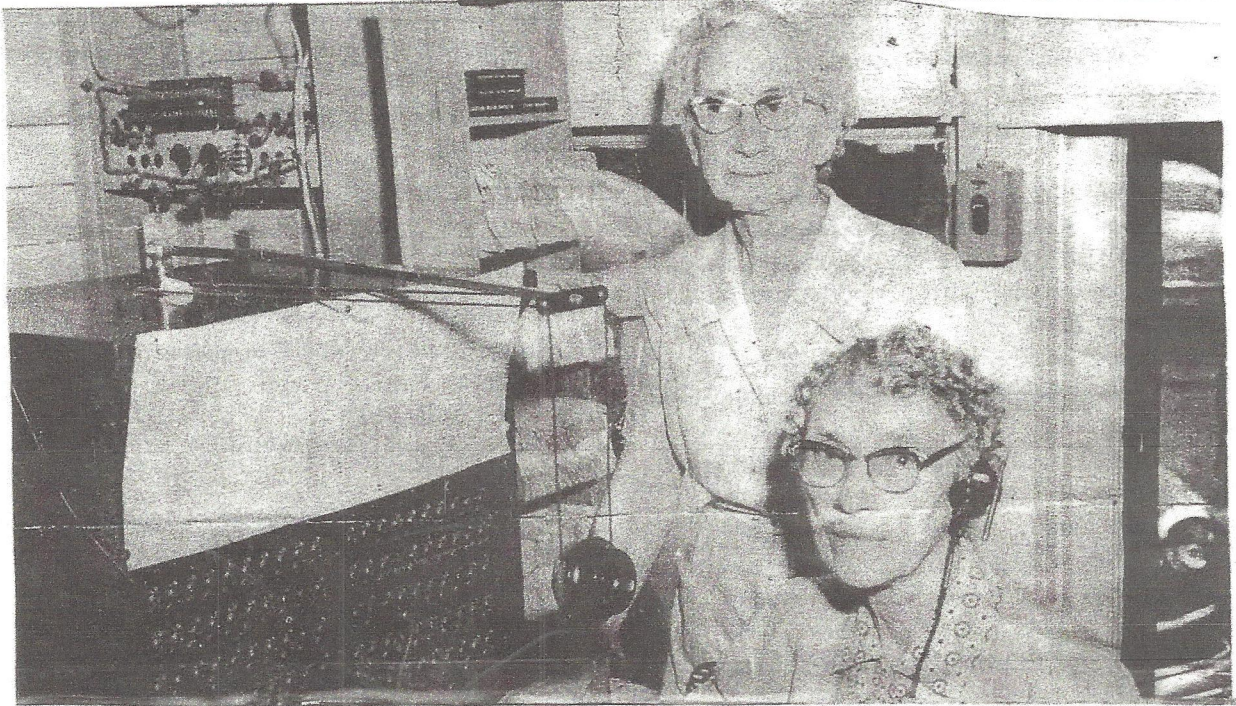


FERTILE REMINDER

MAY 2017

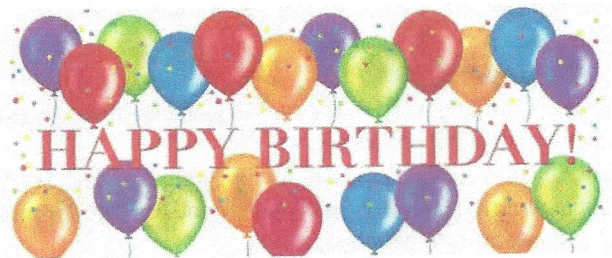


PERSONAL SERVICE at the Fertile Mutual Telephone Co. switchboard by these two ladies will become history next year when Fertile receives dial service as a result of the sale of the Fertile company to the Winnebago Cooperative Telephone association. Aimee Nye, standing, and Myna Smith have 54 years of service between them to the Fertile community at the switchboard.

Thanks to Cheryl Kapka for this article.

MAY CALENDAR

- 1 Firemen Meet
- 9 Garden Club
- 10 Reminder Deadline
- 11 & 25 Recycle
- 15 Library Board Meets
- 16 Fertile Girls Meet
- 16 City Council
- 17 Email Reminder sent
- 23 Reminder mailed



HAPPY 103 RD BIRTHDAY

VIOLA ROBERTS

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call:

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

Ordinances – Utility Rate:

- Tad motioned, Nick 2nd to accept Resolution 17-4-8-1 to update the Utility Billing charges for the City of Fertile Municipal Code of Ordinances.** Unanimous
- Ron motioned, Tad 2nd to waive the 2nd & 3rd reading of the ordinances.** Unanimous

City Maintenance Report:

- Steve has been working with Hare electric on trenching & updating the Electricity on Main Street. A WCDA grant valued at \$24,889.20.
- New sidewalks are going in on Main Street. A WCDA grant valued at \$59,940.00.
- The lagoon was getting full. Steve contacted the DNR for early draw down of lagoon and was approved.
- Drainage tile needs some repairs. Steve will need to regulate flow of lagoon to prevent from going into ditch until it is fixed.
- The water pumps need repair due to vandalism. Joyce reported to sheriff's office and filed a claim with ICAP for replacement pump and to rebuild the second pump.
- Holly motioned, Nick 2nd to approve maintenance report.** Unanimous

