

Fertile Reminder

Oct.
1984

5th Annual Turkey Dinner

Saturday, November 3rd
5 to 7 pm.

Fertile Community Center

Tickets: Adults - \$4.00 in advance, \$4.50 at the door.
Children - 10 and under, \$2.50

Menu: Turkey, dressing, cranberries, corn,
mashed potatoes, gravy, buns, coffee, cold drink.
Home-made pie!

All proceeds will be used to support
the Community Center.

EARLY SETTLEMENT The first white men to look upon the land now comprised in the State of Iowa, or to set foot upon the soil, were Marquette and Joliet, who visited some Indian villages in what is now Lee County in the summer of 1673. The first white settlement within the present borders of the state was founded by Julien Dubuque in 1788, where the city now bearing his name stands. Eight years later Louis Honore Tesson received from the Spanish authorities of Louisiana a grant of land at the head of the Des Moines Rapids of the Mississippi River, where the Town of Montrose in Lee County is now located. The titles of Dubuque and Tesson were afterward confirmed by the United States Government, but with these exceptions no settlement was legally made in Iowa prior to June 1, 1833, when the title to the Black Hawk Purchase became fully vested in the United States.

A few French traders had established posts along the Des Moines and Mississippi Rivers about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century; Fort Madison was built in 1808 by order of the Government, where the city of that name is now situated; a trading house was built and a small settlement was made upon the site of the present city of Keokuk in the early '20s, and Burlington was founded in the fall of 1832, soon after the lands of the Black Hawk Purchase were ceded to the United States. But, with the possible exception of Fort Madison and the settlement at Dubuque, none of these settlements had the sanction of the United States, and from a legal viewpoint the occupants were trespassers upon the Indian lands.

On that first day of June, 1833, when the Black Hawk Purchase was thrown open to white settlement, hundreds were waiting on the east side of the Mississippi and they lost no time in crossing over and selecting claims. During the next ten years the settlements were extended rapidly westward and in 1843 Fort Des Moines was built upon the site now occupied by the city of that name. A census taken in 1844 showed the population of Iowa to be 75,150.

The first counties---Dubuque and Des Moines---were authorized by an Act of the Michigan Legislature in September, 1834. The former included all that portion of the present State of Iowa lying north of a line drawn due westward from the foot of Rock Island and the latter embraced all that part of the state lying south of the same line. The present County of Worth, also Mitchell, was therefore originally a part of Dubuque County.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

In the year 1853 a party of Scandinavians, under the leadership of Rev. C.L. Clausen of St. Ansgar, made a settlement in Mitchell County. In the early summer of the same year however, four of this small band left the others and journeyed farther westward. These men were Gulbrand O. Mellem, Aslak Larsen, Lars Aslaksen and Ole Faergerbaken. Of the four, G.O. Mellem is given the honor of being the first settler within the bounds of the County of Worth.

G.O. Mellem was born in Hollingdal, Norway, November 13, 1829. The boyhood days of his life were spent in the hills of his native land, where he was a shepherd. In 1845 his parents emigrated to the states and four years later, 1849, he sailed for the New World. After landing in America he journeyed to Rock County, Wisconsin, where his parents had preceded him. For about a year he remained at home, then procured a job as raftsmen on the lower Mississippi River, at which he worked during the winter months, returning to the Wisconsin farm in the summer to assist his father in tilling the land. In the fall of 1852 he was married to Caroline Evanson, also a native of Norway, and in the following spring he came, with Rev. C.L. Clausen and the Scandinavian colony to St. Ansgar. As stated before, he became dissatisfied with the farming prospects there and, with his three companions, came eighteen miles farther west and located. His claim later proved to be the northeast quarter of section 32, which ground now lies within the corporate limits of the City of Northwood. Although he made several removals during his life, Mr. Mellem remained a resident of Worth County until his death on August 31, 1891. His faithful wife lived until September 14, 1904. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Mellem, namely: Ole, Charles, Lewis, Mrs. G.A. Lee, Mrs. T.C. Rone, all of Northwood; Andrew, St. Paul; Minnie, Minneapolis; Elling, Glenwood, Minn.; Gus, Wyndmere, N.D.; and Mrs. H.A. Fryslie, Flasher, N.D.

