

# Ankeny through the decades...

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

December 2017



## 1940's

**We Must Buy War Bonds:** The Sixth War Bond Drive is falling far below the quota for Ankeny which is \$48,000.00. Many families are not buying war bonds. This is the time to show your patriotism.... Let the war go on and we will enjoy the comforts of life in our nice warm homes, and the boys overseas can put up with whatever comes, as long as we are comfortable... Ankeny has always been over the top and we cannot afford at this time to fail... Buy more Bonds, and it can be done, so let us do our very best and go over the top, again. *Ankeny Times, December 1, 1944*

**Gifts For G.I. Joes and G.I. Janes This Christmas:** The American Legion and Auxiliary have been asked to solicit enough gifts, for Xmas boxes to be sent to service men and women in our hospitals. Here are soft suggestions: Pocket size books- Mystery, Comics, Westerns and Bibles. Stationery and games. Toiletries. Things to wear such as, Tee shirts, sox, sweaters, and smokes for the smokers. Wouldn't you like to help? Leave your gift at the Drug Store. Mrs. L.E. Brewbaker Pub. Chairman. *Ankeny Times, December 1, 1944*



*Merry Christmas from Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Ankeny Area Historical Society museum, circa 2012.*

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](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org).



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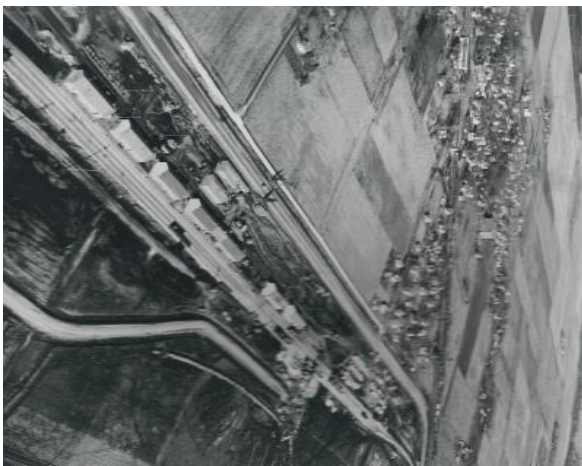
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## 1940's

### The Des Moines Ordnance Plant Was Taking Shape

The Des Moines Ordnance Plant and rifle testing area were built on 4442 acres of land just south of Ankeny. (Now known as the Prairie Trail Development) The plant was built between July 31, 1941 and June 15, 1941 with the first bullets produced in January, 1942



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## 1940's



*Photographs and information from Ankeny Area Historical Society archives*

## 1960's

**Council News.** In action Monday evening, the Ankeny city council heard a report from A.W. Kane, a representative of the Lyle Sign Co., Minneapolis, the firm hired to place fire signs on homes in the Ankeny community and also establish a card filing system in the fire house on number of persons in the home, etc. Kane reported that difficulties at the factory had held up the signs earlier this fall and that this delay was what made it impossible to complete the placing of the signs until next spring. It was also reported at Monday night's meeting that the new fire truck had been shipped last Saturday and is expected to arrive in Ankeny sometime the last of this week. *Ankeny Press Citizen, December 10, 1964*



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## 1960's

**United Presbyterian Church Officially Organized.** The Ankeny United Presbyterian Church officially became a congregation of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America at a special service on Sunday, November 22, at 3 p.m. Until this time it had been a National Mission Project of that denomination. Shown here are left, the Rev. B.J. Ukena receiving the official charter from Philip Beach, moderator of the Des Moines Presbytery. Looking on are Clyde Greer, Duane Aalbers, Jack Ellenberger, Genevieve Snetselaar, Joanne Cole, Tom Thorpe, Dick Garner, Marvin Hildreth, and James Richardson, all newly elected,



ordained, and installed Ruling Elders, Becoming the first session (ruling body) of the new church.  
*Ankeny Press Citizen, November 26, 1964*

