

Ankeny through the decades...

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

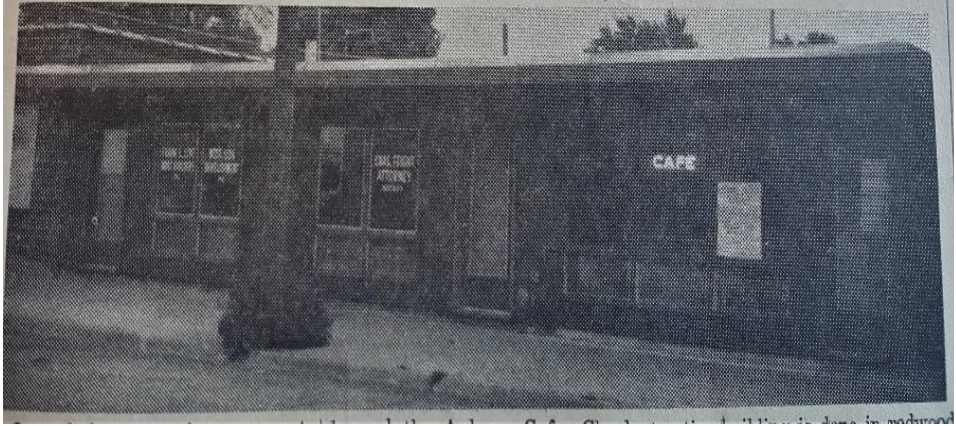
September 2019



1950s

One of the recent improvements in Ankeny is the completion of the new Frank Lint building on Third Street. The new portion is occupied by the Ankeny Coffee Shop and the two other offices occupy the space which previously housed the Ankeny Café. Charles Freight, attorney, will open his office October 1. Frank Lint, Home Builders has offices in the remaining part of the building and has already moved in and is open for business. The exterior of the entire building is done in redwood. The interiors are of Philippine mahogany with all glass fronts. The floors are tiled and acoustic ceilings were installed. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 24, 1959*

New Building Gives Third Street New Look



Ankeny Coffee Shop Now Open For Business

The Ankeny Coffee Shop opened Wednesday for business. It is located at 519 3rd Street in the new building just east of the Legion Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fulton of Ankeny will operate the coffee shop. Hours will be from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will be closed on Sunday. The coffee shop will be open on the nights when there are home football games.

Sandwiches and short orders will be served. There will be a complete soda fountain service. Plans for the grand opening, which will be next Saturday, are underway. There will be free coffee and donuts for the adults and free ice cream for the kiddies. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 31, 1959*

**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

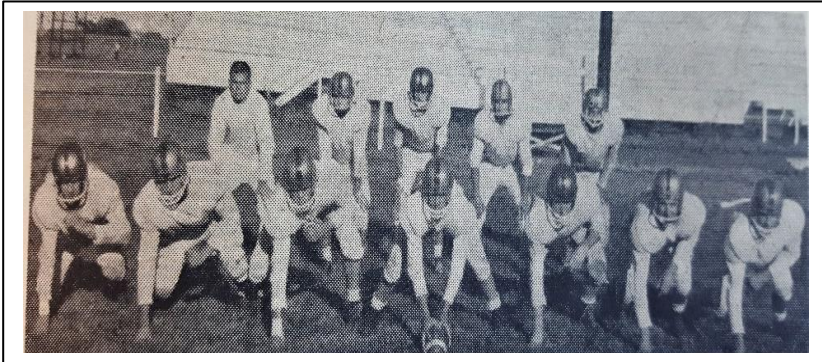
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1950s



The Ankeny Hawks of 1959 will open their grid season tomorrow night when they meet Suburban Conference foe, Saydel, at the Saydel field at 7:30. The Hawks shown above are expected to see plenty of action in the opener. Line, left to right, are: Bill Howe, Clark Uehling, Bob Wilhelm, Jim Rigby, Maurice Moekly, Roger Scholes, and John Moore. In the backfield are: Ted West, Gary Baugher, Rex Lamberti, Dave Jones, and Bill McIntosh. The Hawks finished last season with a 6-1-2 record with their only defeat coming at the hands of Saydel.

