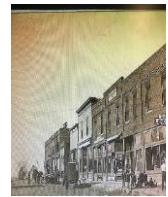


Ankeny through the decades...

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



August 2021

1950s



FROM SWAMP LAND TO SUCCESS: THAT'S "THE ANKENY STORY"

Pioneer Residents Recall Earlier Days in Ankeny (Last in a multi-part series of excerpts from this article)

The Wagner Park was given to the town by Henry Wagner in 1920. Swings, tables, benches, and a stove were donated by the commercial club and the Ankeny Women's Club. It now forms a pleasant and inviting grounds for picnics and tourists. A shelter house for the community use is ours to enjoy thru the promotional efforts of a spirited and aggressive Lions Club. One of the annual events Ankeny can never forget were the famous Ankeny Homecomings, held in the fall each year, while Mr. Henry Wagner was alive. He would furnish the beef for the barbecue which was cooked in big iron kettles over an open pit fire. Many times there would be 1,000 people attend and the park would be crowded. Since his death the big barbecue feed has been discontinued.

In 1902 the Bank of Ankeny was organized as a private bank. It was later converted to a state bank in 1933 under the name of Ankeny State Bank. The excellent building still occupied by the bank was erected in 1902. Its first president was O.E. Doubleday and the present president is R.O. Wagner, the son of Henry Wagner who was the guiding spirit until his death in 1929.

The final enterprise and development of the town of Ankeny, came largely from the surrounding farm population. In this enterprise and development such farm families as the Abuhls, Ankenys, Hildreths, Irvines, Marts, Moecklys, Sexauers, Swartfagers, Sheppards, Randolphs, Wagners, and many others. These people, largely of Teutonic origin, with a deep faith in themselves, the country and their creator, came and settled in the vicinity of the future Ankeny. Determined to succeed for themselves and their children, this they accomplished in an abundant way. (*cont. on page 2*)

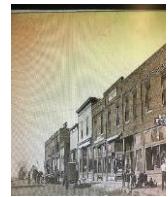
*Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please become a member of the AAHS or send comments via email at: history@ankenyhistorical.org.



Ankeny Area Historical Society

Ankeny through the decades...

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



August 2021

(continued from page 1)

1950s

As a newcomer sizes things up: "We think Ankeny can be justifiably proud of its town, its buildings and its way of life. Not too much of the hustle, bustle, and noises of the big city but close enough to it that folks here know what page they are on. One realizes that a lot of folks put forth a lot of hard work on behalf of a town in which they had faith."

Many of the folks who were instrumental in helping set up our town aren't in the harness now, but others came along to fill the gaps as they dropped out. Serving as board members, superintendents, committee members, club leaders or just plain volunteer helpers; all of them are sort of unsung heroes who help carry through the show with their own reward of the satisfaction of helping promote a worthwhile project. A lot of business and professional men fall in this category, too, continuing and offering assistance in many other ways.

Put it all together and what have you? An understandable feeling of pride on the part of its people in a mighty fine town, some say the best in the U.S.A. For our part, let's just say it's a real challenge to do our part to continue the work started by our forefathers and has continued over the years here in Ankeny.

"Stop roamin -try Ankeny, for it's your town, too." *Ankeny Times, August 6, 1959*

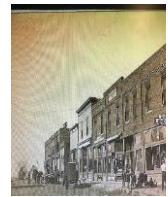
Elkhart Youth Drowns in Farm Pond Tuesday

A 16-year-old Elkhart farm youth drowned shortly before noon Tuesday while swimming in a farm pond on the Russell Sage farm about 2 miles east of Elkhart, the Polk County sheriff's office reported. He was Harold Fry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Fry, who live on a nearby farm. The youth was the eleventh Iowa drowning victim in three days. Eight drownings have occurred in the state.

Mrs. Sage told officers that Howard and three of his brothers, Gary, 18, Darrell, 14, and Clyde, 13, came to the Sage farm about 11 a.m. and asked permission to go swimming in the pond. Mrs. Sage said one of the brothers returned to the Sage home, about 300 yards from the pond, a short time later and told her Howard had gone under. She said the pond was about 14 feet deep. *Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958*

