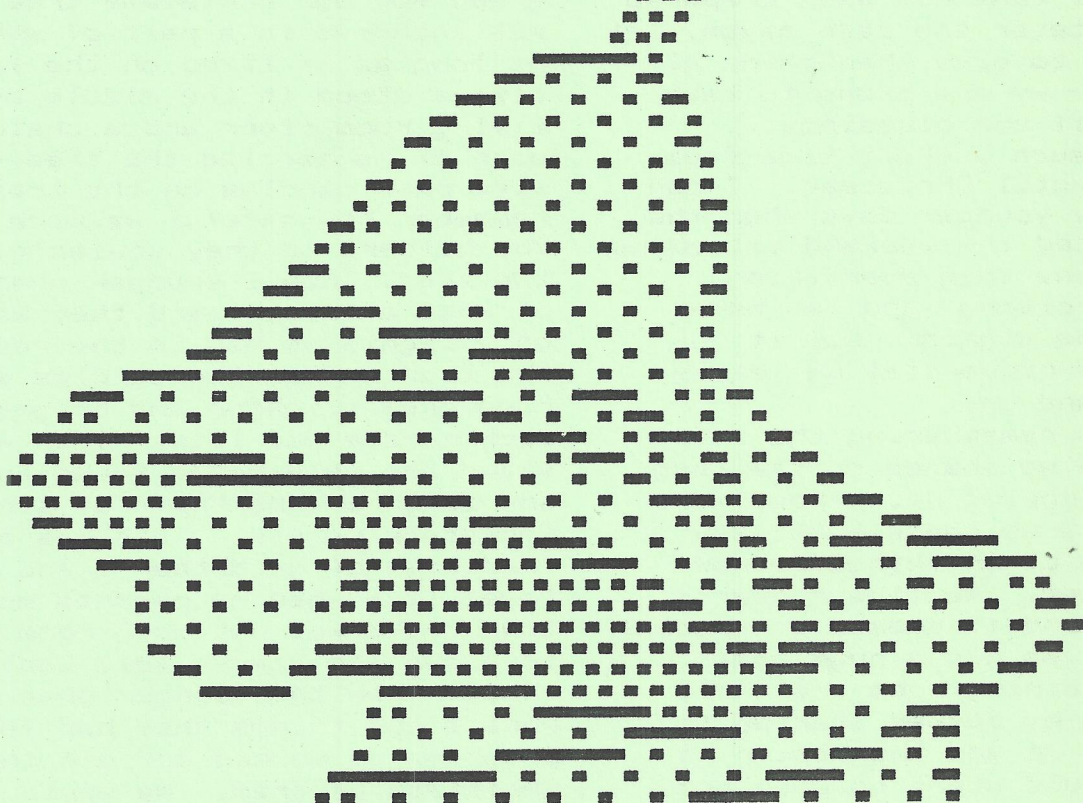


Fertile Library

'Tis The Season
For...



The Fertile
Reminder
December 1988

GCN

Dear readers of the Fertile Reminder -

Today is such a cold and wintry day - it is a good day to stay inside and be cozy and warm. We who live here in North Iowa, know it is only a foretaste of what we can expect in weeks to come.

By the time you get this Fertile Reminder I am certain all of you have plans made for Thanksgiving. Perhaps some of you have invited company and already have started fixing your holiday fare or perhaps you are going as a guest and looking forward to a delicious meal that has been prepared for you. Whatever the case maybe, let us not forget to give thanks for all that we have - we are prone to take for granted all our blessings.

It seems such a short time from Thanksgiving until Christmas. I can remember in my younger days when the stores decorated the weekend following Thanksgiving and then everything seemed so exciting and we were thrilled at the sights. Now it just seems that the commercial Christmas just goes on and on.

Today I am remembering the Christmas joys we shared on the farm when we were growing up. Those were the days before we had electricity and all of the other things we now take for granted. We always shared Christmas Eve and it seemed so special to all of us. We had a huge coal heater in our dining room and early in the morning my mother started to really fire it up and then later in the day she would start to open the door into the living room a bit at a time and by supper time the room was cozy and warm. From this, you know our living room was not used in the winter time. Our dining room table was stretched to the limit as we tried to make room for everyone to sit around it. I can close my eyes and see, smell, and taste the wonderful ham my Mother prepared. In our neighborhood, we had an old man who had neither chick nor child and he was always invited to come and share with us. Several weeks before Christmas he would come and give my Mother a ten dollar bill and with that she bought this huge ham - I can't possibly think of how much it would cost today or if you could even buy such quality! I really can't remember much else we had to eat but I do know thickened raisin sauce was served with the ham. I

know I passed that by as raisins have never been a favorite of mine.

