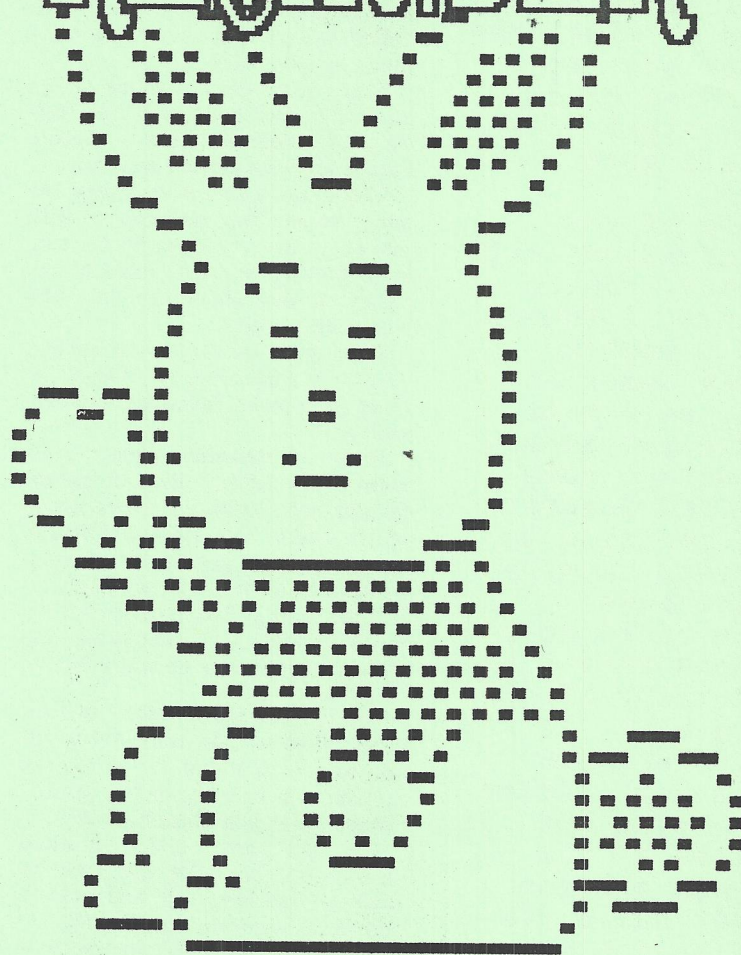


FERTILE
REMINDER



March 1989

Dear Readers of the Fertile Reminder:

These winter weeks are quickly passing and soon we can turn our calendar to the month of March. Then it seems we all start to think "Spring" and no matter what kind of weather Old Mother Nature has in store for us, we know it won't last long. It is hard to realize that the basketball season is coming to an end and all the teams are starting down the tournament road. It is truly the agony and defeat as one by one the teams fall by the wayside.

Since Easter is so early this year, I am wondering if we'll have an early spring. A friend of mine even wondered if she would be able to plant some potatoes on Good Friday—perhaps this year, that might be a bit premature but it is a good thought to keep in mind.

I am hoping that some of you women of the "older generation" will enjoy the article on hats. While going through some things, I found this article in an Old Capper's Weekly. It brought back memories of the stores that only sold hats and the thrill you would get as you entered and saw the rows and rows of hats of every color and description. It was no small decision to decide on one—after trying on many, you'd narrow your choice down to two or three before you could make your final choice. Those were the days when no one would think of going to church without a hat! I guess a hat then did for a woman what a new hair do does now! Easter was always the time to bring out your first straw creation of the season—perhaps that was all the "new" you had for Easter but a new hat was a must. Times change over the years and I know many of you who read this have never had a hat and probably never will. As for me, it is one of my pleasant memories as I go down memory lane.

Now as we get ready to celebrate another Easter season, may we keep the true meaning in our hearts. A Blessed Easter to you and yours! Until next time -

L. V. N.

Whatever happened to Easter bonnets?

Another year and Easter bonnets still haven't made a real comeback.

