

Ankeny through the decades...

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

October 2018



1950s



Ankeny Times Photographer, James Chan Thompson, senior. Others pictured are Marva Freel, Junior; Roger Marts, band; Karen Thompson, band; Carol Ann Sorenson, sophomore; Ted Brazleton, center on football team; Celest Thompson, Dennis Birkstrand, football halfback and captain of team; and Melvin Lint, halfback. The boys escorted girls in the crowning ceremony. Other attendants back of queen-crowning, not shown in picture are Joan Fausch, senior, and Linda Herman, freshman.

Candidates Are Named in The November 3 Election

Mayor, Treasurer, Five Councilmen: Mayor; Charles Feight. Councilmen; Norris Adams, Eldon Leonard, Lyle Foust, Earl Lewis, Ed Howell. Treasurer; Mr. Lloyd Brewbaker. *Ankeny Times, October 22, 1959*

The Homecoming game is always an exciting event. An aura of excitement prevails as the crowd gathers; the players are keyed up; the band is assembled at its smartest best. The Ankeny Homecoming game on Friday night was no exception. At half time, all eyes turned toward the end of the field as the Homecoming float, with her attendants, made its entrance. Who would be the Queen? This is a closely guarded secret until she makes her appearance. The float, beautifully decorated in red and white, held a huge heart, in front of which the Queen was seated, with her attendants before her. As the float came to a stop in the center of the direction of George Friedmeyer formed a gigantic heart, while playing "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

The Queen, Miss Carolyn Taylor, was escorted to the center of the heart by the King, Gary Baugher, and presented with a huge bouquet of candy-striped red and white carnations. Paula Marvin was the flower-bearer, and little Billy Whitely, the crown-bearer.

Another feature of the half-time activities was "The Name Band Show," in which the Ankeny High School Band presented theme songs of many of the popular "name" bands. A smashing victory by the football team (Ankeny 55, Bondurant 0), concluded an exciting and colorful evening. *Ankeny Times, October 15, 1959*

*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.



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Catholics Purchase 10 Acres in Ankeny

Visitation Catholic Church, Ninth Street and Garfield Avenue, has purchased 10 acres of land one-fourth mile east of Highway 69 and north of Enterprise road (note: now, First Street) in Ankeny. Although the purchase was made in the name of Visitation Church, church officials here said the land eventually will become the site of a new Catholic parish in Ankeny. The land was purchased from Dr. J.A. Henderson, Ankeny veterinarian. The price was not revealed. *Ankeny Times, October 22, 1959*

NOTICE TO ALL PHEASANT HUNTERS: All pheasant hunters are urged to let the Ankeny Methodist Men's Club serve them their breakfast on Saturday, November 14, the opening day of the pheasant season. Serving will start at 5:00 A.M. at the fellowship hall. *Ankeny Times, September 24, 1959*

Excerpts from the Ankeny Times from 1903 (56 years prior to that "current" year 1959).

FROM OUR FILES

56 Years Ago

First Editions of the Ankeny Times

Uncle Bille Thompson has sold his farm to Geo. Kaltenhauser.

Born:—To Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Landaker, a bouncing baby girl.

Rev. Feighenbaum of Missouri, preached in the M. E. church on Sunday.

Mrs. James Crabtree and Josie Weinhart spent Sunday at the L. D. Weinhart home.

Marshall Putnam and wife, of Green, and Mrs. Frank Davy of Dunlap visited at the Thos. Barr home last week.

Iowa Wagner returned Tuesday evening from Herman, Minn., where she has been visiting her brother Hank and family.

The attendance at the M. E. Sunday School last Sunday and the Sunday before were good, there being 100 and 130 pupils present.

The Elwanger boys had a smash up Sunday night just north of town. Their buggy was pretty badly used up but the boys escaped injury.

Fred Wheeler will have a public sale the 14th of this month. See big bills and read the write up in next week's paper.

Mrs. Cherrie has moved into her new house just east of the one she recently occupied which has been rented by Geo. Goughnour, Tom Halverson moved in where George vacated and Art Hildreth will move in where Tom vacated. Next!

G. W. Kinney and wife have returned from Wapello Co., where they have been taking care of Mr. and Mrs. Albaugh, aged 86 and 79, respectively, grandparents of Mrs. Kinney. They report the old peoples health as being very poorly.

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New Nudity Ordinance Passes First Reading.

The Ankeny City Council Monday night discussed and approved the first reading of an ordinance amending the city code “in order to prohibit certain acts of public exposure.” City attorney Patrick Brick drafted the ordinance to replace the present “indecent exposure” ordinance that he described as “definitely unconstitutional,” with one that the police can enforce. The ordinance, which surprised some councilmen by its frank description of prohibited actions, was purposely written that way, according to Brick, because recent United States Supreme Court decisions have thrown out such commonly used phrases as “indecent exposure.” The ordinance defined the prohibited acts of public exposure but exempts infants under age six and exempts theater productions as prepared by Brick, and exempted bars and taverns. He said he put in those additions because the courts have ruled that cities cannot “protect adults from what they want to see.” But the sentiment of the council was that the ordinance was not tough enough. Councilman Ed Augustine said he was afraid the paragraph permitting nudity in bars would “throw open the doors” for this kind of thing in Ankeny. The council then instructed Brick to drop that paragraph from the ordinance and Brick said he had to add a phrase that he inadvertently left out of the ordinance. The changes will be made in time for the second reading. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 9, 1975*

City Tables Action on Nudity Ordinance.

