

# Ankeny through the decades...

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



June 2020

**War Pushed Hild Into Politics:** When the building of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant forced Roy Hild off his farm, he decided to enter politics. He ran for the Polk County Board of Supervisors, was elected.

**Two Indictments:** Today the balding, 68-year-old Hild is under two indictments charging he obtained money by false pretenses. He pleaded innocent to one charge, hasn't been in court yet on the other. He continues to hold his post of board chairman even though he's at liberty on \$6,000 bonds.

He is charged in one indictment with arranging a false claim of \$703 for gasoline and for the repair of county welfare cars. The other indictment involves orders totaling \$1,192.50 for 50 tires and 50 tubes. Garageman Elmer Croft, whose testimony has helped convict two other former supervisors, is key in the Hild prosecution, too. Croft, himself serving a 7-year sentence, says he bought Hild a \$265 diamond ring and \$85 worth of flowers, not to mention regular monthly payments of \$100 to \$150.

All this is a strange development for the genial, bespectacled Hild who decided in 1941 to spend the rest of his life in comfortable contentment on his 145-acre farm near Ankeny. But, like millions of other Americans, he didn't realize that Pearl Harbor was coming to turn everybody's life topsy-turvy. The nation needed cartridges, billions of them. A plant had to be built at Ankeny. Hild's farm had to be taken from him. He got \$23,000 from the government out of the deal.

For his try at politics, Hild was well-prepared. He had a farm background, had business experience as a druggist, a real estate man and district sales manager at a cement company. In World War I he directed the Y.M.C.A. motion picture program in France. He previously had served in a hospital unit during the Mexican border troubles. Hild got the second district Republican nomination for supervisor in 1942, then easily won in the general election. He took office in 1944. He was re-elected in 1946. *Des Moines Register, June 22, 1947. Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection*

## 1940s



*\*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](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org).*



## Ankeny Area Historical Society

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## 1940s

**Death Comes to Polk City Woman:** Mrs. John Lint Passed Away On Monday-Funeral Services Held This Afternoon: Mrs. John Lint, a resident of the Polk City community for many years and her entire lifetime a resident of Polk County, passed away at her home Monday following an illness of considerable duration. Her death was attributed to complications which developed following an attack of the flu. She was 82 years of age.

The deceased was born in Polk County, March 22, 1865, a daughter of the late Henry and Arbelles Harvey. She is survived by her husband who is 101 years of age and several children: Sons are Chester Cornwell, Ankeny, Oscar and Eddie Lint, Polk City, and Henry Lint, Ankeny. Daughters are Mrs. Ray Sheppard, Johnston; Mrs. Cora Sexauer, Ankeny, Mrs. Mary Banning, Des Moines.

Funeral services are being held this afternoon at the Gospel Missionary church in Polk City with Rev. W.C. Berggren, the pastor in charge. *Publication unknown, June 16, 1947; Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection*



**A very pretty wedding ceremony** took place Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 o'clock noon when Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Harshbarger of Polk City was united in marriage to Vernon W. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Smith of Ankeny. The Reverend Stacy Shenton of Des Moines officiated at the home of the bride's parents near Polk City.

Immediately following the ceremony a wedding dinner was served to over forty relatives and friends, after which the happy couple departed for a short trip. They will be home about the first of July in the home Mr. Smith had prepared, the property known as the Geo. Cherrie property on the East Fourteenth street road in Ankeny. *Source unknown, June 28, 1934. Doris Bunz Scrapbook Collection*

There's an old rhyme about "Lemonade made in the shade, and stirred with a spade...." Mrs. Loren Hildreth thinks peeling potatoes in the shade also helps beat the heat during Iowa's hot summer weather. You can put a table and a chair out under a shade tree when you prepare your vegetables for the table or for canning and freezing, and enjoy being outdoors where it is more comfortable and pleasant. *Ankeny Times, June 10, 1949*

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Ankeny Times, May 17, 1940

## 1940s



**Observe Golden Wedding Anniversary:** Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Olson of Ankeny whose golden wedding anniversary occurred on June 24 held an open house for their relatives in honor of the occasion on Sunday, June 22. Approximately one hundred relatives and old friends of the couple attended, some of whom had been at their wedding fifty years ago. There was a short program in the afternoon at which Rev. B.W. Selin of Des Moines made a few remarks and the couple was presented with a lovely gift. *Source unknown, June 25, 1941. Doris Bunz Scrapbook*

