

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950's, 1970's, 1990's*

May 2019



1950s

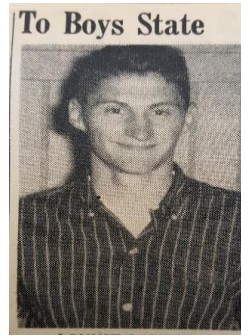
Legion to Honor War Heroes: To Decorate Graves at Five Cemeteries

The Ankeny American Legion Post and veterans in the vicinity will honor the war dead Memorial Day by placing flowers on the graves. The five cemeteries that will be visited are Oralabor, Greenwood, Brethren, Lincoln, and Elkhart. The days ceremonies will begin at 7 a.m. with a breakfast at the Legion Hall. All members, veterans and their families are invited. Following the breakfast, the post will hold flag raising ceremonies in front of the building. The members will then go to the cemeteries where a flag and a wreath will be placed on the grave of every veteran.

From the Commander- All Legion members, veterans and their families, are welcome to our Memorial Day breakfast and services to help us pay tribute to our departed comrades, who paid the supreme sacrifice that we may enjoy the privilege of living in this free land of ours. -Lowell Lein, Marshall of the Day.

Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 30, 1957

Lonnie Lamberti, son of Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Lamberti has been chosen by the Ankeny American Legion Post to attend Boys State to be held June 2 through June 8 at Camp Didge. Lonnie will be one of 720 to attend the 19th annual affair. The boys will be divided into "cities" of 30 boys and "counties" of 60, and all will participate in some governmental activity, with experienced adult counselors as advisors. A large sports program is also scheduled for the group. Gov. Herschel Loveless and Kenneth J. Benda, Legion Department Commander, will be among the dignitaries to speak to the group during the week. Lamberti, a junior at Ankeny High School, was chosen by the Legion Post on his personality, scholastic ability, and all-around citizenship. Visitors are welcome to Boys State anytime during the week, but no facilities are available for meals. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 30, 1957*



Be sure to check out the Ankeny Area Historical Society website www.ankenyhistorical.org for upcoming events and activities! Come on Wed, June 5, at 6:00-8:00 for Night at the Museum Murder Mystery!

**Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please become a member of the AAHS or send comments via email at: history@ankenyhistorical.org.*



Ankeny Area Historical Society

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Hawk Trackmen to State Ankeny was again nosed out for the team title in the Class B division of the district track meet, but it will send a good representation to the state track meet to be held Saturday at Drake Stadium. The two winners in each event are eligible, but in addition, the Hawks will send some men who did not place in the first two spots.

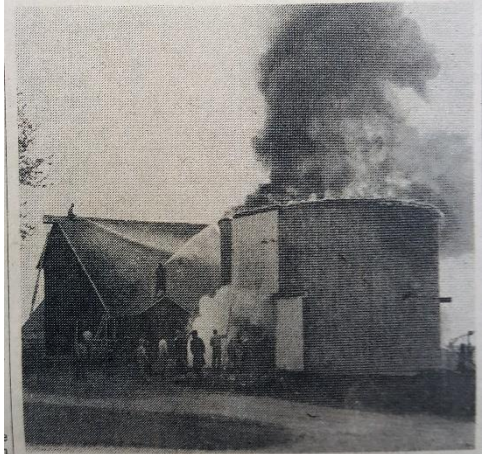
Among the Ankeny athletes who will complete are Lonnie Lamberti in the High Jump. He leaped 5'10" for his high of the year; Bob Brown in the football throw; Bob Floto, Bob Doubleday, Bob Latson and Roland Bachman in the mile relay; and the medley relay team.

