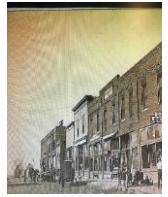


Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



1950s



FROM SWAMP LAND TO SUCCESS: THAT'S "THE ANKENY STORY"

Ankeny has a splendid school system. Its graduates are being accredited for entry into public and private colleges and universities in other states of the U.S. The town's first school building was erected on the Woods farm, 1 mile south of town in the early history of the history of the community. Later it was moved to the site in N.E. Ankeny, the corner of Dr's. Henderson and Dougan have their office location.

Mrs. Hattie O'Keen who was born in Ankeny 75 years ago fondly recalls her first days at the little one room school. The older boys had to carry me over the sty, and to quote the personable Hattie, "I'd like to see 'em do it now."

Later a larger better building was erected near this site, which was soon outgrown. In 1902 a 3 room building was erected where the present grade school building stands. This building was replaced in 1909 by the present grade school building, an 8 room brick structure. In 1919 a consolidated school district was formed with Ankeny as its center and the present splendid High School was erected.

Again with the grade school nearly "bursting at the seams" it was voted to construct a new elementary grade school building and gym at the north side of town adjacent to the park in 1951, being under construction.

We've had our share of outstanding students in both sports and musical groups. A show case of treasured trophies prove conclusively that the schools goal posts
(continued on page 2)



*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*

June 2021



1950s

(“Ankeny” continued from page 1)

have been defended well by our athletes. Just as vocal, and instrumental has given our school State recognition that makes its graduates proud of its alma mater.

Due to the length of this article which is full of information about Ankeny’s beginnings, further excerpts will be found in the following monthly editions of Ankeny Through the Decades.
Ankeny Times, April 18, 1952

Louie Fontanini Rites: Service for Louie Fontanini, 57, of 1615 Sixth Avenue, who died of cancer Tuesday at Mercy Hospital, after a 10 month illness, were held at 10:30 A.M. Saturday at St. Ambrose Cathedral. Rosary was recited in the Tonini Funeral Home. Burial was in Glendale cemetery. Born in Italy, Mr. Fontanini, a tavern owner, had lived in Ankeny before moving to Des Moines about 20 years ago. He was a member of Vittoria Italiania Lodge. Surviving are his wife, Mary; three sisters, Mrs. Frank Gianasi, of Des Moines, Mrs. Rex Stefani, of Ankeny, and Mrs. Albert Carzoli, of Des Moines; three brothers, Angelo of Salina, Ohio; Biaugi, of Phoenix, Arizona; and Gino, of Ankeny. *Ankeny Times, June 6, 1957*



Ankeny Times, June 15, 1956

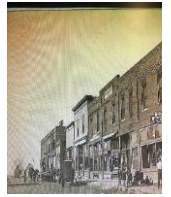
Election Set For Polk County School Unit Monday June 18

An Election will be held June 18 to name a school board for the new North Polk Community School District, Ralph Norris, county schools superintendent, stated recently. Five members are to be elected, two to serve until March 1957, two until March, 1958, and one until March, 1959. Deadline is June 8 for candidates to file paper work at Norris’ office signed by at least 10 voters. Norris said the district will be divided at Highway 69. Those living west of the highway will vote in Alleman and those east of the highway will vote in Elkhart. *Ankeny Times, June 8, 1956*

Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



1950s



Ankeny Honor Students Presented Top Awards

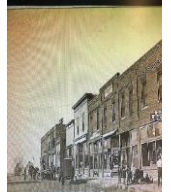
Honor students of Parkview High School recently presented awards are pictured (left to right) with Lowell Lein, acting commander of Albaugh - McGovern Post 42, Patricia Scholes, Salutatorian, Judy Rogers, Caroline Higgenbottom, Valedictorian, Scott Baird, and Mrs. Clara Mathis, president of Polk County American Legion Auxiliary.

Ankeny Times, June 7, 1957

Ankeny through the decades...

