

# ANKENY

# 125<sup>th</sup>

# Anniversary



Mrs. Robert Peary and children.



Ankeny  
**PRESS CITIZEN**



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# 125 years later and Ankeny is still home to pioneers

For a city 125 years old, Ankeny certainly has a fresh atmosphere about it.

With the exception of its two older cemeteries, it's difficult to find any striking landmarks that date back beyond 60 years. Most of those have been re-designed, remodeled or reconstructed to fit into a modern world. Ankeny-ites are still pioneering.

The city is vibrant. It moves. The dust from new construction isn't given

should awaken to this 21st Century Ankeny, he'd think he was in a nightmare, compared to what the region was like when he went to sleep. But before he stumbled too far, a caring hand would reach out to him and someone would ask, "Hey, buddy. Do you need some help?"

This he would recognize from 125 years ago — a good neighbor.

Ankeny may have its history rooted in three separate centuries, but it hasn't lost its heritage of 19th Century work ethics, 20th Century crystal ball gazing and eternal good intentions.

Old Rip would find a home here.

While gas-driven engines have replaced the horse and buggy, the exciting frontier spirit of accepting challenges and overcoming adversity still drives the city's pulse.

The 21st Century, muscle-flexing Ankeny is a city of 20th Century weapon technology and world adversity. The establishment of the federal ordnance plant for the manufacture of ammunition in 1942

during World War II brought the city to the attention of outsiders. Few recognized it then, but this plant marked Ankeny's transition from a sleepy, rural community to a bustling, bursting-at-the-seams city that over the past 25 years has become one of the fastest-expanding suburban areas in Iowa.

Those who did recognize it have prospered. They have developed Ankeny into a builder's dream, residentially and commercially.

**PIONEERS/Continued on Page 4**



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time to settle before the next project is underway. Satellite dishes and cell phone towers buzz with activity.

If a 125-year-old Rip Van Winkle



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Ankeny  
community  
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**IOWA'S NEWS LEADER**

# ANKENY PRESS CITIZEN

Ankeny Always Advancing  
Printed in Ankeny  
**Ankeny Press-Citizen**

**Bid For Paving Is Below Estimate**

**FINAL SERVICES HELD FOR DAVID HOWARD**

**A.S.C. Election Results Announced**

PRESS BITS

YOUR WEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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BRAND TEASING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Meet Howie's Friends Inside

Brianwood is sold to investment group. See page 10.

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ANKENY

# ANKENY PRESS CITIZEN

Week of March 4, 199

620 SW Third Street

**Trade Fair talent**



Shirley Rines, a country music artist...

WHD-TV FIRST ALERT FORECAST

THURSDAY 58

FRIDAY 48

SATURDAY 32

SUN 30

MON 34

TUE 50

WED 30

THUR 46

FRI 48

SAT 32

SUN 30

# ANKENY PRESS CITIZEN

Your Community Newspaper "It Speaks For Itself."

Week of February 23 to March 6, 2008

**PRESS CITIZEN IT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF / SHOPPER**

**Last picture show at the Paramount 5 Theatre**



WHD-TV FIRST ALERT FORECAST

TUESDAY 64

WEDNESDAY 70

THURSDAY 72

FRIDAY 68

SAT 40

SUN 44

MON 47

TUE 48

WED 48

THUR 48

FRI 48

# ANKENY PRESS CITIZEN

Your Community Newspaper "It Speaks For Itself."

Week of October 10 to Oct 16, 2008

## SLICES

PLAY AUDITIONS

...The first of the...

## SOUP SUPPER

...The first of the...

## R-rated means religion at new ACA

BY SANDY SAUERMAN

MANAGING EDITOR

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ACA Continued on Page 18

**PIONEERS/Continued from Page 1**

steamroller got started, it began feeding off itself and let very few roadblocks prevent it from happening.

Throughout history, progress has had its casualties. Changing marketing patterns brought the super retail stores into the economy, and to Ankeny due to accessibility through transportation. Their purchasing power and visibility

**The 21st Century, muscle-flexing Ankeny is a city of 20th Century weapon technology and world adversity.**

have pressured smaller, local operations. The closing of Dillows Super Valu at the corner of First Street and Ankeny Boulevard has been a more visible impact. Ankeny's prime location continues to attract residents, some working here and others choosing to commute.

Their houses are built on what was once Ankeny's base of prosperity — farmland. Their children have presented the school system with extreme space and financial challenges. Traffic patterns have changed, causing city planners to make

major adjustments in flow charts. New social problems have come to the forefront. Community leaders have stepped up to the plate to answer these challenges.

The new local option sale tax to assist the county's schools kicked in last July. Planning boards and councils are taking serious focus on the direction of the city's growth. The Neveln Resource Center was created to offer housing to social agencies. City blueprints are being redrawn, which will likely increase the size of Ankeny from nine to 12 acres very soon.

This city quivers with vitality. Challenges. Answers. More challenges. More answers.

Yet through it all, residents have time to lean over the backyard fence and ask their neighbor, "How you doin?," and mean it.

**Section compiled by Sandy Sanderson, Managing Editor. Thanks to the Ankeny Historical Society and the many individuals who lent their time, photographs, clippings and memories to this project.**



**Ankeny's founder never lived in the town**

Ankeny was established on April 22, 1875, by John Fletcher Ankeny, a doctor and adventurer. He was of French Huguenot ancestry. The name was originally spelled Angene.

