

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s\*

December 2020



## 1940s



"Terry, It's cold outside", seems to be what this little lamb is saying to young Terry Adamson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Adamson. The lamb isn't the only one who balks at sticking his nose out on a cold frosty morning-or is he watching for March to go out like a "lamb". *Newspaper and date unknown, from the Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection*

**Gifts For G.I. Joes and G.I. Janes This Christmas:** The American Legion and Auxiliary have been asked to solicit enough gifts, for Xmas boxes to be sent to service men and women in our hospitals. Here are soft suggestions: Pocket size books- Mystery, Comics, Westerns and Bibles. Stationery and games. Toiletries. Things to wear such as, Tee shirts, sox, sweaters, and smokes for the smokers. Wouldn't you like to help? Leave your gift at the Drug Store. Mrs. L.E. Brewbaker Pub. Chairman. *Ankeny Times, December 1, 1944*



*Ankeny Times, December 1, 1944*

\*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

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## 1940s

**Lieut. Hutton Dies in Blast:** Lieut. Phillip S. Hutton, 26, was killed by an exploding mine at Aztec, Ariz., Saturday morning, according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Street M. Hutton, Ankeny, Ia. Lieutenant Hutton, who was in charge while his captain was on leave, was serving with the mechanized calvary.

Other survivors are his wife and little son, Phillip S. Hutton, jr. Hermosa Beach, Cal., and four brothers, Michael, Ankeny; and Asa, Cornelius, and Joe, in the service. Lieutenant Hutton was graduated from the Ankeny High School. He was employed at the Century garage before going into the service. He enlisted in the Iowa National Guard Sept. 23, 1940.

*Newspaper unknown, April 6, 1943, from the Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection*

### Initial Step Toward Production- Arms Plant Training Line Open:

#### Steady Hiring Program Near, Women are Urged to Apply:

A training line for production employees at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant will soon be put into operation, it was announced Saturday. J.E. Lynch, assistant service manager of the United States Rubber Co., which will operate the 30-million-dollar plant near Ankeny, made the announcement. Lynch said new employees, selected from applicants filed at the rubber company's employment office in the Royal Union building, will be placed on the training line.

**To Supervise:** Men previously trained at the Lake City, Mo., arms plant, will supervise the training line here, he said. "This initial step toward actual production of ammunition locally indicates and that a steady program of hiring employees can be expected from this point on," Lynch said. Lynch recommended that all persons who eventually intend to seek employment at the ordnance plant get their applications on file immediately if they have not already done so. This is particularly true of women, he added, as many positions will be filled by them. *Des Moines Register, December 28, 1941*



*Ankeny Times, December 1, 1944*

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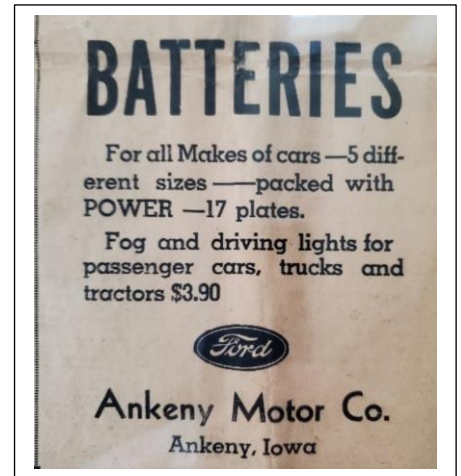
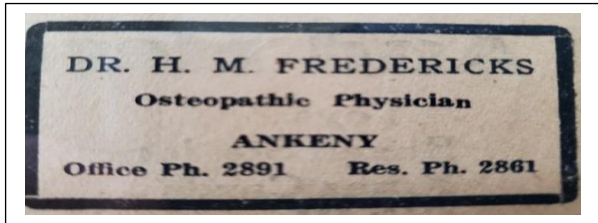
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## 1940s

Ankeny Times,  
December 1, 1944



**ANKENY TAKING BOOM IN STRIDE: Workers Get Along With Townsfolk:** Mayor Louis Nelson is enthused about the way Ankeny, Ia., is taking the “boom” resulting from the 30 million dollar Des Moines ordnance plant nearby. Residents of Ankeny like the ordnance plant workers, he said Wednesday, and evidently the ordnance plant workers like the residents, because they’re swarming all over town daily. Occasionally, there is an arrest, but there have been “very few” the mayor said.

