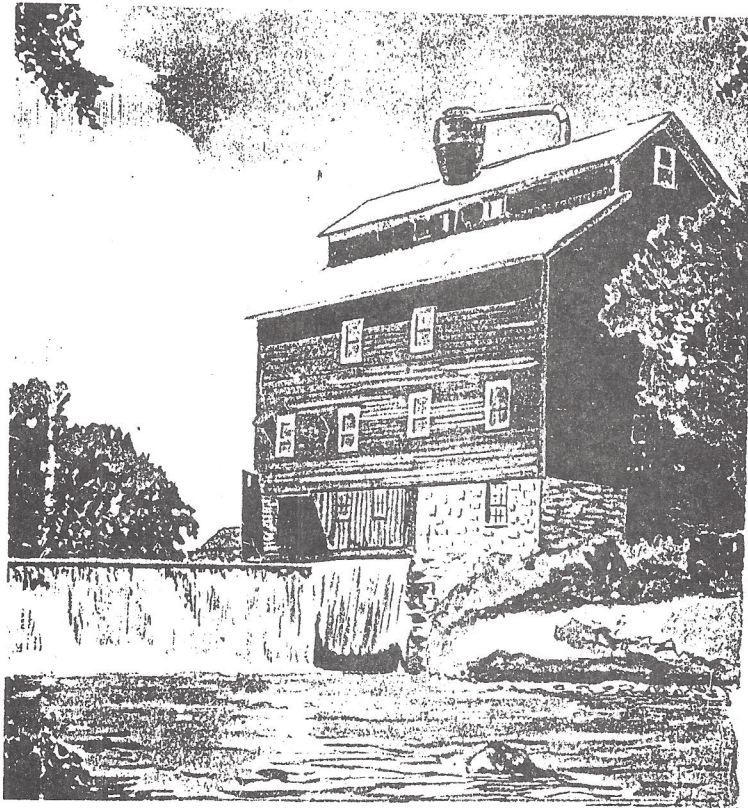


MAY 1998

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

May 4	Fire Department Meeting	7 PM
May 5	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
May 5	City Council Meeting	7 PM
May 5-6	Senior Health Clinic	8:30 AM - 3 PM
	Fertile Church of Christ	
May 5	Blood Pressure Check for all ages - Senior Center	
May 7	Recycle Day	
May 9	Garden Club Plant Sale	
	Pat Oswald Home	8:30 - 11 AM
May 10	Mother's Day	
May 16	Boys and Girls 4-H	
May 17	Park Clean-up	11 AM
	Town Picnic	5 PM
May 19	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
May 23	City-wide Brush Pick-up	

Gas-O

Neil L. Kuns

March 15, 1994

In the early day's of Dad's garage business in Fertile, he and Reuben Rodberg shared the building they rented from Dewey Ouverson. It was located on the north-east corner of Main and First Streets, where the Cenex station now stands. Dad did mechanical and body work on cars in his north side of the building. He also repaired and sharpened farm equipment, did all sorts of welding work, and sometimes made to order equipment for any of the citizens of the area.

When Reuben built his new garage west of the main business block, Dad took over the south side of the building and sold Red Star gasoline, in addition to all he had been doing. This was the beginning of "Kuns Super Service" (without a apostrophe in the name). As soon as I was old enough I began pumping gas for Dad so he could work without *that* interruption at least. At first the pumps were hand operated. There was a clear glass cylinder at the top which held up to ten gallons. The operator worked the handle back and forth until the gallons in the top equalled the customer's order. The gasoline then was gravity fed into the car's tank, wherever it might be located. There was a lot more variety in the placement of the tank in those days.

When electric pumps were introduced the process became easier and more precise. If someone wanted 25 or 50 cents worth of gas we could deliver it to the penny. While riding around as a teen this sort of "short order" was often "in order" because it was all we could afford, even if several in the car contributed to buy the gasoline.

During the '41 to '45 War gasoline was rationed. Each family with a car got at least "A" stamps, which gave them a few gallons for pleasure and basic needs. "B" stamps were for those who could convince the rationing board they needed slightly more. "C" stamps were for those cars in vital use, such as driving school bus or the like. I soon knew what sort of stamps each family possessed, and with them it was no problem to first pump the gas and then get the stamps. The situation was different if a stranger drove up to the pumps and ordered gas. Dad had told me to be sure and ask the would-be customer if he had the stamps before I pumped the fuel. It would be hard to get the fuel back out of the tank. Occasionally some older person would resent a youngster asking him about the stamps, but it had to be done. Dad had to submit the stamps he collected to the supplier when the driver came to refill his storage tanks.

