

January 1984

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# Exodus of Indians From Cerro Gordo Is Recalled

Ebaugh Believed Only Living Man Who Saw Departure of Tribe.

By G. OLIVER SANDERSON

FERTILE June 26.—Lewis Leonard Ebaugh, for many years a resident of Clear Lake but now of Fertile, is believed to be the only man living who witnessed the exodus of the Indians from Cerro Gordo county in May, 1873.

From a vantage point on Camp Rock, a huge granite boulder on the south bank of the Winnebago river in Grant township, one mile southwest of Fertile, he saw the last band of Winnebagoes emerge from the wooded flat on the opposite side of the stream and swing westward in single file on the old wagon trail which at that time followed the river from Mason City to the Minnesota line.

In quest of a story, I called recently on Mr. Ebaugh at his home. I found him a hale and hearty man, almost a giant in size, square shouldered and still straight as a lance. As he shook my hand in greeting, I winced under his iron grip. In the course of an hour's talk, he smoked his pipe incessantly; and when he spoke of his early years in the state, his eyes glowed with happy reminiscence.

**Came to Iowa in 1870.**

Mr. Ebaugh came to Iowa in the raw days of 1870 when wolves ran in packs and when the banks of the Winnebago river were dotted with Indian tepees. During his first two years residence in Grant township he lived within 80 rods of a tented village containing 750 Winnebago Indians.

"The village," said Mr. Ebaugh, "was situated at a point where the north boundary of Cerro Gordo crosses the Winnebago river southwest of Fertile. The tents were rough affairs but warm and comfortable in winter. They were built of poplar poles covered with coarse slough grass matting, canvas cloth and ox hides. There were 80 tents or more strung along the river for half a mile.

"During the winter of '72 and '73 they spent their whole time hunting and trapping and made a clean sweep of all game. By spring there was not a deer or wolf left in this part of the state, nor scarcely an otter, mink or other fur bearing animal.

**Ice Water for Baths.**

"They were a healthy people and lived well on buckhead hominy, parched corn and beans. Regardless of the weather, the children were given daily baths through the ice on the river, an ordeal which they appeared not to mind in the least. The whole camp was overrun with dogs of every description, and scores of typical Indian ponies were tethered to the trees without shelter of any kind.

"We were living at the time on what was known as the Warren Serrine homestead, on the south side of the river 80 rods from the camp. The place is now owned by David Deckman. On May 16, 1873, an Indian called on father and presented him and myself with a dozen fish and muskrat spears. He announced that the camp was being razed and that they were leaving for Dakota territory in four days.

"On the fourth morning following his visit, I climbed to the top of Camp Rock, a large boulder on the bank of the river which in the early days was known as a land mark or mile post on the river trail. From this vantage point, I had a good view of the procession as it emerged from the woods and moved slowly upstream.

**Was Picturesque Sight.**

"It was a picturesque sight, one I never forgot. They were leaving a region they loved; and as the procession got underway many turned

for a last look at the spot where their homes had been.

"There was not a wheeled vehicle of any kind in the cavalcade. The tent material was transported on long poles strapped at one end to the horse's shoulders, the other end dragging on the ground and held together with cross ties on which the load was carried. Children rode four to a pony in canvas bags slung across the backs of woolly little ponies not much larger than the Shetland breeds. Aged bucks sat their mounts erect and proudly, and portly squaws perched on top the tent material. Most of the younger squaws trudged afoot carrying cumbersome packs; and young bucks, with guns on their shoulders, often broke rank to let fly a heavy charge at a whirring partridge or prairie grouse.

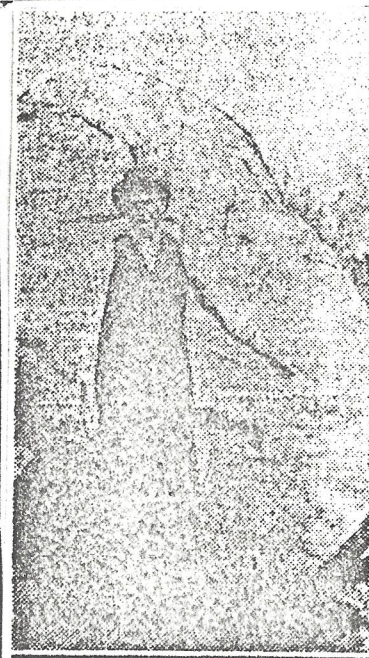
"By the time the last rider passed by, the vanguard had reached a point two miles up the stream, and by noon the last Indian disappeared around a bend in the river.

