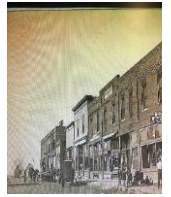


# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1950s

### Born on Independence Day



Mrs. Minnie Sheppard's greatest pride has always been her home and family. As with most elderly folks she spends many hours recalling memories of familiar faces and places on the "Looking back road." One of her greatest interests has been watching both the development of the country side in industry and the complete change in the land around Ankeny. Her keen sense of humor and alertness has contributed greatly in keeping her young in spirit, despite her years. Mrs. Sheppard whose birthday comes on July 4th laughingly remarked at her 88th birthday party, last year "that's why we have a legal holiday July 4th, it's my birthday."



### FROM SWAMP LAND TO SUCCESS: THAT'S "THE ANKENY STORY"

#### Pioneer Residents Recall Earlier Days in Ankeny (Fourth in a multi-part series of excerpts from this article)

Riley Van Horn was the first station agent. The first telegraph operator only worked a short time. Mr. S. W. Sheppard was appointed agent in 1881, later was transferred to Sheldahl, and Mr. W.A. Hall was appointed agent and operator and continued in the service until Aug. 5, 1917. Mrs. S.W. Sheppard, 88-1/2, who still lives in Ankeny and keeps her little home spick and span, recalls the long hours, with no holidays off when her husband worked for \$45.00 a month.

Henry Hutton was the first store keeper in Ankeny. L.B. Morgan the first druggist, James Reed the first blacksmith, Charles Kirk the first harness maker, Joe Kelley owner of meat market. The Wagner brothers (Will and Ed) were the first implement dealers. Henry Wagner and Matthew Sexauer were the first stock buyers. Van Horn and McKisson were the first grain buyers. The first doctor was M.B. Cherrie. And the first publication of the Ankeny Times was published in May 1902 by Fulkmer and Son. In 1903 Fulmer and Son sold out to Al Stader. B.A. Lamason was the first postmaster followed by George Coffin under whose regime rural free delivery routes were established. George Thompson was the first RFD mail carrier.

One of the earliest churches was the Methodist-German, that met in a school house. In those days they preached right from the Bible. The story goes about a preacher who had a habit of wearing a long-tailed coat with a hankie tucked in his pocket. (cont. on page 2)

\*Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please become a member of the AAHS or send comments via email at: [history@ankenyhistorical.org](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org).

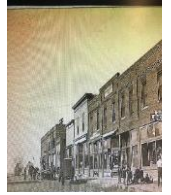


## Ankeny Area Historical Society

# Ankeny through the decades...

*recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\**

May 2021



*Ankeny...from swamp land (cont. from page 1)*

When he "got to going good" he began to perspire, and would pull the handkerchief out of the coat tail to wipe the perspiration from his brow. One Sunday "the Boys" played a joke on him by putting a Eucher deck in his handkerchief so when he drew it out the playing cards flew all over the pulpit.

Once an early preacher spoke on Jerusalem. "Bible says," he told his congregation, "the rich man can get into heaven about as easy as a camel get through a needles eye," and he held up a real needle. One of the mothers present worried considerable about it-not realizing "the needles" in those days was a gate.

Christmas time in a country church was always a great and happy event. There would be popcorn balls made with sorghum molasses for treats. The children in the country seldom saw an orange. But if there were only 6 in the church they had a good Christmas Candles were placed on the evergreen tree with weights to hold them up-right, and often caught on fire. Other decorations consisted of paper cutouts.

Ankeny is essentially a religious community, an unusually large percentage of its citizens worshipping at the Methodist, Congregational, Lutheran Churches in town or nearby Brethren, Catholic, and Baptist in adjoining areas. The first M.E. church was built in 1886, where the present church now stands. Rev. A.B. Shipman was pastor. A new church was built in the winter of 1902-1903 and was dedicated March 7, 1903. Rev. A.L. Golden was pastor.

The Brethren church was built in 1917 and dedicated in 1918. Rev. J.Q. Goughnour was the pastor. On the destruction of the Cong'l church by fire, its congregation purchased the Brethren church building and have services there now. A Lutheran Church was organized and services are held in the American Legion Hall until a new building can be erected.

*Due to the length of this article which is full of information about Ankeny's beginnings, further excerpts will be found in the following monthly editions of Ankeny Through the Decades.*

*Ankeny Times, April 18, 1952*

## 1950s

### **Noel Liechty Installed AS New President of Ankeny Lions Club**

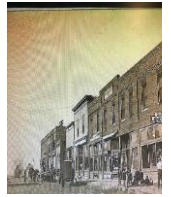
Noel J. Liechty has been elected president of the Ankeny Lions Club for the 1957-58 year, at a meeting held recently. Other officers to serve with Mr. Liechty are: Bud Paulin, first vice-president; Wayne Begg, second vice-president; Bob Wilhelm, third vice-president; Wayne Spahr, treasurer; and Bob Gray, secretary. Ralph Jorgensen and Dr. J. A. Henderson were named to the board of directors.

Liechty, vice president of the Ankeny State Bank, has held other offices in the club. He is also an active member in the Chamber of Commerce, is a member of Logic Lodge No. 636, Order of Eastern Star, and serves on the board of the First Methodist Church in Ankeny. Noel and his wife, Dorothy, reside at 114 Logan Avenue, and are the parents of two sons, Billy 8, and Noel J II, 7 years of age. In spite of his busy schedule, Mr. Liechty finds time to pursue his favorite hobbies, which include golf, bowling and woodworking, also being a real father and pal with his young sons. *Ankeny Times, May, 1952*

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1950s



### Memorial Day Ceremonies At Ankeny

Photo by James Chan

Members of Albaugh-McGovern Post 42, participating in Memorial Day ceremonies on Thursday, May 30 included (left to right), Everett Albaugh, Joe Hutton, Marvin Frisk, Lowell Lein, Cor Hutton, and Charles Wheeler.

