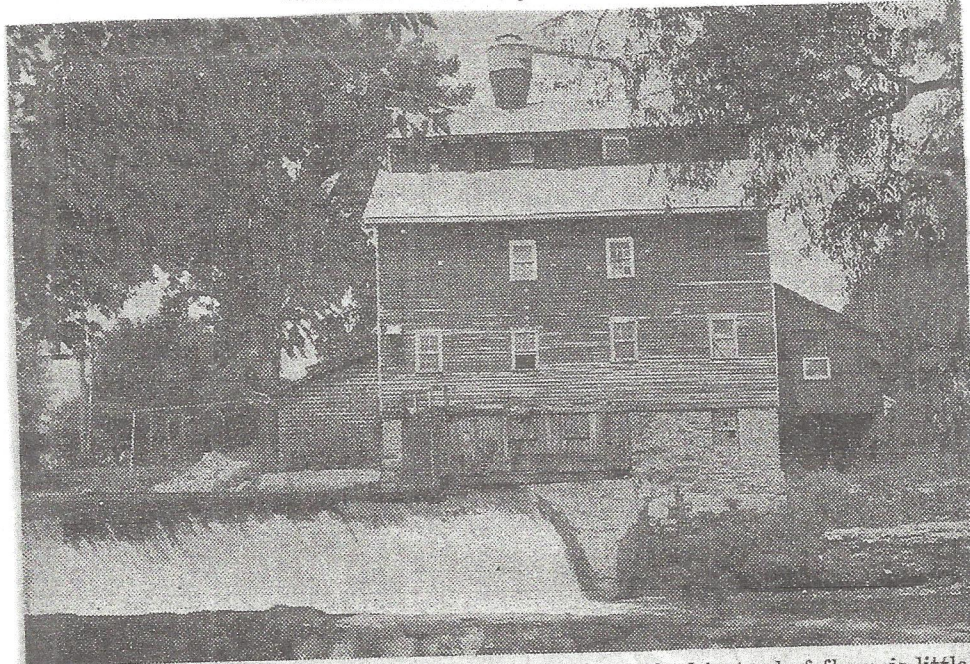


FERTILE REMINDER

December – January 2018 - 2019



MILL TODAY — The Fertile mill, which now grinds feed instead of flour, is little changed on the exterior except for the addition of the sheds on each end. It still graces the banks of the Winnebago River at the spot where William Rhodes first built a sawmill 100 years ago. 1956

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 3 Firemen meet
- 6 & 20 Recycle
- 12 Garden Club Christmas Party
- 12 NO Reminder this month
- 17 Library Board
- 18 Fertile Girls
- 18 City Council

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 7 Firemen meet
- 3, 17 & 31 Recycle
- 9 Deadline for Reminder
- 15 Fertile Girls
- 15 City Council
- 16 Reminder emailed
- 19 Spaghetti Supper

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FERTILE REMINDER STAFF

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2018 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, Nick Bailey, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna; City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- Ron motioned, Nick 2nd to approve the minutes of the October meeting.** Unanimous
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to accept agenda.** Unanimous. Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, and at the Post Office, 24 hours in advance of each Council Meeting. If you wish to be on the Agenda, please contact City Hall two days before the meeting.

Nuisance Property: Jeff Berg is working with Scott Wilson at the DNR & Bergo Development in property at 301 W Main Street. He is currently working on getting a permit from the DNR for the deconstruction process. The deconstruction will be delayed until the river is frozen.

City Maintenance Report:

- Cement was poured for the flag poles at City Hall. Steve & Buck assembled the flag poles and Steve planted some grass seed. Thank you, Ron, for making your donation to City Hall.
- The City of Fertile didn't receive the grant for the new blade on the skid loader. Steve found some used blades and presented this to the council. At this time, there was not enough budgeted for snow removal to purchase the blades.
- Steve worked on extending the parking lot at City Hall with gravel.
- Steve & Joyce picked up the Garden Club fall décor. Garden Club has since put up the Christmass décor,
- Steve worked on picking up the leaves in the park.
- The snow plow truck was returned and the hydraulic hose broke, so hydraulic line needed to be replaced.
- Skid Loader has small leak in tire.
- Tad motioned, Ron seconded to purchase new chains for the snow plow truck.** Unanimous
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

Mayor's Report:

- Joyce signed resolution to approve Central Disposal Systems landfill in Lake Mills per Barker Lemar Engineering Consultants as required by State of Iowa every 5 years.
- Joyce contacted Clapper to remove the tree on the dam and it has been completed.
- Thank you, Carolyn Nedved, for the nice Craft Sale at the Community Center. Thank you, Hanlontown Lutheran Church ladies, for serving rolls and lunch. There was a very nice turn out.
- Joyce met with FEMA, State, EMC and Worth County Engineers for flood damage in park, low water bridge into park, large tree on dam and repair of the log cabin.

- The Porta Potties have been removed from the ball diamond, park and fishing point for the winter.
- Fertile Fire Department received a WCDA grant for Quick Response Rescue Truck in the amount of \$182,938.00. Thank you WCDA Board, Fertile Trustees and Diamond Joe Casino.
- Joyce completed the Alliant Energy Emergency Crisis plan for the Fire Department.
- Cindy motioned, Ron seconded to approve \$300.00 monthly rent and 1-year contract for rental of the incubator. Contract to be written by City Attorney.** Unanimous
- Thank you to the Church of Christ for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. There was over 400 people served.
- No owner or person having custody of an animal shall permit such animal to run at large.
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

City Clerk's Report

- Wendy presented the AFR report to the Council. **Tad motioned, Cindy seconded to approve the report.** Unanimous. The report will be posted at City Hall, Post Office and Library, will be published in the paper and submitted to the State Treasurer's Office.
- Brandon Shaw contacted me to pay off the loans with the reserve that we have. **Cindy motioned, Ron seconded to approve the payoff of the USDA loans.** Unanimous.
- Wendy will be attending Budget Training in Waverly on

7/1/2018 to 10/31/2018	General	WCDA	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST	Utilities	Total
Income	142,767.06	61,792.98	18,060.15	830.40	3,460.37	10,922.40	68,375.81	306,209.17
Expense	168,954.67	61,792.98	10,471.48	0	2,707.48	0	30,039.26	281,965.87
Total	-26,187.61	0	7,588.67	830.40	752.89	10,922.40	30,336.55	24,243.00
Fund Balance	28,641.36	21.32	67,907.16	830.40	1,966.31	10,922.40	185,404.01	295,692.96

November 27th.

