

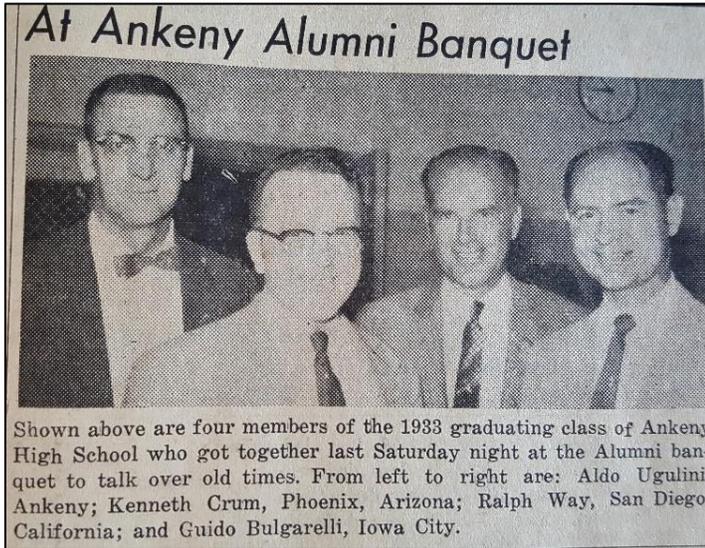
Ankeny through the decades...

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



June 2019

1950s



May 28 was a day to be remembered by Mr. and Mrs. Edward LaBond, from Moline, Illinois, who not only celebrated their 47th Wedding anniversary on that date, but were also present for their only granddaughter's graduation from Ankeny High School with the class of '59. Kay LaBond is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E.J. LaBond, 1002 Kenworthy Drive. *Ankeny Times, June 4, 1959*

At Ankeny Alumni Banquet : Last Saturday night at Parkview Lunchroom the Forty-fourth annual meeting of the Ankeny Alumni Association was held. After the banquet, the honorees of the Class of '58, were welcomed into the association by Hugo Fontanini. Robert Floto gave the response on behalf of the class. Superintendent Ralph Jorgensen introduced the members of the Class of '58 and each stood and was recognized. Richard Fontana, Secretary, read letters from Alumni unable to attend, and recognition was given to the Class of '33 who were celebrating their 25th reunion. Nineteen representatives were present from this class. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 5, 1958*



Be sure to check out the Ankeny Area Historical Society website www.ankenyhistorical.org for upcoming events and activities! Come on Sunday, June 23, at 2:00-4:00 for annual Ice Cream Social and silent auction!

*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

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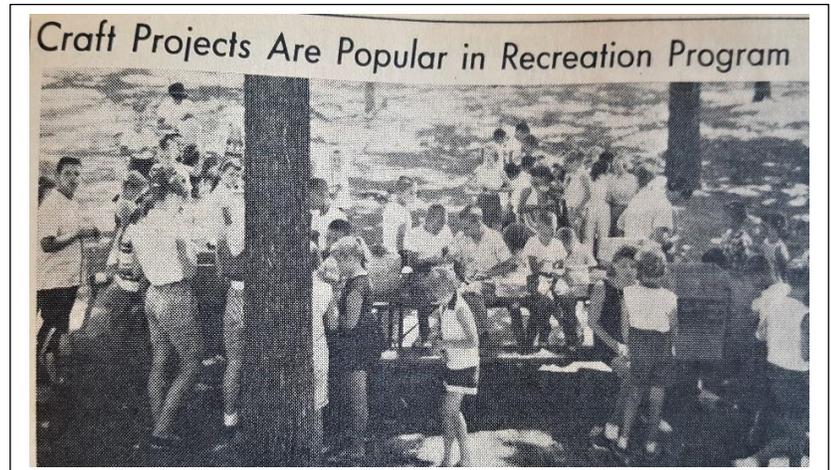


