

FERTILE REMINDER

December 2017 and January 2018



Marble champion

Juane Pederson, of Fertile, Iowa, is the undisputed marble champion of the world. Pederson claimed the honor last week while competing at the national competition held in Marble Rock. Pederson used his secret weapon, pictured here, to literally run over the competition, clearing the way for his victory. Pederson proclaimed, "Marbles aren't kids stuff. My boulder can beat their steelies everytime."

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 4 Firemen meet
- 5 Garden Club Christmas
- 7 & 21 Recycle
- 18 Library Board meets
- 19 Fertile Girls
- 20 City Council
- 26 Reminder mailed

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 4 & 18 Recycle
- 8 Firemen meet
- 15 Library Board meets
- 16 Fertile Girls
- 16 City Council
- 20 SPAGHETTI SUPPER
- 23 Reminder mailed

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2017 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

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

Amanda Olszewski Air Med:

- No Show.

Autoworks:

- Presented Economic Development Special Fund proposal from WCDA Board to restore building at 101 E Main Street. **Ron motioned, Nick 2nd to accept the grant proposal.** Unanimous.

Library Board:

- Postponed to December Meeting.

City Maintenance Report:

- Steve submitted reports to DNR based on the stricter guidelines that they have in place.
- The draw down at the lagoon is going well.
- New & rebuilt sewer pump installed and recalibrated.
- Conveyor belt for salt and sand has broken and Steve is working on getting an extension put on.
- The mower has been cleaned and stored for winter.
- Water pipe in bathroom near concession stand broke and has been fixed. Bathrooms have since been winterized and drained.
- Steve has been getting Christmas lights ready for Main Street, walking bridge and at Community Center.
- Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve maintenance report.** Unanimous

Mayor's Report:

- Joyce & Steve sent letters to residences in regards to high wastewater flows exceeding National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IDNR) to our lagoon system. All sump pumps should be connected to a permanent outside discharge.
- Joyce received estimates to blacktop the parking lot at the Community Center and Jaci Miller will be writing a grant for this.
- Joyce, Ron, Cindy and Fire Department attended a Pictometry / Eagle View Meeting in Northwood. Drone resources available for

city to be utilized in emergency situations. This will be linked to computer programming for easy accessibility.

- Joyce appointed Ron Rachut to Winn-Worth Betco board for second term. **Cindy motioned, Holly 2nd to approve the appointment.** Unanimous.
- Joyce submitted ICAP grant for security lights on south end of community center and four new sets of barricades for city.
- A HUGE "Thank you" to the Church of Christ for the wonderful community Thanksgiving Dinner.
- There is a pop can bin located on the corner of State Street & Main Street in front of the Library for your convenience.
- Joyce and Steve will be getting estimates on updating the electricity at the park to include larger breaker box. This will be submitted for grant in spring.
- Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

City Clerk's Report

- Library current through 06/30/2017.
- Fire Department current through 08/31/2017.
- Cindy motioned, Nick 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Holly motioned, Ron 2nd to approve October Bills.** Unanimous

7/1/2017 10/31/2017	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	97,502.04	53,975.00	85,800.78	3,337.12	50,255.13	290,870.07
Expense	90,014.84	46,153.68	82,337.27	440.49	40,088.56	259,034.84
Total	7,487.20	7,821.32	3,463.51	2,896.63	10,166.57	31,835.23
Fund Balance	77,279.76	21.32	50,106.91	3,765.14	138,805.81	269,978.94

- Liens presented to the council were as follows:
409 W Main Street \$468.21
605 W Washington \$272.04

Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to process liens with the County Treasurer. Unanimous

Committee Report:

- Ron will be attending the Municipal Leadership Academy in Altoona.
- Holly received bid from Heartland in regard to a walking path in the park. This is possibly a Fall grant cycle.

Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session December 19th at 7:00pm, at Fertile City Hall.
- Nick motioned, Holly 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous

Summary of Resolutions & Ordinances:

- Council approved Economic Development Special Fund from WCDA for Autoworks to present to WCDA Board.**
- Ron Rachut appointed Winn-Worth Betco board.**

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

City of Fertile Deposits

As of October 31, 2017

			Accrual Basis	
Type	Date	Memo	Amount	
Operating Accounts				
Checking				
Deposit	10/01/2017	Property Taxes	28,370.58	
Deposit	10/01/2017	Lien Interest Deposit	1.37	
Deposit	10/01/2017	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00	
Deposit	10/01/2017	Lien Payments Deposit	930.11	
Deposit	10/03/2017	Casino Funds Deposit	2,663.19	
Deposit	10/11/2017	Utility Deposit	231.10	
Deposit	10/11/2017	Utility Deposit	3,810.17	
Deposit	10/17/2017	Open Access Sate Aid for Library	801.00	
Deposit	10/17/2017	Road Use Tax	1,684.70	
Deposit	10/18/2017	Utility Deposit	85.47	
Deposit	10/18/2017	Building Permit Deposit	35.00	
Deposit	10/18/2017	Facility Rental Deposit	100.00	
Deposit	10/18/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	2,329.90	
Deposit	10/18/2017	Utility Deposit	4,009.00	
Deposit	10/18/2017	Library Patron Fees Deposit	15.00	
Deposit	10/25/2017	Utility Deposit	323.24	
Deposit	10/25/2017	Utility Deposit	3,033.12	
Deposit	10/27/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,643.06	
Deposit	10/31/2017	Interest	18.03	
Total Checking			51,084.04	
Petty Cash				
Total Petty Cash			_____	
Total Operating Accounts			51,084.04	
Roads Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
Deposit	10/31/2017	Interest	0.58	
Total Savings			0.58	
Total Roads Revenue Accounts			0.58	
Water Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
Deposit	10/31/2017	Interest	2.87	
Total Savings			2.87	
Total Water Revenue Accounts			2.87	
Sewer Revenue Accounts				
Savings				
Deposit	10/31/2017	Interest	2.51	
Total Savings			2.51	
CD				
Deposit	10/01/2017	Interest	430.40	
Total CD			430.40	
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			432.91	
TOTAL			51,520.40	

