

FERTILE REMINDER

December-January 2017



Marian (Larry) Luker gave a few pictures to share in the Reminder before she died.
Looks like an old gravel road!

CALANDAR

DEC/ JAN.

- 7 4 Firemen meet
- 8 Garden Club
- 10-24 & 7-21 Recycle
- 15 19 City Council
- 15 Fertile Girls Meet
- 21 18 Library Board meets
- JAN. 21 SPAGHETTI SUPPER

MYSTERY CHURCH REVEALED

Last month the church picture on the front page of the Reminder, very few people could tell me the what, where and when of that picture. Here is what was found.

"During the fall and early winter of 1916, the church building was raised and basement constructed and new heating plant installed. Work was completed on Jan. 26, 1917, the church **burned** on Jan. 28, 1917. An entirely new building was constructed during the summer and fall of 1917 and dedicated on Dec. 9, 1917. Total cost was \$10,000. C. F. Schmidt was the minister at the time." The second building was brick, thus the Church of Christ.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2016 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Holly Lovik-Hanna, Nick Bailey, Cindy Peters, and Ron Rachut; Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts; City Clerk Wendy Lunning; License Certified for Water and Sewer Warren Bruns.
- Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the minutes of the October meeting with the correction that Local Option Sales Tax deposit s/b \$2,503.38, Income for General Fund s/b \$80,104.76, Fund Balance General Fund s/b \$34,965.67, Total Fund Balance s/b \$192,467.88 and next regular meeting will be November 29th, 2016.** Unanimous
- Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to accept agenda with the correction that meeting date s/b November 29, 2016.** 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.

Public Hearing – Ordinance Amendment:

- Public hearing opened. Limited comments. **Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to pass the first reading of the Ordinance Amendment for Angled/Parallel parking on Main Street and Local Fine rates.** Unanimous. Roll call vote taken: Tad – yes, Cindy – yes, Nick – yes, Ron – yes, Holly – yes. **Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to waive the 2nd and 3rd reading of the Ordinance Amendment.** Unanimous

Downtown Café – Authorize Signer:

- Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to authorize Joyce Russell as authorize signer for agreement between the City of Fertile and the Worth County Development Authority for funding the economic development project.** Unanimous. Roll call vote taken: Tad – yes, Cindy – yes, Nick – yes, Ron – yes, Holly – yes. Downtown Café has been granted \$60,000.

Main Street Project:

- WCDA granted The City of Fertile \$24,889.20 for the wiring on Main Street in Spring of 2016. An additional \$59,940 was granted during Fall grant cycle for the replacement of sidewalks on Main. **Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to borrow \$70,000 from FSB to repair Main Street.** Unanimous. Roll call vote taken: Tad – yes, Cindy – yes, Nick – yes, Ron – yes, Holly – yes. Mayor, Joyce Russell and City Clerk, Wendy Lunning have been approved to sign this loan if approved by bank.

Annexation:

- Joyce and Wendy have met with Theresa Nicolson from Winn Worth Betco in response to residence & Worth County Assessor's office wanting to merge parcels. Annexation would bring City limits North to Hwy 9. Theresa shared information in regards to Voluntary and Involuntary procedures. City water, sewer and garbage is already being utilized in some of these areas.

Spring Grant for Playground:

- Holly presented some playground equipment to be added to the ball diamonds. She will be following up with estimates to include installation and submitting to council for grant writing.

City Maintenance Report:

- Steve has completed painting lines on Main Street.

- Steve has been filling in areas of town with dirt.
- Seasonal equipment has been winterized.
- Snow Truck is ready to go with sand and salt.
- Christmas lights have been installed on the bridge.
- Lagoon draw down need water level down. Visu Sewer is scheduled to come and jet it out.
- The City of Fertile does not add fluoride to the water. Fluoride is very difficult to work with and can be toxic. Warren & Steve will be running samples to LGI lab to check the levels of natural fluoride in the water.
- Horseshoe covers are needing to be replaced. Steve will be working on making replacement ones.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to approve maintenance report.** Unanimous

Mayor's Report

- Joyce met with John Greves in regards to Nuisance of Junk and Abandon Vehicles at 105 East Main, Fertile, IA 50434.
- Pop Can bin has been moved to Community Center. All proceeds go to Fertile Days Committee.
- Joyce ordered book "If I live to be 100" featuring Virgil Ouverson and Viola Roberts for Historical resource.
- Joyce met with John Greves to release mortgage of real estate property at 105 School Street.
- Ron motioned, and Cindy 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

City Clerk's Report

	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
7/1/2016 10/31/2016 Income	137,280.06	0.00	16,911.67	908.23	31,386.62	186,486.58
Expense	106,831.59	0.00	8,275.11	0.00	48,714.89	163,821.59
Total	30,448.47	0.00	8,636.56	908.23	4,536.18	22,664.99
Fund Balance	68,782.55	0.00	32,297.37	908.23	125,757.95	227,746.10

Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve Financial Report. Unanimous

Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to approve October Bills. Unanimous

- Annual Financial Report submitted to council for review.
- SRF reduced interest rate from 3% to 1.75% on December 1, 2016.
- No Liens

Committee Report:

- Forest City Fire Department will be holding meet and greet at the Fertile Fire Department on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00pm to view new Forest City ambulance.

Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 20th, 2016 at Fertile City Hall.
- Holly moved and Nick 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

City of Fertile Deposits

As of October 31, 2016

	Type	Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts				
Checking				
	Deposit	10/03/2016	Casino Funds Deposit	2,585.91
	Deposit	10/05/2016	Utility Deposit	1,211.30
	Deposit	10/12/2016	Utility Deposit	77.38
	Deposit	10/12/2016	Facility Rental Deposit	100.00
	Deposit	10/12/2016	Building Permit Deposit	35.00
	Deposit	10/12/2016	Utility Deposit	2,358.70
	Deposit	10/18/2016	Road Use Tax	1,948.45
	Deposit	10/19/2016	Property Taxes	31,195.97
	Deposit	10/19/2016	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
	Deposit	10/19/2016	Facility Rental Deposit	75.00
	Deposit	10/19/2016	Farm to Market Deposit	2,244.06
	Deposit	10/19/2016	Lien Payments Deposit	848.67
	Deposit	10/19/2016	Utility Deposit	3,861.31
	Deposit	10/26/2016	Utility Deposit	300.86
	Deposit	10/26/2016	Facility Rental Deposit	75.00
	Deposit	10/26/2016	Utility Deposit	4,202.16
	Deposit	10/27/2016	Local Option Sales Tax	2,503.39
	Deposit	10/31/2016	Interest	6.86
	Deposit	10/31/2016	Property Taxes	3,108.38
	Deposit	10/31/2016	Assessment Receivable Deposit	<u>254.59</u>
Total Checking				56,992.99
Petty Cash				
Total Petty Cash				<u>56,992.99</u>
Total Operating Accounts				
Roads Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
	Deposit	10/31/2016	Interest	<u>0.58</u>
Total Savings				<u>0.58</u>
Total Roads Revenue Accounts				0.58
Water Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
	Deposit	10/31/2016	Interest	<u>2.86</u>
Total Savings				<u>2.86</u>
Total Water Revenue Accounts				2.86
Sewer Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
	Deposit	10/31/2016	Interest	<u>2.50</u>
Total Savings				2.50
CD				
Total CD				<u>2.50</u>
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts				<u>2.50</u>
TOTAL				<u><u>56,998.93</u></u>

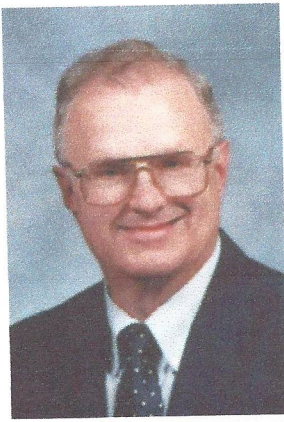
THERE WILL BE NO REMINDER UNTIL JANUARY 22ND

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT THIS PAST YEAR!

