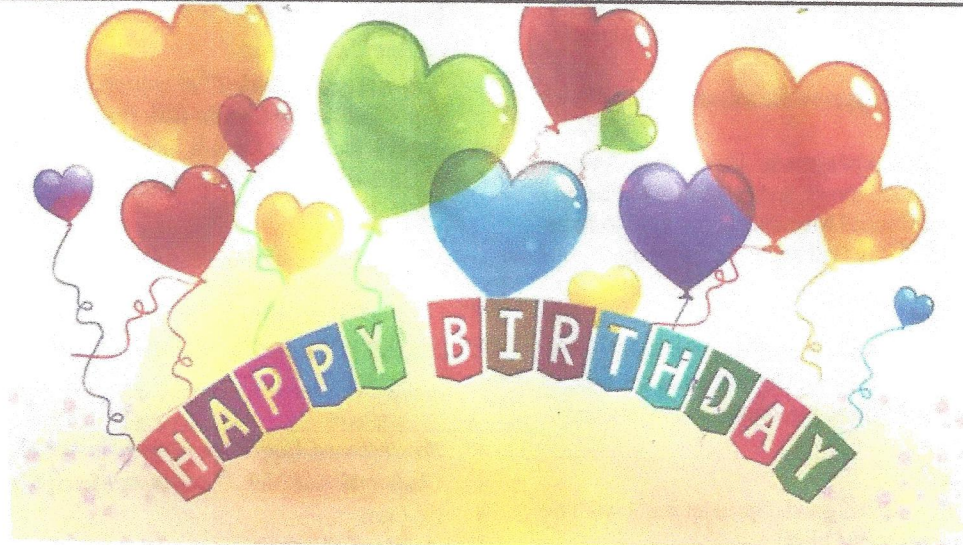


# FERTILE REMINDER

MAY 2018



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, VIOLA ROBERTS

104 years old and still going!! May 31

Happy Birthday, Bob Humphrey 95, May 27

IF you attended Fertile School and did not receive an invitation in the mail to the ALL SCHOOL REUNION to be held in Fertile , June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and you want to attend, send \$20.00 per person to "Harlan Rodberg, 615 Golf Course Rd, Forest City, IA 50434" no later than June 1. Make check payable to Fertile Alumni. Coffee and Social starting at 10:00 am. Catered chicken or porkchops meal at noon.

## May calendar

7 Firemen meet

15 City Council

22 Reminder mailed

8 Garden Club

15 Fertile Girls

HAPPY SPRING!!!

9 REMINDER DEADLINE

16 Reminder E-mailed

10 & 24 Recycle

21 Library Board meets

## City of Fertile

### City Council Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2018 - 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 and Maintenance Manager Steve Roberts.
- *Cindy motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the minutes of the March meeting.* Unanimous
- *Ron motioned, Tad 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.

#### Utility Bill:

- Ryan & Ashley Smith purchased tax certificate for 409 W Main Street. Ryan inquired about the City of Fertile lien on the property. The City of Fertile will continue billing process to current owner.

#### City Maintenance Report:

- Snow plow working OK. Belt is good. Spreader is not working and it is missing some pins on the blade.
- Steve is servicing the mower and getting it ready for spring.
- Steve has been filling some pot holes.
- Lagoon is full and Steve is working on the process of an early draw down due to snow melting.
- *Holly motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the City Maintenance report.* Unanimous

#### Mayor's Report:

- County plow hit pole on 1<sup>st</sup> and Main Street. Joyce is working with the Worth County and Alliant Energy to get this repaired.
- Repeater Antenna on water tower bent over. Joyce notified the Sheriff's office.
- Joyce completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> class for Hazardous Mitigation. These files are now current and the City of Fertile is able to collect FEMA if needed.
- Joyce presented contract for Waste Management to be signed. The City Council would like additional bid from Peterson's in Lake Mills.
- Joyce proposed an Ordinance Amendment for farm animals, the number of animals allowed per resident and immunization.

