

MARCH 2011

FERTILE REMINDER



COMING EVENTS

March 1	Senior Dinner	Noon
	Fertile Girls Night Out	5:30
March 7	Fire Department Meeting	7 p.m.
March 10	Re-Cycle Day	
March 15	DEADLINE FOR REMINDER ARTICLERS	
	Senior Dinner	Noon
	City Council Meeting	7 p.m.
March 21	Library Board Meeting	7 p.m.
March 24	Re-cycle Day	

City of Fertile

City Council Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2011 - 7:00 PM, City Hall

Call to Order & Roll Call

- Present were: Mayor Joyce Russell; Council Members: Jeff Berg, Penny Miller, Tad Miller, Cindy Peters and Pat Rendlin; Maintenance Manager Buck Russell and City Clerk Eddie May
- Jeff motioned, Pat 2nd to approve the January Minutes. Motion Carried.

28E Agreement with the Mason City Fire Department

- A letter was sent to the Fertile Fire Department inviting us to join in on a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Mason City Fire Department. The agreement would allow Fertile's Fire Chief to request assistance from the Mason City Fire Department as needed, without a disaster declaration from Emergency Management. The assistance most likely to be requested would be in response to hazmat emergencies, although other services can be requested. The City has a similar agreement with the Fire Departments in Hanlontown and Joice.
- Tad motioned and Cindy 2nd to approve a mutual aid agreement between the Fertile Fire Department and the Mason City Fire Department. Roll call vote was held, Motion carried unanimously. Full copies of the resolution, and 28E Agreement, are available at City Hall.

Kathryn Olson's Estate

- Don Olson, Dorie Hesley and Cory Olson requested that the outstanding utility bill balance for Kathryn's property at 110 West Main Street be written off. The property has been informally for sale, but has not been listed with a Realtor. There is a current bid in for the property, but the buyers do not want to pay the outstanding balance. The bid is so low that there will not be any money left to pay the balance after closing costs and attorney fees.
- City Clerk May found that the property had been charged for garbage and recycling, even though the property was vacant. He suggested that balance could be justifiably written off to cover the balance of the account that has not been submitted for liens. The Council agreed. Mayor Russell requested time to seek legal advice regarding the balance currently held on liens at the courthouse.
- City Ordinances state that the minimum charge for water and sewer are to be assessed, even if the property is vacant, for any reason. The minimum charges cover the costs of the water and sewer loans and other fixed costs for the utility system. However, both garbage and recycling are optional.

Community Center / City Hall

- The City submitted a grant to the Worth County Development Authority, the charitable arm of the Diamond Joe Casino, in the amount of \$102,805.00 for the 2nd phase of the Community Center/City Hall project. This portion of the project would cover demolition, framing, windows, doors, electrical and plumbing for the facility. The City would use \$20,000 of the money from the sale of the old fire department to cover the remaining costs of this phase of the project.
- Demolition, framing, windows and doors would be completed by Breka Construction, Electrical by Hare Electric, and Plumbing by Larsen Plumbing & Heating. According to our city ordinances, any bid less than \$50,000 does not require more than one bid be procured.
- The City will know sometime in April whether or not we will receive the grant. If all goes as requested, the 3rd phase of project would be requested in the Fall. The 3rd phase would cover the costs of heating and cooling, interior doors, drywall and finishes, cabinetry, appliances, tables, chairs and misc equipment. This would complete the Community Center / City Hall portion of the Community Complex Project. It is projected that the City will need to use the remaining \$5,000 from the sale of the old fire station, as well as the balance of a \$30,000 line of credit 2 year loan, to cover all of the costs for this phase. The loan would be paid off with the monthly allocations the City receives from the Casino. As promised, no tax money has been used, or is planned to be used for this project.
- The projected cost of this portion of the project is \$438,000. The original quote for this portion of the project was \$748,800. By purchasing the Cherry Tree Building, the City will be saving \$310,800.
- The Community Center Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 8th, at 7:00 at City Hall, to prepare Capital Campaign materials for this project. Any money raised will first be applied to any project overages, then to the City's line of credit loan, and if a balance still remains will be used for the library.
- This summer, as part of the final phase of the Community Complex Project, research will be started regarding the location and construction of the new library. If all goes as planned, the City would be able to start requesting grant funding in the spring of 2012 for the library. More information will be coming then, along with a schedule for town hall meeting regarding this portion of the project.

Mayor's Report

- The paperwork for the sale of the old fire department is at the Worth County Courthouse. We should be able to close soon. Buck, Joyce, Kenny Strohmman and Warren Bruns moved everything out of the building into the old city hall building or into the new building.
- Ken & Deena Biretz have received information from Mayor Russell regarding a water trail along the Winnebago River portaging through Fertile. The Biretzs are part of a group based in Lake Mills who will be working on the project.
- The Worth County Sheriff's Department responded to a 911 call regarding a break-in in Fertile. The man was from Mason City. He was intoxicated and disoriented. The man was charged with trespassing and breaking an entry. Worth County responds to all 911 calls for the City of Fertile. In an emergency, you can call them directly.
- Mayor Russell attended the Worth County Sheriff's 911 budget hearing on February 27th.
- The Sheriff's Dept. issued 3 citations for speeding and reckless driving during February in Fertile.
- Mayor Russell met with McGuire Iron regarding the water tower inspection. The interior of the tower will be good for another 3-4 years. The exterior needs to be painted in the next 2 years. It will cost \$50,000 to sandblast, and apply 3 new coats of paint to the tower. So far, the City has \$14,000 saved for the project.
- On Feb 3rd, ICAP presented the new insurance policy. It is the City's 6th year with ICAP. They will present a list of requests for the City to consider to make the City safer.
- On Feb 7th, Mayor Russell attended the Worth County Assessor's budget hearing.