City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of October 31, 2016

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts					
Checking					
Check	10/01/2016	7890	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,000.00
Check	10/01/2016	7891	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	-5,193.50
Paycheck	10/05/2016	7885	Roberts, Stephen J		-1,018.51
Paycheck	10/05/2016	7886	Bruns, Warren		-301.39
Paycheck	10/05/2016	7888	Russell, Grant		-296.64
Paycheck	10/05/2016	7889	Russell, Joyce		-1,195.20
Paycheck	10/05/2016	7887	Lunning, Wendy S		-324.92
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7892	Fertile Pronto Kramer Ace	Truck, Mower and Golf Cart	-235.12
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7893	Hardware	Keys City Hall	-30.15
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7894	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7895	Plunkett's		-444.29
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7896	Superior Lumber, Inc	Supplies for sign by dam	-27.56
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7897	Waste Management	Garbage and Recycling Containers	-17.16
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7898	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-197.71
Bill Pmt -Check	10/05/2016	7899	Wendy Lunning - v	Budget Workshop	-20.00
Liability Check	10/05/2016	EFT	IPERS		-854.69
Check	10/06/2016	DEBIT	US Post Office	Postage	-162.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/12/2016	7900	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/12/2016	7901	K&H Cooperative Oil Co.	Fill LP Tanks	-304.19
Bill Pmt -Check	10/12/2016	7902	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Meter & Valve on Well at Community Center	-227.58
Bill Pmt -Check	10/12/2016	7903	Waste Management United States	Garbage and Recycling	-2,179.92
Liability Check	10/13/2016	EFT	Treasury		-1,217.69
Paycheck	10/19/2016	7904	Roberts, Stephen J		-1,018.51
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7905	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,670.14
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7906	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-195.83
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7907	BMC Aggregates L.C.	1" Roadstone to repair alley from School Street to Hill Street	-209.94
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7908	Complete Concrete	Drive way for snow removal on Main Street beside Maintenance Garage.	-2,491.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7909	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-49.16
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7910	Menards	Cleaning Supplies and Paint Supplies	-90.71
Bill Pmt -Check	10/19/2016	7911	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-63.37
Bill Pmt -Check	10/26/2016	7912	Barco Municipal Products, Inc.	Snow Removal	-168.85
Bill Pmt -Check	10/26/2016	7913	Menards	Cleaning Supplies	-19.05
Bill Pmt -Check	10/26/2016	7914	Visu-Sewer	Clean & Camera Sewer & Clean Culvert	-2,630.36
Sales Tax Payment	10/28/2016	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-732.00
Liability Check	10/28/2016	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-598.00
Check	10/31/2016	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-330.00
Total Checking					-28,535.14
Petty Cash					
Total Petty Cash					
Total Operating Accounts					
Roads Revenue Accounts					-28,535.14
Savings					
Total Savings					
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					



Neil Luverne Ouverson, 67, of Hanlontown, passed away after a short courageous battle with cancer on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016, surrounded by his loving family at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines.

Neil was born on Feb. 6, 1949, the son of Luverne "Bill" and Virginia (Davis)

Ouverson in Mason City. He attended Mason City High School, graduating in 1967, and continued his education at NIACC.

Neil began his insurance career as an independent broker in 1973 with the start of Ouverson Insurance and Group Benefit Services with his wife, Betty. He built a distinguished career of 43 years putting client service as his priority.

Over his lifetime he served and volunteered at church, served on church boards, was a youth pastor, and chaplain at the IOOF Home in Mason City. At the time of his passing he was serving on the Fertile Church of Christ Board and trustee on the Church of Christ Camp.

His life is a testament to his generous spirit. Neil was a passionate and thoughtful man of high character who was always up for a good conversation and a laugh. He also enjoyed spending time with his dogs and traveling with his wife and family, with many family vacations spent at Lake Pimushe in Minnesota fishing. Neil also enjoyed cars, Mustangs in particular. Betty and he enjoyed long leisurely drives in his Shelby Mustang convertible.

Neil had a passion for music that he shared with his family and friends. Neil enjoyed sharing his faith with family and friends. Those that knew him best understood that Neil's priorities were faith, family and friends.

Neil is survived by his loving wife, Betty, whom he married on Aug. 12, 1969; two daughters, Virginia "Ginny" (Roger) Hall of Ankeny, and Kristie (Jeff) Oliver of Des Moines; a son, Paul (Heather) Ouverson of Grimes; four grandchildren, Elizabeth Hall, Ryan Hall, Owen Ouverson and Austin Ouverson; and a sister, Winifred Mycka and family of Highland, IN.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



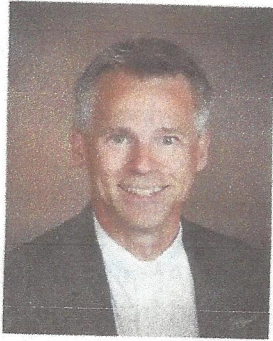
JoAnn L. Norem, 81, of Clear Lake, Iowa died Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 at the Mercy Medical Center North Iowa, Mason City, Iowa. Due to JoAnn's wishes, she will be cremated following visitation on Friday evening.

JoAnn was born Oct. 9, 1935, rural Fertile, Iowa, the daughter of Clarence and Agnes Clarinda

(Benson) Bergan. She graduated from Hanlontown High School in 1953. While in high school, she enjoyed playing basketball and was on a team that was one game from state. She married Morris J. Norem Aug. 10, 1957 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City, Iowa. She was employed as a bookkeeper at Production Credit Association, secretary at Clear Lake High School, a teller at Clear Lake Bank and Trust, secretary at Area Education Agency and bookkeeper and secretary at the Lutheran Resource Center for 22 years retiring in 2010, but continued to volunteer for many years.

