

# FERTILE REMINDER

SEPTEMBER 2017



The 1951 graduating class of Fertile High School met for a luncheon at Schooterz in Forest City on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Originally there were 18 in the class. Four are deceased: Donna Hansen Fuller, Delores Jordan Sandifer, IvaDell Oakland Wright, and Bill Upchurch. Seven were able to attend the luncheon. (In order of the picture left to right.) Bonnie Bjelland Kuns, LaVonne Pederson Kraft, DeEtta Thovson Twedt, LaVern Vaage, Arlyn Brosdahl, Mary Tweeten Myers, Earl Miller and Mary Lou Elthon Midtgaard. The following were unable to attend: Elsie Mae Suby Chisholm, Larry Purcell, Donald Howland, Spence & Janis Burtness Abrams, Norman Nyhus and Dennis Thovson. Three members of the graduating class of 1952 joined us: Amy Elthon Mahoney, Madelyn Purcell Midtgaard and Marvel Bjelland Burmester.

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

4 Firemen Meet

12 Garden Club

13 Reminder deadline

14 & 28 Recycle

18 Library Board Meets

14 Fertile Girls Café Mir

19 Council Meets

26 Mail Reminder

**HAVE A HAPPY LABOR DAY**

## City of Fertile

### City Council Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2017 - 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; City Clerk Wendy Lunning. Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- **Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the minutes of the July meeting.** Unanimous
- **Ron motioned, Nick 2nd to accept agenda with the addition of information on the School Election from Jaci Miller.** 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.

#### School Election:

- Jaci Miller presented information regarding the special school election on Tuesday, September 12, 2017, voters will be asked to decide whether to approve a Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL) of not to exceed \$1.34/\$1,000 of assessed property value blended with an income surtax to begin on 7/1/2018 for the Forest City Community School District. She encourages everyone to vote.

#### Save Our Hospital:

- Teresa Nicholson ask for the City of Fertile supports for the efforts of Save Our Hospital Committee to maintain a full service acute care hospital in Albert Lea, MN. **Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve the Resolution to support efforts to Save Our Hospital.** Roll call votes: **Holly – yes; Ron – yes; Nick – yes; Cindy – yes; Tad – yes.**

#### Ordinance Addition:

- **Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to waive the 2nd & 3rd reading of the Ordinance Addition for Insufficient Funds Check Fee into the Fertile Code of Ordinances.**

#### City Maintenance Report:

- Steve cleaned out drains on Main Street.
- Steve cleaned up trees at Ball Diamond, Streets, and Park Street.
- There have been problems at the sewer pumps. Hare Electric has ordered a new pump. The restored pump is not working properly and has been return for repair. The valve seal is leaking and Steve will be working with certified technician to get this repaired. It was suggested that the pumps be inspected annually.
- Steve is repairing the large ruts at the water plant.
- The new playground has been installed. The end support was damaged in the process. Boland Recreation said it will still be structurally okay. A big 'Thank you' to Nick, Allison, Ryan & Kelsey for helping Steve haul and level the pea gravel at the playground.
- Steve has ordered a new fire hydrant to replace the one by Fertile Church of Christ.
- There is a critter that is creating havoc at the ball diamond.
- City Council approved Steve to hunt at the lagoon.
- Steve set up and tore down tables, chairs, etc. for Fertile Days.
- **Holly motioned, Nick 2nd to approve maintenance report.**

Unanimous

#### Mayor's Report:

- Joyce ordered signs for the pump house for Wellhead Protection Area as required by the DNR audit & Steve installed.
- Joyce continues to follow up with Ulland Brothers daily on when Main Street will be completed.
- Joyce is working with John Greve's, City Attorney, in regard to "Mayor serving as both Mayor and City Administrator. This was originally approved by the City Council in 2005.
- Thank You Warren Bruns for using their box scraper on circle drive in the park.
- A sincere 'Thank you' to Buck Russell for weed whacking in park by river banks and dike.
- Shingles blew off City Hall & Community Center. Joyce is working with insurance company and contractors to get estimates and to get repairs completed.
- The shelter house has been set up over the playground equipment.
- Joyce received letter from concerned citizen regarding getting Chris Hanna back on the Fire Department. This information has been shared with the Fire Chief.
- Joyce received letter from concerned citizen regarding the use of city equipment for personal use. Council agreed that use of city equipment for personal use should be brought to the council's attention prior to use.
- Council approved Wendy to make available a Complaint/Recommendation form. These will be available at City Hall and should be used to communicate with the Mayor and Council.
- Joyce called Green Canopy to clean handicap portable potty for the park on more regular basis.
- There has been too much infiltration in the sewer from possible sump pumps going into main sewer. Letters have been sent to residents to inspect houses per DNR.
- Joyce received funding for the WCDA grant for playground, shelter house and bronze statue.
- Joyce contacted Danko a/c the siren was not turning & has been repaired.
- Thank you, Fertile Fire Department, for cleaning off shelter houses, fireplace, band shell and tennis courts in park.
- Joyce approved Joely Bruns as new city library board member.
- State of Iowa is in process of city audit and we'll receive 'findings' on August 16th followed by a report.
- **Tad motioned, Nick 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

