

FERTILE REMINDER

JULY 2021



Fertile Garden Club toured the gardens of Bill and Sandy Price, Fertile. From left to right front row are Ginny Lovik, Bev Bruns, Shelly Jordan, Sheila Bergan, Deb Berg & Sandy Price. Back row: Eileen Schissel, Deb Kleveland and Suzanne Lee.

The Garden Club met at the Community Center on June 8th. 15 members were present. Joyce Russell opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was "What Is your ancestry?" (no, we were not all Norwegian.) A pot luck supper was eaten, and then we had the meeting.

A big thank you was given to all who purchased the flowers for the town pots and planted them. It is a big job and is much appreciated!!

The library flower bed will be cared for by the library and the pots at the library will be watered by the club. Joyce has lined up some speakers for future meetings. The meeting adjourned and members went to the Price place for their tour.

JULY CALENDAR

5 Firemen meet

20 City Council

1, 15 & 29 Recycle

AUGUST

19 Library Board meets

12 – 14 FERTILE DAYS

20 Fertile Girls Meet

13TH FIREWORKS

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes June 15, 2021 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Mayor, Nick Bailey, called the council meeting to order. Present were: Council Members: Tad Miller, Penny Miller, Cindy Peters, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna. City Clerk: Wendy Lunning. Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- **Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the minutes of the May meeting.** Unanimous
- **Penny motioned, Holly 2nd to accept agenda.** Unanimous. Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, at the Post Office and on our website <https://fertileiowa.us>, 24 hours in advance of each Council Meeting. If you wish to be on the agenda, please contact City Hall two days before the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag

Top of Iowa Trails:

- **Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the draft Memorandum of Understanding for maintenance and responsibility of the bike trail between Fertile & Hanlontown.** Unanimous. Nick authorized the draft memorandum.

City Maintenance Report:

- Steve has been working on the forms at the Lagoon to provide measurements as requested by the DNR.
- Steve & Warren purchased laptop for quality control of water reports to DNR.
- Steve has been working on mowing and weed spraying.
- Steve has also been working at the ball diamonds getting them ready for Little League.
- **Holly motioned, Ron 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

Mayor's Report:

- Thank you to the Zirbel family for the framed butter wrapper once used at the Fertile Co-op Dairy Assn. This will be a nice addition to the history of Fertile.
- Clean Up Days is scheduled for September 18, 2021.
- Nick is waiting for return call from Danko in regards to the tornado siren. The council has agreed to remove the noon siren and keep the 6:00 siren.
- Fireworks permits are needed and available at City Hall if needed. NOTE: If burn ban is in effect, fireworks will not be allowed within city limits.
 1. Fireworks are limited to use between June 1 and July 8.
 2. Fireworks are limited to use between 9:00 am – 10:00 pm with

exception of July 4th they can be used between 9:00 am – 11:00pm.

- Nick has contacted John Greve in regards to putting together a lease agreement for the incubator space.
- **Tad motioned, Penny 2nd to approve the Mayor's report.** Unanimous

City Clerk's Report:

- **Tad motioned, Ron 2nd to approve resolution 21-06-15-1 authorizing the internal transfer of funds for Capital Projects, Administrative Allocation and Emergency Funds.** Unanimous.
- Financials are at the end of this report. **Penny motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve Financial Reports.** Unanimous
- **Holly motioned, Ron 2nd to approve May Bills.** Unanimous
- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:

101 Spring Street	\$275.59
103 Mill Street	\$261.44
503 W Washington	\$486.06
501 W Washington	\$445.38
- **Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to process lien with Worth County Treasurer.** Unanimous
- American Rescue Plan Act will be sending the City of Fertile \$149 per capita which will amount to \$53,640 that will be distributed over the next two years. The City of Fertile can use these funds to recover lost revenue, Water System Projects, Sewer Projects, Grants to community, to recover bonus pay to essential workers &/or Broadband.

Committee Report:

- Fertile Days is scheduled for August 14th & 15th. More information to come.

