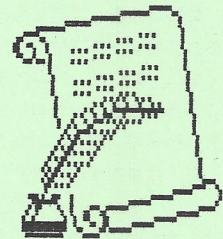
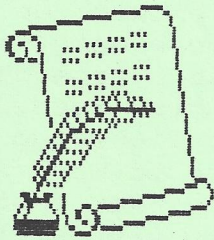


AUGUST  
1988

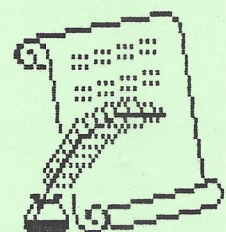
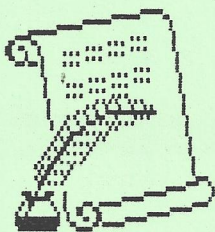


Nels Fjeld, Myna Smith, Aimee Nye



1960

FERTILE  
REMINDER



Dear Readers of the Fertile Reminder,

The days of summer are, certainly upon us and it is hard to remember the cold days of winter when we longed for some of these hot days. For most of us we can enjoy the comfort of air-conditioning in our homes, cars and in many of the places where we work.

To those of us who are older, we can still remember the summer of long ago when I am certain it was equally hot. Our air-conditioning consisted of sitting under the big tree in our front yard! I remember our kitchen was small and we had to do our cooking in the woodstove although in later years we got modern and had "a three burner kerosene stove"- the fumes from that were not always the best smelling! Summer or winter we had to keep the wood box full as well as a goodly supply of kindling and corn cobs.

Wash days were something else again as we carried water in from the pump for washing, heating the water in a wash boiler, (I remember my Mother shaving up a bar of Fels Naptha soap into the water and by the time the water was hot it would be melted- such a good smell!) then filling the wooden washing machine. My sister and I were the man power behind the handle! When we finished, we had to carry the water outside to empty as we had no sewer system in those days. The day we washed clothes and had the cookstove really fired up was also the day we baked bread, perhaps had a cake to bake or some cookies, perhaps there were some apples to cook or something else needed to be preserved. It was for certain we made use of the heat from the stove and did whatever had to be done.

And the days of threshing- feeding the men was a major production in those days. Such decisions to make-What shall we fix to eat- What did the one serve before they came to our place- Will they be done before noon- Will I have them for lunch, too, perhaps even for supper- How many can I expect to feed- We had a long wooden bench in our front yard and here we would fix a place for the men to wash when they came to eat. We pumped the water early so it would be warm when they came to wash and we always had two wash basins with plenty of soap. Our hand towels were linen ones that my Mother made from a large bolt she would buy-we certainly knew nothing about terry cloth in those days. Then the many

dishes to do-we were the "dish washer" of long ago!

Those were busy, hard working days as we were growing up but as I look back they were good days. Somehow there was a togetherness as we did that which needed to be done. I am glad I grew up in that era as we learned to work and do with what we had. Now that I am older, I enjoy my way of living now with my air-conditioned home, the water from the faucet, my refrigerator that keeps things cold, heat with the flick of a switch- so many wonderful things! I am thankful for having known both life styles. It is hard for the younger family members to understand but as Walter Cronkite would say, "And this is the way it was then."

LVN

\* \* \* \* \*

The quiz for the month is one by Silence Johnson. Answers found on a back page.

CAN YOU NAME THE FLOWERS?

1. A girls name plus a precious metal
2. When you're happy.
3. Our state flower.
4. What a Hollander wears.
5. Found in a woman's wardrobe.
6. Part of your feet.
7. When you're secretive.
8. What Abe Lincoln did when he proposed to Mary Todd.
9. Mode of transportation plus our country.
10. Opposite of sour plus a vegetable
11. Sunrise plus praise.
12. Crowds.

\* \* \* \* \*

A true friend is someone who thinks you are a good egg even though he knows you are slightly cracked.

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the most important trip a person ever takes is to meet the other fellow halfway.