He was the first clerk of the California legislature, ventured to Hawaii, was a member of the Illinois legislature and a campaign worker for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He moved to Des

**ANKENY/Continued on Page 5**



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## Caring for people

Ankeny residents have been willing to lend a helping hand since the town's inception. Here's an article taken from the *Des Moines Capital* newspaper on Nov. 27, 1921:

### ANKENY/Continued from Page 4

Lincoln in 1860. He moved to Des Moines in 1869 and in 1872 was elected to the city council.

He bought the land that would become Ankeny on July 1, 1874, for \$1,600, from Will

Lewis, platting the land the next year.

Being a member of the Des Moines political scene, it is likely Ankeny had advance notice of the routing of the upcoming railroad. He was

a promoter and stockholder of the Des Moines and Minneapolis Railroad, whose owners were F.



Main (Cherry) and Third Streets

## Ankeny to Hold Near East Meet

Plans for a community meeting Tuesday evening at Ankeny to raise cash and corn for the Near East Relief were announced Saturday afternoon by C.D. Reed of the weather bureau, chairman of the

M. Hubbell and J. S. Polk.

Ankeny founded another town, Ankona Heights, in Florida in 1882. He died in 1886 in Stark, Fla., and his body was returned to Des Moines for burial.

Ankeny never lived in the town he founded in Iowa.

He did, however, build the first combination rooming house and hotel on the northwest corner of Third and Walnut Streets, selling it to the managers, Mr. and Mrs. J. Beals, in 1881. Ankeny also built the first store at the northeast corner of


Polk County campaign.

The meeting will be a community affair, arranged by businessmen and farmers. The following committee is in charge: G.E. Goughmour, chairman; B.T. Haulman and William Randolph, solicitation committee; John S. Albaugh, Charles Hildreth and Mr. Wagner, corn campaign; Mr. A.E. Merkel and D.M. Essick, program.

The motion picture, "Alice in Hungerland," showing conditions in the famine regions of the Near East will be shown.

**Glad We're  
Here to Celebrate.  
Congratulations!**

FROM:  
Dr. John Weigel,  
Dr. Jeff Stewart,  
& Dr. Matthew McCullough



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1971



Opened Photography  
Business 1985



Jon, Deb, Kyle & Kirk  
Jamison 2000

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# Black gold aided Ankeny economy



Coal mining played an important role in Ankeny's economy for many years, offering employment and bringing in permanent residents.

Coal was found by soldiers at Fort Des Moines in the vicinity of the Des Moines River. The first shaft and stone quarry were opened in 1843 by Capt. James Allen and A.N. Hayes. Coal was not a "hot" commodity at the time since there was an abundance of timber to burn.

Crocker Township had two important mines — the Carney (Saylor Coal Co. No. 2 shaft) and Oralabor (Saylor Coal and Mining Co.).

The Carney mine opened in 1906 and operated until the early to mid 1930s. This was a relatively

deep mine some 350 feet down and produced a clean, high quality coal. At some places the vein was as much as five feet thick and was a dry mine, not bothered by water.

Most of the digging was southwest and extended to what is now Hwy. 415. More than 300 miners were employed during the winter months.

The Oralabor shaft was to the north and was an entirely different type mine.

The coal was of poorer quality with a high sulfur content and had to be cleaned before marketing. Mining was mainly north of the shaft. There was a continuous water problem, eventually causing the mine to be closed.

It was reported that miners like the management, supervised by the Carney brothers, and were well treated. Miners were given opportunities for extra earnings that did not exist in many mines of that day. Ankeny area miners also worked in the mines located in Saylorville and Enterprise.

The Mines and Minerals Department of the State and Iowa was abolished by an act of the legislature in 1973.

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# How times have changed

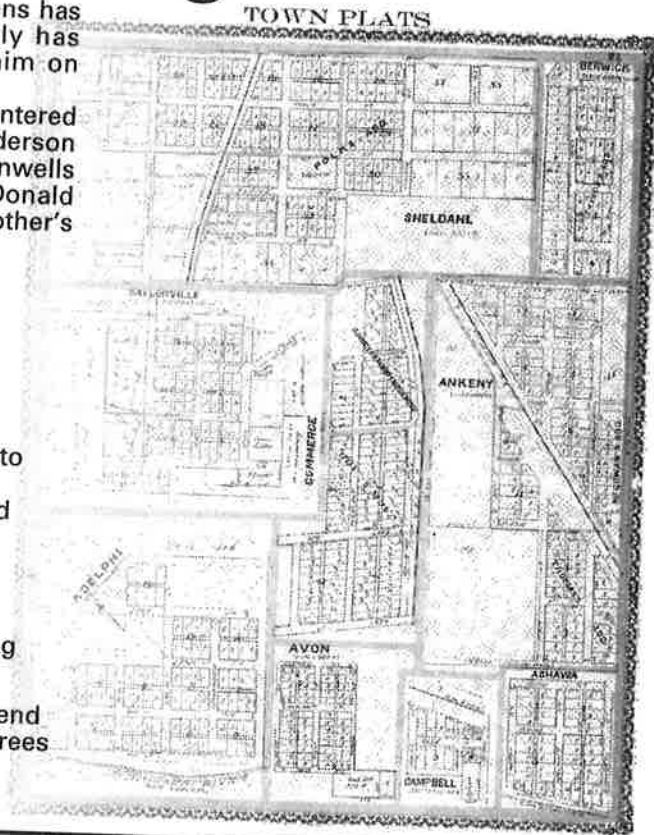
While the advancement of law and legal descriptions has become more precise over the decades, it certainly has eliminated some colorful attempts to put one's claim on property.

On March 31, 1885, an indenture of farmland was entered in the county of Fleming, state of Kentucky, with Anderson Cornwell and his wife, Margaret (nee Story). The Cornwells were great grandparents of three Ankeny residents: Donald Cornwell, Glen Cornwell and Myrtle Sexauer, whose mother's maiden name was Cora Cornwell.

