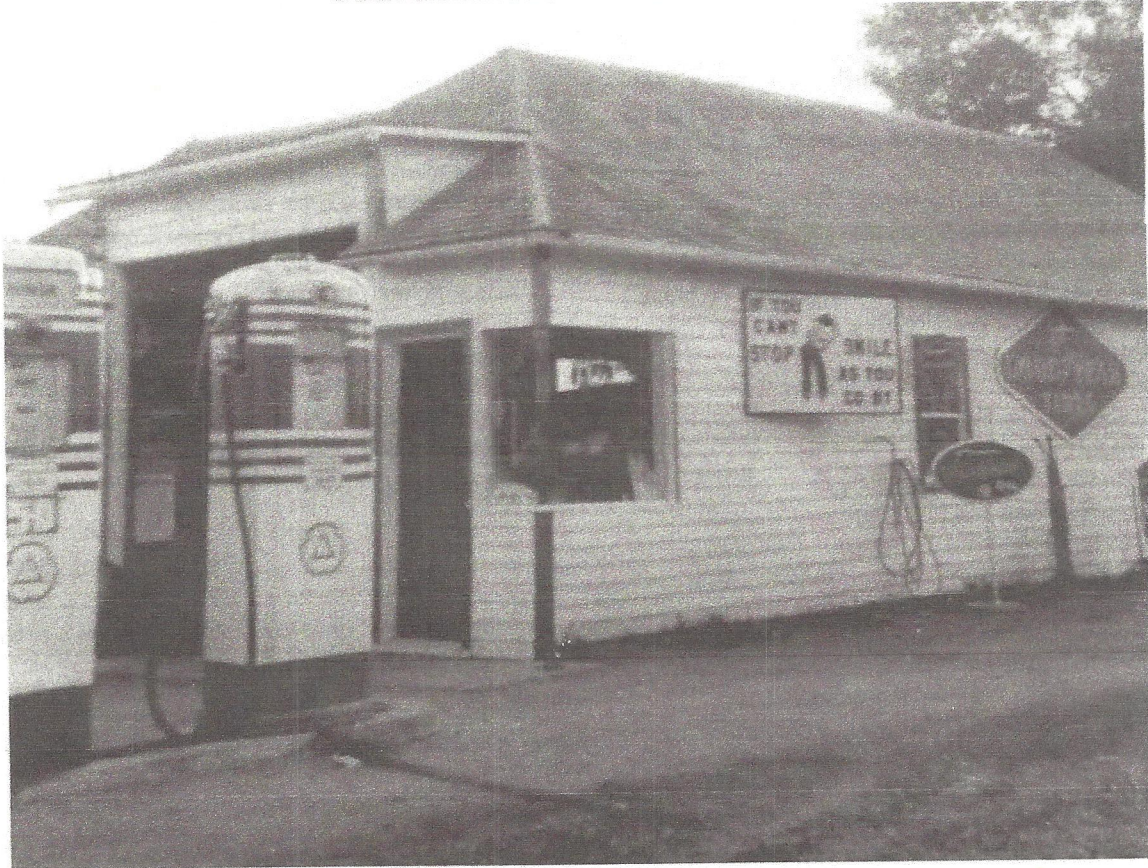


FERTILE REMINDER

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020



Ernie Kuns station in 1956.

December Calendar

- 2 Firemen meet
- 7 Appreciation Open House
- 11 Garden Club Christmas
- 16 Library Board meets
- 17 Fertile Girls Meet
- 17 City Council Meets

January Calendar

- 6 Firemen meet
- 18 Spaghetti Supper
- 20 Library Board Meets
- 21 Fertile Girls meet
- 21 City Council Meets

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Mayor Joyce Russell called the council meeting to order. Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, Nick Bailey, Ron Rachut and Holly Lovik-Hanna. City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve the minutes of the October meeting.** Unanimous
- Tad motioned, Nick 2nd to accept agenda.** Unanimous. Agendas are posted at City Hall, at the Library, and at the Post Office, 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

City Maintenance Report:

- Steve replaced coupler on the motor at the water plant.
- Steve trimmed tree at the Fishing Point.
- Steve purchased and attached bucket for the skid loader.
- Steve purchased and attached new blade for the snow truck.
- Steve and Buck installed snow fence on Washington Street.
- McGuire Iron inspected the water tower with underwater drone. No need to drain tower.
- Steve & Joyce met with DNR for annual inspection.
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

7/1/2019 to 10/31/2019	General	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST	WCDA	Utilities	Total
Income	296,942.80	16,241.77	962.13	5,747.75	12,630.48	0	59,110.82	391,635.75
Expense	307,242.47	12,641.22	0	2,851.43	0	3,000.00	27,034.25	352,769.37
Total	-10,299.67	3,600.55	962.13	2,896.32	12,630.48	-3,000.00	32,076.57	38,866.38
Fund Balance	-5,974.45	77,476.40	962.13	5,600.87	48,539.43	21.32	231,217.26	357,842.96

Mayor's Report:

- The cable broke to hold the winch by the North end of the dam. Joyce checked flume under the Fertile Mill to see if it was full of mud. She also checked cement slab attached to south corner of mill.
- Joyce and Steve met with Worth County Engineers in regards to black topping town to market streets in summer of 2020.
- Joyce and Steve met with IMWCA for worker compensation review.
- Thank you, Joyce, Cindy, Ron & Holly for attending WCDA awards banquet to receive generator grant for Community Center & Lagoon. Total awarded \$82,211.79. Thank you WCDA, Fertile Trustees & Diamond Jo Casino.
- Thank you to Carolyn Nedved for doing the Craft Fair at Community Center. Great turn out.
- Our loan from First Security Bank to blacktop & mark Main Street has been paid in full. WCDA monthly checks were used to pay for this.
- Total City Grant monies from 2006-2019 is \$1,608,958.89. This doesn't include our monthly checks. Thank you.
- Joyce notified Larson Plumbing and Heating and Concession Stand has been winterized.
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

City Clerk's Report:

- Wendy presented Annual Financial Report to the council. **Tad motioned, Ron 2nd to approve the Annual Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Tad motioned, Holly 2nd to remove Joyce and add Nick to bank accounts as of 1/1/2020.** Unanimous. No change to Wendy and Cindy.
- Budget Training completed. Department/committee treasurers have been notified that budget deadline to City Hall is December 31, 2019. An additional publication and public hearing will also be needed this year on proposed Maximum Property Tax dollars.
- Fire Department is submitting monthly financials timely. Wendy will be working with them on the accuracy of the information.
- Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to approve resolution 19-11-19-1 authorizing the internal transfer of funds.** Unanimous
- Wendy presented USDA Annual Financial Report for water to the council. **Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve the USDA Annual Financial Report.** Unanimous
- There will be a vacant council seat as of 1/1/2020. **Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to appoint a new council member.** Unanimous. There will be more information to come for those interested in filling the vacant seat.
- Nick motioned, Tad 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve October Bills.** Unanimous

- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:

409 W Main Street \$181.39
506 W Washington \$399.58

- Ron motioned; Tad seconded to process liens with Worth County Treasurer.** Unanimous

- Winn-Worth Betco is sponsoring 12 days of trivia for Christmas with local gift baskets drawn for prizes. Join at www.winn-worthbetco.com.

Committee Reports:

- Ron suggested holding flag dedication on Fertile Days 2020.
- The community would like to thank Joyce for her 18 years of service. There will be an Open House on December 8, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Fertile Community Center.
- The community would like to welcome Nick Baily as new Mayor in 2020. Nick is open to any suggestions &/or questions that you may have.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session on December 17th at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

Summary:

- Annual Financial Report
- USDA Annual Financial Report - Water
- Authorization Bank Accounts
- Council Vacancy