**Very Fortunate:** “We’re very fortunate-we haven’t been bothered with much excessive drinking in the town.” One Class B beer parlor is open in the old interurban depot in the west end of town. It is owned by Andy Christensen of Des Moines. Another Class B beer parlor will probably be opened soon in a blacksmith shop that is being remodeled, the mayor said. An ordinance allows for only two Class B beer permits.

**Theater in Doubt:** Plans for a motion picture theater have been abandoned, the mayor said. The city council issued an exclusive permit to John Moore of Ankeny in September for operation of a motion picture theater. The theater has not been built, and Mayor Nelson said he understood the plans had been canceled. “But we have some of the finest restaurants in the country,” the mayor said enthusiastically. There are five restaurants in the town now, and many ordnance plant workers drive into Ankeny for lunch.

**200 Trailers:** There are about 200 trailers in the town, some in the two trailer camps operated by Lawrence Lein of Ankeny and Oscar Peterson of Des Moines. Lein’s camp is in the west end of town, and Peterson’s camp is on Highway 69 within the city limits. Both camps are modern, the mayor said. In addition, many residents have permitted trailers in their yards. Besides the trailer newcomers, many plant workers are living in rooms in private houses.

“Every day we have calls for apartments,” the mayor said, but there are no vacant apartments nor vacant houses, he explained. From about 750, the population has grown to about 900, the mayor said, since construction started. *Des Moines Register, December 4, 1941*



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## 1960s



**Ankeny has the nicest people to serve to your Real Estate and Insurance needs.....**They just moved in last month and have a few finishing touches to complete before the formal Grand Opening . Reno and Tony are partners in the Juhl Insurance; an independent agency which represents a wide variety of top insurance companies. They write all kinds o insurance including life, hospitalization, fire and auto. Swede operates Lundstrom Realty, handling all types of property, such as farm, commercial and residential. He is ably assisted by Harold Fillman, Jr., a licensed real estate broker. We wish them continued success, and urge you to visit their new quarters – another step forward in Ankeny's economic progress.

The attractive brick building contains 2,400 sq. feet and is air conditioned. Plenty of hard-surfaced parking is offered in front of the entrance. Contractors were Jack Ellenberger and Bud Wiuff of El View Construction Co. Unoccupied portion (about 1100 sq. ft.) on the west side of the building is available for rent. The three principals are shown here in Tony's attractive office. All native-born or long-time Ankenians and active in community affairs. Tony is a member of Kiwanis, a Past member of the Masonic Lodge and active in other Masonic groups. "Swede" is a member of the School Board, the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce, and Lions Club. Incidentally, his great grandfather, John Lundstrom, was the 2<sup>nd</sup> president of Scandia, from 1874-1878. Reno is a member of the Lions, was one of active organizers of the Country Club, serving as a Board Member during the year. He admits to being a golf addict. *Ankeny Press Citizen – December 5, 1963*

# Ankeny through the decades...

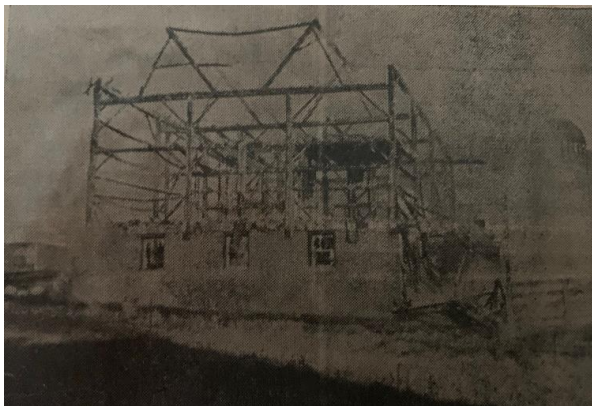
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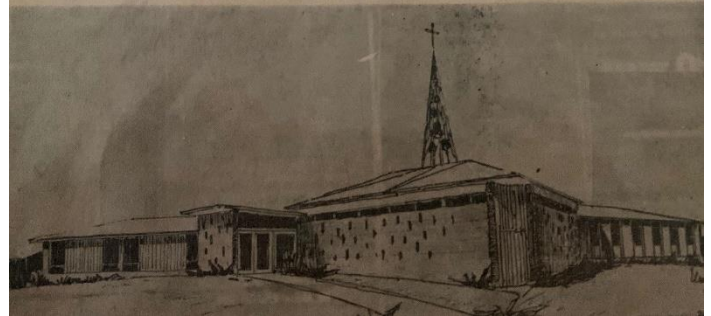


