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





1950s

Open House at Nicholson's: The Open House, being held at Gene Nicholson's new store on Highway 69, is drawing large crowds. A Ferris wheel in operation on the lot was a big attraction to the small fry on Monday, when there was no school and fair skies prevailed. Free refreshments and gifts are being offered inside the store, where the display floor is filled with the newest appliances and furniture. The open house will continue through Saturday. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. *Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959*



*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: <u>history@ankenyhistorical.org</u>.



Museum



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1950s

Homecoming Festivities Friday Night, Colorful Event



Ankeny Times, Oct. 15, 1959



Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959 →



Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959





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1950s



Man's Best Friend- Man's best friend is also an important member of the William H. Griener household at 1169 Kenworthy Drive. The pets pictured here with Susan, 6, and Carol, 4 ½, emphasized the companionship and virtues of poochie. Gypsy Belle III, the dachshund, "who owns the Griener family," had this litter of seven bouncing pups at Jefferson where she was staying while her family vacationed. Dachshunds, originally bred for hunting badgers in Germany, have become favorite pets for everyone.... And when the Greiner family goes visiting, the dogs go wagging along. *Ankeny Times, Oct. 23, 1958*



Dippold Picture was found in the Doris Bunz Scrapbook, 1950-1952, housed at the Ankeny Area Historical Museum (Date Unknown)



Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959



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1950s

Adult Education Classes Begin: The 1958-59 evening school classes of 20 or more meetings, will start Monday night November 3 in the Ankeny Vocational Agriculture Building, starting at 7:30 P.M. Both men and their wives are invited to attend the lessons. The meeting for next Monday evening is one of interest to all. A speaker will show a film and explain the processes of oil and grease refinery, along with an explanation of how the various grades of oil are obtained. The importance of correct usage will be stressed, and questions answered to oil and grease problems.

The complete 1958-1959 Adult Education Program follows:

- Nov. 3 Farm Fuels and Lubricants
- Nov. 10 Electricity for the farm
- Nov. 17 How big should the farm be?
- Dec. 1 Insecticides
- Dec. 8 Animal Diseases
- Dec. 15 Hog Grading
- Dec. 22 Rope Splicing
- Jan. 5 Weed Identification

Jan. 12 thru Feb. and March will be devoted to Farm shop practices. Brazing, Welding, soldering, and woodwork will be taught.

Inviting wives to attend is a new idea in the program. Any woman interested in the program can attend the meetings along with the men. It is hoped for good attendance will make the plans made worthwhile. A film will proceed all lessons. *Ankeny Times, Oct. 23, 1958*



Homecoming 1958, with a theme of "From Adam to Atoms," will be staged at Buena Vista college in Storm Lake this weekend, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24-25. It will be the second attempt in as many years to hold the event, this 34th homecoming on campus. Last year's homecoming was cancelled due to the flu epidemic that hit the state that fall.

Buena Vista college students will go to the polls Thursday to elect one of the seven coeds as the 1958 homecoming queen. Among the candidates for queen of the homecoming is JoAnn Cowan, a junior from Ankeny. *Ankeny Times, Oct. 23, 1958*



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1950s





Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959

Ellen Quick, Douglas Smith are wed: Saylorville Baptist Church, decorated with white and coral carnations, was the setting Saturday evening, October 10, for the 8 o'clock marriage of Miss Ellen Louise Quick to Douglas E. Smith. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Quick of Ankeny, and the bridegroom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Smith, also of Ankeny.

Rev. William Koltavich, pastor of Saylorville Baptist Church, officiated at the double ring ceremony. David Miller was soloist and Janice Spahr, organist. Given in marriage by her father, the bride carried a white orchid with coral baby roses. Her gown was hand clipped chantille lace with fitted bodice, styled with a scalloped sabrina neckline, sprinkled with iridescent sequins. The full bouffant skirt, worn over hoops, extended into a chapel train.

