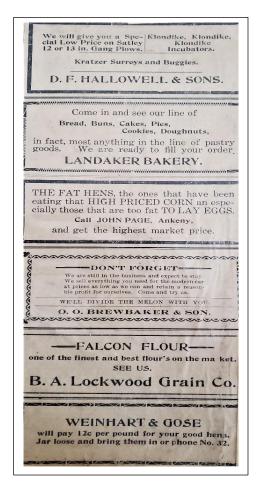


recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

February 2020

1914s & 1940s



The Ankeny Times, February 27, 1914

Home Again: With a broad smile and a vigorous hand-shake we were all glad to welcome Mr. Stader on his return from the hospital last Saturday. We are glad to say that he is just feeling splendid, the most of the time, and is eagerly looking forward to the time when he can again be out with us and resume his old place in the business world.

An Ankeny Booster: Gentlemen: We are indeed glad to learn from time to time that our Mr. Stader is doing so well in the recovery from the operation and that we will soon again see his smiling face among us again. The writer knows that it is hard to keep a good man down and for that reason we had no doubt as to the results. Bro. Stader, we are glad you are through with it.

The writer is feeling more than good this morning. I have been trying to do all I could in my humble way to help build a place for Ankeny on the Polk County map. Des Moines people fail to appreciate that we are a growing town. I have acquainted them with a little surprise by going into the office of the board of supervisors in competition with several of the largest lumber firms in that city and took the contract to furnish the company some twelve or fifteen cars of lumber and piling to the amount of \$6500. This business will largely be handled through the Ankeny office. With best wishes, I beg to remain, Very Truly, W.O. Sloan. *The Ankeny Times, February 27, 1914*

Supt. E.W. Neveln To Resign: At the regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Ankeny Consolidated school, which was held in the school building Tuesday, Feb. 8th Supt. E.W. Neveln tendered his resignation, to take effect at the close of the school year. *Ankeny Times, February 11, 1944*

*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*

February 2020



1940s

Charles Hildreth is New Mayor of Ankeny: The resignation of Mayor Lewis Nelson was accepted by the town council Monday, February 2, and Charles Hildreth was appointed by unanimous vote of the council to fill the balance of the unexpired term. The clerk administered the Mayor's Oath to Mr. Hildreth and swore him in as mayor. Frank Ballard was appointed Councilman to take the place of Mr. Hildreth. Mr. Nelson resigned because of poor health. *Ankeny Times, February, 1942*



Ankeny Girls Are Polk County Hoops Champs: The Ankeny Girls basketball team are again the Polk County champions, having won from Valley in the final game, Saturday night on the Valley court, with a score of Ankeny 41, Valley 38. The first games of the tournament were played Thursday night and the score was Ankeny 32, Farrar 8. Friday night, Ankeny 43, Sheldahl 40. Saturday afternoon, semi-finals: Ankeny 65, Johnston 54. Finals Saturday night, Ankeny 41, Valley 38.

In the semi-final game between Ankeny and Johnston, Phyllis Kile made 41 points and in the final game between Ankeny and Valley, Phyllis and Cleadythe Wagner each, made 17 points. Besides being the Polk County Champions, Ankeny placed two girls, Phyllis Kile and Tina Giofreddi on the first all tournament team and Cleadythe Wagner, forward, and Jean Lewis, guard, on the second team. We congratulate Coach Orebaugh, and the girls on this fine piece of work they have accomplished. *Ankeny Times, February 7, 1941*



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

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1940s





This soldier had many visitors Wednesday at the army post. The women are all his sisters, and some were left at home at home at Alleman, Ia. They are (left to right, front row): Lillian Donaghy, 32; Pvt. Ben Donaghy, 35, who left Wednesday night for training; T.S. Donaghy, 52, a brother who served during the first world war in the 82nd Division overseas; and Mary Donaghy, 51. In back Mrs. Paul Ruzicka, 42, and Mrs. George Hamilton, 49. *Ankeny Times, February 26, 1942*.

