

MARCH 2001

FERTILE

REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

MARCH CALENDAR

March 1	F B & I Meeting	7 PM
March 3	Amanda Miller Shower	9 AM
March 5	Fire Dept. Meeting	7 PM
March 6	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
	City Council Meeting	7 PM
March 13	Garden Club	
March 17	Boys & Girls 4-H	
	Courtney Bennet Shower	9 AM
March 19	Library Board Meeting	7 PM
March 20	Senior Citizens Dinner	12 Noon
March 28	Re-cycle Day	

February Council Minutes

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

The following items were discussed:

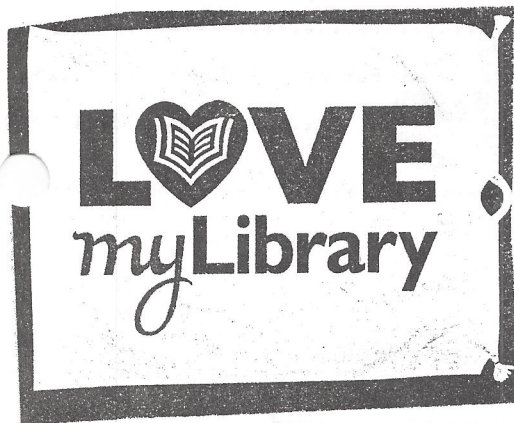
1. The second reading of the change in water rates was approved. The proposed reading states, "the minimum water rate will begin at \$14.50 for 2,000 gallons and under and then increasing by \$1.50 per thousand. In addition, each year the rates will increase based on the government set percent increase (for example this year it is 2.1%). This increase would be applied to the water rate only." The third reading and final adoption will take place at the next council meeting.
2. A community member raised the issue of junk vehicles. The council stated that no action may be taken until the nuisance order has been addressed in the ordinance revisions this spring.
3. Representatives from Waste Management presented the contract for the next fiscal year. The contract will not increase unless there is an increase in the tonnage of garbage if everyone does not recycle. It was suggested to the council that all residents be required to use the 32-gallon cart or the 96-gallon. The smaller option would replace the current bag option. This will be finalized in March. Recycling will be changed to the 4th Tuesday of every month.
4. An inquiry was made regarding the FEMA program for Fertile in regards to flood insurance. The city currently does not participate in the FEMA program. More research is being conducted at this time.
5. Yaggy Colby stated that they are beginning the investigation process of the infiltration and inflow issue. Yaggy expressed concern regarding drain tile interconnecting with the sewer system. A cross connection possibility will be further explored. In addition, they suggested a sump pump monitoring program for the city. Current requests are being made for inspection reports during the initial construction period.
6. A budgetary work session was held to begin addressing the 2001-2002 budget year. A special budget meeting will be held on February 20th.
7. A motion to pay the January expenses was made.

8. January expenditures:

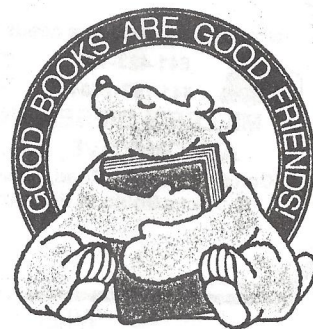
Alliant Energy	\$532.04
WCTA	\$41.60
Thompson's Garage	\$137.05
Fertile Fire Department	\$1250.00
Fertile Library	\$2500.00
LGI	\$94.30
Tom Kirshbaum	\$1524.38
Jaci Santee	\$364.35
Dave Low	\$304.41
FICA	\$701.27
IPERS	\$271.30
Sewer Account	\$1483.00
Water Account	\$1474.00
Staples	\$117.06
Sales Tax	\$162.20
Employee Withholding	\$166.00
Hare Electric	\$118.80
Kirshbaum Repair	\$64.00
Northwood Anchor	\$144.00
Waste Management	\$1533.00
LGI	\$55.40
Thompson's Garage	\$106.699
US Postal Service	\$109.70

TAKE NOTE

- As a reminder, if you are currently charged the \$1.75 fee for garbage collection you must purchase yellow garbage bags from Thompson's Garage. If you do not, your garbage will not be collected.
- When returning your water bill payment, please detach and return the right postcard stub with your payment to ensure correct credit to your account.
- Recycling will be changed to the 4th Tuesday of every month.
- Thank you for your patience with the new utility billing system as some of the "computer bugs" are being worked out.



FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 204 West Main/ Box 198
 Fertile, IA 50434
 (515)-797-2787 Phone/Fax
Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 8:00 PM
Friday 9:00 am - Noon & 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Saturday - 9:00 am - Noon



STATE & FEDERAL TAX FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY!

NEW BOOKS

Lost & Found - Judith Krentz
 Our Husband - Stephanie Bond
 The Reckless One - Connie Brockway
 The Ravishing One - Connie Brockway
 Echo Platoon - Richard Marcinko
 The Cat Who Smelled a Rat - Lilian Jackson Braun
 The Lighthouse Keeper - James Michael Pratt
 Deep South - Nevada Barr
 Kate Hannigan's Girl - Catherine Cookson
 Considering Kate - Nora Roberts
 Stanislaski Sisters - Nora Roberts
 The Third Victim - Lisa Gardner
 We Were the Mulvaneys - Joyce Carol Oates
 Losing Julia - Jonathan Hull
 The Painted House - John Grisham
 A Slender Thread - Tracie Peterson
 Ready for Love - Debbie Macomber
 Colorado Wings - Tracie Peterson
 Intrigued - Beatrice Small
 Birthright - Janette Oke
 Tumbleweeds - Norene Morris

AUDIO BOOKS

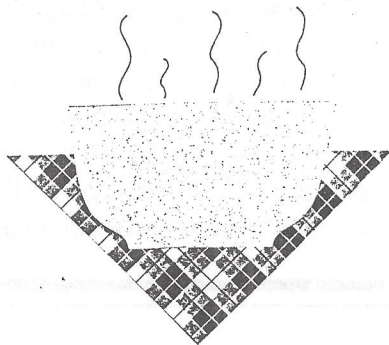
The Painted House - John Grisham
 Lost & Found - Jayne Ann Krentz
 Angel Falls - Kristin Hannah
 Birthright - Janette Oke

VIDEOS

Mission Impossible 2 - Tom Cruise
 The Whole Nine Yards - Bruce Willis
 I Dreamed of Africa - Kim Basinger
 Bicentennial Man - Robin Williams
 Beethoven's 3rd - Judge Reinhold
 Frequency - Dennis Quaid
 The Patriot - Mel Gibson
 Shanghai Noon - Jackie Chan
 28 Days - Sandra Bullock
 Hole in the Sky - Sam Elliot
 Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo - Rob Schneider
 Snow Falling on Cedars - Ethan Hawke
 Reindeer Games - Ben Affleck
 Scooby Doo & the Alien Invaders
 Our Lips are Sealed - Olsen Twins
 Thomas & the Magic Railroad - Peter Fonda
 Chicken Run



YOU'RE INVITED!



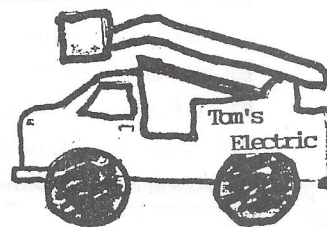
SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24
 11:00--1:00 P.M.
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It Was A Gas
 ©Neil L. Kuns
 September 13, 1995

When I was a child almost everything Dad did in his garage business seemed fascinating and wonderful. There were times, of course, when the job was dirty or dangerous, and I stayed safely at a distance. My mechanical bent must have started bending from watching him work. I thought he could fix anything, and most of the time he did. I loved to watch the sparks fly when Dad was grinding steel or sharpening a blade on the high-speed carborundum wheel grinder. Occasionally he neglected to wear safety goggles, and a small bit of hot steel would burn its way into the surface of his eyeball. I cringed when he told how the doctor had to chip out the metallic intruder from his eye.

