

Ankeny through the decades...

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

October 2019

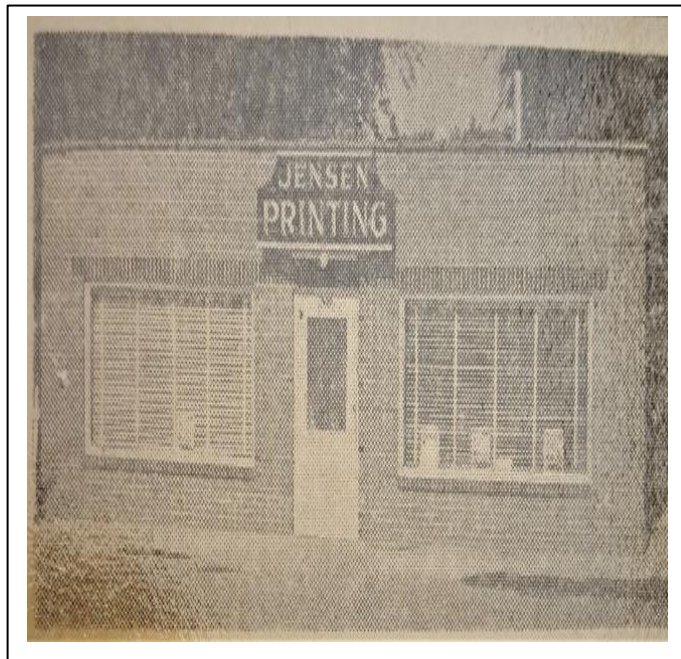


1950s

First Issue of the Ankeny Press- Citizen, Our

Purpose: This is the first issue of the Ankeny Press-Citizen. We hope you like it. To begin with, you will receive the Press-Citizen free of charge. After the initial free distribution subscriptions will be taken. One year's subscription will cost \$1.50. During this period when you receive the paper free, and any time afterward, we would appreciate your comments, criticisms and ideas. We want to make this paper one that each one of you will want to read every Thursday. Only with your comments can we do this.

We want to call your attention to a few factors to look for in this first edition. You will note that all the news is local, from the lead story on page one all the way to the last article on page eight. The size of the paper is called tabloid. Because it is easy to read, easy to handle, and it doesn't take much space. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, Oct. 1, 1958*



Watch the Ankeny Area Historical Society website for upcoming events!

www.ankenyhistorical.org. On October 10, 2019, join us for "Spooktacular at the Museum." It will be an old-fashioned, fun-filled evening! Then, from mid-November to mid-December, Vintage Christmas will be back at the house!

**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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Smith Oils, Grand Opening, Open House, October 7 and 8: October 7 and 8 marks the grand opening of the V.W. Smith Oils, new ultra modern Texaco service station, which is located at the intersection of Third Street and Highway #69 at Ankeny. The event carries a three-fold purpose- the grand opening, the 29th anniversary of Smith's service to the community, and the annual observance of "Oil Progress Week," which officially begins on October 9, emphasizing the important part the oil industry plays in the American way of life.

The opening of this modern station makes it without a doubt one of Iowa's outstanding Texaco stations, offering the most efficient and modern methods of service available to the public. Vernon W. Smith, owner-manager, holds a public service record with the oil business which dates back to October 9, 1926, when he assisted his father and brothers, at the station in off-school hours and on Saturdays.

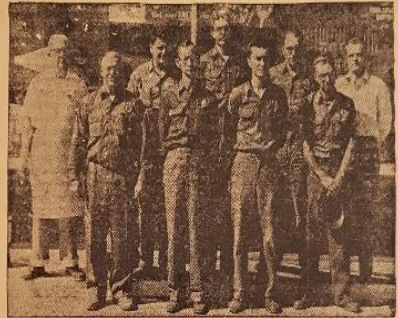
The firm efficiently serves the public with a staff of eight employees and used three tank trucks on the highways daily to farms and sub-stations. The old service station having outlived its usefulness, has been replaced with the latest in modern structure of concrete block with the complete north and east fronts covered with porcelain enameled, finished with large glassed-in front areas. Among the latest equipment and facilities featured, include two air-conditioned offices, two hoists in the grease bay, using the frame contract method, covered pit for greasing trucks, enlarged washing stalls, six Mercury vapor lights, and restrooms.