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

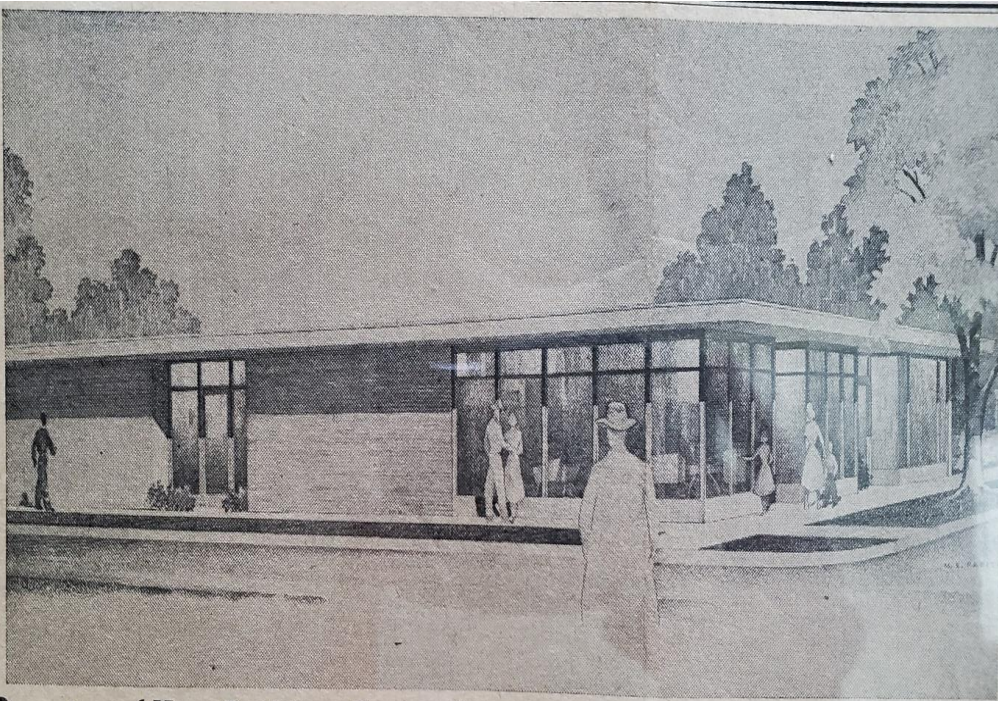
June 2021



1950s

Ankeny Pharmacy Observing 5th Anniversary: Don Steffenson of the Ankeny Pharmacy is celebrating his fifth Anniversary in business in Ankeny by giving away many valuable items to those who sign up at his store before June 27. You do not have to be present to win and there is a half price sale on numerous items he is closing out. You need not be present to win and the winning tickets will be posted after the drawing on June 27 at 8:30 p.m.

Ankeny Times, June 18, 1959



Drawing of New Building Being Constructed in Ankeny

Ankeny's new building project is now under construction at Walnut and Third Street and will be occupied by Dr. Arnold T. Nielsen, Dwight Thompson and Dr. Ollie Weigel. Mr. Thompson, who now has a display business at 818 Walnut Street in Des Moines will have an additional business in the new building here.

Mr. Thompson will occupy the corner portion of the 60 x 64 foot building. Dr. Nielsen's office will be on the north end of the building and Dr. Weigel will have east end of the building.

The building will be 10 foot high on the outside, brick front, Redwood overhang, plate glass in greater portion of the frontage as shown in the above picture, a large portion of the construction will be of concrete blocks. The doctors office will be air conditioned.

Denniston-Partridge Company is the general contractor, Everett Lewis is supervising contractor, Brooks-Borg Company is the architect.

The building is expected to be completed by October 1, for occupancy.

Ankeny Times, June 15, 1956

**ANKENY
PHARMACY
5TH ANNIVERSARY**
A Celebration Full of Values
**Visit Our Store and Get
FREE Tickets for Gifts**

RCA 17 INCH SLIMLINE PORTABLE TV
GIRLS 26 INCH COLUMBIA BICYCLE
BOYS 26 INCH COLUMBIA BICYCLE
ELECTRIC SKILLET
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC STEAM IRON
INSULATED OUTING CHEST
KNAPP MONARCH ELECTRIC IRON
2 SETS OF 2 WAY TETTER TRAYS WITH
GLASSES
1 WESTCLOCK ELLSWORTH ELECTRIC CLOCK
1 WESTCLOCK SNOWFLAKE ELECTRIC CLOCK
1 JOHNSON AND JOHNSON FIRST AID KIT
BADMINTON SET

**Also a full line of everyday
SALES and BARGAINS**

Half price SALE on numerous articles of mdse. we
are closing out.

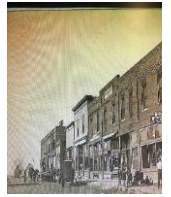
Drawing June 27th 8:30 P. M.

Need not be present to win. Winning tickets
will be posted in store Immediately after
drawing. Come in to see if you are a winner.

Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



1950s

Buses Leave at 9:30 A. M. For Birdland Pool Be Prompt!

Buses taking children to the Birdland Pool for "Learn to Swim" lessons this summer, will leave Park View School at 9:30 A. M. PROMPTLY each Wednesday and Friday morning.

