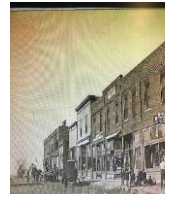


Ankeny through the decades...

*recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s**

September 2021

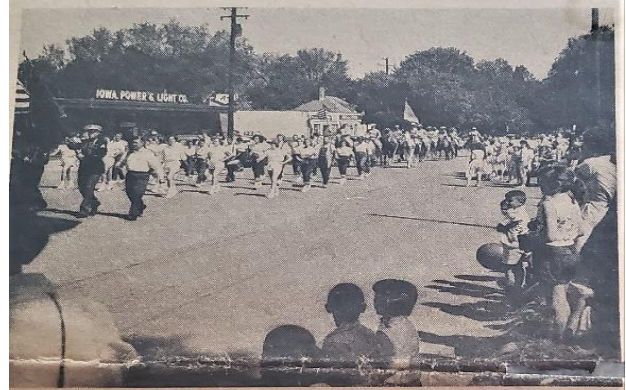


1950s

LARGEST CROWD IN HISTORY OF ANNUAL EVENT VIEW PARADE AND ATTEND BARBEQUE: Labor Day, 1957, will be a memorable day in the hearts of the many hundreds who visited our fair town for the annual Ankeny Lions Club celebration and barbeque. The day's activities started at 1 p.m. with a colorful parade, largest ever witnessed in Ankeny, in which over 120 persons participated. The hour long parade included over 60 bicycles decorated with a variety of themes and a greater variety of colors. A marching band headed the parade, and many good looking horses followed. Next came the floats of individuals, business firms, fraternal organizations and others. Following the parade, the town park was the height of excitement as rides, games, and all sorts of entertainment were available for those attending. One of the highlights of the day's activities was the famous chicken barbeque, which also broke all records in attendance.

(continued on p. 2)

Hundreds Visit Ankeny for Labor Day Celebration



Plenty of People and Plenty of Food



**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.*

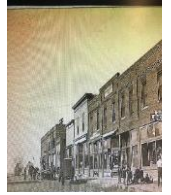


Ankeny Area Historical Society

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

September 2021



1950s

(cont. from p. 1)

Over 1160 persons were served during the early evening hours, and many remarks were heard that it was the best tasting chicken they had eaten, and that the parade was just wonderful. Square dancing rounded out the evening's entertainment as a crowd dressed in many colorful clothes participated in the celebration finale.



Parade: One of the toughest jobs for the judges was the selection of winners in the bicycle class. Top honors went to the Heidelbauer brothers who had as their theme, "The Ankeny Kids Want a Swimming Pool", and "We Sure Do." This theme offered more comments following the parade than any other.

Business Floats: Twelve business floats were entered in the parade and first place was won by Ankeny Pharmacy, who had the Ankeny High football team and cheer leaders, and the theme being, "Boost the Hawks." There was a tie for second place between Ankeny Red E Mix and the Ankeny-Press Citizen. Third place went to Earl Green Realty.

Fraternal: Top prize in the fraternal class went to Pack 88. Second place was won by the American Legion, and the Campfire Girls placed third. **Novelty:** The novelty class was won by the Hutton Clan who displayed an old Ford, filled with children, and written on the Ford, "Street and Mrs. Hutton started this Long Ago." Second place was won by the "Moon Rocket" and third place was "Space Car", both offered by the Albaugh Clan.

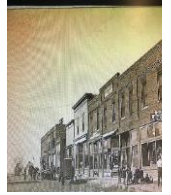
Pets: The pet section of the parade was one of the most interesting, as over 20 entries vied for the top spot. Barbara Moon was finally declared the winner in this class, with her entry of mother-daughter Dachshunds with "hot dog" as her theme. The Boje ponies were a close second. Jolene Fuqua and her guinea placed third in the event. **Religious:** One of the most impressive floats in the entire parade was the float entered by the Congregational Church. Its theme was "The Family That Prays Together, Stays Together." **Other Organizations:** Other organizations who won prizes were the "Chippewa Tribe", who were dressed in gay yellow Indian suits, and the Sheriff's Posse."