Under the apt supervision of V.W. Smith, the organization presents a united front for constant attention to the needs of a growing community- an important part of a progressive town moving forward. *Ankeny Times, October 7, 1955*

GRAND OPENING

AND

29th ANNIVERSARY



Top Row, C. Earl Smith, Elbert Smith, Arthur Lowe, Ralph Dann, Marion Heggen. Front Row, Vernon Smith, Paul Kochbeiser, Bill Naylor and Morris Sannon.

Friday & Saturday, October 7 & 8

FREE GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

Drawing for Free Gifts — 9 P. M. October 8, 1955

6 Pak case of Coke FREE with \$2.00 purchase, plus bottle deposit
2 Nylon Goodyear tires to fit your car — Deep Fryer
Toaster — Electric Skillet — Clock Radio

Farmers— Come in and get your FREE exhaust cover for Your Tractor

Pencils for adults — Balloons for the Kiddies and many other prizes

V. W. Smith Oils
Ankeny, Iowa

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Best Friend: Man's best friend is also an important member of the William H. Greiner household at 1169 Kenworthy Drive. The pets pictured here with Susan, 6, and Carol, 4 ½, emphasized the companionship and virtues of poochie. Gypsie Belle III, the dachshund, "who owns the Griener family," had this litter of seven bouncing pups at Jefferson where she was staying while her family vacationed. Dachsunds, originally bred for hunting badgers in Germany, have become favorite pets for everyone... and when the Greiner family goes visiting, the dogs go wagging along. *Ankeny Times*, October 23, 1958

Ankeny Students to Get TB Patch Tests

Every third year every student in the Ankeny Schools is given (with the permission of their parents) a TB patch test. This is the year! On October 26 we will be doing our testing in Ankeny. Those of you who were fortunate enough to hear Mr. Williamson, Executive Director of TB-Health Association of Iowa, will recall his telling us that TB is still a very real threat, there being a 61% increase in new active TB cases in Iowa during the past year. One out of every 10 people in Iowa is infected with TB. No way has yet been found to kill TB germs once they get into your body. There is no vaccine to prevent TB. No one is immune.

WHAT IS A TUBERCULINE PATCH? It looks like a "Band-Aid", a strip of adhesive tape which holds two or three small squares of paper close to the skin. The squares of special paper have been treated with a liquid called tuberculin. The test is completely harmless. The skin is cleansed and the patch is put on for 48 hours and kept dry- then removed. The results appear a day or two later.

You know that you probably have never entertained TB germs as guests in your body. What does it mean if it's red? This does not mean you have TB. The only thing it proves is that your body has fought the TB germs. These germs came from someone who has active tuberculosis. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, Oct. 1, 1958

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Dads Night Sponsored By Ankeny

P.T.A. Oct. 27: Ankeny Parent-Teachers Association will replace the regular PTA meeting this month with a special "Dad's Night" meeting and program. A free chili supper will be served at 6:30 o'clock at Parkview on Monday, October 27. All fathers are invited and urged to attend the evening fellowship planned just for YOU! Featured speaker for the evening will be Mr. Carl Parks of the Polk County Juvenile Court. He will address the meeting speaking on the topic "Juvenile Delinquency." A film will also be shown.

Mrs. Wilmer Tjossem is dinner chairman. Members of her committee are Mrs. Ralph Jorgensen, Mrs. Wilbur Hildreth and Mrs. Robert Peterson. An autumn motif will be carried out. Remember, Dad, the date Oct. 27! It's a social and fellowship planned that you may have a chance to understand better your school, its problems, and its importance to you and your community. *Ankeny Times, October 23, 1958*



The 1957 Ankeny Homecoming is now history, but to the record breaking crowd of spectators, its resplendency remains as an outstanding event of the season. Top attraction of the October 4 activities was the football game between Ankeny's most powerful Hawks and the aggressive Altoona Ramblers. Other colorful events on the homecoming schedule included a Pep Rally, a skit presented by the student council, and new cheers introduced by AHS cheerleaders. Shirley Fontana, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Fontana, was queen of homecoming activities. Dennis Brazelton, captain of the Ankeny football squad, was chosen king and had the honor of crowning Miss Fontana at the half-time ceremonies.

