

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018

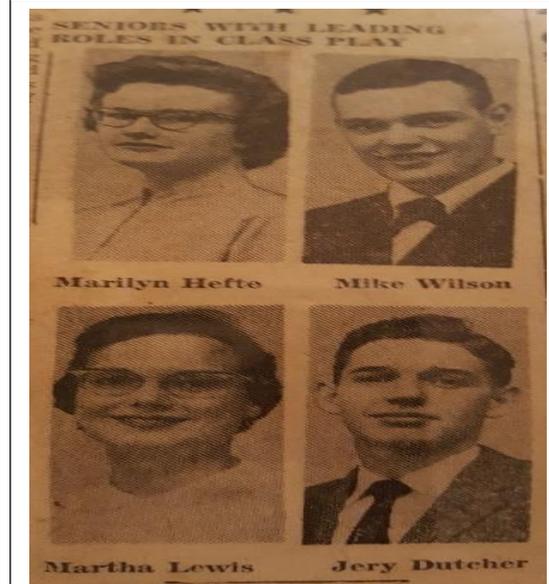


1950s

Most School Faculty Positions filled for Next Year:

Ankeny Community Schools has to date accepted fourteen resignations from the current faculty. Of this number, three have accepted positions elsewhere and the balance have resigned because of the husband accepting work elsewhere, or because of family responsibilities which do not permit the other member of the family to teach next year. Faculty members who have accepted positions in other schools for the next year are as follows: Alan Hall, vocal music at Perry; Carl Birklund, junior high social studies, goes to Grinnell high school as a teacher counselor; and Morris Clayton, sixth grade, has accepted a position in the Des Moines System.

Other resignations are as follows; Joann Petersen, Betty Friedmeyer, Mariann Tow, Donna Keso, Marilyn Boswell, Margaret Block, Anna Wicks, Janet Tyrrel, Patricia Anderson, Ruth Clinton, Janet Stock. All the present positions have been filled, or contracts are outstanding to teachers to fill the vacancies, except for first grade and an additional teacher of English at the junior high level. *Ankeny Times, April 30, 1959*



“The People Versus Maxine Lowe” Pleases Audience Here Friday: The thirty-five people who took part in the Ankeny Senior class play are all to be congratulated on presenting a highly entertaining evening filled with excitement and good acting. Mrs. Myrna Prat is to be congratulated as the director of the play which held the audience spellbound from the beginning to the end. The audience had the opportunity to witness a real trial staged in an exact courtroom setting, and the cast handled their parts with polish, understanding, seldom exhibited in amateur setting. *Ankeny Times, April 9, 1959*

*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

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1950s

Sewage Plant Site Here: Ankeny has bought 4 ½ acres a mile east of its city limits for a new sewage treatment plant. Estimated cost of the plant is \$200,000. The site was purchased from Clark Baughman for \$7,250. Construction of the plant, which will be designed to serve a population of 5,000, is expected to begin this summer and be completed by this fall. One-third of the plant's cost will be paid by a grant from the federal government. The remainder will be financed by sewer revenue bonds. Ankeny's present sewage treatment plant was designed to serve a population of 700. Town Officials estimate the present population at between 2,500 and 2,800. *Ankeny Times, April 30, 1959*

75% Boost in Ankeny Sewer Fee: Water and sewer connection charges and sewer rental fees will be increased in Ankeny starting Thursday. The Ankeny city council gave final passage in a special meeting Monday night to an ordinance to raise the fees. Sewer rentals will be increased 75 per cent. The charge, under the old ordinance, was the equivalent of 20 per cent of a customer's monthly water bill. Sewer connection fees will increase from \$90 to \$125 and water connection fees will be raised from \$2 to \$75. Ankeny Mayor Charles E. Feight explained that the fee increase is part of Ankeny's preparation to pay for a new sewage plant. *Ankeny Times, April 30, 1959*



First Signs of Spring: Spring Boating Time. Three boys who can't wait to get their craft on water find the biggest puddle in town to launch their boat this spring. They are Dennis Olmstead, Noel Liechty, and David Harkin. *Ankeny Times, April 9, 1959*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1950s



