

Ankeny through the decades...

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

November 2019



1950s

383 Vote in Town Election; All Nominated Are Elected.

Tuesday's town election brought out a total of 383 voters. Mayor Charles E. Feight was re-elected mayor for a two-year term with a total of 248 votes. John G. Burke, formerly a mayor of Ankeny, received 93 write-in votes. For councilmen, Eldon Leonard received the highest number of votes with 298. He was followed by Lyle Foust, Norris Adams, Earl Lewis and Edward Howell. Two other candidates received a number of write-in votes. They are Frank Whitely with 135 and Art Den Adel with 110. The top three candidates receiving the most number of votes were elected to a four year term and the next two were elected to a two year term.

Lloyd Brewbaker, who was unopposed as town treasurer, received a total of 332 votes. This is for a two-year term. Foust, Lewis, and Howell have been serving on the council the past term. Leonard and Adams will sit on the Ankeny council for the first time. The new councilmen will take office on January 1, 1960. *Ankeny Press Citizen, November 5, 1959*

Mayor	
Charles E. Feight	248
John Burke	93
Councilmen	
Eldon Leonard	298
Lyle Foust	264
Norris Adams	252
Earl Lewis	251
Edward Howell	244
Frank Whiteley	135
Art Den Adel	110
Treasurer	
Lloyd Brewbaker	332

Watch the Ankeny Area Historical Society website for upcoming events!

www.ankenyhistorical.org. From November 8 to mid-December 14, Vintage Christmas will be back at the house! Be sure to stop by on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday from 9:00 to 3:00.

**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.*



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School Officials and Citizens Discuss School Expansion: Will Need More Classrooms Soon

The Ankeny Board of Education, school administrative officials, and citizens of the Ankeny School District, met on Monday night at the Parkview cafeteria to discuss the expansion program in the Ankeny schools. Board President Ray Peltz opened the meeting with a word of welcome to those present and told the group that with the present trend of growth, something would have to be done to make more class rooms available in the near future. He explained this meeting was of an exploratory nature no definite plans had been made by the board.

Projected Enrollment: Supt. Ralph Jorgenson then handed out charts showing the projected school population through the year 1964. This chart was based on census record and average yearly growth from 1951 through 1958. The figures in the elementary include the present junior high.

Many Possibilities: Many possibilities as to enlarging both the high school and junior high buildings were discussed. The opinion of most of the visitors was for additional rooms at the junior high. If more space was available there, the 9th grade, which is now part of the high school, could be moved into the junior high making it 7, 8, and 9 and the high school would be 10, 11, and 12. This would leave the high school suitable for the anticipated increase. There are approximately 250 students in the high school building now and school officials estimate that 300 is the absolute capacity.
Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 20, 1958

Years	Ele.	Total
1958-59	859	1130
1959-60	954	1330
1960-61	1034	1340
1961-62	1081	1541
1962-63	1138	1545
1963-64	1141	1607

Earl Hildreth Named Ankeny

Police Chief: Earl A. Hildreth, 609 Southlawn Drive, was appointed Chief of Police at Monday evening's Council Meeting. He took over his new duties on Wednesday morning. Mr. Hildreth has been Polk County Deputy Sheriff four years. He is a member of the Iowa State Sheriff Association and the Polk County Peace Officers Association. He is a member of the Congregational Church in Ankeny. Mr. Hildreth's first year's work at the Sheriff's office was transporting prisoners; the second year was the Criminal Division; and the last two years was spent as a patrol officer.

He was born on a farm near Ankeny and has lived in the vicinity all his life. He has one daughter, Mrs. Mark Spruce of Ankeny also two grandchildren. Mrs. Hildreth is employed by the Des Moines Ice and Fuel Co., of Des Moines.
Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 6, 1958

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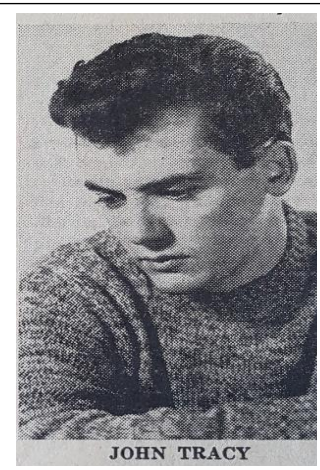
1950s