#### City Clerk's Report

- Fertile Days current through 07/31/2017.
- Fire Department, Garden Club & Library current through 06/30/2017.
- Fiscal Year End reports do not include the year-end adjustments. A full set of reports will be submitted to the City Council when completed.
- **Ron motioned, Nick 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous

7/1/2017 7/31/2017	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	26,370.04	0.00	4343.29	31.41	18,790.48	49,535.22
Expense	24,459.69	11,166.00	1,831.03	163.13	10,508.62	48,128.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,1910.35</b>	<b>-11,166.00</b>	<b>2,512.26</b>	<b>-131.72</b>	<b>8,281.86</b>	<b>1,406.75</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>71,702.91</b>	<b>-18,966.00</b>	<b>49,155.66</b>	<b>736.79</b>	<b>136,921.10</b>	<b>239,550.46</b>

- **Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to approve July Bills.** Unanimous

308 W Main \$572.11  
 210 W Main \$339.11  
 409 W Main \$331.57

Ron motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to process liens with the County Treasurer.

Unanimous

• Cindy motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the Depository Resolution.

Unanimous

Cindy motioned, Ron 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the Investment Policy Resolution.

Unanimous

• Election paperwork should be turned into the City Clerk no later than 5:00 on September 21<sup>st</sup>. City Elections are scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Report:**

**City of Fertile  
Deposits**

**July 31,  
2017**

07/03/2017	Casino Funds Deposit	2,473.12
07/05/2017	Facility Rental Deposit	125.00
07/05/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	1,368.24
07/05/2017	Utility Deposit	259.70
07/05/2017	Property Taxes	1,361.42
07/12/2017	Utility Deposit	82.23
07/12/2017	Utility Deposit	3,581.47
07/18/2017	Road Use Tax	2,539.27
07/19/2017	Library Deposit	66.00
07/19/2017	Library County Deposit	8,750.00
07/19/2017	Lien Interest Deposit	31.00
07/19/2017	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
07/19/2017	Special Assessment Deposit	230.52
07/19/2017	Utility Deposit	3,329.52
07/19/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	1,803.44
07/26/2017	Deposit	562.19
07/26/2017	Utility Deposit	3,746.13
07/28/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,547.27
07/31/2017	Interest	15.71
		<hr/>
		32,872.23

Total 001b · Operating Accounts	<hr/>	32,872.23
<b>110b · Roads Revenue Accounts</b>		
<b>1101160 · Savings</b>		
Deposit 07/31/2017 Interest	<hr/>	0.58
Total 1101160 · Savings	<hr/>	0.58
Total 110b · Roads Revenue Accounts	<hr/>	0.58
<b>600b · Water Revenue Accounts</b>		
<b>6001110 · Savings</b>		
Deposit 07/31/2017 Interest	<hr/>	2.87
Total 6001110 · Savings	<hr/>	2.87
Total 600b · Water Revenue Accounts	<hr/>	2.87
<b>610b · Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>		
<b>6101110 · Savings</b>		
Deposit 07/31/2017 Interest	<hr/>	2.51
Total 6101110 · Savings	<hr/>	2.51
<b>6101160 · CD</b>		
Total 6101160 · CD	<hr/>	
Total 610b · Sewer Revenue Accounts	<hr/>	2.51
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>32,878.19</b>

**001b · Operating Accounts  
0011110 · Checking**

**City of Fertile  
Bills Paid**

Check	07/01/2017	8163	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,000.00
Check	07/01/2017	8164	Fertile Public Library V	Transferred funds due to Library transferring checking account.	0.00
Check	07/01/2017	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
Paycheck	07/05/2017	8159	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Superintendent	-301.39
Paycheck	07/05/2017	8160	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-226.43
Paycheck	07/05/2017	8161	Russell, Grant	Assistant Maintenance Manager	-639.46
Paycheck	07/05/2017	8162	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator	-1,440.79
Check	07/05/2017	8155	VOID	Printed on Backside of check	0.00
Check	07/05/2017	8156	VOID	Printed on Backside of check	0.00
Check	07/05/2017	8157	VOID	Printed on Backside of check	0.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8165	Clapper Tree Service	Storm Damage at City Park	-930.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8166	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Annual Water Supply Fee	-42.56
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8167	Kramer Ace Hardware	Rain Gauge	-6.98
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8168	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Pentagon Plug & Tapped Lid	-39.66
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8169	NIACOG	Annual Dues	-277.50
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8170	Waste Management	Container Services	-17.16
Bill Pmt -Check	07/05/2017	8171	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-203.28
Check	07/05/2017	DEBIT	USPS	Postage	-136.00
				Received \$3758.72 property taxes less \$3548.00 paid 2016 & 2017 fiscal year.	
Check	07/05/2017	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library		0.00

