

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s*

June 2018



1950s

From Our Files: 56 years Ago (First Editions of the Ankeny Times)

--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.

--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.

--Thad Nagle and Etta Wright were united in marriage Monday. Their friends all wish them a long and happy life. *Ankeny Times*, June 4, 1959



Top Fifteen Percent: Students representing the top 15 percent scholastically of the 1959 Ankeny High School graduates are from the left. Betty Kaup, Barbara Spooner, Martha Lewis; Second row from left. Marilyn Hefte, Linda Travis, Kay LaBond and Jerry Dutcher. George Plager is not pictured. *Ankeny Times*, June 4, 1959

Don't forget our Night at the Museum on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. This is an annual fun night with representatives from days long ago telling us about early life in Ankeny. Mr. & Mrs. Ankeny will greet you, and other characters will be there. Don't let the school "marm" catch you skipping!

*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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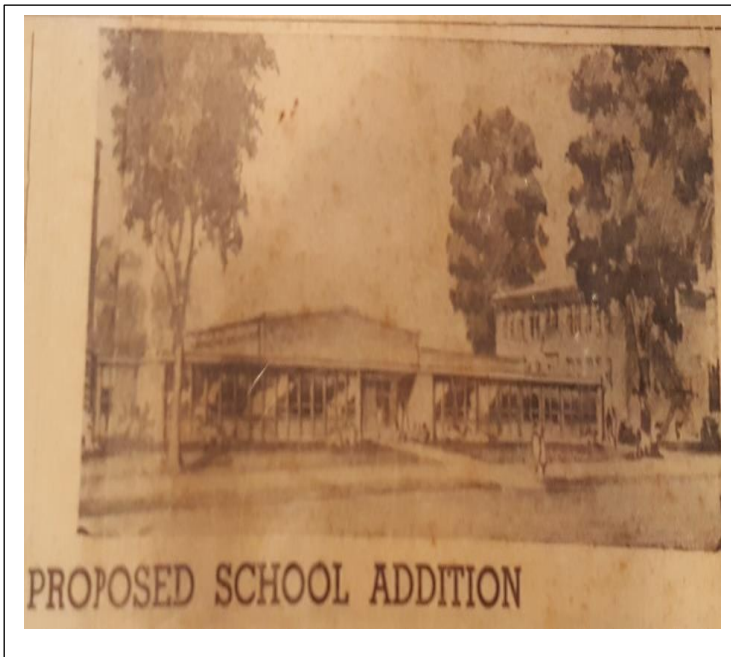
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Ankeny School Bond Election Is Set for June 18: Ankeny voters will go to the polls June 18 to vote on a \$275,000 bond issue to finance a one-story addition to Ankeny High School. The building would connect the present junior high school building with the high school. (This addition is now Ankeny School District Administration offices located at 306 SW School St. The High School building referenced no longer stands. The Ankeny Historical Museum now fills the site.) The new structure would house a vocal music room, a band room, two classrooms, office space and an assembly room. *Ankeny Times, June 11, 1959*

Voters Approve High School Bond Issue 245: Voters in Ankeny voted, 245-14, in favor of a \$275,000 bond issue to finance a one-story addition to Ankeny High School. Approval was well over the required 60 per cent majority. *Ankeny Times, June 125, 1959*



HUNT'S Catsup 6 for \$1.00 Thursday, Friday & Saturday Logli Super Valu WO 4-4711 Ankeny, Iowa.	Used Farm Equipment 1958 Davis End Loader John Deere 62 Chopper New Idea Mowers—New New Idea Side Rakes—New Several Good Combines TRIPLETT IMPLEMENT COMPANY Phone WO 4-4531	'57 FORD STATION WAGON Country sedan, V-8, Fordomatic, radio and heater. Good rubber. Real Clean. We Trade Terms RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET Phone WO 4-4255
Will Be CLOSED July 4 to July 20 Ankeny Cleaners WO 4-4501, Ankeny Milo Stout	a family treat DINE OUT! in our cool comfortable Dining Room Open from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Smitty's Cafe Hwy 69 Ankeny WO 4-9289 A Good Place To Eat	PAUL'S Plumbing Heating Sheet Metal Paul Allen, prop. Phone WO 4-4612
Gilberts Saw Service LAWN MOWERS Sharpened Repaired Lawn mowers Saws knives and scissors machine sharpened EARL W. GILBERT 109 Cherry Street WO 4-4508 Ankeny	One Ton DeLuxe Air Conditioners \$189.95 While they last CORY HARDWARE CO. PH WO 4-4266 ANKENY	Complete Floor Covering Service Ceramic, Plastic Dillon's in Ankeny Furniture and Floor Covering Ph. WO 4-4073 Ankeny