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

As of October 31, 2019

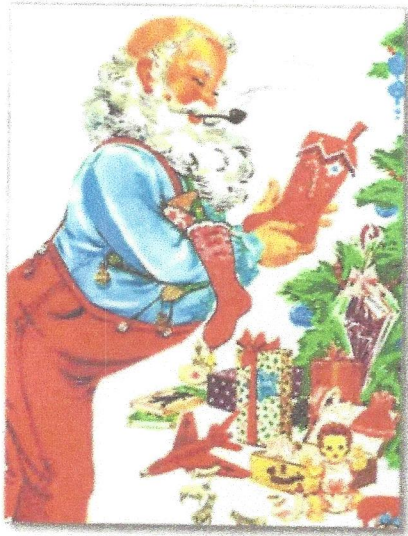
Bills Paid

**City of Fertile
Deposits**

Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Property Taxes	38,468.34
Lien Payments Deposit	1,775.97
Utility Deposit	271.49
Casino Funds Deposit	2,776.42
Enrich Iowa - Library Funds	1,385.75
Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
Utility Deposit	3,935.43
Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
Paypal Utility Deposit	580.67
Utility Deposit	2,174.15
Facility Rental Deposit	250.00
Road Use Tax	2,436.20
Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
Facility Rental Deposit	100.00
Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
VOID Check #9282 a/c incorrect amount	212.32
Utility Paypal Deposit	333.11
Utility Deposit	3,580.46
Library Deposit	27.00
Local Option Sales Tax	3,155.50
Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
Utility Deposit	2,335.90
Interest	28.31
Total Checking	64,277.02

Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,000.00
Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
First Security Bank & Trust	Main Street Loan	-2,776.42
Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.21
Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-499.54
Russell, Joyce	Mayor (Donated 19 hours)	-1,180.11
Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,149.43
US Post Office	Postage Stamps	-220.00
TD Young Rentals LLC	Utility Deposit Refunded.	-150.00
IPERS	IPERS - City	-622.04
IPERS	(L) IPERS - LIBRARY	-353.31
Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	(L) Library	-186.00
AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-13.50
Alliant Energy	Electric	-906.61
Barco Municipal Products, Inc.	Snow Plow Blade	-587.10
Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-212.88
Green Canopy, Inc.	JULY 2019 Fishing Dock, Park & Ball Diamond	-385.00
Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-15.00
Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Rewire Meter for Lonnie Bailey at 507 W Main	-157.24
Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-85.99
Waste Management		-2,410.65
Intuit	Payroll	-14.98
United States Treasury	42-1028074	-1,588.96
Mills Fleet Farm	Log chain & Cleaning supplies for water plant	-15.57
Standard Bearings	Equipment Water Plant	-126.93
Arndt, Linda J	(L) Assistant Director	-145.78
Knudson, Loni	(L) Clerk	-197.33
Thompson, Angela M	(L) Librarian	-1,441.11
Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,149.43
AgSource Laboratories	Sewer Testing	-51.25
Alliant Energy	Electric	-793.89
	Budget Workshop - Expense shared with Hanlontown.	-25.00
City of Hanlontown	Hanlontown.	-60.00
Hanna Chris	August Mowing (5 hours @ \$12.00 per hour)	-1,686.67
Hare Electric		-198.05
Menards		-75.80
Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	0.00
Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-66.22
WCTA	(L) Telephone	-166.00
Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-78.00
Black Hills Energy	(L) Natural Gas	-75.00
Justin Benjergedes	Parade DJ	-32.49
MicroMarketing	(L) Books	-142.89
Standard Bearings	Equipment Water Plant	-208.16
Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-12.29
Menards	Staples & Tape	-591.99
Miller Ranch and Mobile Repair	Snow Plow	-6,385.00
Stellar Truck & Trailer	Skidloader blade	
	(L) Books & CDs, Supplies, Programs, Tax, DVDs, Postage	-374.33
Citibusiness Card		-30.00
Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-1,149.42
Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	
	AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2019 Fishing Dock, Park & Ball Diamond	-770.00
Green Canopy, Inc.		-594.00
Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	City	0.00
Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		0.00
Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		0.00
Total Checking		-34,457.57





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

Library Events

Movie Night

December 13th @ 7 pm

Join us for a family friendly movie
& popcorn

Cookbook Club

December 19th @ 6:30 pm

Join us as we enjoy the season's
goodies and each other's company

Adult Craft Afternoon

December 22nd @ 1 pm

Join us for making a Christmas
craft, snacks, and conversations.

Christmas Open House

The library is holding it's annual open house on December 21,
from 10 am to noon. Join us for treats, a raffle, and Pictures with
Santa!

The library will be closed Wednesday the 25th & Wednesday the 1st
for the holidays.