Mayor's Report:

- Joyce is working with Sheriff's office & John Greve's regarding excessive barking ordinances.
- A cracked street light pole was found during the Main Street updates. Joyce is working with Alliant and has filed a claim with ICAP insurance to get this replaced.
- Sign Up for Fertile Little League. Contact Tim and Kim Severson with any questions. tkseverson@wctatel.net or call 641-797-2333.
- John Greve's is working on vehicles parked on the City of Fertile easement on North side of river. Vehicles appeared to be abandon and were not licensed. Vehicles have since been towed and are impounded.
- City Wide cleanup has been scheduled for June 24th 8:00 – 12:30. There will be more information coming.
- Joyce is working on bids for blacktop at City Hall/Community Center parking lot.

- The City of Fertile received the following WCDA grants on April 17, 2017.

City's Bronze Statue	\$15,622.00
Playground Equipment	\$38,353.00
Fertile Fire Department	\$60,582.00

Total grant cycle funds that were given to the City of Fertile from WCDA Board & Diamond Jo Casino from 2006 to 2016 are \$1,170,459.12. Additional funds were given for economic development, education, city celebrate, and monthly contribution, etc. A huge "thank you" for all you have done.

- Thank you for Fertile Fire Department for burning river banks and dike in park.
- Candidates up for 2017 Election in November:
 - Mayor – Joyce Russell
 - Council – Tad Miller
 - Council – Nick Bailey
 - Council – Holly Lovik-Hanna
- Tad motioned, and Nick 2nd to approve the mayor's report.** Unanimous.

City Clerk's Report

- Library current through 2/28/2017.
- Cindy motioned, Nick 2nd to approve Financial Report.** Unanimous
- Ron motioned, Holly 2nd to approve March Bills.** Unanimous
- No Liens

Committee Report:

7/1/2016 3/31/2017	General	WCDA	Roads	EE Benefits	Utilities	Total
Income	225,523.80	3,000.00	36,678.61	1,060.66	81,446.53	347,729.50
Expense	221,163.34	3,000.00	19,458.87	0.00	98,960.73	342,583.14
Total	4,360.16	0.00	17,219.74	1,060.66	-17,494.20	5,146.36
Fund Balance	42,694.24	0.00	40,880.55	1,060.66	125,592.02	210,227.47

- Ron announced WinWorth Betco meeting has been postponed.
- #### Upcoming Meetings:
- The Fertile City Council will meet for special meeting at 7:00 PM, Monday May 1, 7:00pm.
 - The Fertile City Council will meet for regular session at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 at Fertile City Hall.
 - Nick moved and Cindy 2nd to adjourn the meeting.** Unanimous



City of Fertile Bills Paid

As of March 31, 2017

Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts					
Checking					
Paycheck	03/01/2017	8037	Bruns, Warren		-301.39
Paycheck	03/01/2017	8038	Lunning, Wendy S		-545.24
Paycheck	03/01/2017	8039	Russell, Joyce		-1,261.96
Bill Pmt -Check	03/01/2017	8040	Lonnie Knudson	Community Center Cleaning	-60.00
Check	03/01/2017	8050	Fertile Public Library V	Enrich Iowa	-1,060.51
Check	03/06/2017	DEBIT	Bass Pro Shop	Boots	-148.39
Paycheck	03/08/2017	8041	Roberts, Stephen J		-1,126.51
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8042	AgSource Laboratories Iowa Communities Assurance	Water Testing	-13.50
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8043	Pool v	Insurance	-12,945.21
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8044	Kramer Ace Hardware	Carbon Monoxide Detector	-13.98
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8045	Manly Fire & Rescue	Accessories for Defibulator	-220.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8046	Menards	Wire, Gloves, Bolts, Pins, Washer.	-101.59
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8047	Pronto	Truck	-170.96
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8048	Waste Management		-2,197.08
Bill Pmt -Check	03/08/2017	8049	WCTA	Telephone/Internet	-196.66
Liability Check	03/15/2017	7975	IPERS		-750.56
Bill Pmt -Check	03/15/2017	8051	Alliant Energy	Electric Bill	-1,827.42
Bill Pmt -Check	03/15/2017	8052	Hawkins, Inc.	Chlorine Cylinder	-10.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/15/2017	8053	Marco	Copier, Printer, Fax	-97.21
Bill Pmt -Check	03/15/2017	8054	Menards	Accoustic Panels	-76.42
Bill Pmt -Check	03/15/2017	8055	USA Blue Book	Water & Sewer Sample Bottles	-171.17
Bill Pmt -Check	03/15/2017	8056	Verizon Wireless	Cell Phone	-65.10
Liability Check	03/16/2017	EFT	United States Treasury		-1,058.76
Paycheck	03/22/2017	8057	Roberts, Stephen J		-912.51
Bill Pmt -Check	03/22/2017	8058	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-526.63
Check	03/23/2017	DEBIT	USPS	Postage	-104.00
Check	03/24/2017	DEBIT	Staples	Calculator Ink and Typewriter correction tape.	-17.98
Bill Pmt -Check	03/29/2017	8059	BMC Aggregates L.C.	3/4" Roadstone	-222.97
Bill Pmt -Check	03/29/2017	8060	Fertile Days	Donation from WCDA	-3,000.00
Bill Pmt -Check	03/29/2017	8061	WebWise Solutions Inc.	Web Hosting	-360.00
Total Checking					-29,563.71
Petty Cash					
Total Petty Cash					
Total Operating Accounts					-29,563.71
Roads Revenue Accounts					
Savings					
Total Savings					
Total Roads Revenue Accounts					
TOTAL					-29,563.71

