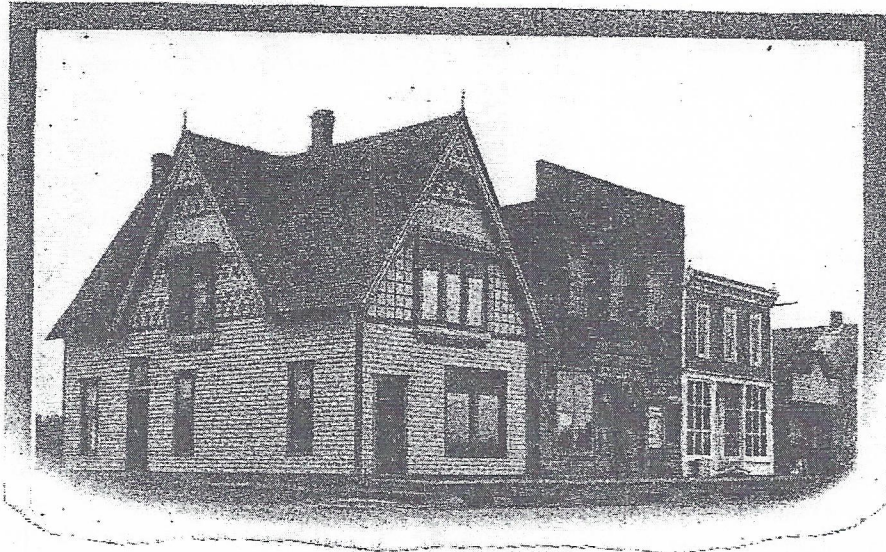


# FERTILE REMINDER

March 2019



STREET SCENE, FERTILE

## March Calendar

4 Firemen meet

12 Garden Club

13 Deadline for Reminder

14, 28 Recycle

16 Fiesta Dinner & Auction

18 Library Board meets

19 Fertile Girls

19 City Council



Time to  
Spring Ahead

MARCH 10

# City of Fertile

## City Council Meeting Minutes

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

### Call to Order & Roll Call:

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Tad Miller, Cindy Peters, and Holly Lovik-Hanna; City Clerk Wendy Lunning and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts. Absent: Ron Rachut & Nick Bailey.
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the minutes of the January meeting.** Unanimous
- Tad motioned, Holly 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.

### City Maintenance Report:

- Steve has been doing lots of snow removal.
- Steve repaired chains on plow truck.
- Holly motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.** Unanimous

### Mayor's Report:

- Steve, Joyce and Dalton met with ICAP senior risk control specialist, Tad Christianson. All buildings have been inspected.
- Warren is attending classes in Des Moines to update his license.
- Joyce presented total report of grants received 2006 – 2018 from WCDA in the amount of \$1,526,747.10.
- EMC talked to Joyce about getting a natural gas generator for the Community Center as that's the City's Emergency Shelter & Command Center. Joyce will work with Hare Electric to get estimate.
- Joyce worked with Supervisors & Engineers to pave Farm to Market road on W Main Street to Hill Street then continue on W Main to City Limits. This is scheduled to be completed summer of 2020.

- Joyce received quote from Heartland Asphalt to blacktop Library Parking Lot in the amount of \$11,779.30.
- Joyce will be scheduling the supervisors & engineers to meeting in regards to tiling on E Washington.
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

### City Clerk's Report

- Wendy would encourage council and residence to watch movie "All the Queens Horses" in regards to City Comptroller in Dixon, IL stealing \$53 million dollars. It is the responsibility of the residence and council to hold each other accountable. Movie can be seen on Amazon Prime, Netflix & Hulu.
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Holly motioned, Tad 2nd to approve January Bills.** Unanimous

7/1/2018 to 1/31/2019	General	WCDA	Roads	Emergency	EE Benefits	LOST	Utilities	Total
Income	209,082.81	61,792.98	30,108.18	1,108.72	4,577.59	18,879.95	102,846.11	428,396.34
Expense	246,231.41	61,792.98	18,104.21	0	4,759.07	0	67,836.05	398,722.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>-37,147.60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,003.97</b>	<b>1,108.72</b>	<b>-181.48</b>	<b>18,879.95</b>	<b>35,010.06</b>	<b>29,673.62</b>
Fund Balance	17,681.37	21.32	72,322.46	1,108.72	1,031.94	18,879.95	190,977.52	301,123.28

