

# Ankeny through the decades...

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

September 2018



## 1950s



**450 Attend Teachers' Reception Here Monday:** Approximately 450 persons attended the first P.T.A. meeting of the year which was held at Parkview Auditorium Monday evening Sept. 21. New presidents, Mrs. H.L. Buehler, of Parkview P.T.A. and Mrs. Kenneth Scholes, Junior and Senior High P.T.A. (pictured right). Mrs. Kenneth Scholes gave a short welcome, and then introduced the By-Laws Chairmen, Mrs. Gerald Ballard and Mrs. W. Earl Moore. The complete by-laws and amendments of the reorganized P.T.A. groups were read and accepted. Mrs. Harlan Rigby, Program Chairman, introduced the ministers of the community. The Rev. A.D. Mohr, Pastor of the Baptist Church, extended a welcome to the teachers, and invited them to attend a church of their choice.

Mr. Melvin Anderson, Supt. Of Schools, who was then introduced, gave a short talk in which he briefly outlined plans for school expansion and listed the many improvements in the physical aspects of the school system which have been accomplished. Amongst other things, the former superintendent's house has been remodeled for classroom space, the Jr. High building has been extensively remodeled, a new 60 passenger bus has been purchased, as has a new dishwasher for the cafeteria. Mr. Anderson then introduced the principals of the three schools. Mr. Robert Gray, Principal of Parkview, Mr. Gail Alexander, Principal of Jr. High and Mr. Wayne Begg, Principal of the High School.

A musical number, "Autumn Leaves", was presented by the girls' trio, Carolyn Taylor, Sue Moore, and Carole Ann Johnson, accompanied by Karen McCabe. (pictured right) *Ankeny Times*, September 24, 1959



\*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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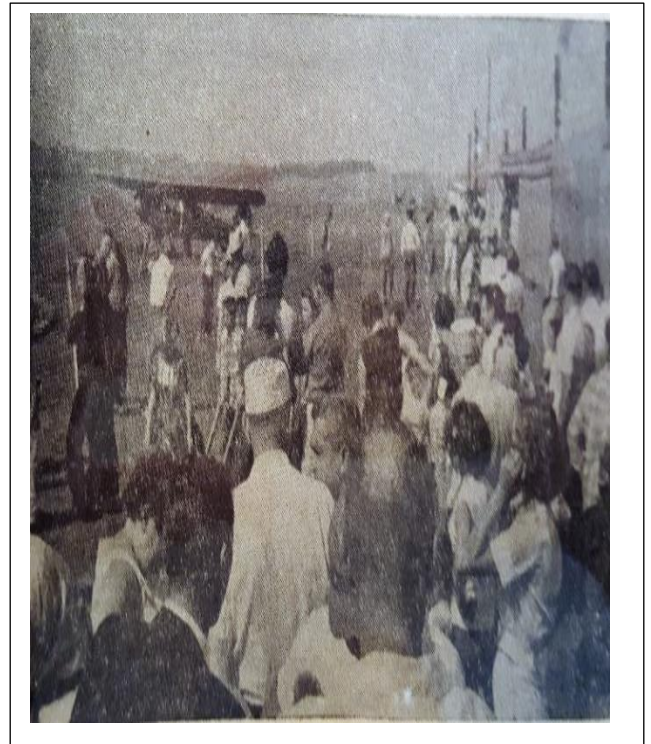
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## 1950s

### **Ankeny Air Show Attracts Large Crowd Sponsored by Flying Club:**

A large crowd of spectators gathered at Sexauer Field on Sunday afternoon to view the air show which was sponsored by the Ankeny Flying Club. A number of people took airplane rides in a Stinson, piloted by Paul Allen. First Lt. Cor Hutton arrived at the field in an Air National Guard observation plane, followed by an Air National Guard helicopter which was piloted by Capt. May of Des Moines. After bringing it to the ground, spectators were invited on the field for closer inspection. Novelty races and the parachute jumps which had been scheduled had to be cancelled due to strong wind. However, Paul Allen kept the spectator's eyes on the skies as he performed various stunts in a Piper Cub. The Ankeny Flying Club wishes to express its regrets to the fine crowd that attended that it was necessary to cancel part of the program. The weatherman just didn't cooperate. *Ankeny Times, September 24, 1959*



Every government official or board that handles public money should publish at regular intervals an accounting of it showing where and how each dollar is spent. We hold this to be a fundamental principle of democratic government.

