

# ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## March 2006 Newsletter

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### 2005 Sees Building of Barn & Membership

By Ron Sampson

President – Ankeny Area Historical Society

One of the most important things we need to do as a Historical Society is to insure future support and participation. Both of those issues were addressed this year with resounding success.

As the barn takes shape and the vision of a more user-friendly environment for the treasures that we give a home to becomes a reality – we give thanks. Our gratitude goes to those working hard to raise funds from businesses, organizations and individuals that share the deep conviction that the Ankeny area's past is part of the future. The education of how the Ankeny area came to be. . . how it came to grow and where that growth may take us is of vital importance to all of us.

And soon, with an additional 4,400 square feet of display space and a working basement for storage and handiwork --- we will be set for better tours, more educational opportunities and the proper space to display and admire what has been donated to us to show-off Ankeny's roots.

And along with the successful building of the barn comes a continual growth in membership.

Both of those ingredients make a statement that Ankeny likes what it sees and what the Society does. Students and teachers enjoy the tours, Sunday strollers enjoy the open houses and members enjoy the activities.

Speaking of activities, 2005 saw another round of successes with the SummerFest BBQ feed, a wonderful second annual ice cream social, a wonderful Santa's North Pole Village concession and eight busy Sunday open houses. The activity level for school tours increased, as did private showing

Two of the more outstanding activities for the year were for the benefit of the new barn. In August, Dennis Albaugh allowed the society to host a golf outing at his private course and in October the Ankeny Homebuilders co-hosted a dinner/dance/auction. Both of these projects raised thousands of dollars that the fundraising committee is deeply grateful for.

2006 promises to be momentous with the grand opening of the barn, hopefully a pre-opening barn dance and other fundraisers as we race to the finish line of this task.

See you on the volunteer list!

### Society Receives Grant From Prairie Meadows

The Historical Society has received a \$5,050 grant from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino through its 2005 community betterment grant program. The grant was awarded to the society in February 2006.

Grant funds will help to purchase a new computer, museum software, printer/scanner/fax, TV, digital camera, DVD player, and convert our oral history VHS tapes to DVD. Color brochure of our museums will also funded from this grant.

Prairie Meadows has been a good friend to the Ankeny Area Historical Society since it's inception and continues to help as needs and abilities make it possible.



Prairie Meadows CFO Ann Long-Richards (pictured on far right) presented the check for the grant to Society members (l-r) Rosemary Hutton Taylor, Pres. Ron Sampson, and Barb White.

## ***Local Campaigners Give To Society***

Gary Lorenz, city councilman for Ankeny and Joe Morr, candidate this last fall for schoolboard have both made donations to the Ankeny Area Historical Society from monies left-over from their respective campaigns.

“We have gotten funds from many, many sources over the years,” said President Ron Sampson. “But to my knowledge this is the first time any campaigns have made this type of donations. We are deeply grateful that they both feel so strongly about our efforts.”

## ***Two Of Our Own On IPBN WWII Ordnance Plant Special***

Keep your TV Guide handy in March and watch for the special production that depicts two of our members and their roles in the Ordnance Plant during World War II. Society members interviewed for the program Jeanne Ersland and Tina Battani.



Dave Miller of IPBTV interviews Tina Battani (above) and Jeanne Ersland (below).



## ***Spring Clean-up/Fix-up Is Just Around The Corner***

With spring beginning to make itself known, JoAnn Adamson and her faithful landscape artists and workers are getting gloves, shovels and rakes ready to go again.

This year’s effort will be more important and more involved than many years past. The grounds will be expanded to include the new barn, which means a large degree of repair and replacement around the construction site.

As the weather breaks quick organization for days of work will take place. So be ready to answer the e-mail and phone call pleas for help. Find your work shoes, flannel shirts and tools. We’ll be calling . . . or call us ahead at 965-5795.

## ***Big Creek Players Educate, Entertain***

At the January meeting the Big Creek Players from the Big Creek Historical Society presented the “Early Days of Polk City.” The play told the early days by Polk City founders George and Hester Beebe and their friends in the Big Creek area (now Polk City) from 1846 to 1876. Cast was George Beebe – Tom Cox, Hester Beebe – Lela Austin, Mary Wilson Burt – Sue Burt, Dr. Armstrong – Paul Grodt and Narrator – Rosemary Hutton Taylor.