Sparks also flew when he used the acetylene torch to cut through a steel bar or plate. He turned on the valves on the gas and oxygen tanks, lit the torch, balanced the flame to a fine blue cone of fire and started heating the metal to be cut. When the work piece glowed bright orange in the flame the oxygen lever increased the amount of that gas to the flame, and it began to burn through the metal. These sparks were white-hot and a lot larger than those which flew off a grinding wheel.

In the mid '30's compressed acetylene gas in tanks was not yet available. The gas had to be made by adding water to dry calcium carbide granules. Dad used a pressure pot specially made for this purpose. The ingredients were combined and the lid was quickly clamped on. The pot resembled a large pressure cooker with valves and a gauge. Gas formed as the water and carbide interacted. When the pressure was high enough Dad opened the acetylene valve on the welding torch and lit the escaping gas. This gas burned with a black smoke until oxygen was blended into the mix, when it became a clean-burning blue flame.

Any bottled gas lasts only so long. Both the tall green-painted oxygen tanks and the acetylene pot emptied as the gas was consumed. A gas dealer from Mason City called at Dad's garage regularly. He picked up the empty oxygen bottles and replaced them with full tanks. Low pressure readings on the gauges gave fair warning that a change was imminent. Fair warning was necessary when it came time to clean out the acetylene pot. The residue was a muddy tan mess and it smelled bad. But, as they say, someone had to do the job. It came with the territory if you were using acetylene. Some time in the late '30's the gas dealer began to sell acetylene in tanks. When that day arrived the shorter black acetylene bottles replaced the mix-it-yourself process. It may have cost a little more but it was a lot more pleasant to merely replace a tank than to clean out an acetylene pot. That was definitely a gas!




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With Sympathy

MARIAN L. PITKIN 1913 - 2001

Marian L. Pitkin, 87, 22445 Eagle Ave., Clear Lake, died Jan. 14, 2001 at the Muse-Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.



Funeral services were held on January 18, 2001 at the Fertile Lutheran Church in Fertile, with Rev. Merlin Norris officiating. Interment was at Memorial Park Cemetery, Mason City, IA.

Marian was born Nov. 22, 1913, on a farm near Garner, the

daughter of Louis & Emma Olson. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Ellington Prairie Lutheran Church.

After graduating from Garner High school in 1931, she received her Norman Training Teacher's Certificate and taught rural school for six years.

On May 18, 1938, she was married to Sherwood Pitkin in the Ellington Prairie Church of rural Garner. They farmed in the Garner and Clear Lake areas.

She was a member of Fertile Lutheran Church, the ELCW and was a member of the Fertile Garden Club.

Her life centered around her family, friends and church. The couple celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in May of 2000.

Marian is survived by her husband, Sherwood Pitkin; three children, Sherril Pitkin of Corvallis, OR; Donna Ouverson of Fertile; and Jim Pitkin of Mason City. Also a sister, Bernice Anderson of Forest City; a brother, Arno Olson of Garner, and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Marian is preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Norman and Milo, a sister-in-law, Hulda Olson and a brother-in-law, Norman Anderson.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

DALE FAULKEN 1923 - 2001

Dale Faulken, a long-time resident of Mason City, passed away Jan. 16, 2001, while on vacation near Corpus Christie, Texas.

A memorial service was held January 25, 2001 at Holy Family Catholic in Mason City. Interment was at Memorial Park Cemetery with military rites by the Mason City Memorial Association.

Dale was born June 2, 1923 in Fertile, the son of Clarence and Eva Faulken. He graduated from Fertile High School in 1940 and the Hamilton Business College in Mason City in 1942.