For a long time the Mellem home was the only one in Worth County, and consequently the other early settlers first visited this place for information about the country and for lodging. Many of them were from the Rock County colony in Wisconsin and were of Norwegian birth. G.O. Mellem had many experiences with the Indians who roved the plains in the '50s and has told of his dealings with the red men in a reminiscence written in another part of this chapter.

The second permanent settler in Worth County was Simon Rustad. He was born at Lillehammer, Norway, January 9, 1826. In March, 1852, he was married to Anne Eliasdatter and then came to America, accompanied, of course, by his bride. Their first stop was in Rock County, Wisconsin, where they remained until 1854, then traveled to Worth County, Iowa. Mr. Rustad located on the northeast quarter of section 31, just west of the Mellem farm, which gives him the honor of being the first settler west of the Shell Rock River. In this county he remained until his death in 1893. His wife died August 6, 1903. Nine children were born to them, namely: Betsy, Sam, Randin, Edward, Henry, Christian, Annie Elizabeth, Oscar and Marie Charlotte.

About the time of Rustad's arrival in the county three others came---Christian Amundson, Ole Solimentien and Andrew P. Nelson. The latter died in the fall of the same year. In the latter part of the summer of that year three brothers by the name of Hart came into the county and, after investigating the prospects, purchased the improvements made by Mr. Larsen, who had bought them from G.O. Mellem. These claims were just north of the present city of Northwood. However, these brothers remained only until the next spring. They sold out to David H. Phelps, who, in company with Tilly McWithy, Hiram Bliton and the latter's two sons, Permeno and Willard J., had just arrived in the county to make a settlement. Phelps divided up this timber land with his partners and all began the erection of a home. The grove situated here was afterwards known as Phelps' Grove.

Just before the winter of 1854-5 a trapper, William Burgert, came to Worth County and occupied a claim near that of Phelps. He had visited the locality ten years before while upon a hunting excursion and noted the promising outlook of the land, consequently when the opportunity occurred he returned. He married the widow of A.P. Nelson in the fall of 1855. In the late '70s he left this county for California. He was known as a very eccentric character, but a man whose friendship was staunch and true. It is claimed that his marriage with the Widow Nelson was the first in the county; this may be modified by saying that they were the first settlers to marry after coming here, but the ceremony was performed at St. Ansgar by Reverend Clausen and so could not be considered as a Worth County marriage.

In the year 1855 Edmund Wright located at what was called Glen Mary, but in the following spring, with two brothers who had joined him, he moved to Wright's Grove, in Hartland Township.

Charles Johnson made a claim in the western part of the township near what was Rice Lake on May 19, 1855. This settlement was followed in the next autumn by that of Chauncey S. Lane, Benjamin Bloker and John M. Bennett and family. Hascal Skinner soon joined them, bringing his family. The first location selected by this group of settlers was near the east end of Rice Lake. In the spring of 1856 all of them moved a mile farther east and formed the nucleus of the Village of Bristol. Other newcomers of the year 1855 were: Abraham Christopherson, Ole Lee, Ole Aslakson, Lysback and Ole Hove, John S. Mark, Aslak Lee, Elling E. Svensrud, Hans Aslakson, Syver Syverson, Ole Hanson, Halvor H. Brekke, G. Jorgenson, Michael Paulson, Amos Levenson, Sever Johnson, L.O. Anderson, G. Ryerson, Gulbrand Gulbrandson and Hans Tollefson. These men settled largely in the eastern and northern portion of the county. Some American and English settlers also located in the eastern part of the county during the same year. Among them were: Arthur T. Bolton, William Senior, John Elliot, Thomas Lowthian, Francis Cope and Edward Ripley.

