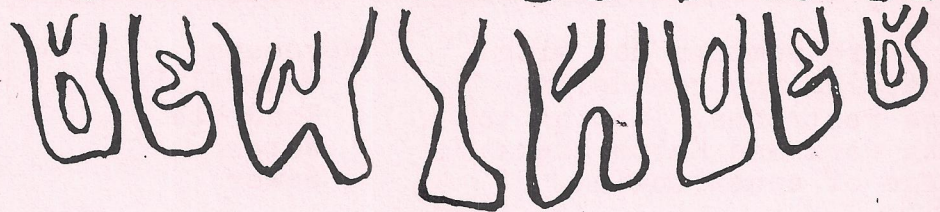


May 1995

# FERTILE



# REMINDER



## COMING EVENTS

April	22	Benefit Aution	10:00
		Comm; Center	
May	1	Firemens Meeting	7:00
May	2	Senior Citizens Dinner	12:00
May	2	Council Meeting	7:00
May	3	Recycle Day	
May	3	Commodities	1-3
May	9	Garden Club	
May	14	Mothers Day	
May	15	Seniors Citizens Dinner	12:00
May	16	Library Meeting	7:00
May	20	Girls and Boys 4-H	1:00
May	29	Memorial Day	



COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Tues., April 4, 1995 with Mayor Elthon presiding and all council members present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Motion to allow a camper to park in the Fertile Park beginning April 27. Carried.

Water ordinance changed to raise minimum \$2 per month for the first 3,000 gallons used and the rest will remain the same as before. Carried.

Joan Norem discussed the city's insurance policy. Premium was down \$667.00. She will breakdown the coverage so city knows what part is for fire department coverage.

Two Library Board members met with the council regarding the remodeling necessary in the restrooms. Motion to proceed with the work and Keith Brcka will be in charge of construction. Carried.

Discussion on cementing the small shelter house in the park up to the fireplace. FBI group will donate \$250.00 to the project. FBI group would like it to be done by June 1st.

Discussion on graveling streets and alleys. Motion to gravel worst alleys first and then the park. Carried.

Dave Low discussed work that needs to be done to manholes and sewer line. Motion to TV camera part of the sewer line. Carried.

Footbridge is closed off and picnic tables will be cemented in small shelter house.

Discussion on mower repair or replacement. Motion to spend up to \$3500 to replace mower.

Motion to pay bills. Carried.  
Meeting adjourned.

(Minutes taken by Jodie Smith in clerks absence.)

Janice Hare  
City Clerk

Dave Haugen, Owner



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Hartfordtown, IA 50444

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MARCH  
Expenditures

Les Zearing	\$ 623.58
David Low	301.41
Janice Hare	264.80
Interstate Power Co.	612.23
Treas. - State of IA.	116.01
Liberty Bank & Trust	207.42
IPERS	128.11
Waste Systems Corp.	1458.68
IAMO	327.00
Fertile Lbr.& Hdwe	4.03
WCTA	22.80
Forest City Greenhouse	22.50
Feed - Rite Controls	15.00
Liberty Insurance	155.00
<hr/>	
	4258.57

Revenues	
General Fund	3809.99
Road Use	2575.40
Water	2561.50
Sewer	2175.93

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Twenty one members of the Fertile Garden Club gathered at the Community Center and drove to Garner to visit the Greenhouse and also Petals & Presents. Both very interesting and we got a lot of ideas. We then went to the Senior Citizens Building for our business meeting and lunch.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call was answered by "Our most memorable sewing or sowing experience". We decided to give a contribution to the Fertile Auction. Edna Pederson gave the thought for the day.

Hostessess were Lorna Petersburg and Mildred McGrath who served a delicious lunch.