Maid of honor was Miss Patty Quick, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Richard Miller, Miss Pat Polich, and Linda Quick, Junior bridesmaid. Flower girl was Debbie Harmon. Zane Smith was his brother's best man. Groomsmen were Ronald Halbrook, Harvey Reynolds, Marshall Smith. Ushers were Harold Quick, Noel Grove and Larry Kinzie.

Mrs. Smith is employed at the Thompson Display Company in Des Moines, and Mr. Smith is associated with his father at V.W. Smith Oils, in Ankeny. After a wedding trip to Niagara Falls, the couple will be at home at 206 Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny. Ankeny Times, Oct. 15, 1959

Catholics Purchase 10 Acres in Ankeny Visitation Catholic Church, Ninth street and Garfield avenue, has

purchased 10 acres of land one-fourth mile east of Highway 69 and north of Enterprise road in Ankeny.

Although the purchase was made in the name of Visitation Church, church officials here said the land eventually will become the site of a new Catholic parish in Ankeny.

The land was purchased from Dr. J. A. Henderson, Ankeny veterinarian. The price was not revealed.

Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959

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October 2021

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North Polk Community School Parade and Pep Rally:

On Friday afternoon starting at approximately 2:00 p.m., the marching band and floats lined up in front of the Alleman school building for a parade through the business section of Alleman. The student body followed the parade of floats. All students assembled near the Alleman Co-op for a short pep rally. The parade then returned to the school building to meet the buses. School was dismissed for the North Polk senior high students at 2:45 p.m. Ankeny Times, Oct. 22, 1959

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Ankeny's Janet Yarlott Is First Female Chaplain at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma – A former security guard at the Christian Science Center in Boston. Yarlott recently completed nine weeks at the Army Chaplains School in Ft. Wadsworth, N.Y.

"I was told to bring my running shoes to basic," she added. "But, when I ran five miles with the 4th-31st, that was the first long distance running I had done." It's not as strenuous as it looks," said Ft. Sill's first woman chaplain, Captain Janet Yarlott, who is attached to the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry on post. "Grunt" is Army lingo for infantryman, and the formerly

all-male ranks of Ft. Sill's only infantry battalion bulged a little recently with the assignment of Chaplain (Capt.) Janet Yarlott, Ft. Sill's first woman chaplain. "Oh, no!" was part of the reaction I got when I first reported," she laughs. "Were going to have to clean up our language around here," was the reaction of one of the battalion's lieutenants.

She found acceptance on her first day when she ran five miles with the troops. Running one to one-and-ahalf miles daily in New York helped prepare the 25-year-old chaplain for her first day on the job. "I've always been interested in being physically fit," Yarlott said. "The morning the chaplain ran with us, we passed a couple of soldiers who had fallen out of the group running ahead," said Lt. Col. Serge Dernyanenko. "They did a double take when they saw the chaplain and took off like scared rabbits." Apache Gate is the goal of the battalion with a trophy being presented to the first company with 85 percent of the people completing the 6.1 miles together. "The men kept calling how are you doing, Chaplain? when we were running." Yarlott said. "Everyone was encouraging for me." Although Ft. Sill's first woman chaplain may have caused a "few shocks" among the men on the rough, tough combat unit, "she's had more influence on this battalion in the few days she's been here than anything else," said the commander. "We wouldn't give her up."

As a unit chaplain, Yarlott will conduct services where the men are, wither in the field or on post. "I will counsel soldiers who are experiencing problems, conduct memorial services and funeral services, if requested. Ft. Sill's first woman chaplain will also conduct services at Sheridan Road Chapel. "I have already been asked to give a sermon at New Post Chapel Oct. 10," she added.