After the war when fuel was again abundant the push to pump more gallons motivated Dad to devise the "Gas-O" promotion. He made a 30 inch dial, added numbers from 1 to 100 around the circumference, attached a small electric motor to the middle, and put a pointer on the shaft. A small hand switch sent current to the motor and spun the pointer. The idea was that if the pointer came to rest on the number of the gallons of gas pumped, the purchase was free. Occasionally someone won, and it stimulated interest, especially since it cost nothing to play. Whenever a truck with large tanks came in Dad hoped they wouldn't see his "Play Gas-O" sign in the window. As kids we would sometimes spin for fun, trying to get the pointer to stop on our birthday or that day or year, or whatever the desired number happened to be. I wonder whatever happened to that old Gas-O spinner.

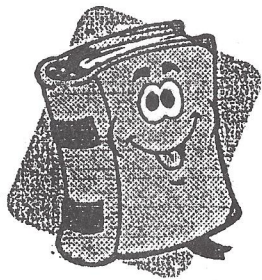
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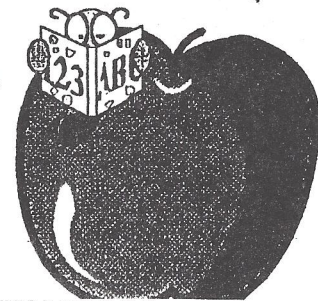
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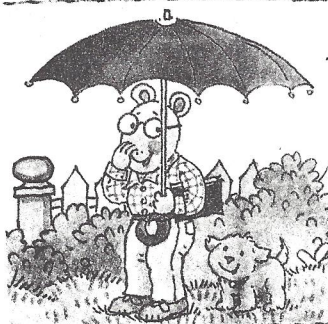


FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Monday 1-8 pm Wed. 1-8 pm
Friday 2-5 pm Sat. 9--Noon
Phone & Fax #: 797-2787



NEW BOOKS

- Montana - Debbie Macomber
- Guinness Book of World Records 1998
- The Vow - Linda Lael Miller
- Island of the Swans - Ciji Ware
- Contact - Carl Sagan
- Homeport - Nora Roberts
- The Long Road Home - Danielle Steel
- The Bone Collector- Jeffrey Deaver
- Murder on the Titanic - Jim Walker
- Chestnut Ridge Acres - Carrie Bender
- Beyond the Picket Fence - Lori Wick
- Irish Rogue - Annie Jones
- No Place for Fear - Al & Joanna Lacey
- Winds of Promise - Bodie & Brock Thoene
- A Capital Offense - Gary E. Parker
- The Bridge Over Flatwillow Creek - Lance Wubbels
- Turn of Glory - Al Lacey
- The House of God - Max Lucado
- The Weight Down Diet - Gwen Shamblin
- Beardstown Ladies Pocket Guide to Picking Stocks



**Take care of books.
 Keep them dry.**



NEW VIDEOS

- Mission Impossible
 - Nine Months
 - Flipper
 - Gaslight
 - Divorce of Lady X
 - Copacabana
 - Key Largo
 - Guarding Tess
 - Sgt. Bilko
 - Sommersby
 - Watership Down
 - Where the Red Fern Grows
 - Swiss Family Robinson
 - The Love Bug
 - Harriet the Spy
 - The Little Mermaid
 - Zoo Life Videos
- AUDIO BOOKS**
- Fault Lines - Anne Rivers Siddons
 - Vegas Rich - Fern Michaels
 - The Long Road Home - Danielle Steel
 - The Lost World - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

LIBRARY NEWS

If you haven't been in the library lately, stop by and see how we have reorganized. We hope this will make everything more convenient for everyone.

The Fertile Library Friends have purchased a set of Zoo Life Videos with Jack Hanna. The titles are Wildlife Adventures, Amazing Animals, Talking with the Animals, What's Up Down Under, Wild Safari, Wonders of the Rain Forest, Himalayan Adventures, Flippin' Out, Country Critters, Hangin' Out in Holland, Bonkers for Babies. The Friends have also purchased a book cart & cordless phone for library use. Thank you for supporting their fund raisers.

