September 2008 Newsletter

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LOTS GOING ON - - - SEE PAGES 2 AND 3 . . .

Funding Continues And Support Continues to Grow

With the new barn addition to our museum "campus" 90% paid-off, any fears of a slowdown in support and donations can thankfully be laid to rest. Individuals, businesses and other sources of funds have continued to be vitally interested in our financial well-being.

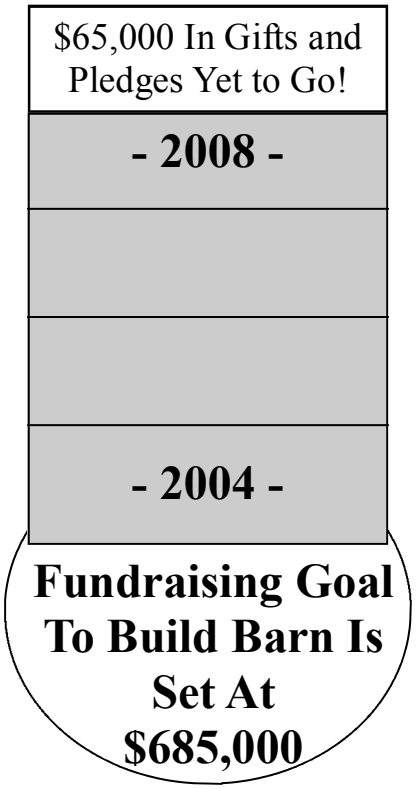
As the graphic shows, just $65,000 remains of the original $685,000 that it took to build the barn to the rigid specifications that it takes to securely house and maintain the treasures of Ankeny's history. Together with the additional upkeep, utilities and miscellaneous expenses, the pressure to retire the outstanding debt remains.

True to the term "friends of the historical society" many of the latest contributors are giving for the second time. In the summer of 2008 we have gotten substantial gifts from Ward Mally, Dorothy Wyant and the Nevin Harmon family. Another cash gift was given by Bonnie and Orville Ballard who expressed that they are unable to contribute physically to some of the volunteer efforts. However, they are giving additional funds to show their appreciation for the beautiful facilities and displays and education efforts made by volunteers. Those gifts, along with additional annual gifts from the Lamberti and Lein families have helped immensely.

It is in that spirit that we will make rapid progress in whittling down the bank loan and will soon enable the society to spend more of it's time and efforts on the exhibition part of the museum program.

This fall we will have several fundraising efforts beginning with the sale of historical photo calendars – great for gifts and personal use. Another Sunday Ice Cream Social takes place in September along with a treasure (rummage) sale. Santa's North Pole Village is another fundraiser for the society and two new efforts will follow: First, a Festive Cookie Sale will take place in December and before that a limited seating Norwegian feast will be hosted November 15. Both of those are further explained on page three of the newsletter.

Your continued support and ideas for funds are appreciated. Please give us a call with any help you can give.



Leins Increase Pledge To Top $50,000

Rod and Dee Lein have recently increased their level of support to the Ankeny Area Historical Society. In addition to their original gift, Leins had pledged $5,000 per year to help retire the mortgage and continue upkeep on the house. In August, Leins announced that they would commit to a pledge that would total their support to over $50,000 within the next few years.

2009 Calendars Are Ready To Go!

Featuring 12-months of interesting photographs and information about Ankeny and its history . . . the 2009 calendars are now available at the museum. Perfect for the kitchen, office, under the Christmas tree or as a stocking stuffer, these beautiful calendars are always in short supply. Featuring the graduation class of 1949 one month, past Homecoming kings and queens on another, a 1922 school class by their horse-drawn bus and the 1952 Lions Club Girlies basketball team. Call 965-5795 to get your order in . . . bulk orders advised (that's more than two).

Thank You Dream Steam

We would like to thank Dream Steam for their help with our wet basement. Sunday, July 27 the electricity went out and so that means our sump pump did not work. Our carpet got wet. Dream Steam came and helped us soak up the water. They also dried and cleaned the carpet. Thanks for all your

Sunday Ice Cream Social Is September 14

An afternoon in the shade of the old oak tree on the lawn sipping a cool drink and enjoying ice cream, cakes, bars and pies . . .