Church News, Congregational Church: Next Sunday we plan to observe Lincoln's birthday at the church hour. We will be assisted in the program by the American Legion and its Auxiliary. Will Donaghy will give Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; Lloyd Brewbaker, the Emancipation Proclamation, and prayer will be offered by the Chaplain of the Auxiliary. There will be special music including numbers by Kathleen and Fred Birdsall and Paul Swartfager. Mrs. E.A. Elliott will give the tribute to Lincoln. *Ankeny Times, Feb.*, *7*, *1941*

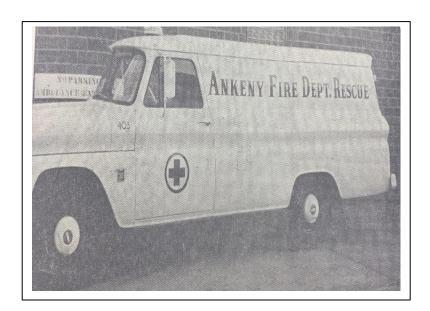
School Children Interviewed: Monday morning on the Homemakers program at 9 a.m., which consisted of a description of a visit made to Ankeny Schools during the lunch session in the school lunch room. A number of children were interviewed as well as Supt. Neveln. He stated these lunches which are served from surplus commodities, were started Dec. 1, 1940 and 700 to 900 children are fed each week. Ankeny Schools has an enrollment of 350 and its estimated 60 percent take lunched. Some of the values of these lunches are better attendance, health, and behavior, which is a sign their nerves are more settled by having proper food. Lunches cost eight cents a day. *Ankeny Times, Feb.*, 7, 1941



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

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1960s



New Fire Department Rescue Unit Is In Operation – Shown here is the new rescue unit recently purchased by the Ankeny Volunteer Fire Department. The new unit, a 1964 Chevrolet one ton panel, is now in operation, although not yet fully equipped. The department has paid a substantial amount of the total cost and it is hoped that the balance can be paid following the annual Fireman's Ball, which will be held on April 4. The unit amounts to about a \$2,000 investment and includes a resuscitator (oxygen), two self contained gas masks, portable loud speaker unit, litters, stretchers, and emergency first air equipment. Ankeny Press-Citizen –February 27, 1964

John Deere Announces Plans for New \$750,000 Office Building – Construction will start soon on a new \$750,000 office building at the John Deere Des Moines Works, according to A.B. Lundahl, general manager. The new building will house 300 administrative employees, now split between two buildings. It is scheduled for completion about January of 1961. The building is company-designed. A contract for general construction work has been awarded to Arthur H. Neumann Bros. Inc., of Des Moines. Lundahl said the building permits a needed centralization of administrative and engineering personnel.

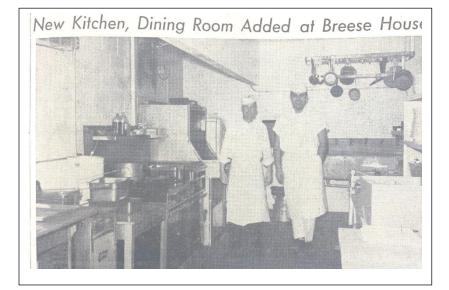
Until two years ago, most administrative offices were ion a U-shaped building at the west edge of the Deere property, facing Ordnance Road. It is a half-mile from the nearest production facilities. Lundahl, said most engineering and administrative personnel have been moved in the last two years to a building near the center of the production area. The new building 120 by 280 feet, will be on a site at the western edge of the production area. It will face west. It will attach to one of the major production buildings.

The John Deere Des Moines Works was opened in 1947 with an employment of 800. It currently employs about 2,400. The plant produces machinery for the harvesting of corn, cotton, beets and potatoes; crop dryers and cultivating equipment. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – February 4, 1960*



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

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New Kitchen at the Breese House – Shown above is Harold Enquist, left, operator of the Breese House, and Bill Duncan, in the recently completed kitchen for the popular Ankeny eating spot. The new kitchen is over three times as large The new equipment includes a steak broiler, double oven range with grill thermostatic controlled steam table, garbage disposal, dish washing equipment and other new kitchen equipment. Also recently completed is a dining room in the lower level of the house with a seating capacity of 70. With the new addition the Breese House can now seat over 200 persons at a time and is presently employing about 40 people. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – February 18, 1960*