The daughter of Richard and Peggy Yarlott of Ankeny, Iowa, the chaplain was one of two active duty women graduating from the chaplain school this summer. Uniqueness seems to come naturally to the daughter of an inventor. *Ankeny Press Citizen – October 7, 1976*

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1970s

The Agony of Victory – It was a happier job because Ankeny won its Homecoming game the night before, but Kim Knoer and Julie Spieker still had to apply lots of elbow grease to shine up the McCleary Shoes and Cary Hardware windows they had decorated for the annual high school celebration. Their co-painter Lisa Dodge also helped with the clean-up. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – *October 7, 1976*



DMACC Celebrates 10 Years – You are invited to a party to celebrate the occasion on Sunday, October 17th. Hot air balloons, pep bands, an antique car parade, tents with an art display and a bazaar with campus-wide, informal presentations about the college will highlight the afternoon. Bar-b-qued beef sandwiches will be served. The proceeds will be used for student scholarships. Birthday party guests will receive a map of the campus when they arrive and more than 50 students, in blue DMACC shirts, will act as guides.

The first graduating class (1968) from Des Moines Area Community College met for study in an old West Des Moines grocery store. The administrative offices were in the old Ankeny Post Office. The passing of the Ankeny Campus began with the framework of what is now Building Four, the administrative offices. The original graduating class numbered 12. The present enrollment at the Ankeny Campus for credit courses is 4,508. Those taking non-credit, short and adult education courses number 1735. *Ankeny Press Citizen – October 14, 1976*

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1970s

V.W. Smith's Love of Ankeny Continues – Business now 50 years old that bears the slogan "Start Living – Move to Ankeny", and his participation in community and businesses activities over the past 50 years has done much to make Ankeny a place to "Start Living!"

J.A. Smith leased a small canopy type service station from Hummel Brothers on October 9, 1926. His son, V. W. Smith was a sophomore at Ankeny High School at the time. When they started in the service station they handled Lincoln Oil Company products from Boone, Iowa. The following year the Smiths switched to Sinclair Products and V. W. would haul a load of 300 gallons before school, in the morning, in a model A Ford truck. Some mornings he would be late for school and Mrs. Blanch Brown, the high school principal, was generally considerate with the tardiness. After high school



graduation, V. W. became the agent for Phillips Petroleum Company as they had a Oil Bulk Plant beside the North Western Railroad tracks in Ankeny. He continued to be the Phillips Commission Agent until 1941 when he built a new warehouse and storage facilities handling Texaco products on a distributor basis. He has continued with Texaco ever since.

Paul Kochheiser has been an employee of V. W. for over 33 years and Marion Heggen is also a long-time employee. Smith has stated, "It has been very gratifying to see Ankeny grow over the past 50 years and I want to express my appreciation to my many friends and customers who have proved our slogan, 'Start Living, Move to Ankeny!" Ankeny Press Citizen – October 7, 1976

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1970s





Drummer Boy – Rick Hermann proudly poses after the band's performance at last week's game. The marching band is directed by John Buck and led by Drum Major John Huser. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – *October 28, 1976*



Ankeny's New School – Sports Facilities – Just before game time last Friday night. Everett Albaugh and Allen Todd flew over Ankeny High School's new facilities and captured some beautiful scenes. On the top picture AHS's artistic lay-out is surrounded by corn fields and highway 69. Just west of the building is the new football field. To the left is the boys' baseball diamond and the left of that is the girls' softball field. Beside that are tennis courts and practice areas.

The right photo shows Ankeny's new stadium before anyone arrived Friday. Two and one-half hours later the stands were packed and the parking area jam-packed for Ankeny's game with North, which was a 19-16 loss. Tomorrow night Ankeny hopes to begin a string of home victories as they host arch rival Saydel at 7:30. *Ankeny Press Citizen – October 21, 1976*



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Ankeny High to "Play On' Friday and Saturday. The Ankeny High school drama department will present "Play On," a play within a play, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the high school auditorium, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd. Ticket prices are \$2 for students and \$3 for adults. DM Register, October 31, 1990 **Ankeny leads the way in waste-oil disposal.** Ankeny is a pioneer in educating the public about proper disposal of used oil, but the process is just beginning, says City Councilman Gary Baugher. A city survey showed that nine of 36 Ankeny businesses that sell oil take used oil. Jim Stricker, an inspector with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, says Ankeny is the first city to begin looking into disposal problems and educating the public about it. *DM Register, October 17, 1990*



