recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s\* November 2020

# **1940s**





**Parmenter Starts Sentence for Polk County Frauds:** Charles E. Parmenter, 52, former Polk County supervisor entered Fort Madison penetentiary shortly after 7 p.m. Wednesday to begin a seven-year sentence. The Ankeny farmer, convicted on charges of obtaining county money by false pretenses, was met at the prison gates by Sheriff Howard Reppert. Parmenter had arranged to meet the sheriff there.

Parmenter, his wife, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sexauer, Ankeny, drove to Fort Madison during the afternoon and arrived at the penetentiary about 6:45 p.m. Commenting that he was early, Parmenter remained in the car to talk for a while before telling Sheriff Reppert he was ready to go inside. "He was in a jovial mood, shook hands with Deputy Sheriff George Rouse and me before he went in," Reppert said. He asked the captain a lot of questions about visiting days and found out he couldn't have any visitors for the first 30 days.

Jury Investigation: Parmenter is the first former county official to enter the penetentiary as a result of a grand jury investigation a year ago and reports of fraud and corruption in Polk County government. He was elected in 1944, the first time he sought public office although he had served a jail sentence on a bootlegging charge. He convinced the thrid district voters he had reformed. One of his supporters in his campaign was a minister. Parmenter took office Jan. 2, 1946. On Dec. 31, 1946, he was indicted on two charges of obtaining county money by false pretense. Last Apr. 24 he was convisted by an all-woman jury in district court. *Des Moines Register. Nov., 13, 1947. Found in the Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection* 

←Ankeny Times, November 12, 1943

\*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: <u>history@ankenyhistorical.org</u>.



Ankeny Area Historical Society

301 SW Third Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

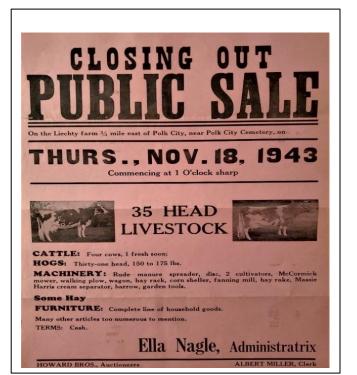
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recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s\*

### **1940s**

Ankeny Wins Hawkeye Conference: The local football team wound up a successful season Wednesday night by defeating Johnston High 6-0. The Hawkeyes connected on a pass from a spread formation in the last 22 seconds of the game to score. The season record is as follows: Ankeny 13 Johnston 6, Ankeny 18 Colfax 0, Ankeny 12 Madrid 6, Ankeny 6 Woodward 0, Ankeny 19 Nevada 0, Ankeny 24 Story City 0, Ankeny 6 Johnston 0. *Ankeny Times, November 12, 1943* 







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**President Charles E. Friley of Iowa State College** is aware of the fact that all public expenditures are under close scrutiny, but he insists that a deal the college made recently probably shouldn't be censured. "I hope no one thinks we paid too much," he said in commenting on the purchase by the college from the government of some of the land at the Des Moines Ordnance plant. The college paid \$1 for the 1,433 acres of rich farm land. A bit like the auctioneer at Kansas City asking Jack Hoffman if he was willing to accept \$35.50 a pound for his baby beef – or whether he was holding out for more money. *Des Moines Register, November 3, 1946* 

# 1940s

#### Arms Plant Site Makes a Big 'Farm'

Iowa State College has a big commercial farming enterprise underway this year on the 1,412 acres of Des Moines Ordnance Plant land it got for the sum total of \$1. The land and 74 buildings on it is apart from the main manufacturing area which has been acquired by purchase by the John Deere Plow Co., for manufacture, assembly and distribution of farm machinery and equipment.

**Research Center:** The "Ankeny farm," as it is now referred to, was declared war surplus and deeded to the college for development of a research center for livestock and poultry as a part of the Iowa agricultural research station. So that all income possible could be realized from the farm during development of the center, the 1,000 acres of tillable lands was in corn, oats, and soybeans this year with grass and legume seedlings in the oats to restore fertility and develop the proper crop rotations.