- Reports for Garden Club are current through 07/31/2018.
- Holly motioned, Nick 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to approve October Bills.** Unanimous
- There is an outstanding balance at 405 W Main Street. Wendy will make additional attempts to recover these funds.
- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:

409 W Main Street	\$246.94
605 W Washington	\$246.94
101 E Main Street	\$325.52

Tad motioned, Ron seconded to process liens with Worth County Treasurer. Unanimous

Committee Report:

- Ron attended meeting in regards to bike trails in Worth County. They plan to start within the cities. Also trails along the river have been discussed.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session on December 18th at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

Summary:

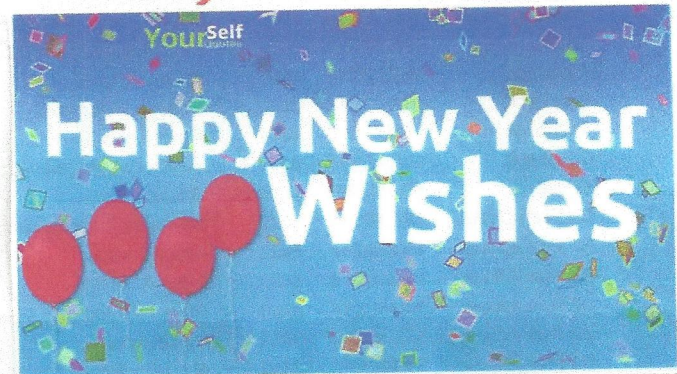
- Nuisance Property at 301 W Main Street
- Incubator Rental
- AFR
- USDA Loans

City of Fertile Deposits

Date	Memo	Amount
10/01/2018	Property Taxes	31,207.35
10/01/2018	Property Taxes	680.44
10/01/2018	Assessment Deposit	1,559.39
10/01/2018	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
10/01/2018	Correct Class Deposit	0.00
10/01/2018	VOID Duplicate Payment Deposit	64.87
10/01/2018	VOID Check 8696 Deposit	10.00
10/01/2018	Correct Class Deposit	0.00
10/03/2018	Utility Deposit	1,319.44
10/03/2018	Refundable Utility Deposit	300.00
10/03/2018	Utility Deposit	232.11
10/03/2018	Casino Funds Deposit	2,616.53
10/10/2018	Grant for Parking Lot Extension	1,000.00
10/10/2018	Facility Rental Deposit	200.00
10/10/2018	Utility Deposit	248.66
10/10/2018	Utility Deposit	2,998.55
10/11/2018	Road Use Tax	1,756.79
10/17/2018	Utility Deposit	3,179.36
10/17/2018	Utility Deposit	112.00
10/17/2018	Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
10/17/2018	Donation Facility Deposit	100.00
10/17/2018	Utility Deposit	14,048.57
10/17/2018	Farm to Market Deposit	2,524.49
10/17/2018	Building Permit Deposit	35.00
10/24/2018	Facility Deposit	100.00
10/24/2018	Utility Deposit	414.50
10/24/2018	Utility Deposit	2,661.29
10/24/2018	VOID Check 8814 Deposit	1,400.00
10/24/2018	Library Deposit	33.18
10/29/2018	Local Option Sales Tax	2,745.13
10/29/2018	Enrich Iowa for Library	879.27
10/31/2018	Utility Deposit	2,640.99
10/31/2018	Interest	26.74
		<u>75,244.65</u>

Petty Cash			
Total Petty Cash			
Total Operating Accounts			75,244.65
Roads Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	10/31/2018	Interest	0.58
Total Savings			0.58
Total Roads Revenue Accounts			0.58
Water Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	10/31/2018	Interest	2.87
Total Savings			2.87
Total Water Revenue Accounts			2.87
Sewer Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	10/31/2018	Interest	2.51
Total Savings			2.51
CD			
Total CD			2.51
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			2.51
TOTAL			<u><u>75,250.61</u></u>

Merry Christmas

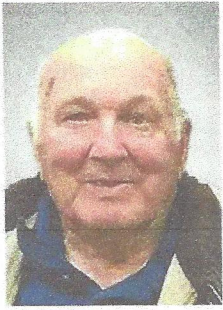


Bills Paid

As of October 31, 2018

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts					
Checking					
Check	10/01/2018	8806	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-3,833.33
Check	10/01/2018	TRANS	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
Check	10/01/2018	CORR	USPS	Correction to Class for certified postage of Street Financing Report effective 09-27-2018.	0.00
Check	10/03/2018	EFT	Citibusiness Card	(L) Books & CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs, Postage, Fees	-1,048.55
Paycheck	10/03/2018	8802	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-501.70
Paycheck	10/03/2018	8803	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-50.34
Paycheck	10/03/2018	8801	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.20
Paycheck	10/03/2018	8804	Russell, Joyce	Mayor (Donated 17 hours)	-1,153.99
Paycheck	10/03/2018	8805	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,067.71
Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8807	AgSource Laboratories	City Maintenance	-51.25
Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8808	Lonnice Knudson	Sewer Testing	-60.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8809	Menards	Community Center Cleaning	-57.80
Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8810	Plunkett's	Cleaning Supplies	-444.29
				Pest Control	-444.29

Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8811	Waste Management	Container Services	-17.17
Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8812	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-205.53
Bill Pmt -Check	10/03/2018	8813	Wendy Lunning - v	Mileage to Clear Lake (13.5 miles @ .545 per mile),	
Paycheck	10/03/2018	8824	Russell, Joyce	Budget Workshop	-29.86
Liability Check	10/03/2018	CORR	IPERS	Mayor Pay - IPERS deducted in error.	-93.41
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8815	AgSource Laboratories	Mayor Pay - IPERS deducted in error.	0.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8816	Alliant Energy	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8817	Five Star CO-OP	Electric	-971.12
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8818	Hawkins, Inc.	Gas for Truck	-278.82
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8819	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Chlorine Cylinder	-5.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8820	Menards	Meter at Hermanson	-85.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8821	Synchrony Bank	Shop Supplies	-39.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8822	Waste Management	Tool & Battery	-41.97
Check	10/10/2018	EFT	First Security Bank & Trust	Garbage & Recycling Services	-2,321.00
Liability Check	10/10/2018	EFT	IPERS	Main Street Loan	-2,616.53
Liability Check	10/10/2018	EFTPS	United States Treasury	(L)	-323.57
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8829	AgSource Laboratories	(L)	-1,173.46
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8830	Alliant Energy	Sewer Testing	-51.25
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8831	Black Hills Energy	Electric	-677.60
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8832	HiWay Truck Equipment	Natural Gas	-243.17
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8833	Marco	Snow Plow Maintenance & Repair	-4,852.64
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8834	Menards	Copier, Printer, Fax	-74.77
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8835	Verizon Wireless	Holiday Decor & Supplies	-130.25
Bill Pmt -Check	10/10/2018	8836	Young Construction	Cell Phone	-80.98
Liability Check	10/12/2018	EFT	IPERS	Shingles due to hail damage.	-58,205.14
Liability Check	10/12/2018	EFTPS	United States Treasury	(L)	-621.54
Check	10/16/2018	EFT	First Security Bank & Trust	(L)	-1,349.16
Paycheck	10/17/2018	8825	Knudson, Loni	Main Street Loan	-2,713.86
Paycheck	10/17/2018	8826	Roberts, Stephen J	(L) Clerk	-220.43
Paycheck	10/17/2018	8827	Arndt, Linda J	City Maintenance	-1,067.71
Paycheck	10/17/2018	8828	Thompson, Angela M	(L) Assistant Director	-229.09
Check	10/18/2018	ACH	WCTA	(L) Librarian	-1,156.71
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8837	Advanced Door Systems	(L) Telephone	-65.38
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8838	Alliant Energy	Maintenance Garage	-513.40
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8839	Baker & Taylor	(L) Electric	-145.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8840	Black Hills Energy	(L) Books & CDs	-240.32
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8841	ClerkBooks	(L) Natural Gas	-82.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8842	MicroMarketing	Support Hours	-1,400.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8843	Quality Pump & Control	(L) Books	-29.74
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8844	Stromleys Repair LLC	Replace Contactor for pump 1 & Change Relay	-710.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/24/2018	8845	Yohn Co Inc	Service & Repair on Pick Up	-262.03
Check	10/24/2018	DEBIT	Carbonite	Cement for Flag Poles	-500.00
Check	10/24/2018	DEBIT	Kum & Go	Online Backup	-71.99
Liability Check	10/30/2018	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	Gas for Mower	-125.00
Liability Check	10/30/2018	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	(L) Payroll Liabilities	-135.00
Sales Tax Payment	10/30/2018	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-586.00
Sales Tax Payment	10/30/2018	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-134.00
Paycheck	10/31/2018	8846	Roberts, Stephen J	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	-934.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/31/2018	8847	Joyce Russell -P	City Maintenance	-1,067.71
				Batteries for Phones	-32.06
Total Checking					-95,492.03
Petty Cash					
Total Petty Cash					
Total Operating Accounts					
Roads Revenue Accounts					-95,492.03
Savings					
Total Savings					
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					
TOTAL					-95,492.03



Edgar Stalker

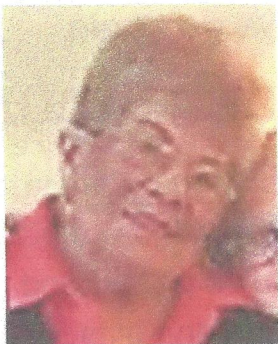
Funeral services for Edgar F. Stalker, age 88, of Vadnais Heights, formerly of Albert Lea. Ed died Monday, October 29, 2018 peacefully at his home. Edgar F. Stalker was born June 19, 1930 to Beryl and Grace (Wagner) Stalker in Rudd, Iowa. He graduated from

Rudd Public School and then graduated from Upper Iowa University in Fayette, Iowa in 1952. Ed was united in marriage to Donna M. Stalker (Bonsall) in Charles City, Iowa on August 21, 1955. Prior to this, Ed served in the U.S. Army from July 1952 through June 1954. He was discharged as a Sergeant.

Ed taught in the public school system in Fertile, IA, Glenville, MN, Iowa Falls, IA, and Albert Lea, MN, in Junior and Senior High Schools. He retired from teaching in 1991 and moved into semi-retirement working for Gittlemen Management in Minneapolis, MN in building maintenance and management. He was a member of United Methodist Church, the American Legion, Eagles, and the Elks. Ed was inducted into the Albert Lea High School Hall of Fame in July 2018. Ed

is survived by his wife, Donna; sons, Mark (Kim) Stalker and Steven (Penny) Stalker; daughter, Denise (Joel) Peterson; grandchildren, Desiree Winchester, Gabriel (Julie) Stalker, Molly Stalker, Maggie (Chuck) Pavoni, Noah Stalker, Jonah Stalker, Raquel Flaggert, Oliva Flaggert, Jacob Flaggert, Daniel Peterson, Joshua Peterson, and Chloe Allen; great-grandson, Benaiah Winchester; brother-in-law, Duane (Bev) Bonsall; sister-in-law, Barbara Bonsall.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents, Beryl and Grace Stalker; brothers, Steven, Rodney, Lyle, and Charles; sister-in-law, Maxine; father-in-law, Keith Bonsall; mother-in-law, Effie Miller; step-father-in-law, Gerald Miller; sisters, Norma Krause, Audrey Grozinski, and Donna Grasso; brothers-in-law, Jim Krause, Hank Gorzinski, and Dominic Grasso.