1950s



Saturday, June 14, Miss Beverly Fatino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Fatino, became the bride of Ronald Fontana, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fontana, at Christ the King Church. Nancy Lewis was maid-of-honor and bridesmaids were Donna Fontana and Barbara Cantillo. The best man was Richard Fontana with groomsmen Gary Fatino and Ray Fontana. The reception was held at Highland Park Legion hall in Des Moines. Mrs. Fontana is a graduate of Lincoln High School, and Mr. Fontana is a graduate of Ankeny High School and is now a student at Iowa State College. They plan to live at 210 ½ Logan Street in Ankeny. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 18, 1958*

Craft Projects: Shown above is a group of youngsters in the craft classes, one of the most popular activities in the Summer Recreation Program: Attendance has averaged 170 per day for the first five weeks. Participants are furnished one 10¢ item per week. Any additional items, or more expensive ones, are purchased by the user. Activities shown above include leather craft, use of gimp to make lanyards, bracelets, dog leashes, etc., and weaving pot holders by the younger groups. The older groups have had the opportunity to do hand crafts and have also had instruction in the use of archery and golf equipment. Assisting Frank Whitely, director of the program, are Herma Swenson and Charlotte Eldrege. Student assistants are Marilyn Bianchi, Fran Rowland, Rex Lamberti, and Diane Varnum. Whitely stated that the attendance for the entire program has been very good despite the polio epidemic in Polk County. The program continues through August 7. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 5 1958*



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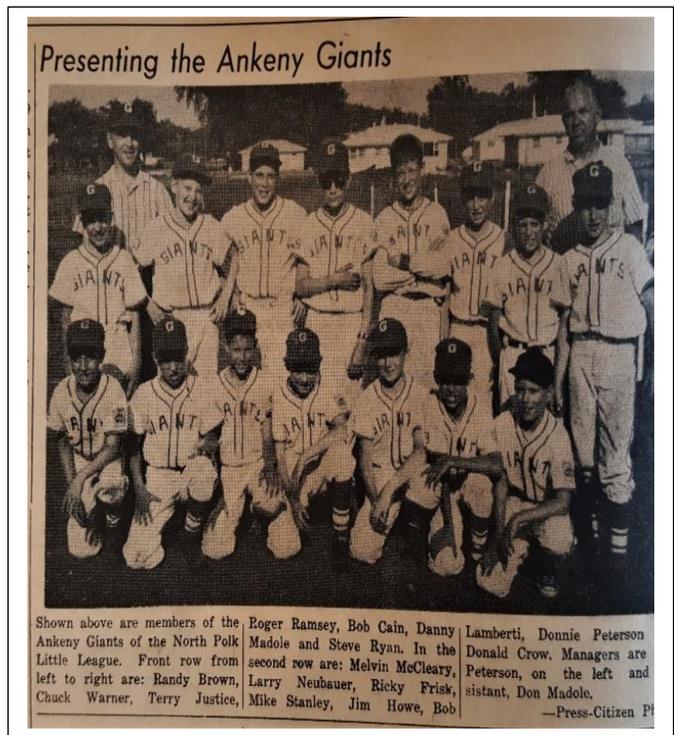
1950s

Local Sportsman Snare Giant Bullfrogs Near Madrid:

Bullfrogs, contrary to popular belief, are native to Iowa and can be found generally in ponds, lakes, and rivers over the southern two-thirds of the state. The advent of "farm pond building" has greatly increased the available bullfrog habitat. The northernmost colony the author knows of was established by stocking tadpoles in a gravel-pit area near Black Hawk Lake in Sac County.

Requirements for their winter hibernation period are quite critical; fairly deep water with sunken brush, logs and debris under which frogs can crawl for their long sleep and remain hidden from their enemies constitute Mr. Bullfrog's favorite bedding ground. Old abandoned beaver dams are often used by both turtles and bullfrogs as a winter sleeping place. Unlike the common, little leopard frog, the newly hatched bullfrog remains a tadpole through his first winter and becomes a full-fledged frog the following summer.

These frogs were taken from an old reservoir near Madrid. Bullfrogs are generally taken at night by holding them in the beam of a strong flashlight; the frog hunter then either catches them by hand or spear them with a three pronged "frog gig". Twelve bullfrogs constitute the daily legal limit permitted by Iowa game and fish laws. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 12, 1958*



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1950s

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.