## 1960s

**Barn Burnt Down** – The Sexauer barn on First Street was burned down by Ankeny fireman as a drill. The land is to be developed and is now up for rezoning. A sign on the barn door said: “No Smoking Here. M. Sexauer, 1894.” *Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 7, 1967



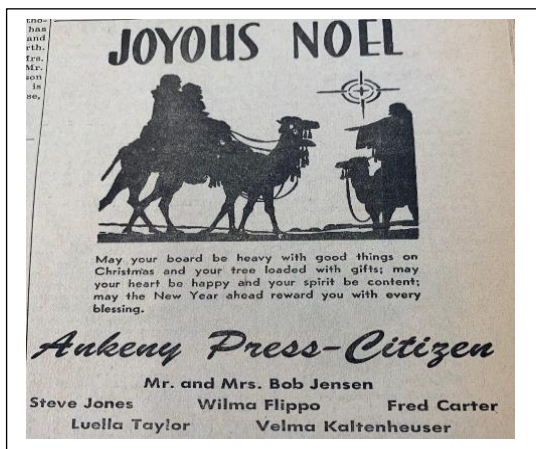
### A Country Church Moves to the City



**Break Ground With Old Plow** – The Des Moines Valley Church of the Brethren, near Elkhart, is relocating in Ankeny on Grant Street and Peterson Drive. Ground breaking services were held Sunday, December 24, at 11 a.m. at the new site. A unique ground breaking service was held. In place of the traditional shovel, the members broke ground with a plow symbolizing their farm heritage. The Rev. David Hykes, pastor of the church, guided the plow with each member pulling together, pledging unity, faith and support for the future church.

The new church site is four acres with plans to build a church in three units. The first unit will be the sanctuary. The builder is ElView Construction Company. Construction will begin this week. The present church is five miles northeast of Ankeny in the country. In 1886 Rev. Samuel M. Goughnour gave this plot of land for the church and was later the pastor. He is often referred to as the “father of the church”.  
*Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 28, 1967

*Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 5, 1963





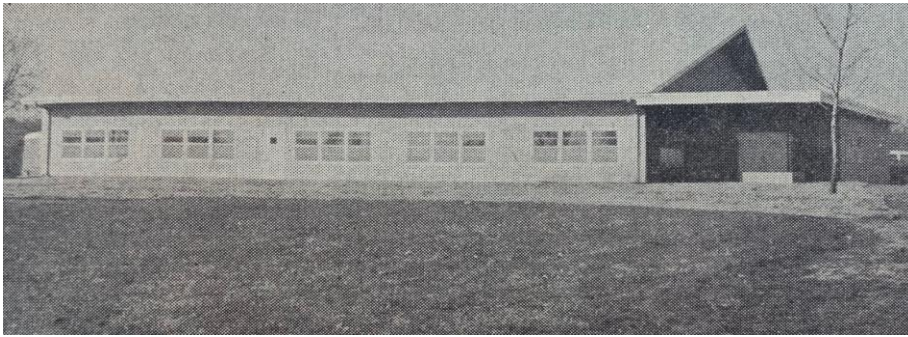
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## 1960s



**Grand Opening of County Club on Saturday** - The grand opening of the club house at the Ankeny Golf and Country Club will be held next Saturday night. The first club affair will be a dinner-dance, with Ralph Zarnow providing the dance music. A buffet dinner will be served from 6 o'clock until 8:30 and dancing will be from 9 o'clock until midnight. The first function of the club house was held last Saturday night when approximately 300 attended a Benefit Card Party. Approximately 70 tables of bridge, pinochle, pitch, canasta and 500 were played. Cookies and coffee were served following cards. Mrs. James Olinger, chairman of the card party committee, wished to thank Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Schroeder for donating a lady's and man's golf club, the member of the card party committee for their help for the affair, and those who attended to make the party such a success. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 6, 1962