Open Season on Cinder Track: When ice disappears from ponds, snow recedes, robins sing and old Sol warms the cold earth, then you will see school age boys eager to shake off winter doldrums, racing up and down the cinder track. And with Drake Relays just around the corner-these boys are poised, ready for the 50-yard dash. Will Ankeny produce another Glen Cunningham? Who knows- pictured above, Mike Justice, John Davis, Steve Harkin, Lynn DeLapp, Dick Bianchi, Ronnie Carzoli, Billy Leichty, Terry Justice, and Tom Davis. *Ankeny Times, April 9, 1959*

A Fashion Show, featuring Ankeny School Home Ec. Students was the highlight of the Ankeny P.T.A. meeting Monday night. Students pictured here made their own clothes and modeled them before a large crowd at the P.T.A. meeting. Mrs. JoAnn Peterson, Ankeny Home Ec. Teacher is their instructor and was presented a lovely bouquet of roses in appreciation of her work with the girls. The models pictured here are Betty Wells, Connie Hall, Janet Johnson, Linda Feldman, Pat Jensen, Karen Wilson, Marilyn Bianchi, Patty Ugilini and Barbara Lint. *Ankeny Times, April 23, 1959*



Auto Hits Cattle: 4 Animals Die: Two cows and two calves were killed Monday about 9:30 p.m. after they were struck by a car two miles east of Ankeny on Enterprise Road. The driver of the car was Erich H. Eckhardt, 33, of Ankeny. Sheriff's Deputy Nick Colacino said Eckhardt was driving west and had just passed over the crest of a hill when he came upon a herd of cattle crossing the road. He said he was unable to stop. The cattle were owned by Felix Frisk and Marion Thacker. *Ankeny Times, April 23, 1959*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

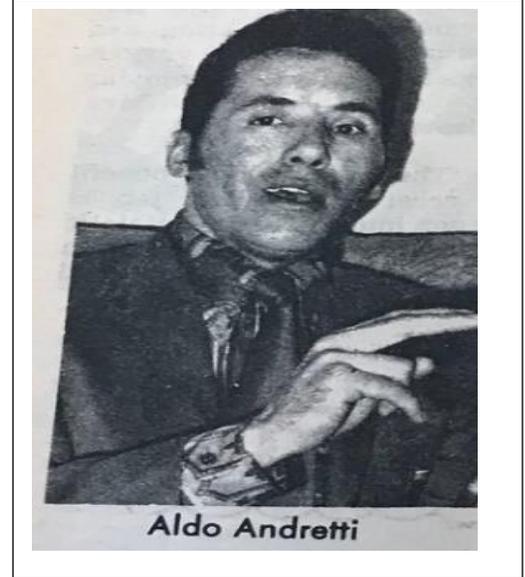
April 2018



1970s

Top 500 Race Figure. Andretti Visits Ankeny Friends.

Indianapolis 500 racing driver Aldo Andretti (twin brother to Mario) and family were guests at the home of the Don Carr family of Ankeny during the Easter Holiday. “We are in town just to visit friends,” said Andretti. “We met some awful nice people here when I was hurt in August.” Andretti was seriously injured in a racing accident at the 1969 Iowa State Fair. Carr, then just a casual acquaintance, assisted the Andretti family in many ways until the speedway personality was released from the hospital. Since then, the Carr’s and Andretti’s have been close friends. “They made us feel right at home, said Andretti.” *Ankeny Press Citizen, April 9, 1970*



Ankeny Captures Valley Relays Title. Set Record in Two-Mile Relay Event.