Public Comments:

- No Comments.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session July 20th, 2021 at 7:00pm at Fertile Community Center.
- **Penny motioned, Holly 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

Summary:

Top of Iowa Trail Draft Memorandum of Understanding

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

7/1/2020 to 5/31/2021	General	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST Pre 01/01/2020	LOST Post 01/01/2020	WCDA	Capital Projects	Utilities	Total
Income	262,107.42	49,839.47	45.55	10,759.09	0	38,074.93	0	4,166.60	146,335.65	511,328.71
Expense	222,453.06	56,867.21	0	7,393.45	0	30,866.60	0	0	97,580.53	415,160.85
Total	39,654.36	-7,027.74	45.55	3,365.64	0	7,208.33	0	4,166.60	48,755.12	96,167.86
Fund Balance	12,887.48	82,659.31	45.55	11,099.05	58,057.14	25,030.15	21.32	9,166.54	305,088.34	503,974.88

City of Fertile Deposits

As of May 31, 2021

	Type	Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts				
Checking				
	Deposit	05/02/2021	Utility Deposit	72.21
	Deposit	05/02/2021	Paypal Utility Deposit	343.75
	Deposit	05/03/2021	Casino Funds Deposit	3,701.21
	Deposit	05/12/2021	Utility Deposit	2,814.89
	Deposit	05/12/2021	Facility Rental Deposit	35.00
	Deposit	05/13/2021	Road Use Tax	1,997.11
	Deposit	05/19/2021	(L) Library Deposit	1,433.00
	Deposit	05/19/2021	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
	Deposit	05/19/2021	Utility Deposit	2,849.52
	Deposit	05/19/2021	Dividend Deposit	473.44
	Deposit	05/19/2021	Farm to Market Deposit	4,676.20
	Deposit	05/19/2021	Facility Rental Deposit	50.00
	Deposit	05/19/2021	Property Taxes	3,669.66
	Deposit	05/20/2021	ACH Utility Deposit	454.08
	Deposit	05/20/2021	ACH Utility Deposit	3,017.86
	Deposit	05/20/2021	Paypal Utility Deposit	316.13
	Deposit	05/20/2021	Scrap Meters Deposit	52.50
	Deposit	05/20/2021	Paypal Utility Deposit	166.17
	Deposit	05/21/2021	Paypal Utility Deposit	261.28
	Deposit	05/24/2021	Iowa Interactive Utility Deposit	91.78
	Deposit	05/24/2021	Local Option Sales Tax	3,237.21
	Deposit	05/25/2021	Utility Deposit	1,521.08
	Deposit	05/26/2021	Facility Rental Deposit	50.00
	Deposit	05/31/2021	Interest	46.62
	Total Checking			31,330.70
				31,330.

City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of May 31, 2021

	Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts						
Checking						
	Check	05/01/2021	TRANSFER	City of Fertile	Capital Funds - Resolution 21-4-20-2	0.00
	Paycheck	05/05/2021	9978	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.20
	Paycheck	05/05/2021	9980	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-50.34
	Paycheck	05/05/2021	9979	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-485.94
	Check	05/05/2021	9985	Schroeder, Michael	Refund Utility Deposit	-150.00
	Paycheck	05/12/2021	9986	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,163.29
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9987	Alliant Energy	Electric	-1,121.59
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9988	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-199.33
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9989	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Operator Certificate Renewal 2021	-120.00
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9990	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-94.80
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9991	US Bank	Intuit Quickbooks,	-199.51
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9992	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-84.56
	Bill Pmt -Check	05/12/2021	9993	Waste Management		-2,483.01
	Check	05/18/2021	TRANSFER	City of Fertile	Capital Funds - Resolution 21-5-18-1	0.00