\* \* \* \* \*

FAREWELL TO THE OPERATORS  
AND OUR TELEPHONE COMPANY

Mark! The telephones are ringing and  
they are very new,  
For we have changed from black ones  
to yellow, pink and blue.  
And that is why we are her to-night,  
To bid farewell to a familiar sight.  
To a telephone office and it's oper-  
ators two,  
Who will leave this scene for a life  
that's new.  
Let's turn back the pages of old father  
time,  
And reminisce in rhythm and rhyme.  
The first switch board found a tiny  
nitch  
In E.E. Brown's meat market where they  
all could switch.  
The calls that came through were very  
few,  
So it wasn't hard to take care of the  
two.  
But the time soon came to change it's  
place,  
They built a new room and lifted it's  
face.  
The Browns were there as the keys fell  
down,  
To answer the calls for the old home  
town.  
It changed hands real rapid, as time  
went by,  
And several people thought they'd give  
it a try.  
But at the end of a year or two  
They would always announce that they  
were through.  
So in 1929, two new operators finally  
arrived,  
With two small boys who were quite alive.  
And Aimee Nye, with Norman and Max,  
Moved in and took over and relaxed.  
And Bess Purcell, Rodberg, moved in  
that day,  
And the Fertile swith board was far  
on it's way.  
In '36, another change was due,  
And they all moved to a place that  
was new.  
They found themselves right on main  
street,  
And don't ever think that wasn't a  
treat.  
For the public asked evey question  
under the sun,  
And were sure the operators could  
answer each one.  
By 1937, Myna Smith and Darline joined  
the force,

And Myna was taking a telephone  
course.  
She helped each time, as she saw  
their need,  
And in 1948, became an operator  
indeed.  
To the best of their ability, they'd  
served the town,  
And swithed for the country folk for  
miles around.  
No calls were to be answered after 9,  
But some people forgot to look at  
their time,  
They rang at nine or eleven or two  
And expected each call to go right  
through.  
They reported new babies, here and  
there,  
How much they weighed and what color  
hair.  
They'd ring the fire whistle strong  
and loud,  
And it would always draw quite a  
crowd.  
The keys would drop down like the  
the stars in the sky,  
Every time the fire engine passed by.  
They'd hear voices ask, "Where's the  
fire today?"  
And they'd all get an answer some  
how, some way.  
Husbands would get lost and couldn't  
be found,  
And they'd ask the operators if  
they'd please look around.  
And if they could see him on the  
street,  
Would they please send him home with  
the luncheon meat.  
Some poor little mother, just pulling  
her hair,  
Would ask the operators if her kids  
were there,  
And would she please tell them to  
stay right by the door  
She'd be there when she got the wax  
on the floor.  
The Dr. would call that his vacation  
was due,  
And a lot of his patients were feel-  
ing blue,  
But if any one fell and broke their  
leg  
Send them to the hospital, to get it  
pegged.  
The gas truckers thought it would be  
nice,  
If the operators would take their

## GARDEN CLUB NEWS

calls, instead of their wives.  
They had to sit by that board anyway,  
And why keep their wives home all day.  
They have given death messages and  
heard it's nell,  
And listened to many a wedding bell.  
They have seen other children as  
well as their own  
Get their education, grow up and  
leave home.  
For when you've spent as much of  
life at one thing,  
There's bound to be progress, even  
in a telephone ring.  
At one time they cranked every  
number by hand,  
Then came electricity, now the dial  
system plan.  
The telephone company needed more  
than just ladies frills,  
They needed a secretary and treasurer  
to pay all the bills.  
Nels Field was elected with paper  
and pen,  
And after forty years his work has  
come to an end.  
Then the lines got broken,  
telephones wouldn't ring,  
And they needed a lineman to mend  
everything.  
So George Hall applied, got his  
tools and was hired,  
He worked twenty five years, they  
went dial, and he retired.  
So we are saying Farewell, as we  
blot out our tears,  
To a telephone company, that's been  
here fifty years.  
And to the operators who have worked  
so true,  
And we'll accept the dial system,  
and try something new.

