

Summer 2021 Newsletter

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Summer 2021 President's Message

I was reading through an early newsletter from September 1995 and I noticed we are at the 25 year celebration of the opportunity to move the Marts/Neveln/McCleary house from its former HWY 69 location (now Dairy Queen) to its current location on 3rd and School Street.

What an exciting time that had to be in the life of the Ankeny Area Historical Society (AAHS)! I was a relative newcomer to Ankeny, teaching at Westwood and Southeast Elementary schools and I did not understand the significance of the house, both to the community of Ankeny and the AAHS, but I enjoyed watching the process of the move.

How cool to see a house moved off its foundation, placed on a flatbed and driven several blocks to be placed on a new foundation at its current location! The pride, the common goal, the volunteerism, and the general sense of community had to be immense! I, as the current president of the AAHS, am thankful for the membership at that time to have the vision that created our current setting and led to the expansion of the barn to house our collection and invite members and visitors to the museum.

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We are Open

Grand Re-opening was Saturday, July 10 and Sunday, July 11. We estimate there were over 75 people in the two days.

When can I visit?

The museums are open from 2pm to 4pm every Sunday thru September 5.

By Appointment.

Contact the office at 515-965-5795 to check on availability.

Summer 2021 President's Message Cont.

Please read the abridged version of the original newsletter article included in this newsletter (page 4) to understand the whirlwind of events that occurred to make this move happen.

Twenty five years later, the AAHS was given several opportunities to advance our mission “to inspire in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area.” The Covid Pandemic, even with it’s obvious negatives, gave the AAHS Board of Directors the opportunity to approve and enact a major reorganization of the barn museum and house base-ment! The Ankeny Community School District contacted us about moving the Parkview/Old Central School bell to our location. The work of many developed a plan to place a strong foundation under the bell and mount it on a new pedestal! The brick campaign gave the chance for members and the community to remind us of our past and also establish a strong financial foundation for AAHS! John Deere and Bravo have generously supported us with grants to update our displays and signage to promote what we have to offer to our members and the community!



I am excited, 25 years later, to be a part of the pride, the common goal, the volunteerism, and general the sense of community that has happened at the Ankeny Area Historical Society. I am a firm believer that out of all bad things can come something good! We at the AAHS use the place holder the Covid Pandemic created to make “something good” happen!

Thanks to the AAHS board of directors, the committees that keep AAHS functioning, the membership that has given support, volunteers that develop and complete initiatives, etc., etc., etc.! Think of how you can become involved. Please come visit and enjoy the Ankeny Area Historical Museum and all you have done to make this a reality, both past and present!

Yours in History,
John Stratton, AAHS President

“Our mission is to inspire in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area.”

From the Archives, September, 1995

OUR NEW 90-YEAR-OLD HOME!

The future home of the Ankeny Area Historical Society! The past two months have been the most exciting time in our seven-year existence! It is truly happening, and here is the story on how quickly everything had to come together.



Monday morning, July 3, a phone call was made to Bud Wiuff to verify the rumor that the Marts/Neveln/ McCleary home was to be demolished in one to two weeks. This was confirmed. Bud stated that if the Historical Society was interested, we could pick up the key, look it over, and if it met our needs, he would donate the home to us! By 2 p.m. that same afternoon, 20 members had been reached to do a walk-through of the house. The consensus was that this was a wonderful, well built home, very well maintained and would fit our needs if we could find the appropriate location for it. Suggestion was made that an ideal location was in front of the Ankeny School District Administration Office on Third and School.

Old Central once stood there, and it would fit nicely with the Uptown District. Decision was made by the group to pursue relocating the home, and Dr. Ben Norman would check with the Board of Education to see how they felt about moving the house to the corner of SW Third and School Streets.

Wednesday, July 12, Bud Wiuff was again contacted requesting the absolute latest date the house needed to be removed from the property. Bud said that if the house was removed by the end of August, it was ours. Everything then moved into high gear to see if we could make it happen.