She was a former member of the Clear Lake School Board and was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church, including past congregational council president. She is survived by her husband Morris Norem, Clear Lake, Iowa; two sons Rev. Jim Norem and his wife Linda, Randall, Iowa and Jeff Norem and his wife Patty, Franklin, Tennessee, four granddaughters Tarra Carlson and her husband Austin, Jaimee Norem and her fiancé Jared Kernes, Amanda Wiersma and her husband Paul, and Savannah Norem; 3 great-grandchildren Fiston and Evelyn Carlson and Skylar Kernes; two sisters Norma Helin and Arlene Keeling; two sisters-in-law Muriel Bergan and Lynda Condurelis and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers Roger, Arden and Dennis Bergan. JoAnn will be remembered for her warm heart, her encouraging words and her sense of humor.

Our sympathy to both families!



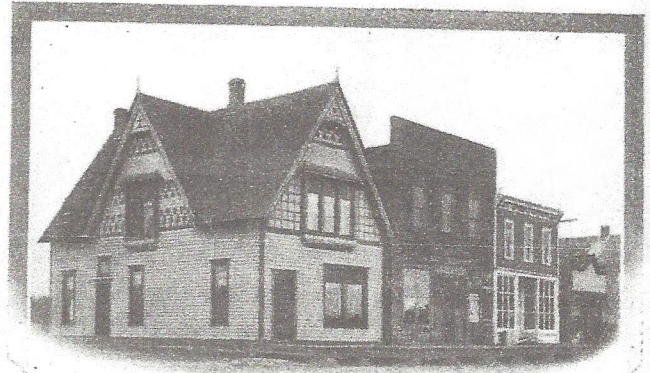
WEST OKOBOJI —
 Funeral services for Rev.
Robert Vaage will be at
 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec.
 1, 2016, at First Lutheran
 Church in West Okoboji.

Reverend Robert C. Vaage
 of First Lutheran Church,
 West Okoboji, Iowa,
 passed away unexpectedly

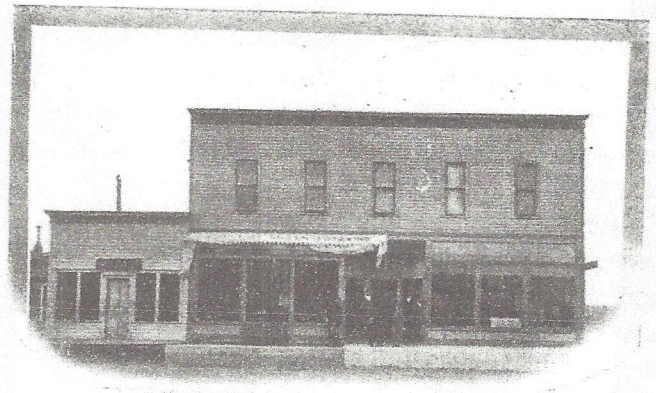
on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016, at Spencer Hospital.
 He was 57.

Robert (Bob) Carl Vaage was born on Feb. 27,
 1959, in Forest City, Iowa, to LaVern and Karen
 Vaage. He grew up in Mason City, Iowa, and
 graduated from high school in 1977. He was very
 athletic and participated in football, basketball and
 track.

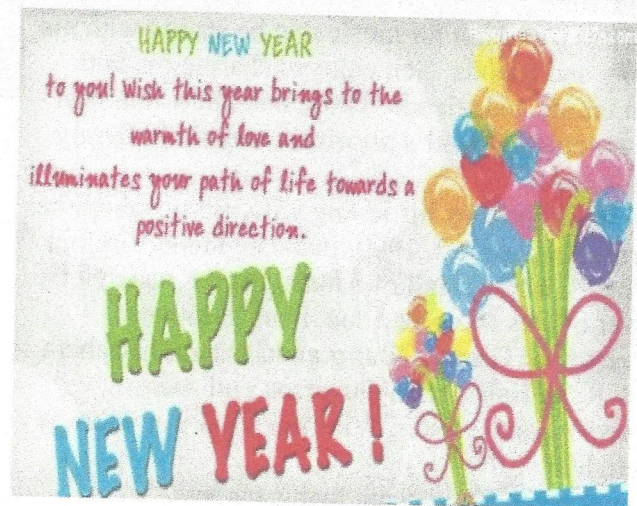
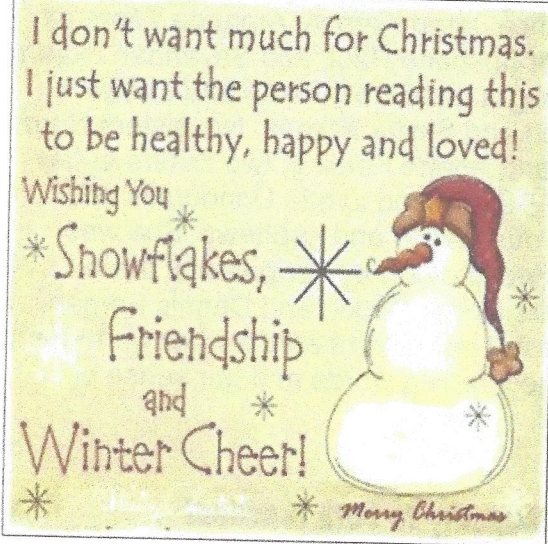
Bob is survived by his wife, DeeAnn (Simpson)
 Vaage, three sons, Jonathan (Michea) of Austin,
 TX, Christopher of Austin, TX and Erik of St. Paul,
 MN, his parents, LaVern and Karen (Stossivich)
 Vaage of Mason City, IA, and one brother, Jeff
 (Beth) Vaage of Pleasant Hill, IA. Bob was
 preceded in death by his grandparents and other
 extended family members. He was a faithful
 husband, father, uncle, cousin, pastor, mentor,
 colleague and friend to those who loved him within
 his family, church, community and all over the
 world.



