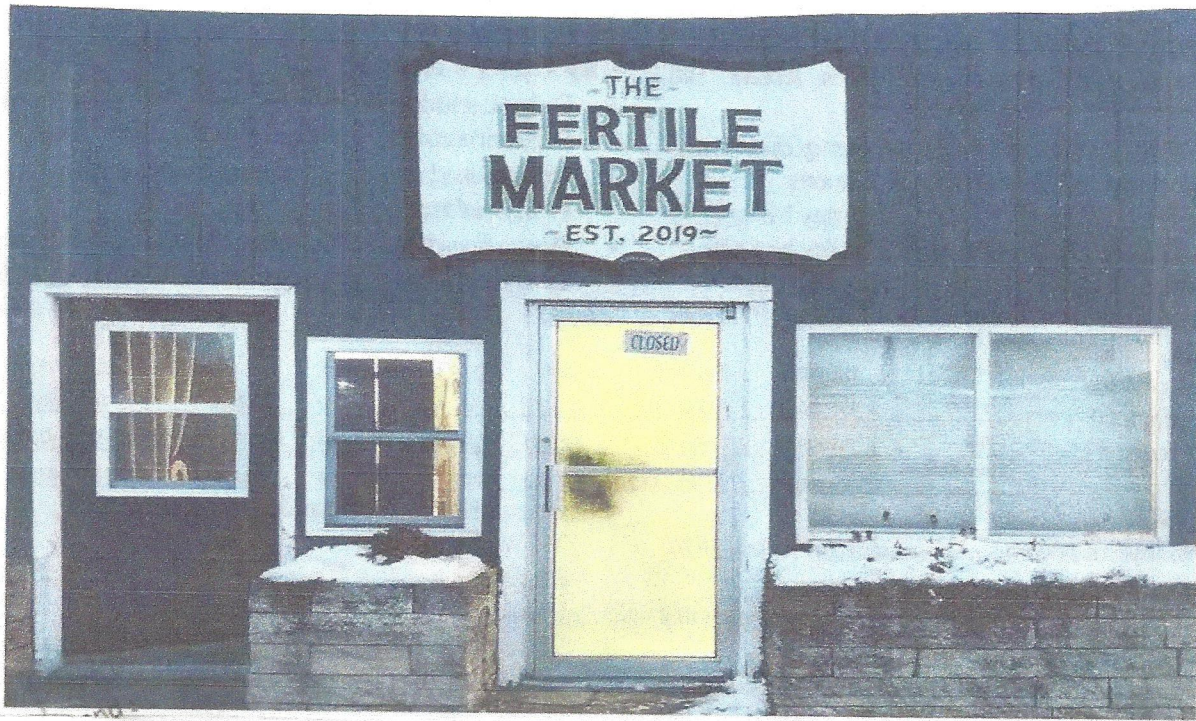


# FERTILE REMINDER

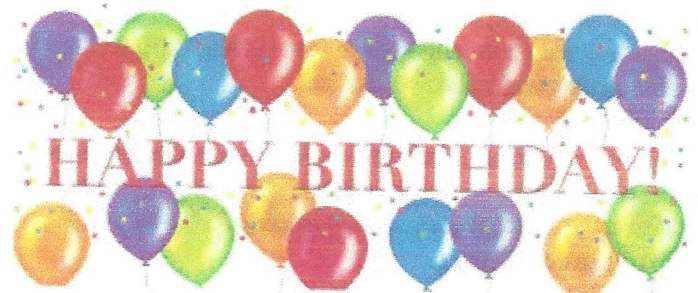
MARCH 2020



This picture is **THE FERTILE MARKET** store front. They opened in February and would be happy to have you stop by and see their treasures. Their winter hours are **Tuesday 4 – 7 PM; Friday 3 – 8 pm and Saturday 10 am to 3 pm. Stop by and say hello.**

## March Calendar

- 2 Fertile Firemen
- 10 Garden Club
- 11 Deadline for Reminder
- 12 & 26 Recycle
- 16 Library Board meets
- 17 Fertile Girls
- 17 City council meets
- 18 Reminder e-mailed
- 21 Taco Fiesta Night



**RUTH RHODES**

**FEBRUARY 24**

**90 + YEARS**

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2020 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

### Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Mayor Nick Bailey called the council meeting to order. Present were: Mayor Nick Bailey; Council Members: Cindy Peters, Ron Rachut, Holly Lovik-Hanna and Penny Miller. City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent: Tad Miller

- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the minutes of the January meeting with the following corrections.** Unanimous

- Deena Biretz received two (2) votes, Penny Miller received two (2) votes. Mayor Nick Bailey broke tie. Appointed council member was Penny Miller.

- Thank you  
WCDA, Trustees  
& Diamond Joe  
Casino for total  
funds received in  
2019 of  
\$118,768.58.