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Ankeny toots horn as top band contest. If there were a state marching band championship, a winner might be declared this Saturday at the Mid-Iowa Band Championships in Ankeny, said Paul Brizzi, Ankeny High School's marching band director. Iowa has no official state contest, but the more competitive and proficient bands seek out contests like the Mid-Iowa meet, say band directors. Eighteen high school bands, including those from Dallas Center-Grimes, Dowling, Valley and Hoover, will take part. Also in the contest will be bands from as far was as Cedar Rapids and Sioux Falls, S.D. "I am unaware of a better contest involving Iowa bands in this state," said Brizzi. "This contest is seen by many people as a state championship." *DM Register, October 17, 1990*

1990s



Horse Sale Ankeny Sale Barn Ankeny, Ia. Sat., Oct. 20th Tach 11 AM Horses to follow For info or to consign Bob Anderson 515-733-4908 Gordon Anderson 597-3026 Barn Phone 515-964-3811

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Show your chili skill. The Kirkendall Public Library, 1210 Prairie Ridge Drive, will be holding a chili cook-off and supper Tuesday. Bring your chili in a crock pot and a copy of your recipe to the library between 4 and 5 p.m. There is no entry fee, and prizes will awarded in several categories. After the 5:30 p.m. judging, the library will have a chili supper. The cost is \$1. Storyteller Maureen Korte will entertain. To enter the contest or get information, call 965-6460. *DM Register, October 8, 1997*

Carve out some family fun. The Kirkendall Public Library invites families to decorate a pumpkin or gourd and bring it to the library's children's desk by Friday. The public will vote on its favorite by buying tickets that cost 25 cents each. On Thursday, the library is hosting Family Pumpkin Night. Bring a pumpkin and the library will supply the markers and paint. You can take your pumpkin home or enter it in the contest. *DM Register, October 15, 1997*

Christmas arts, crafts appear in Ankeny Saturday.

The Ankeny Arts Council will hold its 10th annual Santa's North Pole Village Arts and Crafts Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Parkview Junior High School, Northwest School on First Street and Lakeside Center, 400 N.W. Lakeshore Drive, and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Ankeny High School. A shuttle bus will travel between the sites and the swimming pool parking lot. Cost for the bus ride is 25 centers for a round trip. *DM Register*, *October 31, 1990*



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Ankeny major's race quiet. The challenger says voters want at least some change, but the incumbent thinks they want to stay the course. No hot-button issues divide Ankeny's mayoral candidates, but they say they would bring different experience and approaches to the job. School board member Merle Johnson and incumbent John Voigt are running low-key, low-budget campaigns prior to the Nov. 4 election. Both are grandfathers in their late 50s who have long records of community service. Johnson said he senses voters are looking for a change. There's unrest and frustration about issues such as high taxes, he said, and new viewpoint or approach might be helpful. "You can't use the same old thing every year to solve the same problems," said Johnson, who is his fifth year on the school board and also has served on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. Voigt is finishing his first four-year term as major and served on the City Council for 1 years before that. The lack of campaign controversies indicated people are content, he said. "That' just fine with me, as the incumbent," Voigt said. "I would say people are pretty satisfied with the way Ankeny is growing. Taxes have gone down over the last four years." Managing growth is the biggest issue facing the city of about 23,000, the candidates agree. DM Register, October 24, 1997

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Ankeny candidates will discuss issues. The Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a candidate forum from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Neveln Community Resource Center, 406 S.W. School St. The forum includes candidates for the Ankeny City Council and for mayor. The audience will have a chance to ask questions. The forum is open to the public. DM Register, October 15, 1997



