

# Ankeny through the decades...

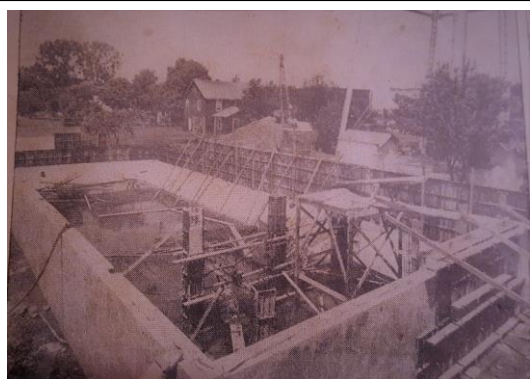
recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s\*

July 2018



## 1950s

**Polio Strikes:** Two persons in Ankeny have fallen victim to the polio virus. Mrs. John J. Harkin, 206 Logan Street, mother of five, is a patient at Lutheran Hospital. She has the non-paralytic type, but must remain in the hospital for several weeks for therapy treatments. Billy Marvin, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Marvin, 646 Kenworthy Drive, is a non-paralytic patient being cared for in the Younkers wing of Iowa Methodist Hospital. His condition is very good. *Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959*



**Lions Club Elect Officers For Next Year:** Lion's Club Officers Chairmen for the next year for the coming year were elected at the regular meeting and are as follows:

President, Wayne Begg; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Robert Wilhelm; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, James Bower; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Wayne Spahr; Secretary, George Friedmeyer; Treasurer, Max Reynolds; Lion Tamer; Paul Syster; Tail Twister; Richard Logli.

Directors- 1<sup>st</sup> year, Mose Baker; 1<sup>st</sup> year, Harlan Rigby; 2<sup>nd</sup> year, George Hart; 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Mr. Jensen. *Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959*

**Ankeny's New Water Reservoir Nearing Completion:** It was pretty muddy working on the new water reservoir located behind the City Water Works Building. When this picture was taken, heavy rains of the past few days, caused several feet of water to stand inside it. The men working on the project were having a slippery time of it, and mud was everywhere. The reservoir when completed, will hold 300,000 gallons of water. A concrete dome will cover the top and the whole thing covered with dirt. It is hoped that the job can be completed by August first. The water, from the newly dug well, cannot be used until the reservoir is completed and the filter tanks installed. There will be plenty of water for Ankeny residents when this is all done so please help conserve water supply until then. *Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958*

\*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).



## Ankeny Area Historical Society

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## 1950s

### Regular Meeting of the Town Council Held July 7,

**1958:** Mayor Charles Feight presiding. Councilmen present: Paul Dougan, Edward Howell, Earl Lewis. The chair entertained a motion to suspend the rules in order to hear visitors present. The motion was carried. *Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958*

- Merrill Seehorn asked the council what progress was being made for sidewalks along First Street,
- Messrs Leonard, Cherry, Knoop and Michael were present to inquire about the proposed North Lawn paving and about the recent petition that had been circulated in that area. They were told that any petitions at this time were out of order.
- H. Herman asked the council about the Des Moines Street widening to 31 feet... and who would pay for it. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the recommendation and it would be paid by general obligation bonds.
- A petition from Northlawn residents, objecting to paving was presented to the Council.
- Charles Beyer asked the Council about the drainage of Northlawn in the paving project and if the project included the installation of storm sewers.
- Frank Lint and Earl Olmstead asked the Council about power for Dorfrank Manor. Mr. Olmstead asked permission to place power poles on the street.
- Hal Sexauer reported that a street light across the street from his property was out.
- The mayor reported \$81.00 in fines for the month of June, 1958.
- The Treasurer's report showed \$39,596.45 balance as of June 30, 1958. Anne M. Varnum, Clerk

**Dr. R. E. Love**  
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It's still hot summer weather for whites, Sandals, & Tennis Shoes.  
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Shoe Store  
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## 1950s