	7/1/2019 to 01/31/2020	General	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST	WCDA	Capital Projects	Utilities	Total
Income		420,180.61	20,461.55	1,180.41	7,084.33	25,376.05	0	2,083.32	94,666.18	571,032.45
Expense		451,510.48	20,896.90	962.13	4,771.47	0	3,000.00	0	52,025.48	533,166.46
<b>Total</b>		<b>-31,329.87</b>	<b>-435.35</b>	<b>218.28</b>	<b>2,312.86</b>	<b>25,376.05</b>	<b>-3,000.00</b>	<b>2,083.32</b>	<b>42,640.70</b>	<b>37,865.99</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		<b>-27,004.65</b>	<b>82,162.28</b>	<b>218.28</b>	<b>5,017.41</b>	<b>61,285.00</b>	<b>21.32</b>	<b>2,083.32</b>	<b>241,852.73</b>	<b>365,635.69</b>

- Nick & Joyce met with ICAP insurance to review 2020 policy.
- The city council decided not to hire a deputy clerk at this time.

- Cindy motioned, Ron 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

#### Mini Mart / Café:

- Cindy Peters is working to determine location for a Mini Mart / Café. Cindy asked for the council's support. Council decided more information was needed at this time.

#### Code of Conduct:

- Ron proposed a Code of Conduct/Ethics for the City Council to the council. Council reviewed some of the policies and changes and will revisit at the March regular council meeting.

#### City Maintenance Report:

- There was a spike of water usage at the water plant. Steve research and determined that it was due to vacant property. Owner was notified.
- Hydraulic hose broke and replaced on the plow truck.
- Steve completed Tier 2 hazardous materials report to the DNR.
- Steve has been painting at the Water Plant.
- Penny motioned, Cindy 2nd to rebuild the sewer pump.** Unanimous. Sewer pump estimated at \$5,600.00.
- Steve will be contacting Heartland Asphalt regarding cracks in the parking lot at Community Center.
- Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

#### Mayor's Report:

- Nick went to Worth County EMA & 911 meeting.

- Workman Compensation require all volunteer firefighters to pass a physical every five year. Nick scheduled Med Compass to complete the physicals on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Nick installed backflow valve as requested by DNR Inspection.
- Clean Up Days is tentatively scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ICAP voucher received for \$780.99.
- Water Tower Light out.
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

#### City Clerk's Report:

- Budget is scheduled for review in March. Budgets still needed from Fire Department and Little League.
- City motioned, Penny 2nd to approve resolution 20-02-18-1 authorizing the internal transfer of funds.** Unanimous.
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve Financial Reports.** Unanimous
- Cincy motioned, Ron 2nd to approve January Bills.** Unanimous
- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:  
214 West Main Street \$347.45  
**Cindy motioned, Ron 2nd to process liens with Worth County Treasurer.** Unanimous
- Wendy suggested the Iowa Offset Program to collect on payments that are not subject to liens. Application for Utility Service would need to be updated to include Social Security Number that would remain confidential.  
**Penny motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the Iowa Offset Program Appeal Process, resolution 20-02-18-3.** Unanimous  
**Ron motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve a memorandum of understanding between the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, State Accounting Enterprise, and the City of Fertile, Iowa, for Participation in the Iowa Offset Program.** Unanimous

#### Committee Reports:

- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to spend up to \$500.00 for garage door opener, water tank and battery for Garden Club golf cart.** Unanimous
- Ron mentioned that Bloggers are coming for the 2020 Winn-Worth Betco Hidden Gems Family Blogger Tour! Dates are scheduled August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Little League is looking for coaches. If you are interested, please contact Tim Severson at (641) 797-2333.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- Holly motioned, Cindy 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

