



**FERTILE
REMINDER**



**Merry
Christmas**

DECEMBER, 1991

A LONG AGO CHRISTMAS

In the early part of the century, times were very hard. Perhaps no worse than they are today.

Eggs were 5 cents per dozen and oats 10cents per bushel.

Most homes had just enough china to set the table and just enough cooking utensils to get by. A dog or cat was never fed out of a pie tin, as they were all needed for the few kinds of pies made or to hold a few buns for baking.

Each week one trip by all neighbors were made to Clear Lake, about 12 miles, to get whatever was needed. The store wasn't full of canned foods, foods ready to bake, or the variety of meat. It had tea, coffee, cheese, eggs, butter, salt, sugar and kerosene to fill the lamps and once in a while a little to turn on the fuel in the stove to start the fire.

There was a list and added to it each day as you needed something, so you would not forget it. For you couldn't drive 12 miles to town more than once a week.

There was a small drug store that sold camphor, peppermint, castoria and a few over the counter pills. It always had the candies; horehound, peppermints, and once in awhile wintergreens and some old fashioned hay stack shaped chocolates. Everything coming from there was done up in pink, green or yellow paper. That was all saved during the year.

Just before Christmas a trip was made to Mason City, 25 miles by team and sled. The team was put in the livery stable and the people went to a very clean, cheap restaurant. She served meat, potatoes, one vegetable and either pie or cake and coffee. I don't remember what the charge was and it must have been small or else lots of people would not have gone there for a meal.

There was a little more to buy in Mason City than at Clear Lake. We always got some cranberries, Christmas candy, peanuts and what ever gifts we needed.

There were no Christmas trees on sale and there wasn't acres of them grown around here as there is today. My grandfather had lots of timber on his farm, which was a quarter of a mile west of ours, and it had lots of jack oaks growing on it. They never loose their leaves in the fall, they lose them later, nearer spring. Dad would go there and cut down a nice pretty one and that was our Christmas tree. It had to be kept in a pail of water, the same as the evergreen does. A few nights before Christmas, we would get out the pink, green and yellow paper that had been saved all year, and cut each into narrow pieces and paste them in rings and make a chain and that was one decoration for our tree. We always grew lots of pop corn and we would pop and string this to put on our tree. And the day before Christmas we could string cranberries too, but the next day after Christmas, we had to take them off the tree and Mother would wash and cook them for New Years dinner.

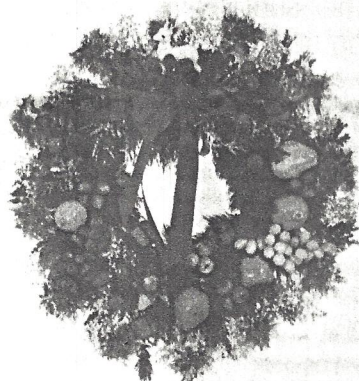
We had little holders that clipped on the tree that held the candles. Everyone had these, for candles were often used for a light. Sometimes we had to cut out the leaves on the tree so they wouldn't catch fire. We never could light it until everyone was through work at night and ready to be there, as we had to watch close so it didn't catch the tree on fire. We had no expensive star and angel for the top of the tree. So we cut a star from card board, covered it with yellow paper and put it on the top of our tree. Christmas Eve came at last and we all thought it a beautiful tree. It had no electric lights, no tinsel, like today, no high priced ornaments nor any evergreen tree, but we all thought it to be a very pretty tree.

All of the gifts were under the tree and I remember I got a sleeping doll with real hair and a set of dishes and Mother got a beautiful big table lamp. I have all three of these pieces yet today. A couple of days after Christmas the tree had to come down and we set it out in the snow and the birds would eat the pop corn and we hung bread crusts on it and the little birds had a feast too.

I wrote this poem many years ago and Brian Hall gave it at the Christmas Program at our church.