All in all, it was a great day for Ankeny, and we're sure that all the people attending went home with a full day's entertainment and a full stomach. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 5, 1957*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

September 2021



1950s

French Student visits in Nevin

Harmon Home: Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Harmon entertained a house guest recently in their home. He was Pierre Henensol from Cotes-Du-Nord, France, who is in the United States with a group of University students. They will start college in October, after being in this area for about a month. Pierre is particularly interested in farms and spent nearly all his time learning what he could about farming methods and animals. He is a French agriculture student and is being sponsored by Mr. Wakefield, an instructor at Drake University. During his visit, the Harmons entertained Mr. and Mrs. Don Cornwell and Donnie, and Mr. and Mrs. Hartung and Michael. Mr. and Mrs. Conwell also had a dinner for the Harmons and their French guest before he left.

Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 5, 1957

Ceremonies Held at Lake Washburn:

At Lake Washburn, Minnesota, Outing, a potluck dinner was held in front of the Art and Loren Hildreth cabin with around 78 people from the camp in attendance with well filled baskets. The Rev. M.C. Shupe gave the invocation after which everybody enjoyed a delicious dinner. After a somewhat rainy morning, the skies cleared and the sun shined with moderate temperatures.

After everybody had finished their dinner, they all gathered on the lake front by the Harlan Gable and Mrs. John Hildreth cabins. Wilbur Hildreth had charge of the program to rededicate the tree that was planted by the late John Hildreth in memory of Lois Hildreth who passed away in 1930. The program consisted of Art Hildreth giving the purpose of the tree, stories and history of the camp, and stories of the early pioneers who traveled to Lake Washburn. The rededication of the tree ceremonies was presented by the Rev. Alfred Barker, Rev. David Baker and Rev. M.C. Shupe with the Rev. Alfred Barker giving the final benediction.

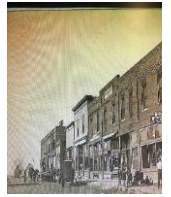
The substance of the history of the Iowa Camp was interesting. The first people to the camp were John and Charles Hildreth, early in 1916. They came in an old Model-T Ford on Remer Road, walked two miles and waded the narrows of the peninsula. The first cabins were built where the Alfie Wilson and Charles Hildreth cabins now stand. The cabins were 14' x 20', built at the cost of \$125. The next two log cabins were Swartfagers and Bachmans. Art Hildreth bought the logs for \$25, locked eight together then rowed them from North Lake to west shore of Washburn, peeled them and built the log cabin now owned by the Gabel family.

The nine relatives who first started coming to Lake Washburn were Charles Taylor, Art Fletcher, Frank Whitaker, Alfie Wilson, Charles Hildreth, Ed Jones, John Hildreth, and Art Hildreth. Art Hildreth, oldest pioneer present, spoke of the privilege of coming to Washburn for 40 years. Largest fish was caught by Alfie Wilson which measured 43 ½ inches long and weighed 25 ¼ lbs. Many humorous stories were told by several pioneers. Lola Lein, Sec. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 5, 1957*

Ankeny through the decades...

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Record Attendance in Ankeny Schools: An all-time attendance record was set at the Ankeny Community Schools on Tuesday as a total of 973 enrolled for the coming school year. This is an increase of 82 students or 8.5% increase over the opening day of last year. **Fifth Grade High:** The fifth grade class topped the list with a total of 96 and was followed closely by the kindergarten class which has an enrollment of 94. The first six grades at Parkview School have a total of 620. Junior High has a total of 130 with 65 in each class. The High School totals 223 students. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 5, 1957*

Attendance By Grades	
Kindergarten	94
First Grade	83
Second Grade	89
Third Grade	91
Fourth Grade	90
Fifth Grade	96
Sixth Grade	77
Seventh Grade	65
Eighth Grade	65
Ninth Grade	65
Tenth Grade	64
Eleventh Grade	49
Twelfth Grade	45

Blue Ribbon for Ankeny 4-H Girls at the State Fair: Karen Stall and Janet Johnson, who represented Polk County's 4-H girls at the State Fair, received a blue ribbon with their demonstration entitled "What's My Line?" It was the second year in succession that an Ankeny 4-H girls' demonstration team has received a blue ribbon on its demonstration. The girls, who showed four attractive flower arrangements, were also awarded blue ribbons on their record books. The two girls appreciate the fine backing given them by the residents of Ankeny and Polk County. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 5, 1957*

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Advertisements found in *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 5, 1957*

1950s

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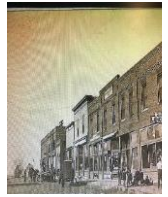
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Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