A Memorial Day Breakfast was held at 6:30 a. m., followed by Legion members paying respect to departed comrades in the customary Memorial Day Service.

Ankeny Times, May 30, 1957



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1950s

### Former Ankeny Mayor To Mark 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday On May 12 In California

Ankeny pauses to pay tribute and to send special greetings across the miles to one of its early pioneers who will celebrate his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on May 12, in Huntington Park, California. The name W. D. Weinhart is very familiar to many of our residents; but for the newcomers, one only has to turn the pages back to the "Old World" activity to see the importance of the role the early pioneers played in the developments of Ankeny... they left the trail well marked. Mr. Weinhart, affectionately known as "Dad" to his many of his friend and neighbors, was born near Adel, Iowa, on May 12, 1855. He lived for a few years in Polk City, but spent most of his active life in Ankeny.

**TOWN MAYOR:** For eight years he most efficiently served the town in the capacity of Mayor, Justice of the Peace, Constable, and Crocker township superintendent of road work and was a prominent leader in other civic and social activity. "Dad" was acting mayor during the period of development when the pavement was opened between Des Moines and Ankeny. He is proud of a picture shown shaking hands with Mayor Barton of Des Moines in Des Moines in the opening ceremony of highway history in this area. For some over forty years, "Dad" was engaged in the poultry business, buying poultry and eggs in the country and delivering them to Swift and Company, Fulton Market, and other Des Moines firms. He was known as the "chicken man" to farmers living in Elkhart, Mitchellville, Farrar, Cambridge, Maxwell, Alleman, Crocker, Polk City, Sheldahl Slater, and other towns he served. He was in business until the age of 78. After the death of Mrs. Weinhart, he traveled, visiting in various states. He settled in Huntington Park, where he resides with a daughter at 6503 Stafford Avenue.

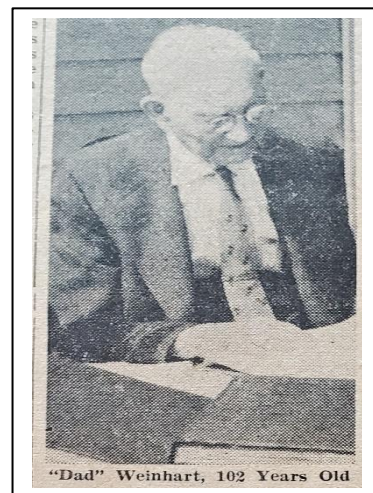
**Zest For Living:** A visit with L. D. Weinhart is a truly wonderful experience as he counts over a century of living. As he relates facts from an interesting and full life, you realize the zest for living that has kept him so active and alert. There is an almost ageless quality about "Dad" - inherent even in his looks. Tho' his steps are slower now, and his vision impaired, time seems to have been especially kind and in a passing has left but few physical inroads. His eyes really sparkle at the mention of his age, and he chuckles and comments, "I feel as good as I did twenty years ago."

**Activities:** He is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Huntington Park and rarely misses attending Sunday School and church services. He joined the Odd Fellows Lodge in Polk City in 1893, transferring and holding a 62 year membership in Ankeny. He is a member of the Golden Year's Club and the Golden Agers Club, Senior Citizens Club, and the Community Men's Bible Club.

For several years he was active in the Hobby Society and won several blue ribbons for achievement in the organization. Closet to his heart is his scrapbook collections of nearly 40 volumes which have been loaned to shut-ins and patients in old people's homes. Dad also has a fine collection of records to provide daily pleasures and entertainment. Just listening to his favorite melodies is one of his favorite pasttimes now.

**Key to Longevity:** As Ankeny's pioneer resident nears the golden plateau of 102 years of living, it's reasonable to assume the key to his longevity and happiness can be found somewhere in his remark: "I like people and I like to be among them." Unlike many of comparable years, he does not live in the past. "Why certainly, I often find mental strength and warmth in looking back, but I find new horizons with each new day and I don't care to live in memory."

**Congratulations:** The Ankeny Times joins in extending a friendly hand clasp across the miles to an outstanding pioneer and personality whose guiding spirit has helped to make and keep the hometown bright. Happy Birthday, Dad! *Ankeny Times*, May 2, 1957



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

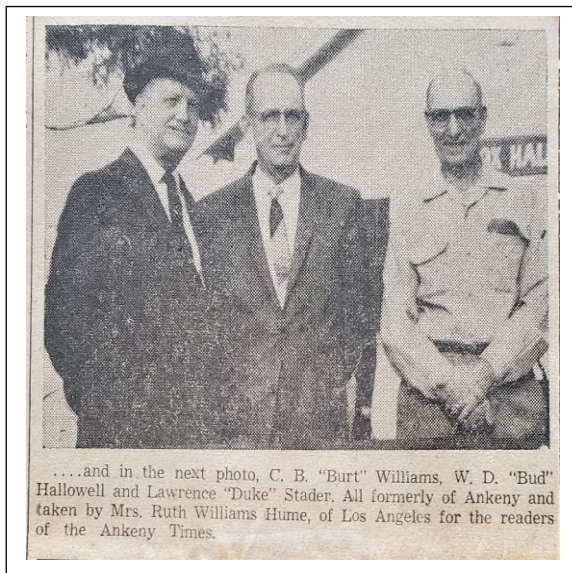
May 2021



## 1950s



Ankeny Times, May 22, 1959



**M & M Café Redecorating:** M & M Café in Ankeny will be closed for redecorating May 2, 3, and 4 but will be opened for "business as usual" on Monday, May 6. Everett Smith's Decorating Service is doing the painting work. Proprietors of the M & M Café, who turn out the tasty home-style cooked foods, are Mrs. Merle Blair and her daughter, Mrs. Mae Deane Frisk.

