

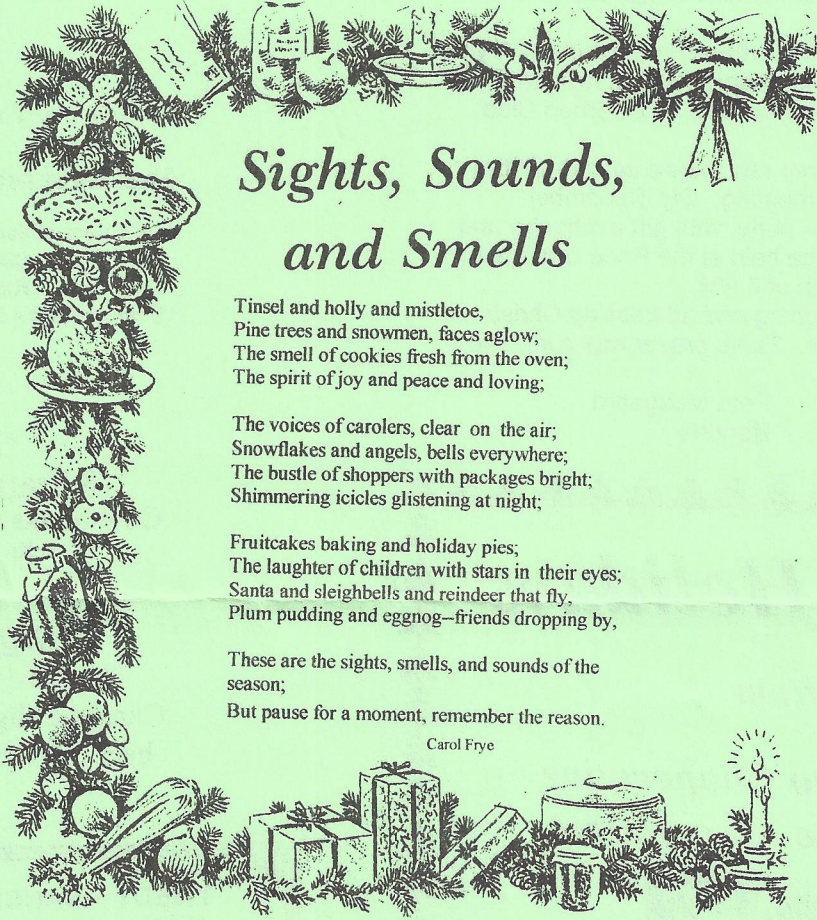
Merry Christmas
from the
staff!

FERTILE REMINDER

DECEMBER 2002

Lois Anderson

Solores
Sandifer



Sights, Sounds, and Smells

Tinsel and holly and mistletoe,
Pine trees and snowmen, faces aglow;
The smell of cookies fresh from the oven;
The spirit of joy and peace and loving;

The voices of carolers, clear on the air;
Snowflakes and angels, bells everywhere;
The bustle of shoppers with packages bright;
Shimmering icicles glistening at night;

Fruitcakes baking and holiday pies;
The laughter of children with stars in their eyes;
Santa and sleighbells and reindeer that fly,
Plum pudding and eggnog—friends dropping by.

These are the sights, smells, and sounds of the
season;
But pause for a moment, remember the reason.

Carol Frye

Pat Oswald

Ardis Sheimo

Jean VanDerBorch

Emelyn Elthon

Dec. 2	Fire Dept. Meeting	7 PM
Dec. 3	City Council Meeting	7 PM
Dec. 7	Santa Day at Library	10-12 AM
Dec. 10	Senior Dinner	Noon
Dec. 10	Garden Club Christmas Party at Rose Cottage	
Dec. 16	Library Board Meeting	7 PM
Dec. 18	DOWN TOWN CAFE 7-YEAR ANNIVERSARY	
Dec. 21	Boys & Girls 4-H	
Dec. 24	Recycle Day	

FERTILE GARDEN CLUB

The Fertile Garden Club met at the home of Elaine Patten with Gloria Kirschbaum as co-hostess.

