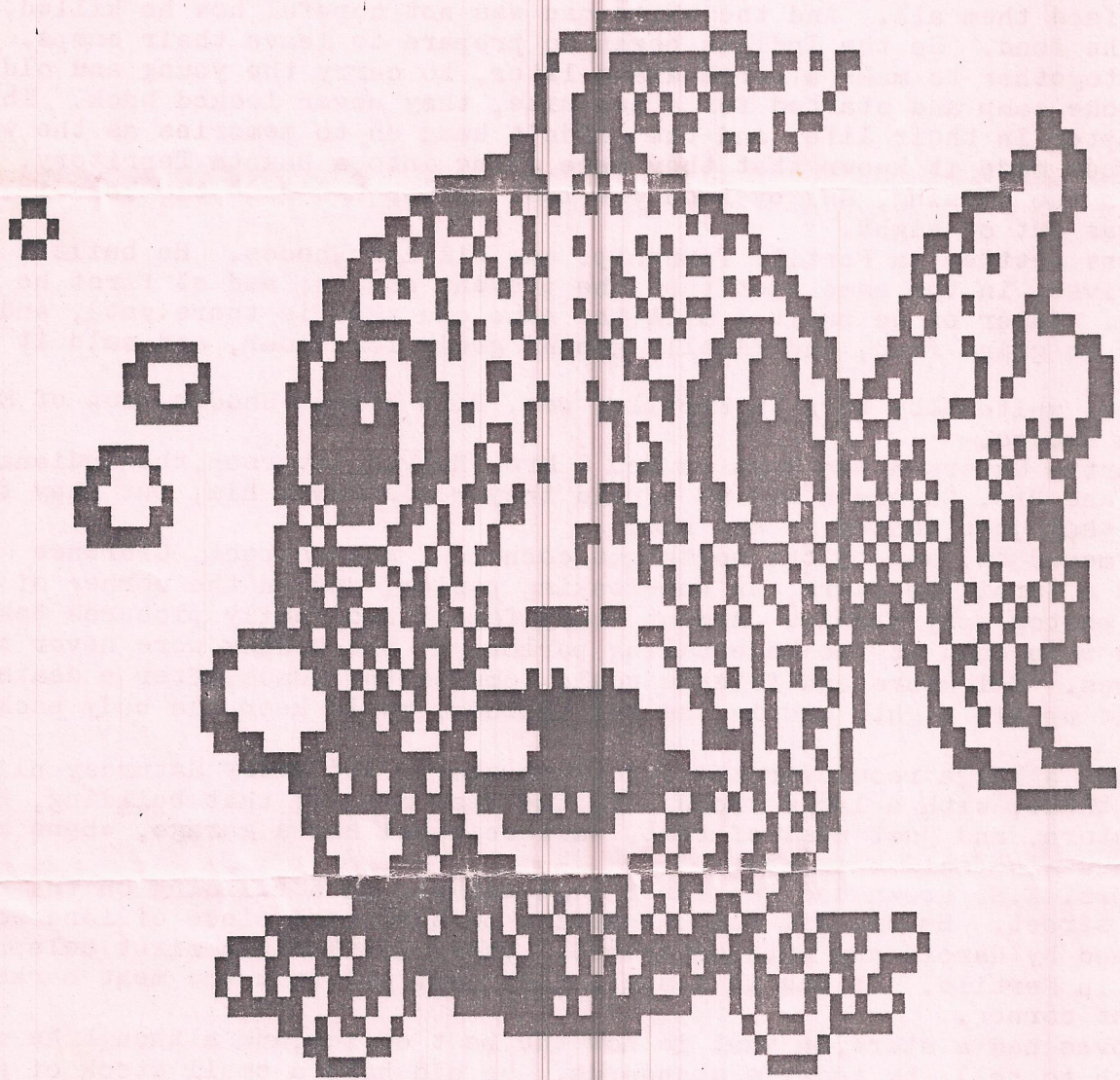


FISH SUPPER

Friday Sept. 27



5:00-7:30

Fertile Comm. Center

Fertile Reminder Oct. 1991

Just a few lines of early history of Fertile.

The first people to be near to where Fertile was later settled, were the Indians. It is believed by many, that there were two tribes; one settled on the south side and one on the north side, of the Winnebago river, which was named after the tribe of Indians. Due to the great amount of Indian arrow heads found, and are still being found, it is likely the two fought several battles. Things have been found such as their hammers and needles, which they used to sew their animal hides into clothing and moccasins. Some things were found, that they didn't know what they were or used for, and they took them for Mrs. Leo Oswald to identify.