Paycheck	05/19/2021	9994	Arndt, Linda J	(L) Library Assistant	-220.11
Paycheck	05/19/2021	9995	Knudson, Loni	Direct Deposit	0.00
Paycheck	05/19/2021	9996	Thompson, Angela M	Direct Deposit	0.00
Liability Check	05/20/2021		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 05/19/2021	-1,770.58
Check	05/20/2021	ACH	WCTA	(L) Telephone	-42.09
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	9997	AgSource Laboratories	Sewer Testing	-109.25
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	9998	Alliant Energy	Electric	-756.50
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	9999	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs	-290.99
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	10000	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-472.68
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	10001	Globe Gazette	FY 2020/2021 Budget Amendment	-125.44
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	10002	Green Canopy, Inc.	APRIL 2021 Fishing Dock, Park & Ball Diamond	-406.00
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	10003	MicroMarketing	(L) Books	-65.98
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	10004	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-188.00
Bill Pmt -Check	05/20/2021	10005	Black Hills Energy	(L) Natural Gas	-65.00
Bill Pmt -Check	05/21/2021	10007	AgSource Laboratories	Sewer Testing	-166.25
Bill Pmt -Check	05/21/2021	10008	First Gabrielson Agency	Firemen's Accident/Sickness Policy	-811.00
Bill Pmt -Check	05/21/2021	10009	IMWCA	Worker's Compensation Coverage	-4,001.00
Bill Pmt -Check	05/21/2021	10010	Fertile Fire Department V	WCTA Dividend	-65.17
Bill Pmt -Check	05/21/2021	10011	Kum & Go	Truck Fuel	-408.52
Paycheck	05/26/2021	10006	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,163.29
Check	05/31/2021	ACH	Citibusiness Card	(L) Books, Supplies, DVDs & Magazines	-535.42
Total Checking					-18,115.84
Petty Cash					
Total Petty Cash					
Total Operating Accounts					-18,115.84
Roads Revenue Accounts					
Savings					
Total Savings					
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					
TOTAL					-18,115.84



OLSON INSURANCE

Kory T. Olson

kory@tohins.com

Cell (641) 390-1865



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704 Central Ave., P.O. Box 287

Northwood, IA 50459

(641) 324-2452

Fax (641) 324-1229

Manly Office

103 N. Todd St., P.O. Box 248

Manly, Iowa 50456

(641) 454-2292

Fax (641) 454-2293

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Obituaries



Kim "Pete" Peters, of Fertile, Iowa, died on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 due to complications from an arterial surgery.

Pete was born on August 9, 1955 in Storm Lake, Iowa. He was the middle child to his older brother, Kent, and younger brother, Kelly. Pete and his brothers were a daring bunch while growing up in Keokuk, narrowly escaping dangerous hijinks along the Mississippi river.

As a freshman at Eagle Grove High School, Pete met Cindy Stepp and was immediately charmed (at least that's how Cindy tells it). They married on August 12, 1978 and had their daughter, Anne, in 1985. Pete loved spending time with family and friends, camping, road trips, eating good food, and making people laugh with his clever wit, and dry sense of humor.

For 30 years, Pete worked at North Iowa Vocational Center as a job coach for persons with disabilities. He was beloved by his coworkers and clients alike.

Pete was preceded in death by his brother, Kent Peters and his sister-in-law, Jane (Kutcher) Peters. He is survived by his parents, Allan and Norma (née Ellis) Peters of Fort Atkinson WI; wife, Cindy (née Stepp) Peters of Fertile IA; daughter, Anne (Danielle) Sparks and grandson, Huxley Sparks of Coralville IA; younger brother, Kelly (Debbie) Peters of Jefferson WI; as well as his nieces and nephews: Shelly (Tom) Rose of Keokuk IA and their kids Kelsey and Derek; Gabe (Rhonda) Peters of Hamilton, IL and their kids Jade, Jessilyn, and Jodi; Jamie Stepp and his son Ayden of Des Moines IA; Mackenzie Stepp of Des Moines IA, and Noah Stepp of Des Moines IA. And of course, his beloved dog, Buster.

A Celebration of Life for Kim "Pete" Peters will take place on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at the Fertile Community Center, 3494 Eagle Ave. Fertile, IA 50434. A private time for family will take place from 1:00 – 2:00 PM. Following family time, the celebration will be open to the public from the hours of 2:00 – 4:00 PM.



LELAND-Todd M. Wise passed away May 23, 2021 at MercyOne North Iowa Hospice, Mason City, after a courageous battle with cancer, 61, of Leland passed. Todd Wise was born December 24, 1959 in Mason City, son of Frank B. and Nancy (Legler) Wise.