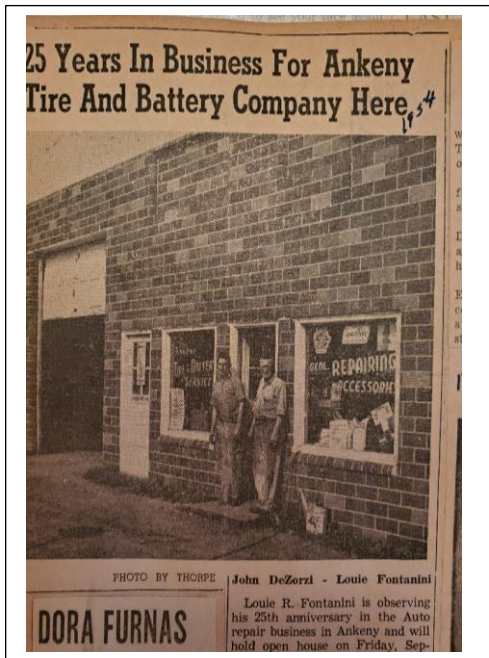
September 2021



1950s

Louie R. Fontanini is observing his 25th anniversary in the Auto repair business in Ankeny and will hold open house on Friday, September 3rd at the Odd Fellows Hall, beginning at 8 o'clock. Short movies will be shown during the evening and refreshments will be served. Louie started out in business here as the Ankeny Tire and Battery Co., now located in Ankeny on Highway 69 in the building which he now owns and built in May 1942. It is 40X50 feet in size. John DeZorzi joined Louie in 1945 after returning from the service and is still with him.

The beginning of Louie's business was Labor Day 1929 when he purchased the Charles Lash Battery Service, formerly located at the present site of Betts Barber Shop on Third Street. Louie first studied the auto repair business in 1919 when he attended the Ray Auto school at Kansas City, Missouri. He worked for Granger Motor Company at Granger and then worked for the Haulman and Wagner Garage here in Ankeny. Later he worked with Pete Logli and after that went into business for himself. Louie has three daughters, Mrs. Rita DeZorzi, Gloria Jean, and Carolyn Rose. His wife is the former Rose Vignaroli. They were married in 1921. Everyone is cordially invited to attend Louie's Open House Friday, September 3rd. *September, 1954. Picture was found in the Doris Bunz Scrapbook, 1950-1952, housed at the Ankeny Area Historical Museum*



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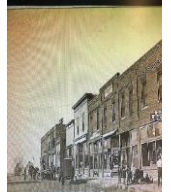
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Advertisements found in *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, September 5, 1957

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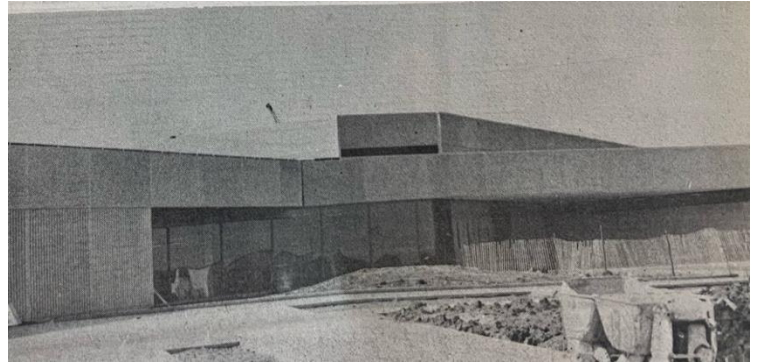
recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

September 2021



1970s

New High School Beautiful, Accommodating – Ankeny High School students really like their new school. They seem to take genuine pride in being a part of it. Members of the PRESS-CITIZEN staff were given a guided tour of the building last week by School Supt. Keith Hopkins, and the following is a collection of comments, impressions, notes and statistics resulting from that tour.



Every student has classes at both high school sites....except one students who has all his classes in the new building. Most students are bussed between buildings. Those with cars, and permission, are allowed to drive back and forth.

The entry way and foyer give way to the Commons area which includes the Book Store operated by Distributive Education (DECA) students.....less-than-shoulder-high lockers, handy for talking across or for making last minute notes before the next class....tables and chairs set up at the west end of the Commons where about 360 can gather between classes. What is now the west window of the Commons area will, in the future, become the entrance to the lunch area. Someday, breakfast will also be available. Even when filled with students the noise level was very low.

The school has been designed for from 1200 to 1400 students. There are now 925 enrolled.