The Eagles are strong again this year despite losing their opener to Des Moines Tech last week-end. The Hawks will have an experienced team withal the above men being lettermen with the exception of Scholes and Rigby. Lynn Paddleford is also a returning letterman, but he is hurt at present. The Hawks are coached by Bob VanderLinden and assistants Dick Lantz and Gary Williams. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 17, 1959*

| SCHEDULE | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| Sept. 18—Saydel, there | |
| Sept. 25—Altoona, here | |
| Oct. 2—Nevada, there | |
| Oct. 9—Bondurant (Homecoming) | here |
| Oct. 16—North Polk, there | |
| Oct. 23—Johnston, here | |
| Oct. 30—Urbandale, there | |
| Game Time: 7:30 | |

| ANKENY SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Monday, Sept. 9 | |
| Weiner on Bun | |
| Baked Beans | |
| Carrot Sticks | |
| Oatmeal Cookies | |
| Milk | |
| Tuesday, Sept. 10 | |
| Ham Loaf | |
| Creamed Potatoes | |
| Fresh Tomatoes | |
| Bread and Butter Sandwiches | |
| Sliced Apples | |
| Milk | |
| Wednesday, Sept. 11 | |
| Beef Stew | |
| Cottage Cheese | |
| Jelly and Plain Sandwiches | |
| Fruit Jello | |
| Milk | |
| Thursday, Sept. 12 | |
| Lima Beans with Ham | |
| Tossed Salad | |
| Raisin Bread and Plain Sandwiches | |
| Peanut Butter Cake | |
| Milk | |
| Friday, Sept. 13 | |
| Tuna Salad | |
| Creamed Peas | |
| Peanut Butter Sandwiches | |
| Chocolate Cake | |
| Milk | |

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Ankeny School Enrollment Tops All Previous Record

A total of 976 represents the total enrollment as of Tuesday the opening half day session of Ankeny Schools, according to Superintendent R.H. Jorgenson. This is an increase of 8 ½ percent over last year. The break down for various grades is as follows:

Kindergarten- 94

First Grade -83

Second Grade- 89

Third Grade- 91

Fourth Grade- 90

Fifth Grade- 96

Sixth Grade- 77

Making a total of 620 students in the Parkview School. 130 registered for Junior High School. 65 in seventh grade and 65 in eighth grade.

High School students number 233. The breakdown for ninth through twelfth is:

Ninth Grade- 65

Tenth Grade- 64

Eleventh Grade- 49

Twelfth Grade- 45

Ankeny Times, September 5, 1957

1950s

CLASSIFIED ADS

OWEN CRIST
Auto Body Service
BEAR—FRAME—WHEEL
and STEERING ALIGNMENT
Keo at 14th Pl. CH 4-5258

COOK WANTED:—Full or part
time, M & M Cafe, Ankeny.
Phone WO 4-9260.

WANTED:—Ride to and from
work in Des Moines. Hours
8-5. Live near Junction 60 &
160. Letty Packard, Phone
AM 2-3907.

Dr. Ollie J. Weigel
DENTIST
Ankeny, Iowa
Phone WO 4-4353
Office Hours 9 to 12 and 1 to 5

Dr. R. E. Love
OPTOMETRIST
Ankeny, Iowa
Call WO 4-4655 for Appointment

RECTAL - COLON
Skin and Blood Diseases
C. G. Ellsworth, M. D.
OFFICE IN ANKENY
On Hwy. 69, north of Des Moines
Days: Tues. through Sat., 11 a. m. to
5 p. m. Evenings: Mon. through Fri.
6 p. m. to 8:30 p. m. Ph. WO 4-4757.
Formerly 25 years in Des Moines

HOMES FOR SALE
Acreage near Ankeny, 3 bed-
room, brick, 1 acre, \$16,500.

New 2 bedroom, breezeway,
attached garage, near new,
near Johnston, \$13,900.

In Ankeny — Brick Duplex,
new, two bed room, each side
\$22,000.

