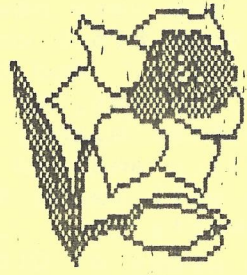
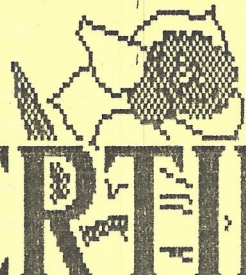
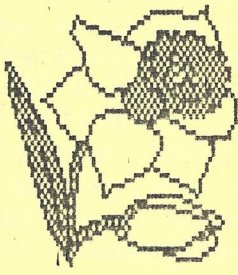
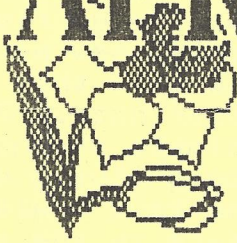
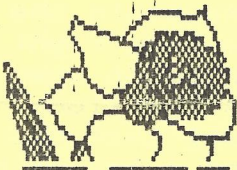


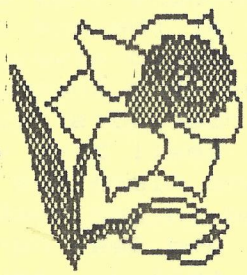
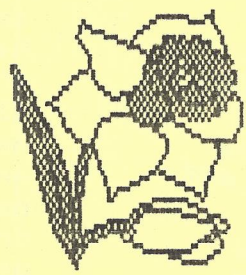
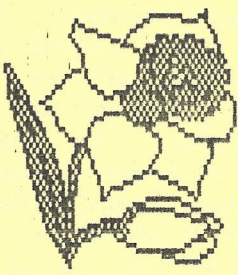
APRIL 1991



FERTILE



REMINDER



* * * * *

TAKEN FROM THE 1961 "DIAL TONE"
FERTILE BIDS FAREWELL TO ITS TELEPHONE
PHONE OPERATORS AND LINEMEN

On Saturday evening, September 16th, the Fertile community held a Retirement Tea for its operators, Mrs. Aimee Nye and Mrs. Myna Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Nels Fjeld and lineman George Hall. A great number of people attended this wonderful tea and extended to these telephone people their appreciation for the wonderful service they had rendered their community. We would like to include in this issue of our Dial Tone a few excerpts from the program on that evening as we think these poems and skit are typical of any community which had a magneto system and cuts over to dial operation. We are unable to include all of these in this issue but expect to carry a few additional excerpts in next month's issue.

FAREWELL TO THE OPERATORS
AND OUR TELEPHONE COMPANY

Hark! The telephones are ringing and they are very new, for we have changed from black ones to yellow, pink and blue. And that is why we are here tonight, to bid farewell to a familiar sight; to a telephone office and its operators two, who will leave this scene for a life that's new. Let's turn back the pages of Old Father Time and reminisce in rhythm and rhyme. The first switchboard found a tiny niche, in E. E. Brown's Meat Market where they all could switch. The calls that came through were very few so it wasn't hard to take care of two. But the time soon came to change its place; they built a new room and lifted its face. The Brown's were there as the keys fell down, to answer the calls for the old home town. It changed hands real rapid as time went by and several people thought they'd give it a try; but at the end of a year or two they would always announce that they were through. So in 1929 two new operators finally arrived with two small boys who were quite alive; and Aimee Nye with Norman, ^{AND} Max moved in and took over and relaxed; and Bess Purcell Rodberg moved in that day and the Fertile switchboard was far on its way. In '36 another change was due and they all moved to a place that was

new. They found themselves right on Main Street and don't ever think that wasn't a treat. For the public asked every question under the sun and were sure the operators could answer every one. By 1937 Myna Smith and Darlene joined the force and Myna was taking a telephone course. She helped each time as she saw their need and in 1948 became an operator indeed. To the best of their ability they've served the town and switched the country folk for miles around.

