

FERTILE

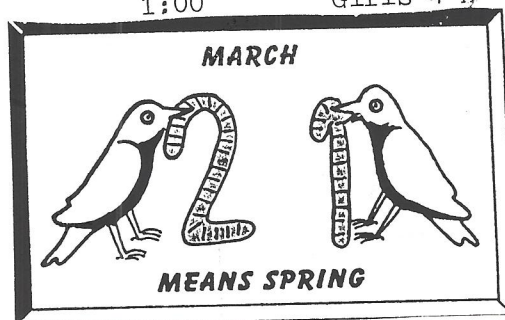
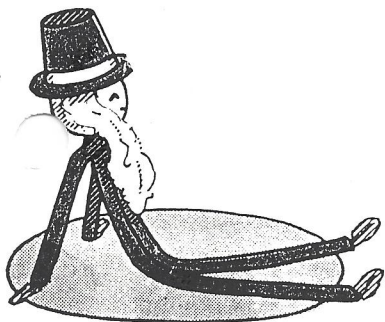
REMINDER

W W W W W W W W W W

*Artist
De Ann Monson*

COMING EVENTS

Feb. 26	4:30 - 7:00	Fish & Bbq Meatball Supper Fertile Community Center
March 1	7:00	Firemens Meeting
March 2	12:00 7:00	Senior Citizens Dinner Council Meeting
March 3	7:00	RECYCLE DAY Community Center Board Meeting Fertile Community Center
March 9	12:00	Garden Club Potluck Dinner
March 16	12:00	Senior Citizens Dinner
March 18	7:00	Library Meeting
March 20	1:00 1:00	Boys 4-H Girls 4-H



COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Tues., Feb. 2, 1993. Mayor Nye presiding and council members Sandifer, Smith, Scobee and Felland were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Joan Norem discussed city's insurance. Cost will be about the same as last year.

Discussion on having the well pump pulled and checked. Dave Low will get prices.

Work was done on the budget for next year.

Council discussed working on street lights on Main Street and bringing them up to date. Motion to change lights from Mercury to Sodium. Carried. Poles will need to be painted, too.

City received a refund check from Iowa Assoc. of Municipal Utilities for \$911.00.

Report given on new copier at the Library. Motion to pay \$295.00 on the cost. Carried.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

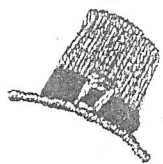
* * * * *

Eleven new street lights will be installed on Main Street. Due to the fact that the current ones need repair, are obsolete and sooner or later will be outlawed. The Council decided to install Sodium lights as they will produce more light and will pay for themselves in a short period of time, due to less cost to operate.

* * * * *

Thank you for putting an X on my mail box - Its that time for renewing! The "Fertile Reminder" and the "Hanlontown Sundowner" are my two favorite little newspapers. Having olden time and modern time news, pictures, poems, receipes, etc. of Fertile and Hanlontown as they were my home towns - I look forward to getting and reading them every month. Keep up the good work!

From an "Oldie"
Loraine Kirk Hall
Lake Mills, Iowa

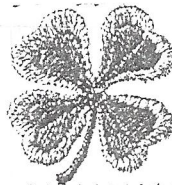


PERSONAL TOUCH BEAUTY SALON
TOM & NANCE SHEIMO 7072422

JANUARY BALANCE SHEET
EXPENDITURES

City of Fertile	\$ 25.50
Larsen Plby & Htg.	225.40
Pronto Market	19.11
Matt Parrott & Sons	254.77
Feed Rite - Controls	20.00
Worsley Electric	109.00
BMC	15.06
Liberty Ins. Services	50.00
David Low	301.41
Tim Tuttle	159.57
Janice Hare	282.08
Interstate Power Co.	800.11
Treas. State of Iowa	144.36
IPERS	77.67
Wastes Systems Corp.	316.00
Wastes Systems Corp.	1221.73
Winn. Co-op Tele.	58.89
Peoples Natl. Gas	216.39
Fertile Library	1800.00
Postmaster	29.00
Forest City Greenhouse	23.50
Food-n-Fuel	64.00
Alden Pool Municipal supply	26.85
Electronic Spec., Inc	3.00
Liberty Bank & Trust	792.08
Fertile Comm. Center	400.00
Total	\$7435.48

Total Receipts \$4919.71



LETTERS

Think alot of my home town of Fertile. I miss Mrs. Hall's writings in the Reminder. I hope to see some of her writing sketches again. No one can get to much history about good old "Putsy" town. Find enclosed donation for The Reminder.