City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of October 31, 2017

					Accrual Basis
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
Operating Accounts					
Checking					
Check	10/01/2017	8296	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,000.00
Check	10/01/2017	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Payment	0.00
Check	10/01/2017	CORR	Citibusiness Card	Original Entry 08/23/2017 - Assign accts.	0.00

Bill Pmt -Check	10/01/2017	8331	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-31.50
Bill Pmt -Check	10/01/2017	8332	Staples	Office Supplies - Hanging Folders, Binder Clips, Paper	-54.77
Check	10/03/2017	DEBIT	Kum & Go	Gas for Mower & Truck	-55.00
Paycheck	10/04/2017	8292	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-301.39
Paycheck	10/04/2017	8293	Lnunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-468.50
Paycheck	10/04/2017	8294	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator - Donated 20 hours	-1,163.32
Paycheck	10/04/2017	8295	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,046.07
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8297	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Mower & Truck	-61.74
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8298	Lake Auto Parts	Battery for Sewer Generator	-71.99
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8299	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	Brass Fittings	-3.49
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8300	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-20.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8301	Superior Lumber, Inc	Concrete for Dam Sign	-4.39
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8302	Waste Management	Container Services	-17.17
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8303	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-204.76
Bill Pmt -Check	10/04/2017	8304	Wendy Lnunning - v	Mileage (20 miles @ .535 per mile)	-16.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/11/2017	8305	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-760.58
Bill Pmt -Check	10/11/2017	8306	City of Hanlontown	Budget Workshop - Expense shared with Hanlontown.	-22.50
Bill Pmt -Check	10/11/2017	8307	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/11/2017	8308	IA Dept of Natural Resources	Annual Water Use Fee	-134.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/11/2017	8309	Waste Management	Garbage & Recycling Services	-2,244.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/11/2017	8310	USA Blue Book	Water & Sewer Sample Bottles	-161.37
Liability Check	10/11/2017	8273	IPERS		-895.72
Liability Check	10/13/2017	EFT	IPERS		-266.64
Check	10/17/2017	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	-68.93
Paycheck	10/18/2017	8313	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-1,046.07
Check	10/18/2017	8314	Thompson, Jason	Utility Deposit Refund	-150.00
Check	10/18/2017	8315	Hoffmann, Tina		-150.00
Check	10/18/2017	8316	Dyre, Dustin		-150.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8317	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-54.50
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8318	Brian Nettleton Excavating, Inc.	Replace Fire Hydrant	-1,625.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8319	IMWCA	Worker's Compensation Coverage	-837.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8320	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-56.54
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8321	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-79.97
Paycheck	10/18/2017	8324	Thompson, Angela M	Librarian	-1,084.16
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8325	All Star Pest Control	Library Pest Control	-200.00
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8326	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-776.35
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8327	Baker & Taylor	Books & CDs	-449.44
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8328	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-255.60
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8329	Citibusiness Card	Magazines, Supplies, Programs, DVDs,	
Bill Pmt -Check	10/18/2017	8330	MicroMarketing	Travel / meals	-377.36
Check	10/18/2017	DEBIT	Kum & Go	Books & CDs	-23.39
Check	10/23/2017	DEBIT	Kum & Go	Gas for Mower.	-61.00
Paycheck	10/25/2017	8333	Arndt, Linda J	Gas for Mower.	-60.00
Paycheck	10/25/2017	8334	Knudson, Loni	Assistant Director	-153.97
Check	10/27/2017	DEBIT	US Post Office	Clerk	-72.95
Liability Check	10/30/2017	8312	United States Treasury	Postage	-200.00
Liability Check	10/30/2017	EFT	United States Treasury	Library	-1,005.02
Liability Check	10/30/2017	EFT	IA Dept of Revenue & Finance	Payroll Liability	-1,244.02
Liability Check	10/30/2017	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance	State Withholding	-110.00
Sales Tax Payment	10/30/2017	EFT	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-589.00
Check	10/31/2017	CORR		Balancing Bank & Equity Accounts.	-1,128.00
Check	10/31/2017	CORR-R		Original Correction 09/30/2017	0.00
Total Checking					<u>-24,023.17</u>
Petty Cash					
Check	10/17/2017	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	68.93
Check	10/18/2017	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V		-68.93
Total Petty Cash					<u>0.00</u>
Total Operating Accounts					<u>24,023.17</u>



FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.youseemore.com/NILC/FertilePL
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



Library Events

Hallmark Movie afternoon

December 4th & 20th @ 1:30 pm

Treats and coffee will be served while we enjoy a hallmark movie

Adult Coloring Night

December 14th @ 7:00 pm

This program is for adults to come & color at the library. We will enjoy beverages and the calm of coloring. The library will provide all supplies.