Aiming for love - Mary Connealy
Bloody Genius - John Sandford
Blue moon - Lee Child
Criss Cross - James Patterson
No judgements - Meg Cabot
The testaments - Margaret Atwood
The Christmas boutique - Jennifer Chiaverini

featuring
New DVDs

A dog's journey
John Wick: Chapter 3
The lion king (Live action)
On the basis of sex
MIB: International
Shaft



Mona Rae (Olson)

Gard, 75, of Valdosta, passed away on Saturday, November 2, 2019 in Jacksonville, FL. She was born on July 10, 1944 in California to Ruth Rodberg Field. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and great

grandmother. She was an animal advocate and enjoyed collecting beanie babies. She loved her 3 jack russells and her cat.

She is survived by her son Scott (Cynthia) Gard, of Naylor, her daughter Melissa (Allen) Meeks, of Valdosta, her grandchildren, Mikey Meeks, Alex (Jasmine) Meeks, Sara Rae Gard, Victoria Strickland, and Rebecca (Coty) Pendergrass, her great grandchildren, Tristen Meeks, Camden Meeks, Lemon Meeks, Lola Meeks, Lyla Strickland, Anzley Strickland, and A.J. Strickland. She was preceded in death by her husband Michael Harold Gard, her mother, and a sister Madeline Smith. Mona was in the class of 1962 at Fertile.

Until 1920, children could be mailed through the US Postal service! They had to be under 50 pounds, and stamps were affixed to their clothes. It was cheaper for many people to ship children than to put them on a train, and the children rode on a train (in the mail car) anyway---being watched and fed by mail clerks. The record distance? Over 700 miles from Florida to Virginia for a mere 15 cents in stamps. It really was "A Simpler Time". (courtesy of today's Wall St. Journal)

Why Some Teachers Drink

The following questions were in GED examination. These are genuine answers (from 18 year olds).

Q. Name the four seasons?

A. Salt, pepper, mustard, and vinegar

Q. How is dew formed?

A. The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on?

A. If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.

Q. What are steroids?

A. Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs. (Shoot yourself now, there's little hope.)

Q. What happens to your body as you age?

A. When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty?

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery. (So true.)

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes?

A. Premature death

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow. (Simple, but brilliant.)

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. What is the most common form of birth control?

A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condominium. (That would work.)

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section.'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit.)

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport. (Irrefutable.)

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight. (Brilliant.)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ladies, thanks for all the news about Fertile. I always enjoy reading about what's going on.
Crystal Wass

Thanks so much ladies - we love the Reminder and ALL the work you do! **Maynard and Madelyn Midtgaard**

Thanks for doing a great job - Ron too! **Phyllis Pederson.**



Garden Club met on November 12 at the City Hall with 11 members present. Roll call was "Favorite cookie recipe".

Our winter décor was planned along with a work day which will be Wednesday, November 20th at 2 pm. The idea of doing it early is hopefully it will be warmer. A budget was worked on for 2020 and will be \$1200.00. We have been given a grant for a used golf car and a water tank so we no longer have to fill many, many jugs each time we water the plants for the large 14 pots and many smaller ones. We are very grateful for this and it will make our daily job in the summer so much easier.

The results of our election is as follows:

President: Cindy Peters

Vice President: Beverly Bruns

Secretary: Deb Berg

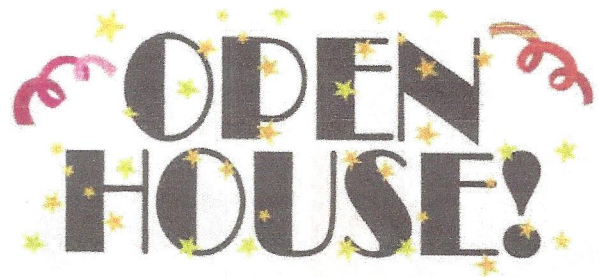
Treasurer: Sue Lee

Food was brought for the food bank and Ginny Lovik will be delivering it.

Sharon McLaughlin gave the "thought for the day".

Hostesses were Twylah, Kragel, Ginny Lovik and Carolyn Nedved.

Christmas Dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 11th, 6:30 pm at the Fertile Mill. Thank you, Anne!



