

Fertile Reminder

May
1984



LEO ELTHON

In addition to having had a part in the civic progress of local and county government, Fertile has also contributed to the affairs of the state of Iowa, especially through the person of Leo Elthon who has a long and distinguished record of service in the government of Iowa.

Leo Elthon was born in Fertile, June 9, 1898. He was graduated from the Fertile high school in 1917. Later he attended the Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn.; State Teachers College, Cedar Falls; and Hamilton's University of Commerce, Mason City. He taught manual training and athletics at Clear Lake, in 1918 and later was principal in the high school at Fertile. He has been engaged in farming and quarrying.

On February 28, 1922, he married Synneva Hjelmeland of Fertile. They have two sons and four daughters. Mr. Elthon served in the State Senate in the 45th, 45th Extra, 46th, 46th Extra, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 50th Extra, 51st, 52nd, 52nd Extra, 53rd, and 54th sessions. He was elected Lieutenant Governor, November 1952, and re-elected November 1954. November 22, 1954, he was sworn in as Governor of Iowa on the death of Governor Beardsley.



Published in
1956

OTHERS IN FERTILE

Andrew A. Elthon came to Fertile in 1893 and started up with \$36.00 worth of merchandise and being a successful merchant soon built a general store. This was a very successful venture and he continued in business for many years. When he retired, his son, Thelan, continued on with the business and is to this day one of the progressive merchants of Fertile.

Ole Haugen came to this part of the country in 1886 and being an experienced stone mason he built the foundation of the present Lutheran church and also the mill race at the mill.

For a short time Bryants ran a hotel in the house now occupied by the Enos Seglem family.

Later on, the house just west of the lumber yard, now owned by John Ouverson, was used as a hotel. A stage coach operated from here to Mason City and back and a hack plied between here and Hanlontown. Mr. E. E. Brown operated this hotel for many years. Mr. B. J. Booth was one of the last hotel operators here.

The first to operate a meat market in Fertile was E. E. Brown, then Ellert Erickson, then Have Goodell, Nels Fjeld and then E. E. Brown again, Carl Lock, then Carl Schriehans. These men did their own slaughtering and were kept busy. Mort Haugen purchased this business from Schriehans and added a wholesale bologna business to the retail selling and operated until 1941 when meat was rationed during World War II, at which time he moved to the old Jake Rodberg farm. He sold the meat market building to Lawrence (Bud) Jenkins who established an appliance business here and is successfully operating at the present time.

Fertile's first barber was a negro, W. E. Scott, who had a shaving mug for each customer with their name on. Other barbers have been Merle Logue, Chas. Eikenbary, Clarence Faulken, Chas. McEnelly, Chas. Peterson, H. Nyhus, Hines and others. The present barber is Edgar Janson.

(The following quoted from "Souvenir" published in 1908)

"The past twenty years has wrought many changes in Fertile and the future holds out even more for it. Situated as it is in one of the best farming and stock-raising sections of the country traversed by Beaver and Lime Rivers, affording excellent irrigation and pasturage and manned by a co-teric' of merchants of the "do or die" character, whose aggressiveness mate well with their progressiveness, and with the new enterprises which are continually springing up and maturing, it is destined in the near future to eclipse all its former records of progress and prosperity. With it's Mill, Brick and Tile Works, Peat Plant, Co-op Lumber Yard, Co-op Creamery, strong financial institution, three general merchandise stores, hardware store, drug store, furniture store, two blacksmith shops, hotel, barber and shoe shops, splendid school and church buildings, it stands out preeminently a beacon light throwing its rays in every direction attracting trade beyond its territory. The town was incorporated April 7, 1908, and the following officers installed: Mayor, E. M. Lang; councilmen, A. A. Elthon, P. J. Ouverson, J. A. Johnson, J. A. Ellefson, O. H. Rholl; clerk, C. Eikenbary; treasurer, J. F. Rhodes; assessor, G. A. Rye. All are representative businessmen, enthusiastic in the advancement line, and well acquit themselves in their usual characteristic manner. It is proposed to first establish a grade, after which new sidewalks will be constructed; a "new dress" donned, so to speak, and an invitation extended to new enterprises, relying upon their past achievements and future prospects, which were never more effulgent than at the present day, to accomplish that for which they have so long sought supremacy in every sense of the word."