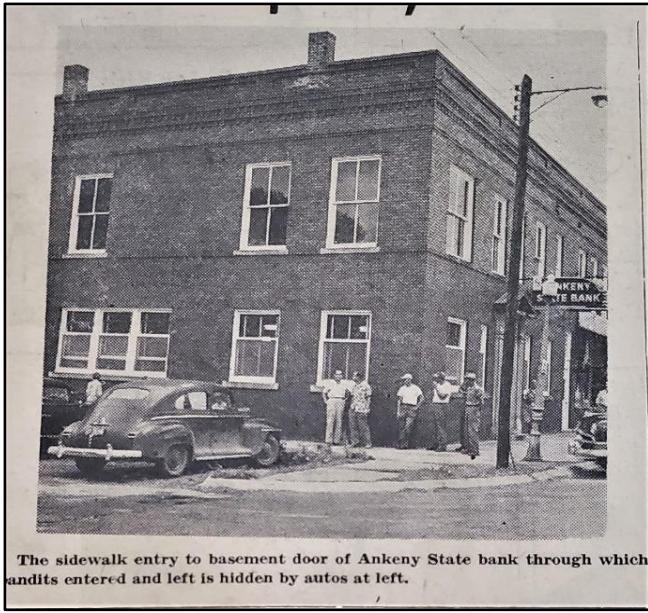
Ankeny through the decades...

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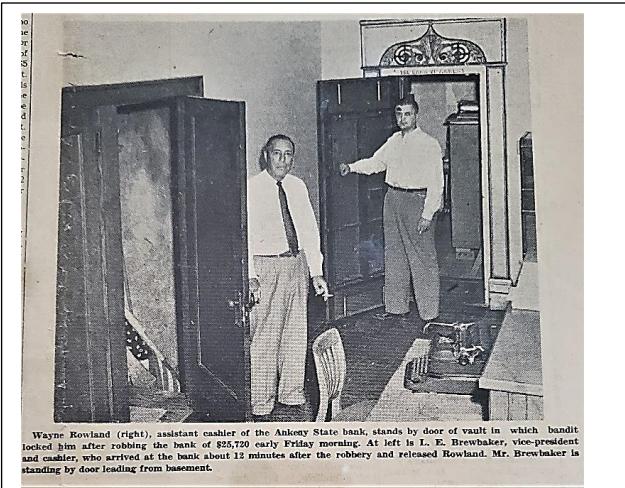


August 2021

1950s



The sidewalk entry to basement door of Ankeny State bank through which bandits entered and left is hidden by autos at left.



Wayne Rowland (right), assistant cashier of the Ankeny State bank, stands by door of vault in which bandit locked him after robbing the bank of \$25,720 early Friday morning. At left is L. E. Brewbaker, vice-president and cashier, who arrived at the bank about 12 minutes after the robbery and released Rowland. Mr. Brewbaker is standing by door leading from basement.

Bandit Still at Large After \$25,720 Robbery

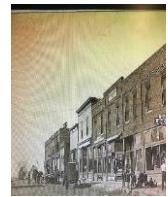
Ankeny Will Never Be the Same - at least not for a long time – or until the excitement of one of Iowa's biggest bank robberies has died down. For years to come Ankeny residents can relate to their children and grandchildren, tales of the big 1952 Bank Robbery, in which a 2-gun bandit robbed the Ankeny Bank of \$25,720.

Early Friday morning, August 1, Wayne Rowland, 36, assistant cashier, to the Ankeny State Bank, made his way to the bank in his usual manner. It was dark rainy morning when he unlocked the bank doors a little after 7 A.M. Farthest from his mind was the fact that a lone robber, hiding inside the building was awaiting him. The bandit described as a large man, about 35 or 40 years old, apparently had hidden in the bank all night after forcing open the rear door. He compelled Mr. Rowland to open the bank's vault and turn the cash over to him, which he stuffed into a 50-pound flour sack and locked the bank employee in the vault. The bank had a large amount of cash on hand, because Friday was the first-of-the-month payday at John Deere Des Moines works, nearby.

(cont. page 4)

Ankeny through the decades...

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



August 2021

(cont. from page 3)

The money the bandit took was in denominations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. He also took \$20 in silver. The Iowa Bankers Association said the loss was the highest in Iowa since John Dillinger and a gang of five men robbed the First National Bank at Mason City of \$51,600 on March 13, 1934.

Rowland described the bandit as being about 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighing about 190 pounds and having a "sort of pock marked face." He said the bandit was wearing "extra-large dark sun glasses"; and old felt hat, covered with cobwebs he apparently picked up while waiting in the basement; a light-colored shirt that was dirty.

The bandit had a 12-minute start before the alarm was spread because the employee was not freed from the vault until about 7:22 A.M. L.E. Brewbaker, vice-president and cashier arrived a few minutes late at the bank that Friday morning and upon hearing sounds coming from the vault immediately released Mr. Rowland.