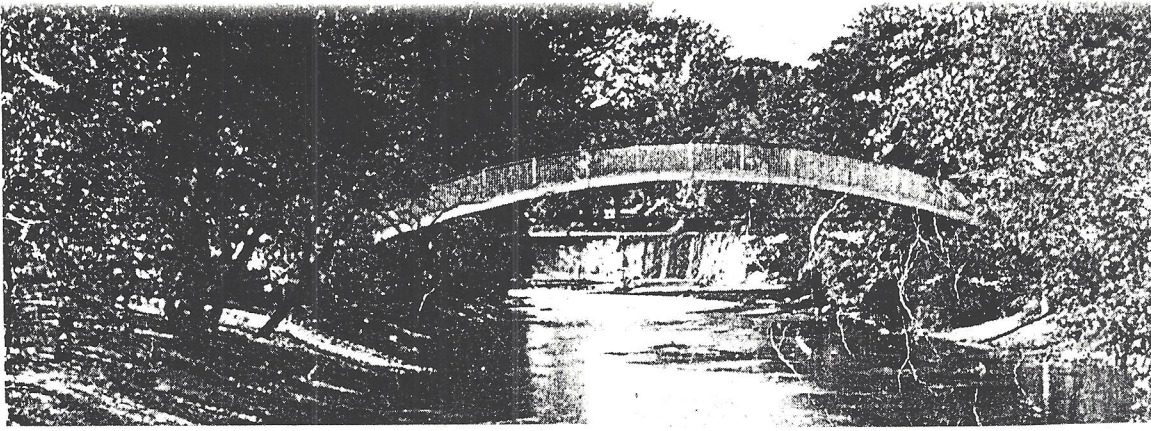
The next meeting will be a plant and bake sale May 6th, from 9 AM to 11 AM. at the home of Pat Oswald. Door prizes will be given and lunch will be served. Come and get your plants and goodies. Everyone welcome.

Ethel Tuttle  
Reporter

\*\*\*\*\*

**RUUD** BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING  
797-2680  
Larry & Lance Burtness

\*\*\*\*\*



## FERTILE ARCHED FOOTBRIDGE

By Lester Burtness

The unique arched footbridge is the only one in Worth Co., Ia. It was built in 1955 and placed across the Winnebago River in June 1955. It is now deteriorating and has to be repaired and at the present time is closed. The purpose for the bridge was to allow the citizens to have a direct route to the Wm. Rhodes Park from Main Street. It extends from the Wm Rhodes Park across the Winnebago River to the north on land donated by Thelan Elthon, giving a public approach from Main Street. The bridge was designed by Lester Burtness of Fertile. The Lions Club of Fertile had a fund drive raising \$2100 which paid for the material for the bridge. It is 80' long with an 8' rise at its highest point and 30" wide. Members of the Lions Club and other citizens built the bridge in the park on the curved driveway as that was the same angle as the arch of the bridge. They poured two cement abutments, one on the north and one on the south for the bridge to set in. They started with two metal rods in the middle of the bridge lengthwise to give it strength and to protect it from severe wind damage. 2x12's were laid on the outside and then 2x10's were cut in 8' lengths and altered to fit the curve of the bridge. These were laid on top on 2x12's so that the joints mismatched until the bridge was approximately 30" wide. All the wood was treated with a preservative on both sides. Henry Van Den Bosch put his dragline in the middle of the river and a chain was attached to the bridge and to the dragline and with the guidance of the men it was lifted and set in the two cement abutments. After it was in place it was anchored with four cables two on the north and two on the south. The sides of the bridge were made of angle irons and pipe and enclosed with a fence. The purpose of this bridge was to give an all season bridge because the old wooden one had to be put up every spring and taken down in the fall because of the ice. We are hoping that this landmark can be repaired and again placed over the river.

Written by  
Peggy Ouverson

## Footbridges of Fertile

The old, narrow and straight planked bridge  
that we remember as very young kids,  
Was not too safe a place to cross  
as children, could have easily fallen off on their heads.

Then, too, each year in very late Fall  
the old bridge had to come down,  
Because of approaching cold weather  
this made more work for the men of the town.