### COUNTRY CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

**CLUB ORGANIZED:** November 1, 1961

**OFFICIALLY OPENED:** December 8, 1962

**TOTAL AREA:** 80 Acres

**TOTAL INVESTMENT:** Approximately \$150,000 (land acquisition, land improvement, golf course and club house)

**NO. OF MEMBERSHIPS:** 225 — Golf  
100 — Social

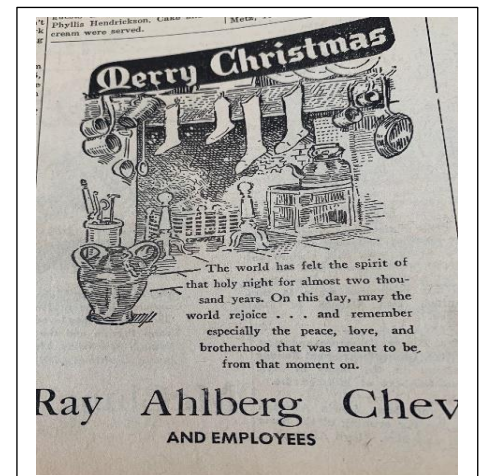
**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS DUES:** \$100.00 — Golf  
50.00 — Social

**CLUB FACILITIES:** Dining and party facilities for approximately 300 persons completely-equipped kitchen; recreation and card room; pro shop; men's and women's locker room. Club has its own water and septic systems.

**GOLFING:** 9-hole, par 36 course

**FISHING:** 7-acre artificial lake, stocked with several species of fish.

**SWIMMING:** 80 x 200 ft. swimming area, complete with sand beach.



*Ankeny Press Citizen* –  
December 5, 1963



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### LUNCH MENU

Monday, Dec. 9

Beef stew; Cheese wedge; Lettuce salad and butter sandwiches; Peaches; Milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Turkey and noodles; Cranberry relish; Green beans; Dark and white bread and butter sand.; Blue plums; Milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

Chili soup and crackers; Celery and carrot sticks; Cheese slice; Sugar cookie; Milk.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Maid-Rite; Catsup, mustard and dills; Tomatoes; Rice custard; Milk.

Friday, Dec. 13

Macaroni and cheese; Buttered corn; Peanut butter and butter sand.; Fruit cup; Milk.



**The Ankeny High Swing Band** –This year Ankeny High School's 15-piece swing band is underway. These people rehearse in the evenings or after school. They play swing music primarily. Musical development is seen along these lines. Their main event is playing for the Lions Club Christmas party. In the spring the band will play the background music for a musical comedy. In the early part of January, the Younker's Rehabilitation Center will hear them. Mr. Friedmeyer stated, "Being a part of this organization helps the student if he likes swing band work. There is quite a demand in college and community activities for these people. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 6, 1962

*Ankeny Press Citizen* –  
December 20, 1962



**Skating Rink Opens** – Several Ankeny youngsters are seen "relieving their tensions" on the ice rink recently flooded in the city park on First Street. Weather permitting; the rink will remain open the rest of the skating season. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 31 1964

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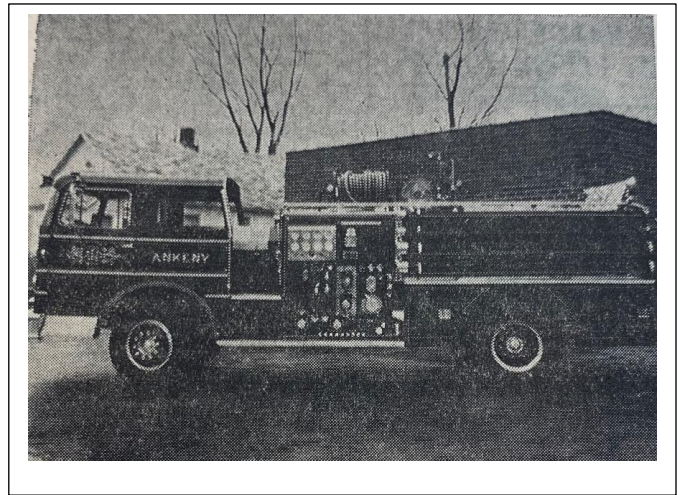
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**Lloyd Brewbaker Retires** – Lloyd Brewbaker, 321 School Street, has retired from the banking business after completing 45 years in that field. Mr. Brewbaker, center was honored at a dinner given at the Ankeny Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, December 18. Shown at the left is Noel Liechty, executive vice president of the bank, and on the right is Rolfe O. Wagner, bank president. Officers, directors, and employees gathered to honor Mr. Brewbaker, and presented him with a television set. Mr. Brewbaker, a lifelong Ankeny resident started working in the Farmer's Savings Bank in Ankeny in 1918 after he returned from serving in WWI. He joined the staff at the Ankeny State Bank in 1938, and was serving as vice president at the time of his retirement. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 26, 1963