THE CHRISTMAS STAR

Years ago on the city of Bethlehem,
Shone a star that was wonderously bright.
And the Wise Men were led to the Manger
by the rays of this beautiful light.
The Angels came down in their glory,
And sang as they'd ne'er sang before,
Of a Babe fast asleep in the Manger
Just inside of the big stable door.
The Shepherds pushed on in their hurry
So eager to see where He lay,
Not knowing that the world's only Saviour
Was the infant asleep on the hay.
Years have passed since this scene was enacted,
And the Heavenly Chorus is still,
And there is no Babe in the Manger,
As we pass over Judea's hill.
We can forget the Shepherds and Wise Men
And the Angels who sang from on high,
But today that same star is still shining
In the very same place in the sky.
We can shut out the light and the darkness,
We can travel near Bethlehem or far,
But His radiance still shines about us
Like the light from the first Christmas Star.



Thank You for your support at
the recent election. Hope you
will support me in the future.
Goldie Felland

Thank you for electing me Mayor,
and for your confidence in me.
I pledge to do my best.
Max (Charlie) Nye

Violet



GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Fertile Garden Club met
Tuesday Nov. 12th at the Fertile
Community Center with 19 members
present. Roll call was answered by
a short reading, poem, or thought.
Vice President Penny Miller con-
ducted the business meeting. A lesson
on "Holiday Ideas" was given by
Donna Ouverson and one on "Christmas
Ideas" was given by Joyce Larson.
Both lessons got us into the
Christmas spirit. The thought of the
day was given by Pat Oswald. Lunch
was served by Penny Miller & Mildred
Mc Graf. The Next meeting will be
Dec. 10th at noon. Dinner and a gift
exchange with secret pals will be
held.

Ethel Tuttle
Reporter

GOVERNMENT COMMODITIES

Government Commodities will be
distributed Dec. 5th at the Fertile
Community Center from 1-4 p.m.
Butter, peanut butter, applesauce,
corn meal, and pork & beans will be
distributed.

STORK NEWS

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Chistensen are
the parents of a baby boy born Nov.
2nd. He weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and has
been named Code Robert. Grandparents
are Oswald Christensen of Calendar
and Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Peterson of
Burnside, Ia.

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Bredeson are
the parents of a baby girl born
Oct. 22nd. She weighed 6 lbs. 4 oz.
and has been named Felicia Carey.
Grandparents are Eugene and Lois Low
and Terry and Ardis Bredeson of
Forest City. Great grandparents are
Luella Low of Fertile, Edyth Bredeson
of Lake Mills, and Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Klipping of Rake.

HO HO HO!!!!

Santa Claus is coming to town Sat.
Dec. 14 from 10 to 11 a.m. He will be
at the community center. The ages are
new born to 5th grade. Call Robin
Harms for more information.

OCT BALANCE SHEET

Expenditures

David Low	301.41
Janice Hare	282.08
Waste Systems Corp.	1214.50
IPERS	121.34
City of Fertile	51.00
Peoples Nat. Gas	37.83
Winnebago Co-op Tele.	68.01
Tim Tuttle	242.02
Cheryl Benson	40.00
Treas. State of Ia.	92.95
Cely Olson	19.39
Marv's	8.06
Cheryl Benson	237.14
Interstate Power Co.	671.08
Demco	65.94
Sara Richards	104.03
Fertile Lmbr & Hdwe.	184.21
Worsley Electric	44.46
Airway Lawn Service	347.22
Cheryl Benson	12.60
Ingram	298.92
Sheperds Voice	37.60
NCRLS	668.00
Iowa Farmer Today	28.95
Brighten Publ. Inc.	21.85
People	21.85
Burtness Plbg. and Htg.	22.00
First State Bank	641.91
Allen Haugen	3.00
Fertile Comm. Center	480.00
E G I	17.26
Schulze Welding & Repair	20.57
Oxmoor House	12.64
Forest City Middle School	12.97
Total	\$6,432.79
Total Revenue	\$14,646.51

COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Tues., Nov. 5, 1991 with Mayor Hoffman presiding and council members Smith, Hansmeier, Sandifer, and Peterson present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Council discussed recycling proposal. Proposed that surveys be sent with water and sewer bills to determine the opinion of everyone.