This article was  
Published in 1934

**Never Returned to Site.**

"So far as I can recall," Mr. Ebaugh concluded, "this was the last band of Indians in the county. They never returned to the site of their old village. Eight years later, however, in 1881, a band of 50 arrived from Wisconsin and camped one winter just across the Worth county line near Fertile."

Mr. Ebaugh was born in Ohio, and was accompanied west by his parents and two brothers. He arrived in Mason City at the time his uncle, John McMullen, was opening that town's first general store. Another uncle, Lew McMullen had a few years previously filed a homestead on the present site of Forest City, but owing to an Indian scare originating farther west, he had relinquished his rights and returned to the Mason City settlement. At the time of the Indian exodus, Lew McMullen lived in a log house on a timber tract joining the Serrine homestead on the north; and on the dividing line between the two places stands Camp Rock, the boulder alluded to by Mr. Ebaugh in his story. The McMullen land is now owned by S. L. Sanderson who resides on the place.



L. L. Ebaugh at Camp Rock from which he viewed the Indian exodus 61 years ago.

*\*A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR\**

Pray that God will help you -

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To make all your friends feel that there is something special about them.

To look at the sunny side of everything, and make your optimism come true.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to make the best come true.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

*This prayer arrived in today's mail. It is copied from Dick Miller's Church paper. I thought it was so good that we should use it in this issue of the Fertile Reminder. Can you imagine what families would be like if these principles were practiced and what communities would be like if all families were living this way, and what the nation would be like if all communities were following these precepts, and then what the world would be like. The world, our nation, our community, will never change until we as individuals and families change. It is futile to wish for a changed world, a changed nation, a changed community until each of us as individuals are willing to make the changes, and then go ahead and become the people we ought to be. Read that prayer again--make some resolutions--and start carrying them out, one day at a time. Let's make 1984 the best year ever! Happy New Year!*

Jean VanDenBosch

*\*REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTER\**

Our Community Center is being used by a variety of ages and groups. It is going to need the support of all of us to keep it going. A wide range of money-making projects have been held and more are being planned. Yearly projects are: Craft Fair and Turkey Supper in November; Christmas Program in December; the Sweetheart Dance coming up in February. Ray and Lorraine Bakke are in charge and will be mailing tickets later this month; May Fair in May, with Lee Briggeman in

charge; and The Variety Show in the spring with Zelda Suby in charge. We will be serving lunches for 4 days at a large sale to be held in the gym in April, so will need lots of volunteers.

Anyone with suggestions on other ways to raise funds should contact Arden Midtgaard or Ruth Ouerson.

The kitchen and dining room can be rented for \$25 and during the months of November and December, eight family gatherings were held at the Center. The Senior Citizens who pay rent, use the building regularly. Some other groups using the facilities are: TOPS, Girl Scouts, 4H Girls and Boys, Pre-School, Garden Club, Church groups and the Historical Society. These groups are not charged a rate, but many give a donation. The TOPS Club gives \$100 a year.

*October*

Our expenses for November were: heat-\$1,100; lights-\$185; water and sewer-\$51. The heat bill for the four weeks of extreme cold that we just endured hasn't yet been received--it will no doubt be a shocker. We are required to have Boiler Insurance which costs \$195 extra; liability insurance is \$335. Our only sure income is \$2,200 a year from the Senior Citizens and \$960 yearly bus barn rent. That leaves at least \$4,000 that has to be raised by other means to cover minimum expenses. ANYONE wishing to make a donation may send a check payable to the Community Center to: Box 171, Fertile, IA 50434.

