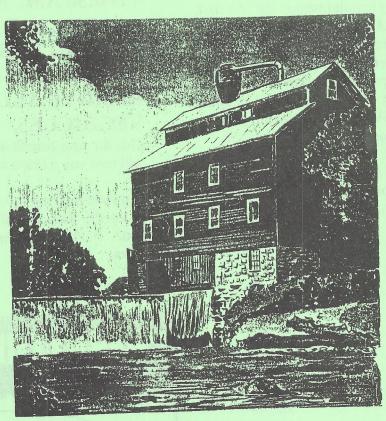
MARCH 2003

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

March 1	Library Soup/Sandwich Luncheon	11 am - 1 pm
March 3	Fire Department Meeting	7 pm
March 4	Senior Dinner City Council Meeting	Noon 7 pm
March 15	Boys & Girls 4-H	
March 17	Library Board Meeting	7 pm
March 18	Senior Dinner	Noon
March 25	Re-cycle Day	

AN OLD IRISH BLESSING FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY:

May you live as long as you want, and never want as long as you live.

Fertile City Council

The Fertile City Council met February 4, 2003 at 7:00 PM in Fertile City Hall. Present were Mayor Joyce Russell, Council persons Richard Bruns, Tammy Hall, Jeff Berg. Absent Tanya Olson, Tad Miller. Also present Tom Kirschbum, The minutes were declared approved as presented. Tanya Olson has resigned her position on the City Council. The position will be filled by appointment at the March 4, 2003 council meeting. Anyone interested in serving should contact the Mayor or a council member before the March 4 council meeting. Berg moved to purchase the insurance package presented by Tom Stephany of 1st Gabrielson Agency. Second by Hall. Passed. Bruns moved, Hall second to approve the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact. Passed. Hall moved, Bruns 2nd to approve the monthly expenses. Passed. Hall moved, Berg 2nd to contract with Cherry Tree builders for roof repair on City Hall and ceiling repair at the water building. Committee Reports were given. Meeting Adjourned.

January Revenue	
Property Tax	57.70
Water/Sewer/Garbage	10,805.29
Street Revenue	2,301.72
Local Option Tax	1,093.48
TOTAL	\$ 14,258.19
January Expenses	,
Tom Kirschbaum	1,574.38
Dave Low	301.49
Gloria Kirschbaum	321.31
Dennis Ganz	138.53
Sewer Acct	1,483.00
Water Acct	1,474.00
Post Office	83.00
FICA	516.94
IPERS	924.50
WCTA	53.95
Waste Systems	1,666.50
Alliant	534.03
Sales Tax	177.63
State of Iowa Withholding tax	168.00
Aquila	236.64
Hare Electric	308.00
Brian Nettleton Exc	6,500.00
LGI	8.40
Mosquito Control	1,400.00
Yaggy-Colby	969.40
Fertile Lumber	96.23
Fertile Fire Dept	1,250.00
Fertile Library	2,500.00
	TOTAL SERVICE

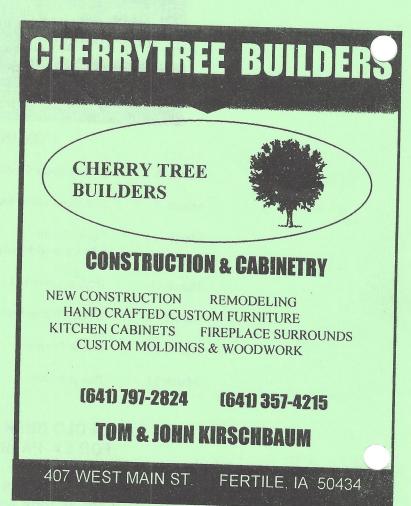
Iowa one Call Hawkins TOTAL

18.00 5.00 **\$22,708.93**

SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE IN EFFECT. NO PARKING 7PM TO 6:30 AM. ALL STREETS AND ALLEYS ARE ASKED TO KEEP VECHICLES & GARBAGE CANS OFF CITY RIGHT-OF- WAY. REMOVE ALL UNUSED VECHICLES.

This for your benefit and safety. Failure to comply will cost you a ticket and a towing charge

A public hearing for the proposed 2003-2004 City of Fertile Budget will be held at 7 PM. March 4, 2003, Fertile City Hall, 105 West Main, Fertile, Iowa..