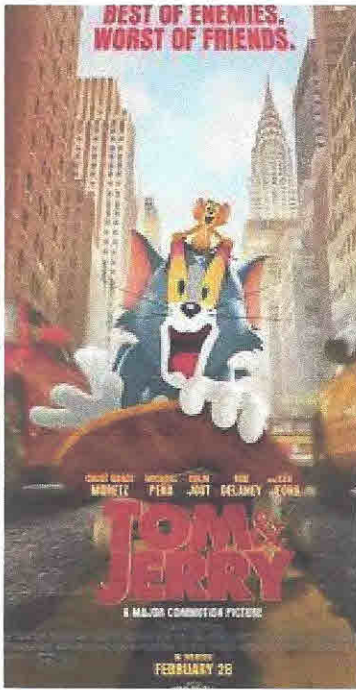
He attended Forest City High School. After high school, he was employed by Henkel Construction for many years. He was united in marriage to Kathy Kennedy and to this union two children were born, Amber and Cory Wise.

Todd enjoyed traveling with his friends Anna and Jim Thorson to many concerts and vacations. He will be known for always keeping busy, tinkering and doing projects. Todd was always willing to help friends and family when needed. He would always put up a fight for those he loved.

Todd is survived by his two children, Amber Wise of Manly and Cory (Liann) Wise of Spanish Springs, Nevada; five grandchildren, Justice, Jaxon, Alexis,

Landon and Westin; four siblings, Terry "Tick" Wise, Tim Wise, Trinda Dight (Tim Whalen) and Tiffany Jacobson Bob Schladerand many extended family and friends.

Todd is preceded in death by his parents, Frank Wise and Nancy Wise-Runnels.



Library News

The library is gearing up for it's annual book and bake sale during Fertile Days. We are always looking for volunteers to bake things for our sale. If you are able to help, please contact Angie @ the library...797-2787

Outdoor Movie Night

July 10th @ 9 pm

Join us for an outdoor showing of Tom & Jerry: the movie. Bring a chair and your movie treats!

Outdoor Movie Night

July 24th @ 9 pm

Join us for an outdoor showing of Mr. Roberts. Bring a chair and your movie treats!

Movies sponsored by Tom's Electric, Larsen's, Oswald Farms & Beaver Creek Gardens

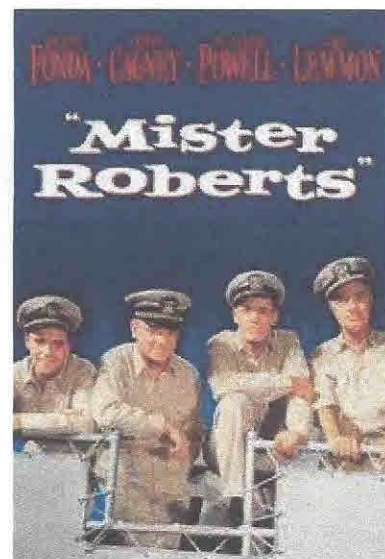
FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
204 West Main Street/Box 198
Fertile, IA 50434
641-797-2787 Phone/Fax
Monday & Wednesday: 1-6 P.M.
Thursday: 3-6 P.M.
Friday: 9- Noon & 2-6 P.M.
Saturday: 9 - Noon
WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILC/FERTILEPL

featuring New Books

The bounty - Janet Evanovich
The keepsake sisters - Lori Wilde
The moon sister - Lucinda Riley
Country Proud - Linda Lael Miller
21st Birthday - James Patterson

featuring New DVDs

The secret garden
New of the World
Soul
Wild Mountain Thyme



It's Time Again For The
FERTILE - ALL-SCHOOL REUNION

(This includes anyone who has ever attended Fertile Schools)



Hi Fertile High School Grads, Friends, and Families:

The pictures above tell the story of the past two Alumni Reunions but we can't duplicate them again....it was just too much fun!!!

This year's luncheon will be held on **Saturday, September 25th at the Fertile Community Center.** There will be coffee and goodies starting at 9:30 with the luncheon being served at noon. We're opening up early as what do we do better than visit with our old friends!!! The cost for the luncheon, room rental, and mailing costs will be \$12.50 each. We have a new caterer this year with a great following, so we're hoping you can all attend.

At this year's luncheon we'd like to honor our Valedictorians and Salutatorians as that's why we went to school.....to learn, and learn we did!!! We can get some information from the annuals, but if you know or remember some of the V's and S's either from your class or another, please send me an email @ jnorem@wctatel.net or text me at 641-590-0329 or use FB Messenger.