PAT ON THE BACK

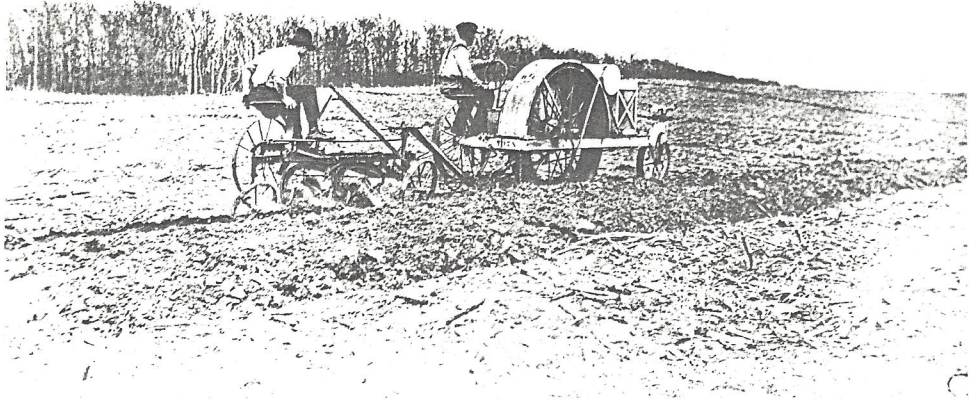
The Fertile Cookbooks are still being sold! Carolyn Nedved is in charge of this project. She has taken them to Forest City, Clear Lake, Mason City and different places in Fertile. This year nearly 200 have been sold. This makes a total of 1,300 sold since they were first published in 1981. A profit of nearly \$2 is made on each copy, so they have been a very good fund-raiser. THANKS, Carolyn.

Ruth B. Ouerson

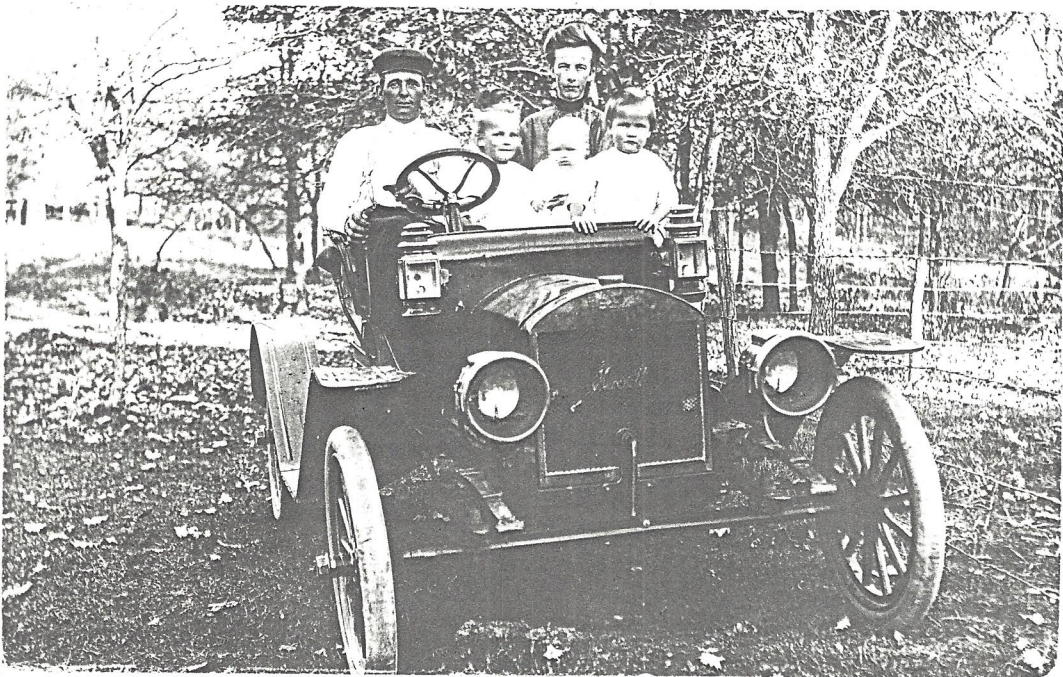
THANK YOU to everyone for your calls, cards, gifts and prayers while I was in Mercy Hospital.

A special thanks to Pastor Ganz for all his visits and prayers.

Ethel Tuttle



Johnnie Oqverson on Tractor



Martin & Christina Oqverson  
Irene - Edna - Leonard



Humphrey Family Reunion 1910

DON'T LET YOUR DOLLARS WALK OUT ON THE JOB of building a better community for you and your family - every time you spend a dollar out of town, that dollar does a "walk out" that hurts locally, all along the line.

It is one dollar LESS to provide local employment, maintain local trade volume, help pay taxes and provide contributions that support local service and facilities. It makes more sense to spend your dollars at home, where they do your community and YOU the most good. Did you know that 40.3% of the money Worth County residents have available for retail purchases is spent outside of the County? In 1982, that was \$18,615.