Polar Express Party

December 8th @ 7:00 pm

This family program will include a viewing of the movie the Polar express, and a hot cocoa bar, plus a craft to take home! Everyone is welcome.

New Releases

Fiction

The pioneer woman cooks - Ree Drummond
Uncommon type: some stories - Tom Hanks
The Rooster Bar - John Grisham
Origin - Dan Brown
The midnight line - Lee Child
Killing England - Bill O'Reilly
Hardcore twenty-four - Janet Evanovich
End game - David Baldacci

Movies

Dolly Parton's Christmas of many colors
The case for Christ
Spiderman: homecoming
Cars 3
Snatched

Christmas Open House

The library will be holding it's annual open house on Saturday Dec 16th from 9-12. We will have Santa visit from 10-12, gifts for the kids & the drawing by donation. Top prize is a \$50 gift card to Target! More large prizes to be announced, watch Facebook for more information!

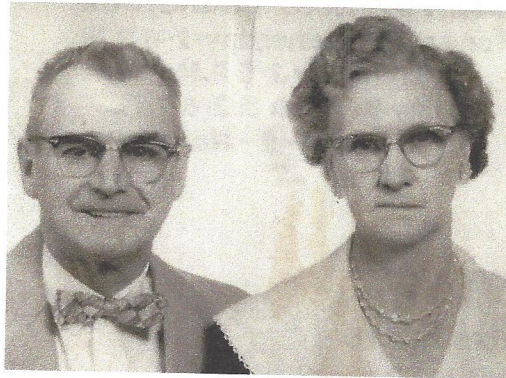


www.hallmark.com 33333333

Paul James Humphrey and Verna Lucille (Brown) Family

Written by Cleo McKim

Paul James Humphrey and Verna months apart in the year 1897—he Gordo County, and she on Fertile. Paul was the 5th child (out Humphrey and Edith Melissa 5, born to Edwin E. (E.E.) Brown They married on December 31, Paul returned from England in mechanic, stationed in Liverpool. I army as an act of rebellion against true of not, I will never know! Luckily, he never saw military action (two of his sons were not so fortunate!).



Lucille Brown were born exactly 6 on February 28, on a farm in Cerro September 1 in the little town of of 10) born to William Henry White. Lucille was the youngest of and Mehetable Augusta Mitchell. 1919, in Waterloo, IA, soon after WW1. He was an airplane recall being told that he joined the strict religious parents – whether

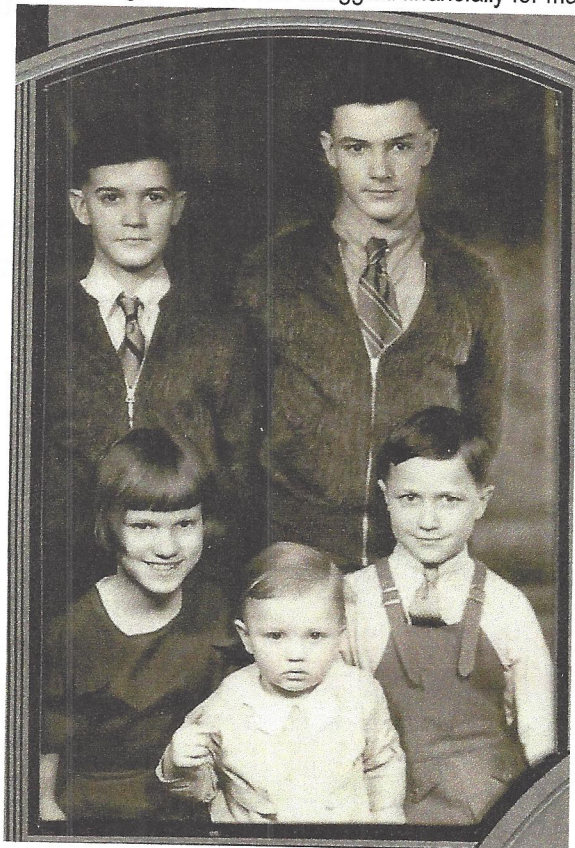
To this union, 5 children were born: Leighton Lloyd – 12/30/21; Robert Gene – 5/27/23; Cleo Lucille – 11/30/25; Earl James – 3/5/28, Wayne Brown – 12/29/34. All lived to adulthood.

Paul worked hard at a variety of jobs - he was good at mechanics and carpentry (teaming up with older brother George), but his best job was probably as “janitor” (no “custodian” at the time!) at the Fertile Consolidated Schools, which he held for a number of years. (I can remember walking home with him, after work, from one end of town to the other, many times – we did not own a car; could not afford one.) In spite of hard work and frugal living, Paul & Lucille struggled financially for many years – it was not easy raising a family of 5 during the depression!

Lucille also worked very hard, with few modern conveniences, to care for her family. Cooking was never ending – I don’t remember ever eating out! She was a good cook, on a very limited budget. We never went hungry, but I recall that meals were often monotonous - we ate lots of hamburger patties, fried potatoes, home canned green beans, and home canned peaches. It was a point of pride for housewives to boast about the number of quarts of produce they had “put up”. I remember many a summer afternoon helping to peel peaches or snapping green beans in preparation for canning.