## 1960s



**New Fire Truck Now In Service** – Ankeny's new fire truck, which was recently delivered, is now in operation according to Charles Mynatt, fire chief. The truck, which was purchased from Howe Fire Apparatus Co., Anderson, Indiana, at a cost of \$28,995.50, carries 300 gallons of water and has a pumping capacity of 750 gallons per minute. Equipment on the truck includes a resuscitator, which can handle three persons at once and a built-in foam applicator. The truck is powered by an 817 cubic inch, 300 horsepower, Walker-Shaw engine, and is Ankeny's fourth fire department vehicle. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – December 31, 1964



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### Ankeny starts toy program for poor kids.

Ankeny's police officers, school nurses and United Way are pitching in to spread Christmas cheer this year as sponsors of the first "Ankeny's Toy for Kids." The toy and clothing drive is a joint effort of the Ankeny Policy Benevolent Association, the Ankeny Community School Nurses and the Ankeny Service Center of United Way, said Linda Cherry, an Ankeny patrol officer. Cherry said the donations include enough stuffed animals, books, toys and board games to fill a garage and will help 50 Ankeny families have a merrier Christmas. "We've had huge donations by everyone," Cherry said. "The response has been tremendous." *DM Register, December 16, 1987*



**Harrison chosen farmer of year.** Floyd Harrison, Des Moines, was named 1983 Farmer of the Year by the Ankeny Kiwanis Club at its annual Farm/City Banquet Nov. 17. Harrison served as a soil conservationist for Polk County for 25 years and farms with his son near Ankeny. He is a past president of the Ankeny Kiwanis and is an agent for Lundstrom Realty Inc., in Ankeny. *DM Register, December 7, 1983*



*DM Register, December 7, 1983*

**Ankeny Theater Slates 'Move Over' Auditions.** Auditions for "Move Over Mrs. Markham" will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 15 and 16 at Ankeny High School, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd. The production by the Ankeny Community Dinner Theater has parts for five women and four men aged 20 to 55. Rehearsals will begin in January. Production will be Jan. 29. *DM Register, December 9, 1987*

*DM Register, December 7, 1983*

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**Higher Rates for Ankeny Snow Removal Get First Okay.** Ankeny residents could be charged more for city snow removal under an ordinance given initial approval Monday by the City Council. The current city code does not allow the city to charge more than \$10 per lot for removing snow on city sidewalks, said City Manager Carl Metzger. Under the new ordinance, however, the city would assess homeowners the actual cost of labor and materials used by the city to remove snow and ice. In some cases that cost has reached \$50, Metzger said. "We try to make some kind of contact with property owners," Metzger said of the city's snow removal program. Metzger said the ordinance would encourage more property owners to remove their own snow.

In other business, council members approved several resolutions that will allow the city to set up \$4.5 million in interim financing at Bankers Trust Co. of Des Moines to pay for projects over the next two years. The interim financing plan allows the city to borrow the money for two years and pay it back through general obligation bonds by December 1989, Metzger said. Some of the projects discussed by the city include a clubhouse at Otter Creek Golf Course, a park on the city's northeast side, and improvements on Southwest State Street and Ordinance Road. The motion passed Monday, however, does not guarantee the projects will be done. Each must come before the council on a case-by-case basis, Metzger said.

