



Spring 2020 Newsletter

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Coronavirus Spring 2020 We Are in This Together!

**Ankeny Area Historical
Society will be closed due
to the spread of the
Coronavirus.
Stay safe and
Stay home when possible!**

Ankeny Area Historical Society Members,

I'm just checking in with all of you to see how you've been. Hopefully, all are well and practicing appropriate physical distancing, but keeping socially in contact with others! It seems we all have hit the pause button on many obligations and thought I'd better push the play button and to get things moving again at the Museum! Spring is occurring and the business and maintenance of AAHS continue. The office is being manned on a limited basis and initiatives regarding the museum are still being discussed and acted upon by AAHS officers, the board, and committees. Much work is being handled electronically or by maintaining appropriate physical distancing and care while conducting general maintenance at the museum. The museum is not open to the public even though some work is being done.

Due to the uncertainty of the length of time that Covid-19 will control much of what we can do publically, any dates listed in other newsletter articles or posted on the website may change. Only time will tell when things will get back to "normal", so please understand if things get postponed or cancelled. We will do our best to keep you informed about events and actions taken to keep the AAHS going. That means for now, assume all members meetings are cancelled. However, the board of directors will meet electronically to conduct functions necessary to the operations of AAHS.

So now and in the future, stay physically distant and safe!! This might be a great time for you to explore the electronic offerings provided by AAHS to maintain a connection with AAHS!

John Stratton, President, Ankeny Area Historical Society

Please check out our online collections at ankenyhistorical.org:

Ankeny Through the Decades

Vintage Ankeny Pictures

Oral Histories of Ankeny Area Residents

A Message from the AAHS President

When I came to Ankeny in 1987 to become a fifth grade teacher at Neveln, I had little knowledge of Ankeny's history or the community itself. I knew it was a nice community between Ames and Des Moines which was growing at a rapid pace which was attractive to this young teacher. I knew there were good high school sports teams. I knew the schools were talked of highly and the economic opportunities offered in central Iowa were attractive for my wife and me. And, that was about it. Obviously, I knew very little of Ankeny's community, history, culture, and underlying fabric that makes it such a unique city! So much to learn, so little time.....

Now, 33 years later, this "non-native" who grew up in LeMars in Northwest Iowa and began teaching in Northern Iowa in Ventura, has a far better concept of what makes Ankeny, well....Ankeny! Things so obvious to long-time Ankeny residents such as the town name origin, the interurban railroad line, knowing where Enterprise Road is, the approximate location of Sexauer Field, the ordnance plant and why there are Magazine and Ordnance Roads, why it is called "Uptown", the coal mining influences and numerous Italian surnames, the tornado of '74, the Iowa State Research Farm, the formation of DMACC, and, and, and Through my association with Ankeny Schools, community groups and friendships, and especially my relationship with the Ankeny Area Historical Society it has become apparent to me why the heritage, culture, underlying fabric of this community has been kept alive and flourishing!

So, I am excited to serve as President of the Ankeny Area Historical Society and to be a part of its future!

The AAHS has continued to promote Ankeny history through its monthly open houses, informative museum displays, fund raising events, and traditional communication formats and is well positioned to build upon this foundation and look toward the future. AAHS has increased its electronic footprint in the community with continued updates on the website, Facebook, and other forums. The Raise the Roof fundraiser was highly successful and will allow for a new roof on the museum house this spring. The first new display in a few years is to be rolled out this spring in time for spring tours, this summer's ice cream social, and Summerfest. New monthly events and our expanded speaker series is continuing to grow and bring more visitors to the museum. An aggressive membership drive has garnered numerous new members.

In order to continue this momentum, the AAHS has to maintain and grow its active membership and volunteer base. It needs to continue to earn grants to help fulfill its overall mission. It needs to explore new methods to offer display methods attractive to all visitors that involve varied physical exhibitions, multimedia forums, and a rotation of artifacts to continue to make our history engaging. It needs to offer continued promotional events to get out the word and continuing strong fundraising.

Spread the word! The Ankeny Area Historical Society is not only here to "*Bring the Past to Life*", but also extend Ankeny's past into the future and make it relevant for all to learn, enjoy, and be proud of!

John Stratton, President, Ankeny Area Historical Society

"Our mission is to inspire in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area."



1918 Pandemic (*H1N1 virus*)

Article taken from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Although there is not universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in spring 1918. It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

Mortality was high in people younger than 5 years old, 20-40 years old, and 65 years and older. The high mortality in healthy people, including those in the 20-40 year age group, was a unique feature of this pandemic. While the 1918 H1N1 virus has been synthesized and evaluated, the properties that made it so devastating are not well understood. With no vaccine to protect against influenza infection and no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections that can be associated with influenza infections, control efforts worldwide were limited to non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation, quarantine, good personal hygiene, use of disinfectants, and limitations of public gatherings, which were applied unevenly.