Ankeny featured superb balance at Valley last Saturday and racked up 55 points, far ahead of second place Clear Lake’s 33, to capture the championship in class B competition at the Annual Valley Relays. The Hawks highlighted the afternoon with record breaking two-mile relay time of 18 minutes, 17.6 seconds to clip over a second off of Urbandale’s old time of 8:18.8. Lee Schreurs, the Hawks’ distance ace, chipped in a 1:58.5 anchor half to spark the new record. Others on the record breaking team were Dan Marquardt, Bob Corey, and Tom Trusty. *Ankeny Press Citizen, April 9, 1970*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1970s

Residents petition to have nuisance declared. Seek action for property on First Street. The Ankeny City Council received a petition Monday from 45 citizens asking that a residence be declared a “public nuisance and a health hazard.” The property located at 1114 West First Street is commonly known as “The Fred Sexauer place.” James Maggert, a signer of the petition, appeared before the council to explain the residents’ concern for the health and safety of their neighborhood. Maggert told the council that all of the residents contacted in a two square block area had signed the petition. He said the reasons for asking for the action was because the property had three junk cars, trash in plastic bags in the area of the home, and also that a city employee had fallen through a floor in the home while reading a meter recently. In addition, the petition lists other reasons as: failing to remove weeds, failure to keep sidewalks free from snow, failure to remove raw garbage from an out building, failure to remove junk pile in yard, lack of termite control creating a safety and health hazard, failure to repair roof creating a safety hazard, lean-to on north side of residence is a safety hazard, and failure to remove two year old brush pile in front yard. Maggert said that the property was not being lived in by its owners and that Mrs. Abel T. McCleary (et al) is listed as the owner of the property. *Ankeny Press Citizen, April 22, 1971*

Ankeny Land Fill to Close

Thursday, April 1, 1971. On April 1st Ankeny residents will have to take their trash and garbage to the Harriett Street Landfill in Des Moines. This has become necessary as the result of Federal and State pollution control legislation. At a recent Council meeting, the Mayor polled the audience to determine if the City should go to the Regional Pickup or continue to permit private contractors to make the collections. The audience all felt they would prefer to continue with the private contractors. The present local contractors are M.J. Borgstrand and Ralph & Mayme Brooks, other may follow. The City Council agreed to follow the request of the citizens to see if the entire City could be properly served. If this procedure does not turn out satisfactorily, the City Council will have no alternative other than go to the Regional Pickup. At which time the billing for such services will be made by the City. Under the present set up billing and collection will continue to be made by the private contractor. *Ankeny Press Citizen, March 18, 1971*



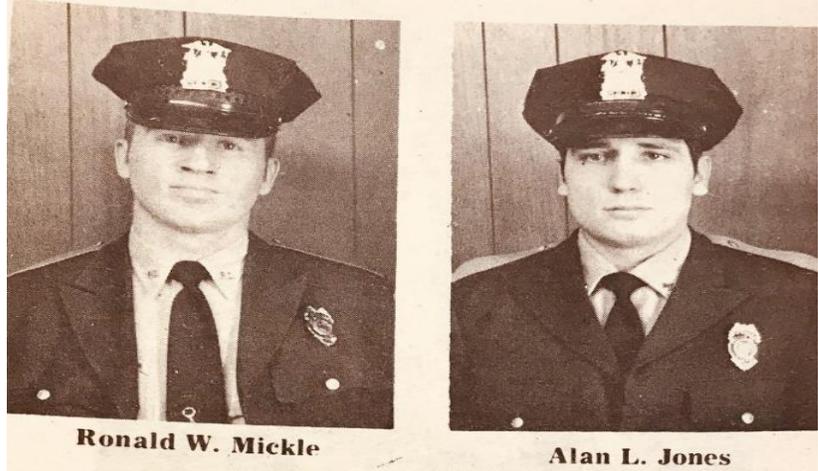
Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1970s



Two join Ankeny police force. Ronald W. Mickle is a new employee of the Ankeny Police Department. He has lived in Ankeny almost two years with wife Rosalie and daughter Shannon. Before his appointment to the Police Department he was employed by the City. Ronald is a 1969 graduate of Boone High School and also attended Central College in Pella, Iowa. He is a member of the US Marine Corp Reserves and a graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge. He is now attending Area XI Community College for further study in Law Enforcement and Criminalistics. **Alan Jones is a new patrolman on the Ankeny Police Department.** Before his appointment to the department he was employed by the City in the streets department for three and one-half years. A life-long resident of Ankeny, Alan is a 1969 graduate of Ankeny High School and is now attending Area XI Community College. He is a member of the Iowa Air National Guard and a graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy at Camp Dodge. *Ankeny Press Citizen, April 5, 1973*



Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 3, 1981



Ankeny Press Citizen, April 23, 1970

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1980s

FFA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AT BANQUET



FFA members (l to r) Joel Johnson, Matt Pollock, Bob Teft, Pat Quinlin, Adviser Mr. Richard Degner, Chapter President Jeff Pilkington, and Dennis Leazenby are shown in attendance of the Annual Parent and Member Banquet.

Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 10, 1981

East Side, West Side – First Street Makes

News: West First Street plans is one of the items on the meeting agenda at the April 3rd meeting at the Ankeny Community Center tonight. A review of the present and future railroad operations and their impact on the project. Project engineer, Mike Flatterly, said following a project meeting that the resumption of this project is slated for the middle of April if the weather cooperates. “We want to cut to a minimum the amount of time East First Street is closed. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 3, 1981*



Ankeny Ford Officially Opens New Facility

Ankeny Ford, at 1101 SE Delaware Avenue, was officially opened last Friday with the help of Ankeny Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. Ankeny Mayor Ollie Weigel and Chamber president Jeff Segin held the ribbon for Ankeny Ford owners LaRue and Gus Johnson.

Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 24, 1981

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1980s

West First Street Committee Stalled by CNW Railroad: The First Street Committee, considering the improvement of West First Street, has found stall, in the same situation as many Ankeny motorists...that is by the railroad. CNW representatives given a variety of reasons have been unable to attend the last two committee meetings.

The committee has sought information regarding safety factors at the rail crossings to see if a need can be established for a grade separation that would qualify the project for federal safety funds. Lt. Richard Barrett of the Ankeny PD reported to the committee on the effects of rail traffic through the city. "People get mad when they're fighting train traffic and school stop signs at the same time in the morning and at 3:30 and they re-route themselves away from these combined snarls and we have accidents," he said.

The committee heard from the consulting firm working on the up-date of the city's Comprehensive Plan. "We've concluded that First Street should stay in Ankeny's Comprehensive Plan as a through street to Highway 415," said Dick Glenn of Veenstra and Kimm. "Only the last three-quarters of a mile of this extension is outside the corporate limits of Ankeny. First Street is the only throughway to Bondurant and Highway 65, that this extension would give residents west and northwest Polk County access to Ankeny."

Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 17, 1981

First Street Committee Gives Go-Ahead to Improvement Plans: The First Street Committee gave the go-ahead for the improvement of the West First Street that would seek no further right-of-way, place no special assessments against residents adjacent to the roadway, leave both the road and the railway at ground level and begin as soon as financing can be arranged. Recommendations will be forwarded to the City Council for their consideration at their meeting of May 19th. Member of the committee are co-chairman, John Lundstrom and Cynthia Eisenhauer, Margaret Grant, Dean Badke, Beverly Fontana, Daryl Mullins, Merrill Seehorn, and Merle Johnson.

The West First Street project is scheduled for 1981 – 1982 in the Ankeny Capital Improvements Program. No funds have been set aside yet but G.O. bonds will be available for the project in accordance with the Capital Improvements Program. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 24, 1981*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

April 2018



1980s



Country Club Has Memberships Available: Ankeny Golf and Country Club has a few family memberships available this year. The club features a nine-hole golf course, a lake with a beach for swimming in the summer, a club house and pro shop. The club house has locker rooms, a dining room, bar and a ballroom. The pro shop is a fully equipped golf shop with all kinds of golf merchandise and clothing. The club opened in 1962 and was completely remodeled two years ago. Dan Peitzman is in his first year as club house manager. Don and Norma Righi divide the duties of golf course superintendent and pro shop operator. They have been at the club for seven years. Show above are Don and Norma Righi and club house manager, Dan Peitzman. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 10, 1981*