- Thank you to Ron, Cindy & Holly for attending the WCDA grant session. The City of Fertile received \$6490.50 to update the electricity in the park & \$55302.48 to pave the parking lot at City Hall. THANK YOU WCDA for all your financial support.
- The City Council inquired about a culvert at the driveway of the Community Center to preserve the parking lot. Joyce will be checking with the County Engineer to get this completed.
- City Wide Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am to 12:00am. Appliances no charge.
- *Holly motioned, Tad 2nd to approve the mayor's report.* Unanimous.

#### City Clerk's Report

- *Tad motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve resolution to authorize the City Clerk to Pay Certain Bills Prior to the Council's Meeting.*
- Reports for Fertile Days & Fire Department are current through 02/28/2018. Reports for Garden Club are current through 12/31/2017.

7/1/2017 to 3/31/2018	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	271,137.32	53,975.00	107,947.36	4,562.45	103,924.77	541,546.90
Expense	301,025.48	46,153.68	97,765.31	1,232.48	100,094.46	546,271.41
Total	-29,888.16	7,821.32	10,182.05	3,329.97	3,830.31	-4,724.51
Fund Balance	39,904.40	21.32	56,825.45	4,198.48	132,469.55	233,419.20

- *Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve Financial Report.* Unanimous
- *Cindy motioned, Nick 2nd to approve March Bills.* Unanimous
- No Liens

#### Committee Report:

- Ron is working with Bill Schickel in regards to the Winnebago River trail.
- Ron received estimates on flag poles for city hall. Center pole will be 25 feet and 2 side poles will be 20 feet. They will be black and the America flag will be 5 X 8; Iowa flag 4 X 6 & POW MIA flag will be 4 X 6.
- Cindy presented opportunities for grants in art and culture, community betterment, education, environment, health, historic preservation and human services offered through Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

#### Upcoming Meetings:

- The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, at Fertile City Hall.
- *Holly motioned, Nick 2nd to adjourn the meeting.* Unanimous

#### Summary:

- Resolution to approved payment of bills prior to council meeting.

### Sacred Heart Annual Omelet Breakfast

Manly, IA

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

9 AM - 1 PM

\$50.00 Cash Door Prize

Bake Sale

Adults: \$7.00 - Children (4 -10): \$4.00

Preschoolers: Free

Wendy Lunning, City Clerk

**City of Fertile  
Deposits  
As of March 31, 2018**

Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
03/01/2018	Property Taxes	1,434.44
03/01/2018	(L) Property Taxes	35.75
03/05/2018	Casino Funds Deposit	2,408.60
03/07/2018	Utility Deposit	522.37
03/14/2018	Utility Deposit	157.44
03/16/2018	Lien Payment Deposit	362.75
03/16/2018	Utility Deposit	3,417.92
03/16/2018	(L) Library Taco Supper & Silent Auction Deposit	1,653.00
03/20/2018	Road Use Tax	1,745.48
03/21/2018	Clerkbooks Deposit	0.00
03/21/2018	Utility Deposit	335.04
03/21/2018	Facility Rental Deposit	100.00
03/21/2018	Farm to Market Deposit	2,446.25
03/21/2018	Utility Deposit	3,567.98
03/23/2018	(L) Library Deposit	10.00
03/23/2018	(L) Library Fundraiser Deposit	329.00
03/26/2018	Utility Deposit	451.58
03/26/2018	Utility Deposit	3,592.09
03/29/2018	Local Option Sales Tax	2,299.61
03/31/2018	Interest	19.79
Total Operating Accounts		24,889.09

Roads Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	03/31/2018	In	0.58
Total Savings			0.58
Total Roads Revenue Accounts			0.58
Water Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	03/31/2018	In	2.87
Total Savings			2.87
Total Water Revenue Accounts			2.87
Sewer Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	03/31/2018	In	2.51
Total Savings			2.51
CD			107.52
Deposit	03/18/2018	In	107.52
Total CD			107.52
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			110.03
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>25,002.57</b>