He was a submariner with the Navy in World War II, serving throughout the South Pacific.

He was business manager for Home Insulation Co. in Mason City for 41 years, retiring in 1987.

Dale was united in marriage with Catherine Weiss on February 4, 1950 at St. Joseph's Catholic in Mason City. They celebrated their 50th anniversary with family members last year.

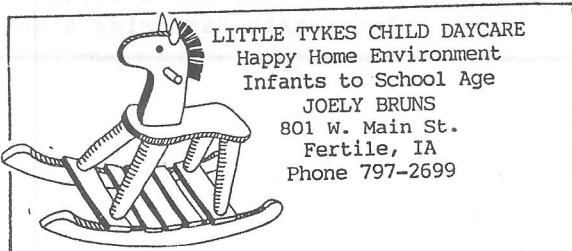
Dale is survived by his wife, Catherine; two sons, Bruce, St. Paul, MN and Dale, Jr. of London, England; three grandsons; a sister, Evanelle Perkins, Yreka, Calif.; two brothers, Lyle of Sherman Oaks, Calif., and Russell of Eagan, MN; many nieces and nephews.

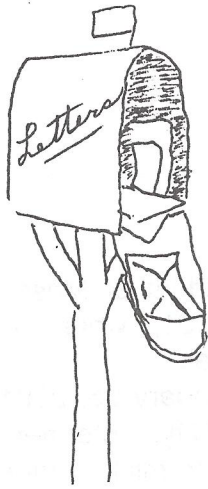
Our deepest sympathy to the family.

FERTILE ALUMNI BANQUET

To anyone who attended Fertile High School, and all former teachers: We are planning a banquet to be held at 6:30 PM on June 9, 2001 at the old Fertile gym. If you have any questions or comments, contact one of the officers:

Harlan Rodberg, President
Merle Tuttle, Vice-President
Beverly Calgaard, Corr. Secretary
Dean Haugen, Secretary-Treasurer





Dear Reminder Gals,
We are "Snow Birds" in Arizona from the middle of November until the first of April. We are enjoying mostly 70 degree temperatures during the day with temperatures in the 40's at night. We appreciate the temps here this winter, especially seeing the type of weather Iowa is having this winter.

Greetings to all my friends in Iowa.
Mary Tweeten Myers

* * * *

Dear Reminder Friends,

Thanks so much for the Reminder. Keep up the good work!

May I say "Hi!" to Ardis Miller?

Dorothy Goodmanson
Austin, MN

* * * *

Dear Ladies,

I really enjoy getting the paper. Please keep up the good work. No matter how long you have been gone, Fertile is still home.

Orland Miller

* * * *

Dear Reminder Staff,

Enclosed is check to renew my subscription for another year. You do a great job and it is much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Elsie Chisholm

* * * *

Dear Ladies,

Enjoying every issue received. Thank you! "A smile is contagious; be a carrier."

Olga Kaylor

* * * *

Dear Ladies,

Enclosed please find my check to cover the Fertile Reminder for another year. You do a great job of keeping everyone informed of what has happened or is scheduled to go on. Even though I don't live there, Fertile will always carry on with fond memories.

Lyle E. Knudson

Open House

There will be an Open House Bridal Shower for Amanda Miller, bride-elect of Bruce Waddington on March 3rd at 9:00 AM at the Fertile Church of Christ.

* * * *

There will be an Open House Baby Shower for Courtney Paulson Bennett on March 17th at 9:00 AM at the Fertile Church of Christ.

Thank You

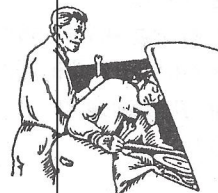
I would like to thank the Fertile and Hanlontown Responders for the prompt service I received on Jan.9th. I'm on heart medicine and doing fine. Also thanks to Larry and Gail for blowing out our driveway. Thanks much!