---FREE---  
Grease Job  
With Every Oil Change  
Good Until June 25th  
Lubrication, Washing, Greasing  
PHILLIP 66  STATION  
Located on Highway 69  
Ted G. Rogers  
Ankeny, Iowa Ph. 4711

FOR HARD WEAR & GOOD LOOKS  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
**MAR-NOT VARNISH**  
 For Floors  
Furniture  
Woodwork  
MADE FOR HEAVY DUTY  
\* What a beating Mar-Nat can take and still stay beautiful. Boiling water, soap suds, alcohol, scuffing feet and scraping furniture—Mar-Nat takes them all and comes up smiling.  
HIGH-GLOSS OR SATIN-FINISH  
\$1.75 Per Quart   
Denniston & Partridge  
Ankeny Phone 2811  
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS

THAT Winning WAY...  
the WAYNE WAY  
from Chicks to Profit Pallets  
  
Enjoy that Winning Wayne with your chicks this year... in livability, fast growth, early maturity. Now, as you plan ahead for poultry profits, come in and find out about Wayne Chick Strain, Covering Mark and that Winning Wayne Way.  
F. L. Ballard & Sons  
Phone 2093 Ankeny

CYCLOGY  
  
DON'T DEPEND TOO MUCH ON THAT RABBIT'S FOOT - IT MAY HAVE A FALLEN ARCH.  
F. L. BALLARD & SONS  
Phone 2093  
ANKENY, IA.

BETTY SUE by Jim STIMSON  
  
I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT REAL HAPPINESS WAS UNTIL YOU GOT MARRIED!  
THAT'S RIGHT BETTY SUE, THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.  
It's never too late to change to the ANKENY GRILL. Ankeny's modern, up-to-date, conveniently located cafe. You'll always enjoy our prompt services. Designed for pleasant dining... we strive to satisfy.  
We have the latest edition of the Register with the latest Sport News.  
**The Grill**  
J. E. STIMSON - PROP.

Ankeny Times, June 10, 1949

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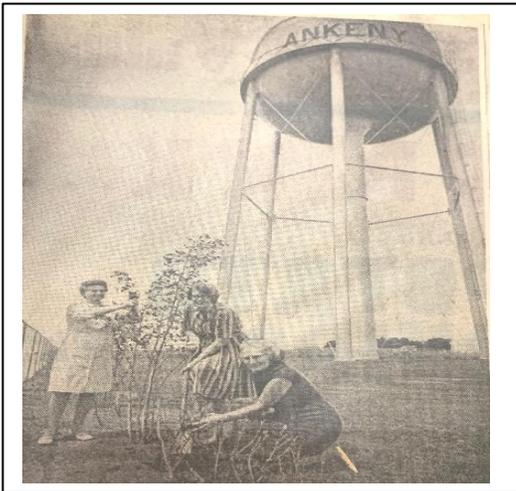


## 1960s

50-Year Class at Ankeny Alumni Reunion



**The Ankeny Alumni Banquet** - was held Saturday evening at Vittoria Lodge, with approximately 300 attending. The 10-year class of 1956, **50-year class of 1916**, and 25-year class of 1941 were honored. Four members of the 50-year class, Lloyd Brewbaker, Mrs. Ed Parmenter, both of Ankeny, Leland Harvey, and Lois Thompson of Cottonwood, AZ, were present. Mrs. Thompson wore the dress in which she was graduated 50 years ago. *Ankeny Press Citizen – June 4, 1966*



**Concert Tonight** – The Ankeny summer band, under the direction of George Friedmeyer, will hold the first concert of the season tonight, Thursday, at the city park. A series of six concerts are planned on consecutive Thursday nights. The park has been sprayed for mosquitoes.

Members of the Band Parents will have charge of the refreshments, consisting of pop, candy, and popcorn during the program. Any adult or college student interested in playing in the summer band is cordially invited to attend the rehearsals. The junior high students have voted to have a junior high band rehearsal every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at Parkview School. They are planning on presenting a concert later this summer. *Ankeny Press Citizen—June 28, 1962*

**New City Park** – Three members of the Ankeny Gardening Club finish planting the last of several shrubs in the new part at the city's water tower site. They are (from left) Mrs. Lael Moon, Mrs. Greg Crouch, and Mrs. Marion Kochheiser. *Ankeny Press Citizen – June 4, 1966*

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## Ankeny Yesterday Highlights –

## 1960s

...Louie Fontanini will retire July 1 as fire chief after 10 years as chief and 40 years as an Ankeny fireman. The first equipment that he had in his years on the force was a hand-drawn wagon.