Acreage near Ankeny, three
bed room, 1½ acres, \$15,500.
EARL GREEN REALTY,
PH. WO 4-4383,
Evelyn Vickery, Eve. WO 4-4927
LeRoy Bachman, Eve. AM 2-0043
FEDERAL LAND BANK
FARM LOANS
See the man with the Federal
Land Bank Plan, Long Terms,
Low rates.
G. S. Hauge
200-4th Street Des Moines

HOME REPAIRS
Cleaning and Repairing
All makes of Furnaces
and Boilers
Early Rates
WEATHER-KING CORP.
315 E. 5th. AT 8-8547

REMODELING OF ALL KINDS:
Home building on your lot or
mine. Painting. Le Roy Bach-
man, AM 2-0043, Ankeny, Ia.

MODERN CABIN FOR LIGHT
housekeeping. Tom & Marge,
north of Ankeny. Jet. 69 &
87.

Tests for limestone require-
ments are made free of charge at
the Polk County Extension Office.

Watch the Ankeny Area Historical Society website for upcoming events! www.ankenyhistorical.org. On October 10, 2019, join us for "Spooktacular at the Museum." It will be an old-fashioned, fun-filled evening!

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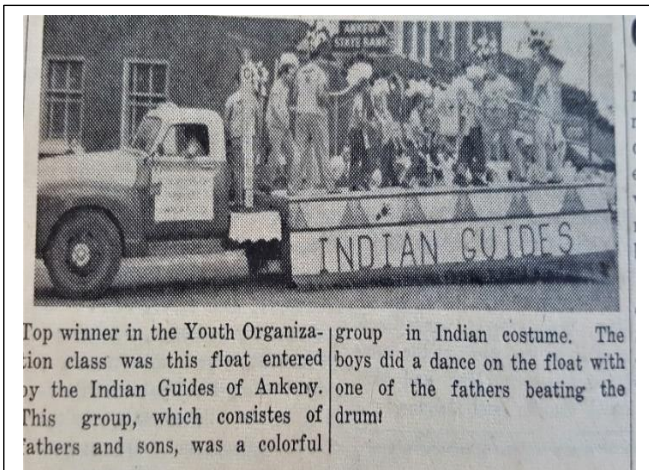
Labor Day Celebration Here is Huge Success

A gay, colorful parade-The Ankeny Park crowded with fun loving people-and the serving of about 1,100 barbequed chicken dinners marked Labor Day, 1958 in Ankeny. Following a dark and dreary morning, Mother Nature cooperated fully as hundreds of people lined the streets of Ankeny as the parade got underway at 1:30. It was the longest and most colorful ever witnessed here as over 200 entries paraded before the throng. It measured over one mile in length. The people who witnessed the gala affair were very receptive to entries, and applause could be heard along the parade route. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 4, 1958*

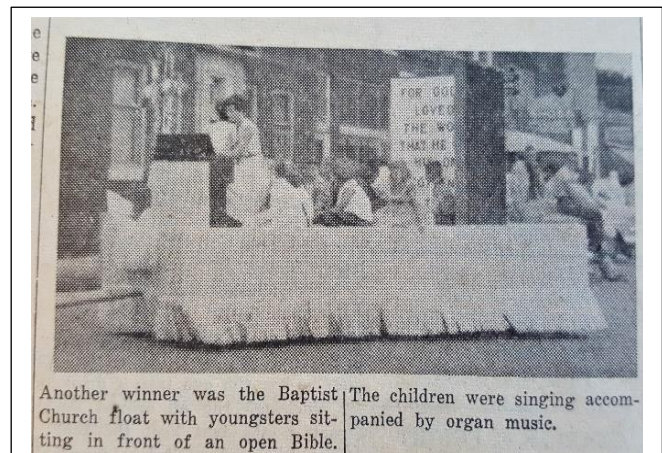
1950s



This picture shows only a small portion of the crowd attending the celebration at the park. The high school band is in the background.



Top winner in the Youth Organization class was this float entered by the Indian Guides of Ankeny. This group, which consists of fathers and sons, was a colorful group in Indian costume. The boys did a dance on the float with one of the fathers beating the drum!



Another winner was the Baptist Church float with youngsters sitting in front of an open Bible. The children were singing accompanied by organ music.