\* LIBRARY NOTES \*

Worth County Historical Calendars are available for \$6 each at the Library--the proceeds go to the County Historical Society.

NEW BOOKS:

Say Yes To Life - a book of thoughts for better living - by Sidney Greenberg.

Over the Counter Pills That Don't Work - put out by Public Citizens Health Research Group on non-prescription drugs and their safety.

Collector's Encyclopedia of Depression Glass - a new book with colored pictures and price guide, by Gene Florence.

ADULT FICTION:

Time of the Hunter's Moon - Victoria Holt  
Pet Cemetary - Stephen King  
Remains to be Seen - Elizabeth Cadell

EASY READERS:

Care Bears and the Terrible Two's - Ali Reich  
Second Garfield Treasury - Jim Davis  
Santa Claus and His Elves - Mauri Kunnas

Also new paperbacks for junior and young people readers, new adult paperbacks, too!!!

REMINDER: PLEASE RETURN OVERDUE BOOKS!!!!!!!

If news of different organizations that you are accustomed to seeing in the Reminder are missing in any issue, it is because the information has not been turned in before publication.

16 members of the Fertile Garden Club enjoyed a noon potluck at the home of Zelpha Wilhelm for their Christmas meeting on a very snowy Dec. 8th.

Following the dinner, the business and program were held. Roll call was: Christmas happiness is. Thought for the day was given by Opal Almeliën. Zelpha read the Christmas gospel. Penny Miller led the group in carol singing with organ accompaniment by Zelpha. Penny also consented to sing a solo, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas.

Secret pals were revealed by an exchange of gifts.

As usual, the club sent checks to Handicap Village and the Christian Children's Home. They also remembered the local elderly and shut-ins with plates of fruit. The 1984 club year begins in March.

\* THE LEGEND OF HUNGRY HOLLOW \*

Everyone who has grown up anywhere near Fertile knows where "Hungry Hollow" is, but have you ever heard the Legend of Hungry Hollow? Well, here it is:

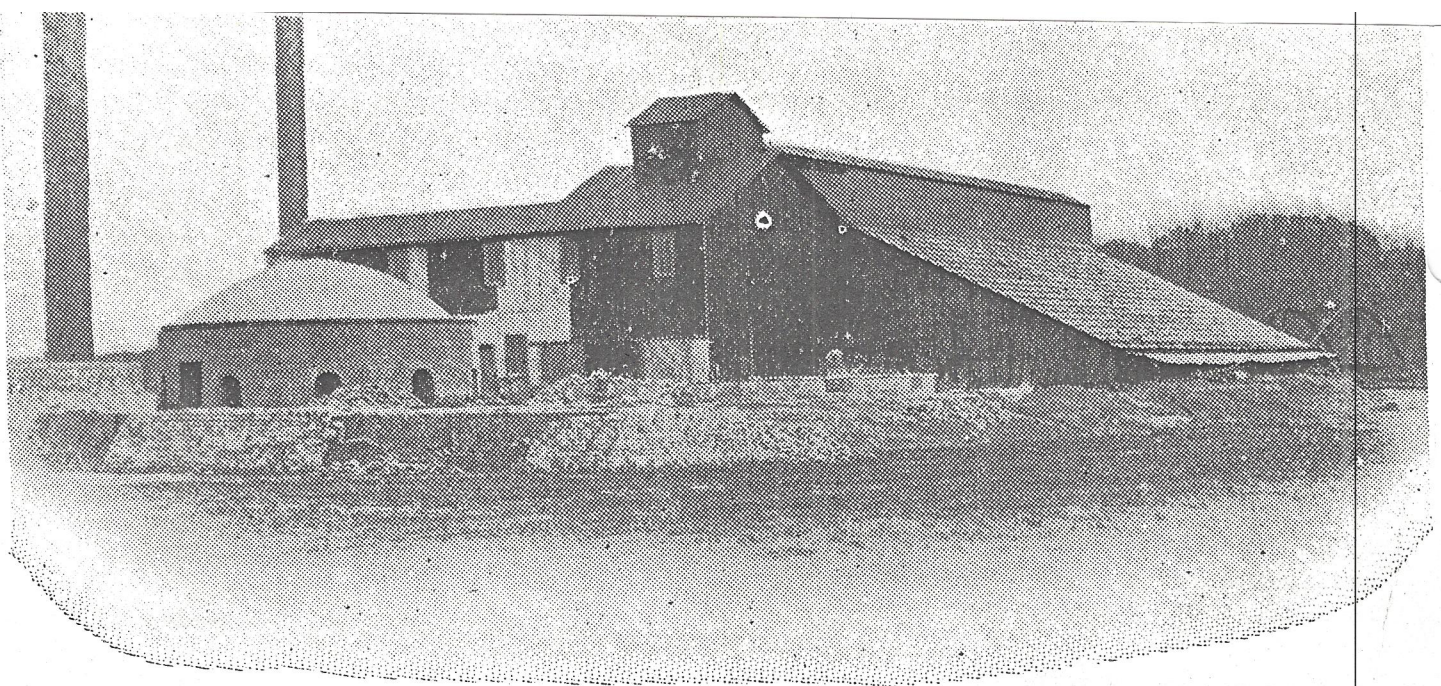
One summer a man and his family moved into a ravine along Lime Creek and lived in sort of a dugout. They lived there through the summer and when winter came upon them, they did not have enough food and fuel to last through the terrible snow storms that came upon them.