...The Yankee Clipper offers freshly baked pizza to go for \$1 large and 60 cents for a small.

*Ankeny Press Citizen – June 16, 1960*

...Jim Good and Mike Pertzborn are two local participants in the Soap Box Derby in Des Moines.

...Three Kansas City men have been arrested and accused of attempting to break into Paullin's Jewelry in Ankeny.

...Dennis Ballard is named as the new full-time Ankeny patrolman.

*Ankeny Press Citizen – June 17, 1965*

..Charles Mynatt is named new Ankeny fire chief. A John Deere employee, Mynatt has been a volunteer fireman for five years.

..."Jumpin' Gimmy" opens in Ankeny at the corner of Hwy 69 & First Street. It has over a dozen ground level trampolines for rent days and evenings.

...Iowan Joyce Rice, a national baton twirling champion, is guest performer at Elwell's Food Market on Saturday.

*Ankeny Press Citizen – June 23, 1960*

...Thieves broke into McCleary's Shoe Store and took \$30 in cash register exchange and a transistor radio.

...Eddie Hoskins, 21, a lifetime Ankeny resident, drowns at Avon Lake just southeast of Des Moines.

*Ankeny Press Citizen – June 24, 1965*

...John Hanifen of Ankeny was injured by lightning when he called to check on weather conditions there from his Second Avenue business. A lightning bolt traveled through the phone line knocking Hanifen off his feet at the office and into a wall. He was treated for a severe headache at Broadlawns and released.

...The third outdoor band concert of the summer is Thursday. In addition to Ankeny High School's band performing in Wagner Park, the twirling of Jill Vulcano will show their stuff. The twirlers will be Shirley Reynolds, Kristin Reynolds, Linda Ryan, Marjorie Cobb, Susie Dutcher, Tamera Boettcher, Marsha Aunan, and Linda Sampson.

*Ankeny Press Citizen – June 24, 1965*

...Nine young ladies will be in contention for the title of Miss Ankeny during next week's July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. The nine attend Ankeny schools. They are: Jacque Vulcano, Linda Leedom, Dianne Dillon, Barb Abuhl, Doreen McCleary, Sherry DuBois, Jane Schaffer, Joan Allen, and Janet Howard. *Ankeny Press Citizen – June 30, 1965*

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## 1960s



**Jumpin' Gyminy** – The Zook Jumpin Gyminy on Highway 69 in Ankeny is a popular fun recreation for youngsters and oldsters. The Jumping Center was recently opened here by Bob Zook. Chuck Workman, an expert on the trampoline gives jumping lessons from noon until 11 p.m. The Jumping idea is not a new one as trampoline jumping is an established Olympic sport and recognized by the AAU. The popularity and fun of this recreation was started in California and Florida two years ago and is now invading the middle west. *Ankeny Times – June 16, 1960*

**Ground breaking ceremonies for Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church** were held last Sunday at the site on Enterprise Road, east of Ankeny Blvd., with over 200 in attendance. Shown above is Msgr. Conley of Visitation, turning the first ground for the new structure. Standing with Msgr. Conley, is Father Woodrow Elias, pastor of the local parish.

Member of the Knights of Columbus and the Altar boys of the church took part in the ceremonies. Aldo Ugolini, building committee chairman, stated that the first phase should be completed in about a year. The work on the \$173,000 structure is expected to begin immediately. *Ankeny Press Citizen – June 6, 1961*



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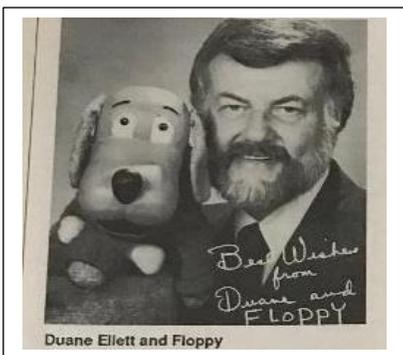
## 1960s

