

**ANKENY AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
June 2006 Newsletter**

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Volume 12, Number 2



***Barn Progress Rolls On!***

At this writing in the middle of May, we are quite confident that the barn will be ready for some visitors by July's SummerFest- -with or without displays.

"Because paint and stains must cure for a certain amount of time the setting of displays cannot be rushed," says Marilyn Shay.

The impressive exterior is supported by a majestic interior with natural wood throughout, brilliant lighting, a natural floor look and massive expanses of something we have never had: ROOM! Larry Pitts, the contractor for the project has made the museum his home away from home and has done a marvelous job.

It has taken 131 years to get to the point (Ankeny was founded in 1875) so waiting a bit longer for the finished product here should be no problem.



**Contractor Larry Pitts get the cupola ready to put on top of the barn Memorial weekend.**



Pictured (l-r) are Marilyn Shay, Dorothy & Raymond Thornton, Rosemary Hutton Taylor and Supervisor E.J. Giovannetti

***Receive Polk County  
Community Betterment Grant***

On May 18, Polk County Supervisor E.J. Giovannetti presented the Historical Society with a Polk County Community Betterment Grant check for \$2,500. The grant money will be used to purchase antique barrister stacks (lawyer book-cases) to be used in the new library/resource room.

If any would have a lead of where we could obtain antique bar-

***Thank you to Keith and Jan Halverson for the donation of the flag currently flying on the pole..***

## ***ANKENY SEVENTH GRADERS MEET ANKENY HISTORIANS!***

Over 500 seventh graders from Park-view Middle School toured the Ankeny Historical Society's museum in May as they completed their units on local history and WW II. The youngsters, teachers and parent/helpers came in groups of up to 30, three times a day for six days and heard about the founding of Ankeny, the coal mines, agriculture, early businesses, the ammunition plant and some of the personalities that helped Ankeny become the city it is today.

The annual event looked at all three floors of the house/museum. From now on, the classes will be ushered through the new barn/facility as well and will see the exhibits expanded in size and scope. Twelve to fifteen volunteers helped the tour each of the eighteen sessions.



## ***In A Capsule. . . This is What We Tell Our Visitors:***

Since it's inception in 1988, the Ankeny Area Historical Society has had grand visions. First, it was to find a meeting place. . . any place to meet and talk about the donations and collections that they were accumulating from families, citizens and businesses.

Second vision was to find a permanent home for the meetings and the treasures that need to be cataloged, described and displayed for the public to view. The vision came to fruition in 1996 when a local builder called and made the offer to donate an old turn of the century home to the Society. . .if they could get it moved. . .quickly. Soon, the school made a piece of ground available. . .local craftsmen came forward to help move and fix up the home and within days it was moved and within months it was full-fledged museum ready for public inspection.

Some ten years later we are literally bursting at the seams with artifacts and antiques and just getting ready to open our new addition to the museum complex: a two-story 30' x 70' barn-like structure located adjacent to our original museum. It is equipped with a full basement for future growth, an elevator for client comfort and two glorious floors of exhibit areas showing off household goods, school classroom memories, farm and agriculture antiques and so much more.

Many folks connect Ankeny to it's recent growth and success in attracting residents. But Ankeny is actually 131 years old. . .being platted just after the Civil War thanks to the rumors of a railroad coming to the area. Ankeny enjoyed small town growth for over 60 years and then became a major component during WW II supplying 35 train car loads of bullets each day during the war from the government built

ordnance plant. After the war John Deere purchased the plant and became a world supplier of agriculture implements. That began growth that continues today.

Farming and coalmines are anchors to Ankeny's history and that brought in a broad scope of nationalities including Italians, Germans, and Norwegians. Ankeny's schools have always been the centerpiece of civic pride.

