling, coloring.

Lynn's Upholstery
832-5461

Covering chairs, couches and
other furniture.

Naper Grocery
832-5276

M & L Lawn Service
832-5422
Mowing, trimming, fertilizing,
tilling, seeding, spraying

K & S Mobile
832-5125

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Naper Café and Lounge
832- 5272
Breakfast, dinner, supper, bar.

Naper Transport
832-5955
Sand & gravel hauling

Nick's Auto Sales and Dish
Satellite TV

402-832-5166
Used cars, oil changes, parts,
tire repair, new tires

U.S. Postal Service
832-5977

Drueke Trucking
832-5610
Local and long distance grain hauling

56th Annual Alumni Banquet



On May 29th, the 56th Annual Naper Alumni Banquet was held. There were representatives from several graduating classes, and there was plenty of fine food and music, and fun. Thanks to all who attended, and the incredible group of people who organized the event!

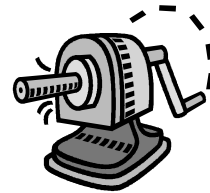


Gaynell Rockholm Keller, Class of 1949, with her daughter Cindy Keller Schroetlin, class of 1975.

CLASS OF 1959:

Back row (L-R):
Kenneth Katzer,
Milo Stahlecker,
Merlin Green,
Gary Hoyt

Front row (L-R):
Janice Schultz Hysell,
Donna Windmeyer Luehman,
Larry Juracek, Delwin Carter



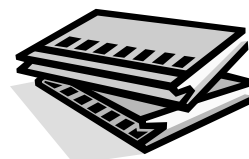
CLASS OF 1969 (L-R):

Wes Fuhrer,
Kathy Higgins Peppel,
Doris Dummer Olson,
Ed Higgins,
Andy Hambek



Class of 1979 (L-R):

Joe Klien,
Bonnie Klien Vogt,
Kevin Blum



Class of 1989 (L-R):

Monica Voigt Rotert,
Kelly Bendig, Lisa
Ahlers Reiman



The Ol' Homesteader

Ol' Homesteader returns with another heap of news and happenings from in and around our fair town...



Congratulations!

Duane and Marilyn Smith Sieh celebrated 50 years with an open house May 3 at the VFW.

Bernie and Carol Bechtold Ludemann celebrated 50 years also with an open house April 5 in North Platte.

Marian and Joan Fuhrer Green celebrated 50 years May 24 in Burke.

Wayne and Barbara Vogt Schoenefeld also celebrated in Burke on June 6; 50 years again! Whoooo--lots of years added up there!

Larry and Ann Ludemann Anderson's granddaughter, Melissa Kapsa, graduated from University of North Dakota and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on May 16, and married Derek Gunter May 23. Busy girl!

Tara Lynn Boshart, Steve and Ellen Reiman Boshart's daughter and Jack and Jean Reiman's granddaughter, is engaged to Zachery Callison.

Jason and Sara Breyer Coats are proud parents of twin boys, born December 31, 2008, named Kyle Randall and Kase Warden. Proud grandpas and grandmas are Randall and Sherri Breyer and Walter and Beth Gilbert all of Waco, TX. Everett and Alberta Boucher Breyer are great-grandparents.

Ashli Schmitz is the mother of Landon Joseph O'Kane which means that Laura Nicolaus Mausbach is grandmother; Dale Nicolaus is great-grandfather; Linda Nicolaus Vomacka is great grandmother and Lucille Reamer is great-great-grandmother. Lots a' history there!

Some Fun

The VFW Auxiliary sponsored their annual Easter egg hunt on April 11. Lots a' kids found lots a' prizes!

The Naper Library keeps hummin' along. February displayed hand-made quilts; March sponsored a silent auction to raise money for the library; April displayed crocheted items created by local hands.

Local author Travis Heermann, son of Jerry and Dorothy Dummer Heerman, spoke to a crowd at the hall May 24 and signed copies of his books.

Kids' Reading Hour went for several weeks in June. The Circle of Friends Club sponsors Bingo on the first Saturday of every month.