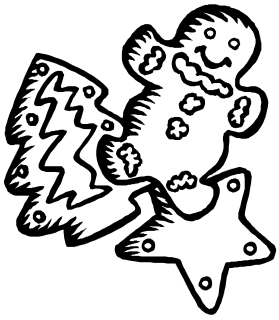
Sounds too good to be true? It is true and it happens Sunday, September 14 from 2 to 4 in the afternoon at the beautifully manicured lawn of the Ankeny Area Historical Museum. If you would like to volunteer to help serve or if you would like to treat others to your special recipe of spice bars, apple pie or lemon squares . . . just call us at 965-5795. To enjoy the culinary wares of others . . . bring your family and few bucks and take a walk down memory lane.

Fall Treasure Sale Date is September 27

It is the repeat of a near sellout!

The spring rummage sale at the Ankeny Area Historical Museums was a resounding success. To prove that it was not a fluke we are again putting out treasures for a trifle on Saturday, September 27 from 8 am to noon. If you would like to contribute items, please call 965-5795. If you would like to hunt for treasures just bring your quarters and dollars and fill up your backseat or wagon.

Festive Cookie Sale Set For December 6

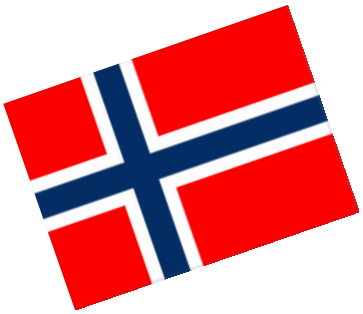


Ankeny's own first lady of pastries, Norma Righi, daughter of one of the owners of famed by-Lo food store in Uptown Ankeny that featured the finest Italian breads and goodies is spearheading another first this winter.

On Saturday, December 6 Norma will be hosting, along with some Ankeny historical society volunteers the first annual "Festive Cookie Sale." For a $10 entry fee an individual is allowed to come in and browse the 100 dozen holiday cookies in various themes, flavors and calories. That same $10 will buy two dozen cookies of your choice.

For information on how to get your special cookies into the line-up or to reserve one the of buyer's positions - - - please call 965-5795. Both opportunities are limited. Hurry!

"Norwegian Feast For 24" November 15



You have heard about it, read about it, seen it in movies and wondered about it. Now, it is time to experience it.

A Norwegian feast, featuring fish and lefse will be served on Saturday, November 15 in the "old house" part of the Ankeny Area Historical Museum campus. The fish for the feast will NOT, (let us repeat) NOT be the fabled lutefisk. Rather than that foul fish dish will be a sweet, tender mild codfish which will be served together with mashed potatoes and butter. While not a colorful mixture, it has a taste and texture that has brought grown Norwegian men home to their mothers for centuries at Christmas time.

Along with that so-called Norwegian burrito will be Scandinavian meatballs, creamed peas, a square of Jell-O with stuff in it, maybe a pickle or two and kringla. Although the construction and method of making and eating the lefse will be explained . . . each person's plate will be professionally made and handed to the diners.

A flier of Norwegian wisdom will also be at each table setting.

Hosting the fundraising luncheon will be Loren and Arlene Sampson, 54-year residents of Ankeny who came from the Iowa version of the twin cities of Roland-Story where more than a few Scandihuvians reside. ONLY twenty four (24) seats are available for this sensational Saturday 4:00 p.m. event. Tickets are $20 each. Call 965-5795 to reserve your seats. All proceeds go to the Ankeny Area Historical Society.

Record-Setting SummerFest BBQ!

It was a record turn-out for the 2008 SummerFest BBQ luncheon at the Parkview lunchroom in July. Over 700 BBQ pork sandwich lunches were sold topping old marks of nearly 650 in the past. The four-hour reunion featured 30 guests from the from the Ankeny High School class of 1958 . . . plus 670 others.

We would like to thank everyone who purchased or sold tickets. The response was outstanding.

Santa's North Pole Village Needs Helpers

Santa's North Pole Village is just around the corner and volunteers are needed to man the Ankeny Area Historical Society's "refueling booth" where bagel bits, water and pop are sold. Call 965-5795 to tell us of your availability during this pre-holiday queen of the flea markets in good old Ankeny.

As 2008-2009 School Year Begins

(Reprinted from September 1998 Newsletter)

EDUCATION MOVES FORWARD

ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul." The keynote of education in Ankeny – past, present, and future is one of quality and quantity. From the log cabin, built in 1850, twenty years before Crocker Township was organized as a civil township, to a system with an enrollment of 3,973 in 1974-75, to 5,575 in 1998-99, education has had top priority in the Ankeny Community.