Following the game, students, former grads, teachers, and local residents attended a big homecoming dance in the high school. All arrangements for the annual Homecoming celebration were directed by student council. Wayne Begg is advisor to the group. The council deserve a great deal of credit for their fine efforts, and for bringing to Ankeny one of the outstanding Homecomings in the history of Ankeny High. *Ankeny Times, October 10, 1957*

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Adult Education Classes Begin: The 1958-59 evening classes of 20 or meetings, will start Monday night November 3 in the Ankeny Vocational Agriculture Building, starting at 7:30 P.M. Both men and their wives are invited to attend the lessons. The meeting for next Monday evening is one of interest to all. A speaker will show a film and explain the processes of oil and grease refinery, along with an explanation of how the various grades of oil are obtained. The importance of the correct usage will be stressed, and questions answered to oil and grease problems.

The complete 1958-59 Adult Education Program follows:

Nov. 3 Farm Fuels and Lubricants

Nov. 10 Electricity for the Farm.

Nov. 17 How big should farms be?

Nov. 24 Commercial Fertilizers

Dec. 1 Insecticides

Dec. 8 Animal Diseases

Dec. 15 Hog Grading

Dec. 22 Rope Splicing

Jan. 5 Weed Identification

Jan. 12 thru Feb. and March will be devoted to Farm shop practices. Brazing, welding, soldering, and woodwork will be taught.

If a conflict arises with P.T.A. meetings the lessons will be held on Tuesday night. For any information on the meetings call Leslie Peterson, instructor or Council members Ward Mally, Larry Warner, Glen Packard, Perry Brazelton, Marvin Nichols, Floyd Harrison, Bill Kile, and Floyd Albaugh. Inviting the wives to attend is a new idea in the program. Any woman interested in the program can attend the meetings along with the men. It is hoped that a good attendance will make the plans made, worthwhile. A film will precede all lessons. *Ankeny Times, October 30, 1958*

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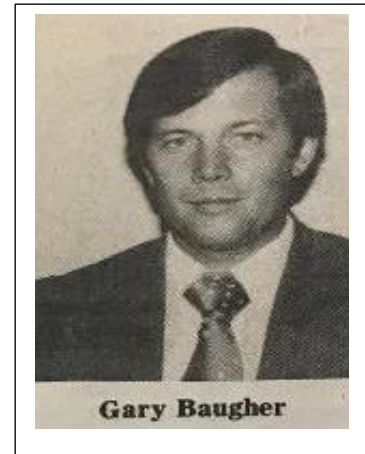
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Council Petitioned to Make SE Ninth a Dead-end.

Sixty-five residents along SE Ninth and SE Belmont Streets have petitioned the city council to dead-end SE Ninth Street where it now enters the Drug Town and Hy-Vee parking lots. They cited the fast-driving and the increased flow of traffic which uses that access as a detour to and from Highway 69 and creates a nuisance and danger along their street. Their petition cited seven reasons for the request. The petitioners have agreed to meet with councilmember John Voight and representatives of Hy-Vee next Monday at City Hall to try to work out a compromise. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 4, 1979*

Hawkettes Advance to State. In the first big week of fall sectional and district play, the Ankeny girls' softball team beat Central Dallas, Woodward Granger, Perry, and North Polk, advancing into the regional contest on Wednesday with sectional and district championship plaques. The Ankeny Hawkettes are now four games away from winning five straight state softball titles. *Ankeny Press Citizen, October 4, 1979*

Two Ankeny doctors named diplomats. Two doctors from the Ankeny area have been named diplomats of the American Board of Family Practice as a result of passing a certification examination administered under the aegis of the ABFP. To achieve diplomate status these doctors, through an intensive 20 day written examination, proved their ability in the areas of internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, preventive medicine and other traditional specialties and now are certified in medicine's new specialty – Family Practice. The doctors are Rodney R. Carlson, M.D. and Arnold T. Nielsen, M.D. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 12, 1972*