In Appreciation to

Joyce Russell

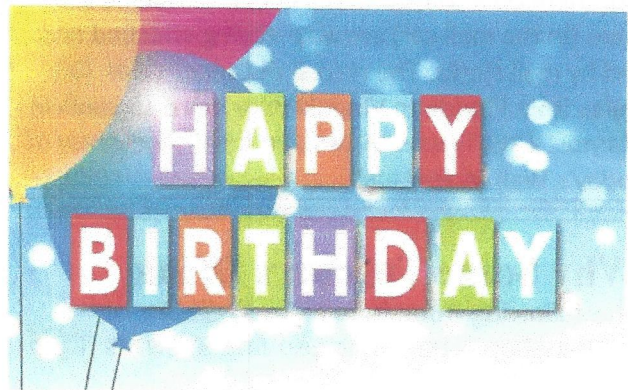
18 years as Fertile Mayor

Sunday, December 8th

2 – 4 pm

Community Center

Every one welcome!



Ardelle Osnes 12-22

Phyllis Purcell 12-28

Florence Nye:

'I've had a fairly level career'

By DAVID DAMM

Forest City community schools will lose another longtime teacher at the end of this school year as Florence Nye of Fertile retires after 26½ years in teaching.

Florence got her start after two years at Waldorf College and spent the last 16 years of her career teaching to elementary students at the Fertile and Forest City attendance centers.

"Teaching has been my career objective as long as I can remember," Florence said. "Even going through school at Bode, I remember wanting to be a teacher."

She graduated from high school at Bode in 1939 and went to Waldorf for two years (at that time it took only a two year certificate to teach) in pursuing her dream.

Her first year out of Waldorf, Florence took a job teaching fifth and sixth grade at Fertile for superintendent A. Grooters. That lasted only two years as she moved to Albert City where she had the chance to teach just one grade—sixth.

Again she moved after a year at Albert City, this time to Coon Rapids where she taught fourth graders for 2½ years. It was during this teaching stint that her fiance, Max, returned from the service and the two were married in 1945.

Florence moved to Max's hometown of Fertile after completing the first semester of the 1945-46 school year at Coon Rapids. After a semester out of teaching, she took the fourth and fifth grade job at Fertile.

"There was quite a lull in the number of teachers just after the war," Florence said. "I hadn't really intended on teaching after I got married. There weren't many married women teachers at that time, you know. After two years, I did get out of teaching until 1966."

During that time, Florence raised three boys and helped in the family grocery store—Nye's Royal Blue Market in Fertile.

"When my youngest son started kindergarten, I decided to go in to teaching again and got on with the Forest City school system as a Title I reading teacher for grades four through six," Florence said. "After two years, I took on the fifth grade at Fertile where I stayed until they moved fifth grade to Forest City in 1977."

Since that time, she has taught a fifth grade class at Forest City.

Being from Fertile, Florence hated to see the Fertile attendance center closed. "I guess I could see both the pros and the cons but you hate to see a school leave the town," Florence said. "That's something that's over now so I guess we have to forget it."

What Florence won't soon forget is the many elementary students she has taught over the years. "I'm sure I'll miss the kids," she said, "and my association with the other teachers. But there are advantages to being retired. I won't be bored by any means."

With her new found time, Florence hopes to spend some time working on things at home that have been pushed into the background. She'll also have more time for her husband, Max, an employee of the Iowa Department of Transportation.

"I've had a fairly level career," Florence said. "Now it's time to let in a younger teacher. I hope the new teacher enjoys teaching as much as I have."



Did you know???? By: Ann Hendrickson

The name Nettie (Orahood) Emery may ring a bell with some of you. She was born October 6, 1868 in Butler County and in later years became known as Northwood's "Annie Oakley".

She married George Milton Emery in 1887 and in their early married years homesteaded 160 acres near Twin Falls, Idaho. The requirement was to build a cabin and live there for two years, but had no requirement to farm the land, so they didn't. They lived off the land by hunting and fishing to put food on the table.

The summer gave them ample time to ride their horses north past what is now Sun Valley, living on fish and game. On their way back to the cabin during fall they diverted to the hills looking for big game such as elk to supply food for the winter.