Remember to attend our annual **Ice Cream Social** on June 24, 2018! There will be a silent auction, music by the Ankeny Community Band, and special presentations to Karl Chevrolet, Casey's, and DMACC for their many years of community support. 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Historical Museum. Cost \$4.00 for pie, brownies, cake and ice cream and beverages. See you there!

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Vacation Bible School and Open House Held at Methodist Church: Ankeny Methodist Church School was a huge success with an average daily attendance of 146 pupils in the morning session and twenty-five Junior Highs in the afternoon. With a corps of twenty-five adult teachers and eight student helpers the theme "God, Through Work and Worship" was very thoroughly covered. On Thursday an open house was well attended by 225 parents and pupils. Punch, coffee, and cake was served in the Fellowship Hall under the direction of Mrs. Perry Brazelton, chairman. Pictured from left, Second Grade Class: Dennis Parmenter, Kelly Johnson, Bruce Ames, Lynn Dippold, and David Carr. *Ankeny Times, June 18, 1959*

New Traffic Laws effective in Iowa:

- Day Speed Limits; 70 on primary highways, 60 on secondary roads, 75 on the interstate.
- Night Speed Limits: 60 on primary highways, 50 on secondary roads, 65 on the interstate.
- Minimum speed limit on the Interstate- 40 m.p.h
- Radar Warning: With the new daytime speed limits, the Iowa State Patrol will use radar speed detectors during the daylight hours. Patrol aircraft will assist in speed enforcement. Obey the law and live. Iowa Department of Public Safety. *Ankeny Times, June 25, 1959*

Ankeny Food Market Robbed: About 10 a.m. Monday morning four strangers, a woman and three men, entered Ankeny By-Lo Food Market. After spending a few minutes in the store, they made a small purchase and departed. They also departed with a sack containing approximately \$50 and a metal box containing insurance papers. Two customers were in the store at the time the strangers entered- Mrs. Ray Pietz and Mrs. Wayne Chown, as well as the clerk, Mrs. Murl Blair, and the bookkeeper, Mrs. Norma Righi. Mrs. Righi, becoming suspicious of the strangers' actions, hurried to the Ankeny State Bank for deposit. Mrs. Rose Carzoli, co-owner of the store, was in the back room and knew nothing of the robbery until it was over. If it hadn't been for Mrs. Righi's alertness to the situation, the loss of money might have been much greater. *Ankeny Times, June 25, 1959*

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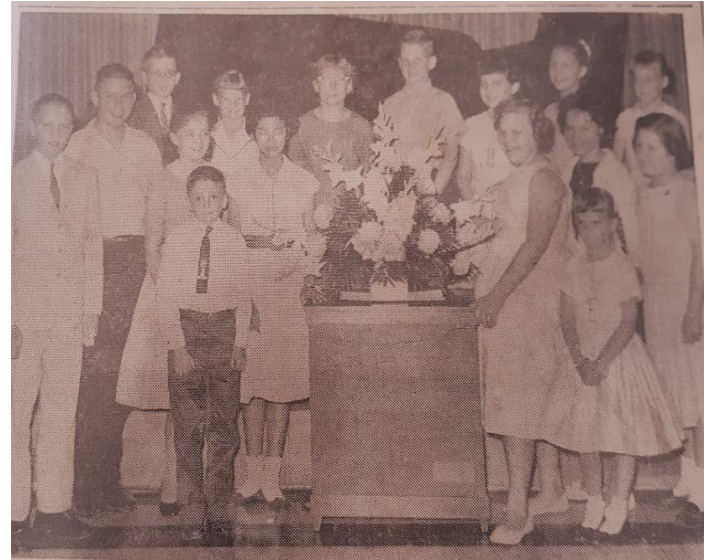
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Piano Recital: These students of the P M to M Club received superior and excellent certificates in the recent piano festival. Front row Dennis Paramenter, Elizabeth Nielsen. Second row, David Chown, Jane Adams, Mary Tina Chan, Donna Sexauer, Mary Jo Hutton, Linda Sargent. Back row, Murl Bechtol, Wayne Lewis, Paula Lewis, Rebecca Nielsen, Karen Marvin, and Gwynne Doughton. *Ankeny Times*, June 18, 1959