We have also received a grant from the Kinney Lindstrom Foundation to purchase videos. This will enable us to purchase more of your favorites.

This summer's reading program is "Rock & Read." Watch for signs for dates & times. If you would like to give a program call the library.

The Easter Bunny (Arlene Lee) visited Fertile Park April 11. Forty children gathered for the egg hunt. Three golden eggs were hidden for a special prize. Thank you to Library Friends for sponsoring it. Thank you to Nance Sheimo for donating the eggs.

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SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS

With Sympathy

Sylvin Oswald

Senior Citizens met March 17th with 12 members present and one carry-out dinner.

We had a delicious meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, tea biscuits and cake with ice-cream.

Minutes were read and approved.

A Get Well card was signed by all and sent to Corrine Miller.

No old business. Discussed the pancake breakfast coming up on April 4th.

President declared meeting adjourned.

Viola Roberts
Secretary-Treasurer

Senior Citizens met April 7th with 15 members present and one carry-out meal.

Maxine Rye offered table prayer, followed by a buffet-style meal consisting of creamed chicken on biscuits, mashed potatoes, scalloped corn and apple pie.

Minutes were read and approved as read.

A thank you note was read from Corrine Miller.

A report was given of the results of our pancake breakfast and bake sale which was a huge success.

Our next Senior Dinner will be April 21st.

President declared meeting adjourned.

Viola Roberts
Secretary-Treasurer

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Senior Citizens Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale on April 4th. We also thank those who volunteered to help and everyone who donated and helped in any way.

It was a great success. Thanks again!

* * *
SENIOR HEALTH CLINIC

May 5th & 6th
Fertile Church of Christ

Ages 55 and up
8:30 AM to 3 PM

For appointments call Vera Humphrey
797-2245

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

* * *

Free Blood Pressure Clinic
All Ages

May 5th at Senior Citizens Ctr

Sylvin Oswald, 92, of Forest City, died on April 7, 1998 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 on April 10, 1998 at the Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, rural Joice, with Rev. Steve Smith officiating.

Sylvin Pearly Oswald was born on May 9th, 1905 on a farm north of Fertile, the son of Peter and Alena (Berge) Oswald. He attended rural school near his home and also Waldorf Academy in Forest city.

He was married to Marguerite C. Purcell on April 11, 1934 in Albert Lea, MN.

Sylvin farmed and was a territory manager for New Idea Farm Equipment Company from 1943 to 1968 when he retired from sales.

Sylvin is survived by two sons and their spouses, Tom and Judy Oswald of Mason City, and Duane "Bud" and Ann Oswald of Fayetteville, GA; two daughters and their spouses, Eileen and Marvin Laudner of Minneapolis, MN; and Linda and Marshall Hansen of Eagen, MN; 10 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Marguerite, and a brother, Floyd Oswald.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

* * * * *
NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

May 9, 1998

8 AM - 2 PM

Any Questions, Call Tanya Olson

797-2064



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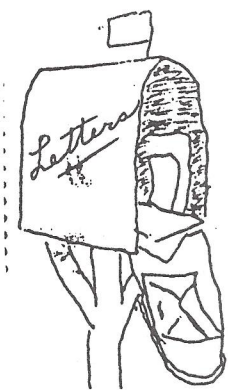
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Dear Reminder,
 Just a note to let you know that Harriet really enjoys the reminder and keeping in touch with all her friends.

She has not been in good health this winter. The last of March she had to have a pace maker put in but is feeling much

better now.

She said to tell you to keep up the good work.

Jerry Ouverson Upchurch

* * *

Dear Reminder Staff,

Sure is great to read the news of what's going on in Fertile.

I'll be in Clear Lake over the June 6th weekend to celebrate Mildred Ouverson Meldow's 90th birthday. Cousin "Millie" is originally from Fertile, now from Port Charlotte, FL. She is the sister of Alpha Ritter and are both the daughters of Pete and Trena Ouverson. Trena is the sister of my grandfather, Gustav Johann Daley, the son of Gunder and Sarah Daley, one of the founders of Fertile.