- Liens presented to the Council were as follows:  
105 E Main Street \$334.07
- Budget reviewed.
- Holly motioned, Tad seconded to process liens with Worth County Treasurer.** Unanimous

### Committee Report:

- No Committee Reports

### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for public hearing on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Fertile City Hall.
- Holly motioned, Tad 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

### Summary:

- Farm to Market Roads
- Budget Reviewed.

## City of Fertile Deposits As of January 31, 2019

Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
01/01/2019	Property Taxes	729.27
01/02/2019	Utility Deposit	6,138.70
01/02/2019	Facility Rental Deposit	175.00
01/03/2019	Casino Funds Deposit	2,153.85
01/09/2019	Utility Deposit	3,418.30
01/09/2019	Utility Deposit	82.23
01/10/2019	Road Use Tax	2,138.44
01/16/2019	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
01/16/2019	Utility Deposit	478.25
01/16/2019	Utility Deposit	2,284.75
01/17/2019	Quickbooks Payroll Deposit	0.89
01/17/2019	Quickbooks Payroll Deposit	0.92

01/23/2019	Library County Deposit	8,750.00
01/23/2019	Utility Deposit	96.80
01/23/2019	Farm to Market Deposit	1,975.13
01/23/2019	Utility Deposit	2,291.23
01/23/2019	Library Deposit	75.00
01/27/2019	Local Option Sales Tax	2,826.90
01/30/2019	Utility Deposit	151.04
01/30/2019	Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
01/30/2019	Utility Deposit	2,537.49
01/31/2019	Utility Deposit	1,178.97
01/31/2019	Utility Deposit	400.91
01/31/2019	Interest	21.73
01/31/2019	Correction Deposit	0.00
	<b>Total Checking</b>	<b>38,055.80</b>