We opened our meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag and country. Fourteen members answered roll call by telling "What we enjoy most about our Garden Club."

Our business meeting consisted of much discussion on the disbursing of funds. It was decided to donate to the following: Fertile Library, Fertile Fire Dept., Hospice of North Iowa and the FB&I. It was designated that FB&I funds be used toward landscaping of the foot bridge approach on the town side.

We discussed inviting new members into the club. If you would care to join or if you know someone that is interested in gardening or learning, please contact any Garden Club member.

Officers are to find their own replacements and will be completed at our December meeting. Our December meeting will be our Christmas party, with gift exchange and revealing secret pals. It will be held at the Rose Cottage in Clear Lake on December 10th at 6 PM.

The meeting closed by signing and addressing Christmas cards to be sent in December. Table prayer was sung and lunch was served.

Fern Midtgaard
Reporter



Happy Holidays

from

**Winnebago Cooperative
Telephone Association**



704 East Main - Lake Mills, Iowa

DOWN TOWN CAFE WILL BE OPEN
MONDAY NIGHT DEC. 23RD FOR
TACOS OR SOUP.

WE WILL OPEN DEC. 24TH
5:30 AM TO 10 A.M.

COME AND JOIN US NEW YEAR'S
EVE FROM 4:30 TO 8:00.

OPEN JAN 1ST 6:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

Memorial Lights 2002

In Memory of Pat Zobel

Given by:

Patty Zobel

Jane & Joe Johnson & Family

Deb & Mike Haugen & Family

In Memory of Dick Sheimo

Don Suby

Harold Ouverson

Myrtle Gudmonson

Pat Zobel

Peg Ouverson

Given by: Tom & Nance Sheimo

Thank you for Inching our way to the Bridge!

In memory of John & Elizabeth Ouverson

Ole & Mary Johnson

Hans & Hilda Johnson

Given by: Francis & Olga Ouverson

Notice

125 Years in the Kitchen

Cookbooks are still available!

Call Kristen at 797-2615

Holiday Fun!!

We need help putting up
Christmas lights! If you want to
help call Kristen at 797-2615.

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FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

204 West Main/ Box 198

Fertile, IA 50434

(641)-797-2787 Phone/Fax

Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 8:00 PM

Friday 9:00 am - Noon & 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Saturday - 9:00 am - Noon



NEW BOOKS

- Around the River's Bend - Gilbert Morris
- Short & Tall Tales - Lilian Jackson Braun
- Promise Land - Dawn Miller
- Let There Be Light - Al & Joanna Lacy
- Answered Prayers - Danielle Steel
- Distant Shores - Kristan Hannah
- Cape Light - Thomas Kinkade
- Paradise Bay - James Michael Pratt
- Stone Kiss - Faye Kellerman
- The Survivor's Club - Lisa Gardner
- Reap the Wind - Iris Johansen
- Victorian Rose - Catherine Palmer
- Table for Two - Nora Roberts
- Kentucky Rich - Fern Michaels
- Kentucky Heat - Fern Michaels
- The Apprentice - Tess Gerritsen
- The Murder Book - Jonathan Kellerman
- Once Upon a Kiss - Nora Roberts
- Q is for Quarry - Sue Grafton
- Ravished - Virginia Henley
- Rides a Hero - Heather Graham
- Texas Wildflower - Susan Wiggs
- Uneasy Alliance - Jayne Ann Krentz
- Violets are Blue - James Patterson
- Dark Water - Sharon Sala
- A gift to Last - Debbie Macomber
- Forever - Jude Deveraux
- Somewhere a Song - Judith Pella
- Visions of Sugar Plums - Janet Evanovich
- Full House - Janet Evanovich
- Charleston - John Jakes
- Chesapeake Blue - Nora Roberts
- The Bozeman Trail - Robert Vaughn
- Enchanted Afternoon - Susan Wiggs