Sincerely,
 Art Bass
 (Arthur Johann Bass)

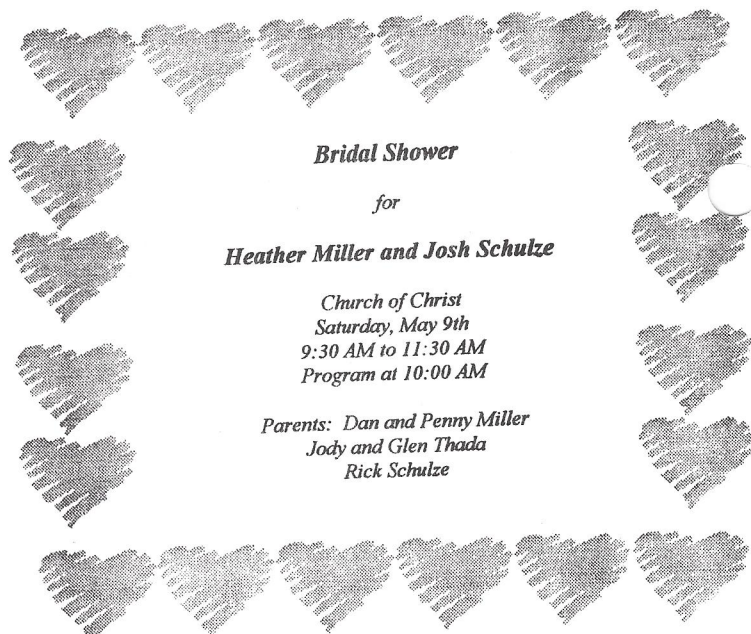
* * *

Dear Reminder Staff,

Wonderful thoughts of Fertile return each time the FERTILE REMINDER comes. In addition to the news, I enjoy reading the notes and comments from others who are renewing their subscription. I was happy to read Paul Thovson's comment some months ago. I knew Paul from school and church. He also served as the boys' counselor one summer when we went to Mount Carmel Bible Camp. It's Amazing all the great memories that return when one mentions family names from Fertile.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
 Neal Luker



Bridal Shower
 for
Heather Miller and Josh Schulze

Church of Christ
 Saturday, May 9th
 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM
 Program at 10:00 AM

Parents: Dan and Penny Miller
 Jody and Glen Thada
 Rick Schulze

"Congratulations!"

Danielle Schulze & Cory Graham are the proud parents of a daughter, Morgan Lynn Graham, born 12/27/97 at North Iowa Mercy Hospital.

Morgan weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and was 20½ inches long. Grandparents are Rick Schulze, Clear Lake and Jody Thada, Garner.

Great-grandparents are Blanche Clapper Schulze, Clear Lake and Randy Schulze, Forest City.

Thank You

How wonderful that we have people in our community who give of their time and energy in helping others.

A big **THANK YOU!** to the First Responders who came to our aid on Saturday, March 28th. God bless each of you.

Teed, Evelyn and
 Terry Elthon

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FERTILE GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Fertile Garden Club held their April meeting at the Fertile Community Center with Elaine Patten and Lois W as hostesses on April 14th. A delicious lunch was served.

Roll Call was "What plants in your garden attract the most butterflies?" The Lesson was given by Diane Schulze on "Butterfly Gardening". This was a very interesting talk. She then handed out a "Butterfly Garden Plant List. Cindy gave the Thought for the Day.

Plans for the annual "Plant Sale" at the home of Pat Oswald was discussed. Posters were handed out to members to place in the towns around the area. The Plant Sale opens to the public at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 9. Each member will bring 'goodies' for the coffee lunch in the log house. All members will help arrange the plants on May 8th at 4 p.m. After the sale is over, we will hold our May Basket exchange.

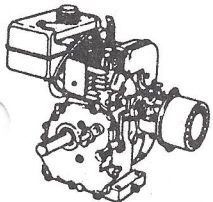
Pat Oswald, Reporter

**FERTILE GARDEN CLUB
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 9
9 TO 11 A.M.
at the farm home of
Pat & Andy Oswald
3608 Eagle Ave.
Hanlontown, IA**



*from 1-35 - 2 miles West on
HWY #9 then onto A45 Blacktop
(360th St) for 1/2 mile.
from Fertile
1 mile North of Church of Christ
Plants in the Garage
Coffee & Goodies in the
Log House
EVERYONE IS WELCOME*

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Congratulations

To our graduates from the area schools and colleges. Our best wishes to you all in your future endeavors.

