

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1940s



Under a blistering noonday sun, first scars were gashed Wednesday into a peaceful Polk County clover field for a munitions factory soon to be making two million rounds of army cartridges daily. United States Senator Clyde L. Herring, digging left footedly, symbolically turned up the initial bits of moist, fertile, black soil on a glistening new spade. He was given the spade as a souvenir.

Herring thrust his spade into the site of the administration building of the 30 million dollar Des Moines Ordnance Plant. There will be 219 buildings on the 2,445-acre site south and west of Ankeny, Ia. The clover field is the old Parmenter farm, homesteaded by members of the pioneer family. Article abridged. *Des Moines Register*, July 31, 1941

(continued 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.



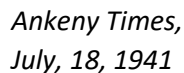
Ankeny Area Historical Society

*recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s**

(Munitions plant, continued)



Des Moines Tribune, July 3, 1941



www.ankenyhistorical.org

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1940s



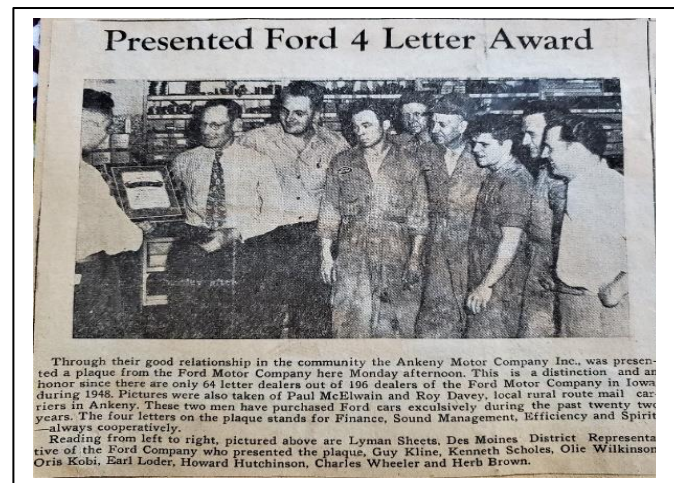
From the north, the Des Moines river was racing toward the capital and an expected crest of 26 feet at the river junction between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. today. Wednesday afternoon the water already had spread out over Twelfth street road (looking north) and farmlands. Staff Photos by Photo-Photographer Don Chang from Register and Tribune plane.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 26, 1947.

Flood Waters From Des Moines River Racing

Toward City: From the north, the Des Moines River was racing toward the capital and expected to crest at 26 feet at the river junction between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. today. Wednesday afternoon the water had already spread out over 12th street road (looking north) and farmland. *Des Moines Register and Tribune, June 26, 1947. Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection*

Presented Ford 4 Letter Award: Throughout their good relationship in the community the Ankeny Motor Company, INC., was presented a plaque from the Ford Motor Company here Monday afternoon. This is a distinction and an honor since there were only 64 letter dealers out of 196 dealers of the Ford Motor Company in Iowa, during 1948. Pictures were also taken of Paul McElwain and Roy Davy, local rural route mail carriers in Ankeny. These men have purchased Ford cars exclusively during their past twenty-two years. The four letters on the plaque stands for Finance, Sound Management, Efficiency, and Spirit- always cooperatively. Reading from left to right, pictured above are Lyman Sheets, Des Moines District Representative of the Ford Company who presented the plaque, Guy Kline, Kenneth Scholes, Olie Wilkinson, Oris Kobi, Earl Loder, Howard Hutchinson, Charles Wheeler, and Herb Brown. *Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection, July, 1948, News source unknown*



Presented Ford 4 Letter Award

Through their good relationship in the community the Ankeny Motor Company Inc. was presented a plaque from the Ford Motor Company here Monday afternoon. This is a distinction and an honor since there are only 64 letter dealers out of 196 dealers of the Ford Motor Company in Iowa during 1948. Pictures were also taken of Paul McElwain and Roy Davey, local rural route mail carriers in Ankeny. These two men have purchased Ford cars exclusively during the past twenty-two years. The four letters on the plaque stands for Finance, Sound Management, Efficiency and Spirit—always cooperatively.

Reading from left to right, pictured above are Lyman Sheets, Des Moines District Representative of the Ford Company who presented the plaque, Guy Kline, Kenneth Scholes, Olie Wilkinson, Oris Kobi, Earl Loder, Howard Hutchinson, Charles Wheeler and Herb Brown.