YOUR INVITED!

FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON

BUTCHER'S STEAK HOUSE SATURDAY MARCH 1, 2003 11:00 – 1:00 P.M.

FREE WILL DONATIONS



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LIBRARY PROJECTS Sponsored by Fertile Library Friends

OUVERSON AND ASSOCIATES GROUP BENEFITS, LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE, & LONG TERM CARE Neil & Betty Ouverson

641-797-2100 Office 641-797-2101 Fax 888-944-2127 Toll Free 746A - 342nd St. Hanlontown, IA 50444 ouverins@cs.com Coming of Age

Neil L. Kuns March 31, 1994



Every society seems to have its own peculiar rites of passage by which a child or an adolescent goes through the gates and becomes in some sense of the word an adult. In some circles this entails feats of deprivation, danger or daring-do. With other civilizations it may mean some sort of religious, sexual or mystic initiation. When I was a teen-ager this was accomplished getting ones driver's license.

During the "medieval" days of 1946-1947 a drastic change and upheaval occurred in Iowa. The law was modified in 1946, and thereafter one had to be *sixteen* rather than fifteen by the end of the calendar year in order to qualify for a license to drive. Since my birthday is the 14th of December I slipped in under the wire, even as I had at the beginning of my school days (I was six just before the end of the year in which I started first grade). My friend, Alan Elthon, did not turn fifteen until the following February, which meant he had to wait *another* year to get his license. That year (because I could drive and he couldn't) he became my *best* friend and frequent passenger.

The public schools had not yet begun teaching Driver's Education or Driver's Training classes, and the ordeal of that opportunity fell upon the parents of the would-be motorist. The little driver's license law book was available from the state, but the actual behind-the-wheel training was all home-made. Dad taught me to give the engine a little gas as the clutch was let out, but not to slip the clutch. As a mechanic he knew too well the damage that could do to a clutch plate. He also taught me not to over-steer, but to sense changes and to make them smoothly, and to look carefully for other cars before turning or backing into traffic (I forgot that once and backed right into a car driving past on Main Street). His comments about other drivers had taught me not to swing right before making a left-hand turn. All of these were technical or theoretical lessons. What I wanted to do was to *drive!*

One day on a trip to Hanlontown on the gravel road which heads east from highway number nine, Dad stopped the car and asked me if I would like to take the wheel. Our auto was a maroon 1937 Chevrolet in which Dad had mounted a powerful truck motor. I thought it was hot! As we exchanged places and I climbed behind the wheel I thought I was hot stuff too. We started off slowly and built up the speed to 35 miles per hour -- It felt like we were racing! A little culvert bridge with concrete abutments at each side loomed ahead, and I was anxious about making it *between* them and steered nervously to the middle of the road. Although my palms were sweating as we finally made it safely into Hanlontown, my first driving experience was a success. So also was my first attempt to get the license. On the day I turned fifteen I passed the written and the driving tests.

Before I had my license I was always worried about getting caught driving, and sat up in the seat as tall as possible. After the license was well in wallet I remember sitting *low* in the driver's seat, *hoping* a policeman would think I was too young and would ask me to show him my license. In those days this passport to the adult world was the most precious thing in my possession.

NORMAN S. RYE 1918 - 2003

Norman S. Rye, age 84, of Fertile, died January 24, 2003 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.

Funeral servieces were held at 10:30 on January 27th at the Fertile Lutheran Church with the Rev. Marlin Snyder officiating. Burial was at Brush Point Cemetery in rural Fertile.



Norman Sydney Rye was born on Sept 21, 1918, to Lewis and Caroline (Jacobson) Rye in Fertile. He grew up and received his education in Fertile. He was in the service of his country for four years with the Army Engineers, spending time in Hawaii, Okinawa and Saipan during World War II.

On Oct. 25, 1945, he was united in marriage to Maxine Fredrickson of Forest

City. Norman worked at Winnebago Industries, hauled star route mail for 13 years, worked in maintneance at Oakwood Manor in Clear Lake and was groundskeeper for 14 years at All Vets Golf Course in Clear Lake.

