

Fertile Reminder

March
1984

3rd Annual Variety Show Spotlight on Fertile

Saturday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.
at the Fertile Community Center.

Tickets: \$2.00

Children under 5 free.

Coffee, punch, and bars served.

All proceeds to go to support the
Community Center.

Come and enjoy the show!

FIRSTS IN FERTILE

The first marriage was that of Marcus O. Blackmore and Louise Fankell which took place July 2, 1868.

The first death was that of a daughter of Luther Place in the winter of 1856-57. The roads were so badly blocked by drifting snows that it was necessary for a man to walk to Mason City and bring a coffin to Fertile on a hand sled.

The first school was a summer term taught in 1860 by Phoebe Dennis. She had five scholars.

The first breaking in the township was done by Gabriel Pence, for William Rhodes for a garden.

The first blacksmith was David W. Fisher.

The first wheat was raised by William K. Fankell in 1859. He had some fifteen acres of it, and it is reported he had an excellent return for his labors.

The first Norwegian school was taught by Betsy Resta during the summer of 1873.

As a reminiscence of that terrible winter of 1856-57, it is frequently told that all of the provisions for this little settlement had to be brought from Mason City on hand sleds.

The first religious services in the township were held at the schoolhouse during the summer of 1867. The Rev. James Williams preached the sermon and conducted the services. They organized a Sunday school and these services continued for about five years.

During the Fall of 1871 the Scandinavian settlers held their first service at the house of A. Halvorsen by the Rev. T. A. Torgesen.

The cemetery of the Lutheran Society was bought by K. Paulson from J. C. Calhoun in the Fall of 1874. The first to be interred in this cemetery was Carl Johan a son of G. K. Daley.

The village was platted during the year 1877 and a plat thereof filed for record August 21 of the same year.

Thomas Emsley of Mason City was the owner of the town site and sold

the first lot to Grove and Kirk on October 5, 1877.

The first store was opened in 1872 by Ole Ouverson. In 1874 he took K. Paulson as a partner for one year.

Halvor Ouverson commenced the business of blacksmithing in 1875. He also did wagon and general repair work. He invented some of the machinery he used in his business.

Gunder K. Daley also conducted a blacksmith and wagon shop. He built an 18x24 foot shop 10 feet high and continued his work there until 1880 when it was blown down by a tornado. He then erected a new building 24x42 feet to which he added a wood working room and a grindstone room where he polished the steel part of plows. The machinery of his shop was run by horse power.

Dr. J. R. Jones was the first physician, arriving in 1878 and in 1879 he put in the first drug store.

In 1875 the firm of Grove and Kirk bought out the Ouverson store and Mr. Grove as postmaster conducted the office in this store.

The first election in Fertile township was held in the house of Warren Caswell on the first Tuesday of November, 1860. Only five votes were cast resulting in the election of the following officers: John Morris, supervisor; John Morris, Warren Caswell, William K. Fankell, trustees; William Rhodes, clerk; William J. Clark, assessor; William Rhodes and William Clark, justices of the peace; and William Fankell, constable.

The first election in the Town of Fertile was at the house of William Rhodes in October, 1861. Just six votes were cast.

George W. Wescott homesteaded 240 acres in Fertile township in 1868,

80 acres of which is still in the family, being the home of the S. W. Parker family.

The first persons in the county to be naturalized and receive their citizenship papers were Ole Knudson, Aaron Robinson, and Soren Banson in 1860.

FERTILE BUSINESS MEN

(Taken from a poem written March 7, 1900

By E. E. Brown

(Courtesy Mrs. Paul Humphrey)

G. J. Bolton—dry goods and groceries
Thompson Bros.—dry goods and groceries

O. K. Gesme—dry goods and groceries
A. A. Elthon—dry goods and groceries
A. A. Grove—from rubber boots to babies hoods

Dr. Nelson—druggist
Lang & Ouverson—hardware
Phillips & Co.—druggist
E. White & Ainsworth—furniture
J. F. Rhodes—bank

Wm. Rhodes & Son—Fertile Roller Mills

B. J. Booth—hotel
Have Goodell—meat market
Cartwright—photography
Dr. Jones—druggist

George Barker—restaurant
J. A. Johnson—creamery
Roe Van Note—blacksmith
Joe Dostal—harness shop
W. E. Scctt—barber shop
Louis Stokke—shoemaker shop
Geo. Humphrey—carpenter
Anderson Bros.—livery barn
Nels Jorgenson—cabinet maker
V. S. Maurseth—jeweler
G. K. Daley—blacksmith