- **Sign Up for Fertile Little League. Contact Tim and Kim Severson with any questions. tkseverson@wctatel.net or call 641-797-2333.**

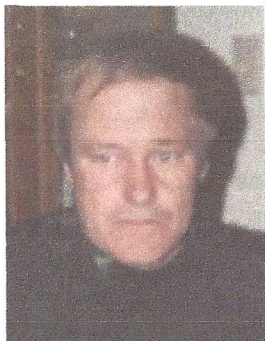
Deposits

As of March 31, 2017

Type	Date	Memo	Accrual Basis Amount
Operating Accounts			
Checking			
Deposit	03/01/2017	Utility Deposit	2,996.16
Deposit	03/03/2017	Casino Funds Deposit	2,643.00
Deposit	03/08/2017	Refund Deposit	1,300.00
Deposit	03/08/2017	Utility Deposit	3,461.02
Deposit	03/08/2017	Fax Deposit	5.00
Deposit	03/08/2017	Incubator Deposit	403.86
Deposit	03/08/2017	Refundable Utility Deposit	150.00
Deposit	03/15/2017	Utility Deposit	159.61
Deposit	03/15/2017	Fines Deposit	105.24
Deposit	03/15/2017	Utility Deposit	2,729.67
Deposit	03/21/2017	Road Use Tax	1,931.69
Deposit	03/22/2017	Utility Deposit	361.74
Deposit	03/22/2017	Utility Deposit	1,768.98
Deposit	03/24/2017	Utility Deposit	288.65
Deposit	03/24/2017	WCDA Deposit	3,000.00
Deposit	03/29/2017	Farm to Market Deposit	2,031.41
Deposit	03/29/2017	Utility Deposit	2,664.18
Deposit	03/29/2017	Local Option Sales Tax	2,180.58
Deposit	03/31/2017	Interest	13.86
Total Checking			28,194.65
Petty Cash			
Total Petty Cash			
Total Operating Accounts			28,194.65
Roads Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	03/31/2017	Interest	0.58
Total Savings			0.58
Total Roads Revenue Accounts			0.58
Water Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	03/31/2017	Interest	2.87
Total Savings			2.87
Total Water Revenue Accounts			2.87
Sewer Revenue Accounts			
Savings			
Deposit	03/31/2017	Interest	2.51
Total Savings			2.51
CD			
Total CD			
Total Sewer Revenue Accounts			2.51
TOTAL			28,200.61

- **Sign Up for Fertile Little League. Contact Tim and Kim Severson with any questions. tkseverson@wctatel.net or call 641-797-2333.**

With Heartfelt *Sympathy*



Joel Douglas Johnson, 71, of Fertile, died peacefully Sunday, April 16, 2017 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.

Upon his wishes, he was cremated and a private family services will be held at a later date. Burial of his cremains will take place at a later date in Grant

Center Cemetery, rural Fertile, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Hospice of North Iowa or the Fertile Church of Christ.

Joel Douglas Johnson was born on November 21, 1945 in Fertile, Iowa the son of Adolph and Silence (Stokke) Johnson. He was baptized and confirmed at the Church of Christ in Fertile.

Joel attended school in Fertile and graduated from Forest City High School in 1963. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1964 and served in the Vietnam War, he was honorably discharged in 1966, he was very proud of his service to his country. Joel was married to Jane Zobel on July 12, 1975 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. Joel worked for Larson Plumbing and Heating in Fertile for many years. He enjoyed hunting in his earlier years. Joel also found great pride in helping place American Flags on veteran monuments in many local cemeteries every year over Memorial Day. He loved spending time with his family and friends and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Joel is survived by his wife, Jane Johnson of Fertile; children, Corey Castler, Joely (Richard) Bruns, Jasen Johnson and Justine Johnson; eight grandchildren; brother, Jerry Johnson (Jana); sister, Qwen Scott; and aunt, Harriet Winden and many nieces and nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and parents-in-law.

Joel Douglas Johnson, 71, of Fertile died Sunday, April 16, 2017 at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City upon his wishes he was cremated and a **private family service will be held Saturday, May 27, 2017 from 12 noon-3pm at his home 208 East Main Street, Fertile.** Burial of his cremains will take place at a later date in Grant Center Cemetery rural Fertile.



