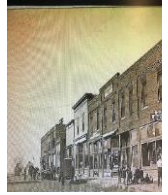


Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

1950s



FROM SWAMP LAND TO SUCCESS: THAT'S "THE ANKENY STORY"

Pioneer Residents Recall Earlier Days in Ankeny (Sixth in a multi-part series of excerpts from this article)

In 1903 Ankeny was incorporated with one square mile included in incorporation. Fred Riggerburg was mayor. Councilmen were: W.L. Wagner, G.E. Goughnour, Henry Wagner, L. Nelson, W.A. Hall, and J.H. Horning. Oley Landey was Marshall and Earnst Barr assessor, E.M. Lewis was clerk and J.G. Wagner, Treasurer. Telephone Service was instituted in Ankeny almost simultaneously by the Farmer's Telephone Co. and the Bell Telephone Co., in 1903. We now have the Bell dial system with free toll service to Des Moines.

The interurban road was built in 1907, a car going each direction every hour. Electric lights became available to Ankeny in 1907 on completion of the interurban line. Volunteer fire protection purchased by the town in 1907. The first fire protection purchased by the town consisted of three ladders and two dozen galvanized pails. Fire Dept., Jacob Abuhl, as fire chief, E.R. Wagner, Captain. Within the last several years the Ankeny fire equipment has been improved with the purchase of a modern fire truck and equipment, supplemented by a new booster pump.

In March of 1916 Bonds were voted for City Water Works, and a deep well was dug one block west of the present lumber yard site. This was completed in 1917. It was found necessary to have two additional wells one mile north of Ankeny, and in 1944 funds were allowed to enlarge the sewage disposal system.

The residential streets of Ankeny were first oiled in 1915 and the main street was paved for 6 blocks with concrete in 1929. In 1944 and 1948 the streets were resurfaced with a coating of rock, and asphalt. Along this main street, and nearby, businesses of all types have come into being providing Ankeny with a self-sufficient business and Professional Center.

Due to the length of this article which is full of information about Ankeny's beginnings, further excerpts will be found in the following monthly editions of Ankeny Through the Decades. Ankeny Times, April 18, 1952

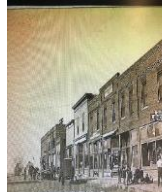
**Wording has been reduced to fit the space in some cases. Additional decades will be covered in future issues. Please become a member of the AAHS or send comments via email at: history@ankenyhistorical.org.*