To Our Friends

If nobody smiled and nobody cheered,
and nobody helped us along,
If every man looked after himself,
and good things went to the strong,
If nobody cared just a little for you,
and nobody thought about me,
And we all stood alone in the battle of life,
What a dreary old world it would be.
Life is sweet just because of the friends
we have made and the things which in
common we share;
We want to live on, not because of ourselves
but because of the people who care.
It's giving and doing for somebody else—on
that all life's splendor depends;
And the joy of the world, when you have
summed it all up,
Is found in the making of friends.
Selected.

MARCH IS NATIONAL EYE BANK MONTH

The name Eye Bank is a misnomer for it is not a place to store eyes, but acts as a clearing house for the person donating his eyes to be used after death and the person needing a corneal transplant to restore or improve vision. The most important function of the Eye Bank is to bring the patient, surgeon, and donor cornea together in the least possible time.

The Lions of Iowa have supported the Iowa Lions Eye Bank since its beginning in 1955. During this time over 2,000 corneal transplants have been performed. Over 90% of the corneal transplants are successful. These recipients are seeing today because someone was thoughtful enough to donate their eyes to be used after death.

The following are quotes from some happy recipients:

"A prayer, a miracle and a thank you--that's my story. How do you express your gratitude to an eye donor you will never see or know?"

"I am so happy that I can see, words can't really describe my feelings. Everyone was so nice to me while I was there. I am painting pillow cases and folks can't believe that I was handicapped by sight. I saw my granddaughter for the first time, she's going on three years. What a thrill!!!!"

Here is how one family felt about donating eyes of a loved one. "My 14 year-old nephew died as a result of a tractor accident. His mother was at the hospital but she was not asked if his eyes or any of his organs could be used. She wishes someone would have asked. It would give her some comfort now."

Eye Donor cards are available by contacting your local Lions Club, or the Iowa Lions Eye Bank, University of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

PROCLAMATION

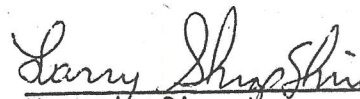
WHEREAS, hundreds of successful human corneal transplants have been performed in Iowa, restoring the priceless Gift of Sight; and

WHEREAS, this great work was made possible in great part by the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and the bequest gifts of many persons who directed that their eyes be used for restoring sight to others after their death; and

WHEREAS, this Eye Bank depends entirely upon bequests by persons who wish to leave behind them the Gift of Sight; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting we should recognize this great understanding and need for providing a means of enabling it to help others.

THEREFORE, I proclaim March Eye Donor Month in Iowa and commend this observance to our citizens.


Mayor's Signature

3/17/84
Date



FERTILE Creamery
School THE SPRING OF 1917



GEORGE McENELLY AND FAMILY

KENTUCKY JACK

In the early 1900's a small man named Jack Taylor came to town and having no money to provide a home for himself slept where he could. Many times he slept in Andrew Johnson's barn and in Orin Calhoun's barn. He bought his food when he earned a little money but had many a free meal at someone's table. He loved the river and tried to enforce the fish and game laws. When he became too old and feeble to care for himself he was taken to the county home where he spent his last days. He could neither read nor write but talked much of Kentucky, thus earning for himself the name of "Kentucky Jack".



ANDREW HENNIS AND THREE CHILDREN — 1897

This month's issue of the Reminder is featuring THE 3RD ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW, using the theme, Spotlight on Fertile. The show promises to be a delightful evening. Co-Chairmen of the event are Nance Sheimo and Zelda Suby.

Putting on a show of this kind involves many hours of planning. To make it successful requires many volunteers--from cleaning the building to being in the show. One job is as important as another.

The building will be cleaned on Wed., March 21, starting at 9 am. Bring your pails, scrub rags and mops and HELP get the job done.

The Fertile Band is in charge of putting up and taking down the chairs. They will also take part in the program.

Other highlights of the evening are: Ma and Pa Putsey making a return visit, The Nelson Family, many assorted skits, lots of music and laughter. There will be something of interest to everyone. A salute goes to Nance and Zelda and a pat on the back to everyone who is taking part.