Baugher Supports Property Tax Freeze for Elderly. Gary Baugher, Republican candidate for the 31st Senate District in the November 6 special election, said today that he will work on a freeze of property taxes for Iowa's elderly citizens. "The elderly," Baugher said, "are the one group that lacks the flexibility to absorb property tax increases year after year." Baugher pointed out that other groups of citizens can depend on regular increases in income. "The retired person, however, is completely at the mercy of increases in inflation and government spending. I wasn't aware of how serious this problem is," Baugher said, "until I started going door-to-door. In talking to these people, I have discovered how many of them are on the verge of closing their homes. The elderly person has worked most of his or her life to build up a savings, only to see it evaporate with double-digit inflation. We need to guarantee these folks, at least, that they can continue to own a home." *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 4, 1979*

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Seniors on Golden Highlights. Seniors on this year's Golden Highlight squad are (l to r) Jenny Langley, July Langley, Caron Anderson, Lori Barvinek, Judi Turner, Karen Blosser and Shelley Cox. This year's leaders are Caron Anderson, Lori Barvinek, Karen Blosser, and Shelley Cox. Jenny and Julie Langley were recently named to the American Drill Team School "Who's Who in American Drill Teams." *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, October 25, 1979



Bengston Homecoming Queen. Ankeny homecoming King Mike Turk places the crown on Queen Karen Bengston at half time of the chilly Ankeny-Boone game. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, October 18, 1979

Hawkettes are CIC Cross Country Champs. The Ankeny Hawkette cross country team claimed title to the championship of the Central Iowa Conference meet as they ran well on Tuesday at the Tama Country Club Course. Ankeny's JV girls placed second in the CIC meet for junior varsity girls. Ankeny scored 22 team points to second place Urbandale's 48. Cindi Luke was the individual champion as she finished first overall in the varsity meet. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, October 4, 1979

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Ober Anderson Named Polk Extension Director.

Ober J. Anderson, Ankeny, has been appointed the Polk County Extension Director according to an announcement made today by Tom Robb, Area Extension Director, and J. Ralph Ledlie, Chairman of the Polk County Extension Council. Anderson, who is 36, has been an Iowa State University Extension staff member for 13 years and an Extension Associate in Polk County for the past six years. He replaced Grover Hahn who retired recently. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 19, 1972*

Announce Ford Punt, Pass & Kick winners. The top three winners in Ford's Punt, Pass and Kick contest held last Saturday are shown here. Front row is: First place eight-year-old, Randy Yarrow, second place Mark Craig, and third Scott Collins. Second row are the nine-year-olds. First place Kyle Crowe, second Pat Gannon, and third Todd Hall. Back row 10-year-olds, First Place Ron Parrish, second Marty Howard and third Mike Polich.



In the next three age brackets were the following winners: eleven-year-old, front row l-r, Joe Fontana, first place, second was Andy Crawford, and third Tom Thayer. Middle row are first place Tim Stupka, second Brad Moeckly, and third David Sawyer for the 12-year-olds. In the thirteen-year-old group was champion Bruce Hanson, second place Russ Yarrow, and third place Pat Dunsmore. The first-place winners from each age will compete this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Sec Taylor Stadium in the regional try-outs. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 5, 1972*



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Ankeny Goes to the Pope (October 4, 1979)

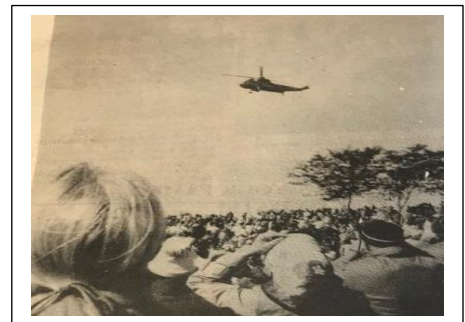
By Marcia Ryan

8:30 a.m. About 400 people gathered at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny to board eight Ankeny school buses. Ben Norman and Dale White, from the schools, had previously scouted the route that would get us closest to the Living History Farms and still enable buses to return to Ankeny. **8:40 a.m.** We're off, shepherded through Ankeny intersections by APD officers Stan Warner, Dick Barrett and Loren Bowers and through the country intersections by National Guardsmen who were keeping warm by small fires.