The land's location is described as follows:

- Beginning at a stake in John Hunter's line
- Thence E 116 poles to a stake
- Thence 84 poles 22 links to a locust stump
- Thence N 82, E 31 poles, 11 links to a dead oak
- Thence N 4-1/2 W 51 poles to a black ash stump
- Thence along Graham's line N22 W 12 19-1/2 poles to a sugar tree and black ash
- Thence S 63 216 N 10 W 21 poles to a sugar tree and hickory
- Thence W 25 poles to a small blue ash and hickory
- Thence W 31-1/2 poles to a stake on the bank of the creek
- Thence N 15 W 113 poles to the beginning containing 109-1/2 acres (\$2,200).

It likely would be difficult for a financial institution to lend money off a description like this today, particularly if the trees were cut down and the stumps removed.



*Time passes, memories fade ... don't leave yours to chance.*

*Preserve those special memories for the generations to come.*



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# Postcards...

Photos in the early 20th Century were often printed on postcards.



Postcard stock paper was manufactured for individuals interested in amateur photography and could print their photos in their own darkroom. Sometimes, the light from a kerosene lamp or gaslight was enough to expose the chemicals on the paper.

The paper was often referred to as "gaslight paper" and was readily available at the local store.

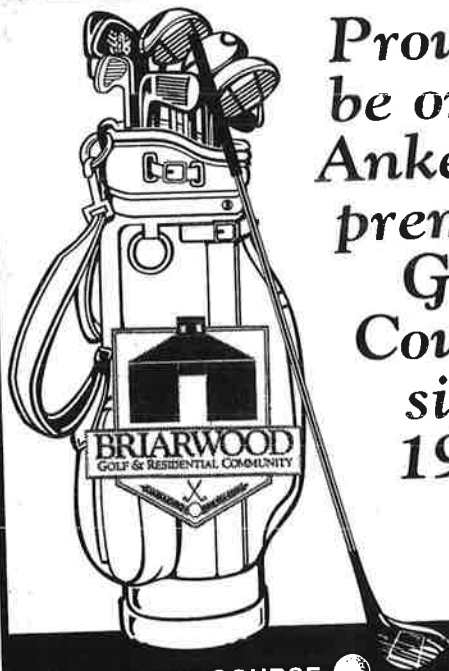
This method was most popular between 1909 and 1920, and because many of the photos were mailed, a postmark readily identified the age of the photo.

However, even then, processors were tempted to "customize" the photos by superimposing images over another, leaving the viewer to guess whether they were seeing an actual event or scene.

## Memories

Myrtle Sexauer compiled a number of recollections for the Ankeny Area Historical Society, many of which have been lost over the advent of the generations. Here are a few samples, with each sentence to begin with "Remember..."

- a shivaree for a newly-married couple.
- when two students sat in each seat in the school room
- oilcloth on the kitchen table.
- laying soapstones on the heater so that later they would warm your feet in the ice-cold bed.
- sticking the curling iron into the lamp chimney to curl your hair.
- when the good ol' days took some cranking: cars, clothes wringer, gramophone, telephone.
- when you left one bite of food on your plate as a gesture of politeness to show that you had been served not only plenty, but more than enough.
- mending runs in silk stockings.
- a wash hung on lines in the house or attic on a rainy washday.



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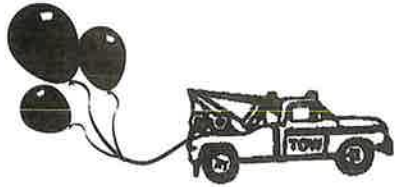
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# One-room country schools began education tradition



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Iowa has a tradition of quality schools.

The foundation was set by the turn of the 20th Century with an extensive system of one-room country schools. At one time there was a school roughly within any two-mile walking distance in the state, so everyone had an opportunity for education.

Iowa had the most country schools of any state, with a high of 12,623 in 1901. The first schoolhouse in Crocker Township was made of logs and built in 1850. Several were located in the Ankeny area, including:

Franklin School in Crocker Township.

Union School in Crocker Township.

Oralabor District in Crocker Township.

Nagle School in Crocker Township, located directly south of Ankeny

on Oralabor Road (Northwest 70th Avenue), approximately one-fourth mile west of State Street. This school is now used as facilities to operate a trucking company.

Rock Creek in Crocker Township.

Greenwood School in Douglas Township, located two miles south and two miles east of Ankeny, one-fourth mile north of Northeast 70th Avenue on Northeast

29th Street. It is at the southwest corner of the bridge crossing the Four-Mile Creek and now a home.

Lincoln School in Lincoln Township, at the Elkhart corner.

Randolph School in Douglas Township, two miles east of Ankeny.

Riley School in Douglas Township.

The schools were the center for social activities. The room would be packed when students had a program, a play or picnic. Parent-Teacher Associations monthly meetings were

regularly attended. Box suppers, square dancing and other social outings were hosted at these schools. There was usually a well close by, and older boys fetched buckets of water. Everyone drank out of the same dipper.

The sole teacher usually boarded with a family located near the school. The teacher taught all subjects at all levels through eighth grade. Students were given a "county" test, which in Polk County was given at Greenwood Park in Des Moines.

If the students passed the test, they were allowed to attend the high school of their choice, with their local township school paying their tuition — if the student or the parents decided on a secondary education.