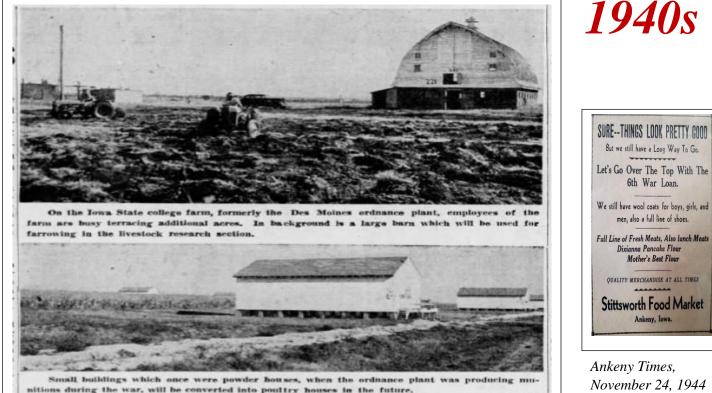
**9 Hired Men:** C.R. (Rodney) Johnson is superintendent of the Ankeny farm service and Dale Neubauer the foreman in charge of the nine hired men working at the farm. Three of the men also work as carpenters. Like other farmers starting to farm during periods of machinery shortages, the college had a difficult time acquiring machinery and equipment to launch its farming operations. Machinery companies cooperated though and now there is \$30,000 worth on hand. This is the machinery now at the farm: eight tractors, two 4-row corn planters, two 10-foot tandem disks, three 2-row cultivators, 10-foot drill, packer seeder, two combines, six plows, elevator, four trailer wagons, two trucks, terrace, power weed sprayer, and automatic pickup baler.

**Acreage Division:** While no division lines have yet been decided upon for the four areas to be developed for research projects, there will be 300 acres for swine, 300 acres for dairy cattle, 600 acres for beef cattle and the remaining 200 acres for poultry and turkeys. It is planned to make the farm be self-sufficient in so far as possible and it is thought that the major portion of the finances needed for the research center can be realized from operation of the farm as a commercial enterprise. *Des Moines Register, November 5, 1947.* 



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6th War Loan.

Dixianna Pancake Flour Mother's Best Flour

Ankeny Times, November 24, 1944



Directing American Junior Red Cross Drive: Dolores Woods and Deloris Ghitalli are pictured as they plan the American Red Cross drive here in Ankeny. The Polk County Junior Red Cross last year contributed \$1,200 tom the National Children's Fund. The money sent medical and educational supplies to children in Europe and Asia. The Junior Red Cross also packed gift boxes for children overseas and made decorations and favors for veteran's hospitals and children's hospitals.

Enrollment is taken by class rooms in elementary schools. Their goal is 100 per cent enrollment for service which they had last year in Polk County. Rehabilitation of school children and schools abroad is one of the major projects of the American Junior Red Cross which begins its thirtieth annual enrollment drive in the Polk County schools Monday. November 7, 1947, Found in the Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection

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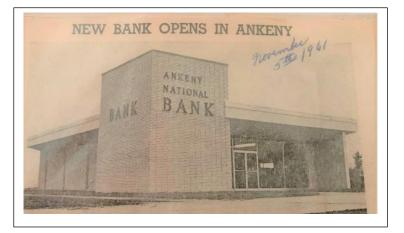


#### **1960s**

Jaycees Plan To Organize – Young men of Ankeny voted Wednesday, October 24, to organize a Junior Chamber of Commerce here. At a special meeting in the Ankeny National Bank attended by over twenty men, it was decided to complete organizational plans for the new group immediately and start arrangements for affiliation with the state and United States Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Other business conducted was the election of temporary officers who will serve until formal elections take place sometime this month. Those selected were Larry Donaghy, chairman; and Dave Longnecker, secretary.

The new Junior Chamber will meet next Monday, November 5, at the Ankeny National Bank. Those present issued an open invitation to all young men to attend next week's meeting. If you are a farmer, mechanic, lawyer, salesman, white collar worker, factory employee, or professional man, etc., and between ages 21 and 36, you are welcome and needed. Those present said: "We feel that every Ankeny young man can benefit from membership with the Jaycees. It gives us a means of improving our community and ourselves. Any man interested can get more details or free transportation to the next meeting by calling Rod Lein or Dave Longnecker." *Ankeny Press Citizen – November 1, 1962* 



Approximately 2,000 people attended open house last Saturday and Sunday at the Ankeny National Bank on Highway 69 at Third Street in Ankeny. Carl Henderson formerly cashier of the Hartford-Carlisle Savings Bank is president. Other officers are Charles R. Triplett, vice-president; Mrs. Nadine Johnson, cashier, and Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, bookkeeper. Directors are Henderson, Triplett, Vic tor V. Johnson. Wayne Spahr, Everett D. Lewis, Charles E. Feight, Vernon Smith, C. Earl Olmsted, Kenneth Scholes, James Elwell, and Ed Zingler, all of Ankeny.