- Governor Branstad has proposed an increase in the Gaming Tax from 22% to 36% to help balance this year's state budget. For information regarding the increase, and how it may affect available grant funding, contact the Worth County Development Authority at 641-324-1618.

City Clerk's Report

- The following statistics report the % of budgeted revenue received year-to-date as well as the % of budgeted expenses spent year-to-date (58% of year)

	General	Roads	Water	Sewer	Landfill	Total (vs 11/2010 budget)
Income	68%	61%	61%	62%	64%	68%
Expense	41%	37%	58%	57%	52%	52%
Net Income	\$6,240.37	\$754,167	\$1,322,28	\$3,372.17	\$3,185.07	\$22,975.31

- Pat motioned, Cindy 2nd to approve January's bills. Motion Carried.

Maintenance Report

- So far, three people have requested application materials for the City Maintenance position. Only one has returned their application.
- Buck is working with Fred to troubleshoot issues with the new computerized controls and the generator at the water plant. The generator is throwing a breaker when it kicks on.
- Otherwise everything is going well. As long as the nice weather holds out, Buck will be able to read the meters at the end of the month, rather than estimating as previously planned.
- Warren is currently taking continuing education courses in Coralville for his water & sewer licenses.

Committee Reports

- Fertile Days committee received \$250 donations from both Five Star Cooperative & Land O' Lakes!

Upcoming Meetings

- The Fertile City Council will hold a public hearing to approve the budget at 7:00PM, Tuesday, March 1st, 2011, at Fertile City Hall, and at 7:00PM in regular session, Tuesday, March 15th, 2011.
- Pat moved and Penny 2nd to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

City of Fertile		4:35 PM			
Bills Paid		02/16/2011			
As of January 31, 2011		Accrual Basis Amount			
Type	Date	Num	Name	Memo	Amount
001b - General Fund Accounts					
Check	01/01/2011	5455	Fertile Fire Department V	Quarterly Allocation	-2,750.00
Check	01/01/2011	5456	Fertile Public Library V	Quarterly Allocation	-4,620.25
Deposit	01/03/2011			Deposit	1,686.67
Deposit	01/04/2011			Deposit	1,914.60
Deposit	01/05/2011			Deposit	929.61
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5466	Bruns, Warren		-307.47
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5467	May III, Edgar F		-934.59
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5468	Russell, Grant		-733.11
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5469	Russell, Joyce		-537.67
Bill Pmt - Check	01/05/2011	5477	Greve Law Office	Legal Services	-1,000.00
Bill Pmt - Check	01/05/2011	5478	Kramer Ace Hardware	Snow Shovel	-15.43
Bill Pmt - Check	01/05/2011	5479	Larsen Plumbing & Heating	install water meters	-136.00
Bill Pmt - Check	01/05/2011	5480	North Iowa Media Group	public hearing - building	-56.06
Bill Pmt - Check	01/05/2011	5481	WCTA	phone & internet	-142.62
Paycheck	01/05/2011	5482	Berg, Jeffrey	snow removal	-485.38
Check	01/05/2011	5902	Accel Jerry & Paula	NSF	-298.05
Check	01/06/2011	5483	US Post Office	Postage	-129.60
Deposit	01/10/2011			Deposit	859.82
Check	01/11/2011	5484	Iowa Rural Water Association	Training	-175.00
Deposit	01/12/2011			Deposit	2,788.59
Paycheck	01/12/2011	5484	Miller, Josh	Snow Removal	-270.96
Deposit	01/14/2011			Deposit	2,427.74
Check	01/18/2011		First Security Bank & Trust	Community Center Loan	-2,500.00
Deposit	01/18/2011			Deposit	1,436.39
Deposit	01/19/2011			Deposit	3,225.68
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5495	Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas	-946.25
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5496	Hawkins, Inc	chlorine	-10.00
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5497	Iowa One Call	One Call Services	-14.40
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5498	Menards	Supplies / Light Fixtures	-407.72
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5499	Municipal Supply, Inc	Meters	-1,074.41
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5500	Northwood Anchor, Inc	year end report, maint position	-275.03
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5501	UPS	water testing	-16.01
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5502	Verizon Wireless	cell phone	-42.92
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5503	Waste Management	landfill	-1,845.74
Bill Pmt - Check	01/19/2011	5504	Worth County Engineer v	diesel fuel	-40.80
Check	01/19/2011	5505	Fertile Public Library V	Direct State Aid	-1,054.62
Deposit	01/26/2011			Deposit	4,503.92
Librarty Check	01/26/2011	5506	United States Treasury		-788.33
Librarty Check	01/26/2011	5507	IPERS		-222.21
Bill Pmt - Check	01/26/2011	5507	Elot, Inc	fix snow plow	-682.00
Bill Pmt - Check	01/26/2011	5508	LGI	water testing	-33.00
Check	01/26/2011	5509	Miller, Penny v	garden cub rent	-123.95
Sales Tax Payment	01/31/2011	5510	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-905.00
Librarty Check	01/31/2011	5511	Iowa Department of Revenue & Finance		-181.00
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	89.35
Total 001b - General Fund Accounts					
110b - Roads Revenue Accounts					
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	9.96
600b - Water Revenue Accounts					
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	15.45
610b - Sewer Revenue Accounts					
Deposit	01/31/2011			Interest	11.54
TOTAL					
					-3,768.42