In addition to running in the medley relay, Bob Latson will represent Ankeny in the broad jump. The two-mile relay team of Bob Brown, Dave Jones, Roger Blair and Larry Owens completes the Ankeny entries to the final and biggest track meet for the high schools of Iowa-The State Outdoor Meet. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 30, 1957*

Fire Sunday morning destroyed the grain bin at the home of Orval Fesler who lives four miles north and two miles east of Ankeny. The bin was loaded to capacity and contained 5,000 bushels of ear corn and 1,000 bushels of shelled corn. Most of the grain was a total loss.

Seven fire departments from the surrounding towns answered the call for help. Towns with trucks, beside Ankeny, included Elkhart, Huxley, Cambridge, Polk City, Bondurant, and Maxwell. Most of the departments brought their tank trucks to help fight the blaze. Firemen kept other buildings in the vicinity soaked to prevent the fire from spreading. **Firemen Hampered;** Hundreds of cars carrying onlookers crowded the roads to the farm, hampering the work of the firemen. Tank trucks were barely able to pass the cars that crowded the road. Firemen believe the blaze was caused by a short in the electrical wiring. The farm is owned by Orville Johnson of Bondurant. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 9, 1957*

Fire Destroys Farm Building Near Ankeny



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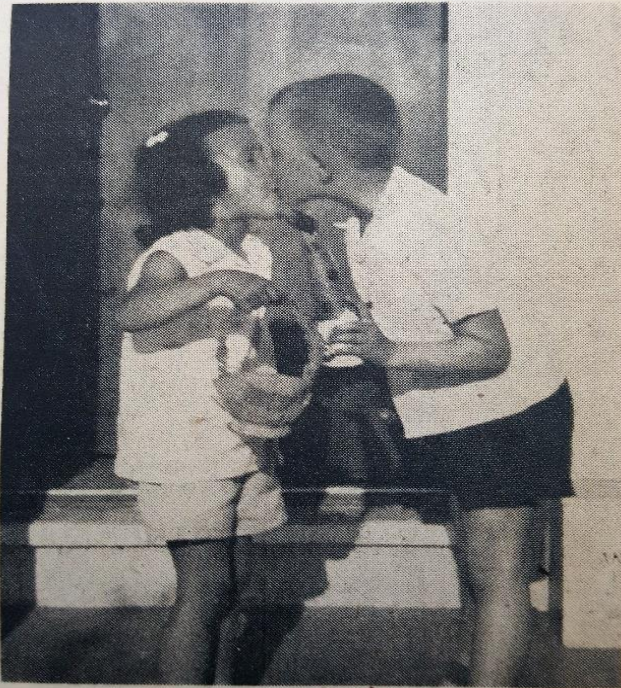
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A Reward for His May Basket



It was May basket day in Ankeny yesterday with many children making the rounds to their friends and neighbors to leave baskets filled with candy. Here is Joe Begg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Begg, getting a reward for his basket from Tamara Boettcher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Boettcher.

At The Innior-Senior Prom



"All This and Heaven Too" was the theme at the annual Ankeny High School Junior-Senior banquet held last Saturday night at Connie's and Lew's Skyliner just south of Des Moines. It was a gala night and a fitting climax to the social activities for the school year.

Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 30, 1957

← Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 9, 1957

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Renee Hermann To Girls State. Renee Hermann of Ankeny has been selected by Albaugh McGovern Auxiliary Unit No. 42 of Ankeny, Iowa, as their Representative to the 33rd Annual Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hermann of Ankeny, Iowa. Participation in the Girls State program is one of the community service projects of the Auxiliary that they feel is very beneficial to a girl who will be studying U.S. Government during her senior year in high school. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 4, 1978*



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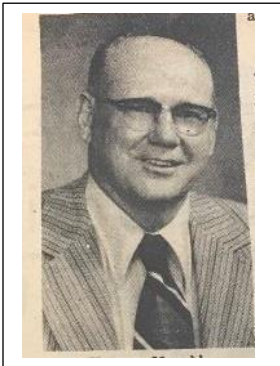
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AFWC Officers. At the May 8th general meeting of the Ankeny Federated Women's Club the following officers were installed. Right to left: President (2nd term) Dolores Van Oort, 1st Vice President - Bonnie Davis, 2nd Vice President - Gloria Paulus, 3rd Vice President (2nd term) Jeanne Balk, Secretary - Jean Sansgaard, and Treasurer (2nd term), Bonnie Harms. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 18, 1978*



