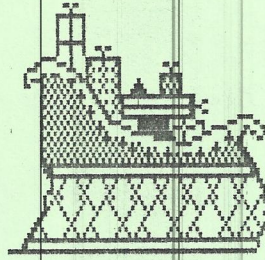
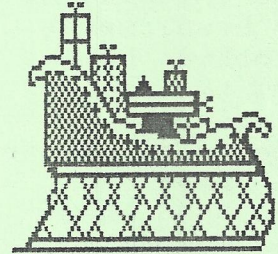
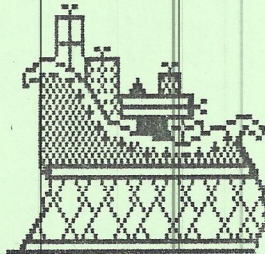
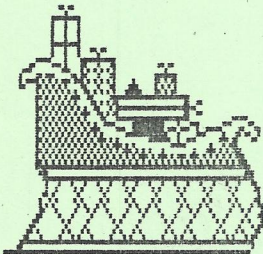


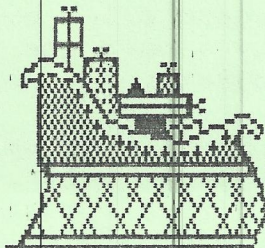
1990



*December*



*fertile*



*Reminder*



Thursday, August 24, 1950

## The Story of Fertile-

William Rhoades Hiked from Charles City to Build Home on Site of Present Town.

Civil War Interrupted Establishment of Mill, First Fertile Industry

Editor's Note: On August 6th, 1856, the village of Fertile was founded by William Rhoades of New Rochelle, Illinois. In the following article S.L. Sanderson of Hanlontown tells the story of the coming of the pioneer, and of other noteworthy events in the history of the thriving Worth County community.

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The story of Fertile is the story of a hundred inland towns that dot the map of Iowa and the great northwest

An ambitious young man in an eastern state eager to profit by the advice of Horace Greeley, exchanges a summer's wages for a railroad ticket that will carry him to the western end of the line. In this case William Rhoades of New Rochelle, Illinois, and Charles City, Ia, then the western terminus of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad.

A cruel march with pack and gun to Mason City, then a frontier hamlet consisting of a log tavern, general store, and two saloons. And here the chance acquaintance of an old hunter and trapper who tells of a wonderful mill site some twenty miles upstream.

Another cruel march with pack, gun and load of provisions and then, one evening, a bivouac on the limestone ledge that has now served over ninety years as a foundation for the Fertile Roller Mills.

A log cabin soon springs up in the nearby thicket and a nearby clearing is devoted to the production of the necessities of life and then the cabin door is closed and the young pioneer marches away to the defense of the Union to the tune of " Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory."

Right triumphs over wrong, and the roar of artillery and the rattle of musketry dies away. Smoke again curls lazily from the cabin in the thicket and from morning 'till night the forest resounds with the echo of the pioneer-soldier's ax.

A log dam is thrown across the river and a crudely fashioned water wheel is belted to a saw rig brought by ox team stages from the river wharves at McGregor. Bright, new clapboard shanties now spring up on the surrounding prairies like mushrooms, over night, and then one evening, a wagon piled high with boxes and barrels and drawn by a yoke of weary, brindled oxen, creeps slowly around the bend and Fertile has a general store, followed quickly by a blacksmith shop and the inevitable saloon.

And in the next ten years Fertile becomes a thriving little hamlet of fifty souls.



Lumber is now to be had at the new railroad towns of Clear Lake and Mason City, the sawmill is dismantled and for forty miles around the new grist mill at Fertile is a more general topic of discussion than Communism or the Marshall Plan.

A familiar sight upon our street is a long horned yoke of oxen grazing by the roadside while their bearded driver smokes peacefully in the shade of a nearby tree or industriously lures the gamely pickerel and bass from the cool depths of the whirlpools of the dam, while the creaking, splashing mill wheel grinds merrily away at the grist of wheat and corn that will feed his flock for the next 12 months.

The second epoch in the history of Fertile begins with the organization of the Fertile Co-Operative Dairy Association and the erection of a two story creamery building, the upper story to serve as a town hall.

The new hall is dedicated with a gigantic political rally and a congressman eager for re-election, promises a daily mail and keeps his word. And a hotel, barber shop, butchers shop and weekly paper follow hard on the heels of the daily mail.

