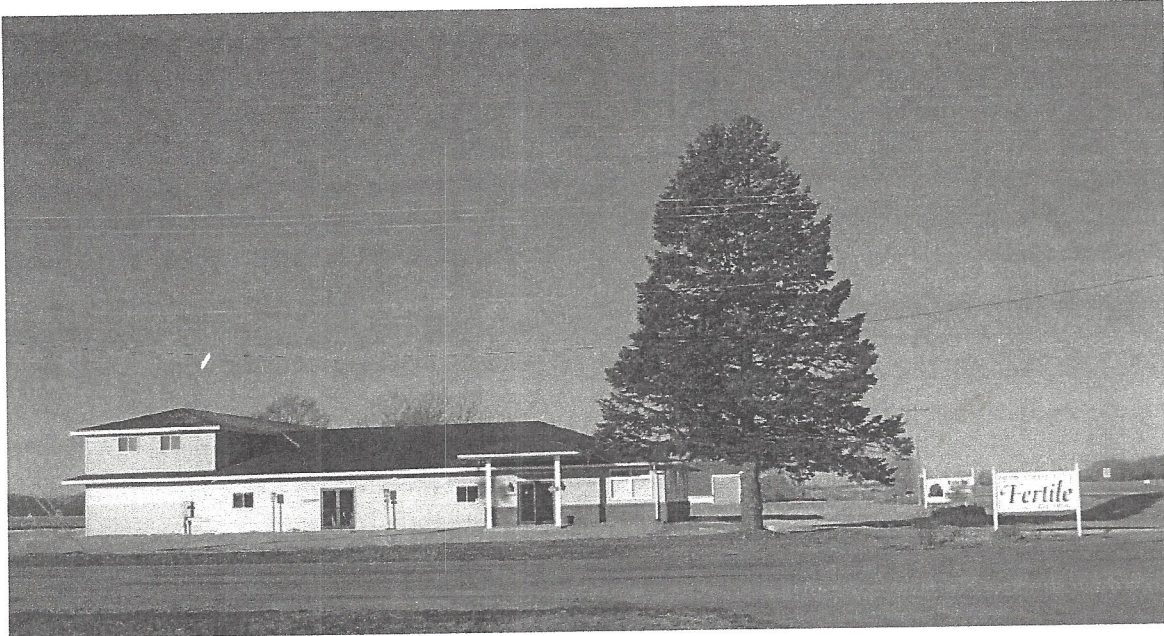


# MARCH 2012

# FERTILE REMINDER



Fertile Community Center and City Hall

## COMING EVENTS

March 1 Recycle

March 5 Firemen's Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 6 Senior Dinner noon

March 13 Fertile Garden Club 6:30 pm

March 15 Recycle

**March 15 Deadline for the Reminder**

March 19 Library Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 20 Senior Dinner noon

March 20 Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 29 Recycle

**June 9 Fertile Alumni Banquet**

**August 11-12 Fertile Days**

Send any coming events to [fertilermd@wctatel.net](mailto:fertilermd@wctatel.net)

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2011 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Julie Jessen, Penny Miller, & Tad Miller; Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts & City Clerk Eddie May. Absent was: Council Member Pat Renchin.
- Last month's minutes omitted the following motion: *Jeff motioned, Pat 2<sup>nd</sup> to enforce the ordinance regarding the removal of all road side obstacles which may hamper snow removal or traffic flow.* Carried
- *Tad motioned, Julie 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the Jan. Minutes with correction stated above.* Carried.

### Public Hearing: Fertile Housing Rehabilitation Program

- Mayor Russell announced that this was the time and place for a Public Hearing on the status of funded activities for the City of Fertile CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program, which was financed by a Housing Fund grant awarded in 2009.
- The hearing was opened by Mayor Russell at 7:05 p.m.
- Steve Wendt of the North Iowa Area Council of Governments, which is providing general administrative assistance for the program, gave several comments on the program including:
  - A general description of the accomplishments to date.
  - A summary of grant and local match expenditures to date: \$191,196 of the \$222,540 in available grant funds has been drawn down to date, and the City has expended \$10,900 of its \$12,000 total local match obligation.
  - A general description of the work completed work remaining (6 projects have been completed & 1 is in progress)
  - Performance target increase from 6 to 7 homes rehabilitated
  - Activity schedules
  - And changes to the original project budget, as shown by a breakdown of the final costs expended on each of the 6 projects completed to date, and the funds obligated to date on the one final project in progress.
- Wendt then answered questions from the City Council.
  - The Council intends on applying for the Housing Rehabilitation Funding again in the fall of 2013. If awarded, additional projects could begin again in 2014.
  - The Council wants to give NIACOG and CDBG a big thank you for their hard work in making this program a success!
- Having no further discussion or comments, Mayor Russell closed the Public Hearing at 7:25 p.m.