In The Future....Plans are now being considered to convert Parkview to use by 8th and 9th grades, using Neveln for Ankeny's 6th and 7th graders. This would release about 12 classrooms in the elementary school for use by the K-5 grades. *Ankeny Press Citizen – September 11, 1975*

An overflow crowd – was on hand to generate the Hawks on to their first opening game victory in a few years.
Ankeny Press Citizen – September 11, 1975



Ankeny through the decades...

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1970s



Leading the home crowds in cheering this year are-
l-r: Linda Wood, Beth Mortenson, Laura Steinkemp, Sarah Mitchell, Lisa Trusty, and Julie Speiker. The Hondo Hawk mascot this year is Lori Krasuski.
Ankeny Press Citizen – September 16, 1976



Two From Ankeny Honored as Century Farm Families – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Robert H Lounsberry, right, and Dale Nelson of the Iowa Farm Bureau, left, honor Robert Louis Cairns of Ankeny represented by Mrs. Dorothy Cairns and Mrs. Linda Cairns, as a Century Farmer at ceremonies held at the Iowa State Fair on Tuesday, August 23rd. In the right picture honors are given to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Brazelton also of Ankeny.

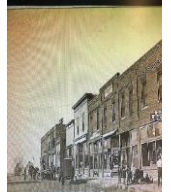
To qualify as a Century Farm, a farm must have been owned by the same family for at least one hundred (100) years. Lounsberry explained that “To be designated a Century Farmer is to say far more than that you have owned a certain piece of farmland for a certain period of time. Rather it states that you and the ancestors you represent exemplify a way of life that is rich and abundant, just like the land of which you were born.”

Ankeny Press Citizen – September 1, 1977

Ankeny through the decades...

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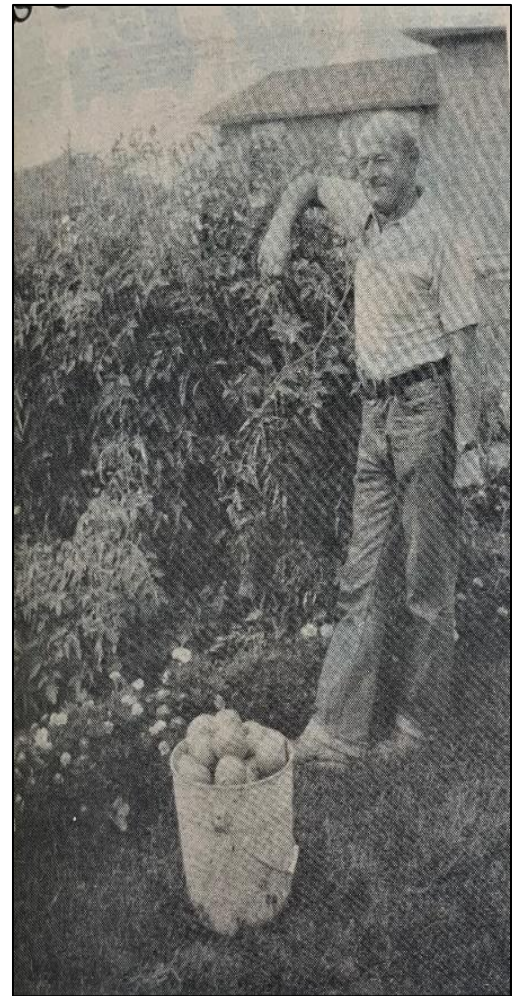
September 2021



1970s

Failor A Success Gardening Fruits of The Earth – When a fisherman exaggerates it's called a "fish story." When a home gardener harvests a two-pound apple he may just be telling the truth. Bill Failor's tomato bed is four feet wide and 50 feet long and has already yielded 1200 pounds of Big Boy tomatoes, with another 800 pounds expected. And that's not a "fish story" either! The secret is the way he plants them-in 5-foot high by about 14"-in-diameter. Large-gauge wire racks anchored to steel posts. Each rack has four tomato seedlings planted within it. The tomato plants are now 6-7 feet high and the tomatoes, have never having touched the ground, are almost blemish free. And that's without having been sprayed with insecticides. Back to the two-pound apples. Failor is a member of the Specialty Club of Stark Nurseries, out of Missouri. Members are able to purchase newly developed items before they are available to the general public. The fruit trees which yield two-pound apples and pears are about 12 feet tall at maturity. A second summer crop of lettuce, turnips and radishes has been planted and is now beginning to come up. On advice from a 96-year old gardener friend, Bill puts that second crop in, rain or shine on August 15th. His garden inventory also includes beets, carrots, leeks, parsnips, corn, Kohlrabi, parsley, pimentos, peppers, cucumbers, watermelons and cantaloupe, cabbage, beans, rhubarb and strawberries. Seed-started marigolds ring the 360-some feet of garden border. The garden is Bill's project alone, 'says he doesn't trust anyone else to care for it, so when he's out of town, "It will just wait for me." His wife, Barbara, cans tomatoes and freezes strawberries. Bills specialty is making relish and chili sauce.

