

Ankeny through the decades...

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

May 2017



1940's

Ankeny's First Television Party: "Is it really true?" and "Oh gee, isn't it wonderful" could be heard among the enthused and anxious spectators gathered at Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hull's home to watch and enjoy Ankeny's first television party. The Hull's report this night had the best and clearest steady reception to date. It was most unusual in the fact that from 5:30 to 7:15 pm they received a direct pickup from the CBS station in New York City, coming in on Channel 2. Previous reception was from a St. Paul Minnesota station. The shows televised were a short story entitled, "Wesley;" "The Lincoln Mercury Hour," and last but far from least the popular "Fred Waring Show." Mr. Hull operates the Ingersoll Radio and Sales Service shop and is anxious to hang out his new sign reading: "Television Sales and Service." *Ankeny Times, May, 27, 1949*

Introducing: Announcement has been made of the appointment of Merrit Parsons as new athletic director and coach at Ankeny High succeeding Bert Evans. Mr. Parsons will graduate from Iowa Teachers in June. Mr. Parsons will coach football, basketball, and baseball. *Ankeny Times, May, 27, 1949*



New Saturday Banking Hours at Ankeny:

W.J. Liechty, Exec. Vice President of Ankeny State Bank has announced that effective June 4, 1949, the banking hours on Saturday will be from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Mr. Liechty stated the change in Saturday banking hours will give our employees at least a part of their benefits enjoyed in comparable line of business, and will continue to give adequate and satisfactory banking services in the Ankeny Community. *Ankeny Times, May, 27, 1949*

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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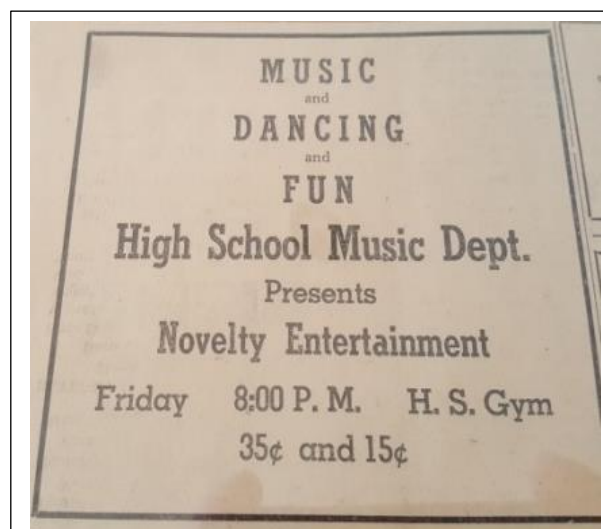
1940's

Thirty-Fifth Meeting of Alumni: The interest shown and attendance at the Alumni Banquet held on Saturday evening, May 21st, was gratifying to the officers and various committees, and apparently proved without a doubt that such occasions serve a useful and practical purpose. The program was intentionally intended to be short in order to provide time for the necessary visiting and to adjourn to the high school gym for dancing at 9 o'clock. The Senior class was welcomed by Harvey Sexauer, VP Alumni Assoc., and the response was given by Johnny Johnston, Senior Class President. Supt. T.W. Karges paid his respects to the Graduating Class in his farewell remarks. The Banquet was entertained by the boy's quartet composed of Vernon Smith, Everett West, Chet Crum, and Lloyd Brewbaker, and accompanied by Mrs. Marion Coppock. *Ankeny Times, May, 27, 1949*

Language Arts Students Excel: In the semester examination in Ninth Grade Language Arts, perfect papers with 141 possible error possibilities were written by Rose Reinhart and Marjorie Ballard. In the sophomore finals with a possible 147 errors, Beverly Andrews wrote a 100% paper. The juniors with a final test of 122 points came through with one perfect paper by Geraldine Ballard. Numerous other students made very few errors and earned A+ or A's for their all-semester grade. *Ankeny Times, May, 27, 1949*

Just look at the price of admission for the High School entertainment in 1949! Can you believe it?