The town was first called Rhodes Mill and then called by the nickname of Putsy for many years. When a name was to be officially adopted, Fontanelle and Blaine were both favorably considered, but in spite of this, the name Fertile was made official.

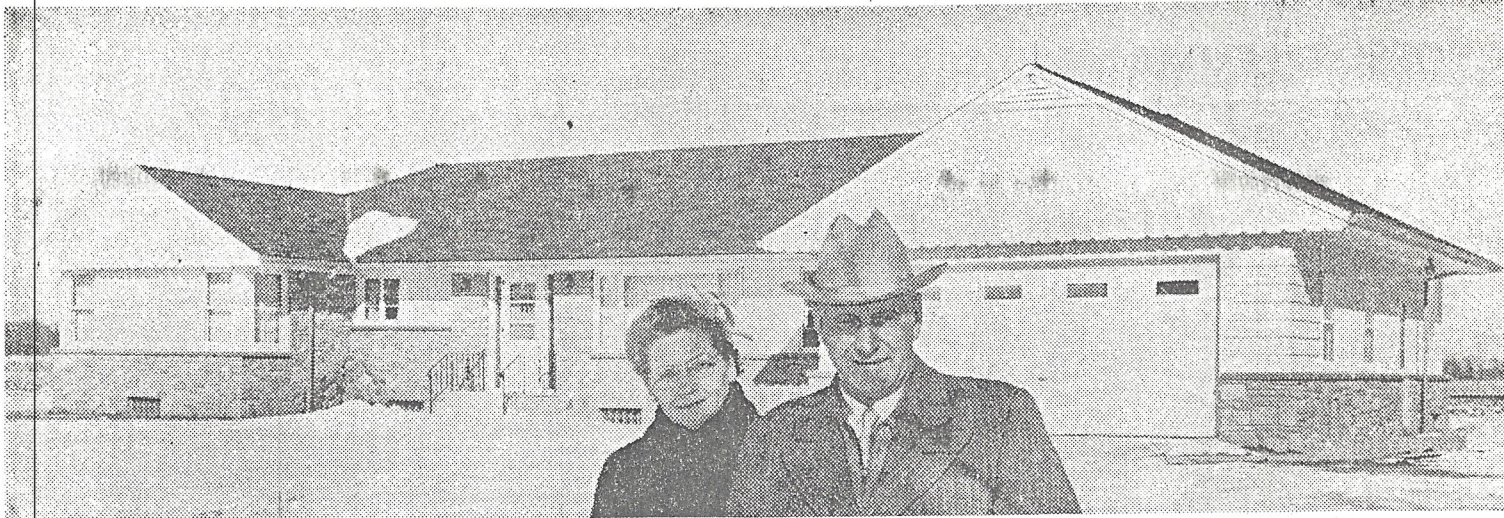
Sometime in the past years our winding stream has changed names from Lime Creek to the official name of Winnebago River.

In 1891 the Fertile bank began doing business in a spacious wood frame building in almost the same spot where the present brick bank building stands. The old bank building was moved south of the Church of Christ and is the home of the Stanley Peterson family.

The first bank officers were I. R. Kirk, president; J. R. Jones, vice-president; J. F. Rhodes, cashier. After Mr. Rhodes retired as cashier the following served in that capacity until the bank closed leaving Fertile without a financial institution; Clarence Thompson, T. O. Groe, Lloyd Huso, Ed Rungland.

After William Rhodes and son retired from active mill work the following men have run the mill: John Buhner, Frank Lock, Alan Murphy, Lewis Foster, Leo Stokke who served as miller while the mill was owned by Leo Elthon and Dewey Ouverson. The next miller was Ivan Deuel and at present the mill is owned by Harold Atchison and Virgil Ouverson is the miller. Down through the years the flour mill has been changed to a feed mill and much feed for cattle, hogs and chickens is prepared here. In 1929, when owned by Elthon and Ouverson, the old dam washed out and a strong concrete dam was put in and the mill modernized. Thelan Elthon was helping clean out the mill pond in preparation for the new dam at this

time, when, in turning over a large stone, he found a five-cent piece dated 1858, evidently placed there by William Rhodes when he repaired the dam.