The need of telephone communication is now becoming felt and the local merchants subscribe liberally to the stocks of a telephone company and are promptly frozen out by the parent corporation.

The need of an incorporated municipal government is also becoming felt, the necessary steps are taken and the contest for mayor is on. Life-long friends become mortal enemies and the location of a long established sidewalk is disputed to the fractional part of an inch.

With the coming of spring the rumbling of a railroad boom is heard in the direction of Mason City and the town council holds nightly sessions to consider the matter of alleys and crossings.

The price of town lots fluctuate with the violence of an Iowa thermometer and then a soulless town-site company changes its mind and Fertile falls back to the monotonous task of supplying the needs of a prosperous farming community. (This right at the turn of the century, 1899-1900 )

Cement walks now take the place of cinder paths, the hitching posts are removed from in front of the stores and the holes left there by the iron shod hoof of some anxious dobbin whose master has tarried too long in the blacksmith shop or the mill are neatly filled with cinders and gravel.

The store windows take on the aspect of the city department store and columns in the weekly paper are devoted to "The City Beautiful."

Fertile at the present time, has a population of 450 souls. Four churches, three stores, two filling stations, two restaurants, hatchery, feed mill, tile factory, food locker, creamery, lumber yard, stone quarry, telephone office, the conventional barber shop and post office and "Welcome, Come Again" signs greet the tourists at the corporation limits.

The founder of Fertile, full of years and of honor, has



bequeathed to the village a beautiful park situated on the banks of the river he loved so well, and passed on to his reward.

And the mill, unable to compete with Pillsbury's Best, has belted her turbines to softly purring dynamos and thus the stream that in turn sawed the boards for the pioneers shacks and ground the corn and wheat with which to feed his hungry flock, is now producing light and heat for many modern homes that have sprung up on the site of the clapboard shack.

And last but not least, on the site of the little red schoolhouse now stands a modern, fireproof, consolidated school building.

And the long haired boy in brown denim and plow shoes, proclaiming in a wavering voice the relative merits of the pen and the sword, has now given way to the dashing young bobby soxer in painted fingernails and boyish bob, gibly discussing last night's radio program broadcast by XYZ.

And though modern invention has brought comfort and ease to the people of Fertile, the struggles of her pioneers, William Rhoades, Andrew Groves, Halvor Ouverson and G.K. Daley will never be forgotten.

Copied from the Northwood Anchor August 24, 1950.



ANDREW GROVE



MR. WILLIAM RHODES

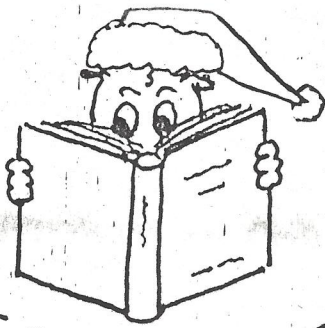


HALVOR OUVERSON



G. K. DALEY





# CHECK IT OUT

Christmas is fast approaching. The library is a good source for many holiday ideas. For the person who likes to make things, come in and check out the selection of crafts books. If you enjoy trying new recipes for holiday cooking and baking, be sure to stop by the library to see what is available in cookbooks.

Children will enjoy special seasonal books like The Story of Christmas. The nativity story is also available in a "read-along" cassette called The Christmas Story. Some fun holiday books for children are: The Bear Who Slept Through Christmas, Bah Humbug, and Santa's Crash Bang Christmas.

Don't forget the pictures during your holiday celebrations this year. The library's new Polaroid camera may be checked out for a week at a time.

The library could even be the place for some of your holiday shopping. The BOOK SALE continues and there are still a few framed pictures for sale.

The Fertile Library is pleased to announce that Sarah Richards has accepted the position of Assistant Librarian. Sarah is well qualified for this job and is a welcomed addition to the library.

Cheryl has added more children's videos to the library's growing collection. New children's books include three by Eric Hill featuring Spot. New adult fiction includes: Julia's Last Hope by Oke, Gilge's Best of Intentions, With Wings as Eagles by Schulte and the Peart series: Dreams of a Loving Heart, Quest for Lasting Love, and Homeward the Seeking Heart.

During the busy time ahead, try to take some time to visit the library and check it out. The library is open on:

WEDNESDAY	1:00-8:00
FRIDAY	1:00-5:00
SATURDAY	9:00-noon
	1:00-4:00

May you all have a happy and joyous Christmas!

by Celeste Christensen

The next library board meeting is Nov. 29, 7:00.

