

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940's, 1960's, 1990's*

April 2017



1940's

Fire Destroys Half Ankeny Business Area: A raging fire destroyed half of the Ankeny business section causing an estimated \$50,000 loss. Five stores covering a half block area burned to the

ground during the blaze which consisted of the following places: Lamberti meat market and grocery store, Thompson harness shop, the office of Dr. Henderson, veterinarian, Wright Pharmacy, Sexton cafe, and Margaret's Beauty Shoppe, where the fire originated. The fire department was called but it had gained such a start before being discovered and there was a strong wind blowing, which made it difficult to check. This was the third major blaze in Ankeny in the past ten years. *Ankeny Times, May 17, 1940*



“Across the World” to Play at Ankeny:

A truly magnificent picture will be shown at the Moeckly Hardware here Saturday night when Epic film brings the all talking picture, “Across the World with Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson” to the screen here. The movie features three Boy Scouts of America in Africa and gives actual photographs of ten million wild animals on the move in search of food and water. Also playing on this double feature program is Bob Steel in “No Man’s Range,” an exciting western. Admission: Adults 15 cents, children 10 cents. *Ankeny Times, May 17, 1940*

Graduating exercises were held in the High School auditorium, with a class of thirty-two receiving diplomas. The address was given by President Gross of Simpson College. Mrs. Karl Greenlee, high school principal, announced the scholarship and legion awards, which were presented to Eleanor Gibson and Bette Wilson. Dr. J.W. Foster, president of the school board, presented the diplomas. *Ankeny Times, May 17, 1940*

Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please join the AAHS or send comments via email at: history@ankenyhistorical.org.



Ankeny Area Historical Society

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Grocery Specials at P.A. Logli

Store: Cane Sugar 10lbs. 51 cents; Yellow Cream Style Corn 3 cans 25 cents; Lettuce 2 heads 13 cents; Oysters (Fancy Extra Standards) per pt. 25 cents, per qt. 49 cents; Fancy Baby Beef Roast per lb. 18 cents.

1940's

Grocery Specials at Fontana

Bakery & Grocery: Flour, 49 lb. bag \$1.75, 5 lb. bag 23 cents, 8 oz. package Wheaties Wheat Flakes 10 cents, Three bars Life Buoy Soap 19 cents *Ankeny Times*, May 17, 1940

1960's

Fund Raising Coffee Day Set

April 15: The fourth annual COFFEE DAY FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN will be held throughout Iowa on Friday, April 15, it was announced today by Thomas Teas, president of the Iowa Society for Crippled Children and Adults, and Harold Enquist of the Breese House, Ankeny, who is serving as state-wide COFFEE DAY chairman. In some areas, the regular system will prevail whereby patrons "pay" for their coffee by putting their contributions in special containers provided in the restaurants and cafes. Funds raised on COFFEE DAY go toward the special residential summer camp for Iowa's crippled children now under construction near Ankeny in central Iowa. *Ankeny Times*, April 7, 1960

Ankeny F.F.A. Chapter News:

The nominating committee for the election of F.F.A. Officers met at a special meeting in the Chapter room at Ankeny School, Friday evening, April 1. Their purpose was to consider candidates seeking office for the coming year. Monday evening the chapter held its regular meeting, when election of officers and assistance took place with the following results:

President – Allan Johnson, Vice President – Marvin Moeckly, Secretary – Randy Coons, Treasurer – Norman Haines, Reporter – Tom Tyler, Sentinel – Mike Justice, Parliamentarian – Bill Harrison, Historian – Dave McBride. *Ankeny Times*, April 7, 1960

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1960's

Over 400 Attend P.T.A.