*Ankeny Times, September 24, 1959*



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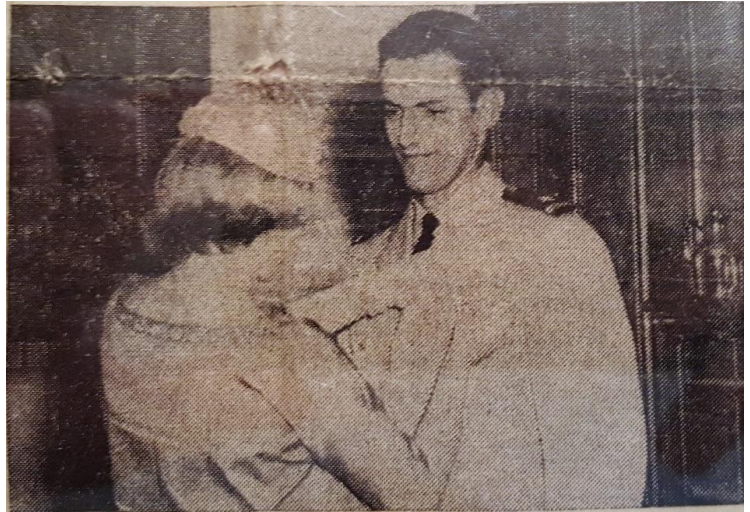
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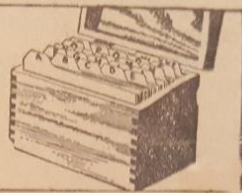
## 1950s

**Wings of Gold for Ens. Zimmer:** Navy Ens. Gerald G. Zimmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Zimmer of 320 Seventh St., Ankeny, has his "Wings of Gold" of a Naval Aviator pinned on by his wife, the former Miss Kathryn Bjaastad of Ankeny, at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Tex. He received his wings Sept. 4 upon completion of advanced flight training and has been transferred to the North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif.  
*Ankeny Times, September 24, 1959*



*Ankeny Times,*  
September 24, 1959

### FROM OUR FILES



#### 56 Years Ago

##### First Editions of the Ankeny Times

L. D. Weinhart and his grading to build another room onto his house, gang are busy fixing the streets in town.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Ross Golden has a very sore foot, caused by stepping on an old rusty pitchfork.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mrs. J. B. Wagner and sisters visited the capital city the middle of the week.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Cora and Ethel Doke and Anna Kobi visited at the Geo. Swartfager home Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*  
D. F. Hallowell is laying a new brick sidewalk and is also going

\*\*\*\*\*  
Rev. Golden was called to Cumming, Iowa to preach a funeral at 10 a.m. Thursday. He will also visit his cousin at Van Meter, who is a missionary and has just returned from Central China.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Arthur and Chas Hildreth and families have returned from their western trip and have a large number of valuable relics, such as deer horns, rocks, porcupine quills, etc., they are on exhibition in the window of Lewis & Stebleton's store.

#### ANKENY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

Monday, Sept. 28  
Chiliburgers  
Onion Rings  
Lettuce and tomato salad  
Chocolate chip cookies  
Milk

Tuesday, Sept. 29  
Beef stew  
Cottage cheese  
Celery Sticks  
Jelly sandwiches  
Frosted cake  
Milk

Wednesday, Sept. 30  
Ham loaf  
Mashed potatoes with butter  
Buttered spinach  
Bread and butter sandwiches  
Plums  
Milk

Thursday, Oct. 1  
Spanish rice  
Cheese slice  
Green beans  
Carrot sticks  
Bread and butter sandwiches  
Fruit cup  
Milk

Friday, Oct. 2  
Scalloped corn with cheese  
Pickles  
Tuna salad sandwiches  
Bread and butter sandwiches  
Fruit gelatin  
Milk