September 2, 1938 - October 27, 2018

Mary Brue Baca passed away on October 27, 2018. Funeral Home Services for Mary are being provided by Advantage Aurora Chase Chapel of Aurora, CO.

Letter to the editor

You do a great job on this local paper. **Carolyn Nedved**

Thank you ladies for all the hard work you put into the Reminder, I look forward to reading it every month! **Ginny Lovik**

Ladies: I am renewing my subscription to the Reminder for another year and doing so because of the Fertile history that you include in your issues. I have not lived in the Fertile area for 65 years and yet a piece of my heart is still there. Reading the articles and seeing some of the old photos sure bring back the memories. I sure spent some time studying the photo of the basketball players and the people in the background in the issue that arrived in today's mail. Thanks to each one of you for the work you're doing and for the memories. **Mary Myers.**

Thank you so much for keeping us "out-of-towners" up to date. Love to get all the news online. **Linda Suby Price**

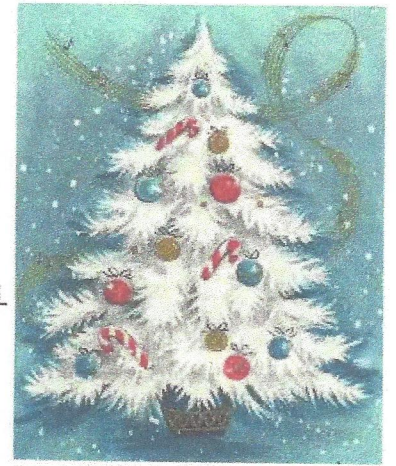
Thanks for doing a great job. **Phyllis Pederson**

Did you Know???..... By: Ann Hendrickson

Northwood Commemorative Christmas Mugs
As the holiday season approaches, many people enjoy hot chocolate or apple cider. In years gone by, this might have been sipped from a "Northwood Commemorative Christmas Mug", a gift from the local merchants. In 1987, the Chamber of Commerce sponsored these mugs. They created the design and then contracted the production to a local Midwestern company. Each year a dated mug depicting a local scene was produced and sold to local merchants who then gave them to their customers. This continued for 22 years until 2008 when the practice was discontinued. The Historical Society has a collection of these cups; however we are missing 2001 and 2002. We are looking for an undated mug that was produced before 1987. We thank you if you are willing to provide a missing cup.



FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
204 West Main Street/Box 198
Fertile, IA 50434
641-797-2787 Phone/Fax
Monday & Wednesday: 1-6 P.M.
Thursday: 3-6 P.M.
Friday: 9- Noon & 2-6 P.M.
Saturday: 9 - Noon
WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILC/FERTILEPL



Library Events

Family Movie Night

December 7th @ 7 pm

Adult Craft Afternoon

December 8th @ 1 pm

We will be doing Christmas string art, eating snacks & chatting. Bring a hammer & join us for the fun. Ages 18+

Hallmark Movie Monday

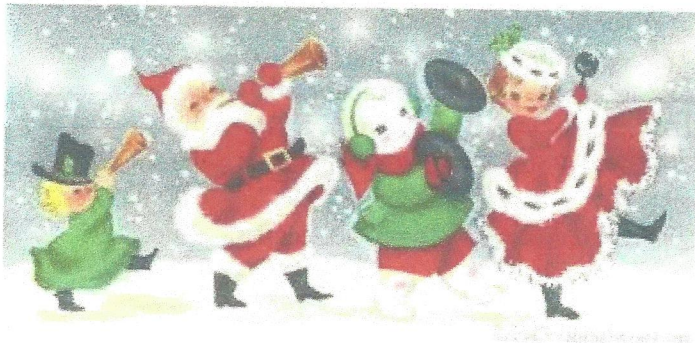
December 10th @ 1:30 pm

Come join us for a cozy Christmas movie, coffee and treats. Kick back and relax and enjoy some holiday magic.

Cookie Exchange and wrapping Party

December 13th @ 7 pm

Bring a couple dozen cookies to exchange, and gifts to wrap! The library will provide wrapping supplies, and the coffee!



featuring

New Books

Ambush - James Patterson

Alaskan Holiday - Debbie Macomber

Every Breath - Nicholas Sparks

The hate you give - Angie Thomas

Killing the S.S. - Bill O'Reilly

Long Road to Mercy - David Baldacci

featuring

New DVDs

Ocean's *

Overboard

Solo

Switching Christmas

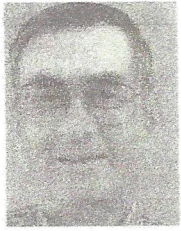
Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

Mama Mia: Here we go again

Christmas Open House

The library is hosting it's annual Christmas open house On December 15th, from 10-12.

There will be goodies, raffle prizes, and of course, pictures with Santa and gifts for the kids.



THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Good Morning to Fertile's most prestigious citizen who, in jest, told me I was trying to buy his vote. I just like to do nice things for people who are doing nice things for others.

Some of you may have heard, others not. The Seneca cannery in Rochester, Minnesota is closing after 89 years of operation. There were several reasons, but the big one is that the demand for canned vegetables is decreasing and the demand for fresh and frozen is increasing. This location prevents them from changing and so the plant will close. The production and processing will move to Janesville, Wisconsin and Glencoe, Minnesota. (Once more the consumer has spoken,) The closing made me think of our churches and how they also must adapt and change. It used to be that church was Sunday morning between four walls. No more. Church is now a bar, a jail, a homeless shelter. Church is where the people are. After all, Jesus did not spend his time in the synagogue. He spent it in the country-side where people were. With declining attendance, we either adapt or the Christian church will disappear from the U.S.A.