Robert Wayne

Ouerson, 88, of Fertile, died peacefully Sunday, April 16, 2017, at Good Shepherd Health Center in Mason City. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, April 24,

2017, at the Fertile Church of Christ with Pastor Rob Perry and the Rev. Dennis Ganz officiating. Burial of will take place in Grant Center Cemetery, rural Fertile, Iowa.

Robert Wayne Ouverson was born July 31, 1928, to Harley E. Ouverson and Edith (Humphrey) Ouverson on the family farm near Fertile, IA. He was married to Betty Jean Brackey on Dec. 4, 1949, in Lake Mills, IA.

He is survived by his four children: Bruce (Mara) Ouverson of Mason City, Lisa (Rod) Nielsen of LaPorte, IN, Brian (Roberta) Ouverson of Fertile, and Cynthia Ouverson Taft of Harrisburg, PA. Robert is also survived by his eight granddaughters, Rachel (Keith) Cutcliff, Bethany (Levi) Deaton, Sarah Taft, Emily (Joshua) Evans, Elizabeth Ouverson, Lydia Ouverson, Katelyn Ouverson, and Amelia Ouverson; he also has one great-grandson, Malachi Cutcliff.

Robert (Bob) farmed all his life on the Ouverson Family Century Farm. He was particularly proud of his cow herd. He enjoyed working with innovative farm equipment and exploring new ways of increasing farm production. He founded Interstate Equipment in Hanlontown and was instrumental in launching the Steiger tractor in Iowa. He served on the local school board and the Cerro Gordo County Farm Bureau board. Robert was a life-long member of the Fertile Church of Christ. With a deep faith in God, he served in various capacities as a Sunday School teacher, a deacon, and an elder.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Betty, his parents and his sister Jean Van Den Bosch.

Dennis Jenkins Dennis passed away in March. An obituary will be put in when received.

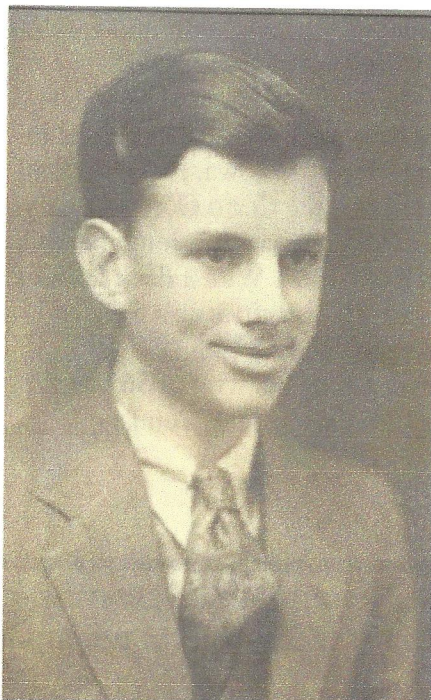
On March 7, 1914, Wallace and Ethel Deuel became the proud parents of a baby girl, who they named Vera Wilma Deuel. The family also included Vera's brother Ivan Brown Deuel, and they made their home in the house at the west end of Main Street in Fertile both at the time of Vera's birth and for many years after. Once she reached school age, Vera entered Fertile school, which she attended for twelve years, graduating in 1932. As she grew up, she developed a great fondness for music, learning to play guitar and piano at an early age, and performing in the Church of Christ choir for many years.

As a married woman, Vera found satisfaction in belonging to several local organizations, including The Christian Workers, Just a Club, and the Garden Club. She maintained a large garden filled with flowers and vegetables, and the basement shelves were crowded with home canned goods for the winter. She was admired as a good cook, which was virtually a requirement for a housewife in the Midwest. There was always "dinner" at noon, and "supper" at 6 pm. Cakes, pies, and cookies were seemingly always present, and homemade bread was baked on Saturdays.



Young Roger

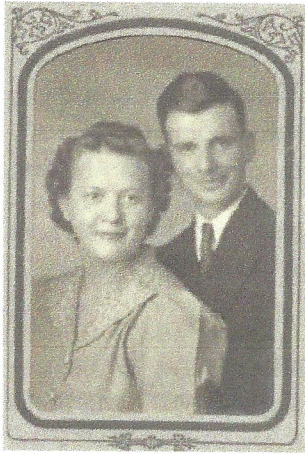
Meanwhile, on February 12, 1916 Roger Donald Humphrey was born to George and Josephine Humphrey, on a farm in rural Cerro Gordo County, southwest of Fertile. Family lore says the newborn boy would fit in a shoebox, and his head in a teacup. He soon had two younger sisters, Naomi Humphrey (White), and Mona Humphrey (Kumm). Roger spent his elementary school years in Fertile and Hanlontown. By skipping a grade, he was able to finish school at age 16, graduating with Vera's High School class in Fertile in 1932. Coming of age during the Great Depression, Roger worked at many different jobs in his formative years. He helped clear his Uncle Gus Haugen's land for farming, walking to and from the Haugen farm each day from Fertile. He also drove a truck for his father, picking up cans of cream at various farms, and delivering to the creamery in Fertile, which manufactured butter and related dairy products. Other places of employment included the Fertile Valley Hatchery, under the supervision of his uncle, Harley Overson, and the Fertile Telephone Company, prior to the installation of the dial system.