Council discussed the park contract. City will pay no more on contract and City Attorney will notify Airway Lawn Service.

Exterior light will be installed on the sewer plant.

Residents are responsible for cleaning their own sidewalks and removing fallen branches from trees. Branches can be taken to the lagoon on Saturdays until March 1st.

Council recieved a request to add to the stop signs at Main & First Street. People everyday are not stopping from the north-south stop signs.

Dave Low will check on the price of a metal detector for sewer & water work.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janie Hare

City Clerk

The Fertile Senior Citizens will be holding a membership drive for the next 2 weeks. The committee of Jim Lovick, Keith Sheimo, Viola Roberts, and Maynard Calgaard, will be contacting you. You are welcome to contact them.

ATTENTION ALUMNI

Attention all Fertile Alumni. The all school alumni banquet will be held Sat. June 13, 1992. Be sure to make plans early to attend. More will be in the Reminder later.

NOTICE

Beginning with the new year, Lois Anderson, Florence Nye, and Thelma Trustem will be in charge of the Reminder. All articles and donations should be sent to Lois Anderson Box 122 Fertile, Iowa 50434.

We have enjoyed working with the Reminder these past years, but feel its time for a change. Thanks for all the articles and donations that have been sent. Keep it up.

Ruth B. Duverson

Kay Olson

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

The Fertile Community Centers 12th Annual Turkey Supper was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped in any way and a big thanks to all who attended. None of us could do it without each other. We made a profit of \$1,700.00, which was great, great, great!!!

OUR HOUSE AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Our house is a busy place
At this time of the year.
For it takes so many extra things
To bring real Christmas cheer.

The kitchen smells of spices
And sage and candies sweet,
Of apples and of pop corn
And so many things to eat.

The chickens are all dressed and cleaned
And set away to cool,
And we're searching through the cook books,
To find one good stuffing rule.

The tree has long been purchased,
And left out where it's cold,
But soon it will be sparkling
With tinsel of silver and gold.

The gifts have all been gotten
But they are left to wrap.
And there's so many things to do
There's hardly time for a nap.

There are packages on the closet shelf,
And some put away upstairs,
And we even spy a couple
Hidden behind the big arm chairs.

The desk is covered with Christmas cards
For friends both large and small,
But the address book has gone astray
And can't be found at all.

With the cards is a bunch of health seals
That must be put on each one.
A stamp must be put on the front also,
Do you call licking stamps real fun?

All of the decorations
Are down from the attic at last,
And soon all the hustle and bustle
Will be a thing of the past.

There is cord, paper and ribbon,
String on the table and the floor,
Some packages are ready
But still there are several more.

Christmas Eve will arrive with the
snow flakes,
Very quietly it will come,
But the world in all of it's hurry
Won't have Christmas preparations
half done.

Christmas Day will dawn with it's beauty,
The whole house will be strewn with
it's cheer,
So to each one of you I am wishing
A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Violet

Would you like child free shopping?
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Includes 2 snacks and lunch - \$12.00
Call TEDDY BEAR LEARNING CENTER at
896-2445 for days available



*May every happiness be yours
at Christmas and
throughout the New Year*



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

BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680

OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490

PRONTO MARKET 797-9698

MARV'S SERVICE 797-2677
Batteries & tune-ups

RAY SANDIFER - TOM'S SALES 797-2681

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

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LIBERTY BANK AND TRUST 896-2265

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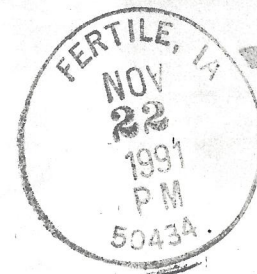
We're Proud to Insure the City of Fertile

Home - Auto - Commercial - Insurance

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