

Spring 2015 Newsletter

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Where's Floppy?

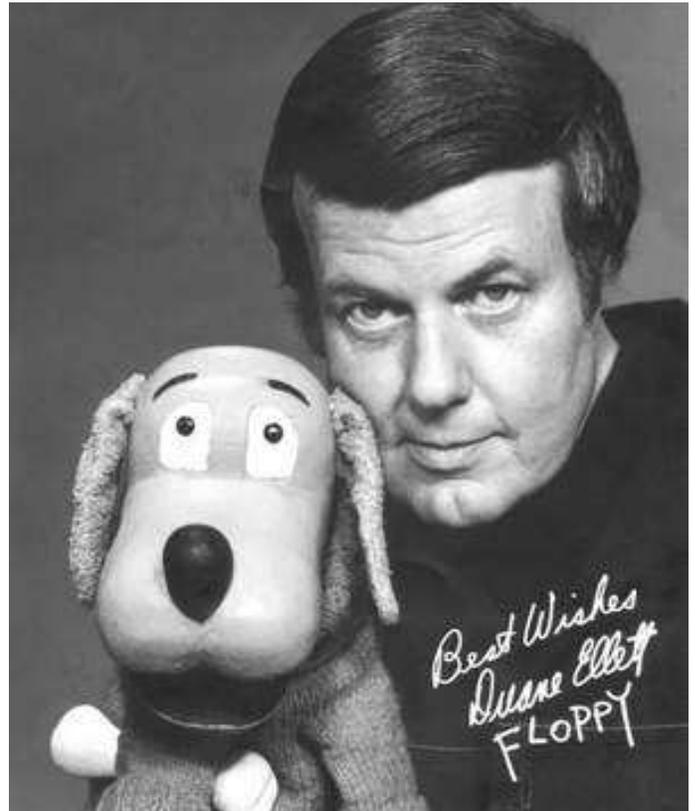
Coming to the Ankeny Area Historical Museums!

Iowa's beloved beagle, Floppy will return to his roots here in Ankeny in an exhibit where he will comfortably greet fans young and old. Two years into the project, Floppy has been revitalized and is ready for public display in the barn of the Ankeny Area Historical Society. Here he will sit alongside collected treasures and memorabilia from the 30 years of appearing on WHO-TV with his pal Duane Ellett – who was also an Ankeny resident.

Ellett passed away in 1987, but the popularity of him and his sidekick pup has never waned. After a stint at the Iowa State Historical Museum in Des Moines, it just seemed fitting that the two would be enshrined in the museum of their hometown. Volunteers have been building the exhibit and gathering shirts, buttons, banks and photos for the display.

Special thank you to Cathy Handley for the design of the display, Hogan Liechty for building the display and all those who donated memorabilia for the display. Also a special thank you to the State Historical Museum and Leo Landis, State museum curator for the loan of Floppy.

As a member of the historical society you are invited to a "sneak peek" of the Floppy display on Wednesday, April 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Your favorite joke to share with Floppy is optional.



Reece and Martin Intern at Ankeny Area Historical Society

Reagan Reece, a freshman at UNI was an intern in March at the historical society as part of her Intro to History – Public History Lab. Reece covered and organized old Ankeny Times newspapers.

Reece is from Forest City and is the second youngest of five children of Chad and Kristine Reece. She enjoys nature things and traveling. She will be going to South Korea this summer.

Thanks Reagan for your hard work. This project couldn't have been done without you.

J.D. Martin is a senior at Ankeny High School and is interning here at the Ankeny Area Historical Society and the Iowa State Historical Society as part of the Multi-Occupations Program at Ankeny High School.

J.D. enjoys anything with computers, listening to music and loves the outdoors.

It is a joy to have J.D. here each week to help us out.



Reagan Reece



J.D. Martin



Special Raffle Coming

Mary Liechty has graciously donated a quilt that she pieced together and had quilted. She also challenged her husband Hogan to make a mantel clock for the raffle. Raffle tickets will go on sale at our Ice Cream Social.





A Moment In History - - - Learning The Real Value Of A Nickel

I was just pulling away from the drive-thru at Arby's with my sandwich and change. Something looked different but I had my priorities at the moment so I enjoyed the turkey on wheat and waited to look at the change till I got back to my office.

And there it was. A nickel like I had no memory of seeing before. It was a 1936 Indian head/buffalo on the other side nickel. I quickly googled my find and saw that I might have something between the value of a tank of gas and extra order of fries—depending on the condition. But that seemed so belittling. . .so crass. . . considering what this little five cent piece had gone through in 79 years. Yup, that is 948 months. . .4,108 weeks or 28,756 days. . . all filled with vending machines, pockets, sofa cushions, under car seats or in a pair of loafers instead of pennies.

Just think, my folks, little Arlene Erickson and Loren Sampson of Roland could have been rewarded with this nickel as 8 year olds running errands and doing household chores. Oops, not my dad. . . he claims he never had a nickel growing up. That five cent piece was an important part of 1936 when a loaf of bread cost 8 cents, ground beef was 12 cents a pound, and gas was 10 cents a gallon. Collect enough of those and a car was just \$665 and renting a home was \$24 per month. . . buying it was \$3,900.

