

JUNE 2007

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

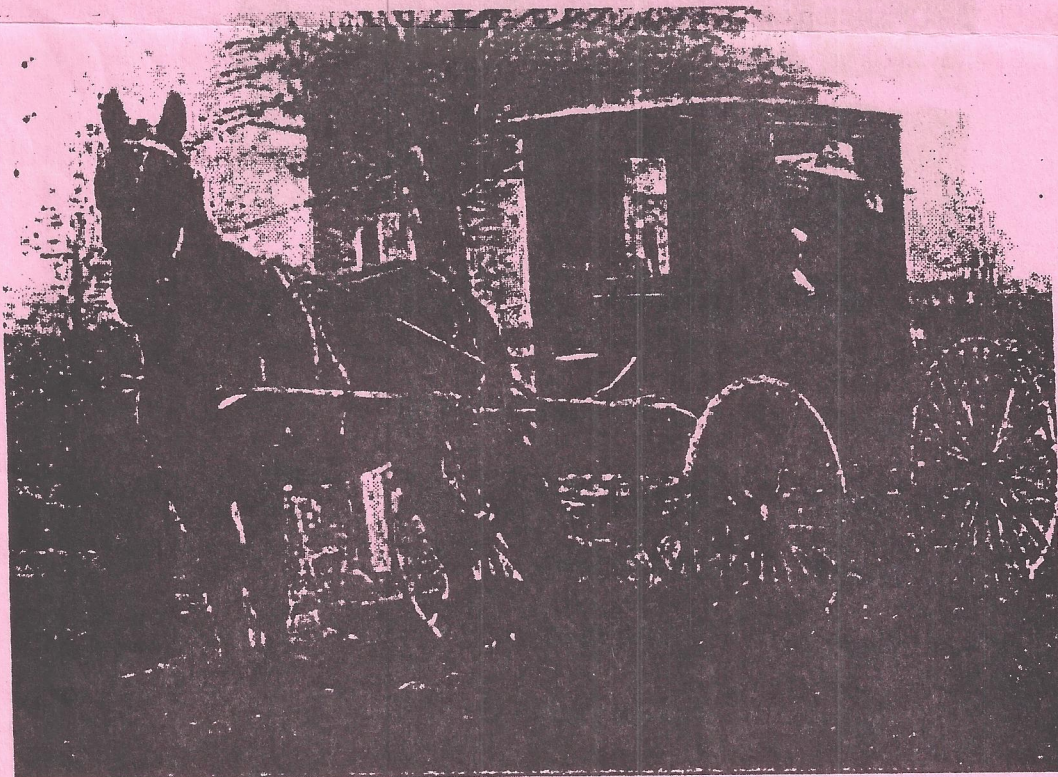
June 4	Fire Department Meeting	7 p.m.
June 5	Senior Dinner	Noon
June 7	Recycle Day	
June 12	Garden Club	
June 16	Boys & Girls 4-H	
June 18	Library Board Meeting	7 p.m.
June 19	Senior Dinner City Council Meeting	Noon 7 p.m.
June 21	Re-cycle Day	

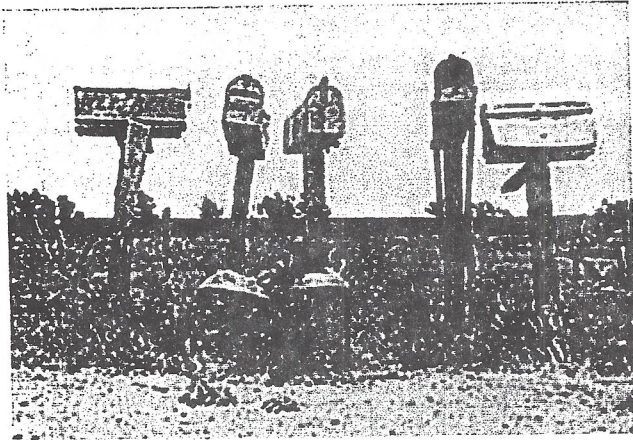
Rural Free Delivery

A great deal has been made of the impact of the telephone on rural residents but I always thought the daily mailman had a more important role. My mother came from a large family and they communicated constantly with letters.