Norman was an active member of Fertile Lutheran Church, serving as a deacon, teaching Sunday school and working on remodeling the church basement. He made the communion railing, and a cross for each Sunday School oom. He also servied on the Fertile City Council and as a nember of the Brush Point Cemetery Board.

Norman passed away at Muse Norris Hospice in Mason City on January 24, 2003, at the age of 84 years.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Maxine Rye of Fertile; a daughter, Julie Abendschein and husband, Robert, of Hampton; sons, James and wife, Susan, of Des Moines, and David and wife, Valerie, of Golden, Colorado. Also four grandchildren and two great-granddaughters, and many nieces and nephews and many dear friends.

Norman was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and three brothers.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.





BURTNESS PLUMBING & HEATING Phone 797-2680 Larry & Lance Burtness

WALLACE M. JOHNSON 1922 - 2003

Wallace M. Johnson, 80, of Clear Lake, died Jan. 15, 2003 in Clear Lake.

Funeral services were held January 18th at the Fertile Church of Christ with Rev. Curt Gallmeyer and Rev. Dennis Ganz officiating. Burial was in the Clear Lake Cemetery.



Wallace M. Johnson was born on Aug. 14, 1922 in rural Kensett, the son of Merrill and Amanda (Sorenson) Johnson. He attended and received his education in rural schools and also attended Mason City High School.

Wally was a lifelong farmer. He farmed in the Kensett, Manly and Hanlontown areas and moved to a farm north of Clear Lake in

1956, where he lived until the time of his death.

Wally retired from farming in 1981, but continued to help his son, Randy, with the spring and fall field work. He also worked in the lab at the American Crystal Sugar Company in Mason City for several years.

Wally liked to go to the cafe in Fertile every morning, then to the elevator in Hanlontown, where he drank coffee and visited with his many friends.

In 1956, he was united in marriage to Joan Christianson in Graettinger, Iowa and to this union were born three children, Randy, Julie and Jackie.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake. Left to cherish his memory are his children, Randy Johhson and his wife, Beth of Clear Lake; Julie Oltrogge and her husband, Stuart of Eagan, MN, and Jackie Wilson and her husband, Mike of Clive, IA; three grandchildren; three brothers, Amil Johnson of Manly, Floyd Johnson and his wife, Norma, of Clear Lake, and Marlin Johnson and his wife, Joanna, of Clear Lake; and one uncle, Kelly Sorenson of Hanlontown; as well as other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Frances Doran.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.

Worth County Public Health

95 9th Street North Northwood, IA 50459 641 324-1741

Feb. 20 Child immunization Clinic at Worth

County Public Health Office from 1 - 5

pm. No appointment necessary.

Feb. 25 Child immunization Clinic at Northwood Methodist Church from 9 am - 3 pm.

No appointment necessary.

March 12 Child immunization Clinic at Manly Town

Hall, 3 · 5 pm. No appt necessary. Foot Clinics available at Worth County Public Health Office. Call as needed for an appointment. 324-1741

THE WOODEN BOWL

I guarantee you will remember the tale of the Wooden Bowl tomorrow, a week from now, a month from now, a year from now.

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. We must do something about Grandfather, said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. Then the family glanced in Grandfather's direction; sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what he to be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband or wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

On a positive note, I've learned that, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life does go on and it will be better tomorrow.

I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life. I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as makeing a life. I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But, if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, your work and doing the very best you can, happiness wil find you. I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that when when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone. People love that human touch--holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that you should pass this on to everyone you care about. I did. If God brings you to it - He will bring you through it. Author unknown



Hi Gals!

Wishing you a happy and healthy. New Year! You do a super job the Reminder. Enclosed is check for renewal.

Elsie Chisholm

Dear Friends.

I want to thank all of you for sending me a Christmas card. It was fun getting them.

Margaret Halverson
* * *

Dear Friends,

Enclosed please find a check to renew for another year.

You do a great job on keeping everyone informed on what is going on. It was really appreciated because Fertile is still home to me even though I do not live there.

Keep up your good work.

Lyle E. Knudson 2797 220th Street Blairsburg, IA 50034

* * *

Hi!

Please continue sending the Reminder. I really enjoy the news of Fertile.

Orland Miller

THANK YOU!