There were several younger ones in our family circle and I can remember that they felt the older ones took too long to eat and to visit about the days happenings. Then those mountains of dirty dishes with our hot water coming from the reservoir in the kitchen stove and the tea kettle. For a change, the younger ones made themselves useful and helped the dishwashing cause along.

Now we always had fresh evergreen for our Christmas tree and it was anchored in a pail of wet sand. As long as we lived on the farm, it always stood in the middle of the living room floor and a chair for each of us circled the tree. We lite real candles on the tree and I remember how careful we were to place the holders so they wouldn't touch the tree. Now I shudder when I think of what a fire hazard they were! The only lights we had in the room was the lights from the candles and the room grew brighter and brighter as each candle was lite. Then we would stand and hold hands young and old and march around the tree singing Christmas Carols. This was a Danish tradition of my Mother's and how she loved it - when my parents moved into town there was not much room to do this and she always felt badly about that. Then the younger ones would recite the things they had for their programs so we had our own intimate Christmas program. We would always close by singing Silent Night, which was a favorite of my Mothers. Now it is a my favorite one, too, but I always get a lump when I sing it or hear it sung as I remember the day that have long gone by and the many missing from our family circle.

By this time, the candles had burned down and it was time to blow them out. Next came passing out the gifts - it didn't take long for the paper to come off and each one examined their gift. As I remember in those days, whatever the gift, it usually came as a surprise.

I can so well remember that when I was sixteen my oldest sister gave me a candy thermometer - I really don't know why as we never made candy but what a wonderful gift it proved to be! It has been a part of my life - do I dare tell you for 53 years - and I could never begin to remember

how many times it has been used and it is as good and accurate as ever. Someday I shall pass it one to my Molly Bea.

It has been fun to share with you a bit of long ago. I know that each of you have fond memories - especially those of you of the older generation.

All of us from The Fertile Reminder wish you and yours a Blessed Christmas. May the New Year be kind to each of you. This is the last reminder you will receive until the later part of January.

Until then -
L.V.N.

Spice Is Nice

Try this "spicy" quiz and see if you can find a spice name hidden in each of the following sentences.

1. We put the car away for the winter.
2. "Can I see the ocean from the beach house?" the vacationer asked.
3. Because of his age, the bookkeeper had to retire.
4. When it began to rain, the picnickers had to scurry for cover. "Thy meat is tough", the Quacker complained to the cook.
6. Every auto mechanic loves to putter with vintage cars.
7. There was seum in the fish aquarium.
8. Landons Picadilly has fine shops and houses.
9. The young man had received his schooling in Germany.
10. The speaker was affronted by the rude audience.

Answers found on another page.

MY WISH FOR YOU

May you live in contemplation,
Of the joys you have known.
And not in sorrow, thinking,
Of the things that you don't own.

May your days be filled with effort.
Not in gloom of your despair.
And you'll find a consolation,
If for others, you can care.

May your dreams be of the happy days;
(Tho gone;) of which you're sure.
And you'll find if you are trying;
There'll surely be lots more.

May you live in full contentment,
With what has been your lot.
And feel that what you give away;
Just adds to what you've got.

—N. W. Farrior

* * *



BARN DANCE

An old fashioned barn dance was held at the gym Nov. 5th. Winners of prizes given throughout the evening were: Marv's Service; Harriet Ouverson, Fertile - Fareway; Charles Hay, Osage - Berts; James Lovik, Fertile - Charles; Jessica Bailey, Fertile - K & R Gas; Robert Benson, Forest City - Kelly Floral; Joyce Calgaard, Fertile - Sieg's; Ray Brcka, Forest City - Bob's Foodland; Fred Faber, Kensett - Fareway; Emma McInrog, Osage - Personal Touch; Dori Olson, Fertile - Fareway; Leo Mietner, Osage - Perkins; Charlotte Mietner, Osage - Ron & Lindas; Elda Theilen, Rockford - Creamery; Zelma Petersen, Clear Lake - Bob's Foodland; Pat Peterson, Forest City - Siegs; Myron Prescott, Lake Mills - Berts; Joyce Russell, Fertile - Fareway; JoAnn Bailey, Fertile - Berts; Darcey Haugen, Fertile - Fareway; Mrs. Harold Hoffman, Fertile.