1970s

French Farmers Visit and Learn About Iowa Farming. A group of French grain farmers spent two days of their U.S. tour learning about Iowa agriculture. Last Thursday, they visited the farms of Everett and Norman Albaugh, northeast of Ankeny, and the Stoll Brothers beef farm near Bondurant. These tours were arranged by Harlan Rigby of Ankeny, a Polk County Farm Bureau Fieldsman, and Mohamed Kahn, an ISU Extension Service associate. *Ankeny Press Citizen*, June 10, 1976

McCleary to Bike Across Country. Bicycling across Iowa last summer wasn't enough for Norman McCleary. This summer he is taking on a trip across the United States. He left last week for a 4200-mile, 82-day trip which will take him from Yorktown, Virginia, through Berea, Kentucky on to Newton, Kansas, and Pueblo, Colorado and Missoula Montana to conclude at Reedsport, Oregon. This east-to-west trip is one of several sponsored by bike-centennial, Inc., a non-profit organization. Norman is an assistant for a group of ten riders who are taking the trip. They will average 50-60 miles per day over rural black-top or hard surfaces. Of the 4200 miles, only 18 will be on gravel roads. *Ankeny Press Citizen*, June 24, 1976



L.-R. Abe McCleary and his sons, Melvin and Norman, during a stop on last summer's RAGBRAI bicycle trip across Iowa

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Tornado Tears through

Ankeny. The tornado tore through Ankeny (on June 18, 1974) with winds up to 85 miles per hour, killing two residents and demolishing many homes, schools, and businesses. The damages in Ankeny were estimated to be between \$10 and \$20 million.

Images of America, Ankeny; Terri A. Deems with the Ankeny Area Historical Society, 2013

The photo, above, shows the destruction of stores at the Ankeny Plaza, where merchandise was strewn across the parking lot.

In the photo on the right, Gov. Robert Ray talks with mayor Dr. Ollie Weigel and city manager Jeff Segin.



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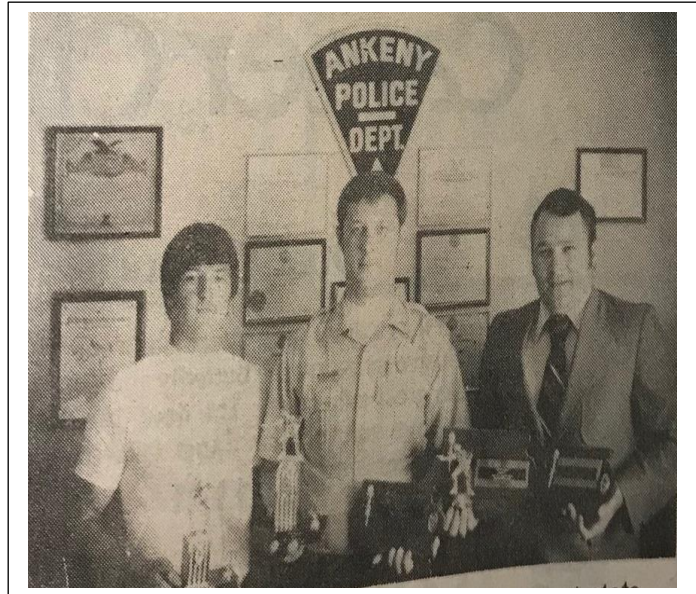
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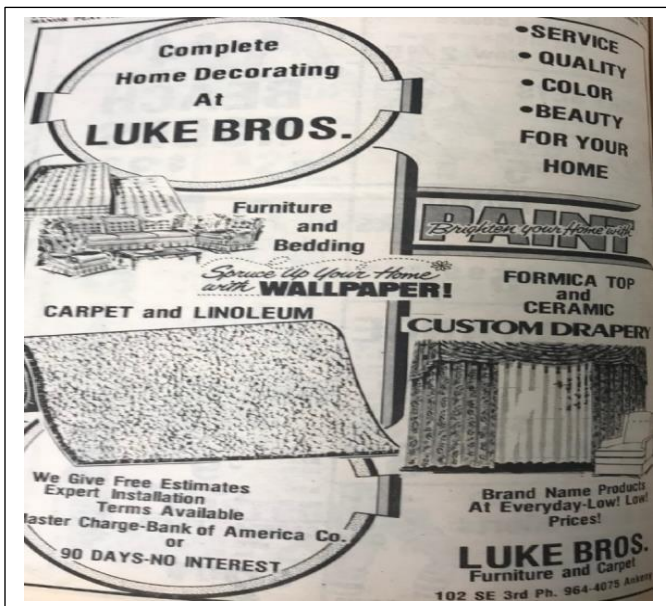
APD Wins Trophies in Revolver Matches.