By Violet Hall

Mark and Mary Egesdal of Forest City are parents of a daughter, June 25th. She weighed 8 lbs, 9 ounces and has been named Annette Lee. She joins two sisters, Amber Marie, 3, and Ashley Ilene, 16 months. Grandparents are Arlyn and Lila Rauk of Leland, Mary Kiefer of Fertile, and Steve Kiefer of Clear Lake. Great Grandparents are Allen and Olga Rauk of Forest City, Ingvald and Lavina Askeland of Buffalo Center, Zella Egesdal of Arizona, Bob and Marge Kiefer of Clear Lake, and Doug and Mary McGinley of Michigan. Great great grandparent is Frances Maker of Lake Mills.

The Fertile Garden Club met Tuesday July 12 at the Center. The club toured various gardens in the area. Ruth Wolf had the thought for the day. Ruth Rovang and Carrie Luther were the hostesses.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 9, at 9:30 a.m. at the Center.

## OPENING

Teddy Bear Learning Center will have one opening for fall. Infant to age six, call 896-2445.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to all my friends for their cards, prayers, gifts, flowers, and visits while I was in the hospital. It made my stay more pleasant.

Ethel Tuttle

## SENIOR CITIZEN'S MENU

- Aug. 2- Meat balls, potatoes, corn, salad, peaches, bread, butter coffee and milk  
Aug. 16- Minute steak, mashed potato broccoli, cole slaw, mixed fruit, bread, butter, coffee and milk

Call Edna Pederson before noon on Mondays for reservations-797-2669.

Today is the certain preparation for tomorrow, so make each today count.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### LIBRARY HOURS:

Wednesday - 11 AM - 6 PM  
Friday - 1 PM - 5 PM  
Saturday - 9 AM - Noon

### NEW BOOKS:

Alaska - James Michener  
People next door - Caroline Crane  
To be the best - Barbara Bradford  
Tapestry - Belva Plain  
Zoya - Danielle Steel  
Harrogate secret - Catherine Cookson  
People like us - Dominick Dunne  
For the record: From Wall Street  
Washington - Donald Regan

The library would like to thank Opal Almelein and Carole Kleveland for reading at our program for the children, also Val Wills for helping.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met July 5, 1988. Mayor Hoffman presided and council members Sandifer, B. tness, and Petersen were present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Discussion on the tile repair north of Virgil Lovick's property. City will check with the city attorney and county engineer to determine who is responsible for the repair bill.

Public hearing for the codification of the city's ordinances will be Tuesday, August 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Proposed city code will be in the Library until the date of the meeting.

Permission was given for the small Fertile Mill to be used in the Puckerbrush Parade at Forest City.

Motion to buy logs and gravel for under the new equipment at the park. Carried.

Council discussed leveling the ditch south of the road into the park and near Pat Zobel's property.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Meeting adjourned  
Jan Hare  
City Clerk

The City Council would like to thank Cliff Petersen, Al Ramon, Dennis Ganz, Eugene Hall, Craig Hansmier, Randy Harms, and Don Suby for installing the new playground equipment in the park. Also, our thanks to Larsen Plumbing and Heating for the use of their equipment and to Yohn and Son Ready Mix of Forest City.

ANSWERS

1. Marigold
2. Glad
3. Wild Rose
4. Dutchman's breeches
5. Lady's slippers
6. Tulips
7. Mum
8. Aster
9. Carnation
10. Sweet pea
11. Morning glory
12. Phlox

\* \* \* \* \*

June Balance Sheet

Evelyn Knudsen	\$175.73
David Low	301.89
Janice Hare	239.73
Dick Sheimo	676.52
Waste Systems Corp.	700.63
Ipers	106.97
Treas. State of Iowa	97.85
Winn. RTA	34.27
City of Fertile	51.00
Peoples Natural Gas	42.83
Interstate Power Co.	484.84
Worsley Elec.	132.00
Yelland and Hanes	7.75
Midwest Sates Co.	1864.60
Marv's Service	59.64
Larsen P & H	43.81
Ray's Lawn Service	400.00
North Iowa Tire Co.	72.58
B. Dalton	314.14
Little League-Softball	250.00
Loren Hoffman	325.00
Feed Rite Controls	10.00
U.S Stamped Envelope Agency	137.50
Postmaster	27.00
K & R Service	26.25
Steffes Const. Co.	315.00
World Book	22.95
Christian Bookstore	9.40
Saturday Evening Post	12.97
Creative Ideas	13.95
Pronto	4.50
Vesta Kuns	114.00
Evelyn Knudsen	311.92
Fertile Lumber & Hdwe	1044.52
National Library Service	138.25