Bessie Lundstrum Carlson, who attended Rock Creek School, recalls, "The school was closed in the spring

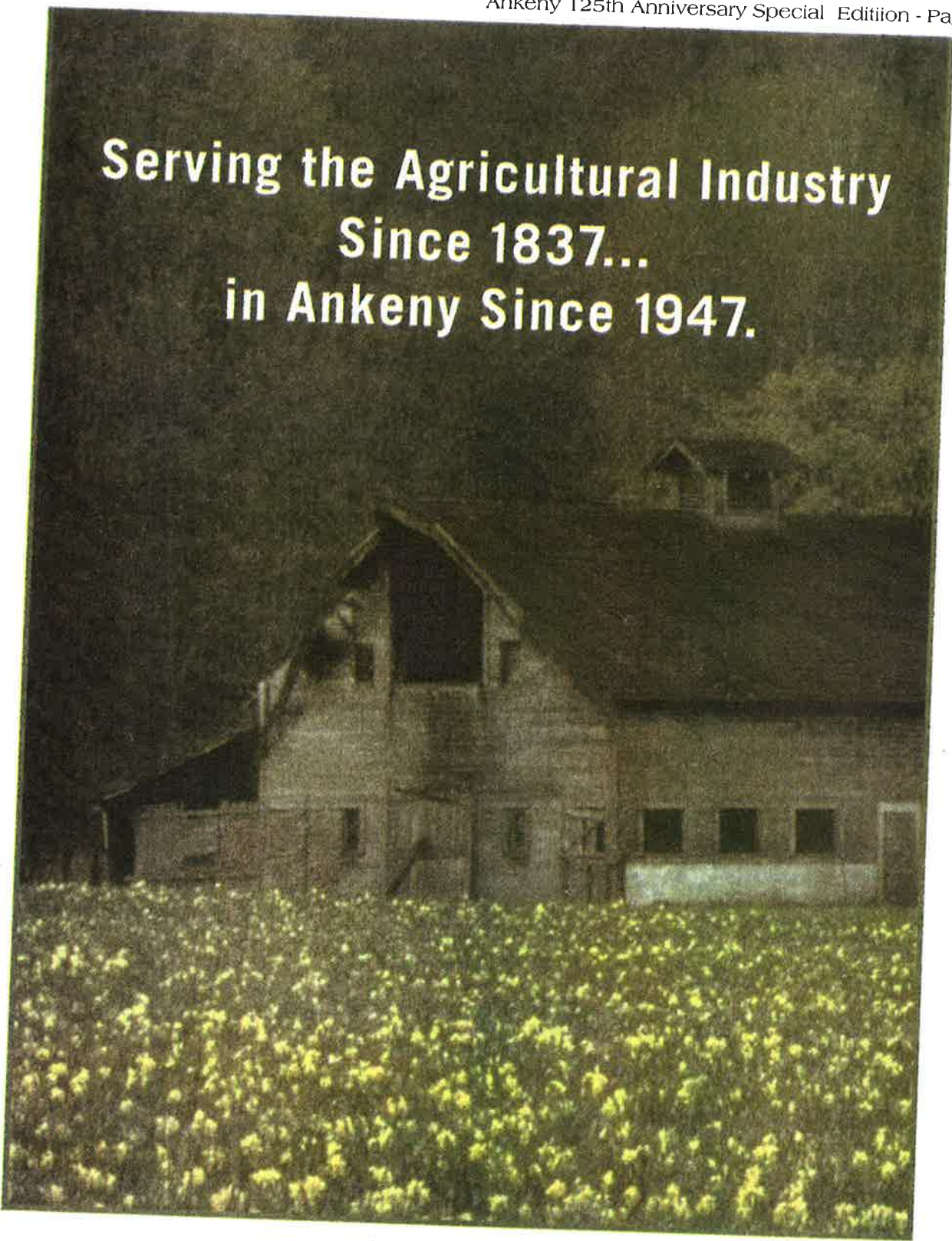


**ANKENY GRADS** are proud of their school and make every attempt to return for reunions. This group represents the class of 1935 at the class reunion of 2000, their 65th. Shown standing, from left, are Dorothy Dippold Wyant, Mary Fontanini Scott, Kathryn Evans Bell and Myrtle L. Sexauer. Seated in front, from left, are Ward Mally, Ada Fontanini Atkinson and Twyla Pointer Albaugh.

of 1918. My sister and brother passed the eighth grade exams and would go to high school, leaving just four in the school. Therefore, we went to Ankeny that fall, with a horse and buggy most of the time, since the roads were so bad.

"My brother and I didn't know what grade were in, but the teacher must have graded us according to our ages. I sure was scared. That was a big school."

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# 1919 murder shocks the community

On May 8, 1919, Mrs. Fred T. Coppock was murdered at the family home east of Ankeny. Her body was discovered about 9:30 a.m. by her son, Marion, who was returning home after visiting with an uncle.

Her husband, a Methodist minister in Ankeny, was away at the time on a lecture tour in southern Iowa.

A search for the killer was immediately launched. A newspaper article at the time says, "A suspect, a demented soldier claiming to be from Camp Dodge, was picked up at Baxter and while he acts strangely and does not seem able to give a true account of himself, it is not yet known whether he had anything to do with the case."

The news article also stated, "This terrible crime has put the community in a fever heat and should the fiend who committed it be found, he will get what is coming to him..."

"The funeral was held Sunday afternoon at the Ankeny Methodist Church and was one of the largest ever held in the history of our town. The remains were interred in the family lot at Greenwood Cemetery under the spreading branches of the stately trees that border Four Mile Creek, where the song birds sing and the little chipmunk plays upon the fallen logs unmindful that in that grave lies a darling mother whose presence in the home and community will be greatly missed in the years to come."

