

Ankeny through the decades...

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

September 2017



1940's

SPECIALS		
Fri. & Sat. Aug. 4 & 5		
School Girl	6 No. 2 Cans	76c
PEAS		
Opal Cream	6 No. 2 Cans	76c
CORN		
Iowa Maid	2 lbs.	37c
Peanut Butter		
Opal	qt.	37c
Salad Dressing		
Opal	8 oz.	15c
French Dressing		
Mortons	2 for	15c
SALT		
Mothers Best	5 lbs.	28c
FLOUR		
Calumet	1 lb.	15c
Baking Powder		
2 PKGS.		19c
WHEATIES		
Hi Ho	1 lb.	21c
CRACKERS		
Blue Barrell	2 for	19c
SOAP		
Crystal White	3 for	14c
SOAP		
Tidy House	2 Cans	21c
CLEANSER		
Masons	qt.	64c
FRUIT JARS		
	Pt. 54c Per Doz.	
2 for		
CANTALOUPE		36c
1b.		
CABBAGE		4c
252		
ORANGES	2 Doz.	73c
2 lbs.		
TOMATOES		29c
65 Size	Doz.	37c
PEACHES		
Sweet	2 For	23c
POTATOES		
4 for		10c
LEMONS		
LB.		33c
WEINERS		
Slab	lb.	33c
BACON SLAB		
Pound		26c
BEEF ROAST		
Seasons	3 for	14c
TOILET SOAP		
Stittsworth Food Market		
Ankeny		

Rabbit Season Opens August 1

The open hunting season on protected game begins August 1 when cottontail and jack rabbit becomes legal sport throughout the entire state. The daily bag limit is 10. Rabbit populations in the state last season, although much better than the previous one, were spotty. During the past hunting season, some 400,000 rabbits found their way into the hunters' game pockets. Conservation officers and interested sportsmen report a definite increase in the numbers in almost every sector of the state. *Ankeny Times*, August 4, 1944

Elkhart Department

Spratt Takes Over Post Office

On Monday, Mr. Ervin Spratt took over the duties as Postmaster at Elkhart. Mr. Spratt has been appointed acting Postmaster for the present time. He will continue to operate the store and carry a line of sundry supplies including some drugs. *Ankeny Times*, August 4, 1944

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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Two Letters in Praise of Dale Willoughby

Mrs. George Willoughby received two helpful letters concerning the death of Dale H. Willoughby, PFC. One letter was from the Commanding Officer of Dale's regiment, and the other is from the Commanding General of his Division. We quote herewith from both letters. First from the Commanding General, "I realize that nothing can compensate for the great sorrow thus brought to you, but I am sure that you will be comforted that your son gave his life in the service of his country.... We, of the Division that are privileged to remain and fight on, will find lasting inspiration in the heroic example of unselfish courage shown by your son." Signed Major General, USA, Commanding

Secondly from his Colonel:

"I would like, if I could adequately express myself, to convey to you the loss the regiment suffered by his death. I know there is nothing I can say to assuage your grief, but perhaps to somewhat alleviate your mental anguish regarding the uncertainty as to what happened. I would like to impart that his life was lost when his patrol made contact with a cleverly devised ambush in dense jungle terrain. His gallant actions no doubt saved lives of others and certainly played an immense part in helping to make his patrol's mission successful. I can assure you that Dale did not die in vain as the campaign in which this regiment was engaged at the time resulted in a decisive victory for American Arms.... Your son was buried in a beautiful Army cemetery on this island with appropriate military and religious ceremonies." Signed, Colonel Infantry, Commanding

Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944

Did any of your family members serve during the war? We honor and thank them for their service. Do you have any letters or information you could share with us? If so, please contact us at history@ankenyhistorical.org.

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Cpl. Henry Harris Writes from Italy

The following are excerpts from a letter recently received from Cpl. Henry Harris by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo Harris. (Somewhere in Italy) We are back to the old grind after a rather nice but short vacation. The boys tried to outdo themselves in celebrating after having been so long in seclusion. As for me, I don't feel much like celebrating as long as I am on foreign soil.