Paycheck	07/12/2017	8173	Roberts, Stephen J	Maintenance Manager	-1,046.08
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8174	AgSource Laboratories		-60.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8175	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-731.14
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8176	Fertile Pronto	Gas for Mower and Truck	-182.86
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8177	Hare Electric		-924.06
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8178	Haugen Lawn Service	Spraying for Weeds	-1,020.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8179	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/12/2017	8181	Waste Management	Garbage & Recycling Services	-2,179.92
Paycheck	07/19/2017	8182	Arndt, Linda J	Assistant Library Director	-69.12
Paycheck	07/19/2017	8183	Knudson, Lori	Library Clerk	-31.46
Paycheck	07/19/2017	8184	Thompson, Angela M	Librarian	-593.92
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8185	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,237.78
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8186	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-266.31
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8187	Iowa One Call	Water locates	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8188	M & S Outdoor Equipment	X-Mark Mower Blades	-58.50
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8189	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-56.54
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8190	Menards		-216.88
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8191	MicroMarketing	Books & DVDs	-27.99
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8193	Titan Pro SCI Inc.	Chemical Round Up	-128.30
Bill Pmt -Check	07/19/2017	8194	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-79.94
Paycheck	07/26/2017	8195	Roberts, Stephen J	Maintenance Manager	-1,046.07
Bill Pmt -Check	07/26/2017	8196	Barco Municipal Products, Inc.	Wellhead Protection	-91.69
Bill Pmt -Check	07/26/2017	8197	Maguire Iron, Inc.	Water Tower Interior Cleaned & Disinfected / Interior & Exterior inspected	-1,550.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/28/2017	8199	Boland Recreation	Playground Equipment	-7,166.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/28/2017	8200	Boland Recreation	Installation of Playground Equipment	-4,000.00
Check	07/31/2017		Staples	Folders	-4.00
Bill Pmt -Check	07/31/2017		ClerkBooks A/P Adjust	QuickBooks generated zero amount transaction for bill payment stub	
<b>Total 0011110 - Checking</b>					<b>-33,753.27</b>
<b>0011120 - Petty Cash</b>					
Check	07/26/2017	WITH	Fertile Public Library V		-85.00
Check	07/26/2017	WITH	Fertile Public Library V		85.00
<b>Total 0011120 - Petty Cash</b>					<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total 001b - Operating Accounts</b>					<b>-33,753.27</b>
<b>110b - Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
<b>1101160 - Savings</b>					
<b>Total 1101160 - Savings</b>					
<b>Total 110b - Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					<b>-33,753.27</b>

## FERTILE GIRL'S MEET

Thurs. (NEW DAY)

Sept. 14 - 11:30 am

Café Mir

## BIRTHDAY CLUB MEETS

WED. (NEW DAY)

SEPT. 12 - 11:30 AM

CAFÉ MIR

## FERTILE DAYS PARADE AT FERTILE DAYS



Grand Marshalls were Fertile Reminder staff (Joan Norem , proof reader, and Betty Waddington, Editor  
Bob Tuttle is driving his 1955 Mercury Convertible



The Garden Club went to Reiman Gardens, Ames on Tuesday, August 15. 5 Members were present: Twylah Kragel, Penny Miller, Sharon McLaughlin and Diane Miller. We ate a delicious meal at Hickory Park. And yes, it rained most of the time we were touring the gardens. We still enjoyed the trip.



The above photo was preserved by Estella (Stella) Sheimo

1951-52 Teachers at Fertile School

Ann Jenkins (Mrs. Clyde Jenkins)

Francis Purcell (Mrs. Max Purcell)

Mrs. Vivian Foster

Mrs. Neele

Estalene Sanderson

Stella Sheimo

Sent by Allen Suby



**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.



## Library Events

Adult Coloring Night

September 10th @ 7pm

This program is for adults to come and color at the library. We will enjoy beverages and the calm of coloring. The library will provide all supplies.

Family Movie Night

September 11th @ 7pm

All ages welcome as we enjoy the theater! Popcorn is provided, please feel free to bring a water bottle or other non-red drink! Pajamas are always encouraged!

Back-to-school Story Time

August 21st @ 5:30

Bring your kids to enjoy a couple of books about school, and engage in an art project! Story times are about 20-30 minutes and are open to all children. Smaller children may need extra parental help with projects!

## New Releases

### *Fiction*

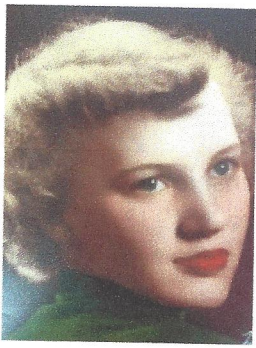
Beach house for rent - Mary Alice Monroe  
Behind closed doors - B.A. Paris  
House of spies - Daniel Silva  
Wanted: dead or alive - Ray Hogan  
Long time gone - Mary Connealy  
Lover's knot - Emilie Richards  
My (not so) perfect life - Sophie Kinsella  
Paradise Valley - C. J. Box

### *Movies*

Deepwater horizon  
Faith of our fathers  
Fences  
John Wick, Chapter 2  
A dog's purpose

## Adult Coloring Evenings

Being a kid again is good for your health! According to science, coloring has the same affect on your brain as meditation. So with thoughts of good health and peace, the library is starting an adult coloring club. We will provide coloring books and beverages, all you need to bring is yourself and your peaceful intentions. Our first session will be Thursday, September from 7-8pm.