From the Ankeny schools, left and right, high school band director Gary White and music coordinator Neal Topp were part of the brass ensemble. On Tuesday evening, October 2nd, both groups assembled at the Des Moines Civic Center to tape their performance. Because there is no sound coming back to the musicians when they are outdoors, the tape was played during their performance to give them the necessary feedback.

Applause from the crowd at Living History Farms when radios and the public address system announced Pope John Paul II's touchdown in Des Moines, Apprehension, anticipation, expectation. **2:55 p.m.** He was at St. Patrick's Church in Cumming. Vehicles and people began moving in and around the altar site. **3:12 p.m.** More applause and cheering as he left St. Patrick's. We were standing now. The waiting was almost over. We were watching the southeast horizon. At **3:20 and 3:25 p.m.**, two helicopters circled the crowd and touched down in a field north of the altar. **By 3:30 p.m.** Pope John Paul II was in a camper changing into his vestments to celebrate the Mass. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 11, 1979*



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Break Ground for new funeral home here. Ankeny guests at the ceremonies for the new funeral home in Ankeny are (from l-r) Larry Wissink, Jay Wissink, Dean Minor, Anne Varnum, Jean Jones, Reno Bertogli, Frank Lint, Paul Hamilton, Douglas Conway, Dave Longnecker, Joe Conley, Jeff Segin, and Joe Flatt. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 12, 1972*



Presenting Ankeny Mayor Eldon Leonard (middle in front) with his honorary ticket to the 'Ankeny Day' at Drake University November 4, is project chairman, Jim Spieker (front row right). Looking on also in the front is Dee Day who is on the ticket committee along with the gentlemen in the back row from l-r, Lawrence Jones, Larry Donaghy, Larry Albaugh, and Dave Hoover.

'Ankeny Day' at Drake University November 4. It was announced today that 'Ankeny Day' would be proclaimed at Drake University on Saturday, November 4, 1972. During this time, a special section will be set aside exclusively for Ankeny fans at the Drake/Southern Illinois football game. Jim Spieker, chairman of the event, stated that 1,000 tickets have been obtained for the Ankeny participation at the game. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 19, 1972*

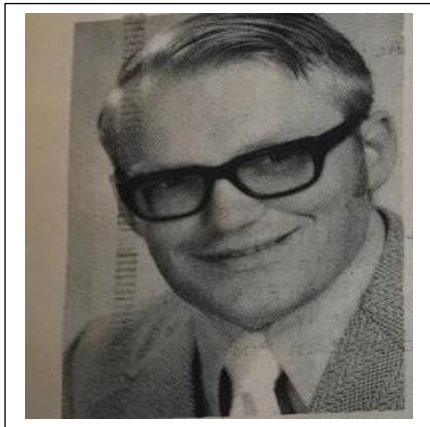
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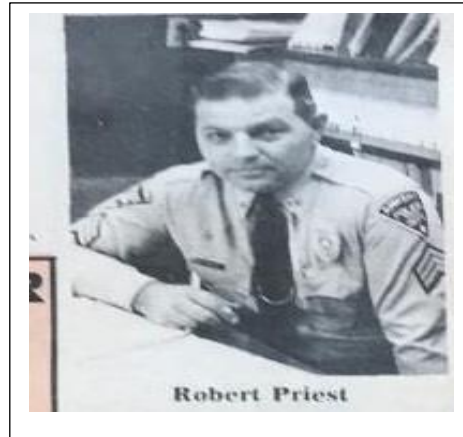
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Dennis L. DenAdel, FLMI Supervisor of Accounting, Central Life Assurance Company.