Ankeny Times, May, 27, 1949



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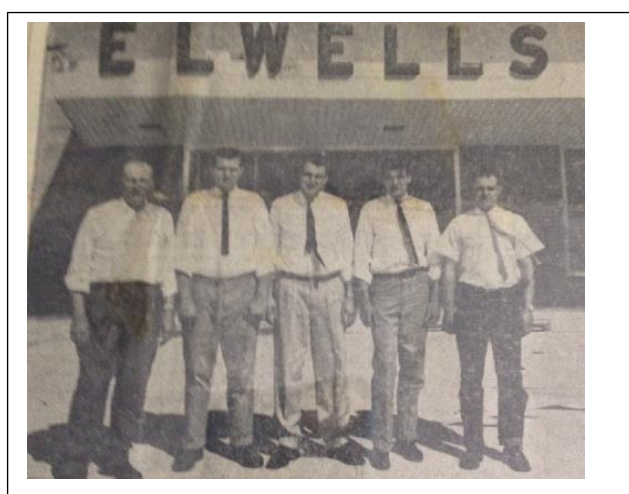
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1960's

Elwell's to Open New Supermarket: Elwell's Food Mart on Highway 69 in Ankeny is now open for business, serving a full line of fresh quality groceries and produce. Mr. Elwell formerly operated a food store in Johnston for over 10 years, is well versed in the grocery business. *Ankeny Times, May 12, 1960*



Camp Fire Girls have Clean-up Project Here:

The Oko Ci Ya Pi group of Camp Fire Girls spent their Monday evening meeting in a civic improvement project. They cleared, weeded, raked and planted flowers and bushes on the parkway in South Lawn. This cleaning and improving of public ground is one of the 12 requirements that must be done to pass the rank of Wood Gathers. Donna Sexauer, Kathy Strong, Harriett Bechtol, Beverly Clements, Penny Ballard, Marsha Heggen, and Donna Howard thanked the following others for their help: Reco Logli, Jack Hall, Cleo Hall, Marion Heggen, and Dick Degeter. *Ankeny Times, May 12, 1960*



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Ankeny Golfers Win Loop

Crown: Ankeny easily won the Suburban Conference golf tournament at Woodside Wednesday with a 167 total. Ankeny's Rex Lamberti was medalist with a four over-par 40. Others were Larry Gustafson - 42, Marty Conway - 42, Steve Peterson - 43. *Ankeny Times, May 12, 1960*

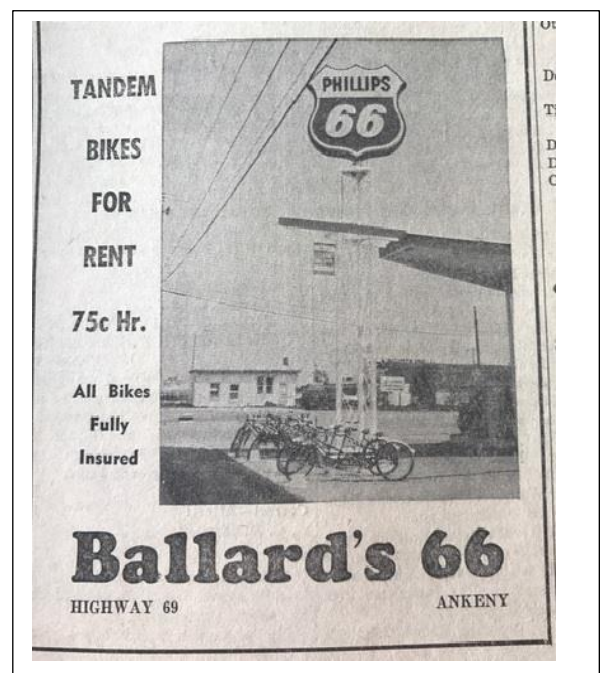
Ceremony Marks IOOF Founding: The 146th anniversary of the founding of the Independent Order of Odd Fellowship on the North American Continent was celebrated by the Ankeny Star Lodge No. 627 and Ideal Rebekah No. 493 in their hall, Monday evening, April 26, with a pot luck supper and a program. A sixty-year jewel was presented to Brother Frank H. Zelle with his brother, Will Zelle, making the presentation. Brother Will Zelle is a 48-year member. They were entertained by the Red Hot Squares with Mrs. Trissel, instructoress. Their several numbers were enjoyed very much as were the numbers so beautifully rendered by the Sophomore Trio, accompanied by Mrs. Caroline Zuck. *Ankeny Times, April 29, 1965*

1960's

New Phillips Station for Ankeny: Ankeny will soon have a new Phillips 66 Station. It will be located on the corner of 1st and Ankeny Blvd. The station will be operated by Cecil Ballard, 109 School. The grand opening will be around Aug 1. Tyke has been in business the past few years with F.L. Ballard & Sons Feeds. *Ankeny Times, April 28, 1960*