Agnes McCauley
Mason City, Ia.

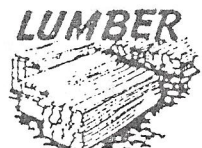
Please renew my subscription to the Reminder. Sure missed it when it wasn't in the mail.

Evelyn Knudson
Webster City, Ia.

Enclosed is a check for The Reminder. Please continue to send us the "Fertile Reminder". Like to hear about good "Old Putsy"! You gals are doing a good job! Keep it up!

Jeri Washburn
Clear Lake, Ia.

FERTILE LUMBER AND HARDWARE, INC.
P.O. BOX 145
FERTILE, IOWA 50434
PHONE: (515) 797-2437
EUGENE HALL LEON HAGEN



We have had many problems at the Center the last few weeks. An underground gas line developed a leak, so we had to run a new line to the kitchen at a cost of \$364.25. In trying to conserve heat we had a wall built to shut off the upstairs so had to have upstairs water shut off. In doing this it also shut it off to our kitchen so had to have new water lines run from storeroom to kitchen at a cost of \$391.66. We had two furnaces installed to heat the downstairs only at a cost of \$3780.00 plus \$275.00 for wiring. After much cleaning we were ready to open on February 1st. Our first day back we found the refrigerator in dining room had a freon leak which was fixed at a cost of \$70.00. The next day we smelled gas again in the kitchen and found we had a leak in our automatic fire extinguisher (required by our insurance company), so we have spent \$4880.89 for maintenance so far this year. We received \$400.00 from the city plus \$2600.00 from community members. We are in the process of trying to raise the balance. We want to emphasize that the center is first a center for the community to use. It is available to all groups to use, that is the reason the city accepted it from the Forest City school district. The board is doing the best it can to keep it open for all to use. The Senior Citizens have their two rooms that they rent for \$182.50 a month. A cafe was started two years ago to try to make money to help support the center and also to give people a place to meet for coffee and lunch as no other cafe is open morning hours. It is used for that purpose five days a week from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is available to all others to rent the rest of the time. It is also available to all local groups for any donation they care to give. It is used for voting, Garden Club, Little League, 4-H, family gatherings, class reunions, auctions, government commodities distribution, etc. The only requirement is that they dust the floors and leave it in the condition they found it as we have no paid janitor. A few are using the gym this winter for walking. There is no heat in the gym until we are able to afford a hanging heater. The gym is also available for other use. If it is used by young people an adult must be present at all times. If you have any questions, please contact a board member or attend a board meeting. The next board meeting will be March 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Expenses for January other than the ones already listed are heat \$869.90, city \$25.50, garbage \$21.00, lights \$148.85, telephone \$20.87, wax & cleaning supplies \$102.09 and \$s for fish supper \$21.40 for a total of \$1209.61 plus furnace & repair expenses of \$4880.89 for grand total of \$6090.50.



Ruth B Ouverson
Sec & Treas. - Fertile Community Center Board

"Congratulations!"

A son, Zachery Todd, was born on January 17, 1993 to Todd and Ellen Lundgren of Fertile. Grandparents are Lance and Diane Burtness and Rhanda and Kenneth Lundgren all of Fertile. Great grandparents are Les and Doris Burtness of Fertile and Homer and Ann Brinton of Belmond, Ia.

A daughter, Sally Jo, was born on January 30, 1993 to Kevin and Jill Sheimo of Forest City. Grandparents are Frank and Shirley Sheimo of Fertile and Fred and Sharon Renshaw of Phoenix, Ariz. Great grandparents are Alvada Helvick of Forest City and Blanche McGrady of Clear Lake.