Again, in the Spring, when the ice was all gone  
and the bridge could again be erected,  
The same willing hands would appear  
which in a small town is expected.

It then became evident, weather had taken its toll  
so Les Burtness soon began dreaming,  
Of a modern arched footbridge  
which indeed would involve much planning.

Then, Thelan gladly donated some land  
so folks could approach from the street,  
And the Lions and other local residents  
along with Hank VDB accomplished this feat!

The flowing Winnebago  
which complements the bridge so rare,  
Is where romantic lovers  
spent moonlight nights, in weather fair.

And to this landmark with such beauty  
came visitors from far and near,  
Who seemingly admired and enjoyed  
our bridge and little town we hold so dear.

But our aging lovely bridge, so arched  
needs overhauling now,  
And the question that arises  
is the overwhelming -- HOW?

But as per usual  
where there's a will, there's a way,  
So with much anticipation  
the Bridge (repaired) will be back to stay!

By Erma Bruc

# AUCTION

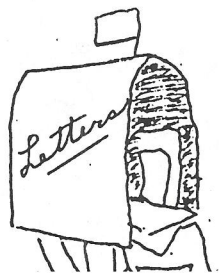
A Community Auction will be held Saturday April 22, 1995 from 10:00 a.m. to ?. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. to view. It will be held at the Fertile Community Center Gym. This is a fund raiser to keep our center operating.

We need your donations, please bring them to the center or call Carolyn Nedved at 797-2696.

Rex and Norman Taylor from the Forest City Cow Palace are donating their services to us. Some of our auction items are: dinner for 2 at the Lodge, sofa, end tables, coffee table, stroller, microwave, dishes, oil change w/oil and filter, peat, 12 CD's, snuggle blanket, home canned beef, baked goods, crafts, load of cut fire wood, bird stand (finch), collectable Ferrari (Red) 1987 car, 8 new T-shirts, sweatshirt, 4 hats, coffee mugs, pop, 25 ft. measuring tape, range hood, shampoo, mayor to mow a lawn, travel alarm clock, many gift certificates for food, movies, bowling, groceries, car washes, hair cuts, fruit basket, new Viking jacket, new screwdrivers and much more.

Please come and enjoy the company of your neighbors and friends and eat one of Ruth's good maid-rites! Lunch served in gym.

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## LETTERS

To the Fertile Reminder Staff: I enjoy receiving the Reminder and appreciate the time and effort that goes into publishing it each month. Keep up the good work!

Evelyn (Tweeten) Juvet  
 Phoenix, Az.

Enclosed in money for my renewal and any other expenses. All you people do good work and I enjoy the paper.

Pat Tuttle  
 Fertile, Ia.

Thanks for the X on my mail box. What a wonderful way to remind all of us. We look forward to the newsy letter and the recipes. Lots of people I don't know but good to read about the activities in Putsy. Keep up the good work.

A Senior Citizen  
 Eva (Purcell) Hain  
 Minneapolis, Mn.

## PLANT AND BAKE SALE

Everyone is invited to the Fertile Garden Club Plant and Bake Sale on Saturday May 6th from 9-11 a.m. in the Pat Oswald home.



CLASS OF 1945: Plans are in the making for a 50th class reunion. It will be held the week-end of the Alumni Banquet June 10th. Invitations will be sent to the class members. There are 11 members living and 4 deceased in the class.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* FERTILE LUMBER AND HARDWARE, INC. \*  
 \* P.O. Box 145 \*  
 \* Fertile, Iowa 50434 \*  
 \* Phone: (515) 797-2437 \*  
 \* Eugene Hall \*  
 \* Leon Hagen \*  
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\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* PERSONAL TOUCH BEAUTY SALON \*  
 \* TOM & NANCE SHEIMO \*  
 \* 797-2422 \*  
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 3 Locations in Mason City

# FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday 1-8 pm Wednesday 1-8 pm  
Friday 2-5 Saturday 9-Noon  
Phone #797-2787  
Fax #797-2787



A "Night of a Thousand Stars" was held Wednesday, April 12, at 7 pm, 22 children in PJ's attended. Guest Mouse, Pat Oswald, read a bedtime story, Little Mouse's Rescue. Milk & cookies were served & THE EASTER BUNNY passed out treats! Prize winners won kites, they were Ryan Shropshire, Anna Almeliem, & Zackery Lundgren.