Even after her husband died in 1929, she was still shooting and hunting—just not on horseback anymore. During her days in Northwood she was an avid pheasant hunter. She recruited her 12 year old Grandson George Dwelle to accompany her on Sunday hunting outings. His job was to drive (remember he is 12) the country roads while Nettie "rode shotgun". Birds were flushed from the roadsides and Nettie fired her Winchester .22 rifle knocking the heads off pheasants—even from far distances. They usually had two or three plump pheasants for their Sunday evening meal.

Some local residents did not approve of the Sunday hunting especially when out of season. Nettie would wear Sunday afternoon attire consisting of a full-length dress. Once in a while a car would approach and so she tucked the newly shot bird in the folds of her big skirt. George loved these Sunday afternoons. She also used her .22 rifle to get rid of the pesky pigeons on the roof of her house in Northwood. Time and laws have certainly changed haven't they?

Nettie Emery died September 6, 1958 and is buried in Sunset Rest Cemetery. Her grandson George Dwelle said of Nettie—we had no idea until years later that their sweet old "Grandma Great" who always had treats and toys for them was such a "character".

The Winchester .22 rifle was donated to the WCHS by her Great Grandson's Richard and Robert Dwelle.

Until Next time.....



THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Thank you for everyone who voted for me for city council. I will do my best to warrant your vote. For those that did not, I will still work for you.

Also thank you to our local people that stop at Café Mir for Taco Tuesday. They are really good and not expensive.

It was interesting talking to my banker about his meat goats. I was asking him where I could buy some of the meat so I could see how it tasted. He said possibly the Conger, Minnesota Meat Market. He also said that the Market has orders for 40,000 pounds of goat meat per month for the Minneapolis area and orders for 20,000 pounds per month for the Rochester area. This is because of the different ethnic groups. The locker can't meet the demand because they don't have enough producers. This is something for some young farmers to consider. I stopped at the Market and bought some items, but goat meat they did not have.

In March, I will be a presenter for three Gardening classes for the spring N.I.A.C.C. education series. I will be in Lake Mills on March 12, Forest City, March 16, And Garner, March 26. The classes will be two hours long from 6:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. The class will be geared for novice gardeners who are just starting to those that would like to grow for a profit, like me.

Talking about growing for a profit, I probably wouldn't know till spring if I am going to garden and grow a few onions or just garden. This year they had about 60 members in their Bounty Box program. Next year, they would like to boost that up to 120 to 150. If they achieve that, growing for North Iowa Fresh will keep me busy.

This is my last letter for 2019. As long as surgery recovery goes well, I will be back writing for 2020. If you see this before Thanksgiving, Happy Thanksgiving. If not, Merry Christmas. See you in 2020. Until next time, Thank a Veteran for the freedoms we enjoy, Thank a farmer for the food on your plate, and above all, thank God for your daily blessings.

A TRUE STORY ABOUT TOOTSIE ROLLS

Did you know that Tootsie Rolls helped save U.S. Marines? During the Korean War in 1950, the 1st Marine Division met the enemy at the Chosin Mountain reservoir in subfreezing temperatures. There were less than 7,000 Marines surrounded at Kotori, North Korea by over 80,000 of the enemy. Nearly out of ammunition, Marines called in for 60mm mortar ammo; code name "Tootsie Rolls." The radio operator did not have the code sheets that would tell him what a "Tootsie Roll" was, but knew the request was urgent; so he called in the order. While surrounded by the enemy, pallets of Tootsie Roll candies parachuted from the sky to the Marines! Although not the ammunition they expected, the candy provided much needed morale and nourishment for the troops. The large Tootsie Rolls gave them energy and the chewy candy took their minds off being so hungry and cold. Since it was 0 to 60 degrees below zero, the Marines would warm the Tootsie Rolls by carrying them next to their bodies. They also learned that they could use warmed Tootsie Rolls to plug bullet holes in their gas cans and radiators, sealing them as the candy refroze. After 2 weeks of fighting, the Marines fought their way to the sea. The Marines are called the "Chosin Few". Many credited their very survival to the Tootsie Rolls.