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Regular Hours
Monday through Saturday
6:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Back Room Sale - New & Used Items
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SPRINGTIME
By Maxine Rye

Spring has sprung! How do I know? Oh, the robins are back and the trees are budding!

The little girls are playing hopscotch on the sidewalk and young people are rollerblading down the street.

I read something in a magazine a couple of months ago that really brought back memories.

This person was in charge of cleaning the wallpaper in spring. I'd completely forgotten about that!

It was an eraser-like material, pink in color and had a clean smell.

You'd take a lump out of the pail and start rubbing the wallpaper. Gradually it would turn black from all the dirt and soot.

It's strange I haven't seen it. I know homes are cleaner now with gas furnaces and electric stoves.

Then, they had hard coal heaters, but they were beautiful! Also, they burned cobs and wood in the kitchen range.

That was one of my chores, to pick up cobs and wood.

Another nostalgia came over me when I read this poem.

THE CHURN

How well I remember the old-fashioned churn,
And the hours I have spent at its side;
With the dasher in hand, as it plunged
up and down,

A chore you would take in your stride.
They were called churn-a-crocker ware,
And the dasher was fashioned of wood;
With a cross on the end, reaching
down in the cream,
and the buttermilk tasted so good.

Almost every week the churning
was done,
And it was one of the joys of the farm,
Your arms would get tired.

You'd keep close watch for small
bits of butter to form.
This meant you were nearing the end
of the time

That it took for the butter to set.
When it was molded in prints by
a small butter press,
Many different designs you could get.

There were small wooden churns
That turned with a crank,
Which moved paddles that stirred
thru the cream.

They all served their purpose,
and added to the charm,
Of our long-ago heritage and dream.

WINNEBAGO RIVER STORY

(Written by C.N. Flugum around 1917, published in Des Moines Register)
Mr. Flugum grew up in the Forest City/Leland area)

Close by my home flows the Winnebago River. I know this river from its humble Minnesota source, to where it joins its twin brother, the Shell Rock, to form the noble Cedar.

Many of the beauty spots of Iowa are located on the banks of the river, and to my notion, it is one of the most beautiful streams of Northern Iowa. I have seen a great many of the lovely homes along the course of this river, I have played with it, during summer and winter, from childhood days, and we have come to be great chums.

We have a language all our own, can point to a record nearly half a century of mutual confidence and unbroken friendships, and from time to time it has entrusted me with parts of its long, long story.

I would not betray the Winnebago River for a dozen quarrelsome worlds like ours; but I believe that our common friends are entitled to at least some of the facts, and on that theory I proceed to show them a few glimpses, of the by-gone days, of the Winnebago River.

When this stream first struck out from its original home, it was somewhat undecided as to what course to take.

But somehow it moved southward, in a slow and uncertain way, until it came to the state line, and got a first good look of Iowa.

Then its waters ceased to move. It raised its head, rubbed its eyes, and strained its vision. But the more it looked, the fairer seemed the land to the south, and its exclaimed in wonderment:

"What fairy land is this? This must be Iowa - - Iowa the beautiful land - I will cast my lot with Iowa!"

Then, with a forward bound it crossed the state line, and rushed on into the land of Winnebago. Forward it waters move thru meadows, plains and forest. Onward ever onward ever onward its crystal waters rolled, and every living thing it met on its way, whispered, sang or shouted, "Winnebago! Winnebago!"

With great force it hurled its waters against Walnut Grove, later misnamed Benson Grove, but it could not break thru; so it turned to the west and circled around the stubborn walnuts.

Onward it moved to the tune of Winnebago, gathering force as it rolled along, until it came to a place of very charming natural scenery.

Here its waters moved more slowly, came almost to a stand still, in order that it might take a right good look at the surroundings. In later days, the Red Men of the forest had a city of tents somewhere in this locality, which they called Forest Home, and in our day the white men have built a splendid city here, and very appropriately named it Forest City.

But rivers must not tarry long at any place, and onward the river moved, into the land of Hancock. Here for reasons unknown to me, it changed its course and with as little delay as possible, it plunged into the land of Cerro Gordo, but unable to get a good look at the surroundings and crowded for room it again changed its course, and lashed into the land of Worth. Here the Hills of Fertile turned it back, and into the land of Cerro Gordo it plunged a second time, this time to stay. In our day the men of Fertile have put a harness on it, and made it run their mill, and that may be the main reason for the existence of thrifty little village of Fertile.

