

Remember the Ouverson
Family reunion at the Fertile
Community Center, Sunday Aug.
11, at 12 noon. Coffee and
cold drink will be furnished.
Pass this message on to others.



HALVOR OUVERSON FAMILY
1915

FERTILE REMINDER

AUGUST 1991

I sit here alone many hours out of the day, and I have plenty of time to think, both of the present and the past. And I have wondered with the advancement that has been made in so many, many things, why a man or group of men haven't sat down and discovered some way that things between countries could be settled without going to war, and killing people and causing so much suffering. I know the Bible says there will be wars and rumors of wars, until He comes again. But why not have just runors?

I will tell you of some of the things men have made such a big improvement on. Back in 1908, Dr. N.W. Phillips, living in Clear Lake, bought a car. I don't remember what make it was. He came out to my folks to give them a ride in his new car. He and my parents were very good friends. My folks lived where Curtis Oувersons live now. This car could only go 25 miles per hour, and didn't have a top or any doors. I remember my Mother hanging on to me so I wouldn't fall out. You had to light the lights with a match. They were some sort of Carbide. He knew when he bought it, it was just a summer car. He could only run it from about the middle of May until the first rain in the fall. And then he had to use a team of horses and a buggy to make his calls. The tires had a thin rubber inner tube inside and on those roads you could have a blow out very easy- you had to stop and change it at once. Sometimes it could be patched: you always carried an extra tire to put on in place of the blown out tire.

In 1918, my folks bought a Buick 4. It was a little improved. It had a top but no windows, It had side curtains to button on if necessary. And the lights could be turned on in the car. The tires were the same as the other car. And in the fall it was put in the garage and jacked up to keep the tires off the cement. There was no cement or blacktop roads, not even gravel ones, and the roads were dragged with a homemade drag pulled with horses. Compare the many makes of cars today, push a button and windows roll up and down, the lights are turned on and off from inside, and there is a radio in most of them and some even have phones. There is hardly ever a blowout and the car runs the year around. If we get a foot of snow, by 10 o'clock the next morning you are on your way to work 50 miles or more away, with the road bladed off and a nice paved road ahead. The upholstery in the earlier cars was cold leather, (plastic wasn't known), now they have beautiful plush upholstery in any color you want.

Enough on the advancement of cars.

I'll tell you of the early harvest and how the grain was taken care of. I can just remember of one year when the small grain, mostly oats, were cut with a scythe or sickle, and laid in winrows. One man cut it and two men tied it into bundles and shocked it. There were six bundles to a shock and one laid over the top to help shed the rain. When it was cured, or dried, then it was ready to be threshed.

A man by the name of Andrew Suby, (Mrs. Bud Jenkins and Doris Oswald's father), had a threshing machine. He would go to the different homes and thresh their grain. The machine was run by coal to build steam. He would come early in the morning to fire up and when he got up steam, he would blow a short whistle.

He had the machine set just inside of the pasture fence. When he blew the first whistle, I would run to the fence and he would lift me over and we'd go to the machine where I'd blow the whistle a few times. Then he'd set me back over the fence and we'd go to the house for breakfast. The whistle was to let the men in the community that the threshing machine was ready to go.

It took eight men with teams and hayracks to haul the bundles of grain to the machine. Then there were two men with teams and wagons to haul the grain from the machine to the granary. Two men would stack the straw.

Most everyone had ticks, and they would fill them with this fresh straw and they were our mattresses. It was also put under the living room rug, a fresh amount each spring and fall, and the rug was washed and tacked back down all around the room.

Then the binder came on the market and Dad and a neighbor got one. It had to move right along to work, so our four horses were used until noon and the neighbor's four horses were used in the afternoon. The machine cut the grain, tied it and kicked it off in bundles. If there was any straw left in the straw rack after it was near time for a new one, it was hauled onto the field and mowed under.

The corn was the same way. It took several days to get a field planted. Everything was done with horses. A field had to be disked once and dragged twice before it was ready to plant. Then they could only plant two rows at a time. Then it had to be dragged again, and when it was up big enough, they started to cultivate it. They tried to cultivate a field four times, but with favourable weather, it could get too tall to run more than three times. There was no weed killer or insecticides to be used.

When fall came they went into the corn field with a team and wagon. The man had on heavy mittens and what he called a husking peg put on over his mitten. He usually could husk one load in the forenoon and one in the afternoon. The husking peg took off most of the husks, so he had quite a clean wagon of ear corn. My Dad picked out the nicest ears and those were put up for seed the next year. The loads of corn were brought to a corn crib and stored.