**City of Fertile  
Bills Paid**

As of March 31, 2018

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
<b>Operating Accounts</b>					
<b>Checking</b>					
Check	03/02/2018	EFT	Citibusiness Card	(L) Books, CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs, Magazines, Interest	-407.96
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8516	CarQuest	Wiper Blades Pick Up	-44.64
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8517	Five Star CO-OP	Gas for Truck	-206.48
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8518	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8519	Iowa Communities Assurance Pool v Johansen Welding Construction	Insurance	-13,012.16
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8520	Kramer Ace Hardware	Replace cutting edge on skid bucket.	-260.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8521	Waste Management	Ice Melt	-34.99
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8522	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-34.34
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8523	Waste Management	Garbage & Recycling Services	-202.93
Paycheck	03/07/2018	8524	Bruns, Warren	Water & Sewer Supervisor	-2,303.83
Paycheck	03/07/2018	8527	Lunning, Wendy S	City Clerk	-301.39
Paycheck	03/07/2018	8528	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-585.89
Paycheck	03/07/2018	8526	Russell, Joyce	City Administrator - Donated 18 hours	-1,046.08
Paycheck	03/07/2018	8529	First Security Bank & Trust	City Administrator - Donated 18 hours	-1,123.72
Check	03/07/2018	EFT	Alliant Energy	Main Street Loan	-3,038.15
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8531	Bell's Fire Stop, Inc.	Electric	-1,889.91
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8532	Marco	Annual Inspection Fire Extinguisher	-56.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8533	Northwood Anchor, Inc.	Copier, Printer, Fax	-113.60
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8534	Verizon Wireless	Legal - Budget Hearing	-119.61
Bill Pmt -Check	03/07/2018	8535		Cell Phone	-80.00

Bill Pmt -Check	03/12/2018	8530	Worth County	Lien Payment for Daniel Franks	-362.75
Check	03/14/2018	8536	Treasurer	Refundable Utility Deposit	-150.00
Check	03/14/2018	8537	Gilbert, Jacob	Refundable Utility Deposit	-150.00
Liability Check	03/14/2018	EFT	Rogers, Lori		-289.26
Liability Check	03/14/2018	EFT	IPERS		-825.47
Check	03/18/2018	EFT	IPERS		-41.99
Bill Pmt -Check	03/20/2018	8538	WCTA	(L) Telephone	-12,298.08
Paycheck	03/21/2018	8539	Quality Pump & Control	New Sewer Pump	-1,046.08
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8540	Roberts, Stephen J	City Maintenance	-74.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8541	Black Hills Energy	(L) Library	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8542	AgSource Laboratories	Water Testing	-122.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8543	Alliant Energy	(L) Electric	-249.27
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8544	Baker & Taylor	(L) Books & CDs	-750.89
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8545	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-103.37
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8546	Demco	(L) Bookmarks, Reading Records, Stickers, Posters, Folders, Bulletin Board Decor, Vinyl Backdrop...	-61.11
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8547	Menards	Molding for Maintenance Garage & Flags	-72.87
Bill Pmt -Check	03/21/2018	8548	MicroMarketing	(L) Books & CDs	-1,282.74
Paycheck	03/21/2018	8549	Worth County Engineer v	Fuel and Salt & Sand mix	-133.24
Paycheck	03/21/2018	8550	Arndt, Linda J	(L) Assistant Director	-135.14
Paycheck	03/21/2018	8551	Knudson, Loni	(L) Clerk	-1,084.16
Check	03/23/2018	TRANSFER	Thompson, Angela M	(L) Librarian	-63.64
Check	03/26/2018	DEBIT	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	-37.50
Bill Pmt -Check	03/26/2018	8553	Glen's Tire Service, Inc.	Repair Skid Loader Tire	-375.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/26/2018	8554	WebWise Solutions Inc.	Web Hosting	-31.56
Liability Check	03/29/2018	EFT	Menards	Sealbest Pothole Patch	-1,162.78
Check	03/29/2018	Inv 8742	United States Treasury		0.00
Check	03/30/2018	ACH	Hare Electric	(L) Books, CDs, Supplies, Programs, DVDs, Magazines, Interest	-882.57
Check	03/30/2018	DEBIT	Citibusiness Card	Mouse	-5.99
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8559	Staples	3/4 Roadstone	-232.35
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8560	BMC Aggregates L.C.	Parts for Mower	-18.78
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8561	CarQuest		-3,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8562	Fertile Days	Fertile Contribution	-70.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8563	Fertile Garden Club	Beautification of Fertile 2018	-20.12
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8564	Floyd & Leonard Auto Electric, Inc.	Filter for Mower	-20.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8564	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-2,338.17
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8566	Waste Management	Garbage & Recycling Services	-202.16
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8567	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-21.80
Bill Pmt -Check	03/31/2018	8568	Wendy Lunning - v	Mileage (40 miles @ .545 per mile)	0.00
Check	03/31/2018	TRANSFER		TRANSFER \$17880.00 from Restricted USDA class to Sewer class a/c loan paid in full.	-52,600.02
Total Checking					-52,600.02
<b>Petty Cash</b>					
Check	03/05/2018	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V		-75.00
Check	03/23/2018	TRANSFER	Petty Cash	Petty Cash Reimbursement	63.64
Check	03/28/2018	TRANSFER	Fertile Public Library V		-63.64
Total Petty Cash					-75.00
Total Operating Accounts					-52,675.02
<b>Roads Revenue Accounts</b>					
<b>Savings</b>					
Total Savings					
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>-52,675.02</b>



