

JAN.  
1985

# Fertile Reminder



GRADES  
1+2  
1938

#80-1  
Ronald  
Fr Dodge  
3-18-38



GRADES  
5+6  
1942

Ronald #46-3  
3-18-42

Thank you to Nancy Faber and Nance Sheimo for organizing the Christmas program and buying the children's gifts; to Shirley Sheimo and Eileen Schissel for taking care of the coffee, punch and cookies and to all who took part. Everyone enjoyed it. Thanks also to all the business places that donated the money to purchase the gifts, these were: Old Mill Antiques, Worsley Electric, Fertile Feed Service, Farmers Coop Elevator of Hanlontown, Jordan's Service, Burtness Plumbing & Heating, Gail's Beauty Shop, J & R Service, Fertile Meats & Grocery, Fertile Lumber and Hardware, Larsen Plumbing & Heating, Shropshire Construction, Fertile Pumping - Haugen's Septice Tank Cleaning, Duane Peterson - Corn Shelling & Trucking, Personal Touch, Tom's Sales, 1st State Bank of Hanlontown, Fertile Tile, and Fertile Grain Division. Thanks to Don Waddington for contacting all these businesses for their contribution and a BIG thanks also to Santa.

We are still looking for volunteers to help organize our sprijg talent show and be sure to call if you have any ideas or can help.

Ruth B. Ouverson

LIBRARY NEWS

Library hours are: Wednesday - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday - 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.; and Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

NEW ADULT BOOKS:

- Lap Quilting - Georgia Bonesteel
- True Joy of Positive Living - Norman Vincent Peale
- Illusions of Love - Cynthia Freeman
- Threshold - Marlys Millhiser
- Missouri - Dana Fuller Ross
- Story of Stony Lonesome - Jessamyn West

Check our new paperback shelves. We have new books for all our readers, westerns, adult fiction and young people, plus others.

- CREAMERY RESTURANT AND LOUNGE 797-9685  
Specializing in Good Food
- FERTILE FEED SERVICE 797-2242  
Complete Livestock Needs  
Softner Salt, Dog & Cat Food
- RAY JENNINGS 454-2707  
Complete Auction Service

- LARSEN'S PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2219
- PETAL SHOPPE 357-5030  
FREE Delivery to Hosp.  
1714 7th Ave. N, Clear Lake 357-5026
- FERTILE LUNBER & HARDWARE 797-2437  
Rent the Rug Doctor
- BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680
- HOFFMAN CRAFTS 797-2714  
701 West Main
- OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490
- PERSONAL TOUCH BEAUTY SALON 797-2422  
Styling for Men & Women
- FERTILE MEATS & GROCERIES 797-2647  
Specializing in Meats for  
the freezer
- K & R SERVICE 797-2440
- RAY SANDIFER--TOM'S SALES 797-2681
- FLOWERS BY McCOY--Forest City 582-4517  
Flowers for Every Occasion
- JORDAN'S MIDLAND SERVICE 797-26  
Complete Automotive Service
- FOREST CITY COW PALACE 582-4646  
Auction Every Wednesday
- WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494
- J & W UPHOLSTERY 797-2457  
Upholstery--Auto Body  
Jean and Wayne Roberts
- FIRST STATE BANK 896-2265  
Serving North Iowa  
Hanlontown, Kensett & Plymouth  
Main Office--Manly
- CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD 797-2703  
Area Headquarters  
Christmas decor from 12 countries  
Lannie Hanson, Supervisor

WANTED: Someone to clean the sidewalk at the Library and Community Center. If interested, please attend the council meeting Jan. 8 at the Library.

\* \* \* \* \*

SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE REMARKED ON THE Christmas decorations in Fertile during the past Christmas season. We think it was the prettiest Fertile has ever looked for the holidays--so a big thank you to each one who had a part in making our town look so nice. We hope each of you and each resident of Fertile enjoyed them as much as we did, and that you will repeat that beautiful decorating again next year!

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED BY THE Fertile Reminder the first week of December:

TO THE FERTILE REMINDER: I received a copy of the November '84 issue covering my Uncle Phil Sheimo. I enjoyed it very much.