Laundry was also a big undertaking – no “pushing a button” back then! Water had to be carried in, heated in a big copper boiler, and disposed of. Winters were the worst – frozen clothes all over the house. You can imagine the frozen fingers, hanging clothes out on the clothesline, and then bringing them back in, stiff as boards! “Wringers” were operated by hand – a job for any of us kids who happened to be available.

Life was also complicated by our cramped living quarters. Many of my “growing up” years were spent in a very small



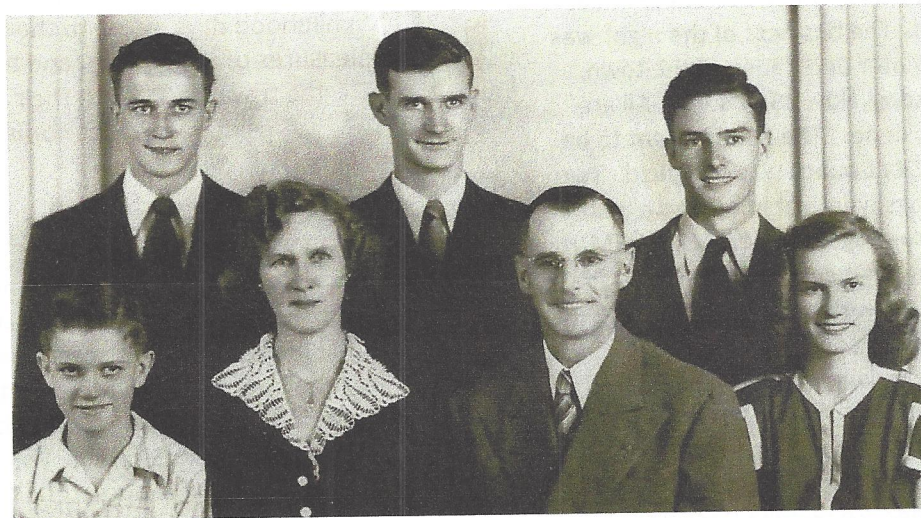
house without running water. We did, however, always have electricity – although not too many appliances (no refrigerator). If you're getting the impression that we grew up poor, you are entirely correct! It was something I never thought much about, because almost everybody else was in the same "boat".

My mother was a master of stretching a dollar, and very, VERY seldom threw anything away. As an example, when a piece of clothing *absolutely* could not be handed down or made-over any more, it was cut up and used to make beautiful quilts or comforters. In the case of heavier fabric, it would be cut into strips and braided into a rug.

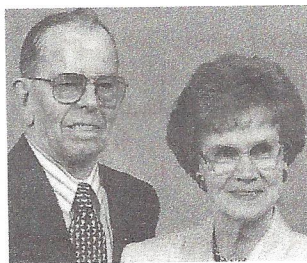
Still, life was a struggle. World War II brought many changes to Paul & Lucille. Their 2 oldest sons, Leighton ("Bill") and Bob, were drafted and sent to the European theater. Bill (Engineering Battalion) earned a Bronze Star for a volunteer mission, and Bob helped liberate a German concentration camp at war's end. I (your humble correspondent) went to a Radio School in Kansas City, MO (now defunct), which trained young girls to take over radio operator jobs for the major airlines, so that men could join the military. I ended up at LaGuardia Field in NYC, and was there two years. My favorite memory - taking the subway to "Times Square" for the V-J Day celebration – a "once-in-a-lifetime" occasion!

With the family growing up and leaving home, Paul and Lucille became more financially secure and they started going to New Mexico in the winters. Paul already had a brother and sister in Deming, so that this is where they settled. This continued for many years. Wayne, the youngest, married a NM native and lived in Deming all his married life.

Paul & Lucille celebrated their 50th anniversary 12/30/69. Lucille died a few years later: 5/12/72, and Paul 5 years later, 11/26/77. They were fine, upstanding, hard-working Christian people, and I am proud to be their daughter!



Taken in 1945 – 46. Left to right, back row: Earl, Bob, Leighton. Front row: Wayne, Lucille, Paul, Cleo



HAPPY 92ND BIRTHDAY CLEO ON NOV. 30TH



Robert & Cleo McKim



You do a great job.
Thank You!! **Phyllis Pederson** (Thank you Phyllis for the

material you sent)

Ladies, we are leaving Iowa on Nov. 4th for the sun and warmer temps – returning the first week in April. We don't like to miss issues as we enjoy the "years ago" memories that you print. The article on the Halverson's was enjoyed. Anyone else remember Harley's dog, Dutchess? She loved stealing balls and lunches. **Mary Tweeten Myers**

Thank you all for your good work. We enjoy the Fertile Reminder very much. **Earl & Donna Miller**

FERTILE GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club met on Nov. 14 with 11 members answering roll call. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and our table prayer sung, followed by a delicious lunch served by hostesses Diane Miller and Twylah Kragel. The business of the night was to set a date for winter decorating of the town, which will be Tuesday, Nov. 28 @ 4 PM. All are needed to get this done. The 2018 budget to be submitted to the City Council was compiled. Two sets of seasonal flags were voted on and a member donated 5 Christmas flags. **WATCH FOR THEM!!!** Election of Officers for the coming year are as follows: President: Twylah Kragel
Vice President: Tina Larson
Secretary: Sharon Mclaughin
Treasurer: Carol Jara
Historian: Sara Innes; Reporter: Betty Waddington; Remembrance; Bev Bruns
Our Christmas dinner will be held December 5th, 5:30 pm at the Fertile Mill.
Bev Bruns gave the Thought for the Day
Reporter, Betty Waddington



At Christmastime, children play an essential part in our celebrations. So much of what we do is intended to please them--and all the while our hearts keep hearkening back to the Christmas memories of our own childhoods. On Christmas Eve, sometimes we can't help but envy our children the stars in their eyes, especially when our own eyes are dull with exhaustion. Christmas is so much simpler for a child. Can we open our tired, adult eyes to that same simplicity? **Ellen Sanna**

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future.