Daughter, Hannah Christine, was born on February 11, 1993 to Julie and Marv Vavrik of Clear Lake, Ia. Grandparents are Duane and Marcheta Pederson of Fertile and Louis and Marge Vavrik of Ventura, Ia. Great-grandmother is Edna Pederson of Fertile, Ia.

Our fund raising breakfast on February 6th was successful. The breakfast took in \$334.35 and we received \$346.00 in donations. We have been notified by Lutheran Brotherhood Branch #8023 that we are eligible for a \$500 matching grant for our fish and meatball supper on February 26th. Please help us by attending. If you would care to help work or furnish call 797-2424 by week day between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m.

SENIOR CITIZEN MENU'S - for March

- March 2 - Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salads, pineapple upside-down cake, rolls and coffee
- March 16 - Baked pork chop, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, salads, cake, rolls and coffee

REMINDER

Friday February 26th
4:30 - 7:00
FISH & BBG MEATBALL SUPPER

A FLASH BACK OF SIX DECADES

WHO STARTED THE 1932 FIRE?

In the 1920's and 30's, it was not uncommon to hear the little town of Fertile referred to as the "Holy City". Of course, this was spoken in a rather light vein. However, it is ironic that what could have been one of the worst tragedies in the history of Worth County was narrowly averted in this very place.

This was a community that any parent would have been delighted to raise their family in, where school standards were exceedingly high, and the town's government was strict. Plus the fact that there were three active churches where most of the community was involved. Yes, it truly was a place where law and order and senior citizens were respected.

Nevertheless, upon an unsuspecting village, with the majority of its residents sleeping soundly and securely within the protection of the valley, on a cold, wintry night in March 1932, an "arsonist" crept into town with much vengeance in his heart, and not much thought of the heinous crime about to be committed.

S.W. (Sam) Wilds previously operated the Park Cafe on Main St. (in the area of the Sandifer Building on the south side of Main St.). Because of his many encounters with the law over illegal and unlawful possession of intoxicating liquor, maintaining a liquor nuisance, and violating the cigarette law. He was arrested for contempt of court, jailed and fined. Upon release from jail, Wilds was ordered to leave Worth County. Fertile residents shed no tears at his departure, but never realized they had not heard the last of Sam Wilds.

Because of my desire to give an accurate account of what occurred on March 31, 1932, I visited the office of the Clerk of Court in Northwood, Iowa, so the statements made, for the most part, are authentic.

According to the written testimony of Harley Wilds, who was living with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. S.W. Wilds in Thompson, Iowa on March 31, 1932, this is the story he told.

Sam Wilds, along with Harley, left Thompson for Hanlontown - and enroute decided to stop off at Forest City to buy kerosene and gasoline. Having brought a 5-gallon gas can and a 10-gallon cream can from home, Harley inquired "What are we going to do?" Sam Wilds replied, "I'll tell you later." They journeyed on to Hanlontown where they were seen by several residents. In fact, they visited with men in the Barber Shop, and other places of business. Later that evening, as they started west on Hwy. 9, Sam informed his son, Harley, that he wanted him to drive him to Fertile where he was going to burn down the cafe! After a period of time they went south to Fertile, circled back north just beyond the bridge by the park, where Sam Wilds proceeded to get out with the two cans, equipped with kerosene and gasoline. He ordered Harley to drive back to Hwy. 9 and park on the east side of the intersection to await his return. On or near 2:30 a.m., as the fire in Fertile was becoming more and more visible, Wilds returned to his son and they drove west to their home in Thompson.