Even in the leanest of times, it seemed people could afford a three-cent stamp or at least a penny post card. Also there were seed catalogues to be poured over on winter evenings and sometimes my family even subscribed to a daily newspaper and always to the weekly Clear Lake Reporter or Clear Lake Mirror.

It was a great honor for the child chosen to "get the mail" for the day and sometimes we would cheat and go for it without



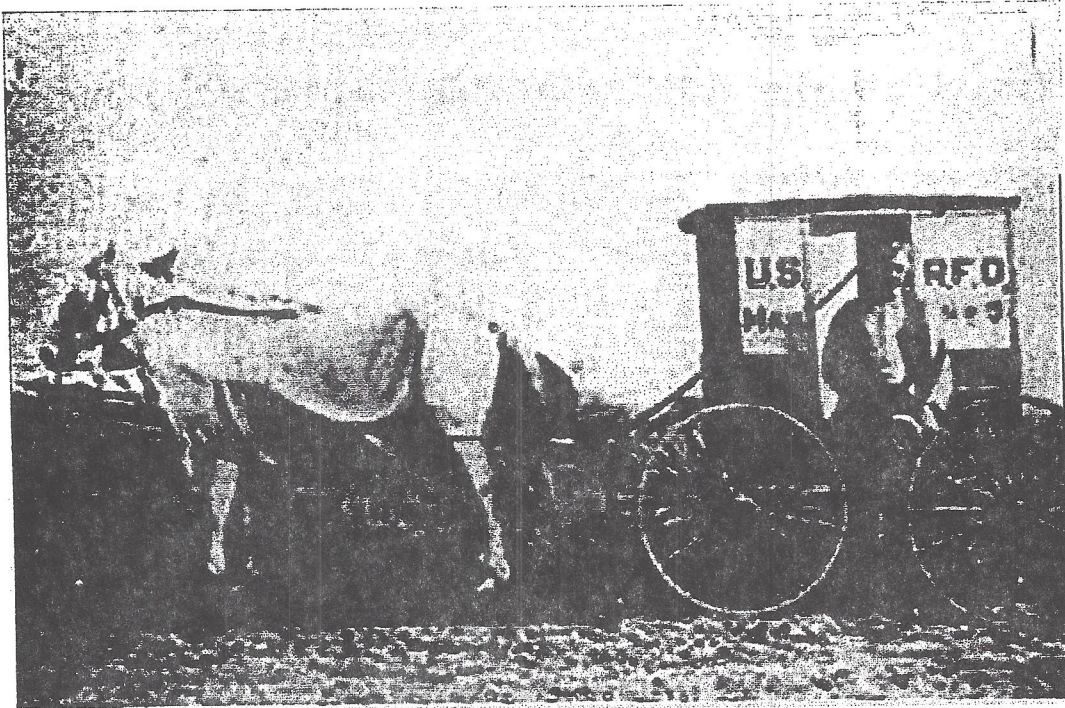


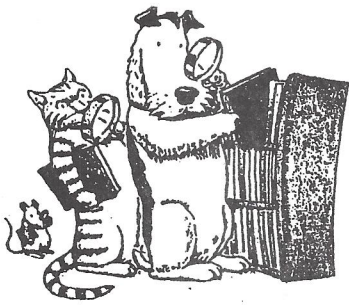
permission.

When I was five, I did it on my own and seeing an innocent looking postcard, I played with it and subsequently lost it. Now it turned out my brother Herbert had been watching and wait-

ing for that postcard for days. It concerned a job he had applied for in a neighboring county. He did not get the job because of my indiscretion.

I never told my secret, but since he has been dead for 12 years, I guess it is safe to let it be known!





FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

204 West Main/ Box 198

Fertile, IA 50434

(641)-797-2787 Phone/Fax

Monday & Wednesday - 1:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Thursday - 3 - 6 P.M.