No calls were to be answered after nine but some people forgot to look at their time. They rang at nine or eleven or two and expected each call to go right through. They reported new babies here and there, how much they weighed and what color hair. They'd ring the fire whistle strong and loud and it would always draw quite a crowd. The keys would drop down like stars in the sky every time the fire engine passed by. They'd hear voices ask, "Where's the fire today?" And they'd all get an answer somehow, some way. Husbands would get lost and couldn't be found, and they'd ask the operators if they'd please look around, and if they could see him on the street would they please send him home with the luncheon meat. Some poor little mother just pulling her hair would ask the operators if her kids were there, and would she please tell them to stay right by the door, she'd be there when she got the wax on the floor. The doctor would call that his vacation was due and a lot of his patients were feeling blue, but if anyone fell and broke their leg send them to the hospital to get it pegged. The gas truckers thought it would be nice if the operators would take their calls instead of their wives. They had to sit by that board anyway and why keep their wives home all day. They have given death messages and heard its knell and listened to many a wedding bell. They have seen other children as well as their own get their education, grow up and leave home. For when you've spent so much of your life at one thing there's bound

Cont on back page



CHECK IT OUT

KIDS! Be sure you come to the next storytime on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00-10:30. While you are here, check out all the new books and old favorites. There are also many new videos that you are bound to like: DUCK TALES/RAIDERS OF THE LAST HARP, DR. SEUSS' ABC's, NOAH AND THE ARK/JOSHUA AND THE BATTLE OF JERICHO, and DAVID AND GOLIATH/ SAMSON AND DELIALAH. New books and videos are being added all the time.

Cheryl and Sarah are very pleased to see so much being borrowed from the library. In February, 721 separate books, magazines, and videos were checked out. This shows that our local library is very popular with many of you.

In the October opinion survey, you were asked to write the titles of magazines that you would like to have in the library. Based on what you listed, the library now subscribes to Teen, People, and Sports Illustrated. Sarah wants everyone to know that the library has Virtue magazine. She says that it is one of the most popular magazines at the library.

The library's hours are:

- Wednesday 1:00-8:00
- Friday 1:00-5:00
- Saturday 9:00-noon
1:00-4:00

Some new books are religious non-fiction and include: A Man Called Norman, A Road to Holocaust, Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis, and Peace Pilgrim.

New informational books that may be helpful are: Creative American Quilting and Bed and Breakfast of North America.

Whether you need information, inspiration, or entertainment, the library is the place to find it. All you need to do is "check it out." by Celeste Christensen

The next library board meeting is Wed. March 27, 1991 at 7:00 p.m.

Sealed Bids! Sealed Bids! Sealed Bids!

The Marcella H. Mitchell estate, located at 210 East Main Street in Fertile, Iowa, will be sold by sealed bid.

Legal Description: Lot two (2), block five (5) in Fertile Rhodes Addition to Fertile, Iowa.

This property consists of a one bedroom home with garage located on a lot of approximately 10,800 square feet.

Gross Real Estate Taxes: 313.22

Bids will be received at Post Office Box 9, Clear Lake, Iowa 50428 until April 8, 1991. Owners reserves the right to refuse bids.

Interested bidders may view the property by contacting Lake Partners Real Estate, Clear Lake, Iowa (515) 357-6123.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Fertile Garden Club met in the community center on March 19th at 12 o'clock with a potluck dinner. Our theme for this year is "Touched By The Seasons". The hostesses were the officers for our new year: Fern Midtgaard- Treasurer, Reva Anderson- President, Penny Miller- Vice President, Ruth Rovang- Secretary, Carrie Luther- Historian, Molly Almellen- Corresponding Secretary, and Donna Ouverson and Marian Pitkin- Remembrance Committee. There were 24 members present. Sharie Hoffman gave a interesting lesson on landscaping. Ruth Rovang gave the thought for the day "Start Plants And Prune Trees And Bushes". Mr. Pope and Mr. Adams gave a good lesson about soil in gardens, lawns, and trees. Names were drawn for Secret Pals. Lunch was served by the officers.

Ethel Tuttle
Reporter

FERTILE LITTLE LEAGUE

Sign up for little league will be April 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 at the Fertile Comm. Center. Be sure to sign up as we need to know how many players to plan on. This includes T ball, girls softball, pee wee, and midgets.



PUBLIC SCHOOL FERTILE IOWA.

Students of Fertile School 1909 or 1910. How many can you name?

Signs of spring

Spring brings back the birdies,
 Buds form on the plants.
 The breezes seem quite balmy.
 And in my kitchen — ants!
 —M.E. Mull

STORK NEWS

Terry & Dawn Hagen are the parents of a baby boy born March 4th, 1991. He weighed 7lbs. 12 oz. and has been named Jeremiah Ray. Grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Hagen of Miller and Doris Anderson and the late Robert Anderson of Fertile.

Scott & Sue McColloch are the parents of a baby girl born Mar. 2nd. She weighed 5 lbs. 8 oz. and has been named Katie Sue. Grandparents are Dick & Paula Worsley of Fertile and Chet & Lois Mc Colloch of Forest City. Great Grandmother is Marty Lane of Nowalk, Iowa.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Alpha Markell for the memorial gift to the reminder in memory of Loretta Nye.