Think of the history this little chunk of change has seen. Jesse Owens was humiliating the Germans and Adolf Hitler at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin when it was shiny and new. The Hoover Dam was just completed and ready to create hydroelectric power. A wave of detached farm workers migrated west and inspired the social and economic best-selling novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by Earnest Hemingway. Franklin Roosevelt won his second term as president. That same nickel has outlasted FDR as well as the presidencies of Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush and Obama.

And for all the time, wear and tear, it does not look much different than the other two nickels I had in my desk drawer. . . a 1978 Jefferson and a 2008 Jefferson.

I have never been good at saving money – just too many practical things to do with it, I guess. And I have never been a collector of anything very useful. But for all of the miles this coin has put in. . . the years of work it has rewarded folks with. . . and just surviving 78 years of use and abuse. . . this one may be a keeper.

Ron Sampson

Dear fellow Ankenians,

As you know from my letters over the years, one of my passions is the history of Ankeny, the story of its founding, the coal mines, farms, schools and of course the Ordnance Plant, now John Deere. And as we get ready to display and declare to the world that we are also the true home to the beloved beagle of Iowa, Floppy and his friend Duane Ellett. . . I'd like to add one more thing to the collection: you!

Don't stop reading and don't shy away, please. What I really want is for you to join us any way you choose. In name only with a membership to support our efforts is fine. To help with collections, cleaning, landscaping, events like our ice cream social or cookie sale is great too. Helping other members host Sunday open house tours is a wonderful way to spend summer afternoons.

In short, you can do as much or as little as you'd like. No heavy lifting, no paperwork or quizzes. . . just great fellowship for a great cause: preserving treasures of Ankeny's past and educating others about it.

Please join me if you would and call the Ankeny Area Historical Society office at 515-965-5795 to start the process. . . or e-mail at history@ankenyhistorical.org. . . or the old fashioned way of stopping by the museum in Uptown Ankeny any Tuesday or Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and let Rose know you want to get on board!

Isn't it nice to know you are wanted and needed?

Sincerely,

Ron Sampson, president Ankeny Area Historical Society

Museums To Be Open Every Sunday From May 31 to September 6

The Ankeny Area Historical Society will now be open every Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning May 31 and will go on with that program until September 6.

In the past, the museums were only open on the first Sunday of each month. With the popularity of several exhibits and to encourage more participation and tourism from the public, the society is adding these dates to further honor the displays and stories inside of the museums.

If you would like to work with one of the boardmembers/tour guides during these Sunday afternoon hours, please contact us at 965-5795. The tours are self-guided and visitors are encouraged to browse the exhibits at their own pace and pleasure. Several hand-outs are available to further explain our museums. It is a nice way to spend a summer afternoon, meet new friends and see old acquaintances.

SUNDAY OPEN HOUSES 2—4 p.m.

- May 3
- May 31
- June 7
- June 14
- June 21
- June 28
- June 28 – Ice Cream Social & Open House
2 – 4 p.m.
- July 5
- July 12
- July 19
- July 26
- August 2
- August 9
- August 16
- August 23
- August 30
- September 6

SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE - JUNE 9 6—8 P.M.

***“Night At The Museum” &
Floppy’s 58th Birthday Party***

2015 Monthly Meetings

Meetings in the basement of the house and starts at 7:00 p.m.

April 28, May 26, June 23

July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27

November 24—Meeting starts at 2:00 p.m.

Still Finding Bullets From The Ordnance Plant

On a recent trip to Corpus Christi, Texas, my husband Rich and I toured the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. With both of our fathers having been in WWII, his dad being in the Navy and my dad (Cor Hutton) being a pilot with the Army Air Corps, we thought this floating museum with airplanes would be something that would interest us both. As soon as we started our tour one of the first displays was about .50 cal. machine guns. Since there were a lot of .50 cal. bullets in the display we thought we would check it out for bullets from the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. And lo and behold there were several.

This USS Lexington was the 5th ship to have the name after the first battle of the Revolutionary War.

Rosemary Hutton Taylor



Christmas Cookie Sale

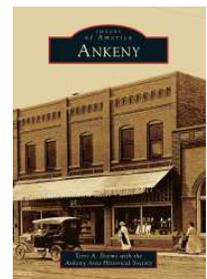
The 2014 Christmas Cookies Sale a success! Final Profit was \$1404.25. We had a great selection and wonderful volunteer help. Thank you to all who donated, helped or bought cookies.

Images of America—Ankeny

Want a good book to read this summer? Try the *Images of America—Ankeny* book. Full of pictures, history and information about Ankeny.

Books are available at the historical society for \$22. For members, each additional book purchased is \$11.

They will make great graduation gifts!



*Has it been awhile since you been to the museums?
Come and just out our displays in the house and the barn!*



Toy Room



Diningroom



Parlor



Sewing Room



Kitchen



Toy Room



WWI Uniform

While in the barn, don't forget to check out the 1974 Tornado Display and the hand-crafted wooden miniature barn display.



Ankeny Schools



Country School



Country Kitchen



Uptown's General Stores



Farming



Ordnance Plant

This is
YOUR “SNEAK PEEK” PASS TO THE
“WHERE’S FLOPPY?” DISPLAY

*We would like for you to join us for
a sneak peek of our new Floppy display on Wednes-
day, April 8, 2015*

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The display is located in our barn museum.

301 SW Third Street

Come with your favorite joke to share!