Friday - 9:00 A.M. - Noon & 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Saturday - 9:00 am - Noon



NEW BOOKS

Water for Elephants – Sara Gruen
 Willow Springs – Jan Watson
 A Tendering in the Storm – Jane Kirkpatrick
 Speak through the Wind – Allison Pittman
 Laced – Carol Higgins Clark
 Notorious – Virginia Henley
 Sweet Dream's Drive – Robin Lee Hatcher
 Back on Blossom Street – Debbie Macomber
 The Twilight Lord – Bertrice Small
 Short Straw – Stuart Woods
 The 6th Target – James Patterson
 Sunrise – Karen Kingsbury
 The Defiant Heart – Tracey Bateman
 Cover of Night – Linda Howard
 Don't Look Down – Jennifer Crusie
 Amish Friends Cookbook – Wanda E. Brunstetter
 One Man's Wilderness – Sam Keith

DVD's

Dejavu – Denzel Washington
 Cars – Disney
 Little Man – Marlon Wayans
 Curious George – Will Ferrell
 Happy Feet – Robin Williams
 Eragon – Ed Speleers
 Blood Diamond – Leonardo DiCaprio
 An Inconvenient Truth: A Global Warning – Al Gore
 An Unfinished Life – Robert Redford
 Rocky Balboa – Sylvester Stallone
 You, Me and Dupree – Owen Wilson
 Shopgirl – Steve Martin
 Night at the Museum – Ben Stiller
 Freedomland – Samuel L. Jackson
 Edison Force – Morgan Freeman
 Ladies in Lavender – Judi Dench

Library News

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!! for all the beautiful pies, cakes, bars, cookies, & rummage items donated for the sale. Humble Beginnings contributed beautiful silk arrangements! We made almost \$600. I am going to use some of the money to purchase classic Disney & family movies replacing my VHS with DVD.



*Get a Clue @
Your Library!*

Fertile Public Library

Summer Reading Program

Wednesday Afternoons

1:30 - 2:30 pm

June 6, 13, 20, 27

Stories, Games, Crafts

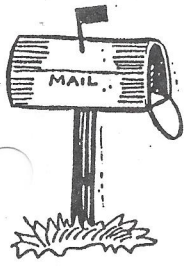
Snacks & Prizes!

Investigate Some
Good Books 

BOOKS ON CD

I Heard That Song Before – Mary Higgins Clark
 Fresh Disaster – Stuart Woods
 Tales from the Old West – Louis L'Amour
 To Tame a Land – Louis L'Amour
 Kingdom Come the Final Victory – Tim LaHaye
 Whitewash – Alex Kava

Defect # @Your Library



Dear Ladies,

I can't tell you how much we enjoy reading your paper and catching up with the Fertile news. Butch wonders if anyone besides himself remembers their ball games in Jenkins' yard.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone there in Fertile that has done so much to help Virgil and Ruth this past winter.

Butch & Ethyl Ouverson

Dear Fertile Reminder,

Since my sister (Esther Hudson) in California sent to me some clippings from your paper, I decided I knew more people there than in the Hanlontown paper. Also, all the extra news! I knew several people mentioned. Please send me a subscription for a year. Thank you!

Irene Oswald Hucombe

P. S. I graduated from Fertile High in 1936.

Dear Ladies,

Please renew my subscriptions. You all do great work.
Synnova

Dear Ladies,


Thanks for the good work on the Fertile Reminder. Keep up the good job.

Don & Marilyn Severson

Dear Ladies,

Thank you for keeping me in touch with Fertile. Please renew my subscription for another year.

Evanelle Perkins



HARE ELECTRIC
FRED, JIM, TOM & ALLEN HARE

PHONE: 1-641-797-2722 101 N. STATE ST.
PAGER: 1-641-422-3017 FERTILE IA, 50434

FERTILE CHURCH OF CHRIST

GLORIFYING GOD BY MAKING DISCIPLES
- MORE AND BETTER DISCIPLES.

9:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES.
10:00 - FELLOWSHIP TIME.
10:15 - WORSHIP SERVICE.

