

Ankeny through the decades...

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

July 2017



1940's

The Ankeny Crisis: Editorial by P.E. Shult

Ankeny, a quiet peace loving little resident town and community had war brought closer to them when the government blitzkrieg struck the quiet little community and folks were notified that many of them would have to give up their homes... Ankeny is now facing the greatest crisis of its history. If things go as planned by the government- Ankeny the quiet, peaceful little resident community as we have known it will be just history. In this crisis many things will take place. Differences of opinion will be expressed, arguments will be indulged in, friendships of long standing will be broken. Our town will undergo great change, and it will not, by any means, be all for the best... When we see moral barriers of our town being broken down one by one, we will be inclined to blame or condemn the town officials and those in authority.... Most of the Town Council do not want beer parlors in Ankeny any more than you or I do. But they are bound by oath to administer the affairs of the town according to ordinances of the town... Some are going to say, how much did the council pay for you writing this article? Or who asked you to do it? I was not paid, nor was I asked to write it. I thought of it all by myself. *(Full editorial in Ankeny Times, July 18, 1941)*

On the Town Council: Pictured are the remaining members of the town council including the town clerk, who also has added duties and responsibilities due to the special meetings and the issuing of special ordinances by the town council in an effort to protect Ankeny residents, in the sudden change brought to the community by the prospective building of the Government Munitions Plant. *Ankeny Times, July 18, 1941*



(Fred Miller, Councilman; L. R. Fontanini, Councilman; Dr. H. M. Fredericks, Town Clerk)

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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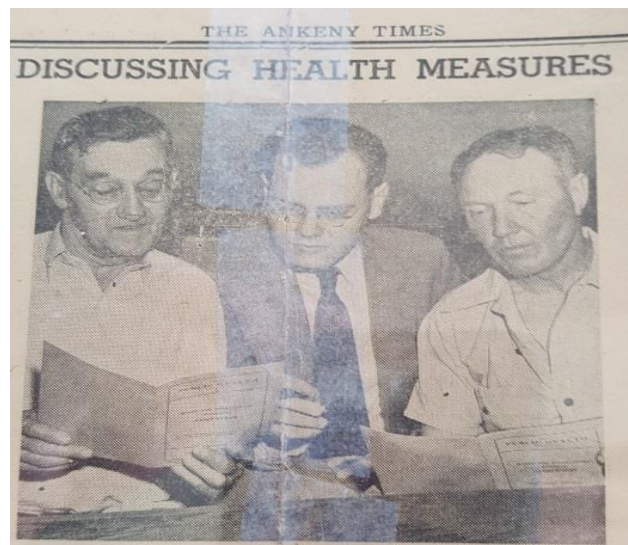


Ankeny Residents Injured in Wreck Near

Atlantic: Supt. E.W. Neveln and E.A. Jorgensen were injured in an auto wreck. During a severe rain storm their car skidded into the ditch after striking mud, which had been washed in the pavement. Both men were taken to the hospital in Atlantic. Mr. Neveln returned home quickly, but Mr. Jorgensen was confined in the hospital for several weeks. *Ankeny Times*, July 18, 1941

1940's

Discussing Health Measures: Discussing health measures at the new small arms plant Tuesday night at Woodside School were William Graham, Johnston, Webster township trustee; R.C. Hanlon, Polk County health engineer; and L.B. Erickson, Grimes, Webster trustee. *Ankeny Times*, July 18, 1941



CLOSING OUT SALE Sat., July 19, 1941

U. S. Government Ammunition Plant takes Our Farm and We are Forced to Move Immediately.

Public sale at the "Fitch" Farm, one mile south and one-half mile west of Ankeny, Iowa, Saturday, July 19, 1941, 10:00 A. M.

300 HEAD OF LIVESTOCK

CATTLE 68 head high grade Cheyenne and Holstein milk cows, 73 and 8400 tested. All culled for high production. 28 heifer calves. 2 purchased registered Guernsey bulls.

HOGS 60 head hogs—14 head shoats.

SHEEP 22 head yearling ewes—103 older ewes. 2 bucks.

TRUCKS 1 1940 Chevrolet Pickup Truck and 1 1941 Chevrolet Panel Truck.

25 head of purebred registered Belgian Horses will be held over for exhibition at Iowa State Fair, then sold at public auction on the state fair grounds on Saturday, August 30, 1941 (Saturday following State Fair). Watch for advertisement.

MACHINERY

1 Farmer's Friend grain elevator—1 New Idea 24' roller—1 Oliver two row corn picker—1 10-foot McCormick combine harvester—2 Manure spreaders—1 1940 John Deere tractor—1 John Deere tractor—1 24-foot Mower—1 McCormick Reel—1 Big Six Mower—1 McCormick Pitless Scales—1 John Deere 3 bottom plow—1 12-inch on rubber—2 15-foot Disk harrows—2 12-foot hammer mills—2 bottom 16-inch plows—2 1000-bu. metal grain bins—1 John Deere 399 Corn planter—1 Buval Cultivator—2 Peoria 10-foot grain drill—3 round hog houses with individual stalls—Hay curing equipment—1 Little Giant Limboscaper—1 Tractor Cultivator—Epi Gate feeder—1 Buck rake—1 Surface Cultivator—1 No. 1 Ford Corn sheller—5 Bale Harness—3 Litter Carriers. And many other items.