## STORK NEWS

Tracy and Tammy Hall are the parents of a baby boy born Nov 8th. He weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and has been named Andrew John. Grandparents are Eugene and Judy Hall of Fertile and Victor and Beverly Berggren of Dayton, Minn. Great Grandparents are Esther Haugen of Fertile and Marie Wecherly of Garden City, S. Carolina.

David and Tanya Olson are the parents of a baby girl born Nov. 13. She weighed 7lbs. and 15oz. and has been named Taylor Rae. Grandparents are Roger and Goldie Felland and Harlan and Rosalie Olson of Des Moines. Great Grandmother is Lovilla Felland.

\*\*\*\*\*

For Sale;  
Sears sewing machine with fancy stitches. \$50.00 or best offer 797-2672

### FOR SALE

Used gold refrigerator and stove  
Tom Sheimo 797-2223

\* \* \* \* \*

Thanks to Evelyn & Alan Elthon for the memorial given to the Community Center in memory of their son Andy Elthon.

Thanks, also, to Erma & Stanley Brue for the memorial given to the Community Center in memory of their son David Brue.

Thanks to Mike Wolfe for contributing tree ornaments, and to Evanelle Faulken Perkins for contributing Book Mark crosses to the Community Center. These are for sale at the Center.

LOST: Gray and White  
Male Cat wearing blue collar.  
Call 797-2493

\*\*\*\*\*

The City Council minutes and expenditures are not included in this months Reminder as they were not made available to us.



SANTA IS COMING!!!!SANTA IS COMING!!!!  
Santa Claus Days Saturday Dec. 15th  
at 9:00 am at the community center.

\*\*\*\*\*

The High School Youth Group from the Church of Christ will be coming to your door on a service project on the afternoon of Dec. 9th.

They will be collecting food (because of the Winnebago layoff) for the Winnebago County Food Bank.

Would you please welcome them with a contribution.

Thank You -

Elaine Hall  
Nancy Sheimo  
Youth Leaders

\*\*\*\*\*

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Fertile Garden Club met on November 13th, at the Fertile Community Center with 17 members present.

Roll call was answered by telling something from your garden you were thankful for.

Thought for the day was given by Alice Kingland.

Officers chosen for next year are:  
Reva Anderson - President  
Penny Miller - Vice President  
Ruth Rovang - Secretary  
Fern Midtgaard - Treasurer

Celeste Christenson gave a lesson on drying flowers. Penny Miller gave a lesson on "Forcing Bulbs and Planting Them". She brought several dishes of bulbs she had started.

Both lessons were very interesting and helpful.

The Dec. meeting will be Dec 11th at 12 noon at Butcher's Steak House. Christmas gifts will be exchanged and secret pal names revealed.

Ethel Tuttle  
Reporter

\*\*\*\*\*

*Merry Christmas*

4-H Club News

The Grant Livewires met Oct. 20th at the Fertile Community Center. Roll call "My Favorite Teacher" was answered by 11 members. Next month we are to bring new members and find a new Assembly Leader.

We held election of officers. Barb Lee was elected President. Katie Anderson Vice President. Abby Almeliem Secretary. Nicole Midtgaard Treasurer. Stacy Suby Historian. Jessica Suby Reporter. Bridget Anderson Photographer. Emily Evans Flag Bearer. Kelly Knutson & Christian Calgaard Caller.

We adjourned by saying the 4-H Pledge.

Presentations given were:

"Taking Good Pictures" by Nicole Midtgaard  
"The Color Wheel" by Katie Evans.

We attended the Cerro Gordo County 4-H Awards Night Oct.20th. During the "Parade of Clubs" the following girls were award recipients:

Officer Book Recognition  
Barb Lee - Treasurer  
Club Leadership Awards  
Barb Lee  
Jamie Ouverson  
Star Awards  
Barb Lee  
Stacy Suby  
Nicole Midtgaard  
Jessica Suby  
Darcie Monson

Project Certificates  
Stacy Suby - Child Development  
Barb Lee - Sheep

In September, Katie Anderson and Abby Almeliem went to the Spencer Fair and gave a presentation on "Making a Pie". They were purple ribbon winners at the "North Iowa Fair".