Going up against 200 competitors, three members of the Ankeny Police Department brought home three trophies last weekend from the annual state competitive revolver tournament sponsored by the Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police and Peace Officers, Inc. The meet was held on June 6th at Cedar Rapids. Participants included State Highway Patrolmen and the Conservation Commission. Displaying their trophies won at the recent state revolver tournament are (l-r) Patrolman Loren Bowers, Lt. Andrew Kasper, and Chief Dennis Ballard. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 10, 1976*



Hawkettes 5-0 with Title at Adel. The Ankeny Hawkettes were victorious in the (softball) semifinal round and championship game in the Tigerette Invitational Tourney at Adel and beat Saydel at home Friday night. The Hawkettes beat Adel 3 to 1, and Norwalk 7-2 for the title. Their first appearance in front of the home crowd was equally as successful as they beat Saydel 16 to 1. The Hawkettes will be playing in the Urbandale Invitational with it first game Monday. Ankeny Coach Dick Rasmussen commented, "It seems like every time we play Adel we have trouble hitting again their pitcher Melody Cook. This time we got her. We had some key hits and we won." *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 10, 1976*

(The Hawkettes were ranked 4th in the state on 6/17/76 [and made a state tournament appearance]. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 17, 1976.* They were summer state champs in 1977, summer and fall state champs in 1978, and fall state champs in 1979, according to www.ankenyschools.org.)



Luke Bros. ad, *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 10, 1976*

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Ankeny Administrators Salaries Upped 10%. Salaries for Ankeny School District administrators will be raised an average of 10% for the coming school year. And the individual raises are running from 7.1% to 12.5%. Level I (Athletic Director, Jr. High Vice-Principal, Business Manager) from beginning \$19,000 to \$20,000 to \$21,000 to maximum of \$22,000. Level II (Elementary Principal, Sr. High Vice-Principal) from beginning \$20,500 to \$21,500 to \$22,500 to maximum of \$23,500. Level III (Jr. High Principal) from beginning \$22,000 to \$23,000 to \$24,000 to maximum \$25,000. Level IV (Sr. High Principal) From beginning \$23,500 to \$25,450 to \$25,500 to maximum \$26,500. Level V (Elementary and Secondary Directors) from beginning \$25,000 to \$26,000 to \$27,000 to maximum of \$28,000. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 17, 1976*



Open Body Shop. Jerry Bidler and Arnie Quick graduated from Ankeny High School, Class of '59. Both are married and each have three children and they like to fish. And now their lives have another similarity. Together they have opened the B&Q Body Shop, east of Hwy 69 on NE 66th across from Little Giant Crane and Shovel Company. Bidler had managed the body shop for the Chevrolet dealership in Ankeny for about seven years. Quick worked for Mussetters in Des Moines. They are doing paint and body work on all makes and models, from foreign cars to Winnebagos. Their unofficial motto right now is that they'll work on "anything we can get through the door." *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 17, 1976*

DAD'S our MAN JUNE 20th

Help Dad Make The Right Moves With Puritan And Rod Laver Tennis Wear!

Tennis Sweaters	\$20
S-M-L-XL	
Tennis Shirts	\$12-\$15
S-M-L-XL	
Tennis Shorts	\$12.50-\$15.00
S-M-L-XL	

DAVE'S APPAREL, Ltd.