See all of you March 24, 7:30 pm, at the Fertile Community Center!!!

Ruth B. Oувerson

NOAH'S CAFE

March Breakfast Special

Monday--Saturday

5:30 AM to 9:00 AM

2 eggs, 2 cakes, toast, coffee

\$1.75

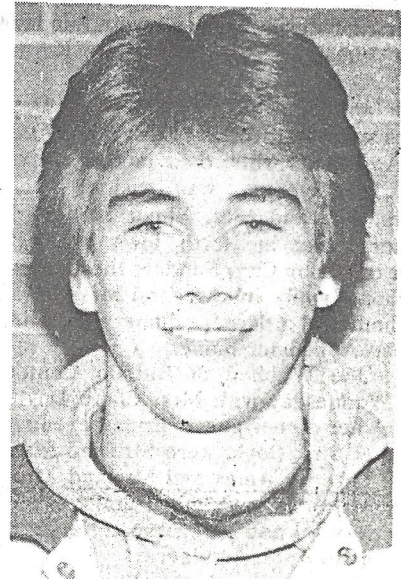
CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICE--24 hour phone--424-9133.

MARCH DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT SURPLUS cheese and dried milk will take place March 15 from 11 am to 4 pm at the Community Center. If you are picking up the commodities for another household, you must have a signed note authorizing you to act on their behalf, as well as the required information.

FERTILE FUN FLICKS at the Community Center March 17 and 31 at 7 pm.

LOTS OF GOOD CLOTHING is available at the Community Center, open every afternoon.

CONGRATULATIONS, TROY HALL, for a job well done. Troy had a great year wrestling and made it all the way to the State Tournament.



TROY HALL

FOR SALE: Maple coffee table, 54 x 20, two drawers, good condition. \$60, 797-2785.

Fertile Lumber and Hardware 797-2437
Rent the Rug Doctor

Fertile Feed Service 797-2242
Complete Livestock Needs
Softner Salt, Dog & Cat Food

Ray Jennings 454-2707
Complete Auction Service

Larson Plumbing and Heating 797-2219

Jordan's Midland Service 797-2677
Complete Automotive Service

Petal Shoppe--Flowers for Every Occasion
1714 7th Ave. N, Clear Lake 357-5030
Free delivery to hospitals 357-5026

K and R Service 797-2440

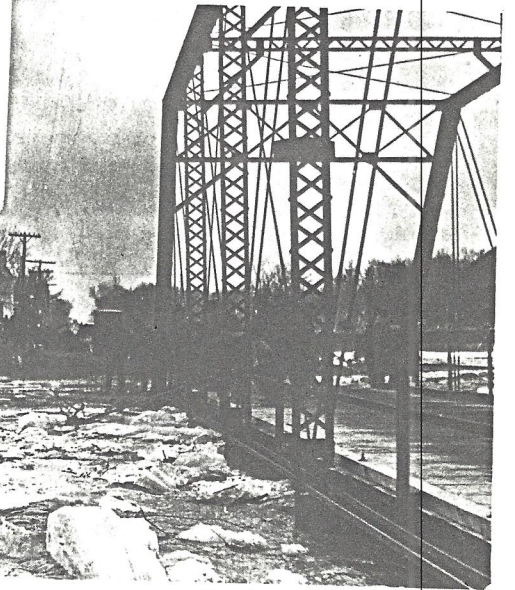
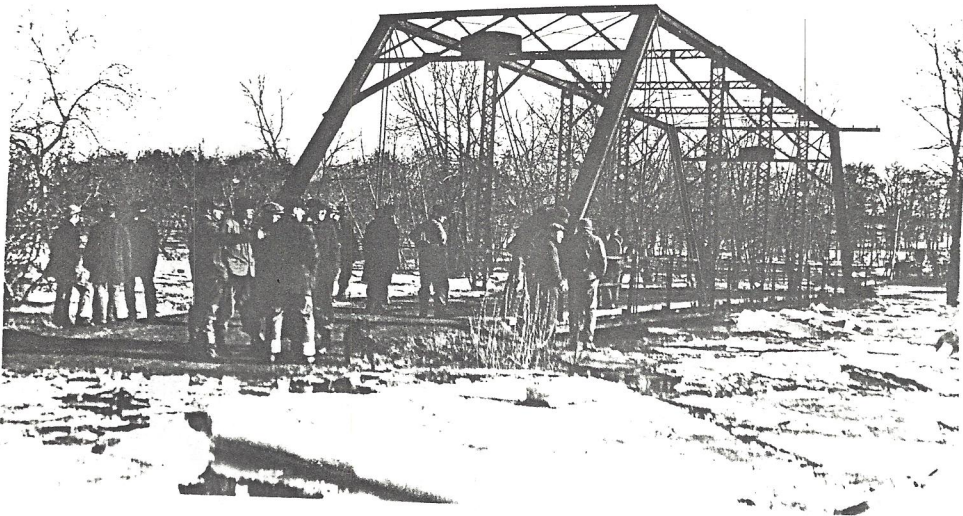
Ray Sandifer--Tom's Sales 797-2681