NEW HOME NEAR FERTILE—Mr. and Mrs. Elthon stand before their new ranch-style home overlooking Fertile. The home, located a mile north of the business district, stands atop a gently rising hill. Elthon is a native of the Fertile area.

A Political Veteran Speaks of Roads, Lifers and Laws

By **ROLF HOFSTAD**
Globe-Gazette Staff Writer

FERTILE — Iowa's lieutenant governor, seated in his favorite chair in his new home on a hill overlooking this small North Iowa town, talked about matters very near to his heart.

He talked of prisoners now serving life terms without hope of parole; of capital punishment; of the sale of liquor; of the drinking driver; of highway speeding; of toll roads; and a remark he made in his state of the state message to the Legislature.

Leo Elthon—20-year veteran in the Iowa Senate, lieutenant governor and past governor for 53 days—is a man deeply concerned with the welfare of the people of Iowa. A strong churchman and a regular Sunday School teacher, the lieutenant governor takes a serious view of life.

During his interim term as governor one of the problems facing him was the appeals of 21 lifers now at Ft. Madison. When Elthon took over following the sudden death of Governor William S. Beardsley he found their requests on the chief executive's desk.

Iowa Lifers

After careful study and consultation he commuted the sentences of 17, affording them a chance to become eligible for parole. Under Iowa law no lifer now can expect parole. The initial move must come from the governor.

This, Elthon feels, is not right. When he became lieutenant governor he created a committee to survey the field and come up with a bill. That bill provides that any lifer after serving 15 years would have his record surveyed by the parole board, without any action on the governor's part.

That such a law is necessary goes back to the time of Gov. Nels Kraschel, who pardoned a number of prisoners and was severely criticized. That was the main reason Kraschel was defeated, according to Elthon, by Gov. Wilson in 1938.

This political defeat made subsequent chief executives shy away from pardons and commutations. Wilson commuted one sentence and admitted later that he had been too harsh, Elthon said. Hick-enlooper, Blue and Beardsley commuted or pardoned few.

On Liquor

On the matter of serving liquor by the drink the lieutenant governor takes this positive stand: "I am opposed because it makes liquor easier to get. As a life-long dry, I feel the state should do nothing to make it easier to get. The present law is working well. It is as good as that in any state."

Elthon also feels it should be unlawful to sell cooled beer to take out. That would stop a lot of road drinking, Elthon said.

As for the Iowa law penalizing the drinking driver, Elthon believes it is adequate. For a third conviction it makes a penitentiary sentence up to three years mandatory.

"The state should have a speed limit. Sixty is fast enough for anyone during the day and 50 at night," Elthon said. Elthon believes driving training in schools should be made mandatory.

Toll roads: Elthon favors one east and west.

Rueful Smile

Elthon ruefully smiled over one statement he made in his state of the state message. He said Iowans should not forget, in their rush to lure new industry, that the state is still dependent upon agriculture.

However, Elthon's preface—that industry should be developed and sought—was forgotten in the clamor which followed. It was a case of quoting only half a statement, the lieutenant governor said. But

he is used to this political danger. He has held public office since 1933.