#### Summary:

- Adopt Iowa Offset Program

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

## City of Fertile Deposits

As of January 31, 2020

			Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Memo	Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>			
<b>Checking</b>			
Deposit	01/01/2020	Property Taxes	259.16
Deposit	01/01/2020	Lien Interest Deposit	21.00
Deposit	01/02/2020	Farm to Market Deposit	1,908.80
Deposit	01/02/2020	Utility Deposit	868.15
Deposit	01/02/2020	Paypal Utility Deposit	291.00
Deposit	01/03/2020	Casino Funds Deposit	2,983.59
Deposit	01/08/2020	Paypal Utility Deposit	495.93
Deposit	01/08/2020	Utility Deposit	3,156.75
Deposit	01/08/2020	(L) Library Raffle Deposit	316.00
Deposit	01/10/2020	Grant Deposit	3,471.00
Deposit	01/10/2020	Paypal Utility Deposit	163.64
Deposit	01/10/2020	Utility Deposit	2,651.04
Deposit	01/15/2020	Facility Rental Deposit	100.00
Deposit	01/15/2020	Facility Rental Deposit	200.00
Deposit	01/17/2020	Paypal Utility Deposit	297.53
Deposit	01/21/2020	Road Use Tax	2,664.77
Deposit	01/22/2020	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
Deposit	01/22/2020	Utility Deposit	3,963.61
Deposit	01/25/2020	Utility Deposit	3,601.47
Deposit	01/29/2020	Library Deposit	40.00
Deposit	01/29/2020	Local Option Sales Tax	3,227.86
Deposit	01/31/2020	Interest	30.84
Total Checking			30,712.14
<b>Petty Cash</b>			
Total Petty Cash			30,712.14
Total Operating Accounts			30,712.14
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>			
<b>Savings</b>			
Deposit	01/31/2020	Interest	0.58
Total Savings			0.58
Total Roads Revenue Accounts			0.58
<b>Water Revenue Accounts</b>			
<b>Savings</b>			
Deposit	01/31/2020	Interest	2.87
Total Savings			2.87
Total Water Revenue Accounts			2.87
<b>Sewer Revenue Accounts</b>			
<b>Savings</b>			
Deposit	01/31/2020	Interest	2.51
Total Savings			2.51
<b>CD</b>			
Total CD			2.51
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			2.51
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>30,718.10</b>

## City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of January 31, 2020

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>					
<b>Checking</b>					
Check	01/01/2020	9404	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,000.00
Check	01/01/2020	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
Paycheck	01/01/2020	9400	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.20
Paycheck	01/01/2020	9401	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-407.70
Paycheck	01/01/2020	9402	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-89.50
Paycheck	01/01/2020	9403	Russell, Joyce	Mayor (Donated 21 hours)	-1,341.13
Bill Pmt -Check	01/02/2020	9405	Kramer Ace Hardware	Salt & Tape Measure	-46.95
Bill Pmt -Check	01/02/2020	9406	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-40.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/02/2020	9407	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-203.69
Check	01/07/2020	DEBIT	Midwest Wheel Companies	Invoice 1850727-00	-9.54
Paycheck	01/08/2020	9408	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,159.29
Bill Pmt -Check	01/08/2020	9409	Alliant Energy	Electric	-304.49
Bill Pmt -Check	01/08/2020	9410	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-15.00
Check	01/09/2020	DEBIT	Intuit	Payroll	-530.72
Check	01/10/2020	9411	Fertile Garden Club	Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa	-3,471.00
Liability Check	01/15/2020	EFT	IPERS		-1,268.26
Liability Check	01/15/2020	EFTPS	United States Treasury		-1,906.08
Paycheck	01/16/2020	9418	Arndt, Linda J	(L) Assistant Director	-108.07
Paycheck	01/16/2020	9419	Knudson, Loni	(L) Clerk	-197.32
Paycheck	01/16/2020	9420	Thompson, Angela M	(L) Librarian	-1,459.83
Paycheck	01/22/2020	9421	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,159.27
Bill Pmt -Check	01/22/2020	9422	Iowa One Call	Water locates	-16.20
Bill Pmt -Check	01/22/2020	9423	Menards	Toilet Paper & Paint for Water Plant	-50.11
Bill Pmt -Check	01/22/2020	9424	Staples		-190.97
Bill Pmt -Check	01/22/2020	9425	Pilcrow Foundation	(L) Matching Grant	-400.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/22/2020	9426	North Iowa Media Group		-45.46
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2020	9427	Office of Auditor of State	Periodic Audit Fee	-900.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2020	9428	Worth County Sheriff's Office	Annual 28E agreement	-6,752.50
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2020	9429	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-166.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2020	9430	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs	-182.86
Bill Pmt -Check	01/25/2020	9431	MicroMarketing	(L) Books	-30.99
Bill Pmt -Check	01/29/2020	9432	Black Hills Energy	(L) Natural Gas	-78.00
Check	01/29/2020	ACH	WCTA	(L)Telephone	-50.89
Liability Check	01/31/2020	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-851.00
Sales Tax Payment	01/31/2020	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		0.00
Sales Tax Payment	01/31/2020	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		0.00
Check	01/31/2020	EFT	Citibusiness Card	(L) Books, CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs & Postage	-441.33
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2020		ClerkBooks A/P Adjust	QuickBooks generated zero amount transaction for bill payment stub	
<b>Total Checking</b>					<b>-28,174.35</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>					
<b>Total Petty Cash</b>					
<b>Total Operating Accounts</b>					<b>-28,174.35</b>
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
<b>Savings</b>					
<b>Total Savings</b>					
<b>Total Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-28,174.35</b>



**Norma Lou Helin, 88**, passed away on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at Good Shepherd Health Center in Mason City, IA.

Norma was born October 14, 1931, the daughter of Clarence and Agnes (Benson) Bergan.

Norma was a graduate from Hanlontown High School.