Several years later the combine came on the market. Everything about it was tractor pulled. There wasn't much small grain grown, it was all corn and a new product, the soy beans. This machine picked the corn, husked it, shelled it and had it ready to be hauled by wagon and tractor to the dryer if you had one, or to go to the elevator. It also shelled the beans and left them ready for the market. A far different process and much quicker.

I will tell of olden days some time later., So--

'Cause it's raining, Don't complain,

If you want the rainbow, You must have the rain.

Violet Hall



Henry Oувerson Family

Back row L to R

Lawrence, Clarence, Edwin,
Melvin, Virgil

Front row L to R

Harley, Mary, Henry, and Emery.

The Oувerson Family pictures used in this issue are some of the members who will have family attending the reunion on Aug. 11th.

JUNE BALANCE SHEET

Expenditures

David Low	301.41
Janice Hare	257.08
Waste Systems Corp.	1214.50
IPERS	108.68
City of Fertile	51.00
Peoples Nat. Gas	37.56
Winnebago Co-op Tele.	70.31
Dick Sheimo	159.57
Cheryl Benson	289.03
Treas. State of Ia.	92.47
Cely Olson	19.39
Ingram	190.97
Sarah Richard	76.77
Interstate Power Co.	662.53
Baker & Taylor	14.48
People	19.53
Teen	15.95
Virtue	23.50
Shepherd's Voice	85.60
Kinney Memorial Library	10.50
Demco	112.68
Woman's Day	15.97
Feed-Rite Controls	10.00
Country Woman	12.98
Airway Lawn Service	347.22
Field & Stream	14.94
Classic Cross Stitch	12.97
B. Dalton	100.76
Better Containers Mfg. Co.	85.96
Cheryl Benson	21.84
World Book	8.00
BMQ	138.13
Worsley Electric	552.00
Larsen P & H	102.00
Fertile Lmbr & Hdwe	29.46
Lake Mills Graphic	222.00
Central Lock & Key	39.89
Fertile Softball & L League	250.00
Postmaster	32.75
Cheryl Benson	274.81
Sarah Richard	102.05
Cely Olson	19.39
Ingram	31.52
Corner Book and Gift	49.79
Chelsea House	19.45
Oxmoor House	7.73
Life Skills Books	214.02
Better Homes and Garden	18.77
North Iowa Library Co-op	40.00
Electronic Spectls., Inc.	427.00
World Book	<u>98.38</u>
Total	7,107.27
Total Receipts	4,943.42

COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Tues., July 2, 1991 with Mayor Hoffman presiding and council members Smith, Strohman, Hansmeier and Sandifer present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Report given that the fence is finished at the horseshoe court and that Red Olson did the cement work.

City received a workmen's comp refund and an Ipers refund.

Timer has been installed at the park and light will go off at 11 p.m. Work on the streets will be done in 3 to 4 weeks.

Motion to accept Marion Jennings as the rural library board member and to appoint Celeste Christians to be second term on the library board. Carried.

Water tower has been cleaned and inspected.

Approval given for a wedding to be held in the park on Aug. 3, 1991.

Five applications were received for the part-time water and sewer maintenance job. Motion to hire Tim Tuttle. Carried.

Motion to pay Loren Hoffman for 4 hours per month for the last 2 months for reading meters. Carried.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

REMINDER

Building permits are required to build a house or garage in Fertile. Any building on your property check with city on building ordinances.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the prayers, telephone calls, cards and flowers after my surgery in Rochester and special thanks to Pastor Kampspra and Joyce for their visits and to the Church of Christ for their get well wishes.

Marcella Purcell

THANK YOU

Thank you to all for the prayers, food, flowers and cards, extended to my family at the time of my mother's death. God Bless each of you.

Evelyn and Alan Elthon



CHECK IT OUT

The end of summer is often a slow, quiet time when kids complain about having nothing to do. The library is a good place to find all kinds of interesting things. Besides stories, magazines, and videos, there are plenty of books about hobbies and other interesting things.

Brand-new at the library are two sets of books that are informative and very timely. These are aimed primarily at older children, but anyone will find much in them. We Can Save the Earth is a six volume set on the environment. The Drug Alert collection of five books gives lots of information on nicotine, caffeine, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs.