Moeckly Elected Dairy Secretary. Harvey Moeckly of Ankeny, Iowa, has been elected secretary of Mid-America Farms, Inc., the marketing arm of the Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. Moeckly was elected to the post at the meeting of Mid-Am Farms board of directors held May 4 in Kansas City. Moeckly and his wife, Hazel, and their son, Maurice, and his family, operate a 740-acre dairy farm near Ankeny, Iowa. Moeckly is active in a number of other dairy related organizations. He has marketed milk cooperatively for more than 40 years. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 18, 1978*

Jaycee Board. The Jaycee board for 1978-79 are: Back row left: Bob Kayser, Joe Vanderah, Greg Sunner, Rod Clarkson, Myron Strain, Mike Siemann, Ralph Crawford, Greg Kuhn. Fron row left: Al Sherman, Dan Truckenmiller, John Nathlich, Roger Yakel, Ken Deken, Joe Costello, Pat Lamb. (Not pictured were Dean Hill, Walt Barnes, Bob Markwardt, Ron Longnecker.) *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 18, 1978*



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Jaycee-ette Board. The Jaycee-ette board for 1978-79 are: Left to right: Bev Heldt, Chris Baedke, Kathy Platts, Linda Odson, Karolyn Knedler, Linda Miller, Kaylene Baker, Marcia Lemke. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 18, 1978*

Adios to Mrs. Bretos. Over a decade of dedicated teaching is coming to an end this summer as Celia Maria Francisca de los Angeles Zamora y Carbonell, commonly known as Mrs. Bretos, leaves the Ankeny establishment to practice law in Miami, Florida. Mrs. Bretos has been teaching Spanish classes for the last 14 years. Two of them were spent at the Dysart-Genesco school district, and the other 12 in Ankeny. However, she might have never taught had it not been for an incident that changed her life. Mrs. Bretos, who was born, Sancti Spiritu, Cuba, grew up in Havana where she later became a prominent lawyer. During this time, she attended a university where she received two doctorates; one in law, the other in international law. She remembers Fidel Castro, who also attended the university, as being a well-known man who "was more of gangster than a student." (Editor's note: To summarize her eventful life, she told when Castro called together a group of lawyers, her among them, to come to his fortress, La Cabana, and sign and legalize documents which would give the government power to execute rebels who were against the revolution. She did not participate and escaped to Guatemala, and later, to the U.S., where her first husband passed away from ill health. She was not allowed to practice law here, so went to school to learn English and get a teaching certificate from the University of Iowa to teach Spanish.) Leaving Ankeny will be a hard thing for Mrs. Bretos to do. It was here that she received her Master's Degree in Spanish, bought her first house, married her husband Miguel, and became a U.S. citizen (1968). The people she feels she will miss most are the administration and faculty members, her personal friends, and her "kids" (students). *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 25, 1978*



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Direction for Floppy and Friend. Today marks the beginning of a new era for one of Central Iowa's most famous canines, Floppy. A veteran of 21-years on TV, numerous personal appearances, and straight-dog for scores of jokes, he is making the transition from broadcast to print media. Through the auspices of his creator, Duane Ellett, Floppy's career as a comic strip character is all drawn up. The Ankeny Press-Citizen is illustrating the cartoon, which is surprisingly called "Floppy." Duane plans to encourage his fans to have their local newspapers in hand when they watch the program on Friday, so they can read "Floppy" with him. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 25, 1978*

When it comes to beeping Floppy's nose, everyone wants to get into the act. Duane says he and Floppy are separate entities. Often, he doesn't even know what Floppy is going to say. He does find Floppy expressing his thoughts he would not have the nerve to vocalize. "I can do things through him I could never do myself, such as needle dignitaries. We're completely separate. I never know what he's going to say. He can kid the governor and tell him to pick up the pace." When Steve Allen and Batman came to town, they couldn't resist a visit with the Midwest's most famous dog. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 25, 1978*

Come and see Floppy at the Ankeny Area Historical Barn on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 during the 2019 summer. Did you get to go to his TV show? Maybe, you are in one of the photos in the barn, too!