About two weeks later, Charles Walker, 25, of Highland Park in Des Moines turned himself into authorities at Rising Sun and confessed to the murder.

A farm worker, Walker had spent three years at the Eldora Reform School and two terms in Clarinda after being judged insane. He escaped from Clarinda about a month and a half before he admitted to committing the murder.

He told detectives he had planned to rob the Coppock house after spending the night in a shack nearby following a trek to hunt birds with a .22 caliber rifle.

"I went up to the door. When the woman came, I told her to throw up her hands. She refused and grabbed the end of the rifle," Walker said.

"I then pulled the trigger three times. I shot twice, and the first two shots she was moving around, but at the third shot she fell. I then looked around to see what was in the house.

"I took about \$3 in money that was in two pocketbooks. I also took a boy's pocketbook and threw it away on the railroad and the rifle close to Hull Avenue."

Walker was judged insane and was sentenced to Anamosa for the duration of his insanity. In 1952, 32 years later, he was judged sane and released after a trial where the jurors felt he had suffered enough.

**Bid For Paving Is**  
FOR DAVID HOWARD  
The Board of Public Works will receive bids for paving the streets of Ankeny, Iowa, on May 15, 1919. The Board will receive bids for paving the streets of Ankeny, Iowa, on May 15, 1919. The Board will receive bids for paving the streets of Ankeny, Iowa, on May 15, 1919.

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Since 1986

**Dave's Jewelry**

## John Deere enters the Ankeny scene

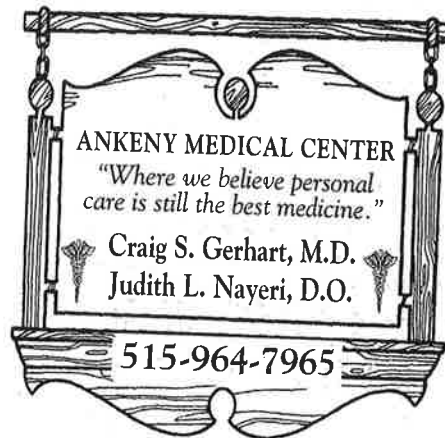
The John Deere Co. purchased 587 acres, including 43 buildings, of the Des Moines Ordinance Plant in October, 1947, for \$4.15 million. The company sold or razed 22 of the buildings and invested millions to remodel and reconstruct the remaining buildings.

Deere started production in the new plant in February, 1948, making corn pickers and cultivators. Cotton harvesting equipment was added to the line and in 1950 it became the first machine designed and built from basic Des Moines Works' concepts.

Through the years, potato planters, beet harvestors, rotary hoes, rod weeders and stock wagons were produced at the Ankeny plant.

New products which were developed and engineered at the plant include hi-cycle sprayers, corn attachments for combines and the crop thinner. The plant has also developed the chisel plow, corn huskers, tool bars and cotton strippers.

Employment at the start of production in 1948 was 546 and peaked in 1974 at 2,568.



The logo for SYSCO IOWA. The word 'SYSCO' is in a large, stylized, serif font with a thick, curved underline that sweeps over the 'O'. Below 'SYSCO', the word 'IOWA' is written in a smaller, simpler serif font.

# Happy Anniversary

SYSCO Food Services of Iowa  
salutes Ankeny on their  
125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Our SYSCO family is looking forward  
to being a part of the community soon.

Happy <sup>125th</sup> Birthday Ankeny!

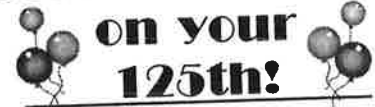


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**Congratulations Ankeny on 125 years!**



C H I L D T I M E

Children's Centers  
718 NE Grant St., Ankeny

# Ammunition plant marked beginning of Ankeny's enormous growth

The single event of the 20th Century which put Ankeny in the forefront of growth was World War II.

Because of the national emergency and the need to locate an ordnance plant in the middle of the nation where it was secure, Ankeny was selected by the War Department as the site of an ordnance plant and range testing area.

Money and personal sacrifice did not pose any serious barriers for the government.

Land was acquired by government edict. Residents were displaced and their homes offered for quick sale, or destroyed.

The F. W. Fitch Farm, a model stock and dairy operation totalling 558 acres with immaculate buildings, was removed as was the Conrad



**THE ORDNANCE PLANT** was opened with much military pomp and circumstance, with the Navy band giving a concert and many speakers marking the occasion.

Dietz house, built in 1867 and a stagecoach stop in the 1870s. The average price for the Fitch Farm was \$277 an acre. This compared to a reported sale of Iowa land by an insurance company that sold 27,410 acres at an average of \$83 an acre. Many landowners complained of the price offered and appealed - to no avail.

Some 2,000 acres of land, mostly in Crocker Township and the southern tip of Saylor Township, were acquisitioned for the rifle range. In late August, 1941, all occupants of farms and homes were given notice to vacate by Sept. 15, 1941. The only structure left standing on the showplace Fitch Farm was a barn, to be used as an administrative office.

The plant was built and equipped at a total cost of \$54,745,46 between July 31, 1941, and June 15, 1942.



Within two weeks of groundbreaking, 353 administrative employees were housed in the Fitch barn and more than 1,000 workers were constructing the plant. Laborers were paid 75 cents an hour and required to pay \$25 for a labor union permit.

By mid-August, 1,088 people were employed with the payroll at \$46,000. Within a week, payroll had jumped to \$107,00 with 400 administrative staff and 1,800 hourly workers. This did not include employees of U.S. Rubber, prime contractors, or the Army Quartermaster Corps.

Private buses were operated to the plant. Des Moines Transit operated between the city and the plant charging riders 20 cents each way, or 10 rides for \$1.50. Cars were eventually driven to the plant, with drivers being paid \$1.25 to \$1.50 each week by the worker.

