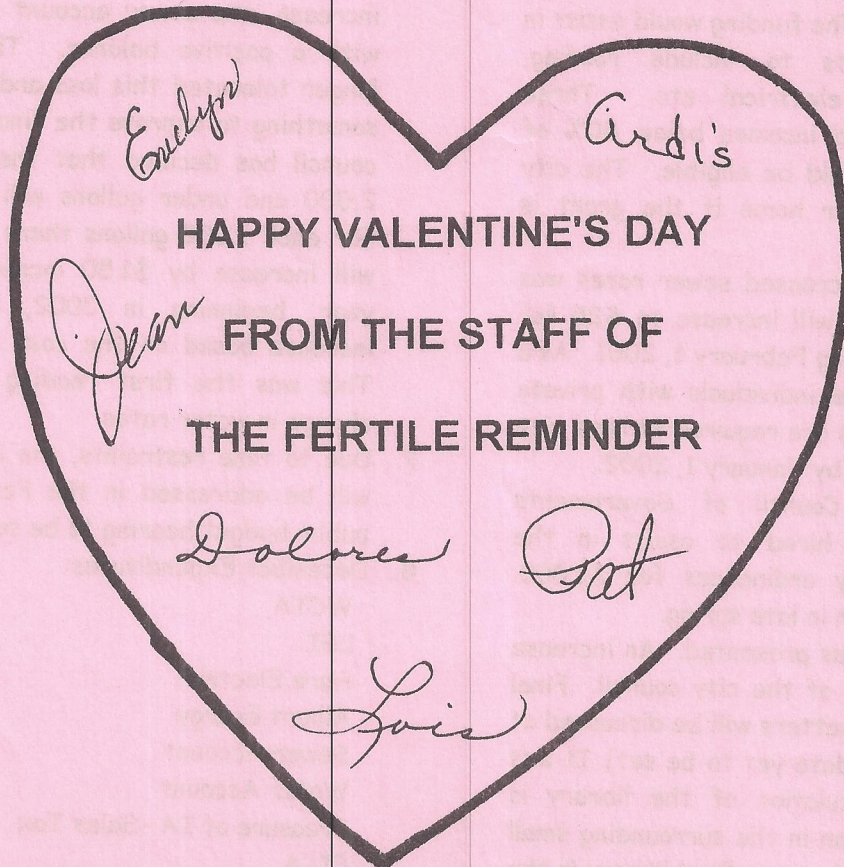


FEBRUARY 2001

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY CALANDER

Feb. 1	F B & I Meeting	7 PM
Feb. 5	Fire Dept. Meeting	7 PM
Feb. 6	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
	City Council Meeting	7 PM
Feb. 17	Boys & Girls 4-H	
Feb. 19	Library Board Meeting	7 PM
Feb. 20	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
Feb. 28	Re-cycle Day	

January Council Minutes

Council members Thompson, Tuttle, Bruns, Russell and Olson were present.

The following items were discussed:

1. The council approved an opportunity for Fertile to be involved in applying for a Community Development Block Grant to rehabilitate owner occupied properties. The funding would assist in rehabilitation projects to include roofing, furnaces, plumbing, electrical etc. Three homes, with household incomes below 80% of the county median would be eligible. The city will match \$2,000 per home if the grant is accepted.
2. A third reading of increased sewer rates was approved. The rates will increase to \$25 for the sewer only beginning February 1, 2001. As a reminder, all of those individuals with private wells within city limits are required to have city water/sewer services by January 1, 2002.
3. North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NACOG) has been hired to assist in the revisions of the city ordinances for \$1,800. This process will begin in late spring.
4. The library budget was presented. An increase of \$4,000 was asked of the city council. Final decisions on budget matters will be discussed at the budget hearing (date yet to be set). It was noted that the circulation of the library is greater in Fertile than in the surrounding small towns and it is the only accredited library in the region.
5. Yaggy Colby representative - Terry McCarthy-presented the steps of a Phase I Preliminary Investigation of the plan to assess and remediate infiltration and inflow within the sewer system. The following steps will occur:
 - Evaluate drain tile systems within the City
 - Evaluate overall sewage system layout
 - Evaluate lift station pumping records
 - Evaluate information from past efforts to correct the problem
 - Evaluate information provided by current and past city staff
 - Evaluate information provided by community members
 - Perform a manhole condition survey
 - Perform high flow level monitoring in manholes
 - Prepare a report of findings