That leads to my next topic and that is we are in a war with the country of China over who will be the dominate world power. It is true that we don't have boots on the ground, but we are in war, nevertheless. These tariffs are just the tip of the iceberg. (They hurt me just as they hurt you.) China will do whatever it needs to do to win, whether it is hacking our computers, helping Brazil double its soybean production, helping Africa increase its agriculture, or sending illegal drugs into the country. Many of us in this country think in terms of years. They think in terms of generations. The focus stays the same. They will do whatever they can to help the U.S.A weaken itself. (See the connection between our churches and China.) Talking to military officers, the one thing that stops China now is our superior military power. (Thank you, veterans.)

My surgery is set for January 22 in Clarion. (Thank you Penny). If I get along as good as Pete, I will be ready for spring work. I, also, will be available for the Fertile Days Spaghetti supper.

For those that would like to know, the potatoes on Goose Lake have been abandoned. Too much rot from the September rains.

Thank you, Jeff Berg. (He will know what I mean.) The flagpole project was all paid for with donations or a small grant. No cost to the city. It's starting to be crunch time for the Mason City community meal.

Until next time, thank a Veteran for our freedoms, thank a farmer for the food on your plate, and above all, Thank God for your daily blessings.



Garden club met on Nov. 13th at the City Hall. Roll call was answered by 10 members. President Twylah Kragel led the meeting. Winter town decorations were discussed, and a day planned to carry them out. Hopefully the weather will be warmer when we do them. The 2020 budget was decided and will be submitted to the City Council. Officers elected for the coming year are as follows:
President: Penny Miller
Vice President: Tina Larson
Secretary: Sharon McLaughlin
Treasurer: Carol Jara (if she accepts)
Our Christmas Party will be at the Fertile Mill on December 12th (Please note the date change)
Sharon McLaughlin gave the Thought for the Day. Hostesses were Ginny Lovik, Betty Waddington and Sara Innes.

Fertile Marks Centennial Aug.

Community Was Sawmill Site in 1856

By BILL WEBB
Globe-Gazette Staff Writer

FERTILE — It was over 100 years ago that William Rhodes walked to Iowa from Roscoe, Ill.

He came to Charles City where he worked as a carpenter until the summer of 1856 when he began searching for a site for a sawmill. While in Mason City on his quest, he became acquainted with a man who told him of the existence of a mill site on the Winnebago River.

And so it was, a century ago, that a man named Rhodes hiked north from Mason City along the banks of the Winnebago looking for a sawmill site. Rhodes found his site and returned to Charles City to build his mill.

He purchased tools and supplies and a wagon and oxen and started to the northwest. He reached the Winnebago and his mill site Aug. 6, 1856.

Fertile Centennial

This date will be observed next week as the day of the founding of Fertile. The town will celebrate it as part of its centennial Aug. 4 through 6.

Rhodes built first a grindstone frame to grind his scythe so that he could cut grass for his oxen. Then he built a 14-by-18 foot log cabin. He obtained his lumber for roofing from Owens Grove in Cerro Gordo County. The cabin was windowless and had a Dutch fireplace at one end.

The cabin has been preserved and stands today in William Rhodes Island Park at Fertile. The land for the park itself was given to the community by Rhodes. It is equipped with swings, picnic tables, fireplaces, barbecue pits and a tennis court. A footbridge spans the Winnebago River to connect downtown Fertile with the park.

Dams River

After completing his log cabin, Rhodes set about damming the river for his mill. This he completed and had the mill up, machinery all in and a saw ready for operation by July 1857. The river cut around the dam twice in the next two years and when Rhodes' father died in Illinois he almost was prompted to call it gone.

But he stuck it out and in February 1859 got some help, cut out the log dam and extended



FERTILE IN 1875 — The Fertile site was cleared of willows in 1875. William Rhodes flour mill (right) looks much as it does today. The log cabin next to the

mill was the miller's home. The store (right) moved and now is the locker plant. The old ware center served the community for

his dam 50 feet. Rhodes continued to operate his sawmill until 1862 when he joined the Union Army.

In the battle of Pleasant Hill, La., April 8, 1862 his company lost 35 men. Of the 16 to survive six were wounded. Rhodes was one of the 10 men to come through without a scratch.

Builds Flour Mill

After his discharge, he returned to Fertile and operated the sawmill until 1868 when he erected a grist mill on the site. This building still is standing today, but now grinds feed instead of flour.

But in its flour grinding days, the three run of stone turned out 50 barrels a day.

The dam Rhodes re-enforced and extended in 1859 finally gave way in 1929 and was replaced with the present structure.

A land speculator owning some property near the present site of Fertile is said to have given the town its first name—Pontanelle. He induced the publishers of a map to locate a town on their chart which he pretended had been laid out. But as people began moving in around the town-site, they nicknamed the village Putsy.

Fertile was platted in 1877.

The first school in Fertile was a summer term taught in 1860 in a frame shanty built by the township. Phoebe Dennis, the teacher, had five pupils.

Present School

The present school plant consists of a large, brick structure built during the first World War. In 1939 the district erected what was then one of the most elaborate gymnasiums in North Iowa—a magnificent 76 by 102-foot

structure of native stone hewn from a neighboring quarry.

The district got a bargain. The gymnasium-auditorium, which can seat 1,200 during a basketball game, only cost \$30,000 and part of it was built with federal funds.

A new brick addition including five classrooms, music room, kitchen, dining room and superintendent's office was erected in front of the old building last year at a cost of \$87,000.

Vocation agriculture, home-making and physics have been added to the curriculum. A full-time vocal and instrumental music instructor is on the staff. This fall chemistry will be added to the curriculum.

Lutheran Church

A Lutheran society began meeting in Fertile in 1870. The church organized in 1874 and the present building was put up in 1895. A \$32,000 Sunday school and office addition at the rear of the church is nearing completion. The pastor is the Rev. O. D. Sanderson.

The Church of Christ incorporated in Fertile in 1894 and a building was erected in 1916. The present minister is the Rev. James Plunkett. The Fertile Gospel Mission purchased an old schoolhouse in 1937 in which it holds services. The Rev. Buford Hall is pastor.

Leo Elthon, state senator for 20 years and now lieutenant governor of Iowa, is a Fertile native and resident.