A bid to move the house was obtained from Ron Holland of Forest City who had the lowest bid of \$22,000 and said he would work us into his schedule because of our deadline.

Our regular meeting of July 25 was a discussion of house move needs, such as placement on school grounds if approval was given, power telephone, and cable line removal, basement excavation, foundation, water, electricity, gas, and bringing the house up to code. Dr. Norman reported that the school board was enthused about the possibility of placing the house at Third and School Streets and Vicki Schriener, Craig Block, and himself were appointed to work with the society. The society voted unanimously to proceed with this project.

Jack Dennler was appointed fund-raising chairman with Orville Ballard, Gary Baugher, Cleadythe Buehler, Don Davis, Katie Elsbecker, George Hart, Mary Hickie, Jean M. Jones, and Mary Ann Madole serving on this committee.

(Continued on page 4)

From the Archives, continued.

Jack challenged each member to solicit at least five people for donations, but not until the school board approves placement of the house on school grounds. A fund-raising brochure will be prepared by Myrtle Sexauer, Jean M. Jones, and Barb White.

August 7, Larry Cairns was asked to be our “relocation administrator” to lead us through this project. We offered to pay him, but he said he would do it on a volunteer basis. Larry is in the construction business in Ankeny, was president of the Uptown Ankeny Association last year, and formerly served on the Ankeny City Council. Larry provided a site plan for Jack Denler to use in making a presentation to the school board at their August 7 meeting. The board voted unanimously to allow house placement and felt the museum would be good use of the land for children as well as adults to visit and learn of their heritage.



By August 14, Jeff Lamberti, a new member, was asked and agreed to be our legal representative to help us through everything that happened so quickly. A meeting was scheduled with the City Manager for August 15 to discuss what would be required of us by the city. Carl Metzger said he would contact the Department of Transportation as well as a sign company to remove two traffic signals on Ankeny BLVD/ Highway 69 and Third Streets. The basement was excavated August 16. The address of 301 SW Third was issued by the city.

August 17 the Chamber of Commerce held a ground breaking ceremony for us which was attended by approximately 50 people. Ted Deal was host ambassador, Craig Block welcomed us on behalf of the Chamber, and Jerry Fehn on behalf of the City. Barb White responded for the Society. We were very appreciative of the confidence placed in our group by the school, city, and chamber, and vowed to do everything within our power to fulfill our responsibilities to the community.

The move took place on Sunday, August 20. At 8:10 a.m. our large two-story house was pulled out on the highway. The house rounded the corner of Third and School and was pulled onto the school grounds where it was parked next to the excavated basement at 10:10 a.m. On September 21 and 22 the house was placed on its foundation.

The Bell Project

Submitted by Mark Schulman

Ring the Bell!!

We finished the project. Thank you to everyone who helped. The foundation was built, the bricks were laid, the bell was delivered, installed and the landscaping was completed. What's next you ask? Well, let me tell you. By popular demand, we have **re-opened purchasing the memorial bricks**. You can order bricks online by going to our website at

www.AnkenyHistorical.org



Membership

Why Join?

Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission of inspiring in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny Area.

Annual Memberships

Personal - Individual for \$25 and Family for \$50

Business - \$100

How to Join?

Go to AnkenyHistorical.org and sign up

Call the office and request a membership form be sent



Donations

Without the philanthropy of our donors, the programs and improvements to our museum would not be possible. We wish to publicly thank you for your generosity.

General Donations

Donna Kelling	Al and Cathy Overbaugh
Linda Logi Randolph	Bruce and Jeanette Beckwith
Jon Gioffredi	Donna Cottingham
Joe Gioffredi	Connie Doubleday
Julia Shay	Gary and JoEllen Nervig
Jim and Elaine Brazelton	Janet Leonard
Jan Christians	Susan Ballard
Don and Carolyn Zuck	Premier Pizza
Roger and Sandra Spahr	

Memorials

Memorial monies donated to Ankeny Area Historical Society in memory of the following individual:

George Shidler

Please accept our apology if your name was not included in this issue. Your donation was truly appreciated.