It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

Agnes M. Pharo

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old the pleasures of their youth, and transport the travelers back to their own firesides and quiet homes!

Charles Dickens

I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.

Taylor Caldwell

Whatever else be lost among the years,
Let us keep Christmas still a shining thing:
Whatever doubts assail us, or what fears,
Let us hold close one day, remembering
Its poignant meaning for the hearts of
men.

Let us get back our childlike faith again.

Grace Noll Crowell

WINTER FLOWER POWER by Kristina

The outdoor flower garden growing season may be over for 2017 but 2018 is right around the corner! If you are like me winter is a time for planning, for reflecting and for preparing for the next season. What will you do different? What will you do more of? What will you not do? The beauty of gardening is that there are no rules!

What did you grow in 2017 that you were proud of? For me 2017 was a year for Dahlias at my flower farm. All colors, all sizes, all shapes. Dahlias were in full roar from July until frost. The dinnerplate dahlias I grew were so amazing this year. They were stunning blooms, a white dinnerplate variety called "Snowbound" and also the electric neon yellow dinnerplate "Kelvin Floodlight" variety were showstoppers this season. I shared many of these blooms with family, friends, businesses, brides, at farmer's markets and we thoroughly enjoyed them at our farm in the field. I can't say I have a favorite flower, but dahlias are near the top of the list because of their long blooming time and all of the varieties and colors available. If you haven't ever grown them, I would definitely try planting some dahlia tubers in your garden. There are three sizes, 1, 2, and 3. I planted almost 100 this year! They love being cut, the more you do so the more they produce blooms. True workhorse flowers for your cut flower garden. They take some effort planting, staking (or caging for wind protection) but they are worth it! I have dug all my precious dahlia tubers up and they are stored in my cool basement until next May when they can come out and play again. I definitely plan to grow more dinnerplate dahlias, I would like to grow the popular "Cafe au Lait" variety because the pale pink and blush tones are a must have for wedding season, and really they are simply irresistible. The tubers usually go on sale online in late February from growers throughout the US, so plan ahead for what you want because when they are sold out you have to wait until the next season. My favorite places for tubers and seeds are White Flower Farm and Floret Flower Farm's varieties are simply stunning. If you want to learn more about flower farming read Erin Benzakein's book, Floret's Cut Flower Garden. It is like my bible for gardening on the flower farm. What do you plan on growing more of in 2018? Winter is also a time for dreaming about the fall bulbs you planted. I planted some really neat tulips this fall that I can't wait for spring to enjoy! I am really looking forward to the Angelique double tulips that look like peonies and the frilly parrot feather tulip varieties as well! They will be the stars of my spring bulbs. I plant my tulips closer together and not as deep as the package says because I like how they look clumped together in more of a statement when they come up. The main thing is planting

for where the sunlight is correct when reading your instructions on your flower bulbs or seeds. If you package says full sun, find a full sun spot and they should do just fine! Spacing isn't as big of an issue. Enjoy taking a break from the garden, and have a wonderful holiday season! I would love to answer any questions or if you have any comments please feel free to email me: spruceaveflowers@gmail.com

Thanks for reading my column!

Kristina Hand

Spruce Ave Flowers

Fertile, Iowa



CHRISTMAS CATCUS

Soil: Make sure you're using a quality soil rich in **humus** and other nutrients.

Temperature: During the day, the temperature should be 65 to 70 degrees; at night, 55 to 65 degrees. Buds will drop more quickly with sudden changes in temperature or drafts.

Watering: Keep the soil evenly moist, and mist frequently. Buds will also drop when soil is allowed to dry out.

Light: Allow for moderate light, partial shade, and some direct sun in winter from **eastern** exposure.

Fertilization: Once flower buds form, apply a high-potassium fertilizer (preferably an **organic fertilizer**) every 2 weeks.

Transplantation: Repot your cactus each year after flowering. (I rarely repot mine. Betty)

Yearly Plant Care Schedule for a Christmas Cactus

Spring - Fertilize after flowering.

Summer - Move outdoors to shady area. Maintain water and fertilizer.

Fall - Move indoors before frost. Maintain drier soil. Start the budding regimen in September.

Winter - Put it in a location where it will get four to six hours of indirect sunlight. Keep soil moist. Do not let the air get too dry.

May your Christmas Cactus Bloom during the holiday season

A SLICE OF LIFE

Jean heaved another world-weary sigh. Tucking a strand of shiny black hair behind her ear, she frowned at the teetering tower of Christmas cards waiting to be signed. What was the point? How could she sign only one name? A "couple" required two people, and she was just one. The legal separation from Don had left her feeling vacant and incomplete. Maybe she would skip the cards this year. And the holiday decorating. Truthfully, even a tree felt like more than she could manage. She had canceled out of the caroling party and the church nativity pageant. Christmas was to be shared, and she had no one to share it with.