The masks are gone and we can now hug each other again! We decided to wait until fall for this reunion just hoping that we could get together as normal people again!!! And we lucked out!!!

Hoping to see everyone on **Saturday, September 25th, 2021!!**

Please complete the bottom and return along with your check payable to Fertile Alumni to:
Harlan Rodberg, 615 S Golf Course Road, Forest City, IA 50436 – please return by September 1st!!

NAME _____ Class of _____

Number of people attending _____

“Happy 91st Birthday on July 22nd”
Frances Jenkins Cates

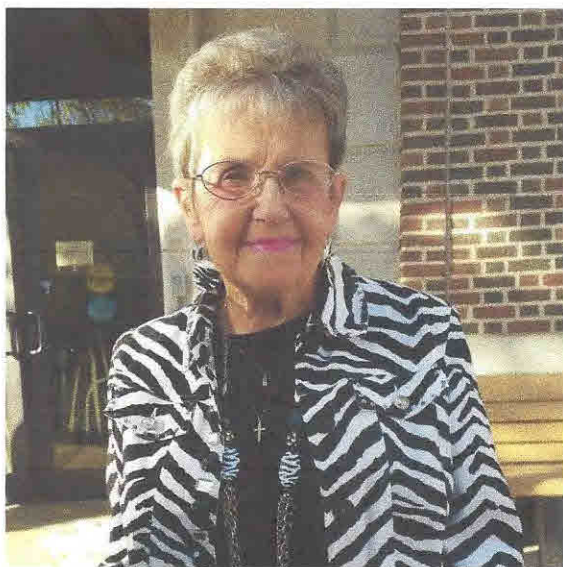
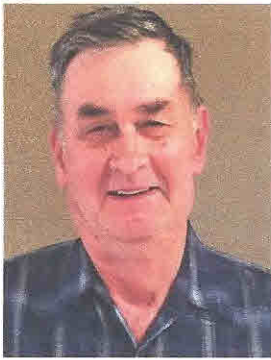


Photo by Kirk
MARRIAGE REVEALED—Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Jenkins of Fertile announce the marriage of their daughter, Frances Lou, to Robert Cates of Mason City, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Cates of Sac City. The wedding took place Dec. 31 in the Fertile Lutheran church with the Rev. Benjamin Colivet officiating. The couple was attended by Mrs. Leslie Nelson of Northwood and Thomas Cates of Sac City.



Globe-Gazette Photo
TICKETS PLEASE—Bob Cates, butcher at the Fareway grocery store in Mason City, enjoys affording youngsters a good time and Tuesday night he financed an evening's entertainment for 7 boys, ranging from 4 to 10 years of age, from Fertile. The group attended a show and then had refreshments at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Wilson. Shown in left to right order above, the boys are Dennis Jenkins, Jerry Johnson, Larry Burtness (behind Johnson), Jacky Miller, Lanny Jenkins, Lanny Burtness and Joe Johnson. Cates is standing behind the group.



THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Hello Fertile. I will start this letter by saying that at our June City Council meeting, we will take up debating and hopefully signing an agreement that Fertile along with Hanlontown, will do normal maintenance on the new trail between our two communities.

This includes mowing, sweeping, trash pick up and any other tasks to keep the trail clean and ready for use by walkers and bikers. Any needed repairs to the trail would be the responsibility of the county. Since we all want it to last without repairs (except weather related), it probably will be made of concrete instead of asphalt. I will know more about this after our next meeting.

Is this year going to be another 1934? I am going to Plainfield, Wisconsin to talk to the irrigation people. That is in the Central Sands Potato country. I need to find out if our irrigation pump can be fixed or if we need to think about a different one. It's a little early yet, but we are rapidly getting to the time when the crops will be using a lot of water. It is hard to grow a crop without it. Just trying to keep my options open.

I see that they cultivated the organic corn on the Colby Land a second time. It looks much better than the first. However, it still will be a failure. The weeds are still in the row and they will be as tall as the corn. The second reason is that muck soils are naturally low on potash. That is why the Hefty Bros. advice on building up the K level doesn't work on muck. Potash can leach out of the soil just like nitrogen because there isn't any clay particles for the K to attach too. Come fall the stalks will be weak and fall over in the first wind. Just saying!