FROM OUR FILES



56 Years Ago
First Editions of the Ankeny Times

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson, March 16, a baby girl.

Thad Nagle and Etta Wright were united in marriage Monday. Their friends all wish them a long and happy life.

The basement is dug for the new church at Crocker. The lumber and brick will be hauled this week.

The Ankeny baseball team will be in the field with a strong aggregation this spring. The line up is as follows: McClung, Doubleday, Horning, Hall, Wagner, Canfield, Matter, Wohlwend and Fenner. Practice will commence as soon as the ground will permit.

On Thursday, March 19, occurred the death of Mrs. Nancy Stanfield at her home near Greenwood. Among her survivors is a son William who lives east of Ankeny.

Curt Boyer quarantined the Jerry Betts home on account of small pox Wednesday.

Arthur Wagner and family will move to Missouri next week.

Will Van Slyck has purchased about 7 acres of land of Jim Lewis. It is the plot of ground used for a baseball diamond last year.

Thornton and Bogue who have been operating a sawmill in the timber south of here have sawed about 90,000 feet of lumber.

Mrs. Henry Wagner and daughter Lydia were capital city visitors Saturday.

The opera house will be opened up soon and a fine amateur show will be given Friday eve, April 10.

Mrs. John Marts and daughter have returned from a long trip in the south where they went on account of ill health.

- Charlie Campbell and Ellis Meader will work for Will Tait in Palo Alto county this summer.
- Don't forget the grand entertainment to-night at the Congregational church under the direction of Miss Mabelle Wagner. Admission 10c and 20c.
- Sabe Farmer was severely bruised by having a pony fall on him.
- Last Wednesday evening occurred the wedding of Miss Anna Hiner and Geo. Gilbrech. Rev. Steele officiating. Both are highly respected and will no doubt make life a success.
- Dave Wickersham of Lytton was in Ankeny on business this week.

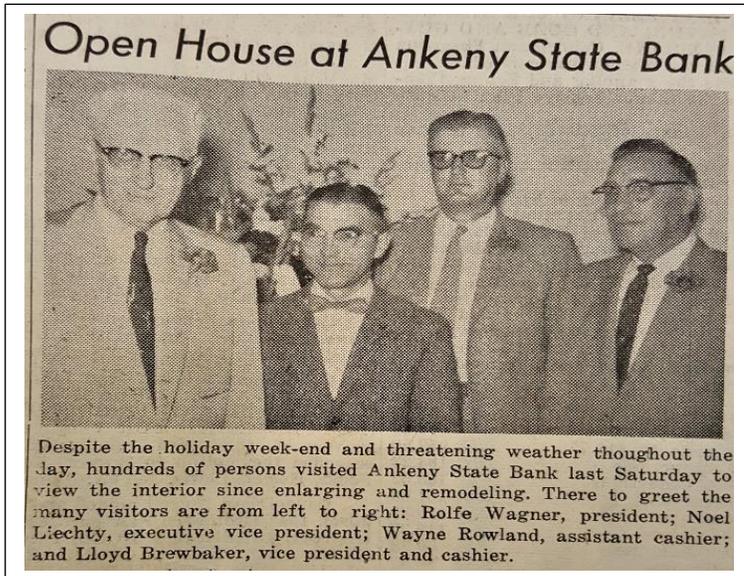
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1950s



It was open house at the Ankeny State Bank last Saturday and the showers didn't stop the hundreds of persons who paid a visit to the newly enlarged and remodeled building. Officers, directors, and employees were on hand to greet the many visitors and to give pencils to the men, roses to the ladies, and samples and suckers to the children. They wish to thank all who paid the bank a visit and the many who sent bouquets and planters for the open house. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June, June 12, 1958*

GRAND OPENING

REGISTER FOR **FREE DOOR PRIZES**

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC TOASTER
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COFFEE MAKER
WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC TOASTER
THERMOCAMPUS CHEST

Drinking Will Be Held at 9 p.m. on Saturday Night
You Had Not Be Present To Win

BANANAS 2 lb. 19c
LETTUCE 2 Head 19c
POTATOES 10 lb. 39c
CANTELOUPE 3 for 69c
ORANGES doz. 19c