STREET SCENE, FERTILE

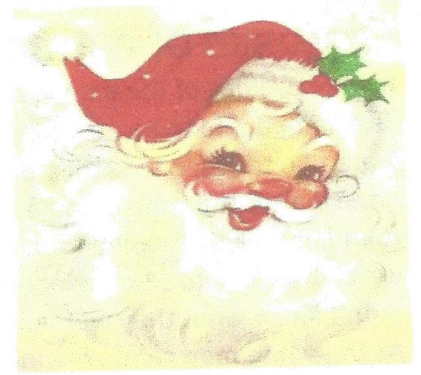


STREET SCENE, FERTILE





FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.youseemore.com/NILC/FertilePL
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



Library Events

Cookie Exchange & Movie:

December 2nd @ 7pm

This is an *Adult Program*, where we will exchange cookies, enjoy coffee/cocoa & a Christmas movie

Movie night:

December 9th @ 7pm

Family Friendly movie, Pajamas encouraged and popcorn Provided!

Christmas Open House:

December 10th: 9-11am

Come to the library to enjoy Christmas treats, enter the drawing by donation and enjoy the library!

Polar Express Storytime:

December 12th @ 5pm

We will be enjoying the book, a craft and a snack relating to the classic story.

Christmas Afternoon:

December 23rd: 2-6pm

Kids are welcome @ the Library where we will be showing Christmas movies and doing crafts and enjoying the treats of the season!

*The Library has tickets for it's
Drawing by Donation @ the Library
Christmas Party. Stop up at the li-
brary and get your tickets today
and enter to win a prize!*



MEMORIES OF FERTILE BY VIOLET HALL (1903 – 1998) (from the Fertile Reminder 1991)

Just a few lines of the early history of Fertile.

The first people to be near where Fertile was later settled were the Indians. It is believed by many, that there were two tribes; one settled on the south side and one on the north side of the Winnebago River, which was named after the tribe of Indians. Due to the great amount of Indian arrow heads found, and are still being found, it is likely the two fought several battles. Things have been found such as their hammers and needles, which they use to sew their animal hides into clothing and moccasins. Some things were found, that they didn't know what they were or used for, and they took them for Mrs. Leo Oswald to identify. As the white men came, the Indians soon realized there would not be enough wildlife to feed them all. And the white man was not careful how he killed, ate and wasted the food. So the Indians began to prepare to leave their camps. They tied limbs together to make horse drawn liter, to carry the young and old. When they broke camp and started for a new site, they never looked back. This was a closed chapter in their life, and they didn't hand on to memories as the white man does. They made it known that they were going into a Dakota Territory. They broke camp in the morning and by noon the last Indian had made the bend in the river and was out of sight.

The first settler in Fertile Township was William Rhodes. He built a dam across the river, in the same spot that the present dam is; at first he just sawed lumber. Later on he built a mill, (the same one that is here yet) and put in equipment to grind feed, and finally ground grain for flour and sold it in 50# bags.

The first white baby born in Fertile was John Fenton Rhodes, son of William Rhodes.

When Martin Ouverson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Ouverson, the Indians came to see him. Mrs. Ouverson was afraid they would steal him, but they told her they just wanted to see him.

Things moved on and on the northeast corner of Main Street Clarence Williams had a furniture store, an undertaking parlor and in the corner of the store was a photography studio. Almost every family had family pictures taken. Only caskets were sold at the undertaking parlor as the bodies were never taken from the homes. Neighbors and friends would come to the homes after a death and sit up all night, and in hot weather would keep the body packed in ice.

There was a large room over the furniture store and every Saturday night they had a dance there with a large crowd. To the west side of that building, Kirks had a drug store and just west of that Wallace Deuel had a garage where he did car repair and sold new cars.

Mr. & Mrs. E.E. Brown had the first meat market in a building on the north side of the street. He did his own butchering on a 10 acre piece of land south of town (now owned by Harold and Ruth Ouverson). They also had the first telephone switchboard in Fertile. It was a small room just off from the meat market in the southeast corner.