Ankeny's population immediately increased by 200, to 925. A second restaurant joined the existing one in town, which remained open until 1 a.m. to accommodate the late shift workers. A trailer camp, operated by Lawrence Lein west of his locker plant and grocery store, increased to 16 trailers with a capacity for 135 workers.

Newcomers referred to Ankeny as the "Indian reservation," because there were no beer parlors, pool halls or entertainment theaters in town.

The first cartridge-making machine was set Nov. 30, 1941, seven days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The first cartridge passed fire testing on

Jan. 31, 1941. The plant had the capacity of producing two million rounds of army cartridges daily, later increasing to eight million a day.

It would consist of 219 buildings designed to manufacture .30 and .50 caliber cartridges to be used in machine guns and rifles, although .50 caliber rifles were not manufactured at this time.

By Oct. 16, 1942, the ordnance plant had completed 2,150,000 hours without lost time due to an accident, the best record of all ordnance plants in the nation. Employment peaked in 1943 at 19,060. The ammunition was shipped via rail, 35 cars daily or 1,100 a month.

Before the plant ceased production on July 31, 1945, it produced 3,758,280,366 total .30 and .50 caliber cartridges. The plant closed on Sept. 1, 1945.

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## Proud to be part of the Ankeny Community!



James and Donna participating in the community through CCO's SCL program.

Creative Community Options' (CCO) mission is to empower people with disabilities with independent choices and the opportunity to live and work with dignity in their own community. CCO offers two services to help people achieve their life goals and dreams.

In our Supported Community Living Service, our Instructors assist individuals with disabilities to live independently in the home of their choice. Our staff supports people with creating and maintaining a household budget, planning meals, grocery shopping, cooking, maintaining their home and staying connected in the community through volunteer or leisure activities.

#### Our Supported Employment

Consultants work directly with a large number of businesses assisting them to be successful employers of people with disabilities as well as providing on-the-job supports to individuals with disabilities. Our Consultants also assist with employer sensitivity training for the co-workers of a person with a disability.

CCO's current Board of Directors is comprised of Carol Pickett (Chair), Bruce Mehlhop (Vice Chair), Connie Burkholder (Secretary/Treasurer), Kyle Goodmanson, Bill Dunbar, Deb VerPleog, Norm Hoffman, Paul MacMillan and Marv De Nooy.



Gina working at Mueller-Yurgae with CCO's SE supports.



# Ankeny schools have always faced space pressures

Ankeny schools have been faced with having enough classroom space since the first log cabin institution build in 1850, 20 years before Crocker Township was organized.

For example, enrollment in Ankeny schools totals 5,753 today, an increase of 1,857 students from a year earlier. Just 25 years ago, total enrollment was 3,973. That's an increase of 1,770 students over the quarter of a century, an average increase of nearly 71 students each year.

That's larger than total class sizes in many rural schools.

The first school was located on the Woods' farm, approximately one mile south of Ankeny where the east entrance of the Iowa State Experimental Farm joins Hwy. 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 First Street and a room in the I.O.O.F. building served as an overflow room.

The fourth site, selected in 1902, was West Third and School Streets. This three-room building was soon inadequate and was torn down. The two-story, eight-room building, erected in 1909, served the district for more than 60 years, until the damage of the 1974 tornado necessitated demolition.

Ankeny schools were consolidated in 1919, at which time the older part of the present Neveln Resource Center was built. Several country schools were moved to the grounds to accommodate the increased enrollment.

Area schools recorded a marked increase in enrollment with the construction of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant and Testing Range in 1941. Saylor Center had 155 students; Canary Lake listed 110; Woodside 276; Delaware

Township, including Berwick, 260. Crocker Township schools listed 14 at Nagle, Oralabor 65 and Ankeny 317.

The original section of Parkview Middle School was built in 1952 with the west wing being added in 1957 and the east wing in 1964, when Parkview became the high school. In 1959, an addition consisting of offices, a small gym and class rooms joined the two buildings on the corner of First and School Streets.

The high school moved to its present location on North Ankeny Boulevard in 1976.

Quality of education has been of particular concern to parents and school personnel throughout the years.

Last year, 390 seniors graduated from Ankeny High School. Of these, 64 percent attend a four-year college, 29 percent

**SCHOOLS/Continued on Page 17**

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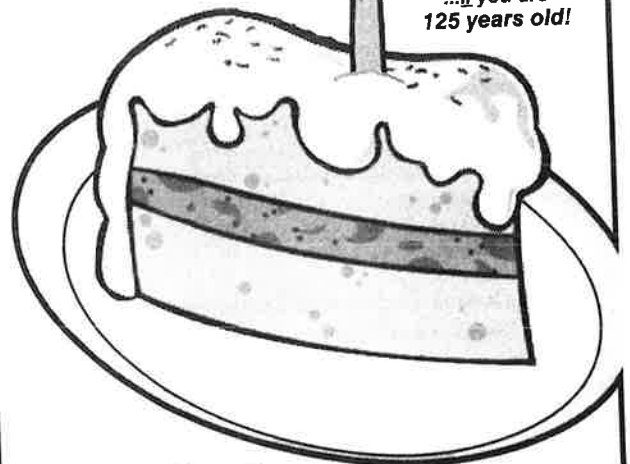
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**SCHOOLS/Continued from Page 16**

attend a two-year college training program, and two percent entered the military.

Most Ankeny High School students take the American College Testing Program (ACT), the college entrance exam. A score of 20 or higher on a 36-point scale is the score that Iowa's state universities require for acceptance. Since 1995, Ankeny students have averaged higher than 22 percent in the composite scoring of English, math, reading and science.