Councilman Larry Cairns at Monday night’s Ankeny City Council meeting attacked Councilman Ed Augustine’s position on the proposed ordinance to prohibit certain acts of public exposure (indecent exposure). Two weeks ago Augustine voted against the ordinance, killing the ordinance since it did not receive the necessary three positive votes for passage of the second reading. Monday the council voted to table the ordinance until the next council meeting but Cairns took this opportunity to demand explanation. “Our efforts (as passing a constitutional ordinance) are being thwarted for reasons I can’t see,” said Cairns. ... Augustine objected to the second reading because it was not tough enough because it still contained an exemption for theatrical productions. Since there were only three councilmen present at the meeting, Augustine’s negative vote killed the ordinance because it needed three votes for passage. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 23, 1975*

(Editor’s note: Today, the current ordinance is explained as public exposure in the Ankeny, Iowa, Iowa Code of Ordinances 41.16 and exempts theatrical productions and a few other situations.)

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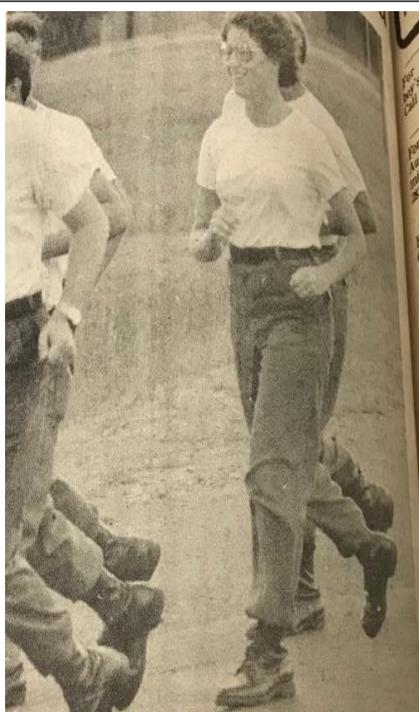


1970s



The Des Moines Area Community College “Great Pumpkin Race” was won by a men student’s team from the Building Trades Department with a time of 4 minutes and 55 seconds. The winning team was made up of Wardenburg, Brown, Mutchler, and Patterson (first names not available). The participating four-person faculty-or-staff teams competed in 11 a.m. and noon heats over a course from Parking Lot “L” across campus to the basketball courts. This event was sponsored by the Student Activities Department. The winning team members each won a sirloin steak dinner from Mr. Steak in West Des Moines.
Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 6, 1975

Ankeny’s Janet Yarlott is First Female Chaplain at Ft. Still, Oklahoma



The grunts gasped when they learned the chaplain is a lady. “Grunt” is Army lingo for infantryman, and the formerly all-male ranks of Ft. Still’s only infantry battalion, the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, bulged a little recently with the assignment of Chaplain (Capt.) Janet Yarlott, Ft. Still’s first woman chaplain. “Oh, no!” was part of the reaction I got when I first reported, “she laughs. “We’re going to have to clean up our language around here,” was the reaction of one of the battalion’s lieutenants. She found acceptance on her first day when she ran five miles with the troops. “She’s now a full-fledge polar bear,” said Lt. Col. Serge Demyanenko, battalion commander. Soldiers assigned to the battalion go by that nickname. As a unit chaplain, Yarlott will conduct services where the men are, either in the field or on post. “I will counsel soldiers who are experiencing problems, conduct memorial services and funeral services, if requested.” *Ankeny Press Citizen – October 7, 1976* (Note: Janet was the Ankeny Alumni Association’s recipient of the 2018 Ankeny Hall of Honor Award.)

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Coupon War Experience at Ankeny HyVee

The “Great October Coupon War” began in Des Moines last Thursday and spread to Ankeny by Saturday. The ground rule at Ankeny’s HyVee Food Store was that customers could receive credit on coupons for items which the store stocked. These credits would then be applied to in-store purchases. In checking with HyVee Manager Dick Howe and Assistant Manager Ron Holm we learned that several single-customer credits exceeded \$200. A local barber shop had customers who wanted to know if they could go through their magazines to look for coupons. By 8:45 Saturday night the line was outside the store, half-way up the south sidewalk. I knew that people were waiting one and two hours in line and when I saw a man down on his knees, I figured he was either serving himself a snack or changing the baby. Actually, he was sorting coupons and a sudden gust of wind almost turned his efforts into a disaster. But, helping hands came to his rescue. At 7:05 am, Sunday, the line was backed up to the green beans. About 7:30 am it was at diced beets. We watched Asst. Manager Holm patiently go to the phone several times from 7 am on. When he answered it at 7:50 am, his expression changed. When he came away from the phone that time we learned that the “Coupon War” was over, except for those already lined up in the store. At that time the end-of-the-line, last “soldier” was almost back to applesauce. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 30, 1975*



Library Dedication November 1

The new Kirkendall Public Library will be dedicated on Saturday November 1st at 2 pm and will officially open for business on Monday, November 3rd. Those who have business-envelope-size contributions for the Time Capsule should have them there for the Capsule ceremony at 2 pm. An Open House will follow until 5 pm. Librarian Myrna Anderson has announced that all those holding over-due books may return them during the week of November 3rd with no fines assessed. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 30, 1975*

If you'd like to donate to the Ankeny Area Historical Society or send memorials in honor of a loved one, please contact us at history@ankenyhistorical.org. And, thank you!