The year 1856 brought quite a number of pioneers to Worth County. Settlements were made over a large territory. Among those who came during this year and who were prominent in the early days were: Otis and Henry Greeley, Dr. James Keeler, Isaac M. Bolton, Alonzo Frink, Lars Larsen Loberg, Kittel Oleson, Benjamin Eyer, O. Gulbrandson, Samuel Egbert, Joseph M. Molesberry, Stephen and Jonathan Wright, Martin V. and Amos Bentley, C.K. Hundebly, Isaac Cummings, Mr. Clemmer, Horace Crandall, Andrew Henryson, Madison Rice, Chauncey Bliton, Martin Hanson, Knudt W. Johnson, Ole Torstenson, J.S. Loveland, Darius Gardner, T.K. Hundebly, William Rhodes, John Bickel, William H. Pritchard, Joshua W. Thomson, N.W. Emery, W. Senior,

and Mr. Vredenberg, S.D. Green, John Elliott, Jerry Epworth, Aslak Gullickson, Gunder Sanda and Halvor Brekke.

In 1857 came among the early arrivals the following named: G.H. Atwood, Soren Iau, Joseph Hultz, Halver Olson, Martin Hanson, William H. Perkins, W. Henry Russell, John Butler, David Wright, Charles Wardall, Lemuel Dwelle, B.H. Beckett, John M. Slosson, Robert Nicholson, John E. Towne, Albert L. Towne, William Anderson, Samuel D. Green, D.D. Franklin, S.H. Franklin, David Ayers, William Dixon, Enos Smith, Edwin Stevens, P.C. Towne, Asa Franklin, E.S. Winans, William Frankell and David Perry.

Next Month -- FIRST HAPPENINGS -- stay tuned in for further developments

Neighborhood Food Bank

Thank you to the people who brought fruit jars and fresh garden vegetables and fruit to the food bank.

Our August surplus from the Dept. of Human Services was cheese and flour. Sept. surplus is cheese and butter.

On Sept. 7th, Sandy Mireles and JoAnn Langfald attended a food bank meeting in Des Moines. Maybe some of you are aware that when Kenny Rogers gives a concert, he asks his audience to bring food for the needy. We were delighted to hear he is giving a concert Oct. 2nd at Ames. He requests they bring food there too. It will be given to the Second Harvest Food Bank in Des Moines and we will benefit from it too, through them. Fifteen cases of food from the Second Harvest were also brought back that day after the meeting!

We want to express our sincere thanks to Marj Gorball who has been in charge of scheduling the work time for our volunteers the past year. She has become involved in a new project called "County Cousins", which is also a very worthy cause. Because of the time and work involved in that, she has requested that she be relieved of her duties. This is the first anniversary of the food bank and we are beginning another year. Luella Johnson has consented to take over the duty of scheduling the Volunteers beginning in Sept. We thank Luella and ask you to cooperate with her on this. Because we will be changing your schedule somewhat and mixing you up, we will be adding a calendar to your newsletter each month. It should be a help to you if you tack it up in your kitchen and you can look at it to see when you work and who you work with. Please call Luella whenever you are unable to work and she will reschedule you and fill someone in for you.

Why I Married a Farmer

"I wanted a guy who could sit and have a cup of coffee with me at 5 a.m. when the only sounds to be heard are crickets, cows, and creaking floorboards... That's why I married a farmer.

"I wanted a guy who would crack a joke and make me laugh when I am covered with dirt and cow manure ... That's why I married a farmer.

"I wanted a guy who could get out of a nice warm bed when it is 30 below, start up the tractor and plow out the driveway so the school bus can get through ... That's why I married a farmer.

"I wanted a guy who could entertain four kids, a dog and a nerve-racked wife when the power goes off, the pipes freeze and everything quits during a two-day blizzard ... That's why I married a farmer.

"I wanted a guy who could count his blessings when he's depressed, count his children when he feels poor and count on God to make it all work out ... That's why I married a farmer."



Seventh Annual
FALL FAIR

Sponsored by
SENIOR CITIZENS

Fertile, Iowa

Saturday Oct. 20th -- 7:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Fertile Community Center
Ct.