All children are urged to get their registration cards from Mrs. Ed Howard or Reco Logli at Logli's Super Valu, Red Cross chairmen for the swimming program in Rural Polk County.

Each child must furnish his own suit and towel. It is advisable for girls to obtain a cap. Each child should also have a small bag of the type that is sufficient size to place his clothes in when he dresses for the lessons.

Join the gang - and learn to swim with supervised and capable instructors - the Red Cross Way.

Ankeny Times, June 24, 1955



At first meeting of the "1885 Birthday Club" Mrs. Mayme Wickersham, Buelah Murry, at home of Mrs. Alice Howard in Ankeny Mrs. Anna Essick, Mrs. Fawnie Thornton, members lined up for this picture. They are: Mrs. Georgia West, Mrs. Howard, Minnie


Hitz, Mrs. Alta Kile, Mrs. Winnie Thornton met for the fifteenth time, with only one gap Mrs. Pearl Haulman, Mrs. Minnie Horning in the ranks. Missing was Buelah Murry, now and Mrs. Jennie Quigley. Recently the club of Colfax, California.

1885 Birthday Club Ankeny Times, June 24, 1955

ANKENY DIRECTORY		Phone No.'s
Mayor: Charles E. Feight	.....	WO 4-4383
Councilmen:		
Dr. P. K. Dougan	.....	WO 4-4361
Earl Lewis	.....	WO 4-4783
Lyle Foust	.....	WO 4-4363
Ed Howell	.....	WO 4-4632
Warren Ferguson	.....	WO 4-4756
Town Clerk: Anne Varnum	.....	WO 4-4202
Water Works	.....	WO 4-4701
Police: Earl Hildreth	.....	WO 4-4550
(If no answer dial WO 4-4383)		
Fire Department	.....	WO 4-4334
L. F. Fontanini, Fire Chief	.....	WO 4-4707
Ankeny Consolidated Schools		
Supt. Melvin D. Anderson	.....	WO 4-4166
High School	.....	WO 4-4615
Grade School	.....	WO 4-4601
Parkview School	.....	WO 4-4435
Board of Education		
President: Raymond Peltz	.....	WO 4-4591
Secretary: Lucille Moeckly	.....	WO 4-4878
CHURCHES		
Baptist—Rev. A. D. Mohr	.....	WO 4-4771
Congregational—Rev. Paul E. Syster	.....	WO 4-4089
Lutheran—Rev. H. C. Schiffer	.....	WO 4-4357
Methodist—Dr. T. W. Schwartz	.....	WO 4-4411
Rev. W. H. Thompson	.....	WO 4-4646
D. M. Valley Breth.	.....	EM 7-3380
St. Michael's (Carmen)	.....
St. Mary's (Elkhart)	.....
Chamber of Commerce:	.....	EM 7-3672
Lions Club:		
Kiwanis Club:		

Ankeny Times, June 18, 1959

FROM OUR FILES



56 Years Ago

First Editions of the Ankeny Times

The town council has ordered sidewalks for some of our streets, something for which we are truly grateful.

Mrs. Oscar Bachman and Clara West went to Boone Wednesday to visit with relatives.

Rob Howard has returned home from his visit in the south part of the state.

Matt Sexauer has a gang of men at work preparing for the erection of a fine new house and barn.

Rev. Fred T. Coppock is now engaged in a series of meetings at Stanwood, Kansas. Mr. Coppock's nephew, Oscar Myers is traveling with him to aid in the singing.

Little Maude Erb celebrated her 7th birthday Tuesday by having a party, which her Sunday School class attended.

The friends of Mrs. E. M. Trent will be glad to hear that she is gradually gaining in strength.

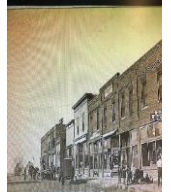
Frank Horning and Roy Canfield are working for the Farmers Telephone Company.

Ankeny Times, June 18, 1959

Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



1950s

"Our OK Used Car is running so well I don't even mind having your mother along!"



Whether you're headed for motoring or marital bliss, a feeling of confidence is "half the battle." That's why so many people rely on OK Used Cars. They drive them with confidence because they're inspected, reconditioned and dealer-warranted in writing. Their Chevy dealer's volume trading means extra savings and selection, too!