Milk House equipment, including 1 2-horse power Baker Ice Machine Compressor—1 10-gal. Wright Pasteurizer—1 Aerator—4 foot—1 Rotary Filter and Cooler—1 Refractory Water Softener—1 Bellie Wagner Roll Type—1 Automatic Eastern Steam Boiler—1 15-gal. George Miller—Milk Bottles—Cans, etc. Other items too numerous to mention.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE FARM AND INSPECT PROPERTY PRIOR TO SALE

F. W. FITCH CO.

Des Moines, Ia.

Owner

AUCTIONEERS, HOWARD BROS., Ankeny, Iowa

W. K. MAXWELL, Winterett, Iowa

CLERKS, Jim Silliman, S. E. Beebaker

TERMS: CASH—All property must be settled for before being removed from premises.

LUNCH SERVED ON GROUNDS

On account of the amount of property to be sold this sale must start promptly at 10 A. M. Be sure and be there.

F.W. Fitch Co. Will Sell Entire Stock, Saturday at Public

Sale: Due to the construction of the Government Munitions plant, the F.W. Fitch Co. are selling at public auction, their entire equipment and livestock, on their farm one mile south and one mile west of Ankeny. The sale will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 19 and will include 300 head of livestock and dairy equipment. *Ankeny Times*, July 18, 1941

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Jaycees Plan Celebration: Plan to spend July 4 in Ankeny. Ankeny Jaycees are well underway with preparations for the annual 4th of July celebration, which they are sponsoring this year. Plan now to attend, as there will be activity every day of the long week-end, July 2-3-4-5, with a carnival air prevailing. A parade is planned for Saturday, July 3, with no registration beforehand required. All participants, including children on decorated bicycles and trikes, are to line-up at the city park at 9:30 a.m. The parade begins at 10:30. Anyone wishing to enter the Talent Show to held at Neveln Junior High Sunday, July 4th, are asked to contact Mrs. Earl Cole. Nine girls have entered their names as contestants in the "Miss Ankeny" contest, with a queen, three attendants, and five members of her court to be selected by a panel of six judges. Also featured this year, as last year, will be the tractor pull and horse pulling contests. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 4, 1963*

Band Concert Scheduled for This Evening. Another Ankeny band concert will be held in the Ankeny Park this evening, Thursday, July 14. The public is cordially invited to attend and hear several marches. Ruth Leedom will play a solo on her tenor sax, and Ricky Logli will have an accordion solo. Baton twirlers Jill Vulcano, Debbie Harmon, Leanne Edinger, Monna Kay Renard, Laurie Wells, Melinda Morris, Barbara Hall, Vicki and Becky Rice, Linda Lantz, and Susie Morris will perform. *Ankeny Times, July 14, 1960*

Local School Budget Approved. Board asks 3.2 mill increase. The Board of Education approved the budget estimate for operating the Ankeny Community School district for the 1963-64 school year. Some interesting statistics are available from the annual superintendent's report to the board. For example, the average daily attendance for the past three years has increased from 1308 to 1544. This is an increase of 236 students or nine classrooms of children. The student enrollment for 1963-64 will be handled by 80 teachers. The hot lunch program served 163,675 meals or an average of 914 daily. The budget for 1963-64 calls for a total expenditure of \$1,167,796. Of this, \$782,492 will be raised by taxation. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 8, 1963*

How do the school budget figures from 1963 compare to those of today?

Oh, my.... →

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Council Receives Liquor

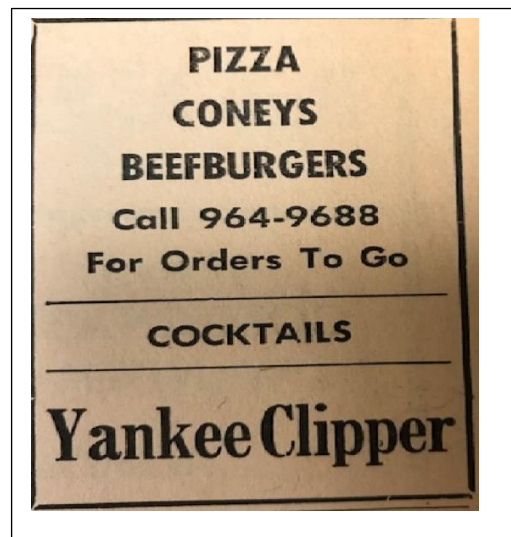
Application - Gives OK to Yankee Clipper Request.

The Ankeny City Council received, and approved, the first application for liquor by the drink in the city. The application was made by the Yankee Clipper, and listed Robert D. Crawford and Leo W. Busselle as owners. There was very little discussion regarding the application, as it was pointed out that if the establishment qualified for a beer permit under the city ordinance, it also qualified for a liquor permit. The council members gave unanimous approval to the application, and it was prepared for sending to the Iowa State Liquor Commission for final approval. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 25, 1963*

City Proposed Annexation of John Deere Plant.