HOT

Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Served 7:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Snack Bar

Drawings For - 5 Hams -- 5 Turkeys

Bake Sale - Produce Stand - Crafts -
Mystery Box - White Elephant Sale

Something for Everyone

LIBRARY HOURS:

WEDNESDAY 11 AM - 6 PM LIBRARY NEWS

FRIDAY 1 PM - 5 PM

SATURDAY 9 AM - 11 AM

NEW BOOKS :

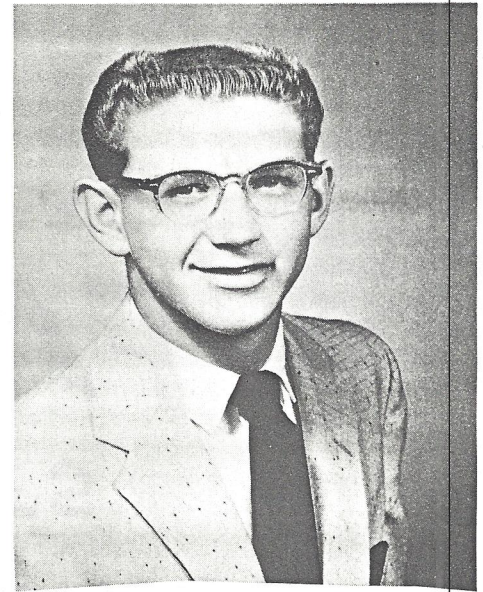
- THE KENNEDY'S: AN AMERICAN DRAMA
- VOICE IN THE NIGHT _ VELDA JOHNSTON
- GREY BEGINNING - BARBARA MICHAELS
- STRONG MEDICINE - ARTHUR HAILEY
- CRESCENT CITY - BELVA PLAIN
- LOVE'S UNENDING LEGACY - JEANETTE OKE
- SECRET'S OF CLOSING THE SALE - ZIG ZIGGARS

CHILDRENS BOOKS:

- TALLYPO - JOANNA GALDONE
- GARFIELD LOSES HIS FEET - JIM DAVIS
- TWO WHEELS FOR GROVER - DAN ELLIOTT
- "WHERE'S MY BLANKIE" - ANNA DICKSON
- GROVER SLEEPS OVER - ELIZABETH WINTHROP
- INDIANA JONES AND THE CUP OF THE VAMPIRE - ANDREW HELFER

NEW CRAFT MAGAZINES:

- McCALL'S NEEDLEWORK AND CRAFTS
- McCALL'S CHRISTMAS KNIT AND CROCHET
- BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS HOLIDAY CRAFTS



Lance Eugene Burtness

"Empty-Lot"

"Better a bad excuse than none at all."

Lance is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Burtness. He was born August 26, 1942, at Fertile, Iowa, and has attended Fertile all twelve years.

1
9
6
0



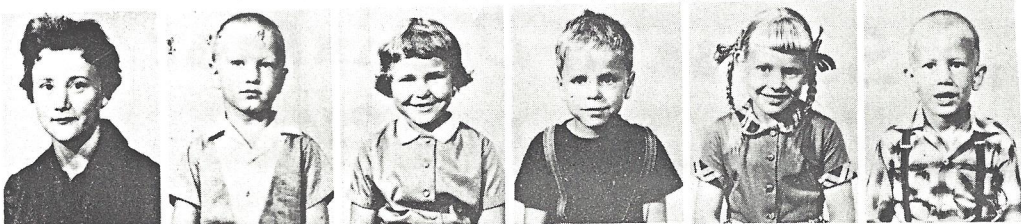
Edward Francis Kirschbaum

"Ed"

"How do they expect me to learn, they give me a different lesson every day."

Ed is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kirschbaum. He was born June 13, 1940, at Crystal Lake, Iowa, and has attended Fertile all twelve years.

1
9
6
0



**KINDER -
GARTEN**



1
9
6
0

Row 1: L. to R: Mrs. Stalker, Gary Calgaard, Sigrid Ostroot, Dennis Lee, Carolyn Langerud, Steven Purcell; Row 2: Billy Humphrey, Susan Bjornsen, Jerry Nye, Lisa Ouverson; Row 3: Rebecca Kuns, Brian Pederson, Dorothy Ann Nelson, Tommy Elthon, Susan Marsh; Absent: Luann [unclear]

SOME EVENTS COMING UP THAT WILL NEED THE COOPERATION of the entire community in raising the funds necessary to support the Community Center are: The 5th Annual Turkey Supper on Nov. 3. Tickets are available from any board member or at most business places. Next scheduled event is The Craft Fair on Nov. 17. We need volunteers to help in the kitchen. It's fun to get together on community projects, so if you can help, call Ruth B. at 2267 or 2440, or Kay at 2496. The Christmas Program will be Dec. 8. The Fertile Band is in charge. Other events are planned for 1985--more about them later.

