

# Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1980s\*

August 2018



## 1950s

### Proposed Memorial Library Taking Shape:

At a Library Board meeting held Thursday, August 6, the architect for the proposed Kirkendall Memorial Library present preliminary sketches of the building which is to be located at the southwest corner of the Ankeny Park. The tentative plan is for an L-shaped building having in excess of 3,000 square feet of floor space. The building will face the south and the entire north side will be window area. A patio will be included in the plan. *Ankeny Times, August 13, 1959*

**Ankeny Schools to Open on Tuesday, Sept. 2:** The doors to the Ankeny Consolidated School are scheduled to open for a one-half day session on Tuesday, September 2, it was announced Tuesday. Supt. Ralph Jorgenson reports the teaching staff is complete now, and things in general are ready for the big and busy new school year. A good deal of cleaning, painting and general maintenance work has been done during the summer months to get the three school buildings and grounds in shape for what will be one of Ankeny's largest school enrollments at Parkview, Grade, and High School. *Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958.*



**Ankeny Water Works Improvements Update:** Ray Padellford, with blueprint, manager and supervisor of the Ankeny Water Works is pictured with John Smith, maintenance man, as they check over the new water filtration plant tanks being installed here. The tanks will have a maximum capacity of 190 gallons of water per minute when installation is completed. The new reservoir, nearing completion will hold 300,000 gallons of water. Two booster pumps are also being installed. *Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958.*

\*Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please join the AAHS or send comments via email at: [history@ankenyhistorical.org](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org).



## Ankeny Area Historical Society

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## 1950s

**Have Part In Colorful Parade:** Ankeny's two major Little League ball teams and other junior ball players, with their queens and princesses, were among 8,000 baseball enthusiasts to march in the colorful Little League Parade in Des Moines on Saturday. *Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958*



The Dodger's queen was Fran Rowland, a junior in high school, and princess was Marilyn Weigel, age 6. Members of the Dodgers Team pictured here are: Front Row, Galen Slye, Galen Good, Ricky Logli, Mike Pederson, Second Row, Terry Cory, Garold Slye, Tom Davis, Fran Rowland, Ankeny High School, Junior, Queen. Marilyn Weigel, 10, Princess, Tim Seehorn, Terry Pierce, and Larry Cory.

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Giants queen was Barbara Spooner, senior at Ankeny High School, and princess was Diane Peterson, 5 years. Members of the Giants include, Front Row, Dick Purnell, Claude Ruffcorn, Don Peterson, Dan Ryan, Randy Miller. Second row, Wilbert Woodley, Bob Lamberti, Jim Howe, Diane Peterson, Princess, Barbara Spooner, Senior at Ankeny High School, Queen, Larry Niebauer, Don Crowe, and Pat Conway. *Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958.*

*Remember: The Ankeny Area History Museum is open each Sunday during summer 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Come and see the history of your city and its people! August 5 will focus on "Spotlight on Past Organizations" with photo albums and memorabilia. August 12 will begin at 1:00 and include a presentation by Jeff Stein, who has written a book about Duane Ellett and Floppy. Books and DVDs will be available. Join us for both Open Houses!*

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**Logli's Observe 52<sup>nd</sup> Year in Business:** The picture on the left is from the Logli Super Valu Celebration Tuesday. Reco Logli is shown holding the balloons while to his left is Virgil Clark of Rath Packing Co. On his right is Mrs. Betty Wagner of the Furnas Ice Cream Co. Loren Buster, next to Reco is helping him hold the balloons. *Ankeny Times, August 6, 1959*

**Part of the Crowd at Logli's Free Buffet:** A giant outdoor free buffet, sponsored by Logli Super Valu in recognition of the start of their 52<sup>nd</sup> year in Ankeny was enjoyed by a large crowd. The continuous line of 2,500 customers and friends filed past the food stands on the parking lot between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Ten \$5.00 grocery orders were given away. *Ankeny Times, August 6, 1959*



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## 1950s

### “Must Do” For Mail Delivery:

1. All houses must have visible house numbers and a mail box or a door slot marked “mail.” No delivery will be made to houses without these.
2. Notify all your correspondents that house number and street are now required for delivery here.
3. All patrons wishing house delivery must file a written request with the postmaster immediately giving name and address or mail will be held at the post office in the lock boxes.
4. Delivery will not be made to any house not having all-weather walk from street to doorway.
5. Remember – after September 6, 1958, no address means delayed mail.