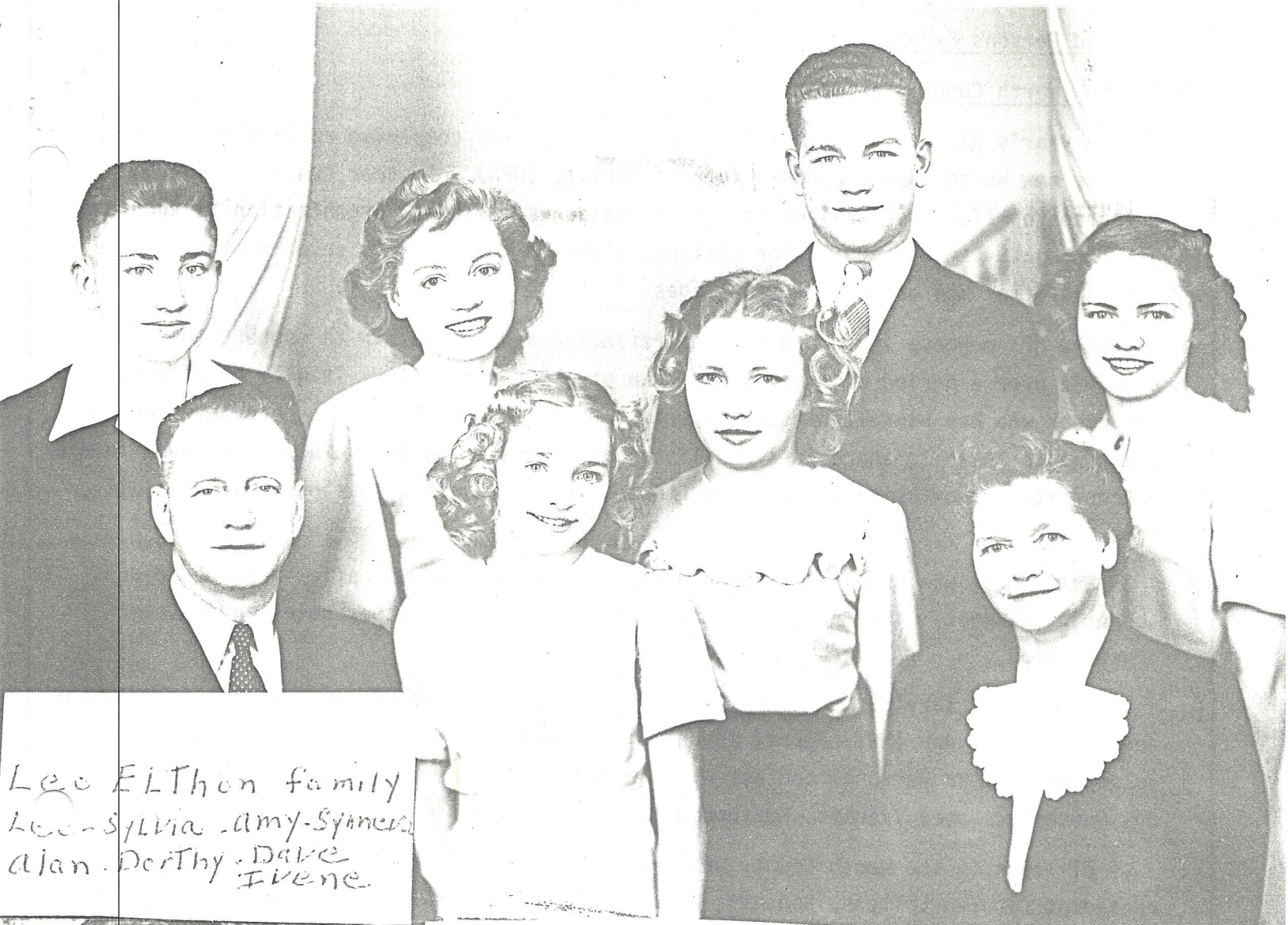
Those are some of the beliefs of a man who has been state senator, lieutenant governor and governor. There are few men in Iowa who know more about the practical aspects of political life.



Andrew Elthon
Family
Leo, Ada,
Mabel, Mabel
Ruth, Olena &
Andrew E. and
Esther.



Leo



Leo Elthon family
Leo - Sylvia - Amy - Synera
Alan - Dorothy - Dave
Irene



ELThon Groc.
Thelan LEO

Widowed Persons Service Begins

Serving Worth County Residents

A year's planning, organization, and training was completed earlier this month and the new Worth County Widowed Persons Service (WPS) volunteer support group is prepared to offer its services to county residents. The new organization is sponsored as a community service by senior citizens clubs in the county's seven communities for the benefit of men and women of all ages.