In the meantime, the cafe's new owner, Melvin Oredsen, his wife, Edith, and little son, Bobby, were asleep in the upstairs apartment. Also living in the apartment were his parents, Marius and Ida Oredsen, and their four children - Hazel, Dorothea, Donald and Edna Mae. All were sound asleep. Downstairs two local residents, Kenny Haugen and Ernie Johson, had been hired to wash the ceilings. Oswald Evenson, former owner of the cafe, also occupied sleeping quarters there. Suddenly they discovered the fire on the outside of the building. Flames were shooting higher and higher, and windows were already starting to pop out. The two men immediately warned the Oredsens, and dressed only in night clothes they escaped either by stairway or through a window. One of the girls grabbed a pair of shoes, and once on the ground ran to report the fire to the telephone office, quite a distance from there. Two other couples, the Jensens and the Magnusons occupied the Freeman Building, which was just east of the cafe. They also escaped unharmed. Both buildings burned to the ground, and all furniture and clothing were a total loss, as well as Oredsens' anniversary gifts. Next door to the cafe on the west side was an unoccupied small building and the Barber Shop with living quarters in one end. This building, also threatened by the blaze, was owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Eikenbary and family. Immediately, they also prepared to move out. But a "bucket brigade" formed by local men managed to keep the fire under control and their building was saved. Neighbors and friends immediately opened up their homes to the Oredsens, and others, until they could get situated in a different location.

We must make mention that suddenly as the fire was at its height, the wind changed. We want to acknowledge that the Lord intervened, saving the entire block from going up in smoke!

Once again, returning to an incident on the night of the fire. E.W. Lilley, Supt. of Schools, was returning at a rather late hour from a meeting in Northwood. As he approached the intersection (Hwy. 9 - Fertile turn-off), he noticed a parked car on the east side. His attention was called to a broken tail light on the 1928 Chevy. Later, upon learning of the fire the following morning, Mr. Lilley and Mayor Norman Jorgenson, returned to the very spot the car had been parked. They made plaster of Paris molds of the tire marks. Then they proceeded to do the same thing with the tire tracks of the car that had turned around south of the bridge by the park. They were identical!

I especially took note of the fact that within two days after the fire, the Wilds' son, Harley, went for a ride with his brother who also lived at home, and it was then that he told his brother what their father had done that night in Fertile. Together, they decided to drive to Fertile and check to see the damage done for themselves.

Soon afterwards S.W. Wilds was arrested, accused of willfully and maliciously setting fire to and burning the dwelling house occupied by Melvin Oredsen. Thirty-six witnesses were subpoenaed to testify. Several stated that Sam Wilds had made threats to get even with people in Fertile, including Charlie Eikenbary and the fellows across the street. He also remarked, "I have never met a man I couldn't get even with." The trial date was set for July 1932, and Wilds was brought up from Anamosa. L. Boomhower of Mason City was his attorney, and many local citizens were acquainted with him. Neither the cans found in the ashes and exhibited at the trial, or the explicit account told by his son Harley, (which was clear cut and honest) convinced the jurors of anything other than circumstantial evidence, and Mr. Wilds was declared not guilty!! The only sentence handed down to Sam Wilds was for carrying a concealed weapon. He did have a lengthy stay in the State Penitentiary.

It was interesting to see Sam Wilds' handwritten letter addressed "To Whom It May Concern". He stated in it that he was only carrying the gun (tied to his neck, and pinned to his underwear) in case the jury found him guilty of a crime he did not commit-- he then planned suicide.

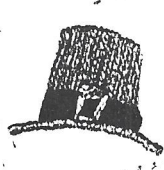
Once again we reiterate the testimony of many local people who heard Sam Wilds make threats about "getting even". The scripture that comes to my remembrance is the last part of Matthew 12:34 which reads, "for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh".

So, another chapter of the event which occurred on March 31, 1932 came to a close. In our finite minds we do not understand the court system or the justice of it all, and even though most of us are satisfied that we know the truth, yet there will always be some who are still questioning--who really started the 1932 fire?

I acknowledge with thanks the assistance given me by the Worth County Clerk of Court office.