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**Weigel Says He'll Run for Mayor.** Dr. Ollie Weigel has announced that he will be seeking a second term as Mayor of Ankeny in the November election. Mayor Weigel stated that he felt "a duty and personal responsibility to serve my city in whatever capacity I am capable, because of the satisfaction and enjoyment I have derived from the 25 years that I have resided in Ankeny." Prior to his term as Mayor, Weigel served for 12 years on the Plan and Zoning Commission, 5 years on the Adjustment Board and 8 years as a Councilman. Ankeny Press-Citizen, *September 1, 1975*



**Miss Stelpflug on NMSU Staff.** Holly Stelpflug joined the staff of Northeast Missouri State University this month as a counselor in the Admissions Office. She graduated from Northeast in May with a bachelor of science in education degree with a major in elementary education and is a 1971 graduate of Ankeny Senior High. She was named to the "Who's Who" in American Universities and Colleges. 1974-75. Ankeny Press-Citizen, *September 1, 1975*

Check out the new AAHS website: [www.ankenyhistorical.org](http://www.ankenyhistorical.org). There's lots of good information there!

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## 1970s

**Augustine Feels Woman Council Member Would Be Valuable.** City Councilman Ed Augustine stated this week that he felt a woman would be a valuable asset to the community if she served as City Councilwoman. Augustine spoke to a small group of interested citizens about the influence of women in community organization. He states, "Women compose, to all practical purposes, 50% of Ankeny's citizens. It seems only right that women have a responsible representative on the Council to ensure that their interests are heard." Women, he feels, are probably more knowledgeable in certain areas than men are and the object would be to use their talent and energy in the growth and development of our community in those areas. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 18, 1975*



### **Ankeny Woman Wins Nine State Fair Ribbons.**

Norma Behmerwohld of 407 SW Des Moines Street in Ankeny won nine ribbons at this year's Bicentennial Iowa State Fair. She brought home five ribbons for home-grown produce: a second place for grapes; two fifth places for squash and green peppers; a third place for celery and a fourth place for cucumbers. In culinary arts, Mrs. Behmerwohld won four ribbons: a first for raised doughnuts, a second for gooseberry jam and two thirds for currant jelly and raspberry jelly. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 2, 1976*

*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!*



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**Value of Family Dwellings in Ankeny Doubled in 10 Years.** A comparison of Ankeny Building Permit figures for August, over the last ten years, shows that the value of single family dwellings being built doubled between 1965 and 1974. The 1975 starts are down an average of \$1500 from those started last August. In August of 1965, seven builders started 17 single family dwellings in Ankeny at a total valuation of \$277,350, an average of \$16,300 per home. In August of 1975, four builders started 8 single family dwellings in Ankeny at a total valuation of \$244,000, an average of \$30,500 per home. 1965 YTD valuations totaled \$2,468,648. Five years ago, in 1970, YTD starts totaled 182 for a valuation of \$5,964,772. The 1970 figures do not include the non-taxable construction, \$2,500,000 at DMACC and \$125,000 at Faith Baptist Bible College. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 25, 1975*

**Determines Policies for Public Use of School Facilities.** At their September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Ankeny Community School Board agreed on a standard policy for community use of school facilities. The policy approved is as follows: I. Philosophy. All school facilities are primarily erected and maintained for the use of the public schools and shall not be used for any other purpose that will conflict with that use, A) Any activity connected with the public school program will take precedence over any request for use of the school property for any other purpose. B) The school facilities may be used by other groups or organizations in the community when such does not conflict with the school program. 1) It is understood that such use shall be for community purposes or the promotion of community activities and that any program presented shall have worthwhile educational, recreational, or cultural values and be free from objectionable qualities. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 9, 1976*

**Cyndy Lammert Delivers.** Cyndy Lammert places sorted mail into the proper slots for each swing on her (Postal Service) route. This process takes approximately 2 hours every morning. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 23, 1976*