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Good leads Ankeny boys to cross-country crown. Bryce Good's strong kick pays off. Pre-race knowledge of the course and a strong finishing kick helped Ankeny's Bryce Good win his first conference cross-country title. Four different runners led during the boys' 3.1-mile race at the Central Iowa Metropolitan League National conference meet Thursday afternoon. Good, a senior, went ahead to stay with less than a mile remaining and finished in 16 minutes 3 second. "Since I know the course pretty well, I knew when to kick," said Good, who is the first Ankeny runner to win the National Conference title. "At the 2mile mark, I started kicking as hard as I could." Secondranked Ankeny's top-five runners all placed in the top 15, helping the Hawks win their third consecutive conference title with 36 points. Ankeny's Justin Schlicher was the runner-up, 4 second behind Good. Jason Peppers placed fourth. DM Register, October 17, 1997

Ankeny program works hard to keep students in school. The Learning Center focuses on ways to help uninterested students keep up academically and appreciate the education they're getting. School was not going well for Katie Harmon. Harmon, a junior at Ankeny High school, found herself in academic trouble last year and was asked to leave for the remainder of the second semester. Tired of the constraints of the school day, she reasoned that she'd simply stay away – find a job, make some money, maybe obtain her GED at some point. That is, until Roger Rohwedder and Mike Hoffman (appealed) her back. Today, Harmon is enjoying school and plans to stay through graduation. And she has the Ankeny High School Learning Center to make a difference to some of those kids. Now I'm here at Ankeny and it's the same thing – I'm trying to make a difference to kids that are in danger of slipping through the cracks. And I love what I'm doing." Ankeny High School Learning Center serves about 100 students in grades 10 through 12, all of whom participate voluntarily.... Designed to help nontraditional students stay in school, the center focuses on alternative ways to help students keep up, and even excel, academically – and to learn to appreciate the educational experience while they're at it. "We try to make the kids feel good about being to school," said Hoffman, 33, who came to the Ankeny program from a counseling job at West Des Moines' Valley High school five year ago. "We let them know there are people here who care about their future. Not all kids can stand to be in school for a typical, day and not all kids come from an environment where school is viewed as positive." DM Register, October 29, 1997



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1990s

Deal returns spice plant to Iowa roots. Ankeny's Tone's will be purchased by six managers. The Tone's spice company – founded in Des Moines nearly 125 years ago - is becoming an independent lowa-based company again in a \$171 million deal announced Friday. A group of six managers at the Tone's plan in Ankeny said it is buying the Ankeny office and production complex and other spice and herb operations owned by the current bosses, Burns, Philp & Co., an Australian company that bought Tone's in 1994. The six won't be the only owners. A New York City-based investment banking company, Joseph Littlejohn Levy, will own stock in the new Tone's said Ned Skinner, an Iowa native who will become president and chief executive officer of the new company, which will be called Tone's, Inc. The purchase was greeted a s good news for the Des Moines area and Iowa. Des Moines Mayor Robert Ray said He'd be pleased to see Tone's become an Iowa-based company once again. DM Register, October 4, 1997

Ankeny engineering firm continues to flourish. Co-founder Dennis Snyder uses a hands-off management approach for his 100-odd employees. Dennis Snyder and Steve Rowe have come a long way since they founded Snyder & Associates Inc. 20 years ago in an office set up on the second floor of a barn in Oskaloosa. Today, the company – now based in Ankeny – is believed to be the largest civil engineering consulting firm in central lowa in terms of the number of licensed professional engineers on staff – 22 – and the number of employees overall – 103. Snyder, a civil engineer and land surveyor, is the company's president. Rowe, a senior design technician, is vice president. Together, they own a majority of the company's stock. Nine other staff members also own company shares. In 1977, Snyder and Rowe decided to form their own company after working together at another firm. Today, Snyder & Associates also has offices in Cedar Rapids and Atlantic. DM Register, October 4, 1997

Thank you to all supporters of the Ankeny Area Historical Society. We will have several fun events in the upcoming months, especially our pumpkin fundraiser. Also, the museums will be open on the first Sunday of November or by appointment. Call or check out our website for information!

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