### Public Hearing - Budget

- Mayor Russell opened the hearing at 7:28 p.m.
- Eddie presented the budget numbers in the format of the public notice for everyone in attendance to see.
- No comments were presented at this time.

- *Penny motioned, Tad 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the 2012-2013 Budget.* Roll Call Vote was unanimous. Carried.
- Mayor Russell closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

### DNR Sewer Inspections Report

- Terry McCarthy, of Yaggy Colby, explained 3 infractions the City was cited for by the DNR during the last inspection: illegal discharge, illegal bypassing, and capacity overflow.
- The first 2 were minor issues and have been, or are being addressed as soon as weather permits. The 3rd infraction requires considerable action on the part of the City.
- The City has a permit, based on our system's capacity, to pump 56,000 gallons into the sewer lagoons each day. During 20 of the last 25 months, we have exceeded this permitted level.
- This City must take steps to lower the amount of inflow into the lagoons, or we will be required to build an additional lagoon at an estimated cost of \$500,000+.
- Over the next few months, the City will be cameraing the sewer lines, looking for ground water infiltration. This will give us the information we need to begin to fix the issues.
- More discussion will be held on this during the next several Council meetings.

### City Maintenance Report

- Warren, Steve and Buck tried to "MacGeyver" a fix to one of the DNR's citations but the fix didn't work. In the spring they will make a permanent fix.
- Steve took the City truck in to get new tires and brakes.
- Since snow plowing has been minimal, Steve has been working at the proposed Business Incubator. He has been painting, filling in holes in the floors and removing debris.
- Steve has been filling in holes in the Main Street with gravel. It has been too cold to patch it, but as soon as it warms up enough, long enough, he will patch all the holes.

### Business Incubator Proposal

- Eddie presented information relating to: program goals, priorities, target business industries and services provided. This information will be available on the City's website within the next few days. ([www.fertileiowa.us](http://www.fertileiowa.us))
- Eddie suggested the creation of an Economic Development Committee made up of Council members and local business owners and managers.
- The business incubator at the Papajohn Center at NIACC is open to assisting our incubator and helping us get connected to the services already provided by the SBC.
- Eddie presented a budget for finishing the upstairs of the Community Center to house the incubator: (\$16,000 - \$20,000 for heating/cooling, electrical, repairs and flooring).
- Eddie presented a 5-year lease structure that would bring in \$16,000+ to cover the bulk of the initial construction cost.
- Jeff suggested using the monthly casino money surplus to cover the remaining costs.
- *Tad motioned, Penny 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the creation of the Fertile Economic Development Committee, creation of the Business*

**Incubator Program, final construction of the incubator space, and public notice of request for applicants.** Vote was unanimous - Motion Carried.

- Applications for businesses interested in the Business Incubator Program will be available on the website [www.fertileiowa.us](http://www.fertileiowa.us) within the next few days.
- Applications will be presented to the Council at next month's Council meeting.

### Mayor's Report

- Had snow and ice storms on January 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Mayor Russell met with DNR and has corresponded with the Corps of Engineers and our insurance company in regards to the inspection of the Dam. Dam was last inspected in 1970s.
- The Fertile Days fundraiser went well bringing in \$231 (after expenses) to cover the short-fall from last year's event. POET also gave an additional \$500 for next year's celebration.
- The Fire Department received a WCTA grant for a new laptop computer and software.
- As part of next year's budget, the City will be putting in a new water meter at the Fire Department. **Penny motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the purchase and installation of the meter.** Motion Carried.
- Mayor Russell and Eddie will be working on amending the City's Flood Plain Ordinance. FEMA has updated the flood plain maps – taking many of the Fertile residences formally in the flood plain, out of the flood plain. A proposed map is on display at City Hall. The amendments to the ordinance will be made during a Public Hearing at next month's Council Meeting.