**Brannan Appointed Supervisor** - At this writing, (Thursday, June 17) Richard A. Brannan of Ankeny was appointed to the office of Polk County Supervisor for the third district. This move ousted treasurer Carl Bogenrief from getting the post. The people empowered by state law to fill vacancies on the board are: recorder, Irene Maley; auditor, James Maloney; and clerk of court Michael Doyle. On Saturday, June 14, two of those officials, Mrs. Maley and James Maloney, signed a resolution appointing Bogenrief as Supervisor. Mrs. Maley withdrew her signature from that resolution Tuesday. Maloney is in Canada on a fishing trip and was not present to sign the new resolution appointing Richard Brannan. Brannan will succeed William Fortune who was appointed to the position originally in a similar move by recorder, Maley, and clerk of court Doyle, and Bill McCullough whose position as auditor is now held by James Maloney. Fortune has been appointed to a new post, director of secondary highways.

Mrs. Maley indicated that she shifted her support from Bogenrief because at the time she signed the original resolution she "understood" no one else was interested in the appointment. Later she learned labor was still interested in it and transferred her support to Brannan. *Ankeny Press Citizen – June 19, 1969*

## 1980s

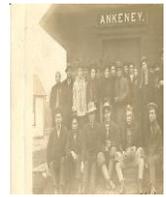
**Ankeny State Bank** invites you to join its employees during the week of June 15-19 as the bank shows its appreciation to the Ankeny area for its business over the years. Join your neighbors and friends for a five-day celebration with special exhibits, activities and prizes. Monday, June 15, through Friday, June 19, exhibits will be at both the main bank and the branch location, featuring the Ankeny YMCA, Des Moines Area Community College, and Faith Baptist Bible College. During the week the banks will have free coffee and cookies, and drive-up customers will have their windshields cleaned as one way of saying "thank you." Friday's activities cap the week with an appearance by Duane Ellett and Floppy at the main bank parking area from noon to 2 p.m. Join Duane and his precocious canine companion, who are celebrating 30 years together. They are Ankeny residents who do their banking at Ankeny State Bank. Bring your camera and have your children's picture taken with Duane and Floppy. *The Ankeny Banker, Ankeny State Bank newsletter, June 1987 (Mrs. Deloris Bunz collection) (Editor's note: The Ankeny State Bank is now Community State Bank, which is in several locations.)*



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## 1980s

### 1983...As Years Go, It was Pretty Good! (June excerpts)

June 1983:

- Ankeny Community Theatre opens Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite."
  - Ankeny Substance Abuse Task force explores school's policy and programs.
  - Ankeny Juvenile Justice Council completes first year with 38 juveniles completing 551 hours of community service and/or \$514 of restitution.
  - Kent Peterson heads Ankeny Rent-A-Kid Service.
  - Ankeny developer Rod Lein explores possibility of enclosed shopping mall.
  - Better business in Ankeny ... Optimism grows that things are getting back to normal.
  - Ankeny State Bank breaks ground for new location.
  - Dale Frisk and Bill Parrish honored for 25 years of service with US Post Office Department.
  - Robert Otte resigns teaching post.
  - Ankeny Golf and Country Club begins 21<sup>st</sup> season.
  - Linda Schnepf will not seek re-election to school board.
  - 425 attend AHS alumni banquet. Manilla Coppock attends her 66<sup>th</sup>; 25 from Class of '33 attend 50-year reunion. Six Ugulini brothers and sisters attend.
  - Ankeny Lions donate labor to Camp Sunnyside.
  - Ankeny Jaycees fill 124 sand boxes with 41 tons of sand.
  - School board and administrators to examine Grandes 9-12 curriculum.
  - City do -it-yourself home repair and replacement law having trouble getting done. (*Ed. Note: seems appropriate, huh?*)
  - Council approves rock and asphalt surfacing for Ordnance Road.
  - Council member Richard Chamberlin questions possible laxity of zoning waivers.
  - Beta Sigma Phi chapters contribute \$295 to AFD ambulance service.
  - City Manager David Dirks and Assistant Joe Frei resign at request of City Council.
  - Mardi Fahringer joins Hawkeye Ankeny Bank and Trust as loan originator.
  - Ankeny Community Chorus being formed, directed by David Sorenson.
- Ankeny Press Citizen, December 1983*