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1940s

Ankeny Grain Firm Burned: New Elevator to be Built:

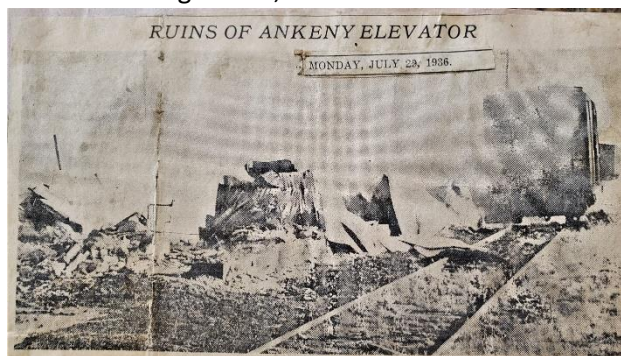
The Wagner Grain Co. will start soon the construction of a new elevator to replace the one destroyed by fire early Monday at Ankeny, Ia. Edwin R. Wagner, owner, said the \$20,000 fire loss was covered by insurance, but that the great loss was to have a fire at this time with the threshing season started.

"We'll Make it Up": "This time of the year we

usually pick up a little profit after sitting around all year waiting for it. Well, we'll make it up somehow-even if we have to shoot craps for it," Wagner said Monday. Flames shooting 50 feet above the 200 foot wood and corrugated wood structure attracted hundreds of motorists for more than 20 miles in every direction.

2 Trucks: Two motor trucks, machinery and 5,000 bushels of corn, wheat, oats, and ground feed were destroyed in the flames which still burned late Monday morning. Office fixtures and the company safe were saved, Wagner said. The fire damaged and empty freight car which stood by the elevator, two others having been pulled away from the flames by a passenger train early Monday.

The cause of the fire had not been determined Monday, although it was suspected that the electric and windstorm Sunday night had caused a wiring defect, the flames not discovered until 12:30 a.m.



Here's a general view of still smoking ruins of Wagner Grain Co. elevator at Ankeny, Ia., destroyed by fire early Monday morning. The \$20,000 loss is covered by insurance.

Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection July 29, 1936, News source unknown

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1940s

Budget Estimate and Record of Filing Town and City Estimate						
NOTICE—The town council of Ankeny of Polk County, Iowa will meet July 28, 1941, at 8 P. M., at Clerk's Office.						
Taxpayers will be heard for or against the following estimate of expenditures for the year beginning April 1, 1942. A detailed statement of receipts and disbursements, both past and anticipated will be available at the hearing.						
H. M. FREDERICKS, Town Clerk.						
FUNDS	April 1, 1938 to March 31, 1940	April 1, 1940 to March 31, 1941	Proposed Estimated 1942-1943	Estimated Unencumbered Balance April 1, 1942	Estimated Income Other Than Taxation 1942-1943	Amount Necessary to be raised by Taxation 1942-43
Consolidated Tax Levy						
General	1,000	1,500				
Grading	275	300				
Improvement	100	50				
Sewer	375	400				
Light	520	550				
Waterworks		600	4,850	1,285	850	2,715
Sewage Disposal	125	125	400			400
Garbage Disposal	150	250	250	129		121
Snow Removal			150			150
Fire Maintenance		175				175
Fire Equipment	325	350	600	360		240
Road Dragging	125	150	600	482		118
Road, Corp.	75	250	250	170		80
Park		50	50			50
Cemetery	150	250	400	200		200
Emergency	75	100	100			100
Water Bonds			361			361
Bond Interest	4,800	4,800	500			500
TOTALS	250	275	250			250
Taxable valuation (1940)	\$8,295	\$8,990	\$8,936	\$1,375	\$850	\$5,325
Moneys and credits (1940)						\$361,589.00
						\$144,058.00