Roadblocks were set up in Central Iowa and the federal bureau of investigation (FBI) began their man hunt. The robber's car had apparently been parked nearby on a side street. Several housewives reported having seen the parked car, but due to the dark and misty morning, a clear description of the car is not known. To date as we go the press, no known clues have been found of the missing money or bandit. Hoping for a lead the FBI released a list of the serial numbers of some of the \$5 bills obtained by the two-gun bandit. Should one of the known \$5 bills be passed, the FBI hopes that the person presenting the bill can be traced and definite lead to arrest of the bandit.

The FBI said the bandit may be driving a two-tone Pontiac automobile – possibly a 1950 or 1951 convertible or hard top model. The car may be carrying a stolen Iowa 1952 license plate bearing the number 77-64083.

Ankeny Times, August 8, 1952

YOU CAN HELP "G-MEN"

These are the serial numbers of part of the \$5 bills obtained by a bandit Friday morning at the Ankeny State Bank:

F 82265670 A	G 15156946 A
G 47883597 A	E 81461056 A
* 06372904 A	G 52415349 A
G 25776613 A	G 96690779 A
G 24780879 A	F 44703421 A
G 59275731 A	E 90408412 A
G 26281494 A	H 36303183 A
H 05784698 A	G 10037513 A
E 41658181 A	E 44808280 A
H 13401934 A	E 99681292 A

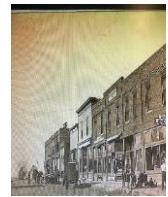
The FBI asks any one receiving a \$5 bill with any of these numbers to telephone the Omaha, Nebraska, FBI office and relate the circumstances of its passing, and giving a description of the person presenting the bill. The FBI phone number in Omaha is Jackson 8220.

Break-in At Ankeny Tractors:

Thieves entered Ankeny Tractors, Inc., located on Ankeny Blvd., sometime Monday night and got away with \$1235 in cash. The thieves gained entrance by breaking a lock on the door. The robbery was discovered early Tuesday morning. Other than the broken lock, no particular damage was done. The loss was partially covered by insurance. *Ankeny Times, August 6, 1959*

Ankeny through the decades...

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August 2021

1950s

E.L. Dutcher is the owner of the Farmer's Supply Co. of Ankeny, a feed and grain store, but Dutcher is much more than just a feed dealer, that can be attested to by his extra-curricular activities in the business field.

To begin with, he was born at New Canon, Illinois, and grew up there, graduating from high school in 1929. He enrolled immediately at the University of Illinois in agriculture, but his schooling was interrupted for two years, during which he was married. After college he was employed as a farm manager for about a year in Yorkville, then worked for Swift and Co. in Chicago. That was in 1937. Two years later he was transferred to Des Moines as the sales and traffic manager of Swift's soybean plant there.

In 1946 Dutcher resigned and built the present business which is a storage and processing plant for grain and other farm products. He handles known brands of feeds, but is proud of the Dutch Maid Brand which is displayed on the side of his building and which he developed himself. Dutcher is quite civic minded and has served on the city council for four years. He is the past president of the Lions Club, treasurer of the Western Grain and Feed Association, senior warden of the Masonic Lodge, a member of the Midwest Feed advisory panel of the Quaker Oats Company to mention just a few of his interests.

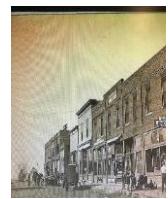
In addition he is experimenting with commercially raised broiling chickens and was recently featured in an article in the Des Moines Farm and Home Register. Dutcher at present has 3,000 birds and furnishes feed for about 20,000 others in the area. *Ankeny Times, August 8, 1952*

Lassie Queen Candidate Miss Verna Lee Uehling of Ankeny, has recently been selected as a candidate from the middle district of Iowa to compete in the Lassie Queen contest. The Shorthorn Lassies, in cooperation with the Iowa Shorthorn Breeder's Association, will select a queen to represent the Iowa organization. The 4-H Boys attending the Iowa State Fair will select the Lassies Queen again this year. Verna Lee, 18, is a 1957 graduate of Ankeny High School and is attending Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Uehling. *Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958*



Ankeny through the decades...

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



August 2021

1950s

Ankeny Times Photographer, James Chan

Katy Bemis, Senior at Iowa State College is shown as assistant judge for entries at the 4-H Fair. Pictured with her is Sue Ann Hart, 10, and Mrs. Ray Hart.