1960s

Toboggan Accident – Mr. And Mrs. Herb Zunkel, 113 Kline Street, were both injured last Sunday morning in a toboggan accident at Pilot Mound. The Zunkels and their son, Charles 7, tried to stop the sled as it was heading toward a tree. Mrs. Zunkel was admitted to the hospital in Des Moines on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday a cast was put on her knee. She is expected to be in the hospital for several days. Mr. Zunkel also suffered a knee injury and is confined to his home. Charles was not injured. Ankeny Press-Citizen -February 11, 1960

"Parkview Planned as Phone Placement" – Starting next year Ankeny High School will be the host to a pay telephone. The telephone will be placed somewhere in the Parkview building since that will be A.H.S next year. The only stipulation involved is that the phone must bring in 39 cents worth of business each day during the five-day school week. An initial cost of twelve dollars will be charged for the installation of the telephone. This is the reason a phone wasn't installed now, pending the move to Parkview. Each summer the phone will be disconnected, so there will e no charge during the summer vacation. The phone company was reluctant at first, but the Student Council kept after them until the "ok" was given. Ankeny Press-Citizen –February 13, 1964



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

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1960s

From the Hawk Squeak – 7B News –

Well, well what do you know?? 12 dead frogs, 2 dead fish, 1 live mouse, and a satellite! Many fishy things have been happening around our home room. On Thursday we had a replica of the final satellite. Then on Friday we had 12 dead frogs, 2 dead fish, and 1 live mouse. Mr. Crosser had M. B. put the mouse in a cage but it got on the loose and ran down the aisles. It went into a cozy corner when it ran out again but B. H. caught it. We hope all the 8th graders have fun dissecting all these little creatures. 7B reporter *Ankeny Press-Citizen – February 25 1960*





Boy Scout Pancake Supper – Shown in the picture are from L to R, David Martin, Bobby Beck, Ellis Tompkins, and Melvin McCleary, who were among the Boy Scouts who assisted with the pancake supper at the Legion Hall on Saturday evening. February is the best response ever given to the pancake supper and the Scouts and leaders are most grateful to the community for the fine support in promoting the Scouting program. In serving the dinner, 32 large sized bottles of syrup were used, 15 lbs. of butter and 50lbs of sausage, besides the pancake batter. The supper netted a profit of \$154. The Scouts of Troop 88 are planning a hike on Saturday, February 27, and those who desire will have a camp-out that night. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – February 18,1960*

Ankeny Press-Citizen –February 23, 1967



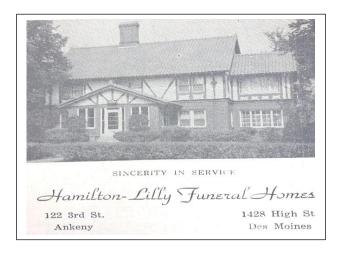
recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

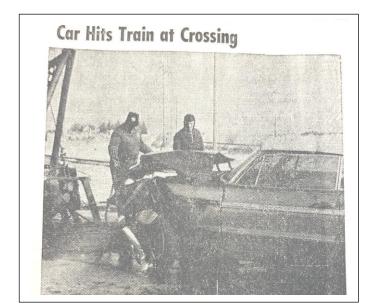
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1960s



Carmen's Beauty Shop Moves – After 19 years of sharing the same commercial building with her husband, Harold Zimmer, Carmen has moved her beauty shop to a main street location across the street. With all new equipment and more space, the new shop has three operators to serve you, Carmen, Doreen and a new operator, Fran. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – February 23, 1967*





A car ran into the side of a train last Thursday morning at one of the crossings in Ankeny where the city has been trying for some time for the railroads to put up signal lights. One student teacher suffered leg cuts. The accident happened on First Street where the North Western Railroad crosses the street. The car was going east and Miss Chubb said she and her passenger didn't see or hear the train coming from the south. The girls are both student teachers at Ankeny schools.