Years ago if you didn't have a new hat for Easter you didn't show your face outside the door. And people didn't question your morals when you said you were going out to pick up a cute little sailor for Easter, either.

It had nothing to do with a short Navy man, but had plenty to do with small hats—with perky brims, usually sporting a bow. They were called sailors and they were very much in for spring.

There were usually more of the kind of Easter bonnets Irving Berlin wrote about, however—picture hats laden with netting and flowers.

There was also a style called the poke bonnet. This was topped with just about everything under the sun, from netting to small lilies of the valley. It tied under the chin, and was really pretty.

Hats were pastel in the spring. The word pastel had to be used for those pale pinks, lavenders and shy yellows.

Some of the slick career girls wore saucy little sailors of patent leather with polka dot bows. Some of the sailor hats were red straw. Navy was also popular for spring, but had to have white accents.

Years ago pillbox hats were very much in fashion. I remember one with rose appliques on white felt—gorgeous!

There were more things to talk about when women wore hats: "Do you believe that hat?" "What was that she was wearing on her head?" "Wasn't that last Easter's hat?"

But then women and even some men would describe someone by saying, "She was tall and stately and always wore gorgeous hats."

Years ago you didn't just go to a department store and buy a hat. You went to a hat store where they specialized in every kind and color of hat ever thought up. You could spend a whole afternoon trying on hats and no one minded.

Windows of millinery shops were bedecked with tiny cloches, tinsel turbans, cartwheel hats, half hats and hats that were hand-fashioned in some of the back rooms of the

small stores.

In the spring men wore hats, too. They were generally straw, fashioned in the same manner as the felt hats they wore in winter. Some of the older men wore boaters or skimmers—the round, hard straw, small-brimmed hats with a flat top.

Some men are now wearing a sort of Panama hat—very dashing.

What happened to the hat? We wear them in winter because it is cold. But somewhere along the way something must have happened to change the hat symbol.

Did a movie star throw caution to the wind, along with her hat, and decide to do without it, and the fad caught on? It could have happened.

Spring is here. There are a few hats in the stores, but nothing like the hats of days gone by. I doubt if any of them could cure even a blue Monday. But let's think positive. Hats, anyone?



Thank you to all for sentiments conveyed through cards, flowers and memorial money to many places. A sincere thanks to Pastors Kampstra and Bruland, beautiful music of Pastor and wife, all the food brought to the house from neighbors and friends, and Thelma's family, the organist and Max and Florence Nye for a meal. The postage money we'll save and send to missions.

Norman & Maxine Rye
Ann, Mabel & Thelma

STORK NEWS

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Tuttle of Tempe, Arizona are parents of a baby girl born Jan. 23. She weighed 8lbs 4oz and named Sadie Kateline. Grandparents are Mickey Tuttle of Clear Lake, Merle Tuttle of Clear Lake, Tammy Heimdahl of Tempe, Arizona, Dale Jones of Mason City. Great grandparents are Ethel Tuttle, Clear Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Klasse of Forest City, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McAndrews of Riverside, Calif.

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Johnson are the parents of a baby girl born Jan. 29. She weighed 8lbs 3oz. and has been named Justine Marie. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Johnson and Pat Zobel all of Fertile.

* * * *

FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER

The center will be having a soup and sandwich lunch on March 11, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.. Coffee will be available earlier.

The profit will be used to help heat the gym on Saturdays for the young people.

The Corlys Rye Estate sale will be held at the center the same day, so come for the sale and have lunch with us.

Midrites - \$1.00
Mili, Vegetable & Cheese soups \$1.00
Coffee and bars 25¢ each

ALL FERTILE ALUMNI

The Alumni committee has met. The date has been set for June 10, 1989. A caterer has also been hired. Cards will be mailed by March 1st. If you wish to attend and do not receive a card, please notify Bonnie Kuns, Forest City, Iowa 50436

*		*
*	See something new!	*
*	Something pastel!	*
*	Something beautiful!	*
*	All kinds of shelves for your	*
*	little darling's room.	*
*	Welcome all young Moms and	*
*	doting grandmothers.	*
*	Brue's Wood Shed	*
*	797-2741	*
*	Fertile, Iowa	*
*		*

A sincere thanks for cards, flowers, goodies and visits during and after my surgery.