Cletus Nedved

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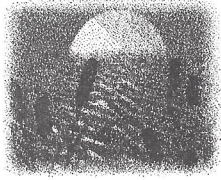


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The Joys of Womanhood

Brilliant Woman Author Unknown

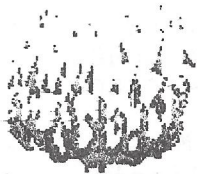
Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.



Sometimes I think I understand everything, then I regain consciousness.



I gave up jogging for my health when my thighs kept rubbing together and setting my pantyhose on fire.



Amazing! You hang something in your closet for awhile and it shrinks two sizes!



Skinny people irritate me!
Especially when they say things.

DOWNTOWN CAFE
Fertile Iowa
We will have a 'Soup Nite' &
'Taco Nite' on
Tuesdays, January 16 - 30
February 13 - 27
March 13 - 27
'Taco Nite' is every Tuesday Night.
Regular hours Monday - Saturday
6:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

How To Please Women

A group of girlfriends are on vacation when they see a five-story hotel with a sign that reads: "For Women Only." Since they are without their boyfriends and husbands, they decide to go in.

The bouncer, a very attractive guy, explains to them how it works. "We have five floors. Go up floor by floor, and once you find what you are looking for, you can stay there. It's easy to decide since each floor has a sign telling you what's inside.!

So they start going up, and on the first floor the sign reads: "All the men on this floor are short and plain." The friends laugh, and without hesitation move on to the next floor.

The sign on the second floor reads: "All the men here are short and handsome." Still, this isn't good enough, so the friends continue on up.

They reach the third floor and the sign reads: "All the men here are tall and plain." They still want to do better, and so, knowing there are still two floors left, they kept going.

On the fourth floor, the sign is perfect: "All the men here are tall and handsome." The women get excited and are about to go in when they realize that there is still one floor left. Wondering what they are missing, they head up to the fifth floor.

There they find a sign that reads: "There are no men here. This floor was built only to prove that there is no way to please a woman."

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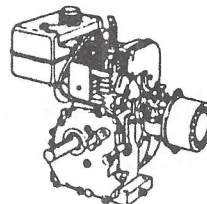
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Cook's Corner

Today's cookie recipe comes from Marilyn Haugen.

OATMEAL RAISIN COOKIES

- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1/2 cup Crisco
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- Cream and add 2 eggs well beaten.
- then add-
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups quick oatmeal
- Optional - nuts or raisins.

Drop by spoonfuls on cookie sheet and bake for 12-15 minutes at 350°.

These are crisp and tasty cookies.

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

- > A fair face may fade but a beautiful soul lasts forever.
 - > Trying for something doesn't mean you'll get it, but not trying guarantees you won't!
 - > You can fail many times, but you are not really a failure until you start blaming someone else.
- HELPFUL HINTS FROM KIDS!**
- > For a nosebleed, put the nose much lower than the body until the heart stops!
 - > For Fainting: Rub the person's chest or, if a lady rub her arm above the hand instead. Or put the head between the knees of the nearest medical doctor.
 - > The skeleton is what is left after the insides have been taken out and the outsides have been taken off. The purpose of the skeleton is something to hitch meat to.
 - > To keep milk from turning sour, keep it in the cow.
 - > Dew is formed on leaves when the sun shines down & makes them perspire".

* PERSONAL TOUCH BEAUTY SALON *

* Tom & Nance Sheimo *

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* LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING *

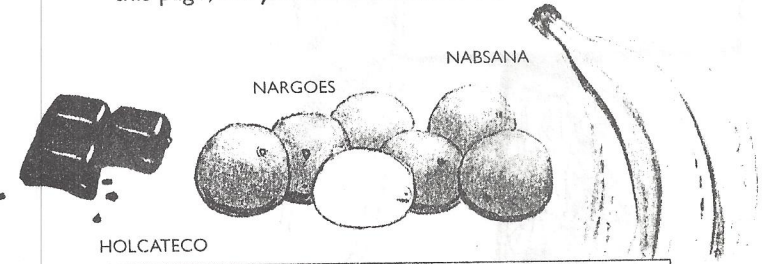
* 515-797-2219 *



FUN CORNER

Food shopping

This wordsearch contains 15 different foods. The words are all on this page, but you have to unravel their letters first.