The district has 703 full and part time employees, of which 366 are teacher, all certified. Of these, 45 percent have Bachelor's Degrees and 55 percent have Master's Degrees. Some 59 percent of them have more than 10 years teaching experience.

More than 65 Ankeny residents serve on school advisory committees, discussing topics ranging from school-to-work, curriculum goals and student achievement data.

Ankeny schools this year

SALARIES OF TEACHERS	
1880	Male teacher — \$285/year Female teacher - \$190/year (Higher salary for mail teacher usually justified by citing the youth of the female teacher.)
1915	\$450/year
1933	\$750/year (Roomed with neighbor and no supplies furnished.)
1949	\$4,100/year
1999	\$33,975/year, average (benefits not included)

operate on a budget of \$34,759,253, of which \$11.6 million is from property taxes, \$19.7 million from state aid and \$3.4 million is from other funding. More than \$25 million of the budget is spend on instruction.

**Council Meeting Excerpt:**

July 7, 1924 - Employed Milton Fox to motorcycle traffic policeman. He is to receive 50% and the town 50% of the fines.

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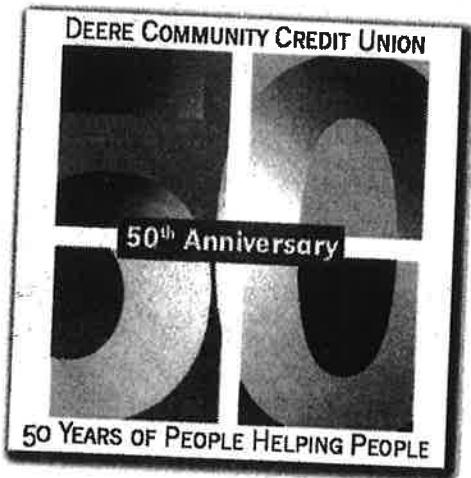
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Colossians 1:28



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From the pages of...

# The Ankeny Times

WENTY-NINETH YEAR ANKENY, IOWA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1930 NO. 31

**The Ankeny School News**

**SECOND EVENING SCHOOL WELL ATTENDED**  
At the second evening school meeting last Wednesday thirty men were present, increasing the credit earned to 22 in addition to a few...

**A. H. S. Vocational Agriculture**

**E. K. HART**

**The YELLOW PENCIL with the RED BAND**

**EAGLE PENCIL CO. MIKADO**



## Merry Christmas

It gives us great pleasure to add our Holiday Greetings to the many you will receive at this season. If you are a customer of ours, accept our whole-hearted thanks for your patronage. You have contributed to our successful year. We hope our efforts and our line of equipment have been of equal or greater help to you.

We are actively looking forward to another year, and are already getting our big stocks of McCormick-Deering Machines and IHC Repairs together.

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- ed Pineapple, 2 1-2 can 29c
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# Resilient, resourceful and tough

Pioneers were resilient and resourceful, and tough.

The Sexauer family came to America in 1944. Matthew Sexauer, one of Ankeny's original settlers, was born Sept. 24, 1845, in Erie County, Penn. His mother died when he was 2.

His father remarried two years later and came to Polk County in 1850. The elder Sexauer was a surveyor and on one of his surveying journeys a rattlesnake bit their dog.

Mrs. Sexauer got some of the snake's poison in her system while treating the dog. Her head swelled to twice its size.

There was no doctor available. Mrs. Sexauer saved her life by drinking two pints of rye whisky. The dog's life was saved by washing its wound with common lye soap.

In the fall of 1858, Matthew Sexauer had 40 fat hogs two sell.

He butchered two and took the carcasses to Des Moines. When he was offered 2 1/2 cents a pound, he was so irritated he took the meat home, killed the other 38 and smoked the meat so he could wait for a better price.

He also stored his corn and wheat, rather than sell the commodities for 10 cents and 35 cents a bushel, respectively.

The next year, prices went up. He sold his smoked pork for 18 and 20 cents per pound, seed corn for \$1.50 a bushel and 500 bushels of wheat for \$1.50 a bushel.

*NEWSPAPER ADS from 1957 often utilized famous personalities to get their message across, like the one here at right for Denniston & Partridge being ptomoted by crooner Bing Crosby.*

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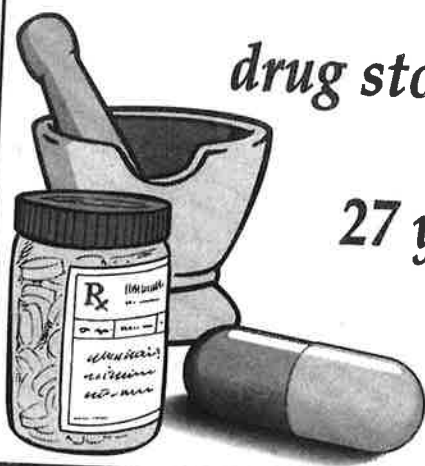


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# Former Story athlete has great m

BY BARRY BENSON



The 1950 Iowa State High School runner-up basket ball team included, front row, from left, Robert Johnson, Harold Hildreth, Merrit Parsons, Barney Alleman, Vernon Herring, Ron Fontana and Ray Fontana. Back row, from left, Keith Hildreth, Ray Brown, Gail Gibson, Jack Kovacevich, Randall Hirsh and George Alleman.

As eighth grade quarterback for Story City then as varsity spinback and sprinter for Nevada, I have great respect for Ankeny teams during the 1950s and 1960s - and three of my most memorable athletic experiences.