Raymond Purcell is the town's present mayor. The council is made up of Carl Larson, Donald Van DenBosch, Ernest Kuns, Frank Greuff and Norman Rye.

The print under the picture.

The store (right) later was moved and now is the locker plant. The old Sagen Hardware (center) served the community for several years.

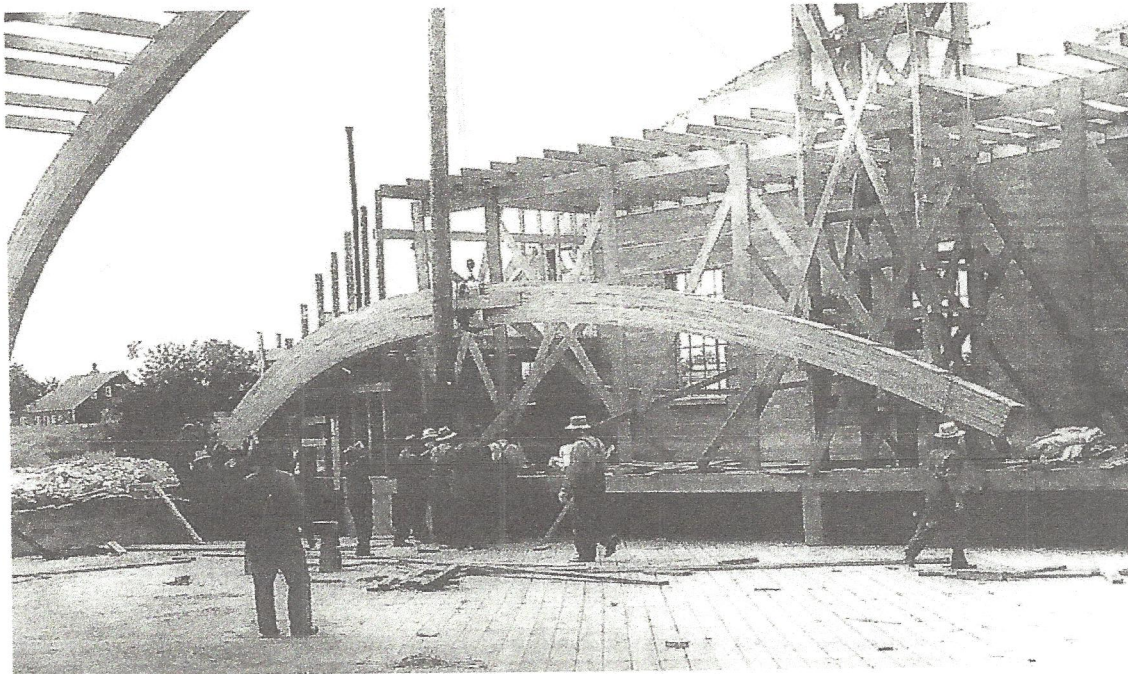
Thank you Kay Aspland Sinclair for the article!