### City Clerk's Report

- Eddie presented the January Financials (58% through the year)
- |            | General | Roads   | Water | Sewer    | Landfill | Total (incl. non-budget items) |
|------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Income     | 48%     | 59%     | 66%   | 68%      | 69%      |                                |
| Expense    | 46%     | 27%     | 68%   | 94%      | 457%     |                                |
| Net Income | \$8,217 | \$9,634 | \$871 | -\$5,413 | \$3,855  | -\$30,072                      |
- Deficit is caused primarily by Housing Grant and Community Center Grant money that has been spent, but has not been reimbursed by the CDBG or the WCDA yet.
  - **Jeff motioned, Julie 2nd to approve Jan. bills.** Motion Carried.

### Committee Reports

- Community Center – The sheet rocking has been finished. Painting begins tomorrow and will finish on Friday. The ceiling grid will be put in next week.

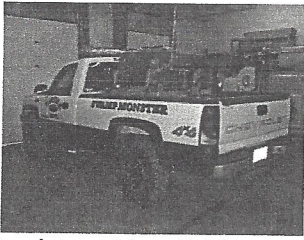
### Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will meet in regular session at 7:00PM, Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Fertile City Hall. There will be a Public Hearing to amend the Flood Plain Ordinance at this meeting.
- **Penny moved and Jeff 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Carried.

City of Fertile  
Bills Paid  
As of January 31, 2012

4:43 PM  
02/22/2012  
Accrual Basis

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
<b>General Fund Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/01/2012			Deposit	2,072.61
Deposit	01/03/2012			Deposit	2,297.76
Deposit	01/04/2012			Deposit	2,102.75
Paycheck	01/04/2012	5876	Bruns, Warren	Payroll	-311.39
Paycheck	01/04/2012	5878	Russell, Joyce	Payroll	-782.87
Paycheck	01/04/2012	5879	Roberts, Stephen J	Payroll	-801.90
Deposit	01/08/2012			Deposit	686.54
Deposit	01/11/2012			Deposit	4,185.75
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5881	AgSource Laboratories	Water & Sewer Testing	-69.75
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5882	CarQuest	Hydfluid for snow/Plow	-53.58
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5880	Fertile Reminder	Advertisement Costs	-220.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5884	Hawkins, Inc.	Postage/supplies	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5885	Kramer Ace Hardware	Ice Melt/paint/lightbulbs	-101.43
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5886	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	parts and labor for new meters	-1,718.79
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5887	Menards	Garage repairs, and tile work in City Hall	-417.30
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5888	Pronto	Gas for city truck	-188.29
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5889	Waste Management	Landfill/Garbage	-1,918.58
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5890	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-138.32
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5891	Woodharbor	Hardware freight	-8.86
Bill Pmt -Check	01/11/2012	5892	Hare Electric	Electrical repairs at lagoon, street lights, and footbridge	-2,782.47
Liability Check	01/12/2012	efips	United States Treasury	Payroll Taxes	-1,278.09
Liability Check	01/12/2012	iQue	IPERS	Payroll Benefits	-771.05
Deposit	01/13/2012			Deposit	2,160.51
Check	01/16/2012		Iowa Rural Water Association	Training	-230.00
Check	01/18/2012	5895	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-3,500.00
Check	01/18/2012	5896	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	-4,750.00
Deposit	01/18/2012			Deposit	1,458.73
Check	01/18/2012	5897	Fertile Public Library V	Inter-Library Loan Reimb, Open Access	-615.49
Check	01/18/2012		First Security Bank & Trust	Comm Ctr Loan Pmt	-2,500.00
Paycheck	01/18/2012	5893	Roberts, Stephen J	Payroll	-832.60
Paycheck	01/18/2012	5894	May III, Edgar F.	Payroll	-673.97
Deposit	01/25/2012			Deposit	7,786.63
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5898	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-596.72
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5899	Forest City Ford	Battery,Starter,Connections replaced	-468.18
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5900	Frank's Repair	City pick up Repair	-55.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5901	Iowa One Call	Utility location	-0.90
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5902	UPS	Water testing	-10.81
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5903	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-43.46
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5904	Bates Bros. Construction	Housing Grant	-7,539.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2012	5905	Meyerhofer Construction	Housing Grant	-12,797.00
Deposit	01/26/2012			Deposit	17,597.00
Check	01/27/2012		Sam's Club	Community Center Equipment (WCDA Grant)	-11,877.53
Check	01/30/2012		Sam's Club	Community Center Equipment (WCDA Grant)	-271.88
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	31.39
<b>Total General Fund Accounts</b>					<b>-17,975.54</b>
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	11.98
<b>Total Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					<b>11.98</b>
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	6.68
<b>Total Water Revenue Accounts</b>					<b>6.68</b>
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>					
Deposit	01/31/2012			Interest	8.09
<b>Total Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>					<b>8.09</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-17,946.79</b>