WORTH COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.
 95 9th St. North, Northwood, IA 50459
 641-324-1741 or 1-800-765-1388

February 23

Blood Pressure Check - 11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center in Northwood. Free to the public.

March 3

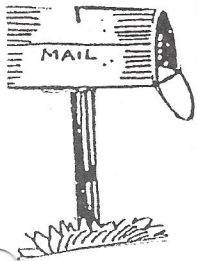
Child Immunization Clinic at Worth County Public Health Office - the first Thursday of the month in Northwood from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Children under 6 years of age may receive a FREE lead test at this time. Free home inspections are available for lead hazards to insure your child's home is not poisoning your family. Call ahead for an appointment.

March 7

Nail Clinic - Northwood Pines - 9:00 a.m. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

March 10

Influenza vaccine is available at Worth County Public Health office for those unable to get to our clinics. We have both the influenza mist and the shots available. Cost is \$20.00. Persons with Medicare Part B will be at no charge. Please call ahead for an appointment.



Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and for supporting Fertile Days. You are very much appreciated.

Cindy Peters

Dear Ladies,


We lived in Fertile 10 years (1951 - 1961) thru mumps, measles, PTA, Cub Scouts, Girls Scouts, Pee Wees and Midgets and many good friends. We had everything!!

Phyllis Pederson



Pronto - Fertile

 Open 7 a.m. ~ 9 p.m. Mon-Sat
 8 a.m. ` 8 p.m. Sunday

DOWNTOWN CAFÉ
 MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 5:30-2:00
 SATURDAY—5:30 - 1:30
 TUESDAY—TACO NITE - 5:00 - 8:00
 FRIDAY NIGHT - FISH & RIBS 5:00 -8:00

HARE ELECTRIC

 Fred, Jim, Tom & Allen Hare
 Phone 1-641-797-2722
 Pager: 1-641-422-3017
 102 N. State St. Fertile, IA 50434

FERTILE VALLEY GARDENS
 Ron & Becky Rachut
 P.O. Box 121
 Fertile, IA 50434
 (641) 797-2811


Bring your automotive needs to us!
 641-423-1237
 641-797-2704

MILLER'S DIESEL AND AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
 3 Commercial Park Road, Mason City, IA
 (8 blocks South of Bonanza)


FRANKS REPAIR & TOWING

 ~Full Repair Shop Services~
 ~24 Hr. Towing & Roadside Services~
 ~Light & Medium Duty Towing~
 ~Most Motor Clubs Accepted~
 Mon-Fri: 8-6
 Sat. 8-Noon
 Hannontown, IA
 641-896-2200


Ouverson Insurance & Group Benefit Services, Inc.
 Neil L. Ouverson, Broker
 Betty A. Ouverson, Broker
 641-797-2100 Office
 641-797-2101 Fax
 888-944-2127 Toll Free
 746A—342nd St.
 Hannontown, IA
 641-430-2170 Cell
 Ouverins@wctatel.net
 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

MICHELE'S

TOTAL HAIR CARE

Joice, Iowa

OPEN:

Tuesday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Evenings by appointment call:

641-588-3830

Michele Meyer

Owner/Operator

Fertile Public Library

Annual Soup & Salad Luncheon

Downtown Cafe

March 19, 2011

11:00 - 1:00

Soups, Sandwiches, Desserts



Free Will Donation

FICTION

Fatal Error – J.A. Jance
American Assassin - Vince Flynn
Two Brides Too Many – Mona Hodgson
True Grit – Charles Portis
Tick Tock – James Patterson
Blood Sins – Sharon Sala
The Sherlockian – Graham Moore

BOOKS on CD

Broken Gun -- Louis L'Amour
World's Greatest Sleuth – Steve Hockinsmith
Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains – Owen Wister
Journal of the Gun Years – Richard Matheson



FERTILE PUBLIC LIBRARY

204 West Main / Box 198

Fertile, IA 50434

(641)-797-2787 Phone/Fax

Monday & Wednesday - 1:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Thursday - 3 - 6 P.M.