COFFEE 2 99c
WITH 45.00 ORDER

Match or Mix 5 \$1

FREE PONY RIDES

FREE DONUTS

FREE
DRAWINGS MADE THROUGHOUT
FRIDAY and SATURDAY

100 BAGS OF GROCERIES AND MANY OTHERS
VALUABLE PRIZES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION

ELWELL FOOD MART
Highway 69 in Ankeny OPEN MONDAY thru SATURDAY - 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
OPEN SUNDAYS - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Phone WO 4-32

Elwell's Food Mart Has Grand Opening: James Elwell, operator of Elwell's Food Mart in Ankeny, has designated this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, as their official grand opening days. The new store, which was opened recently, is completely new in every respect with such features as air conditioning, wide aisles, service meat counter, large paved parking lot, and every convenience for shoppers. Mr. Elwell has made arrangements for free pony rides for the children plus a large variety of free gifts that will be given away free during the three-day celebration. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 16, 1960*

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1950s

← Ankeny Press Citizen, June 26, 1958

A SPECIAL EVENT
Brought To You By TWO Ankeny Merchants

AMAZING DEMONSTRATION!

DRIVE YOUR CAR OVER SANDRAN

stainless VINYL **SANDRAN**
MIRACLE SCRUBLESS FLOOR COVERING

Saturday at **LOGLI'S**

Prove to yourself SANDRAN'S vinyl beauty is stainless!
NEVER NEEDS SCRUBBING

COME ON DOWN! TEST IT! SEE THE MOST AMAZING FLOOR COVERING DEMONSTRATION EVER!

Register for **FREE GIFTS**

4 - 9x12 SANDRAN RUGS
4 - 5 Piece Outdoor BAR - B - Q SETS

IN COOPERATION WITH FULTON FLOOR CO.

SPECIALS GOOD ON THURSDAY - FRIDAY - SATURDAY

HEINZ Ketchup	14 OZ. BOTTLE	17c
RED ROOSTER Coffee	LB. BAG	65c
JUMBO VINE RIPENED Cantaloupe		19c
PINECREST FRYERS	WHOLE LB.	35c
	CUT UP LB.	39c
Round Steak	LB.	89c
NO. 1 HOMESTEAD BACON	LB.	69c
BORDEN'S QTS. OF Orange Drink		2-29c
40 OZ. PACKAGE BISQUICK		39c
NIBLETS CORN		2-29c

LOGLI'S

Be a Two Car Family ...

with a

LOW-COST Bank Auto Loan

LOW BANK RATES ... BUILD YOUR CREDIT WITH A BANK ... PAYMENTS TAILORED TO FIT YOUR NEEDS ... NO "EXTRA" CHARGES

Ankeny State Bank
Member F. D. I. C.

(left & above) Ankeny Press Citizen, June 12, 1958

TONIGHT!
Professional
WRESTLING
in ANKENY

THURSDAY · JUNE 5

ROY McCLARITY
vs.
MIKE GALLAGHER

Iowa All-American ALEX KARRAN
vs. **BOZO BROWN**

ADDED ATTRACTION · WOMEN'S MATCH

ROY McCLARITY

8:00 P. M. - ANKENY HIGH FOOTBALL STADIUM
SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION TO SUPPORT YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

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1970s



Civil Servant Anne Varnum. “I am a servant,” says Anne Varnum, city clerk of Ankeny. “Although I get paid for the job, I consider myself to be a servant because I’m here to serve the public.” For 21 ½ years Anne has served the town, then the city of Ankeny. (“You used to be a town until you had a population of 2000. Then you became a city. Nowadays,” says Anne, “everything is called a city, no matter what its size.”) When Anne began as city clerk in January of 1956, her job was taking care of the 356 water bills. She worked half days because that’s all the time the job required. Now there are 3500 water bills to be sent monthly and her duties have become so extensive that a 40-hour week is too short to accomplish all the necessary tasks – so many, in fact, someone else is now responsible for the water bills. Now working with the Council and working on the bonds are her favorite duties. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 2, 1977*