Norma married John Helin on November 14, 1951, at Holy Family in Mason City, IA. From this union four boys and two girls were born. Throughout the years Norma was an Administrative Assistant for Farm Credit Service.

As if Norma wasn't busy enough with six children, she was still an active member of her community. Norma was a Hospice volunteer, as well as a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. Norma also enjoyed being a part of the North Iowa Genealogy Club. Norma was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan, especially basketball and football.

Those left to cherish memories of Norma are her children, Jack Helin, Dale (Abby) Helin, Dolores (Al) Rippentrop, Steve (Tracy) Helin, Joe (Carm) Helin, Joyce (George) Poldsifer; 13 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; sister, Arlene Keeling; sisters-in-law, Muriel Bergan, and Lynda Bergan; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Norma is preceded in death by her husband, John; her parents; grandsons, Ryan Helin, Brian Helin, and Billy Benson.



## **Burrell Raymond**

Orchard - Burrell George Raymond, age 96, of Orchard, Iowa, passed away Tuesday, February 4, 2020, surrounded by his family, at Floyd County Memorial Hospital in Charles City.

Burrell was born June 2, 1923, in Fertile, Iowa, the son of George and Amy (Humphrey) Raymond. He attended Fertile schools. On November 16, 1945, he married Clara Belle Stevens in Austin, Minnesota. They lived and raised their family in Floyd, moving to their farmstead in 1967. Burrell worked for forty years at the Floyd Rock Quarry until his retirement. He loved fishing, hunting, and traveling. Burrell belonged to the Floyd card club for over 50 years. He was a fireman in Floyd and was known for making the world's best pecan pie. As a lover of dogs, many with the name "Happy", he soon became known to all of the grandchildren as Grandpa Happy.

Burrell is survived by his wife of 74 years, Clara Belle Raymond of Orchard; his daughter, Sherry (Jerry) Farrell of Hudson; his son, James (Judie) Raymond of Dike; grandchildren, Rodney Farrell (deceased), Jim (Brandy) Farrell, Steve (Lexie) Farrell, Jeanne (Dustin) Mentel, and Joanie (Chris) Miller; great-grandchildren, Jaelynn, Donavon, Valerie, Dallas, Moxcyn, Jeremiah, and Lily; sister, Juanita Stewart; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Russell Raymond; sister, Faye Vance; and brother, Dale Raymond.

**FERTILE CHEESE FACTORY** The Fertile Creamery and cheese factory was founded in 1896. The first building was at the west end of main street . It was operated by Tom Bolton, later by Peter J. Ouverson and Andrew Elthon. Elthon skimmed cream from the milk at the steam-run skimming station located eight miles south of Lake Mills.

## **James K. Polk, "Young Hickory" (1845-49)**

When he was 17, it was discovered that he suffered from severe bladder stones that could not be passed. Without anesthesia or antiseptic, he underwent a surgery to have them removed. His only pain numbing option was brandy. Interestingly enough, in his presidential years the president refrained from all drinking.



## Library Events

### Adult Craft Afternoon

March 8th @ 1 pm

Join us for St. Patrick's crafts  
, snacks, and conversations.

### Cookbook Club

March 19th @ 6:30 pm

Join us as we enjoy good food and  
each other's company.

### Adult Craft Afternoon

March 29th @ 1 pm

Join us for a spring craft, sna  
cks, and conversations.

Taco Fiesta Night March 21st , 5-7 pm

Bars & cookies needed!

The library is holding it's annual fiesta fundraiser on Saturday March 21, from 5:00pm  
- 7:00pm. We are in need of bars. If you are able to help, please contact Angie @ the  
library.

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](http://WWW.YOUSEEMORE.COM/NILC/FERTILEPL)

## featuring New Books

Winter in Paradise - Elin Hilderbrand  
A truck full of money - Tracey Kidder  
My stubborn heart - Becky Wade  
The river murders - James Patterson  
When you see me - Lisa Gardner

## featuring New DVDs

Ad Astra  
10 minutes gone  
The Addams family  
Once upon a time in Hollywood  
Game of Thrones season 7  
A beautiful day in the neighborhood