The Ankeny Historical Society has worked hard and long to preserve the links to the town's past. And the monies made through memberships, summer BBQ lunches, ice cream socials and substantial gifts from prominent citizens, businesses and organizations over \$600,000 has been raised for the new building with a summer opening being planned. The museum is currently open the first Sunday of each month May through December and anytime by appointment. Hundreds of school kids are toured through the facility each year, as well as scout troops, families and organizations. We have a "first 100-years" history book as well as a more current 1975-2000 version.

With over 370 members, there is an actual "active, working and volunteer" group of about 40 members. The Society enjoys very good support from the community and hopes the payback will be a bigger and better museum for generations to come.

## ***Historical Museum A Must to Tour in May***

The month of May has been a very busy month for tours. In addition to the 500+ seventh graders touring, we had 100+ third graders and parents from Southeast Elem., 15 sixth graders and parents from Ankeny Christian Academy, 15 Cub Scouts and parents and two women's groups all visited us in May..

## ***SummerFest BBQ Volunteers Sought***

JoAnn Adamson is still looking for anyone wanting to help during the annual BBQ feed on Saturday, July 8, 11:30-3 event at Parkview. There is still time to choose your shift and your duties. Jobs include: putting on the pork, slinging the slaw, baking the beans, doing the drinks and seating the several hundred who will attend. It is truly one of the great ways to see “old Ankeny,” meet some of the “new Ankeny” and help the future of Ankeny’s Historical Society.

Call 965-5795 today. . .or we may call you!

## ***Historical Museum A Feature in “Iowan” Magazine***

The historical museum will be in the July/August of the magazine the “Iowan.” We will be featured as part of the 2006 Heritage Guide. Ankeny resident Jill Brimeyer, Associate Editor of the Iowan will be writing the piece.

The magazine will be available late in June. To subscribe to the magazine you can call 515-246-0402 or go on line to [www.pioneercommunicationsinc.com](http://www.pioneercommunicationsinc.com) and click on the “Iowan”.

## ***Check Out The Uptown Association’s Web Site***

The Uptown Association has a new web site for you to check out. It is [www.uptownankeny.org](http://www.uptownankeny.org). You will find information at the Saturday morning Farmer’s Market and other activities sponsored by the association.

## ***Up and Coming at Monthly Meetings***

Guest speakers are always a welcome treat at our regular monthly meetings. For this summer and early fall we are working to get two on our agenda in August and September.

At our August 22 meeting we have invited Ankeny resident Glenn McDole to give his presentation about his days as a prisoner of war in WWII and his escape. He is also the subject of the book “Last Man Out” by Bob Wilbanks. It tells of Glenn’s 33 months of harsh and deadly conditions. McDole gives his talk regularly to schools throughout the state and to clubs and organizations. His book will also be available to buy that night.

On a lighter note, Arlen Twedt of Ankeny will be at the September 26 meeting. Twedt takes on the persona of Nils Bauge, an early area Norwegian settler.

Please watch the Press Citizen for any changes or updates. . .but please plan on attending these two meetings.

## ***Donations Keep Coming In***

As work winds down and bills get paid. . .the donations continue and more and more events are planned to defray the cost of the new barn/museum.

Major donators who will have titled areas of the facilities will be: the Dennis Albaugh family—the building, the Don Lamberti family—the first floor, City of Ankeny—second floor, John Deere—agriculture area and the Ankeny Press Citizen—Library/Resource Center.

One of the possible future endeavors will be consideration of a “named brick area.

## ***RAGBRAI RIDERS ADVERTISE MUSEUM***

Watch for RAGBRAI riders wearing Iowa Museum T-shirts. On the back is a list of museums on the RAGBRAI route and as a member of the Iowa Museum Association, Ankeny is listed.

**Jeanne Ersland- -Cover Girl!!!**

Not only was Jeanne Ersland one of the featured interviews on the Iowa Public Television production about Iowa's contributions to the WWII effort. . .but she is also the cover girl on the DVD product available to the public.