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Ankeny Due to Share Half-Million Dollars

The town of Ankeny eventually will get a share of an estimated half-million dollar estate left by two brothers who farmed for many years 3 miles northeast of Ankeny. Attorney Francis V. Hall of Ankeny, executor of the estate of Clarence H. and Lee Kirkendall, estimated the value of the brothers' property at "between \$400,000 and \$500,00 less taxes." Clarence died at 78 on December 20, 1956. He left no will. His sole heir was his brother, Lee, who died at 84 on July 21, 1957 at Mercy Hospital filed for probate Monday in Polk County district court here. According to Hall, Lee Kirkendall left a 160-acre farm to Marion Spooner, 52, tenant on the farm, for the life-time of Spooner. Spooner's son Robert, 26, was deeded another 160 acre farm "for his lifetime." On the death of the elder Spooner, that 160 acre farm becomes the property of the First Congregational Church, Ankeny, according to the will. Upon the death of the younger Spooner, that 160 acre farm becomes the property of Ankeny "for the construction of a public library."

Farms to Tenants: Lee Kirkendall's will was filed for probate Monday in Polk County district court here. According to Hall, Lee Kirkendall left a 160-acre farm to Marion Spooner, 52, tenant on the farm, for the life-time of Spooner. Spooner's son Robert, 26, was deeded another 160 acre farm "for his lifetime." On the death of the elder Spooner, that 160-acre farm becomes the property of the First Congregational Church, Ankeny, according to the will. Upon the death of the younger Spooner, that 160-acre farm becomes the property of Ankeny "for the construction of a public library."

A total of \$100,000 of the brothers' estate is to be divided among six distant cousins, at least two of the are Iowans. The remainder of the estate goes to the town of Ankeny for a library. Hall estimated that at least "\$25,000, should be available" as soon as the estate is settled. The two brothers were lifetime residents of the Ankeny area. Clarence had been married but his wife died 25 years ago. There were no children. Lee had never married. After the death of Clarence's wife and the death of their mother, the two brothers lived together on a farm until 1948 when they retired and moved to Ankeny. *Ankeny Times, September 5, 1957*

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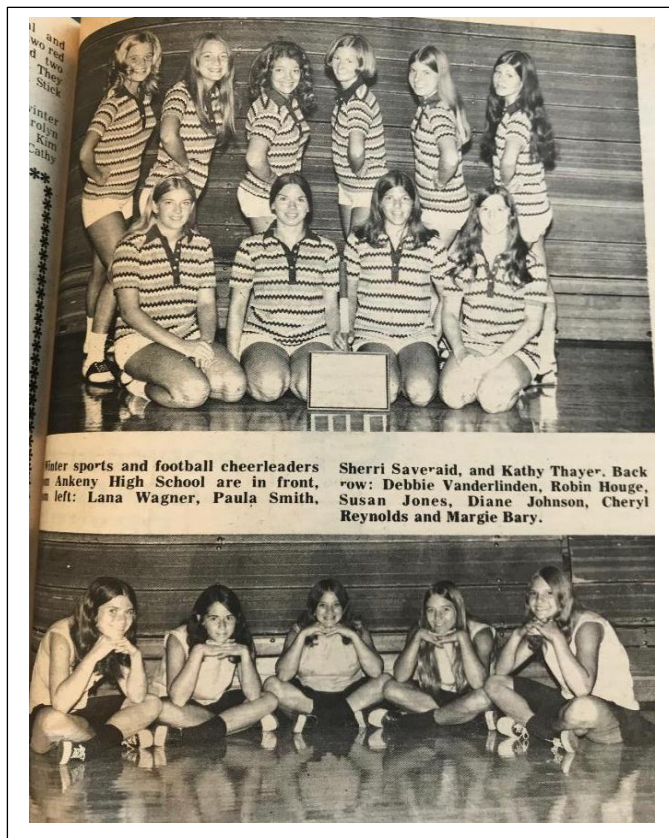
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1970s