- The council and city clerk as a cost saving measure will gather information.
- 6. The USDA annual budget for the water and sewer is due the 15th. The clerk reported that the water account is operating at a \$7,000 loss each year. With the recent sewer rate increase, the sewer account will end the year with a positive balance. The USDA will no longer tolerated this loss and the city must do something to improve the financial status. The council has decided that the water rates for 2,000 and under gallons will start at \$14.50. For each 1,000 gallons there after the charge will increase by \$1.50 increments. For each year, beginning in 2002, water rates will increase based on the cost of living increase. This was the first reading of the proposed change in water rates.
- 7. Due to time restraints, the 2001-2002 budget will be addressed in the Feb. meeting with a public budget hearing to be set in early March.
- 8. December Expenditures:

WCTA	\$41.60
LGI	\$94.30
Hare Electric	\$118.80
Alliant Energy	\$532.04
Sewer Account	\$1483
Water Account	\$1474
Treasure of IA -Sales Tax	\$162.20
FICA	\$701.27
IPERS	\$271.30
Employee Withholding IA	\$166.00
Tom Kirschbaum	\$1524.38
Jaci Santee	\$364.35
Dave Low	\$304.41
Kirschbaum Repair	\$64.00
Thompson's Garage	\$137.05
Fire Dept. Quarterly	\$1250.00
Library Quarterly	\$2500.00
Tim Tuttle	\$203.17
Jodi Smith	\$184.70
Joyce Russell	\$221.64
Tanya Olson	\$55.41
Dick Bruns	\$184.70
Angie Gerdes	\$129.29
Henry Thompson	\$461.75

~Submitted by Jaci Santee, City Clerk

- Happy New Year -

NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL

As we enter the new year, our town, like many others, faces many challenges that test our success as a community. One of the most important issues to be addressed is our sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The City has, for some time, been out of compliance with maximum influent (sewage) flow limits established in our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In short, we have been exceeding the maximum flow limits specified in our permit. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has required that the City undertake necessary actions that will result in compliance with permit limits. The cause of excessive sewage flows is known to be infiltration and inflow (I/I) of water sources (other than sewage) into our system. Examples of I/I are as follows:

Infiltration ~ Infiltration is generally described as water that enters the sewer system through cracks or holes in pipes, leaking pipe joints, service and manhole connections or manhole walls.

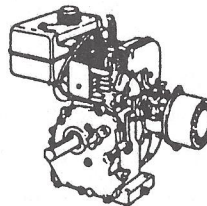
Inflow ~ Inflow is generally described as water that enters the sewer system from sources such as roof drains, sump pumps, foundation drains, cooling water discharges, manhole covers, surface area drains and cross connections with storm sewer and/or drainage tiles.

The City Council has already begun the process to address this issue. The preliminary investigation phase has started. The result of the evaluation will be a plan of action for the reduction of I/I that can be submitted to the IDNR by February 28, 2001. However, community action cannot stop there. We must carry through with the implementation of our plan of action. The result, hopefully, will be our compliance with permit requirements. The City Council intends to follow a systematic step-by-step approach that will yield the most cost-effective solution to resolve the problem.

**Your cooperation and understanding in this matter is crucial
if we are to successfully achieve our goal.**

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Rubber Ice

Neil L. Kuns

December 27, 1993

Last week one of my associates read my recent piece about the "Winter River", and asked about "rubber ice", having never before heard the phrase. How many experiences do we have filed away in our own memories which others have never experienced? Probably more than we realize.

Rubber ice was usually a function of a winter thaw and the approaching of Springtime. As the days grew warmer the snow started melting and the water began its unstoppable surge toward the Gulf of Mexico, hundreds of miles away. We frequently tried to dam up the roadside rivulets when we were children, but the water always won, and washed away our efforts. With gravity pulling at it the warmer water made its way into the river and began flowing beneath the ice. Usually we could sense what was happening by the ice level being higher than it had been all Winter. The warmer water also began thawing the ice from below, and that which had been solid since the first good freeze began to lose its integrity. That was when it became dangerous and the mothers in town began to warn their offspring with stories of children who had fallen through the ice, gotten caught beneath harder ice, and had drown. It always sounded ghastly, which was probably the mothers' exact intention.