Enclosed is a check for \$10 for a subscription to the Reminder. Could you send it to me when it comes out?

Greetings and Merry Christmas to all the people in Fertile--from one who left in 1940--but always has his best roots there.

Stanton Sheimo  
High School Class of 1936

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO THANK the people who donated to the digging out of the bay. Thanks to Carl Larson, Dennis Faber, Don Suby, Harold Ouverson, Ann Hargrave, Corlys Rye, Lester Burtn4ss, The Creamery, Burtness Plumbing and Heating. If anyone wants more dug out of the bay, please contribute to the fund. Make checks payable to: Fertile Bay Project.

Mayor Larry Shropshire

THE FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER GYM IS NOW open each Saturday for your enjoyment. It will be open in the morning for high school and adults to use from 1 to 4 p.m. will be for children through 8th grade. There will be adult supervision. Please wear boots and change into tennis shoes before going on the gym floor for any activities.

Thanks to these parents for taking time to supervise each Saturday afternoon: Jan. 12 - Al Ramon; Jan. 19 - Hershel Wills; Jan. 26 - Clet Nedved; Feb 2 - Cliff Peterson; Feb. 9 - Mark Schultze; Feb. 16 - Craig Hansmeier; Feb. 23 - Ken Strohman; Mar. 2 - Red Olson; Mar. 9 - Tom Monsen; Mar. 16 - Larry Shropshire; Mar. 23 - Mark Kragel; Mar. 30 - Wilma Amundson.

WANTED: INDOOR PAINTING--Contact Stanley Brue, 797-2741, Fertile.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE FOR THE PRAYERS, visits, gifts and cards I received while I was in the hospital and since returning home. It was very much appreciated.

Henry Novak

CHEESE DISTRIBUTION, JANUARY 17, 1 to 5 p.m. Note change of time. Same guidelines and instructions as last month. Fertile Community Center.

#### LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

##### CIRCLE MEETINGS

(PK)	Ruth	1/15	7:30	Diane Miller
(PK)	Esther	1/16	1:30	Vivian Handeland
( F )	Mary	1/24	9:30	Fern Midtgaard (church)
( F )	Reb.	1/24	2:00	Janet Burtness (church)
( F )	Ruth	1/28	7:30	Ruth Oakland
( F )	Sarah	1/28	7:30	Goldie Felland

##### FAMILY WORSHIP

(F) 9:00 (PK) 10:30 NOTE TIME CHANGE

##### CHRISTIAN ED.

(PK) 9:15 (F) 10:15

##### COMMUNITY CENTER

Carolyn Nedved has volunteered to be in charge of having the gym open on Saturdays. High School and older in the morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and other ages from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Use the front door by the gym, change your shoes in the hallway. No wet shoes on the gym floor! Do not go into other parts of the building. Volunteers will take turns supervising each Saturday through March.

The next event will be the talent show in late March. The May Fair is in doubt as no one has volunteered to be in charge as yet, more later about this.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR DONATION TO keep the Reminder coming. We would appreciate at least \$3 a year from each family to pay for supplies and keep the copier in working order. Thank you to the ones who have sent in their money.

Compared with the conditions of the present day the pioneers of Worth County encountered some actual hardships and a great many inconveniences. One of the first problems with which the new comer was confronted was to provide shelter for himself and family. Most of the early settlers selected claims where timber could be obtained, and the first houses were log cabins. Often the settler's only assistance in building his cabin was furnished by the members of his family. In such cases small logs or poles, that could be easily handled, were selected and the walls were not more than six feet in height. Such a dwelling could hardly be called a "Mansion", but it sheltered its inmates from the inclemencies of the weather. Sometimes two or three families would come together, when one cabin would be hastily constructed, in which all would live until each settler could build a house of his own. As the number of inhabitants increased the desire for better cabins grew and the "house raising" became a social as well as an industrial event. After the logs were cut into proper lengths and dragged to the site of the proposed cabin the settler would send out invitations to his neighbors, some of whom probably lived several miles away, to attend the "raising". These invitations were rarely declined, for the pioneers felt their dependence upon each other and were always ready to lend a helping hand.