Jaycees to Conduct YMCA Need Survey. This Friday and Saturday the Ankeny Jaycees will survey 1500 homes to determine if there would be citizen support for the development of a YMCA-type facility in Ankeny. Their purpose in conducting the survey “is to determine whether the residents of Ankeny would support a special election bond issue to build this type of facility adjacent to the new high school, to be used by both the school and the public with no annual dues.” This survey follows several discussions between the Ankeny City Council and the Ankeny Community School Board regarding the feasibility and techniques of a joint city-school venture. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 2, 1977*

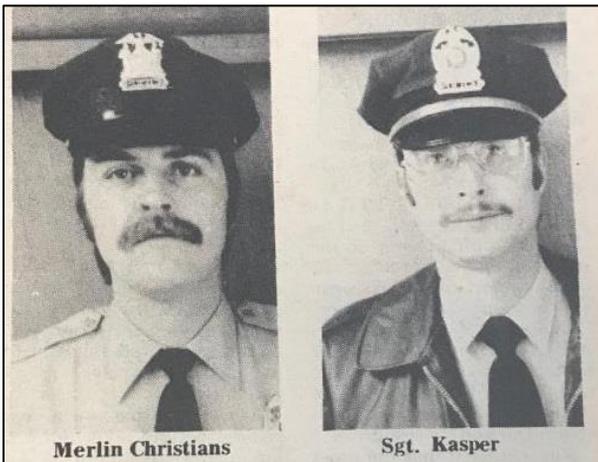
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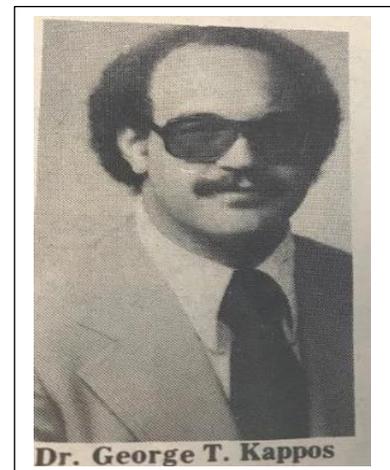


1970s



Ankeny Man Killed in Shoot-Out with APD. Quick, on-the-spot planning by Ankeny police officers prevented what turned into a shoot-out from occurring on the highway at the site where several Little League games were in progress. Killed during the June 14th accident was Richard Boucher, 21, of Ankeny, who was being sought for failure to return to the Fort Des Moines facility and on a bench-warrant issued from Polk County District Court. It was ruled later in the week that the bullet that killed Boucher was self-inflicted, although it will probably never be determined whether it was accidental or on purpose. The nine shots fired by Ankeny police officers were all otherwise accounted for. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 23, 1977* (Police officers Merlin Christians and Sgt. Kasper were at the shootout)

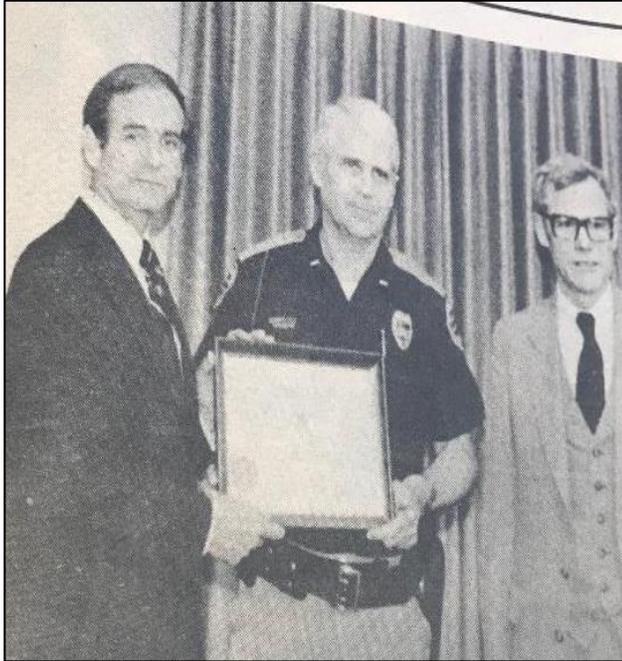
Graduates from U of I Med School. Among the 173 graduates at University of Iowa School of Medicine in Iowa City on May 13 was George T. Kappos of Elkhart. Dr. Kappos is a graduate of North Polk Community High school and of Drake University School of Pharmacy, and was formerly employed at Ankeny Walgreen Pharmacy. He will begin a three-year residency in the Family Practice program at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines on July 1st. Dr. Kappos is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Aldrich of Elkhart. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 1, 1978*