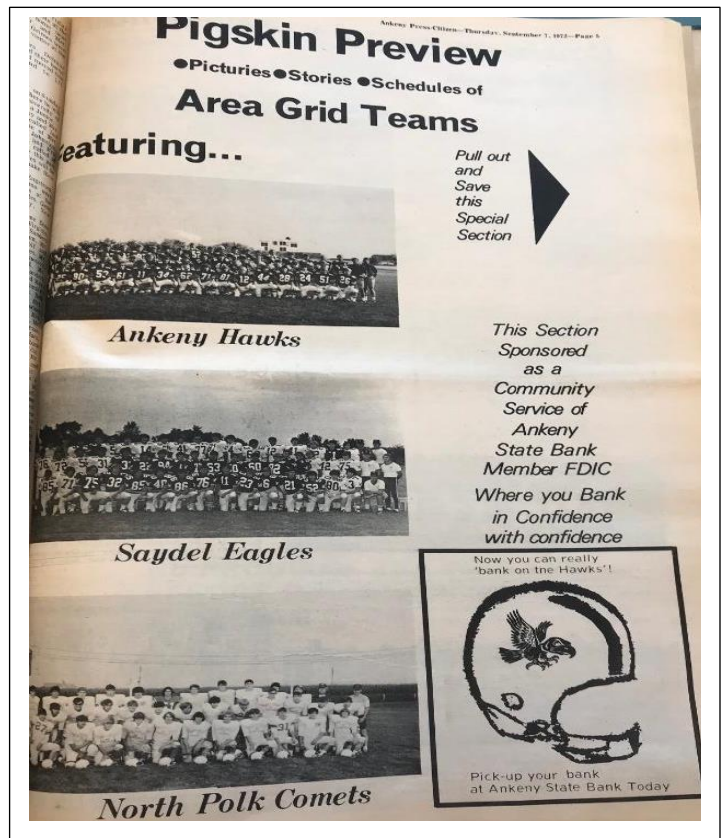
Cablevision plans begin. Des Moines, Iowa – Hawkeye Cablevision, Inc., Des Moines, announced today that it is beginning the engineering, mapping, and lay-out of its cable television system to be constructed in Ankeny, Iowa. The work, being done by engineers of Cox Cable Communications, Inc, Atlanta, Georgia, part owner of Hawkeye Cablevision, is expected to take approximately two months. The mapping is needed to locate the exact location of the Company's cable. The maps will be filed with the City and with the utilities, whose poles are used, when they are completed. Construction of the Ankeny system will begin as soon as approval of the Company's operations and the City's ordinance is received from the Federal Communications Commission.

Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 21, 1972



Winter and football Cheerleaders,

Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 31, 1972



Football teams *Ankeny Press-Citizen,*

September 7, 1972

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1970s

Football Bleachers

*Ankeny Press-Citizen,
September 21, 1972)*

Ankeny Lanes (Slim and Trim Bowling Program)

*Ankeny Press-Citizen,
September 14, 1972*



Shown above is just one of the three sections of bleachers filled-to-over-flowing for last week's home opener. The estimated three thousand fans went home disappointed as the Hawks fell short 21-6. Photo by Flaire

Ankeny Lanes

Proudly Presents
Miss Roberta Harper and
her Slim and Trim Conditioning Bowling Program

Everything FREE Tues. Sept. 19 - Coffee, Supervised exercise and bowling. Make up a 4-women's team or come alone and get back in shape.

—Also—

Something new for Ankeny's Senior Citizens. Their own bowling league.


4-man teams - men and women leagues played simultaneously - 2 games only.

Get Acquainted Day—All Day
Thursday, September 21, 10:30 A.M.

Men & Women Bowlers still needed
in some Leagues - Jr. Leagues
start September 16.

964-0825

Steve Bean owner mgr.
Tony Richardson - Pro mgr.



Lions to conduct light bulb sale. The Ankeny Lions Club will conduct an all-out drive from September 18 to September 22 to sell electric light bulbs to residents, according to an announcement made today by Lions President, Wayne Begg. The money will go to community projects. The light bulbs will be sold in "Thank You Packs," each containing two 40-watt, two 75-watt, two 100-watt soft white bulbs at the regular price of \$2.00. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 14, 1972*

