

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940's, 1960's, 1990's*

August 2017



1940's

Received Air Medal: Mrs. Lash: Recently your son, Staff Sergeant Billie Wheeler, was decorated with the Air Medal. It was an award made in recognition of courageous service to his combat organization, his fellow airmen, his home, and you. He was cited for his meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over the west part of the Bismark Sea. Almost every hour of every day your son, and the sons of other American mothers, are doing just such things as that here in the Southwest Pacific.

I would like to tell you how genuinely proud I am to have such men in my command, and how gratified I am to know that young Americans with such courage and resourcefulness are fighting our country's battle against the aggressor nations. You, Mrs. Lash, have every reason to share that pride and gratification. Very Sincerely, Lt. General Kenny Commanding. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Awarded Oak Leaf Cluster:

Harold L. Brooks, 21, husband of Mrs. Harold Brooks has been promoted to the grade of Technical Sergeant, it was announced by the 15th Army Air Force Headquarters. Harold has also been awarded a Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. In the words of the citation, "Sgt. Brooks was awarded the cluster for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy." A radio operator, Sgt. Brooks is a member of a Liberator bombardment group which has been bombing German held targets in Southern Europe. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Birthday Reception at W.L. Wagner Home: Mr. W.L. Wagner, a life-long resident of Ankeny and vicinity was honored at his home in honor of his 80th birthday. Nearly 100 of his friends and family shared in the surprise celebration. Mr. Wagner wishes to take this opportunity to thank his friends and neighbors for their cards, gifts, and good wishes, all of which combined to make this a most happy and memorable occasion. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please join the AAHS or send comments via email at: history@ankenyhistorical.org.



Ankeny Area Historical Society

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1940's

Appreciates Ankeny Times in

Normandy: Rico Logli writes home from the Normandy Front telling us that he more than appreciates receiving the home news through The Ankeny Times. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Attending Institute: A group of thirteen young people of the High School Class of the Ankeny Methodist Church left Monday morning for Indianola, Iowa, where they are attending a week's institute on Simpson College Campus. They are set to return Saturday afternoon. Those attending are Elizabeth Randolph, Shirley Tollenar, Geraldine Gabel, LaVonne Sexauer, Delores Lein, Dorothy Plath, Dale and Dean Stall, Theodore Thorson, Rex Rednour and Oliver Eckles. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Receives Training at Great Lakes: Neal B. Hecker, 25, husband of Ruth Hecker, is receiving his initial Naval indoctrination at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes Illinois. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Sales Well Attended: Both Rosa Kobi and Mrs. Chas. Bridall furniture sales were well attended by large crowds and the articles sold at very good prices. **Purchases Rosa Kobi Property:** Mr. and Mrs. Artie Fletcher have purchased the Rosa Kobi property, in West Ankeny. They will not be able to move before the first of the year, as it will be necessary for them to take care of their crop etc. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

The **Ordnance Plant** played a big role in the war efforts. Stop by the museum during an Open House (Sundays during the summer, 2:00 to 4:00 pm) to see all the information. And, take a look at our website, too:
<http://www.ankenyhistorical.org/>.

Do you have memories of family or friends who served during the war? Let us know! We'd love to include your story and/or pictures in our history. Contact history@ankenyhistorical.org. We'd also love to have you join! Call us at 965-5795 and we'll send you a membership form (or pick one up outside the museum).

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Chamber Reorganizes. Plans New and More Activities. The Ankeny Chamber of Commerce has a new look...a healthy, energetic appearance generated by many of our leading citizens once again taking a firm grip on Ankeny's "bootstrap" and pulling together. Nearly 40 members and guests were present as president, Jerry Fulton, called the meeting to order at 7:45 Tuesday evening, August 13. Jerry gave a brief resume of the special re-organization meeting and listed some of the new committees given birth at that time. One of these, a Welcoming Committee, is already in operation. Jack Wells, chairman of the Welcoming Committee, gave a brief but thorough presentation of what this committee will be doing in regard to new residents, and new business enterprises in the future. *Ankeny Press Citizen, August 22, 1963*



Hull Twins Receive Nursing

Scholarships. Cathy and Carol Hull, twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hull, 202 Cherry Street, were among those recently named to receive scholarships from the Polk County Health Improvement Association. The girls each received a half scholarship of \$175 from the group, which is made up of members of Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The twins plan to enter the Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in September. *Ankeny Press Citizen, August 1, 1963*

Open Bidding for New Post Office in Ankeny. The Post Office Department will advertise for bids to build a new post office in Ankeny, Iowa, Congressman Neal Smith announced today. The new post office will be located on the southwest corner of 3rd and Pleasant Street, in Ankeny (currently, Ware's Appliances). The specifications call for an interior space of 3,746 sq. ft. along with a 540 sq. ft. platform. The parking area will contain 13,384 sq. ft. The department will sign a ten-year lease with five-year renewal options. The building will remain under private ownership with the owner paying local real estate taxes. Bids will be opened October 1st at the main post office in Des Moines. *Ankeny Press Citizen, August 12, 1965*

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1960's

Three seek School Board Posts. Two Vacancies to Be Filled September 13.

Three persons have announced their candidacy for the two openings on the Ankeny Community Board of Education to be filled the election on Monday, September 13. Seeking re-election is George Plager, a member of the Board for the past nine years. Also seeking the positions are Dr. Lawrence Gray and Merrill Seehorn. *Ankeny Press Citizen*,



Exchange Student Arrives. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dann, 114 Walnut, and their daughter, Jo Ellen, are hosts for the coming year for foreign exchange student Kristina Kariluoma, from Helsinki, Finland. Kristina, who arrived in Ankeny, August 11, will be a senior in Ankeny Community High School this fall, where she will take English, art, American government, and home economics. In Finland, Kristina has completed the required five years of high school and will begin an optional three years when she returns. She will receive no credit in Finland for her year in an American school. *Ankeny Press Citizen*, August 26, 1965



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1990's

AHS Captures its 10th state championship

– The unranked Ankeny softball team proved something last week to the rest of the state. The Hawkettes showed that ratings are often meaningless. Ankeny captured its 10th state championship on Friday night at Fort Dodge with a 1-0 victory over West Des Moines Valley in eight innings. The 10th-ranked Tigers failed in their bid to win a consecutive title. Coach Dick Rasmussen said, "The girls just kept fighting. They never gave up." *Ankeny Press Citizen* – August 14, 1991

AFF approves local airport site – Gary Palmer, Chairman of the Polk County Aviation Authority, announced on Friday, August 2 that the Federal Aviation Administration has approved the Ankeny Airport Layout Plan for approximately ½ mile east of I-35 near Ankeny on Oralabor Road. The FAA gave specific approval of its site location and a favorable determination, according to Palmer. "Plans can now begin to acquire land and move forward with the project," he said. This will be an important development tool for Polk County.

The overall Airport Development Plan is estimated to cost \$10 million, with 90% participation from the FAA Aviation Trust Fund and 10% funding from the local Airport Authority. Grading at the airport site will begin next spring. "We expect to see planes landing in August or September of next year," said Palmer. *Ankeny Press Citizen, August 7, 1991*



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1990's

Elwell Investment Company to construct

new building: Denny Elwell Investment Company has announced it will construct a 67,500 sq. ft. building in Metro North I Business Park on Convenience Road east of Ankeny. The new building will be constructed on 11 acres in the Park and will be designed as a multi-tenant facility to serve from one to three different businesses. Plans call for the building to be completed by year end. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – August 7, 1991



Denny Elwell and Ankeny Mayor Ollie Weigel

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Comments? Send them to us at history@ankenyhistorical.org.