Ankeny Area Historical Society

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

1950s

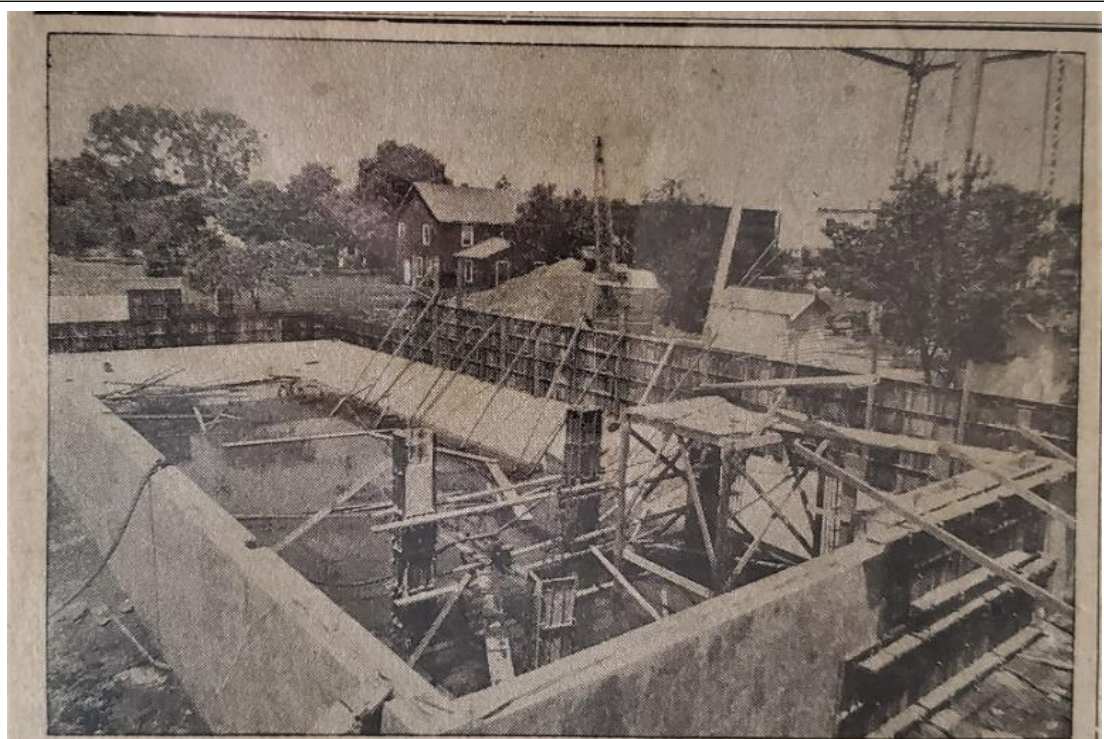


Photo by James Chan

Ankeny's New Water Reservoir Nearing Completion

It was a pretty muddy working on the new water reservoir located behind the City Water Works Building. When this picture was taken, the heavy rains of the past few days, caused several feet of water to stand inside it. The men working on the project were having a slippery time of it, and mud was everywhere.

The reservoir, when completed, will hold 300,000 gallons of water. A concrete dome will cover the top and the whole thing covered with dirt. It is hoped that the job can be completed by August first.

The water, from the newly dug well, cannot be used until the reservoir is completed and the filter tanks installed. There will be plenty of water for Ankeny residents when this is all done so please help conserve our present supply until then.

Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958

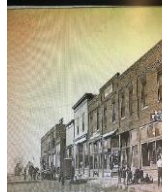
\$3600 Toward Elkhart Memorial Shelter House Has Been Received: At the first checkup meeting of the Elkhart Memorial Shelter House workers, a total of \$3600 in cash and pledges was received. That was enough to pay for the material involved for the building. The group elected officers- President- Mrs. Henry Volz, Treasurer- Maurice Brazelton, and Secretary- Mrs. A.G. Alleman. The executive Committee is as follows- R.F. Wilson, Larry Spenla, Harry Parmenter, Dewey Barton, Harold Frederick, Russell Sage and Tom Clark.

The executive Board met Monday night to draw up specifications for the new building. The committee to check on specifications and check on contract bids are- Dewey Barton, Harry Parmenter, Larry Sepnla, and R.F. Wilson. Donations and pledges thus far total \$3900. Plans are being made to finish contacting families and businesses in the area on the drive.

Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959

Ankeny through the decades...

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To Let Contracts On Congregational Church Addition

August 7: The building committee of the Ankeny Congregational Church has announced that the letting of contracts for the new education wing will be held on August 7. It is expected the work will begin about 10 days later. A tentative completion date for the new structure is set for February 1, 1960. The \$55,000 addition will be on two levels and will house 8 classrooms, minister's study, and storage space. It will be constructed on the east side of the present building. Herbert Arthur is the architect. *Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959*

New Hours At Post Office

Mr. Willard Nagle, acting Postmaster, calls the attention of Ankeny residents to the new hours for the Post Office for Saturdays. Beginning July 12, the office will open at 8:30 a. m. and close at 12:30 noon. There will be no change in dispatching the mail. These hours apply to Saturdays only.

A person we have missed seeing each day at the Post Office has returned to work. Mrs. Alma Miller, who has been absent for several weeks because of a broken arm, is happy to be back and we hope her arm won't give her any more trouble. Mrs. Juanita Stanfield has been assisting during Mrs. Miller's absence.

Mrs. William Marvin's nephew Stephen Miller of Herington Kansas, arrived July third and spent the week end with them.

Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959

Lion's Club Elects Officers for Next Year: Lion's Club Officers Chairmen for the coming year were elected at the regular meeting and are as follows:

President, Wayne Begg; 1st Vice President, Robert Wilhelm; 2nd Vice President, James Bower; 3rd Vice President, Wayne Spahr; Secretary, George Friedmeyer; Treasurer, Max Reynolds; Lion Tamer, Paul Syster; Tail Twister, Richard Logli.

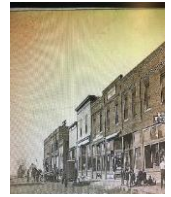
Directors- 1st year, Mose Baker; 1st year, Harlan Rigby; 2nd year, George Hart; 2nd year, Mr. Jensen.