Meeting:

A crowd of over 400 attended the

Jr. Sr. High PTA meeting which was held at Parkview Auditorium on Monday evening, April 18. This meeting was the annual Style Show and Industrial Arts Exhibit and for the first time, a Science Fair was included. The Industrial Arts exhibit, which was set up in the rear of the auditorium, included many articles such as coffee tables, gun racks, lawn chairs, fruit bowls, book cases and cabinets which the boys had made under the direction of Mr. Scott, their instructor. The cafeteria was filled with scientific exhibits of all descriptions, ranging from "coal flowers" from the lower grades to cages of white mice demonstrating vitamin deficiencies, photomicrotography and more advance scientific experiments conducted by upper grade students. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Crosser were the teachers in charge of this exhibit, and it is evident that the younger generation is taking an avid interest in the scientific aspects of the world about us. The business meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kenneth Scholes, President. Following the reading of the minutes and Treasurer's report, Mrs. Wm. Marvin, Chairman of the nominating presented the slate of officers for the coming year. They are as follows: President, Mrs. Reco Logli, Vice President, Mrs. Ed LaBond; Secretary, Mrs. Carl Snitkey; and Treasurer, Mrs. G.V. Carlson. *Ankeny Times, April 21, 1960*



Easter ad for McCleary's Shoes, Ankeny
Times, April 7, 1960

\$500 Scholarship, Akron Trip: A \$500 college scholarship and an expenses-paid trip to Akron, Ohio, will be the prizes waiting at the end of the track for a winner Des Moines' 1960 Soap Box Derby, July 17. This year's derby is sponsored by the Greater Des Moines Junior Chamber of Commerce cooperating with local Chevrolet Dealers. Ahlberg Chevrolet of Ankeny is one of the dealers in this area who is cooperating in the Soap Box Derby race. Ankeny boys who are interest in Derby participation should contact Louis B. Fontana, 3925-4th Street in Des Moines, telephone CH3-1530. *Ankeny Times, April 21, 1960*

Dr. Speers Urges Polio Shots

Now. Dr. Donald Speers, Des Moines Polk County Health Director, spoke about the polio epidemic in Des Moines in 1959 and stated his recommendations for this spring as to polio inoculations. Those children under one year of age should have four shots. Those already inoculated should receive a booster until it has been proven unnecessary for everyone up to age 60. *Ankeny Times – April 28, 1960*

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Town & Country Service and Grill was south of Ankeny on highway 69, across from DMACC (Area Auto Center and U-Haul today). *Ankeny Times*, April 21, 1960

1990's

Northwest Elementary School K-6th Graders read 10,000 books during this school year. Their special bonus was a participatory theater production by the Old Creamery Theatre Company of "Czech Tales", a production of specially adapted folk tales and stories. *Ankeny Today*, May 9, 1991

Senior Class Play "Incognito" Set for

April 28: Why all the secrecy and excitement? Of course, it's time for the Senior Class Play which is coming on Thursday, April 28, 1960, in the Parkview Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Prices are \$.30 for students and \$.60 for adults. The seniors are toting guns, collecting cruise clothes, uniforms and seamen's outfits, working on German accents, and getting the decks scrubbed for the cruise. Persons who will appear aboard the pleasure liner are: Maurice Bryant, Jim Rigby, Pat Jensen, Fran Rowland, Judy Braddock, Donna Thimmesch, Bill Thompson, Carolyn Taylor, Carol Mynatt, Sue Moore, Jeff Lammert, Carol Johnson, Jean McRae, Roger Scholes, John Moore, Ted West, and Bob Wilhelm. *Ankeny Times*, April 21, 1960

Lein Construction, Inc of

Ankeny broke ground for the seventh building at its Maplewood Village Condominium complex in the 400 block of SE Delaware Road. When the project was begun in the fall of 1984, the land was a bean field, fronted by a gravel road. Since then, project development has included five 29-unit buildings with 144 of 145 units sold. *Ankeny Today* – May 9, 1991