***From left to right, Dr. Armstrong (Paul Grodt), Hester Beebe (Lela Austin) & George Beebe (Tom Cox)***

***. In Celebration of Jean M Jones Life  
1929-2005***



No one has beat Ankeny's drum louder than Jean Jones in the many years she served this community. She was always a most positive influence in all she did for Ankeny and especially the Historical Society. Serving as Executive Director of the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce and later as a member of the City Council, Jean knew the importance of a Historical Society in the city of Ankeny, to collect and preserve our history. She recruited leaders, such as Willard Nagel, Dick Herman, Don Davis, Jim Anderlik, Wayne Begg, Ben Norman, and others to make it happen. Jean served as our first secretary in 1988, gathering together Ankeny citizens she knew that would help make this goal a reality. Much brainstorming was done in the Chamber of Commerce conference room at 803 SW Third our first two years until we moved to the old industrial arts room at Neveln School.

We have lost a true leader in Ankeny who loved our community and gave of herself to preserve it. We are grateful being named by her family as recipient of the memorial money given in her name. We thank you, Bob Jones & family.

Barb White

***Thank You Gateway Savings Bank***

The 2006 Gateway Savings Bank Calendar was much sought after item. Gateway Savings Bank's 2006 Calendar this year was pictures of Ankeny's past from Uptown Ankeny early 1900's to aerial view of Delaware late 1960's. Gateway Savings Bank normally gives away around 300 calendars a year. These calendars were so popular, Gateway gave away 600 and donated another 100 to the Historical Society.

We thank Gateway for partnering with us to bring you pictures from Ankeny's past. We have only a few left from the 100 donated to us. If you would like one, contact us at 965-5795.

***We Need You In 2006!***

Now is the time to secure your position whether you are desirous to dish slaw, hoping to host Sunday tours, begging to bake beans or pleading to put pork on a plate . . . we need your help.

The work is wonderful, the fellowship is fun and the reward is enormous. If you can be a volunteer to work inside of the one of the museums for tours, for events and programs . . . for the SummerFest BBQ, for the Ice Cream Social, for Santa's North Pole Village . . .call and let us know. We will call and let you know when your talents will be utilized. Call 965-5795 today!

***The Roof Is On!***

The green metal roof is on, along with the siding and brick. Work continues inside.



**ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**“NEW BARN”**  
**PROJECT MENU OF SUPPORT**

**LEGACY: \$250,000 - \$500,000**

*Dennis & Sue Albaugh & family*

**DIAMOND: \$100,000–\$249,999**

*City of Ankeny*

**RUBY: \$50,000–\$99,000**

*Don & Charlene Lamberti & family*

**SAPPHIRE: \$10,000–\$49,999**

*John Deere Des Moines Works*

*Des Moines Register & Ankeny Press Citizen*

*Ankeny Building Association*

*Prairie Meadows Race Track & Casino*

**PEARL: \$5,000–\$9,999**

*VGI Design*

*Snyder & Associates, Inc.*

*Polk County*

*Community State Bank*

*First American Bank*

*Gateway Savings Bank*

*Wells Fargo*

**PLATINUM: \$1,000–\$4,999**

*Winnifred Spahr In Memory of Wayne R. Spahr*

*Norma Righi & Delores Manny In Memory of Frank & Mary Ghitalli, Paul & Isola Fontana, Leno & Rose Carzoli*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Verna Howard*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Jack Denmler*

*John Deere Community Credit Union*

*Don & Barbara Penquite*

*Barbara White, Family & Friends In Memory of Dale A. White Valley Bank*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Evelyn Dann*

*Zane Smith In Memory of V.W. & Ann Smith*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Jean Jones*

