

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 28 Number 2

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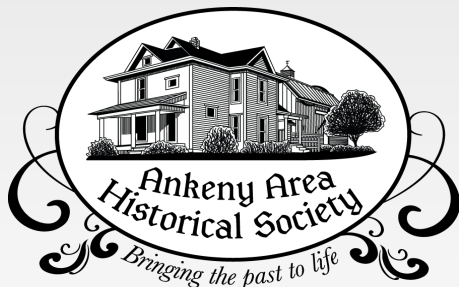
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301 SW Third, PO Box 1111
Ankeny, IA 50021
Phone: 515-965-5795

Email: history@ankenyhistorical.org
www.ankenyhistorical.org

A Message From the President

And Ankeny Area Historical Society has done it again! Done what you ask?

- Held its annual Ice Cream Social in June feeding over 260 visitors with ice cream, pie, and other desserts. Children's games, a quilt raffle and other activity tables were also offered!
- Accepted Evan Albaugh's offer, through Grinnell College, to intern at AAHS! Evan has worked on ~
 - ◇ Developing slides to be displayed on the TV found in the parlor, explaining the importance and history of the artifacts found in this area of the barn,
 - ◇ Updating the coal mining display area with his original work "Abandoned Communities and Homesteads of Northern Polk County", in addition to Crossroads Communities articles from the Des Moines Register published in 2006,
 - ◇ Revising and updating the way artifacts are explained in many display cases. He is removing the small paper descriptions and creating display boards to be placed on the front of cases for easier understanding.
- Hired help, through grant monies, to assist the Collections Committee get caught up on data entry in Past Perfect, the museum's artifact data collection software.
- Held monthly Board meetings to keep the workings of AAHS moving forward in current and long range planning and events. As well, quarterly members meetings are being held to listen to input and share information with members.
- Changed the AAHS weekly Open House time to Saturday mornings from 10-12 AM, which corresponds with Uptown Ankeny Farmers Market. This has definitely increased our number of visitors this summer. In September, Open Houses

(Continued)

A Message From the President—*continued*

will return to their traditional time, from 2-4 PM on the first Sunday of each month.

- Increased membership!
- Added a bench (Ron Fontana memorial) and improved landscaping to the School Street/Third Street corner garden.
- Published quarterly newsletters and a revised newspaper flyer created by ORBIS.
- Improved signage around the museum explaining the significance of the house and bell as well as thanking our benefactors for their generosity.

And, and, and.....

This is but a portion of things happening this summer at AAHS. And I've been told that there's no reason to come to the AAHS museums because nothing ever changes. Obviously, we can't change Ankeny history, but we have certainly changed many ways we share it with our members and visitors.

Come and see for yourself where you can help continue to keep the energy sustained and help maintain the mission of AAHS, **"to inspire in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area."**

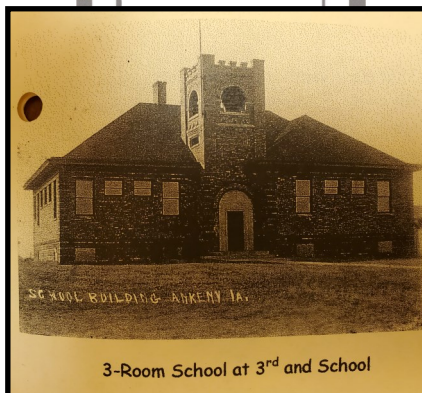
Yours in History, John Stratton



FROM THE ARCHIVES....June 2021 Vol. 7, No. 2

Ankeny Community Schools: A Century of Education

by Jeanne Ersland



Country schools were the forerunners in education. Crocker Township, formally organized January 9, 1872, was named for Civil War General Marcellus M. Crocker, a resident of Polk County. Trustees held their first meeting in the Dietz School (built in 1851), dividing the township into nine districts with a school in each and nine road districts to be maintained with taxes. Country schools were located every two miles in those early years. Oralabor, Greenwood, Sexauer, Nagle, Yoder, Rock Creek, Crocker Center, and Franklin were familiar names of such schools. One-room schools in the State of Iowa totaled 12,623 in 1901, the most in any state.

Built of logs in 1850, the first school was built just one mile south on Highway 69 (about Magazine Road), followed by a school east of Highway 69 and south of First Street. Deeded November 5, 1875, this second school was moved to the southwest corner of First Street and Highway 69.

In 1902, a three-room school was constructed at Third and School Streets. The school proved inadequate, was torn down, and replaced with a two-story, eight-room building that housed grades 1 through 12 until the high school was built. Known as Old Central, this school served the community well for over 60 years and was finally demolished after suffering extensive damage in the 1974 tornado.