The masonry building is 45 x 60 feet. Besides up to date banking facilities, a drive-in window is open for customers' convenience. The bank is capitalized at \$250,000 and is insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. *Ankeny Press Citizen – November 5, 1961* 

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# **1960s**



Camp Fire Candy Sale Drive – "Tired of buying candy? We're not tired of Selling". Above are left, Deanne Nelson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Nelson, and Karen King, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. William King. The sale will last until Saturday, November 23. Karen says, "My goal is 50 boxes and I can go to camp this summer". *Ankeny Press Citizen - November 7, 1963*  Senior Class Play is Big Success – Shown here is the cast of the Senior Class Play, "Who Dunit?" which was performed last Friday evening before a near capacity crowd. They are, first row, left to right, Christy Selland, Jane Coy, Jeanne Paullin, Patty Vanderah, Pat Behymer, and Shelia Dillon. Second row, left to right are: Mr. Kauzlarich, director, Bill Marvin, Gene Knox, Dick Odgaard, Fred Gerhart, Denny Rottinghaus, and Beth Robertson. *Ankeny Press Citizen -November 14, 1963* 

Adams, Leonard, Paullin, And Norris Are Elected – 879 Voters Visit Polls – In election returns released Tuesday night, Norris Adams was re-elected as mayor, and Bud Paullin, Granville Norris, and incumbent, Eldon Leonard, were elected to the city council. A total of 879 voters visited the polls, with May Adams polling 663. There were 12 write-in votes for six candidates. Totals for each candidate from the combined precincts were as follows: Buell-206; Conway-356; Crees-131; DeHoet-223; Lein-74; Leonard-645; and Norris-453.

The newly elected city officials will take office on January 1, 1964. The councilmen will join Max Akers and Willard Nagle, whose terms did not expire. *Ankeny Press Citizen - November 7, 1963* 

#### Clark James Chosen 'Teacher of the Year' -

Clark James, a teacher of mathematics at Ankeny High School, has been named Ankeny "Teacher of the Year" by the administrators of the Ankeny School System. His name has been submitted to the Iowa State Department of Education as Ankeny's representative. *Ankeny Press Citizen - November 28, 1963* 



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Ankeny Press Citizen – November 1, 1962

1960s



**Kiwanis Auction Sale Is A Success** – The above is a scene from the annual Kiwanis Auction Sale last Saturday night at the Ankeny Sales Pavilion. A 'Full Barn' was on hand for the annual event and from preliminary accounting, should be one of the best financially. The funds are used for community projects. The Kiwanis Club also sponsors Cub Scout units, Bluebirds, and have aided in the financial aid of Ankeny's foreign exchange students. Everett West served as auctioneer and Noel Liechty and Lewis Kepler of the Ankeny State Bank served as clerks. These men donated their time for the evening, and all items auctioned were also donated. *Ankeny Press Citizen – November 8, 1962* 



**Tribute To Coach VanderLlinden** – This year begins the eighth year for Coach Bob VanderLinden at Ankeny High School. In football, Coach "Van" has won 50, lost 10, and tied 5. His basketball record is 43 and 21. Three years as wrestling coach, he netted a 19-7 record. In track he has five conference championships and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place year at the state meets.