With the big push by the Biden Administration for all electric cars, semi-trucks and farm tractors so we don't use fossil fuels, how are we going to generate the electricity to charge them? With electric cars, we wouldn't need ethanol. Where will that five billion bushels of corn go? What will happen to small, under 10 acre, growers, who will no longer be able to use tillers and small tractors? How soon will people be getting hungry for lack of food produced? Just thinking.

There is an old saying that I live by. "For every action, there is a reaction". We need a little more brain and a little less mouth from our politicians.

Until next time, Thank a Veteran for the freedoms you enjoy, thank a farmer for the food on your table, and above all, thank God for your daily blessings.



Please keep the Fertile Reminder coming. Thank you for all your hard work. Marilyn Severson

I do not want to miss an issue as I enjoy the news from Fertie. Thanks to all for your dedication to compiling and sending it each month. Ellamae (Oswald) Butler.

Did you Know???

Come to the fair! Isn't it just great to hear those words again?

The Worth County Historical Society invites you to stop at our booth in the Exhibit Building in our usual location.

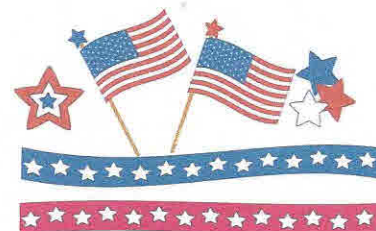
This year we are focusing on the Worth County Courthouse through the years, with pictures and historical information. How very interesting our courthouse has been.

Again, this year, we are having a guessing game. It is of worms (the edible kind) in a jar. The nearest guess to the actual number in the jar wins a monetary prize. All ages are welcome, so come try your luck—you just might be the winner!

We are also asking for your help! The Northwood fire wagon received last year was of interest to many. If you have any older pictures of it we certainly would appreciate you showing them to us. Call Amanda, WCHS at 641-324-1180.

The Stromstein Building is basically our main focus at this time. It is an exciting feeling to see the progression towards a finished project.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair! Please stop by our booth to read, visit, and guess! Until next time...





Cooks page by: Tammy Waddington

Rhubarb-Raspberry Jam

- 6 c. fresh or frozen (unsweetened) chopped rhubarb
- 4 c. sugar
- 1 Tbs. lemon juice
- 2 c. fresh raspberries or 12 oz. pkg. frozen loose pack raspberries
- 3 oz. pkg. raspberry gelatin

In large kettle or dutch oven combine rhubarb, sugar and lemon juice. Let stand 15-20 minutes or till sugar is moistened. Bring to a boil. Boil, uncovered, for 10 minutes, stirring often. Add raspberries; return to boiling. Boil hard for 5-6 minutes or until thick, stirring often. Remove from heat. Add gelatin; stir until dissolved. Ladle into hot, clean half-pint jars, leaving 1/4 inch head space. Wipe jar rims; adjust lids. Process in boiling water bath for 15 minutes (start timing when water boils). YIELD: 5 to 6 half pints.

Strawberry-Rhubarb Cobbler

- 6 c. sliced rhubarb (about 1-1/2 pounds)
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 pk. (3 oz.) strawberry flavored gelatin
- 1 pkg. (9 oz.) yellow cake mix
- 1/3 c. unsalted butter, melted
- 2 tsp. confectioners' sugar, for garnish
- Whipped topping, optional

Heat oven to 350°. Coat an 11x7x2-in. baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Place rhubarb in dish and sprinkle sugar then gelatin. Sprinkle cake mix over gelatin then drizzle with 3/4 c. water. Stir in the melted butter. Bake for 50 minutes. Remove and cool on wire rack for 10-15 mins. Serve warm or room temperature. Dust with confectioners' sugar.

Tips from the olden days!

A book from 1951 says... to keep worms off cabbage take 1 pint saltpeter and 3 pints of salt. Dissolve in 6 gallons of water. Sprinkle on cabbage as needed.