Roger's High School Graduation

In the mid-1930s, Roger and father George began doing carpentry work in the area, building houses, barns, corn cribs, machine sheds, etc. Some of those structures are still in use today, over 80 years later. After his father left Fertile in the 1940s, Roger continued the carpentry trade, with help from George Hall, Glea Hall, Eugene Hall, Leighton Humphrey, and others.

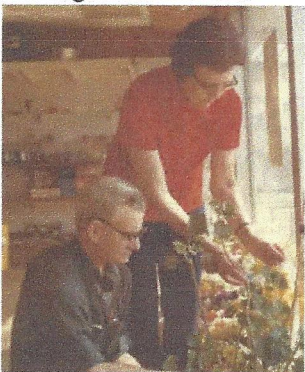
When Roger was in his early twenties, he noticed some weakness in his upper arms, which was slowly progressing. Seeking answers, he was told at the University of Iowa that he was suffering from Muscular Dystrophy. The disease would affect him every day for the rest of his life, and was responsible for him being rejected for military service during WW II. As the disease progressed, he became unable to put a cap on his head with one hand, and many days he would have to wear braces on his shoulders and legs upon leaving the house. While on the job however, he continued to dig foundation trenches with a hand shovel, mix concrete with a cement mixer, and cut the lumber with a hand saw. In those years before the common use of power tools, ready mix trucks, and backhoes, that is how the work had to be done.



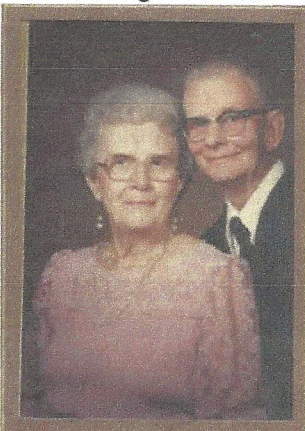
Vera & Roger's Wedding



Roger and Richard



Vera & Roger at Work



Vera & Roger's 50th
Anniversary

When Roger took treatment at the Mayo Clinic in the 1980s, one of the doctors there told him that "You would have been in a wheel chair years ago if you had not been so tenacious!" Roger had to think of ways to perform tasks that most of us take for granted. One example of this is brought home in a comment from a Fertile resident who said "When Roger waved at you, you received something special, because he had to work to get his hand up in the air to wave at you!"

Once, when tragedy struck the Fertile community with the drowning of a young boy, Roger joined a number of other volunteers in a search for the boy's body in the river downstream toward Mason City. In the process, Roger's glasses slipped into the river and were lost. Some of the other volunteers chipped in to buy him a new pair of glasses, but Roger turned down the money and asked that it be given to the boy's family.

On May 15, 1937, former High School classmates Roger Humphrey and Vera Deuel became man and wife in a ceremony performed by Pastor H.F. Risse, at the Fertile Church of Christ. Leslie and Gertrude Lindquist were the attendants. The newly married couple lived with Roger's parents for some time, until they rented a house on East Main Street. They paid the landlady, Mrs. Stout, \$10 per month, and sometimes wondered where that money was coming from.

On October 3, 1945 Vera gave birth to the couple's only child, Richard Leighton Humphrey. The middle name honored Roger's first cousin, Leighton Humphrey. Continuing to make their home in Fertile, the family made a trip to Deming, New Mexico in the fall of 1950 to visit Roger's father George. Over the coming years, more trips to Deming came about, as Roger could find more work there during the Iowa winters. During those times, side trips to Old Mexico took place, as well as visits to Roger's sister Naomi and her daughter Mary Jo in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were also trips to visit Roger's sister Mona and her family in Oregon, as well as trips to family events in Canada and Wichita, Kansas.

Back in Fertile, in 1969 Roger and Vera purchased the Fertile Appliance and Farm Store from Alan Elthon, soon changing the name of the business to Fertile Lumber and Hardware. This new enterprise was less physically challenging for Roger and both he and Vera were able to work together on many days. The store was located only 1 and ½ blocks from their home, a big improvement from traveling many miles to job sites, and also replacing lunch buckets with a hot meal at home. For the next nine years, the store provided materials for many projects in and around Fertile. Roger and Vera retired in April of 1978, making it possible for them to take trips to New Mexico and Oregon. They spent some winters in the historic New Mexico town of Silver City, and were able to visit their son and grandchildren, who lived only seven miles away, and only fifty miles from Deming relatives.

On June 14, 1987, Roger and Vera celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Fertile Church of Christ. The church dining room was filled with friends and family, making it a very memorable event.

A few years later while attending a family member's wedding reception in Wichita, Kansas around 1990, Roger and Vera and the other married couples at the reception were polled as to how long they had been married, by standing up when the number of years married was announced. They were the only couple to stand for being married 50 years or more, and as a result received a standing ovation. That too was a very moving experience.