## City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of  
January  
31, 2019

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>					
<b>Checking</b>					
Check	01/01/2019	8939	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-3,833.33
Check	01/01/2019	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
Paycheck	01/01/2019	8938	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-300.20
Paycheck	01/01/2019	8934	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-279.50
Paycheck	01/01/2019	8935	Russell, Grant	City Maintenance	-89.50
Paycheck	01/01/2019	8936	Russell, Joyce	Mayor (Donated 16 hours)	-1,151.11
Bill Pmt -Check	01/02/2019	8937	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-20.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/02/2019	8940	AgSource Laboratories	Sewer Testing	-36.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/02/2019	8941	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-206.25
Check	01/05/2019	COUPON	Staples	2-USB Flash Drive	0.00
Paycheck	01/09/2019	8942	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,035.28
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8943	Alliant Energy	Electric	-808.10
				Vehicle Maintenance - Oil change for	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8944	CarQuest	Mower	-18.43
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8945	Fertile Reminder	Advertisement Costs	-220.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8946	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-110.73
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8947	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-15.00
				Cleaning Supplies & LED Light for Pump	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8948	Menards	House	-87.46
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8949	Synchrony Bank	Battery for Power Tools	-94.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8950	Waste Management	Garbage, Recycling & Container Services	-2,338.17
				Fuel for Skid Loader, Plow Truck, City	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8951	Worth County Engineer v	Pump, Sand/Salt Mix	-830.37
Bill Pmt -Check	01/09/2019	8952	Worth County Sheriff's Office	Annual 28E agreement	-5,272.50
Paycheck	01/09/2019	8953	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-58.29
Liability Check	01/15/2019	EFT	IPERS		-845.86
Liability Check	01/15/2019	EFT	IPERS		-956.66
Liability Check	01/15/2019	EFT	United States Treasury	(L)	-1,320.52
Liability Check	01/15/2019	EFT	United States Treasury		-1,389.36
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2019	8954	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2019	8955	Alliant Energy	Electric	-1,245.82
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2019	8956	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-732.19
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2019	8957	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-85.99
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2019	8958	PSI	1500 Utility Bill Cards	-100.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/16/2019	8959	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-73.05
Paycheck	01/16/2019	8960	Arndt, Linda J	(L) Assistant Director	-141.30
Paycheck	01/16/2019	8961	Knudson, Loni	(L) Clerk	-143.61
Paycheck	01/16/2019	8962	Thompson, Angela M	(L) Librarian	-1,156.71
Check	01/17/2019	ACH	Intuit	Payroll	-0.89
Check	01/17/2019	ACH	Intuit	Payroll	-0.92
Check	01/18/2019	DEBIT	Iowa Rural Water Association	Training	-320.00
Check	01/18/2019	DEBIT	Downtown Hilton	Training	-148.81
Check	01/18/2019	ACH	WCTA	(L)Telephone	-68.21
Paycheck	01/23/2019	8963	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,093.56
Check	01/23/2019	EFT	First Security Bank & Trust	Main Street Loan	-2,612.50
				Duck Tape, Pothole Patch, Cleaning	
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2019	8964	Menards	Supplies, Ice Melt	-54.38
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2019	8965	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-145.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2019	8966	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs	-200.21
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2019	8967	Black Hills Energy	(L) Natural Gas	-92.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/23/2019	8968	MicroMarketing	(L) Books	-39.40
Check	01/23/2019	DEBIT	US Post Office	Postage Stamps	-200.00
				(L) Books & CDs, Supplies, Programs,	
				DVDs, Tech Support/Comp, Postage &	
Check	01/30/2019	ACH	Citibusiness Card	Professional Development	-470.18
Check	01/30/2019	8969	Fertile Garden Club	Annual City Contribution	-950.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/30/2019	8970	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-85.99
Bill Pmt -Check	01/30/2019	8971	Steve Roberts-v	Petco - K&H MD Lectro Soft	-57.38
Liability Check	01/31/2019	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-657.00

Liability Check	01/31/2019	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	(L)	-135.00
Sales Tax Payment	01/31/2019	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	Sales Tax	-118.00
Sales Tax Payment	01/31/2019	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	Water Excise Tax	-916.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8977	Alliant Energy	Electric	-695.56
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8978	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-170.19
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8979	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-15.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8980	IMFOA	Annual dues	-50.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8981	Office of Auditor of State	Periodic Audit Fee	-900.00
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8982	Superior Lumber, Inc	Plywood & Foam	-46.24
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8983	Waste Management	Garbage, Recycling & Container Services	-2,339.78
Bill Pmt -Check	01/31/2019	8984	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-203.94
Total Checking					
Petty Cash					-37,794.93
Total Petty Cash					
Total Operating Accounts					-37,794.93
Roads Revenue Accounts					
Savings					
Total Savings					
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-37,794.93</b>

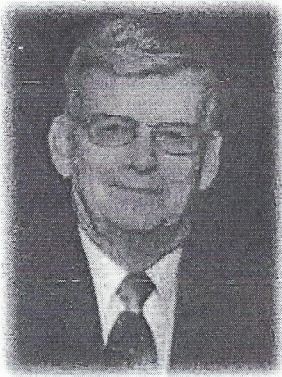
**RELATIVES OF KAY ASPLAND SINCLAIR**

J. R. Carr, stock farmer, has resided in Grant township since November, 1870. At that date he purchased eighty acres of land and has since increased his real estate to 320 acres, which is located on section 9. The entire tract was unbroken prairie, but it is now all under good improvements, and the beautiful and increased in value by one of the model farm houses of the county. Mr. Carr was born in McHenry Co., Ill., July 25, 1838. His parents, Darius and Thankful (Spencer) Carr, were bot natives of the State of New York. In 1854 the Carr family removed to La Fayette Co., Wisc., where the elder Carr engaged in farming. In 1859 Mr. Carr, of this sketch, was married to Mary Donneough. Her parents, Edward and Mary Donneough, were residents of Ireland and came to the United State when Mrs. Carr was only six-years-old. Mr. Carr returned to his native county in 1869, and the next year came to Iowa. Of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Carr, seven still survive---Edward, William, George, Etta, Benton, Florence and Lester, born April 29, 1883 Mr. Carr endorses the principles of the Republican Party but takes little active interest in politics. He is chiefly interested in his own business and is a successful and extensive dealer in fine stock.