COME AND BE OUR GUEST.
3493 EAGLE AVENUE - FERTILE, IOWA

FERTILE LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

602 West Washington
David Halverson, Lay Minister
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:35 a.m.
Wednesday Sunday School 6 to 7 p.m.
Only Jesus, the Living Water,
can satisfy the thirsty soul.

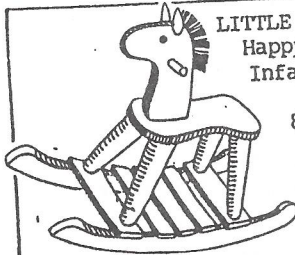


**BURTNES~LUNDGREN
PLUMBING & HEATING, Inc**

Call for all your Plumbing, Heating,
& Air Conditioning Needs!

John Burtness & Todd Lundgren 

Clear Lake 357-8882 or Fertile 641-797-2680



LITTLE TYKES CHILD DAYCARE
Happy Home Environment
Infants to School Age
JOELY BRUNS
801 W. Main St.
Fertile, IA
Phone 797-2699

Bring your automotive needs to us

641-423-1237  641-797-2704 

**MILLER'S DIESEL AND
AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**
3 Commercial Park Road, Mason City, IA
(8 blocks South of Bonanza)

Martha Stewart's Tips for Rednecks

**Dining Out

When decanting wine, make sure that you tilt the paper cup, and pour slowly so as not to "bruise" the fruit of the vine. If drinking directly from the bottle, always hold it with your fingers covering the label.

**Entertaining In Your Home

A centerpiece for the table should never be anything prepared by a taxidermist.

Do not allow the dog to eat at the table, no matter how good his manners are.

**Personal Hygiene

While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys.

Proper use of toiletries can forestall bathing for several days. However, if you live alone, deodorant is a waste of good money.

Dirt and grease under the fingernails is a social no-no, as they tend to detract from a woman's jewelry and alter the taste of finger foods.

**Dating (Outside the Family)

Always offer to bait your date's hook, especially on the first date.

Be aggressive. Let her know you're interested: "I've been wanting to go out with you since I read that stuff on the bathroom wall two years ago."

Establish with her parents what time she is expected back. Some will say 10:00 PM; Others might say "Monday." If the latter is the answer, it is the man's responsibility to get her to school on time.

**Theater Etiquette

Crying babies should be taken to the lobby and picked up immediately after the movie has ended.

Refrain from talking to characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you.

**Weddings

Livestock, usually, is a poor choice for a wedding gift.

Kissing the bride for longer than 5 seconds can get you shot.

For the groom, at least, rent a tux. A leisure suit with a cummerbund and a clean bowling shirt can create a tacky appearance.

Though uncomfortable, say "yes" to socks and shoes for this special occasion.

**Driving Etiquette

Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles; even if the gun is loaded, and the deer is in sight.

When approaching a four-way stop, the vehicle with the largest tires always has the right of way.

Never tow another car using panty hose and duct tape.

When sending your wife down the road with a gas can, it is impolite to ask her to bring back beer.

**Tips For All Occasions

Never take a beer to a job interview.

Always identify people in your yard before shooting at them.

It's considered tacky to take a cooler to church.

If you have to vacuum the bed, it is time to change the sheets.

Even if you're certain that you are included in the will, it is still considered tacky to drive a U-Haul to the funeral home.

DOWN ON THE FARM

Taken from the introduction of Dick Varberg's book entitled "From the Iowa Farm to the Philippine Field"

Water is a necessity of life no matter where one lives. On our farm we had the luxury of two sources of water. One was a deep well with a pump. This pump could be pumped by hand or by simply placing a pin through a hole in a bracket it could be run by the windmill. A drink of water coming from this deep well was wonderfully cool and refreshing on a hot summer day but it was usually wise to let the windmill run a few minutes before drinking, as the first few pumps often contained a lot of rust. There was always an old cup or tin can hanging from a wire on the crossbar of the windmill that was used by all who were thirsty. The windmill pumped the water needed by the various animals on the farm but before being run into the big steel stock tank it was piped through the cooling tank. This tank was where we kept both five and ten-gallon cream cans in which we stored cream before taking it to the creamery in Fertile, where it was made into butter. The cool water coming out of the deep well allowed us to store our cream for several days without it becoming sour. When cream did become sour, either intentionally or by accident, mother would make what Norwegians called gumalost cheese. At other times we would have sour cream on homemade bread. I loved sour cream on bread provided there was plenty of sugar sprinkled on top.