P. A. LOGLI I. G. A. STORE Dial 2311 Ankeny Friday and Saturday Specials	
Fine Granulated Cloth Bag SUGAR 10 lbs. 56¢	
Catsup 2 14 oz. bottles 19¢	
Mustard 1 quart jar 13¢	
WHEATIES per box 10¢	
Sweet Pickles 6 oz. jar 9¢	
Vinegar 16 oz. jar 9¢	
POST TOASTIES 2 18 oz. pkgs. 29¢	
Carrots or Beets 2 No. 2 cans 19¢	
Rice Puffs 2 large boxes 19¢	
"Home-Grown" Early Ohio POTATOES per pk. 25¢	
Toilet Tissue 4 rolls 17¢	
Paper Napkins 100 count 9¢	
IGA Laundry SOAP 10 giant bars 37¢	
Grandpas Tar Soap per bar 10¢	
Cocoa Hardwater Soap 4 bars 19¢	
POP CORN 2 lb. 11¢	
Good Value BROOMS each 23¢	
Grapefruit Juice 3 No. 2 cans 25¢	
Pineapple 3 8 oz. cans 20¢	
CANNING SUPPLIES	
Pelto Powder per pkg. 9¢	
Sure-Jel per pkg. 11¢	
Parowax per pkg. 12¢	
Ball Mason Jars per doz. 67¢	
Kerr Lids complete per dozen 19¢	
Grape Jam 16 oz. jar 14¢	
Peanut Butter 16 oz. jar 17¢	
All Flavors JELLO 3 pkgs. 14¢	
Lima Beans No. 2 can 19¢	
Asparagus 2 10 oz. cans 29¢	
MATCHES 3 large boxes 10¢	
Sandwich Spread 8 oz. jar 13¢	
Dried Beef 2 1/2 oz. jar 15¢	
Sliced Lean Rindless BACON per lb. 29¢	

Ankeny Food Market Dial 2011 We Deliver	
Special Price	
Butter 2 lbs. 64¢	
Sugar 10 lb. bag 56¢	
Independent Flour 5 lbs. 19¢	
Des Moines Cleaner per gal. 27¢	
Mrs. John Mathis will receive any 25¢ Opal Item on our shelves FREE if she calls at our store Saturday.	
Pella Style Bologna per lb. 25¢	
Opal Vac Pac Coffee per lb. 25¢	
Potatoes 15 lb. peck 29¢	
Opal Jar Rubbers 3 for 10¢	
Opal Corn Starch 1 lb. pkg. 8¢	
Powdered Sugar 2 lbs. 14¢	
Brown Sugar 2 lbs. 14¢	
Oxydol per pkg. 19¢	
Mason Zinc Caps per pkg. 17¢	
We give TRADE Stamps for PREMIUMS.	
Quart Jars Mustard per qt. 12¢	
FREE Drawing every Saturday night. Get Kiddie Day tickets here.	
Have some good Fresh Bacon and Eggs for Breakfast Raths	
Black Hawk per lb. 28¢	
2 dozen for Fresh Eggs 50¢	
Per Can Pork & Beans 7¢	
We pay Top Prices for Eggs.	
Opal Canned Milk . . . 8¢	

Ankeny Times, July, 18, 1941



1960s

Diann Dillon Crowned Miss Ankeny – Nine young ladies were in contention for the title of Miss Ankeny at Ankeny's 4th of July celebration. Ankeny Press Citizen – July 8, 1965

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1960s



Summertime Fun – In spite of the hot weather, housework has to be done so these little girls decided to set up housekeeping outdoors where they could enjoy a cool breeze and “beat the heat”. The youngsters are Joan Bloom 5, Lynn Ann DeGeeter 2, Kim Marie DeGeeter 5, and Janet Bloom 3. Joan and Janet were visiting the DeGeeter home at 504 Southlawn Drive. *Ankeny Times-July 6, 1960*



Four Sisters Attending Drake Summer School –

Shown above are four sisters, all attending summer sessions at Drake University in Des Moines. From left to right are Mrs. Wilma Axmear, Ankeny; Mrs. Bonita Harman; Mrs. Florine Lucas, Madrid; and Mrs. Ann Smith, Ankeny. All have been teachers or are still in the teaching profession. Their father, Guy Harshbarger, served on the school board at Fairview School and a rural school at Lake City for 12 years, and they have an uncle who was a school superintendent. Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Harmon, and Mrs. Axmear are studying creative dramatics for children. Mrs. Lucas is taking a political science course. The four sisters are studying in the same school for the first time.