Mark Dexter is the name of one of the most prominent and conspicuous figures in local history of Grant township, and also bears the same relationship to Mason City, in which latter place he settled in February 1856.

Copied from a newspaper article

**MARCH**



**Donald L. Severson**, 86 of Joice died Friday, February 15, 2019 at the IOOF Home in Mason City surrounded by his family. Burial will be held in Brush Point Cemetery, rural Donald Severson was born May 5, 1932 to Louis and Laura

(Midtgaard) Severson on a farm north of Fertile. He was baptized and confirmed at Fertile Lutheran Church. He graduated from Fertile High School in 1950 and then continued to work on the family farm.

He was united in marriage to Marilyn Hepperly at Fertile Lutheran Church on September 27th, 1953. A celebration of 65 years was held in September 2018, with family.

Don loved the farm and liked to travel. He also served on various boards through the years including the Forest City School Board for 19 years. In addition, he was president of the school board for 12 years from 1982-1994. In 1999 he was elected to the Forest City School Hall of Fame. Later in his career he worked at Coop Services out of Lake Mills and eventually Basic Material in Fertile. He served on church council and enjoyed yard and wood work.

Don is survived by his wife, Marilyn of Joice; children, Linda Rae Severson of Lake Mills, Larry (Linda) Severson of Forest City, Julie (John) Rasmussen of Joice; grandchildren, Tiffany (Seth) Young of Denison, Marcus (Nikki) Severson of Urbandale, Brittany Rasmussen of Fertile, Jenna (Mitch) Tuttle of Joice, and Tyler (Erica) Rasmussen of Joice; six great-grandchildren, Taelen and Brexten Young, Cooper Thompson, Cater and Kasyn Severson, and Everly Rasmussen, and several nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Laura Severson; a sister, Elaine (Howard) Patten; mother and father-in-law, Louis and Elanor Hepperly and a brother-in-law, Jerry Hepperly.

## **Natalie Marlene Weber**



Queen Creek – It is with great sadness that the family of Natalie M. Weber (Nelson), 81, announce her passing on February 13, 2019. Natalie passed away at home in Queen Creek, AZ, surrounded by her loving family.

Natalie had a love for Native American art, Monument Valley, cacti gardens, and her family of quail. She had a contagious smile that warmed everyone's heart. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all those whose lives she touched.

Natalie was born February 18, 1937, in Verdigre, NE. She resided in Clear Lake, IA, for many years before fulfilling her dream of moving to Arizona in 2001. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband and best friend of 44 years, David Weber; her two daughters, Teresa Tomasulo (Michael) of Carnation, WA; Sheila Burnsworth (Joseph) of Mesa, AZ; her sister, Elly Harmeyer of Clear Lake, IA, 5 Grandchildren, Jason Quigley, Amber Swenson, Alecia Frink (Kyle), Roslynn Runia, and Lacey Olesen Perez; 4 Great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Natalie was preceded in death by her two sons, David Phillip Weber Jr. and Dwight Krukow; her parents, Alton and Gertrude Nelson; her brother, Aloyce "Bud" Nelson.

A visitation will be held from 10-11 AM on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, followed by a funeral service at San Tan Mountain View Funeral Home, Queen Creek, AZ, and, a graveside service at Natalie's final resting place in San Tan Valley Memorial Gardens at Schnepf Farms, Queen Creek, AZ. Condolences may be sent to David Weber, 3294 W. Hooper Trail, Queen Creek, AZ, 85142.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the PAN Foundation, Metastatic Breast Cancer Fund at [panfoundation.org](http://panfoundation.org).

