



# Winter 2021 Newsletter

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Volume 26 Number 4



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## Did you know?

We need your email address for you to access the member portion on the website.

Face Masks and social distancing in our buildings.

We continue to accept donations about Ankeny's past.

We have AAHS T-shirts, Baseball Hats and Refrigerator magnets.

[Contact the office for details.](#)

## Winter 2021 President's Message

Welcome to 2021! The year where the Ankeny Area Historical Museums will reopen to the public!

Even though the museum has been temporarily closed to the public our membership has remained strong! Our membership committee has diligently reached out to existing and new members to continue the valued support of Ankeny Area Historical Society (AAHS) depends on. Members should be receiving electronic/ email messages from the AAHS and have access to our website to find current events occurring at the museum, Ankeny Through the Decades, Be a History Detective, historical photos and more. If you have not shared your email address with the AAHS office we would urge you to do so. It allows you to fully access the benefits of your membership.

Hopefully you all had the opportunity to see the holiday decorations at the House. A big thank you to the Uptown Association, TNT Landscaping and Larry's Building Services for their parts in helping the AAHS light up the areas holiday spirit!

Please read the "From the Archives" article included in this newsletter to help understand the first 100 years history of the Ankeny Community School District. As well as learning more about our schools, it will also help you understand the significance of the Old Central/ Parkview Bell that is being placed on museum grounds. It has been wonderful to see the support for this project from Ankeny Schools, the brick benefactors, and private entities that are all working in conjunction helping this project bring the "Bell" back to its original location. The foundation for this outside display has been poured, which will allow for completion this spring.

The display reorganization in the museum is continuing to take shape. The "From the Archives" article will be good background information as you tour the school displays! As well, the Ankeny Champions display (much delayed) is completed and ready for visitors to enjoy Ankeny School's storied sports successes! Along with a rearrangement of the farm and kitchen/parlor displays, the military display moved and aligned with the Ordnance plant display, along with other updates, we hope you will enjoy your next visit to the museum!

And finally, when is our "Grand Reopening" going to occur. We are looking still toward spring/early summer for this to occur. The AAHS will not open prematurely and negatively impact the health of our members, volunteers, visitors, and presenters. Originally, we were hopeful that the AAHS could reopen by March spring break, but now it's my best guess that it will be in May or June. I would hate to see us miss another Ice Cream Social and the museum's Sunday open houses. More to come as the AAHS Board of Directors determine our best way forward.

Thank you for your continued support!

John Stratton

*"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, 1998

### From Myrtle (Sexauer's) Scrapbook

#### Education Moves Forward: Ankeny Community Schools (Through 1975)

The first school was built of logs and located on the Woods farm about one mile south of Ankeny, where the east entrance of the Iowa State Experimental farm joins Highway 69. (Now the corner of Magazine Road and Ankeny Blvd.) Later this school, was relocated on the east side of Ankeny Boulevard just south of First Street.



A third move located the building to the southwest corner of West First Street. A room in the IOOF building served as an overflow room. The fourth site, selected in 1902, was the present school grounds at SW Third and School Streets. This 3-room building was soon inadequate and was torn down.

The two-story, eight-room building, erected in 1909 was to serve the community well for over 60 years until the damage of the 1974 tornado necessitated demolition rather than repair. ("Old Central", which was located where the Ankeny Area Historical Museum is now located.) Please note the original placement of "The Bell" sitting proudly atop Old Central!

Consolidation came to Ankeny in 1919 at which time the oldest part of Neveln Junior High (now part of Ankeny Community Schools District Offices) was built. Several country schools

were moved to the grounds to accommodate the increased enrollment.

There was no new construction until 1952 when the original part of the Parkview building was constructed. In 1957, the west wing was added and in 1964 an east wing was completed when Parkview became Ankeny High School. Please note "The Bell" sitting proudly in front of Parkview (right side of picture) since 1971. In 1959, an addition consisting of offices, a small gym, and classrooms joined Neveln and Old Central on the corner of SW 3<sup>rd</sup> and School Streets. As Ankeny grew from a small town to a suburb, the story of education has been one of increased enrollment and continuous building. Six buildings now house the kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Northwest Elementary on West First Street was the first building after the original Parkview building, completed in September, 1962. The second building was East Elementary which opened in 1963 at SE 3<sup>rd</sup> and SE Trilein.

Southeast Elementary on SE Trilein and SE 10<sup>th</sup>, the third building, was occupied in 1969. Running out of the points on a compass for designations, the fourth building on NW School Street was completed and opened in 1972 as Terrace Elementary.



As Ankeny moved toward its centennial observance, the first phase of a new complex on NW Ankeny Boulevard to house the high school moved toward completion in September, 1975, beginning Ankeny's second one hundred years in education.