**Elaine Ollenburg**, 85, of Ventura died Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at Westview Care Center in Britt. **Elaine Ollenburg**, the daughter of Henry and Ida (Hanson) Lovick, was born May 3, 1932 on a farm near Joice. She was the 10th of 12 children. She was

always very proud of her large family. Elaine attended country school and graduated from Fertile High School in 1949. Although unable to fulfill her own dream of college, she remained an avid reader for her whole life and ensured that all of her children obtained degrees. After high school, she worked at the Mason City Telephone Company. On November 28, 1951, she married Robert "Bob" Ollenburg at Fertile Lutheran Church. They farmed north of Clear Lake until 1960 when they moved to the acreage at St. John's Corner, rural Ventura where they raised their five children. For many years Elaine and her five children were the St. John's Lutheran Church janitors. Elaine was a stay at home mom, but operated her own upholstery business from their home. After the purchase of Ollenburg Motors she took on the job of bookkeeper. Elaine's skills with a sewing machine, paint brush and hammer were put to use decorating her home and all of her children's homes.

Elaine is fondly remembered by her surviving children, Sherry (Tim) Becker of Mason City, Scott (Karen) Ollenburg of Ventura, Kim (Bill) Larson of Park Rapids, MN and Dan (Kristen) Ollenburg of Clear Lake and daughter-in-law, Jeanne Ollenburg of Savannah, GA; her thirteen grandchildren, Ben Becker, Rex and Dani Ollenburg, Emily and Thomas Zanios, Grant and Amber Larson, Renee and Matt Washburn, Christopher and Tina Ollenburg, Zachary Becker and Casey Sweeny, Bridget Ollenburg, Kathryn Ollenburg, Sophia Ollenburg, Ava Ollenburg, Henry Ollenburg and Ella Ollenburg; and her 10 great grandchildren, Natalie and Riley Washburn, Eliza and Maisie Zanios, Noah, Parker and Haley Larson, Piper, Keely and Knox Ollenburg; brothers, James Lovick of Fertile and Leo and Marlys Lovick of Ackley; sister Doris Bonnstetter of Chapin, SC, and sisters-in-law Diane Lovick of Forest City and Darlene Wolfram, Spirit Lake, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Elaine was preceded in death by her husband Bob, son Reece, parents Henry and Ida Lovick; parents-in-law Emil and Olga Ollenburg; brothers and sisters-in-law Paul and Gladys Lovick, Ardie and Nita Lovick, Larry Lovick; sisters and brothers-in-law Murette and Gilman Hagen, Amy and Don Brakke, Irene and Harvey Brakke, Pearl and Raymond Hanna, and Alice and Gordon Toresdahl.



## THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Hello Fertile People:

By the time you read this, Fertile Days will be over. I hope that you had a chance to enjoy the two day event. As usual, the committee would like feedback on what you

liked or didn't like. All comments, either good or bad will be taken into consideration. We are already considering some additions for next year. Now the committee will look at your suggestions and start planning for our Spaghetti Supper in January. Say "thank you" to the committee members for their time and work.

I couldn't be more pleased with our onion crop this year. Normally buy this time, we have tip burn (the top inch or two of the top) where the part of the top was dead. This year they are up to my waist and green right to the top. The good weather is one factor and rotating fungicides and spraying, too. I took my first delivery of 88 lbs. of carrots and 100 lbs. of cabbage to Healthy Harvest of North Iowa on August 8. This will be weekly from now on through October. Some items I will run out of and others will come on board. Later I will have parsnips, rutabaga's and lots of green beans. If you are looking for vegetables for processing, give me a call. I might just have what you are looking for.

I went to a Mason City Council Listening Post on July 24. Bill Schickel (running for mayor) conducted it. Two things that really caught my ear were that 25% of the shopping malls in America will be closed in five years (think online). The other was the increasing demand for recreation. What this has to do with Fertile is the Winnebago River. Bill would like to see a water train from Fertile to Mason City. Others would like it to go from Minnesota to Rock Falls. Either way, they have to come out of the water at the dam. One side is our park; the other side is our community. This is a long term project involving land owners, the DNR, communities on the river and possible the state of Iowa. It would be great to see people from outside the area use the river and spend some money in Fertile. It will take time, but is a doable project. Until next time, thank a farmer for the food on your plate, thank a veteran for the freedoms we enjoy, and above all, thank God for the blessings he has bestowed.

# FERTILE FIRE

WRITTEN BY ERMA BRUE

So here's the story I will pass along as it pertains to the past in the North Central Iowa township of Fertile. Yes the town I make fun of for its quitting work traffic congestion & stuff. The event took place in 1932, before any of us were born so it is just another example of challenges faced by people in or around the township of Fertile, where there should be a sign telling people to proceed with caution.

## Who Started the 1932 Fire?

In the 1920's and 30's it was not uncommon to hear the little town of Fertile referred to as the "Holy City". Of course, this was spoken in a rather light vein. However, it is ironic that what could have been one of the worst tragedies in the history of Worth County was narrowly averted in this very place.