Proceedings have been initiated by the City Council to annex the John Deere Des Moines Works located just west of the city. The plant, which was built by the federal government and served as an ordnance plant during World War II, was acquired by John Deere in 1947. Mayor Adams said that the action was taken in order to entice more industry to the city. At present, most of the land available for industry now lies with the corporate limits of the city. **Tax Structure.** The tax structure of the city would also be affected if the plan was annexed to the city. At present, the plant is paying county taxes at the rate of just over 83 mills, while residents of the city are paying 102 mills. Mayor Adams pointed out that the John Deere taxes would increase slightly, while the city millage rate would drop considerably. City officials and officials of the John Deere plant have had several meetings in the past regarding the annexation. The plant is presently receiving its water supply from Des Moines. Power is furnished by IPALCO and the plant's own power plant, and sewage disposal is self-maintained. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 8, 1963*

Yankee Clipper Ad from the Ankeny Press Citizen on October 15, 1964



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Perishable Distributors of Iowa, Ltd., of Ankeny,

- has broken ground on a 72,000 sq. ft. addition to accommodate growth in existing lines and a new business venture. Construction of the new addition should last 10 to 11 months. PDI President Ric Jurgens said the company is moving into other areas of food service and is manufacturing and packaging its own goods. "We're busting at the seams with our existing storage, and need more space," he said.

The current facility located at 2741 PDI Place in Ankeny houses beef, chicken and port coolers, a freezer, dock, and processed meat cooler. The company plans to add a non-refrigerated area, and double and expand all the above departments. Hy-Vee has decided to make PDI their full-line supplier for the bakeries and delis. The company ships over 3,000,000 pounds of product per week on its fleet of 18 tractors, 30 trailers, and one straight truck. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 10, 1991*

Ankeny voters showed up in record numbers

- on Tuesday, July 16 voting to keep the city's present form of mayor-council government. It was the largest voter turnout in the city's history, with approximately 44% of Ankeny's required voters (4,399 of 9,950) going to the polls.

Opponents of Ankeny's government claimed that the people have not been given a voice in local government, and that the City Council had turned a deaf ear to protests against the construction of a small airport near the southeast section of the city. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 24, 1991*

The 25th annual Ankeny Summerfest celebration

- will begin Thursday, July 11th and end Sunday, July 14th.

The Summerfest parade will be on Saturday morning July 13th at 10 a.m. It will go west on NW 9th out of the Ankeny High School parking lot to NW Ash and turn south to First Street. The parade will proceed on West First east two blocks to SW Cherry, and go east on Third to SW School. The parade route then follows NW School to the Ankeny High School parking lot.

Floats will be judged in two categories at 9 a.m. before the parade begins. The theme for the Summerfest parade is "God in America". The celebration features a parade, carnival, dances, booths, concessions, a talent show, sweet-sixteen contest and entertainment. *Ankeny Today, July 10, 1991*

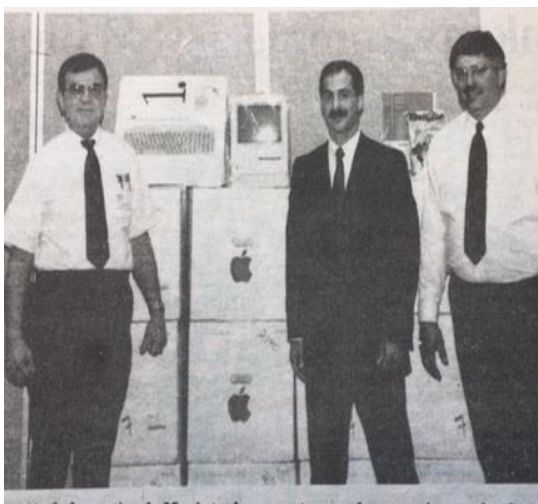
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Hy-Vee donated eleven Apple Macintosh

computers and seven pieces of software through their sales slip collection program to the Ankeny Community School District last week. Pictured L to R are: Dick Howe, Hy-Vee Store Manager, Mike Ferraro, Hy-Vee Deli Manager, and Mick Ashby, Drug Town Manager. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 24, 1991*

The "Brass" will be Here Tuesday – Summerfest is over for another year and HomeShow Expo-91 is in Ankeny this weekend. In its midst, the sight and sound and color of CELEBRATION IN BRASS will march right into town at 7:30 p.m. next Tuesday July 23. Six Drum Corps International drum and bugle corps making their way into world completion later in the summer. This annual event is sponsored by the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce as an exciting family event, the proceeds of which will benefit youth activities and other agencies.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office, 803 SW Third Street in Uptown Ankeny. Pre-event tickets are \$9. They will be \$10 at the gate. All seats are reserved. Corporate sponsors for CELEBRATION IN BRASS are Ankeny State Bank, Casey's General Stores, Inc., and Deere Community Credit Union. *Ankeny Today, July 17, 1991*

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