## THE JASPER AND NORA HUMPHREY FAMILY

written by Neal Luker

My grandparents were Jasper Ray Humphrey and Nora Caroline Mestad Humphrey. Jasper, the son of Ed and Lola Strouse Humphery, was born in 1891 in Ohio but came to Iowa within a few months of his birth. Jasper had one brother and three sisters. Jap or JR, as he was often called, grew up on the family farm south of Fertile; Nora Caroline Mestad, the daughter of Nels and Karolina Mestad, was also born in 1891 and grew up in Fertile. Nora had three brothers and four sisters. Nora's dad was one of the ten children who with his mother survived an Indian massacre while homesteading in the New Ulm, Minnesota, area. Indians came to the Mestad farm and Nels' father, mother Nels and siblings and a neighbor woman and her small child were inside the home. The women and children were sent to the basement while Mr. Mestad secured the door. The Indians broke down the door and took Mr. Mestad outside and shot him. Hearing the gun shots, the neighbor lady's little girl began to cry so the mother took the child upstairs so as not to give away the hiding place of the others. The Indians also shot her and left the farm thinking they had killed the couple but not the baby. The baby crawled up near its dead mother and fell asleep. An hour later, Nels' mom and children ventured up from the basement and found her dead husband and the neighbor lady; the child was unharmed. Soon a neighbor girl came running out of the woods telling the survivors that the Indians had killed her parents and had burned down their house; she knew the Indians were returning. Hearing war cries of the Indians, the mother and the ten children fled into the corn field to hide. They began to travel south because the mother knew there was a settlement somewhere south of the farm. The mother took a sleeve from her dress and wiped the dew from the corn and grass in the morning and put the dew into a little tin that one of the children had taken. The family lived off the green, uncooked corn and drank the dew from the tin. They spent three nights traveling before they were found by a small detachment of U.S. Cavalry who had been sent out to look for survivors. A short time later Mrs. Mestad and her family were taken back to Iowa where they had come from.

Grandpa Jasper and Grandma Nora dated for a time and were married in 1914 and moved to a home south and west of Fertile which was on the north edge of the Melvin Midtgaard farm; there are no buildings there now. They lived there for several months and then moved to the Humphrey family farm a little farther south and east of there which is now the Kragel Tree Farm. They farmed and began to raise a family. Evelyn Luker, their first child, was born on the site near the Midtgaard farm but the rest of the family which included Howard, Curtis, Geraldine and Romane were born on the Humphrey family farm. Howard died in 1922 at the age of five; he suffered from bronchial asthma. The night he died, two doctors had come to the family farm but were not able to save him; he choked to death in grandma's arms. A week earlier, grandma had been canning, and Howard put small bits of paper in a little glass container and sealed it with a cork; he too had been canning. Grandma kept the little glass container in her bank box for as long as she lived. Grandma and great grandmother washed and clothed the body for burial; Howard's body was placed on a library table in the living room and kept there until the day of the funeral when the funeral director from Clear Lake took a casket to the farm and placed him in it. A funeral was held and Howard was buried in Grant Center Cemetery where many other Humphreys are buried.

Grandpa and Grandma purchased the Humphrey family farm from his mother after Grandpa's dad died. Grandpa was about to make the down payment but the day before Grandpa went to the bank to withdraw the

money, the bank closed. Grandpa and Grandma and my mom, Evelyn, as well as many other people, lost most of the money they had been saving. Only a small amount of money was paid back to them in comparison to what they had lost. Grandpa and Grandma continued to work, save, and eventually paid for the farm.

In 1953 my mom invited Grandpa and Grandma and mom's siblings and families to our house for Mother's Day. It was understood that in the middle of the afternoon Grandpa and Grandma were going to leave to go and visit Grandpa's mom who was a resident in the nursing home in Clear Lake. I was allowed to go with them, and we went to the nursing home and visited with great grandma Lola Humphrey. Grandma wanted to stop a minute and see her sister-in-law Maude Ballantyne. When we stopped, Grandpa told her not to stay too long because the weather looked so threatening. A short time later, Grandma came out and it was beginning to look a little brighter and less threatening. Grandma said, "If I had known that it was looking this good, I would have stayed a few minutes longer. We drove home in a little rain and then the sun came out. As we passed Grant Center Cemetery, Grandma exclaimed, "Look, Nissen's barn is gone!" Then we looked at Ervin Owen's place and saw that several buildings were gone. We could see Grandpa and Grandma's house but as we started up the hill, we saw that most of their buildings were gone or damaged. We stopped the car on the road because there were so many fallen trees and debris in the driveway and yard. As grandpa opened the car door, Snooks, their dog, jumped into the car and ran in circles on the back seat. The poor dog was so scared!! I was always so amazed at Grandpa because that night he quickly created a plan for rebuilding the buildings.

Grandpa and Grandma had happily married children. Evelyn married Fred Luker and they had two sons, Larry and Neal. Curtis married Viola Anderson and they had one daughter Jackie. Geraldine, who married Leonard Washburn, had sons Lowell and Sterling while Romane married Virgil Lovik and they had Mary, Mark and Marie. Grandpa and Grandma had eight grandchildren, eighteen great grandchildren and forty-one great, great grandchildren.

Grandpa Humphrey died in May of 1957 at home on the family farm. Later that year Grandma moved to Clear Lake. Curtis and Viola rented the farm from Grandma for several years and then bought a farm of their own. Grandma died in at home in Clear Lake in 1972 at the age of 79 years. I spent many happy hours staying with Grandpa and Grandma. There is something special about grandparents, at least the ones that I had.