AUDIO BOOKS

- Code to Zero - Ken Follett
- Lonely on the Mountain - Louis L'Amour
- Riding the Bullet - Stephen King
- Everything's Eventual - Stephen King
- Valhalla Rising - Clive Cussler
- It's a Wonderful Life -
- Vision's of Sugar Plums - Janet Evanovich
- Saving Faith - David Baldacci
- Max Brand Collection
- Merrick - Anne Rice

NEW VIDEOS

- The Glass House - Leelee Sobieski
- Murder by Numbers - Sandra Bullock
- The Count of Monte Christo - Guy Pierce
- Spiderman (2002) - Toby Maguire
- Scooby-Doo: The Movie - Freddie Prinze Jr.

CHRISTMAS GOODIES-ALL AGES. EVERYONE WELCOM

FERTILE LIBRARY



SANTA arrives at 10 a.m. for kids 10 and under.



LIBRARY NEWS

The library did not host a Halloween party this year but we did have 68 "Trick or Treaters" on Halloween night. We are planning to have one next year. We will be looking for volunteers next fall. Beware!

Anyone wishing to donate to the Santa Fund please contact Pat Oswald or Nancy at the library. Thank you.



WITH SYMPATHY

RUBY MAY STROMLEY
1928 - 2002

Ruby Mae Stromley, 74, Joice, died Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2002 at the Muse-Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.

Funeral services were October 18, 2002 at the First Lutheran Church, Northwood, with Rev. Paul Holmer officiating. Burial was at the Round Prairie Cemetery, rural Gelnville.

Ruby May Stromley was born Jan. 23, 1928 in Iowa City, IA, the daughter of Chris and Nelina Stromley. Ruby reaffirmed the faith of her baptism through confirmation at the First Lutheran Church in Northwood. She attended and graduated from Fertile High School. After completing her schooling, she worked at home with her parents.

Left to cherish her memory are her two sisters, Myrtle Banken of Mason City and Esther Nelson of Northwood; four brothers, Ansley Stromley of Joice, Kenneth Stromley of Joice, Obert Stromley of Marble Rock, Rueben Stromley of Mason City; numerous nieces and nephews: special friends, Virgil and Romaine Lovik of Fertile, Marge Evenson of Albert Lea, MN, Thomas Holstad of Glenville, MN and Lenora Ouverson of Hanlontown; as well as other relatives and friends.

Her parents, special friend, Manny Burre; two brothers, George and Chester Stromley, and two sisters, Sadie Thompson and Inborg Peterson, preceded her in death.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Fertile Church of Christ

502 N. 1st St. ~ Fertile, Iowa ~ 641-797-2784

Sunday

9:00 – Sunday School for all ages.

10:00 – Worship Service.

5:15 – Evening Youth Activities.

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Bible Study

(Proverbs: Growing in Wisdom)

Come and be our guest.

7-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

AT DOWNTOWN CAFE

DECEMBER 18TH ALL DAY

FREE TREATS

WORTH COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
641-324-1741

- Dec. 17 & 18 Senior Health Clinic at Worth County Public Health Office. Call for appointment.
Dec. 19 Child Immunization Clinic at Health Office 1:00 - 5:00. No appt. necessary.
Jan. 3 Foot Clinic at Maple Court in Northwood. Call for appointment.

Foot Clinics available at Worth County Public Health Office. Call as needed for an appt.

* * *

WORTH COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND TRANSIT ARE MOVING DECEMBER 1, 2002. WE WILL BE LOCATED AT 95 - 9TH STREET NORTH IN NORTHWOOD, FORMERLY THE NORTHWOOD CLINIC-MAYO HEALTH SYSTEM.

* * *

The “new” Share Shoppe opened in Northwood on August 3, 2002 after having been moved from Carpenter, IA this summer. It had been in existence and in service there for the past 10 years.