Larry Burtness

The Forest City Neighborhood Food Bank would like to thank everyone who has donated food and money to us. This is all appreciated.

Neighborhood Food Bank
Board of Directors

4-H NEWS

The Grant Livewires 4-H Club met on Jan. 21, at the Fertile Community Center. Roll Call was answered by 9 members telling "their favorite Christmas present".

Jodie Ouverson called the meeting to order. On Feb. 25, we are going to have a booth at the Cerro Gordo County 4-H family carnival.

Barbara Lee gave a presentation on "Reading a Cookie Recipe". Our meeting adjourned. We made valentines for the Senior Citizens and sewed perfume hearts for our dresser drawers. Lunch was served by Barbara Lee and Kelli Knudson.

Barbara Lee, reporter

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

JANUARY BALANCE SHEET
Expenditures

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Feb. 7, 1989 with Mayor Hoffman presiding and council members Hansmeier, Strohman, Peterson, Sandifer present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mayor reported that Worth County will pay all the preliminary costs of the 911 number survey.

Discussion on the city's insurance renewal for FY 89-90.

Joan Norem and Loris Scobee presented certificates to the city, of the appointments of Charles and Anna Eikenberry as postmasters of Fertile.

Work was done on the budget for FY 89-90. Final budget preparation will be done at the March council meeting. Budget hearing will be held Tues., March 13.

Motion to pay monthly bills. carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

* * * * *

EASTER EGG CELEBRATION

Sat. March 25, 1989

9:30 A.M.

Fertile Community Center

Ages - Birth - 12 years

Prizes will be given if you have a home made decorated Easter basket. Sponsered by businesses of Fertile. More details later in the Forest City Summit.

* * * * *

Dear Friends,

Thank you for prayers, cards and gifts when I was hospitalized. Fertile has always been a caring and sharing town in joy and sorrow.

Harriet Ouverson

Jay Ouverson sends words of appreciation for the prayer chains of this community, in my struggle with cancer. I love you. God give me strength.

Evelyn Knudson	\$253.05
David Low	301.89
Janice Hare	264.73
Dick Sheimo	421.71
Waste Systems Corp	727.75
IPERS	150.75
Treas. - State of Iowa	34.28
Treas. - State of Iowa	89.38
First State Bank	760.18
City of Fertile	51.00
Peoples Natural Gas	396.50
Interstate Power Co.	573.81
Winn. Co-op Telephone	34.17
Fertile Reminder	90.00
K & R Gas	20.00
Manly Ins. Agency	50.00
Matt Parrott & Sons	141.10
Worsley Electric	23.80
National Geographic	10.35
Book of the Month Club	33.05
Redbook	11.97
Better Homes and Gardens	14.56
Robertelle Center	50.00

total 4504.13

Total Receipts 2795.68

* Wanted: Empty plastic pill *
* bottles and plastic tableware *
* for a missionary in Haiti. *
* Ethel Tuttle *
* 797-2648 *

I want to thank all of you for the kindness, calls, flowers and prayers while I was in the hospital and after returning home. It was all very much appreciated.

Evelyn Knudson

We wish to thank everyone for the prayers, gifts and cards sent to Henry while he was in Rochester and since returning home. A special thank you to Pastor Kampstra for his visits and to the neighbors for all their concern and support.

Doris and Henry Novak

* * *

Government Commodities will be distributed Thurs. March 2, 1989 from 1 to 4 o'clock at the Community Center. Rice and flour will be given away.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lester Burtness!

At 79 years of age, Lester Burtness decided it was time to retire from the Fertile Fire Department. He was born in 1909, son of Gerhard and Isabell Burtness. Lester was raised north west of Hanlontown. Nov. 7, 1931, he married Doris Zobel and moved into a small building on main street, which was next door to the Post Office.