The WPS purpose is to provide understanding and friendship to support the newly bereaved over a period of time longer than others can provide. It will be offered by a volunteer who has himself/herself experienced widowhood. The volunteers have received training to learn to share loss and listen expertly, to guide the newly bereaved toward appropriate community resources when needed, and to maintain confidentiality at all times.

Only those who have experienced widowhood themselves will offer the one-to-one support. However, other non-widowed persons are active in other roles in the new organization.

To ask for service or make a referral, Worth county residents may call coordinator and team leader Joy (Mrs. Jerry) Buechele, Grafton, at 748-2322. Assignment of a volunteer to make personal contact will be made by one of three county team leaders -- Joy Buechele, Agnes Iverson, Northwood, or Harriet Ouverson, Fertile.

Officers in the Worth County WPS are president Lawrence Gesme, Hanlontown, vice president Carolyn Loftaas, Kensett, and secretary-treasurer Virginia Barker, Manly. Continuing training will be guided by training coordinator Allen Call, pastor of the Bethel United Methodist Church in Manly, site of the training meetings. The WPS historian is Beverly Metzger, Manly.

A 7-member board of directors represents the county's communities and provides input to officers, team leaders, and volunteers. Board members are: the Reverend Mark Gravdahl, Northwood; Sister Eunice Kane, Manly; LeNora Schott, Joice; Opal Amelien, Fertile; Walter Wagner, Grafton; Alice Tostenson, Kensett; and Fern Elvesether, Hanlontown.

WPS is a national organization. It was founded in 1973 by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the National Retired Teachers Association, (NRTA). A spokesman says they've found that if a volunteer "sticks with the newly widowed person for about a month or more, they're able to get themselves together enough so the volunteer can pull back and they can work their way through grief... Friends and family tend to want to rush through something like this...but a WPS volunteer is willing to allow the person to experience grief, to discuss their spouse, and to realize that it's okay to feel these things."

Any Worth County residents who want further information about WPS and its activities are invited to call any of the participants.

To those of you who are new to our area or too young to remember-- Leo Elthon was the father of Alan and Dave Elthon and brother of The- lan and Mabel Elthon who all live in Fertile. He also was the father of ~~Four~~ daughters--Ivene, Dorothy and Sylvia. Leo owned and operated the Rock Quarry for many years. He also owned the Lumber Yard for a time.

Amy

Leo represented our area as State Senator and then, Lt. Governor for many years. He was sworn in as Gov- ernor when Gov. Beardsly was killed in an auto accident.

Leo died in April, 1967.

Outstanding Senior Citizen

EDNA PEDERSON was selected as the outstanding Senior Citizen from Worth County in a recent contest sponsored by the North Central Iowa Area Agency on Aging. Each Senior Citizen's Club in Worth County had the privilege of nominating a member to represent their Club. The fol- lowing qualifications were used as a basis for the nomination and consi- deration of the judges:

1. Involvement with Senior Citi- zen's groups or Centers.
2. Participation in N.C.I.A.A. activities.
3. Contributions to their com- munity.
4. Noteworthy accomplishments.

The selection was made by a team of four judges at North Central Iowa Area Agency on Aging in Mason City.

Our Senior Citizen's Club was or- ganized in 1978. Edna helped organi- ze the club. She is the second one from our club to receive this honor. In 1979 Violet Hall was selected as the Outstanding Senior Citizen from Worth County.

Senior Day will be held at the NIACC campus in Mason City on May 31. The theme for the day will be "En- joying Life's Riches."

TROY BURKE BENEFIT-A rummage and bake sale is being planned for early June. We urge each of you to parti- cipate. Date to be announced later.

THANK YOU TO THE HALVERSON FAMILY for having their auction in Fertile. Many groups benefited from those 6 days.

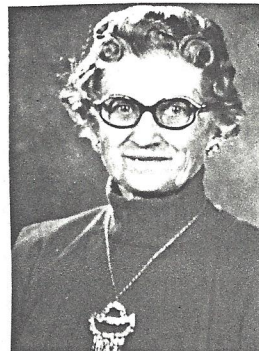
The Community Center received a check from the family for \$900. From food sales, the Sr. Citizens made \$450; Little League-\$200; Community Center Friends-\$700; and Girl's 4H-\$700. Most of the businesses in town experienced an increase in sales during the week of the auction. The few inconveniences caused by the sale were far outweighed by the benefits to our community.

