

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1940s, 1960s, 1980s*

April 2020



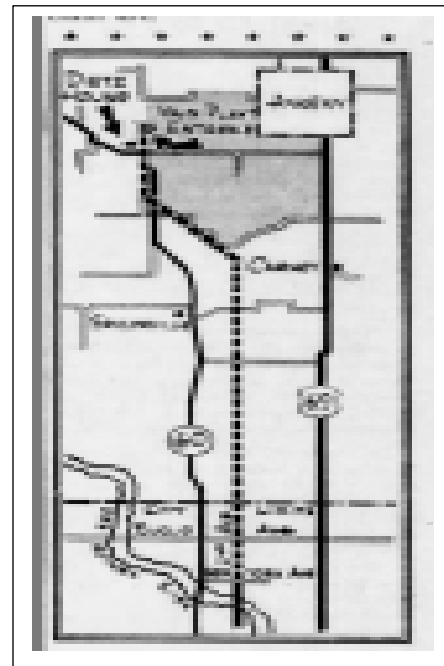
1940s



Des Moines Register, April 15, 1946

4-Lane Road from D.M. to Arms Plant: The Iowa state highway commission plans to take bids for the new concrete highway which will extend Second Ave. in Des Moines to the Des Moines Ordnance Plant near Ankeny. The project, estimated to cost \$650,000, has been approved by the federal government which will pay the entire cost. The road will be 6.6 miles long from Euclid Ave. in Des Moines straight north to the south boundary of the reservation and running northwesterly to the main plant entrance at the Deitz house.

Des Moines Register April 5, 1942



*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.



Ankeny Area Historical Society

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1940s



When it rains, Max Willet gets out his toys. He's the son of the Howard Willets, near Ankeny. *Des Moines Register*, April 4, 1948

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AGRICULTURAL LEASES...

Des Moines Ordnance Plant and Accuracy Range

Approximately 3500 acres of agricultural land in the Des Moines Ordnance Plant and Accuracy Range, near Ankeny, Iowa, assigned to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation for disposal, will be leased for the 1946 crop season.

Proposals for leasing will be received up to and including April 22, 1946

Leases will be made by tracts as acquired by the United States and for cash rent payable in advance. Preference will be given former owners on tracts they formerly owned and intend to reacquire. Information may be obtained and proposals submitted at office of the Project Manager.

F. J. Harrigan, Project Manager
603 Insurance Exchange Building
Des Moines, Iowa

Des Moines Register, April 8, 1948



Norman and Everett Albaugh, sons of Charles Albaugh, Ankeny, farmer, make their farm shop spring headquarters for machinery repair. A door opening 12 feet wide and 10½ feet high admits any piece of equipment. Besides giving all machinery the pre-season once over, the shop helps these farmers make field repairs with a minimum of delay. Built three years ago, the shop has paid for itself quicker than anything else on the place.

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1940s (& 30s)

Ankeny's Bargain Week April 2 to 9

Big preparations are under way for the big Ankeny Bargain week- April 2 to 9, both dates inclusive. The Ankeny Merchants are now arranging a big list of bargains to offer at that time, each one putting up a large number of items in their respective lines. They will have an excellent line, and there will be real bargains too. The advertising will appear soon, and it will be worth your time to look them over carefully as you no doubt will find a number of items that you need and at the prices they quote they will be real bargains. The Ankeny merchants have decided to put on this sale and make the prices so attractive that the people of this section of the county will visit Ankeny during this sale. Look for advertising and read it carefully and note the advantages you have by trading in Ankeny that week. *Ankeny Times, March 18, 1932*



Miss Rita Mae Fontanini, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Fontanini, Ankeny, Iowa, and John De Zorzi, son of Mrs. Isabell De Zorzi, Moran, Iowa, were married at 10 A.M. April 27th (1946) at the St. Ambrose Cathedral. The Rev. Hyland performed the double ring ceremony, followed by a high mass.