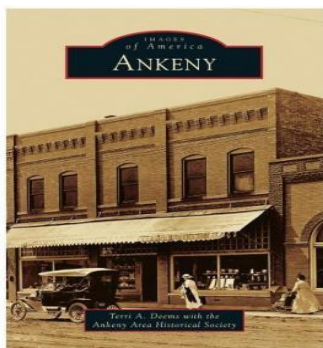
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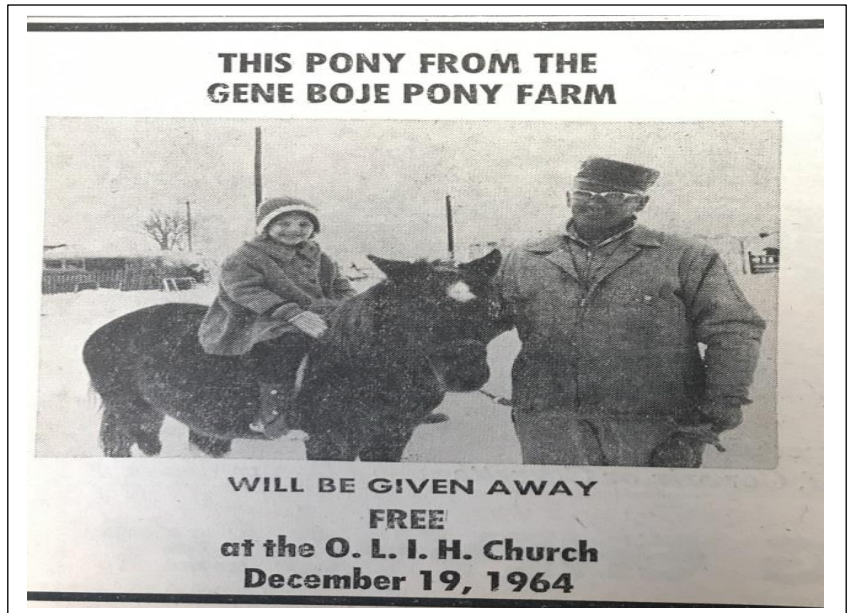
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## 1960's



## Happy Holidays!

**The Swimming Pool and you The Taxpayer.** The Swimming Pool issue, to be presented to the citizens of Ankeny on December 10, is one of great importance. The Ankeny Builders and Developers Association and businessmen associates feel that it is so important that they ought to present some of the factors that should be considered by each eligible voter. It is conceded that a progressive city as Ankeny should be thinking and planning for recreational facilities, such as a swimming pool. On the other hand, a conclusion should be made on a need basis; that is, what things should be done first. Everyone, of course, is aware that all public services require money – money that comes directly from you, Mr. Taxpayer. Proponents of the swimming pool say “You can’t put a price tag on providing for our kids.” This is true, but when it comes to deciding whether the “kid” gets a new pair of shoes, food on the family dinner table, or clothes to wear, or whether Johnnie or Mary can have a car or hairdo, the price-tag becomes an issue. This is the situation that Ankeny faces when the “pool” issue is presented. We ask your careful consideration of these matters and that your vote is based on which needs are first in preference – necessity or luxuries. The choice is yours on December 10!! This ad paid for by The Ankeny Builders and Developers Assn. and Ankeny Businessmen Association. *Ankeny Press Citizen*, November 26, 1964



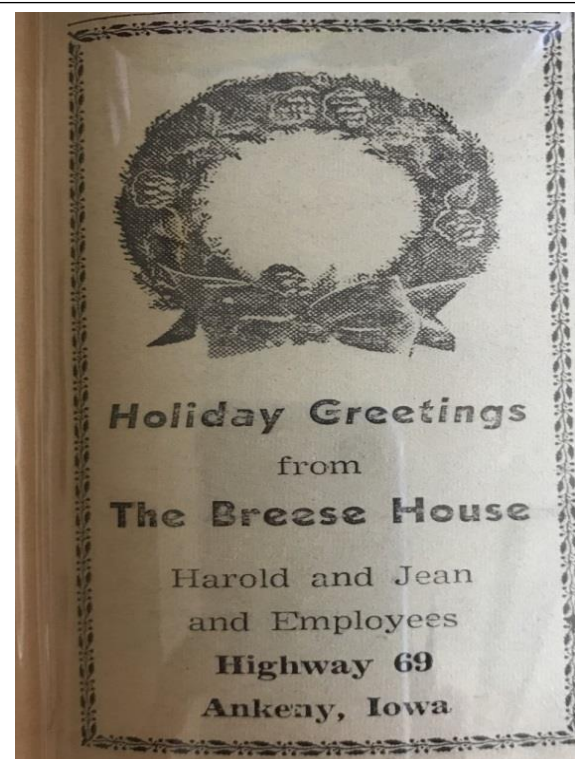
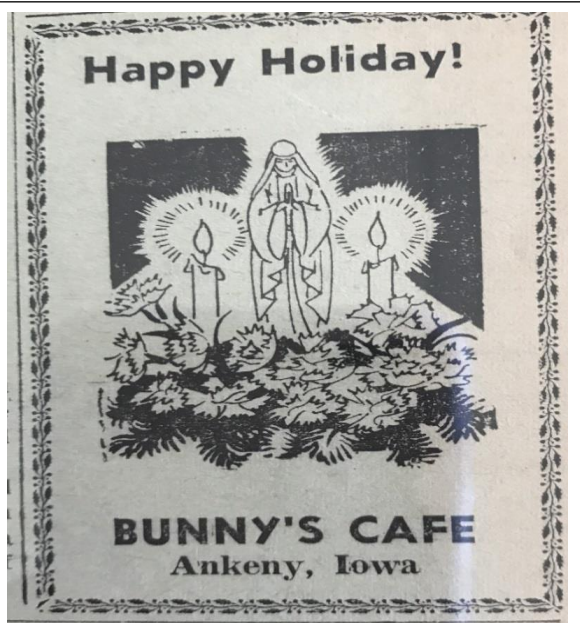
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## 1960's