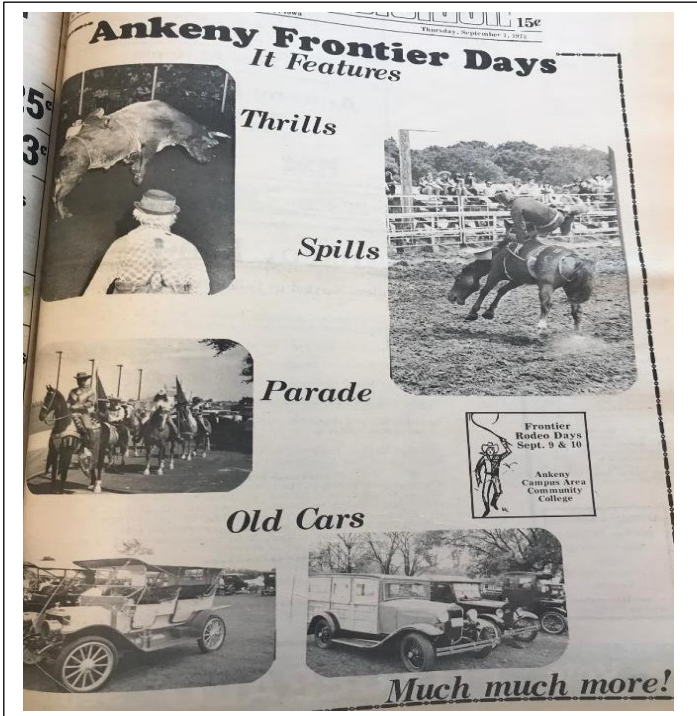
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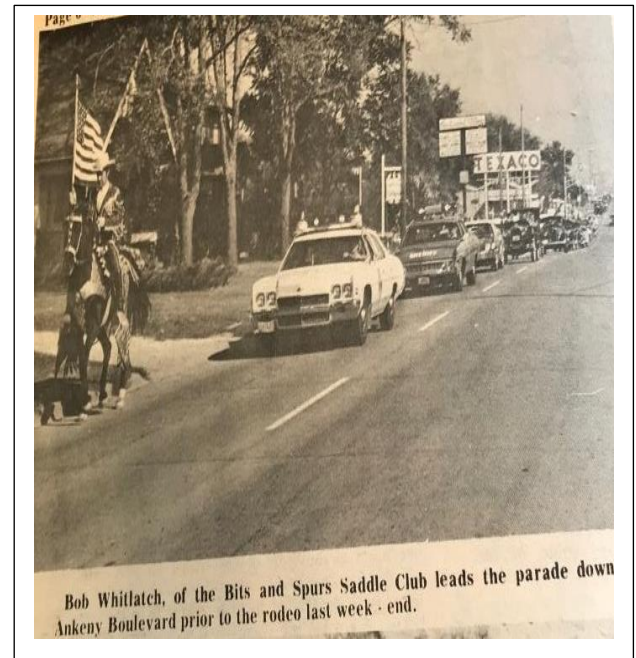
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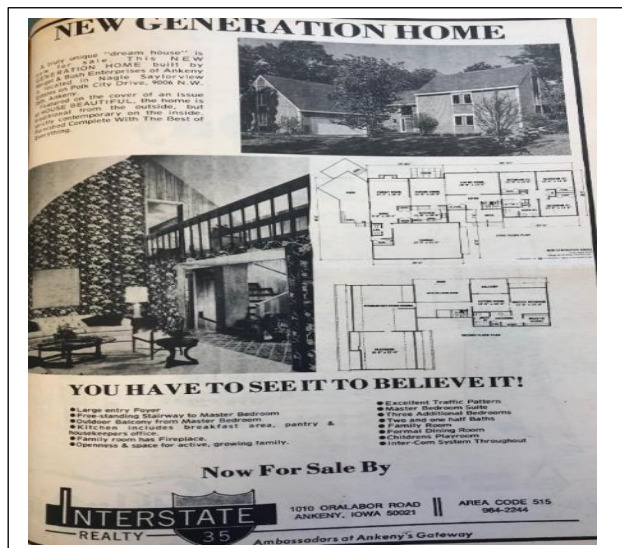
1970s



Ankeny Frontier Days ad and Parade *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 14, 1972*



Bob Whitlatch, of the Bits and Spurs Saddle Club leads the parade down Ankeny Boulevard prior to the rodeo last week - end.