We passed through Salerno and, although it shows signs of much shell fire, yet it still remains quite a little city. I should judge it's about the size of Marshalltown or Waterloo. However, there are towns close around which were almost annihilated. I think we are the furthest we have been from the action, although if "Jerry" had any amount of planes we could be considered on alert.

There is a water shortage at present. Although we get plenty to drink and cook with, we must be careful how much we use for bathing.

He stated that many Italian girls would like very much to marry American soldiers and that some parents even try to make the impression that their daughter has some wealth. All in all, it appears Henry is not too much impressed with conditions there, and still thinks that America is the only real bright spot. *Ankeny Times, August 4, 1944*

Try to come to an Open House at the museum on the first Sunday of each month until November from 2:00 to 4:00. It's really interesting how the town of Ankeny became the sprawling city it now is. And, you're part of that history!

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Ankeny's Foreign Exchange Student. Margarita Villafuerte, 19, of Mexico City, is Ankeny's foreign exchange student for the coming year. She is shown as she road in the Labor Day celebration. The dark-eyed brunette is here under the auspices of the International Student Placement Service and is staying in the Ivan Howard home. *Ankeny Press Citizen, September 5, 1963*

Rev. and Mrs. Halliday and Family. Shown is the Rev. Norman Halliday and his family who have recently moved to Ankeny from Riceville. Left to right they are, Paul, 17, Mrs. Halliday, Rev. Halliday, and Ruth, 12. The Rev. Halliday recently became pastor of the First Congregational Church in Ankeny. A veteran of the RAF, Rev. Halliday served in England, Scotland, South Africa, India, and Ceylon. The Halliday family were all born in Ireland. Before coming to the United States in 1960, the Rev. Halliday was chairman of the Congregational Union of Ireland, the highest honor an Irish Congregational pastor can obtain. Before coming to Ankeny, he served churches in Riceville, Iowa, and Belfast, Ireland. *Ankeny Press Citizen, September 5, 1963*



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1960's

ANKENY SCHOOL
LUNCH MENU
Monday, May 23
Spaghetti with Beef
Buttered Peas and Carrots
Peanut Butter Sandwich
Fruit
Milk
Tuesday, May 24
Pork Stew with Vegetables
Cabbage Slaw
Bread and Butter
School-made Cookies
Milk
Wednesday, May 25
Deviled Eggs
Buttered Green Beans
Peanut Butter Sandwiches
Cake topped with Strawberries
Milk
Thursday, May 26
Beefburger on Bun
Pickles Onion Rings
Baked Beans
Cheese Slice
Bread and Butter
Fruit
Milk
Friday, May 27
No School Lunch

*Who remembers looking at
the Press Citizen for the
school lunch menu?*

*The princess phone was a
hot item in the 1960's!*

School Board Election Here Next Monday. Polls open from 12 noon to 7 p.m. Four nominations have been received by the secretary of the Ankeny Community School Board for the election to be held next Monday, September 9. Those filing nomination papers are Kenneth Hefte, Frank Lint, John (Swede) Lundstrom, and Dave Longnecker. Two vacancies exist on the board as the terms of Kenneth Hefte and Larry Kahrs are expiring in September. Kahrs is not seeking re-election. *Ankeny Press Citizen, September 5, 1963*



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New Officers Installed for Legion.

Shown (here) are left to right, Bob McCabe, 1st vice commander; Dr. James P. Miller, commander, and Cecil Ballard, adjutant, the newly installed officer for the Ankeny American Legion. The Legion installation of new officers and supper were held Thursday evening, September 10, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Barbecued chicken was served, and free refreshments were provided. *Ankeny Press Citizen, September 17, 1964*



1990's



City Newspaper Begins Publication –

September 13, 1990 - Today, Rod Lein, owner Lein Construction, and Cal Baker who owns North Polk Printers, both of Ankeny announced they will begin publication of Iowa's newest subscription newspaper: *Ankeny Today*. The paper will be published each Thursday. *Ankeny Today, September 13, 1990*