**Time Change at the Sales Pavillion:** Harry Higgenbottom, manager of the Ankeny Sales Pavillion, has announced a time change schedule. Starting Friday, May 3, the regular afternoon livestock sale will be changed to be held at night. This new schedule is to accommodate the farmers, making it more convenient for them to attend the sales during their busy farm season. Sales will start promptly at 7:30 p.m. *Ankeny Times, May 2, 1957*



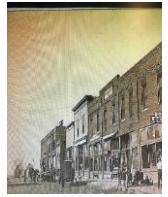
Ankeny Times, May 2, 1957



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1950s

<b>WATCH REPAIRS</b> All types of watches repaired and cleaned. Gold and silver. Free estimates. <b>Paulin Jewelry</b> Phone WO 4-4888	<b>SPECIAL</b> Singer & Hus. 19c Sea Mist Peanut Lotumade 5 for 25c Bar, Beer Weiners 1 lb. 50c Each Super Value Ankeny, Iowa	<b>PAUL'S</b> Plumbing Heating Sheet Metal Paul Allen, prop. Phone WO 4-4812
<b>Prescriptions Our Specialty</b> Dispensing for Dr. Wiley Telephone Service <b>Ankeny Pharmacy</b> Also Dr. Hines Phone WO 4-4711	<b>FARMERS</b> Supply Co. Bulk Feed Delivery Dogs Available Dutch Mead Feed	<b>HOME IMPROVEMENT</b> F. H. A. TITLE Ankeny State Bank Member F. D. I. C.
<b>'54 CHEVROLET</b> All kinds of cars 1950, '51, '52, '53, '54 4 door, 2 door, 6 door 2000 New My name is... Terms <b>RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET</b> Phone WO 4-4881	<b>Appliance Service Center</b> Call us when your washer, dryer, stove, refriger. fails to work just <b>Cory Hdw. Co.</b> WO 4-4804, 4-4805	<b>SPRING</b> Ankeny Tire and Battery Service Full line of tires and batteries Phone WO 4-4804
<b>DRY CLEANING</b> <b>ANKENY CLEANERS</b> Free Pickup & Delivery Phone WO 4-4884	<b>Denniston-Partridge Co.</b> Buckingham Building Main St. Curtis, Kibben Sawyer, Citizens Bldg. Phone WO 4-4811	<b>See Us for Your Insecticides</b> Baker, Black, And Thompson - Hayward Chemicals Complete line of Wayne Feeds. <b>F. L. BALLARD &amp; Sons</b> Phone WO 4-4717 ANKENY, IOWA.
<b>Avoid The Spring Rush</b> Check your tractor and tractor for needed repairs <b>NOW</b> <b>TRIPLETT Implement</b> All types of tractors and implements Phone WO 4-4881	<b>Yes - We can</b> Furnish You Party Treats M. L. Swann 1211 S. 1st St. Ankeny, Iowa Phone WO 4-4881	<b>1951 FORD</b> All kinds of cars 1950, '51, '52, '53, '54 4 door, 2 door, 6 door 2000 New My name is... Terms <b>RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET</b> Phone WO 4-4881

Ankeny Times, May 30, 1957

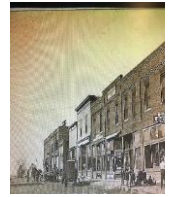
<b>GET YOUR</b> Side rakes, hay rakes, hay conditioner and hay bailers <b>NOW</b> <b>TRIPLETT Implement</b> Sales & Service Ph WO 4-1531	<b>Good-N-Rich</b> <b>Cake Mix</b> <b>10c</b> Thurs., Fri., Sat. Logi Super Valu WO 4-4711 Ankeny, Iowa.	<b>'56 FORD</b> Fairlane four door V-8 Fordomatic, H. & H. good rubber, real nice. We Trade Terms <b>RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET</b> Phone WO 4-4255
<b>Complete Floor Covering Service</b> Ceramic, Plastic <b>Fulton's Floor Company</b> Ph. WO 4-4075 Ankeny	<b>See us for ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS</b> <b>HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS</b> F. H. A. TITLE Improvement on your home pay for themselves in comfort and con- venience. Get a low cost home loan from us for Fix-Up Needs. <b>Ankeny State Bank</b> Ankeny Member F. D. I. C.	<b>PAUL'S</b> Plumbing Heating Sheet Metal Paul Allen, prop. Phone WO 4-4612
<b>New Spring Fashions</b> Simplicity Patterns Notions Closed Wednesdays <b>Fashion Fabric Shop</b> Ankeny Ph. WO 4-4801	<b>See Us for Your Insecticides</b> Diamond Black And Thompson - Hayward Chemicals Complete line of Wayne Feeds. <b>F. L. BALLARD &amp; Sons</b> Phone WO 4-4717 ANKENY, IOWA.	<b>USED CARS</b> 1952 DeSoto, Hard Top, Clean. 1957 Ford, 4 door. Fairlane, R. & H. F O M 1950 Ford 2 dr. R & H <b>SALES SERVICE</b> <b>Ankeny Motors Inc.</b> Ph. WO 4-4224 Ankeny, Ia.