Interstate 35 Realty Ankeny *Press-Citizen, September 19, 1974*

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Citizens Propose Crosswalk for Dangerous Highway Crossing. A petition totaling 389 concerned signatures was presented to the Ankeny City Council Monday night suggesting the construction of an overhead crosswalk for US Highway 69 at the NE 5th Street intersection. The petition submitted stated that the overhead skywalk was needed to eliminate the danger of the residents on the busy crossing. Mrs. Orle Rolison of 210 NE 5th told the Council that her daughter was recently nipped by a moving vehicle on the intersection while going to school. She stated that her 10-year-old was close to being a fatality as the girl missed being hit head-on by a car which skidded an approximate 75-100 feet. Parents said that five near-misses have been recorded in recent weeks. The situation affects children on the east-side of Ankeny who are in the boundaries of the Terrace Elementary School, which is on the west-side of the city. Approximately 200 school children live in this area. Keith Hopkins, Ankeny Superintendent of Schools, spoke of “human elements” involved in this type of set-up. He said, “All forms of safety devices have problems. I’m sure that ramp is not the total answer. You’ll still have some children disregard it no matter what the circumstances are.” He spoke up for the school crossing guards who are presently located at all Ankeny elementary schools. About the statistics which were presented (by Mrs. Nancy Horney, who gave pros and cons as well as cost figures), Hopkins said he didn’t “give a hoot” about them as they were dealing with the lives of children, not the numbers. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 26, 1974*

1990s

Unity Club gives Coppock honorary title – Unity Club met for their first fall meeting and guest day of the year at Maplewood Lodge. Hostesses were Charlene Adams, Kay Bower and Hazel Howard, A moment of silent prayer was observed in memory of two deceased members, Ann Smith and Myrl Juhl. Unity Club, the oldest women’s club in Ankeny, was organized in June 1922 with fifteen members. “Unity” meaning “to act in harmony of one accord” was selected for its name. Manilla Coppock, the club’s only living charter member, was given the title of Honorary President, when the meeting closed. *Ankeny Press Citizen –Sept. 12, 1995*

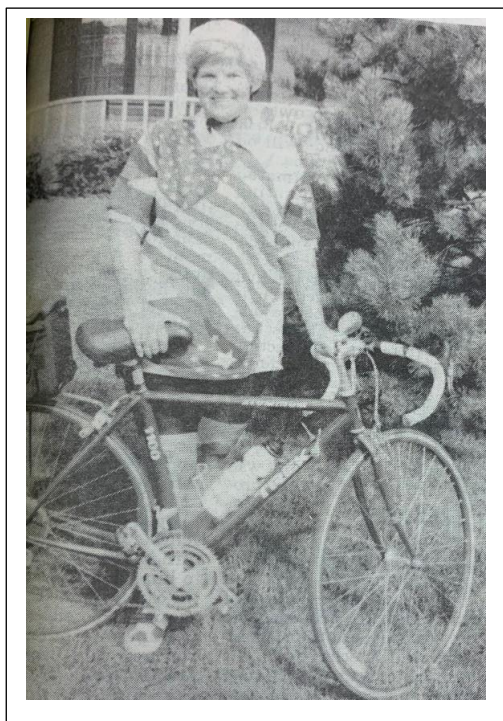
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A long, beloved bike ride comes to a close – After 100 days and 5,000 miles of bike riding, Jean Long of Ankeny finally decided to relax last week. But, by Saturday, her body was going through withdrawal-including leg cramps-and Long decided to get a quick fix. On Sunday, she hopped back in the saddle and rode from Ankeny to Elkhart and back. From May 28 to Sept. 4, Long rode her bike along with about 275 others of all ages from Long Beach, CA to Washington, D.C. She was part of the bike ride promoting Iowa's 50th birthday in '96. Long 61, slept in school gymnasiums, camped out and stayed with host families along the way. Long and her husband, Fred, went on the trip together. "I couldn't have done it without him," Jean said.

She traveled by bike and he by car. Fred's intention was to play as many games of golf as possible on the way and then hook up with Jean after she made it to the next destination. But that plan didn't work many times. He played golf 14 times in 100 days.