THANK YOU, Margaret, Mickey and Craig!!

Ruth B. Oувerson

THE FERTILE GARDEN CLUB met in the Community Center on Tuesday, April 10, at 2 p.m. Roll call was "My most useful gardening gadget!" and was an- swered by 13 members. Thought for the day was read by Ethel Tuttle. Secretary's report was given and Treas- urer's report was read. Hostesses were Fern Midtgaard and Carrie Luther. Lessons were: "Putting Color in Your Flower Garden" by Synnova Hoffman, "Dividing and Planting Mums (includ- ing selecting early varieties)" by Alice Kingland. We ended our meet- ing by singing Happy Birthday to Violet Hall.

Reporter: Penny Miller



Edna Pederson

CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES are offered to the people of North Central Iowa who are victims of domes- tic violence, sexual abuse or rape. Do you need HELP? Call 424-9133-- 24 hour service.

FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE 797-2437
Rent the Rug Doctor

COUNCIL MEETING

The Fertile City Council met May 1 with Mayor Shropshire presiding and council members Hall, Hare, Schultze, Petersen and Bailey present. Others present were Reva Nelson and Les Burtness.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Request for an intake at the south end of Lake St. Motion to have water intake hooke up. Carried.

Request to have street signs put back and to have missing ones replaced. Council will have them put up.

Dog owners are still a problem in Fertile. Complaints received again regarding loose dogs, barking dogs and also cats in some parts of town.

Discussion on possibility of a new fire barn.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Street lights on Main Street need repair. Motion to have street light wiring repaired. Carried.

Council discussed the possibility of having a substitute maintenance man.

Meeting adjourned.

Jan Hare, City Clerk

APRIL BALANCE SHEET

Janice Hare	217.73
Evelyn Knudsen	191.30
David Low	282.23
Dick Sheimo	395.25
City of Fertile	51.00
Interstate Power Co.	676.05
Waste Systems Corp.	603.00
Winnebago RTA	95.93
Ipers FOAB	445.59
Treas-State of Iowa	87.14
B. Dalton	100.36
Christian Bookstore	26.54
Decorating & Craft Ideas	13.95
Popular Science	13.94
World Book	17.95
Evelyn Knudsen (petty cash)	40.00
Janice Hare (mileage)	21.60
Jordan's	76.73
Treas-State of Iowa	12.92

Glen O. Tenold Ins.	654.00
IRS	26.80
Ipers	307.36
Worsley Electric	79.50
K & R Gas	30.00
Co-op Services	22.99
Nelson Petroleum Prod.	99.00
Minn. Valley Testing Lab	26.00
Better Homes & Gardens	12.97
U.S. Envelope Agency	109.85
Larry Shropshire	325.00
Interstate Equipment Co.	565.57
Dean Ouverson	222.75

Total 5,851.00

Total Rec. 9,835.28

BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

HOFFMAN CRAFTS 797-2714
701 West Main

Creamery RESTAURANT & LOUNGE 797-9685
Specializing in Good Food

PERSONAL TOUCH BEAUTY SALON 797-2422
Styling for Men and Women

COME EAT AT NOAH'S CAFE 797-2410

OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has received money to buy books in memory of Mrs. Warren (Ethel) Kisner who formerly lived in Grant Township.

Among books purchased in her memory are:

"Anthology of American Poetry", a book of more than 600 poems and songs from 17th-20th centuries--by American poets.

"Princess Grace", a biography of Princess Grace of Monaco.

"First Lady from Plains", Rosalynn Carter.

"Foxfire 8", Eliot Wigginton.

"Reagan Inside Out", an analysis of the President, Bob Slosser.

ALSO NEW EASY READERS

"Little Monsters Bedtime Story", Marcer Mayer.

"That's What Friends Are For", Disney.