Ankeny Times, May 22, 1958

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1950s

### POPPY DAY IN ANKENY IS SATURDAY

**Auxiliary Ladies to Sell Poppies; Funds Help Veterans:** The ladies of the Albaugh-McGovern Post No. 42 will be out selling poppies on Saturday, May 25. The idea of the poppy as a memorial flower for the World War dead sprang up as naturally as the little wild flower itself in the fields of France and Flanders. The flower was the one touch of beauty which survived amid the hideous destruction of war. Along the edges of the trenches, beneath the tangled barbed wire, about the ragged shell holes and over the fresh graves it raised its brave red blossom. It seemed to be the one immortal thing in that region where death reigned. The soldiers of all nations came to look upon it as a living symbol of the sacrifices of the dead comrades.

Wearing the little flower came to mean honoring the dead and helping the living. For some the making of this little flower is the only support they have in helping take received by the veteran for each care of their families. Money is the flower he makes and is out into his fund. The making of this poppy also helps veterans recovery by occupying their hands and minds. So let's all wear the little red poppy to show our gratitude to these brave men. *Ankeny Times, May 23, 1957*

#### *Proclamation*

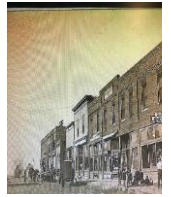
Whereas three times in the past thirty-eight years the young men of our city have been called upon to help turn back a threat to America on foreign battlefield and  
Whereas our young men answered this call with high courage and patriotism, some of the finest of them laying down their lives in the nation's defense; and  
Whereas the memory of these men and their sacrifices should live forever in our hearts; and  
Whereas our memory for our war dead and the honor in which we hold them is individually expressed by the annual wearing of the Memorial poppy, now  
Therefore, I, Jerry Burke, Mayor of the City of Ankeny, Iowa, do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 25, to be Poppy Day in the City of Ankeny, Iowa, and do urge all citizens to observe the day by wearing of the Memorial poppy.

Signed—Jerry Burke,  
Mayor of Ankeny, Iowa.

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



**Town of Ankeny May Have Postal Delivery Service:** It has very recently learned that investigation was made in the town of Ankeny regarding the postal city mail delivery service is possible and looks promising in the near future. According to recent information received from Willard Nagle acting postmaster, the following regulations will have to be served:

1. Through street signs are not posted at intersections.
2. Number of houses do not have visible house numbers.
3. No delivery will be made to any home not having a mailbox or door slot marked "mail."
4. Delivery will not be made to any un-numbered residence, or to any residence not having a walk from the street to doorway.
5. Mail must be addressed to street and number, or to post office box number.
6. Carrier sorting cases will not have patron's name, but only the street addresses.
7. Failure to have mail addressed to street and number may result in delay in delivery. (Because of the carrier not knowing the number of the patron's house.)
8. The only exception to the above is well-known business firms.

*Ankeny Times, May 22, 1958*

## 1950s



**Des Moines Students Tour Milford Johnson Farm in Ankeny:** The Milford Johnson farm north of town is buzzing with activity this month as swarms of eager, energetic city youngsters come to observe life on a farm. Young students from several of the Des Moines Schools including Saylor and Oak Park have made field trips to the farm. They come by bus and usually spend one and one-half hours looking, asking questions and enjoying the added attractions – sometimes a pony ride and sometimes a ride in a tractor drawn wagon. "On occasion the kids whoop and holler and really have a ball jumping in the hay mow." Stated Mrs. Johnson, who assists with the tours.

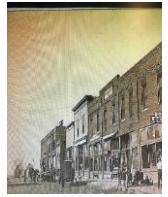
Visitors find many interesting animals and seeing them in natural habitat is an unforgettable "first" for the boys and girls. Here on the Johnson farm they see pigs, calves, lambs, (feeding on a bottle sometimes), horses, cows, ducks, chickens, pheasant, peacocks, pigeons, dogs and kittens. After the field trip, the Johnsons receive special letters of thanks in appreciation of their thrilling visit to an Ankeny farm. *Ankeny Times, May 22, 1958*



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1950s

**CLASS OF 1958**  
**ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL**  
Baccalaureate Service  
Sunday Evening, May 25, 1958  
Eight O'Clock  
Parkview Auditorium

**PROGRAM**  
Processional ..... Suzanne Moore  
Invocation .... Dr. T. W. Schwartz  
"Hear My Prayer" .. Will James  
Senior Octet  
Scripture Reading  
Rev. H. C. Shiffler  
Baccalaureate Address  
Rev. A. D. Mohr  
"Dedication" ..... Robert Franz  
Senior Octet  
Benediction .. Dr. T. W. Schwartz  
Recessional ..... Suzanne Moore  
(Audience please rise during Processional and Recessional)

**CLASS OF 1958**  
**ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL**  
Commencement Exercises  
Thursday Evening, May 29, 1958  
Eight O'Clock  
Parkview Auditorium

**CLASS ROLL**  
Vernon Leroy Ault  
Joseph John Bianchi  
David George Boring  
Dennis Brazelton  
Robert Eugene Brown  
Robert Leroy Brown  
John Thomas Campbell  
Richard Louis Carzoli  
Mary Ann Cory  
David Arthur DenAdel  
Robert James Doubleday  
Lonnie Loy Feldman  
Robert Eugene Floto  
Shirley Mae Fontana  
Carolyn Rose Fontanini  
Sharon Louise Gean  
John J. Good  
Marilyn Elaine Griesert  
Robert Franklin Harrison  
Julie Jane Henderson  
Sonja June Hennon  
Alice Jane Higgenbottom  
Jerry Lee Howard  
Merle O. Johnson  
Beverly Jean Justice  
Alan Douglas Knox  
Lonnie Rix Lamberti  
Ardyth Irene Lawrence  
Steve L. Moore