The doorbell's insistent ring startled her. Padding to the door in her thick socks, Jean cracked it open against the frigid evening night. She peered into the empty darkness of the porch. Instead of a friendly face -- something she could use about now -- she found only a jaunty green gift bag perched on the railing. From whom? she wondered. And why?

Under the bright kitchen light, she pulled out handfuls of shredded gold tinsel, feeling for a gift. Instead, her fingers plucked an envelope from the bottom. Tucked inside was a typed letter. It was a...story?

The little boy was new to the Denmark orphanage, and Christmas was drawing near, Jean read. Already caught up in the tale, she settled into a kitchen chair. From the other children, he heard tales of a wondrous tree that would appear in the hall on Christmas Eve and of the scores of candles that would light its branches. He heard stories of the mysterious benefactor who made it possible each year. The little boy's eyes opened wide at the mere thought of all that splendor. The only Christmas tree he had ever seen was through the fogged windows of other people's homes. There was even more, the children insisted. More? Oh, yes! Instead of the orphanage's regular fare of gruel, they would be served fragrant stew and crusty, hot bread that special night. Last, and best of all, the little boy learned, each of them would receive a holiday treat. He would join the line of children to get his very own....

Jean turned the page. Instead of a continuation, she was startled to read: "Everyone needs to celebrate Christmas, wouldn't you agree? Watch for Part II." She refolded the paper while a faint smile teased the corner of her mouth.

The next day was so busy that Jean forgot all about the story. That evening, she rushed home from work. If she hurried, she'd have enough time to decorate the mantle. She pulled out the box of garland, only to drop it when the doorbell rang. Opening the door, she found herself looking at a red gift bag. She reached for it eagerly and pulled out the piece of paper. ...to get his very own orange, Jean read. An orange? That's a treat? she thought incredulously. An orange! Of his very own? Yes, the others assured him. There would be one apiece. The boy closed his eyes against the wonder of it all. A tree. Candles. A filling meal. And an orange of his very own.

He knew the smell, tangy sweet, but only the smell. He had sniffed oranges at the merchant's stall in the marketplace. Once he had even dared to rub a single finger over the brilliant, pocked skin. He fancied for days that his hand still smelled of orange. But to taste one, to eat one? Heaven.

The story ended abruptly, but Jean didn't mind. She knew more would follow. The next evening, Jean waited anxiously for the sound of the doorbell. She wasn't disappointed. This time, though, the embossed gold bag was heavier than the others had been. She tore into the envelope resting on top of the tissue paper.

Christmas Eve was all the children had been promised. The piney scent of fir competed with the aroma of lamb stew and homey yeast bread. The boy watched in amazement as each child in turn eagerly claimed an orange and politely said "thank you." The line moved quickly, and he found himself in front of the tree and the equally imposing headmaster. "Too bad, young man, too bad. But the count was in before you arrived. It seems there are no more oranges. Next year. Yes, next year you will receive an orange." Brokenhearted, the orphan raced up the stairs empty-handed to bury both his face and his tears beneath his pillow.

Wait! This wasn't how she wanted the story to go. Jean felt the boy's pain, his aloneness.

The boy felt a gentle tap on his back. He tried to still his sobs. The tap became more insistent until, at last, he pulled his head from under the pillow. He smelled it before he saw it. A cloth napkin rested on the mattress. Tucked inside was a peeled orange, tangy sweet. It was made of segments saved from the others. A slice donated from each child. Together they added up to make one whole, complete fruit. An orange of his very own

Jean swiped at the tears trickling down her cheeks. From the bottom of the gift bag she pulled out an orange -- a foil-covered chocolate orange--already separated into segments. And for the first time in weeks, she smiled. Really smiled. She set about making copies of the story, wrapping individual slices of the chocolate orange. There was Mrs. Potter across the street, spending her first Christmas alone in 58 years. There was Melanie down the block, facing her second round of radiation. Her running partner, Jan, single-parenting a difficult teen. Lonely Mr. Bradford losing his eyesight, and Sue, sole care-giver to an aging mother.... A piece from her might help make one whole. -- By Carol McAdoo Rehme

KRAGEL'S CHRISTMAS TREES AND TRADITIONS



WE WILL BE OPEN THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING AND WEEKENDS THERE AFTER TILL SOLD OUT

**SATURDAYS 8-5
SUNDAYS 12-5
OR BY APPOINTMENT**

**2837 325TH STREET CLEAR LAKE
(4 MILES SW OF FERTILE)**

**641-590-2351 OR 641-590-2352
KRAGEL@WCTATEL.NET**

**WE HAVE CHRISTMAS TREES,
WREATHS, GARLAND AND GIFT
SHOP
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

It has been suggested that we have a buy, sell or giveaway column in our Reminder. Is there any interest in this? Please let me know at bettyw@wctatel.net. Or call 641-896-2445

FERTILE DAYS

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER
&
BAKE SALE**



JANUARY 20, 2018

5:00PM - 7:00PM

FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER





Inga Nordaas' Kringla recipe

submitted by Pat Hagen

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick melted margarine(I like to use butter)
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 ½ to 3 cups flour(I use about 2 ¾.)
- 2 t. baking powder
- ½ t. salt
- 1 t. soda
- ¾ cup buttermilk
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ½ t. vanilla and ½ t. lemon flavoring(I like to use almond instead)

Mix sugar and melted butter. Mix in rest of liquid ingredients
 Sift dry ingredients together and add to liquid. Put in fridge overnight or 7 to 8 hours. Make a walnut size ball to roll into a rope and make figure 8. The less flour you can get by with when rolling them out, the better. They will be moister when baked.