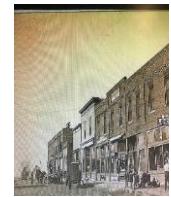
Ankeny Times, August 6, 1959

Proposed Memorial Library Building Plans Taking Shape: At a library board meeting held Thursday, August 6, the architects for the proposed Kirkendall Memorial Library presented preliminary sketches of the building which is to be located at the southwest corner of the Ankeny Park. Brooks-Borg of Des Moines, have been engaged to draw up the plans.

The tentative plans is for an L-shaped building having in excess of 3,000 square feet of floor space. The building will face the south and the entire north side will be window area. A patio is also included in the plan. Members of the Library Board met Monday night with the Town Council on Monday night, and also held a special meeting on Tuesday night. Members of the Library Board are: President, George Hart; Vice President, Russell Knoop; Secretary, Mrs. Francis Hall, and Board members, Frank Lint, Al Chestnut, Mrs. Noel Liechty and Mrs. A.J. Henderson. *Ankeny Times, August 13, 1959*

Ankeny through the decades...

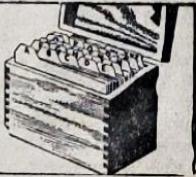
recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



August 2021

1950s

FROM OUR FILES



56 Years Ago

First Editions of the Ankeny Times

Tom Halverson, the tinner, is doing some work in Polk City this week.

E. J. H. Meyer purchased a pair of fine fresh cows of Ira Irvine Tuesday.

Mrs. Sexauer and son Roscoe visited Chas. Thompson near Ames a couple of days this week.

Fishing is good in Four Mile creek, but if you want to "catch fish" you had better go some place else.

Sig. Howard and family of Des Moines and Shep. Betts and wife spent Sunday at the John Howard home south of Ankeny.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Congl. Church will give a lawn sociable at the John Peters home Saturday evening. All are invited to come.

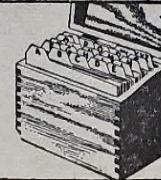
Frank Zelle and family and Matt. Sexauer and family were in Des Moines attending camp meeting Sunday.

Thos. Verts is the first resident of Ankeny to build a sidewalk under Ordinance No. 1 of the Incorporated Town of Ankeny. He has built a sidewalk of brick.

J. J. Riley, A. R. Brazelton, Al Stader and Andrew Nelson are familiar names found among the list of delegates to the Republican Convention to be held in Des Moines July 1.

Bert Haulman and O. O. Brewbaker were appointed to look after the music for the Odd Fellows Memorial services to be held Sunday afternoon at 3:30. A cordial invitation to all.

FROM OUR FILES



56 Years Ago

First Editions of the Ankeny Times

W. O. Sargent has finished the Ledhrends house at Marquisville.

The bank of Elkhart received a fine new safe this week which was shipped over the Northwestern.

A subscriber informs us that he 'don't want the paper any longer', we wouldn't make it any longer if he did. The present length suits us very well.

Polk City has organized a ball team with Victor Matter as manager and captain.

Grandma Sheppard is spending a few days with her son Wes.

Asa Hutton and wife and Jas Bell were in town the middle of the week.

Mrs. Hall and daughter, Ollie

visited the new town of Elkhart Tuesday.

John Horning Sr., left for Oklahoma, where he will visit an old friend, one who he crossed the plains with many years ago.

The Odd Fellows Memorial Service was held last Sunday at their new hall, was attended by a large and appreciative audience. Rev. Evans delivered an eloquent address and all present felt that it was good to be there and that the time was well spent.

Several of our young folks attended the wedding of Miss Mabel Wagner, in Des Moines Thursday evening.

A crowd of relatives and friends surprised John Wagner Thursday noon. They reminded him that he had been married one year.

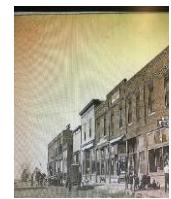
1970s



Rigby Honored – Harlan Rigby, Ankeny, retired Polk County Bureau Fieldman, was recognized for his service to County 4-Hers at the recent Polk County 4-H & FFA Fair. 4-H Fair Queen, Jone McDonald, Ankeny, presented a plaque to Rigby at the Family Night Show. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – August 5, 1976

Ankeny through the decades...