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Ankeny Motel name changed

George Schoemaker and Richard Synder, new owners of the Ankeny Motel, 718 S. Ankeny Blvd., have made several changes in the business. The name of their complex has been changed to "Ankeny's Best" and remodeling is almost complete. New colors TV's, draperies, bedspreads and ceramic tile have been installed in every room. Lamps and chairs have been replaced and kitchenettes have been added to several rooms. Sandwiches and refreshments are now available for travelers in the office reception area. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, October 2, 1980

"Ankeny Golden K" Chartered Here

Last Thursday was Charter Night for the twenty-six men who have formed a second Ankeny Chapter of Kiwanis International. They will meet on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. at the Best Western Inn. The Kiwanis Club of Ankeny was the sponsoring club. Its officers are Keith Wilson, Robert Madison, Thelbert Vogt, Robert Bumann and Oscar Albrecht. Some new members of the new chapter include: Leslie Peterson, Issac Jones, Jr., Bill Brandenburg, Fred Lewis and Willard L. Nagel. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, October 16, 1980

Shown L to R: Bill Brandenburg, Wallace Loft (past Governor of District), Willard Nagle, and Leslie Peterson

Sign of Ankeny's Growth...NWB Introduces New Prefix-965

A sure sign of growth in Ankeny is sparring with the introduction of a new telephone number prefix. The new prefix - 965 - is the second one for Ankeny telephone customers joining the old "964," says Northwestern Bell Manager Don Baker. "The number of telephone lines in Ankeny is outgrowing the 964 prefix and that's why we're adding the new 965 number. This is a good indication that our community is still growing," said Baker. In 1975, there were 4,909 telephone lines in Ankeny, today there are 6,783. The 965 prefix will be assigned to the new customers as they order phone service. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, October 16, 1980



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Church Dedication Sunday

Members of the Ankeny United Presbyterian Church have planned an open house this Sunday, October 26th for the dedication of their new Christian Education addition. There will also be a special dedication at morning worship at 9:30 on Sunday. The public is invited to attend the open house, scheduled from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. There will be two classroom displays and a slide presentation and refreshments will be served. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 23, 1980*

Don Steffenson Turns Keys Over to New Owners

Twenty-seven years ago last June (1954), Don Steffenson bought Guy Hall's Drug Store at 502 SW Third Street in uptown Ankeny. Since then that corner building has been, among other things, city offices, a detective agency, an investment firm and a consultant's office. And, since then, Don Steffenson has opened two new pharmacies, a variety store, bought a motel and served as president of the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce and of the Ankeny Industrial Development Corp.

Coming soon, the corner will become a delicatessen, and Steffenson's three Ankeny businesses will become People's Drug Stores. Steffenson built the first two structures that would form the north end of the Ankeny Plaza Shopping Center...the Ankeny Walgreen Pharmacy in 1961 and the Ben Franklin Store in 1963. In 1964, several other stores joined his. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 29, 1981*



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New Business Ventures Coming to Town Margret Hollingsworth is bringing a successful business venture home to Ankeny. Regardless of economic conditions, “people still want to eat,” said Margret who will be opening a German restaurant and deli in the early part of November. Der Kuchenschrank (The Kitchen Cupboard) is located at 500 SW Third in uptown Ankeny. Her bill of fare will include German soups and sandwiches along with beverages and desserts for coffee breaks, lunches and after school snacks. For the time being, supper will be served only on Friday nights. Margret was a partner in Rema’s Bratwurst Kitchen in Des Moines near Drake University

Bisignano’s Ankeny Bakery is the first shop to open in Steve Long’s indoor mall shopping center on SW State Street. This is the opening of a sales branch of the bakery owned by Penny and Gary Bisignano. On the first Saturday the bakery was open, four trips were made from the Beavertdale DM location, where the baking is done, to refill the Ankeny shelves. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – October 29, 1981*

Autumn 2018 is a special time at the Ankeny Area Historical Society! In October, pumpkins and more pumpkins are available for you fall decorating (donations are appreciated). In November, “**We Love Our Veterans**” is the theme of the Open House on Nov. 11 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Then, running certain days from November 12 through December 15, “**A Vintage Christmas at the House**” will be on display, and the house will be decorated by local shop owners. This will be a special treat. And, don’t forget to sign up for the **Annual Cookie Sale** and participate in the **UpTown Ankeny’s Santa’s Treasure Hunt** on December 1. Please join the fun at the Museum! Check the website ankenystory.org for details.