*Ankeny Times, December 24, 1964*

## 1990's



**The University of Iowa football** team departed from Cedar Rapids on Dec. 17 to begin preparations for the Rose Bowl. Among the Iowa players who traveled to Pasadena were two former Ankeny standouts, Matt Whitaker and Greg Allen. Whitaker, who wears No. 46, is reserve tight end for the Hawkeyes. He is often used in short yardage situations and also plays on the special teams. The highlight of the season for Whitaker came during Iowa's victory at Illinois on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Whitaker caught a touchdown pass from backup quarterback from Hartlieb on a fake field-goal attempt, helping the Hawkeyes trash the Illini. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, December 26, 1990*

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## 1990's



**The biggest storm to hit central Iowa** in five years dumped ten inches of snow, stopped most regular activity, and played a part in two fatal heart attacks and numerous snow related injuries. Many local businesses were closed and gave area school children a three-day weekend. City Manager Carl Metzger said that city crews were still clearing snow at press time. "Most of the streets have already been cleared. We are just going back over the streets right now and widening them and cars that are still parked on the streets on Tuesday afternoon will be towed. The crews began working Sunday at 10 p.m. and will likely be finished by Wednesday afternoon. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, December 5, 1990*



**Santa waved to cars** as they passed the Holiday House on Saturday. Santa was at the house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. visiting with children and their parents. The Holiday House is at the corner of Third Street and Cherry. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, December 12, 1990*

**Officials with Hy-Vee Food Stores, Inc** have announced plans to build a 62,000 square foot combination food-and-drug center in Ankeny. The new store, to be constructed at the intersection of N. Ankeny Blvd (Hwy 69) and NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street, will replace a 28,000 square foot Hy-Vee store at 801 S Ankeny Blvd.

Store manager Dick Howe expects the store to add more than 100 new full- and part-time jobs as a result of the expansion. Construction will begin in the summer of 1991, pending final approval by city officials. Completion is expected sometime in mid-1992.

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**Ankeny Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ben Norman** was recently named Iowa's 1991 Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Norman will be honored Wednesday at the high school in a ceremony. He has been superintendent since 1986 before becoming the superintendent he was the Assistant to the Superintendent. When asked about being honored, Dr. Norman said that, "It is quite an honor to be selected by your peers."

When asked which area of his job he enjoys most Dr. Norman said, "working with the people. Ankeny is in a real good situation. People want to do things there is a lot happening here and that makes things exciting". Regarding what the future holds for Ankeny school Dr. Norman listed these issues: restructuring schools, delivery of instruction, moving into the technology trend, and upgrading facilities, inner school activities, and all day kindergarten. Dr. Norman attributed the quality of Ankeny schools to the community. "We are known to have one of the best school systems in the state, and we have one of the best communities. You can't have excellent schools and a weak community. You have to have the two together. The community support must be behind the schools or they won't be strong schools. Ankeny places a very high priority on their schools and that makes for a very strong school". *Ankeny Press-Citizen, December 5, 1990*

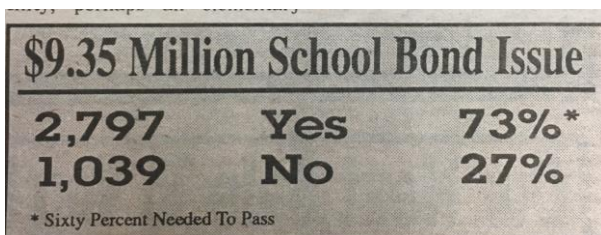
**Ankeny community schools** remained the envy of most districts in the state when the voters passed a 9.35 million bond which used school construction to eliminate crowding in the present facilities. Seventy-three percent of the 3,826 voters approved the three projects that include:

8 new classrooms at Westwood Elementary (\$1,022,000);

10 new classrooms at Parkview Jr High, a larger lunchroom, common areas and locker and shower facilities for the gymnasium (\$3,763,000);

Construction of Northeast Elementary, which will include 14 classrooms (\$4,565,000).

*Ankeny Press-Citizen, December 26, 1990*



Comments? Send them to us at [history@ankenyhistorical.org](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org).