**Randy Steinkamp**, age 53, of Sac City, IA, passed away at Unity Point Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge, IA on Monday, March 26, 2018. Randy was born on May 5, 1964, to parents Dale and Ruth (Venner) Steinkamp at St. Anthony Regional Hospital

in Carroll, IA. He grew up near the Carroll area and attended Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Mt. Carmel and graduated from Kuemper Catholic High school in Carroll in 1983. Randy lived in Fertile at one time.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife Barbara Steinkamp ( who died on April 11 a few days after Randy); mother Ruth Steinkamp of Carroll, IA; brothers Bob(Julie) Steinkamp of Arcadia, IA, Kevin (Marie) Steinkamp of Logan, IA; sister Cathy (John) Vonnahme of Arcadia, IA; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and extended family members and friends.

#### FACTS FROM THE PAST

A reader sent a note and mentioned the businesses that were present in **Fertile in 1976**. These are taken from the book MORE ABOUT FERTILE 1976 book. That seems like yesterday, doesn't it?? Time does fly and places do change. The facts of these businesses at that time will be printed in the next few months. See how many you can remember!

*"Larson Plumbing and Heating opened for business in a new building in June 1957, after having been in partnership with Fertile Hardware for 4 years.*

*To start with the business offererd complete commercial and residential plumbing, heating and wiring. In later years the electrical business was sold.*

*This year this business incorporated and continues with the mechanical and a small amount of excavating."*

This business is still very active and employs many people.

**SPRING IT TRYING TO MAKE A COMEBACK IN IOWA!!!**

#### DID YOU KNOW? .....

The Worth County Historical Society was established July 4, 1973 and located in the former Courthouse, High school, and library building on the corner of Highway 105 (Central Ave) and Highway 65. The purpose of this organization is to keep alive an active interest in Worth County history by publications and program. The organization is now responsible for 14 different sites throughout Worth County. We invite you to visit all of them. Watch for more information in the near future.

Our sites include:

**Northwood:** Main Museum, Machinery Museum, Swensrud School, Pixley Log House, Old Creamery Museum, Stromstein Building and Hotel Winifred.

**Fertile:** Chapel Hill Museum

**Grafton:** Heritage Depot

**Kensett:** Community Church Museum and log cabin.

**Hanlontown:** Citizen's Saving Bank Museum and the Sime-Oswald Log Cabin

**Bolan:** Bolan Schoolhouse and Cultural Center

#### Did You Know?

(Written by Ann Hendrickson, WCHS President)

You are invited to the Olson Room connected to the library 906 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. S, Northwood, IA on May 17, 2018, 7:00 PM for a special program about Norwegian Immigration given by Vesterheim Museum, Decorah, IA. This event is sponsored by the Vesterheim Museum and Worth County Historical Society. Refreshments will be provided. Save the Date!!!

Of special interest will be a series of Iowa Immigration banners. "In Trunks, Hands, and Hearts: "What Immigrants Bring to Iowa" is a traveling exhibition developed and organized by the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum with the support of the Humanities Iowa, the National Endowment for the Humanities and Edwin R. and Joan T Hemphill. The banners will be on display at the main museum in Northwood at 917 Central Ave, May 7<sup>th</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be open Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2:00-4:00 PM to view the banners or by appointment. Call 641-390-1160.