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

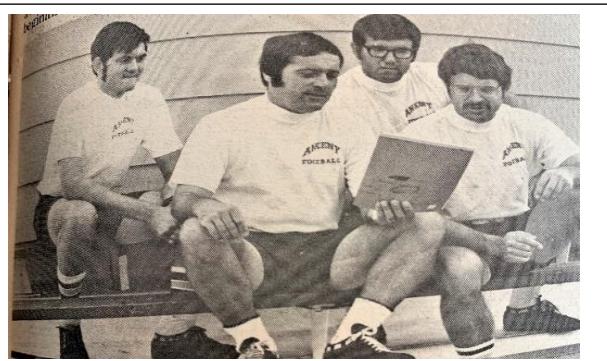


August 2021

1970s



Hawks continue pre-season drills - Hot humid weather as pads go on – The Ankeny varsity gridders, in their second week of practice donned their gear and went twice a day in the sultry 90 plus degrees days. Head coach Jerry Pezzetti said that he feels the enthusiasm and attitude is one of the best of any team he has ever coached. Over 50 players reported for the squad which will open its season at home on Sept. 5 against North of Des Moines. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –August 28, 1975



Guiding Ankeny – Lining up the top players for the Saturday scrimmage are coaches Tom Pattee and Norbert Bradley in the back and Jerry Pezzetti and Pete Brejcha in the front. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –August 28, 1975

Special Census for Ankeny – The time is coming for Ankeny to be counted. And, help is needed to do that counting. A special Federal Census will be conducted during eleven days in late September. Many of the funds that a city receives are figured on a per capita basis. This means that as of now these funds are figured on the 1970 Census figure of just over 9,000.

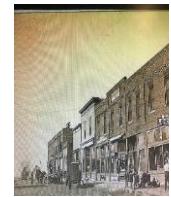
When this new census is taken, monies received from such sources as federal revenue sharing, road use and liquor profits will accrue to the city based on the present Ankeny population.

Sixty people will be hired to help conduct the Census. Those interested are asked to attend a job-interviewing session on Wednesday, September 17th at 805 SW Third, the former Centennial Store and Display House.

Twelve cents will be paid, to those who help conduct the Census, for each property recorded name. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –August 28, 1975

Ankeny through the decades...

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August 2021

1970s

Ankeny Gets \$23,000 For Tornado System – In separate presentations, Monday afternoon, the Ankeny City Council received a special award and a check for more than \$23,000. The Steel Plate Fabricators Association presented city officials with plaques noting the Tank-of-the-Year award for the design and construction of the city's million-gallon water reservoir. Des Moines Fire Chief Lee Williams, representing the Department of Civil Defense, turned over to Mayor Weigel a check for more than \$23,000 which was the federal government's share for the city's tornado warning system. *Ankeny Press Citizen*



Ankeny Press Citizen –August 5, 1976

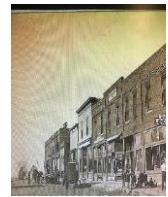
Letter To the Editor – Feels Railroaded By Train Speed – August 15, 1976. As a concerned parent, I feel it is my responsibility to speak out against the agreement with the railroad to allow the trains to go at 33 mph through Ankeny. I realize how often traffic is tied up by the trains. However it is not the moving trains that stop traffic for so long a time as the trains that are switching tracks and adding cars. The trains run directly through town. Children from the west side must cross the tracks to get to the swimming pool and in many cases to school. We all know that children, even though they have been warned will try to beat a train if they think they are going to be late home or for another activity. In many cases they will try it on a dare or simply because they have to go to the bathroom. To let the trains move through the middle of town at that rate of speed (most automobile speed limits in Ankeny are 25 mph) is "railroading" Ankeny citizens. Particularly the small ones. I can only hope that this was a decision that the police can be big enough to say was not thought out as well as most of Ankeny's problems, and can be rectified soon before there is a hideous accident. Sondra Aamoth, NW Beechwood, Ankeny, Iowa

Ankeny Press Citizen –August 26, 1976

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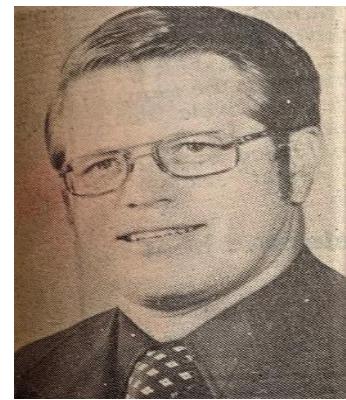


Anderson Receives National Recognition – Polk County Extension

Director Ober J. Anderson received national recognition last week for his contributions to agriculture, community development, and youth. He was given the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the group's convention in Richmond, VA, Aug 15-19. Anderson heads the largest county extension staff in Iowa. He was cited for his efforts in coordination of the staff's countywide educational programs. Special note was given to his work with the Des Moines Men's Garden Club and programs conducted in Cooperation with Des Moines and Urbandale Schools.