Administrative Committees- Attendance, Verlon Cherry; Constitution and By-Laws, Mose Bake; Convention, Earl Stelpflug; Finance; Wayne Rowland; Lions Information, Harlan Rigby; Membership Noel Liechty; Program, Eldon Leonard; Publicity, Robert Jensen; Agriculture, V.W. Smith; Boys and Grils, Bob Adams; Citizenship, Howard Weaver; Community Betterment, Frank Lint; Education, Loren Sampson; Health and Welfare, Dr. Felix Hatch; Safety, Albert Redmon; Sight Conservation, Dr. Glenn Higgins; United Nations, Melvin Anderson; Greeter, Don Steffenson. *Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959*

Ankeny through the decades...

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FROM OUR FILES



56 Years Ago

First Editions of the Ankeny Times

56 YEARS AGO

W. J. Dunkle and wife, of Berwick, spent Sunday at the Campbell home.

Hollie Miller is the man to fix your screen doors and windows. No flies on Hollie.

Dr. E. J. Butterfield, will locate at Dallas Center, and we predict for him a brilliant future.

FOR SALE—A fine carriage, used only a few times. Call on John Horning, Ankeny, Iowa.

Wm. Donaghy was an Ankeny

visitor the first of the week. Will's folks have been sick the past few weeks with malaria.

John Goughnour, of Chicago, will spend some time among relatives here. John has had a hard siege of typhoid fever and is coming here to recuperate.

Harry Berkey is able to be out again, but not without the use of crutches.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Hutton went to Des Moines Tuesday to see their niece, Viva Henderson, graduate from Drake University.

Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958

Highest Bridge In Iowa Being Built

One of the highest, if not the highest highway bridge in Iowa is now under construction about three and a half miles south of Madrid. The bridge is located in the corner of the Boone-Dallas-Polk counties.

The more than a half million dollar bridge will be on the new relocated highway 60 which will go straight south from Madrid and connect with highway 141 a mile east of Granger.

The bridge will be set on piers ninety feet tall with ten feet of the ninety buried in the earth. It will be 984 feet long. Grading work started March 17, the contract amounted to \$561,563.95 and is to be completed by December 13, 1958.

Workers are working two ten hour shifts daily to meet the dead line.

VBS Program and Church Picnic at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church brought its two weeks of Vacation Bible School to a close on Friday. There were 16 volunteer teachers and assistants and 129 pupils, making a total enrollment of 145. The following was the record of attendance: Average attendance-131; highest attendance-135; perfect attendance-103.

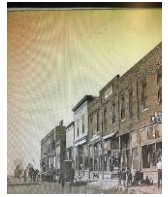
Last Sunday morning in Sunday School period the VBS teachers and pupils presented a program to the congregation in which the various classes gave demonstrations of lessons and the program dealt with the Biblical truths summarized in the Apostle's Creed.

In the afternoon the congregation held its annual church and Sunday School picnic at the Ankeny Park. Approximately 130 children, young people, and adults were gathered at the potluck picnic dinner at noon and for the contests in the afternoon. The picnic served the special purpose of giving the congregation an occasion to extend the hand of welcome to the families that recently joined the church.

Ankeny Times, July 30, 1959

Ankeny through the decades...

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1950s

<p>GET YOUR Side rakes, hay rakes, hay conditioner and hay balers NOW TRIPLETT Implement  Sales & Service Ph WO 4-4531</p>	<p>Rath Shortening 49c Thurs., Fri., Sat. Logli Super Valu WO 4-4741 Ankeny, Iowa.</p>	<p>"55 CHEVROLET Tudor 6 cyl. Standard Shift, good rubber, new Paint. Nice We Trade Terms RAY AHLBERG CHEVROLET Phone WO 4-4255</p>
<p>Complete Floor Covering Service  Ceramic, Plastic Fulton's Floor Company Ph. WO 4-4075 Ankeny</p>	<p>See us for... ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS F. H. A. TITLE 1 Improvement on your home pay for yourselves in comfort and convenience. Get a low cost home loan from us for Fix-Up Needs. Ankeny State Bnk Ankeny Member F. D. I. C.</p>	<p>PAUL'S Plumbing Heating Sheet Metal Paul Allen, prop. Phone WO 4-4612</p>
<p>Washable Cotton Fabrics  Simplicity Patterns Notions Closed Mondays Fashion Fabrie Shop Ankeny Ph. WO 4-4801</p>	<p>Wayne Feeds and Diamond Black Leaf Chemicals F. L. BALLARD & Sons Phone WO 4-4117 ANKENY, IOWA.</p>	<p>USED CARS 1952 Chev 2-Door R. H. 1953 Chev. 4-Door Bel Air R. H. 1949 Ford 4-Door R. H. - O. D.  Ankeny Motors Inc. Ph. WO 4-4224 Ankeny, Ia</p>