*Gene & Bev Samuelson*

*Family & Friends In Memory of Blasco Fontanini*

*Terry & JoAnn Adamson*

*Albaugh-McGovern Legion Post #42*

*Gerald & Marie Ballard*

*Orville & Bonnie Ballard*

*Casey's General Stores*

*Lynn & Nancy DeLapp In Memory of Delma DeLapp*

*Larry & Dorothy Donaghy*

*Jeanne Ersland, Eleanor Tilton & Gale Gibson In Memory of the Gibson family*

*Handley, Block, Lamberti, Zinno & Gocke, P.C.  
Huber Grading, Inc.*

*Harris & Deloris Manny*

*Abel McCleary Family*

*MidAmerican Energy Foundation*

*Carl Moyer*

*Donald & Norma Righi*

*Everett Sather*

*Roger & Sandra Spahr*

*Evelyn Sexauer*

*Ollie J. Weigel*

*Dorothy Wyant*

*Don & Carolyn Zuck*

**GOLD: \$500–\$999**

*Bill & Barb Agan*

*Fred & Fran Smith*

*In Memory of Manilla Coppock*

*Bob Brown Chevrolet, Inc.*

*W.H. & Marjorie Chase*

*Commercial Federal Bank*

*Joyce Lundstrom*

*Amanda Scharf*

*Ilene Scholes*

*Eric Sheldahl*

*Struthers Bros. - Lee Lundstrom*

**Silver: \$100-499**

*Alpha Rho of Beta Sigma Phi*

*Glen Cornwell Family In Memory of Clifford Cornwell*

*Evelyn Dann In Memory of Ralph C. Dann*

*Gerald & Marilyn Denmler*

*Evelyn Rigby*

*Cecil & Carole Ballard*

*Marilyn Shay In Memory of Bill Shay*

*Herbert J. Brown In Memory of Mary N. Brown*

*Beryl Coulson - Coulson Signs*

*Don & Carole Lea Kraber*

*Maurices Inc. - Match to Carol Lea Kraber*

*Loren Sampson Family*

*Doug & Ellen Smith*

*David & Anne Gardner In Memory of John Price, Edith & Bee Morris, J. Arthur, Evelyn & Judy Ault, & Hazel Ault*

*The Mutchler Family*

*Ben & Jean Norman*

*Ethel Harmon, Jill, Robert, & Jan In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French*

Lee Ahlberg  
James W. Anderlik  
Duane Anderson  
Ober & Iolene Anderson  
Ankeny Genealogy Chapter  
Ankeny Visual Image Committee  
LeRoy & Evelyn Bachman  
Victoria Bachman  
Gary & Toni Baugher  
Joe, Charles, & Maribeth Begg In Memory of Wayne Begg  
James Blair  
Ruth Bond  
Dennis & Pat Brazelton  
Barb & Patrick Breen  
Rob & Jennifer Davies  
Gail Dippold  
Robert & Nancy Frisk  
Joshua J. Frisk  
Justin R. Frisk & Family  
Anna Hick  
Evalynne Higgins  
Harold & Charlene Hildreth  
Raymond Hildreth  
Jerry Homes, Inc.  
Victor Johnson  
Kimberly Development Corp.  
Robert & Virginia Koch  
Cyndy Lammert  
Jose & Shelley Laracuent  
Marlyn & Zeld Larson In Memory of Angela Larson Pilkington  
Betty Leonard  
Earl & Janet Leonard  
Grant & Sherri Lewis  
Luke Brothers, Inc.  
John E. Lundstrom  
Madrid Historical Society  
Bill & Sarah Magnani  
Jim & Barb McNamee  
Memory Lane Questers  
Janet & Marvin Nichols  
Don & Doris Ott  
Tom & Joan Quinlin  
P & R Inc. - Brandt & Janet Crocker  
Dick & Suzan Rasmussen  
Greg Rasmussen  
Bill & Eva Wallace  
Larry & Linda Wellendorf

**BRONZE: \$50-\$99**  
Clarence & Betty Altenburger  
MidAmerican Matching Jan & Merlin Christians  
72 Degree Heating & Cooling, Inc.  
Bless This House, Inc.  
Nancy Carr  
Jan & Merilin Christians  
LeNora Coe  
Gilded Angel Photography  
Dale & JoAnn Goins  
Ethel Harmon  
Craig Hawkins  
Heartland floors  
Laks Jagnandan D.D.S.  
Franny & JoAn Johnson  
Ken & Donna Kelling  
Margaret McBride  
Lynn Pitts  
Delores & Fred Reynolds  
Dennis & Susan Roupe  
Dennis Shaltanis  
Roger & Fran Stefani  
Greg Suddeth  
Steve & Darlene VanOort  
Mike & Rose White  
Larry & Marcia Zach  
**FRIENDS: \$1-\$49**  
Friends Investing Together  
Ethel Harmon In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French  
Rich & Rosemary Taylor In Memory of Betty Hutton  
Tim Garner  
Gene & Kathryn Hill  
Ideal Rebekah Lodge  
Bob & Jean Jones  
Joe & Edie Morr  
Clare Ann Stubbs  
Virginia Wheeler  
Margaret Grant  
Terry McAnally  
Marvin Rankin  
Ms. Schima 3rd Grade -Terrace '04-'05  
Raymond Thornton  
Lois Hughes  
Hazel Moeckly  
Kelly Morrow  
Richard & Gina Sokol  
Roy Stoll  
Warren W. Thornton  
Ward Mally

## ***Members Attend Historical Preservation Convention***

Four Ankeny Area Historical Society volunteers attended a convention focused on historical preservation, education and community involvement. The following are comments that two had about the experience and the value it brings to our museum efforts.