As the white men came, the Indians soon realized there would not be enough wildlife to feed them all. And the white man was not careful how he killed, ate and wasted the food. So the Indians began to prepare to leave their camps. They tied limbs together to make a horse drawn liter, to carry the young and old. When they broke camp and started for a new site, they never looked back. This was a closed chapter in their life, and they didn't hang on to memories as the white man does. They made it known that they were going into a Dakota Territory. They broke camp in the morning, and by noon the last Indian had made the bend in the river, and was out of sight.

The first settler in Fertile Township, was William Rhodes. He built a dam across the river, in the same spot that the present dam is; and at first he just sawed lumber. Later on he built a mill (the same one that is there yet), and put in equipment to grind feed, and finally ground grain for flour, and sold it in 50 pound sacks.

The first white baby born in Fertile, was, John Fenton Rhodes, son of Mr. & Mrs. William Rhodes.

When Martin Ouverson was born to Mr. & Mrs. Halvor Ouverson, the Indians came to see him, and Mrs. Ouverson was so afraid they would steel him, but they tried to tell her they just wanted to see him.

Things moved on, and on the northeast corner of main street, Clarence Williams had a furniture store, an undertaking parlor, and in the corner of the store was a photography studio. Almost every family had family pictures taken. Only caskets were sold at the undertaking parlor, as the bodies were never taken from the homes. Neighbors and friends would come to the homes, after a death, and would sit up all night, and in the hot weather, would keep the body packed in ice.

There was a large room over the furniture store, and every Saturday night they had a dance there, with a large crowd. To the west side of that building, Kirks had a drug store, and just west of that, Wallace Deuel had a garage, where he did car repair and also sold new cars.

Mr. & Mrs. E.E. Brown had the first meat market, in a building on the north side of the street. He did his own butchering on a 10 acre piece of land south of town (now owned by Harold and Ruth Ouverson). They also had the first telephone switchboard in Fertile. It was in a small room just off from the meat market; in the southeast corner.

Mr. Groves had a store, in what is now the post office, and although he didn't have too much to sell, by today's standards, he did have a small stock of gift-ware. To the west of Grove's store, Ed Lang & Pete Ouverson had a hardware store. They sold some farm machinery, hardware articles, buggies and harnesses for horses. Lang had a small glass case with some pieces of jewelry in it, just to accommodate his customers. My folks bought me a gold band ring for my 11th birthday, and I still wear it.

On the south side of the street, Mr. & Mrs. E.E. Brown and his sister & her husband, Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Booth, bought the corner house (where the Brierly family now lives), and had a hotel, or board & room business, for several years. Both Brown & Booth ran what they called in those days, a Dray service from Fertile and Mason City and also to Hanlontown--hauling merchandise from the railroad to Fertile. Just west of the hotel, George Orcutt had a shoe shop. He also had a small house by it, as his wife was a cripple and they had a small child, and besides his work, he cared for them. He also mended harness and did all repair work done at a repair shop.

Roe Van Note had a Blacksmith shop, just west of the old Post Office, and he shod horses, welded all farmer's machinery and sharpened plow lays. Then west of the Blacksmith shop was a cafe. It was located on Lime Creek, later the name was changed from Lime Creek to Winnebago River, named for a tribe of Indians who camped there. For many years the cafe was called The Lime Rock Cafe. The first cafe operator that stayed, was Max Purcell. Perhaps I would remember some of the earlier ones, but they stayed such a short time it was easy to forget them.

Then just west of the cafe, A.A. Elthon's store opened. He started up with very little cash, and there was very little to sell, only staple goods. Many of the items were sold in the bulk. There was very little canned goods, and no fresh fruit at first. Everything in the store had to be drayed over from Hanlontown, where it was brought in there by railroad. Coffee came in coffee beans and how well we all enjoyed the old coffee grinder. Butter, chickens and eggs were bought from the farmers.

Later another store opened to the west of Elthon's building. This one was operated by E.B. Jones & Clarence Sheimo. Hilda Haugen clerked in the store and it had a variety of things. It had a shelf of dress materials. It was much easier to go there and buy dress material, than to go to Clear Lake or Mason City. More canned goods and some fresh fruit were later added.