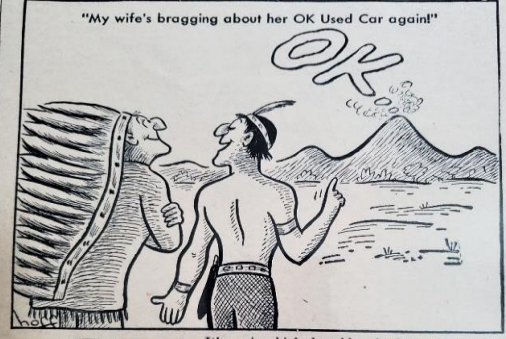
USED OK CARS
CHEVROLET

LOOK FOR THE OK TRADEMARK!
Sold only by an Authorized Chevrolet Dealer

RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET
ANKENY, IOWA

Ankeny Times, June 15, 1956

"My wife's bragging about her OK Used Car again!"



It's a wise chief who adds a feather to his cap by picking an OK Used Car. OK means inspected, reconditioned and warranted in writing by the dealer. OK means you save wampum, too! That's because volume trade-ins on fast-selling Chevrolets add up to extra savings and big used car selections at the lot with the OK sign.

USED OK CARS
CHEVROLET

LOOK FOR THE OK TRADEMARK!
Sold only by an Authorized Chevrolet Dealer

RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET
ANKENY, IOWA

Ankeny Times, June 8, 1956

1970s



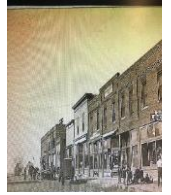
Every Day's A Holiday When You Eat Out!!- Big Bear Lounge in Sixth Year. The Big Bear Restaurant and Lounge owned and operated by Jodi and Bill Duncan for the past five years is located at 302 Maple, Ankeny. The Duncan's formerly were with the Breese House for 12 years in a management position.

Many regular customers enjoy dining at the Big Bear, not only Ankeny residents, but many from surrounding towns who like the pleasure of good eating. Five employees service the customers at the Big Bear. A different special is featured each day with a different soup served each day. Taste appealing steak dinners are available in combination with french-fries, salad and Texas toast. The restaurant is also known for its Big Bear Sandwich which has proven to be a top favorite of customers. The Big Bear opens for business each day throughout the week at 10:30 a.m. and closes at 2:00 a.m. every night except Saturday which has a 1 a.m. closing. The restaurant is also closed every Sunday. *Ankeny Press Citizen -June 7, 1973*

Ankeny through the decades...

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

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Highlights from the Annual Alumni Banquet – V.W. Smith and Mike Hutton delight the crowd as they began the school song to begin the program Saturday night. In the middle picture members of the 50-year class were honored at the reunion as they sat together at the front of the hall. The class of 1963, the 10-year class, gathered as they had over 60 members at the banquet. Lastly, outgoing alumni president Warren Thornton leads applause for the members of the class of 1923 as the 50-year class is introduced by the new president Dave Hoover. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –June 7, 1973



Ankeny policeman Welch nabs three on dope arrest –

Three men were apprehended by Officer Paul Welch of the Ankeny Police Department last Friday on a dead-end of a gravel road near the intersection of Magazine and Delaware Roads. Welch charged the three with possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The men were stopped at the end of the road where Officer Welch was patrolling the area. Welch spotted the car at the end of the street and was going to check it out. One of the men saw Welch approaching and hurriedly threw out a cigarette. Welch detected the cigarette and the odor of the cigarette was the scent of marijuana. He searched the car and discovered sixteen bags of the substance which is approximately fifteen ounces in weight. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –June 7, 1973

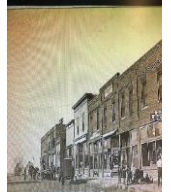
1970s



Ankeny through the decades...

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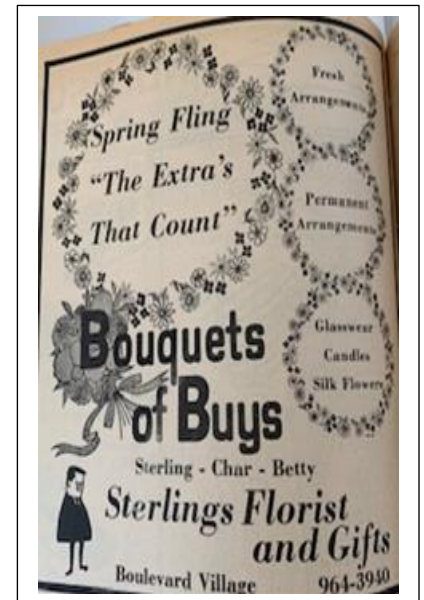