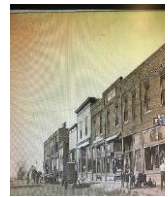
Ankeny Press Citizen – September 2, 1976



Ankeny through the decades...

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1970s

Oralabor Community Thanks Sewer-Water Project Workers

Members of the Oralabor community gathered to honor those who worked to complete the project which brought water and sewer lines to their community. The settlement, south of Ankeny, was the first unincorporated area in the United States to receive a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban development for such an undertaking. This 90% grant, of \$193,000, coupled with a grant from the City of Ankeny, was given in 1973 as ground was broken. This project was begun by the Isaac Jones, Sr., many years ago, and continued by his son, Isaac Jr. The HUD-Ankeny funds were designated to provide the public part of the water and sewer system and before they were granted it was necessary to obtain funds for lines from the streets onto home property. Through the work of the Ankeny Interfaith Council this was ultimately provided by the Human Development Committee of the American Catholic Church. Honored for their participation in the project were Jones, Chairman of the project; Oralabor Trustees Jim Burrell and Leonard Volineer; Jim and Jan Forsyth, representing the Interfaith Council; John Estes Jr., and Nolden Gentry and Representative Neal Smith. Pictured L-R: Rep. Neal Smith (D-Ia), Jim Forsyth, Fr. Paul Hans, and Isaac Jones, Jr. *Ankeny Press Citizen – September 16, 1976*



Alco Store Opens In Ankeny – Ankeny Mayor Ollie Weigel cut the ribbon to open the new Alco Discount Store in Ankeny last week. Assisting the mayor was Ankeny Chamber president Dale Miller and representatives of the Alco organization R. G. Sanborn, president of Alco and Dan Walters, district manager. There are presently 35 Alco stores. Three more stores will open this fall in Iowa. Locations for new outlets are Storm Lake, Cherokee, and Perry. There are already stores in Atlantic and of course, Ankeny. The company is in its 75th year. *Ankeny Press Citizen – September 30, 1976*

Value of permits triple over 1975 – The value of building permits issued by the City of Ankeny for August of 1976 was almost triple that of August 1975. Last month's total valuation was \$1,126,179. In August the value was \$424,940. A one-family (\$266,308), 8 two-family (\$312,800) and 3 four-family (\$245,100) dwelling permits were issued for a total of 19 new dwelling or 36 dwelling units. These figures bring the fiscal year total to \$3,463,000 compared to \$2,158,190 for July and August of 1975. *Ankeny Press Citizen – September 16, 1976*

Ankeny through the decades...

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1990s

Ankeny Christian Academy (ACA) has played a large role in Ankeny education. ACA's ribbon cutting was held in the fall of 1993. Starting with 24 students, ACA opened a year after Carolyn Cole, the ACA administrator, met with other parents desiring Christian education in Ankeny. ACA met in the Ankeny Evangelical Free Church and at other locations before at last moving to a permanent home at 1604 Southwest First Street. The adults in this photograph include, from left to right, Linda Ellis, Carolyn Cole, Cloud Cole, and pastor Max Frazier (ACA). *Images of America, Ankeny*, by Terri A. Deems with the Ankeny Area Historical Society, 2013, p. 50.



“When are they going to finish S.W. State Street? *It's supposed to be connected with Second Avenue. They were doing some work, but it looks like they're not doing anything now.*” – Ed Parameter, Ankeny.