The Mill was still running as it did when William Rhodes first started it, but now they were grinding grain for stock and also grinding wheat for flour. We always bought enough flour early in the fall to last through the winter, as the roads got so full of ruts and deep mud, like they did in the spring.

Fertile, like every other town, has advanced and grown in the past century. Many things and places have changed.

On the north side of Main street, Larsen Plumbing & Heating, is located. A house is next where Mr. & Mrs. Squire Humphrey lived many years ago, now owned and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Olson & family.

The former Groves store building was remodeled several years ago and is the Fertile Post Office, just to the west of the Kenneth Olson's garage. The Burtness Brothers Plumbing & Heating Business is located in the former bank building. Across the street to the west, Mr. & Mrs. Gunder Hegney had a hardware store years ago. She had a loom and I have woven many yards of rugs on it. Now Mr. & Mrs. Alan Haugen & sons live there. Across the street a locker took the place of the Sheimo & Jones store, and they wrapped a froze meat for customers. It now is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Chester Amundson. Max Nye had a store on west from the locker building, but it is closed now. The Fire Station built next to Nye's and is answering fire calls. Gail Zirbel had a Beauty Shop under the fire station for several years, but then moved a shop to the west end of town, next to the house where she lives. Years ago that house was the Creamery, operated by Johnny Johnson. Then they decided to build a new Creamery in the east end of town, beside the Winnebago River. It was still operated by Johnson, and had several other buttermakers before it closed. At the last cream was hauled in in cans by trucks and finally milk trucks are hauling the milk from the few farmers who have cows.

To the north of the creamery was a small Lumber Yard, operated by Elmer White. It didn't have too much lumber as it had to be drayed from Hanlontown. Later on Henry Halvorson was the manager for several years. Eugene Hall and Leon Hagen are now the present owners.

Then years ago as there got to be more cars, Dewey Ouverson built and operated a gas station and car repair shop, across the street, north, from the lumber yard. He operated it for many years, and there have been several others who have run it over the years.

Again I will end this and remember, it was in the early days of Fertile, and: Think not of the future, the present is all we have,

For soon the future will be the present

And the present will be the past.

Violet.

COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

The Fertile Community Center is sponsoring a Fish & Chicken Supper to raise money for the winter utility bills. The building is used by many groups. If you are willing to furnish a salad or cupcakes, please call the center, Kay Olson, Ruth B. Ouverson, or Denise Eischeid.

We also need your help to serve. Please volunteer!!!

Some of the groups that use the center are: The Fertile Garden Club, 4-H, pre-school, little league, Senior Citizens, elections, class reunions, Alumni Banquets, and family reunions.

FALL FAIR

The Fertile Senior Citizens will hold their Fall Fair Sat. Oct 19th from 6:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M at the Fertile Community Center. A full breakfast will be served. Crafts and baked goods will be offered for sale.

STORK NEWS

Kermit and Sue Kittleson are the parents of a baby girl born Aug. 23. She weighed 8 lbs. 13oz. and has been named Katherine Lola. Grandparents are Lola Kittleson of St. Ansgar and Enid Williams of Blackfoot Idaho.

Hugh and Marie Webb are the parents of a baby boy born Sept. 1. He weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and has been named Harrison Tanner. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Larry Nelson and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Webb all of Clear Lake. Great Grandparents are Leverage Nelson of Fertile, Della Vaage of Forest City and Hazel Hill of Mason City.



LIBRARY NEWS

The 5¢ a day fine for books and \$1 a day fine for videos is now in effect. One hundred and eighteen (118) overdue books have been returned to the library, only one hundred and twenty-seven (127) to go. We appreciate your effort in returning these books, keep up the good work!

We received a new shipment of books this week (Sept. 9, 1991). For you mystery buffs we now have Blood Shot, Burn Marks and Indemnity Only by Sara Paretsky. If amature sleuthing is your forte, you'll find Mrs. Pollifax and the Whirling Dervish by Dorothy Gilman, or Longshot by Dick Francis to your liking.

If it's autobiographies you enjoy check out Me by Katharine Hepburn, Koop by C. Everett Koop, or Poisen Pen-the unauthorized biography of Kitty Kelly.