Roger passed away on April 24, 1995, and was interred at Grant Center Cemetery. Vera was deceased on August 23, 2008 and rests beside Roger.

GARDEN DIARY



My

daughter, Penny & Dan (husband), daughter-in-law, Amanda and I plant a fairly large garden every year at my farm. A diary is kept on when we plant, when a crop is harvested, etc. and you can vicariously come along with us. We grow organic because it is much healthier and cheaper to produce. We can, freeze or dehydrate what we don't eat fresh.

Dan tilled the garden April 7th. We use wide rubber belting (the rolls along the side) between the rows and black plastic under the vines to cut down on the weeding. Wet newspapers are put around the tomatoes. The cucumbers and green beans climb on hog and cattle panels, to help with the picking process. We plant and cage at least 48 tomato plants. Last year we harvested next to zero peppers. At the end of the season we discovered the rabbits or and deer were taking care of the blossoms for us. We will sprinkle them with red pepper this year!

Hopefully, radishes, spinach, kale, sugar snap peas (for eating when in the garden), onions cucumbers, peppers, parsley, squash, pumpkins and ornamental corn will be growing by the next recording. Green and purple beans will be planted every two or three weeks.

I keep a few rows for myself as the girls do not like all the 'extra' stuff I plant. They don't mind eating it but say we don't need it!

Spring is my favorite time of the year but has one drawback. We have seen several snakes already and they are not **MY** friends!

Until next month! Editor, Betty

Letters
to the
Editor

Thanks Betty and crew for keeping the news coming. **Arlyn Abrams**

Hello to all you lovely ladies. Many thanks for all the work you do. Great reading about our friends from Fertile.

Marlys (Tibbits) Pederson

I enjoy reading this paper. My late husband, Leighton, was always proud of his home town. **Gladys Humphrey.**

Thanks for the Reminder. We enjoy it.

Diane & Lance Burtness.

Hi Gals, I really enjoy my "Reminder" each month! Thanks so much for all your good work.

Ver Lynn (Ouverson) Austin

Vonnie and I will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary this summer and will be back in the Fertile area for the Osnes-Pederson Reunion July 7-8-9 thanks to brother Bert Pederson and his wife Becky making those arrangements. We have lived in Westland, Michigan for the past fifty-four years. We lived in Chicago, IL the first six years of our marriage. **Watch for the anniversary open house at Fertile in the next Reminder Vonnie (Abrams) and Sever Pederson.**

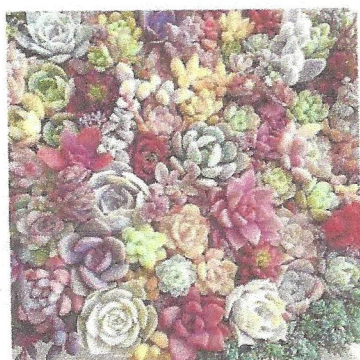
Leaving the store, I couldn't find my keys. They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband had scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then, I made the most difficult decision of all to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."

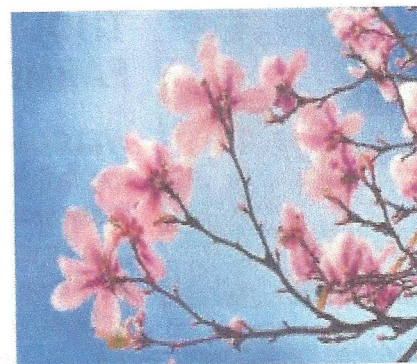
There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off."

Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me."

He retorted, "I will just as soon as I can convince this cop that I didn't steal your darn car!"



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

Garden Story Time:

May 8th @ 5pm

Come welcome the spring with a garden story time! Hear a story, and we will plant some flowers.

Movie Night:

May 12th @ 7pm

Family Friendly movie, Pajamas encouraged and popcorn Provided!

Succulents:

May 20th @ 10-11 am

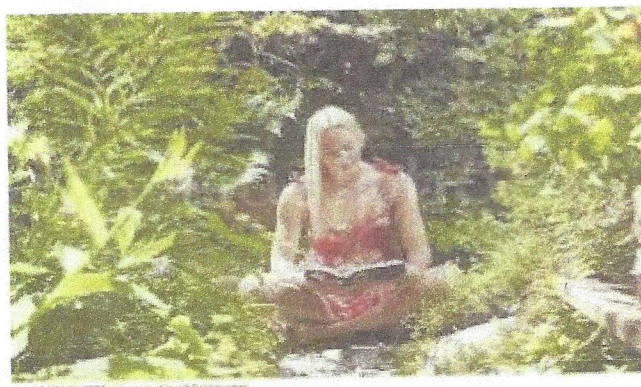
This program is for adults. Bring your favorite container and we'll supply the rest!

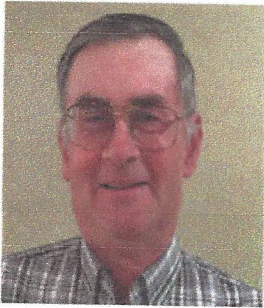
Welcome Spring!