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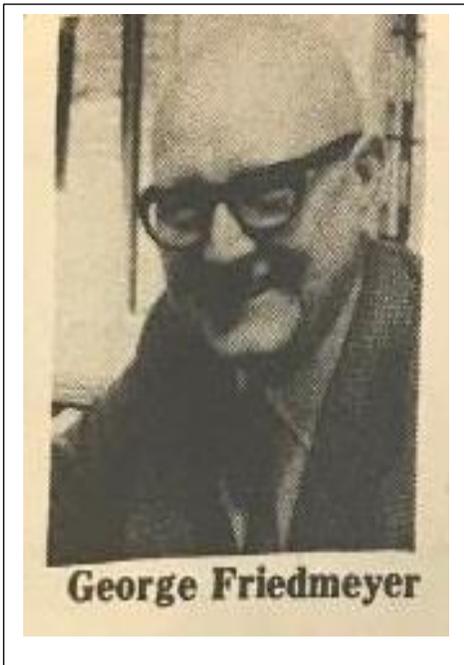
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1970s

Lt. Gene Hill of Ankeny was among twelve veteran Iowa State Patrol troopers honored by Governor Robert D. Ray for 25 years of service. Collectively these officers represent 300 years of patrolling experience. They have driven at least 12 million miles and have worn out 240 patrol cars. They have watched the Patrol grow from 225 officers in 1953 to 430 today. Seventeen percent of all Iowa State troopers have at least 25 years of experience. Pictured with Ray and Lt. Hill is Charles Larson, Department of Public Safety Commissioner. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 15, 1978*



Friedmeyer Named Parade Marshall. George Friedmeyer has been selected to serve as Grand Marshall of the 1978 Fun and Feed Days parade, Saturday, July 8th. Friedmeyer has served in the instrumental departments of the Ankeny Community Schools for twenty years and is currently Music Coordinator for the schools. During his tenure as director of the Ankeny High School Band, the group took two trips to Winnipeg, Canada (1964 and 1970), one to Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1967, and a 1972 trip to Washington, D.C., for the Cherry Blossom Festival. In 1966 the band won honors at the Drake Relays Parade. His bands marched several times in the Veishea Parade at Ames and at the Pella Tulip Festival. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 15, 1978*

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1970s

Weather Service to Blame for No Sirens. According to Ankeny city officials, no National Weather Service (NWS) advisories were received which would have prompted the activation of the Ankeny tornado warning system during Monday's early morning storm. Two local calls to the Ankeny Police Department were checked out by officers and the reported sightings could not be confirmed by them. Radio reports of tornado sightings in the Ankeny and West Des Moines and other Polk County areas prompted calls to Ankeny City Hall and the police and fire departments from residents asking why the sirens were not sounded. Lt. Richard Barrett of the Ankeny Police Department confirmed that the department had received no advisories from NWS during the storm but did receive two local calls. The Sheriff's office called Ankeny police to report a call from a resident on College Avenue in Ankeny that they had sighted a funnel aloft at 1:43 a.m. At 2:51 a.m. the sighting of a funnel, east of Ankeny past I-35, was also reported to Ankeny police. Barrett said that his officers checked out both calls and could not confirm either sighting, nor could they be confirmed by the Iowa State Radio. During the Monday morning hours that electrical service was out, had the tornado warning system been activated, the siren at the SE Magazine and SE Trilein location would have been the only one to sound. According to City Manager David Dirks and Fire Chief Marvin Frisk, it is the only one rigged with an auxiliary electrical power source. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 29, 1978*