J and W Recovery Shop 797-2457
Upholstery - Auto Body
Jean and Wayne Roberts

Forest City Cow Palace 582-4646
Auction every Wednesday

Worsley Electric 797-2494

Spring
of
1917



THE FERTILE VALLEY FARMERS 4-H CLUB met on Monday, Feb. 20, at the Community Center. Richie Zirbel called the meeting to order. Members present were: Richie Zirbel, Shawn Lovick, Kevin Peterson, Dick Bruns, John Seglem, Jeff Kleveland, Alvino Ramon, Josh Grossnickle, John Kirschbaum, Matthew Biretz and Eric Amondson. We talked about carnival night at the Mason City Fair Grounds being held Saturday night. Our club was notified that we would be having a Frisbee Throwing Station. We talked about who would work there and what prizes would be handed out. Also discussed was a concession stand at Ed Kirschbaum's auction, working at a dog show to earn some extra money, cleaning the Community Center instead of a donation.

Richie Zirbel gave a presentation on trapping. Carol Kleveland served lunch and the meeting was adjourned.

Jeff Kleveland, Reporter

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE SUPPER

Saturday, April 7th

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fertile Community Center

Sponsored by the Lions Club

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO

FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER

FERTILE BALL DIAMOND

Mark your calendar now for this supper sponsored by the Lions Club with proceeds going to the Community Center and the Ball Diamond. Don't forget--April 7th, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.!!!!

Several factors are involved in the Council's decision to move all organizational meetings, family gatherings, etc., from the Library to the Community Center. Perhaps the most over-riding factor is the fact that the Library has "growing pains"--for which we all ought to be glad. More and more room is being taken up by books and the various functions of the Library--the reasons for its very existence. The Library and the City own some equipment that is housed in the Library, and the City Clerk's office is there, as are all the records belonging to the City.

Since we have very adequate facilities in

the Community Center to handle these various functions, the Council has decided to discontinue use of the Library and move them to the Center. We believe this to be the most efficient and the best use of the facilities available to the total community.

* * CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS * *

Mar. 15 & 16 - Visitation at Minnesota Bible College for 9th and 10th graders, all details on the bulletin board at the church building

Mar. 16 & 17 - Youth rally at North Grand Church of Christ in Ames for high school young people. Fri. evening & Sat. morning

Mar. 23 & 24 - Friday evening through Saturday afternoon youth rally for grades 6-12 at Church of Christ in Austin.

Mar. 26 - Christian Workers meeting at the home of Penny Miller with lesson by Nancy Ouverson.

Mar. 30 - Afternoon Christian Workers meeting at the church.

Mar. 31 - Youth rally at Church of Christ in Cedar Falls for grades 7-12, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Apr. 1 - We will have our annual All-Church Birthday Party at 5:30 p.m., with birthday offerings to go to the Phillipine Christian Mission. Dan Lundgren of Cherokee, who has just returned from a 4-year ministry in Australia will show slides and tell us about the churches down under as the special program. The program will begin about 6:30 p.m.

* * LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS * *

Fertile - Worship-9 am; Chris. Ed.-10:15 am
P. Knob - Worship-10:30; Chris. Ed.-9:15 am

Circle Meetings

Ruth	3/20	7:30 pm	Diane Lovick
Esther	3/21	1:30 pm	Vivian Handeland
Mary	3/22	9:30 am	L. Petersburg @ church
Reb.	3/22	2:00 pm	V. Purcell @ church
Ruth	3/26	7:30 pm	Zelpha Wilhelm
Sarah	3/26	7:30 pm	Zelda Suby

Lenten Worship Schedule - Mar. 7, 7:30 pm (PK); Mar. 8, 7:30 pm (F); Mar. 14, 7:30 pm (PK); Mar. 15, 7:30 pm (F); Mar. 21, 7:30 pm (PK); Mar. 22, 7:30 pm (F), Mar. 28, 7:30 pm (PK); Mar. 29, 7:30 pm (F).

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WALKERS, RUNNERS, JOGGERS, PEDESTRIANS - Section 321.326 of the Code of Iowa states that all pedestrians must walk on or along the left side of the highway. ALWAYS face the traffic--NEVER walk or run with your back to the traffic. By facing on-coming vehicles, you can see where they are and what they are doing. When walking with your back to the traffic, you have no way of knowing if the driver has seen you (he/she might have been blinded by the sun and have no idea you are on the road). Since it is the law, and if you were to have an accident, you would have no legal protection if you were walking anywhere on the highway other than the left edge.

- First State Bank 896-2265
 Serving North Central Iowa
 Office in Hanlontown, Kensett,
 Plymouth and Manly
- Burtness Plumbing and Heating 797-2680
- Hoffman Crafts 797-2714
 Harold Hoffman, 701 W Main

A SINCERE THANK YOU to each one that remembered us for our 50th wedding anniversary February 20th. Luverne and Reva Nelson

WORK WANTED: Spring housecleaning, laundry.
 Phone: 797-2695, nights.

THANK YOU, DEB MORSE, for doing the calligraphy on the front page of this month's Reminder.

REMEMBER, SWEETHEART DANCE, March 16th. You can still send in your money if you haven't done so.

- Creamery Restaurant and Lounge 797-9685
 Specializing in good food
- Personal Touch Beauty Salon 797-2422
 Styling for Men and Women
- Flowers by McCoy-McCoy Nursery 582-4517
 Flowers for all Occasions
- Fertile Meats & Groceries 797-2647
 Specializing in Fresh Meats
 and Freezer Orders
- Come Eat at Noah's Cafe 797-2410
 Monday through Saturday

Old Mill Antiques 797-2490

THE GRANT LIVEWIRE LASSIES had their regular meeting Monday, Feb. 20. Seven girls were present. Serving of 2 auctions and participation in the Variety Show were discussed. Sara Seglem gave a demonstration on how to make padded picture albums. Each girl then started one as a Fair project. Alisa Pederson and Marilyn Lee gave a presentation on Parliamentary Procedure. Gloria Kirschbaum showed how to make a party favor out of a napkin and each girl made one. Hostesses were Sara, Sandy and Carrie Seglem.

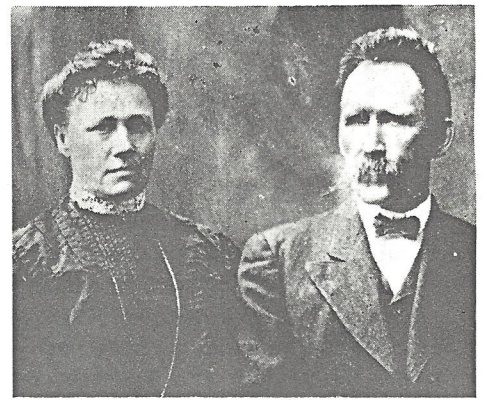
Saturday night, Feb. 25, the Grant Live-wire Lassies took part in the 4-H County Carnival held annually at the Fair Grounds in Mason City. Money raised at the event is used to fund county 4-H events during the year. The booth won 1st prize, it was titled IRISH PARTY.

The award winners at the annual 4-H Awards Night were: Kirstin Sunde-Food Preparation; Sara Seglem-Outstanding Senior, Minneapolis trip, Member of county teen council, Livestock Achievement, 7-year member; Rene Durregger-Rabbit, Woodworking, Visual Arts; Julie Ouverson-Outstanding Intermediate; Marilyn Lee-Reading, Club Leadership, Outstanding Senior, Minneapolis trip, 7-year member; Sandra Bruns-Outstanding Intermediate; Michelle Lee-Sheep, Veterinary Science; Denise Hagen-Outstanding Junior; Kelli Lovick-Outstanding Junior; Sandy Seglem-Club Leadership; Alisa Pederson-6-year member; Domenie Zirbel-6-year member.