Strawberry Shortcake, Old Way (1889)

Flour, 3 1/2 c.; baking powder, 3 tea-spoonfuls; butter, or rice lard, 1 table-spoonful (rounding); sweet milk. Directions-Stir the baking powder into the flour and sift; work in the butter smoothly; then use milk enough to have a soft dough; roll out 1 inch thick, bake. When done have the strawberries mixed with sugared cream; split the cake with a sharp knife, spread lightly with butter the lower half, then put in a thick layer of the fruit, replacing the top, and covering the top also.

Fruit Flies?

Scatter a few **mint or basil sprigs** near fresh fruit—they hate the smell. Rub a little **alcohol** on counter next to bananas or ripening melon, tomato, or avocado. Pour **apple cider** into a jar or bowl—they will drown.

Garden Tips

Pouring or spraying a little white vinegar on offending weeds will shrivel the weeds. Just be careful of your flowers.

~~~~~ Homemade Herbicide

In a bucket, combine equal parts vinegar, table salt, and dish soap for a weed killing solution that can't be stopped. Put it in a cheap spray bottle for easy use.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

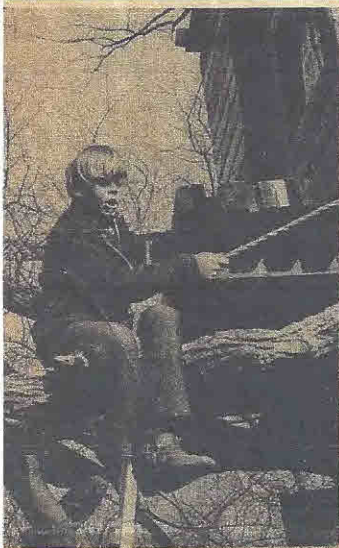
May you have a very
Blessed
JULY
Happy Independence
Day
God Bless



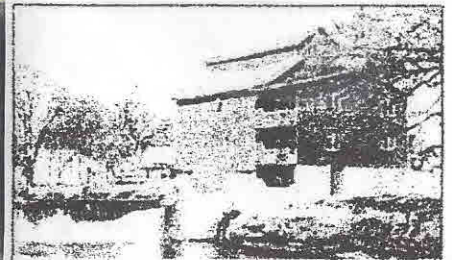
July 2021

THE OLE SWIMMING HOLE by Neil Kuns

Small-town North Iowa in the 1930's didn't afford many swimming pools. There was one at the Y in Mason City and Clear Lake was swimmable but ten miles away from home. We did have the Winnebago River and the creek that ran south of the public park. The "big kids" got to swim above the dam but not until they could prove their ability to swim across the river and back without stopping. Before that we went off to the little rill south of the park for relief from the heat unless our mothers took down to "Clay Banks" about a mile down-river from town. Learning to swim entails learning to float, how to breathe without inhaling or swallowing water, and how to propel oneself. Floating is really a matter of learning the truth that one will float if the lungs are inflated. It's a matter of trust rather than technique. Before we learned that we had the help of inflated rubber inner tubes on which we either hung or sat. In still water we used our arms as oars and paddle around. This was the beginning of understanding propulsion. The ole swimming hole in the creek south of the park was not still water unless the river was really low. It tumbled over the rocks before settling in a two-foot deep pool for fifteen feet before bubbling on its way to the east. This is where I learned to swim. We waded upstream to the shallow moving water, plopped down into the flow and let the current carry us ten or fifteen feet until it slowed. We dog-paddled like crazy as we bobbed along and finally became confident that we could move without the current. I have swum laps in a pool six days a week for over thirty-five years. It is a large part of what has kept me alive. It all began over eighty years ago here in the ole swimming hole of this little creek where I learned how to swim.



THESE, perhaps to their parents' dismay, are members of the Fertile Daredevils. Origin of the club's name is obvious. From their treehouse clubhouse, across the river from William Rhodes Park, the boys utilize a rope swing to soar and twist far out over the waters of the Winnebago river. Tim Tuttle, upper left, illustrates the starting position, perched on a limb just below the clubhouse. Burton Peterson, lower left, demonstrates the launch toward the flood-swollen river. After making one circuit high over the river, Burton returned to the shore where Mark Tuttle jumped on. As many as four can swing on the rope at one time, the boys say, and only infrequently does one of them land in the river.



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Swimming in the River many years later than Neil was there. These were taken in the 1960's of Tim Tuttle, Mark Tuttle and Burton Peterson by a newspaper.

2021 Fertile Days T-Shirt Order Form

We are now taking shirt orders for Fertile Days shirts until **Friday, July 23rd**. Kids sizes are \$15 per shirt, Adult sizes (small through extra-large) are \$20, and Adult 2XL and bigger will be \$23. Please remember the sales of these shirts help fund the activities for Fertile Days. We appreciate everyone's support!