During our Story City eighth grade football game Ankeny's quarterback and safety, a short African American who ran like the wind, had uncanny instincts. I'll never forget lining up eyeball-to-eyeball with him and hearing him say, "Watch up the middle!" How did I know? He guessed right through that game, when Ankeny won.

I had been manager of Story City's high school football team. Their coach



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## memories playing against Ankeny

Fred M. Clarke, was like a father to me. Clarke's last year at Story, before leaving to coach in Germany, was Story's best team ever (in my mind), led by my high school hero, David Clayberg — who later starred at ISU.

*Des Moines Tribune* Sports Editor Jack North called that class Story's best. "Their basketball team stopped the winning streak of Roland, defending state Class B champion, at 41 in overtime."

Their football team's greatest challenge was the Ankeny Hawks. Editor Ken Prideaux reported, "The two unbeaten elevens battled to a 0-0 draw in the first half before a large crowd. Ankeny never crossed the 50 yard line in the first half. In the third quarter, Clayberg tallied on a six yard slant off tackle after the Vikes took the halftime kickoff and drove 81 yards in 12 plays. But a Jerry Bravard pass to Dave Stearns for the extra point went astray."

With about five minutes left in

the game, "Roger Blair, Hawk fullback drove over from the three. The TD capped an 89-yard march by Ankeny. A key factor in the drive was a 25-yard aerial from Ankeny sophomore quarterback Rex Lamberti to end Bill Howe. The pass moved the Hawks to the Story 20. The Vikings threatened four times but failed to capitalize — with one pass to Stearns short by inches."

"I was really proud of them. They were terrific; it was their best game in four years, a real tough one to lose," reported Coach Fred Clarke after the game."

Another story my wife and 6 kids long ago became sick of hearing is symbolized by my most cherished trophy: "1961 Ankeny Relays 440 Relay: S. Schmidt, B. Smith, S. Benson, B. Benson." It was the only time my brother Steve and I competed together, after our move from Story City to Nevada. I was a senior and he was a freshman phenom (later earning a football scholarship to UNI). When

Steve handed me the baton we had the lead, and, according to teammate Steve Collis (a great quarter- and half-miler with his brother Mike), who today is an Ankeny resident (and Des Moines bail bondsman), "You never ran so fast in your life!"

My brother and I, along with leadoff sprinter Steve Schmidt (whose uncle George was an Ankeny farmer) had missed the team bus from Nevada, so I drove Mom's 1950 2-door yellow Ford, arriving just in time for our event — fishtailing through the dust and gravel parking of Ankeny's 1st St. stadium — with Beach Boys' "Barbara Ann" blaring from our car radio; I jumped on top of the car and twisted/rock-and-rolled as dust settled and teammates waved and yelled for us to get our butts over to the track.

And I never ran so fast in my life as I did that day in Ankeny.

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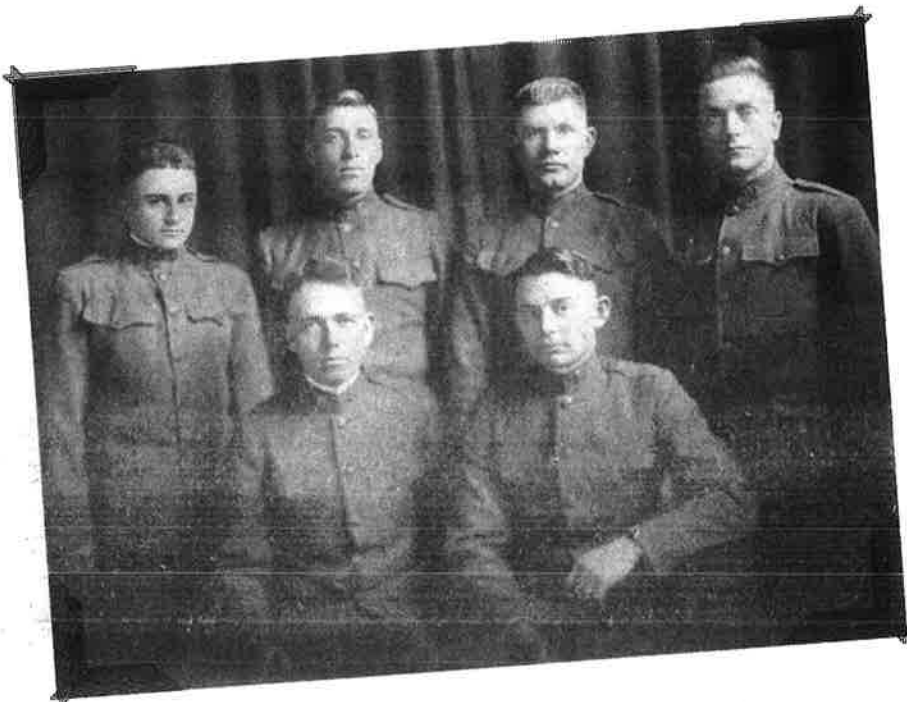
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## Ankeny orphanage

The child Rescue Home was an orphanage located at 110 SW School St., sponsored by the Brethren Church. It was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Erb; their two children were Raymond and Blanche.

After the home closed, it was occupied by various families and later made into apartments by Les and Evelyn Vickery.



## Killer flu epidemic of 1918

More lowans were sick with the flu in February, 1918, than at any time in Iowa history, some 12,537.

More than 42,000 lowans were quarantined with the flu in October. Estimates placed the real number, including unreported cases, at near 100,000.

At least 6,500 lowans died of the flu that fall, plus an additional number from pneumonia.

By contrast, fewer than 3,600 lowans died in the service in World War I.