The main Museum will be open on Sundays starting May 27, 2018, 2:00-4:00 PM. Come visit your Worth County History.



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 Time

**May 4 @ 7 pm**

This month we will be enjoying the new movie Peter Rabbit. As always popcorn will be provided and non-red covered drinks are allowed. Get in your cozy clothes and join us!

### Hallmark Movie Monday

**May 14 @ 2 pm**

Come join us for a hallmark movie, coffee and treats. Kick back and relax and enjoy a spring romance.

### Downstairs @ Downton

**May 19 @ 1 pm**

Come join us for a program to learn more about the households and times represented by Downton Abbey and enjoy an afternoon tea. Please call the library to register, or send a message on facebook. There is no cost to this program.

## featuring New Fiction

Awake - Natasha Preston  
The disappeared - C. J. Box  
The Bishop's pawn - Steve berry  
I've got my eyes on you -  
Mary Higgins Clark  
Red Alert - James Patterson

## featuring New DVDs

The Handmaid's Tale: Season 1  
Star Wars: The Last Jedi  
Cook-off  
Pitch Perfect 3  
Victoria & Abdul

## Summer Programs for Adults

The library will be offering programs for Adults this summer, including a reading program and craft afternoons. Keep watching for more deatails to come!

## The Lewis Varberg Family



Dick

My parents (Lewis Martin Varberg and Esther Margarite Elthon) were married in 1926. My father was the son of Ole and Martha Varberg who had immigrated to America from the island of Rennesoy, Stavanger, Norway in the 1870s. They had purchased a 55-acre farm in the northeast corner of Hancock County. There they struggled to make a decent living as their farm was not very productive. They even had difficulty feeding their nine children. In the winter months food consisted primarily of potatoes and salt pork. My father was next to the youngest and when his older siblings left home it was his responsibility to manage the farm. His father had died at a young age. He later was able to buy an 80 acre farm of his own one mile east of what he called "the home place." He was forced, however, to sell off 20 acres of this farm to reduce his payments. It was on this farm that I and my siblings grew up.



Olena & Andrew

My mother was born October 22, 1896 the daughter of Andrew Anders Elthon and Olena Petrina (Overson) Elthon. Andrew had immigrated from Valdres, Norway at age ten together with his widowed mother. Olena was born in Daleyville, Wisconsin, to a family whose forbears had immigrated to America in 1843 from Kviteseid in Telemark, Norway. My grandmother, Olena, later traveled west with her parents (Halvor Ouverson and Ingeaborg Dokken) in a covered wagon and settled in Fertile, Iowa. Grandma, Olena, was able to get enough education to qualify as a country school teacher and taught school for a time in Grafton North Dakota where she met grandpa, Andrew. They fell in love and were married and after an unsuccessful stint at farming in Minnesota moved back to Olena's hometown of Fertile. In 1896 they opened Elthon's Grocery and Dry Goods Store. This store was operated successfully by Grandpa until he sold it to his son Thelan in 1976. Thelan continued to successfully operate it until he retired. Most of you readers will remember it as "Elthon's Store." The old Elthon Store building is the present restaurant building. Saturday nights were always a big night for business in Fertile as we farmers all went to town to "trade." "Trading" meant we brought our eggs to the store and slid them in cases down the chute into the basement for grading. We then used the proceeds to buy the groceries etc. that we needed. Saturday night was also bath night. For many this was the only bath during the week! I am told that some Norwegians sewed their long johns on in the fall and didn't take them off until spring.

Grandma and Grandpa had six children: Mabel, Ada, Esther, Leo, Ruth and Thelan. My mother was third in line. She was a very intelligent woman. She graduated from Lake Mills High School as Fertile's High School only went through tenth grade. Mother graduated as valedictorian. After high school she attended normal school at Cedar Falls, Iowa which certified her as an elementary school teacher. For two years she taught eight grades in a one room school house, but then decided she would rather work in her father's store. There she developed a reputation for efficiency particularly in adding up long columns of two and three-digit numbers in her head (no cash registers or adding machines in those day).