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)



## Library Events

**Family Movie Night**  
March 8th @ 7 pm

### Storytime

March 11th @ 5:30 pm

**Come join us for a a fun time with books and crafts! Snacks will be provided and fun will be had.**

### Cookbook Club

March 21st @ 6:30 pm

**Join us as we discuss a cookbook and sample some of it's offerings. This is a dinner and conversation group. 18+**

### Adult Craft Afternoon

March 23rd @ 1 pm

**We will be doing a craft, eating snacks & chatting. Join us for the fun. Ages 18+**

### Classic Movie Monday

March 25th @ 3:00 pm

**Come join us for a a fun time with books and crafts! Snacks will be provided and fun will be had.**

## Fiesta Dinner & Auction

The library will hold it's annual Fiesta Dinner fundraiser and it's second annual silent auction March 16th from 5-7. Items for bidding will include both vintage & donated items. These include Fertile memorabilia, tickets to Chanhassen dinner theater, and signed sports items. If you can donate a pan of bars, please call or message the library!

## featuring New Books

On the come up - Angie Thomas

The bride of Ivy Green - Julie Klassen

The fifth letter - Nicola Moriarty

Liar, Liar - James Patterson

These truths: a history of the UnitedStates -  
Jill Lepore

Flights of fancy - Jen Turano

## featuring New DVDs

The house with a clock in the walls

The hate u give

The Grinch

The nutcracker & the 4 realms

Peppermint

Won't you be my neighbor?

## THE HALVOR OUVERSON FAMILY



Front row: Insert Halvor) John, Serena, Oscar, Ingeborg, Nels aka Dewey and Olena. Back row: Anna, Martin, Ouver, Henry and Junie

### John Arent Ouverson and Family written by Gary Hall

John Arent Ouverson, my grandfather, was born in Fertile in 1885, one of eleven children of Halvor and Ingeborg Ouverson. This one family was the origin of the many Ouversons who lived in Fertile in the twentieth century. I have many fond memories of being a part of this clan.

Halvor Ouverson was the oldest son of Ouver and Stenvor Halverson and was born May 12, 1847 in Dane County, Wisconsin. Halvor married Ingeborg Pedersdatter Dokken on October 9, 1867 in Perry, WS. Ingeborg was born in Norway on March 30, 1850. They farmed for a few years in Wisconsin then moved by covered wagon to Fertile Township, Worth County, Iowa in 1871 with Olena, their oldest living child. They soon returned to Wisconsin but returned to Fertile in 1873 with two more children, Serena and Henry. Halvor farmed and established a successful blacksmith shop, purchased several plots of land, established a threshing business, gave land for the Lutheran church, traded in cattle, and established a farm about one-half mile south of Fertile. The couple eventually had 11 children: Olena Karina (1868; who died at 2 years of age) Olena Patrina (1870), Serena (1872), Henry (1873), Junie (1876), Ouver (1879), Martin (1881), Anna Marie (1883), John (1885), Nels [Dewey] (1887), and Oscar (1892).

Halvor and Ingeborg's first son, Henry, had seven sons whose names are familiar to us who grew up in the 40s and 50s in Fertile: Harley, Virgil, Clarence, Edwin, Melvin, Emery, and Lawrence. The first 5 were active in the Fertile Church of Christ, in which I grew up, and it was sometimes called the Ouverson church. Lawrence was active in the Lutheran church. Consequently, there was an abundance of cousins for those of us around my age. There were 4 of us in our small graduating class of 16.

My grandfather was John. He married Elizabeth Robison on June 30, 1912. Elizabeth was born in Tiverton, Ohio. She came to the Fertile area when she was 3 years old. The Robison family itself has an interesting history, tracing its family back to the Revolutionary War and a land grant in Tiverton, Rhode Island. The two years prior to his wedding John homesteaded near Faith, South Dakota. In his young married years, he did custom threshing and was a painter but in 1920 he purchased a farm just a quarter mile south of Fertile at the

top of the hill and farmed there until his retirement in 1958. The farm was about 100 acres and its northeast corner included part of "Hungry Hollow", a wooded area along the Winnebago River that provided hours of hiking adventures for Fertile youth.