The bride was given in marriage by her father wore a gown of white satin with a long train and a veil. She carried red roses. Miss Jennie Bertoli, was the maid of honor and Helen Torri, Louise De Zorzi and Gloria Fontanini were bridesmaids. Roger Stefani and Corlyn Fontanini were ringbearers and Mary Rose Fontanini was the veil and train bearer. Marino Tazzioli was best man and Lew and Joe Fontanini and Louie De Zorzi were the other bridegroom attendants. Following the ceremony 140 guest attended a dinner at the I.O.O.F. Hall at Ankeny. A reception was given in the I.O.O.F. Hall Saturday evening honoring the newlyweds. The couple left for a week's wedding trip and will be at home in Ankeny.

Undated article, from the Doris Bunz Scrapbook collection

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1950s

School Board Calls for Bond

Issue: At a recent meeting of the Ankeny Consolidated school board, a petition was accepted calling for a \$400,000 bond issue to be used for the construction of a grade building with a gymnasium. The board authorized the publication notice of an election on proposed bond issue for the regular school election to be held March 13th. Realizing that the school is already overcrowded and with the increasing enrollment week by week, the board feels that this step is very necessary for this community. The financial condition of the district is good based upon the valuations of the school district and the proposed issue will be published in this paper.

(election to be held March 13, 1950) *Undated article, from the Doris Bunz Scrapbook collection*

Ankeny School District to Vote on May 11: Voters of the Ankeny School District will go to the polls Thursday, May 11 (1950) to decide whether the new building, which needs to be erected in the Ankeny District, shall be located in North Ankeny, near the park, or on the grounds which the district owns and on which two other buildings are located. The new building as we understand the situation, will have a large gym, a modern kitchen for noon lunches, and a fine modern dining room. This dining room will double as a small auditorium with a stage at one end. In addition to this, there will be (if funds permit) about eight classrooms or enough classrooms for grades, kindergarten, first, second, and third, provided there are two sections of each grade. This, then would leave grades four, five, six, seven, and eight and all of the high school in the old building.

The question in many people's minds is this – should we spend two-fifths of a million dollars, and then build something, that, because of its location, cannot be used to its fullest extent, because it isn't where it can be used. Nine grades will remain in the old location. Can they be sent back and forth this distance across two highways? Can they use these facilities in our \$400,000 plan? Undoubtedly the upper grades and high school will need them the most. Will they get to use them? Another question pertains to the savings which would be possible in the old location which would be possible in the old location through the operation of one central heating plant and the utilization of the present smokestack and furnace room in the installation of a boiler for all buildings including the new one. A vote against the issue on account of the location does not mean that the building will not be constructed. Since this is a public enterprise and involves nearly one-half million dollars, it appears that the voters and taxpayers should be allowed a vote in the location.

(Editor's note: The building being discussed is now known as Parkview Middle School. The existing buildings and plant are Neveln and Old Central on School Street and 3rd. Old Central was located where the Ankeny Area Historical Museum now stands.) *Ankeny Times, Undated article, from the Doris Bunz Scrapbook collection*

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1940s

This is all that remains of the rollerskating rink here in Ankeny after the roof gave way Monday due to the weight of more than a foot of snow. F.J. Sexauer, owner and manager estimated it would cost \$3,000 to put the rink back in shape again. So no more roller skating here for a while. *Ankeny Times*, March 12, 1948



1960s

Participate in Fashion Show – Shown pictured are only four of the 100 various costumes modeled in the style show presented at the PTA meeting last Monday night by girls in the home economics classes at Ankeny. Left is Mary Hickie, wearing a two piece beige dress; Barb Sheldahl, wearing a white wool sheath dress; Jo Crawley, modeling two piece blue corduroy bolero and Bermudas, and Lola Timmesch, right, is wearing a jacket and beige skirt. *Ankeny Press-Citizen* – April 28, 1960