When all were assembled, four men would be selected to "carry up the corners", and took their stations at the four corners of the cabin. Skilled in the use of the axe, as the logs were lifted up to them they shaped a "saddle" on the top and cut a notch in the underside of the next log to fit upon the saddle. By cutting the notches a little deeper in the "butt end" of the logs, and alternating the butt and top ends the walls were carried up approximately level. No plumb lines were used, the walls being kept perpendicular by the eyes of the corner men. Doors and windows were sawed out after the walls were up. An opening was also made at one end for a fireplace. Outside of this opening would be built a chimney of small logs, lined inside with clay to prevent its catching fire. If stone was convenient a stone chimney would be constructed, and sometimes a chimney would be built of squares of sod, laid up as a mason lays a wall of bricks. The roof of the cabin was of clapboards, split or rived with an implement called a frow and the floor, if there was one, was of puncheons, that is, thin slabs of timber split as nearly the same thickness as possible, the upper surface being smoothed off with an adz, after the floor was laid.

Hardware was a luxury in the new country and many of the pioneer cabins were completed without a single article of iron being used in their construction. The clapboards of the roof were held in place by "weight poles", which ran the full length of the cabin and were fastened to the logs with wooden pins. The door was made of thin puncheons, fastened together with wooden pins, hung on wooden hinges and provided with a wooden latch. A thong of deerskin attached to the latch was passed through a small hole in the door and furnished the means of lifting the latch from the outside. At night the thong could be drawn inside and the door was locked. This custom gave rise to the expression "the latch string is out", signifying that a visitor would be welcome at any time. The cracks between the logs were chinked with pieces of timber and plastered over with clay to keep out the cold.

The furniture was in keeping with the house, being usually of the home-made variety and of the simplest character. In one corner was the bedstead, which was constructed in the following manner: a small sapling with two forks as nearly at right angles as could be found was cut the proper length to reach from the floor to the joist overhead, the forks being about two feet from the floor. The sapling was placed about the width of an ordinary bed from one wall and the length of the bed from the other. Poles were then laid in the two forks, the other ends of the poles resting in a crack between the logs, or in large auger holes. Across the poles were then laid clapboards, upon which the housewife placed her straw tick or a feather bed, if the family possessed one. Such a bedstead was called a "prairie rascal". Springs there were none, but "honest toil brought sweet repose" to the tired pioneer and he slept as soundly upon his "prairie rascal" as do many persons now upon more sumptuous couches.

Holes bored in the logs and fitted with strong pins served to support clapboards for a china closet, the front of which was curtained of some cheap cotton cloth, though in many homes the curtain was lacking. Stools and benches took the place of chairs. A table was made by battening together some clapboards to form a top, which was placed upon a pair of trestles. When not in use the trestles were placed one upon the other and the top leaned against the wall to make more room in the cabin. Stoves were almost unknown and the cooking was done at the great fireplace, an iron tea kettle, a long-handled skillet, a big copper-bottomed coffee-pot and a large iron kettle being the principal cooking utensils. Bread was baked in the skillet, which was set upon a bed of live coals and more coals heaped upon the iron lid, so that the bread would bake at both top and bottom. The large iron kettle was used for preparing the "boiled dinner", which consisted of meat, and two or three kinds of vegetables, cooked together. Johnny-cake was made by spreading

a stiff dough of cornmeal upon one side of a smooth board and propping it up in front of the fire. When one side of the cake was baked sufficiently the dough would be turned over to give the other side its inning. Many times a generous supply of Johnny-cake and the bowl of fresh milk constituted the only supper of the pioneer, but it was a supper which no early pioneer could blush to set before an unexpected guest. While preparing the meals, the housewife would nearly always wear a large sunbonnet to protect her face from the heat.

Somewhere in the cabin was the gun-rack, which was formed of two hooks fashioned from the forks of small trees. In these forks reposed the long, heavy rifle of the settler, while suspended from the muzzle of the gun or from one of the forks were the bullet-pouch and the powder-horn. The rifle was depended upon in many instances to furnish the meat supply of the family, as game of all kinds abounded. Deer were especially plentiful. Animals were killed for their skins and the carcasses were left to the wolves.