Lewis & Esther

When or where my father and mother got to know each other I do not know. It may be Dad met her in the store or perhaps at the Lutheran Free Church west of Fertile on highway 9. At any rate, I am sure that they met during special meetings which were held in 1916-17 in this church as both of them were quick to acknowledge that their lives had been radically changed when they accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior under the preaching of Nicolai Lorensen. During Lorensen's meetings all of my mother's siblings were also genuinely converted and became

part of the group that met in various homes in the area as they were no longer welcomed in the Free Church. When that group outgrew the available homes they met in the hay loft of the old livery stable which Uncle Leo had purchased and was using the ground floor to make pickles. For a period of time the group was called the "Pickle Bunch." I remember attending Sunday school in the loft and I still have one of the milk-stools made by the Fertile Lumber Co. that we kids sat on. Eventually this group purchased the old Fertile School building that had been moved to Main Street and became known as the Fertile Gospel Mission.

My parents did not marry until 1926. By that time my father was 34 years old and mother was 29. They established a truly Christian home where daily devotions and the reading of the Bible were central. We three boys (Dale, Dick, and Boyd) were taught to not only read the Bible daily but to memorize large portions of it. I remember during the summer vacation months we could not have a desert at meals unless we could quote a newly memorized Bible verse. We never thought of missing Sunday and Wednesday night services in the "Mission." I remember that all schools recognized Wednesday night as church night and no school activities were allowed to complete with church programs. We boys learned to handle money by being given a weekly allowance. We were given a penny for every year of age. We were expected to tithe from our allowance and if we ran out of money before the week was over---too bad. We had to learn to budget. The one way we could get more money was to earn it. For example, we got a penny a row for pulling weeds out of the corn field. I also earned ten cents a week for riding my bike three miles to Fertile and mowing my grandfather's large lawn.

Dad was a good farmer and in his younger years was quite progressive. In 1935 he was the first in our area to sell all his horses and to rely solely on his new F12 Farmall Tractor. He, however, did not buy other modern machinery to go with it. He just modified the previously horse drawn machinery by shortened the steering tongues and pulled them behind the tractor. We never sold our grain but fed it instead to the cows, pigs, sheep, goats and chickens which we raised. Through hard work and careful management, Dad was eventually able to buy his parent's farm from his siblings and also the 100 acre Elthon farm on highway 9 just west of Fertile. We were the first in our area to have electric lights. The electricity was provided by our own Delco Remy 32 volt power plant Dad had installed in the cellar of our house. It had two rows of storage batteries which needed charging every week. We had no luxuries but always had plenty of good food. We had a large garden and many fruit trees. Each year mother would can hundreds of quarts of all kinds of fruits and vegetables. We would also slaughter a steer, a hog or two, and many chickens all of which she also canned. I remember one time when we were snowed in for six weeks but still had plenty of food. The only things we needed to purchase were salt, pepper and sugar which Uncle Thelan brought to the corner of Highway 9 and Dad fetched on skis.

We three boys did well in school. Both Dale and I graduated from Fertile High as valedictorians. Boyd took his last year at Hill Crest Academy in Fergus Falls, MN. All of us went on to at least eight more years of education.