REMEMBER THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S FALL FAIR on Oct. 20. This is their major money-raising event of the year, to help pay their rent at the Center. GREAT CRAFTS, GOOD FOOD--be sure to attend.

THERE IS AN ARTICLE IN THIS MONTH'S PAPER about the Food Bank at Forest City. We have families from this area that use the bank, so if you are able to help out by donating money food or time, call and talk to someone about it. From this area, volunteers are: Kay Olson, Delores Suby, Diane Burtness and Ruth B. Ouverson. Ruth has also been named to the Board of Directors of the Food Bank.

A GROUP OF WOMEN MET AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER and sorted clothing and then cleaned the room used for our Clothes Closet. Six boxes of clothing were packed and will be sent from our area for the Country Cousins Project. The churches in Winnebago and Hancock counties collect clothing, furniture, etc., to be delivered to a county in Mississippi. (This area is named the poorest county in Mississippi.) Women who worked on this project were: June Strohmman, Carolyn Nedved, Diane Burtness, Eileen Schissel, Lois Low, Kay Olson and Ruth B. Ouverson. One of the parables in the New Testament tells us of the importance of feeding the hungry and clothing the poor--do you have some time you could volunteer to help? We commend and thank those who have already given of their time and effort in accomplishing what has been done. Keep bringing your good clothing, furniture, lamps, kettles, almost anything useable, to the Center--what isn't used here in our area will be sent once a year to The Cousin Project. It is all delivered on trucks by volunteers.

LAST MONTH'S VOLUNTEERS HELPING RUTH B. AND Kay Olson folding, stamping and addressing the

paper were: Jan Hare, Diane Burtness and Carolyn Nedved. THANKS to Deb Morse for doing the front page.

THERE WILL BE AN OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL SHOWER for Cheryl Schlenger, bride-elect of Randy Pederson at the Fertile Lutheran Church on Tuesday, Oct. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m. Program at 7:30. Everyone welcome.

THANK YOU TO MY FERTILE COMMUNITY FRIENDS for your prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, gifts and delicious food for my family. You "caring support" is most appreciated. God Bless You!

Zelda Suby

STORK NEWS! STORK NEWS! STORK NEWS!

Sept. 3 - boy - 8 lbs. 4 oz. - Tyler John
Parents - Ken and Randa Lundgren

Sept. 24 - boy - 7 lbs. 3 oz. - Paul Roger
Parents - Dr. Roger and Julie Bisbey
Grandparents are Don & Zelda Suby

Sept. 27 - boy - Matthew Robert
Parents - Robert and Julie Abendschein
Grandparents - Mrs. Evelyn Johnson, Manly
and Norman and Maxine Rye

WANTED - 12 EVERBEARING STRAWBERRY PLANTS
Ethel Tuttle - phone 797-2648

THANK YOU TO THE JUSTA CLUB FOR THEIR donation of money to the Community Center.

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS FOOD + CHEESE ONLY ON Oct. 11. Same time, same place, same guidelines.

NOTICE!! BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE for the CRAFT FAIR on Sat., Nov. 17. Tables are \$3. Call Kay at 2496. Please do it soon, so we will know how many tables are needed.

THE LAST SHIPMENT OF COOKBOOKS HAS ARRIVED, this will be the last time they will be ordered. They will be available at the Fall Craft Show and at most business places. Great shower and Christmas gifts.

DO YOU NEED HELP? 24 HOUR CRISIS INTERVENTION service - 424-0133.

CREAMERY RESTUARANT AND LOUNGE 797-9685
Specializing in good food

FERTILE GARDEN CLUB NEWS--Fourteen members met at the Community Center dining room for their September 11 meeting. Roll call was "My Favorite Tree." Edna Pederson had the "Thought For The Day".