This man started out in the middle of a snowstorm to get help for the family. He did not have clothes to keep him warm in such weather but walked bravely on in the direction of the nearest home. He fell unconscious before he reached the house, but the Lang family, whose home he was trying to reach, saw him and carried him in. When he became conscious, he asked them to save his family, which they did, by bringing them to their home with sleds.

The Lang's kept this family until spring when the man and his family went back East. To this day this ravine is called "Hungry Hollow".

Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel in order to be tough.

F.D. Roosevelt



BRICK AND TILE PLANT, FERTILE 1908



Looking  
west  
down FERTILE  
main street



Looking  
East

Thanks To Glea Hall for pictures

The Reminder is published the second week of each month. If you have anything you want in an issue, please give it to Ruth B. Ouver-son by the last day of the month preceding publication.

- J and W Recovery Shop 797-2457  
Upholstery--Auto Body  
Jean and Wayne Roberts
- Forest City Cow Palace 582-4646  
Auction every Wed. beginning at 6 p.m.
- First State Bank 896-2265  
Serving North Central Iowa  
Offices in Manly, Hanlontown, Ken-  
sett and Plymouth
- Flowers by McCoy 582-4517  
McCoy Nursery  
Flowers for all Occasions
- Old Mill Antiques 797-2490
- Worsley Electric 797-2494
- Burtness Plumbing and Heating 797-2680
- Fertile Meats and Groceries 797-2647  
Specializing in fresh meats and  
freezer orders
- Fertile Lumber and Hardware 797-2437  
Rent the Rug Doctor
- Larsen Plumbing and Heating 797-2219
- Fertile Feed Service 797-2242  
Complete Livestock Feed Needs  
Softner Salt, Dog & Cat Food
- Ray Jennings 454-2707  
Complete Auction Service
- Jordan's Midland Service 797-2677  
Complete Automotive Service
- Come Eat at Noah's Cafe 797-2410  
Monday through Saturday
- K and R Service 797-2440
- Ray Sandifer - Tom's Sales 797-2681
- Hoffman Crafts 797-2714  
701 West Main, Fertile
- Petal Shoppe 357-5030  
Flowers for every occasion 357-5026  
1714 7th Ave. N, Clear Lake
- Personal Touch Beauty Salon 797-2422  
Styling for Men & Women
- Creamery Resturant & Lounge 797-9685  
Specializing in Good Food

\* \* \* \* \*

*\* CHEESE DISTRIBUTION \**

Cheese only will be distributed this month. Distribution Day will be at the Community Center on January 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't forget, if you are picking up cheese for another household, you must have a signed note from that household authorizing you to act on their behalf, as well as the required information.

My deep appreciation and thanks extends throughout this community for all your gifts cards, visits and especially your prayers during my surgery and recuperation. The love you have shown to my family and to me makes us so grateful we live in a community like Fertile. You're wonderful! Love and thank you.

Sharon Ganz

*\* CHEMICAL ABUSE MEETING \**

There will be a town meeting Mon., Jan. 16, at 7 pm at the Community Center sponsored by the Chemical People Committee. Youn people who have been involved with chemical and alcohol abuse will be speaking. This wi be a very infomative meeting, all those who are interested in the welfare of all kids ar encouraged and urged to attend.