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Star Program Information. Information regarding the Ankeny Blue Star Home Project is being sent home with school children for their parents but it is hoped that other adult residents of Ankeny will participate in this program. A "Blue Start House" serves as an instant place of refuge for the protection of this community's children. It is a home that a child may go to instantly to prevent being molested, for protection from bullies, mean stray animals, or in case of sudden illness or injury. The Ankeny Police Department Public Relations Department sponsors this program with the cooperation of the Ankeny Parent-Teacher Organization. Those interested in participating in this program may make application on the forms sent home with school children or by applying directly to the Ankeny Policy Department.

Judy Griffin helps her son, Wade, display the Blue Star placard that will be placed in their front window denoting to young children that their home is a place of refuge in case of emergencies. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 26, 1977*

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Ankeny Physical and Sports Therapy – The Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday to welcome Ankeny Physical and Sports Therapy. The physical therapy clinic opened March 22. It is owned by Physical Therapist Luke Carlson. Pictured are: (from left) Courtney, Lisa and Luke Carlson, Mayor John Voigt, Chamber President Bill Konnath, Lynn Gorney, clinic administrator; Donna and John Laakso. John is a physical therapy assistant and athletic trainer for the clinic. *Ankeny Press Citizen, May 3, 1994*



Spelling Bee – Danielle Chappell, principal at East Elementary, recently presented Nicole Anderson, sixth-grade student at East, with the district-wide spelling bee plaque. Nicole won the honor at a contest held recently for district wide sixth-grade students. *Ankeny Press Citizen, May 5, 1994*

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Harkins to celebrate 50th

Anniversary – John and Mary Jane (Conway) Harkin were married on May 22, 1944 in Beach Grove, Ind. They have five children, Steve, David, Anne, James, and Beth. They also have nine grandchildren. John worked for Shell Oil as a dealer and Mary Jane was an industrial relations manager secretary with the John Deere Des Moines Works. *Ankeny Press Citizen, May 10, 1994*

School wants 15 of Hawkeye Parks 35 acres for new middle school – Ankeny School Board member Brian Humke denied three times that it was being offered as a trade. “We’re not out to hornswoggle you. We’re not saying ‘Give the City the hard part.’ “It is not our idea that you’ll take Neveln and we’ll take Hawkeye Park.” But the Board’s Facility Committee had sent its chairman, Rick Tollakson, to a joint meeting of the Board and the Ankeny City Council to see if there was Council interest in taking over Neveln School for city uses and turning over a portion of Hawkeye Park for construction of a second middle school. He said that the present Neveln building would need to be doubled in size for the district’s use and that the seven and one-half acres of land was only half of the ground required.

Ankeny Schools Superintendent Ben Norman told the Council that the Board needed some answers in time to plan for a Fall – 1993 bond referendum for the 1994-95 construction. School Board committees have determined that the best facility configuration for the district would be to keep grades K-5 at the six elementary attendance centers; have grades 10-12 at the high school; and place grades 6-7 and 8-9 in two different facilities, one of which would be Parkview Middle School which currently houses grades 7-8.