1970s

Three Ankeny policemen receive degrees – Two year degrees from Area XI Community College in Ankeny two weeks ago at commencement exercises held at Veteran's Auditorium on June 2. The three, Sergeant Andrew Kasper, Sid Conkel, and Robert Dyer each received degrees in law enforcement and criminalistics. These men have been attending school on a part – time basis while working their regular hours for the Ankeny Police Department. In order to attain their degrees, the men took 40 hours of law enforcement curriculum and 36 hours of general education. *Ankeny Press Citizen –June 14, 1973*



Ankeny gives 'go-ahead' to library, fire station – A small turnout of Ankeny voters passed the library and fire station bond issues last Thursday. The two issues were voted on separately. A 60% was required to pass the issues. The library project issue was decided on an 803 to 653 vote for passage. The fire station, east-side facility, and an addition to the present facility passed by an overwhelming 82%. Mayor Ollie Weigel stated "I was pleased that the vote passed. But I was displeased that the vote was so light." He said that he expected the fire station issue to pass easily. About the library he said, "When you talk about 63%, that's still a pretty good percentage. It's going to be very nice for our city." *Ankeny Press Citizen –June 7, 1974*

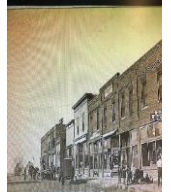


Ankeny Press Citizen –June 28, 1973

Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



“An asset to Ankeny”- Over 125 attend dedication services at the expanded Ankeny Funeral Home. Joseph M. Conley, manager, said “the new home will vastly increase the community’s ability to serve the rapidly expanding Ankeny trade area.” The new home replaces a home that has operated since 1935 at Third and Logan Streets here. International Funeral Services, Inc, Des Moines, a company that operates 39 funeral homes and 13 cemeteries in 14 states, owns the Ankeny Funeral Home. The quarter million dollar facility contains about 3,000 square feet of space. The new chapel can seat 300 people, has a large casket display room, a flower receiving room, a visitation room. *Ankeny Press Citizen –June 21, 1973*

1970s



New welcome signs for visitors – With the help of Naegele Sign Company, the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce has installed two new welcome mats for visitors off each Interstate exit entering Ankeny on First Street and Oralabor Road. Chamber members surround the sign which proclaim Ankeny’s annual Fun and Feed Days on July 5-6-7. *Ankeny Press Citizen –June 7, 1974 →*



←Ankeny Press Citizen –June 28, 1973

Ankeny through the decades...

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1970s

Tornado rips city

*They won't forget
the night of June 18*

It just doesn't seem possible – That a quick swirling tornado could turn a beautiful house into a shambles.

Ruins gone; people, dreams, Ankeny thrives – A chain is only as strong as its weakest link" is a commonly used quote. But rarely has it been more applicable than in comparison to the City of Ankeny. After a raging storm with mind-boggling destructive forces swept through Ankeny, the city seemed to look around, pull up its sleeves and go to work as if they had expected the disaster.

Bridging the gaps of generations has been a problem for all times. But in the time of need, Ankeny knew no ages or differences in opinion. People's accomplishments weren't being measured, only their needs cared for. No one is ever experienced to react in the wake of a disaster. But Ankeny officials performed with such skill and precision in making vital decisions quickly, that one would think that they had a book of procedures to go by. Businessmen did not moan and groan over their losses. But quickly as they could they were making plans for re-opening, advertising sales, and serving customers quickly who suffered losses themselves.

Homeowners and neighbors went from one project to another, ignoring the possibility that their own property may be last in line for help. By the end of the first night of clean-up, optimism for Ankeny was high. Steaks, hamburgers and even lobsters were being grilled for the crowds thankful that they still had their health.

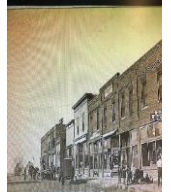
"Dreams Die in Ankeny Ruins?" No we don't think so....the ruins have been hauled out to the dump and the dreams live in our minds forever. *Ankeny Press Citizen –June 27, 1974*



Ankeny through the decades...

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

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1970s



A harrowing experience during the severe tornado system which hit Ankeny late Tuesday night was incurred by four Ankeny girls. Janie Gray, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gray of 1101 N. 3d St., told the story in which she, Doreen Volz, Linda Alleman, and Sherri Saveraid were involved. All four girls are 1974 graduates of Ankeny.

"Well, Doreen and Sherri had just gotten off work", Janie stated. "They all came over to my house along with Linda Alleman. We were going to go to Sherri's to get something to eat. When we left, it didn't look like there was going to be a tornado here." Doreen and I went together in one car and Sherri, Linda, Sherri's brother, Steve and their St. Bernard were all in the other car." Janie said that the radio didn't say anything about a tornado being in the area. It was sprinkling when they left the Gray residence.