Lois Jane Peltz  
Patricia S. Polich  
Charles Purdy  
Ellen Louise Quick  
Harvey E. Reynolds  
Harriet Claudia Smith  
Lewis G. Smith  
Janice Kay Spahr  
Roger Wayne Spahr  
Fayette Colleen Springer  
Karen Faye Stall  
Marilyn Textrum  
Kenneth Thimmesch  
Marilyn Carol Toulouse  
Sharon Lee Triplett  
Jack H. Zimmer

Former students who have qualified for graduation:  
Ronald L. Halbrook  
Lucille Reynolds Wartburg

**CLASS MOTTO**  
"Within ourselves our future lies"

**CLASS FLOWER**  
Baby Orchid

**CLASS COLORS**  
Blue and Silver

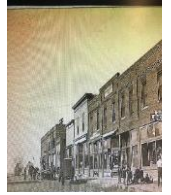
**PROGRAM**  
Processional — "Pomp and Circumstance" ..... Elgar  
Suzanne Moore  
Invocation .... Rev. Paul E. Syster  
"As Torrents in Summer . Elgar  
Girls' Glee Club  
Introduction of Speaker  
Ralph Jorgenser  
Superintendent of Schools  
Commencement Address —  
"Assignment: Greatness"  
Dr. Robert F. Ray  
Director, Institute of Public Affairs, State University of Iowa  
"Etude" ..... Chopin  
Janice Spahr  
Presentation of Class  
Wayne Berg  
High School Principal  
Presentation of Diplomas  
Raymond Peltz  
Chairman, Board of Education  
Presentation of Legion Awards  
Albaugh McGovern Post  
"The Halls of Ivy" Henry Russel  
Girls' Glee Club  
Benediction . Rev. Paul E. Syster  
(Audience please stand for the Processional).

Ankeny Times, May 22, 1958

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1970s



**Firemen have annual dance** – On left, Fire Chief Marvin Frisk presents a plaque to Richard Hornberg in appreciation of the 21 years he has served on the Ankeny Volunteer Fire Department. Looking on is Mrs. Hornberg. The honor was presented at the Annual Firemen's Dance held last Saturday. On the right, Miss Firefighter of 1973, Janie Gray, was announced by the 1972 Firefighter, Michele Stehlik at the Annual Fireman's Dance held at the Victoria Lodge. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – May 3, 1973



As a salute to the small businessmen in America, the President annually declares the middle week of May as National Small Business Week. Here in Ankeny, **Mayor Eldon Leonard** signs a proclamation for the Ankeny Businessmen which are just a fraction of the 8 million small businesses nationwide. Witnessing the signing of the paper are businessmen and women I-r are Reno Bertogli, Larry Donaghy, Dale Miller, Dee Day, Jodi Schreurs, Don Baker, Otis Anderson, and Dave Longnecker. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – May 10, 1973



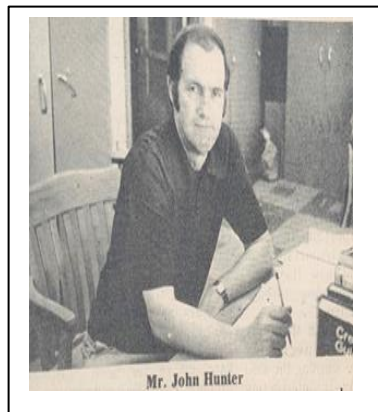
# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1970s



**Our Art Teacher, Mr. Hunter** - Because some students feel that the real Mr. John Hunter is not known to many, the purpose of this article is to help the students of AHS and the public to know him a bit better. Mr. Hunter is the art instructor at AHS and began teaching here in 1954. Through the years, new courses have been added to the art department, and he is now teaching painting, sculpture, color and design, crafts, drawing, and commercial art. He commented quietly, "I like to teach in Ankeny because of the nice people," and added with a twinkle in his eye, and it's fairly easy."

During his busy hours of teaching, he finds certain duties that make his days a little more enjoyable. "I like the commercial art class the most, out of the art classes offered this semester. I also like helping with the annual. He didn't want an easy place to start teaching first. You learn more that way," he commented with a hidden smile. He first taught at Martinsdale, southwest of Des Moines. "Recently I have been working for my Masters' Degree at NE Missouri, and I should be completing it this summer. Fine Arts Festival is coming up and it will be really good. This brings the public attention to our school." *Ankeny Press Citizen* – May10, 1973



*Graduating Seniors for the Class of 1973 – Are awaiting presentation of their diplomas. Ankeny Press Citizen – May31, 1973*

GOODE Greenhouses	
1050 N.E. 50th Ave. 1 block North & 2 blocks West of E. 14th and Interstate 35-50 Interchange Iowa's largest Retail Bedding Plant Grower Phone 262-6504 Open Weekdays 8:15 - 5:00 Sat. & Sun. 8 to 5	
Potted Roses - over 100 varieties potted in soil	\$2.50 & up
20,000 Geraniums 60c each to choose from Extra Large \$1.98	
Petunias - 25 varieties 80c dozen \$3.85 flat of 6 dozen	
Potted Plants for Flower Boxes	35 c each
Tomatoe Plants - Rutgers 45c dozen Hybrid 60c dozen - Potted 35c each	
Vegetable Plants	
Hardy Mums 45c 50 varieties In Bloom 60c	Perennials 45c & up over 100 varieties
Nursery Seed	Lawn & Garden Seeds Pottery, Tools, Bulbs, Birdbaths, Planters Trellis
Scotts and Ortho Fertilizer and Insecticide	