The first fire Lester went to was in 1931, across the street from where he was residing. Getting up one morning and getting ready to go to work, he was cranking his old Ford and noticed a flickering of light across the street. He woke up Aimee Nye, the telephone operator, and she called the people to notify them of the fire. At that time all the town had were ladders and buckets which were stored in a small building north of the old Highway building where Allan Haugen now lives. Lester figured about 20 - 25 men turned out to help assist on putting out the fire. Believe it

not they put the fire out by filling the buckets from the river.

When first married, Lester worked for a farmer southwest of Fertile. Later he worked for a gas pipeline, which laid pipe from Kenny DeWitt's place. They started laying pipe in the Winnebago River and worked with the company almost across Worth County. He also worked with the Chicago North Western Railroad, replacing ties and leveling tracks. In 1937, Lester started to work at the Fertile Lumber Company. While employed there, he went to numerous fires with buckets and ladders.

In 1950 he became a member of the Town Council and later served 4 years as Mayor of Fertile.

In 1952 the Fertile Lions Club was started and Lester was a Charter member. The Lions Club at that time saw a need for a fire department in Fertile. They pushed to get it started. Land was purchased at that time and the building was erected by Nelson Construction Company.

The first pumper was purchased in 1954, also a 1,000 gallon tanker to haul water. Many of the Lions Club members were also members of the fire department.

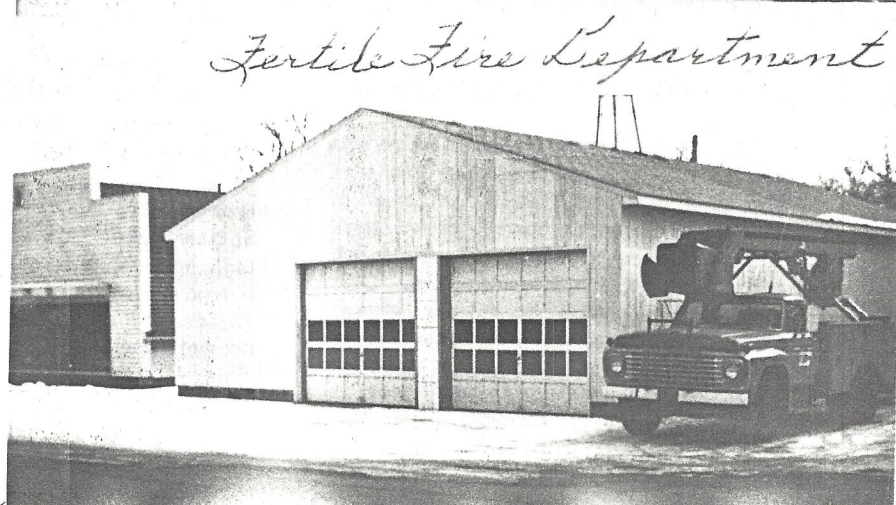
Fertile joined the Cerro Gordo County Fire Association, along with Hanlontown and Joice.

The Fire Department applied for a pickup truck with the Conservation Commission. This was made into an emergency truck to haul their light plant, air packs, masks and other equipment. In 1973 a new tanker truck was purchased and a new pumper was purchased in 1976.

Lester has assisted many people with the need of oxygen and accidents during his years.

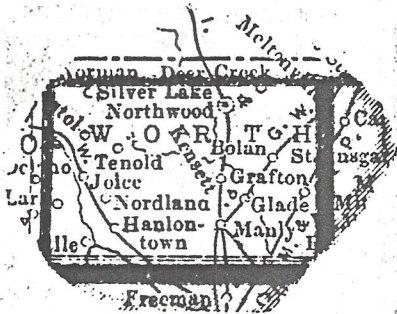
He was Assistant Fire Chief, under Fire Chief Glen Purcell, for numerous years and in 1974 was voted in as Secretary, which he has sustained until retirement.