Mr. Groves had a store in what is now the post office and although he didn't have too much to sell, by today's standards, he did have a small stock of giftware. To the west of Grove's store, Ed Lang and Pete Ouverson had a hardware store. They sold some farm machinery, hardware articles, buggies and harnesses for horses. Lang had a small glass case with some pieces of jewelry in it just to accommodate his customers. My folks bought me a gold band ring for my 11th birthday and I still wear it.

On the south side of the street, Mr. & Mrs. E.E. Brown, his sister and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Booth bought the corner house (where the Brierly family now lives) and had a hotel, or board and room business for several years. Both Brown and Booth ran what they called in those days, a Dray service from Fertile and Mason City and also to Hanlontown -- hauling merchandise from the railroad to Fertile. Just west of the hotel, George Orcutt had a shoe shop. He also had a small house by it, as his wife was crippled and they had one

small child, and besides his work he cares for them. He also mended harness and did all repair work done at a repair shop.

Roy Van Note had a Blacksmith shop just west of the old Post Office and he shod horses and welded farmer's machinery and sharpened plow lays. Then west of the Blacksmith shop was a café. It was located on Lime Creek. Later the name was changed from Lime Creek to the Winnebago River. For many years the café was called the Lime Rock Café. The first café operator that stayed was Max Purcell. Perhaps I would remember some of the earlier ones but they stayed such a short time it was easy to forget them.

The just west of the café was A. A. Elthon store. He started with very little cash and there was very little to sell, only staple goods. Many of the items were sold in the bulk. There was very little canned goods and no fresh fruit at first. Everything in the store had to be drayed over from Hanlontown where it was brought by railroad. Coffee came from coffee beans and how well we all enjoy the old coffee grinder. Butter, chicken and eggs were bought from the farmers.

Later another store opened to the west of Elthon's building. This one was operated by E.B. Jones and Clarence Sheimo. Hilda Haugen clerked in the store and it had a variety of things. It has a shelf of dress materials. It was much easier to go there and buy dress material than to go to Clear Lake or Mason City. More canned goods and some fresh fruit were later added.

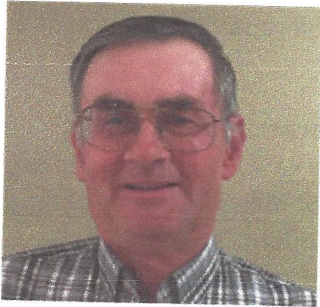
The Mill was still running as it did when William Rhodes first started it but now they were grinding grain for stock and also grinding wheat for flour. We always bought enough flour early in the fall to last through the winter as the roads got so full of ruts and deep mud, like they did in the spring.

On the north side of Main Street, Larsen Plumbing & Heating is located. A house is next where Mr. & Mrs. Squire Humphrey lived many years ago, now owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Olson & family.

The former Groves store building was remodeled several years ago and is the Fertile Post Office, just to the west of the Olson's garage. (Editor's note: so where was the telephone office?) The Burtness Brothers Plumbing & Heating business is located in the former bank building. Across the street to the west, Mr. & Mrs. Gunder Hegney had a hardware store many years ago. She had a loom and I have woven many yards of rugs on it. Now, Mr. & Mrs., Allen Haugen & sons live there. Across the street a locker took the place of the Sheimo & Jones store, and they wrapped and froze meat for customers. It is now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Amundson. Max Nye had a store on west from the locker building, but it is closed now. The fire station was built next to Nye's and is answering fire calls. Gail Zirbel had a Beauty Shop under the fire station for several years, but then moved the shop to the west end of town, next to the house where she lives. Years ago that house was the Creamery, operated by Johnny Johnson. Then they decided to build a new Creamery in the east end of town, beside the Winnebago River. It was still operated by Johnson, and had several butter makers before it closed. At the last cream was hauled in cans and finally milk trucks are hauling the milk to the few farmers that have cows.

To the north of the creamery was a small lumber yard, operated by Elmer White. It didn't have too much lumber as it had to be drayed from Hanlontown. Later on Henry Halverson was the manager for several years. Eugene Hall and Leon Hagen are now the present owners.

Then years ago there got to be more cars, Dewey Ouverson built and operated a gas station and car repair shop, across the street north of the Lumber yard. He operated it for many years and there have been several that have operated it since. Again I will end this and remember, it was in the early days of Fertile, and: Think not of the future, the present we all have, For soon the future will be the present and the present will be the past. Violet Hall



**THOUGHTS OF
FARMER RON**

Greetings from the farmer on the City Council.