HOLCATECO

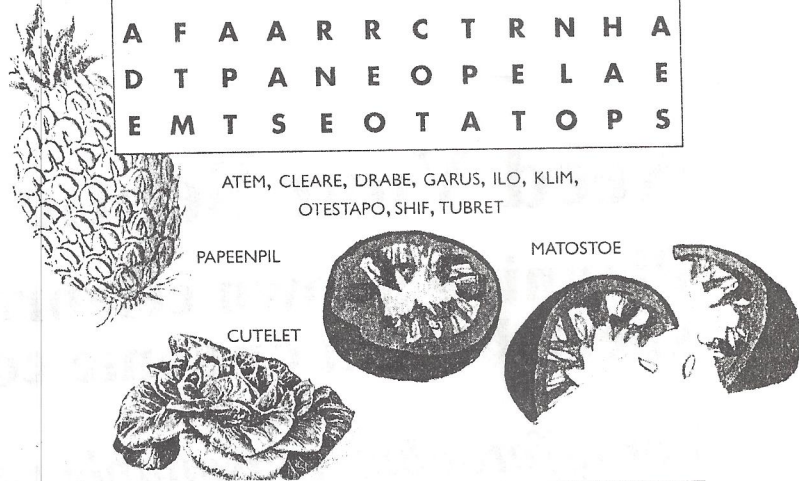
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ATEM, CLEARE, DRABE, GARUS, ILO, KLIM, OTESTAPO, SHIF, TUBRET

PAPEENPIL

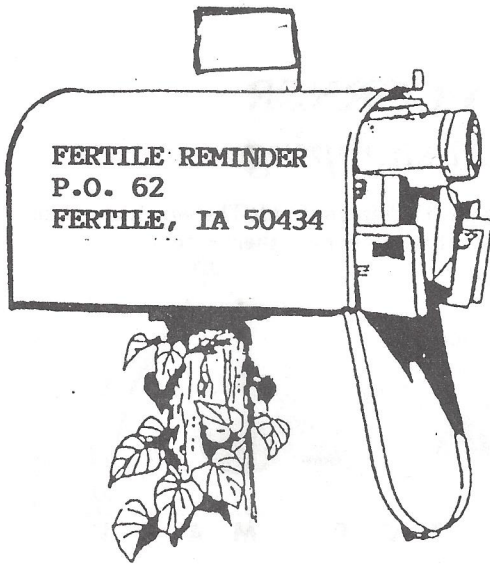
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- > Blood flows down one leg & up the other!
- > There are three kinds of blood vessels - arteries, vanes, and caterpillars!
- > When you smell an odourless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide.
- > To collect fumes of sulphur, hold down a deacon over a flame in a test tube!



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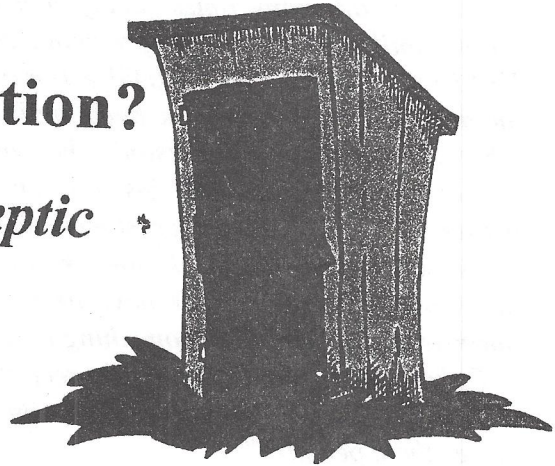
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