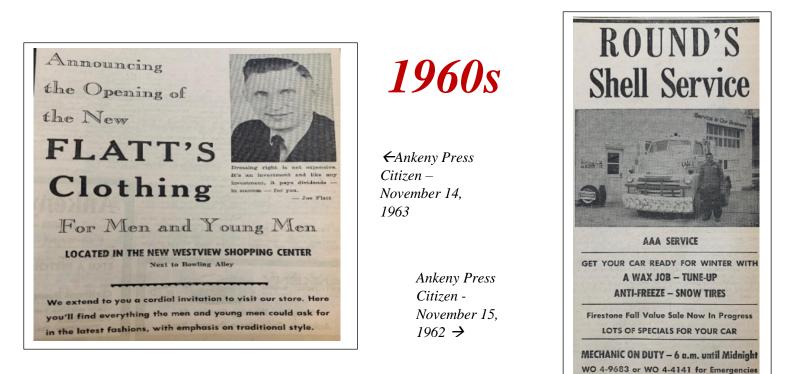
Coach VanderLinden was also a good athlete himself. In high school he lettered three times in football, twice in basketball, and three times in track. Later, at Central College he lettered three times in football and four times in baseball.

Coach "Van" believes that the job of a coach in high school athletics is to "develop a winning spirit in the school system as well as in the boys". He advises young athletes this way..... "Go out for that sport and stick to it, no matter how tough". *Ankeny Press Citizen* – *November 21, 1963* 

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### **1980s**



#### Salute to Industrial Achievements 1987... Ankeny Attracts Industry

The competition for industrial locations and relocations throughout the nation is fierce. But the rewards are great. As industry arrives, soon to follow is commercial/retail and of course, residential. Last October, 38 prospective businesses had expressed an interest in locating in Ankeny. In one year the following results have been realized: Perishable Distributors of Iowa have broken ground to build a 70,000 sq. ft. office and distribution center that will employ 120 people Younkers began a 40,000 sq. ft. expansion of their distribution center with an estimated employment of 120 fulltime and a 140 part-time people. Mrs. Clarks Foods announced plans to build a 50,000 to 60,000 sq. ft. manufacturing/warehouse/office complex in the Industrial Park. This year the task force that cultivates these calls are working with 45 prospects of which 4 seem to have good possibilities of moving to Ankeny. Besides those contacts, over 250 exhibitors at the farm progress shown were all introduced and familiarized with Ankeny, of which 21 have been sent follow-up information. Virginia Linthicum archives, November 1987

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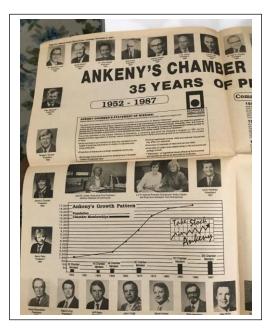
WE GIVE GOLD BOND STAMPS

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#### **1980s**

Ankeny's Chamber of Commerce -35 Years of Progress (1952 – 1987)





#### **Chamber Presidents (shown by year)**

1951 Dr. Russell E. Love 1952 James Bower 1953 Dr. Ollie Weigel 1954 Otis Cross 1955 Charles Feight 1956 V. W. Smith 1957 Francis Hall 1958 Dr. Paul K. Dougan 1959 Donald Steffensen 1960 Earl Olmsted 1961 Dr. Glen Higgins 1962 Dr. George Keays 1963 Jerry Fulton 1964 James Maggert 1965 Richard Miller 1966 Frank Lint 1967 William Wallace 1968 Forrest McClure

1969 Donald Steffensen 1970 Dr. Ollie Weigel 1971 Norris C. Adams 1972 Joseph Flatt 1973 Larry Cairns 1974 Larry Donaghy 1975 Eldon Leonard 1976 Dale Miller 1977 Dick Hermann 1978 Dave Hoover 1979 John Voigt 1980 Jeff Segin 1981 Steve Long 1982 Gene Samuelson 1983 Gerry Fehn 1984 Jayne Cloutier 1985 Gregg S. Sunner 1987 Larry Handley 1988 Gary Baugher