The first school was built of logs and located on the Woods farm about one mile south of Ankeny, where the east entrance of the Iowa State Experimental farm joins Highway 69. Later this school was relocated on the east side of Ankeny Boulevard just south of First Street.

A third move located the building on the southwest corner of West First Street. A room in the I00F building served as an overflow room. The fourth site, selected in 1902, was the present school grounds at SW Third and School Streets. This 3-room building was soon inadequate and was torn down.

The two-story, eight-room building, erected in 1909 was to serve the community well for over 60 years until the damage of the 1974 tornado necessitated demolition rather than repair.

The latest in modern school buses "circa" 1919

Consolidation came to Ankeny in 1919 at which time the oldest part of Neveln Junior High (presently Neveln Community Resource Center) was built. Several country school houses were moved to the grounds to accommodate the increased enrollment.

There was no new construction until 1952 when the original part of the Parkview building was constructed. In 1957, the west wing was added and in 1964 an east wing was completed when Parkview became Ankeny High School.

In 1959, an addition consisting of offices, a small gym, and class rooms joined Neveln and old Central on the corner of SW 3rd and School Streets.

As Ankeny grew from a small town to a suburb, the story of education has been one of increased enrollment and continuous building. Six buildings now house the kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Northwest Elementary on West First Street was the first building after the original Parkview building. It was completed in September, 1962.

The second building was East Elementary which opened in 1963 at SE 3rd and SE Trilein.

Southeast Elementary on SE Trilein and SE 10th, the third building, was occupied in 1969.

Running out of points of the compass for designations, the fourth building on NW School Street was completed and opened in 1972 as Terrace Elementary.

Westwood Elementary was the fifth school which opened in 1989 at NW 9th & Irvinedale, and sixth was Northeast Elementary at NE 18th & NE Trilein Drive in 1992.(Since this was first printed Ankeny Schools have added to more elementary Crocker & Ashland.)

As Ankeny moved toward its centennial observance, the first phase of a new complex on NW Ankeny Boulevard to house the high school moved toward completion in September, 1975, beginning Ankeny's second one hundred years in education.

With the opening of Northview Middle School at NW Ash and NW Prairie Ridge Drive in 1995, the grade level configuration was changed to: six elementary school buildings with kindergarten through fifth grade students; Parkview Middle School housing all the District's sixth and seventh grade students; all eighth and ninth grade students attending Northview Middle School; and the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders attending Ankeny High School.

Records show that a Mr. A. H. Feigenbaum was one of the very early teachers, serving in the early one-room schools about 1880. The early roster includes such names as Mrs. Hattie Cornwall, a Miss Benedict, Miss Maude Kennedy, and a Mrs. John Wagner as a substitute teacher.

Superintendents serving the Ankeny schools have been: 1917-1919 – H. H. VanBentuysen; 1919-1921 – E. G. Clark; 1921-1943 – Edward W. Neveln; 1943-1947 – Cliff Evans; 1948-1951 – Ted Karges; 1951-1958 – Ralph Jorgensen; 1958-1960 – Melvin Anderson; 1960-1986 – Keith Hopkins; 1986-2002—Dr. Ben Norman; 2002-2006—Dr. Kent Mutchler; 2006-2007(interim) Dr. Veronica Stalker; 2007 to present— Dr. Matthew Wendt.

We Take A Look Back In History

COUNTRY SCHOOLS

This is a history from the very beginning of country schools up to the 1950s when most country schools were no longer needed. So, there were many changes in that time span.

Crocker Twp. was organized 1-9-1871 at which time the first election was held. The newly elected trustees (F. N. Nagle, E. Parmenter, D. C. Marts) held their first meeting in the Dietz schoolhouse built from hewn logs in 1851. One item of business was to divide the township into nine school districts to establish a school in each location.

While school reorganization and state laws ended classes in the country schools, few of the buildings were immediately torn down; in fact, many were put to use for non-academic purposes.

Most of the schoolhouses were painted white but very often we hear about the "little red schoolhouse."

It is estimated that in the spring of 1899, more than 12,000 one-room country schools operated in Iowa. By the end of World War II, the number of such schools had dropped drastically; and by the middle 1960s when a state law required that all districts be part of a K-12 setup, the little schools were gone.