Two FREE Passes to the First Person to Correctly identify This Week's Mystery Farm Picture.

Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958

59 *If you want to succeed, don't listen to the gripes of those who have failed.*




HATS OFF — TO THE BASE BALL KIDS
There they go... charging onto the field at the umpire's cry of "Play ball!" It's a scene being repeated across the Iowa plains these warm summer days.
Is that tomorrow's Mickey Mantle digging for centerfield?
Or is he the man who will lead the first space flight to Mars? Who knows the potential of these youngsters? Theirs is the chance to be what they want to be in a free America.
"Play ball!" You can almost see their happy excitement, the cocky grin that says, "We can lick 'em." It's the spirit of Iwo Jima and Porkchop Hill and of all the military bastions our young men guard today to keep us free.

Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958

ANKENY SHOPPING GUIDE

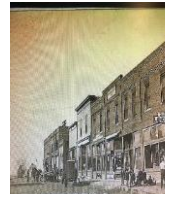
WHOSE MYSTERY FARM IS THIS?



The farmer whose farm appears on this page will receive a 7" x 9" photograph of his own farm if he calls on Bee Morris, 1 mile north and 1/4 mile east of Ankeny on or before Saturday noon of the same week. In addition he will be credited with 6 extra months on a subscription to the Ankeny Times at special bargain price to operators of the Mystery farms.

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BUDGET ESTIMATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

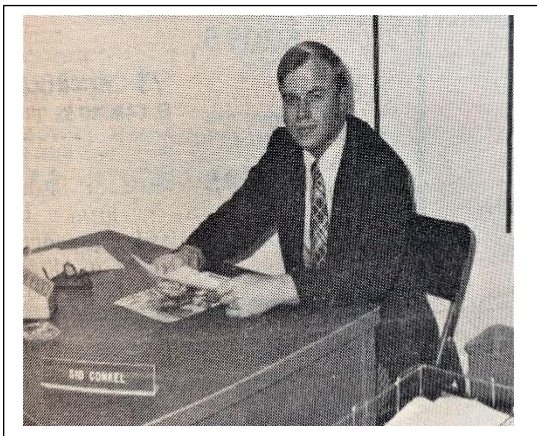
NOTICE—The Board of Directors of ANKENY COMMUNITY SCHOOL (School District) CROCKER Township, POLK County, Iowa, will meet July 22, 1958, at 8:00 P.M. at the high school building. Taxpayers will be heard for or against the following estimate of expenditures for the year beginning July 1, 1958, and ending June 30, 1959. A detailed statement of receipts and disbursements, both past and anticipated will be available at the hearing.

LUCILLE MOECKLY,
District Secretary.

FUNDS	Expenditures for Year July 1, 1958 to June 30, 1957	Expenditures for Year July 1, 1957 to June 30, 1958	Proposed Expenditures Estimated 1958-1959	Estimated Unencumbered Balance to Apply Upon This Budget	Estimated Income Other Than Taxation	Amount Necessary to be Raised by Taxation
General	258,940	284,041.46	330,215	5,000	332,200	292,015
Transportation	13,795	14,548.22	17,000		7,000	10,000
Text Books and Supplies			1,645			1,645
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	272,735	298,589.68	348,860	5,000	40,200	303,660
Old Age Surv. Ins. (Federal)			6,000			6,000
Public Emps. Ret. (State)			7,840			7,840
SCHOOL HOUSE FUND						
School House (Voted)	133,059	48,368.37	25,476			25,476
Bonds and Interest	43,957	51,922.50	51,113			51,113
Special Courses Fund	9,841	10,095.11	15,000			15,000
TOTAL ALL PURPOSE	459,592	408,975.66	454,289	5,000	40,200	409,089
Secretary's balance July 1, 1958.						
GENERAL FUND						\$35,116.15
Less Unpaid Bills					\$8,000	
Less Balance Reserved			\$22,116.15			\$30,116.15
Net Unencumbered Balance (G.F.)			\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
SCHOOL HOUSE FUND						21,359.53
SPECIAL COURSES FUND						\$2,717.32
Est. tax per \$1,000.00 assessed value						40.00
Number of persons of school age						1097
Taxable valuation, 1957						\$10,190,516
Moneys and Credits, 1957						\$561,699