The Deadliest Flu: The Complete Story of the Discovery and Reconstruction of the 1918 Pandemic Virus

The 1918 H1N1 flu virus caused the deadliest pandemic of the 20th century. To better understand this deadly virus, an expert group of researchers and virus hunters set out to search for the lost 1918 virus, sequence its genome, recreate the virus in a highly safe and regulated laboratory setting at CDC, and ultimately study its secrets to better prepare for future pandemics.

1918 Pandemic Influenza: Three Waves

First Wave—Spring 1918

During 1918, the US was engaged in WWI. Hundreds and thousands of US soldiers traveled across the Atlantic to deploy for war. The mass troop movement contributed to the global spread of flu.

Second Wave—Fall 1918

In 1918, many health professionals served in the US military during WWI, resulting in shortages of medical personnel around the US. The economy suffered as businesses and factories were forced to close due to sickness amongst workers.

Third Wave—Winter 1918

A third wave of illness occurred during the winter and spring of 1919, adding to the pandemic death toll. The third wave of the pandemic subsided during the summer of 1919.



AAHS New Champions Sports Exhibit

The Ankeny Area Historical Society is nearing completion of a new exhibit in the museum that will chronicle Ankeny Schools sports team championships. There have been 58 Ankeny sports teams that have won a team championships, the first being in 1969 and the latest in 2020. The exhibit, will be finished sometime after the Corona Virus social distancing orders have been lifted. Each team will have its own poster picturing the championship they won that will feature photos of athletes interviews of coaches and athletes as well as newspaper clippings from the championship We are planning a grand opening of the exhibit during the Ankeny Summer Fest week that will allow alums to come to the museum to see the exhibit that weekend. We are still looking for artifacts that represent the teams that won a championship. If you have something to contribute, please contact the museum by email. Our Address is: history@ankenyhistorical.org.

AHS Fall Softball

State Champions 1983

Coach Dick Rasmussen



Ankeny girls snare state softball crown

By JEFF OLSON

Expensive Ankeny added another crown to its collection of softball championships tonight as the third-rated Hawkettes edged the first-rated Ottumwa's fifth-ranked team to win the 1983 State championship in a game played at Urbandale.

For Coach Dick Rasmussen, engineer of Ankeny's recent dominance in softball, this was the seventh since 1977 — four fall and three summer trophies. But this was the first since 1980, when Hawkettes became champions a series of six state tourney wins in seven appearances.

Charles City, on the other hand, lost its fourth fall championship game in the past six years. Coach Jerry Newman's Comets' only crown during that span came in 1979.

Rasmussen, a 19-year veteran at Ankeny, picked up his 71st career win, the 10th in a record eight state championship games, including a first-place finish while directing South Hamilton.

"It's still the same thrill," Rasmussen said, "mostly because it's different kids this time around."

Rasmussen's hard-charging Hawkettes had trouble scoring off Charles City's Windi Cohen, a left-handed left-handed hurler, until the Hawkettes snapped a 1-1 deadlock in the fifth inning behind three fatal Charles City errors.

Catcher Rhonda Jones singled on the middle to open the frame, and Marlene Smith was called upon to pinch run. But Frederick belted a line shot to right-fielder Kim Murvey, who lunged for a running catch — the apparent first out of the inning.

However, umpires ruled that Comets' catcher Judy Smith interfered with Frederick's swing, and Frederick was awarded first base.

Designated hitter Nancy Drake laid down a sacrifice bunt to advance the runners to second and third. Kim Kloppenberg then bounced sharply to shortstop Jerry Murvey, whose throw to the plate barely missed the speedy Smith.

Frederick and Kloppenberg raced home when second baseman Kim Sellers tossed Ervilly Pickart's scorching ground ball. Pickart forced the third Comets' runner when she stole third and raced home on an errant pickoff toss. Lisa Kiewit knocked in Holly Kline with a sacrifice fly to round out the scoring.

Jill Krawski retired the final seven Comets in order to notch her 10th fall victory against one loss. The senior first baseman, who came into the tournament sporting a .833 batting average, batted two and walked one. After surrendering an unearned run to the first inning, Krawski settled down for a shut-out.

just seem to happen," Rasmussen said.

Both teams posted nifty statistics to gain the final matchup. Comets' Ottumwa's fifth-ranked scoring machine with a hurler, in which she retired the final 13 batters in a row. The Comets also struck out 18 and walked just one on route to her 12th career victory.

Comets' pitcher masterfully, her incoming fastball allowed her to set up a slow-motion changeup that broke several. Building momentum, she was named captain of the all-champion state.

Ankeny clubbed Nevada in the semifinals round, 3-0, on the strength of pitcher Shelly Naveen's two-hitter.

A five-run burst in the fourth inning was all Ankeny needed to eliminate the overmatched Cobles (11-7).

Semifinal Round

Ankeny 3, Nevada 0
Cobles 7, Ottumwa 1

Consolation

Ankeny 3, Nevada 0
Cobles 7, Ottumwa 1

Championship

Ankeny 3, Cobles 0
Ottumwa 1, Nevada 0

Devil's Bag runs record in stakes

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP) — Charleston Devil's Bag ran away from 11 other 3-year-olds Saturday and won the \$27,000 Champagne Stakes at Belmont Park.