Pictured, left to right, Pat Oswald, Ryan Shropshire, Anna Almeliem, Zackery Lundgren, & Emily Suby (alias the Easter Bunny).



To the Fertile Library Patrons:

We are trying to get a Library Friends started here in Fertile and we need to know what you are willing to do to help. "Friends" exist for a variety of reasons, not just to raise funding for libraries. We would also help with fun things for kids and adults.

We'd help with purchasing magazines, C.D. Rom Encyclopedia, Videos, storage facilities, help with filing and there is always more books that we could purchase.

Postage has doubled on Interlibrary loans and we could help out with this cost.

Helping with childrens programs - reading stories - puppet shows, crafts, sharing your talents, & fund raisers to be able to do these things for the library.

Would you please fill out the bottom portion of this letter and return to the Fertile Public Library by June 1. (drop in Book Drop or mail)  
Fertile Public Library Box 198 Fertile, IA 50434

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

AM WILLING TO BE ACTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ INACTIVE \_\_\_\_\_

WILLING TO DONATE & WORK \_\_\_\_\_ DONATE \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$3.00 FAMILY \$5.00 (per year)

CONTRIBUTION ONLY \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *May Day*

*Neil L. Kuns*

*May 1, 1994*

The meaning of "May Day" spreads unevenly over time and space. For decades in Eastern European communist countries it was a day to demonstrate military hardware and to flex military muscle. In the air or at sea Mayday, a corruption of the French *m'aidez* (help me), is the universal call of distress, the equivalent of S.O.S. But in countries which have in some way been influenced by English culture, May Day had a much more gentle and genteel meaning. A festival of Spring, featuring flowers, a May Pole and May dancing were all part of the English inheritance.

Having traveled extensively in Britain in recent years, I've come to understand several practices and preferences of my English grandmother, Dora Deuel-Carr. As do the modern English, she liked to cook peas with potatoes, and to serve fried bread for breakfast. But that has nothing to do with May Day.

The custom of making and giving may baskets is something *my* mother taught Dale and me as young children. She learned the routine from *her* mother, Grandma Carr, who doubtlessly picked it up from her English lineage. The little baskets *could* be cut out from construction paper, but we preferred using butter boxes. All during April we would collect the cardboard butter cartons to be used on May Day. Butter came in one pound bricks in those days, and the 3 by 3 by 6 inch packets, when cut in half, made two neat little baskets. We would cut crepe paper a little larger than the basket, and paste it onto the package after stretching it to a tight fit. A handle was then attached to the box to make it more manageable.

The giving of May baskets differed from the Valentine routine six weeks earlier. Baskets were hung on the door of the donee rather than distributed in school, where everyone knew how many everyone else had received and from whom. These little baskets, filled with popcorn, candy or flowers were not identified as to the giver. If there were two possible recipients, either two baskets were given, or the name of the favored one was marked on the basket. Usually these were distributed only in the immediate neighborhood, unless someone had "taken a shine" to a special friend who lived across town. Since this practice tailed off by the time I was twelve, there was never any very serious implication in the gift. It was just something to do because it was May. Crepe paper cost ten cents a pack, butter boxes were free, and popcorn came easily, so in those financially restricted days it was possible to participate without putting any strain on the purses. You don't *always* have to pay the piper.