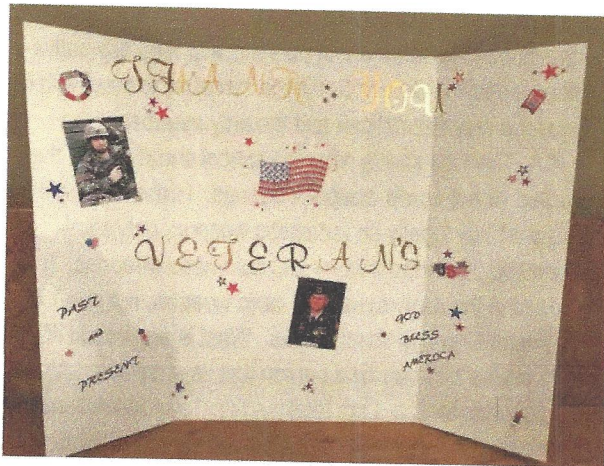
Dale

Dale got a Phd in mathematics from the University of MN and became the head of the Math Department at Hamline University where he received many honors. He also authored about 25 text books – some of which became best sellers. I graduated from Waldorf Junior College, Bethel College and Bethel Seminary. I was honored by Waldorf with the Alumni Distinguished Service Award and later by Bethel Seminary as the Alum of the Year in 2012. My wife Elenor and I served for 40 years as missionaries in the Philippines and I have written two books that tell of God's wonderful blessings on our work. Boyd graduated from Moody Bible Institute, Bethel College and also attended

Trinity Seminary. He did pastor a couple of churches but spent most of his career as a social worker in St Paul, MN. He passed away two years ago. All three of us boys are proud to be from Fertile and are thankful for the training and character building we received here.



## FERTILE DAYS REQUEST



Fertile Days is looking for pictures of anyone who has served in the military for our poster. Be sure to put the person's name on the back of the picture and name of person who it needs to be returned to. Fertile Day's Facebook page has a picture of the poster we will be using. Thank you

### GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club met on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center with 14 members present. Roll call was "What are you looking forward to the most in your garden this year." Tomatoes were the number one answer!!

Dr. Ajay Nair, vegetable expert from Iowa State University was our speaker and spoke on starting vegetables in the winter. He gave much helpful advice on when to start, how to start and what are the best seeds to start. Dennis Johnson, our extension director accompanied him.

Our flower buying trip is scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be to Elma. We are to be thinking of what to plant in the big pots on Main Street. The weeding schedule was passed around and we signed up for 2 weeks each.

Carol Jara gave the thought for the day. Hostesses were Deb Berg and Diane Miller.



## Letter to the editor

I enjoy keeping up with the Fertile news, you ladies do a very good job. Gladys Humphrey.

Ladies - It's been a pleasant winter in Mesa, AZ and we've enjoyed our stay, but its almost time to return to Iowa. Travel is easier, since we fly, but still a long day for two old people. We have enjoyed the Fertile Reminder additions here. Thanks to the people for the extra special articles and the good memories that they bring to mind. Appreciate very much. I don't think I've seen Neil Kuns since I left Fertile 65 years ago, and it's hard to think of his hands being that wrinkled - until I look at mine! Mary Myers

Hi Ladies: Just received my "Reminder" noticed the red X!! Guess I missed the green one last month. Please renew my subscription for another year! I loved the story on "Camp Rock". We played many cowboy and Indian games on and around it. There was a square-headed nail in a crack of the rock. Jack told me the Indians had put it there. Now maybe they did and maybe not, but Jack had me convinced it was true. Keep up the great work Ladies, it is much appreciated by everyone. Thanks, Ver Lynn Austin

Karen Jurgens; Thank you for keeping me updated on all of the happenings in Fertile. Appreciate all you do. Please renew plus donation.

Fertile Reminder Ladies, Thanks again for a newsy letter from Fertile. Pat Tuttle

From the Editor: Those of you who do not send us a forward for your winter mail, it gets costly for the Reminder. We are charged \$.75 cents for each Reminder returned. Please remember to do this!!!



## Creamy Asparagus Soup

By Mark Hyman, Yield: 6 Servings  
Prep: 10 mins Cook: 25 mins

- 1 Tablespoon Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 3 Cloves Garlic minced
- 1 Head Cauliflower cut into small florets
- 2.5 Pounds Asparagus trimmed
- 1/4 Teaspoon Cayenne Pepper
- 1 Pinch Sea Salt
- 1 Pinch Freshly Ground Black Pepper
- 6 Cups Low-Sodium Vegetable or Chicken Broth or Water

Heat the oil in a medium pot over medium-high heat. After a minute, add the garlic and cook for 1 minute.

Put the cauliflower and asparagus in the pot, add the cayenne pepper, and season to taste with salt and black pepper. Cook for 4–5 minutes, stirring frequently.

Pour in the broth and bring the soup to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer until the cauliflower is fully cooked, 5–8 minutes.