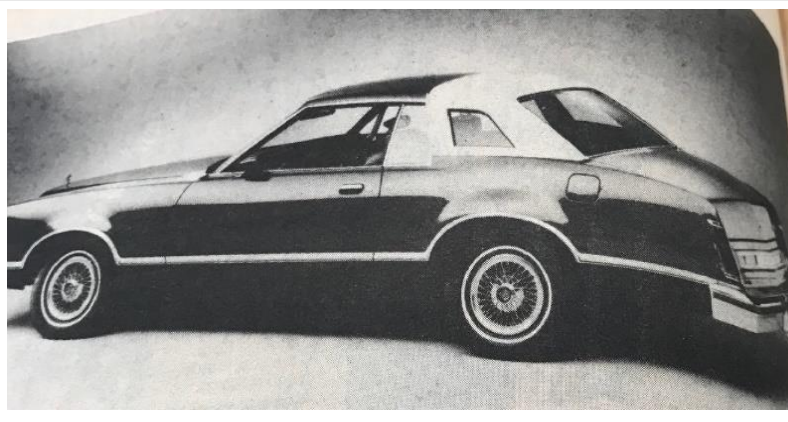
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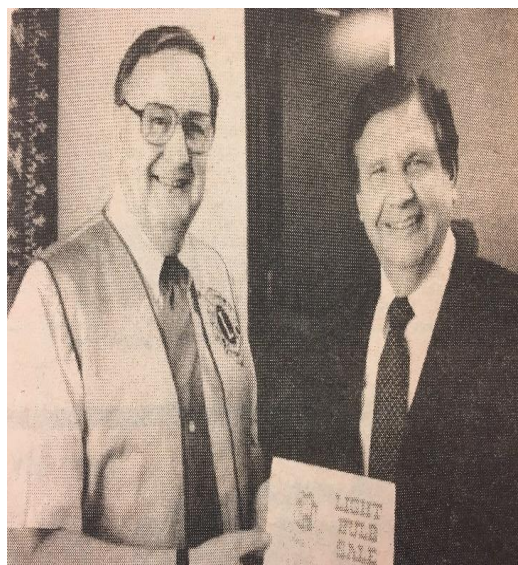
## 1970s



### New Cars Shown This Week-end.

The new Ford LTD II is only one among many new looks put out by Ford for the new 1977 year. Among major changes is the conversion of the Thunderbird to a mid-size car. This car and all of the others will be on the lot and in the showroom at Dale Miller Ford starting Friday October 1. *September 30, 1976, Ankeny Press-Citizen*

## 1980s



**Lions Light Bulbs Sale Nears** – Ankeny Lions Club member Wayne Begg opened the 1985 Light Bulb Sales campaign by calling on Ankeny Mayor Ollie Wiegel. Ankeny Lions will be conducting their door-to-door sales September 9<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from the sale are used for a variety of community projects and the cornea transplant center in Iowa City. The four packs of 4-60 watt or 4-100 watt will sell for \$2.50. A three-way bulb (50-100-150) will also sell for \$2.50. The Lions will also be accepting donations of old eyeglasses.

Projects and organizations supported by Ankeny Lions Club donations include: Boy Scouts and Girls Scouting, Gymnastics Club, Kirkendall Public Library, Little League, Special Olympics, Ankeny Fire Department, tow Camp Sunnyside camp ships each year and the awarding of several \$300 scholarships to Ankeny High School graduates. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 3, 1985*



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**FFA Float** – Ankeny FFA participate in the Iowa State Fair Parade, advertising Grandfather's Farm live on TV and through downtown Des Moines along the parade route. This year, members constructed a float that displayed a painting of the Grandfather's Farm. In the parade, 20 members rode on the float with three animals; a goat, a Brahma calf, and a White Park calf that were donated to the farm. The Ankeny FFA members have a good time on the float, drawing all kinds of "oohs and aahs" from the crowd as children caught sight of the baby animals. During the construction of the float, members learned how to work effectively with one another and want to thank John Hall of Elkhart for the donation of the hayrack. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 10, 1985*



**They Lead the Cheers** – The 1985 Ankeny Hawk Cheerleaders for football are pictured above. Row 1 (l to r) Julie Green, Sonja Baer, Tracy Parker, Amy Phillips, Ginger Figley, Leslie Thompson. Row 2: Shawn Hoffman, Kelly Reid, Jenni Bauer, Lisa Madole, Julie Gingery, Kelly Heagle, Susie Ortale, and Stephanie Powell. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 10, 1985*



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### **Incumbent Unseated in School Election**