Friday - 9:00 A.M. - Noon & 2:00 - 6:00 PM

Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon

<http://www.youseemore.com/NILC/FertilePL>

neibors.lib.overdrive.com

**Audio Book
Downloads**
provided by your library

NEIBORS

eBOOKS

The Neighbors are Watching – Debra Ginsberg
Shadowfever – Karen Marie Moning
Star Wars: Vortex – Troy Denning
Star Wars: Allies – Christie Golden
Burning Darkness – Jaime Rush
The Girl in the Green Raincoat – Laura Lippman
The Alchemist – Michael Scott
River of Ruin – Jack Du Brul
The Countess – Lynsay Sands
The Hawk – Mona McCarty

DVDs

The Men Who Stare at Goats – George Clooney
Inception – Leonardo DiCaprio
The Expendables – Sylvester Stallone
Red – Bruce Willis
Sorcerer's Apprentice – Nicolas Cage
Karate Kid – Jaden Smith
Jonah Hex – Josh Brolin
Jesse Stone – Thin Ice – Tom Selleck
Frozen - Emma Bell
Winter's Bone – Jennifer Lawrence

LIBRARY NEWS

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE TODAY! Byki, short for "Before You Know It", is a powerful new online language-learning system designed specifically for use by the patrons of public libraries. Available for learning over 80 languages you can access the system from inside or outside the library, via the web browser on Windows and Mac computers. Users will have a variety of high quality learning options that build listening, reading, speaking & writing skills. Byki includes Advanced Pronunciation Analysis to help users perfect their pronunciation skills. Individual progress tracking and assessment tests help identify areas for improvement and move users in the right direction. Users will have access to an array of online language and cultural resources including one click access to Facebook and Twitter language communities as well as Byki language Blogs featuring a collection of articles covering the language and the culture that surrounds it. Byki Online is designed to be very low maintenance and easy to use. Come in to the library to register!! It's easy to do!!!

DID YOU GET AN eREADER FOR CHRISTMAS? NEIBORS audio & eBook downloadable media is open 24/7. These are just a few of the authors available: Charlaine Harris, Clive Cussler, Lorena McCourtney, Beverly Lewis, Michael Connelly, Jack Higgins, Al Roker, Judith Miller, Joe Hill, Jack Du Brul, Sara Gruen, Charles Martin, Dean Koontz & Lisa Gardner.

For more information on Byki or NEIBORS check out our new website <http://www.youseemore.com/NILC/FertilePL> or stop by the library.

GRISTMILLS

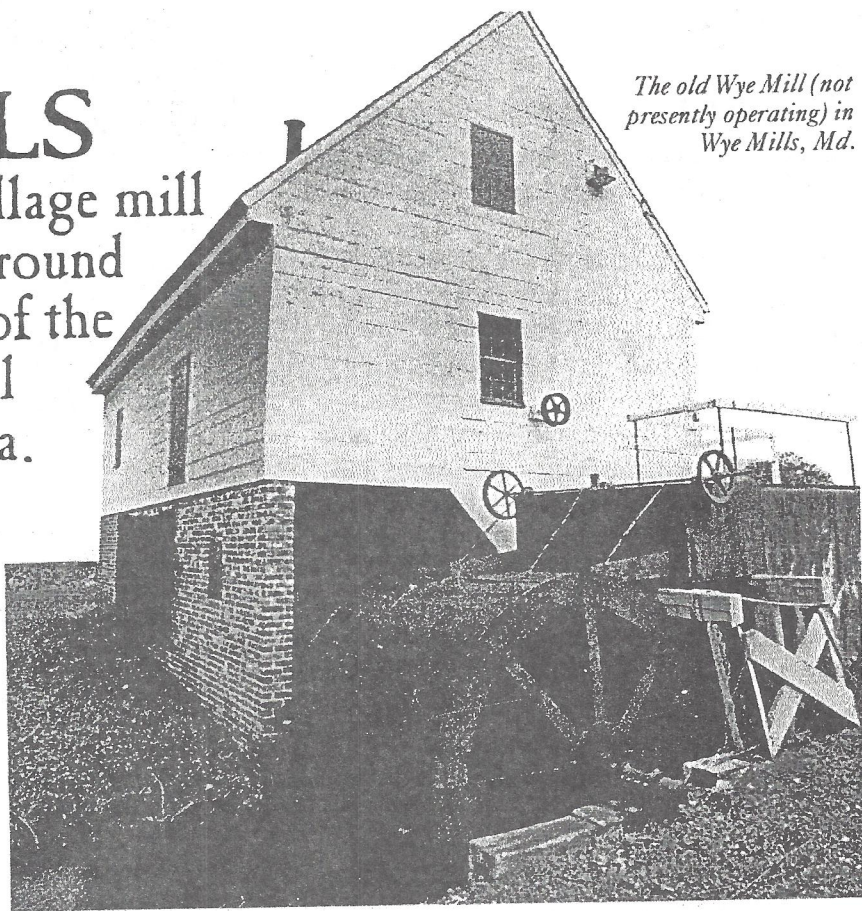
Gathering by the village mill as their grain was ground into flour was part of the townspeople's social life in early America.

By Jo Northrop

Gristmills once played an important part in American country life. Nearly every community had its mill, where farmers could take grain to be ground into flour, meal, and cereals. Visiting the mill was often a family affair involving a picnic, as the mills were situated picturesquely on riverbanks or next to a pretty brook or millpond. A hint of the social importance of the mill in country life is evident in the well-known song, "Down by the Old Mill Stream." We can imagine families spreading quilts by the stream, and setting out a country picnic to be enjoyed while the miller ground their grain. There was time for exchanging news, crop reports, and chitchat. And there was time for a young man to meet a girl with "eyes so blue."