FROM THE ARCHIVES....(continued)

(Editor's note: Old Central was located where the Ankeny Area Historical Society's house and barn now stand. The bell found on museum grounds commemorates Old Central!)

Consolidation for the Ankeny school system occurred in 1919, the year construction began on the high school (Now known as Neveln School on School Street). Cost was \$104,830. Several country schools were moved to the grounds to accommodate enrollment of 283 kindergarten through 12th grade students. On January 17, 1920, a bond issue of \$35,000 was necessary to complete construction.

The Board of Education accepted the school from the contractor February 14, 1921, and E.W. Neveln was hired to be superintendent until his retirement in 1944.

Though funds were not plentiful in 1922-23, the school purchased seven motorized buses at \$389.54 each for transporting children from the rural areas of the district.

The school district could not meet payroll, so stated the Board Minutes of February 24, 1933. 40% of salaries were paid with interest-bearing warrants issued to teachers for the balance. The same year, on December 12, the district received federal funds to repair and remodel schools, with the government paying all labor costs and 15% of materials.

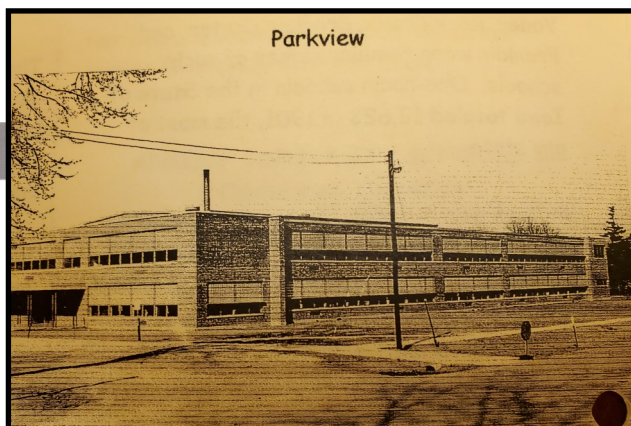
At the time Parkview School was constructed in 1952, it was located on the far north edge of town! Lower level and gym facilities were added at the cost of \$419,000, and the addition of the west wing came in 1957. Construction in 1959 joined Neveln and Old Central, providing offices, a small gym, and classrooms.

A September 13, 1962 open house witnessed the completion of Northwest Elementary on West First Street. The following year, 1963, East Elementary on S.E. Third and Trilein was occupied. In the mid-1960's, state law required districts to offer kindergarten through 12th grade education. With the addition of the east wing to Parkview, that school became the high school in 1964.

In 1969, Southeast Elementary on S.E. Trilein opened, followed by Terrace Elementary on N.W. School Street in 1974. Enrollment in the system for the school year 1974-75 was 3,973.

The second hundred years in education commenced with the new Ankeny High School (now Northview Middle School) opening in September 1975 on N. Ankeny Blvd.

(Editor's note: The original article was edited for content and shortened due to space restrictions. Many of the senior members of Ankeny still remember when the buildings discussed were the "new" schools rather than the foundational schools of Ankeny Area Community Schools that residents of Ankeny know them as today.)



I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

2022 ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



This year's AAHS Ice Cream Social, held June 26th, was certainly a success! The weather was picture perfect, making it a great opportunity to bring our community together.

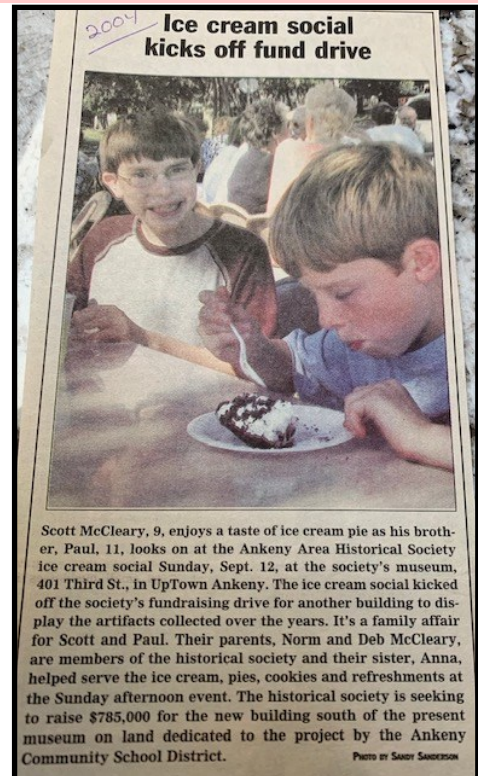
A record breaking number of attendees enjoyed ice cream and homemade treats, while listening to live music, courtesy of The Urbandale Swing Band.