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Leins' Mill Pond Project Gets State OK – *Assisted nursing care facilities to open in 1991.* With State of Iowa approval for their Mill Pond Health Care Center and assisted living facilities, Rod and Dee Lein will be completing their “campus concept” of housing in Ankeny for the generally “over 40, empty nest syndrome market.” The health care center will provide 30 beds for long and short-term convalescent care. The assisted living facility will provide 72 efficiency apartments. Presbyterian Homes of Minneapolis will administrate Mill Pond. The project will employ a staff of 78 people. *Ankeny Today , September 13, 1990*

Airport Opponents - A local lawyer, Robert Nading, has been retained by 75 airport opponents. At the September 4th Ankeny City Council meeting, airport opponents charged that the council had not been open about its participation in advancing the airport project. In response, Mayor Ollie Weigel noted that there had been ten public meetings beginning February 3, 1986 to March 12, 1990, at which the Council had made its decision. *Ankeny Today , September 13, 1990*

Ankeny's New Paramount Theater opened to movie goers on August 17, to bring first run films in a elegant setting at a reasonable price. Paramount's first selection of films included Ghosts, The Freshman, Darkman, Presumed Innocent, and Jungle Book. Owner Robert Fridley chose to open a 4-theater complex in Ankeny because the city is “a dynamic community” with a rapidly growing population. *Ankeny Today , September 13, 1990*

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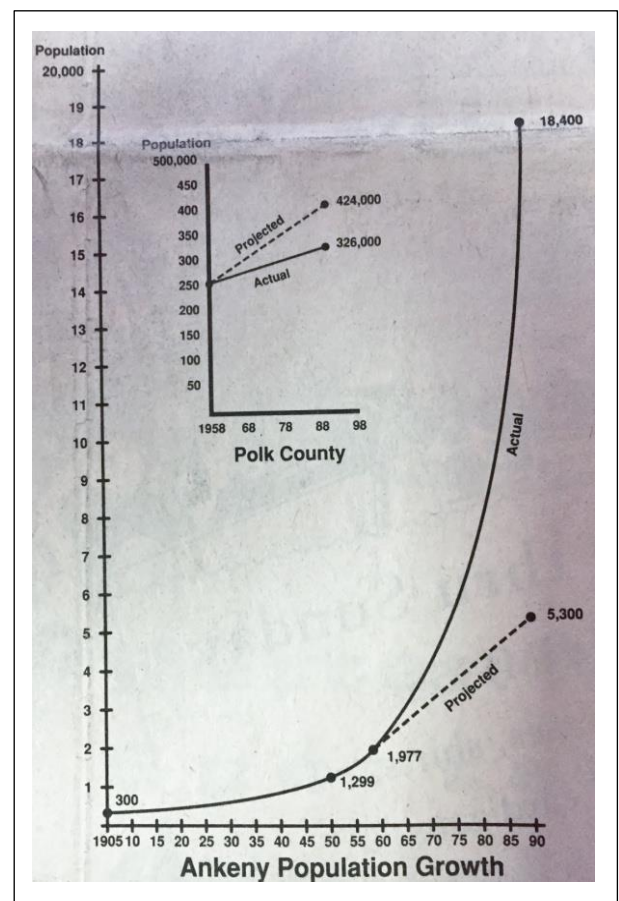
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1958 Comprehensive Plan Guessed 5,300 in 1990. Two years after the Town of Ankeny developed its first Comprehensive Plan, all of the growth projections were left in the dust of a residential boom. Begun in 1957 and delivered in 1958, the Plan was mandated by Congress for governmental entities that would be seeking federal funding for eligible projects.

Ankeny was incorporated in 1903 with a population of 300. In 1950, the population was 1,229. By 1957, the city had grown to 1,977 residents. By the very early 1960s Ankeny's newcomers outnumbered its natives. Ankeny's population qualified it for "City" rather than a "Town" classification and the Plan's 1958 projection for its 1990 size was achieved and easily passed over. Now that 1990 is here, Ankeny is home to 18,400 residents rather than the projection of 5,300 people. *Ankeny Today*, September 13, 1990

1990's



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