Frontier Shopping Center
964-5932 Ankeny

Mon-Fri. 10-5
Sat. 9-6

Dave's Clothing ad, *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, June 10, 1976

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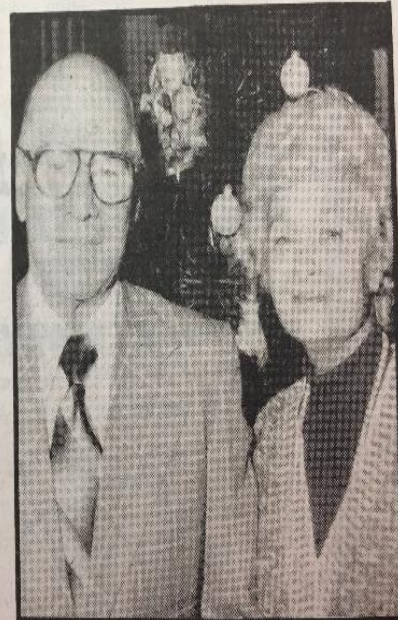
1980s

McCleary's Shoes Takes Final Steps

- At the close of the business day, last Saturday, Lucille and Abe McCleary closed McCleary's Shoes after twenty-six years in business in Ankeny. Though this city will still be their home, the McCleary's plan to leave soon for Alaska, the only one of the 50 states in which they have not traveled. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 5, 1984*

50th Anniversary For Smiths

The sons of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Smith will be hosts for an open house on Sunday, June 17, honoring the occasion of their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Friends and neighbors are cordially invited to attend between 2:00 and 5:00 in the afternoon at Ankeny Church of the Brethren, 417 SE Grant. The hosts ask those attending, that "your love and friendship are cherished gifts and our parents respectfully request no other.



City School Officials Discuss Common Problems, Plights – Members of the Ankeny School Board and the Ankeny City Council put their collective heads together to hash over topics of mutual interest, the general theme being attracting city interest and city dollars for various plans and programs.

The items discussed were use of school property between Parkview and Terrace Schools; attaching a swimming pool to an Ankeny School; Community Education cooperation with the city kicking in \$9,000 toward 1984-85 funding towards the program; and re-establishing the police liaison officer at the high school. During the two-hour meeting, there was a general acknowledgement that the city and schools must unite in the face of any new plans to come to fruition. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 5, 1984*

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Surprise Party For Retiring Teacher

Terrace Elementary 5th grade teacher Muriel Schreurs (above center) has retired after 16 years in the Ankeny School System, and was honored with a surprise party planned by the 5th grade class. Students presented Mrs. Schreurs with homemade cards and gifts, and a poster of Michael Jackson. Mrs. Schreurs is pictured above with 5th graders Chad Clarkson, Mike Adamson, Stephanie Eich, Jeff Bachman, Michele Mcannally and Ingrid Larsen, the party's decorating committee.



Kevin Spitzig, linebacker of the Iowa Hawkeyes, visited a fourth-grade class at Northwest Elementary School. Kevin, a 1980 Ankeny High School graduate, answered questions about the Hawk and the University of Iowa. Pictured above with Spitzig are: L to R: Chris Jotzke, Casey Weigel, Tim Ruhlrow, Melissa Kiger, Ashron Sinclair, Amy Tichenor, and Brian Schmidt. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 12, 1984*

Driving their last school bus route, Russ and Dorothy Wisecup, drove their last school bus route last Friday afternoon. Russ and Dorothy, who have been school bus drivers here for 26 and 22 years respectively, were honored at a retirement dinner at Elwell's on May 10th. Dorothy was the first lady school bus driver in Ankeny. When Dorothy and Russ were hired as bus drivers for the school district, Ankeny had a population of only 1,800 people and three schools. Now Ankeny's school population is over twice what the entire town was at that time and there are twice as many bus drivers.

Russ says that one bus driving incident which stands out in his mind is the night when a bus with 13 children on it got stranded west of Ankeny in the midst of a blizzard. They sent me and four other drivers out to rescue them and we all ended up spending the night at a house near Polk City. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June 5, 1984*