## Fertile Fire Department

We would like to thank everyone for their support and donations in 2011. Without your help we could not keep our department up

to date with reliable equipment. Thank You! This last year we have gained 8 new volunteer firefighters. Josh Miller and Andrew Hall are working on their first responder course and Chris Hanna, just joined our department, and is an EMT. We are in the process of becoming Fertile Fire and Rescue Department.

In the past year, we have purchased a Polaris Ranger (Hurricane) and a 4x4 Chevy 2500 pickup (swamp monster). Both vehicles were desperately needed and a great asset to our department. We have also purchased more bunker gear as our volunteers have grown. This is a great problem to have! Bunker gear costs around \$2,500.00 per fire fighter. Bunker gear consists of: coat, pants, boots, suspenders, hat, gloves, face cover, and tags. We were also given by the county EMS water rescue equipment.

This January, we applied for the INS Grant given by WCTA for \$1,200.00 and are able to purchase a computer and software. We will be able to put our reports, checking account and our minutes for the meeting on computer. February 9<sup>th</sup>, Matt Petersen accepted the check. Thank You WCTA and Terry! Election took place in February and they are as follows: Chief – Josh Miller, Ass. Chief - Mike Dahn, Captain – Jeff Berg, Treasurer – Dylan Knopf, Secretary – Josh Bruns, Safety officer – Dan Miller and Dwight Bruns, Training officers – Matt Petersen and Jason Thompson. The next project is to replace our 1976 Ford 600 mini tanker/rescue truck. It no longer is dependable. We tried for a FEMA grant and were turned down. It cost us \$1,000.00 to have the grant written and then to lose it hurt our finances. The cost to replace the mini tanker/rescue is around \$140,000.00. Next step is to locate another grant and try again.

In 2013, all the departments, fire, ambulance, and police/sheriff are required by law to have a new radio, pagers systems installed in their facilities.

Firefighters: Josh Miller, Dwight Bruns, John Jordan, Dan Miller, Mike Dahn, Jeff Berg, Dan Lee, Mitchell Tuttle, Jason Thompson, Dylan Knopf, Andrew Hall, Jordan Bakkum, Matt Petersen, Josh Bruns, and Chris Hanna.

## THANK YOU

The Fertile Days Committee members are happy to report that the Walk'n Taco Supper night was a HUGE success! We paid off our budget shortfall from last year and are on the way to an even better Fertile Days this year. We may have another fundraiser in March, so keep your eyes on the lookout for posters with more information! We really appreciate everyone's help from Fertile and the surrounding area! We also have some new events planned for 2012, and we will have more details later. This year's Fertile Days is on a different weekend than in the past, so plan to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of August. The celebration will be on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> this year!!!! Thanks Everyone!!! You can call **Cindy Peters at 641.590.0131** or **Penny Miller at 641.797.2704** for more information or questions.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your business and support for the past 16 years; also for the gifts, cards, and smiles we received at our party. You're not just customers, you're family to us.

The Tom Hare family will be taking over March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please support and give them great memories like we are leaving with.

Love, Janie and Al



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Fertile, Iowa  
50434



**FERTILE - Sandra L. (Morse Burke) Gjerdahl, 65, of Quartzsite, Ariz., formerly of Fertile, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 2012, at the Palo Verde Hospital, Blythe, Calif.**  
 Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012, at the Church of Christ, Fertile, with Pastor Rob Perry and Pastor Dennis Ganz officiating. Interment

will be in Ventura Cemetery, Ventura. Family suggests memorials to Sandra L. Gjerdahl memorial fund.