A large crowd attended the community Spring Get-Together in April, and enjoyed a

super pot-luck meal, followed by Bingo and games. Again, it's what we do best!

Thirteen boot-wearin', sack-totin' volunteers picked up trash along seven miles of Naper's scenic roads on April 26. Thanks for the cleanup, folks!

Kids' Doin's

Holly Vogt, Tiffany Zeisler, and Corbett Sachljen were all named to honor lists at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Brooke Reiman was selected as Butte Girls' Stater. She's the daughter of Casey and Lisa Ahlers Reiman and granddaughter of Jack and Jean Reiman and Wayne and Virginia Schonebaum Ahlers.

West Boyd Schools Honor Roll names include Samantha McCarthy, daughter of Darrin and Connie McCarthy; Jon Alford, son of Jim and Becky Alford; Alex Bendig, son of Kelly and Monica Bendig; Luke Zeisler, son of Richard and Sheryl Zeisler; Macy Ahlers, daughter of Dan and Tara Ahlers; Dylan Reiman, son of Casey and Lisa Reiman; and Kendell McCarthy, son of Kevin and Angie McCarthy.

Track participants at West Boyd include Samantha McCarthy, Macy Ahlers, Katelyn Haney (daughter of Mike and Tammy Wentz Haney), Jon Alford, Kendell McCarthy, Logan Titus-Ahlers (daughter of Dan and Tara Ahlers), Henry Ahlers (son of Dean and Roxie Ahlers) and Alex Bendig. These kids are following' in the Ol' Homesteader's footsteps... Yep, some just faster 'n' others.

Our Farewells

Iris Siewert Eppenbach passed away April 17, 2008, at O'Neill, NE, age 87. She's survived by a son and a daughter.

Earl Harold Forsch, age 83, passed away January 20 in Norfolk. He grew up in the Naper area and married Vionne Berg.

Clarence Meyer died March 17 near his home at Naper. He was 86 and leaves his wife Sylvia and sons Keith and Tim.

Life is filled with greetings and partings. The greetings are always welcome, and the partings, while sad, make us grateful for the good times we had, and hopeful for our future.

*Until next time, I remain forever yours,
- Ol' Homesteader*

REMEMBER WHEN Marilyn Sieh

When you were growing up, did you ever imagine that there was such a thing as out-laws and cattle rustlers in our local history? Well, there certainly were such villains and we will delve into these subjects, starting with the Herrings.

Frank and Elmer Herring were believed by some to be "bank robbers", "gathering up" cattle, and running a still. This story is about the latter.

The Herring Brothers and their mother lived seven miles northwest of the Keya Paha River, approximately nine miles west of Naper. They made moonshine from their ten acres of pie plant (rhubarb) while living in a thick-walled stone house, built like a fort with pipes through the wall, enabling them to shoot from inside the home.

A warrant was issued for Frank Herring, charging him with illegal sale of intoxicating liquor. The sheriff and deputy from Keya Paha County went to his home to serve the papers, but he was greeted by shots; the first from Herring out in the yard, and immediately thereafter from Roy Brown, who started shooting from inside the house.

No arrests were made because Herring and Brown escaped into the thick brush surrounding the house and apparently left the area.

After learning the two men had returned to the farm, the sheriff again started planning for their capture. On a Sunday evening, the officers and a posse of citizens lay in wait until daylight, when Herring came out the door of the house with a rifle on his arm. The sheriff told him to surrender, which was answered by gunfire, narrowly missing the officer. Members of the posse fired, severely wounding Frank.

Newspaper accounts of the event read:

"FARMER PAYS WITH LIFE FOR DEFENSE OF STILL"

Sheriff's squad fatally shoots man who routed officers trying to arrest him.

Butte, Neb. July 15, 1924 (AP)

Frank Herring, who lived three miles east of Brocksburg of Keya Paha County, was fatally shot yesterday by Sheriff Johnson and six other officers following a recent shooting incident in which Herring and a man named Ray Brown fired on the sheriff and a deputy when they came to arrest Herring for having a still. Herring, shot three times, died yesterday afternoon.