The Community Center would like to thank the Darold Petersen family for all the work that went into this dance. It was fun!

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to friends and relatives for the cards, gifts, flowers, cakes, salads, and working at our 25th wedding anniversary. Everyone made it a "Special Day" we'll never forget.

Clet and Carolyn Nedved

* * * * *

Thank You

A thank you to the friends who sent cards, gifts, and their prayers and concerns while I was hospitalized. Also to Pastor Walters and his wife for their many visits. Each encouraging word truly helped knowing someone cares.

Mike Wolfe

* * * * *

NOTICE !!!!!!!

Garbage will be picked up on Sat. Nov. 26 instead of Thanksgiving Day.!!!!!!

* * * * *

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session Tues. Nov. 1, 1988 with Mayor Hoffman presiding and council members Petersen, Sandifer, and Strohmman present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Craig Hansmier was sworn in as a council member to replace Lonnie Bailey.

Community Center requests a night light on the NE corner of the new building. Motion to have a light installed. Carried.

Council discussed flags, lights, or signs in the middle of the street for the 4-way stop on the old Hwy 86 & Main.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

Next regular council meeting will be held Tues. Dec. 6, 1988 at the Fertile Library.

4-H NEWS

The Grant Livewires 4-H Club went to the Cerro Gordo County 4-H Awards night Oct. 8th. Our club was a Banner Club.

Jodi Oувerson received the Clothing and Food and Nutrition County Achievement Award. Also, recognition was given to Carrie Seglem being a five year member. Star Awards were presented to Barbara Lee, Stacy Suby, Katie Anderson, Carrie Seglem, and Jodi Oувerson. Club Leadership Awards were received by Jodi Oувerson, Jamie Oувerson, and Carrie Seglem.

Barbara Lee, reporter

THANK YOU

We wish to thank everyone for the cards, telephone calls, and food given to us after the death of my Dad. Memorials will be given to the Forest City Food Bank.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Novak
& family

**OCTOBER BALANCE SHEET
EXPENDITURES**

Evelyn Knudson	168.70
Vesta Kuns	136.19
David Low	301.89
Janice Hare	264.73
Dick Sheimo	472.17
Waste Systems Corp.	727.75
IFERS	151.32
Treas. State of Iowa	38.76
Winn Co-op Telephone	217.72
Peoples Nat. Gas	62.54
Interstate Power Co.	552.09
Treas. State of Iowa	112.41
First State Bank	749.40
Newsweek	39.00
K & R Service	22.50
Worsley Elec.	60.00
Book-of-Month Club	26.35
B. Dalton	202.35
Doubleday Book Club	30.18
Field & Stream	13.94
Better Homes & Gardens	22.95
Christian Book Store	26.37
NIACOG	275.00
Fertile Lmbr & Hdwe	26.07
Stoffes Constr. Co.	2,048.66
Marv's Serv.	14.96
Miller Diesel & Auto	118.73
Nelson Petroleum Prods.	74.88
Feed-Rite Controls	10.00
Acco	329.46
City of Fertile	51.00
	7,348.07
Total Receipts	14,517.65

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Santa Claus will be at the Fertile Community Center on Sat. Dec. 17th from 9:30 until 11:00 am. There will be gifts for children from 0 - 11 years old. Gifts will be purchased with the money donated by Fertile area businesses.

SEVENTH ANNUAL TURKEY SUPPER

The Fertile Community Center held their seventh annual turkey supper on Nov. 12th. A total of 365 meals were served and a profit of \$1450 was made.

The Fertile Community Center would like to thank everyone who helped make this a success.

Friday, September 30th, was the culmination of a little girl's favorite playtime and an adult lady's dream. That was the day my Mom, Maxine Scobee retired from the Post Office in 50434. Mom had worked for the Postal Department over 31 years and had been the Fertile Postmaster for the last nine years.