By the time you read this, the Election and Veteran's Day will be over. I hope

each and every one of you took time (either absentee or on election day) to vote. When you voted, I hope you took time to thank a vet for protecting your freedoms, one of which is your right to choose our leaders.

Thank you to Dave and Lola Bruns for coming to our October council meeting. All are welcome.

You probably noticed the work being done on the old station on the corner of the red light. This will be a new business in town. I hope you will patronize them. The Council is in the very early stages of bringing new residential housing to Fertile. I asked the question about the size of our water and sewer systems. They were built oversized (good council members) to handle more residents. The senior apartments and campground are on hold, due to new glitzes, but not forgotten. We will continue to look at new ideas to get those two projects back on track. Stay tuned.

People who have driven through the Fertile Valley have asked me, "Why are there still good onions in the field?" The answer is that they are not good. The August and September rains, bacterial blight and stemphylium blight has caused enough exterior and interior rot to make the onions unprofitable for harvest. Even though the insurance payment is quite low, it is still better than harvesting them. One thing that should help in the future is that we are going to get a new box, culvert where our drainage ditch crosses Highway 9 sometime in the next two to three years. It will be deeper and wider. This was needed due to all the extra tiling that has been done in the last ninety years, the decreasing depth of our top soil (all much soils decrease due to oxidation and eroding of the soil) and more heavy rain events.

I used up my space so I will have to tell you about the good soldier next month.

Until next time, thank a farmer for the food on your plate, thank a vet for the freedoms we enjoy, and above all, thank God for your daily blessings. **Ron**

Letters to the Editor

Dear Friends, We always love to get our Fertile Reminder so here's for another two years. Thanks to you all for the work you do to get these out. Dick & Elenor Varberg

I enjoy the Reminder and it brings back wonderful memories of growing up in Fertile in the 50's and 60's. Thank you. Steve Bakke

NORTH IOWA COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

Early Head Start/Head Start Program

North Iowa Community Action Head Start is once again this year offering the Adopt a Child program to help provide new winter outerwear to Early Head Start and Head Start children who are in need. How can you help? You and your family can purchase winter outerwear and we will deliver it, or you can mail a cash donation to **Adopt a Child, PO Box, 1627, Mason City, IA 50401** and we will shop for you!!

Please call Paulette Webb at 641-494-1891 for more information.

Outside England's Bristol Zoo there is a parking lot for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years, its parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant.

The fees were 1 for cars (\$1.40), for buses (about \$7). Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't show up; so the Zoo Management called the City Council and asked it to send them another parking agent.

The Council did some research and replied that the parking lot was the Zoo's own responsibility.

The Zoo advised the Council that the attendant was a City employee. The City Council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the City payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain (or some such scenario), is a man who'd apparently had a ticket machine installed completely on his own; and then had simply begun to show up every day, commencing to collect and keep the parking fees, estimated at about \$560 per day -- for 25 years.

Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over \$7 million dollars!

And no one even knows his name.

Fertile Garden Club

The Garden Club met on Nov. 15 at the Community Center. Nine members answered roll call which was "Your favorite Thanksgiving memory". Paper products were brought and donated to the Food Bank.

We had an election of officers with all the old officers agreeing to stay on another year.