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### *1951 - 1987*

#### **Community and Chamber Progress – At A Glance**

**1951** – **1959.** Ankeny Chamber of Commerce formed as a spin-off from the Progressive Business Club... Dr. Russel E Love was elected as the first President...1951 Christmas bill of \$105.80 was paid to P.A. Logli for oranges, peanuts, candy and sacks for the children of Ankeny. Chamber incorporate on November 19, 1952 ... Incorporation signed by James Bower, Ollie Weigel and Abel McCleary...Chamber met on February 3, 1953 at the Breese House and voted to print the Articles of Incorporation and By Laws. There were 23 members in 1953 and dues were \$5.00. The chamber requested that the speed limit on Highway 69 to be reduced from 45 mph to 35 mph ... Early projects: 1954. Improved street lighting...neon sign at S.W. Third and Ankeny Blvd. directing traffic to shopping area on Third. Christmas lighting erected on SW Third...1956. Press Citizen started...Chamber endorse annexation to the city one mile in each direction...Formed committee to get new business to locate in Ankeny...Endorsed daylight savings time if the rest of the state agreed. ...1957 Chamber President Francis Hall was instrumental in handling the Kirkendall estate which gave Ankeny the original Kirkendall Library and the land on which Otter Creek Golf Course is located... 1958 House to house mail delivery...Chamber worked to retain bus and train service in Ankeny...Widening of Highway 69 from two lanes to four land approved. Traffic signals installed at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Highway 69.

**1960-1969.** 1960, population 2,900... 1960, original Kirkendall Library built...City-wide parade and high school band concert for open house at John Deere ... February, 20, 1962, poor attendance at Chamber meeting due to television coverage of Astronaut John Glenn's flight ... Continued effort to provide a public airport in the Ankeny area ... Successfully supported sidewalk construction throughout the city ... Chamber raised \$1,000 for purchase of land for the present post office ... Toll-free calls between Ankeny and Polk City ... "Start Living – Move to Ankeny" slogan adopted... 1965, Frank Lint received Ankeny's first Outstanding Citizen Award ... 1966, Chamber annual dues \$50...Highway 69 widened ... Ankeny Industrial Park (244 acres) established...Chamber sponsored a two day circus in August at the City Park...Endorsed bond issue on new fire station...Steering committee names annual celebration "Fun and Feed Days" ... Chamber's Annual Ladies Night held at John Deere Cafeteria, tickets \$6 per couple.... Comprehensive plan for parks ... Ankeny swimming pool ... endorsed school bond issue ... 1968, population 7,500 ... DMACC and FBBC founded ... FBBC President Rev. David Nettleton walked 200 miles from Omaha to Ankeny raising funds for the college...Promotion of Distributive Education (DECA)... First industry in Industrial Park, Brady manufacturing...Richard Brannon appointed Polk County Supervisor ... Annexation to the City of 3.7 acres including the John Deere Des Moines Works.

(continued)



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#### (continued)

**1970** – **1975.** Jerry Fulton, Executive Director 1969 & 1970 and in 1971 Jean M. Jones was hired... Recognizing that what affects business, Chamber increased participation in community service and promotion events...Formed Gavel Committee of social, civic, church and fraternal organization presidents, which established need for and developed long and short form Community Needs Survey ... Re-evaluated dues structure, added income generating special events, balanced the Chamber budget and established the first Program of Work ... Trade-at-Home ad campaign for Retail Merchants/Restaurant & Tavern ad campaign .. Stop & Shop in Ankeny slogan adopted by the business community. Voted to continue support of U.A.C.O. for Fun & Feed Days ... Had Crazy Days during event...Crazy Days kick-off breakfast with all merchants in costume ... Free movies for kids so parents could shop locally during the holidays...Started honoring new teachers at luncheon yearly...Took part in "Sell Iowa Caravan" statewide effort ... Mayor Eldon Leonard made the first call on Ankeny's new phone system in the Northwestern Bell Building to Congressman Neal Smith ... Participated in the 1974 tornado recovery...Supported Saylorville Dam and Big Creek Project which was completed in 1975...New Kirkendall Library built ... Ankeny Centennial in 1975 ... Centennial Committee headed by Joseph B. Flatt placed a time capsule in entryway of library to be opened in the year 2025.

**1976** – **1981.** Economic Education program in elementary schools...paid tuition for teacher training for special unit ... Chamber Office became hub of Ceremony and sponsor of Miss Sixteen-Ankeny contest at SummerFest ... After being housed in Highway 69, 110 N.E. Trilein, Westview Shopping Center and 209 S.W. Walnut, found permanent quarters at 803 S.W. Third; shared with Ankeny Industrial Development Corporation...Became affiliated with Des Moines Chamber Federation in the Golden Circle...United States Chamber of Commerce Accreditation accomplished under the direction of Dick Hermann, Chairman...New Ankeny High School dedicated ... First phase of First Street widening project...Honored Ankeny and Senior Citizens at first Founders Day Breakfast...The lifeblood of the Chamber of Commerce is still recognized to be its committees...Mayor Ollie J. Weigel quoted Ankeny as being the MOST PROGRESSIVE CITY in Iowa with its growth of businesses, housing, parks, schools, colleges, and churches.