John and Elizabeth (Lizzie) had four children: Mavis (my mother), Allen, Francis, and Maxine (Scobee). John was a member of the school board for many years. He was also a Pioneer corn seed salesman for 27 years. I remember there was a big round roofed building between the Church of Christ parsonage and the corner gas station and every spring it was piled high with sacks of seed corn. We were true Pioneer seed people and viewed Dekalb seed people with some pity since they used an inferior seed.

I have wonderful memories of growing up in this extended family. Every summer there was an Ouverson family reunion in the Fertile park and in the 40s and 50s around 100 would attend. There would be good food, lots of play time, a program of Ouverson talent, and if he could attend a closing sermonette by Uncle Oscar, a Baptist preacher. He was passionate speaker, and all most always ended his presentation in tears, appealing to us to follow Christ. The Henry Ouverson home must have provided a strong Christian environment since almost all of the sons grew up to be devout Christians and church leaders.

I have fond memories also of my immediate Ouverson family. All but Allen stayed in the Fertile area and interacted often. Christmas every year was special. We all gathered at John and Lizzie's home for gift exchange and a big family meal. Everyone seemed to have a great sense of humor and jokes and raucous laughter filled the air.

I think my Grandfather was the first farmer in the area to buy a herd of sheep sometime in the early 50s. When I was in Junior High, he hired my older brother Gene and me to help take care of them, especially at lambing time. Overseeing the birthing and keeping the pens in fresh straw kept us busy. In the summer we had to patrol the pasture fence to rescue the sheep who had stuck their heads through the fencing to get some grass and did not have enough sense to back out. We had to pull them free.

A memorable time every summer was threshing season. Grandpa owned a threshing machine, so he moved from farm to farm and the whole family assisted in the work. There were 4 farms included which extended the season. The machine seemed to me like a dragon with its big mouth and teeth taking in the oat bundles and its shaking and rattling somewhat frightening. With its many belts and pulleys and shaker beds it was noisy and dusty. Grandpa was the wizard, scurrying around the machine, oiling the pulleys and keeping an eye on the belts. When I was younger, I spent many hours near the machine for my job was to level the grain pile in the wagon as the oats spewed from the spout. It was hot and dirty work. I rejoiced when I became old enough to go out into the field and drive the tractor for the wagons or pitch the bundles on the wagons. The best part of the threshing time were the huge meals the women fixed every day at noon.

Older residents from the mid-twentieth century will also remember the families of some of the Ouverson daughters. Anna married Charles Eikenbary who was postmaster of Fertile from 1915 to 1945. When he died Anna then took over. Her father and older sister had also been postmasters. Junie married John Seglem who built her a big loom and when I was young, she lived in the small brick building next to the telephone office. She spent time weaving rugs for local residents. The loom is now in the North Iowa historical museum near the Mason City airport. Olena married Andrew A. Elton who established a grocery store in Fertile. Two well known children were Leo, state senator, lieutenant governor and for a few days, governor of Iowa, and Thelan who owned the Elthon grocery store for decades.

I am sure my cousins have similar memories and could add a great deal to my few thoughts recorded here. (I am indebted for much of the biographical information in the essay to Harriet A. Rye Madson, *150 Years in "Amerika": The Story of Grovum-Ouversen/Strome-Halvorsen Families*. Privately printed, 1992)



## Letters to the Editor

Ladies, Thank you for your hard work putting out the Reminder every month. It's been many years since I've lived in Fertile but have many great memories. Toby and I enjoy reading it every month. **Bob & Toby VanDenbosch.**

Enclosed is double/year because every now and then I forward a copy to my cousin, Jimmy Kirk, when I think he might enjoy one of the articles. Thank you for your effort. Class of "61" **Doug Ouverson**

I love the articles from old time and the recipes. Thank you and God Bless. **Tammy Waddington**

Amy says her husband, who grew up 200 miles from Fertile enjoys the Reminder more than she does! **Amy Lou (Elthon) Mahoney**

Dear Ladies, please renew my Fertile Reminder for another year. Love getting the Reminder and look forward to receiving each month. Thanks **Judi Larson**

