

1947—2016

**75 Years**

Since the construction  
of the Des Moines  
Ordnance Plant

Ankeny, Iowa



1947—2016

**75 Years**

Since the construction  
of the Des Moines  
Ordnance Plant

Ankeny, Iowa

# WE WANT YOU!

To renew, join for the first time and support our efforts to preserve and tell the history of our great community, Ankeny. From our founding days along the rail line to the farming and coal mining industries. . .to the town of 900 folks that in 1941 became a workplace to 20,000 folks making ammunition at the Ordnance Plant. . .that after three years became John Deere.

*Turn the page over for this special request from your  
Ankeny Area Historical Society.*

... and furthermore ...

It has been 10 years since we built our barn addition, expanding our abilities to preserve and exhibit Ankeny's links to an historic past.

It has been 75 years since the federal government came in and bought out several farms south of town and built the ordnance plant.

To commemorate this special year, we are asking you to consider renewing or joining our society with a \$75 gift. We exist solely on membership income, donations, cookie and pumpkin sales and our ice cream social. We are open 18 Sundays a year and anytime by appointment - - - all with no charge. So please fill out the 2017 membership insert and send it to the Ankeny Area Historical Society along with your donation.



# What we have done the past several years to make the Ankeny Area Historical Society and the facilities a place to be proud of and learn from:

**1996**

## *Moved the old Neveln/McCleary home to . . .*

Legend has it that a call was made to the society to tell us that the old Neveln/McCleary house was to be torn down to make way for a Dairy Queen and bagel shop. So wheels started moving quickly to find a spot to make this century old home a permanent location for the nomadic Ankeny Area Historical Society that would meet at the chamber, the old bus barn/classroom at Neveln or about anyplace that would let them in. The school district provided a lot, a basement was dug and the house was moved. The rest is history.



**2006**

## *Had the great opening of the barn annex to . . .*

Ten years later, after an extensive fundraising effort, a full year of planning and a year of construction, the new barn structure complete with two floors of displays, a work area in the basement, an elevator and a traditional barn effect was opened to the public.



**2011**

## *Put new windows in the 1905 house*

New energy efficient windows that helped preserve energy and make the all important interior air more manageable for our valued exhibits.

**2014**

## *Put new siding on the century plus house*

To insure the safety of the displays inside of the century old house. . .and the safety of the volunteer members who had to scale ladders and paint the structure every few years, funds were raised to have a beautiful new siding installed. This made the house much more attractive and energy efficient.



**2016**

## *Put energy efficient window covers on windows*

Last but not least, energy efficient and easy to operate window coverings have made the state-ly old house as comfortable as possible.

*What we do each year to serve the community.*

**18**

The Ankeny Area Historical Society members host 18 Sunday open houses during the year as well as special open houses, number of private club tours, folk stopping by as they pass through town as well as scout troops, classes and just about anyone who calls. The museum is open 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of each month April through November and every Sunday Memorial Day through Labor Day.

**800**

One of the largest tour groups is the annual field trip by all 800+ Ankeny 8th graders each spring as they come to the museum over five days in small groups during the school day and listen to exhibit hosts in the area of coal mines, farming, country school and the ordnance plant. Talking points and videos enhance the visit.

**190**

The annual Ankeny Area Historical Society ice cream social in June has become an Ankeny tradition. The warm afternoon is sweetened by ice cream, cakes, pie and bars, beverages, the town band, a silent auction and a salute to various groups like the oldest businesses, oldest churches, clubs and families.

**180**

The headline of the year for the Ankeny Area Historical Society is the annual cookie sale where dozens of ladies in the membership bake hundreds of dozens of cookies and holiday goodies for the December event.

**1,000**

A new fundraising effort of selling pumpkins in the beautiful yard of the museum has become an instant hit. Manned 24/7 only by an honesty box asking for a freewill donation, over 1,000 donated pumpkins are picked, washed, hauled, displayed and sold each year. A second phase of the pumpkin program are the personally inscribed pumpkins that are toiled on in the heat of August so that a logo can be carved into the gourd with the hope that businesses will reciprocate with donations when they receive them.

**280**

The Ankeny Area Historical Society has a membership over 280 individuals, families, businesses and organizations. The funds from memberships are the lifeblood of the society as we are not part of any city, county, state or school budget. We exist on memberships, fundraisers, grants and gifts. Our volunteers answer the phones, conduct tours, clean the facility, hold open houses, mow the grass, plant and water the flowers and in general do whatever it takes to raise funds to exist. This is solely for the purpose of preserving artifacts from Ankeny's past. . .to link those artifacts to the stories that tell Ankeny and surrounding area's past and to preserve those for future generations.



*Annual Ice Cream Social*

*Annual Christmas Cookie Sale*



*Joel Lanning enjoys his special monogrammed pumpkin.*