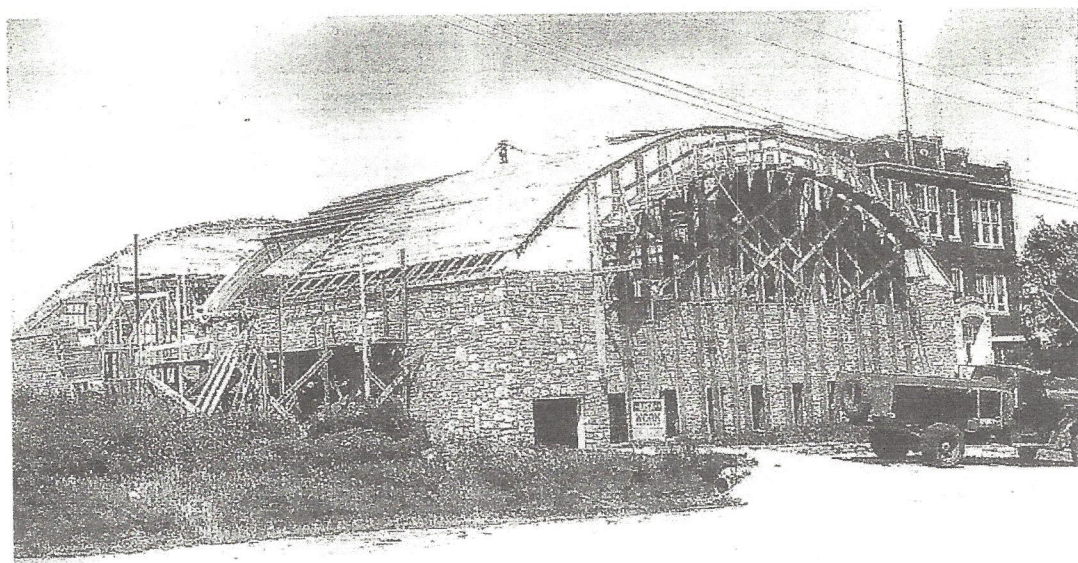
Ardelle Brosdahl Osnes
12-22

Phyllis Purcell Lindquist
12-28

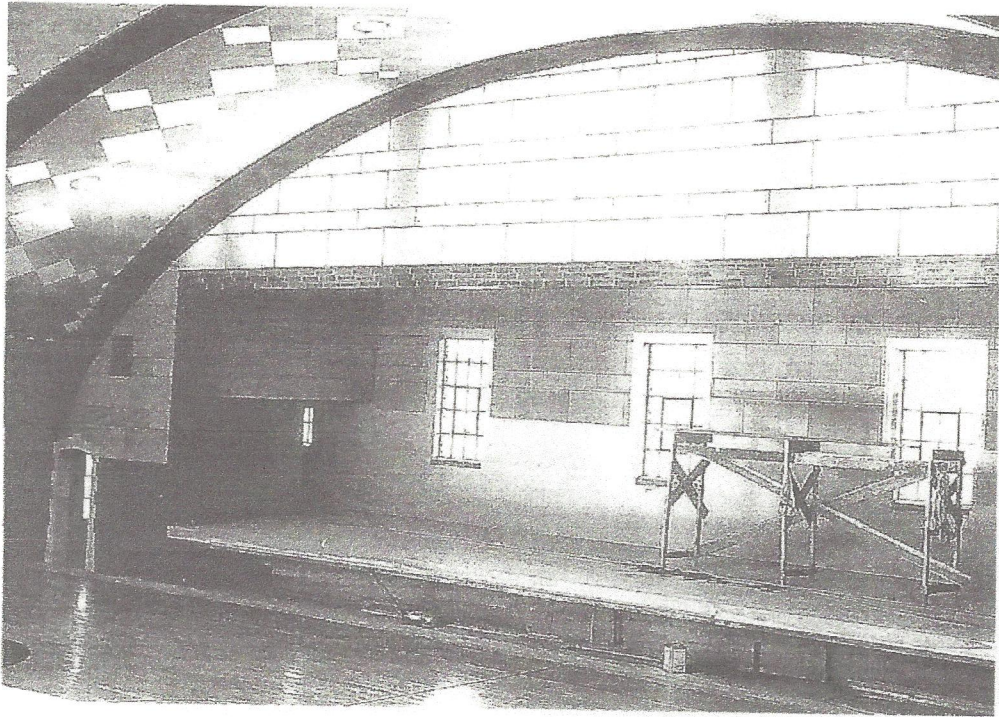
Thank you to Russ Faulken for sending these pictures that he discovered in the Clear Lake Library. The gym was constructed in 193979 years ago.



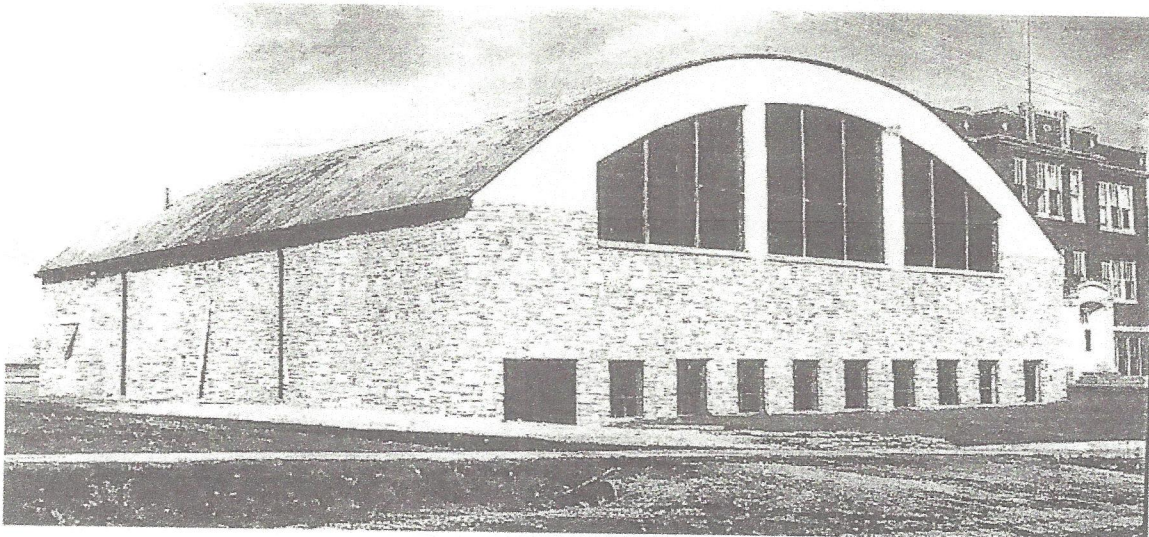
The beginning!!



Taking Shape!!



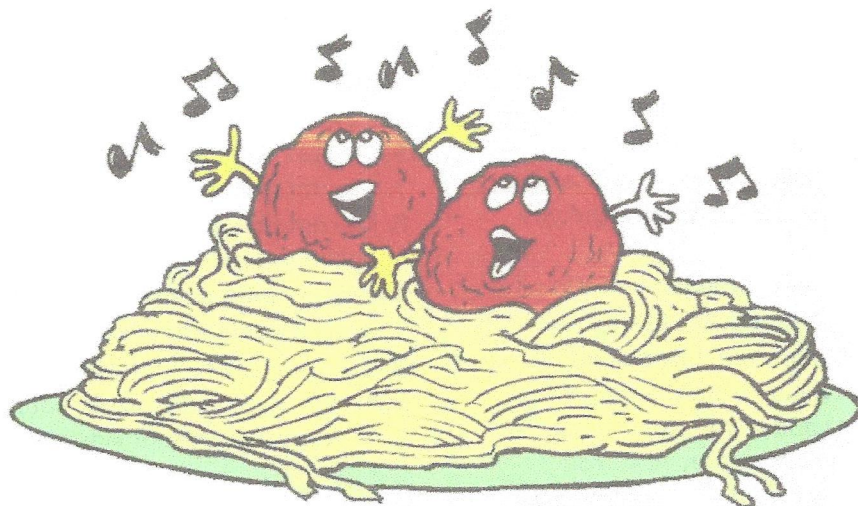
The stage, it looks rather small in this picture but it wasn't!!



The final product. The gym we all came to know and enjoy and appreciate during our school years. Many fond memories took place here and many graduations!! Thanks again, Russ!

FERTILE DAYS

SPAGHETTI SUPPER



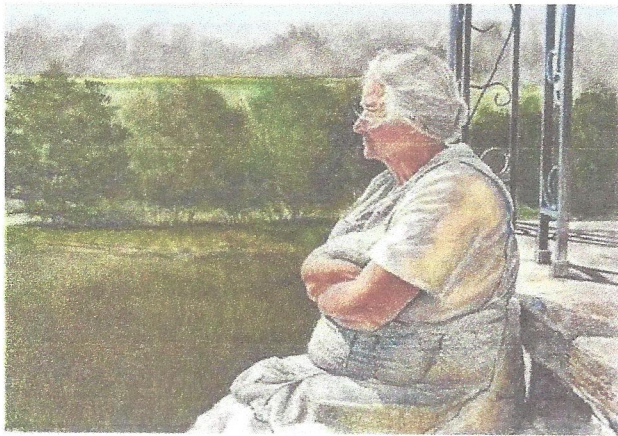
COME JOIN US
FOR
FOOD & FUN!