This is a community that any parent would have been delighted to raise their family in, where school standards were exceedingly high, and the town's government was strict. Plus the fact that there were three active churches where most of the community was involved. Yes, it truly was a place where law & order & senior citizens were respected. Never the less, upon an unsuspecting village, on a cold, wintry night in March 1932, an "arsonist" crept into town with much vengeance in his heart, and not much thought of the heinous crime about to be committed.

S. W. (Sam) Wilds previously operated the Park Café on Main Street. (In the area of the Sandifer Building on the south side of Main Street). Because of his many encounters with the law over illegal and unlawful possession of intoxicating liquor, maintaining a liquor nuisance & violating the cigarette law. He was arrested for contempt of court, jailed and fined. Upon release from jail, Wilds was ordered to leave Worth County. Fertile residents shed no tears at his departure, but never realized they had not heard the last of Sam Wilds. Because of my desire to give an accurate account of what occurred on March 31, 1932, I visited the office of the Clerk of Court in Northwood, Iowa, so the statements made, for most part are authentic.

According to the written testimony of Harley Wilds, who was living with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. S. W. Wilds in Thompson, Iowa on March 31, 1932 and this is the story he told. Same Wilds, along with Harley, left Thompson for Hanlontown & en-route decided to stop off at Forest City to buy kerosene and gasoline. Having brought a 5 gallon gas can and a 10 gallon cream can from home, Harley inquired, "what are we going to do"? Same Wilds replied, "I'll tell you later". They journeyed on to Hanlontown where they were seen by several residents. In fact, they visited men in the Barber shop & other places of business. Later that evening, as they started west on Hwy. 9, Sam informed his son, Harley, he wanted him to drive him to Fertile where he was going to burn down the café! After a period of time they went south of Fertile, circled back north just beyond the bridge by the park, where Sam Wilds proceeded to get out with the 2 cans, equipped with kerosene and gasoline. He ordered Harley to drive back to Hwy 9 & park on the east side of the intersection to await his return. On or near 2:30 am as the fire was becoming more and more visible, Wilds returned to his son & they drove west to their home in Thompson.

In the meantime, the Café's new owner, Melvin Oredsen, his wife Ethel and little son, Bobby, were asleep in the upstairs apartment. Also living in the apartment were his parents, Marius & Ida Oredsen & their 5 children, Hazel, Dorothea, Stanley, Donald & Edna Mae. All were sound asleep. Downstairs 2 local residences, Kenny Haugen & Ernie Jonson had been hired to wash the ceilings. Oswald Evenson, former owner of the café, also occupied sleeping quarters there. Suddenly they discovered the fire of the outside building. Flames were shooting higher & higher & windows were already starting to pop out. The 2 men immediately warned the Oredsen's & dressed only in night clothes they escaped either by stairway or through the window. One of the girls grabbed a pair of shoes & once on the ground ran to report the fire to the telephone office, quite a distance from the café. They also escaped unharmed. Both buildings burned to the ground & all furniture & clothing were a total loss, as well as the Oredsen's anniversary gifts. Next door to the café on the west side was an unoccupied small building & the Barber shop with living quarters in the one end. The building, also



threatened by the blaze, was owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Eikenbary & family. Immediately they also prepared to move out, but a "bucket brigade" formed by local men managed to keep the fire under control & their building was saved. Neighbors & friends immediately opened up their homes to the Oredsens & others, until they could get situated in a different location.

We must make mention that suddenly as the fire was at its height, the wind changed. We want to acknowledge that the Lord intervened, saving the entire block from going up in smoke.

(2) later parts of the evening not reported were that it was Hazel who grabbed the pair of shoes, not knowing until later that they were not a pair, but one & the other from 2 sets of shoes & during the early escapes someone, probably Melvin, dropped Bobby from the second floor window to someone on the ground who caught him & took him to safely & Edna, only 7, burned her bare feet as she ran down the stairs to escape the fire.

Once again, returning to the incident on the night of the fire, E.W. Liley, Supt. of Schools, was returning the rather late hour from a meeting in Northwood. As he approached the intersection (Hwy 9 & Fertile turn-off), he noticed a parked car on the east side. His attention was called to a broken tail light on the 1928 Chevy. Later, upon learning of the fire the following morning, Mr. Lilley & Mayor Norman Jorgenson, returned to the very spot the car had been parked. They made plaster of Paris molds of the tire marks. Then they proceeded to do the same thing with the tracks of the car that had turned around south of the bridge by the park. They were identical.

I especially took note of the fact that within 2 days after the fire, the Wilds son, Harley, went for a ride with his brother and that he told his brother what their father had done that night in Fertile. Together they decided to drive to Fertile & check the damage done for themselves.