NOTICE: If you are interested in a brochure describing a trip to the Holy Land (which will include the Passion Play at Oberammurgau), June 18-28, please contace Denny Ganz, Fertile, 797-2455.

*CHURCH OF CHRIST*

- 9:30 a.m. -- Bible School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship Service
- Jan. 15th - Potluck Dinner with Annual Meeting following
- Jan. 19-20th - High School students will visit Central Christian College, Moberly, MO

Special thanks to all our friends and neighbors who have been so kind since the death of our husband and father.

Janet Volk, Craig and Kristin

I wish to express my thanks to my relatives and friends for their visits, cards, and gifts while I was in the hospital. A special thanks to our minister and his wife Denny and Sharon Ganz. It was all greatly appreciated.

Clarence Low

The Fertile City Council met Jan. 3, 1984. The City Clerk administered the oath of office to council members C. Petersen, M. Schultze, F. Hare and mayor, Larry Shropshire. Council members, J. Bailey and E. Hall were present. Others present were C. Nedved and F. Holland.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

F. Holland explained remaining engineering fees due Wallace & Holland. Clerk reported how bill could be paid. Mr. Holland asked for interest on the bill - 1 yr. at 13%. Motion to offer Wallace & Holland \$8,000 as final payment on water and sewer engineering fees due them. Carried.

C. Nedved was present to ask about work on noise problems at Fertile Feed Service. City Attorney will contact them to see what is being done.

Motion to appoint J. Greve as City Attorney. Carried.

Motion to increase amount paid to Fertile Reminder for publishing city minutes and balance sheet to \$15. Carried.

Motion to have Elaine Gundacker assist clerk with budget preparation and work throughout the year. Carried.

Discussion on liability of dog owners' for accidents caused by their dogs.

Mayor Shropshire appointed the following commissioners: Weed Commissioner - Schultze, Sewer Commissioner - Petersen, Street Commissioner - Bailey, Water Commissioner - Hall and Park Commissioner - Hare.

Bailey was appointed Mayor Pro Tem.

Clerk will contact T. Elthon about washing behind the Fertile dam.

Council discussed snow removal ordinance for Main St. and also ordinance regarding snow removal from sidewalks.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Council discussed possibility of heating gym on Saturdays.

Meeting adjourned. Janice Hare  
City Clerk

Next regular council meeting will be held on Feb. 7, 1984, at the library.

If you have anything really valuable to contribute to the world it will come through your personality, that single spark of divinity that sets you off and makes you different from every other living creature.

Bruce Barton

\* DECEMBER BALANCE SHEET \*

Expenditures

Janice Hare	217.73
Dick Sheimo	325.16
David Low	282.23
Evelyn Knudsen	222.66
Waste Systems Corp.	603.00
Winn. RTA	75.70
Peoples Natural Gas	364.69
Interstate Power Company	664.38
City of Fertile	51.00
Ipers FOAB	147.53
Treas. - State of Iowa	80.48
Basic Materials Corp.	96.53
Co-op Services, Inc.	7.54
Anchor Publishing Co.	138.38
Matt Parrott & Sons	57.59
DeLong Sub. Agency	21.00
Flower & Garden	10.00
Controller's Data Processing	.84
Heiman	39.00
Fertile Meat and Groceries	47.18
Minn. Valley Testing Lab	10.00
Worsley Electric	38.80
Smeal Fire Equipment Co.	26.00
Krieger's	15.00
Jordan's	210.00
Fertile Lumber & Hardware	11.00
Leonard Bailey	35.75
Larsen Plumbing & Heating	122.50
Lawrence Jenkins	4.00
Randa Lundgren	35.00
Vesta Kuns	35.00
Janice Hare	35.00
Fred Hare	120.00
Eugene Hall	150.00
Jean VanDenBosch	110.00
JoAnn Bailey	100.00
Larry Burtness	80.00
K & R Gas	45.00
Evelyn Knudsen	20.00
Vesta Kuns	10.00
Lonnie Bailey	45.00
Lester Burtness	70.00
Allen Berg	70.00
Richard Alton	45.00
Brian Hall	40.00
First State Bank	1,156.24
B. Dalton	73.74
T. Bouregy & Co.	24.90
Outdoor Life	23.90
Family Bookshelf	13.00
Fin & Feather	10.00

Total 6,239.91

Total Receipts 9,615.17

Sweetheart Dana Feb. 10