One "springish" day I had been playing in the park south of the dam. Late in the afternoon I decided to take a shortcut on my way home. We were living on First Street at the time so it must have been about 1943 or 1944. I began to cross the river below the dam and was immediately aware of the rubber ice. Remembering those stories I became very cautious, testing each step before putting my weight down and proceeding. I was about half way across the stream when, *suddenly* and *without warning*, the ice below me gave way and I was up to my neck in the frigid water. My arms flew out, and, fortunately, I kept my head and kept it above the water. As I tried to get out the ice kept breaking away, but after several attempts, I was able to pull myself onto some solid ice and to crawl to the north bank and get out.

It was a long, cold walk to the house that day, and the river water was beginning to refreeze by the time I arrived home. I don't remember getting "yelled at" but I do recall how good it was to get into warm and dry clothing.

After that experience I had a new respect for the dangers and the deceitfulness of "rubber ice". Someone has said, "If you're going to walk on rubber ice, you might as well dance." That probably is another way of saying, "Only fools walk on rubber ice" or "Stay off of the stuff." I certainly would agree.

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Saturday - 9:00 am - Noon



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NEW BOOKS

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- The Outlaw Jess - Connie Mason
- The Mark - Tim LaHaye
- Prairie Christmas - Catherine Palmer
- Marriage Prey - Annette Broadrick
- Heart of the Sea - Nora Roberts
- King's Ransom - Sharon Sala
- A Touch of Betrayal - Catherine Palmer
- Winter Solstice - Rosamunde Pilcher
- On Secret Service - John Jakes
- The Bear & the Dragon - Tom Clancy
- Wish You Well - David Baldacci
- Roses are Red - James Patterson
- Lethal Seduction - Jackie Collins
- Stalker - Faye Kellerman
- Chocolat - Joanne Harris
- Night Heat - Heather Graham
- Riley in the Morning - Sandra Brown
- The You I Never Knew - Susan Wiggs
- Texas Anthem - Kerry Newcomb
- Order Town Justice - Gary McCarthy
- Scottish Bride - Catherine Coulter
- West of the River - Jack Ballas
- Stolen Memories - Jayne Ann Krentz
- Out of the Shadows - Kay Hooper
- Hiding in Shadows - Kay Hooper
- Moonfire - Judith Redman Robbins



AUDIO BOOKS

- Jubal Sackett - Louis L'Amour
- Sackett's Land - "
- Warrior's Path - "
- Roses are Red - James Patterson
- The Mark - Tim LaHaye
- Otherworlds - Barbara Michaels
- Acts of Malice - Perri O'Shaughnessy
- Yesterday - Fern Michaels
- Carrier #8 Alpha Strike - Keith Douglass
- Rogue Warrior Echo Platoon - Richard Marcinko
- Rogue Warrior Green Team - "
- Abduction - Robin Cook

VIDEOS

- Toy Story 2
- Left Behind
- (from the book by Tim LaHaye)
- The Green Mile
- U-571



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With Sympathy

ESTHER HAUGEN 1914 - 2000

Esther Haugen, 86, of Fertile, died December 3, 2000 at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.



The funeral service was held at the Fertile Church of Christ on December 6th with Pastor Justin May officiating. Interment was at Grant Township Cemetery in rural Fertile.

Esther was born Sept. 12 1914 at Banks, ND, the daughter of John and Adlida Furness. The family moved to Hanlontown, where Esther graduated from high school in May of 1933. She married James Haugen and they lived their entire married life in Fertile.

Esther babysat before she started working for Walker Deluxe (now Fleetguard) as a machine operator. After retiring from Walker Deluxe, she continued to babysit for grandkids and other little children.

Esther is survived by her children, Judie Hall and husband, Eugene, of Fertile; Larry Haugen and his wife, Dixie, of Clear Lake; and Janan Haugen of West Point; seven grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; five sisters and two sisters-in-law.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, James S. Haugen on Aug. 28, 1975, and six brothers and six sisters.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

>>>>>>>>>>

DOWNTOWN CAFE 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Downtown Cafe in Fertile celebrated it's 5th year anniversary on Tuesday, December 19th. (a day late due to the weather). Janie had **LOTS** of goodies and coffee for everyone.

A drawing was held and the following won prizes: lotto tickets - Wilber Olson, Dwight Bruns, and Tammy Hall; basket - Paula Worsley; soap basket - Rudy Monson; soap bag - Kermit Bratrude; candle - Jeff Hyde; cookbook - Judy Hall; magnet - Sydney Olson; bath set - Carl Schneider; Gift Certificates - Don Nelson, Pat Oswald, Laverne Bratrude, & Frank Sidel.

Thanks Janie for being there for our early morning coffee & breakfasts weekdays. We enjoy coming in for coffee and fellowship.