Shown is a scene from “Come Over To Our House” an hilarious comedy that will be presented by the Junior Class of Ankeny High School tonight. From left to right are: Fran Rowland, Bill Howe, Roger Scholes, Sue Moore, Carol Johnson, Dorothy Thompson, and Ted West. Yes, the big day has arrived for the Juniors and curtain time is 8 p.m. at Parkview Auditorium. Let's help the Junior class have a successful evening. Just pack up the family and breeze over to Parkview for an evening that promises wholesome family entertainment. Admission is 60¢ for adults and 30¢ for children. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 13, 1958*

Ankeny's John Tracy Pursuing Acting Career in New York City:

John Tracy, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Tracy and a 1956 graduate of Ankeny High School, is studying acting in New City. Since his arrival in New York last spring, John has been studying acting with the Stella Adler School and has accepted minor parts whenever possible. The accomplishment of which John is most proud of is his audition for the



famed Actor's Studio. His final audition will be in January. At that time he will be interviewed by Lee Strassberg and Elia Kazan. Provided that he is selected, he will become a member of this famous class. Only outstanding actors are admitted. This is the school in which Marlon Brando developed his abilities after having studied with Stella Adler. John's first experience with acting was at Ankeny High School in the junior and senior class plays under the direction of Merna Pratt. John feels his freshman and sophomore English teacher, Carl Troxel, gave him his first serious views of literature in its true creative form, and that from this he acquired a desire for self-expression. John says, "I don't know how long it will take me to be successful. The most important thing for me, at the present time, is to study my craft and to develop my abilities."

Ankeny-Press Citizen, November 26, 1959

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November 2019



1950s

FOR 1960-
From any point of view—
From every point of value—

1960 Ford Thunderbird

Ford's got the
SIZZLER!

This year we're proud to offer the greatest V-8's we've ever had. And our new 292 T-bird V-8 outdoes most others except, of course, Ford's famous Mileage Maker Six.

1960 Ford Falcon "160"

Ford's got the
VALUE leader!

When you see this elegantly, perfectly proportioned styling and feel this built-for-people comfort, you'll wonder why anybody would bother to pay more for any car.

Ford's got the
SAVINGEST!

The new Ford Falcon is the easiest car in the world to own! It really holds 6 big folks and all their luggage. It averages up to 30 mpg. It can save you on servicing costs, too. Come in and fun-test it!

COME SEE THE WONDERFUL NEW WORLD OF FORDS!
FORD—The Power Factor of a Lifetime! FALCON—The New Size Ford! THUNDERBIRD—The World's Most Versatile Car!

ANKENY MOTORS, INC.
Phone WO 4-4224 Ankeny, Iowa

See "FORD STARTIME" in living color Tuesdays on NBC-TV

Right and above: Ankeny-Press
Citizen. November 27, 1958

4 Piece Bedroom Suite

INCLUDES
BOOKCASE BED
CHEST — DRESSER
MIRROR

\$98

Easy Terms

Register for **FREE** Posturepedic Mattress
by Sealy, given by our store. Nothing to Buy!

GENE NICHOLSON
Appliances TV Furniture
Hwy. 69, Ankeny — Just North of The Breese House WO 4-4215

1958-59 ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

NOVEMBER	JANUARY
15 SAT. GUTHRIE CENTER (G 1 & 2) . . . HERE	6 TUES. SAYDEL* (B & G) . . . There
18 TUES. SAYDEL* (B & G) . . . HERE	9 FRI. NORTH POLK* (B & G) . . . HERE
21 FRI. INDIANOLA (B 1 & 2) . . . There	13 TUES. W. D. M. (G 1 & 2) . . . There
25 TUES. NEVADA (B 1 & 2) . . . There	16 FRI. BONDURANT* (B & G) . . . There
	23 FRI. ALTOONA* (B & G) . . . HERE
	27 TUES. WINTerset (G 1 & 2) . . . There
	30 FRI. JOHNSTON* (B & G) . . . HERE
DECEMBER	FEBRUARY
2 TUES. BONDURANT* (B & G) . . . HERE	3 TUES. NORTH POLK* (B & G) . . . There
5 FRI. ALTOONA* (B & G) . . . There	6 FRI. URSANDALE* (B & G) . . . There
9 TUES. STORY CITY (B & G) . . . HERE	13 FRI. MADRID (B 1 & 2) . . . HERE
12 FRI. JOHNSTON* (B & G) . . . There	
19 FRI. URSANDALE* (B & G) . . . HERE	