Please send your payment to Kim Severson with checks made out to the Fertile Days Committee at PO Box 141 Fertile, IA 50434. Call 641-797-2333 or e-mail tkseverson@wctatel.net with any questions. Shirts can be picked up by contacting Kim Severson.



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GARDEN SNAKES CAN BE DANGEROUS...

Snakes also known as Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) can be dangerous. Yes, grass snakes, not rattlesnakes. Here's why.

A couple in Sweetwater, Texas, had a lot of potted plants. During a recent cold spell, the wife was bringing a lot of them indoors to protect them from a possible freeze.

It turned out that a little green garden grass snake was hidden in one of the plants. When it had warmed up, it slithered out and the wife saw it go under the sofa.

She let out a very loud scream. The husband (who was taking a shower) ran out into the living room naked to see what the problem was. She told him there was a snake under the sofa. He got down on the floor on his hands and knees to look for it. About that time the family dog came and cold-nosed him on the behind. He thought the snake had bitten him, so he screamed and fell over on the floor. His wife thought he had had a heart attack, so she covered him up, told him to lie still and called an ambulance. The attendants rushed in, would not listen to his protests, loaded him on the stretcher, and started carrying him out.

About that time, the snake came out from under the sofa and the Emergency Medical Technician saw it and dropped his end of the stretcher. That's when the man broke his leg and why he is still in the hospital.

The wife still had the problem of the snake in the house, so she called on a neighbor who volunteered to capture the snake. He armed himself with a rolled-up newspaper and began poking under the couch.. Soon he decided it was gone and told the woman, who sat down on the sofa in relief.

But while relaxing, her hand dangled in between the cushions, where she felt the snake wriggling around. She screamed and fainted, the snake rushed back under the sofa. The neighbor man, seeing her lying there passed out, tried to use CPR to revive her.

The neighbor's wife, who had just returned from shopping at the grocery store, saw her husband's mouth on the woman's mouth and slammed her husband in the back of the head with a bag of canned goods, knocking him out and cutting his scalp to a point where it needed stitches. The noise woke the woman from her dead faint and she saw her neighbor lying on the floor with his wife bending over him, so she assumed that the snake had bitten him. She went to the kitchen and got a small bottle of whiskey, and began pouring it down the man's throat. By now, the police had arrived. Breathe here...

They saw the unconscious man, smelled the whiskey, and assumed that a drunken fight had occurred. They were about to arrest them all, when the women tried to explain how it all happened over a little garden snake! The police called an ambulance, which took away the neighbor and his sobbing wife.

Now, the little snake again crawled out from under the sofa and one of the policemen drew his gun and fired at it. He missed the snake and hit the leg of the end table. The table fell over, the lamp on it shattered and, as the bulb broke, it started a fire in the drapes. The other policeman tried to beat out the flames, and fell through the window into the yard on top of the family dog who, startled, jumped out and raced into the street, where an oncoming car swerved to avoid it and smashed into the parked police car. Meanwhile, neighbors saw the burning drapes and called in the fire department. The firemen had started raising the fire ladder when they were halfway down the street. The rising ladder tore out the overhead wires, put out the power, and disconnected the telephones in a ten-square city block area (but they did get the house fire out). Time passed! Both men were discharged from the hospital, the house was repaired, the dog came home, the police acquired a new car and all was right with their world. A while later they were watching TV and the weatherman announced a cold snap for that night. The wife asked her husband if he thought they should bring in their plants for the night. And that's when he shot her.

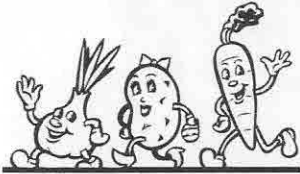


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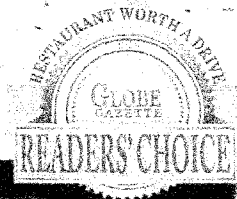
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