<p>GET YOUR Side rakes, hay rakes, hay conditioner and hay balers</p> <p>NOW</p> <p>TRIPLETT Implement</p> <p>JOHN DEERE Sales &amp; Service Ph WO 4-4331</p>	<p>Rath Shortening</p> <p>49c</p> <p>Thurs, Fri, Sat. Logli Super Valu WO 4-4741 Ankeny, Iowa.</p>	<p>'55 CHEVROLET</p> <p>Tudor 6 cyl. Standard Shift, good rubber, new Paint. Nice</p> <p>We Trade Term</p> <p>RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET</p> <p>Phone WO 4-4255</p>
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<p>Washable Cotton Fabrics</p> <p>Simplicity Patterns</p> <p>Notions</p> <p>Closed Mondays</p> <p>Fashion Fabric Shop Ankeny Ph. WO 4-4891</p>	<p>Wayne Feeds and Diamond Black Leaf Chemicals</p> <p>F. L. BALLARD &amp; Sons</p> <p>Phone WO 4-4717 ANKENY, IOWA.</p>	<p>USED CARS</p> <p>1932 Chev 2-Door R. H.</p> <p>1933 Chev. 4-Door Bel Air R. H.</p> <p>1948 Ford 4-Door R. H. - O. D.</p> <p>SALES SERVICE</p> <p>FORD</p> <p>Ankeny Motors Inc. Ph. WO 4-4794 Ankeny, Ia.</p>

### From Our Files, 56 Years Ago (First Editions of the Ankeny Times)

- Art Hall has purchased a new team, wagon and harnesses and will work for L.D. Weinhart on the township.
- Our friend W.O. Sargent is building a house for a gentleman in Marquisville.
- Married: At the home of the bride's parents, east of Ankeny on April 9<sup>th</sup>, Miss Louise Boozle and Herbert Gray were united in marriage by Rev. Golden. Mr. Gray is a promising young banker of Kent, Iowa and Miss Boozle is a prominent young lady ranking high in social circles. The presents were many and beautiful.
- What might have proven a great loss to the town, happened last Saturday Afternoon when Many Hallowell's barn burned, but the heroic efforts of the citizens of Ankeny, the buildings surrounding the barn were saved.
- Mrs. John Daymude and Mrs. Fred Zimmerman were capital city visitors Monday. *Ankeny Times*, July 2, 1959

*Remember: The Ankeny Area History Museum is open each Sunday during summer 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Come and see the history of your city and its people!*

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## 1970s

**First Woman Patrol for Ankeny.** Karla J. Lundstrom has been hired for the position of Police Officer with the City of Ankeny. She was hired by the Police Department in 1974 as a part-time radio operator and became full-time in that position in September of 1975. A life-long resident of Ankeny and a graduate of Ankeny High School, Lundstrom has completed a triple-major at Des Moines Area Community College in Law Enforcement Criminalistics and Corrections. She is a graduate of Matron Training School of the U.S. Marshall's Office. *July 22, 1976, Ankeny Press-Citizen*

**Ankeny Declines Metro.** The Ankeny Community School Board directed Athletic Director Fred Smith to inform Metro Conference President Gerald Dockun that Ankeny is "not interested in further discussions regarding Ankeny's entrance into the Metro Conference." In answer to Board questions, Smith said that he did not foresee a break-up of the CIC conference, to which Ankeny belongs, and the Board requested that he tell his staff to continue to do anything possible to keep the CIC a strong conference. They suggested that if some teams do drop out every effort be made to attract good replacements. Especially mentioned were the non-aligned teams of Ames, Newton, and Marshalltown. The Athletic Department was approached over a year ago about the possibility of joining the Metro Conference. A few informal talks have been held during that time. Smith reported that now the Metro Conference is looking for a commitment from Ankeny but, "they want us under their rules and regulations, and there are some that would hurt our program." *July 15, 1976, Ankeny Press-Citizen*

**Gulp Away – Ankeny's Water Rates are Not So High (by Marcia Ryan).** Despite the size of your latest water bill, the water is still the cheapest ingredient in your cool summer drink. We beverage, bathe, dishwash, and launder for seven people at our home, and this reporter's daydream was to prove that the new Ankeny water rates were so out of line with our neighbors that the city council would have to lower them. No such luck! Rating Des Moines low, Urbandale middle, and West Des Moines highest, the following generalizations can be made about past and present Ankeny rates. In the past, under 20,000 gallons, Ankeny user's bills ranked on either side of Urbandale. Over 5000 gallons and up to 20,000 gallons, Ankeny users now pay about \$2 per month more than West Des Moines (West Des Moines has the highest rates up through 5000 gals. because of \$3.90 water and \$5.25 sewer minimums.) In the past the over 20,000 gal. Ankeny user's bills were about the same as Des Moines, but are now just slightly more than West Des Moines, about \$2 per month. Prior to the rate changes, a several-month study was made to probe the alternatives for providing needed additional water for Ankeny. The cost of new wells, their period and amount of yield, the cost of treating water was researched and the decision was made that buying treated water from Des Moines best met Ankeny needs at the best price. *July 29, 1976, Ankeny Press-Citizen*