"About the time we got to the high school, it started to rain really hard. We were going to HyVee to get some food. When we reached the stoplights near the Walgreen store, the street lights blinked off and on and off again. "Sherri turned down Eastlawn. Doreen and I kept going on 69. We were right by the Ford Tractor place when a transformer fell onto the back of Doreen's car. I must've ducked when that happened because the window on my side broke."

The two girls remained ducked and covered their heads until the glass stopped blowing. The car started to shake like it was going to overturn, Janie said. The girls got out of the car as quickly as they could and ran into the yard of Ford Tractor and laid there. Janie remarked. "It seemed like a long time. But I suppose it was only about five minutes." "Doreen wanted us to crawl to the El-a-Dor Motel but I got up to run and almost blew into a live wire. Doreen was yelling for me and I was yelling for her. We couldn't hear each other even though we were 20 feet away from each other. I couldn't see her until lightning flashed."

All this time the Saveraid car had pulled in behind of Walgreen's. The passengers all stayed low beneath windows which were eventually broken due to the forceful winds.

Janie and Doreen found the Earl Nelson residence where the Nelsons let them in for the night. Mr. Gray said, "Fortunately for us, the Nelsons had an underground cable, so Janie called and we did know where she was." But Doreen was calling all over for her mother to let her know that she was safe and sound. But she failed to find her. Her mother has been at another home during the storm (cont. next page).

Ankeny through the decades...

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1970s

(cont. from previous page)

and picked her up at 3:30 in the morning.

Sherri and Linda ran to the Blackie Hubbard home when the impetus of the tornado had died down. They finally received rides home from the Struthers on motorcycles.

Mrs. Gray, during all this time, hadn't realized that Ankeny had gone through a terrible experience like this. She had been playing cards at the Ankeny Golf and Country Club. She said, "It just makes me ill to think about it all. I can't believe how fortunate to think that they weren't electrocuted." "I knew it was raining torrential rains. But come to think of it, I was kinda happy that I wasn't home. It saved me from a traumatic experience".

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gray agreed that the city was doing a great job. "They've been by our house twice and picked up all the mess." But then there's Janie who said, "We were just very, very lucky." *Ankeny Press Citizen* -June 27, 1974

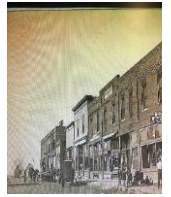
-Ankeny a week after – Storm takes toll but Ankeny is fighting back -



Ankeny through the decades...

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

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1990s

Interstates put Ankeny at crossroads. *Transportation feeds a community, Ankeny has grown due to Interstates 80 and 35, but other highway issues have erupted, along with an airport debate.* Baby Boomers were teething, the Cold War was simmering and President Eisenhower was planning to pave the way for motorists from sea to shining sea. When the nation's interstate highways, the nation's "largest public works project," were completed in 1965, one of the cities set to benefit was a small town at the convergence of east-west Interstate Highway 80 and north-south Interstate Highway 35. Ankeny. "God Bless the interstate," says Jean Jones, executive secretary of the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. "They had a poster when I came to the city. It read 'Crossroads of the United States'." Right from the start, the highways apparently brought new business. The number of Ankeny businesses doubled between 1955 and 1968, Jones said. "It has been an issue of convenience for everyone," said Jones. "All of the trucking firms and distribution centers recognize how easy it is to get to the interstate." The growth in traffic has continued. Daily motorist travel on the stretch of Interstate 35 between Ankeny's East First Street and the interchange with Interstate 80 has soared by more than 75 percent in the last five years, said Gordon Peterson, travel survey manager of the Iowa Department of Transportation. But the location of I-35 essentially parallel with US Highway 69, one of the most heavily traveled routes in the nation, guaranteed heavy use. Interstate 80's route was outlined by the historic Lincoln Highway, US Highway 30 and US Highway 6. The interstate plan was prompted in part by the Cold War. In 1955, President Dwight Eisenhower said the country needed a road network permitting people to move out of target areas quickly in case of an atomic attack. He OK'd the use of military appropriations to help build the highways. *DM Register June 26, 1991*

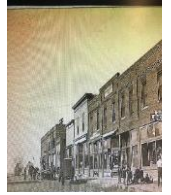
DMACC's effect felt in Ankeny.