Sandra was born Nov. 26, 1946, in Mason City, the daughter of Harry E. and Ida (Cooley) Morse. She grew up in the Fertile area. Sandra graduated from Forest City High School in 1965. She later attended and graduated from Capri Cosmetology School.

She worked many jobs in her life; cosmetology instructor at Forester Beauty Salon, delivered Winnebagos, cooked at the Grand Café and managed several convenience stores in Minnesota.

Sandra married David Gjerdahl on Oct. 1, 1994, in Rake. They moved to Arizona in 2006.

She enjoyed doing crafts, cooking, decorating, watching movies, spending time with her family and playing Farmtown on Facebook. She was a wonderful mother and her grandchildren meant the world to her.

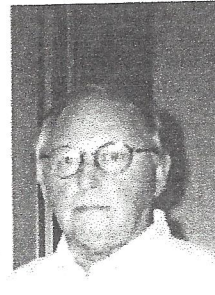
Sandra is survived by her husband, David Gjerdahl, Quartzsite, Ariz.; three children, Tracy Burke, Mason City, Tara Dahn, Forest City, and Travis (Stacy) Burke, Forest City; thirteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; four brothers, Steve (Geri) Morse, St. Paul Park, Minn., Tim (Kathy) Morse, Scott Morse and Jon (Debbie) Morse all of Anchorage, Ala.; and one sister, Elin (Harold) Miner, Fertile; sister-in-law Elida Morse, Clear Lake; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Pat Morse and son Troy Bur

*Our sympathy to the family.*

**James Ray Rodberg**

Urbandale



James Ray Rodberg, 73, passed away Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at Mercy Hospice of Johnston. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, February 20, 2012 at Caldwell Raddatz Funeral Home.

Mr. Rodberg was born on April 11, 1938 at Mason City, IA, to Rueben and Bess (Purcell) Rodberg. He grew up in

Fertile, IA where he was a star basketball player for the Fertile Indians. He was instrumental in taking the small Fertile High School to the State Tournament in the early 1950's.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Drake University, and began his career as a Pharmacist at Kiburz Drug in West Des Moines. He then worked in pharmaceutical sales with Eli Lilly and E.R.Squibb and Sons. Later, he became the Vice President of Sales for Bristol Meyers Squibb. Upon retirement, he worked as an independent consultant in the pharmaceutical industry for several years.

During his retirement, he lived at his lake home in Clear Lake, IA. He enjoyed boating, golfing, fishing, and spending time with his family. A favorite family time was the 4th of July Holiday on the lake.

Survivors include his three children, Heidi (Larry) McIntosh, Wendy (Jeff) Johnson, and Scott (Angie) Rodberg; four grandchildren, Shea McIntosh, Gavin Johnson, Sydney and Sofie Rodberg

*Our sympathy to the family.*

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# COMING EVENTS

## 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

The Class of 1962, which was the last graduating class of the Fertile School will be celebrating this year. Watch for the date!

Those who graduated are the following:

Larry Burke, Joice, IA

Larry Haugen, 1707 Main Ave., Clear Lake, IA

Darlene Johnson Gremmer, 315 3<sup>rd</sup> SE, Britt, IA

Gail Lee Shropshire 607 W. Main, Fertile, IA

James Myhre, address unknown

Richard Norem, 3554 Willowood Ave. Marian, IA

Mona Olson Gard, 4032 Coleman Rd N, Valdosta, GA

Dennis Ouverson, 2116 Roseland Ave, Sebring, FL

Bert Pederson, 23662 Balsam Ave, Clear Lake. IA

Sandy Purcell Jenkins, 606 Secor Ave. Forest City, IA

Joanne Roberts Zrostlik, Shell Rock, IA

Harlan Rodberg, 615 S Gold Course Rd, Forest City,

Marlys Tweed Murray, 42533 Decatur,

Englewood, CO

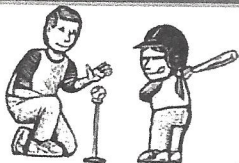
Judi Schuler Larson, Forest City, IA

Rosemary Waage Thompsen, Forest City, IA

### DECEASED

Robert Jenkins, David Lovick, Larry McCauley

Jay Ouverson, Merle Tuttle

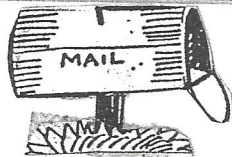


LITTLE LEAGUE

SIGN UP

Mon. March 19, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Fertile Public Library