JANUARY 19, 2019

5:00PM - 7:00PM

FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER

FREE WILL DONATION



Dear Family,

I'm not dead yet. Thanksgiving is still important to me. If being in my Last Will and Testament is important to you, then you might consider being with me for my favorite holiday. Dinner is at 2:00. Not 2:15. Not 2:05. Two. 2:00! Arrive late and you get what's left over.

Last year, that moron Marshall fried a turkey in one of those contraptions and practically burned the deck off the house. This year, the only peanut oil used to make the meal will be from the secret scoop of peanut butter I add to the carrot soup. Jonathan, your last new wife was an idiot. You don't arrive at someone's house on Thanksgiving needing to use the oven and the stove. Honest to God, I thought you might have learned after two wives - date them longer and save us all the agony of another divorce. Now, the house rules are slightly different this year because I have decided that 47% of you don't know how to take care of nice things. Paper plates and red Solo cups might be bad for the environment, but I'll be gone soon and that will be your problem to deal with.

House rules.

1. The University of Texas no longer plays Texas A&M. The television stays off during the meal.
2. The "no cans for kids" rule still exists. We are using 2 liter bottles because your children still open a third can before finishing the first two. Parents can fill a child's cup when it is empty. All of the cups have names on them and I'll be paying close attention to refills.
3. Chloe, last year we were at Trudy's house and I looked the other way when your Jell-O salad showed up. This year, if Jell-O salad comes in the front door it will go right back out the back door

with the garbage. Save yourself some time, honey. You've never been a good cook and you shouldn't bring something that wiggles more than you. Buy something from the bakery.

4. Grandmothers give grandchildren cookies and candy. That is a fact of life. Your children can eat healthy at your home. At my home, they can eat whatever they like as long as they finish it.

5. I cook with bacon and bacon grease. That's nothing new. Your being a vegetarian doesn't change the fact that stuffing without bacon is like egg salad without eggs. Even the green bean casserole has a little bacon grease in it. That's why it tastes so good. Not eating bacon is just not natural. And as far as being healthy... look at me. I've outlived almost everyone I know.

6. Salad at Thanksgiving is a waste of space.

7. I do not like cell phones. Leave them in the car.

8. I do not like video cameras. There will be 32 people here. I am sure you can capture lots of memories without the camera pointed at me.

9. Being a mother means you have to actually pay attention to the kids. I have nice things and I don't put them away just because company is coming over. Mary, watch your kids and I'll watch my things.

10. Rhonda, a cat that requires a shot twice a day is a cat that has lived too many lives. I think staying home to care for the cat is your way of letting me know that I have lived too many lives too. I can live with that. Can you?

11. Words mean things. I say what I mean. Let me repeat: You don't need to bring anything means you don't need to bring anything. And if I did tell you to bring something, bring it in the quantity I said. Really, this doesn't have to be difficult.

12. Domino's and cards are better than anything that requires a battery or an on/off switch. That was true when you were kids and it's true now that you have kids.

13. Showing up for Thanksgiving guarantees presents at Christmas. Not showing up guarantees a card that may or may not be signed.

In memory of your Grandfather, the back fridge will be filled with beer. Drink until it is gone. I prefer wine anyway. But one from each family needs to be the designated driver.

I really mean all of the above.

Love You, Grandma



Caramel and Chocolate Pecan Bars

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 30 minutes

For the crust:

2 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened

1 cup pecan halves

For the topping:

2/3 cup unsalted butter

1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

To Make the crust:

Combine flour, brown sugar, and butter, beating at medium speed with an electric mixer until the mixture resembles fine crumbs.

Press onto bottom of ungreased 9"x 13"x 2" baking pan. Place pecans evenly over top of crust.

To make the topping:

Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine butter and brown sugar in 1-quart saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture begins to boil. Continue stirring and allow mixture to boil for 1 minute. Pour evenly over crust and pecans.

Easy Microwave Fudge

1 Can of Condensed Milk (14 oz)

3 Cups of Milk Chocolate Chips

8x8 baking tin

Instructions:

Pour condensed milk and milk chocolate chips into large glass mixing bowl.

bowl in microwave for 1 minute on high.

Mix condensed milk and chocolate chips until it becomes closer to a fudgy substance.

Take an 8x8 pan and line it with aluminum foil.

Grease the foil.

Pour in batter and spread it out evenly.

Put it in fridge to cool for 2-3 hours.

Take it out of fridge, pull out foil with fudge, turn over and peel away foil.

Cut, Garnish, Serve, and Smile.

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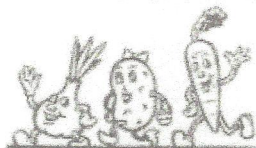
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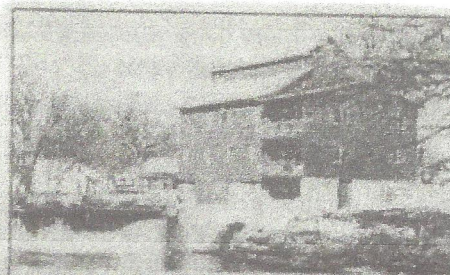
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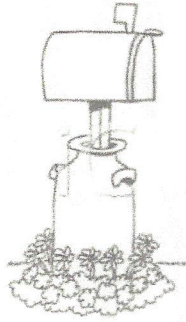
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Sunday School 10:30 am

Fertile Church of Christ

Pastor Rob Perry
Sunday School - 9:00 am
Fellowship Time - 9:55 am
Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday night Youth
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Men and women's Bible Study

Celebration Community Church

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Fellowship 10:15 - Praise & Worship 10:30 am
Wednesday - 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

AALC Rural Forest City
Pastor Robert Snitzer
Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:15