(continued next month)

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COOKS

O R N E R HOMEMADE OATMEAL COOKIE MIX

- 7 Cups all-purpose flour 4 cups soft vegetable shortening
- 4 tsp. soda
- 4 tsp. salt 8 cups quick or old fashioned oatmeal (uncooked)
- 4 cups sugar
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar

Sift together flour, soda and salt. Mix in sugars. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Blend in oats, mixing thoroughly. Store in covered container at room temperature. Yield: about 26 cups.

TO MAKE COOKIES

- 3 cups cookie mix 1/4 milk
- 1 egg 1 tsp vanilla

Combine all ingredients and mix until fluffy. Drop by teaspoon onto greased cookie sheet. 350 degrees, 12 to 15 minutes. Yield: 2 1/2-3 dozen. You can add: 1/2 cup chopped nuts, raisins or chocolate chips to the batter.

For rock hard brown sugar, add a slice of soft bread to the package of brown sugar, close the bag tightly, and in a few hours the sugar will be soft. **OR** place brown sugar on a cookie sheet in the oven with a bowl of water and heat at 200 degrees for 10 minutes. Sugar will be soft again.

* **LARSON PLUMBING & HEATING** *
* 797-2219 *



Poke a hole in the middle of hamburger patties while shaping them. The burgers will cook faster and the holes will disappear when done.

Tact is the art of recognizing when to be big and when not to belittle.

“There’s only one trouble with getting older, by the time we reach greener pastures we can’t climb the **Darn** fence!”

You really know you’re getting old when you bend over to tie your shoes and you wonder what else you can do while you’re down there!

LISTEN when your child tells you they do not want to be with or go with someone, **THERE MAY BE A REASON WHY!**

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- 7799
- 8099
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- 9235
- 9316
- 9552
- 10197
- 17253
- 21443
- 32043
- 32297
- 49877
- 57450
- 58542
- 84391
- 97740
- 004500

NUMBER-FIND




0	4	2	7	2	1	1	7	1	5	4	9	0
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2	2	1	8	9	2	6	2	0	0	9	4	8
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9	8	2	4	6	3	7	5	0	5	3	2	4
2	4	9	2	0	4	1	2	4	0	0	8	3
2	9	3	1	6	2	2	9	8	4	3	0	1
9	4	1	6	0	5	3	0	6	4	8	6	4

What shall I make today?

Make a furry snake







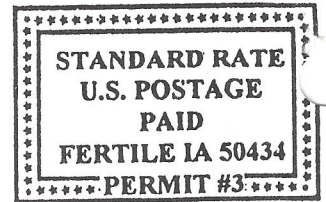
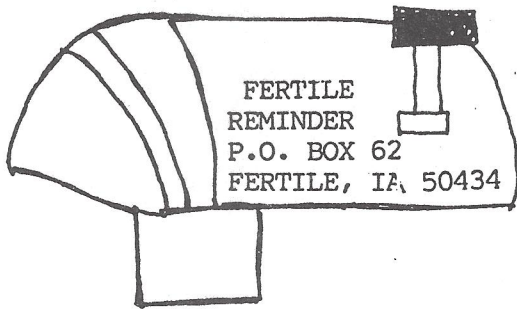
1. For the head, bend over one end of a pipecleaner.
2. Put it along a pencil and bend the head over the end.
3. Wind the long end around and around the pencil.
4. Gently pull the snake halfway off the pencil.

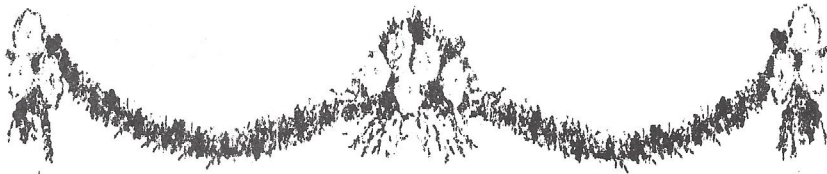
5. Cut some paper eyes and glue them onto the head.
6. Draw a red tongue. Cut it out and glue it on.

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Mother - Daughter Tea

Saturday May 9, 1998

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Cost per person \$9.95**

**Guest Speaker - Nancy Tedros
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* * * * *
* Items for the Reminder should *
* be dropped off at 208 W. Main *
* or called in to 797-2281 by *
* the 14th of the month. *
* * * * *