She had told me how when she was a little girl she would play 'sorting mail'. She would set up boxes to look like mail boxes and 'sort' paper and envelopes in them. There were times when she ran errands for her aunt and uncle, the Charles Eikenberrys, then the Fertile Postmaster and maybe earn a nickel--big money for a little girl.

When we moved to Fertile in 1959, Mom again looked to the Post Office. Aunt Ann (Eikenberry) was then the Postmaster in the building on the south side of the street. Ella Seglem was Clerk and Mom was hired as Assistant Clerk. Thinking back, who can help but remember the smell of fresh bread baking at the apartment behind the Post Office while Aunt Anna and Aunt Junie baked their bread. Those were the days when you could mail a letter for 7 cents and a penny post card cost 3 cents. At that time you could pick up your mail and visit the drug and candy store all in one stop. That card table filled with bits and pieces of candy was a temptation to all kids.

Years passed. Aunt Anna and Ella retired, the times changed, and the Post Office moved to the present building and Mom continued to work occasionally. She worked at various local Post Offices spending nearly one and one-half years at the Forest City office. Then Mike Purcell retired and Mom was appointed Officer In Charge at Fertile before being appointed to her life-long ambition--being the Postmaster of Fertile, Iowa--her home town.

Yes, the mail still continues to go out, stamps are still sold, packages still mailed. But Mom's smiling face will be missed. Now it's time for her to enjoy sleeping late, to travel south in winter, and to do all the things she's only dreamed of doing.

I wish her many years of enjoying Dad's company as they retire in Fertile, Iowa.



ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

1. Caraway
2. Anise
3. Sage
4. Cury
5. Thyme
6. Cloves
7. Cumin
8. Dill
9. Ginger
10. Saffron

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Fertile Garden Club met Tues. Nov. 8th at the community center. Guest day was held with 18 guests present. Door prizes were won by Barb Seglem and Vivian Anderson.

Beverly Kreiger of Kelly Floral of Forest City gave the lesson on making Christmas wreaths and arrangements. The thought for the day was given by Edna Pedersen. The officers and Reva Anderson served lunch.

The officers for next year were chosen. The next meeting will be Dec. 13th at the Butchers Steak House and will be the Christmas party.

ANNUAL FERTILE CRAFT FAIR

The annual craft fair will be held at the Fertile Community Center gym on Dec. 3rd from 9 - 1:30 pm. To date a total of 21 tables have been reserved. Exhibitors will offer for sale: wood crafts, quilling, pottery, sweatshirts, angel tree tops, knitting and crocheted items, and baked goods. For table reservations call 797-2696.

Homemade turkey noodle soup, chili, maidrites, and cinnamon rolls will be sold in the dining room.

SHOW AND SALE

"Woodworks" Friday Nov. 25 5-9 pm and Saturday Nov. 26 1-5 pm at the James Petersburg home.

SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Dec. 6 - Roast beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, apple salad, sherbert, bread and butter, coffee, and milk.

Dec. 20 - Annual Christmas Potluck

For reservations call Edna Pedersen at 797-2669 Monday.

LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY HOURS:

WEDNESDAY - 11 AM - 6 PM
FRIDAY - 1 PM - 5 PM
SATURDAY - 9 AM - NOON

NEW BOOKS:

MAN AT WINDMERE - VELDA JOHNSTON
PEACHTREE ROAD - ANNE SIDDONS
SURVIVORS - CHRISTINA CRAWFORD
SANDS OF TIME - SIDNEY SHELDON
THORNYHOLD - MARY STEWART
RAGING FIRE - CONSTANCE HEAVEN
OUT OF CRUCIBLE - MARION WELLS
BABY CRAFTS - MARSHA MOORE
LIFE IN CAMELOT - THE KENNEDY YEARS

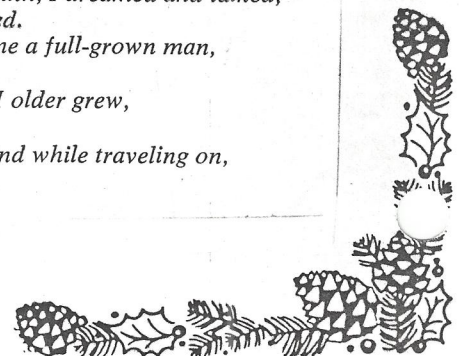
THANK YOU

I'd like to thank my grandchildren for the lovely corsage and those who sent me cards, flowers and gifts the my retirement. A special thank you to husband, Loris, and our daughter Joan Norem, for a day of surprises. The coffee, donuts and cake served all day, and the family dinner that night. It was truly a day to remember.