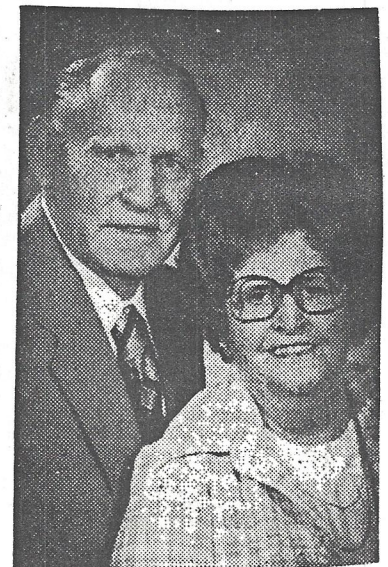
Total \$8569.19  
Total Receipts \$6667.14

**Lows celebrate 60th anniversary**

**FERTILE** — Clarence and Luella Low, of Fertile, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sunday, June 12.

Their children are Clarence Low Jr., Leonard Low, Eugene and Lois Low, all of Fertile; Earl and Donna Miller, Clear Lake, and Ralph and Beverly Smith, McIntire. There are 14 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Clarence Low and Luella Freeman were married June 16, 1928, in Mason City.



The 1932 graduates of the Fertile High School, held their 56th class reunion Thursday evening, June 30, at the Royal Fork restaurant, in Mason City, with 14 attending. The original class had 12 members who graduated, 5 of whom are deceased.

Those attending the reunion were; Mr. & Mrs. Horace (Golda Severson) Kirk; Mr. & Mrs. Fred (Evelyn Humphrey) Luker; Mr. & Mrs. Sophus Peterson and Mrs. Mildred Phorr, all of Clear Lake, and Mr. & Mrs. Roger (Vera Deuel) Humphrey, Fertile. Also present were; Mr. & Mrs. Glen Purcell of Fertile; Mr. & Mrs. Pete Oredson of Hampton; and Mr. Stanley Anderson of Joice, all the men were members of the class, but left shortly before graduation, so have been included in the class reunions. Corlys Rye, of Fertile, also a graduate, was unable to attend because of illness.

Mrs. Luker read an article, "The Before Generation", and each graduate gave a resume of their family and lives since the last reunion which was held in 1982. They also decided to meet every year in the future, with the 1989 reunion to be May 19.



OPEN HOUSE at Chapel Hill Sunday  
August 28th. Program at 2:30 PM.  
More in next months Reminder.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Norman (Mildred) Jorgenson, former resident of Fertile, passed away Feb. 28, 1988. Mildred was buried at Oakdale Cemetery, Glendora, Calif. Norman and Mildred were residents of Fertile for many years. Mildred taught school and Norman had the Co-op Tank Wagon Service.

Back row: Roger Humphrey, Vera Humphrey, Golda Kirk, Evelyn Luker, Marcella Purcell, Mildred Oredson, Dottie Peterson, Horace Kirk.

Seated: Glen Purcell, Pete Oredson, Sophus Peterson, Mildred Pforr.  
June 30, 1988

ROGER HUMPHREY



EVELYN HUMPHREY



SUPT. PENROD

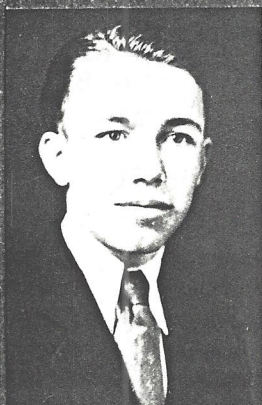


MILDRED SAGEN



SOPHUS PETERSON

# 19 FERTILE 32 HIGH SCHOOL



CORLYS RYE



VERA DEVEL



JAMES HAUGEN



LORENE JOHNSON



STELLA ANDERSON



GOLDA SEVERSON  
RUSSELL



LUCY GELNER  
STUDIO



ELMER OKLAND

Support these merchants. Their ads make it possible for us to publish the Fertile Reminder. We also need to hear from each of you to pay the postage for mailings.

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