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1990's

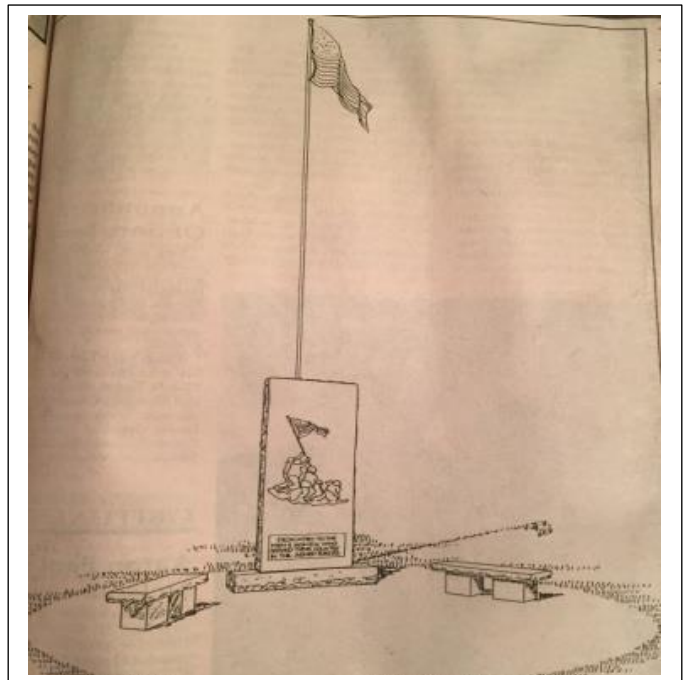
Ankeny Food 4 Less donated 8 trees to Terrace Elementary School, 310 NW School Street and the students helped plant them as part of the Earth Day celebration on April 23rd. Denny Hathaway, manager of the store at 505 N. Ankeny Blvd. said the corporate donation to the school was valued at \$400. Pictured with one of the donated trees are Terrace Elementary School Principal Dennis Warren and students, Jason Cairns, Scott Canfield, Brooke Silliman, and Melanie Williams. *Ankeny Today*, May 2, 1991



A \$20,000 Community Fund

Drive is Underway: Probably every person in Ankeny will be touched by this project. We know there are in excess of 3,000 veterans and then you count in their family members," said Bill Brandenburg, commander of Albaugh-McGovern Post 42 of the American Legion.

In addressing the purpose of this project, the fund-raising letter stated, "During the recent Gulf Crisis, we flew flags and did more than was required to show our support of the troops serving over there. Ankeny, however, has never had a visible symbol of the debt of gratitude owed to our Armed Forces." (In Wagner Park today) *Ankeny Today*, May 16, 1991



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Ankeny Wal-Mart, located at 730 East First Street, manager, Chris Hanson confirmed that the store will be enlarged from its present 50,926 sq. ft. to 91,224 sp. Ft. The expansion to the north and west, will ultimately add size to all its present departments. The only new department will be one for love pets: fish, birds, hamsters, and gerbils. The expansion of the Ankeny store will allow us to increase our overall selection of merchandise and to offer more brand name products. The remarkable patronage of the people of the Ankeny area has made the expansion possible. (Today, their newer store is located on Delaware & Oralabor) *Ankeny Today*, May 16, 1991

Ankeny Memorial

Gardens first burial took place in 1968. Since then the small well-kept cemetery located at 11248 NE 14th St. (Hwy 69) has become known and appreciated as an intimate memorial garden in which it is easy to get around. The family-owned cemetery has been operated for nearly five years now by Ernest and Elaine Poole of Bondurant. *Ankeny Today*, May 24, 1991

10TH Anniversary CELEBRATION
AT CASEY'S — 1ST STREET AND I-35 EXIT AND SOUTH ANKENY BLVD. ONLY
CELEBRATION SPECIALS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY

- Free Balloons
- BUDWEISER BEER: 6 Pack 16 Oz. ONE ONLY \$3.39
- OLD MILWAUKEE BEER: 12 PACK 12 OZ. CANS (ONE ONLY) \$4.39
- Hot Dog Chips and Fountain Pop: 10-2 Saturday May 11 Only 99¢
- Pepsi Mt. Dew: 6 Pack Cans \$1.59
- Free Ice Cream
- Baby Ruth Butterfinger or Twixle Crunch CANDY BARS: 3 For 99¢
- Fountain Pop: 20 Oz. 39¢
- Milkyway Ice Cream Bar: Each 49¢
- Donuts: 3 For 49¢
- 10 Lb. Bag Casey's Charcoal: Each \$1.99
- Gatorade: 32 Oz. 99¢

Register For Drawings
(Winners At Each Store)

- 1 Hour Limo Service
- Compliments of Larry's LimoService
- Coffee Mugs
- Pepsi Mugs
- T-Shirts
- Hats
- Coolers

Larry's Limousine Service • 964-2144

CASEY'S GENERAL STORE

- 1ST Street and I-35 Exit
- South Ankeny Blvd.

1990's

Comments? Send them to us at history@ankenyhistorical.org.