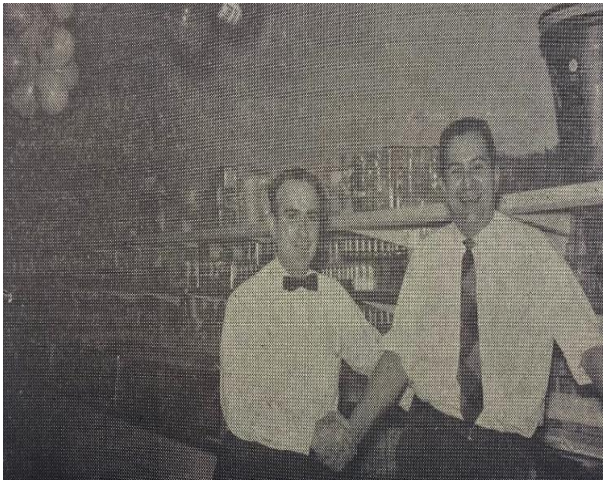
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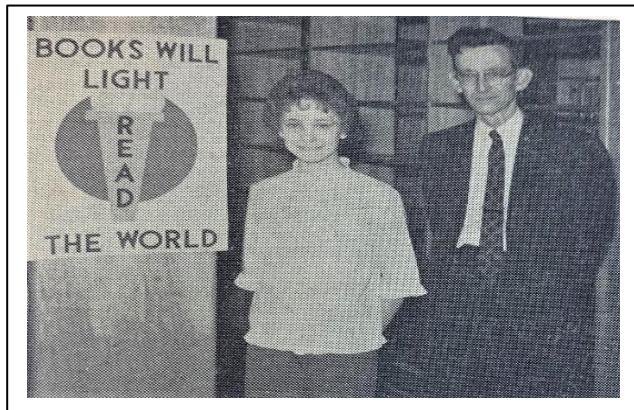
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1960s



Thousands Attend Logli Super Value Grand Opening – Between 4,000 and 5,000 attended the grand opening of the newly enlarged Logli Super Valu store here last week-end. Shown above are Reco and Richard Logli, operators, as they take a breather after completion of the three-day affair. The new addition adds 50% more floor space, and includes larger meat counters, frozen food counters, and more display room. The Loglis and all their employees wish to thank the many who visited them during their grand opening days. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 14, 1960*



It's National Library Week – There were nearly 200 entries in the library poster contest, sponsored by the Kirkendall Library. Shown above is Kay Sargent, winner of the eighth grade entrants, with her poster. Also shown is Bruce Tanner, librarian. The library board will award books to the winners in each grade. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 12, 1962*

Ankeny Police Department Meets – The Ankeny Police Force, under the direction of Earl Hildreth, Chief of Police, is shown above at its regular monthly meeting in the council chambers. Members of the police department are from left to right; Art Doubleday, Leo M. Sprague, Cliff Doubleday, Fred Long, Warren Thornton, Joe Johnson, and Hildreth. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 12, 1962*