Today, some enterprising people are restoring old mills and putting them back into operation. There is a demand for the good quality and slightly irregular texture characteristic of water-ground (or stone-ground) flour and meal.

In colonial times the gristmill played an important part in the welfare of the community, as grains were a staple foodstuff. Grain was bartered for flour and other necessities. A barrel of flour was a standby in the country pantry. It was common for parents of newlyweds to present the bride with a nice flour barrel, handmade by the local hooper. (Some of these old barrels can be seen today at farm museums and antiques shops.) The barrel was made of hardwood such as maple or oak. Pine was not generally used for flour barrels, as it would impart a resinous pine flavor to the flour. A full barrel usually contained about 196 pounds of flour, but half-barrels and smaller barrels could also be purchased. Along with the gift of the barrel, in some places it was customary for the father of the bride to present his daughter a hardwood bis-




The old Wye Mill (not presently operating) in Wye Mills, Md.

cuit board that was used as a lid for the flour barrel. These old biscuit boards were as plain or handsome as the skill of the maker permitted. But it was a tidy arrangement, with barrel (and usually a wooden scoop in the barrel) and biscuit board at the ready.

Long before a single batch of biscuits could be served, grain had to go to the gristmill. When the grain was harvested, it was threshed and put into cotton sacks. These sacks were tied with string, which was double-hitched so that none of the precious crop could spill on the way to the miller. The farmer could store his own grain and take it to the miller a little at a time as needed, or he could store it at the mill, in which case the miller kept a careful account of grain stored and grain milled. The miller was often paid for his services with grain. Custom varied from place to place, but as an example, a farmer might take a bushel of wheat, which weighs about 60 pounds, to the gristmill. The miller would grind 35 pounds of wheat for the farmer. The remaining 25 pounds of wheat was the miller's profit. Obviously, anyone could buy flour from the mill.

The gristmill was water-powered. A large millstone, shaped like a solid stone wheel, lay on its flat side in a large hardwood tub. Water from stream, river, or millpond was channeled into a narrow millrace, generating force. The water rushing strongly

through the millrace, or canal, turned a waterwheel that powered a shaft attached to the grindstone. The grindstone, or wheel, spun inside the mill tub. Grain was put in the tub, and as the stone rumbled and spun, it crushed the grain against the side of the tub, grinding it to flour. If corn was ground, the result was cornmeal. Any chaff was caught in a sieve, and this "bran" was used for livestock feed. This is a very rudimentary explanation of milling. The miller could adjust his equipment for coarse or fine grind. The sound of rushing water, the splashing waterwheel, and the earthy smell of freshly ground grain would have made the gristmill a pleasant place to visit.

It is easy to see how villages and towns would spring up around mill sites. Every state in the union undoubtedly has its towns named after mills: Wye Mills, Ellicott Mills, and so on throughout the land. Checking with the public library, local historical society, county agriculture agent, or an "old-timer" may reveal where a gristmill once operated in your area. Even a visit to a mill site or a non-working mill offers a perspective on the past. And if you're lucky enough to find a working mill, visiting it is sure to provide a vivid reminder of how life was when we lived closer to the land and a respected part of a bride's dowry was a barrel of stone-ground flour or meal. 

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE STAR-DEMOCRAT, EASTON, MD.

SHIRLEY SHEIMO

Shirley Sheimo, 82, of Garner, formerly of Fertile, died January 18, 2011 at Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City.

Funeral service was held Jan. 22, 2011 at Fertile Lutheran Church in Fertile with Lay Pastor David Halverson officiating. Burial will be in the spring at Brush Point Cemetery.

Shirley Jean Sheimo was born on a farm in Tenold Township in Worth County near Hanlontown, the daughter of Amos and Edna (Tvedt) Gilbertson. She attended rural

school near her home and graduated from Hanlontown High School in 1945. She furthered her education at Waldorf College in Forest City, graduating in 1947.

She worked at the Hanlontown Elevator until her marriage to Franklin Sheimo on March 25, 1950. She became a full-time farm wife and mother of three. In 1966 she began working in the Purchasing Department at Winnebago Industries. She retired in 1990 after nearly 24 years with the company.

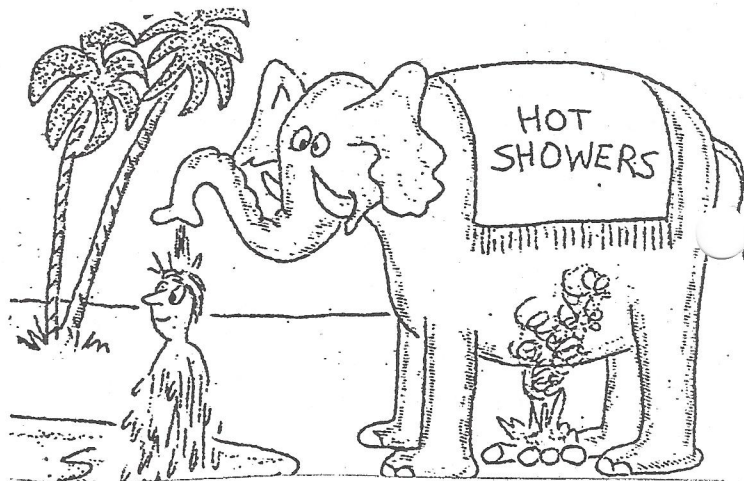
Shirley was a longtime member of Fertile Lutheran Church. For many years she led the church women's group as they made beautiful quilts and blankets for families in need. She was a wonderful cook and baker and each of her grandchildren has a favorite treat they remember her making. She loved to decorate her home and as a passionate collector she had more than enough to make her house special -- including a collection of more than 800 snowmen.