Also featured in the segment is Tina Battani. Both ladies spoke about the Ordnance Plant (now the John Deere plant) and Ankeny's contribution to the war effort. During the war, 35 railroad train car loads of bullets were shipped each day to Europe and the South Pacific.

Copies of the DVD can be obtained by going to Iowa Public Television's web site: [iptv.org/iowastories](http://iptv.org/iowastories) and clicking on the link for DVD information.



***A Parkview Proclamation!***

**A Parkview Proclamation to all volunteers at the Ankeny Historical Society.** *Your wealth of knowledge and love of Ankeny showed. I really appreciated all the time and effort involved in the scheduling. It was one of the best field trips that I've enjoyed.*

*Thanks again.*

*Mrs. Tousdale  
7 Gold Team*



Just some of those who helped with tours in May. L-r: Richard Logli, Joe Morr, Norma Righi, Marilyn Shay, Barb White, Tina Battani, and Bonnie Ballard.

Ankeny Area Historical Society

**PLEDGE OF SUPPORT**



Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

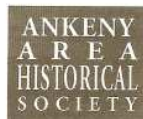
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Pledge: \_\_\_\_\_

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Check enclosed for my total pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, or
2. Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and the balance to be paid as follows: \_\_\_\_\_, or
3. Three annual installments in the amounts of:  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_, \$ \_\_\_\_\_, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Established May 1988  
301 S.W. Third Street • PO Box 1111  
Ankeny, IA 50021  
(515) 965-3795

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Historical Society Representative

*Make Check Payable To: Building Fund • c/o Ankeny Historical Society*

**ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**“NEW BARN” PROJECT MENU OF SUPPORT**

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**LEGACY: \$250,000 - \$500,000**

*Dennis & Sue Albaugh & Family*

**DIAMOND: \$100,000--\$249,999**

*City of Ankeny*

**RUBY: \$50,000--\$99,000**

*Don & Charlene Lamberti & Family*

**SAPPHIRE: \$10,000--\$49,999**

*John Deere Des Moines Works*

*Des Moines Register & Ankeny Press Citizen*

*Ankeny Building Association*

*Prairie Meadows Race Track & Casino*

**PEARL: \$5,000--\$9,999**

*VGI Design*

*Snyder & Associates, Inc.*

*Polk County*

*Community State Bank*

*First American Bank*

*Gateway Savings Bank*

*Wells Fargo*

*Winnifred Spahr In Memory of Wayne R. Spahr*

**PLATINUM: \$1,000--\$4,999**

*Ankeny Hy-Vee (In-Kind)*

*Norma Righi & Delores Manny*

*In Memory of Frank & Mary Ghitalli,*

*Paul & Isola Fontana, Leno & Rose Carzoli*

*L & L Insulation & Supply Company (In-Kind)*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Verna Howard*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Jack Dennler*

*John Deere Community Credit Union*

*Don & Barbara Penquite*

*Barbara White, Family & Friends*

*In Memory of Dale White*

*Valley Bank*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Evelyn Dann*

*Zane Smith In Memory of V.W. & Ann Smith*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Jean Jones*

*Gene & Bev Samuelson*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Blasco Fontanini*

*Terry & JoAnn Adamson*

*Albaugh-McGovern Legion Post #42*

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*Lynn & Nancy DeLapp*

*In Memory of Delma DeLapp*

*Larry & Dorothy Donaghy*

*Gibson Family-Jeanne Erslund, Eleanor Tilton &*

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*Handley, Block, Lamberti, Zinno & Gocke, P.C.*