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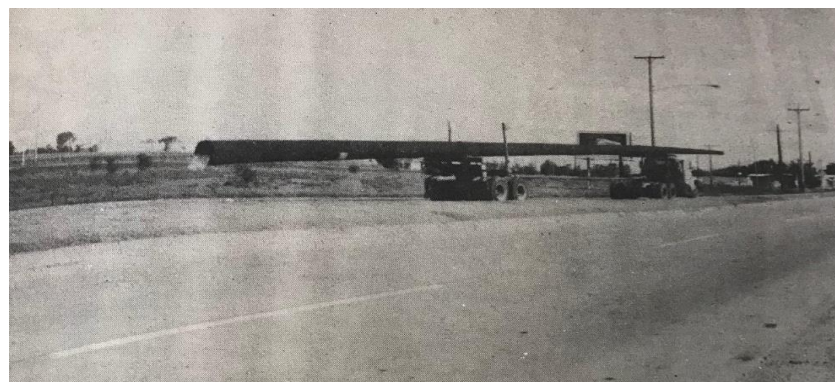
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## 1970s

**125 Foot Pole Travels to Ankeny High School.** A one-unit parade, worthy of a two-car police escort, went through Ankeny Tuesday morning. It marshalled at Pioneer Lumber Company and ended at the Ankeny High School via Ordnance Road and Highway 69. This truly labeled "Oversize Load" is the 125-foot, Douglas Fir light pole which will be used at the new football field. It comes in from Spokane, Washington, at \$22.40 a running foot. It made its way down Hwy. 69 at just under 15 mph. Its top end led the way and as it swung gently up and down it gave the appearance of the trunk of some pre-historic creature. A crane-truck was necessary to remove the pole to the ground where it will be outfitted with lights and climbing rungs before being up-ended into place. *July 29, 1976, Ankeny Press-Citizen*



*If you'd like to donate to the Ankeny Area Historical Society or send memorials in honor of a loved one, please contact us at [history@ankenyhistorical.org](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org). And, thank you!*

**Triumphs of Science.** Ingenious engineers have devised a new kind of computer to make it easier, faster and less expensive to print books, newspapers, magazines and catalogs; a savings that could be passed on to consumers. These machines allow any text to be edited at a publishing or printing firm's branch offices as well as at the main office. Entire blocks of text can be moved, particular passages highlighted and errors corrected. Then the information is sent back to the central computer. These computers, created by Sperry Univac and called UTS 400 Text Editors, can also be used by business firms to keep track of paperwork at branch offices and for medical or educational purposes. *July 8, 1976, Ankeny Press-Citizen*

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## 1980's

**Doc Cory Retires From Post Office After 27 Years** Gilbert Cory, right, receives a retirement certificate from Ankeny Postmaster Bob Doubleday last Friday, Cory, who is retiring after 27 years with the Ankeny Post Office, was recently honored at a retirement dinner held at the Best Western Inn. In 1958, Cory was the first city mail carrier in Ankeny; he was postmaster from 1959-1974 and finished his career at a rural carrier. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 3, 1984*



**School Retention for Pool Bond Election:** About 50 community leaders gathered at a breakfast meeting Saturday to hear final details on the proposed indoor pool facility and discuss strategy for the upcoming bond issue election. The \$1.8 million school bond issue to finance an indoor pool addition at the southwest corner of Ankeny High School will be put to a vote on Tuesday, Aug. 14. A yes vote is required for passage. Financing and maintenance of the five foot 8-lane rectangular pool is being billed as a cooperative effort between the schools and the city, with the school district's bonding capacity providing responsibility for operational costs not recouped through user fees. *Ankeny Press Citizen, July 3, 1984.*

**RAGBRAI Route:** Ankeny motorists are reminded that some of their lanes will be given exclusively over to cyclists during four morning hours on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. 7,000 to 9,000 riders are expected to be heading east through the city as part of RAGBRAI. They will be coming into Ankeny from Polk City, heading south on NW 16<sup>th</sup>. The riders will turn left onto SW Third Street then north onto NW Linden, then right onto West First Street, and continue east through Ankeny on East First Street.