*Ankeny Times, August 7, 1958*

## 1970s

**Ankeny Gets \$23,000 For Tornado System.** In separate presentations Monday afternoon, the Ankeny City Council received a special award and a check for more than \$23,000. The Steel Plate Fabricators Association presented city officials with plaques noting the Tank-of-the Year award for the design and construction of the city’s million-gallon water reservoir. Des Moines Fire Chief Lee Williams, representing the Department of Civil Defense, turned over to Mayor Weigel a check for more than \$23,000, which was the federal government’s share for the city’s tornado warning system. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 5, 1976*



*If you’d like to donate to the Ankeny Area Historical Society or send memorials in honor of a loved one, please contact us at [history@ankenyhistorical.org](mailto:history@ankenyhistorical.org). And, thank you!*

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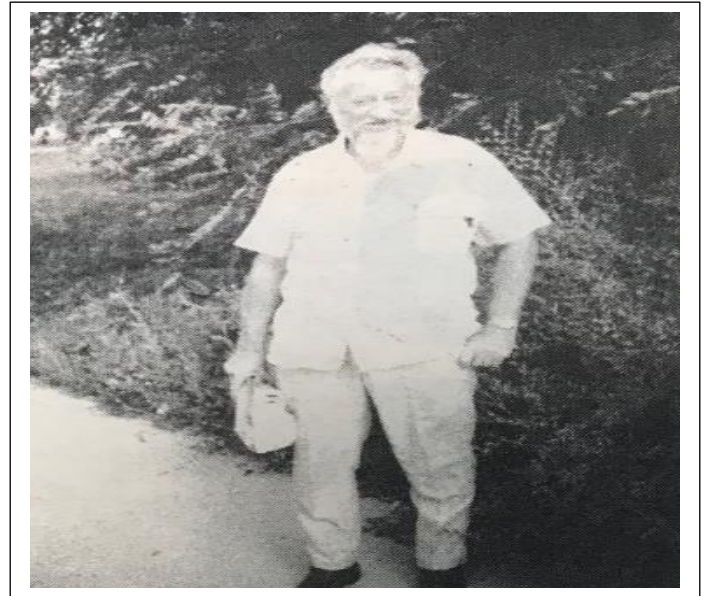
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## 1970s

### Hobo-Author-Former Ankeny Student.

Those who were in Ankeny Schools in the 20's and 30's might remember a classmate, Ken Wood. He lived south of Third on Des Moines Street before it was paved and remembers seeing the train collision on Third Street. Today he is Whitey Wood, just returned from Britt where he competed for King of the Hobos. His mother lives in Tampa, Florida now, and Wood was in the Ankeny-Des Moines area to publicize his recently published autobiography, "Hell on Earth," which is now on sale in Des Moines book stores. The book is called a "whale of an experience, a tragic-comic free-for-all that will take you to every bar, flophouse, and county jail between Sacramento, California; New York City, and Palatka, Florida. Wood has been back here to work at a variety of jobs at various times since he left in 1938. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 12, 1976*



**Ben Franklin Ad** *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 19, 1976*

**BEN FRANKLIN**  
Ankeny Plaza  
Phone 964-3531

### BACK TO SCHOOL FABRIC SALE

Surfline  
Plaids \$4.77  
Solids \$3.77  
to coordinate  
100% Dacron Polyester

Flat Folds yd. 97¢

Reversible Quilted Material 45" \$4.37  
Non-Quilted To Match \$1.77

Ranch Denims Special \$2.27  
45"  
50% Polyester  
50% Cotton

Brushed Flannel Special \$2.47  
(See Standards)  
100% Nylon-45" Wide

Brushed Denims Special \$2.27  
45"  
50% Poly-50% Cotton

Thread Caddy \$2.67  
Sewing Case \$2.77  
Junior Size  
Pattern File Holds Up To 30 Patterns \$2.67

Quilting Board Special \$2.27

**ALL SUMMER FABRIC REDUCED TO SELL**

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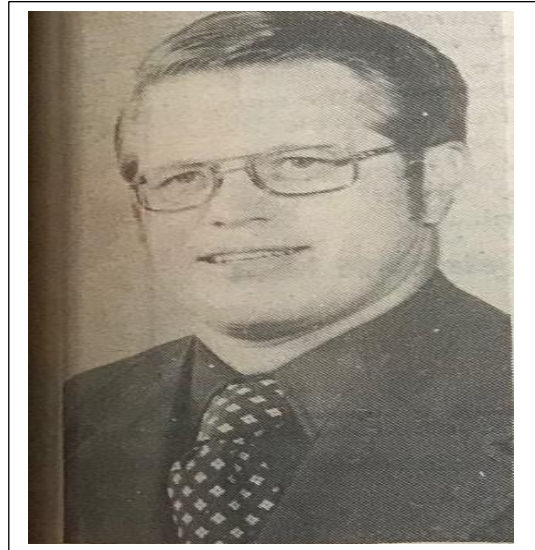
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## 1970s