*Ankeny Press Citizen – May 17, 1973*

# Ankeny through the decades...

*recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\**

May 2021



Train slows fire truck to blaze, totals garage – A Sunday afternoon blaze totally destroyed the garage and a portion of the house at the residence of Stan Berg of 218 Parkview Drive. At 2:34 p.m. the alarm was received with 12 firemen responding, but the fire engines and men were delayed three minutes by a train passing through the uptown portion of Ankeny. Ankeny fire dispatcher radioed a message and the train dispatch relayed to the train which finally sped-up. The garage contained several lawn and garden tools and machinery. Also demolished by the fire was an automobile which was sitting in the driveway. A neighbor's garage was also scorched in the blaze. No estimates of damage or any causes for the fire have been made. *Ankeny Press Citizen – May 17, 1973*



## 1970s

**Does Ankeny need library, fire station? Choice is yours!** – The voters of Ankeny will again be given the decisive voice to determine whether Ankeny needs a new library and an east-side fire station plus improvements to the present one on Third Street. The vote will be given to Ankeny residents on May 30. The Ankeny City Council recommended the present fire protection facilities be expanded plus new facilities to be added on the east side along with the construction of a new public library in Wagner Park. Total estimated cost of the projects is \$525,600. *Ankeny Press Citizen – May 16, 1974*

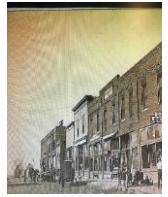
**Today's the day!** Vote on library, fire station projects – The polls opened at 7 AM this morning to start the tabulation of Ankeny's vote on the library, fire station projects. The projects are to be financed separately by \$140,000 bond issues. Votes may be cast at six precincts. They are: Northwest Elementary, Wagner Park Shelter House, OLIH, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, United Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The polls will close at 8 p.m. If you haven't already voted, here's your chance to speak your piece in the future planning of Ankeny. Get out and vote!! *Ankeny Press Citizen – May 30, 1974*



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



**1975 Centennial: "Something for everybody!"** – The Centennial Commission is in the midst of finalizing plans for the commemoration of Ankeny's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1975. The commission has divided into several committees which have been going full blast in preparing activities for the centennial. Joseph Flatt is the Commission's Chairman. Mrs. Marge Mehls is the Commission's Historian. Members of the commission represent education, government, youth, senior citizens, business and professional, rural life, service clubs, veterans and professional, and the general public. Members were given their standing committee assignments in April. The proposed budget was given its approval in May. June and July will see the start of fund-raisers for the centennial plus the approval of proposed projects. Flatt said, "It's our intent to have programs as interesting and meaningful to all parts of the city of Ankeny. We are trying to reach for maximum participation in the planning and participation of different activities."

Commission members are Everett Albaugh, Shary Albaugh, Gerald Ballard, Wayne Begg, Reno Bertogli, Rev. Eric Biedermann, Neil Colwell, Tom Dart, Charles Feight, Beverly Fontana, Mary Lou Hermann, Dr. Glenn Higgins, David Hoover, Eldon Leonard, Richard Logli, Paul Lowery, James Maggert, Forrest McClure, Richard Miller, Earl Olmstead, Betty Roebeck, Don Steffenson, Roger Spahr, Wayne Spahr, Richard Hermann, and Ron Fontana.

April 22, 1975 will be the kickoff day for the Ankeny Centennial commemoration as one hundred years to that very day Ankeny's plat was first registered. Activities will continue until July 13, 1975. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – May 9, 1974

## 1970s

**Grand Opening**

**25% off** Hansen Knits Size 7-14

**15% off** other Merchandise

**2 For 1** Mann Jeans Special Selection

**Infant Play Sets** \$1.50 and up Size 1-3T

**Grab Table** \$1.00-\$2.00

**FREE BALLOONS**

**Register For Free Merchandise**

**Gift Certificate** \$50- \$25- \$15- \$10

**Catalina Swimwear**

- Stretchini
- Donmoor
- Billy the Kid
- Carter
- Baby Bliss
- Healthtex

**Prices Effective For 3 Days Only**

**Young Villager**  
(Formerly LuVonnex)

**Frontier Shopping Center** 964-3440

*Ankeny Press Citizen* – May 30, 1974

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



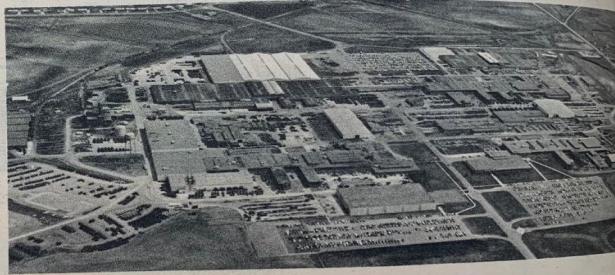
## ANKENY SALUTES... JOHN DEERE

1970s

The City of Ankeny is fortunate to have the John Deere Company as it's neighbor, not only for the financial aid it provides our school system, but for the many services it has rendered to Ankeny as a good neighbor.

Employing over 2,700 people with a payroll of \$34,000,000.00, Deere has been instrumental in many civic activities and support in the past.