An Extension employee for 17 years, Anderson is active in other community organizations. He has been a member of the boards of directors of the Downtown Des Moines Kiwanis Club and the Polk County Easter Seal Society and a member of the agricultural committed of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce. Anderson has also been also been active in the Des Moines Jaycees. He is a member of the Living History Farms Foundation and past president of Ankeny's Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –August 26, 1976

1970s



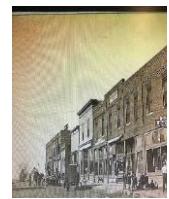
Fabric Shop Grand Opening – Members of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors welcomed three Ankeny women in the business community last week at the grand opening of the Fabric Shop in the Boulevard Plaza Shopping Center on Highway 69. They are: (holding ribbon left and right) Dee Lein and Roberta Davis and, to the right of the Mrs. Lein, Charlene Hildreth. Between them are their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert White, and Chamber president Dick Hermann. In back from left to right are Jean Jones, Donald David, Gerald Wibe and Bob Martin.

Ankeny Press Citizen –August 18, 1977

Ankeny through the decades...

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Ankeny adds its fifth state crown. Ankeny shuts out East for trophy in Class 3-A. Sophomore Jenny Voss and Michelle Junod lift Ankeny past Des Moines East, 3-0, for the Class 3-A title. Ankeny's young softball team had been here before. In 1991, a group of seventh-graders from Ankeny was at Harlan Roger Field watching their high school softball team beat West Des Moines Valley for the state championship. They were sophomore Saturday, and they led Ankeny to its fifth state championship. Michelle Junod scored the winning run. She had driven in the winning runs – Ankeny's only runs – in the first two games. Junod's fifth-inning leadoff single keyed a three-run inning that led the Hawkettes to a 3-0 victory against Des Moines East for the first class 3-A crown. All of Ankeny's four previous championships were in a one-class 16-team field. "I was up in the stands watching my sister do the same thing, except she was in right field," Ankeny sophomore pitcher Jenny Voss said of her sister Holly, a sophomore on the 1991 team. Voss didn't allow a run in 26 innings in the tournament. Besides shutting out East, she shut out Muscatine in the first tour, 1-0, and Des Moines Lincoln in 11 innings in the second round, 1-0. "I thought we were kind of flat in warmups," Ankeny Coach Dick Rasmussen said. "And when we got out there, we didn't look like we were really into it at first. But we played well. Maybe they were tired, but they pled fine." *DM Register, August 7, 1994*

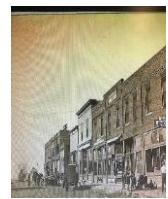
1990

Ankeny police won't go to the dogs. Police officers in Ankeny will soon be relieved of the task of picking up stray animals. The City Council last week gave City Manager Carl Metzger the authority to work out an agreement with Polk County to pick up stray animals in the city. Metzger said police officers are responsible for picking up animals and delivering them to the Animal Rescue League of Iowa at 5452 N.E. 23rd St., just south of the city limits. Turning that job over to the county would mean the officers would devote their time to more pressing matters, he said. "We believe other police functions are more critical," he said. "This will serve the interest of the city by keeping our officers on the streets." Under terms of the agreement, the county would pick up animals in Ankeny for \$27 per vehicle trip.

Metzger said residents still would call the police department with complaints about stray animals, but the police would then call the county to pick up the animals. Residents whose animals are picked up still would have to get a release from the Ankeny city clerk – and pay as much as \$82 in fees – before they could get their pets from the Animal Rescue League. *DM Register, August 24, 1994*

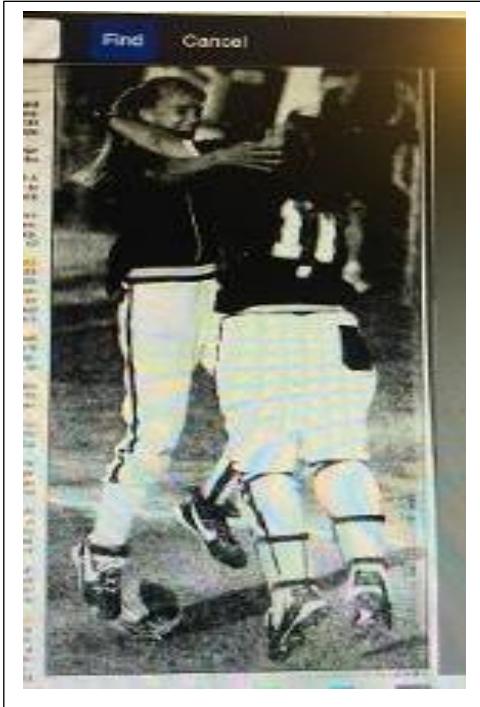
Ankeny through the decades...

