

Summer 2014 Newsletter

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Mark Your Calendar for a Summer of Fun!

Ice Cream Social



It is time to bake, slice, scoop and enjoy the festivities of the Ankeny Area Historical Society's Ice Cream Social. Along with the sweets and fellowship, visitors can tour both museum buildings on Sunday, June 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. To contribute pies, bars, cakes or cookies please call 965-5795. Tickets of \$3.00 will be available and freewill donations of much higher amounts will be accepted. All proceeds from the Ice Cream Social will benefit the restoration, maintenance and developing of our museums.

Night At The Museum

Our characters come to life on Wednesday, June 11 at *Night at the Museum* from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Founders John and Sarah Ankeny will greet you, a farmer and a coalminer will be on hand to explain how mining and farming played a major roll in Ankeny's history. Rosie the Riveter will be here to tell of her experiences working at the Des Moines Ordnance Plant during WWII. A one-room schoolmarm will teach you what it was like to go to school with no computers or white boards. Also on hand will be a pioneer mom, storekeeper, and a Hawkette telling of a Century of Ankeny High School graduates.



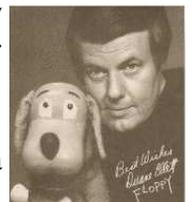
Remembering June 18, 1974—When Killer Storm Rips Ankeny



2014 marks the fortieth anniversary of the first and only killer tornado in Ankeny. On Tuesday, June 18, 1974 at 10:31 p.m. a twenty minute storm rocked Ankeny, destroying homes, schools, a shopping center and killing two residents as they slept. A special open house will be held on Wednesday, June 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Photos, news articles and other pieces of memories of that night will be on display.

What the biggest pencil in the world?

Find the answer to this question and others that were told to Iowa's favorite beagle, Floppy and his friend Duane Ellett. They will be enshrined in a new permanent location here in their hometown of Ankeny. With the cooperation of the Ellett family and the Iowa Historical Society, many wonderful pieces of memorabilia from Floppy's show on WHO-TV will be on display for young and old alike. Date and time of unveiling of display will be announced at a later date.





***They Came, They Saw,
They Learned!***

Over the period of a week, over 700 Ankeny seventh graders were guest and tourist at the Ankeny historical museums. They observed and listened to the many tour guides that told them of the life in Ankeny over the past 139 years. . . in the coal mines, on the farms, in the schoolhouse, kitchen, stores and at the WWII Ordnance plant. The annual event is now in its 12th year.

Pumpkin Seeds In Ground!

Friend and farmer John Jensen stopped by our latest meeting to inform the membership that the pumpkin seeds were purchased, planted and to plan on another bumper crop of the orange beauties sometime in October. Last year, over \$5,000 was raised by having an “honor system” sale system in the front yard of the museum as well as delivering hand-monogrammed pumpkins to businesses around town. Volunteers will again be sought to go out in the fields on their hands, knees and stomachs to inscribe names and logos on the pumpkins. . .but not until it is hot, humid and buggy.



Open Houses—Sundays and SummerFest

June 2, July 6 and August 3 our museums will be open to tour from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A special open house will be during SummerFest on Saturday, July 12 from noon—3:00 p.m.



Miniature Farm Set by Odis Landsverk

A hand-made to scale farm set by the late Odis Landsverk of Ankeny is now on display. The set includes a furnished house, barn, windmill, silo, chicken coup, milk house, outhouse and many more buildings, animals and people to complete the set.

Pictured with the farm set is Odis' son and daughter-in-law, Ivan and Bonnie Landsverk and their daughter Chloe.

Tables for display were built by Bill Agan.



Spring Luncheon A Big Success!

This year's luncheon was another big success. Thank you for all who attended and a special thank you to Carmen's flowers for the gorgeous centerpieces.



DATES TO REMEMBER

June 2 —Open House—2 to 4 p.m.

**June 11— Night at the Museum
6 to 8 p.m.**

**June 18—Tornado Display Open House
6 to 8 p.m.**

June 22— Ice Cream Social—2 to 4 p.m.

June 24—Open House—2 to 4 p.m.

July 6—Open House—2 to 4 p.m.

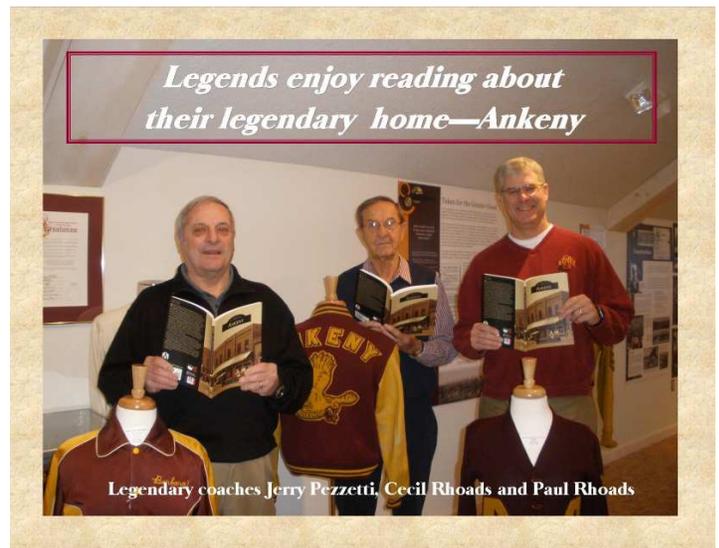
July 12—SummerFest Open House

Noon to 3 p.m.

July 22—Monthly Meeting—7:00 p.m.

August 3—Open House—2 to 4 p.m.

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



Images of America—Ankeny

Want a good book to read this summer? Try the *Images of America—Ankeny* book. Full of pictures, history and information about Ankeny.

Books are available at the historical society for \$22. For members, each additional book purchased is \$11.

They will make great graduation gifts!

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