INTRODUCING
 MORSE ELECTRIC
 Box 24
 Fertile, IA
 OWNER: Scott Morse
 A Licensed Electrician
 with 12 years experience
 AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL
 Day or Night
 797-2434
 Quality Work at a Price You Can Afford



CHARLEY A. McENELLY AND FAMILY — TAKEN IN 1898



MR. AND MRS. E. E. BROWN
Taken About 1906

Ed Brown operated the first meat market in Fertile, for a short time in 1896, and 1897.



MR. T. R. GASKILL AND FAMILY



MR. AND MRS. JAMES PURCELL AND FAMILY.



MR. AND MRS. HALVOR GROVEM
AND FAMILY

The Fertile City Council met March 6 at the Library with Mayor Shropshire presiding and council members Hare, Schultze, Petersen and Hall present. Others present were two representatives of the Chemical Dependency Services at Forest City, Leonard Bailey and Frances Holland.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Request for revenue sharing funds was received from Chemical Dependency Services and they explained their services and funding.

Council and Frances Holland discussed remaining engineering fees on water project. Motion to amend the motion of Jan., 1984, to read two equal payments, one due July 1, 1984 and one due July 1, 1985, was made. Carried.

Motion to renew liquor license for the Creamery Restaurant and Lounge. Carried.

Revenue sharing requests were received from Fertile Boy's Little League, Fertile Girl's Softball, Fertile Senior Citizens, Chemical Dependency Center of Forest City, Crisis Intervention Center of Mason City. Motion was made to distribute the revenue sharing funds for 1984-85 as follows: Fertile Boy's Little League-\$100; Fertile Girl's Softball-\$100; Chemical Dependency Services-\$100; Crisis Intervention Center-\$100; Fertile Senior Citizens-\$100; Park and Recreation-\$350; Water-\$926; Sewer-\$926. Carried.

Motion to accept budget for fiscal year 1984-85 as presented. Carried.

Motion to renew fidelity bond at Hantontown Insurance Agency. Carried.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare, City Clerk

February Balance Sheet
Expenditures

Randy Harms	10.00
Postmaster	20.00
Janice Hare	217.73
Evelyn Knudsen	185.02
Randy Harms	10.00
Co-op Services, Inc.	143.02
David Low	282.01
Dick Sheimo	326.45
Janice Hare (mileage)	30.00
Larsen Plumbing & Heating	13.07
Burtness Plumbing & Heating	301.70
City of Fertile	51.00
University Hygienic Lab	18.00

Worsley Electric	164.00
Sa - So	154.90
Stillman, Goranson, Stone & Lovell	100.00
K & R Gas	14.60
Fertile Meats & Groceries	5.16
Yelland & Hanes	10.05
Interstate Power Co.	745.09
Waste Systems Corp.	603.00
Winn. RTA	27.03
Peoples Natural Gas	453.33
Ipers FOAB	157.07
Treas. - State of Iowa	74.40
Wallace, Holland, Kastler & Schmitz	2,872.92
TOTAL	6,989.55
RECEIPTS	4,699.87

NEW BOOKS AT THE FERTILE LIBRARY

Adult Non-fiction

Best of James Herriott-James Herriott
Spaghetti from the Chandelier-Ruth Truman
Approaching Hoofbeats-Billy Graham
Organized Executive-Stephanie Winston
Love Must Be Tough-Dr. James C. Dobson
Mary's Boy-Shirlee Monty

Adult Fiction

Winter Wife-Jessica Averbach
Myself My Enemy-Jean Plaidy
Sister Wives-Cleo Jones
Salt Line-Elizabeth Spencer
Other Karen-Velda Johnston

New Paperbacks

Planting Season-Dorothy Garlock
Pony Express-Donald Porter
Utah (Wagon's West)-Dana Ross
Dakotas-Kathryn Davis
Seeds of Yesterday-V.C. Andrews

Diabetes: Controlling It The Easy Way
by Stanley Mirsky - Donated by Reva Nelson