Fertile Reminder Staff: Thank you for your good job of sending out the Reminder through this past year. You were very good at letting us know what was going on. Enclosed please find my check for \$8.00 to extend my subscription for one more year. Sincerely, **Lyle Knudson**

Thanks for the reminder!!! I look forward to each publication. Sincerely, **Ardelle Osnes**

A special thank you to you gals who keep the Fertile news coming. Always enjoyed. **Bonnie Kuns**

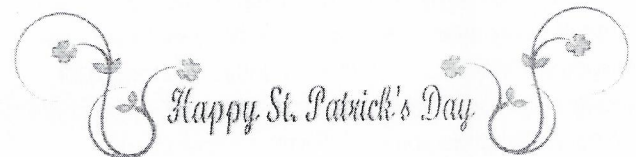


Congratulations to Sue & Laverne Lee for winning the bid on the quilt at the Spaghetti supper. The quilt was made by Porcupine Quilting in Onalaska, WI. David and Rita Champion. They are my very good friends of Cindy Peters, who have attended every Fertile Days over the last 15 years!

*Thank You!*

Thank you to everyone who attended my SURPRISE '80' Birthday Party on Saturday. Thanks for the cards, gifts and your "presence" I have been truly blessed. My kids planned and surprised me and no one let the word out. But then I surprised them, I was in my chore clothes and hair not combed!! Thanks Penny & Dan Miller, Tammy Waddington and Bruce & Amanda Waddington.

**Betty Waddington**





**THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON**  
Hello Fertile, Because of my knee surgery, I am writing this letter on January 16<sup>th</sup>, so many things may have happened in the community before you read this.

First, thank you to everyone who had a part in our spaghetti supper, those that worked, or donated or came to eat. Thank you all.

Is anyone is interested in adopting a tree? We are losing trees in our island park. If different people adopted a tree for a year, what a difference it could make. Adopting a tree would involve buying the tree, planting it, anchoring it, and watering it for a year. After that, it should be able to stand on its own. IF you would like to do this, contact, Steve Roberts. He knows the varieties and where they should be planted.

We are having a hard time getting a convenience store. Fertile's most distinguished cattleman came up with an idea that has worked in other communities. If many people put in \$250.00 or \$1000 or 10,000 it could run like a coop with the profits going to its stockholders. Tell a city council person what you think.

We are having a Worth County Trails meeting at the Fertile City Hall in March for committee members. The discussion of having a trail between Fertile and Hanlontown is getting stronger. I can envision a day when the trail would go from the Casino to Hanlontown to Fertile to Joice and back to the Casino. This would have hotels on the north end (Casino) and bed and breakfast on the south end (Fertile). I can also envision a trail from Fertile to Clear Lake and a trail from Fertile to Forest City. Sounds like a lot of potential economic development.

The big item for discussion at January's council meeting was talking talking to the gentlemen from WHKS of Mason City on replacement of the bridge to our park. Right now it is safe for cars and pedestrians, but not for big trucks. Those floods are taking a toll on the bridge. He will come back with more information so we can apply for a W.C.D.A grant.

In Osage, the clergy have started something new. Once a month, they meet at the local craft brewery to talk over religious questions over a beer or soda. It is meant for young people who seldom attend church, but all ages are welcome. What do you think Pastors? How about meeting once a month at Café Mir and answer religious

questions while drinking a soda or beer? It sounds like a case of taking church to where the people are. Just throwing out the idea.

Until next time, (not sure when) 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.

Thank you to all who have called, sent cards and gifts and prayed for me. I had my surgery and the next day developed a blood clot so went back to surgery. I am now in the IOOF home in Mason City for my therapy. Thanks to those watching my house in this cold weather. Ron

### **John Dillenger (1903-1934)**

#### **By DeEtta (Thovson) Twedt**

I know nothing about the Dillenger Gang eating or staying in Fertile, but I do know something interesting that your article has stirred up memories about – the day the First National Bank in Mason City was robbed on March 13, 1934.