The only living child of Jasper and Nora Humphrey is Geraldine Washburn who lives in Clear Lake; aunt Jeri recently celebrated her ninety-third birthday. Although Aunt Jeri doesn't move as fast as she did, she has a good mind and a great sense of humor. Grandma and Grandpa Humphrey and their adult children and spouses who have died are all buried at Grant Center Cemetery. Adult grandchildren of the Humphreys who have died are Larry Luker and his wife Marian and Jackie Humphrey Logan. Two grandchildren died in infancy.





### THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

Hello Fertile, I had an Impossible Whopper from Burger King, just to see how it tasted. That is the plant bases burger they are selling. I also ate a regular Whopper. One Impossible was enough to tell me

that they are not as good. They have a ways to go to taste like beef. Remember the saying "Never say Never". Now that my second knee surgery went so well, in 2020, I am back raising onions. It is just three acres, but that is enough to keep me busy with the crops I grow for North Iowa Fresh. I have been helping my brother grade his, and I found I miss them. Is it not funny that I never missed raising grain crops but I missed the onions. Maybe it is because I have been around that crop since I was five. Maybe it is because I enjoy the challenge.) Talking about North Iowa Fresh, I was a vendor at the indoor

Farmers Market at the Fat Hill Brewery in Mason City on February 15. I had potatoes and onions for sale and it was a way of putting a face to a name. For those who may not know, Penny Miller was appointed new Council Person taking Nick Bailey's spot at our January meeting, The Code of Conduct was tabled until our February meeting so all Council members had a chance to read it and decide. We will vote up or down at our February meeting. The idea of a part-time Deputy City Clerk was left open depending on whether our Mayor, Nick Bailey, can handle all his duties. He will have to make that call. Our 25 Hackberry trees will be coming in around April 15-20. Contact Steve Roberts if you would like to be part of the planting crew. This year, 2020, is census year and we want every citizen of Fertile counted. From the gentleman at the Winn-Worth Betco meeting, the census will either be online or over the telephone. Since Fertile has citizens that do not have computers and/or hard of hearing, we will set up a time at the library to register. Yes, there will be helpers for those who need it. More on this as it draws closer. Donna and I attended a meeting at the new Ice Arena put on by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce, entitled The State of North Iowa. What I gathered from this meeting and the Director of Winn-Worth Betco is that Mason City at one time was just for Mason City. That thought has changed. With Mason City and Clear Lake as

a hub, they now want to work with the surrounding counties. We need our Mayor and Council people to be in contact with Mason City-Clear Lake to see what would be good for Fertile. One example is the Winnebago River that we share with Mason City for a possible River Trail. Tell Cindy Peters your ideas for a convenience store in Fertile and where it should be located at. This is Cindy's project. Mine is senior housing. Think spring. It is closer than it was at Christmas time. Until next time, Thank a Veteran for the freedoms you enjoy. Thank a farmer for the food on your plate. and above all, thank God for your daily blessings.



Enclosed find my check for renewal for one more year. Keep up the good work. Lyle Knudson

Thanks to the volunteers who make the Reminder possible. We look forward to the Fertile News. Judy and Jim Gilbertson

Please renew my subscription for another year. I look forward to every issue. Imagine my surprise to see an article about my grandmother (Mrs. E. E. Brown) in the Nov, issue. No one had ever told me about her and the fire at the Christian Church! My mother (Lucille Brown Humphrey) was also mentioned in an adjoining article. Keep up the good work! Cleo L. (Humphrey) McKim

It's that time again! You all do such a good job. Ver Lynn AUSTIN





## IRISH ROOTS by Neil Kuns

Long ago I learned that in 1848 my great-grandmother at the age of six had emigrated from Ireland with her parents to America. Grandma Carr told me how it had taken thirteen weeks and that many people perished during the trip. That is the reason they were grimly called “coffin ships”.

Not so long ago while attending a concert on the quay in Galway, Ireland I told a woman seated next to us that my great-grandmother hailed from Ireland and that I wondered if she had sailed from this port. I mentioned that her name was Mary Jane Donneough and the Irish lady said she more likely sailed from Cobh, the port of Cork in the south of the country. “When did they sail?” she asked, and I replied “1848.” “Ah! The potato famine got them, did it?” I had never before made that connection. The famine decimated the population of the country by 1,500,000, either by death or departure to other shores. Some years later while driving the Bearra peninsula I observed that the stone fences were intact far up the mountainside, but that they were cultivated only about a third of the way up. I learned the reason for this was that when the population was greater those more distant and difficult fields were all planted with potatoes. They were no longer needed by the smaller population and lay fallow for decades.