Dennis Den Adel of Ankeny recently completed studies for his Fellowship in the Life Office Management Institute. Dennis and his wife Harriett, recently attended the Annual Conference of the Life Office Management Association in Toronto in recognition of this achievement. Dennis joined Central Life Assurance Company in April of 1970 as a member of the Accounting Department, and promoted to Supervisor in April of 1971. A graduate from Ankeny High School in 1963, and Iowa State University in 1968, Dennis previously employed by John Deere in Moline, Illinois. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 19, 1972*

Ankeny Officer Elected. Sergeant Robert Priest of the Ankeny Policy Department was elected Vice Chairman of the Polk County Crime Commission at their last meeting. Sgt. Priest, a former dispatcher for the highway patrol, has been with the City of Ankeny for 5 years. Priest has been serving on the Polk County Crime Commission for the past 2 years and has been instrumental in obtaining federal funding for the police department. *Ankeny Press Citizen, October 26, 1972*

Mary Peters to observe 103rd birthday. Mrs. Mary Peters, 205 E. 8th, Ankeny's oldest resident, will be celebrating her 103rd birthday on October 20. Mrs. Peters, who was born at Berwick and has lived all her life in this area, recalls doing practical nursing, helping people and taking care of those needing help. No large celebration is planned but friends and relatives are invited to call on her with well wishes. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, October 12, 1972*



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Accu-Mold earns entrepreneur award – A small Ankeny manufacturer has earned a big award from the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce Federation. Accu-Mold Corp., at 513 SE Magazine Road will receive the Frank De Puydt Business Innovation Award Thursday at the annual reception honoring central Iowa economic impact award winners. Accu-Mold Corp. is experiencing big growth while manufacturing tiny products. The company makes tiny parts for electronic components—from cellular telephones to personal computers. Most of the parts are so small they are inspected with a microscope. About 75 percent of these parts are exported to foreign countries—including Ireland and Taiwan. Accu-Mold started in 1986 as a family business. Gary Grams of Ankeny founded the company and operated it with his wife and son. Today the company has 21 employees and operates six days a week, 24 hours a day. The company is a privately held corporation. Grams, the president, CEO Leo Beebout, and Marketing Vice President Roger Hargens are the primary stockholders.

Last week, Accu-Mold held a ground-breaking ceremony to officially announce its 3,900 sq. ft. addition. Grams said the addition will double the size of the building to create room for growth. The addition is expected to be complete by January 1, and the company plans to **hire** 8 more workers by then. Beebout said the company pays an average annual salary of \$30,000. “We haven’t operated on anyone else’s money for six years,” Grams said. Accu-Mold plans to continue operating debt free. The company will pay for the new addition and equipment in cash. *Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 3, 1995*



Students at Northeast Elementary got a surprise recently as the Oscar Mayer Wiernmobile dropped by for a visit. The event was part of the kick-off for the school’s annual reading program, this year called “Hot Diggity Dog, We’re Reading.” *Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 10, 1995*



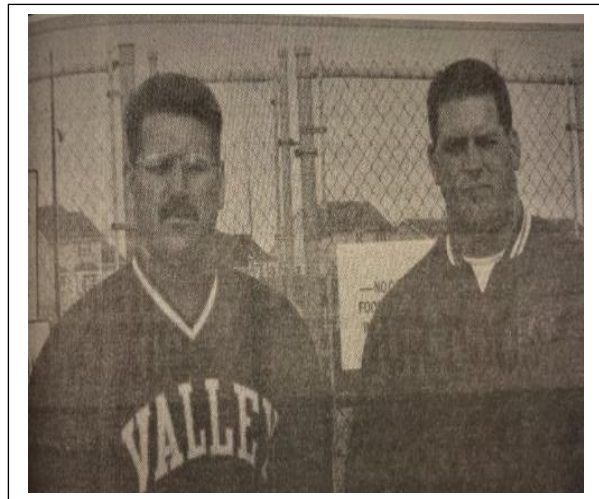
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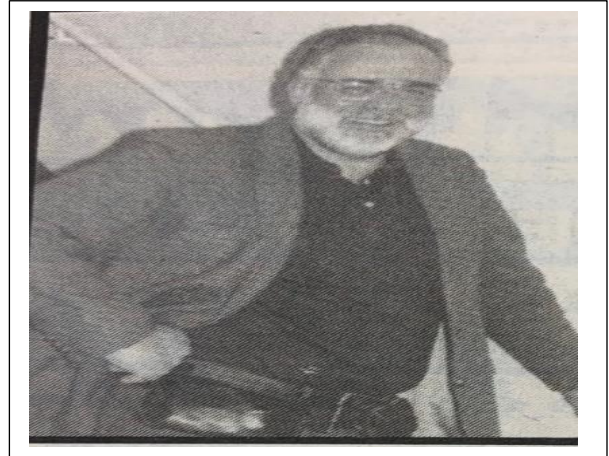
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Fontana brothers on opposite sides of Ankeny – Valley rivalry – Brothers Mike and Bob Fontana will be coaching against each other Friday night when Ankeny plays at West Des Moines Valley in the final game of the 1995 regular season. Bob is a 1977 Ankeny graduate, is in his eight year as an assistant at alley, where he coaches the inside and outside linebackers. Mike, a 19887 Ankeny graduate is a former standout center at Northern Iowa, is in his third season at Ankeny where he coaches the offensive line for the sophomore team and also assists with the varsity squad. *Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 24, 1995*