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**Ankeny Council accepts deed for sports complex.** The Ankeny City Council Monday night accepted a deed to Ankeny school land where the city plans to build an adult soccer/softball complex. City Manager Carl Metzger said the city must own the property near Hawkeye Park in order to get a \$35,000 grant from the National Park Service to help finance construction of the \$170,000 project. The city is contributing \$75,000. The school district is contributing \$10,000 and the land. Once it is built, the city will manage the facility. The district's gift of the land, north of Parkview School, assures completion of the complex by next spring, barring construction mishaps or snags in getting the grant. Metzger said the grant is expected to be approved in the next week, and the soccer/softball committee is expected to evaluate the field's design and make recommendations at the Council's June 23 meeting. *DM Register, June 4, 1986*

**Vanni pitches pair of shutouts to lead Ankeny to tourney title.** Angie Vanni posted two shutouts and allowed only four base runners in two games as she pitched a second-ranked Ankeny to the McDonald's Invitational softball tournament title at Lion's Park in Urbandale Saturday. Vanni blanked Newton, 8-0, on two hits as Ankeny (12-1) captured the Big Mac Division crown. She then tossed a one-hitter as Ankeny stopped Hoover, 4-0, for the overall championship. *DM Register, June 15, 1986*

**Weekly meeting schedule, DM Register, June 4, 1986 (Look at all the meetings and organizations in one week!)**

## 1980s

### ANKENY

**Optimist Club**, tonight, 7 p.m., Best Western Inn, U.S. Interstate 35 and E. First St.

**Women's Fellowship**, Thursday, June 5, 10 a.m., Church of the Brethren, 417 Grant St.

**Kiwanis**, Thursday, June 5, 6:30 p.m., Best Western Inn.

**Scouts**, Boy Scout Troop #188, Thursday, June 5, 7 p.m., United Church of Christ, Third and School streets.

**Lions Club**, Thursday, June 5, 6 p.m., Ankeny Country Club, N.W. 16th Ave.

**Women of Today**, Thursday, June 5, 7:30 p.m., Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, 803 S.W. Third St.

**Prom Night**, Saturday, June 7, 8 p.m., Allstate Insurance Building, 8635 Hickman Road, Urbandale. Semi-formal. Open to the public. Sponsored by Parents Without Partners.

**Christians Alone**, Saturday, June 7, 6:30 p.m., Church of the Brethren. Open to all singles.

**Runners' Club**, Saturday, June 7, 8 a.m., Best Western Inn parking lot. Fun run and breakfast. Open to all runners.

**Federated Women's Club**, Monday, June 9, 7:30 p.m., Resurrection Church, 914 N.W. Ash Drive.

**Jaycees**, Monday, June 9, 8 p.m., Neveln Junior High School, 306 S.W. School St.

**Ankeny Rotary Club**, Monday, June 9, noon, Best Western Inn.

**Toastmasters' Club**, Monday, June 9, 6:30 p.m., Ankeny Chamber of Commerce.

**TOPS**, Monday, June 9, 6:45 p.m., Seventh-Day Adventist Church, S.W. Fifth and S.W. Maple streets.

**Church board meeting**, Tuesday, June 10, 7 p.m., Church of the Brethren, 417 Grant St.

**Ankeny Arts Council**, Tuesday, June 10, 7 p.m., Community Center, 511 S.W. Second St.

**Golden K Kiwanis**, Tuesday, June 10, 9 a.m., Best Western Inn.

**La Leche League**, Tuesday, June 10, 1:30 p.m. For location call 964-1885.

**Tough Love**, Tuesday, June 10, 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 206 S.W. Walnut St.

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## 1980s



*Editorial: Ankeny has had a great tradition of winning **State Championships** in sports and debate for years and years. While both the boys and girls can brag of many awards over the years, the 1980s were a great decade for Ankeny girls' sports (they took 11 titles). Here are the state championships listed on the display sign at Northview Middle School:*

*The tradition continues. Take a look at the display the next time you drive by that school. And, watch for the wonderful display about all the championships that the Ankeny Area Historical Society has developed, coming soon. Photos, posters, interviews with key players and coaches, and lots of information about Ankeny sports will be of interest to anyone who has participated in Ankeny sports, has enjoyed their sports, or just likes sports. Special announcements will advise when the display will be open to the public!*