Ankeny Times, July 10, 1958

1970s



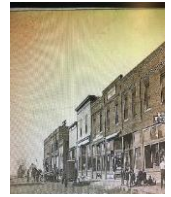
Meet your police department school liaison – The Ankeny Police Department has in the past, and must continue in the future, to modernize and update all procedures in order to keep up with the city’s growth and expansion. A major function of the Police Department is the prevention and control of juvenile delinquency. In view that this problem area is effectively controlled, a school liaison system has been set up within the framework of the Ankeny Police Department. Officer Sid Conkel has an office at Ankeny High School and is responsible for any police problem that may arise at any of the schools including High School, Junior High and four Elementary Schools.

Officer Conkel feels one of the biggest problems facing School Liaison Officers is acceptance by the student body, but feels the Ankeny students are very receptive. Officer Conkel is especially appreciative to the faculty and administration of the Ankeny Community Schools for their cooperation in getting the program implemented. Proposed programs Officer Conkel plans to initiate are bicycle safety, work with school safety patrol, help establish a Cadet program within the police department and involving the officer on the street in school talks and rap sessions.

Sid is an Ankeny High School graduate and has been a member of the Ankeny Police Department since January 1971. He was assigned to the patrol section of the department until being appointed Police-School Liaison Officer in November 1973. He is a graduate of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and in May 1973 received a degree from Area XI Community College where he majored in Law Enforcement. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –July 2, 1974

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Bond Issue Vote for High School next Monday – Ankeny Community School District will vote Monday, July 7th to complete the Senior High School. The Board of Education expects a light turnout for the upcoming \$1,250,000 Bond election. Many folks are on vacation and / or involved in the “Centennial”. They encourage everyone to cast their ballot on this issue. This will allow the students of Ankeny to finish their last three years of formal education in a completed facility.

The planned Stage 3 for the new high school complex consists of home economics facilities along with science and math classrooms. Stage 3 will also include the hot lunch area for students.

Superintendent Keith D. Hopkins stated, “Let’s pass this issue and get our Senior High students back in school all day. The completion of this issue could release twelve classrooms from our neighborhood elementary schools. We had the largest Pre-Kindergarten enrollment in the history of this community – 296 children registered on April 21st. This is 42 more than ever pre-registered in the third week of April. This has been one of the largest building years, with over 70 new homes built this year.”

Twenty-eight Kindergarten children living in the northwest section of Ankeny will have to go to Terrace Elementary instead of Northwest Elementary, and any student moving into the Northwest attendance area in the 5th or 6th grade. *Ankeny Press Citizen – July 3, 1975*

FRONTIER SHOPPING CENTER OLD FASHIONED DAYS

This Section Has Old Fashioned Buys From the Following Merchants

Frontier Supermart	Young Villager
Daves Apparel	Sport & Bike
Coast to Coast	Music City
Fashionette	Baskin & Robbins
	Ice Cream

Ankeny Centennial Week July 7-13

1875
1975

BRING YOUR FRIENDS - SHOP FRONTIER

1970s

Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 1975

OLD FASHIONED BARGAIN DAYS

At Ankeny Plaza

Participating Merchants

Ben Franklin	Cory's Hardware
Walgreen Drug	McCleary's Shoes
Flatts Clothing	Henry's Drive In
Maxine's	Sportsmans.
Paulin's Jewelry	

Ankeny Centennial Week July 7-13

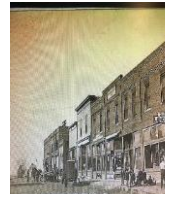
1875
1975

You'll Sing Along When You See Our Prices That Are Right In Tune With Your Budget.