As we welcome the warm weather, the library is continuing to improve it's building. Watch for some cool new additions to the outside of the building.

Adult Programs:

We have been trying some new programs here at the library! This Month our program will be planting succulents. Bring up your favorite Container and learn how to get a beautiful arrangement for you home or yard.





THOUGHTS OF FARMER RON

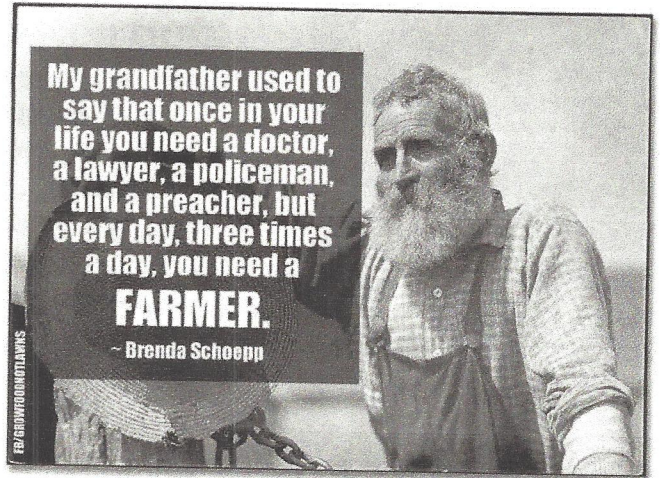
WELCOME! Even though it was fairly past winter, it is nice to see spring plants getting green again. My list of crops that I am growing for Healthy Harvest is growing

and also the list per local use. Josh wants me to grow colored carrots, Kennebec potatoes and purple potatoes for the café. I am still learning about starting plants. Speaking of warm weather, we had another episode of fabric (clothes, towels, rope) getting into the sewer line. This plugged the sewer pump and burnt it up. Yes, insurance covers most of the cost, but there is still a deductible that we have to pay. Plus, if it happens too often, our insurances rates will go up. Everyone in Fertile is paying in part for this. I don't want a police state, but this has to stop. It is hurting everyone. If you notice something not right (a manhole cover off or ajar perhaps), day or night, let law enforcement or a council person know so this comes to a stop.

On this topic, the next time you see Steve Roberts (Mr. Maintenance) or Jim and Fred Hare, say "thank you". They had to pull the sewer pump in winter with the wind blowing (-30 wind chill). No one else would do it. Above and beyond the call of duty.

We had our Fertile Days Committee meeting on April 10. We finalized a few things (One being free meal), but are still thinking of ideas for fun things for children. Our next meeting is May 22. If you have an idea, tell it to one of the committee members. (Boy, we have a good committee. Everyone speaks up and majority rules.) Who is a Military veteran? I asked this question to the Veteran's Affairs director of Worth County. His answer was, anyone who put the uniform on of the United States Military, took orders and did what they were asked to do is a veteran. Be proud. On my cap are these words, "If you love your freedom, thank a vet." I had it easy compared to my neighbor, Don McLaughlin, and I stand very humble next to him. I will continue to be on the Honor Guard at a military funeral and I will continue to donate blood as often as I can. There is a black granite wall with the names of 58,272 brave Americans who would love to serve, but cannot. I will continue to serve for them.

Until next time, thank a farmer for the food on your plate, than a vet for the freedoms we enjoy and above all, thank God for your daily blessing. Ron



Garden Club

Garden Club met at the City Hall on April 11 with all 13 members present. The meeting was called to order by President Twylah Kragel. Roll call was "What was best in your garden last year".

Time was scheduled to be doing the spring cleanup in beds and pots. April 18th is clean up night with April 18th as rain date. May 19th. We plan a trip to the green houses around Elma to buy the plants for the flower pots and beds. We will decide which plants to buy while on the trip.

The watering schedule was passed around for members to sign up for two or three weeks, two members to a week.

Be sure to look at the new spring flags on Main Street. Main Street is blocked off and will be until the new sidewalks and street are done.

Ginny Lovik gave the thought for the day. Penny Miller and Ginny Lovik were hostesses.

Congratulations to our Graduates

*Every yesterday is
a memory of dreams.
Every tomorrow is a vision of hope*





Rhubarb Dessert

CRUST:

2 C flour
2 sticks butter (1/2 lb.), melted
2 T sugar
Mix crust ingredients
Press in pan and bake 10-15 minutes at 350 degrees

FILLING:

5 C cut rhubarb
2 C sugar
4 T flour
1 C cream
6 egg yolks, beaten
Chop 3 or 4 long stalks of rhubarb about 5 Cups

Separate eggs

Combine cream, sugar, egg yolks, and flour

Fold in rhubarb

Pour filling on top of baked crust

Bake 40 minutes in 350 degree oven

MERINGUE:

6 egg whites 12 T sugar

. Make meringue with egg whites and sugar; put on filling and bake until brown 10-15 minutes. Cool completely before serving.