HELEN DAVIS 1915-2000

Helen Davis, 85, of Forest City, died Dec. 19 at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Betty Jo and David Levad in Yakima, Washington.



Funeral services were held December 27th at First Methodist Church in Forest City.

Helen Pauline Davis was born June 13, 1915 in Madelia, MN to Joseph and Margaret Davies. She graduated from Madelia High School and attended South Dakota Teachers College.

She married Delton Davis in 1939.

Helen taught school, raised her children and participated in many community projects while living in Fertile. She moved to Forest City in 1959 and began a second career as secretary in the Winnebago County Engineer's office. She retired in 1977 and devoted herself to family, friends and volunteer work.

Mrs. Davis is survived by two daughters, Betty Jo and David Levad of Yakima, WA, and Kathy and Glen Tobey of Duluth, MN; a special family, Chris and Mary Juhl of Garner; 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Elizabeth Anderson of Madelia; a brother, William of White Bear Lake, MN.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her infant sister, Dorothy; her brother, Burton Davies; and her son, Robert Davis, in Vietnam.

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CLARENCE NOREM 1939 - 2000

Clarence Norem, 61, of Caldwell, ID, passed away November 28, 2000 at his home.

Clarence was born Jan. 30, 1939 in Alexander, IA to Bart and Irene Norem. He attended school at Alexander and Fertile, IA. He continued his education at Waldorf College in Forest City, IA. He then served as a Medical Corpsman in the United States Army from Dec. 13, 1961 to Dec. 12, 1963 when he was honorably discharged.

Clarence Norem was united in marriage to Georgia (Swain) Stockwell on Aug. 19, 1995 in Clear Lake.

Clarence worked for 26 years and retired on Oct. 1, 1999 from Farmers Lumber Co. in Clear Lake. He and his wife, Georgia, then moved to Caldwell, Idaho to enjoy his retirement.

Clarence is survived by his loving wife Georgia; daughter Tina Ann Norem of Clear Lake; stepdaughter, Nicole Calixtro, and two grandchildren; his mother, Irene Norem, of Vinton; four brothers, Maurice, of Clear Lake; Bernard, of Mason City, Kenneth of Lubbock Texas and Richard, of Van Horne.

A memorial service was held for friends and family on Dec. 8, 2000 at Zion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

* * * *

LILA (SHEIMO) ANDERSON

Lila (Sheimo) Anderson passed away at Port Charlotte, Florida on January 3, 2001. She was born July 12, 1902 and graduated from Fertile High School in 1919.



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SANTA DAY DECEMBER 2, 2000

by Pat Oswald, Chairman

Once again we had a very successful Santa Day with parents, grandparents and friends in attendance to see the little ones reactions to Santa. Coffee, punch and goodies was on the menu and was pretty well cleaned up. Santa came and handed out candy and elves gave each child a gift even if the child would not sit on Santa's lap!

We thank all the people who donated the following prizes: 6 - \$5 Gift Certificates from the Downtown Cafe; 1 pizza from Pizza Hut; 4 - Subway 6" sandwiches from the Subway in Forest City; 2 - rib-eye steak dinners from Butchers Steak House; Dried Arrangement, 2 ltr. Diet Pepsi & Decorator Box given by Goldie Felland; Wooden Bead Seat Cover, 2 jars of Cookie Mix (homemade) & 12 pkg. Edge pop; Christmas Arrangement from Joane Kassa; Amway Pre-Wash spray & Amway Pre-Wash liquid given by Marilyn & Dave Haugen; Cooler bag & Dough-boy T-Shirt given by Jan Hare; 4 - \$5. Gift Certificates from Hardee's in Forest City; 4 - 12 pkgs. pop from Pronto; 2 Snowman given by Lisa Lacey; 2 pop bottle openers, 4 pocket Key chains, 2 Liberty Bell banks, 3 Block "notes", 2 pens and T-Shirt from Titonka Savings Bank; 19" Remote Color TV given by Library Friends.

For a list of winner, check at the library. The money raised with the raffle of these prizes helps to support the programs of the library and to keep the computers updated or replaced. We have also put away money to be put on the up coming addition to our library. Thank you again to all you people who have continued to supported our library.

I would like to thank Tom Kirschbaum for a wonderful job he is doing on the snow removal on the streets and cleaning up the corners.

Good job, Tom, and Thank You.