Lessons were, "Fall Planting and Care of Trees", by Reva Nelson and "Identification of Trees" by Ethel Tuttle. She used leaves from the different trees and had members identify them as in a contest.

Hostesses were Reva Nelson and Gertrude Lindquist. The next meeting will be Oct. 9th.

CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Oct. 13 - Sunday School teachers meeting, potluck supper and cupboard and closet clean-up time.

Oct. 18-19 - Hi'er School Days at MBC in Rochester

Nov. 7-9 - Fall Preaching Conference at the Baptist Church in Rochester, the entire program is posted on the bulletin board at the church.

LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

FAMILY WORSHIP (PK) 9:00 am (F) 10:30 am

CHRISTIAN ED. (F) 9:15 am (PK) 10:15 am

7:30 pm - Hi-League Bible Study

CIRCLE MEETINGS

(PK) Ruth	10/16	7:30	Naomi Pederson-Ch.
(PK) Esther	10/17	1:30	Reva Anderson
(F) Ruth	10/22	7:30	Donna Ouversen
(F) Sarah	10/22	7:30	Donna Nelson
(F) Mary	10/25	9:30	Evelyn Knudson
(F) Reb.	10/25	2:00	Irene Norem

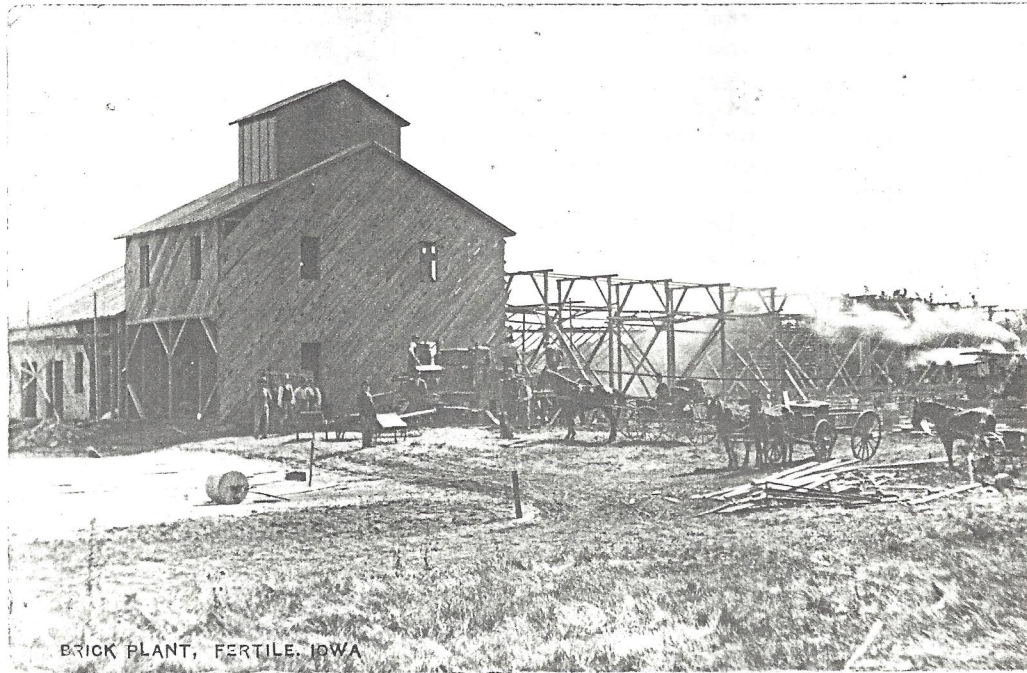
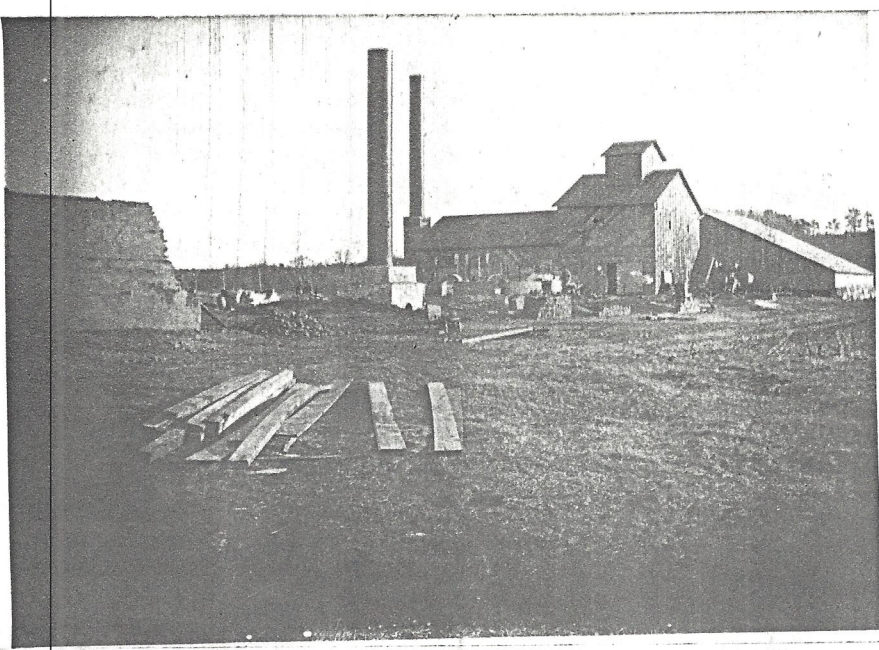
REMINDER -- REMINDER -- REMINDER -- REMINDER