VERY HEART TOUCHING. (BITTER TRUTH)

An old man took
his phone to a
Repair shop.
Repairer told :
NOTHING IS
WRONG
with this phone.
Old man with tears
in his eyes said :
Then why
DON'T my children
ever call me ?

Some of the best words ever!

Gallivant*Britches*Codger*Rigmarole
Hoodwink*Ragamuffin*Fiddle-faddle
Humbug*Skullduggery*Jalopy*Kibosh
Bejeebers*Flibberty-jibbit*Hullabaloo
Bamboozled*Flabbergasted*Brouhaha
Discombobulated*Lollygag*Malarkey
Cattywampus*Nincompoop*Skedaddle
Shenanigans*Flummoxed*Pumpnickle
Berserk*Periwinkle*Thingamyjig*Whatsit
Confuzzled*Kerfuffle*Poppycock*Bogus
Balderdash*Fuddy-duddy*Thunderation
Whosemegadget*Skewwiff*Lambasted
Flim-flam*Whatchamacallit*Concoction
Doohicky*Gobsmacked*Thingamebob
Camaraderie*Nucklehead*Wishywashy
Fiddlesticks*Caterwauling*Rigmarole
Tomfoolery*Bodacious*Fiddle-dee-dee
Willy-nilly*Decrepid*Persnickety*Egads
Audacity*Baloney*Kerfuffle*Numb-skul

Pass This on to a Friend

WHAT IS A FARMER?

Today's farmer is a paradox.

He is

an executive who lives in his office and works in production;
a laborer who digs fence post holes;
a chemist with a passion for alfalfa, amino acids and antibiotics;
an engineering genius who fixes machinery;
a scientist who uses fertilizer attachments;
a purchasing agent in an old straw hat;
a production expert with a grain shipping problem;
a personnel director with grease under his fingernails;
a manager battling a cost-price squeeze;

In short,

he is a specialist in a variety of things.

He likes plenty of food and dinner at noon.

He likes auctions and fairs—drives miles to get there—
gives him a chance to have a nice chat with a neighbor
from the farm next to his.

He likes sunshine and rain

if not too much or too little
as long as it comes on days he has chosen.

He's staunchly against

drouths, gullies and weeds;
eight-hour days or daylight savings time;
grasshoppers or helping with housework.

Farmers are found in fields—

plowing up, seeding down, rotating around, planting in,
fertilizing on, spraying for and harvesting from.

Wives help them,

little boys follow them,

city relatives visit them,

salesmen pursue them,

weather delays them,

but only heaven can stop them.

—Adapted from Unknown At



When God was creating firefighters, he was into the sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of extra work on this one."

And the Lord said, "Have you read the specs on this order? A firefighter has to wake up to a fire alarm, go into burning buildings to rescue people and enter areas the normal person wouldn't go.

"He has to be willing to leave his family and put his life on the line, work to exhaustion and beyond and be ready for the next call.

"He has to have a strong commitment to a personal calling that places their lives in jeopardy every day.

He has to be in top physical and mental condition at all times, function on black coffee and half-eaten meals, and have a heart big enough to love members of the 'brotherhood' world-wide, and a unity of purpose."

The angel shook it's head slowly and said, "A heart that big... no way."

"It's not the heart that is causing me problems," said the Lord, "it's the extra hands and eyes a firefighter has to have."

"That has to be on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded. "One pair of eyes that sees the whole situation, another pair that sees what is ahead to be dealt with, a third pair to watch out for his brothers, and another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at an injured victim and say, "You'll be alright," even when he knows it isn't so."

"Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve, "rest and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord, "I already have a model that can carry a 190 pound victim out of a burning building, has dedicated his life to helping people, and is willing to come to the aid of those threatened by the deadly force of fire."

The angel circled the model of the firefighter very slowly, "Can it think?" the angel asked.

"You bet," said the Lord. "It can tell you the elements of a hundred fires, the victims and rescues, and the importance of fire safety.... and still keep its sense of humor.

"This firefighter also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with fire scenes painted in hell, coax a trapped person or animal out of a burning building, and still go home and love his family.

"Being a firefighter is one of bravery, loyalty and devotion to public service. He is willing to put his life on the line every day to protect our homes and our loved ones from the devastating effects of fire, and sometimes, the honorable job of saving lives requires many firefighters to pay the ultimate price for their valor in the line of duty."