THE GRANT LIVEWIRE LASSIES met on March 19 at 7 p.m. at the Fertile Community Center. Hostesses were Kirstin Sunde and Danielle Jordan. Presentations were given by Kris Kirschbaum on stenciling and by Lisa Suby and Sandy Seglem on how to give a presentation. Sarah and Sandy Seglem had the special activities for the month--we made Easter bunnies out of wash cloths. At the end of the meeting we worked on putting covers on our photos albums.

THE GRANT LIVEWIRE LASSIES met on April 16 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Ten members were present. The hostesses were Kelli Lovick and Sandra Bruns. Presentations were given by Denise Hagen on name pillows. We worked on our photo albums, had our business meeting and talked about planting flowers around Fertile. Michelle Lee and Sandy Seglem were appointed to the flower committee. We decided to deliver May baskets on May 1st. Appointed to the May basket committee were Kris Kirschbaum and Kirstin Sunde. We are going to have a Pet Parade at 10 a.m. on May 19. The Pet Parade committee is Marilyn Lee, Emily Kragel and Alisa Pederson. The Club made \$695 on the last day of the Halverson sale, and \$141 at Eugene Kirschbaum's sale.

Reporter: Kris Kirschbaum

FERTILE FEED SERVICE 797-2242
Complete Livestock Needs
Softner Salt, Dog & Cat Food

RAY JENNINGS 454-2707
Complete Auction Service

LARSON'S PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2219

JORDAN'S MIDLAND SERVICE 797-2677
Complete Automotive Service

PETAL SHOPPE 357-5030
Free Delivery to Hosp. 357-5026

K AND R SERVICE 797-2440

FOREST CITY COW PALACE 582-4646
Auction every Wednesday

RAY SANDIFER--TOM'S SALES 797-2681

WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494

J AND W UPHOLSTERY 797-2457
Upholstery--Auto Body
Jean and Wayne Roberts

DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT SURPLUS FOOD will be May 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fertile Community Center. There will be cheese and honey distributed. Remember, if you are picking up these commodities for another household, you must have a signed note authorizing you to act on their behalf, as well as the required information.

CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Every Sunday: Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening service and youth groups - 6:30 pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

WORSHIP - (F) 9:00 am; (PK) 10:30 am
CHRIS. ED. (PK) 9:15; (F) 10:15

CHURCH WOMEN ACTIVITIES FOR MAY:

(PK) Tues., May 8, 6:30 pm Mother-Daughter Banquet at the church
(F) Thurs., May 10, 6:30 pm Mother-Daughter Banquet at the church
Inspiring programs are being planned at each church, and all women are urged to attend. Other information will be included in the Sunday bulletin.

FERTILE MEATS & GROCERIES 797-2647
Specializing in Meats for the Freezer

MORSE ELECTRIC 797-2434
Quality Work at a Price you can afford.

FIRST STATE BANK 896-2265
Serving North Central Iowa
Hanlontown, Kensett & Plymouth
Main Office - Manly

May Fair & Quilt Show

Saturday
May 19, 1984
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



at
Fertile
Community
Center,
Fertile Ia.

Crafts, Hobbies, Quilts on
display. Bake Sale + lunch
served all day. Come and have
fun.



The 3rd ANNUAL MAY FAIR & QUILT SHOW will be held May 19, 1984, at the Fertile Community Center, Fertile, Iowa. Hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m. There will be crafts, woodworking and hobbies on sale in the gym. At 9:00 a.m. there will be a Bake Sale, at 10:00 a.m. the Girls 4-H will have a Kiddie Parade for children 10 and under with treats for all. Prizes will also be given. The Quilts will be on display all day. Come and be amazed at the beautiful Quilts that will be shown. Lunch will be served all day in the dining room. In the afternoon the Fertile Lions Club will be raffling of \$100.00. Tickets are on sale. Tickets are on sale for a \$1.00 donation for the home made Quilt titled "THE FOOTBRIDGE", made by Lee Briggeman. Drawing for this will be at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale at all Business Places in town and will be all day of the May Fair.

Come and enjoy a little bit of Everything for Everyone.
All Proceeds go to help support the Community Center.