In his book “New York,” Edward Rutherford observes that the Irish in Five Points, a poor section of the city in 1850, were not the poorest of the Irish because either they or their relatives had enough money to pay for their passage to America. I had never pondered the state of the financial affairs of my fourth generation forebears. I wish someone were still around who could cultivate those roots and produce some answers.

Did you Know??? By Ann Hendrickson

The Phrase, “I’m sick of winter” has been heard quite often these days. So what do you think—was it a bad winter, a so-so winter, or a good winter?

Let me share a few stories about the winter of 1936! It was called the Telephone Wire winter because the drifted snow was so high a person could touch the wires connected pole to pole. Another record claimed it was the second coldest and fourth snowiest in Iowa History. For a whole month the average temperature averaged an incredible 2.4 degrees below zero with howling winds from the northwest causing blizzard conditions one day after the other.

Unless you have lived through this situation, I’m not sure we can even imagine what terrible circumstances the weather caused. The snow was so hard a horse pulling a sleigh with children on their way to school just walked over the fences and never sank down in the snowdrift. Some schools remained closed for two weeks, so the mothers had to be very resourceful to keep her family entertained during those long days inside. One young boy just had to get outside so he decided to shovel and find the mailbox. It was 32 degrees below zero. He took his spade and started digging and went down as far as he could. He then shoved the spade down the hole and heard a “clunk”—it was the top of the mailbox.

How deep was it you ask? One family lived near the main highway and was able to watch the big snowplows work their way through the drifted snow. The plow had to back up several times and take a new run for it each time. This family of three sons and their father decided to shovel their way to the highway as the plows didn’t work on dirt roads. Their aim was to do errands in town. They worked all one day shoveling only to arise the next morning to find it all blown shut and even deeper than before as it was even with the top of the bank where they had thrown the snow. The next day was 15 below zero and clear skies. This time the path stayed open for their trip to town. The next morning the family piled in the Model A Ford and drove along banks higher than the car. Wouldn’t you know it, the path wasn’t wide enough so they got stuck with all in the car and no doors would open. One of the boys dug a hole in the snow and got out through the window, went home, and then brought a horse to pull them out. A shortage of food rations and fuel became a problem. People had to burn everything but the kitchen chairs, and corn cobs in the wood stove just to keep warm.

So again I ask you, what kind of winter was it for you in 2019 and 2020? Maybe not so bad after all.

Until next time...



Cooks page by: Tammy Waddington  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Chicken in Potato Baskets**

- 4-1/2 c. frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 6 Tbs. butter or margarine, melted
- 1-1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

**FILLING:**

- 1/2 c. chopped onion
- 1/4 c. butter or margarine
- 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. chicken bouillon granules
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. dried basil
- 2 c. milk
- 3 c. cubed cooked chicken
- 1 c. frozen peas, thawed

In a bowl, combine the potatoes, butter, salt and pepper. Press into 6 greased 10-oz. custard cups; set aside. In a saucepan, sauté onion in butter. Add the flour, bouillon, Worcestershire sauce and basil. Stir in the milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Add chicken and peas. Spoon into prepared crusts. Bake uncovered at 375° for 30-35 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Gloriously Green (Smoothie)**

- 1 c. ice cubes
  - 1-1/2 c. honeydew chunks
  - 2 kiwis, peeled and quartered
  - 1/2 c. green seedless grapes
  - 1 Tbs. honey
- Combine all above ingredients in blender; blend until smooth.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Tips from the olden days!**

A book from 1951 says.....for people who say they can't eat onions - soak the onions in milk before using them.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Why is the man who invests all your money called a 'Broker'?

**Lime Pudding Cakes**

- 2 Tbs. butter, softened
- 1-1/2 c. sugar
- 1/3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 c. lime or lemon juice
- 1 tsp. grated lime or lemon peel
- 3 large eggs, separated
- 1-1/4 c. 2% milk

In a small bowl, beat butter and sugar until crumbly. Add the flour, salt, lime juice and peel; mix well. Beat in egg yolks and milk until smooth. In another bowl, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form; gently fold into batter. Pour into 6 ungreased 6-oz. custard cups. Place cups in a large baking pan; add 1 inch of boiling water to pan. Bake uncovered at 325° for 40-45 min. or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean and top is golden. Serve warm or at room temperature.

\*\*\*\*\*

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

\*\*\*

A TV can insult your intelligence. But nothing rubs it in like a computer.

\*\*\*

How do you know when you are too drunk to drive? When you swerve to miss the tree then realize it was your air-freshener!

\*\*\*\*\*

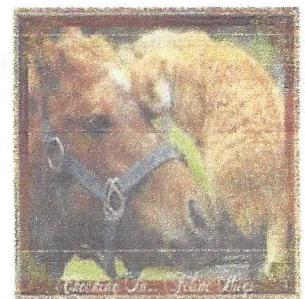
**Homemade Ice Melt**

- 1/2 gallon warm water
- 6 drops of dish soap
- 2 oz. rubbing alcohol

Add all 3 ingredients into a container. Pour mixture onto your icy patches and watch the hazard melt away.