**1982** – **1987.** Chamber enlarged annual membership survey to include social and economic issues; survey sets priorities for the year's attention...Began "Take Stock in Ankeny" effort in 1985 to market Ankeny. Part of consortium of Industrial Development Corporation, Chamber and City of Ankeny joining ISU and DM Chamber Federation to develop Crossroads multi-use business-industrial site on ISU Research Farm; a consortium of their own to market other portions of Ankeny... in 1986 continued to refine and support projects of civic and business nature already undertaken... 1987 membership at 350, which includes some outside Ankeny... 5<sup>th</sup> Celebration in Brass event...Continued support of student projects and efforts...Legislative Coffees providing panel for state, county and municipal electees and access to them by public; monitoring of local tax issues; positions taken on votes involving those issues...Last phase of First Street widening...established the Agri-Business and 3-M committees. Reaccreditation of the Chamber operation just completed...The Chamber and Industrial Development Corporation announce their joint purchase of a computer system...increased involvement of commercial and industrial development...Past President of the Chamber to host the November After Hours at 803 S.W. Third celebrating the Chamber's 35 years of Achievement.

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s\*



November 2020

#### **Outstanding Citizen Award – Presented by the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce (1965 – 1986)**

The person receiving the Outstanding Citizen Award must have made a significant contribution to the improvement of the entire community. Criteria rating being based on the contribution the person makes to the community outside their chosen trade or profession. The recipient may have a wide range of interests and be actively involved in community service.

- 1965 Frank Lint
- 1966 -- James Maggert
- 1967 Keith Hopkins
- 1968 Wayne Begg, Ted Johnson, Barbara Johnson, Marvin Nichols, Barbara Leigh, Gerald Ballard, Jerry Card, Harold Bush, Norris Adams, Barbara Puff, Russ Mowry, George Friedmeyer
- 1969 Betty Rorebeck, Gordon Rorebeck, Jerry Fulton, Don Hick, Bob Wagner, Robert Priest (Others honored Marvin Frisk, Mary Peters)
- 1970 Carmen Zimmer, Milton Aunan, Marion Kochheiser, Don Haines, Ed Thayer, Ankeny Volunteer Fire Dept.
- 1971 -- Paul Lowry, Noel Liechty (posthumously)
- 1972 Vernon W. smith
- $1973-Eldon \ Leonard$
- 1974 Richard Logli
- $1975-Bob\ Madison$
- 1976 Ollie J. Weigel
- 1977 Richard Hermann
- 1978 Asa J Hutton
- 1979 Joseph Flatt (posthumously), Reno Bertogli (posthumously)
- 1980 Milford Johnson
- 1981 Everette A. Smith
- 1982 Richard G. Rasmussen
- 1983 John Lundstrom
- 1984 Everett Albaugh
- 1985 Willard Nagle
- 1986 Jeff Segin

Virginia Linthicum archives, Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 3, 1987

Thanks to all of you – our Ankeny Area Historical Society members who have supported the museum and its activities over the years. The museum has been closed during the pandemic, but we continue to create Ankeny Through the Decades each month, publish the quarterly newsletter, post on Facebook, and keep the website up to date, so we can stay in contact with you. We hope, after all this passes, you will come visit the museum again! We plan to have new displays – including the Ankeny Championships display – ready for you! Until then, stay safe ... and keep in touch!

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# Kirkendall Library through the years

**Kirkendall Library** at 211 SW Walnut Street in **1961**. Then, it moved to Wagner Park at 410 SW First Street in **1975**.

In **1996**, it moved again to 1210 NW Prairie Ridge Drive.

**Today (2020)**, it has moved to the Prairie Trail development, 1250 SW District Drive.

1961 & 1975 photos from Images of America, Ankeny, by Terri A. Deems with the Ankeny Area Historical Society, 2013.

1996 & 2020 building photos by Lois O'Donnell of the Ankeny Area Historical Society.