Next Month: "SWAPPING WORK"

#### ASPIRIN CAKE

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Turn down the TV. Remove toys from counter top. Measure 2 cups flour. Get baking powder. Remove Billy's hands from flour. Put flour, baking powder and salt into sifter. Vacuum mixture off kitchen floor (Billy spilled). Get an egg. Answer telephone. Separate egg and warm Baby Ann's bottle. Help Melissa figure out a new math problem (the old reliable way). Grease pan; Salesman at the door. Take one-fourth inch of salt from greased pan and look for Billy. Put mess in wastebasket. Put dishes in the dishwasher. Call the bakery. Take an aspirin.



3rd & 4th grades 1942

The Fertile City Council met Dec. 4 with Mayor Shropshire presiding and council members Hare, Hall, Schultze, Petersen & Bailey present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Discussion on problems with dogs running loose, Residents can and will be encouraged to prosecute.

Discussion on city's insurance coverage.

Hare reported on prices for two types of snowblowers. Council will advertise for someone to clean walks at the Library and Community Center.

Council discussed computer being offered to the Library by Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation. Cost to the city will be \$1,000 for single disc computer or \$1,500 for a double disc computer. Motion to ask for the double disc computer. Carried.

Council discussed water tower work.

Motion to pay monthly bills, Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare  
City Clerk

January council meeting will be held on Tues., Jan. 8 at the Library.

NOVEMBER BALANCE SHEET  
Expenditures

Janice Hare	217.73
Evelyn Knudson	221.76
Dick Sheimo	476.03
Dick Sheimo	21.96
David Low	282.23
Winn. RTA	19.67
Interstate Power Co.	522.20
Matt Parrott & Sons	121.25
Anchor Publishing	60.17
Minn. Valley Lab	20.00
City of Fertile	51.00
Fertile Lumber & Hardware	83.85
Treas. - State of Iowa	101.20
Waste Systems Corp.	603.00
Univ. Hygienic Lab	24.00
K & R Gas	23.70
Anchor Publishing	12.00
Worsley Electric	30.15
Water Products Corp.	279.94
Peoples Natural Gas	55.56
Ipers - FOAB	182.00
Jordan's	48.75
B. Dalton	242.00
Christian Bookstore	18.27
Baker & Taylor	107.37

Doubleday Book Club	11.93
Family Bookshelf	13.94
National Geographic	24.95
Family Circle	14.40
Consumer Reports	14.00
Newsweek	35.88
Good Housekeeping	14.97
Jane R. Media	119.04
Larry Shropshire	325.00
Family Bookshelf	11.42

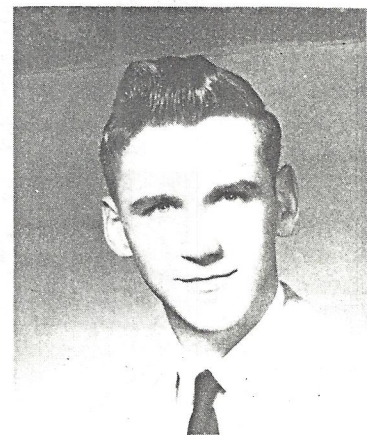
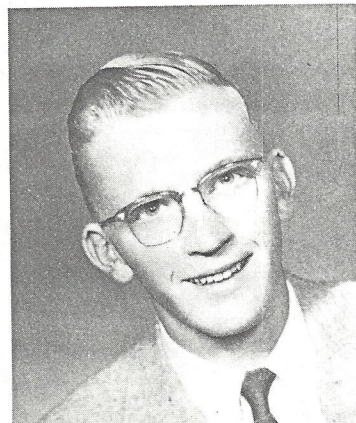
TOTAL 4,411.37

TOTAL RECEIPTS 7,960.05

**SENIORS**

Mickey Halverson,  
son of Mr. and Mrs.  
Clark Halverson, was  
born on February 27,  
1939.  
Basketball 1234; Base-  
ball 1234; Class Play 34;  
Smoke Signals 3; Mixed  
Chorus 23; Annual Staff 4.

1  
9  
5  
7



Jack Frederick Miller,  
son of Mr. and Mrs.  
Verle Miller, was born  
on May 1, 1939.  
Class Play 34; Annual  
Staff 4.