The Share Shoppe address now is 605 N. 8th Street. The phone number when the Shoppe is open is 324-1502. Hours currently are Thursday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Items of a wide variety are brought in by residents for sharing to those in need. Items should be freshly laundered or clean and be of the quality someone else would want to take home. This includes clothing for all ages, some household items, puzzles, games, children’s toys and some clothing accessories. Items to share may be brought in only during business hours listed above. They are not to be brought up to the shop and left there outside the building. Three C’s are to be kept in mind: no cosmetics, candles or color crayons are to be brought in.

Betty Chapin

DOWNTOWN CAFE

OPEN FROM 5:30 AM TO 2:00 PM
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY
SOUP OR TACOS ON TUESDAY NIGHT
4:30 TO 8:00 PM
ORDERS TO GO
WILL OPEN NIGHTS FOR MEETINGS,
PARTIES OR REHEARSAL DINNERS
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THE ART COLLECTION

Once there was a father and son who were very close. They enjoyed the hobby of collecting art works together. Priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family estate.

The widowed, elderly man looked on with satisfaction as his only child became an experienced art collector. The son's trained eye and sharp business mind caused his father to beam with pride as they dealt with art collectors around the world.

As winter approached, war engulfed the nation. The young man left to serve his country. After only a few short weeks, his father received a telegram saying his son was missing in action. Within a few days, the old man learned his son had died while rushing a fellow soldier to a medic. Distraught and lonely, the old man faced the upcoming Christmas holiday with anguish and sadness.

On Christmas morning, a knock on the door awakened the depressed old man. As he walked to the door, the masterpieces of art on the walls only reminded him that his son was not coming home.

Opening the door, he was greeted by a soldier. "I was a friend of your son," he said. "I was the one he was rescuing when he died. May I come in for a few moments? I have something to show you."

The soldier told of how the man's son had told everyone of his father's love of fine art. "I am an artist," the soldier said, "and I want to give this to you."

As the package was opened, it revealed a portrait of the man's son. Though the world would never consider it the work of a genius, the painting featured the young man's face in striking detail. Overcome with emotion, the man thanked the soldier and promised to hang the picture above the fireplace, pushing aside thousands of dollars of paintings. The man sat in his chair and spent Christmas gazing at his gift.

During the days and weeks which followed, the man realized even though his son was no longer with him, the boy's life would live on because of those he had touched. He soon learned his son had rescued dozens of wounded soldiers before a bullet stilled his caring heart. As the stories continued to come to the father, pride and satisfaction began to ease his grief. The painting of his son soon became his most prized possession, far eclipsing his interest in the pieces for which the museum clamored. He told his neighbors it was the greatest gift he had ever received.

The following spring, the old man became ill and passed away. The art world waited in anticipation! According to the old man's will, all of the art works would be auctioned on Christmas Day, the day he had received his great gift.

The day soon arrived. Art collectors from around the world gathered to bid on some of the world's most spectacular paintings. The auction began with a painting not on the museum's list. It was the painting of the man's son. As the auctioneer asked for an opening bid, the room fell silent.

"Who will bid \$100?" the auctioneer asked. Minutes passed. No one spoke.

"Who cares about that painting?" said a voice from the back of the room. "It's just a picture of his son. Let's forget it and go on to the good stuff." More voices echoed in agreement.

"No, we have to sell this one first," replied the auctioneer. "Now, who will take the son?"

Finally a friend of the old man spoke. "Will you take ten dollars for the painting?" he asked. "That's all I have. I knew the boy, so I'd like to have it."

"Will anyone go higher?" called out the auctioneer. After more silence, the auctioneer said, "Going once, going twice. Gone!" The gavel fell.

Cheers filled the room and some exclaimed, "Now we can get on with it. We can finally bid on these treasures!!"

The auctioneer looked at the audience and announced, "The auction is over."

Stunned disbelief quieted the room. "What do you mean it's over," someone asked. "We didn't come here for a picture of some old guy's son. What about all of these other paintings? There are millions of dollars of art here!"