Their many services, both on and off the record often go unrecognized. Ankeny certainly does appreciate the prestige it gains through its closeness to John Deere Works.



The John Deere Plant Purchased After WWII Now  
Real Estate Property Value of \$17,500

Ankeny Press Citizen – May 16, 1974



## MAYOR PROCLAIMS MAY 18 JOHN DEERE DAY

—Proclamation—

WHEREAS, the John Deere Company and the City of Ankeny have enjoyed 25 years of harmonious association, and whereas the John Deere Works is in part responsible for the City's prosperous growth, and

WHEREAS, the John Deere Works is located in and a part of the City of Ankeny and contributes immeasurably to the school system being able to maintain its high educational standards, and

WHEREAS, the community is cognizant of the indispensable services, gifts and assistance the John Deere Company has given this City and of the employees and citizens we have in common, and whereas, the problems created by its vigorous growth, would have been insurmountable without the cooperation and partnership of the John Deere

Congratulations



Company, and whereas these citizens have expressed a desire to show their sincere appreciation,

THEREFORE, I, Ollie J. Weigel, Mayor of the City of Ankeny, do hereby proclaim May 18th, to be John Deere Day in the City of Ankeny and do urge all citizens to observe the day by displaying the flag of the United States and participating in the John Deere Day festivities, in honor of the 25 years during which the John Deere Company has flourished in our community.

Ollie J. Weigel  
Ollie J. Weigel  
Mayor of the City of Ankeny

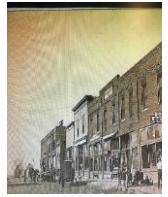
**13,000 visit John Deere** Ankeny's mayor Ollie Weigel presented Waldo Bargmann, John Deere's general manager with a plaque proclaiming John Deere Week in Ankeny. An army of Ankeny business men then toured the huge factory despite the periodic showers. *Ankeny Press Citizen – May 23, 1974*



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1990s



Elwell's ad, DM Register, May 2, 1990



Luke Bros, DM Register, May 23, 1990

**Ankeny turns capitalism loose at Otter.** Now that Ankeny's out of the business of selling tees, golf shoes and visors at Otter Creek Golf Course, it should bring in at least \$14,000 more than it did last year, officials say. And because it's turned over the golf shop and driving range to a private manager, the city can cut about another \$20,000 from its budget that used to be spent stocking the shop. "The golf shop can make money," said Kevin Beard, the course's golf professional who has been named manager of the course, golf shop and driving range. "Before, there was no incentive. This change gives us a personal stake in it, and we can make money for everybody." From the course's opening eight years ago until Beard came to town last fall, the city had run all the operations at Otter Creek, 2388 N.E. 110<sup>th</sup> Ave. The simple formula to make the city and himself more money, said Beard, is to eliminate a complicated "incentive" package for players in special tournaments. The rate for regular weekend players will remain at \$10 for 18 holes and \$7 for nine holes, Beard said. Ankeny budgeted \$554,000 this fiscal year to run the golf shop, concession stand and driving range and maintain the greens and fairways. Next year, the city expects to pay about \$512,000, said City Manager Carl Metzger. Ankeny still pays the salaries of 28 employees who take care of the course or sell pop and merchandise from the concession stand. It also pays the water bill and covers the cost of mowing the fairways. *DM Register, May 16, 1990*

**Ankeny wins title.** Dan Canova doubled in two runs to provide Ankeny with a 3-2 victor over Lincoln in the championship game of the season-opening four-team Ankeny Invitational Saturday. Canova's double in the top of the fourth inning, driving to Phil Walton and Mark Mazzie, gave the Hawks a 3-0 lead before Lincoln scored twice in its half of the inning. *DM Register, May 27, 1990*

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



**Ankeny lenient with churches on green space.** Ankeny Mayor Ollie Weigel said Monday that the city has been more lenient in enforcing landscaping and parking lot requirements for churches than other businesses. The City Council then gave initial approval to the First United Methodist Church, which asked the city to waive requirements to add “green spaces” to its proposed parking lots. In an interview after the meeting, Weigel noted that the city had allowed other churches to finish parking lot projects in stages and sometimes without doing any landscaping. All five council members approved the first reading of an ordinance that would give First United Methodist more parking space and at least two years to landscape that area. Several council members, however, said they felt unsettled with what the church was proposing. Councilmen Dwight Mollison and Gary Baugher agreed, saying that they want to see standards imposed equally. Rod Lein, a member of the Methodist church and a developer, wrote the council to oppose the church’s request. “As a citizen of Ankeny, I don’t like to see wall-to-wall asphalt,” wrote Lein. “Imagine what this would look like if we all did this.” The issue is expected to be back before the council on June 4. *DM Register, May 23, 1990*

## 1990s



*Jodi's Hair Impressions, DM Register, May 23, 1990*



*Air, Tour & Travel, DM Register, May 23, 1990*



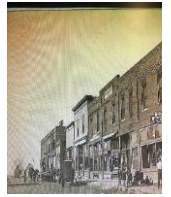
*Dillows Super Valu, DM Register, May 23, 1990*



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1990s

**Retiring Ankeny Principal to be honored Sunday.** A reception honoring retiring Ankeny High School Principal Larry Parr will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday in the high school cafeteria, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny. *DM Register, May 30, 1990*

**Registration starts today for Ankeny swim club.** Ankeny's Summer Swim Club will hold registration beginning today at the Ankeny YMCA at Ankeny High School, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd. Signup times will be from 5 to 8 p.m. today and Thursday for YMCA members and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday for non-members. Cost is \$25 for members and \$40 for non-members. Practices will be held at the YMCA from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. depending on the age group. Meets are Tuesday evenings. *DM Register, May 30, 1990*