* SUBURBAN CONFERENCE GAMES

7:15 P.M. Adults -- 60¢ Students -- 30¢

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FROM OUR FILES



56 Years Ago First Editions of the Ankeny Times

Business Concerns

Thomas Barr our good harness maker is a true Ankeny man, he came here nearly 5 years ago. He is an old friend of the printer and his family.

* * * *

Perry Verts, the popular little liveryman is running a first-class livery and feed barn and always meets his friends and customers with a pleasant smile.

* * * * *

J. H. Woods & Co., formerly conducted a general store here, but 4 years ago disposed of that business and opened an extensive lumber yard and have, from the first enjoyed a very large trade. F. E. Woods manages the Ankeny yard, while Joseph and Charles look after the Berwick branch.

* * * *

E. W. Harris is proprietor of the Livery barn east of the depot. He has good rigs and will use you just right.

The extensive Agricultural implement house of Wagner Bros., constituting of Will and Ed., is no doubt, the largest and strongest implement house in the state outside of Des Moines. They began business in 1900 and the business has continued to grow, until an army of men is required during the busy season. The firm have ample capital and lots of push.

* * * * *

The large elevator, owned by the B. A. Lockwood Grain Company is well partonized.

* * * * *

Perry Verts, met with quite an accident one day last week. His team became frightened at some box cars standing on the crossing, becoming unmanagable and finally succeeded in smashing his finest carriage into several small parts. Perry escaped unharmed.

1950s

Above and right: Ankeny Time, November 27, 1958

Thanksgiving centerpiece by Norma Anderson.



THANKSGIVING ARRANGEMENT
Mrs. Norma Anderson made this Thanksgiving arrangement of
sterile found along the roadsides. Cattails, dock, wild wheat, bitter
weed, yucca and a pheasant were used to make a pleasing and in
expensive arrangement. It is set on a slab of untreated wood, and
could be used on a TV or mantle. A turkey figurine and fruits could
be added.

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Mrs. Mowry retires. Recent social events honoring Mrs. Edith Mowry have marked the closing days of her 36 years of service with the Iowa Children's and Family Services of Des Moines. Mrs. Mowry began her work with the Agency in 1936, when it was known as the Iowa Children's Home Society. She was the first Home-finder and organized the Home-finding Department, for children needing care in foster boarding homes. After doing this work for 14 years, she became a member of the Adoption Staff and has continued in this position for the past 22 years. A total agency buffet luncheon, held at Younker's Tea Room, was attended by several former members of the Agency Staff. At this luncheon, Mrs. Mowry was presented with a beautiful white gold wrist watch from the staff. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 9, 1972*



Unity Club Has 50th Anniversary.

The Unity club of Ankeny celebrated its 50th anniversary Wednesday, November 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Frank Lint. Mrs. Earl Moore and Mrs. Henrietta Breese were committee members, assisted by Mrs. Myron Schafroth and Mrs. Robert Wilhelm. Charter members, Mrs. Junita Stanfield and Mrs. Marion Coppock, and Past Presidents, Mrs. Anton Juhl and Henrietta Breese were honored with corsages. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 9, 1972*



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Ankeny Mayor, council rakes snow removal procedures. Crackdown on private walks also. Ankeny Mayor Eldon Leonard rapped city workers at Monday night and demanded enforcement of Ankeny city ordinances or disbanding them. The council also plans more direct enforcement of the snow removal in front of private homes. A week after an early snow storm, Leonard told the council that the city must set a good example for the citizens by cleaning their portions of sidewalks and drives as early as possible. Depending to the objection in the absence of frost under the sod and no available machinery narrow enough to harm the lawns or parks, Leonard sated strongly that shovels were close at hand. Ed Shepherd has reminded the council of an ordinance which requires citizens to remove snow from their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowfall or they become subject to the \$10 assessment to their property for its removal. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 23, 1972*