More new arrivals:

- A Woman of Substance - Barbara Taylor Bradford
- The Women in His Life - Barbara Taylor Bradford
- Daughter of Deceit - Victoria Holt
- The Doomsday Conspiracy - Sidney Sheldon

Childrens Books:

- Clifford Books - Norm Bridwell
- Little Critter - Mercer Mayer
- Mother Goose & Grimm - Mike Peters

Junior Books:

- SVH-Long-Lost Brother - Francine Pascal
- SVK-Sweetvalley Slumber Party-Pascal
- SVT-Booster Boycott - Ann Martin
- BSL\$-Karen's New Teacher - Martin
- Search for Aladdin's Lamp - Jay Leibold

We also have on our shelves:

- Standard Baseball Card Price Guide
- 1992 Blackbook Price Guide for Paper Money
- 1992 Blackbook Price Guide for Coins

So come on in and CHECK IT OUT!!

The next library board meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1991 at 7:00 p.m.

- Mon. 2:00-8:00
- Wed. 1:00-8:00
- Fri. 1:00-5:00
- Sat. 9:00-12:00

DOG GROOMING

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- .flea dip



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AUGUST BALANCE SHEET

Expenditures

David Low	301.41
Janice Hare	257.08
Waste Systems Corp.	1214.50
IPERS	112.36
City of Fertile	51.00
Peoples Nat. Gas	36.70
Winnebago Co-op Tele.	73.72
Tim Tuttle	207.44
Cheryl Benson	288.11
Worth Co. Auditor	4502.26
Cely Olson	19.39
Ingram	181.20
Sarah Richard	121.67
Interstate Power Co.	687.68
World Media Express	250.74
Oxmoor House	7.73
Cornerstore Book & Gift	106.47
Ranger Rich	15.00
Country Woman	12.98
Newsweek	40.30
Sports Illustrated	59.95
Pub Citizens Health Lettter	14.95
Fertile Reminder	10.00
Fertile Lbr. & Hdwe.	30.59
Farmers Co-op Elev.	29.00
Watertower Paint & Repair	575.00
Hygienic Lab	30.00
Stofles Const.	2141.80
Electronic Specialties	427.00
Worsley Electric	100.00
Burtness P. & H.	36.76
Brcka Construction	479.48
Airway Lawn	347.22
Dick Sheimo	90.43
Total	12,859.93
Total Receipts	9,991.00

COUNCIL NEWS

The Fertile City Council met in regular session on Tues. Sept. 3, 1991 with Mayor Hoffman presiding and council members Sandifer, Hansmeier, and Strohman present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Reports were given on repair of culverts, street signs to be replaced, installation of a street light south of the park, and schedule for gas installation to the area south of the river.

Tim Tuttle will repair park picnic tables during the winter. Motion to allow him to buy some tools. Carried.

Representatives of library had several questions on bookkeeping for grants, fines, and bequests. Board and city clerk will meet with representat-

ives of N C R L S within the next two weeks.

Request received to reduce utility bills for residents who are gone during the winter.

Motion to grant permission for a concert in the park on Sun., Sept. 15 or Sun., Sept. 22 from approximately, 6:30 to 8:30 or 9:00.

Terms for mayor and three council members will expire this year. Council members with expiring terms are Hansmeier, Strohman, and Peterson. Nomination papers are available from the city clerk and must be turned in by Sept. 19th, at 5 p.m.

Motion to pay monthly bills. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Janice Hare
City Clerk

The next regular council meeting will be held on Tues. Oct. 1, 1991.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Fertile Garden Club met at the Fertile Community Center Sept. 10th. There were 17 guests present. After the business meeting, Lorna Petersburg gave a lesson on peonies. We learned there are yellow peonies. Fern Midtgaard gave a very good lesson on "Lines and Designs". Both lessons were very interesting. Synnova Hoffman served a delicious lunch. The next meeting is Oct. 8 and will be guest day.

Ethel Tuttle, Reporter

FISH AND CHICKEN SUPPER

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH

5:00 TO 7:30 PM.

FERTILE COMMUNITY CENTER

SERVING FISH AND CHICKEN, BAKED POTATOE, BAKED BEANS, SALADS, CUPCAKE, AND DRINK.

ADULTS \$5.50

CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER \$3.50

Open house bridal shower will be held for Rhonda Ganz, bride elect of Jim Jensen, on Saturday Oct. 5th at 2:00 pm at the Church of Christ. Everyone Welcome.

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
 BURTNES PLUMBING & HEATING 797-2680
 OLD MILL ANTIQUES 797-2490
 PRONTO MARKET 797-9698
 MARV'S SERVICE 797-2677
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 FERTILE FEED SERVICE 797-2242
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 WORSLEY ELECTRIC 797-2494
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 Sales & Service

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