Everybody from Little League to the city of Ankeny seems to have benefited in some way from the presence of Des Moines Area Community College in the community. "It seems as if DMACC has touched every family in Ankeny," said Ankeny Major Ollie Weigel, "and almost every member in my family." Weigel said his son, John, who is a dentist, taught courses at DMACC for about 12 years; his daughters, Marilyn Meyer and Sue Weigel, attended classes there, as did his granddaughters, Andrea Ballard and Cheri Weigel. The college also has boosted Ankeny's community pride, say officials. "When people think of DMACC, one of the things they think about is Ankeny," said John Voigt, city councilman. "Along with John Deere, DMACC was one of the first landmarks that gave Ankeny visibility." DMACC is good for Ankeny's economy, Voigt said. "If a student goes out and eats at McDonald's, it's helping the community," said Voigt. Students also often buy food, find entertainment and rent housing in Ankeny. *DM Register, June 19, 1991*

Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



1990s

Two outlooks on how Ankeny has changed. *Two Ankeny men can spin remarkable stories about their city's growth – one a well-entrenched power broker, the other a new resident with a typical job, typical hopes and a typical family.*

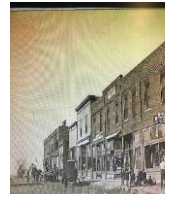
Richard "Red" Brannan was a major cog in the local political machine – a 20-year veteran on the Polk County Board of Supervisors and major influence on Ankeny's city government. Paul Boughton is a senior program analyst with the Stateman Group Inc., whose life revolved around such things as the Lions Club meetings, his 3-year-old daughter and saving money for his next trip. Their parts in the city's growth are as different as building multimillion dollar buildings and clearing a sidewalk of snow. Yet, each provide important glimpses into how the city has changed. Without people like Brannan, 55, Ankeny might not have been as successful as it has been in luring industry, nor would the proposed Northeast Polk County Airport have gotten so far off the ground. Without people like Boughton, those in the city might only look at large developments that put millions of dollars on the tax rolls. Besides his contribution to the airport, Brannan revived the city's plan to bring a \$4.7 million head injury clinic to the community. He also helped build the city's impressive Little League complex, a facility that was granted \$5,000 by Polk County. Boughton also has done his part. It involved cleaning the snow from Southwest First Street, about 30 years of history and gentleman's agreement. "This is kind of a whodunit for us," said Boughton, 35, who has lived on SW Second Street for the past three years. "It's become a mess." One day last winter, Boughton cleared snow of his sidewalk along First Street. After Boughton cleaned his sidewalk, the city pushed snow back on the sidewalk while clearing First Street. Then, Boughton went on vacation in Hawaii, where thoughts of snow were far from his mind. But on his return, he found a bill from the city charging him \$35 for clearing the sidewalk. Boughton was upset. Then neighbors told Boughton about an agreement with the city in the early 1960s. Under the agreement, the neighbors contended, the city would take care of cleaning the sidewalk and the property owner would not be held responsible. "There was a handshake agreement and nothing was written down," said Boughton. Eventually, former city leaders testified there was such an agreement, executed when First Street was a two-lane road and there was plenty of space between the walk and the road. The City Council recently waived the charges against Boughton and others on First Street who had been cited. After the city will try cleaning without dumping snow on the walk and certainly won't bill residents for cleanup. *DM Register, June 5, 1991*



Ankeny through the decades...

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

June 2021



1990s



First row, from left: Michele Puetz, Amy Wilkening, Amy Colvin, Lisa Streyffeler, Sara Van Overbeke, Christopher Swanson, Amy Nielson. Second row, from left: Steven Smith, Jason DeStigter, Marion Haverdink, Michelle McQuistan, Heather Nichols, Tanner Brier, Matt Wildman. Back row, from left: Bart Butler, Seanne Atkinson, Richard Ewald, Steven Schriener.

Perfection: 18 at Ankeny earn 4.0. On graduation day at Ankeny High School, the American flag was unfurled in salute to the Class of '93. The school band played "America, the Beautiful" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as parents, teachers and friends looked on. Before the presentation of the 283 students in the entire senior class, Principal Gary Ratigan read aloud the names of this year's valedictorians, all 18 of them. That was the largest group of students in the school's history to maintain a 4.0 grade point average (GPA) over four years, and the most to graduate this year from among 27 high schools in the greater Des Moines area. "We have a group of students who are very competitive and very focused on doing their best," Ratigan said during a graduation rehearsal. "They've worked very hard to get 4.0 status. They're just well-rounded people, no bookworm types. We've been monitoring them now for over a year. We knew late into their junior years that many were still carrying a 4.0 ... We knew about this group." *Des Moines Register, June 9, 1993*

Dairy month tour. The Food and Agriculture Committee of the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a free tour of the Iowa State University Dairy Farm at 7 p.m. Thursday. The farm is located on Southwest Magazine Road west of U.S. Highway 69 in Ankeny. For more information, call 964-0685. *DM Register, June 2, 1993*

Ankeny through the decades...