Safety Council warns on fire, asphyxiation. Citizens are urged to be aware of the fire and asphyxiation dangers during these cold wintry days. Chimneys on buildings, business and residential, should be checked for air blockage. This can be accomplished by climbing on the roof and shining a flashlight down into the chimney to see if there is possible a bird nest or other object blocking the flow of air and smoke. Residents should check their furnace filters and replace them several times a year. If you have an "oil type" electric motor on your furnace it is wise to put a drop of oil on it. If you ever smell "strange" smoke, check the motor on your furnace. If it is very hot, turn off the switch. As far as gas leaks in the home, the gas that has not been burned has a smell to it. If you smell this, get out of the house immediately and then call the gas company. If it has been burned and thus becomes carbon dioxide, there is no smell to warn you, but you may feel drowsy or headachy. If this happens in a car as well as in the house, open the windows. If this is not done, the results are fatal. The Ankeny Community Safety Council urges all citizens to play it safe and make safety checks at home. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 23, 1972*

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Every Day's a Holiday When you Eat Out. Big Bear's Restaurant and Lounge located at 302 Maple has been owned and operated by Jodi and Bill Duncan for the past five years. They formerly were with the Breese House for 12 years in a management position. The Big Bear is well known, not only to Ankeny residents, but also has many regular customers from many of the surrounding towns who know and like good food. The Duncans have five employees to serve their customers. Noon dinners feature a different special every day with a different soup served each day. Steak dinners are available at a reasonable price with French fries, salad and Texas toast. The Big Bear is also known for the Big Bear sandwich. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 23, 1972*

Stopover to Rome. Winning a Zenith-sponsored trip to Rome are: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Susic (left), Ankeny, and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Montognese, Des Moines (right). Both men are employed by the A.A. Schneiderhand Company, the Des Moines distributor for Zenith Radio Corporation. The one week "Roman Holiday" is the first of its kind sponsored by Zenith's components and accessories division. It was awarded to distributors who excelled in parts programs which provides better service to customers. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 23, 1972*



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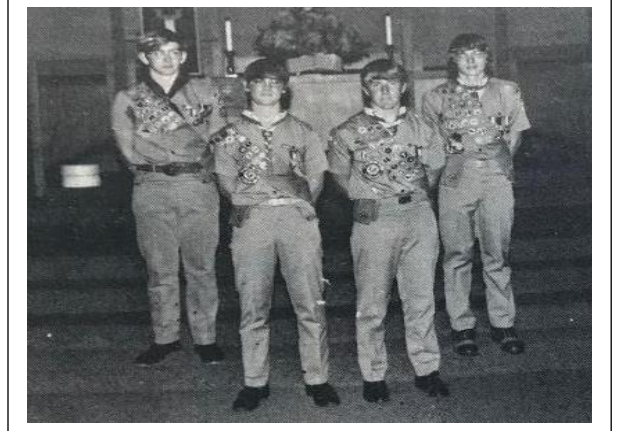
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1970s

Four Eagle Scout Awards are presented October 29 at the Ankeny United Methodist Church. Honored Scouts are shown left to right, Jim Stewart, Mike Johnson, Mike Wallace and Bruce Spahr. The Eagle charge was given by Eagle Scout Richard Stewart, brother of Jim Stewart. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, November 30, 1972



Christmas Gift Ideas

CHESSE TEACHER
Cooked, tender, moist, in minutes to prepare. Fully flavored with individual cheese and herbs. (Check House and vegetable flavored cheeses. Great gift idea. (904-455)

179

YOUR CHOICE
Reg. \$13.95 **10 95** Reg. \$14.49
DOMED BROILER **CUP-A-MINIT PERK**
Mini-Matic makes 5 to 10 cups of hot-brewed coffee in 45 seconds. (Check House and vegetable flavored cheeses. Great gift idea. (904-455)

547
SNOWMOBILE MITT
New, lightweight nylon mitt with warm, soft, wooly lining. Warm. (Warner's-Mitt (2019-888), 14 (2019-888)) \$5.47
Ladies' (2019-888) \$5.47
Children's-Mitt (2019-814) \$3.47
See (2019-888)

Warner's Hardware
Frontier Village Shopping Center
1614 1st Street
Ankeny, Iowa
Phone 964-1752

1972

Warner's Ad, *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, November 30, 1972