President: Twylah Kragel

Vice President: Deb Berg

Secretary: Ginny Lovik

Treasurer: Carol Jara

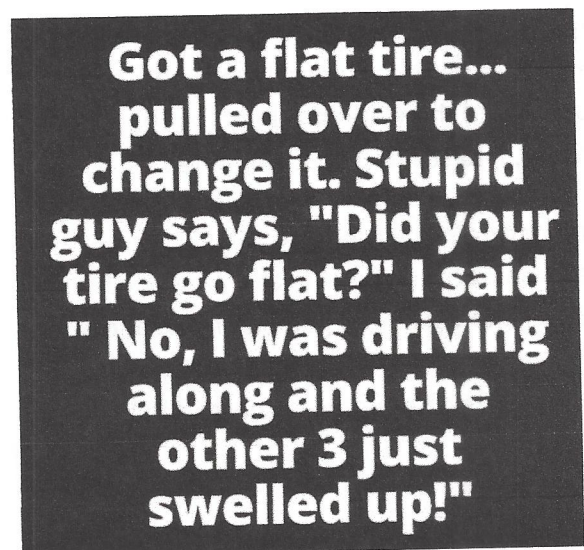
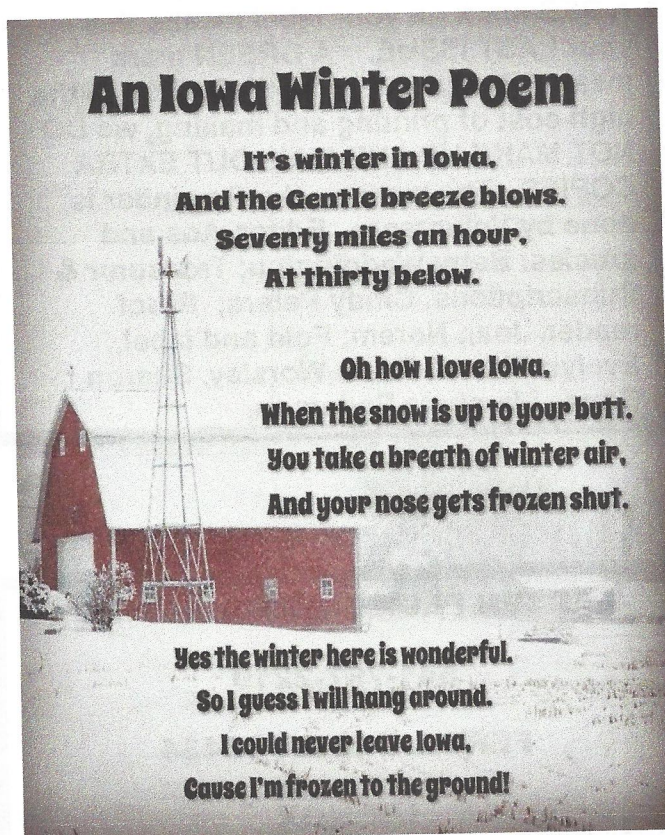
We worked out a budget for the following year consisting of all the projects we do to keep our city beautiful. Winter decorations were also decided. We are to meet November 30th to decorate for Christmas.

Our Christmas party will be on December 6th in the Old Mill, which Ann always has set up and decorated for us. Thank you Ann!! Starboard Market will cater our meal.



To the Church of Christ for the Thanksgiving community meal they served on Nov. 19th. 418 people were fed at the church with 118 deliveries and take outs. That is a lot of meals!!! 75 people were involved. It is much appreciated by all those who attended.

BRITTANY (age 4) had an ear ache and wanted a pain killer. She tried in vain to take the lid off the bottle. Seeing her frustration, her Mom explained it was a child-proof cap and she'd have to open it for her. Eyes wide with wonder, the little girl asked: 'How does it know it's me?'



**Merry
Christmas**



Sweet Potato Cornbread

YIELD: 8 servings

2 cups cornmeal
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
1 cup mashed sweet potatoes
4 eggs, room temperature
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
1/4 cup honey
8 tablespoons (1 stick) butter, melted
Preheat over 375

In a bowl, whisk together the cornmeal, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt and pumpkin pie spice.

In a separate, medium bowl, whisk together the mashed sweet potatoes, eggs, buttermilk, honey and butter. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients, and stir until just combined.

Pour the batter into a **cast-iron skillet**; use a spatula to smooth to an even layer if needed. Place in the oven and bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Serve the cornbread in the skillet.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money, so I woke up and searched with him.

I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

Ate salad for dinner, mostly croutons & tomatoes...really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce...and cheese...fine, it was a pizza...I ate a pizza.

I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

My goal for 2016 was to lose just 10 pounds: only 15 to go.

I love being over 70 - I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

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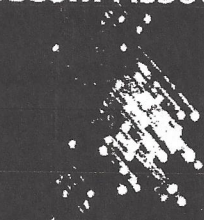
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Tornados



NEW!

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Fertile Valley Gardens:
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Heggie's Pizza is back in stock!

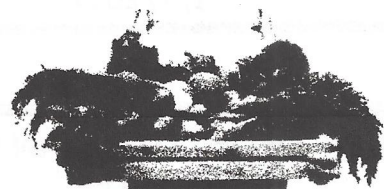


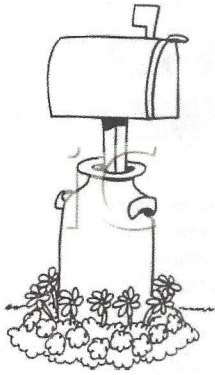
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Dave Halverson, Pastor
Church service at 9:30
Sunday School at 10:30.

Church council 7:00 p.m. 12/12/16.
Sunday school program practice on
12/17/16 @ 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
Christmas program. 12/18/16 @ 9:30a.m.
Coffee fellowship following the program.
No Sunday school classes on 12/25/16 or
1/1/2017.

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Pastor Rob Perry
Sunday School – 9:00 am
Fellowship Time – 9:55 AM
Worship – 10:15 am
Wed. Elementary – Middle School
Youth Group 7:00 pm
Men's & Women's Bible Study

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Sunday School 10:30 am
Christmas Program Dec. 18, 9:00 am

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December 18th – 10:30 a.m.
Children's Christmas program
December 24th – 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service
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