*Neil Kuns is a minister  
and resides in California*

*He is the son of Vesta Kuns  
who resides in Fertile.*

*With Sympathy*

EACH NEW STEP

Word has been received of the death of Gerald (Dad) Smit of LaPorte City, Ia., who passed away on February 10, 1995 at his home from stomach cancer. He and his wife Marilyn were teachers in the Fertile School system from approximately 1957-1962 when they moved to LaPorte City where they taught until retirement. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, a son Tim and his wife and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son Michael who was born in Forest City, Ia. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Word has been received of the death of Carsten Bergdale, 61, of Manly who passed away April 8, 1995 at the Muse-Norris Hospice Unit in Mason City, Ia. He was the son of the late Carl and Edna (Myli) Bergdale, who farmed in the Fertile and Hanlontown area. Carsten was confirmed in Pilot Knob Lutheran Church and attended school in the Fertile School System. He is survived by four daughters and a son. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sons. Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Our sympathy is extended to Cliff and Mary Petersen on the death of Cliff's grandmother, Dorothy Petersen of Algona, Ia.

Our sympathy is extended to Fred and Jan Hare on the recent death of Fred's mother, Allie Margaret Hare of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

*Thank You*

We want to thank our many friends and relatives for all of your cards sent to both Roger and I with your messages of returning health and to all who have been praying for us. We appreciate so much your thoughts, prayers, visits and offers of help. May God bless each one of you.

In Love,  
Roger & Vera Humphrey

Thank you for all the beautiful cards, gifts and money we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. A gift of money will be sent to Childrens Haven International.

Harold & Ruth Ouverson

Thanks to all who remembered me with prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, and visits when I had by-pass surgery and since returning home. Thanks to Pastor Kamptra for his many visits and being with the family the day of surgery. I appreciate it all very much.

Ray Bakke

This a true story copied from Pastor Dean's "little sermon" in "The Shepherd" of Zion Church, Clear Lake, Ia.

It meant so much to me after reading it, having had a son who had been in Viet Nam.

Here goes! A university professor was invited to speak at a military base one December, and was met at the airport by an unforgettable soldier named Ralph.

After introductions, they headed for the baggage claim, but, as they walked down the concourse, Ralph was constantly being distracted - once to help an elderly lady whose suitcase fell open; again, to lift two toddlers up to see Santa Claus and again, to help someone who was lost in the great terminal.

Each time he returned to the professor's side with a big smile; until, finally, the professor was prompted to ask,

"Where did you learn to do that?"

"Do what?" Ralph said.

"Where did you learn to live like that?"

"Oh," Ralph, replied, "during the war, I guess."

He told the professor of his tour of duty in Viet Nam; about how it was his job to clear mines, and how he literally watched his friends blow up before his eyes, one after another.

"I learned to live between the steps", he said. "I never knew whether the next one would be my last, so I learned to get everything I could out of the moment between when I picked up my foot and when I put it down again. Every step I took was a whole new world."

I am like Pastor Hess. I like that story. The writer of it said it wasn't how long we lived, but how well.

His experiences perfected him.

Are you taking each new step hoping to better yourself and someone?

Maxine Rye

WANTED:

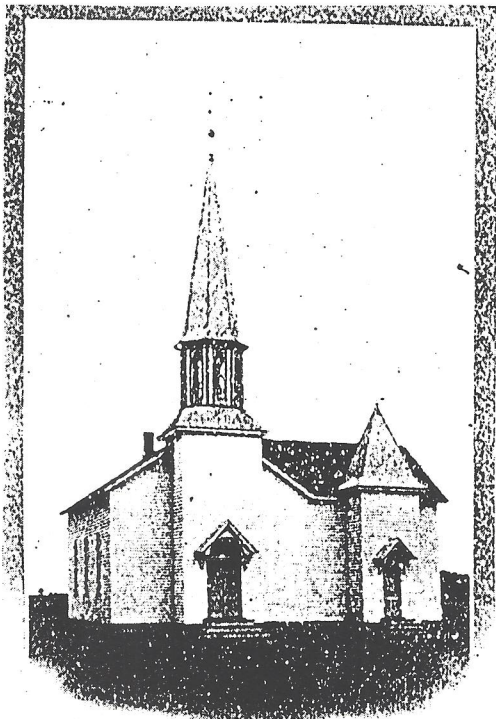
Lawns to mow, Gardens to till, Yards to thatch in town or country. Call Bartusek's 896-2418 after 6 PM.