The auctioneer replied, "According to the father's will, whoever takes the son...gets it all."



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**and we'll pay for your
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*24-hour advance
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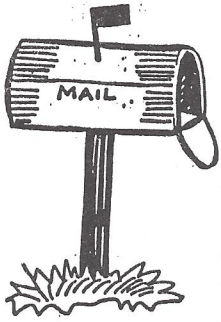
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Mayo Health System



Pronto - Fertile

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8 A.M. - 8 P.M. Sun.





Dear Ladies,

I would like subscriptions to my two daughters. They enjoy reading mine when they come home.

Thanks again.
Sondra Oswald
* * *

Dear Friends,

You really "out-did" yourselves with the last issue of the Fertile Reminder.

I laughed with Neil Kuns, I cried with Mrs. Thompson and enjoyed visiting with Grandpa!!

I enclosed \$6 to renew my subscription for another year.

Keep up the good work!!

Sincerely,
Elaine Hall
* * *

Dear Ladies,

Enclosed is a check to renew our subscription. We enjoy keeping up with the news and the happenings there.

Keep up the good work getting out your little paper.
Roger & Joyce Kampstra
* * *

A big "Thank You" to you gals who volunteer your time to put out the Reminder each month!

Bonnie Kuns
* * *

Ventura Public Library
Cheryl Kapka, Librarian
829-4410

News Release - October 29, 2002

Subject: Ventura Talent Contest entries needed.

The Ventura Public Library is seeking potential entrants for the 13th annual Ventura Talent Contest which will be held on Sat. Jan. 25, 2003 at 7 PM in the Ventura High School gym. Deadline for entering is Jan. 4, 2003. To enter, please call or email the library at (641) 829-4410 or (Email) ventpl@netins.net or download off our new web page & return application ASAP, as the 18 openings will fill up fast.

Fertile HS grad listed in 'Who's Who' for teachers

Marian Midtgaard, graduate of Fertile High School, has been selected to appear in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2002." Midtgaard teaches kindergarten at Harding Elementary School in Mason City where she is a 29-year veteran.



Marian Midtgaard

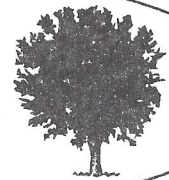
All of the 114,000 teachers honored in this seventh edition were selected by their former students, who themselves are currently, or have been, listed in "Who's Who Among American High School Students" or on the national dean's list, publications which recognize the top 5 percent of our nation's high school and college students respectively.

"There is no greater honor teachers can receive than to be recognized by former students for their excellence and dedication, said Park Davis, publisher of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers. "In this publication we clearly have the best teachers in America selected by the best students."

The students were requested to nominate teachers who "made a difference in their lives" by helping to shape their values, inspire interest in a particular subject, and/or challenge them to strive for excellence. Many of the students commented about the enthusiasm and knowledge their teachers demonstrated in the classroom, and many praised their teachers for their ability to relate to youngsters on a personal as well as a professional level. One student wrote about her teacher, "She made education something pleasurable, instead of a dreadful ordeal, by letting me spread my wings, but also showing me the best way to fly."

CHERRYTREE BUILDERS

CHERRY TREE BUILDERS



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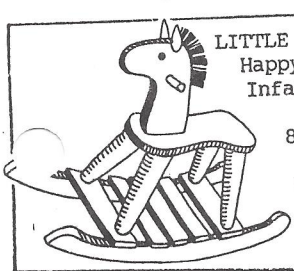
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Each generation has its favorite variety of popular music. My mother's was sentimental ballads, ala Bing Crosby and Kate Smith. My children like music with a beat and with guitars. My music of choice is the Big Band sounds of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Harry James, and Tommy Dorsey, among others. (They don't have to have double consonants in their names to be appreciated.) Whenever I hear an old recording or a remake of one of the old "charts" I tune in emotionally, and anticipate every phrase.