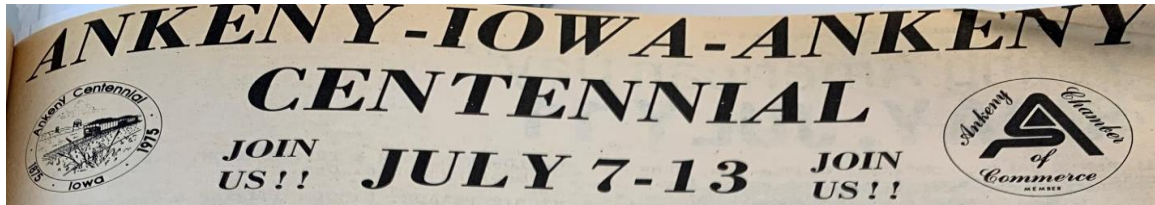
Ankeny through the decades...

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Let the Good Times Roll...in the City of Ankeny!!.....July 7th through the 13 in 1975

The following clips and pictures are remembrances of Ankeny's Centennial in July of 1975. The population was only 13,212 and Ankeny had recovered from the devastating tornado which struck a year earlier on June 18, 1974. (In just two years, Ankeny will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial. Can we live up to and recreate what happened in Ankeny 48 years ago?) Below is the daily schedule, excluding athletic events for that was in store for the residents.

Line Up of Daily Events.....

Monday, July 7 – Centennial Ball, 8:30 p.m. at Vittoria Lodge, Music by Don Hoy & his Orchestra

Tuesday, July 8 – Old Fashioned Bargain Days in Ankeny Stores from July 8th through July 12th.

- Kick-Off Breakfast for Retailers & their salespeople will be at 7 a.m. at Traders Lounge.
- Centennial Sewing Contest Final Judging, 7:30 pm, Centennial Store & Display House, 805 SW Third Street.

Wednesday, July 9 - “Recognition Day”

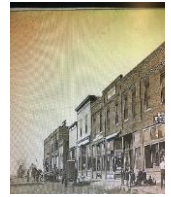
Official Opening of Centennial Week Events...

9 am at High School Athletic Field followed by TIME CAPSULE CEREMONIES at the new library.

- REGISTRATION OF PIONEERS, elder citizens and former residents at Headquarters throughout celebration.
- CENTURY VISTA EXPERIENCE, open from 3-5pm and 7-9pm, Wed, Thurs, Fri at High School gym. Displays of historic stores, events & demonstrations....\$1-adults and 50c-children.
- BAND CONCERT, Ankeny High School Concert 5-6 pm at Hawkeye Park.
- BAR B QUE & PIG ROAST 5:30-7:30 P.M., complete dinner, except beverage for \$2.50 per person at Hawkeye Park.
- PRE PAGEANT ENTERTAINMENT, 7:45-9pm, Athletic Field, Admission by Pageant Ticket. (Wednesday through Friday)
- “ANKENY-FAR OUT!!!” PAGEANT, 9-11pm, Admission by Pageant Ticket, Athletic Field. (Wednesday through Saturday) *(cont. on page 9)*

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Thursday, July 10 - "Belles Day"

- BABY CLOTHING CONTEST, 9:30-11am. Children under 2yrs. Wearing old style outfits, Terrace Elementary School Gym, 50 cents entry fee for contestants.
- ROLLING PIN THROWING CONTEST, 11am-12:30pm at the Ankeny Practiace Field. Prized and 50cents entry fee for all contestants.
- MAD HATTER SOCIAL, 2:30-4:30pm, Ankeny Golf and Country club, refreshments, style show, hat collection, hat contest, \$3 admission.

Friday, July 11 - "Young American Day"

- CHILDREN'S CONTESTS - Hawkeye Park, morning & afternoon... Wheelbarrow Races, Potato-Pushing, Rope-Jumping, Jacks Contest (bring your own), Arm Wrestling, Marble Shooting (bring your own), Limbo, Sack Races, Greased Pig Contest, Three-Legged Races, Chicken Crowing Contest
- CHILDREN'S HOUR & PUPPET SHOW, 3-4pm, Terrace Elementary School Gym
- KIDDIE PARADE, 6:30PM judging & 7pm – parade begins at Neveln Jr. High to Terrace Elementary
- STREET DANCE, for 7th through 12th grade, Terrace Elementary Parking Lot. No admission cost, Music by Armageddon.
- MOTORCYCLE RODEO, 3-6:30pm Athletic Field.