Ridden by Eddie Maple, the Hickory Tree Stable colt finished under the wire six lengths in front of Dr. Carter in 1:13.4 seconds for the mile, a fifth of a second better than the old stakes mark set by Seattle flow in 1978.

It was the second stakes victory and fourth straight for Devil's Bag, whose Hall of Fame trainer Woody Stephens has called "as good a 3-year-old as I've ever had."

Give those young players heroes to emulate, get them to reach for success. The team was built by requiring dedication, hard work, and expecting every athlete to have a team first attitude. We would constantly praise the effort and ask for more. Winning with character and because of character was the Ankeny way.

Assistant Coach Mark Olson



Welcome New Members! You Help Us To Keep Our History Alive!

Accumold
JMT Trucking
Rotary Club of Ankeny
DRA Properties
Scott & Molly Myers, Myers
Kevin & Janet Tracy
Availa Bank
Donald Dunek
Douglas DeBolt

Molly Maid of Ankeny
Ankeny Veterinary Clinic
Jeff Reed, The Elevate Co.
Ankeny Sanitation, Inc.
Real Estate Team
Kendel Richlen
Dr. Amanda Gigler
Carol & David Kimberley
Kathy Shannon

The Finishing Touchez, Inc.
Curt Brooks, Edward Jones Investments
Kreg Tool, Kathie Sommerfeld
Imprint Architects, Karl Chambers
Ankeny Real Estate Service
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church
The Copy Shop
Kyle's Bikes
Soil and Water Conservation Society

Attention Gardening Angels Needed!



If you love working outside to create a beautiful landscape for everyone who passes by our museums to enjoy—please join our group of “Gardening Angels.” Call 515-965-5795 to join our group or email us at history@ankenyhistorical.org and we will let you know when we are meeting next to start creating!

We Miss Our Kids Visits!

We miss visits with our kids! We hope to see you soon to learn about Ankeny's Amazing History!

For more pictures like these, check out our website at:
Ankenyhistorical.org



Thank You to All Our Volunteers!

Thank you to all our AAHS Volunteers who so generously donate their time year round to keep our museum in great shape for our visitors to enjoy! They are our unsung heroes and often don't get the recognition they deserve. It's their love of their home town and its history that keeps them volunteering!

As with everything in life, there are some volunteers who rise to the top as truly outstanding. One of our outstanding volunteers is JoAnn Adamson. She has volunteered endless hours to Ankeny Area Historical Society over the past 25+ years! She has served in the capacity of President and Vice President of our Board. She has headed up our landscape team to keep our grounds looking beautiful. She has organized many an Ice Cream Social and barbecue, and organized our Annual Pumpkin Fundraiser. I'm sure I'm missing all that she has helped with over the years, but the appreciation is still there. JoAnn and Terry Adamson have also contributed money to our Society when we were running low on funds. Their donations have paid for a new house furnace, upgrades to our house plumbing and a new water heater. They have even provided for Ankeny Area Historical Society upon their death. They are true heroes of Ankeny and of Ankeny Area Historical Society. Their love of Ankeny shines through their volunteer efforts! Thank you JoAnn and Terry!

Donations

Terry & JoAnn Adamson		
Jason Boyers-Liechty	Paula Williams	Susan Ballard
John & Valerie Stratton	Patricia & Ivan Parker	Raymond Miller
Sandra Plager	Jim & Lynn Harkin	Barbro Garland
Fred & Fran Smith	Kari Bethel	Lyn Van DePol
Jim & Helen Smith	Tom & Karen Jones	Ron Fontana
Laura Benjamin	Lois O'Donnell	Deetra & Dave Polito
Class of 1969 Donation	Accumold	Veridian Credit Union
Rotary Club of Iowa	Roger & Sandra Spahr	

Raise the Roof Donations

Thank you to all who have donated! We are getting closer to our goal! We should have a new house roof in this Spring.

Norma Righi, a long time member of the Society and Ankeny, made the final donation for the roof in January! Thank you, Norma!

Memorials

Memorial monies were donated to Ankeny Area Historical Society in memory of the following individuals:

Gene Muehlenthaler	Earl Leonard
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AAHS Vintage Valentines



AAHS Program—Des Moines Ordnance Plant— On the Home Front During WWII



Check out our website! And follow us on Facebook!

Check out our webpage at Ankenyhistorical.org You can now pay for your membership online if you wish. As a member, you can now view our newsletters, upcoming events, flyers and pictures of Ankeny through the years.

Dates for 2020

***Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic
Our Open Houses and Programs
Are On Hold***

***Please check out our website for
upcoming
dates and programs @
ankenynhistorical.org
and follow us
On Facebook!***

Mission:

The Ankeny Area Historical Society's mission is to inspire in our community a sense of meaning and belonging by sharing the history and culture of the Ankeny area.