Des Moines Register, July 1960. Obtained from the Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1960s

July 8, 1965 Happenings..Ankeny summer recreation director, David Alexander, reports on the first week of activities: 480 students are in the Red Cross Learn To Swim Program, 548 children are registered and insured in the activities schedule and 219 attended the first week's movie in the Parkview gym. *Ankeny Press Citizen – July 8, 1965*



Ankeny Kountry Kousins Square Dance Club – Held an open air square dance party Saturday evening June 25th at the Park view shelter square in Wagner Park. The caller was Don Reynold of Mitchellville. The club dances every 2nd and 4th Saturday evening on the cement slab at the park. Membership includes couples from Ankeny, Alleman, and Des Moines. The dances, however, are open to the general public. *Ankeny Times-July 6, 1960*

Sock Hop at High School July 11 – Friday night's activities for Sun and Feed Days include a teen dance featuring the Sound Republic. Ten top-tunes, stereo record albums will be given away by the band throughout the evening. Sock-hop style dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Ankeny Senior High School. Admission is \$1.00 per person. *Ankeny Press Citizen – July 24, 1969*

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



The Sign Goes Up

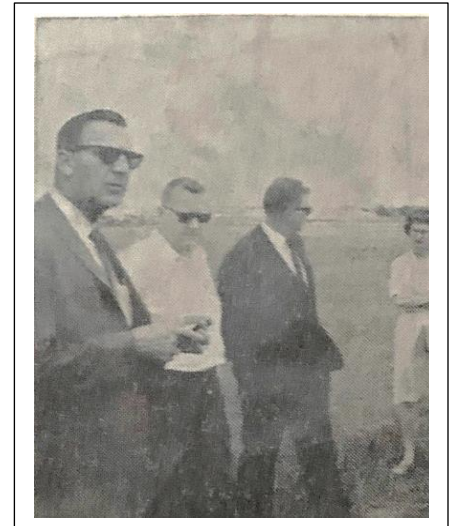


A sign stretching across Ankeny Blvd. announces Fun & Feed Days---- Ankeny's fourth annual "Fun and Feed Days" – a combination Fourth of July-Labor Day celebrations – will be Friday and Saturday. Sponsored by Ankeny civic organizations, the festivities start with a tractor pull at 1 p.m. Friday. Also on the program Friday is a children's parade at 7 p.m. and a teen dance at 9 p.m. Saturday's schedule includes a parade at 10 a.m., "hot rod" tractor pull at 1 p.m., girls softball game at 2 p.m., horse-pulling contest at 7 p.m., style show at 8 p.m., followed by musical entertainment, a drawing for prized and fireworks. A carnival also will be in Ankeny for the two-day event. *Ankeny Press Citizen – July 24, 1969*



Kovacevich Wins Car – Bill Kovacevich, 517 As Drive, was the winner of the 1969 red Mustang given away at the close of the Fun and Feed Days celebration Saturday night. Eric Lundstrom, 210 Cherry, received the shot-gun and Michael P. Fitzgerald, 1244 72nd St. won the sewing machine. (As if he wasn't lucky enough, Kovacevich also won the pig!) *Ankeny Press Citizen – July 24, 1969*

1960s



New Park Dedicated – Al Ugulini (left) chairman of the Park Board, presents Sunrise Park to the city in dedication ceremonies Sunday at the east side park site. Next to him are Wayne Begg, a Park Board member, and Mark Weston. The new Sunrise Park on the east side was dedicated Sunday in ceremonies at the park site. The park, located between East Fourth Street and Peterson Drive and between Trilein and Sharon Drive, consists of 10.4 acres of land. *Ankeny Press Citizen – July 20, 1967*

Ankeny through the decades...

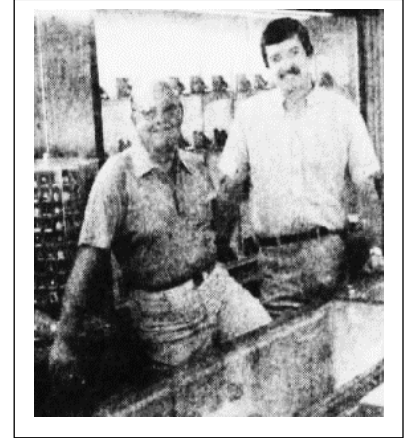
recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



1980s

Paullin Jewelry was established in 1953 by Gerald (Bud) Paullin. Scott Thompson purchased the store in 1979. Our store has now served the Ankeny area for 31 years. We'd like to thank all our customers for their patronage! As always, you will receive a wide range of quality merchandise at reasonable prices and excellent service on your jewelry repair needs.