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1970s



Begg Named "Lion of the Year." Lion Wayne Begg, 209 Eastlawn Drive, was presented with a plaque award as the Ankeny Lions' "Lion of the Year." The award represents outstanding service loyalty and devotion to Lionism. Pictured from l-r are Club President Dave Turner, Wayne Begg, District Governor Duane Knight, Osceola, Iowa. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 14, 1974*



Voter Elect Weigel, Voigt, Lundstrom, Chamberlin to Council; Baugher Wins Senate Bid. 2871 of the city's 7395 registered voters went to the polls on Tuesday to return all the incumbents and one newcomer to the office of Mayor and to three council seats. Dr. Ollie J. Weigel, An Ankeny dentist, was returned for a fourth 2-year term as Mayor of Ankeny by a two-to-one margin over developer Rod Lein. The vote was 1875 for Weigel and 883 for Lein. Incumbent councilmembers John Voigt and Richard Chamberlin won new four-year terms on the council, joined by John Lundstrom. By an almost three-to-one margin, in the special Iowa Senate District 31 race, Ankeny voters gave Gary Baugher 1962 votes compared to 683 for Tom Mann. *Ankeny Press Citizen, November 8, 1979*



In the first official lighting, Mayor Ollie Weigel, center, accepted the tree from 1980 UACO chairman Dean Baedke, left, and Jim Marienau, right, who was the 1979 chairman. UACO sponsors the city's annual Fun and Feed Days celebration, the profits of which are returned to community projects. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, November 29, 1979*

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1990s

New Kirkendall Public Library - Workers are making progress on the steel framework for Ankeny's new Kirkendall Public Library. The library, which is attached to Northview Middle School, is expected to be complete in the summer of 1996. *Ankeny Press Citizen*, Nov. 7, 1995

All-State participants - These Ankeny High School music students were selected to participate in the All-State Music Festival. Pictured: L to R is: Steph Hope, Trent Casey, Jennifer Fugaccia, Ryan Schweers, Katie Mary, Kyle Albertson, Adam Thimmesch, Sandra Diehl, Michael Haselhuhn and Jarrod Routh. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Nov. 7, 1995



Vance, Cameron and Fehn win council seats – In a light turnout, Ankeny voters favored experience and familiar names in last week's municipal election. Incumbent council members Gerry Fehn and Annette Vance along with Aaron Cameron were elected in four-year terms on Nov. 7. The turnout this year was below the city's average of 1,709 voters but did not come close to the all-time low of 302 voters. There are about 13,000 registered voters in Ankeny. *Ankeny Press Citizen* – Nov. 14, 1995

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Practice burn last week at the Iowa State University Research Farm-

Ankeny firefighter Dan Willson sprays a wide fog during the practice burn. Last week, Ankeny firefighters got some valuable hands-on training during a practice burn at an abandoned house on the Iowa State University Research Farm. The practice fire attracted about 35 of the 46 volunteer firefighters on the Ankeny Fire Department. Ankeny Fire Captain Roger Heglund said the hands-on training is important but it begins with weekly meetings. For firefighters, the training begins long before the home becomes a fiery spectacle. The Fire Department must go through a lengthy permit process before it is allowed to burn structures for practice.

The burn also attracted scores of people who saw the house at 1410 S. Ankeny Boulevard erupt in flames. Eventually, the fire became such an attraction that it was a traffic hazard, and police cleared dozens of gawkers from the shoulder of the road. On the ISU farm, there are no hydrants available, so Wednesday's fire also required a port-a-tank crew. *Ankeny Press Citizen, November 14, 1995*





Ankeny Jaycees

Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Come Join Us On November 24th (9am-9pm)
at Dillow Super Valu
(south side of store)

Hours: Mon - Fri 5pm - 9pm
Sat 9am - 9pm; Sun 12pm - 9pm

Call 965-8980 for more information

We Have The Best Trees This Side of the North Pole!