The “Bat Belt” has arrived at AHS -Gals have purses, guys have billfolds, and Mr. Huber has his hip pack. Yeah, that’s right, his black three pouched belt around his waist. Don’t call it a “fanny pack”, because it’s not, it’s better than one of those, Mr. Huber believes. For all of those who don’t know what I’m talking about, it’s Mr. Huber’s black pouch that he wears all day. His son refers to it as the “bat belt,” because he has everything in it, but still his son hands him things to hold. He has his calendar, tape measure, chapstick, keys, coins, pill case, screwdriver, tweezers, and other odds and ends.

But why does he wear it? “(Men get ripped off....we sit with bumps on our butts... we break things... lose things... and my pouch doesn’t hang like a pack of manure, like a fanny pack does.” Also, Mr. Huber doesn’t like stuffed pockets, although he puts his pens in them because he doesn’t care if he loses them. Now that you know all about Mr. Huber’s philosophy on pockets and hip packs, you men who are tired of “bumps on your butts,” might want to invest in a hip pack and see if it works for you like it work for Mr. Huber. *Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 17, 1995*

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City, Metro seek space for popular park-and-ride bus program

– Ankeny and the Metropolitan Transit Authority are exploring options to build a permanent parking lots for Ankeny commuters who take the bus to work. The Metro has been an overwhelming success since it began park-and-ride service from Ankeny to Des Moines in December of 1992. The service was originally expected to attract 50 riders a day. Today, the service regularly attracts more than 200 a day and has gone over 250 a day during nasty winter weather.

The Ankeny to Des Moines bus service has also been a financial success. “This is the best route we have that covers its costs”, said Steve Spade, the Metro’s general manager. Park and ride sites are located at Wal-Mart, Paramount Theatre, and Drug Town. Overall, the bus service needs to find about 300 parking stalls in Ankeny. In the future, the service will need to find room for 500 cars. *Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 10, 1995*

Letters to the Editor – Historical Society Appreciates

Support - Dear Editor, Thirty-nine days after our house was placed on our lot, the house is now firmly planted on its foundation! It is exhilarating to witness the interest this project has generated and willing donation of time and muscle involved from friends and members alike, that has helped to hold down “out-of-pocket” costs. One cannot realize resources available within our own area until you embark on such a project.

Much of the immediate expense lies ahead as we move to add electricity, plumbing, heating and cooling, sewer, etc., which has to be installed according to building code.

Our grateful thank you to a host of believers in us who have so generously given and continue to give. Sincerely, Jeanne Ersland, Vice President, Ankeny Area Historical Society.
Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 10, 1995

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Four postal employees earn “I Satisfy Customer Award” – L to R are: JoAnn Hubbard, Joyce Carle, and Bob White, not pictured Marvin Weiler. Each of these employees take a lot of personal pride in the quality of work that they do. They take the extra time and effort that is necessary to satisfy customers. The USPS is making an effort to recognize dedicated employees who make a difference in the lives of our customers. *Ankeny Press Citizen, Oct. 17, 1995*