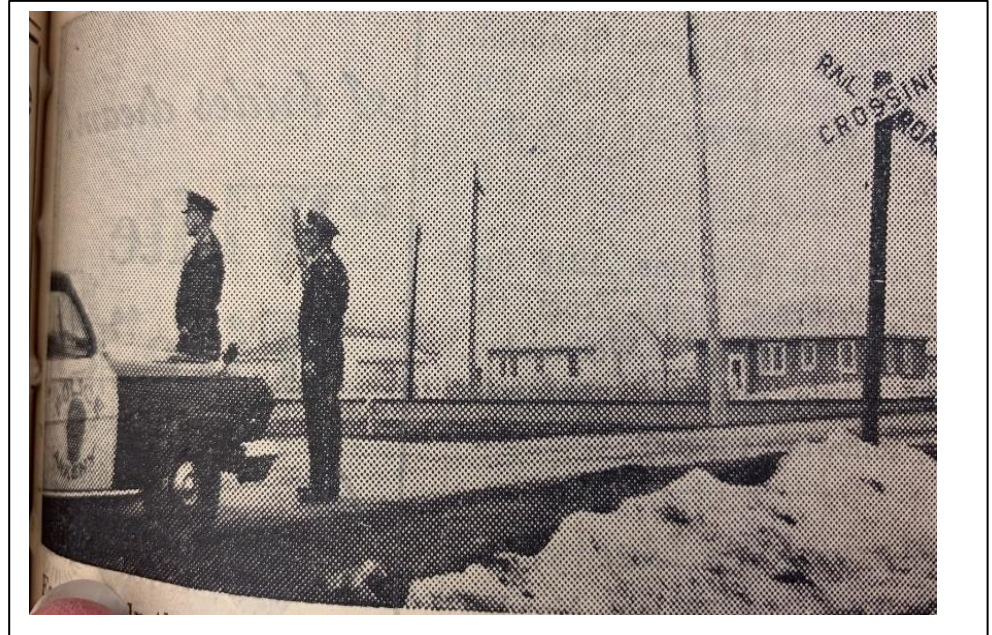
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1960s



Signals to Be Discussed Tonight – A special meeting with local, county, and railroad officials is scheduled tonight in the council chambers. Mayor Norris Adams said the purpose of the meeting is to discuss who is supposed to take the initiative for installing railroad crossing signals on First Street. Mayor Adams said J. W. Bolstad, chief engineer of the Fort Dodge, Des Moines, and Southern Railway Company is planning to attend the meeting. H. L. Barr, division engineer of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company said he would arrange to have a representative for his railroad here tonight. Ankeny's Mayor also said a representative of the Polk County Board of Supervisors would be at the meeting. D. E. McLean, design engineer for the Iowa Highway Commission, was also invited to the meeting, Adams said. However, McLean retorted he didn't feel it would do any good for him or a representative to come, since this matter was directly up to the county and railroad officials. "This comment by McLean illustrates the confusion connected with this situation." The location where Ankeny is trying to obtain a pair of automatic railroad crossing signals would be discussed. *Ankeny Press-Citizen* – April 12, 1962

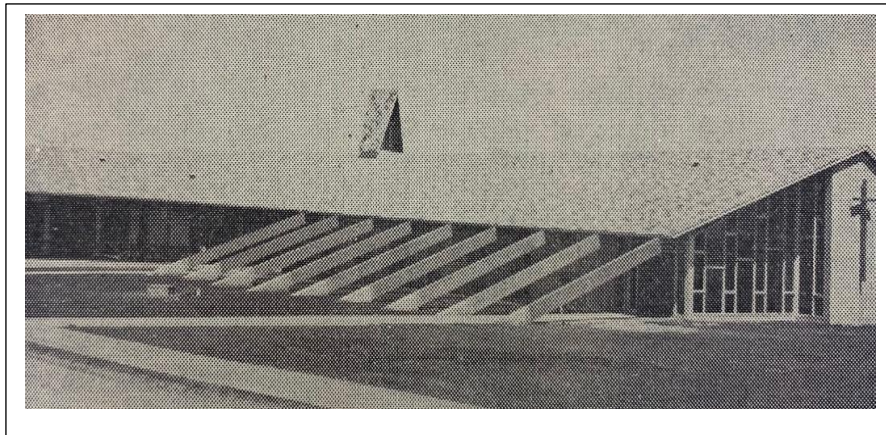
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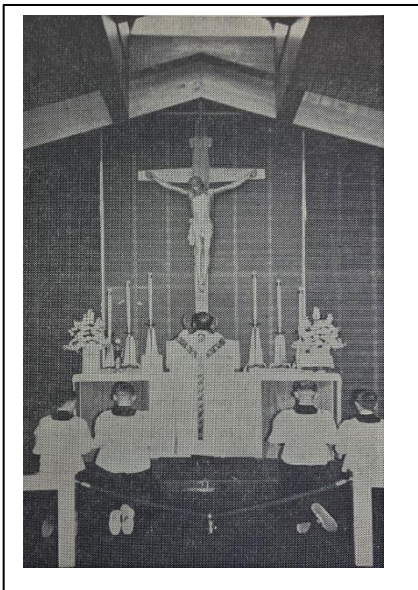
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First Services Sunday at New OLIH – The new Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny will be open on Sunday and first services in the \$225,000 structure will be held at 9 a.m. , and 11 a.m. with the Rev. Woodrow Elias officiating. Seating capacity for services will be approximately 500 and the new modernistic structure also includes living quarters, modern kitchen, and community room. Formal dedication will be held in the near future. In addition to services in Ankeny, there will be a 10 o'clock service at St. Michael's in Carney. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 12, 1962*