**Ankeny News.** If you thrill to the beat of a drum and bugle corps, plan to be in Ankeny on July 21 when more than 700 young people will display their top-notch, toe-tapping music and routines in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration in Brass. Five bands will compete at 7:30 p.m. at the Ankeny High School Stadium, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd. Bands from Oklahoma, Washington, Indiana and California will participate. Music ranges from Beethoven to the Blues Brothers. "It's excellent entertainment," said Trish Kuhn of the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. She said the enthusiasm from corps members, age 14 to 21, is contagious. Rick Hermann, Celebration in Brass chairman, said more than 30,000 people have attended the competition in 10 years. The event is appropriate for the whole family, added Hermann. Tickets are \$9 from the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce or \$10 at the gate.

Also, Ankeny will celebrate its 26<sup>th</sup> annual Summerfest July 9-12. The festival will include something for everyone: a carnival, a talent show, a Miss 16 contest, a lip sync contest, karaoke night, a quilt show, dances, a parade and fireworks, said Terry Sawatzky, executive assistant at the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. *DM Register, May 6, 1992*

**After-prom peek.** Business people and parents can get a peek at the after-prom party area from 9 to 10 p.m. Saturday at the Ankeny High School gym, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd. Call Arlene Bates at (her phone number). *DM Register, May 6, 1992*

**Luncheon Concert.** An outdoor concert will be held at noon Thursday in Wagner Park, West First Street next to Kirkendall Library. The Parkview Middle School seventh- and eighth-grade concert bands will perform. Bring lunch. *DM Register, May 20, 1992*

# Ankeny through the decades...

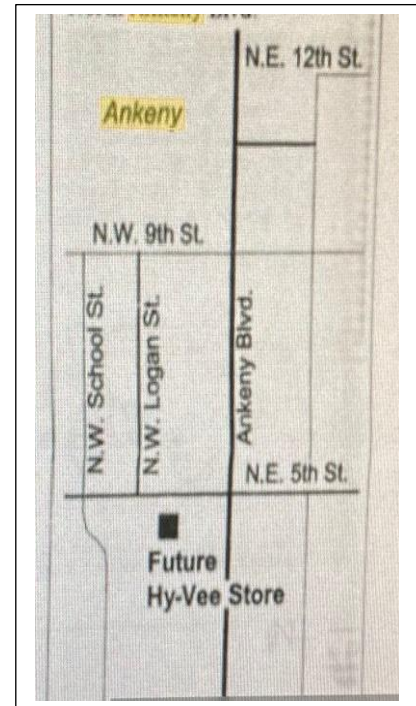
recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1990s

**Ankeny road plan faces third change after traffic study. The North Ankeny Boulevard project has hit more snags, this time because a food store plans to open.** Ankeny is still trying to settle on a plan to widen North Ankeny Boulevard. Although two versions of the road improvement project have been approved, a third look may be warranted because of high traffic flows expected after a new Hy-Vee Food Store opens next spring. The city received the traffic study May 12 and began making plans to accommodate the increased traffic. Some merchants said they are wary of too much accommodation. "I cannot agree with it if it puts us out of business to accommodate another business, said Jerry Ross, director of operations for Holiday Companies, which runs the Food 4 Less store on a corner across from the proposed Hy-Vee. "I'm not sure if that is good for the city. Initially we felt we couldn't stand in the way of progress, and we don't want to," Ross said. "But I would like to have some input to this" After years of agreement by merchants and officials that North Ankeny Boulevard must be widened, the plan of action was changed in March because expected costs exceeded earlier estimates. At that time, Ankeny's City Council decided to divide the \$3.5 million project into two phases. This year, utility work would be done; next year, the street would be graded and paved. Richard Ash, director of Ankeny's Community Service Department, said the city will consider the following changes: Getting bids out and starting paving work this fall, putting in left-turn signals, creating an asphalt should that could temporarily carry traffic into the area, creating a center turning lane." *DM Register, May 20, 1992*



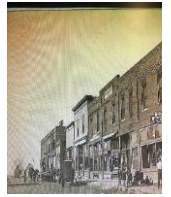
*Bavarian House, DM Register, May 6, 1992*



# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s\*

May 2021



## 1990s



**Rodeo. Ankeny Stampede Days.** Activities will be held at “The General” Western Complex, 221 S.E. Magazine Road, Ankeny, and include a horse sale on Saturday of 150-200 head; tack at 10 a.m.; sale at 3 p.m. and Sears United Rodeo Association rodeo at 4 p.m. Sunday-Monday. Action includes bareback and saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, bull riding, calf and team roping. Rodeo events starting at 4 p.m. Sunday-Monday behind the Distillery, 1509 S. Ankeny Blvd. Admission: \$6 adults; \$5 senior citizens and \$3 for age 12 and under. Jodi’s Gallery features western art and will hold a “guess the number of horseshoe nails” contest. *DM Register, May 22, 1992*

**Great news! The Ankeny Area Historical Society museum’s grand reopening will be the day of Summerfest, Saturday, July 10, 2021. Visits can also be reserved the week of 7/5/21 to 7/9/21 by calling 515.965.5795. Masks will be required, and standard safety protocols will be followed. It’s easy to stay 6 feet apart in our large barn – which has been rearranged and now has the new Ankeny Sports Championships display!! Be sure to visit and check out all the photos and new video screens. We can’t wait to see you! Mark your calendars!**



*Holub Greenhouse, DM Register, May 20, 1992*