Local Trees

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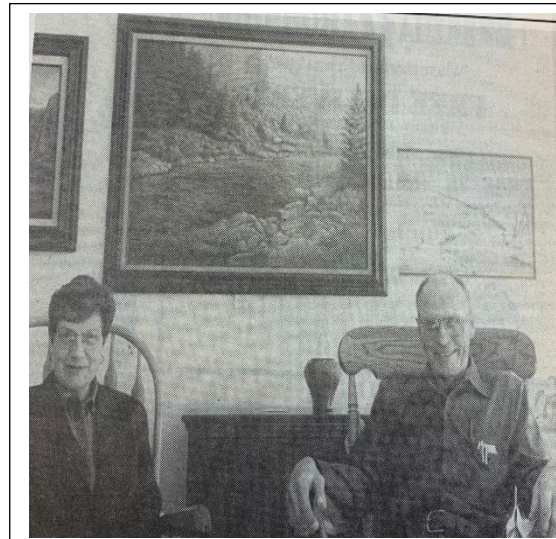
November 2019



1990s

Hawkeye Bank offers 4-Hers cash rewards -

Ankeny 4-H youth pictured with Heather Riley, Hawkeye Bank of Ankeny (far right), include: crouching in front, Michael Harmon; left to right, Amanda Ellis, Courtney Behrens, Kelly Johnson, Shawna Ellis, Jacquelyn Johnson, Autumn Griffieon, Candace Johnson, Jill Reams, Jeff Reams, Kasey Knowles, Andy McGuire, Nick Griffieon, Bryan Eichenberger, Pam Eichenberger – leader, and Bryce Eichenberger. Ankeny 4-H clubs for the first time was awarded a cash reward from Hawkeye Bank of Ankeny for their 1995 Polk County Fair ribbons. Hawkeye Bank wanted to reward the members for all the hard work and time it takes to get projects and livestock ready to exhibit at the fair. Their support for all of the hard working youth came as a wonderful surprise to them. Each member receiving a ribbon at the Polk County Fair was awarded \$3 for a blue ribbon, \$2 for a red ribbon, and \$1 for a white ribbon. In addition to each child's award from the county, in the form of premium checks, this reward was like doubling their income. *Ankeny Press Citizen, November 21, 1995*



Hykes open new gallery in Uptown

Ankeny – Pat and Dave Hykes both have their works on display in their new Uptown Ankeny gallery. Pat has many paintings on the walls, while Dave has a display of furniture that he custom finishes. Hykes Gallery is located at 702 SW Third Street located adjacent to Dave's Fine Crafts—the furniture restoration business Dave has owned and operated for early 20 years. Pat, who has a art studio in her home, says she's excited to have a local gallery to display her work. Dave said the gallery allows him to display more furniture—most of which is solid oak. Dave purchased the building in 1978. It was originally built as a meat locker, which was owned and operated by Lawrence Lein, father of Ankeny developer Rod Lein. Hykes said the Lein family operated the meat locker and lived upstairs. *Ankeny Press Citizen, November 14, 1995*

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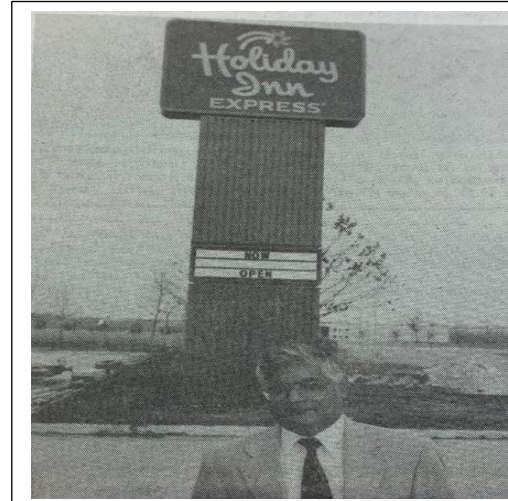
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Inn Express new motel is geared toward business travelers - Amenities at the motel include meeting rooms and six suites with Jacuzzis says manager Mike Patel. The Holiday Inn Express is a 56-room motel, located at the entrance to Metro North II. Barbara Hokel, sales and leasing associate for Denny Elwell Companies said the motel is something that Metro North needs. "It was one of the amenities that we wanted in the park," Hokel said. "It sure does add to it." *Ankeny Press Citizen, November 28, 1995*



Join the Ankeny Area Historical Society! It's easy – click on the link on the website

www.ankenyhistorical.org

and click on "Become a member by credit card or PayPal" or "Become a member by mail." It just takes a minute ... but it's worth a million!