Our other source was the cistern. It was a cemented tank in the ground into which the rainwater from the downspouts of our house was directed. There was a small hand pump in what we call the back room of our house, which when primed would suck water out of this cistern. This water was used for washing clothes, as it was soft. The soap which mother made from the tallow of a steer or cow that we would butcher each fall would suds very well in this soft water. We would also use this cistern water to fill the reservoir (tank) of the kitchen stove. This tank was attached to the right side of the stove and held about ten gallons. The stove was fired with wood or coal. We usually had a container of dry corncobs handy that we used in starting the fire. With a good fire burning in the stove, the water in the reservoir would soon become warm and it was this water that we used to wash our hands and face before eating. It was also used for bathing purposes. We usually took a bath only once a week. This was especially true during the winter months when it was cold. Baths were usually taken on Saturday night so we would smell reasonably fresh to our fellow worshippers on Sunday morning. Though I often wonder what we smelled like by the end of the week, I do realize that this once a week practice was quite an advancement over that of my Norwegian ancestors. I have been told that they would sew their winter underwear on in the fall and not take it off until spring!

Working on the farm we often got our clothes very dirty. Mother had a copper boiler that held about 15 gallons of water to aid her in getting clothes clean. She would place this boiler on the kitchen stove and fill it with water. Clothes that were very dirty, or that needed to become dazzling white, were placed in this container of water and then boiled until the desired results were achieved. Detergents had not yet been discovered and a small amount of Lewis Lye was often added to the soap and water.

On Saturday nights this boiler was used for another purpose. It filled with warm water and used as a bathtub for us boys when we were still small. The same water was used for all three of us siblings. When we grew older, our father rigged up a pail with a faucet and showerhead. We then took our baths in a small room at the side of the house that had a concrete floor and a drain. In this

room he also installed a potty chair that could be used by those who didn't want to go outside to the "two holer". This was often my job.

The kitchen was really the most important room in a farmhouse. Ours was a rather large room that also served as the dining room. Our round oak table could be expanded to seat up to twelve persons by placing in the extra leaves. There were times, especially during holidays, that we also set up an extra table on the porch.

The stove was really the centerpiece of the kitchen. It was used to heat the room as well as to cook the meals. On it were also placed cast-iron inserts for the iron used in ironing clothes. They were usually on the back section of the stove and whenever mother wished to iron several pieces they were already hot and ready to use.

The stove was also used in toasting bread. We would wait until the fire turned into red hot coals and then we would remove one of the four lids on the top of the stove and place a wire mesh that was especially made for toasting bread over the opening. Oh how delicious a piece of homemade bread toasted in this way and spread with fresh butter and homemade strawberry jam could be.

My two siblings and I slept in a bedroom directly above the kitchen. In the winter time the only heat in our room came from the stovepipe coming from the kitchen stove that went up through a grate in the floor and then after reaching almost to the ceiling, elbowed into the chimney. Our room, however, was often very cold and water would sometimes freeze in a pail kept there.

The first sound that I would hear on a cold winter morning was the sound created by my father shaking the grates of the kitchen stove so that the ashes would fall into the ash box. This was a metal drawer directly under the fire chamber that needed to be emptied regularly. Coal, wood, and corncobs were stored in containers near the stove. One of the chores assigned to one of us boys was to make sure that each of the containers was filled before nightfall. If the woodbox was empty, it often meant splitting wood with an axe and then bringing it into the house.

After shaking down the ashes my father would first place dry corncobs on the bottom of the fire chamber as a quick starter for the wood or coal that he would place on top. As the fire began to build up, the stovepipe would make a crackling sound caused by the metal expanding because of the heat. This was the signal that it was time for us boys to grab our clothes and run down to the kitchen to dress. The floor was so cold that we would stand on chairs, which felt much warmer than the floor while dressing. Soon it was time to put on our heavy winter coats and run to the barn to help with the chores.