IF YOU LIKE RECEIVING THE FERTILE REMINDER each month, now is the time for you to send in your donation to help cover the cost of printing it. We suggest a minimum of \$3 per year, and are very pleased if you decide to send more than that amount.

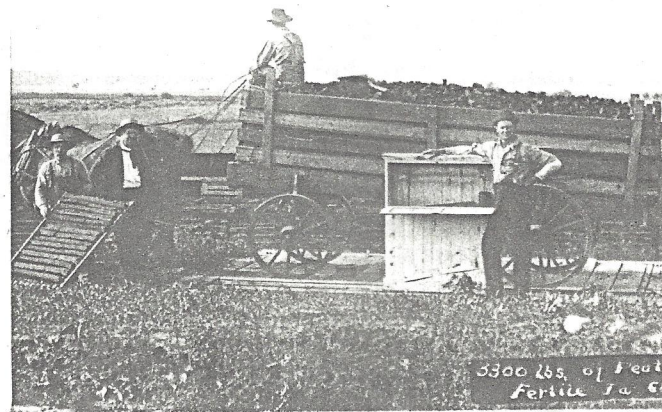
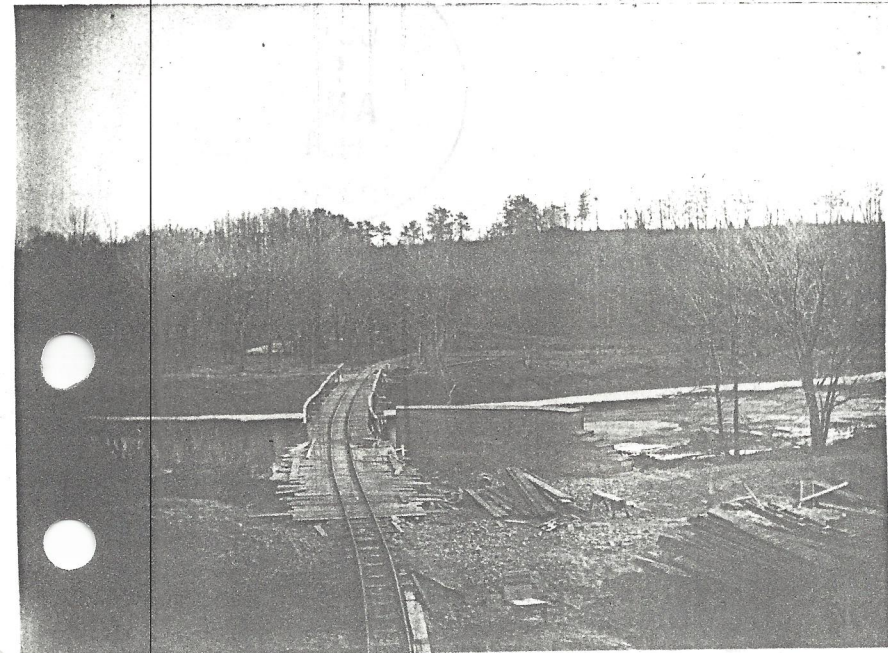
TWENTY DIFFERENT BUSINESSES ADVERTISE in the Fertile Reminder each month. Show your appreciation for their support of the paper by your support of them.