**City Officials List** *Ankeny*  
*Press-Citizen, August 12, 1976*



**ANKENY CITY OFFICIALS**

- **Mayor**  
Ollie J. Weigel
- **Councilmen:**  
James Bradshaw  
Larry Cairns  
Tom Dart  
Larry McDowell  
Dick Schaffroth
- **City Manager:**  
David M. Dirks
- **Police Chief:**  
Dennis Ballard
- **Fire Chief:**  
Marvin Frisk
- **City Engineer**  
Jay Schreiner
- **City Attorney**  
Patrick Brick
- **City Treasurer**  
John Allen
- **City Clerk**  
Anne Varnum
- **Dir. Parks & Rec.:**  
Bill Boswell
- **Streets Director**  
Roy Longnecker
- **Dir. Water Works Dept.**  
Bernard Hummel
- **Wastewater Supervisor**  
Jim McKenna
- **Librarian**  
Mrs. David Anderson
- **Plan and Zoning Commission**  
Jane Pitz, Chairperson  
Othie McMurry  
Vice-Chairperson  
Mike Albaugh  
Chet Bjaastad  
Dick Chamberlin  
Steve Drake  
Don Hick  
Roger Stefani  
Phil Webb  
Bunny Aunan, Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

**Supt. of Schools**  
Keith Hopkins

**Board Members**  
Dr. Lawrence Gray  
Dr. S.M. Fitzgerald  
Charles McKenna  
Max Schnepf  
Don Zuck.

Ankeny

**Anderson Receives National Recognition.** Polk County Extension Director Ober J. Anderson received national recognition last week for his contributions to agriculture, community development, and youth. He was given the Distinguished Service Award of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents at the group's convention in Richmond, VA, August 15-19. Anderson, who offices at 3612 ½ Second Avenue, Des Moines, heads the largest county extension staff in Iowa. He was cited for his efforts in coordination of the staff's countywide educational programs. Special note was given to his work with the Des Moines Men's Garden Club and programs conducted in cooperation with Des Moines and Urbandale Schools. An Extension employee for 17 years, Anderson is active in other community organizations. He has been a member of the boards of directors of the Downtown Des Moines Kiwanis Club and the Polk County Easter Seal Society, and a member of the agricultural committee of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce. Anderson has also been active in the Des Moines Jaycees. He is a member of the Living History Farms Foundation and the past president of the Ankeny Lutheran Church. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 26, 1976*

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## 1980s

HEAD OF THE CLASS BUYS  
**FOR BACK TO SCHOOL**

**A+ SOCKS - Buy 1 Pair  
Get 2nd Pair FREE**  
(Of Equal or Lesser Value)

**A+ SWEATERS  
20% OFF**  
All Sweaters In Stock

**SAVE  
60% OFF**  
2 Racks - 2 Tables of  
Spring and Summer  
**MERCHANDISE**

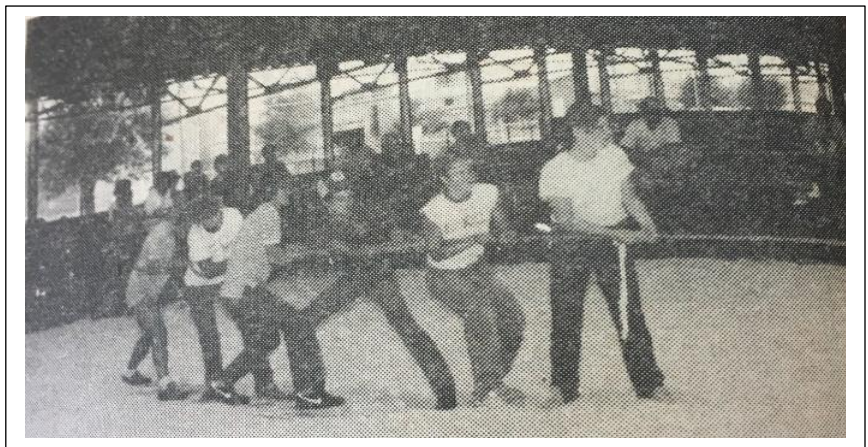
*Young Villager*  
FRONTIER SHOPPING CENTER  
1620 W. 1st St., Ankeny

Sizes 0-14 Girls  
3-11 Pre-Teen Girls  
0-22 Boys

**Chamber Endorses Norman For Superintendent Post** – As the Ankeny School Board moves into the process of seeking a new superintendent, another group is saying that the board need look no further than the Ankeny administrative office for the best person to replace retiring Supt. Keith Hopkins. In a July 29 letter to the board, the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors endorsed Dr. Ben Norman as a replacement for Hopkins, who is retiring in the spring of 1986. Norman has been with the Ankeny School District for nine years as administrative assistant. Earlier this summer, the board gave Norman an expanded job description, a salary hike and the title of assistant superintendent. The letter from the chamber board was signed by board president Greg Sunner and praised Norman's leadership in Ankeny's schools and his participation in community and business activities.