The front of the car was badly damaged but, fortunately, Miss Pankratz suffered only leg cuts. The First Street crossing is one of several in the city without flashing signals and city officials have, to date, been unsuccessful in getting the railroads to put up signals. The Fort Dodge Line runs parallel to the North Western tracks at most of the crossings. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – February 23, 1967*

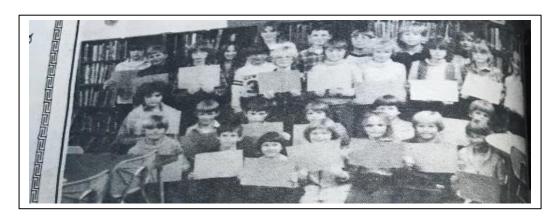
Ankeny Press-Citizen –February 20, 1964



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

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Citizenship Winners. Citizenship Winners for the months of December and January received awards at the monthly sing. Winners pictured are as follows: Row 1: Aaron Johnson, Tony Hembry, Amy White, Jodi Agard, Melody May, Nathan Nelson, Heather Stiles. Row 2: Jenny Vanderah, Brian Arney, Kyle Morrison, Ryan Jankowicz. Row 3: Steve Dye, Erika Nowells, Brad Kay, Eric Burton, Jenny Musfeldt, Jennifer Larson, Angie black, Kim White, Maia Twedt. Row 4: Dawn Coulter, Kari Rehberg, Jennifer McCullough, Matt Clark. Not pictured are Andrew Wall and Mike Musfeldt. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 4, 1982*

O.K. To Lounge Location; Mayor Appoints Edwards. Bruno and Bear's Lounge can stay where it is although some of the residential neighbors may be considering legal action against its location, and the owners of business properties in that area have still to iron out parking problems. On a unanimous vote at Monday' night's meeting, the Ankeny City Council passed Ordinance 813 which allows lounges as a proper use in C-1 zoned areas. Last April, the Building and Engineering Department issued a building permit for a remodeling project at 118-1/2 SW State Street. The permit was issued for the purpose of changing the property from a furniture store into a lounge and retail area. Until the Monday night vote, lounges were not permitted in C-1 zones and when the mistake was discovered, Ordinance 813, which would allow the establishment of lounges in the most restrictive commercial zones, was proposed. News of the proposed ordinance brought on a buzz saw of opposition from Bruno and Bear's business and residential neighbors. The council then gave lounge owners Bruno and Barbara Norris and Dennis and Barbara Breer and property owner Steve Long 90 days to try and find a new location for the lounge. Their search was unsuccessful.

Other Business: Mayor Weigel appointed AFD administrative assistant Paul Edwards to the post of Ankeny Fire Chief. When this appointment was made at the January 18th council meeting, the council split 2-2 on it. The dissenting votes by Councilmembers Finch and Lundstrom were in response to objections raised by some members of the volunteer fire department and by other Ankeny residents. Monday night, as he can do, Mayor Weigel again appointed Edwards, this time without calling for a vote of the council. He also was advised that Marlan Cunningham and Steve Drake were elected chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Ankeny Plan and Zoning Commission. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 4, 1982*

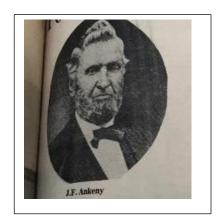


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All-Day Kindergarten Plan Scrapped. A proposal to hold all-day kindergarten, an idea which was met with a mixed reaction from Ankeny parents and teachers during the past two weeks, has been officially scrapped – at least for the 1982-83 school year. At Monday night's Ankeny Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Keith Hopkins told the board that the plan needs further study. Under the plan, kindergarteners would have attended school all day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of one week; and on Tuesday and Thursday the next. Since noon bus trips for kindergartners would be eliminated the plan would have saved the district about \$12,000 this year. Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 18, 1982



Founders' Day Planned by Retailers. Ankeny retailers are planning to celebrate the city's 107th birthday with the inaugural of a Founders' Day promotion, April 22nd through the 23th. April 22nd was the actual platting date of Ankeny in 1875 and the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce Retail Bureau hopes to make this an annual event, toward the end of each April. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 25, 1982*