WORTH COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

95 9th St. North, Northwood, IA 50459

641-324-1741 or 1-800-765-1388

- June 21 Child Immunization Clinic at Worth Public Health Office in Northwood from 1 - 5 p.m.
- June 26 Child Immunization at Methodist church, Northwood from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- June 18 Maple Court Nail Clinic - Afternoon - This can be for hands or feet. Call WCPH for appointment.
- June 19 Manly Senior Center Nail Clinic - Morning. Same information as above.

AT THE END OF A DIRT ROAD

Submitted by Maxine Rye

Let's take a trip down memory lane - a dirt road. What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many Dirt Roads have been paved.

There's not a problem in society today - crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency-that couldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character.

People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride. That it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes - but it's worth it - if at the end is home, a loving spouse, happy kids and a dog.

We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along.

There was less crime in our streets before they were paved. Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape if they knew they'd be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun. There there were no drive-by shootings.

Our values were better when our roads were worse! People did not value their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous; they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust and bust your windshield with rocks. Dirt Roads taught patience.

Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly, you didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk, you walked to the barn for your milk.

For your mail, you walked to the mail box.

What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped popcorn and pony rode on Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody.

At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap. Most paved roads lead to trouble, Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole.

At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini.

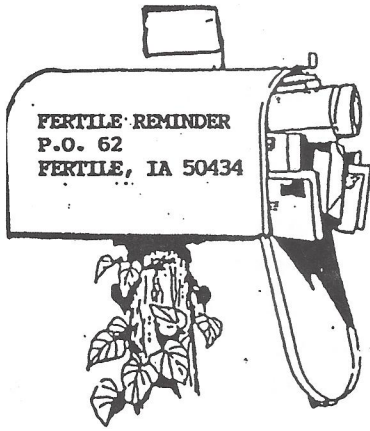
At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra springtime income from when city dudes would get stuck and you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar-always you got a new friend-at the end of a Dirt Road.

In the supermarket, a man was pushing a cart which contained a screaming baby. The man kept repeating softly such terms as "Don't get excited, Albert" and "Keep calm, Albert." A woman standing next to him said, "You certainly should be commended for trying to soothe baby Albert." The man looked at her and said soberly, "Lady, I'm Albert."

The talk around a campfire turned to the question: What's the most frightening sound you know? "A groan in the dark," said one fellow, "when you know nobody's there."

"I'd say the sudden buzz of a rattlesnake at your feet when you don't have any boots on," said another.

Finally, an older member of the party grunted. "I know a sound worse than all yours put together, he drawled. "A long, low whistle comin' from an auto mechanic underneath your car."



PRSRST STD
US Postage Paid
Fertile, IA 50434
Permit No. 3



THE "X" IN THE MAIL BOX REMINDS YOU THAT IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION. A DONATION OF \$6.00 IS SUGGESTED. WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED "THE REMINDER" THIS PAST YEAR AND WILL WANT TO KEEP IT COMING. YOU MAY SEND YOUR DONATION TO THE ADDRESS IN THE MAIL BOX.

#11/50434_X
Library Fertile
PO Box
Fertile IA 50434

Dave Haugen, Owner



HAUGEN LAWN SERVICES

Mowing * Seeding * Spraying *
Fertilizing * Thatching*
Sodding * Over-seeding *
Garden Tilling*

E-mail davelawn@WCTAtel.net

Phone (641) 797- 2662 520 360th. St.
FAX: (641) 797- 2660 Hanlontown, IA
50444

DOWNTOWN CAFE

SUMMER HOURS
OPEN FROM 5 AM TO 2 PM
TUESDAY TACO NITE 5 TO 8 PM
THURSDAY NITE - FISH, BBQ OR
CHICKIEN - 5 PM TO 8 PM.

PHONE 797-2510

 **Pronto - Fertile** 
Open 7 A.M. - 9 P.M. Mon. - Sat.
8 A.M. - 8 P.M. Sun.