At last week's meeting, the board approved specifications for hiring a professional consultant to coordinate the search. The specifications were drawn up by a committee of three board members and outline exactly what services the board wants a consultant to perform, should one be retained. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 6, 1985*

**Ankeny FFA at Polk County Fair-** Right to Left: LeAnna Benjamin, Mary Pilkington, Mike Horning, Mickey Cory, Lori Benjamin, and Dottie Nelson are shown in the Polk County Fair night show Tug-of-War. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 6, 1985*





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**Ankeny Residents Are About To Be Counted** – If Ankeny has taken the 871-person jump in population that is estimated, it could mean a \$39,000 jump in revenues and a more attractive backdrop for potential developers of business and industry. For these reasons, the Ankeny City Council voted earlier this year to ask the Commerce Department Bureau of the Census to conduct a 1985 head count of this city. The count will begin in early September. According to Ankeny Community Development Coordinator John Peterson, this special count will be only of people and will not include any of the extensive questioning asked of every so many residents during the regular census counts at the beginning of each decade.

Because of the funds which accrue to cities based on population counts, cities and towns are allowed at the mid-decade year to call for a special census count. In Iowa, these monies include those from Municipal Assistance, liquor profits and Road Use taxes for a total in Ankeny, of about \$45 per resident. Ankeny's official 1980 census count, thus the count used for such funding, is 15,429. Peterson says the estimate is that the city's population has increased to 16,300. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 27, 1985*



**Deere Employees' Credit Union** recently announced plans to develop a \$1.4 million office in Ankeny at the northeast corner of Highway 69 and Magazine Road. Groundbreaking ceremonies are planned for Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. with construction to begin the next day toward a completion date of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1986. The 12,000 square-foot new facility will include with the new office, an Automated Teller Machine (ATM), four drive-up lanes, safe-deposit boxes and a credit union/community room. Deere Employees' Credit Union was organized in 1950 to provide financial services to the employees of John Deere Des Moines Works. Today it has nearly 7000 members and over \$26 million in assets, making it the largest credit union in Central Iowa. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 27, 1985*

**Ankeny artist, Pat Hykes, has two watercolor paintings accepted in the State Fair art exhibit** – They are titles "Sheep Under Tree" and "Clothesline and Garden". They will exhibit for the duration of the Fair. She was commissioned by the American Federal of Ankeny to paint a hot air balloon scene for the newly remodeled office. The 24x36 inch watercolor features the American Federal hot air balloon. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 13, 1985*

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**Four Announce For School Board** – Four Ankeny School District residents have signed on to seek two school board seats in the September 10<sup>th</sup> election which will move almost all school voters back to their regular polling places for the first time in many years.

The four candidates who are seeking the two 3-year terms are: Darel Hildreth, as incumbent; Kathryn Johnson, an incumbent; Karolyn Knedler; and Michael VonHagen. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 6, 1985*

**Mark your calendars for the August 5, 2018, Open House (2:00-4:00 pm) at the museum "Spotlight on Past Organizations."** We will feature the photo albums and scrapbooks from the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s for several organizations in the city. Come and see if you know the folks in these groups: **Beta Sigma Phi, Golden Kiwanis, Jaycettes, Federated Garden Club, Unity Club, Ankeny Quilters Guild, Ankeny Women's Club, and the Penguins along with memorabilia from the Fortnightly Club (Eastern Star), American Business Women's Association, and Lions Club. Come and share your stories!**



**Finally, An Everett Albaugh Story We Can Believe** – Everett, (shown here in the middle with glasses) Ankeny's Outstanding Citizen of 1985 spread his fame northward this summer as he pulled a 32 pound 12 ounce muskie from the waters of Leech Lake in Minnesota on July 30. Albaugh's trophy fish is the second largest muskie of the season for Leech. Everett caught the fish on a Mepp's lure. After the bite Everett and the fish struggled for 15 minutes before his son Richard was able to net it. Shown in the picture and verifying that indeed this time his grandpa is telling the truth is Corey Albaugh of Huxley. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, August 20, 1985.*