“This is a three-phase project,” said John Peterson, Ankeny's community development director. “The first phase has been completed and we're waiting for financing decisions to be made for the second and third phases.” Peterson said they hoped to complete phase two in 1993 and phase three in 1994, but he admitted those dates may be moved back a year because of financing problems. The cost for phase two is \$1.3 million and phase three \$2.43 million, Peterson said, with the money coming from local, state, and federal sources. *DM Register*, September 30, 1992

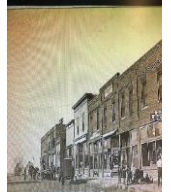


DM Register, September 24, 1997

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

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Click here to learn more about Ankeny. The city plans to offer a lot on its World Wide Web site. It's not the size of your graphics, it's what you do with them that counts, Ankeny officials say. That's why, unlike some of the other municipalities in cyberspace, Ankeny's new World Wide Web site is going to be short on pretty pictures – and longer on substance. Eventually. “We’re not out to impress the rest of the world with how our graphics go,” Ankeny City Manager Carl Metzger said last week. “We’re out to find a way to better communicate with the citizens of Ankeny.” Ankeny’s new Internet presence appeared quietly last week on a Web server at Captain Jack’s Internet Service. City officials could not provide numbers on how many people had visited the site in its first few days – but said the only people who had been told of its existence were various city employees. “It’s nowhere near being done,” said Jay Eason, management information systems officer for the city. The gaps will be filled bit by bit in the coming months, Eason said. But Ankeny officials say that sooner or later, their city will have a cyberspace presence that will allow for plenty of electronic interaction between Ankeny, its taxpayers and the people who want to do business with city government. “I think as time goes on, this is going to get bigger and bigger,” Metzger said. It’s inevitable that most households in a community like Ankeny are going to have some sort of access to the Internet.” *DM Register, September 10, 1997*

1990s



Midwest Muffler, DM Register, 9.10.97

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

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1990

Ankeny Stays Unbeaten. Benge's 248 yards, four touchdowns doom Urbandale. Ankeny's football team went on a Benge binge Friday night to take sole possession of the Central Iowa Metropolitan League's National Conference lead. Adam Benge ran for a career-high 248 yards and scored four touchdowns as the Hawks, ranked third in Class 4-A, improved to 3-0 in league play and 4-0 overall. They are the lone undefeated National Conference team. "They are on top of the conference and they deserve to be on top of the conference," Urbandale coach Mike McClish said. Ankeny led, 28-20, at the end of a first-half scoring derby, then let its defense take the sixth-ranked J-Hawks out of the game by forcing four second-half turnovers. Benge, who came into the game as the National Conference's leading rusher, tried to ruin Urbandale's night with his numerous big runs in the first half. "It kind of clicked for me finally," Benge said. "The offensive line made holes and I finally got to run the way I've been trying to run my entire career – bounce around and get anything." *DM Register, September 20, 1997*

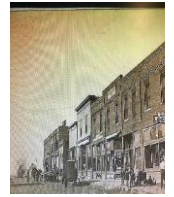


Ankeny's Adam Benge, left, and kicker Todd Sievers celebrate a second-quarter touchdown Friday night. Ankeny beat Urbandale, 49-26 *DM Register, September 20, 1997*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*

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1990s

Thank you to all supporters of the Ankeny Area Historical Society. We will have several fun events in the upcoming months. Also, the museums will be open on the first Sunday of October and November or by appointment. Call or check out our website for information!

Parkview students put new math test to the test. The middle school is helping an ISU professor find an alternative way to assess math knowledge. “OK, begin,” Joyce Seifert commands, and a dozen small heads bend toward their work, setting No. 2 pencils flying across test papers and their brains racing ahead. This is a game. This is a test of their knowledge, and this is a heck of a lot more fun than having to spend an entire day filling in a lot of tiny ovals on some standardized form. “I like this better,” explains sixth-grader Allison Morrow, “because it doesn’t take forever.” “It’s not as boring,” agrees her classmate, John Botts. Instead it’s short, it’s snappy and it’s new. More than 850 students at Parkview Middle School last launched their first trials in what will be a year-long project to test a new test devised by an Iowa State University professor. “What we’re really trying to do is we’re trying to find an alternative means of assessing students’ math knowledge,” said Seifert, a sixth-grade math teacher. “This is really the other end of standardized test.” “What I’m exploring is the development of an alternative type of assessment,” said Anne Foegen, assistant professor curriculum and instruction in ISU’s College of Education. “If this is something that might quickly tell (teachers) where their students are at, then this could help them make instructional decisions (about who needs extra attention) early on.” The two short quizzes, which will be given to student twice every two weeks, are designed to assess both students’ factual knowledge and their cognitive ability to estimate word problems. A one-minute test of basic math facts – (in which students must prove that they know things like what six times eight equals) – is followed by a three-minute, word-problem test where students are asked to estimate what the answer would be. Parkview teachers plan to chart test scores for each student each week and compare the results to school grades. If high test scores correlate to higher math grades, then teachers know that they’ve got a way to easily assessing math knowledge. *DM Register, September 17, 1997*