She was an avid sports fan and loved cheering on the Hawkeyes and the Twins. She loved spending with her family and treasured her grandchildren.

Shirley is survived by her children, Debra (David) Haugen of Cloquet, MN and Kevin (Jill) Sheimo of Forest City; son-in-law Michael Hall of Omaha, NE; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters, Lorraine Bakke of Forest City and Darlene Ziessmer of Garner, a brother, James (Judy) Gilbertson of Ackley, sister-in-law Ardis Sheimo of Fertile and many nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 2000 and her daughter Bonnie Hall.

Our deepest sympathy to the family.



A farm boy was leaning against the rail fence watching cars pass on the highway. A big car screeched to a halt, and the driver called: "Hey, Sonny, how far to Bridgefield?"

"Dunno" the youth replied.

"Which direction is it from here?"

"Dunno," the youth replied.

"Who can tell me?"

"Dunno."

"You don't know much, do you?"

"Guess not, mister," answered the boy, but I'm not lost."

She (on the phone): "I'm afraid your dinner will be burned a little tonight, darling."

He: "What's the matter? Did they have a fire at the delicatessen?"

A missionary traveling thru the jungle met a lion. Flight was hopeless; he fell to his knees in anxious prayer. A few moments later he was greatly comforted so see the lion on its knees beside him.

"Dear Brother," said the relieved missionary, "How delightful it is to join you in prayer when a moment ago I feared for my life!" "Don't interrupt," said the lion. "I'm saying Grace."

One young steno to another: "I prefer older men -- someone I won't have to put through college."

Teacher, on the phone: "You say that Billy has a cold and can't come to school? Who is this speaking?"

Voice: "This is my father."

The good old days were when the police didn't hide at the side of a busy road but took their chances in traffic like everybody else.

The little girl was telling her teacher about her baby teeth coming out. "Pretty soon," said the tyke, "I'll be running on the rims."

If you don't want your children to hear what you are saying, pretend you are talking directly to them.

The best gift for a man who has everything is a burglar alarm.

An old timer is one who remembers when the wonder drugs of the day were castor oil and camphor.

DB'S HANDYMAN SERVICE
Painting ~Houses ~ Any Building
Moving Service

Window Washing, Odd Jobs of Any Kind
NOT SURE - CALL FOR DETAILS
REFERENCES

30 years Experience

641-903-9465 641-797-2808

IOWA'S FIRST SETTLER
As recorded by Mrs. George Hall

William Rhodes came to the present location of Fertile on August 6, 1856 from Roscol, Illinois at the age of fifteen years. He stopped in Charles City for a time and then came on to Mason City. While there he became acquainted with a man who told him of the existence of a mill site and again he started on his voyage to find it. He had no measuring rod to determine how much back water he would have, so using his height as a guide, he tied sticks together and sighted the distance, placing them an equal distance apart. Thus he found by backing the water three-fourths of a mile around the curve, this would allow water enough for a ten-foot dam.

The Indians watched him fix his coffee and potatoes for supper. He was frightened but managed to make motions to show them he was cooking his supper. They nodded their heads and left. He slept very little that night and at sunup he left the locality.

He returned to Charles City where he purchased tools, supplies etc., and with a wagon drawn by oxen, he returned to the same location August 1856.

The first thing he built was a grindstone frame to grind his scythe so he could cut grass for his oxen.

He erected the first house, 14 x 18 feet in dimension with a Dutch fireplace at one end. That cabin is now in the Fertile Rhodes Island Park.

His first venture was a saw mill which he constructed and operated until 1868 when it was supplemented with a grist mill. It first ground flour for the early settlers, but now grinding and mixing hundred of tons of feed for chickens and livestock in the surrounding territory. At one time there were twelve grist mills and saw mills within a fifteen mile radius of Mason City. Today the Fertile Mill is the only one operating and perhaps the last one standing.

Fertile township was organized October 20, 1860 by an order from James Keeler, at that time a county judge. The first election was held in William Rhodes home with only six votes cast.

The first white child, John Fenton Rhodes, the son of William and Hannah Pence Rhodes was born in the township December 1, 1861. He spent his entire life in Fertile with the exception of a short time at school in Rockford, Illinois.

The Fertile Post Office was established in 1868 and Mr. Rhodes was appointed postmaster. The town was known as Rhodes Mill, then as Putsy and Blaine. Eventually under Mr. Rhodes' persuasion, it was call Fertile.

Across the river just south of the town is William Rhodes Island Park, a natural beauty spot nearly surrounded by water.

The next to arrive and settle near Fertile were William K. Fankell and his brother-in-law E. S. Winans in 1857. Then in 1865 Henry and Charles Platts settled here.