Many new parenting books for adults have recently arrived. From Thomas Publishing comes a set each with 52 Simple Ways To: Teach Your Child About God; Tell Your Child I Love You; Build Your Child's Self-Esteem and Confidence; and Have Fun With Your Child. Other new adult informational books include: Love for a Lifetime (Dobson), Wealth Without Risk, Living Trust/Alternative to Wills and Probate, Flower Drying with a Microwave, and Whirligigs: Design and Construction.

The "1991 Super Summer Reader" tee shirt was won by Chi Christensen. Thanks to all the children who participated.

The Fertile Library has recently been awarded a \$500 grant from Winnebago to be used for the removal of the center wall. Work is expected to be done by this fall.

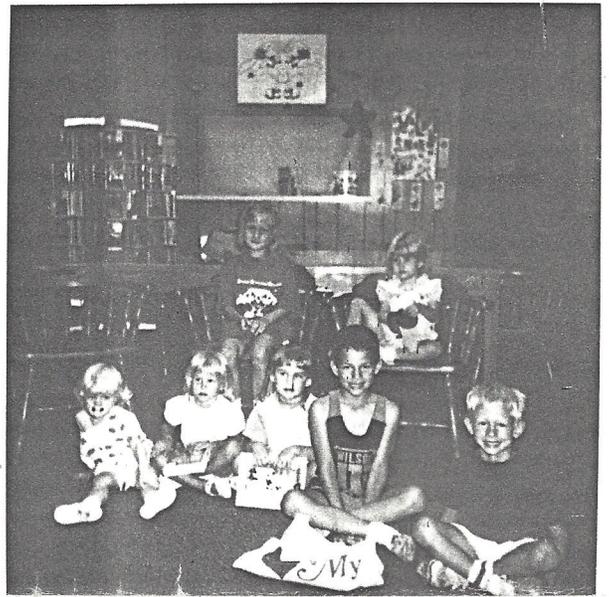
The library hours are:

- MONDAY 2:00-8:00
- WEDNESDAY 1:00-8:00
- FRIDAY 1:00-5:00
- SATURDAY 9:00-noon

When you are looking for something to get your late summer boredom, come to the library and "check it out!"

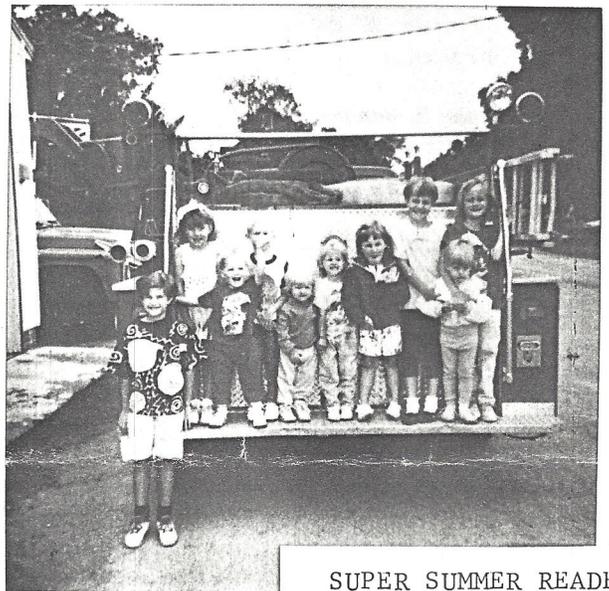
by Celeste Christensen

The next library board meeting is Tuesday, July 30, 1991 at 7:00 p.m.



SUPER SUMMER READER

From left to right: Kelley Benson, Amanda Shropshire, Chi Christensen, Briana Webb, Eric Richard, Audrey Benson, Ryan Shropshire.



SUPER SUMMER READER

From left to right: Sarah & Katie Lewis, Houston Webb, Ryan Shropshire, Kelley Benson, Amanda Shropshire, Briana Webb, Stacy Monson, Audrey Benson, Chi Christensen.

!!!!!!! LIBRARY NOTICE !!!!!!!!

Starting Sept. 1, 1991 fines for overdue books will be in effect. Books will be 25¢ for each day & Video tapes will be a \$1.00.

So look under the bed & in-between the cushions & get them back to the library this month before the fines go into effect.

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.

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FERTILE LUMBER & HARDWARE 797-2437

BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

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RAY SANDIFER - TOM'S SALES 797-2681

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