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797-2219 **LENNOX**

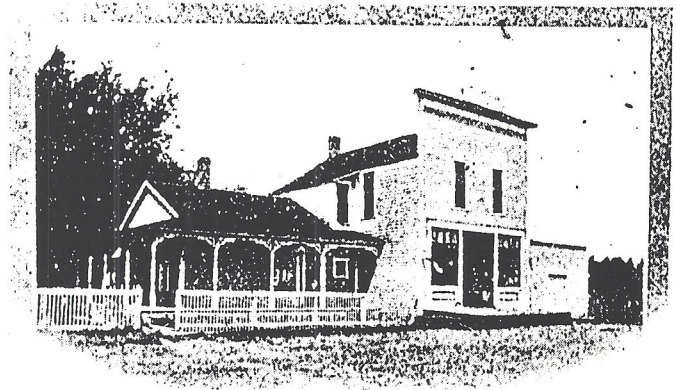
# Worth County Town

## GRAFTON, MELTONVILLE AND BOLAN

**D**AME FORTUNE seems to smile with equal regularity upon these towns, combining earnest of purpose, faultless inhabitation and unique picturesqueness—quite contrary to the country of tasteless fruit, odorless flowers and souless people. Commencing with Meltonville, surrounded as it is not only with its fertility and "stirility," we find the picturesqueness of poetry. It is one of the prettiest towns in the country—nature so destined—an oasis, so to speak. Numerically speaking she is small of statue, but the volume of business transacted there make interesting figures on the adding machine. The Security Bank with Henry A. Larson, cashier, enjoys not only the confidence, but supplies a safe depository for its surroundings. E. A. Back is the oldest general merchandise storekeeper, also postmaster, and his acquaintance insures a liberal patronage. O. J. Marsh & Co. are a comparatively new firm, but they are enjoying a liberal patronage. Their business methods are a radical departure from old and accepted ideas, and the town is elated at their advent. J. H. Huber is the grain, lumber and coal dealer, affording a market not easily dispelled, figuring with a sharp pencil on all wares sold. With pride commensurate this town dons the derby and salutes her peers, in number of inhabitants, but insists on recognition as a good place to "get the want to get" in any business transaction. Only a few miles south Bolan is located. Situated as she is, in the grain belt of the northwest, with two fearless dauntless merchants representing her community, there is no question as to her expectations. H. Ellgen is credited with being oldest settler having come here in 1870, his son Albert being the first child born, and Sophia Ellgen being the first death. H. A. Wambeam and the first to embark upon conjugal seas. Mr. Wambeam started the first general store in 1887. After several changes this store was finally transferred to Mr. F. L. Benish, who now conducts, and is doing a splendid business. J. N. Wambeam conducts the elevator, also sells farm machinery, and to say he is receiving his share of the business is putting it mildly. Grafton was platted in January, 1878. The original owners of the townsite were Messrs. Frink, Mosher and Allen. Edward Mulverhill erected the first residence. This, with a warehouse erected the year previous, constituted the town. James K. Sherman was the first postmaster, William Boland the first blacksmith. Its growth has been rapid from that day, and now, with her beautiful residences, some of which are illustrated in this Souvenir, her church and school buildings, strong financial institution, good elevators and lumber yard, hardware store, agricultural warehouse, two as good general stores as can be found in the county, livery stable and blacksmith shop, barber shop, etc., while ever reaching out for new business, they feel at they are already encroaching upon other territory. Among the most enterprising merchants we find C. Christians & Son, H. A. & O. G. Walk, Huebener & Nack, Farmer's Exchange Bank, L. J. Landdeck, and many others.