An early incident in Mr. Rhodes' life was a funeral attended by twelve people in all. Andrew Peter Nelson died and his coffin was the wagon box in which his family arrived here in. His grave was the cellar he dug for his cabin he intended to building for his family. Later a church and cemetery were established.

Starting in February, the Head Start Preschool program administered by North Iowa Community Action Organization will be taking applications on children ages 3 & 4 for classes that begin this fall. Head Start is a premier early childhood education program that also serves children with special needs and has strong family involvement. Call the Head Start family worker number listed for your county to apply and/or answer any questions you may have. Slots fill up fast!

Butler County	641-228-3853
Cerro Gordo	641-423-1577
Floyd County	641-228-3853
Franklin County	641-420-3318
Hancock County	641-562-2842
Kossuth County	641-562-2842
Mitchell County	641-423-1577
Winnebago County	641-562-2842
Worth County	641-494-1891

Head Start Administrative Office: 641-494-1891 or 1-866-836-3124

SCHOOL OF FERTILE WAS ONE OF FIRST BUILT IN WORTH COUNTY

(from the 1976 book about Fertile)

One of the first schools in the area was a shanty built by Fertile Township in Worth County at Fertile. First term, the summer of 1860, was taught by Phoebe Dennis who had five pupils.

There are no records of the school proceeding from 1860 until 1901, but it is known a new frame building was built shortly before 1895,

Mrs. Ethel (Brown) Deuel, Mrs. Roscoe (Hilda) Rhodes Hill, Mrs. Mabel (Rye) Bolstad, and Marie Tallackson graduated on May 31, 1901. C.E. (Charlie) Elkenbary was the teacher.

School board members at the time were P.J. (Pete) Ouverson and G.A. Rye. This was the first year the school was graded.

A short time later, about 1905, ninth and tenth grades were added. The last class to graduate from the tenth grade was the class 1915, which included Sophie and Synneva Hjelmeland, Sylvia Ouverson, Lillian Sheimo, Ellen Oppedahl, and Leo Elthon. Rev. C.F. Schmidt was superintendent.

In 1961 the frame building was moved downtown and was used as the Gospel Mission Church until 1965. It is vacant at this time.

The brick school building was built on the old school site and in 1917, Synneva Hjelmeland, Sophia Hjelmeland, Lillian Sheimo and Leo Elthon graduated from the twelfth grade.

In the fall of 1916, the school was consolidated. This took in country children, and the problem of transportation arose. Horse drawn covered wagons were used until the snow got too deep, then open sleds were used.

Some of the students had to walk as far as 1 1/2 miles to meet the horse drawn bus and then ride three or four miles before they reached the school building. Road conditions were very poor and a great number of children left home before daylight and did not return until after dark.

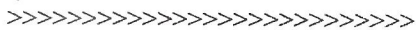
In 1939 a gymnasium of rock construction and new classrooms were added to the west of the brick building.

In 1955 another addition of brick construction was added south of the old brick building making room for a new kitchen and dining room and a number of modern classrooms.

The largest classes to graduate from Fertile were the classes of 1924 and 1936 with 23 graduates. From 1917 through 1961, 629 students graduated from the school.

Superintendents who served the school included Gerald Prescott, C.C. Culbertson, Rex Hill, E.W. Lilley, James Lucken, A.A. Grooters, Walter Nystune, Ralph Adamson and A.A. Luther.

The school became a part of the Forest City Community School system on July 1, 1962.



A PRECIOUS COMMODITY

If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400, that carried over no balance from day to day, and allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and every evening canceled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day, what would you do?

Draw out every cent, of course!

Well, you do have such a bank. It credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off, as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdrafts. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours.

How are you doing with your 86,400 seconds? I know that at my age, I am not using up very many of them!

CALL

YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

For your roofing, remodeling
&

Siding specialists

For your FREE

Estimate

And

Consultation

641-430-0655

Locally owned by

Dan Young & Tami Ramon

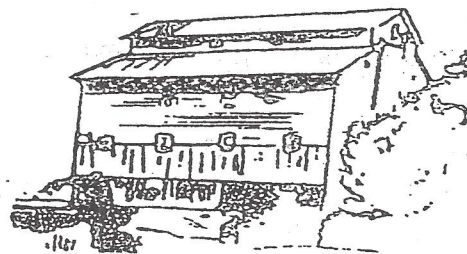
BURTNESS~LUNDGREN PLUMBING & HEATING, Inc.

*Call for all your Plumbing, Heating
& Air Conditioning Needs!*



*John Burtness & Todd Lundgren
Clear Lake, 641-357-8882 or Fertile 641-797-2680*

RHODES MILL



Rhodes Mill Retreat

Rent for a week, a wedding

Or just to get away from

Everything! Very Quiet!

918-630-9935

COOKS CORNER

Any time you have a recipe you would like to share,
Send it along to REMINDER, PO BOX 62,
FERTILE, IA. 50434

JELLY ROLL

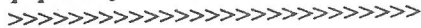
(This is an old recipe from 4-H days in Hancock Co. The two gals who demonstrated this were Hancock Co. Champs in 1955)

- 4 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 1 1/2 cups Sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tsp. Vanilla
- 1 1/3 cups Flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. Baking Powder

Beat eggs with salt. Add sugar slowly as you beat it into eggs. Add water to which vanilla was added. Fold in sifted flour and baking powder. Line the pan with parchment paper for easier rolling. Spread in the pan. **BAKE** at 350° for 25 minutes in a 11x15x1 pan.