Staggered School Starting Approved. A plan to stagger school times and save about \$67,000 from this year's school budget received unanimous approval at the Ankeny Board of Education meeting Monday night. Starting next fall, the school day for elementary students will start at 8:20 a.m. (20 minutes earlier than this year) and end at 2:50 p.m. Secondary students will begin at 8:50 a.m. and finish at 3:40 p.m. The elementary lunch period which is now an hour in length will be reduced to 45 minutes. Implementation of the approved starting times will allow the district to reduce the amount of money spent on buses, gas and bus drivers. The plan will enable the district to exclude purchasing two new buses in 1982-3 and one in 1983-4 (buses now cost \$30,000 each). *Ankeny* Press-Citizen, February 19, 1982





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Safeway Closing Shocks, Saddens Many in Ankeny. By March 27th, 30 employees of Ankeny's Safeway store – several of whom have been with that company for as long as 20 years – will be pounding the pavement looking for other jobs. The Ankeny store is one of 23 Safeways in 16 Iowa cities which will be closed by the end of March. The store opened in Ankeny in May of 1976. Interviews with several Ankeny

Safeway employees who asked not to be identified revealed that news of the store's closing came as a



shock and a surprise. "We had heard rumors now and then about mergers or re-organizations, but nothing about closing all the stores in Iowa," said one employee. "It came as a total surprise." *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 25, 1982*

Ankeny Man Charged with Willful Injury to 2-year Old. An Ankeny man has been charged with the willful injury of a 2-year-old boy who had been left in the care of the girlfriend with whom he shares an Ankeny apartment. David Feldman, the son of Barb and Steve Feldman of Polk City, turned two years old on Monday, February 8th. On Tuesday, February 9th, according to a police affidavit, David suffered injuries when he was struck and then thrown to the floor from a height of four to five feet. Rex Eugene Drottz, 21, of 1802 NW Pine Road in Ankeny has been charged with willful injury to the youngster, a felony that can carry a sentence of up to ten years in prison if convicted. Drottz pleaded innocent to the charge on Tuesday, February 16th. Formal arraignment has been set for April 5. In a phone interview on Friday morning, Steve Feldman related the events of February 9: David and his sisters were left in the charge of Donna Borger of 1802 NW Pine Road early in the morning. After being notified of the incident, the Feldmans took David to his family physician. The doctor and doctors at Iowa Lutheran Hospital, where David was then taken, determined that his injuries were not consistent with injuries acquired in a fall. "David was given a CAT scan and it was discovered that he had a blood clot on his brain, "Steve Feldman said. He added that he and his wife had been under the impression that Borger and Drottz were husband and wife. He said that they (the Feldmans) were not aware that someone other than Borger might be taking care of the children. Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 25, 1982



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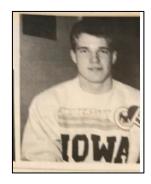
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Group Studies Parking for State Street Shopping Area. Five SW State Street business property owners were given a council green light on their proposal for solving that commercial area's parking problems. But the city fathers pulled out a stop sign at the idea of the city covering the cost. At their Tuesday, February 16th, meeting the council received a seven-point plan from property owners Steve Bean, James McNemee, Doug Rogers, James Collins, and Steve Long which proposed: Pave the grass area in front of Doug Roger and Jim Collins properties 108 – 114 SW State Street, and move the shopping center approaches., stripe the entire area after the new paving is installed, put a curb cut on West First Street at the northwest corner of the bowling alley lot (to be used for truck deliveries), install a privacy fence at the west edge of the business lots to buffer the residential from the commercial properties, execute permanent easements from all five owners to allow parking for any business that would locate at this site, establish a lot owner's association to maintain the parking lot and purchase and maintain a common sign for the center, and request an easement from the city for the installation of the sign. But Councilmembers John Lemon, Richard Chamberlin, and John Voigt and Mayor Ollie Weigel balked at the next paragraph: "Due to the concern voiced by various members of the council regarding the problem and its effects and due to the city's involvement in the current controversies, it was further the unanimous opinion of the group that the cost involved in the proposed improvements be borne by the City of Ankeny." Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 25, 1982.