I have written before about playing in the Fertile High School Band for seven years, and thinking about "big bands" reminded me of two events from my high school years. The first must have been about 1946, since Mr. Suker was the band director before Mrs. Wisty took over, and he was the one who manipulated my first memory.


We had gone to Garner for the Iowa State Band Contest. All of the soloists and groups had performed and had been graded. Our last entry was our concert band. There were never many more than eighty students in the entire high school during my four years, and the band couldn't have had more than thirty members. We took our places on the stage behind the closed curtain. It was customary to tune up the instruments, starting with James Oliver Sanderson, the lead trumpet player. Actually, he might have been the *only* trumpet player, since most of the horns were cornets. He was the best in the band. Mr. Suker told us to go through the sounds and motions of tuning up but not to change the pitch of *any* instrument, explaining that if we were slightly out of tune it would make us *sound* like a bigger band. He seemed to be content for us to sound bigger, rather than better. Perhaps he had given up on us sounding any better. Who knows? "Eroica" had never before sounded like it did that day in May.

The other incident I recall was repeated at least two years, as Evelyn Tweeten and her trombone, and I with my snare drum were invited to participate in the North Iowa Band Clinic in Forest City. Mrs. Wisty had nominated the two of us to be part of an all day festival in the near-by town. Mother drove us over to "For' City", and we stopped on state road number nine north of the Tweeten farm to pick up Evelyn. The band consisted of over 200 selected musicians from throughout North Iowa, and we totally filled the stage at the Forest City Auditorium. We rehearsed all day with the director of the University of Iowa band, and put on a concert that evening. That *was* a BIG BAND, and it sounded pretty good, even if we didn't do any Dorsey or Glenn Miller arrangements.

I still like big bands whether they are playing marches or swing. Musically, that's "home" for me.



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C M A R T R A D E
 R I E R O D E D
 N I A L L I V E
 E T I L I E
 R L L Y L



Some of you have been asking about a picture of the bridge that you helped build with your support dollars. This is a picture that was in the Globe Gazette recently.

No Peeking



**SOLUTION TO
CLAPBOARD WORD GAME**

L	E	D	G	E	R	Y	E	S
A	V	E	N	U	E	T	O	N
E	E	L	T	R	E	A	D	O
P	I	E	R	A	S	E	A	
E	L	S	E	E	A			
R	E	A	D	Y				
A	R	E						
P	O							



**LIBRARY SANTA DAY
SATURDAY, DEC. 7 10:00-12
Noon.**

**Come to the Library and meet
Santa and receive a gift.
Ages 10 and under. Santa
arrives at 10 a.m.
Coffee and Goodies for all ages.
Drawing for gifts at 11 a.m.
13" Color/Remote TV/VCR; Shop
Vac; Center piece; and many
more neat gifts.**

**Sponsored by the Fertile Library
Board and Library Friends.
Get your tickets from Library,
Members, Pronto, Downtown
Cafe**

Fertile Valley Farmers & Grant Livewires 4-H

Our meeting was called to order by James Severson at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2002. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was answered by 8 members. The secretary's report was discussed and approved. Treasurer's reports were approved with the Grant Livewire's at \$714.52 and FVF at \$122.65.

Old business was discussed. We reviewed all the things we had done the last year: bowling, canoeing, painting Halloween pots, starting gourd bird houses, participating in the North Iowa Fair in a variety of projects, and presentations at club meetings. The club received 1st place in the decorating contest for their booth at the fair this year.

At the Cerro Gordo County 4-H Award Program on Oct. 5, 2002, Katie Nickerson was congratulated on receiving the Senior Merit award for her accomplishments in 4-H and winning the Chicago Trip Award. Tyler Levad received the Kuhlman Service Above Self Award and had served on the teen council. The Leadership Award was given to Katie Nickerson, Megan Quigley, Alicia Shahan and Amanda Shropshire. Amanda also received the Star Award.