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Is Your Food Expired? Don't Be So Quick to Toss It

Use-by" dates are contributing to millions of pounds of wasted food each year. A new report from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and Harvard Law School's Food Law and Policy Clinic says Americans are prematurely throwing out food, largely because of confusion over what expiration dates actually mean. Most consumers mistakenly believe that expiration dates on food indicate how safe the food is to consume, when these dates actually aren't related to the risk of food poisoning or foodborne illness. **The dates solely indicate freshness, and are used by manufacturers to convey when the product is at its peak.** That means the food **does not expire** in the sense of becoming inedible. For un-refrigerated foods, there may be no difference in taste or quality, and expired foods won't necessarily make people sick. But according to the new analysis, words like "use by" and "sell by" are used so inconsistently that they contribute to widespread misinterpretation — and waste — by consumers. More than 90% of Americans throw out food prematurely, and 40% of the U.S. food supply is tossed—unused—every year because of food dating.

Eggs, for example, can be consumed three to five weeks after purchase. A box of **mac-and-cheese** stamped with a 'use by' date of March 2013 can still be enjoyed on March 2014, most likely with no noticeable changes in quality.

Cans may also display "open" or calendar dates. Usually these are "Best if Used By" dates for peak quality. Discard cans that are dented, rusted, or swollen. High-acid canned foods (e.g. tomatoes and fruits) will keep their best quality for 12 to 18 months. **Whereas, low-acid canned foods (e.g. meats and vegetables) will keep for two to five years.**

Too many people go through their cupboards regularly and throw out cans that the date has expired. **Don't be wasteful, use the product. (you listening Heather)**

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Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.

Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Law of Random Numbers - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal; someone always answers.

Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now.

Law of the Bath - When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone will ring.

Law of Close Encounters - The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, IT WILL!!!

Law of Biomechanics - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Law of the Theater & Hockey Arena - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrives last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move once, have long gangly legs or big bellies and stay to the bitter end of the performance. The aisle people also are very surly folk.

The Coffee Law - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

Murphy's Law of Lockers - If there are only 2

people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Physical Surfaces -

The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich landing face down on a floor are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible IF you don't know what you are talking about.

Law of Physical Appearance - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

Law of Public Speaking -- A CLOSED MOUTH GATHERS NO FEET!

Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it OR the store will stop selling it!

Doctors' Law - If you don't feel well, make an appointment to go to the doctor, by the time you get there, you'll feel better. But don't make an appointment and you'll stay sick.

Subject: Man reports wife missing A husband went to the sheriff's department to report that his wife was missing. Husband: My wife is missing. She went shopping yesterday and has not come home.... Sergeant: What is her height? Husband: Gee, I'm not sure. A little over five-foot tall. Sergeant: Weight? Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really fat. Sergeant: Color of eyes? Husband: Never noticed. Sergeant: Color of hair? Husband: Changes a couple times a year. Maybe dark brown. Sergeant: What was she wearing? Husband: Could have been a skirt or shorts. I don't remember exactly. Sergeant: What kind of car did she go in? Husband: She went in my truck. Sergeant: What kind of truck was it? Husband: Brand new 2015 Ford F150 King Ranch 4X4 with eco-boost 5.0L V8 engine special ordered with manual transmission. It has a custom matching white cover for the bed. Custom leather seats and "Bubba" floor mats. Trailering package with gold hitch. DVD with navigation, 21-channel CB radio, six cup holders, and four power outlets. Added special alloy wheels and off-road Michelins. Wife put a small scratch on the drivers door. At this point the husband started choking up. Sergeant: Don't worry buddy. We'll find your truck.

No Parent Left Behind???

These will help you understand today's educational system!!!! These are real notes written by parents in the Memphis school district. Spellings have been left intact.

1 My son is under a doctor's care and should not take PE today. Please excuse him.

2. Please excuse lisa for being absent she was sick and I had her shot.

3 Dear school: please excuse john being absent on jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and also 33.

4 Please excuse gloria from jim today. She is administrating.

5 Please excuse roland from p.e. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

6 John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.

7 Carlos was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.

8 Megan could not come to school today because she has been bothered by very close veins.

9 Chris will not be in school cus he has an acre in his side. 10. Please excuse ray friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

11. Please excuse Lesli from being absent yesterday. She had > diahre dyrea direathe the sh*ts.

12. Please excuse tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea, and his boots leak. Irving was absent yesterday because he missed his bust.

14. Please excuse jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

15. I kept Billie home because she had to go Christmas shopping because i don't know what size she wear.

16. Please excuse jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it monday. We thought it was sunday.

17. Sally won't be in school a week from friday. We have to attend her funeral.

18. My daughter was absent yesterday because she was tired. She spent a weekend with the marines.

19. Please excuse Jason for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well.

20. Please excuse mary for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps.

21. Gloria was absent yesterday as she was having a gangover.

22. Please excuse brenda. She has been sick and under the doctor.

Now we know why parents are screaming for better education for our kids.



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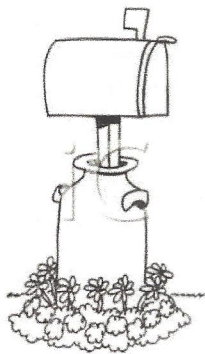
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