Dear friends of the Reminder,

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, memorials, gifts and food brought in, and for those helping Norman to get to the car and to the hospital. Thanks to our pastor for his daily visits and prayers. I just couldn't carry on if it weren't for the love of friends and neighbors on my block. Norman passed away on January 24th.

God bless each and every one of you.

Maxine Rye and family

DEAN A PIERCE 1933 - 2003

Dean A. Pierce, 69, of 1416 N. Ohio Ave., died Jan. 14, 2003 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit.

Funeral services were January 17th at Trinity Lutheran Church with Rev. Travis Fisher officiating. Interment was at Memorial Park Cemetery.



Dean was born March 29, 1933 in Clear Lake, the son of Donovan and Viola (Rankin) Pierce. He graduated from Fertile High School and served in the U. S. Marine Corps during the Korean War.

Dean married Linda A. Bendickson on October 21, 1964 in Mason City. He worked for the U. S. Postal Service in Mason City for 20 years, retiring in 1998.

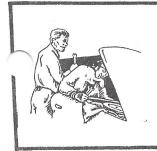
Dean was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, a lifetime member of the VFW and enjoyed camping and family outings.

He is survived by a daughter, Deena Tesdahl and special friend, Clayton Boettscher, of Mason City; son, Shannon Pierce of Mason City and five grandchildren; brothers, Donovan Pierce and wife, Joanne, of Oskaloosa, Charles Pierce and wife, Juanita of Mason City; many nieces and nephews and special friends.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Linda in 1991; brothers, James and Dana Pierce, and a daughter, Cheryl Myers in 1993.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.





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VIOLET L. OTIS 1917 - 2003

Violet L. Otis, 85, formerly of Forest City, died January 28, 2003 at District One Hospital in Faribault, MN.



A funeral Mass was held January 31, 2003, at 10:30 a.m. at St. James Catholic Church in Forest City with the Rev. Jerry Blake officiating. Burial will be in the spring at St. James Catholic Cemetery in Forest City.

Violet Leona Otis was born on a farm in Ellington Township, Hancock County, IA on February 19, 1917, the daughter of

James and Lula (Streeper) Tompkins. She received her education in rural schools and in 1936 graduated from Garner High School.

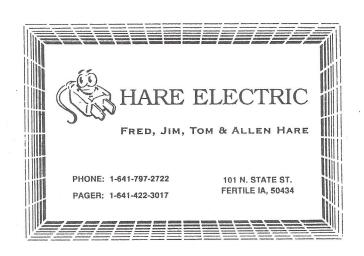
On Dec. 1, 1936, she was united in marriage to Bernard Orcutt. The couple made their home on his family farm near Fertile. After Mr. Orcutt's death in 1955, Violet and her family moved to Clear Lake. There she worked as a dental assistant for several years.

She married Merle Otis on June 17, 1963. After living in Clear Lake for a brief time they made their home on Merle's farm northwest of Forest City. Merle passed away in 1992 and since then Violet has made her home with her daughter in Madison Lake, MN.

She is survived by a daughter, Bonnie Betts, of Madison Lake, MN; a son, Barry K. Orcutt and his wife, Barbara, of Beloit, WI; a stepdaughter, Sandra Jennings and her husband, Elbert, of Norwalk; eight grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; four great grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Teresa May Waddingham of Ventura, IA.

Violet was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands Bernard Orcutt and Merle Otis; daughter Faye Marie and a step-son, Jon Otis.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.



ANTHONY WHITE COMPLETES EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR PILOT KNOB STATE PARK

Anthony White of Forest City completed his Eagle Scout Project for Pilot Knob State Park.

Anthony, along with his fellow scouts of Troop 418, his parents, and other family members and friends, reconstructed a trail in the park that was badly eroded and in need of repair.

The project began with bringing in a skid loader owned and operated by Glen Pannkuk and a half load of dirt and filling in the eroded area. Next, steps were dug out and railroad ties were placed and held with pieces of rebar. The trail is 118 feet long and 22 steps in all were constructed. The area was then spread with gravel donated by BMC of Fertile. There were a total of 142 ½ man-hours to complete the project.

Anthony was responsible to plan and lead the workers to complete the project. He also wrote a letter to Hanson Foundation and received funding for his project and met with individual businesses to request donations of materials and supplies.