\*\*\*\*\*

May you  
 have a very  
**Blessed  
 March**  
 &  
 Don't forget  
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
 TIME.**



When told the reason for Daylight Savings Time, the Old Indian said, "Only the government would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom, and have a longer blanket."

"I don't mind going back to daylight saving time. With inflation, the hour will be the only thing I've saved all year." Victor Borge

What is the shortest month?... May, because it has only 3 letters!

When does a clock strike thirteen? When it's broken!

What did the thief who stole a calendar get?... Twelve months!

Why was everyone so tired on April 1st?... They had just finished a March of 31 days!

Why are Saturday and Sunday the strongest days?... Because all the others are weak-days!

**And now some Irish jokes, before you get upset I had my DNA done and I have Irish blood in my veins, too. So enjoy!!**

O'Toole and his wife are in bed one night and they hear the neighbor's dog is barking its head off in the garden. Somewhat disturbed by the noise, O'Toole explodes, 'Botheration and that!' and storms off downstairs. He comes back upstairs five minutes later and his wife asks, 'What did you do, O'Toole?' O'Toole replies with a wide grin, 'I've put the dog in our garden so I did, now let's see how they like it.'

O'Gara was arrested and sent for trial for armed bank robbery. After due deliberation, the jury foreman stood up and announced, 'Not guilty.' 'That's grand,' shouted O'Gara, 'Does that mean I get to keep the money?'

Murphy lost a hundred dollars on the Melbourne Cup, a famous Australian horserace. He also lost another hundred on the television replay.

**AND HOW WAS YOUR DAY???**

*In a court in Killarney, deep in Munster, Ireland, this conversation is reported to have taken place:*

*Lawyer: 'At the scene of the accident, Mr O'Shea, did you tell the Garda officer that you had never felt better in your life?'*

*O'Shea the farmer: 'That's right, sir.'*

*Lawyer: 'Well then, Mr O'Shea, how is it that you are now claiming you were seriously injured when my client's car hit your cart?'*

*O'Shea the farmer: 'When the Garda arrived, he went over to my horse, who had a broken leg, and shot him. Then he went over to Darcy, my dog, who was badly hurt, and shot him.'*

*Then the policeman came across the road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feeling?' I just thought under the circumstances, it was a wise choice of words to say: 'I've never felt better in my life.'*

~~~~~  
*A carload of hunters, on holiday, were looking for a place to hunt, pulled into a farmer's yard in County Waterford, Ireland. The driver, Brannagh, went up to the farmhouse to ask permission to hunt on the farmer's land.*

*The old farmer said, 'Sure you can hunt, but would you be doing me a favour? That old donkey standing over there is 20 years old and sick with cancer, but I don't have the heart to kill her. Would you do it for me?'*  
*Brannagh replied, 'Of course I will,' and strolled back to the car.*

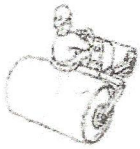
*While walking back, however, Brannagh decided to play a trick on his hunting friends. He got into the car and when they asked if the farmer had said if it was alright, he said, 'No, we can't hunt here, but I'm going to teach that old fellow a lesson he won't forget.'*

*With that, the Irishman rolled down his window, stuck his gun out and shot the donkey. As he shouted, 'To be sure, that will teach him,' a second shot rang out from the passenger side and one of his hunting mates yelled, 'And me, begorrah, I got the cow.'*

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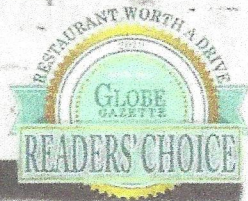
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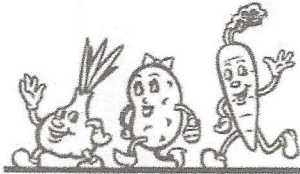
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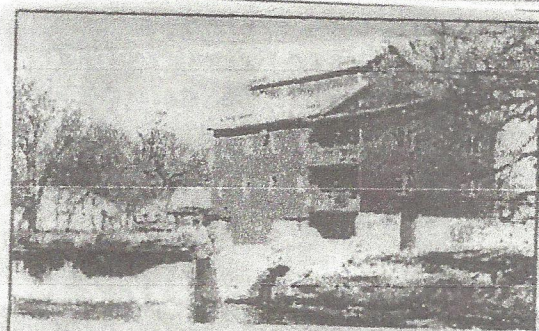
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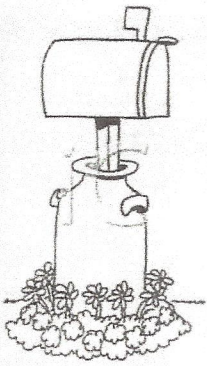
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