*Huber Grading, Inc.*

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*Abel McCleary Family*

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*Donald & Norma Righi*

*Everett Sather*

*Roger & Sandra Spahr*

*Evelyn Sexauer*

*Ollie J. Weigel*

*Dorothy Wyant*

*Don & Carolyn Zuck*

**GOLD: \$500--\$999**

*Bill & Barb Agan*

*Fred & Fran Smith*

*In Memory of Manilla Coppock*

*Bob Brown Chevrolet, Inc.*

*W.H. & Marjorie Chase*

*Commercial Federal Bank*

*Joyce Lundstrom*

*Amanda Scharf-American Bank of Iowa*

*Scholes Family*

*Eric Sheldahl*

*Struthers Bros. - Lee Lundstrom*

**Silver: \$100-499**

*Alpha Rho of Beta Sigma Phi*

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*In Memory of Clifford Cornwell*

*Evelyn Dann In Memory of Ralph C. Dann*

*Gerald & Marilyn Dennler*

*Evelyn Rigby*

*Cecil & Carole Ballard*

*Marilyn Shay In Memory of Bill Shay*

*Herbert. Brown In Memory of Mary N. Brown*

*Beryl Coulson - Coulson Signs*

*Don & Carole Lea Kraber*

*Maurices Inc. - Match to Carol Lea Kraber*

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*David & Anne Gardner In Memory of John Price,*

*Edith & Bee Morris, J. Arthur, Evelyn &*

*Judy Ault, & Hazel Ault*

*The Mutchler Family*

*Ben & Jean Norman*

*Clarence & Betty Altenburger*

*Ethel Harmon, Jill, Robert, & Jan*

*In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French*

**Silver: \$100-499 (continued)**

Lee Ahlberg  
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Duane Anderson  
Ober & Iolene Anderson  
Ankeny Genealogy Chapter  
Ankeny Lions Club  
Ankeny Visual Image Committee  
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Victoria Bachman  
Gary & Toni Baugher  
Joe, Charles, & Maribeth Begg  
    In Memory of Wayne Begg  
James Blair  
Ruth Bond  
Dennis & Pat Brazelton  
Barb & Patrick Breen  
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Gail Dippold  
Robert & Nancy Frisk  
Joshua J. Frisk  
Justin R. Frisk & Family  
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    In Memory of Angela Larson Pilkington  
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Jack & Ruby Wheatly In Memory of Jean Jones  
Louise Woods

**BRONZE: \$50-\$99**

MidAmerican Matching Jan & Merlin Christians  
In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French  
72 Degree Heating & Cooling, Inc.  
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Nancy Carr  
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**FRIENDS: \$1-\$49**

Friends Investing Together  
Ethel Harmon  
Rich & Rosemary Taylor  
    In Memory of Betty Hutton  
Tim Garner  
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Raymond Thornton  
Lois Hughes  
Hazel Moeckly  
Kelly Morrow  
Richard & Gina Sokol  
Roy Stoll  
Warren W. Thornton  
Ward Mally

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN.**

*DATES TO REMEMBER 2006*

June 4—Open House 2 p.m.—4 p.m.  
June 20—Celebration in Brass  
June 27—Monthly Meeting 7 p.m.  
July 2—Open House 2 p.m.—4 p.m.  
July 8—SummerFest Barbecue  
11:30 a.m.—3:30p.m. at Parkview School  
July 8—Open House  
July 9—Open House  
July 17—Board Meeting 9 a.m.  
July 25—Monthly Meeting 7 p.m.  
August 6—Open House 2 p.m.—4 p.m.  
August 22—Monthly Meeting 7 p.m.  
September 3—Open House 2 p.m.—  
4p.m.

The Ankeny Area Historical Society is established to collect and secure artifacts and historical records representing Ankeny, Alleman, Bondurant, Carney, Elkhart, Enterprise, Polk City, and Sheldahl for the purpose of preserving American

*Ankeny Area Historical Society*  
*301 S.W Third Street, P.O. Box 1111*  
*Ankeny, IA 50021-3059*



*2006 Officers*

Ron Sampson - President  
Rachel Jones - Vice President  
Norma Righi - Secretary  
Joyce Lundstrom - Treasurer

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\*Richard D. Hermann  
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