Superintendents serving the Ankeny schools have been: 1917-1919 – H.H. Van Bentuysen; 1919-1921 – E.G. Clark; 1921-1943 – Edward W. Neveln; 1943-1947 – Cliff Evans; 1948-1951 – Ted Karges; 1951-1958 Ralph Jorgenson; 1958-1960 – Melvin Anderson; 1960-1986 – Keith Hopkins

***Our monthly "Ankeny through the Decades" feature is in its seventh year!***



# The Bell Project

On December 23, 2020, The Bell project got real when the foundation was dug and poured for the Old Central/Parkview Bell. (See pictures below) In the spring, additional concrete work on the base will be completed. Then the Bell will be relocated and the memorial bricks will be laid.

Emails have been sent confirming the wording for your brick order. If we haven't heard from you, please contact the office to confirm the wording on your brick.

“Ring around the bell”— Surrounding the bell will be the engraved bricks donated by residents and others. To order, go to our website until February 28th.

*Picture of the proposed Bell project.*



## **ORBIS Partners with AAHS**

Ankeny School District's ORBIS program partnered with AAHS to offer suggestions on how to help with the following problem they were charged with: How might we attract more people to the Ankeny Historical Society and support the museum in their efforts to make their displays more appealing and interactive?

Orbis students Peter Guzman, Olivia Dittmar, and Isabelle Shonka met with the AAHS President, John Stratton, to generate ideas in these areas:

- Attract more first-time visitors to the museum with an emphasis on the younger generations.
- Increase return visits to the museum.
- Increase interactivity and engagement with displays using a variety of means.

These students generated a variety of short-term and long-term suggestions for AAHS to consider and begin to implement. Some of their major findings are as follows:

### **Overall Ideas:**

- Continue to offer seasonal events and decorations
- Improve display and direction signage in museum
- Incorporation of road/street signs in museum.
- Use iPads/ TVs/Speaker systems to present information
- Use up-to-date technology to access information. i.e., QR codes
- Make entryway to barn museum more inviting; Interchange entry display, better signs
- Decor for Outside of the House



## **Did you know AAHS participates in the Amazon Smile program?**

### **What is AmazonSmile?**

It is a simple way to support Ankeny Area Historical Society every time you shop, at no cost to you. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. Please support AAHS at [Smile.Amazon.Com](https://www.amazon.com/smile?ref=AHS)

### **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**

You simply go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) on your web browser or your Amazon app. Check to make sure you see the "AmazonSmile" logo to make sure you activated AmazonSmile.

### **Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**

Yes, you use the same account.

### **How do I select Ankeny Area Historical Society as my charitable organization?**

On your first visit, you will see the button to select your charity. Once you select Ankeny Area Historical Society, your selection will be set for all your purchases.

## **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**

Terry and JoAnn Adamson	William Jackson
Kari Bethel	Karla Kasper
Bobbie and Adam Bentz	Katie Kendall
Elaine Brazelton	Lee and Cindy Lundstrom
Marilyn Dennler	Marilyn Neville
Mary Fields	Terry and Vicky Peter
Dan and Pat Fliger	Gene Samuelson
Rick and Mary Hermann	John and Valerie Stratton
Raymond and Karen Hildreth	Tom and Joan Quinlin

### **Pumpkin Donations**

Bobbie and Adam Bentz	Ken Nelson
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### **Bell Donations**

Jay Agard	Doreen Gillespie
Kerri Ashby	Austin Longnecker
Jon Davidson	James McGinern
Chris Engh	Jon McGivern
Jake Hamblin	Jake Nading
Dave and Charlene Harmon	Jon Rosin
Cory Hart	Derick Tallman
Merron Hart	Marcus Pitts

\* We apologize if we left you off the list.

## **Memorials**

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

Jo Alleman	Gene Hill
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Thank you for your yearly membership! Without it, we wouldn't be able to keep our doors open for future generations to enjoy and learn about Ankeny's amazing history!!

*Helping to bring the Past to Life*



A Big Thank you to the Ankeny Uptown Association, TNT Landscaping and Larry's Building Services.  
AAHS volunteers and staff make the Museum and Uptown Area Holiday Celebration Merry and Bright!



### 2021 AAHS Board of Directors

<b>John Stratton</b>	President
<b>Lois O'Donnell</b>	Vice-President
<b>JoEllen Nervig</b>	Secretary
<b>Jim Nervig</b>	Treasurer

**Dennis Adamson**  
**Elaine Brazelton**  
**Dan Battani**  
**Jim Brazelton**  
**Charles Hart**  
**Tom Jones**  
**Karla Kasper**  
**Dave Richard**  
**Christine Schumacher**

Ex-Officio

<b>JoAnn Adamson</b>	Past-President
<b>Al Azinger</b>	Interim Superintendent
<b>Ron Sampson</b>	Past-President

*Check out our webpage at [AnkenyHistorical.org](http://AnkenyHistorical.org). You can pay for your membership online. As a member, you can view our newsletters, upcoming events, flyers and pictures of Ankeny through the years.*

## *Dates for 2021*

***Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic  
Our Open Houses and Programs  
Are On Hold***

***Please check out our website for  
upcoming  
dates and programs at  
[ankenynhistorical.org](http://ankenynhistorical.org)  
and follow us  
On Facebook!***

## *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.*