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



August 2021

1990s



Jenny Voss & catcher Amy Farmer after the team beat Urbandale, 3-0, to win the state Class 3-1 Title.

0 matches found
Ankeny
Find

Item	Price
WHOLE RED RIFE WATERMELON	\$1.99
PEACHES	69¢
CALIFORNIA CANTALOUE	99¢
WASHINGTON BOUNTLETT PEARS	79¢
YELLOW ONIONS	79¢
CALIFORNIA FIELD-ON-WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPES	88¢
CALIFORNIA SHOSHONE CAULIFLOWER	99¢
CALIFORNIA CROP CARROTS	69¢
KRAFT SAUCE	\$2.49
KRAFT SOFT SPREAD	99¢
KRAFT PASTA SALADS	99¢

DM Register, August 6, 1996

301 SW Third Street, Ankeny, Iowa 50023

Ankeny coach exits as champ. Dick Rasmussen closes his softball career with his 13th state title as Ankeny trips rival Urbandale in Class 3A. Most coaches' careers do not end during the best of times. However, Ankeny softball coach Dick Rasmussen's career did Friday. He retired after more than 30 years with his 13 state titles. In his final game as the Hawkettes' mentor, he guided second-ranked Ankeny to a 3-0 victory over 10th-ranked Urbandale in the state Class 3-A tournament finale at Harlan Rogers Park. "As soon as we got the last out, I said, 'Oh, m gosh, it's done,'" said Rasmussen, who has been at Ankeny for 25 years. "I had a little bit of a funny feeling in my stomach. That's natural. I'll have withdrawals after a while."

"There was more pressure on us, but it was good pressure," Ankeny pitcher Jenny Voss said. "We wanted to win it for Coach. But anytime you go to state, you want to win, no matter what the stakes." Voss, who was named to the all-tournament team, pitched her second shutout of the tournament. She limited the Jayettes to four hits, striking out five and walking none. *DM Register, August 11, 1996*

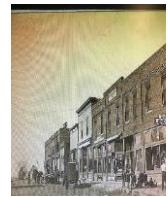


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Ankeny through the decades...

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



August 2021

1990s

Camp Fire fair. The Ankeny Camp Fire Boys and Girls will hold an activity fair Saturday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 517 S. W. Des Moines St. The event will include outdoor fun, creative arts, business, citizenship, sports and games. Participants and their parents can learn about the Camp Fire program. The event is open to all kindergarten through fifth-grade students in Ankeny, North Polk and Saydel schools. *DM Register, August 24, 1994*

College credit. Des Moines Area Community College at 2006 S. Ankeny Blvd. is offering credit for a televised health and wellness course. The 13-week, three-credit course entitled "Living with Health" will air on Iowa Public Television on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 starting Sept 6. Participants must purchase a textbook and take an exam. To register for the course, call 964-xxxx. *DM Register, August 10, 1994*

Museum open house. The Ankeny Area Historical Society will be hosting open houses at its museum at 400 S.W. Pleasant St. The open houses will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, on Aug 21 and 28. The museum features an early 1900's bedroom and kitchen, a blacksmith shop and many displays. (Note: This was before the current museum was opened at 301 SW School Street in 1995.) *DM Register, August 10, 1994*

Ankeny to place stop sign on busy West First Street. City manager says it is a temporary measure until a permanent solution can be found. City officials, responding to a complaint that it is unsafe for Westwood Elementary School students to cross busy West First Street will place a stop sign at the intersection with Cottonwood Lane until they figure a permanent solution. City Manager Carl Metzger said last week that a folding stop sign will be placed at the Cottonwood Lane intersection and that a school crossing guard would be hired to help children cross the street there. The stop sign would be used in periods before and after school and during the noon hour. "This is a temporary solution to the problem," Metzger said, adding that it would give city officials more time to look for a permanent solution. *DM Register, August 24, 1994*

VOLUNTEERS

Ankeny Family YMCA — The Ankeny Family YMCA needs volunteers to serve as office workers, youth program assistants, swimming assistants, special events assistants and child care workers for the nursery and before and after school. For more information on these and other opportunities, call 965-8800.