Lester and Doris have 4 surviving children, 15 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.



Two ghost towns in Fertile twp.

Lark, Iowa? or Nordland? Both postoffices in Fertile township disappeared from the map long ago with the advent of rural fire delivery, but their existence was in keeping with the needs of the late nineteenth century, when distance was measured by the



pace of the horse and buggy.

Lark was in the northern part of section 8 in Fertile township, not far from the county line. It had a post office from 1884 to 1887 and again from 1889 to 1903.

Nordland post office was located on section 2 on the Fertile-Bristol township line, after being moved two times previously.

The population of the hamlet was said to be 60 in 1892. It had a bustling creamery business, a general store and a blacksmith shop. The village withered away with the loss of the postoffice.

Town of Fontanelle once proposed

The story has been told that a land speculator once owned some land near the village site of Fertile previous to its founding and persuaded some map-drawers to locate a town on their chart, which he pretended was laid out on section 34, and platted under the name of Fontanelle.

The west half of Hanlontown is in Fertile township, as the township line is marked by the main street in the town.

Fertile Public Library was community effort

The \$18,000 Fertile Public Library was started in July, 1970, with the help of a Kinney Lindstrom Foundation Grant of \$10,000. Construction was of cement block with brick veneer faced front. After much hard work by individuals, Lion Club members and other community organizations in cooperation with a hard-working board of trustees, the building was ready for occupancy in December, of the same year.

A pickle factory - general store - and huge tractors from Red River

Former Senator, Lt. Gov., and Governor Leo Elthon, Fertile's most famous son, 1898-1967, in addition to his quarry business, operated a pickle factory which he sold to his brother-in-law, Martin Hjelmeland, in 1947. Many varieties of pickles were processed for the wholesale market.

Hans Johnson had one of the most unique enterprises in Worth county's history. Earlier in this century he raised turtles, and shipped them to exclusive hotels and restaurants on both the East and West coasts, destined for gourmet palates.

Lime quarry is a big business

A scenic drive on the newly concrete-paved county road leading from immediately west of Hanlontown into Fertile's main east-west street, somewhat paralleling Highway 9, brings into view mammoth mounds of aggregate stockpiled by the Martin-Marietta Corp. The road follows the course of the Winnegabo River into Fertile.

The Fertile Lime Quarry, now a big business, had a small beginning within the town itself. In 1929 Lewis Foster sold the Fertile mill to Leo Elthon and Nels (Dewey) Ouverson. The dam had gone out, and imminent financial problems resulted in the transaction. The community rallied around and contributed money and much labor to build a new dam.

Elthon began crushing lime rock dug from the river bed, with the rock crusher set up at the east end of the mill. The crushed rock was loaded into trucks equipped with lime spreaders and delivered to farm land.

From 1940 to 1945 the operation was located across the river south of the creamery building and in 1945 the quarry was moved, lock stock and barrel, to a site along the river east of Fertile, where a new pit was opened, and where the enterprise is headquartered today.

Norman Jorgenson and Henry Suby operated the quarry in partnership with Senator Elthon until 1959, when it was sold to Concrete Material and Construction Co. It is now owned by Martin Marietta of Cedar Rapids, with gravel and concrete aggregate the main products.

The first store in Fertile was opened in 1872 by Ole Ouverson and in 1875 he took K. Paulson as his partner for one year. In 1875 the store was sold to the firm of Grove and Kirk.

Halvor Ouverson opened a blacksmith shop in 1875. An inventive gentleman, he did wagon and general repair work and designed some of the machinery he used in his business.

The Elthon Store closed in 1975, marking the end of one of the longest-lived family businesses in Fertile or in Worth county. Established by Andrew Elthon in 1894, it was owned and operated by his son, Thelan Elthon for 34 years.

Robert Ouverson brought the large four wheel drive tractors from the Red River Valley to North Iowa. In August, 1970, he became the owner of the first Steiger tractor in Iowa. His business, North Iowa Tractor of Fertile, has proven that the huge machines are as well adapted to the corn belt as to the demands of North Dakota farming.