This terrifying account of what happened that day was told to us kids by our parents, Harry and Loretta Thovson. My parents, sister and I were shopping in Mason City. My brother Robert was at school in Fertile. My sister, Arlis, was around 5 and not yet in school, and I was the baby. We were parked in front of the Newberry Store, about a block from the bank. We were waiting for my dad to come back to the car so we could go home to our farm about 5 ½ miles from Fertile. As my dad was walking to the car, he heard gun shots and could see what was going on. He was so terrified that he ran into a jewelry store to get off the street. Eventually, he felt safe enough to hurry to the car and get us out of there as fast as he could.

Another interesting thing happened more recently when my son David told his doctor in Mason City about the robbery, and that his grandparents, mother and aunt were parked just down the street from the bank that day. Turns out the doctor knew the people who lived on the farm outside of Mason City where Dillenger had left a car. After the robbery, the gang went to the farm, exchanged cars and got away. Perhaps to Fertile?

Thank you, DeEtta!!



## LEMONS

### White Texas Sheet Cake Recipe

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 20 min. Bake: 20 min. + cooling

YIELD: 20 servings

#### Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup butter, cubed
- 1 cup water
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon almond extract

#### FROSTING:

- 1/2 cup butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup 2% milk
- 4-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 15x10x1-in. baking pan.
2. In a large bowl, whisk the first five ingredients. In a small saucepan, combine butter and water; bring just to a boil. Stir into flour mixture. In a small bowl, whisk eggs, sour cream and extract until blended; add to flour mixture, whisking constantly.
3. Transfer to prepared pan. Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 18-22 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 20 minutes.
4. For frosting, combine butter and milk in a large saucepan; bring just to a boil. Remove from heat; gradually stir in confectioners' sugar and extract. Stir in walnuts. Spread over warm cake. Yield: 20 servings.

Lemons are undoubtedly one of the healthiest fruits due to the numerous medicinal properties they have. Some of those properties are anxiety and depression treatment but you can also use this fruit as a cleaning agent in your home. Moreover, there are people who use lemons in their bedroom – they cut the fruit and put it on the nightstand. If this is the first time you read about this trick you probably wonder why people do it. After reading the many reasons to try this method you will want to do it right away. Here are some of the reasons:

Lemon increases your energy levels and helps you feel refreshed.

Lemons don't allow you to wake up tired or with a hangover

Lemons will make the air in the room smell fresh

Lemons treat colds and asthma

#### Procedure

Take 3 lemons, cut them and place them on your nightstand. The next morning remove those lemons and repeat the procedure every night using fresh lemons. The essential oil of lemon also has numerous beneficial properties such as:

**-Encourage fat burning** – dilute 2 drops of lemon oil in a glass of water and drink this mixture three times a day in order to boost your metabolism

**-Stronger immune system** – mix lemon oil and coconut oil and use them to massage your neck in order to encourage lymphatic drainage and treat cold

**-Improved mood** – you can prevent depression and improve your mood by diffusing lemon essential oil

**-Whiter teeth** – prepare a mixture with baking soda, coconut oil and lemon oil and apply it on your teeth. Leave on for 2 minutes, then spit it out and rinse your mouth

**-Nourish facial skin** – prepare a mixture with lemon oil, baking soda and honey and wash your face with it. Your skin will become softer, your complexion will improve and the acne will be gone

**-Disinfect anything** – mix white vinegar, 40 drops of lemon oil and 20 drops of tea oil and spray the mixture in order to disinfect countertops or clean mold in the shower

**-Polish wood and silver** – clean the wooden and silver areas in your home using a cloth soaked in lemon essential oil

## An amazing 2-letter English word.

A reminder that one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition. UP Read until the end ...

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to writeup a report? We call UP our friends, brighten Up a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?

U P I

Did that one crack you UP?

Now I'll shut UP!

Submitted by Joan Norem

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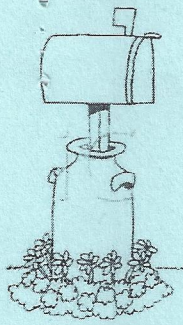
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