Maxine Scobee

TIME

*When, as a child, I laughed and wept,
Time crept.
When, as a youth, I dreamed and talked,
Time walked.
When I became a full-grown man,
Time ran;
And later, as I older grew,
Time flew.
Soon I shall find while traveling on,
Time gone.*

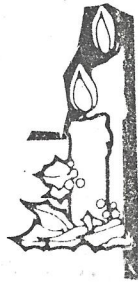




What Christmas Means

You wonder what Christmas means to me? . . . It is much more than the glittering tree . . . The holiday spirit of hurrying throngs . . . Or carolers singing a Christmas song . . . It is more than the tinsel of packages bright . . . Or windows glowing with dim candlelight . . . The holly wreath adorning the door . . . Bespeaks the season.

. . . But there's much more to the cheery greeting of neighbor and friend . . . Or the eager excitement a little child lends . . . Christmas is joy pervading the air . . . The spirit of friendliness everywhere . . . It's forgetting the past and beginning again . . . Renewal of faith in the goodness of men . . . A hope for more wisdom, humility mild . . . And the simple faith of a little child.



MY THOUGHT

Is it fair, when life seems bleak,
 "Why?" is the answer we all seek.
 When the heart is laden in despair
 There is anguish in my humble prayer.
 Draw me closer Lord to thee,
 Arouse again thy love in me.
 Touch my hand and lead the way
 O'er all the trials of my day.
 Please, let me ever, ever see
 Loving faith is the only key
 That opens wide the magic door
 To the challenge life has in store.
 Instill thy strength and power in me
 To earn that peaceful, content
 tranquility.
 Thank you God!

Harriet Ouverson

REMEMBER Santa Claus will be in town Saturday Morning, Dec. 17th.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kuns of Camarillo Calif. are the parents of a baby girl born November 3. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and has been named Danielle Nicole. She joins a sister Melissa 3 years old. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Neil Kuns of Camarillo, Calif. Great Grandparent Vesta Kuns of Fertile



I Press Toward The Mark

I am the New Year.
 I am unused, unspotted, without blemish.
 I stretch before you three hundred and sixty-five days long.
 I will present each day
 In its turn, a new leaf
 In a Book of Life for you
 To place upon it your imprint.

I am the New Year.
 Each hour of every day I will give you sixty minutes that
 Have never known the use of man.
 White and pure I present them;
 It remains for you to fill them.

I am the New Year.
 I am coming..
 But once past, I can never be recalled.
 Make me your best.

Support these merchants. Their ads make it possible for us to publish the Fertile Reminder. We also need to hear from each of you to pay the postage for mailings.

LARSEN'S PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2219

JORDAN INSURANCE AGENCY 797-2700
AMERICAN FAMILY
Auto-Home-Business-Life

FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE 797-2437
Rent the Rug Doctor

BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

HOFFMAN CRAFTS 797-2714
701 West Main

OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490

PRONTO MARKET 797-2220
Gas and Groceries

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

MARV'S SERVICE 797-2677

RAY SANDIFER & TOM'S SALES 797-2681

FERTILE FEED SERVICE 797-2242
Complete Livestock Needs
Soft'ner Salt, Dog & Cat Food

WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494
Katolight Generators
Sales & Service

FOREST CITY COW PALACE 582-4646
Auction every Wednesday

S & W AUCTION 896-2445
Don Waddington-Auctioneer

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

PETAL SHOPPE 357-5030
FREE Delivery to hospitals 357-5026
1714 7th Ave. N. Clear Lake

FERTILE FEED SERVICE 797-2262
Grain Division
For Competitive Grain Buying,
Selling, & Storage

BUTCHER'S STEAK HOUSE 797-2647
Delicious Food
Call for reservations

K & R SERVICE 797-2440