Soon afterwards S.W. Wilds was arrested, accused of willfully & maliciously setting fire to & burning the dwelling house occupied by Melvin Oredsen. 36 witnesses were subpoenaed to testify. Several stated that Sam Wilds had made threats to get even with people in Fertile, including Charlie Eikenbary & the fellows across the street. He also remarked, "I have never met a man I couldn't get even with." The trial date was set for July 1932 & Wilds was brought up from Anamosa. L. Boomhower of Mason City was his attorney & many local citizens were acquainted with him. Neither the cans found in the ashes & exhibited at the trial or the explicit account told by his son Harley, (which was clear cut and honest) convinced the jurors of anything other than circumstantial evidence & Mr. Wilds was declared not guilty!! The only sentence handed down to Sam Wilds was for carrying a concealed weapon. He did have a lengthy stay in the State Penitentiary.

It was interesting to see Sam Wilds hand written letter addressed "to whom it may concern." He stated that he was only carrying the gun (tied to his neck and pinned in his underwear) in case the jury found him guilty of a crime he did not commit - he then planned suicide.

Once again we reiterate the testimony of many local people who heard Same Wilds make treats about "getting even". The scripture that comes to my remembrance is the last part of Matthew 12:34 which reads, "for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh".

So, another chapter of the event which occurred on March 31, 1932 came to a close. In our finite minds we do not understand a court system or the justice of it all & even though most of us are satisfied that we know the truth, yet there will always be some who are still questioning - who really started the fire?

I acknowledge with thanks the assistance given me by the Worth County Clerk of Court office. Erma Brue

**This was published in the Fertile Reminder years ago, (and again in the past few years) & remains with some of us as it was our family that was in the upstairs apartment. My mother, Dorothea Oredesen. was 16 when this happened to her. Norm Hansen, California, brought this story so once again it will be published.**

**GARY & CHERYL HALL  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



Cheryl Thompson of Marshall, IL and Gary Hall of Fertile (class of 1959) were married on Saturday, July 22, 1967 at Marshall. They celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday, July 22, 2017 in Lincoln, IL. The celebration was attended by family and friends from four states. Cheryl and Gary are both retired and living in Lincoln. They have two children and are expecting their first grand-child September 1. Four of Gary's '59 classmates were able to attend: Neal Luker, Gary Ouverson, Paul Ouverson, and Nelda (Ouverson) Frahm. Others from the Fertile area in attendance were: Brian Hall (Clear Lake), Tim Hall (Mason City), and Tracy, Tammy and Stephen Hall (rural Lake Mills). Gary and Cheryl and their children took a cruise/tour to Alaska at the end of May to celebrate the milestone.



Paul O., Neal L., Nelda F., Gary H., Gary O.  
The class of 1959 is planning a 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in the fall of 2019 in Lincoln, IL

**Café Mir Opening**

The Café in Fertile will be opening on August 11 under the name of Café Mir (pronounced like "mere"). "Mir" in the Czech language. The café owners have Czech heritage on their mother's side. The café hours will be slightly limited initially to help them acclimate to the intricacies of running a café. Here are the initial hours:

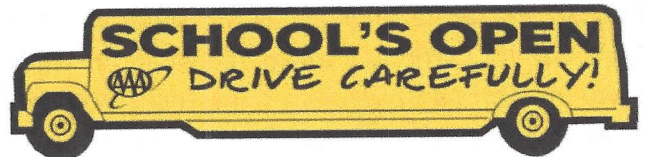
**Monday & Tuesday CLOSED**

**Wed. & Thurs. 6:30 – 9:30 AM**  
Breakfast, coffee, eggs, sandwiches, etc.  
**11:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch**  
Sandwiches, salads, pizza, etc.

**FRIDAY – Breakfast 6:30 – 9:30 am**  
lunch 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
**5:00 – 9:00 pm Dinner**  
Pizza specials, sandwiches, etc.

**Saturday – Lunch 11:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
Dinner 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Menu above

**Sunday: Closed (Sunday lunch to begin in the fall.)**



**Lutheran Retirement Home Auxiliary**

**Fall Fair**

**Saturday, Sept. 23**

**9:00 – 11:00 a. m.**

**Lutheran Retirement Home Chapel**

**701 9<sup>th</sup> St. North, Northwood**

**Produce, Baked Goods, Crafts**

**Drawing for quilt and other prizes**

## This Ole House

"I ain't a gonna need this house no longer ain't a  
gonna need this house no more  
Ain't got time to fix the shingles ain't got time to fix  
the door  
Ain't got time to oil the hinges nor to mend the  
window panes  
I ain't gonna need this house no longer I'm gettin'  
ready to meet the saints  
This ole house once I knew my children this house  
once I knew my wife  
This ole house was joy and comfort as we fought the  
storms of life  
This ole house once rang with laughter this ole  
house heard many a shouts  
Now she trembles in the darkness oh when the  
lightnin' walks about  
I ain't a gonna need this house no longer I'm getting ready to meet the saints."



Johnny Cash popularized this song many years ago, and as I reflect on the house that once was 306 West Main Street many of the lyrics echo my thoughts.



I returned from California many an April and autumn to ready my Mother's house for summer and winter. One summer we re-shingled the one story wing and another time I repaired both the basement door and the back door off the kitchen. The original log sill placed there in 1880 had rotted out and was sagging. In the old days I would have visited the Fertile Lumber Company for materials, but it took a trip to "Mason" that year. I have a handful of the old original square-cut nails salvaged from that project.