*Who
are we?
We all
live in
Fertile*

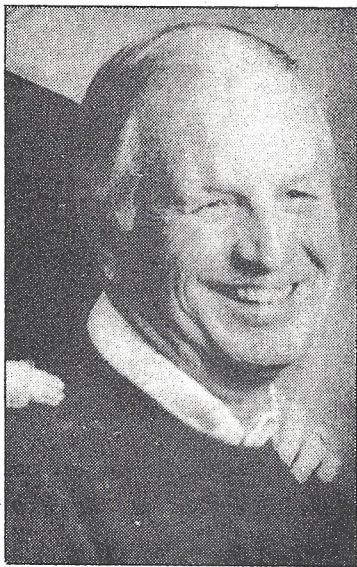


Erma A. Brue

LIBERTY BANK & TRUST
896-2265



We are pleased "The Reminder" is printed this time on our new Minolta 2150 copier which has been purchased. It is a basic machine and will also enlarge or reduce a copy. Our copier has been paid for by the town council, The Reminder, a grant from Winnebago. A generous gift in memory of Reva Nelson was given to the Library to be used toward the copier from Laverne Nelson and we also have received donations from others. Our thanks to all who helped purchase our copier.



1935-1993

DONALD J. SUBY

The town of Fertile was very saddened on Monday January 25 with the sudden death of a very prominent resident and businessman, Don Suby. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Zelda, Julie, Sallie, Rob and your families. We know he will be greatly missed by you as well as the town and community of Fertile. Donald J. Suby, the son of Carl Lewis Suby and Agnes (Tweed) Suby, was born Dec. 29, 1935, in Forest City. He attended school in Fertile and graduated from Fertile High School in 1954. He played on the Fertile basketball team which went to state tournaments two consecutive years. Don attended Hamilton Business College before starting his own trucking business. Nov. 23, 1956, he married Zelda Skogerboe at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City. The couple made their home Fertile since that time. Don continued his trucking business and later purchased part ownership of the Fertile Tile Plant with his father. He then did electrical work with Worsley Electric. In 1978, Don went into business with Carl Larsen and Dennis Faber in Larsen Plumbing and Heating. After Larsen's retirement, Don and Faber continued to own and operate the business. Don was an ambitious, hard worker his entire life. Don liked to travel and most of all enjoyed spending time with his family and grandchildren. He enjoyed snowmobiling and many other outdoor activities. He was a lifetime member of Fertile Lutheran Church and was currently serving on the church council.

Survivors include his wife, Zelda; two daughters Julie of Rochester, Sallie of Denver, Co. and a son Rob of Des Moines. Two sisters, Ardis Sheimo of Fertile and Judy Gilbertson of Ackley, Ia. and a brother Dean of Lakewood, Co., also six grandchildren.

Our sympathy to Sandy Niles on the death of her father, Ray Olson, of Leland, Ia., who passed away on January 18, 1993. Sandy lives in Fertile.

Our sympathy to the family of Eva Suby who passed away on February 5, 1993. She was married to the late Peter Suby who along with his brother Lewis owned and operated the Fertile Tile Plant. Eva had been a resident of Oakwood Care Center for the past years.

Word has been received of the death of Nancy Oredsen Graham of San Diego, Ca. She was a daughter of Pete and Mildred Oredson. Pete lived in the Fertile area and attended school in Fertile. Our sympathy to the family.

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thank You ...

There are no words to convey our heartfelt appreciation to family, friends, and neighbors who lovingly supported us with kindness and prayers in the recent loss of our loved one. May God bless each of you.

The Don Suby Family

I want to thank all my relatives and friends for their prayers and concerns while I was in the hospital and since returning home. It is wonderful to live in a community where people care.

Fern Midtgaard

I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts and goodies on my 90th birthday party which was held at the Church of Christ.

Bob Kuhns

JB & Associates, Inc.

P.O. Box 58 • 509 West Main Street • Fertile, Iowa 50434

JoAnn Bailey
President
797-2712

Lonnie Bailey
Vice President

Melody Morse
Vice President/
Treasurer
797-2708

Jodie
McChesney
Vice President/
Secretary
357-4893

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We are JB & Associates, Inc., a diversified corporation located in Fertile, Iowa.