\*\*\*\*\*

WANTED TO BUY

A Fertile Cookbook  
Mrs. Roger Humphrey. 797-2245





SENIOR CITIZENS MENU

Dec. 4th - Minute Steak, baked potatoes, carrots, tossed salad, pudding, bread, butter, milk, coffee.

Dec. 18th - Pot Luck.

Call Edna Pederson at 797-2669 before noon on Monday.

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THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for all the flowers, gifts, cards, and visits during my stay in the hospital. A special thank you to Pastor Kampstra for his visits. God bless you all.

Henry Novak

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, cards, and prayers while I was in the hospital. Thank you Pastor Kampstra for your faithful trips to the hospital and your prayers. A special thank you for the cards I received from the Church Of Christ.

Keith Sheimo

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COMMUNITY CENTER FUND RAISERS

Two very successful money raising events were held in November. Our Turkey Supper netted us \$1,700. A week later, on Nov 17th, we held our annual Craft Fair. Forty-nine dealers rented space in the gym for their crafts. Our Turkey Noodle Soup, Chili Soup, Maid-rites, Goodies, and table rent netted us \$985. We had a good crew for both events. We can't begin to name everyone who helped, but we feel we must give special thanks to Arnie and Helen Hauge for making approximately 1,500 donuts for us to sell.

Thanks to everyone who had any part in helping. I think we all agree "Old Putsy" (Fertile) is a great little town. Our next event will be the Sweetheat Dance in March.



Happy Holidays from the "Putzy Post"!!!!!!

United States Postal Service

It's that time of the year when the Postal Service always says "Mail Early". With so many loved ones away from home in the service of our country, we

really do need to be getting our holiday gifts and greetings sent. Sending this week is a must. Let's make sure that they know how much we care.

If you haven't stopped into the Fertile P.O. window area this last week, you haven't seen all the nice gifts that we are selling. We have T-shirts and sweatshirts. We have banks, coffee mugs, calendars, puzzles, Teddy bears, and jewelry. These items are all of excellent quality and the prices are fair. We have a little of everything in stock and we also are taking orders which are filled within one to two weeks. So come in and see what we have.

Now just a short note to any children who are interested in stamps. The postal service has an Activity Guide to show you some stamps and some fun puzzles that use stamps to find their solutions. This guide requires reading skills and being able to follow directions so it is not for very young children. It is fun. I would like to give this guide to any child interested in stamps or word puzzles. I just need to know the names of anyone interested.

I also have color books of stamps that are fun for anyone who enjoys coloring. Both of these items are free and just waiting to be sent to you or anyone that you know that would enjoy them.

Again this year, Santa has asked that the Fertile Post Office take special care in collecting all his letters from you kids to him. We have a special slot in the Post Office lobby for mail going to Santa. Just look for his picture. He told me that the elves are working very hard so that the toys will be ready by Christmas Eve. Santa also promised to send a note to anyone who wrote to him. He does watch to see if we've been good or bad. I know because I saw the note that Santa sent to Levern Nelson last year. He keeps an eye on us all. Doesn't he Levern?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bonnie and Shari





Thank the following merchants for making it possible for us to publish the FERTILE REMINDER. Their ads help us to purchase the paper, ink, labels and other supplies. We still need to hear from you to pay postage and other expenses.

LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2219

FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE 797-2437  
Rent the Rug Doctor

BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490

PRONTO MARKET 797-9698

MARV'S SERVICE 797-2677

RAY SANDIFER - TOM'S SALES 797-2681

WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494  
Katolight Generators  
Sales & Service

CREST CITY COW PALACE 582-4646  
Rex Taylor 896-3717  
Norman Taylor 896-3426

FIRST STATE BANK 896-2265

BUTCHER'S STEAK HOUSE 797-2647  
Delicious Food  
Call for reservations

OUVERSON OIL 797-2267

GAIL'S BEAUTY SHOP 797-2475

**AMERICAN FAMILY**  
**INSURANCE**  
AUTO HOME BUSINESS HEALTH LIFE®



**JOEL SECORY AGENCY**

912 NORTH 8TH STREET WEST  
CLEAR LAKE, IOWA 50428  
PHONE: OFF. 515-357-8168  
RES. 515-357-6760

FERTILE FEED SERVICE 797-2242  
Complete Livestock Needs  
Softner Salt, Dog & Cat Food



Greetings

Andy Osroald  
RRI  
Hartlontown Ia 50444