1980s



Cast Announced for AHS's Whose Life Is It Anyway? Crewheads for Ankeny High School's upcoming production of Whose Life Is It Anyway? From Left to right: Carol Anderson, Publicity; Dan Shaltanis, Student Tech Director; Kari Peters, House Manager; Lars Ahntholz, Props; Robin Heldt, Assistant Stage Manager; Theran Junce, Sound; and Carrie Charles, Costumes. Not pictured Heather Spurlin, Stage Manager; Michele Turkel, Props; Mark Overton, Lights; and Keri Powell, Makeup. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 2, 1988*



Matt Whitaker Signs Letter of Intent with Iowa. Ankeny football standout Matt Whitaker made it official last week as he signed his letter of intent to accept a scholarship from the University of Iowa. Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 16, 1988



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Gymnasts Defeat East High Scarlets. The Ankeny Hawkettes gymnastics team rolled over Des Moines East in a dual meet held at Ankeny on Tuesday night. The Hawkettes are guided by Coach Steve Lamansky and he is assisted by Coach Beveridge. Hawkettes participating in the Floor Exercise included April Smith, Angie Black, Kirstin, Baer, Sonya Hartwig, Mindy Hoops and Julie Stone. Tiffany Wilkinson, Kristin Jones, Mindy Hoops, Angie Black, Kirstin Baer, Sonja Baer, Sonya Hartwig and Julie Stone competed in the balance beam competition. Nikki Branch, Black, Hartwig, Hoops and Stone participated in the Uneven Bars event. Vaulting participants from Ankeny were Angie Bevis, Amy Lippold, Renea Santry, Sonya Hartwig, Kirstin Baer, Mindy Hoops and Julie Stone. Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 16, 1988

FFA Proclamation Signed. Mayor Ollie Weigel signed a proclamation in accordance with National FFA Week to be held February 21-27th. Ankeny's Mayor Weigel is shown with Ankeny FFA officers, left to right: Joann Barten, Renea Beech, and Michelle Cory. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 23, 1988*



National School Counseling Week. Governor Terry E. Branstad is shown here with members of the Iowa Association for Counseling and Development as he proclaims the week of February 1-5, 1988, "National School Counseling Week" in Iowa. Among the members present at the signing is Barbara Skjei, of Ankeny Skjei is pictured far right. The association is concerned with students being better able to understand themselves and their abilities as they relate to career development. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, *February 16, 1988*





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\$1,293.89 Check for New YMCA Facility. Dr. Ben Norman, Ankeny Community Schools Superintendent and Jeff Segin, YMCA Foundation Funding chairman accepting a \$1,293.89 check from Chamber President Shirley McClain, Manager of American Federal, for the new YMCA facility being constructed as a part of the High School Complex. This presentation represents part of the profits from the 1987 Celebration in Brass drum and bugle corps competition earmarked for youth programs in Ankeny. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 23, 1988*





Bob Sharp to Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Ankeny's Bob Sharp will be inducted into the Iowa High School Wrestling Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 27th at around 6:30 p.m. at the State High School Wrestling tournament. The awards ceremonies will be shown on statewide Public Television starting at around 6:30 p.m. Coach Sharp's father was a two-time state champion at Clarion High and several of his uncles were state place-winners. While completing in High School for Hall of Fame coach Dale Brand, Bob finished fourth in the 1953 State Meet. Bob later wrestled for the University of Northern Iowa until graduation in 1957. In 1958 he started the mat program at Bondurant and in 1962 became the head man at Ankeny. In dual meets, his teams were 198-107-5 and, at one time, boasted a win streak of 35 straight. Five of his teams finished among the top three in State tourney competition, and in 1971 his team won the State championship. Bob's squads won ten conference titles; 87 of his athletes won their way into the State tourney; 34 became place-winners; and ten of them won State titles. Two of coach Sharp's best wrestlers at Ankeny were Jason Smith who went on to Iowa State, and Doug Anderson who went on to the University of Iowa. Both Smith and Anderson became All-Americans. Coach Sharp retired from coaching at the end of the 1987 mat season. He is still a teacher at Ankeny High School. Ankeny Press-Citizen, February 23, 1988



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Ads: Ankeny Press-Citizen February 9, 1988