This would require a new facility since the committee turned down a previous proposal to convert the new Northeast Elementary building to a junior high or middle school. Calling for another joint meeting on May 24, the Council and School Board would meet in the council chambers of the Municipal Building at 211 SW Walnut in Uptown Ankeny. *Ankeny Today, May 13, 1993*

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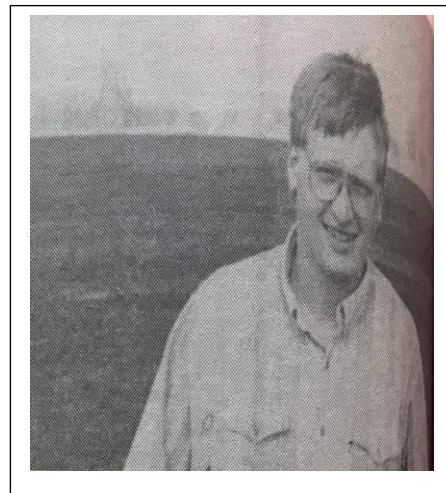


1990s

Cooperative financing package helps Ankeny farmer buy first

parcel of land – John Jensen of Ankeny knew he was going to sign the papers that would allow him to own his first piece of farmland. He had no idea he was the featured guest at a standing-room-only event packed with agricultural officials and media representatives last week at Community State Bank in Ankeny.

Jensen, 22, a 1990 graduate of Ankeny High School, was the focal point at the May 3 press conference because he became the first farmer in Iowa to acquire land with help from a new, public/private financing cooperative designed to get young men and women involved with farming.



The new loan program allowed Jensen to acquire 120 acres of prime farmland, which already has row upon row of corn peeking out of the rich black soil. The farm is located about 3 ½ miles east of Ankeny. Without the new financing program, Jensen admits his chances of owning the land this early in his farming career are slim to none. “This should help a lot of young guys like me get started,” Jensen said.

Jeff Damman, vice president of Community State Bank, said the normal protocol for agricultural loans requires a 30 percent down payment. “It couldn’t be done without this,” Damman said. “There is no conventional loan with 10 percent down.” With the new program, Jensen had to pay only 10 percent down, on his \$215,000 loan. A Beginning Farmer Loan from the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority (IADA) covered 60 percent of the purchase price and the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) covered another 10 percent,

Damman said the loan has a blended rate of 5 ¾ percent, which is about 2.5 percent lower than the normal rate. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Dale Cochran said it’s vital for young farmers to get established, in order for agriculture to survive in Iowa. Cochran said Iowa has lost 45,000 farmers in the past 20 years. He also said 40 percent of farmers are 55 years old, or older. *Ankeny Press Citizen, May 10, 1994*

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NW Ankeny development for new home buyers – A new housing development in northwest Ankeny is designed specifically to appeal to first-time home buyers; or anyone seeking a quality-built new home in the most affordable price range. Located on NW 14th Street between NW Greenwood and NW Applewood Streets, the area is called Amy Jo Heights, and features three-bedroom homes. The homes are a 982 square foot ranch style, with three bedrooms and one bath. They feature central air and gas heat. Amenities include an attached garage, covered front stoop and a full basement. Prices start at \$82,900. *Ankeny Today, May 13, 1993*

1990s



Ollie and Mary Weigel

Weigels to celebrate 50th Anniversary – Dr. Ollie and Mary Katherine (Finnegan) Weigel will celebrate 50 years of marriage with an open house. They were married June 3, 1944, in the chapel on the air base at Deming, New Mexico. They have four children: John, Marilyn, Larry and Sue. They also have 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Dr. Weigel has practiced dentistry in Ankeny for 43 years. *Ankeny Press Citizen, May 24, 1994*

Ankeny Press Citizen, May 3, 1994

JADE GARDEN
CHINESE RESTAURANT

Bring Your Mother to Jade Garden...
It Will Warm Her Heart!
Happy Mothers' Day!
Serving our regular dinner menu 11am-9pm with
no regular lunch special.
Open 7 days a week.
Hours: Sun-Thurs 11-9, Fri-Sat 11-10, Lunch until 3
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