The Ankeny Police Department will have cordoned off some lanes of the roadway for their exclusive use between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Ankeny groups and organizations, coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce, have planned stand for the sale of food and services at three locations along the Ankeny route. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 17, 1984.*

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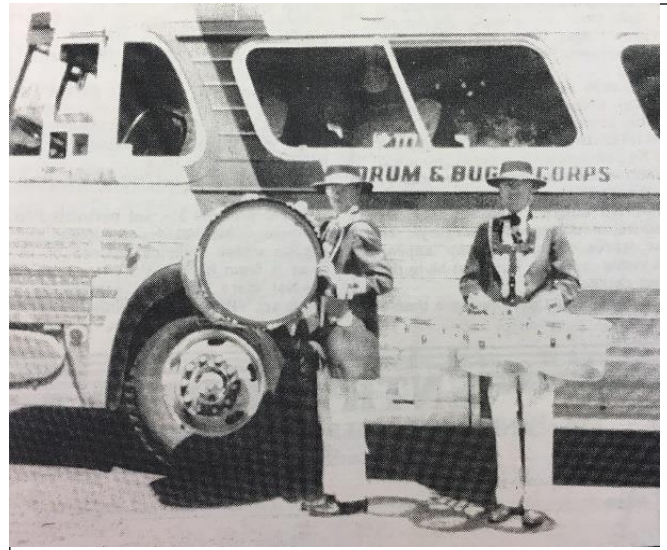
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## 1980s

**RAGBRAI Invades Ankeny:** Hundreds of bicycles with riders invaded Ankeny Wednesday, July 25, enroute to Pella from Adel on the fourth day of RAGBRAI-12. Men, women, and children were seen riding through Ankeny on vehicles made of tubular metal frames mounted on two wheels, one in front of another. The *“Register’s Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa”* visited Ankeny for the first time in the 12 years of the event. Between eight and ten thousand people from various walks of life and from various states participated in the 102 mile adventure on day four. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 31, 1984*

**Bugles, Brass And Much To Perform Thursday:** This Thursday night, Aug. 2, six of the nation’s finest drum and bugle corps will be warming up for a really big show at the Ankeny High School Stadium. Ankeny’s second annual *“Celebration In Brass”* will begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets will be available at the gate or in advance at the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce office. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 31, 1984.*



**Ankeny Brothers March and Play in Bugle, Brass Corps:** Keith Workman (at left) and his brother Kevin in front of the Colts drum and bugle corps bus. Keith, a junior at Ankeny High School and Kevin, a 1982 AHS graduate, joined the Dubuque Colts this summer and will be performing in Ankeny this Thursday evening at *“Celebration In Brass.”* Both young men got their first experience with the AHS Marching Hawks and caught the fever when the Hawks began doing corps-style marching several years ago. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 31, 1984.*

*Be a member and support the Ankeny Area Historical Society by contacting us at the website*  
[www.ankenyhistorical.org](http://www.ankenyhistorical.org) or calling 965-5795.

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## 1980s

### **Hawkettes Go To State:**

Hawkette Shelly Pickard is pictured with Ankeny coach Dick Rasmussen after the Ankeny-Atlantic regional final contest. Pickard is holding the softball she smacked over the fence for a three run homer to end the mismatch in the fifth inning. Ankeny advanced to state with a 13 to 2 victory. Pickard singled, tripled and homered in the three appearances at the plate. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, July 31, 1984.



**Mark your calendars for the August 5, 2018, Open House (2:00-4:00 pm) at the museum "Spotlight on Past Organizations." We will feature the photo albums and scrapbooks from the 70s, 80s, and 90s for several organizations in the city. Come and see if you know the folks in these groups: Beta Sigma Phi, Golden Kiwanis, Jaycettes, Federated Garden Club, Unity Club, Ankeny Quilters Guild, Ankeny Women's Club, and the Penguins along with memorabilia from the Fortnightly Club (Eastern Star), American Business Women's Association, and Lions Club. Come and share your stories!**