Ballard's 66 rents bicycles in 1965

Ankeny Press Citizen, May 6, 1965



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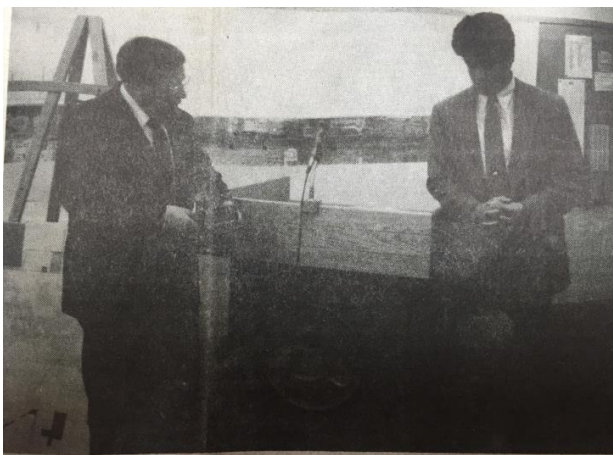
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1990's

The late Richard D. Hermann, an attorney and 29-year resident of Ankeny was also a "salesman, a promoter and a rebel" who said that "if Iowa is the heart of the country, then Ankeny is the heartbeat." Mayor Ollie Weigel, left, and Hermann's son Rick recalled his penchant for speaking out about what was good for the community in a ceremony Monday when the mayor accepted a new council chamber podium from the Hermann family. "We want it to stand for the honor and opportunity for the citizens of Ankeny to speak out," said Hermann. The podium was made by Ray Stuart of Ankeny, who designed the other woodwork pieces in the council chambers. *Ankeny Today, May 23, 1991*



Dedication of the new sanctuary of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny will take place Sunday, April 7th. The Rite of Dedication will be celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. liturgy. According to Rev Richard Gubbels, pastor, Sunday's special dedication ceremony will include an open house from 2-4 p.m. Guided pilgrimages through the new worship spaces will be provided and the public is welcome.

The 1,300 plus families of OLIH are celebrating the completion of a 2 million dollar building and renovation project that began more than three years ago. The new, 18,000 square foot sanctuary seats 950-1000, more than twice the capacity of the old church. The development project will allow OLIH officials to expand services to meet the needs of a growing faith community. *Ankeny Today, April 4, 1991*

Hawks Qualify for State: Ankeny's Andy Kruzich could be one of the busiest competitors at the Iowa boys' state track meet which will be held at the Drake Stadium Friday and Saturday in Des Moines. Kruzich qualified in the long jump, the high jump, and the 400-meter dash. He is also a key member of the Hawks' 4 x 400-meter relay team.

Athletes qualified for the state meet based on best times. Ankeny qualified for state in 10 events. Ankeny's 4 x 100-meter relay team also qualified for state, along with Chris Charles in the 1600-meter run. Johnny Fuller qualified for state on the 3200-meter run, while Aaron Baugher and Chris Dawson qualified for state in the 400-meter hurdles. Scott Ryan also qualified for state in the 200-meter run. *Ankeny Today, May 30, 1991*

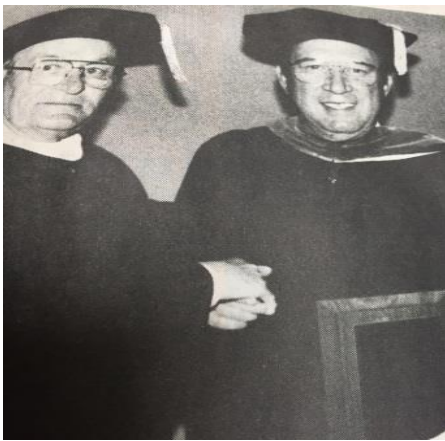
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Des Moines Area Community College board member

Eldon Leonard of Ankeny, left, congratulates DMACC Foundation president Don Lamberti, also of Ankeny, who was presented the college's Citizen Award at the recent commencement ceremonies. Lamberti was cited for his contributions to DMACC which have resulted in enhanced student financial assistance. More than 800 DMACC graduates attended the commencement activities held at the Des Moines Convention Center. *Ankeny Today, May 23, 1991*

About the Worth of Reading: Forty-eight Iowa people, well known in a variety of professions and activities, shared their thoughts on the value of reading when they responded to requests to read to the public from their favorite books at NIGHT OF 1000 STARS on Wednesday evening, April 17 at Parkview Jr. High School

Quotes from three readers include:

.....Paul Frederickson – KCCI president and General Manager, "To read is: to solve problems, to create opportunity, and to enrich the human condition."

.....Matt Whitaker – UI football player and Ankeny resident, "Football has opened many doors to me, most important it is an advanced education. Reading is the key aspect of education. The ability to read gives meaning to confusion, understanding to chaos, and reading opens the door to the world."

.....Chris Pedersen – ISU football player and Ankeny resident, "Being a good reader will be the foundation of your future. Your reading will improve with practicing every day." *Ankeny Today, May 23, 1991*

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