Carefully transfer the soup to a blender and blend on high speed until smooth, about 2 minutes. (Or use a handheld immersion blender to purée the soup directly in the pot.) Taste for seasoning and adjust with salt and black pepper if needed. The soup should be thick but still light. If it is too thick, thin it with a little more broth or water. Any leftover soup can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days or in the freezer for up to 6 months.

**IF YOU LIVE IN IOWA, BE PATIENT,  
ASPARAGUS WILL SOON BE GROWING!!!**

## THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

I bought a used produce washer on an online auction at Grant, Michigan. I paid a little more than I wanted too, but it will be a real time saver. I still need to go out and get it. Not a big deal, I like going to Michigan.

I mentioned last letter about meeting with Representative Bloomingdale on March 5. Of the five of us to meet with her, I was the only Republican and the only member of the N.R.A. This was shortly after the school shooting and they wanted all automatic weapons banned. I informed them that you can't buy legally an automatic weapon, only semi-automatic. Only the military has automatic weapons. (I learned in the Army to use the word weapon, not gun.) Then they wanted to ban assault rifles. What is an assault rifle? A 22 caliber rifle can kill a person just as easy as an AK-15. My personal feeling. I am totally against any restrictions on our second amendments rights for two reasons. First, they wouldn't work. Criminals will get what they want. (You can get anything for a price.) Second, I have zero trust in the leftists. Their goal is to destroy our national constitution. By chipping away at our second amendments rights, they are trying to destroy our constitution. This would also destroy our first amendment rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Sadly, these two, in parts or our country, are already being attacked.

Another topic was hog confinement buildings. Jane informed us that much of where they are located is done by state officials. They say yes or no depending on many factors. By the time it gets to the county supervisors, they don't have much choice except to say yes. My feeling is in the middle. I don't like the units, but I understand young people need them in order to survive in farming.) So I will say much like Café Mir, the consumer dollar will dictate. If a person says they hate the units, then goes to Fareway and fills their cart with bacon, ham and pork chops, their consumer dollar has said, yes, we want them. About 5% of the pork is not confinement raised. If you like pork, but don't like confinement houses, then buy the other at a higher price. It is your dollar. If you are really against them, don't eat pork at all. Remember, the Jewish and Muslims get along fine not eating pork. Make Chris Hagen happy and eat beef. (This is my preferred red meat. Fish, like trout, is still top).

More next month. I will have to get it written before going to the field. Make Betty happy.

Until next time, thank a farmer for the food on your plate. Thank a vet for the freedoms we all enjoy. And above all, thank God for the blessings He has given you.



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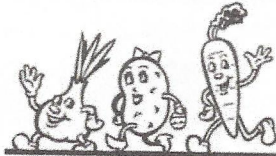
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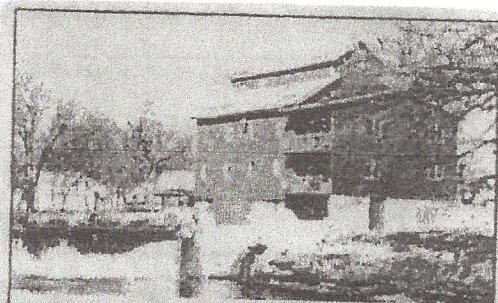
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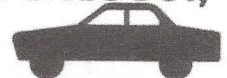
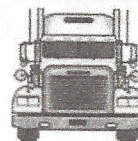
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Lexophile is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", or "to write with a broken pencil is pointless." A competition to see who can come up with the best lexophiles is held every year. Here are this year's 2017 winning submissions:

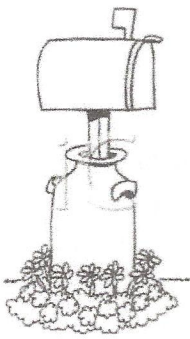
When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.  
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.  
When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.  
The batteries were given out free of charge.  
A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.  
A will is a dead giveaway.  
With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.  
A boiled egg is hard to beat.  
When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.  
Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.  
Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.  
A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.  
When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.  
The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.  
He had a photographic memory which was never developed.  
When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she'd dye.  
Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.  
And finally: Those who get too big for their britches will be totally exposed in the end.



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#### **Fertile Church of Christ**

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