DM Register, July 25, 1984

Cars were racing, witness says. As eyewitness to a 1980 accident that is at the center of a \$5 million negligence suit testified Tuesday that she saw two cars racing along an Ankeny road just before the crash that killed one person and turned another into a quadriplegic. Jane Froehle, a former Ankeny resident who has moved out of state, said she was driving north along Ordinance Road in the early morning of Nov. 15, 1980, when a yellow Camaro sped past her heading north. The Camaro, owned by Judy Lee Hess and driven by Larry David Johnson, caught up to a brown Mustang and the two cars "raced down the road," Froehle said. The Mustang was driven by Darin Lee Ballard, son of Ankeny Policy Chief Dennis Ballard, and in it were two passengers, Robert Craig Rabe and Cheryl Lynn Epps. Shortly afterward, Froehle testified, the Mustang veered off the road and power lines nearby vibrated, although she said she didn't see the Ballard car smash into the utility pole that was placed 17 feet off the road. Epps, 19 of Ankeny, was killed. Rabe, now 21, was severely injured. Ballard, now 21, was not badly hurt.

DM Register, July 4, 1984



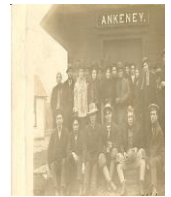
Nelson's Diamonds. Peggy and Dale Nelson have enjoyed serving the people of Ankeny for the past six years and thank everyone for their support. The Nelsons specialize in custom designs, remounting and the repair of jewelry. Their diversified inventory includes gold chains, men's and ladies' watches, a variety of gems, wedding sets, pendants, rings, earrings and much more. Cheri Nelson, Ginger Bolte and Judy McLelland assist the Nelsons in serving you – the people of Lake Country.

DM Register, July 25, 1984

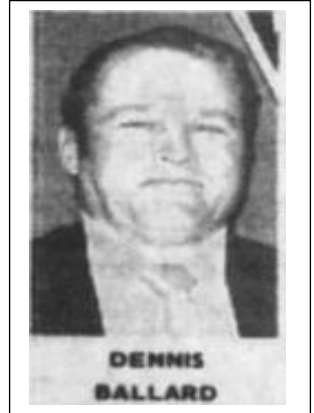
Ankeny through the decades...


recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



Ankeny Police Chief makes cooperation law enforcement easy. According to Dennis Ballard, Ankeny police chief, the department's philosophy is one of "cooperating, enforcing the law and keeping the community safe." In a letter nominating the 44-year-old Ballard as Neighbor of the Week, Bob VanEvery, wrote that Ballard is a good example of that philosophy. In 1982, director of Community Education Kevin Koester and former Sen. Gary Baugher, began organizing a juvenile justice program in Ankeny. As an alternative to punishment, youths who were caught shoplifting, setting fireworks or committing other misdemeanors would be given a chance to work for Ankeny employers or for the city to repay the victim of the crime. But to develop such a program, Koester said cooperation from the police department was crucial. "Ballard was extremely cooperative. He was willing to hear about it and was open to the idea," Koester said. "He was dissatisfied with the backlog of cases in juvenile court and he saw the potential for the program rather than the hassles in it." Ballard's spirit of cooperation goes beyond his participation in the juvenile justice program. He said he enjoys working with people and likes to help in whatever way he can. Ballard recently came to the rescue when Ankeny needed an interim city manager. He served in that capacity for about four months. Now, back in his own position, Ballard said he is working hard to make the police department "one of the best in the state." *DM Register, July 4, 1984*






A Child's World

PRE SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE CENTER
2401 West First Street, Ankeny, Ia.
Open 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. — Ages 18 months thru 10 years

- Pre School
- Child Care
- Before and After School Care
- Teachers with 4 Year College degrees in education.
- Early Reading Program
- Math Skill Development
- Large and Fine Motor Activities
- Individualized Classrooms
- Transportation to & from Schools
- Kindergarten enrichment Program



COMPUTER INTRODUCTION

- Development of Social Skills and Positive Self Image
- Homemade Lunches
- Low Sugar Snacks
- Arts and Crafts
- Phonics
- Palmer Printing
- Field Trips

Full and part-time programs available.
ENROLLMENT LIMITED
Call 964-7372 for pre-registration information.