Anthony is the son of Rod and Sheila White of Forest City and grandson of Jerry Hill, a Fertile native, and his wife Theda. Anthony is also the grandson of Connie and Jim French of Forest City.

Fertile Church of Christ

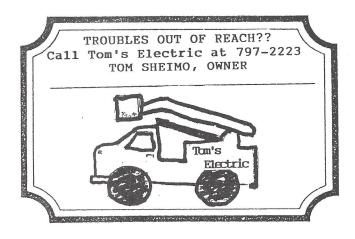
502 N. 1st Street - 641.797.2784

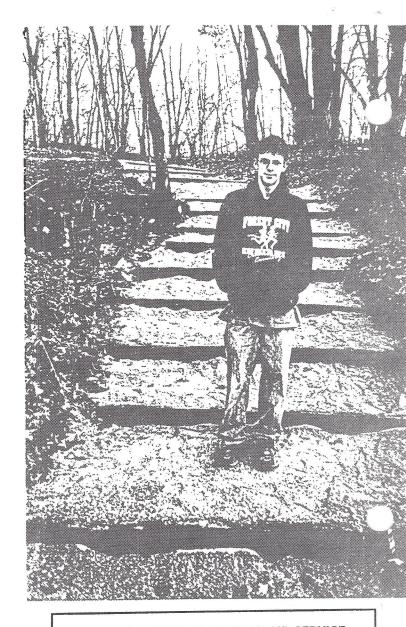
Sunday

9:00 – Sunday School (for all ages) 10:00 – Fellowship Time 10:15 – Worship Service 5:15 – Evening Family Activities Wednesday

7:00 p.m. - Bible Study

Come and be our guest.





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COOK'S KORNER

From the 1929 addition Cook Book of the English Lutheran Ladies Aid of Manly Iowa- Mrs. J.V. Mikesch.

MENU TO SERVE 150 PERSONS

15 loaves bread 250 rolls or biscuits 3 twelve pound hams 10 quarts cabbage salad 5 gallons creamed potatoes 15 pounds baked beans 12 quarts fruit Jello 7 pounds butter 6 quarts pickles 10 cakes 5 pounds coffee (10 eggs for coffee)

7 quarts of cream 6 pounds loaf sugar

5 quarts sweet milk and cream for potatoes.

RECIPE FOR A DAY Take a little dash of water, And a little leaven of prayer, Add a little bit of morning gold, Dissolved in the morning air.

Add to your meal some merriment, And to a thought of kith and kin, And then as your prime ingredient, A plenty of work thrown in.

But spice it all with the essence of love, And a little whiff of play, Let a wise old Book and a glance above, Complete a well made day.

author unknown

> If Congress can pay farmers not to raise crops, why can't we pay Congress not to raise taxes? >People who can hold their tongues, rarely have any

trouble holding their friends! > Dough is the wrong term for money. Dough sticks to

your hands. >A person isn't really poor if you can still laugh.

>The man who thinks he knows it all has merely stopped thinking.

>Ability is what will get you to the top if the boss has no daughter.

>It's reported that half of all accidents occur at home. Apparently the rest happen in voting booths.

>An adolescent is a youth ole enough to dress himself if he could just remember where he dropped his

>Adolescence is the period when children are certain they will never be as stupid as their parents.

>Free advice is often overpriced.

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KID'S KORNER

Where do spies shop? At the Snoopermarket.

Where do wasps go on holiday? Stingapore.

What should you do with a blue monster? Cheer him up!

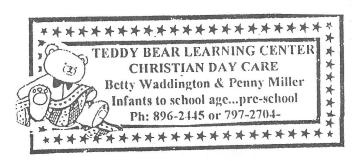
What kind of paper makes you itch? Scratch paper.

What country makes you shiver? Chile.

What bone will a dog never eat? A trombone.

How do you make an eggroll? You push it.

How come some doctors get all the breaks? They're orthopedists.

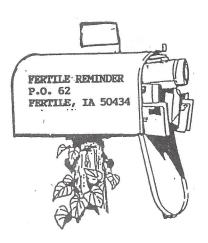




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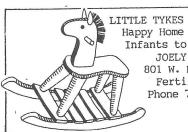
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