1990s

New Kirkendall Library – Kirkendall Board President JoAnn Strack shakes hands with Mayor John Voigt Wednesday at the conclusion of ground-breaking ceremonies for the new library. It is located adjacent to Northview Middle School in Prairie Ridge Center. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 6, 1995*



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1990s



Last day of school brings a mix of emotions for Ankeny teacher- The last day of school is usually a fun, easygoing time for students and teachers alike but one Ankeny teacher, the last day of school was filled with mixed emotions. For Mary Lou Parr, a fifth-grade teacher at Northeast Elementary, it was not merely the end of another school year on Friday, June 10. That day marked the end of a career. Although hers was not a regard for teaching longevity, due mostly to a commitment to raising her children for 20 years, Parr's teaching career spanned two states, four communities, and hundreds of elementary students. Parr has taught fifth graders for most of her teaching career. Parr says, "There is so much growth. There is physical growth—their school pictures get outdated by January—but they also mature a lot." *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 7, 1994*



Educators of the Year in Ankeny Schools – The educators pictured above were named Educators of the Year in their respective schools for the 1993-94 school year. Front Row (L to R): Linda Hope, Westwood, Deana Snyder, Ankeny High School; Jim Kubichek, Parkview; and Suzanne Howard, Northwest. 2nd row: Elaine Pauly, Southeast; Brenda Garbe, Terrace; Kevin Walker, Northeast; Joyce Seifert, East. Howard was named overall Educator of the Year. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 28, 1994*

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June 2019

Cross elected Lt. Governor at Boy's State – Travis J. Cross, an incoming senior at Ankeny High School, was recently elected lieutenant governor of the 1994 Iowa American Legion Boys State. Boys State was held June 10-16 at Camp Dodge. Cross was sponsored by the Albaugh-McGovern American Legion Post #42, in Ankeny, which has a long-standing commitment to Boys State and to community service around the area. The purpose of Boys State, founded in 1938, is to provide a high-caliber forum for teaching governmental processes not offered in high school. Nearly 850 high school juniors participate in the week-long simulation of city, county, and state governments. Cross was also named winner of the Fred N. Smith memorial Scholarship, a \$200 award. As lieutenant governor, Cross was awarded a \$100 savings bond. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 27, 1994*

1990s



60th Class Reunion – Class of 1935 – The Ankeny High School Class of 1935 celebrated their 60th reunion with a lunch at the Best Western Starlight Village of Ankeny. Classmates pictured (L to R) back row: Thurston Wagner, Virginia Farlow Maynes, Dorothy Dippold Wyant, Alfred Dann, Myrtle Sexauer, Francis Leaf Rothfus, Carlos Nichols, John Harkin; front row – Mary Fontanini Scott, Ada Fontanini Atkinson, Twyla Pointer Albaugh, Ward Mally, Margaret Rittgers McBride, and Kathryn Evans Bell. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 27, 1995*

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1990s

Hawkettes win state title in the shuttle hurdle relay –

Jenny Benson (left) congratulates teammate Christi Hogan after the Hawkettes won a state title. Ankeny was unable to capture the biggest prize, but the Hawkettes did win a state title in the shuttle hurdle relay. The foursome of Tiffany Ratzlaff, Jenny Benson, Lynette Heinauer and Christi Hogan set a school record enroute to the victory. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 13, 1995*



Baughner will lobby for State Street expansion - Ankeny City Council member Gary Baughner said he will lobby for a single cause this week in Washington, D.C. Baughner is joining a group from the Greater Des Moines Chamber Federation, which annually makes a lobbying trip to Congress for Golden Circle causes. "I have a single-minded purpose: State Street," Baughner said.

Baughner said all he is looking for is some help with untangling a bureaucratic web of paperwork on the State Street project in southwest Ankeny. The road has long been viewed as a top infrastructure priority, but Ankeny leaders have been road blocked by federal regulators who say the area may contain hazardous materials. The perceived environmental hazards date back to the 1940s when the area housed a huge ordnance plant. Baughner said getting the road through would greatly improve traffic problems on First Street and Oralabor Road. If a new road does get built, future plans call for a massive office park known as Crossroads. *Ankeny Press Citizen, June 6, 1995*