Physical Exams set for athletes. Physical examinations for Ankeny junior and senior high school athletes are scheduled for July 30. Boys who are patients of Dr. Rodney R. Carlson, Dr. Dennis K. Hopkins, Dr. Craig S. Gerhart or Dr. Van Oort, and boys and girls who are patients of Dr. K.E. Check, Dr. George T. Kappos, or Dr. Lawrence R. Gray, should report to the appropriate doctor's office at the time specified according to the initial letter of his or her last name:

A-F: 6 pm; G-L: 6:30 pm; M-R: 7 pm; S-Z: 7:30 pm

Girls who are patients of Dr. Carlson, Dr. Hopkins, Dr. Gerhard or Dr. Van Oort may report to their office at any time after 7:30 pm. All athletes are asked to bring a urine specimen and the completed physical examination form, signed by their parents or guardians. These are available from the school principals' offices. There is a \$15 fee for the examination. *DM Register, July 25, 1984*

1980s

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

July 2020



Ames Lab has roots in Manhattan Project (and Little Ankeny). It was August 6, 1945, Hiroshima Day, when Orpha Wilhelm first learned what her husband had been working on for the past three years. The first atomic bomb, dubbed “Little Boy,” had been dropped, destroying the Japanese city and giving birth to the Atomic Age. The bomb confirmed speculation, and Harry Truman’s Potsdam ultimatum hints, that U.S. scientists had been feverishly developing an atomic weapon. On that same date, the rest of the curious public around central Iowa was finding out why hundreds of people – three shifts, seven days a week – had been secretly working in a barn-like building on the east end of the campus in Ames, Iowa. Previously, they had known only that the new project was more important than research into popcorn, which it had displaced. The building became known as “Little Ankeny,” a reference to conventional ordnance work being done near the Des Moines suburb 30 miles to the south. The building has since been torn down, commemorated only by a plaque on a boulder explaining the important, if limited, role scientists here had in developing the atomic bomb. The Ames Laboratory, a \$34 million facility on the campus of Iowa State University with a \$20 million annual budget from the U.S. Department of Energy, is assigned to develop and test metals to help solve future energy problems. It got its start in the top-secret effort to develop the atomic bomb. High-grade uranium metal rods produced here under the direction of Ames Lab founder Frank Spedding and Wilhelm, his close associate, were used in the world’s first atomic chain reaction Dec. 2, 1942, on a squash court under the stands of Chicago’s Staff Field. Scientists had proved an atomic chain reaction could be induced, a critical step in the bomb’s development. Pure uranium, 10,000 tons in all, was then produced here as the project was scaled up toward the ultimate production of the first atomic weapons at Los Alamos, NM. After the war, the Ames Lab got out of the uranium producing business and the last classified work of any kind was discontinued in 1962. Spedding, Wilhelm, and Wayne Keller worked out a process for producing pure uranium, which has been copied and used by private industry since the war. As the project was scaled up, and reactors were built at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Hanford, Washington, Oak Ridge processed uranium into the radioactive isotope Uranium 235. Hanford “cooked” uranium, producing plutonium that went into the Nagasaki bomb. Little Ankeny went on producing pure uranium for Oak Ridge. *DM Register, July 10, 1984*

1980s

Board plans vote on pool in Ankeny. Ankeny residents will get the chance to vote next month on whether to build an indoor swimming pool at the high school following efforts of the Ankeny Indoor Pool Action Corp (AIPAC) and its president, Annette Vance. She presented petitions to the Ankeny school board Monday night requesting that a special election be called for the proposed facility. “We only needed 125 signatures and got 475 on the petitions I had,” Vance said. “When I got home from the meeting there were three more petitions that had been dropped off, which put the total number well over 500.” Although the school district would be handling the bonding for the estimated \$1.8 million project, the city of Ankeny would dip into its coffers to help with the operation and maintenance of the pool. Vance said she estimates those costs will “run around \$100,000,” but she’s hopeful that half of that could come from user fees. *DM Register, July 4, 1984*