U. L. CHURCH, MELTONVILLE



F. L. BENISH STORE, BOLAN



*Hants*

To remove rust from scissors or other metal products, apply ammonia with a sponge or soft cloth and let stand 10 to 20 minutes, then wipe clean with a clean cloth.

cut back on fat and cholesterol, substitute two stiffly beaten egg whites for every whole egg called in a cake recipe.


Freeze brown sugar to keep it from lumping. If it is already hard and lumpy, freeze it and it will soften.

BRUCE SCHULZE                      RANDY SCHULZE

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LITE DESSERT

- 2 (20 oz.) cans chunk fruit cocktail
- 11 oz can mandarin oranges
- 1/2 oz. can chunk pineapple
- pk. instant pineapple cream pudding

*Recipe*

Save juice from 2 cans of fruit. Drain remaining fruit. Mix fruit, reserved juice and dry pudding. Chill - This can be fixed for a diabetic using water-packed fruit.

*Don't forget !!  
Fertile Alumni Reunion  
June 10<sup>th</sup> 1995*

Old age isn't to bad - just think about the alternative.

A man would be rich enough to rest easy in his old age if he could sell his experience for what it cost him.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*  
\*                      Joan E. Noren  
\* TWEDT INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE, INC.  
\*                      402 West Main Street  
\*                      Lake Mills, Iowa 50450  
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\* Office 515-592-5200                      Home 515-592-2844  
\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

# KIDS

**O** Draw a line between the matching letters.

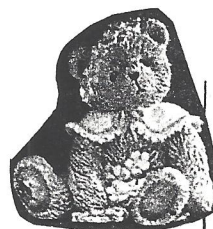
**O**  
**R**  
**R**  
**N**  
**E**  
**R**

h ●	● F
f ●	● G
e ●	● H
g ●	● E

**Color** the stars with matching letters in them.

Noise don't prove anything - a hen that just laid an egg will cackle like it was a basketball.

Its a lot better to keep your mouth shut and let people think you're a fool than it is to open your mouth and prove it.



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**CHRISTIAN DAY CARE**  
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Butterfinger  
 + Baby Ruth Candy Bars - 2 for 89¢

---

M + Dew 8 pk \$ 2 19  
 Pepsi Bottles + Dep

---

Abst 12 pks \$ 4 99  
 Blue Ribbon Beer + Dep

---

check it out - over 100 more  
 movies on hand

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Fertile Alumni Banquet  
 Sat., June 10  
 Fertile School  
 Tickets: \$8.50 each  
 Bill's SuperFair will be catering with  
 Swiss steak heading the menu.

**TO ALL ALUMNI FROM THE OLD 'FERTILE BAND': WE ARE PLANNING TO RE-ORGANIZE FOR THE BANQUET. WE NEED PLAYERS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ALL WHO WOULD JOIN US. CONTACT GENE HALL**

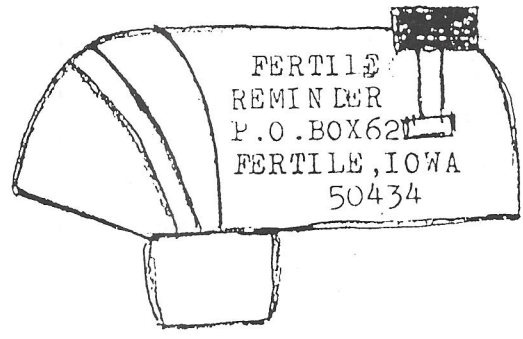
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 WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494

Complete Electrical Service  
 Repair and Sales on Motors  
 & Katolight Generators



.....  
 JUST A REMINDER that you still have time to get information to us for our "Acknowledge the Graduate" issue. Please have info to us by May 15th or before. Pictures are welcome.  
 .....

BULK RATE  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Permit No. 3  
 FERTILE IA 50434



Andy Oswald  
 3608 Eagle Ave.  
 Hanlontown, IA 50444

If an X appears in your mail box your Reminder has expired. If two X's appear your Reminder will be stopped. We would like a suggested donation of \$5.00 for one year. Our address is on the mail box.