The winter photo above is copied from a postcard mailed in 1911. The angle indicates it was probably taken from the third story west window of the mill. The old wooden school house and the Lutheran church can be seen in the background. I find the horse-drawn sled on the snowy street especially nostalgic.

Back to the old house – I received a nice letter from Sara Innes who lives across the street and purchased the lot after the house burned. She wrote that those who demolished the structure said the wood framing was fragile and almost fell apart when they touched it. Sounds like "she trembled in the darkness oh when the lightnin' walked about," as Johnny would sing.

I recollect the Calhoons once occupied the old house and I remember visiting there with my parents when Hank and Janet Van den Bosch lived there. Ernie and Vesta purchased the place in 1957 because it was just across the street, "catty-corner" from his garage. My three children spent the summer there with their grandparents in 1964. For nine weeks they got to experience for the first time what small town living was like. The last time they visited that old house was when my mother passed in 2001.

A television program airs in Los Angeles featuring "things that aren't here anymore." This old house, Dad's first garage, the brick school house and gym and Grandpa Kuns' farmstead northwest of Forest City all fit into that category. For me they are gone but not forgotten.



## Chicken Salad Stuffed Tomatoes Recipe

- 1 pound boiled chicken breast, cut into ½-inch pieces
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 4 spring onions, chopped
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- ½ teaspoon celery salt
- ½ cup sliced almonds
- 8-10 medium tomatoes, cored

Stir together chicken, celery, onions, mayonnaise, celery salt and almonds. Scoop into cored tomatoes and serve cold.

## TUNA STUFFED TOMATOES

- 4 large firm-ripe tomatoes, peeled
- 2 cans (6 1/2 or 7 ounces each) tuna
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup chopped cucumber, drained
- 2 teaspoons chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried leaf tarragon

Place tomato stem side down. Make 6 vertical cuts almost through tomato to form 6 petals.

Using a teaspoon, scoop out pulp from tomato, reserving pulp for later use in sauce or other recipe. Drain. Cover and refrigerate tomato until firm. Combine remaining ingredients in a medium bowl; refrigerate for 1 hour to allow flavors to blend before filling tomatoes. Stuff at serving time.

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

### REMINDER POLICY

**Suggested Price is .....\$8.00 a year.**

**A RED mark on your label means this is your LAST ISSUE. A GREEN mark means you have 1 month left. Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, we DO NOT MAKE UP AND MAIL OUT EXTRA COPIES. The work on the Reminder is done by Volunteers. Editor, Ad and articles: Betty Waddington; Treasurer & Subscriptions, Cindy Peters; proof reader, Joan Norem; fold and label, Evelyn Elthon, Paula Worsley, Sharon Ganz, Marcheta Pederson.**

In a Catholic school cafeteria, a nun places a note in front of a pile of apples, "Only take one. God is watching." Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

### LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING

**641-797-2219**

**FERTILE, IOWA 50434**

LENNOX®

## A CONFUSED MOTHER WRITING TO HER SON

Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I am writing this letter slowly because I know you cannot read fast. You won't know the house when you come home --- we've moved.

About your father - he has a lovely new job. He has five hundred men under him. He is cutting grass at the cemetery. There was a washing machine in the new house when we moved in, but it isn't working very good. Last week I put fourteen shirts into it, pulled the chain, and I have not seen the shirts since.

Your sister, Mary, had a baby tis morning. I haven't found out whether it's a boy or a girl, so don't know whether you are an aunt or an uncle.

Your uncle Dick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates dived in to save him, but he fought them off bravely. We cremated his body and it took three days to put out the fire.

Your father didn't have much to drink at Christmas. I put a bottle of castor oil in his pint of beer - it kept him going 'til New Year's Day.

I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father came with me. The doctor put a small tube into my mouth and told me to keep it shut for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

IT only rained twice last week. First was three days and then for four days. Monday it was so windy that one of our chickens laid the same egg four times.

Much love, Mother      P.S. I was going to send you ten dollars, but I had already sealed the envelope.



**WE'RE PROUD TO  
CALL IOWA HOME.**

At POET Biorefining - Hanlontown, we're helping transform the world with renewable energy and advanced bio-products. Innovation is the product of hard work and that creativity comes from common sense. The same values make Fertile a great place to live and work.

**POET**  
HUMAN • NATURE

[poet.com/hanlontown](http://poet.com/hanlontown)



**BURTNESS - LUNDGREN  
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

Call for all your Plumbing, Heating  
& Air Conditioning Needs!