**Election** – Last Tuesday's school elections netted surprising results when, for the first time in several years, an incumbent Ankeny school board member failed in a bid for re-election. Kathryn Johnson, bowed to Karolyn Knedler in her bid for a third term on the school board. Johnson was elected to a one-year term in 1981 and, in 1982 re-elected to a three-year term. Johnson received 339 votes last Tuesday and Knedler received 473, the highest of all four candidates. Incumbent Darel Hildreth was re-elected to a three-year term with 357 votes. The fourth-place vote getter was Michael VonHagen who received 298 votes. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 17, 1985*

**If you enjoy these articles ... or just love history ... remember to visit the Ankeny Area Historical museum at an Open House on Sundays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm or by appointment.**

**Otter 4 Sale: Til November 1** – For Sale: One otter, an 18-hole golf course. Owners, the City of Ankeny, will take acceptable bids through November 1, 1985. Before the end of 1985, the City of Ankeny must come up with a financing plan to pay itself back for general fund monies used in the construction of Otter Creek Municipal Golf Course. These monies are needed for other purposes. "The way it is now, it's money we can't invest and it's a liability not to have it", said City Manager, Carl Metzger.

Any plans made now to try and sell the course once financing arrangements have been made. Following a September 9<sup>th</sup> study session and council meeting, Council member John Voigt moved to retain ownership of the course and finance through a lease-purchase agreement, the construction debt, operating deficits, the cost of taking water to the course and a DMACC student-built club house. He got no council support when he refused to remove the operating deficit funds from the lease-purchase arrangement. Mayor Ollie Weigel thought that could be put in the annual budget.

The motion, which was made by Mollison, and supported by Council members Jon Lemmon, Gary Lohmann and John Lundstrom, was to.....announce that Otter Creek Golf Course would be available for sale according to a price known only to the Council....that if no bids were received by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1985, the Council would proceed with pursuit of the execution of a lease purchase agreement that would cover the cost of the construction debt and the water line. The motion also noted that the water line construction plans should proceed immediately. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 17, 1985*

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**Kindergarten Overload Brings Parent Comment** – The school district’s proposed remedy to a 4-student overload in this year’s 303-member kindergarten class elicited criticism from several parents at last Monday night’s Ankeny School Board meeting.

Based on a district policy of no more than 25 kindergarteners per teacher, there are two students too many at both Terrace and Northwest Elementary. According to Elementary Education Director Lloyd Nelson, the administration was criticized as “poor planning” by several parents present at the meeting. If four kindergarteners qualify and their parents agree, those students will be moved into the developmental program in October, Nelson said. However, the solution was criticized as “poor planning” by several parents present at the meeting.

“There is over-crowding in the kindergarten this fall and the preschool enrollment is up too,” commented Michelle Williams. “This problem is not going to go away. I suggest you see this problem and meet it. What are you going to tell any new parents who might move into the district? This situation is somebody’s fault and should have been addressed at the kindergarten screening last spring.”

Supt. Keith Hopkins said if that happens students will have to be transferred to other schools to restore the student-teacher ratio at Terrace and Northwest. “That hasn’t happened yet—hopefully it won’t,” he said, adding that the district can have more than 25 children in a kindergarten class if an aid is hired to assist the teacher.

Several parents questioned the timing of the screening process, asking why it is being done now instead of last spring. Lloyd Nelson admitted the district would have preferred doing all the developmental kindergarten screening last spring “but couldn’t.” “There are 220 kids who were not tested for developmental kindergarten last spring”, added Hopkins. “Among those kids, there must be some who are having academic problems and would benefit from the program.” Board member Jane Kuhn pointed out that, when the board approved the developmental program, “some slots were left open”. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 24, 1985*

**Board Votes for In-House School Superintendent Search** – In an action board member John Neimeyer denounced as “ludicrous”, the Ankeny School Board voted 5-2 last Monday night to make an “in-house search” the first step in finding a replacement for retiring Supt. Keith Hopkins. The motion, made by John Weigel and seconded by newly-appointed member Don Madole, calls for a full-fledged candidate search only if an in-house search yields none suitable. Both John Niemeyer and newly-elected board member Karolyn Knedler voted against a bonafide search. It’s a closed process now.

Asked why he made his in-house search motion last Monday, Weigel said the board had “hemmed and hawed around long enough. There’s no point in carrying on a charade if you feel you already have the best man to do the job,” he said, adding that he has “much confidence” in Norman’s abilities. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, September 24, 1985*