Also Monday, the council approved a \$43,395 bid by Abstract Painting & Decorating Inc. for improvements on the city's swimming and wading pools. According to Metzger, about \$12,000 of the cost will go toward repairing faulty work done in 1984. In other business, council members approved a request of the Ankeny Industrial Development Corporation to change the name of Southeast Hayes Drive to PDI Place, named for Perishable Distributors of Iowa, Ltd, the only business on the street in the southern part of Ankeny Industrial Park. The city also approved a final payment of \$22,659 to Lockman Electric for work on the city's soccer and softball complex lighting project. *DM Register, December 9, 1987*



*DM Register, December 9, 1987*



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**Opponents vow to fight new airport.** Opponents of the proposed small-plane airport in Ankeny say they will continue to fight the project. "I don't think I should have to subsidize somebody's private hobby," said Alice Hubbard. I'd like to believe it's going to help Ankeny, but they haven't proven it." The airport could cost \$3.6 million, according to a study done in April for the Ankeny Industrial Development Corporation. Under plans being discussed, the airport would be run by several local governments, which would be allowed to levy no more than 27 cents per \$1,000 property valuation. The levy would be separate from all other property taxes and would amount to \$11.22 on a \$60,000 home, using current rollback figures. John Peterson, Ankeny's community development director, said the amount raised by the levy would depend on how many governments were involved. To date, the Ankeny, Bondurant, and Altoona city councils have pledged their support. *DM Register, December 9, 1987*

**The VIDEO EXCHANGE**

**Looking for Adventure?**

Come find it at Your Movie Store. Now in, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

December Special: Why not go to the movies at home? Rent 3 movies on Friday and we will provide the Pop and Popcorn Free!!

Have you visited our store yet? Do you own a VCR in the VHS format?

We invite you to use the coupon below to get to know us. We rent VHS machines also.

**Brian and Dianne Countryman**

**COUPON**

\$5 value **1 free overnight Rental** \$5 value  
(non-members only)

\$5 value

**115 E. First, Ankeny, Ia.  
964-9234**

Register, December 4, 1985

DM Register, December 16, 1982

**"ANKENY'S FINEST"**  
**Elwell's for fine food, superior service**  
**LUNCH Mon.-Fri. - 11 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**EVENING DINING**  
Mon.-Thur. - 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Fri. & Sat. - 5 p.m.-11 p.m.  
**FABULOUS SUNDAY BRUNCH 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
Lunches or Banquet Groups Welcome  
309 N. Ankeny Blvd. **964-8266**  
**Elwell's**  
RESTAURANT and LOUNGE

DM Register, December 16, 1982

**help the Pizza Hut help the needy...**

You can bring a smile to someone this Christmas by bringing canned goods to the Pizza Hut where there will be an area set aside for your donations to the needy families.

For one can of food, we'll give you  
**\$1 Off A Small Pizza**

For two cans of food you bring in, we'll give you  
**\$2 Off A Medium Pizza**

For three cans of food you bring in, we'll give you  
**\$3 Off A Large Pizza**

All donated canned foods will be turned over to the Ankeny area churches and distributed to families less fortunate than we are. December 23 will be the deadline to bring in your canned goods so they can be distributed prior to Christmas. GET IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AND HELP FELLOW MAN.

**ANKENY, IOWA**  
Open Sun.-Thurs. 8 AM-11 PM  
and Fri.-Sat. 8 AM-1 AM

**Your Ankeny Pizza Hut**  
201 S. Ankeny Blvd.  
964-1174  
Tim Doughan, Mgr.

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Ankeny board Oks plan for supplemental raises. Ankeny teachers may be able to apply for supplemental pay next spring under a proposal approved Monday by the School Board. Board members unanimously approved a three-year plan asking the state for \$387,320 to reward teachers for supplemental activities or superior performance. The money was made available by the Iowa Legislature last spring in a three-phase teacher pay raise package designed to improve the state's education system. The proposal must be approved by the Ankeny Education Association and the Iowa Department of Education. To qualify, teachers would have to show they were involved in additional activities, work assignments or specialized training that did not duplicate existing programs or activities. *DM Register, December 9, 1987*

DM Register, December 7, 1983



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## 1980s

Thanks to all of you – our Ankeny Area Historical Society members who have supported the museum and its activities over the years. The museum has been closed during the pandemic, but we continue to create Ankeny Through the Decades each month, publish the quarterly newsletter, post on Facebook, and keep the website up to date, so we can stay in contact with you. We hope, after all this passes, you will come visit the museum again! We plan to have new displays – including the Ankeny Championships display – ready for you! Until then, stay safe ... and keep in touch!



*DM Register, December 16, 1982*