Election of Officers was the start of new business. The two groups decided to be a joint club with joint officers, but separate bank accounts for the following year. The following were elected to positions: President is James Severson. Vice President is Katie Nickerson. Secretary is Jamie Kleveland. Treasurers will be Josh Kleveland and Jessica Kleveland. Historian is Megan Quigley. Our leader will be Judy Levad with parents helping out.

Everyone was encouraged to find someone new to bring to 4-H and anyone interested is welcome to join us on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Fertile Community Center at 10:00 a.m. Plans for the year were discussed and servers lined up.

Our next meeting will be November 16th. Come join the fun of 4-H!

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Kleveland.

Cook's Corner

Hot Cranberry Citrus Drink -

This is a good holiday drink and really easy to make.

- 1 package (12 ounces) fresh or frozen cranberries.
- 2 1/2 quarts water
- 2 cups orange juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 cinnamon sticks [3 inches]

In a large saucepan, bring cranberries and water to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer for 5-7 minutes or until the berries pop. Stir in the remaining ingredients; return to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 25-30 minutes. Strain through cheese cloth; discard pulp and cinnamon sticks. Serve warm. Makes around 3 quarts.

> > > > > > > > > >

- >Put a dryer sheet in the clothes hamper with the dirty clothes. Eliminates the odors of dirty laundry.
 - >Stick a dryer sheet in your tennis shoes, at night to eliminate odors. They'll smell great in the morning.
 - >Eliminate static electricity from Venetian blinds with a dryer sheet. When you wipe the blinds with a sheet to prevent dust from resettling.
- THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW!!!**
- >If you keep a Goldfish in the dark room, it will eventually turn white.
 - >The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.
 - >The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
 - >TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.
 - >The word "lethologica" describes the state of not being able to remember the word you want.

FUN CORNER

CLAPBOARD WORD GAME

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10			11					
12	13	14		15	16			
17				18		19		20
21		22		23			24	
25		26	27		28			
29		30		31		32	33	
34					35			
36					37			

ACROSS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Intelligent | 23. Premature |
| 5. Swap | 25. Wharf |
| 10. Skin Opening | 26. Obliterate |
| 11. Wore away | 28. Ocean |
| 12. Stadium | 29. Snaky fish |
| 15. Breathing | 30. Italian money |
| 17. Prepared | 31. Peruse |
| 18. However | 32. Fuss |
| 19. Metallic element | 34. Wide Street |
| 21. Otherwise | 35. English school |
| 22. Understand | 36. Account book |
| | 37. Cereal grasses |

DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Extra Tire | 16. Rent an apartment |
| 2. Additional | 17. Annul |
| 3. Region | 18. 1997, e.g. |
| 4. Give as due | 19. Pact |
| 5. Salver | 20. Panty hose |
| 6. Actor's part | 24. Young man |
| 7. Mine entrance | 27. Hoop |
| 8. Evil spirit | 28. Prophet |
| 9. Adam & Eve's home | 30. Showed the way |
| 13. Alleviate | 31. Regret |
| 14. Painter's stand | 33. Female deer |



* * * * *

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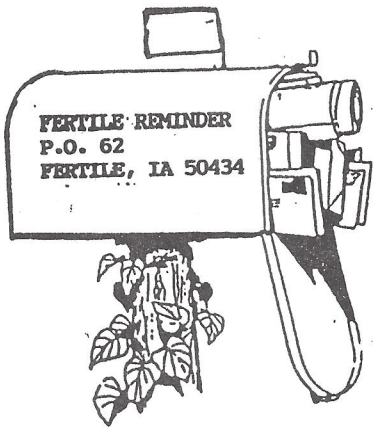
Personal Touch
Beauty Salon

* * * * *

* * * * *

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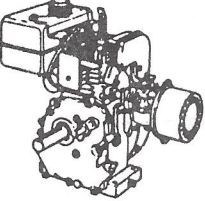
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