In 1982, the only such schools known to be operating in the state were run by the Amish, and they did so only under special permission of the state.

REQUIREMENTS OF TEACHERS

Before 1920, a degree-holding teacher or administrator was a rarity. After World War I, however, the profession itself began to demand expanded teacher training. Most states began to raise their requirements for certification. To upgrade their own qualifications, teachers with training class certifications enrolled in Normal Schools; and Normal School graduates enrolled in Teachers' Colleges. Normal Schools moved toward becoming degree-granting State Teachers' Colleges. With their insatiable intellects, the turn-of-the-century teachers studied on. Most of them eventually were able to earn college and university degrees.

SALARIES OF TEACHERS

1880 Male teacher – $285/year
Female teacher - $190/year
(Higher salary for male teacher usually justified by
citing the youth of the female teacher)
1915$450/year
1933 $750/year (roomed with neighbor – no supplies furnished)
1949 $4,100/year
1998-99 - $35,975/year, average (benefits not included)

Greenwood School, East Oralabor Road & 29th – Georgia Swartfager, teacher - $30/month $5 extra to hire a student to build fire in winter. Had as many as 40 pupils after corn-husking season was over. Married George West after first year.

Hickory Grove – 4 miles north of Ankeny – Josie Weinhart, teacher (married Vern Sheppard). Salary same as Georgia Swartfager.

Union School – Polk City. Evelyn Farlow (married Harvey Sexauer) $80/month for nine months. 1933 rehired and salary decreased because of Great Depression. Was hired to teach in Ankeny Consolidated School at same salary of $60/month – Fourth Grade.

Vivian Hanselman – South of Indianola, 1929/30 - $100/month. Also did janitorial work.

The Doll House is on display in our barn along with other items from Rosa Quigley.

Miniature Doll House Donated

Rosa Quigley has donated her detailed doll house to the society. Mrs. Quigley has spent more then 60 years collecting the miniature items from all over the United States. These items represent memories from her childhood. Mrs. Quigley was raised in Iowa and now lives in Arkansas. She has relatives living in Ankeny who suggested she donate the extensive collection to the historical society.

L-r: Carol Blair of Ankeny and her cousin Rosa Quigley

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
Rod & Dee Lein

SAPPHIRE: $10,000--$49,999
John Deere Des Moines Works
Des Moines Register & Ankeny Press Citizen
Ankeny Building Association
Prairie Meadows Race Track & Casino
Ray Miller

PEARL: $5,000--$9,999
VGI Design
Snyder & Associates, Inc.
Polk County
Community State Bank
First American Bank
Northwest Bank
Richard Logli & Dena Randolph
In Memory of the P.A. Logli Family
Ward Mally
Wells Fargo
Winnifred Spahr In Memory of Wayne R. Spahr

PLATINUM: $1,000--$4,999
Ankeny Hy-Vee
Norma Righi & Delores Manny
In Memory Frank & Mary Ghitalli, Paul & Isola Fontana, Leno & Rose Carzoli
Dorothy Wyant
L & L Insulation & Supply Company (In-Kind)
Bell Brothers Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
Family & Friends In Memory of Verna Howard
Family & Friends In Memory of Jack Dennler
John Deere Community Credit Union
Don & Barbara Penquite
Barbara White, Family & Friends
In Memory Dale A. White
Family and Friends In Memory of Larry Donaghy
Valley Bank
Gene & Bev Samuelson
Family & Friends In Memory of Evelyn Dann
Zane Smith In Memory V.W. and Ann Smith
Rich and Patrick Taylor (In-Kind)
In Memory of Cor Hutton
Family & Friends In Memory of Jean Jones
Family & Friends In Memory of Blasco Fontanini
Terry & JoAnn Adamson
Albaugh-McGovern Legion Post #42
Gerald & Marie Ballard
Orville & Bonnie Ballard
Bruce & Jeanette Beckwith
Casey's General Stores
Lynn & Nancy DeLapp In Memory Delma DeLapp
Larry & Dorothy Donaghy
Jeanne Ersland, Eleanor Tilton & Gale Gibson
In Memory of the Max & Ella Gibson
Nevin & Bonnie Harmon
Handley, Block, Lamberti, Zinno & Gocke, P.C.
Huber Grading, Inc.
Harris & Deloris Manny
Ralph Mathis
Abel McCleary Family
MidAmerican Energy Foundation
Carl Moyer
Donald & Norma Righi
Everett Sather
Roger & Sandra Spahr
Evelyn Sexauer
Myrtle Sexauer
Ollie J. Weigel
Don & Carolyn Zuck
Dream Steam (In-Kind)