Blessing

Tax tip: Remember, it's better to give than to receive — and it's deductible.

20-20 Vision

No one ever ruined his eyesight by looking at the bright side of things.



Lost art

Wisest of all
The friends I know
Is the one who refrains
From, "I told you so."

Vada Marie Shook 1924-1988

Surrounded by her precious family and faithful Japanese converts, Vada Marie Eikenbary Shook moved from this vale of tears through the gates of heaven to see her Lord face to face. How wonderful heaven must be for this faithful missionary, wife, and mother.

Born in Fertile, Iowa, population 400, Vada committed her life to the Lord to become the eighth young person to leave for the mission field from that farming community. Reared in a Christian home, she accepted Christ as her Saviour as a result of reading a tract on the Second Coming of Christ. She was eleven years old at the time.

Vada graduated from Wheaton College with a major in organ. Unwilling to face the call to missions, she became a church organist and church secretary back in Iowa. Three years later she yielded her life to the Lord for missions and enrolled in special mission courses at Moody Bible Institute. During her time there, God laid Japan on her heart and she began visitation in Japanese homes in Chicago.

The testimony of the Shooks early years with ABWE was published in the March/April 1978 issue of *The*

Message. They related that in the providence of God they began an unexpected but unique ministry to the deaf in Japan. Before leaving for their first term in Japan they discovered that Steven, one of their twin boys, was deaf. As time drew near for their first furlough it became evident that, if they were to take Steven back to Japan, Vada would need some training in specialized education to adequately teach him on the field.

Upon their return to the States, Vada enrolled in the University of Iowa graduate school extension course in teacher-training for the deaf taught at the Iowa School for the Deaf. During their second term, due to Vada's expertise in signing for the deaf, a whole new ministry opened for the Shook family. Beginning with the salvation of one Japanese high school boy, Takeshi Minatozaki, the deaf work blossomed to the place where twelve organized deaf churches are thriving in Japan today.

In 1964, the sudden death of Steven's twin brother, Philip, cast a shadow on the Shooks' future. This led Paul and Vada to accept the responsibility of being houseparents at Oakcrest, a home ABWE provided

for MKs. In this the Shooks met a tremendous need and did so with their usual faithfulness and dedication. At the same time Steven was close to a special school for the deaf. After two years the Shooks left for Japan once again. They completed six terms on the field and began their seventh when Vada developed cancer.

Vada lived long enough to see her deaf son, Steven, fully trained in sign language and the Bible. She rejoiced in his marriage and helped guide Steven and Judy through one term and part of their second term as ABWE missionaries in their adopted land of Japan. She also saw their daughter, Becky, along with her husband, Bill Petite, appointed by ABWE in 1986 to Japan. Her family and many in Japan rise up and call her blessed!

The memorial service for Vada Marie Shook was held March 23, 1988, in Chattanooga, Tennessee with Dr. J. Don Jennings conducting the service. Tributes were given by two Japanese pastors, Takeshi Minatozaki and Masago Minatozaki. Dr. Russell Ebersole delivered the message. □

A NEW BEGINNING

The bush outside my window seems to be dead.

Still, I know that it will blossom. Though it appears to be dead, it must live, for within its roots are the elements of life.

Comes the sun and later, rain, and then, sun again and buds form; and once "dead" leaves will turn green with life. The bush will be alive with blossoms.

So, too, hope in tomorrow!

So, too, a new beginning, another chance.

So, too, the Resurrection...

SPRING BOUQUET

I gathered pussy willows
And put them in a vase,
Such a beautiful arrangement
Each catkin in its place.

Like bouncy little kittens
In furry, soft array,
I think that pussy willows
Are my favorite bouquet.

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.

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

LARSEN'S PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2219

K & R SERVICE 797-2440

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

FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE 797-2437
Rent the Rug Doctor

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

BURTNES PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

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

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