Bake at 450 degrees for 7 – 8 minutes on top rack in oven. Watch closely.

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Only in this stupid world.....do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why don't you ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

The woman in front of me at the motor vehicles office was taking an eye test, first with her glasses on, then with them off. "Here's your license," the examiner said when she was done. "But there is a restriction. You need to wear glasses to drive your car." "Honey", she answered, "I need them to find my car."



Even though she's be teaching English for 25 years, my mother never felt her age was an issue, until one day she helped a student with a report on the Vietnam War. Mom recognized the name of a war correspondent mentioned in the textbook and blurted out. "I used to go out with him!" Peering up from his book, another wide eyed student asked, "You dated someone from our history book?"

LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING
641-797-2219

FERTILE, IOWA 50434

LENNOX®

REMINDER POLICY

Suggested Price is\$8.00 a year.

A RED mark on your label means this is your LAST ISSUE. A GREEN mark means you have 1 month left. Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, we DO NOT MAKE UP AND MAIL OUT EXTRA COPIES. The work on the Reminder is done by Volunteers. Editor, Ad and articles: Betty Waddington; Treasurer & Subscriptions, Cindy Peters; proof reader, Joan Norem; fold and label, Evelyn Elthon, Paula Worsley, Sharon Ganz , Marcheta Pederson.



**BURTNESS - LUNDGREN
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.**

Call for all your Plumbing, Heating
& Air Conditioning Needs!

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

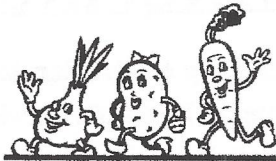
Greg Knopf, owner

HAUGEN LAWN SERVICE

Mowing Seeding Spraying Fertilizing
Thatching sodding garden tilling
Over-seeding

Spring and Fall Clean-up and Snow Removal
24529 Finch Ave., Clear Lake, IA
E-Mail: Knopfdylan@gmail.com
Phone: (641) 590-1977 641-590-5132

FERTILE VALLEY GARDENS



Ron Rachut

641-797-2811 Fertile, IA



Salon Intrigue
210 US Highway 18 West STE C,
Clear Lake, IA

Full service Salon
641-357-3301

HEATHER SCHULZE
Owner/Cosmetologist

OLSON INSURANCE



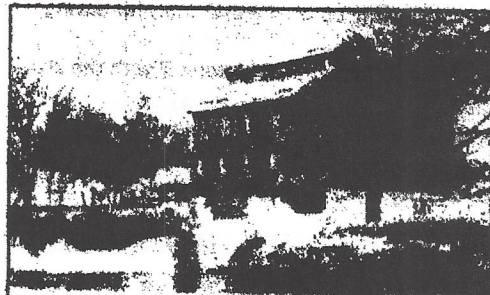
Kory T. Olson
kory@tohins.com
Cell (641) 390-1865

Northwood Office

704 Central Ave., P.O. Box 287
Northwood, IA 50459
(641) 324-2452
Fax (641) 324-1229

Manly Office

103 N. Todd St., P.O. Box 248
Manly, Iowa 50456
(641) 454-2292
Fax (641) 454-2293



*An out-of-the-way, quiet retreat
on the Winnebago River*

For the busy types . . .
quiet, relaxing solitude!

For the quiet types . . .
peace & luxury!

Call year-round for
reservations

Rhodes Mill Retreat

Main Street, Fertile, IA 50434

918-630-9935

www.rhodesmill.com

**MILLER'S DIESEL & AUTO.,
INC.**



DAN MILLER

641-423-1237

**1403 S. TAFT
Mason City, IA**

YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

Roofing - Siding - Gutters

Windows - Insulation

FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATES CALL

641-430-0655

Showroom:

1539 N. Federal - Mason City

LOCALLY OWNED BY

DAN YOUNG/TAMI RAMON YOUNG

ASPHALT PAVING

North Iowa Sand & Gravel, Inc.

- Residential
- Commercial
- Driveway
- Asphalt Paving
- Street
- Asphalt Repair
- Parking Lot
- Crack Filling
- Bike Paths
- Cold Tar Sealing



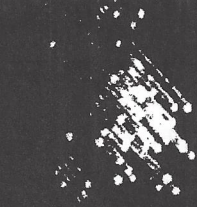
Free Estimates
Locally Owned

Bob Tuttle, Owner

46 years' experience

641-424-5591 • 800-310-5591
18237 Killdeer Ave, Mason City, IA

Winnebago Cooperative
Telecom Association



Voice · Video
Broadband · Wireless



www.wctatel.net
704 E Main · Lake Mills
800.592.6105

FRANKS REPAIR & TOWING, INC

~Full Repair Shop & Tire Service~
~24-Hr Towing & Roadside Service~
~Light, Medium, Heavy Duty Towing~

103 HWY 9
HANLONTOWN, IA M-F 8-5:30
641-896-2200 SAT & NOON

Ouverson Insurance

& Group Benefit Services, Inc.