FERTILE FEED SERVICE Complete Livestock Needs Softner Salt, Dog & Cat Food	797-2242
RAY JENNINGS Complete Auction Service	454-2707
LARSEN'S PLUMBING & HEATING	797-2219
PETAL SHOPPE FREE delivery to Hosp. 1714 7th Ave. N, Clear Lake	357-5030 357-5026
FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE Rent the Rug Doctor	797-2437
BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING	797-2680
HOFFMAN CRAFTS 701 West Main	797-2714
J & W UPHOLSTERY Upholstery--Auto Body Jean & Wayne Roberts	797-2457
WORSLEY ELECTRIC	797-2497
K & R SERVICE	797-2440
OLD MILL ANTIQUES	797-2490
PERSONAL TOUCH BEAUTY SALON Styling for Men & Women	797-2400
FERTILE MEATS & GROCERIES Specializing in Meats for the Freezer	797-2647
RAY SANDIFER--TOM'S SALES	797-2681
FLOWERS BY McCOY Flowers for Every Occasion	582-4517
JORDAN'S MIDLAND SERVICE Complete Automotive Service	797-2677
FOREST CITY COW PALACE Auction Every Wednesday	582-4646
FIRST STATE BANK Serving North Iowa Hanlontown, Kensett & Plymouth Main Office - Manly	896-2265
CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD: Area Headquarters Christmas Decor from 12 Countries Lannie Hansen, Supervisor	797-2703

Pictures of
Fertile's
Brick Plant



Wm Deuel on Right / Load of Peat ↓



The Fertile City Council met 9/4/84 with Mayor Shropshire presiding and council members Hare, Petersen, Hall, Schultze and Bailey present. Others present were Kenneth Lien, Dudley Weible, Leonard Bailey and David Low.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Council discussed telephone franchise election. Proposed telephone franchise ordinance was read. Motion to adopt the ordinance as read. All in favor. Motion to dispense with the second and third of the ordinance, carried. Resolution adopted to submit the telephone franchise to the electors of the city on Nov. 27, 1984, carried.

Discussion on additional fire phones. Several firemen do not have fire phones. Motion to install additional fire phones, carried.

Council discussed the possibility of snow fence on the north side of Wash. St.

Several dog complaints were received. Letters will be sent to owners of these dogs.

Council discussed having a water tower maintenance agreement. Two prices will be obtained.

Motion to have the Clerk's phone be charged to an extension of the library phone, carried.

Discussion on grind stone to be donated to the city. Motion to accept the offer, carried.

Motion to pay monthly bills, carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

AUGUST BALANCE SHEET

Janice Hare	225.38
Evelyn Knudson	159.94
Dick Sheimo	529.37
David Low	282.23
City of Fertile	51.00
Interstate Power	760.53
Waste Systems Corp.	603.00
Winn. RTA	33.24
Ipers - FOAB	165.79
Tenold Ins. Agency	1,486.00
Boyd Suby	26.25
K & R Gas	64.56
Anchor Publishing	19.17
League of Iowa Municipalities	131.30
Better Homes & Gardens	21.23
Doubleday	9.68

Family Bookshelf	14.64
B. Dalton	12.66
Field & Stream	17.94
Jordan's	87.23
Fertile Lbr. & Hdwe.	10.89
Fire Chief Magazine	18.00
NIACOG	74.40
Univ. Hygienic Lab	12.00
Barclay Co.	7.45
Burtness Plumbing & Heating	36.00
Postmaster	20.00

TOTAL 4,879.88

TOTAL RECEIPTS 2,946.39



Harvey Knudson
Fertile
Lv 50434