Helping to bring the Past to Life

Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program

Submitted by Mark Schulman

We are so excited to share that we have been selected to be a part of the Hy-Vee Reusable Bag program that supports local non-profits, which is designed to make it easy for customers to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment

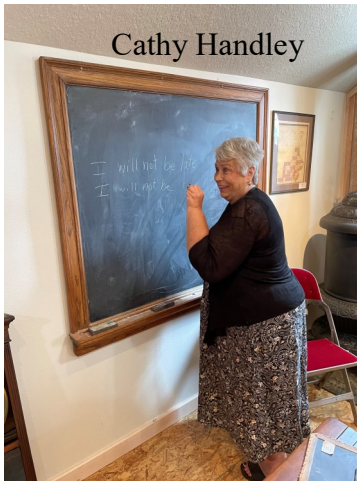
For the **month of July**, each time a \$2.50 red “My Heart” Reusable Bag is purchased at the Hy-Vee located at *2510 SW State St.*, \$1 will be donated to AAHS. This is a great way to raise awareness, support the environment and fundraise to help fulfill our mission of inspiring a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area.

Please share this information with your family and friends and the next time you are at our designated Hy-Vee store, purchase a bag or two. You will be doing the environment some good and supporting AAHS at the same time.



Celebrations

Thanks to generous donations from Bravo and John Deere, we celebrated the reopening of our two museums with a members only event. Some members came dressed to remember and honor our history.



Cathy Handley



The Lady Birds

Autumn Rasmussen

Lara Roy

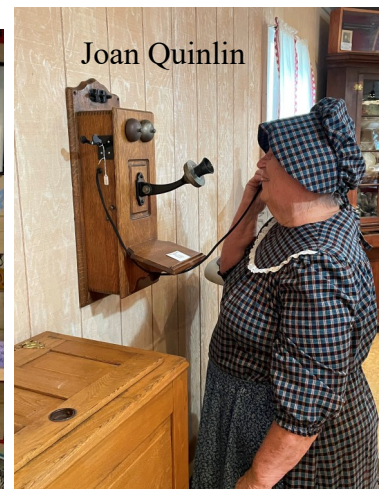
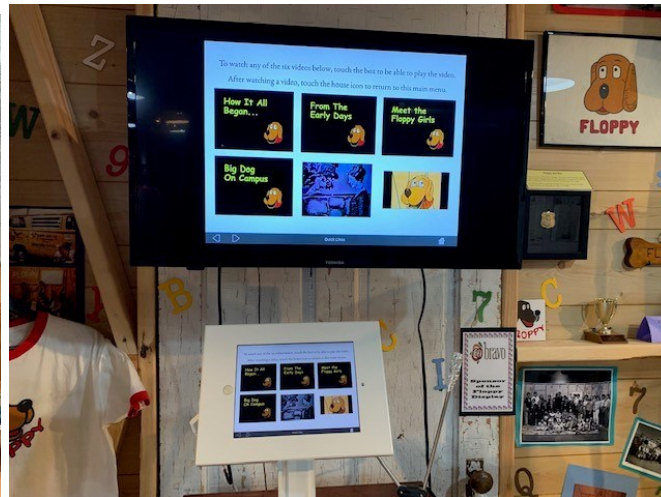
Jill Belgrade



Norm & Deb McCleary



Lois O'Donnell



Joan Quinlin



Ron Fontana

JoAnn Adamson



Dan Battani

Dates for 2021

Summer Open Houses

Every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm thru
September 5, Labor Day Weekend.

Fall Open Houses

First Sunday of the Month in October
and November from 2pm to 4pm. (No
open house in December)

Mission:

*The Ankeny Area Historical Society's mission is to
inspire in our community a sense of meaning and
belonging by sharing the history and culture of the
Ankeny area.*

*Check our website for upcoming dates and
programs.*

AnkenyHistorical.org

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