Neil L. Ouverson, Broker

Betty A. Ouverson, Broker

641-797-2100 Office 746A - 342nd St.

641-797-2101 Fax Hanlontown, IA

888-944-2127 Toll Free 641-430-2170 Cell

Ouverins@wctatel.net

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Celebration Community Church

805 10th Ave. North Clear Lake, Ia 50428

641-357-0026 (Pastor Dan Miller)

Sunday school – 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship – 10:15 a.m.

Praise and Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday – 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study

December 17th – 10:30 a.m. Children's Program

Soup Dinner following program

December 24th – 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Service

FERTILE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pastor Rob Perry

Sunday School - 9:00 AM

Fellowship Time - 9:55 AM

WORSHIP 10:15 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

6:30 - 7:30 PM

MEN AND WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

AALC Rural Forest City

Pastor Robert Snitzer

Worship 9:00 AM

Sunday School 10:15 am

FERTILE LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC

602 W. WASHINGTON. BOX 215

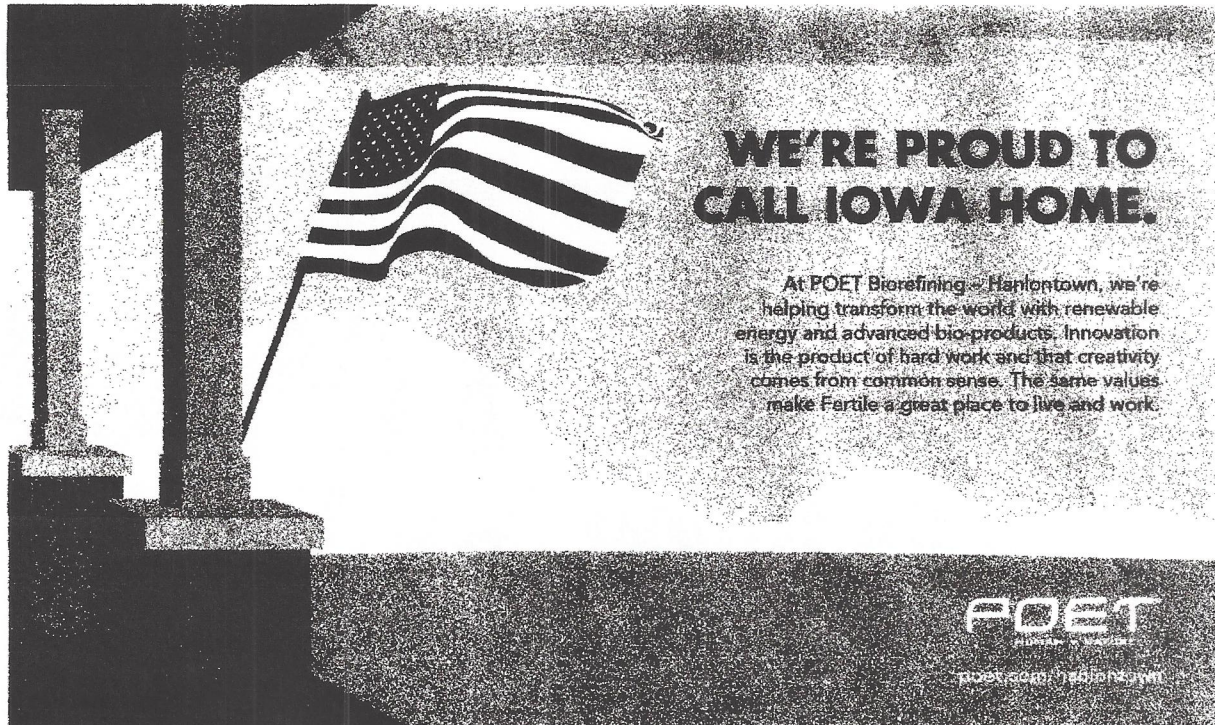
FERTILE, IA 50434

PASTOR DAVID HALVERSON

641-797-2767

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM

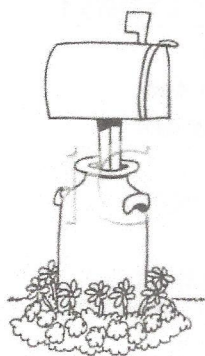


WE'RE PROUD TO CALL IOWA HOME.

At POET Biorefining - Harlontown, we're helping transform the world with renewable energy and advanced bio-products. Innovation is the product of hard work and that creativity comes from common sense. The same values make Fertile a great place to live and work.

POET
POWER OIL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

2150 W. 10th St. Harlontown, IA 50434



Fertile Reminder
Box 62
Fertile, IA 50434

RSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
FERTILE, IA 50434
PERMIT NO. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The "X" in the Mail Box is to remind you that it is time to renew your subscription. An \$8.00 donation is suggested. We hope you have enjoyed the "REMINDER" this past year and want to keep it coming. Send you donation to the above address.

THE FERTILE REMINDER STAFF WISHES YOU

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!

Ron Rachut was very busy with harvest this month so he has no column. You will see his column in the next Reminder which will come out at the end of January. This editor needs time for Christmas so there will be no Reminder in December. Ben and Ellen Miller family will be our featured family in January.