Letters to the Editor:

**THANKS, GIRLS, FOR GIVING OF YOUR TIME AND TALENT FOR OUR ENJOYMENT. PLEASE RENEW MY SUBSCRIPTION FOR ANOTHER YEAR. ROSE SUBY**

Fertile Lutheran Church  
602 W. Washington Box 25  
Fertile, IA 50434  
Pastor David Halverson  
641-797-2767

Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am --- Sunday School 10:40 am  
Wed. 5:30 pm Confirmation Class

### FERTILE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday- Sunday School 9:00 AM

Fellowship Time - 9:55 AM

Worship - 10:15 AM

Tuesday- Fireside study 10:00 AM

Wednesday- Youth & Teen Groups 7:00 PM

### Celebration Community Church

805 10th Ave. North Clear Lake Ia

641-357-0026

Sunday School – 9:00 – 9:45

Fellowship – 9:45 – 10:00

Praise and Worship Service – 10:00 – 11:00

Youth Group – 1st and 3rd Sunday 5:00 – 6:00

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Fertile, IA



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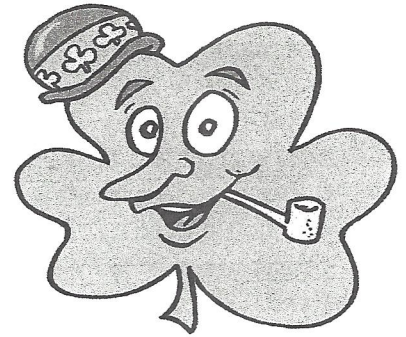


John Burtness & Todd Lundgren  
Clear Lake, 641-357-8882 or Fertile 641-797-2680

Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!



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Monday & Wednesday - 1-6 P.M.  
Thursday - 3-6 P.M.  
Friday 9-Noon & 3-6 P.M.  
Saturday - 9-Noon



#### NEW BOOKS

Winter Ghosts—Kate Mosse  
Lonestar Angel—Colleen Coble  
The Seeking Heart—Vogel Sawyer  
Threads of Hope—Andrea Boeshaar  
In Too Deep—Mary Connealy  
The Informationist—Taylor Stevens  
60 Acres & a Bride—Andrea Jennings  
Love Blooms in Winter—Lori Copeland  
Words Spoken True—Ann Gabhart  
Oath of Office—Michael Palmer  
City of Fire—Robert Ellis  
Blue Moon Promise—Colleen Coble  
Private Games—James Patterson  
Matt Jensen: Massacre at Powder River—Johnstone  
Cemetery Girl—David Bell

#### NEW AUDIO BOOKS

The Innocent—Taylor Stevens  
Murder Season—Robert Ellis  
D.C. Dead—Stuart Woods  
Hunger Games—Suzanne Collins  
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo—Stieg Larsson  
The Litigators—John Grisham  
Explosive Eighteen—Janet Evanovich  
Semper Fi—W.E.B. Griffin

#### NEW EBOOKS

The Burning Edge—Rick Mofina  
The Winter Palace—Eva Stachniak  
New York to Dallas—JD Robb

#### NEW DVDS

Courageous  
X-Men First Class—James McAvoy  
Source Code—Jake Gyllenhaal  
Zookeeper—Kevin James  
Cowboys & Aliens—Harrison Ford  
Bad Teacher—Cameron Diaz  
Fright Night—Colin Farrel  
Cars 2  
Just Go With It—Adam Sandler  
No Strings Attached—Ashton Kutcher  
Captain America—Chris Evans

#### NEW MAGAZINES

Every Day with Rachel Ray  
Martha Stewart Living

**OLSON INSURANCE, INC.**

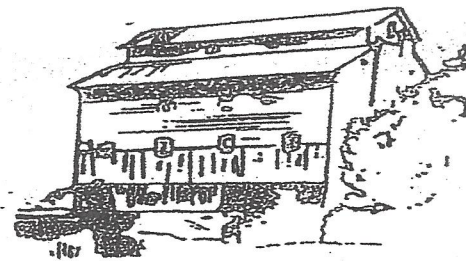


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## MY MEMORIES by Viola Roberts

Just a few words as to what life was like back in the late 1920's and early 1930's. I was 14 years old on May 31, 1928 and had come from a large family of five boys and four girls. I had two brothers and one sister older than me. Everyone was encouraged to work to earn whatever wages they could. There wasn't the variety of work then as there is today, so girls of my age lots of times helped taking care of kids and helping with the house work for different farm families, especially during thrashing time or a new baby arrival.