Over 600 Attend OLIH Church Open House – Many guests were escorted through in groups, by members of the church. The Rev. Woodrow Elias, founding pastor, was on hand to greet visitors. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 19, 1962*



Progress Thermometer– This thermometer on First Street by the swimming pool site will show at a glance the progress on the new pool. It will be kept up to date as the architect turns in his regular progress reports. Target date for completion is July 1, 1968. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 4, 1968*

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Two More Policemen Are Hired - On Monday night the Ankeny City Council approved the hiring of two new full-time policemen, bringing the full-time force to eight men. There also are two part-time police officers. The new officers, Robert Priest and Richard Barrett, were hired as of April 1 and will start at \$6,000 per year.

Two more volunteer firemen also were approved – Ronald Anderson, and Marvin Perry. In other action, the council: approved cigarette permits for La Pizza Inn and Ankeny Bowl. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 4, 1968*



Two State Track Champs – Two Ankeny trackmen brought home State Championships Saturday from the State Indoor Class A track meet in Iowa City. The Hawk champs in the front row are Ted Leverenz and Rich Albaugh. Behind are Coaches Ormaton and Kinsel. Leverenz won the long jump and Albaugh in the high jump. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 4, 1968*

Set Up Ankeny Tornado Watch -The Citizen Band Radio Club of Ankeny, C. B. Ears has volunteered through the Ankeny Fire Department to serve as tornado observers for the Ankeny area. Whenever a tornado alert in this area is issued by the Des Moines Weather Bureau, the members of the C. B. Ears will go to work. They are all equipped with 2-way radios and will place themselves at various observation points in the Ankeny area. *Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 11, 1968*

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**La Pizza Inn in Ankeny
will be closed all day
Easter Sunday.**

Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 10, 1969

Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 11, 1968

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WHEELS
STRAIGHT ??

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Bicycle Bulletin – Bicycle riders are NOT required to ride on the street, as many parents and children have thought. Bicycles may be ridden on the sidewalk, if done carefully. The City ordinance which deals with this matter reads in part: “No person shall ride a bicycle upon a sidewalk in a BUSINESS district.” (It is recommended that you get off your bicycle and push it there). Every person operating a bicycle upon a public (residential) sidewalk when approaching a pedestrian or child shall either dismount or give clear right-of-way...”. Police Chief Doubleday stresses the fact that it is much safer for children to ride upon a sidewalk; therefore, he urges bicyclers to ride there until they are (according to parents, also) capable of handling their bicycles safely on a street. Ankeny Community Safety Council