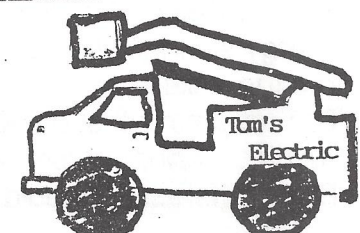
Pat Tuttle

There are three kinds of people:

The ones that learn by reading,

The few who learn by observation, and the rest of them who have to touch the fire to see for themselves if it's really hot.

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AN INSPIRING STORY

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd." I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friend tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all of his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet away from him. He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him and he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get a life." He looked at me and said, "Hey thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before. He said he had gone to a private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football on Saturday with me and my friends. He said yes. We hung all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscle with this pile of books every day!" He just laughed and handed me half of the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship. Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

Graduation day I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than me and all the girls loved him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled. "Thanks" he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach, but most importantly, your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story".

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home. He looked hard to me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable." I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile.

Not until that moment did I realize its' depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.

Copied.

Cook's Corner

Time to sit down and relax, after the holidays and have a cup of coffee or tea and a good muffin with a friend. This recipe comes from Diane



Schultz.

CREAM CHEESE PUMPKIN MUFFINS

- 1) mix WELL & refrigerate (can be made a day ahead)
- 2) Stir together topping
- 3) In large bowl
- 4) Mix this well then add to flour mixture 1/4 cup oil and stir till moistened
- 1 - 8oz Cream Cheese softened.
 - 1 beaten egg
 - 2 Tbsp. sugar
 - 2/3 cup coconut or oatmeal
 - 1/2 cup chopped/pecans
 - 3 TBS? sugar
 - 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
 - 2 1/4 c. flour
 - tsp baking powder
 - 2 tsp cinnamon
 - 1/2 salt
 - 1/4 tsp soda
 - 2 beaten eggs
 - 1/4 cup oil
 - 1/2 tsp vanilla
 - 1 1/4 cup pumpkin

Fill muffin cups 1/3 full, then put a rounded tsp of filling in the center of each. Fill to 3/4 full & sprinkle with topping. Bake at 375° for 20 minutes. Makes 2 doz. OR make 1 doz. muffins & marble the remaining batter in an 8" round pan to make a coffee cake. 350° 30 minutes.

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fe is what happens to you when you have other plans!

He who has little but wants less is richer than he who has much and wants more.

The bad thing about doing nothing is that you never know when you are finished.

FUN CORNER

This crossword is all turned around!
 Enter your answers from right to left
 and from bottom to top!

			1					2	
			3					4	
5	6	7			8			9	
				10				11	
			12			13	14	15	
		16			17				
				18				19	
			20					21	
22	23	24	25			26	27	28	29

Backward (and Across)

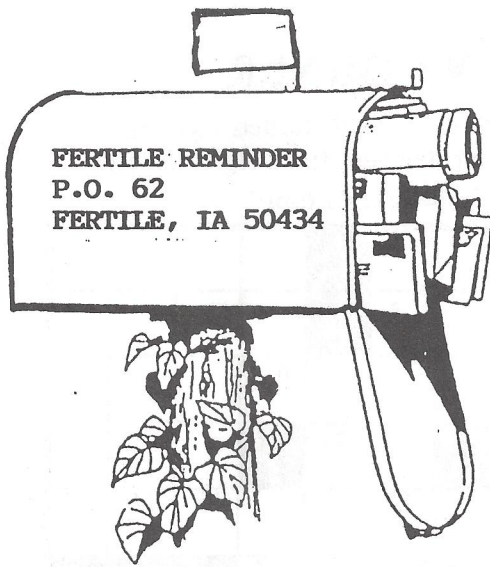
1. Biscuit
2. Bird home
3. Singer Adams
4. Singer James
9. February Saint
10. Sun god
11. Actress MacGraw
15. October holiday
16. Follower: suffix
17. "Say - -," doctor's request
19. December holiday
20. Autos
21. Boxer Max - - - -
25. French girlfriend
29. Help a criminal

Upward

5. Lamprey
6. Nothing
7. Altar words: 2 words
8. Have dinner
12. Irrigate
13. Happy songs
14. Having wings
15. Safe Place
18. Removed wool
22. West German city
23. Angry
24. Ike's wife
25. Perform
26. Ordeal
27. Always, to poets
28. "- - -, humbug"
29. Alphabet start

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SENIOR CITIZENS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Senior Citizens will again meet at the usual times, 1st and 3rd Tuesday. February meetings will be Feb. 6th and Feb. 20th. See you there!

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 We will have a 'Soup Nite' & 'Taco Nite' on
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