We are establishing a computerized bookkeeping service for individuals and business's. We have expertise in bank reconciliations, income statements, balance sheets, quarterly taxes (federal and state including job service) payroll and many other aspects of bookkeeping.

Our president, JoAnn Bailey, has been active in bookkeeping since 1973. She was city clerk for the town of Fertile for 6 years and has been office manager for Commercial Services Group, Inc. for the past 2 1/2 years.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our rates and services with you, at a time convenient for you. Call us at (515) 797-2712.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

JoAnn Bailey

JoAnn Bailey
President

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I would like to invite you to take advantage of my February and March special which is a perm and haircut for \$25.00 plus tax

Price list for "THE TOTAL LOOK"

Perm.(long hair add \$5.00) \$25.00 + tax

Haircut.....\$5.00 + tax

Shampoo set.....\$6.50 + tax

Thermal style.....\$5.25 + tax

French braiding.....\$6.00 + tax

Haircut/Thermal style.....\$9.25 + tax

Haircut/Shampoo set.....\$10.50 + tax

I'm located at 509 West Main, Fertile,

Iowa. I'm a licensed Cosmetologist with

ten years experience and open by

appointment only. My number is 797-2888. If

I'm not in, please leave a message on the answering machine and I'll call back directly.

Thank you and hope to see you in the future.



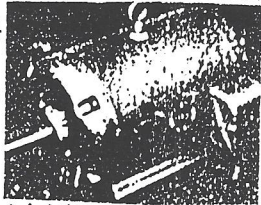
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My Bible is a precious book,
on its pages I love to look.

It tells me how to live today
and points me to the narrow way.

The way in which I choose to walk,
and guides me in my daily talk,

It sets again the battle line
of which each person must define.

The way in which we choose to go,
the things of which we want to know.

And as I read my mind is stirred
as I read each precious word.

It tells me how the world began,
and gives the map of God's great plan.

How man failed, and then did fall.
But now must listen to His call.

Destroyed then by the mighty flood,
but now are rescued by His blood.

Of our sins we must repent,
as to us this word is sent,

On our Christ we must believe,
then His pardon we will receive.

He will take our many sins
and send His spirit to dwell within.

Only then we have the right
to be guided by His light.

As I reflect I can but see
the many things He's done for me.

BY LES HUNTER.



The story of David and Goliath was
told at our church's Bible Class, a
five year old boy was asked by the
teacher, What would you do if you
were in Davids shoes today? without
hesitation he replied I'd call 911.!

Joan E. Norem
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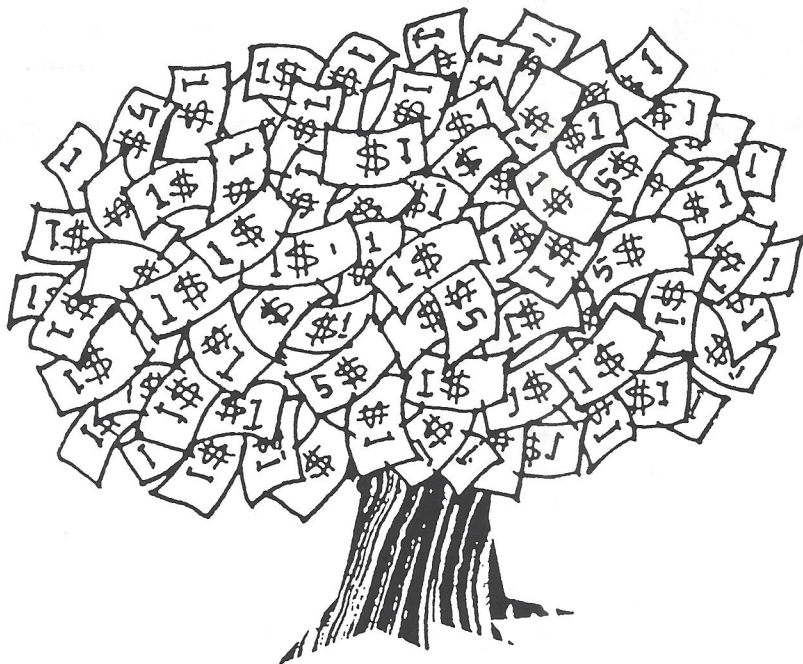
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KIDS
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THE MONEY TREE

Find five \$5 bills



The wife who drives from the back seat is no worse than the husband who cooks from the dining table.