One workshop that I attended was on Traveling Trunks. The traveling trunks are resource packets that could be individualized with Ankeny area history. The teaching packets could be used as a teaching tool for teachers in our schools, organizations, clubs, scout groups and others. They would need to be individualized for different age levels. I think this would be a great way to tell the story of our area's history to our young people.

Barbara Agan

Plastics have been around for nearly 170 years. Some of the most common "malignant" plastics include cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl chloride, and polyurethane. Malignant plastics give off damaging gases or liquids as they deteriorate that destroy or discolor objects around them.

Celluloid (cellulose nitrate) was produced from 1860's until late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Major uses included photographic film and solid objects that resemble ivory, tortoise shell, and horn. As these items age they give off acidic gases and can self-combust causing spontaneous fires.

Cellulose acetate (non-flammable celluloid) became commercially available in 1910. Some uses include safety photo film and jewelry. It can give off acidic gasses and sometimes peroxides.

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) became available in mid 1930's. It is used extensively in domestic items such as clothing (e.g. imitation leather and waterproof fabric) and toys. If your old Barbie doll's legs are getting "sticky" surface or a white bloom-look it's the PVC deteriorating.

Polyurethane in the form of foam is especially susceptible to light and will eventually crumble completely.

Light, heat, moisture, and environmental pollutants degrade all plastics. They will give

off vinegary or acrid smells, or develop a bloom or oozing on the surface, or discolor during advancing stages of decay.

Proper storage of all plastics provides protection from the above factors, plus providing adequate ventilation. Flammable celluloid requires special storage conditions, including cold storage, should you choose to keep it in your home.

Marilyn Shay

## ***Grandfather & Granddaughter Discover History Together***

Natalie Wilkinson of Lexington, Kentucky interviewed her grandfather Don Righi about his naval experience during World War II. Don had donated his World War II U.S. Navy tailor-made uniform to the museum. Don was a Baker 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. Natalie's mother Ann Righi Wilkinson videotaped and grandma Norma Righi watched. Pictured below are Don and Natalie standing in front of Don's uniform.



## ***Over 300 Items Donated to Society***

Forty-seven donors donated over 300 items in 2005 to the Historical Society. Items ranged from Ankeny High Band uniform, 1949 Wedding Dress, and Ankeny State Bank bowling shirt to a map of Polk County Coal Mines.

The museums are open the first Sunday of the months May through December from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or call 965-5795 for an appointment.

**DATES TO REMEMBER – 2005-2006**

March 28 – Regular Meeting 7 p.m.  
April 17 – Board Meeting 9 a.m.  
April 25 – Regular Meeting 7 p.m.  
May 7 – Open House 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
May 23 – Regular Meeting 7 p.m.

Come to our Regular scheduled meetings  
and see how you can help!!!!

Our Mission

*The Ankeny Area Historical Society is established to collect and secure artifacts and historical records representing Ankeny, Alleman, Bondurant, Carney, Elkhart, Enterprise, Polk City, and Sheldahl for the purpose of preserving American Heritage.*

2006 Officers

*Ron Sampson - President*  
*Rachel Jones - Vice President*  
*Norma Righi - Secretary*  
*Joyce Lundstrom - Treasurer*

Board of Directors

*Don Penquite, Marilyn Shay,*  
*Dr. Ben Norman*  
*Barbara Agan, Terry Adamson,*  
*Ward Mally*  
*Ober Anderson, Lynn Pitts*  
*Dorothy Thornton*

Ex-Officio

*Dr. Kent Mutchler - Supt. of Schools*  
*Joe Morr - Past President*  
*JoAnn Adamson - Past President*  
*Myrtle L. Sexauer - Past President*  
*Bonnie S. Ballard - Past President*  
*Barbara J. White - Past President*

Past Presidents

*\*Wayne A. Begg*  
*James W. Anderlik*  
*\*Richard D. Hermann*  
*\*Willard L. Nagle*

\*Deceased

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