SUGGESTED FILLINGS: In a bowl -

- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1 pkg. Instant Vanilla Pudding
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1/2 cup Whipping Cream, whipped
- OR
- 1-8 oz. Package Philadelphia Cream Cheese
- Dash of salt
- 3/4 cup whipping cream, whipped
- 1/2 cup chopped Maraschino Cherries
- 1/2 cup chopped nut meats.
- Spread on baked/cooled Jelly Roll. Gently roll up it up, loosing the parchment paper as you roll it.



DID YOU KNOW???

- > Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
- > Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.
- > Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
- > For a cool brownie treat, make brownies as directed. Melt Andes mints in double boiler and pour over warm brownies. Let set for a wonderful minty frosting.
- > To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle plants with cayenne pepper. Pepper will not hurt the plants & the squirrels won't go near it.

N Q U I E T E T N I U Q A Y
Q U I P B L I T Q Q E L H Z
T D E R B U D N I U N S S I
R L U B C M A R Q U I S E U
A I I S Q U I L L U N R T Q
N U I S A N C E L O I I K E
Q B E Y S L M B I U U R D V
U N C S G I L T Q R Q I Y M
I G I Q I Q I E C R U I S E
L Q U D U U R E N G U I L H
I U J I T I R A T I U G U C
T I N U L D V B J R U X I I
Y C B R G D C E T I U Q C U
E K K D I U L F R U I T E Q

"U" and "I" together

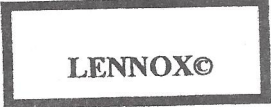
- | | | |
|---------|----------|-------------|
| BISCUIT | INUIT | QUINTET |
| BLUISH | | QUIP |
| BRUIN | JUICE | QUIRK |
| BRUISE | | QUITE |
| BUILD | LIQUID | QUIVER |
| | | QUIZ |
| CRUISE | MARQUIS | |
| | | RECRUIT |
| DRUID | NUISANCE | REQUIRE |
| | | |
| FLUID | QUIBBLE | SLUICE |
| FRUIT | QUICHE | |
| | QUICK | TRANQUILITY |
| GUIDE | QUIET | TRUISM |
| GUILD | QUILL | TUITION |
| GUITAR | QUINCE | |
| | QUINELLA | YAQUI |
| INQUIRY | QUININE | |

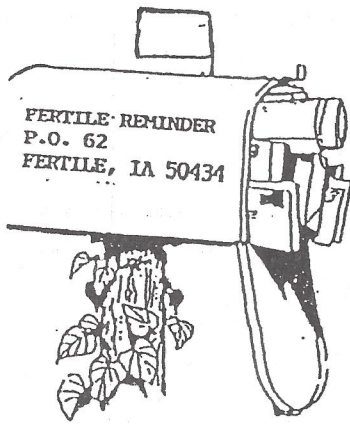
REMINDER POLICY

A donation is suggested at.....\$8.00 year.
A RED mark on your label means this is your LAST
ISSUE. A GREEN mark means you have 1 month left.
Due to the high cost of printing and mailing, we DO NOT
MAKE UP AND MAIL OUT EXTRA COPIES.
The work on the Reminder is done by Volunteers.
Editor—Dolores Sandifer; Treasurer— Evelyn Elthon;
Subscriptions & Ads - Pat Oswald; Folders/Labelers— Ardis
Sheimo & Paula Worsley & the rest of us.

LARSEN PLUMBING & HEATING

641-797-2219
Fertile, Iowa 50434





PRSRRT STD
 US Postage Paid
 Fertile, IA 50434
 Permit No. 3

The "X" in the Mail Box is to remind you that it is time to renew your subscription. A donation of \$8.00 is suggested. We hope you have enjoyed the "REMINDER" this past year and will want to keep it coming. You may send your donation to the address in the mail box.

Fertile Library
 P O Box 198
 Fertile, IA 50434

FERTILE AREA CHURCH NEWS

Fertile Lutheran Church 602 W. Washington 797-2767 David Halverson, Lay Minister	9:30 Sunday Worship Service 10:40 Sunday School Wed. 5:00 P.M. Confirmation Class
Fertile Church of Christ 3493 Eagle Ave. Fertile, IA	9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship Time 10:15 Worship Service
Celebration Community Church 805 10th Ave. No. Clear Lake, IA 50428	9:00 Sunday School 9:45 Fellowship Praise & Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday - Youth Group

OLSON INSURANCE, INC.



Insurance

KORY T. OLSON

P.O. Box 248
 Manly, IA 50456
 olsonins@mchsi.com

(641) 454-2292
 Fax (641) 454-2293
 Cell (641) 390-1865

Dave Haugen, Owner



HAUGEN LAWN SERVICE

Mowing * Seeding * Spraying*

Fertilizing * Thatching*

Sodding * Over-seeding*

Garden Tilling*

E-mail davelawn@wctatel.net

Phone (641)-797-2662

FAX (641) 7977-2660

520 360th. Street

Hanlontown, IA 50444