She has 15 rolls of color film, five hours of video-tape and a daily journal to help her remember the trip and the breathtaking scenery. But most of the memories are stored in her mind and her heart. "I thought I was in great condition until we hit the hills of the Pacific Coast highway," Long said. Long said she started riding a bicycle long distance about 11 years ago. She has successfully battled cancer and decided to set a goal to keep in good shape. She became a veteran of RAGBRAI and has ridden that statewide ride 10 times. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Sept. 12, 1995

Ankeny Alumni Hall of Honor members announced for 1995 – The Ankeny Hall of Honor for the Ankeny Alumni recognizes those who obtain life-long accomplishments in their community after graduation. The honorees this year are: Myrtle Sexauer, class of 1935; Richard Logli, class of 1944; and Marvin Nichols, class of 1953. The Hall of Honor committee encourages the classmates of the honorees to attend the homecoming game at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 22. There will be a designated area for classmates to sit. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Sept. 19, 1995

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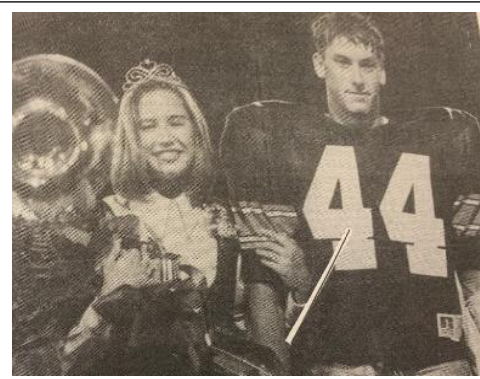
1990s



Wests celebrate 60th anniversary – Everett and Betty West of 813 SE Sharon Drive, Ankeny, are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married Sept. 20, 1935, in Ankeny Congregational Church. The Wests have two children, Sheryl of LaPorte City, and Ted of Barrington Hills, IL, and four grandchildren. As farmers and auctioneers by trade, the Wests attribute their long, successful marriage to communication and a good sense of humor. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –Sept.19, 1995

Large enrollment increase is a surprise – Unofficial count shows 236 more students in Ankeny This is a year that Ankeny can handle it. “It is a little higher than we expected it to be,” said Superintendent Ben Norman. Norman said new elementary sections were added at Westwood and Northeast. If this unexpected growth continues, it won’t be long before the district has to find a whole new plan.

One thing for sure, those 236+ students will get services for a year before the school district gets the state aid to pay for them. “We don’t get any money for these students until next year,” Norman said. Because of a quirky state law, growing school districts like Ankeny have to find their own funds for new students. Based on \$3,626 in per-pupil state aid, Ankeny will miss out on \$855,736 during the 1995-1996 school year. So, how does Ankeny make up for that funding gap? Norma said the School Board typically will use a one-year instructional support levy to make up about \$400,000. “The rest we just absorb into our budget.” *Ankeny Press Citizen* –Sept.19, 1995



AHS royalty – Jennifer Carlton was crowned the Homecoming queen during halftime festivities Friday night at the Ankeny-Urbandale football game. Carleton is pictured above with Homecoming king Tony Eichenseer, who rushed for 192 yards and two touchdowns in the Hawks’ 14-13 victory. Ankeny will host Fort Dodge Friday at the AHS Stadium beginning at 7:30 p.m. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Sept. 26, 1995

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Air Force cadets - Four Ankeny High School graduates are attending the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. This marks four years in a row now that Ankeny has sent a student to the Air Force Academy. Only about 1,200 students are accepted there out of the 15,000 applicants.

Family and friends of the four cadets joined them for Parent's Weekend over Labor Day weekend to watch Air Force soundly beat BYU in football. From Right to Left are Cadet 2nd Class Aaron Linderman, a junior and son of Rev. Bruce and Lois Linderman; Cadet 4th Class Chris Kopacek, a freshman and son of Vince and Lois Kopacek; Cadet 3^d Class Brad White, a sophomore and son of Trudy Gross and Dave White; and Cadet 1st Class Chris Ratigan, a senior and son Dr. Gary and Pam Ratigan. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Sept. 19, 1995



1990s

New apartment complex to serve senior citizens – A 53-unit complex for low-income senior citizens, which will be dedicated Saturday, is already nearly full. The facility, located just behind the Ankeny Wal-Mart, is a part of the government's Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program. It will serve people age 62 and over who live on fixed incomes. Guidelines have been set, so single people making less than \$15,000 a year and couples making less than \$17,000 per year can qualify for residency. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Sept. 26, 1995