Finally, the angel ran a finger across the cheek of the firefighter. "There's a leak," the angel pronounced. "I told you that you were trying to put too much in this model."

"That's not a leak," the Lord said, "it's a tear."

"What's the tear for?" asked the angel.

"It's for bottled-up emotions, for fallen comrades, for the victims, and for commitment to that piece of cloth called the American flag."

"You're a genius," said the angel.

The Lord looked somber. "I didn't put it there," he said.

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**



Lemon Fudge

- 1 - 10 oz. bag plus 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 - 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 Tbs. butter, softened
- 1 1/2 tsp. lemon extract

Line an 8x8-inch baking pan with foil [make sure foil hangs over edges so serve as handles]. Spray with cooking spray. In a 4-cup microwave measuring cup, mix chocolate chips, milk and butter. Microwave uncovered on high 1 to 2 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds, until chips are almost melted. Stir in lemon extract and if you choose a small amount of yellow food coloring. Pour mixture into prepared baking pan. Place in refrigerator for 2 hours or overnight before cutting.

Tiger Butter

- 1 pkg. (12 squares) of white almond bark
- 1 c. creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup chocolate chips

Microwave the white almond bark until all melted. Then add 1 c. creamy peanut butter and stir well. Pour mixture into a 9x13 buttered pan.

In another bowl melt the chocolate chips. Then swirl melted chips through mixture in pan. Cool - cut in squares. This is best at room temperature.

Tips from the olden days!

A book from 1951 says...Old potatoes should be put to cook in cold water and new ones in boiling water.
AND...to freshen vegetables add a little vinegar to the water when washing them.

Eggs Loraine

- 4 slices Canadian bacon 2 Tbs. sour cream
- 2 slices Swiss cheese 1/8 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs 1/8 tsp. pepper

Coat 2 shallow baking dishes with spray. Line with bacon, top with cheese. Carefully break 2 eggs over each. In a small bowl whisk the sour cream, salt & pepper until smooth; drop by teaspoonful onto eggs. Bake uncovered at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until eggs are completely set. YIELD: 2 servings

Whoever said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results has obviously never had to reboot a computer.

MapQuest really needs to start its directions on number five. Pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.

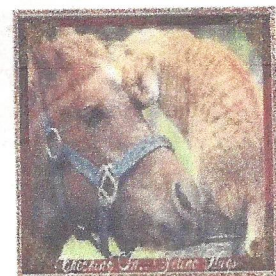
Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.

Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the sun.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

How come lemon washing liquid contains real lemons, but lemon juice contains artificial flavorings.

May you
have a very
Blessed
Christmas
and
Happy New Year



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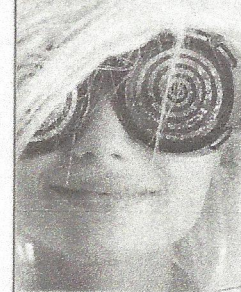
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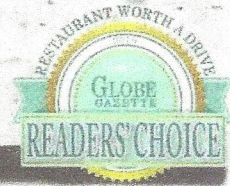
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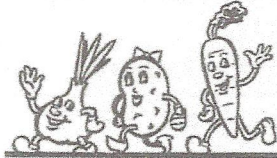
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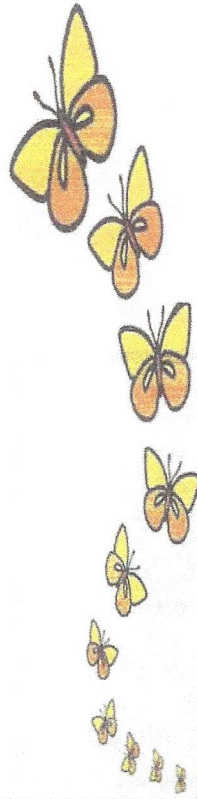
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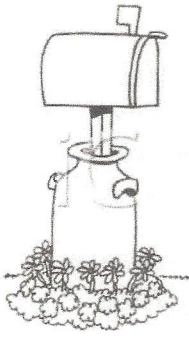
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Sunday School 10:30 am

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Fellowship Time - 9:55 am
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