Between bites of ice cream, children tossed a few bean bags for a corn hole game, blew bubbles, and enjoyed using the sidewalk chalk.

Ankeny resident Sally De was the winner of a beautiful raffle quilt donated by Sheila Adamson, wife of board member Dennis Adamson.

Ex-Officio JoAnn Adamson, who along with her hard working volunteers, was instrumental in the organizing this fun event. "What a wonderfully beautiful day with the great band; kids activities, amazing desserts, and so many awesome people helping us in every way possible!"

Hy-Vee Grocery Store—Ankeny #1 donated ice cream for this year's event. Thank-you again for your continued support!



**From the Archives 2004*





Summer Fun at AAHS!

DONATIONS

Without the philanthropy of our donors, the programs and improvements to our museum would not be possible. We wish to publicly thank you for your generosity.

General Donations~

Ankeny Dental Professionals

Brian Burns

Connie Doubleday

Dan & Pat Fliger

Tracey Groy

James & Lynn Harkin

Dan McCarty

Linda Logli Randolph

Roger & Sandra Spahr

Memorial monies donated in memory of the following individuals:~

Dennis Brazeltom

Diana Houge

Enes Logli

Dena Randolph

Dick Rasmussen

Ron Van DePol

Gary Waller

Dr. Ollie Weigel

Please accept our apology if your name was not included in this issue.

Your donation was truly appreciated.

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Brian told longtime friend, Bob Fontana, that he was very impressed by what had been done with the museum and was glad he had the opportunity to see what it was all about. Impressed enough that he not only became a member and purchased a 'Brick By the Bell', but also made a very generous donation to AAHS!

Brian Neveln Burns returned to Ankeny the week of July 4th to attend his 45th class reunion the following weekend. Brian, who resides in Tempe, AZ, was finally able to visit the AAHS museums. Brian met President John Stratton and was given a tour. The house museum was originally owned and lived in by Brian's grandparents, Bertha (Martz) and Ed Neveln. His mother, Charlene Neveln Burns, was a graduate from Ankeny High School in 1951. The last time Brian remembers being in the house was when he was a young boy and the McCleary family lived there.

It was great to host you Brian Neveln Burns!

Why Join AAHS?

Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission of inspiring in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny Area.

Memberships

Individual	\$25
Family	\$50
Business	\$100

*Keep in touch with us on
Facebook and Instagram*





IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Say Hello to Summer Intern Evan Albaugh!

Evan is a 19 year-old student of Grinnell College. He has been a resident of Ankeny for 14 years, graduating from Ankeny High School in 2021.

From an early age he has been interested in all areas of history, coming to especially appreciate local history as he got older. He has been a member of the Ankeny Area Historical Society for the last four years, enjoying the museum and interacting with volunteers. During this time he has also worked on an independent local history research project, which will soon become an exhibit at the museum.

After his first year of college, Evan was granted funding from Grinnell College for a summer internship at AAHS, allowing him to work many hours at zero cost to the Historical Society. Evan plans to pursue a major in history, afterwards working in the museum industry.



Shown in the photo to the right are two of five sign boards that were purchased by the Ankeny Area Historical Society via a grant from the John Deere Des Moines Works. These signs have primarily been used every Saturday morning since June 1st to let people know that we have an open house on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. They have been placed at the Ankeny Farmers Market area, throughout the uptown area leading to the museum.

The board decided to see what kind of attendance the signs would bring to the museum to try open houses on Saturday mornings instead of Sunday afternoons. The number of visitors has been tremendous each Saturday, thus the board decided to continue Open Houses every Saturday through the end of August.

We Thank John Deere for their support to help us in our efforts to bring visitors from the community into the museums.



New sign boards are displayed by Board Members JoAnn Adamson and Karla Kasper. AAHS member Bryan Lundstrom helps with setting up the signs for open houses and other special events. Thank-you Bryan!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



We are so excited that our popular pumpkin fundraiser will be back this year! The plants are beginning to run, blossom, and set pumpkins, as evident by the pictures shown. Please stay tuned for sale dates, and as the time grows closer, notice the “engraved” pumpkins which are donated to local area businesses..... an AAHS tradition!



Fall & Winter Hours

First Sunday of the month, 2pm to 4pm
Sept - Nov, Jan - May (closed in December)

By Appointment

Call 515-965-5795 or email history@ankenyhistorical.org