AN OVER NIGHT QUICHE

Recipe

- 8 eggs
- 4 cups milk
- 2 tsp. dry mustard
- 2 tsp. crisco oil
- Dash paprika

Butter a 9x13 pan. Tear into pieces 6 slices of bread. Put in bottom of pan. Beat the above egg mixture and pour over the bread. Fry as much bacon as you care and crumble over the bread. Put in refrigerator over night. In a.m. top with 1 cup shredded cheese. Bake 1 hour at 350°.

Maxine Rye

Mark your wall with a wet fingerprint - for the exact spot for the hanger when hanging a picture - The print dries without a mark.

Hang a picture with a sewing machine needle - They hold up to 30 pounds.

Shaving cream is one of the most useful upholstery cleaners for new stains and ordinary dirt.

Pour salt on grease spill immediately. The salt will absorb the grease and prevent staining.

A good scrubbing with turpentine should remove rust on metal furniture.

Pour salad oil - a few drops at a time on stuck paper that is on a wood surface. Let stand awhile and rub with soft cloth. Repeat until the paper is gone!



Back Row - Jim & Julie Rye, Don Nissen
Front Row - Nancy Larson & Bob Nissen

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Names of the Mystery Photo

IN COSTUME FOR CENTENNIAL.—Mrs. Maynard Zobel, Fertile, helps daughter Debbie put on her bonnet during Monday's celebration of the North Iowa community's 100th birthday. With Mrs. Zobel are her two other daughters, Janie (left) and Patty Ann. The centennial celebration ended Monday night after a three-day program.

Fertile Public Library

Monday 2 - 8pm Wed. 1 - 8pm
Friday 1 - 5pm Sat. 9 - Noon
Phone & Fax # 797-2787

NEW BOOKS

FICTION

Driving Force by Dick Francis
The Copper Beech by Maeve Binchy
The Boning Knife by Hilda Stahl
At Point Blank by Virginia Owens
The Illuminati by Larry Burkett
Deadly Deception by Gilbert Morris
Murder at the National Cathedral
by Margaret Truman
The Bridges of Madison County by
Robert James Waller

NON-FICTION

If Mr. Clean Calls, Tell Him I'm
Not In! by Martha Bolton
Where Angels Walk by Joan Anderson
Blood Money by Carol Everett
Murdered Heiress by Petti Wagner
The Sackett Companion- Louis L'Amour
The Way Things Ought to Be by Rush
Limbaugh
Bankruptcy 1995 by Harry Figgie Jr.

VIDEOS

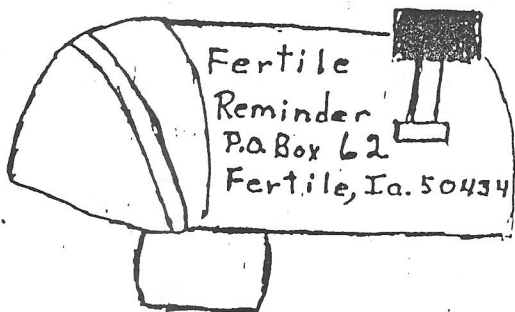
Serendipity: the Pink Dragon
The Care Bears: Be My Valentine

The Northwood & Hanlontown Libraries
have loaned us new westerns and
romance novels for the next couple
months.

THE NEW IOWA LOCATOR IS HERE!

The new CD-ROM program is now ready
for use by you, the patron. The
easy to use program is loaded with
book listings from all 550 Iowa
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book, you can get it in 2 - 5 days
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all available to us because of the
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Andy Oswald
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March