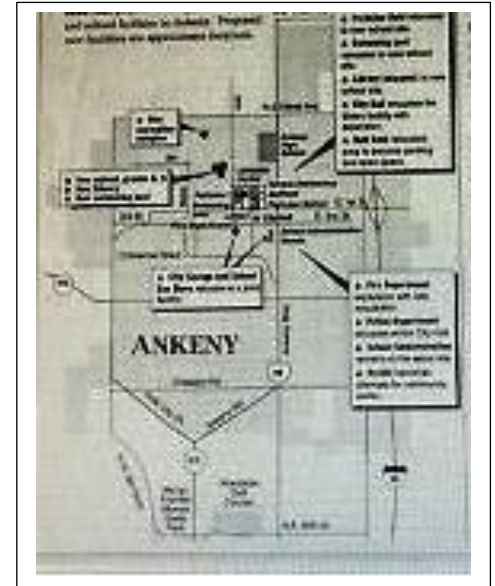
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1990s

Big changes planned in Ankeny. School, city would expand, exchange and add facilities. Both agencies want to quiz different groups of citizens on what they think of the comprehensive project. School and city government officials in Ankeny have developed a comprehensive plan to expand, exchange and add facilities. Now they want some reaction from residents of that community. The proposal, developed after the Ankeny school board inquired about the possibility of building a school in the city's Hawkeye Park, calls for:



- *A middle school to be built near northwest Ninth Street and Northwest Ash Drive.
- *A city-school library and a city-school swimming pool to be built in the same area.
- *Demolishing the school district's football field and track near Parkview Middle School and building new ones near the new school
- *Expanding what is now Kirkendall Public Library at 410 W. First St. to about 5,000 square feet and moving city government offices into that building.
- *Turing what is now City Hall at 211 SW Walnut St. over to the police department.
- *Acquiring additional land near Southwest Third Street for a larger fire department facility.
- *Developing a community center either by expanding the city's Lakeside Center at Hawkeye Park or by remodeling a portion of what use to be Neveln Junior High school at 320 SW School St.
- *Demolishing both the city's maintenance facility and the school district's bus and maintenance garage and constructing a facility in the city's industrial area that both could use.
- *Preparing a large area near the new school site for the development of a sports complex sometime in the future.
- *Extending Northwest Ninth Street from Northwest Ash Drive to State Street and extending Ash Drive south of West First Street.

After City Manager Carl Metzger presented the proposal to a joint meeting of the City Council and the school board last week, council members authorized him to negotiate with a research firm to get reactions from different groups of Ankeny residents. *DM Register, June 2, 1993 (Editor's note: Think how those changes happened!)*

Ankeny through the decades...

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1990s

Sampson no-hitter keys Ankeny sweep. Ankeny pitcher Benj Sampson waited a long time for his first varsity no-hitter. Sampson, a senior playing in his third varsity season, struck out 15 batters and the Hawks swept a double-header Monday against Valley at Ankeny. Jason Loutsch threw a four-hitter in the first game, an 8-1 victory. Ankeny won the second contest, 9-0. The Hawks scored eight runs in the second game and threatened to end it with a 10-run rule, but Sampson was able to pitch a complete seven-inning game. "Nobody was saying anything," Sampson said. "Everybody was 'shhh, shhh' in the sixth inning when we had the bases loaded, because it probably would have been an asterisk if we had scored a run. But as long as the team keeps winning, I'm happy, that's my goal." *DM Register, June 22, 1993*



Ankeny eyes DeJong. Scott Dejong, who coached the Colo-NESCO girls' basketball team to four consecutive state tournament appearances, has been offered a similar post at Ankeny, Ankeny Athletic Director Fred Smith said the offer is subject to the school board approval Monday. "He's poised and is a quality young man," Smith said. "He'll carry the tradition on." DeJong's record at Colo-NESCO is 123-12, a winning percentage of .911. His 1991-92 team finished second in the six-player tournament. He would succeed Dick Rasmussen, who won three state basketball titles. *DM Register, June 4, 1993*

The Ankeny Area Historical Society sends you a huge "Thank You" for your support during the pandemic. Good news! The museum is reopening to the public on July 10, the day to "Celebrate Ankeny." Come on over from Noon to 3:00 pm to see the new Ankeny Sports Championship display and the new videos. Museum members will get a sneak preview in late June – so join on the website to get your invitation! We appreciate your interest in our past ... and future!