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to the family of Lane Lindquist who passed away Mar. 4. His service was held at the Fertile Church of Christ on Mar. 8.

CHANGE NOTICES!!!!!!

The Fertile Sweetheart Dance will be held May 3rd at the Surf Ballroom. Music will be by Malek's Fisherman.

The Fertile Senior Citizens will be eating their dinners on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the months of April, May, and June at the community center.

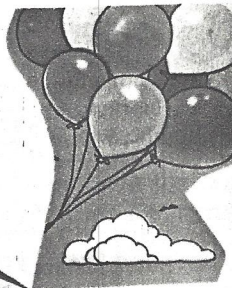
Would you please let Ruth Ouverson or Edna Pederson know by Monday noon if you plan on coming. Call 797-2424



Thanks to a lady from Northwood for this cute picture of Roger, Vera and Dick Humphrey, Rogers Grandmother Mrs. Bill (Edith) Humphrey and Ruth Rodberg Olson Field.

The working way

If something seems so easy
 I'll do it right away
 For it may be so breezy
 To get a lift that way.
 If something is hard to do,
 I'll hurry to get it done
 Just to see, if once for me
 It turns out to be fun.



COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Mar. 5th, 1991 with Mayor Hoffman presiding and all council members present.

Motion to set the budget hearing for Mar. 13th, 1991.

City still would like volunteers to paint the fire hydrants this summer.

Vision Electronics will install and provide free cable at the community center.

City will check on sheep and a couple of goats for the lagoon.

Motion to pay monthly bills Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

The next regular council meeting will be held on Tues. Apr. 2nd, 1991.

FEB BALANCE SHEET

Expenditures

David Low	301.41
Janice Hare	239.35
Waste Systems Corp.	1231.09
IPERS	187.25
City of Fertile	51.00
Peoples Nat. Gas	309.82
Winnebago Co-op Tele.	35.51
Dick Sheimo	296.21
Cheryl Benson	260.95
Treas. State of Ia.	84.07
Cely Olson	19.39
Jusin Hoeft	20.00
Sarah Richard	70.65
Interstate Power Co.	707.50
Christian Book Store	20.22
Northwood Anchor	18.00
Mayo Clinic Health Letter	24.00
Pronto Market	38.72
Glamour	14.97
Ingram	170.33
B. Dalton	49.05
Baker & Taylor	25.63
Feed-Rite Controls	10.00
Demco	56.60
Capper's Book Service	30.80
Food And Fuel	58.46
Yelland And Hanes	14.52
Co-op Service Inc.	28.00
Marv's Service	5.46
Fertile Lmbr. & Hdwe.	4.70
Wosley Electric	12.48
Higgin's Lab.	40.00
Dan Benson	108.05

Total 4,544.19
Total Receipts 3,524.73

to be progress, even in a telephone ring. At one time they cranked every number by hand, then came electricity, now the dial system plan. The telephone company needed more than just ladies' frills, they needed a secretary and treasurer to pay the bills. Nels Fjeld was elected with paper and pen and after forty years his work has come to an end. Then the lines got broken, telephones wouldn't ring and they needed a lineman to mend everything. So George Hall applied, got his tools and was hired. He worked twenty-five years, they went to dial and he retired. So we say farewell as we blot out our tears, to a telephone company that's been here fifty years; and to the operators who have worked so true and we'll accept the dial system and try something new.

By Mrs. George Hall, Fertile, Ia.

ATTENTION

LITTLE LEAGUE SOUP SUPPER

SATURDAY APRIL 27th

5 to 7 p.m. at the Fertile Comm.

Center. Fund raiser for equipment

and uniforms. Please support your team.

The Fertile Community Center needs to have a fire extinguisher system installed to meet State Codes. The cost will be around \$1,200. If you would like to contribute, make your check payable to Fertile Comm. Center and leave at the center or mail to Box 171 Fertile Iowa 50434.

Thank you to all who made my 80th birthday special. To my Grandchildren for the great surprise party. To Diane for the party on Friday and to all who sent birthday cards and or attended my parties. It was all greatly appreciated.

Doris Burtness

Thank the following merchants for making it possible for us to publish the FERTILE REMINDER. Their ads help us to purchase the paper, ink, labels, and other supplies. We still need to hear from you to pay postage and other expenses.

LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2219

FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE 797-2437

BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490

PRONTO MARKET 797-9698

MARV'S SERVICE 797-2677
Batteries & tune-ups

RAY SANDIFER - TOM'S SALES 797-2681

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

WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494
Katolight Generators
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