Ankeny Press-Citizen – April 24, 1969

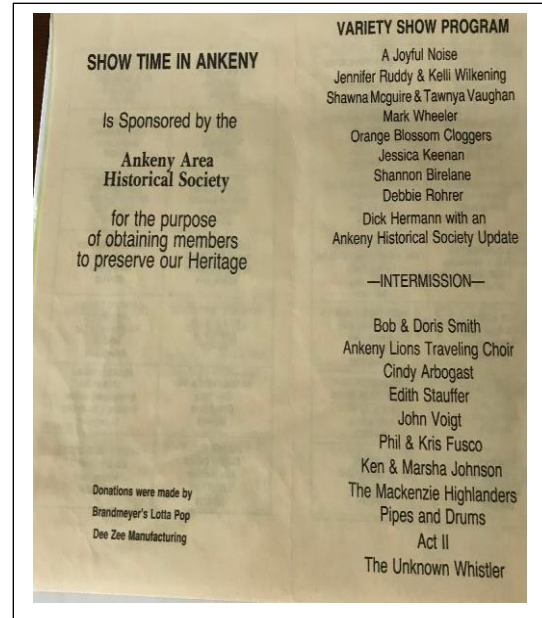
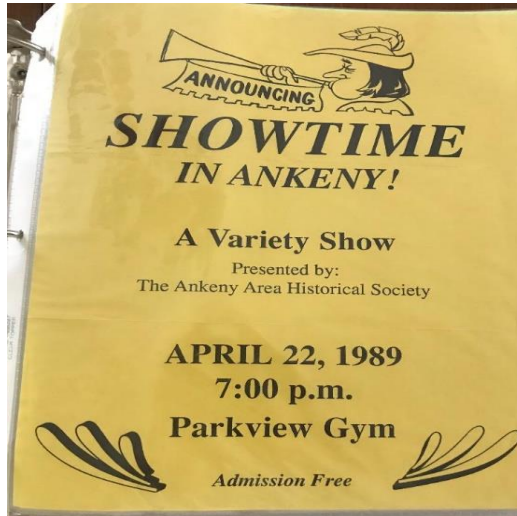
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1980s



Historical Society Talent Show - From Mrs Bunz collection, April 1989



Few people today would recognize this 1983 view of Karl Chevrolet on Southeast Delaware Avenue. Owner Carl Moyer, a self-described “natural born gear head,” first established his business in 1978 on South Ankeny Boulevard. Today, Karl’s automobiles are spread over 32 acres at the busy intersection of Southeast Delaware Avenue and Interstate 35. Both the business and Moyer himself are active in the community. (*Images of America – Ankeny, Terri A. Deems, 2013*)

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1980s

1983...As Years Go, It was Pretty Good! (April excerpts from article)

April 1983:

- Ankeny's summer celebration still nameless but being planned.
- \$500 raised in Ankeny for HELP Find Johnny Gosch effort.
- FNCO announces acquisition of Ankeny Press-Citizen and Ankeny Crier.
- Busy weekend coming up with Fireman's Ball, Legislative Coffee, Egg Hunt
- Terrace Elementary youth complete aging awareness study.
- Construction and repair work you may do in your own home is subject of city council consideration.
- Donovan Edwards and Susan Magnani are top spellers at Southeast Elementary.
- Ray Peters opens Ankeny Sports Center in ALCO Plaza.
- Dale Frisk honored for 25 years of service to Ankeny Fire Department.
- Another try for Easter Egg Hunt, delayed by bad weather.
- Des Moines General announces plan for emergency clinic in Ankeny.
- Jim's TV Sales and Service open Ankeny store.
- Airport non-binding referendum vote ... 493 for and 1853 against ... Council votes to table support of planning for project.
- Senior committee plans 50-keg "Famous Final Scene" as AHS Parent Advisory Council plans post-prom party.
- Gerry Fehn takes over reins of Ankeny Chamber of Commerce.
- Dick Rasmussen named Outstanding Ankeny Citizen.
- Educator of the Year Award to Deb Hazelton.
- More computers recommended for Ankeny Schools student use.
- Cold and snow outstaying their welcome.
- Lester Hansen retires after 25 years as Deniston and Partridge salesman.
- Ellen Holan is 1983 Miss Ankeny Firefighter.
- Founders Day celebrates Ankeny's 108th birthday.

From Mrs. Virginia Linticum collection, Ankeny Press-Citizen, December 1983