GOLD: $500--$999
Richard Logli In Memory of Rico Logli
Bill & Barb Agan
Phillip M. Thompson (In-Kind)
Fred & Fran Smith
In Memory of Manilla Coppock
In Memory of Ralph Mathis
Ankeny High Class of 1956
Bob Brown Chevrolet, Inc.
W.H. & Marjorie Chase
Commercial Federal Bank
Craig R. Hawkins In Memorial of Nina & Harold Weston
Joyce Lundstrom
Amanda Kuhns-American Bank of Iowa
Scholes Family
Eric Sheldahl
Struthers Bros. - Lee Lundstrom

Silver: $100-499
Family & Friends Memory of George Hart
Family & Friends In Memory of LeRoy Bachman
Vince Sanders
Alpha Rho of Beta Sigma Phi
Glen Cornwell Family In Memory Clifford Cornwell
Evelyn Dann In Memory Ralph C. Dann
Gerald & Marilyn Dennler
Evelyn Rigby
Cecil & Carole Ballard
Denman & Company LLP In Memory of Larry Donaghy
Marilyn Shay In Memory Bill Shay
Ankeny High School Class of 1967
Herbert J. Brown In Memory Mary N. Brown
Beryl Coulson - Coulson Signs
Don & Carole Lea Kraber
Maurices Inc. - Match to Carol Lea Kraber
Loren Sampson Family
Doug & Ellen Smith

Silver: $100-499 (Cont.)
David & Anne Gardner In Memory of John Price, Edith & Bee Morris, J. Arthur, Evelyn, Judy Ault, & Hazel Ault
The Mutcher Family
Ben & Jean Norman
Clarence & Betty Altenburger
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 Lions Club
Ankeny Visual Image Committee
LeRoy & Evelyn Bachman
Victoria Bachman
Gary & Toni Baugher
Geri Begg In Memory of Wayne Begg
Joe, Charles, & Maribeth Begg In Memory of Wayne Begg
James Blair
Ruth Bond
Dennis & Pat Brazelton
Barb & Patrick Breen
Rob & Jennifer Davies
Gail Dippold
Mary Doubleday In Memory of Art Doubleday
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 Laracuente
Marlyn & Zelda 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
John & Mary Moffitt
Jim & Helen Nelson
Janet & Marvin Nichols
Don & Doris Ott
Timothy & Teresa Powers In Memory of Larry Donaghy
Tom & Joan Quinlin
P & R Inc. - Brandt & Janet Crocker
Dick & Suzan Rasmussen
Greg Rasmussen
Louise Vander Linden
Bill & Eva Wallace

Silver: $100-499 (Cont.)
Larry & Linda Wellendorf
Jack & Ruby Wheatly In Memory of Jean Jones
Louise Woods
Ankeny Sanitation (In-Kind)

BRONZE: $50-$99
Craig Hawkins In Memory of Erma M. Hawkins
MidAmerican Matching Jan & Merlin Christians
In Memory of Mary Gilbrech French
Community Bank Plymouth In Memory of George Hart
72 Degree Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Ankeny—Class of 1967 In Memory of Ed Medici
Bless This House, Inc.
Nancy Carr
Merlin & Jan 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
Chris Lamberti
Margaret McBride
Bill Michael Family
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 and Rosemary Taylor In Memory of Betty Hutton
Craig and Karen Hawkins In Memory of Janet Nichols
Arlene Bates In Honor of Sue Rasmussen
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
Ward Mally
Hazel Moeckly
Kelly Morrow
Richard &Gina Sokol
Roy Stoll
Warren W. Thornton

A Little Face Lift!

For a 103 years old she looks pretty good. But everyone can stand a little cosmetic help at this age, especially when you been through a tornado and moved from your original location. We have taken off layers of wallpaper, plaster and even in a few places the lath. Insulation on the outside wall are being installed, along with new dry wall. Dave Humphrey will be installing the dry wall. A big thank you to **Ankeny Sanitation** who has donated the dumpster for the debris of our remodeling. Thank you to Bill Agan and Bryan Lundstrom for a their work in getting the area ready for the new face lift.

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