John Burtness & Todd Lundgren  
Clear Lake, 641-357-8882  
Fertile 641-797-2680

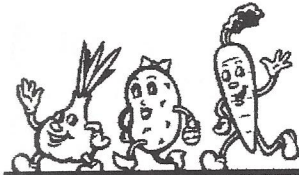
Greg Knopf, owner

**HAUGEN LAWN SERVICE**

Mowing Seeding Spraying Fertilizing  
Thatching sodding garden tilling  
Over-seeding

Spring and Fall Clean-up and Snow Removal  
24529 Finch Ave., Clear Lake, IA  
E-Mail: [Knopfdylan@gmail.com](mailto:Knopfdylan@gmail.com)  
Phone: (641) 590-1977 641-590-5132

**FERTILE VALLEY GARDENS**



*Ron Rachut*

641-797-2811 Fertile, IA



**Salon Intrigue**  
210 US Highway 18 West STE C,  
Clear Lake, IA

Full service Salon  
641-357-3301

**HEATHER SCHULZE**  
Owner/Cosmetologist

**OLSON INSURANCE**



**Kory T. Olson**

kory@tohins.com  
Cell (641) 390-1865

Northwood Office

704 Central Ave., P.O. Box 287  
Northwood, IA 50459  
(641) 324-2452  
Fax (641) 324-1229

Manly Office

103 N. Todd St., P.O. Box 248  
Manly, Iowa 50456  
(641) 454-2292  
Fax (641) 454-2293



*An out-of-the-way, quiet retreat  
on the Winnebago River*

For the busy types . . .  
quiet, relaxing solitude!

For the quiet types . . .  
peace & luxury!

Call year-round for  
reservations

*Rhodes Mill Retreat*

Main Street, Fertile, IA 50434  
918-630-9935  
[www.rhodesmill.com](http://www.rhodesmill.com)

**MILLER'S DIESEL & AUTO.,  
INC.**



**DAN MILLER**

**641-423-1237**

**1403 S. TAFT  
Mason City, IA**

## YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

Roofing - Siding - Gutters

Windows - Insulation

FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATES CALL

641-430-0655

Showroom:

1539 N. Federal - Mason City

LOCALLY OWNED BY

DAN YOUNG/TAMI RAMON YOUNG

## ASPHALT PAVING

North Iowa Sand & Gravel, Inc.

- Residential
- Commercial
- Driveway
- Asphalt Paving
- Street
- Asphalt Repair
- Parking Lot
- Crack Filling
- Bike Paths
- Cold Tar Sealing



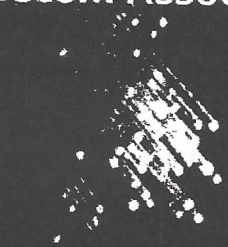
Free Estimates  
Locally Owned

**Bob Tuttle, Owner**

46 years' experience

641-424-5591 • 800-310-5591  
18237 Killdeer Ave, Mason City, IA

Winnebago Cooperative  
Telecom Association



Voice · Video  
Broadband · Wireless



www.wctatel.net  
704 E Main · Lake Mills  
800.592.6105

## FRANKS REPAIR & TOWING, INC

~Full Repair Shop & Tire Service~  
~24-Hr Towing & Roadside Service~  
~Light, Medium, Heavy Duty Towing~

103 HWY 9  
HANLONTOWN, IA M-F 8-5:30  
641-896-2200 SAT 8-NOON

## Ouverson Insurance

& Group Benefit Services, Inc.

Neil L. Ouverson, Broker

Betty A. Ouverson, Broker

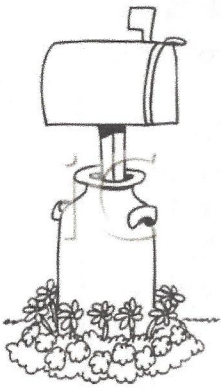
641-797-2100 Office 746A - 342nd St.

641-797-2101 Fax Hanlontown, IA

888-944-2127 Toll Free 641-430-2170 Cell

Ouverins@wctatel.net

35 YEARS OF SERVICE



Fertile Reminder  
Box 62  
Fertile, IA 50434

RSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FERTILE, IA 50434  
PERMIT NO. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The "X" in the Mail Box is to remind you that it is time to renew your subscription. An \$8.00 donation is suggested. We hope you have enjoyed the "REMINDER" this past year and want to keep it coming. Send you donation to the above address.

### FERTILE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor Rob Perry  
Sunday School 9:00 am  
Fellowship Time 9:50 am  
Worship 10:15 am  
Wed-6:30 - 7:30 Women & Men study  
Children (1st-5th) & Middle School Youth Groups

### PILOT KNOB LUTHERAN CHURCH

**AALC**  
Rural Forest City, IA  
Pastor Robert Snitzer  
Worship 9:00 am  
Sunday School 10:30 am

### FERTILE LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC

Pastor Dave Halverson  
Worship 9:30 am  
Sept. 10 Communion, Compassion Sunday  
Sunday School begins 10:30-11:30 am  
Sept. 11 Church council 7 p.m. Sunday,  
Sept 24th Confirmation Sunday  
Sept. 25 Ruth Circle  
Sept. 28 Mary Circle

### Celebration Community Church

805 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Clear Lake Iowa 50428  
**PASTOR DAN MILLER**  
Sunday School begins September 10<sup>th</sup>  
with an ice cream social  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship – 10:15 a.m.  
Praise and Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Adult Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.  
**641-357-0026/641-797-2704**