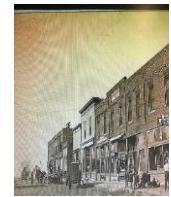
Des Moines Area Community College — Fluent bilingual people are needed as tutors at Des Moines Area Community College. Tutors will help develop vocabulary skills and engage in active conversation and dialogue with non-English-speaking adults. Volunteers are needed for two hours each week. Schedules are flexible. To volunteer or for more information, call the United Way at 246-6500.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Volunteers, *DM Register, August 28, 1996*

Ankeny through the decades...

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August 2021

1990s

Ankeny, schools complete land swap. The city and the Ankeny Community School District completed a trade last week that clears the way for a middle school to be built on the northwest edge of town and provides for an expansion of Hawkeye Park. The city turned over about 25-1/2 acres of land in an area known as Prairie Ridge to the school district in exchange for the land adjacent to Hawkeye Park that is the site of the Parkview Middle school stadium and track. The trade is part of an agreement approved in November, when voters approved two bond issues totaling \$18 million to construct the new school and build or improve various municipal facilities. The \$7.5 million city bond issue called for the city to spend about \$3.9 million to purchase up to 160 acres of land near Northwest Ninth Street and Northwest Ash Drive and to turn part of that land over to the school district. Most of the school district's \$10.5 million bond issue would be to finance construction of the new school and a football field and track at the site. The city also plans to build a library and an aquatic center on that land. The library would be connected to the school and the school also would use the aquatic center. The swimming pool in Hawkeye Park would be closed. *DM Register, August 10, 1994*

Friendship Force picnic. The Friendship Force of Greater Des Moines will hold its annual summertime celebration, "Picnic in the Park," from 4 to 9 p.m. Saturday in Lakeside Center at 400 N.W. Lakeshore Drive in Hawkeye Park. Picnic fare will be served, and volleyball, croquet, swimming, fishing and tennis will be available. The Ankeny High School Choir will perform. Cost for the event is \$5 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 6-12 or free for children 5 and younger. *DM Register, August 10, 1994*

The image shows a newspaper clipping with a yellow header box containing the word "Ankeny". Below the header is a photograph of several theater tickets. The text below the photo reads:

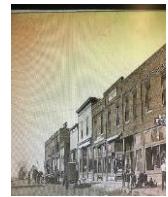
Auditions: Ankeny Community Theatre has announced audition dates for its first production of the 1996-97 season. Auditions for "The Mousetrap" will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday and at 7 p.m. Sept. 5 at the theater, 1302 S.W. Third St. The play has roles for five men and three women. Performances will be held the last two weekends in October and the first weekend in November. For more information, call 564-5630 or 965-1130.

Theater auditions, *DM Register, August 28, 1996*

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Now Grant Lewis, 60, smokes the competition. At age 42, Grant Lewis' lifestyle did a 180-degree turn. Now, at age 60, the Ankeny man has won a gold medal in the triathlon at the Iowa Games. "I went to a healthy lifestyle," said Lewis, who quit smoking and started training. Nothing holds him back. This summer, Lewis competed in five other triathlons in Iowa, including Whaletown Lake Anita and Pigman. For the last 14 years, Lewis has ridden in RAGBRAI and Ride the Rockies in Colorado. The latter was a six-day race that covered 410 miles, with 1,900 feet of climbing. The ride started in southwest Colorado and ended in Colorado Springs. The difference between RAGBRAI and Ride the Rockies was "cornfields to mountains," Lewis said. "No comparison." *DM Register, August 28, 1996*

The Ankeny Area Historical Society sends you a huge "Thank You" for your support during the pandemic. Good news! The museum is open on Sundays until Labor Day from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Come and see all the updates, videos, and new displays. We hope to see you there!

1990s

Center, its patients make progress. On With Life in Ankeny is a rehabilitation center for people with severe brain injuries. In its five years, On With Life has helped many survivors of severe head trauma learn the skills needed to return home. It is a place of modern miracles, although they do not occur often enough. The On With Life Inc. rehabilitation center for persons with severe brain injuries will celebrate its fifth anniversary Monday. The center started with a corps of volunteers. "If a person was a betting man, they wouldn't have put their money on us," said Marvin L. Tooman, president and chief executive officer of the non-profit organization. "When people ask me if I believe in modern miracles, I reply we are sitting in one." *DM Register, August 7, 1996*