My first job was helping take care of kids, preparing meals and washing the milking equipment. All farmers had milk cows back then. I will never forget how kind this farmer was in showing this "greenhorn" how to wash that milking equipment. The going wage in that day was \$5.00 a week!

My next job was for a farm family southwest of Fertile who had two small children and a brand new baby. Most babies were born at home and the mothers had to stay in bed for 10 days per Doctors orders. The 9<sup>th</sup> day it was very important to stay quiet. I was still 14 and had so very, very much to learn that I often wonder why they ever kept me.

Back then no one in the country had electricity as lines hadn't been installed yet. Butter, cream and milk that we now keep refrigerated had to be kept in a cooling tank by the windmill. This tank had very cold water in it at all times and the butter etc., was put in a container and hung in the tank.

This family had a flock of geese that I think enjoyed scaring me to death. They seemed to know when I had to go to the windmill to get butter or cream as they were always there with their mouths open, squawking and flapping their wings. My mission was accomplished but not with singing and laughter.

I went to high school in Fertile, but we didn't have the beautiful new gym, kitchen or class rooms that were added later. Back then if you were caught whispering or passing notes you could be in trouble. The old part of the school that was clear to the north, over the years got in such bad shape it had to be demolished a few years ago. During noon hour or recess, my sister, Verna (Miller) Butts would spend her time fixing her classmates hair. I think it was called "finger waving". Look at the 1930's class pictures and you will see what I mean.

It wasn't all work for us as kids because I remember when we moved to Fertile in June 1928 we came from northern Wisconsin where we lived on 80 acres, that was mostly trees with a few places cleared to plant some small crops. On this so called "farm" was the best

hill for sledding you could imagine as there were no trees, brush, rocks or anything else to stop us from sledding or skiing down the hill. My older brothers, Verle and Alvin, made all our sleds and skis. They also made stilts to walk around on. We played softball and 'anti-I-over' as we called it, that was throwing the ball over the house and the one on the other side throwing it back. Another fun thing was riding horses. There was no money to purchase any of the above, nor was it needed, as I am sure we had just as much fun as anyone today who spends many dollars for different things. As I said, we came to Fertile and all the horseback riding and sledding was over at least for us four older ones, but we still had good times in other ways. Some farmers would clear their hay mows and have a barn dance. The music and the caller were all local men and square dancing was one of our dances. Sometimes dances were held in people's homes, those lucky enough to have a 9x12 rug on the floor, we just shoved the furniture to the wall, rolled up the rug and danced to that old time music. It was all just clean fun. The last job I had before I got married, was southeast of Fertile where they always had at least one hired man so there were six people to cook, wash clothes, etc., so they needed help year around. I was treated like one of the family and was there for three years. During the summer I was there all the time but when school started was there just on weekends. I graduated in May and got married in December. We moved to a little farm in Minnesota for three years, then back to southeast Fertile where we raised our three children: Wayne, Donald and Joanne. God willing, I will be 98 years old on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS! Police in Oakland, CA, spent two hours attempting to subdue a gunman who had barricaded himself inside his home. After firing ten tear gas canisters, officers discovered that the man was standing beside them in the police line, shouting, "Please come out and give yourself up."

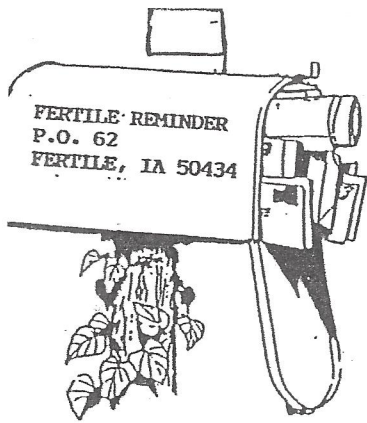
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