Saturday, July 12 - "Hi Neighbor Day"

- PAST CHAMBER PRESIDENTS & MAYORS' BREAKFAST – Best Western Inn, by invitation.
- PIE EATING CONTEST, 11AM-Noon, Athletic Field 50cents entry fee, Prizes.
- HI NEIGHBOR PARADE, 1-4pm, Hwy 69 from DMACC to Third Street in Ankeny.
- WATER FIGHT, ANKENY VS. SAYLORVILLE VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENTS, 5-6pm, E.8th & Ankeny Blvd.
- PRE PAGEANT ENTERTAINMENT, AWARDS, RECOGNITION – 7:45-9PM, Athletic Field, Admission with Pageant Ticket.
- SQUARE DANCING DEMONSTRATION, 9-11pm, 3rd Street & Ankeny Blvd.
- FIREWORKS DISPLAY, 11-11:45pm. Athletic Fields, Admission to stands with Pageant Ticket

Sunday, July 13 – "Religious Heritage Day"

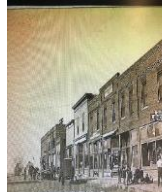
- CHURCH SERVICES TO BE HISORIALLY ORIENTED, Many displays at individual locations, Various times between 8am-Noon.
- FAMILY PICNICAND OLD FASHIONED GAMES, Noon to 3pm, Hawkeye Park, each family to bring own picnic basket. Will feature BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING and SKY-DIVING EXHIBITION. MOST CHURCHES PLAN OPEN HOUSED WITH ICE CREAM SOCIALS OR OTHER OLD FASHIONED

EVENTS, 6pm, nominal charge for food.

1970s

Ankeny through the decades...

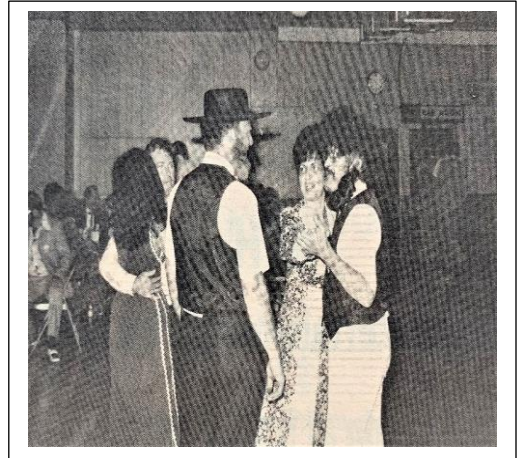
recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

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Centennial Kangaroo Kourt Judge, Dick Herman – was fined at the Centennial Ball for fining too many people. Dick and his wife, Mary Lou Hermann, were sentenced to dance alone on the floor with the judge wearing a scratchy wig and beard. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –July 17, 1975



Brother of Brush itch up to final decision –. Approximately seven months of growing the facial foliage culminated in the selection of five winners in the Ankeny Centennial Beard contest Sunday. First place winners and their categories were (l-r) Don Kerr-ring beard; Stanley Gastrost-full beard; Dick Pertzborn-beard and mustache; L.G. Ellison-mustache; and Tike Ballard-Abe Lincoln beard.



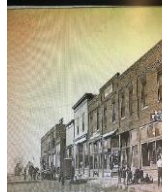
Queen of the Centennial – Ankeny school teacher was named the Queen of the Ankeny Centennial as her attendants look on at the ball proceedings last Monday night.



Ankeny's favorite "medicine man" Richard Logli – Is in full costume during the Centennial.

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1970



Kangaroo Kourt Judge Dick Hermann gets his own medicine – a fair and impartial trial –at the hands of Judge Samuel Anania as Police Chief Dennis Ballard and Cadet Jeff Knutson laughingly look on.



Honored guests and dignitaries – watch from the parade grandstand as the parade passes by. Ankeny Press-Citizen, July 17, 1975

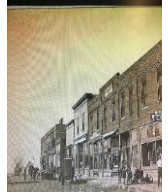
Vietnamese family takes up in Ankeny – The Nguyen Phu Ngoan family arrived at the Des Moines Airport late Monday afternoon as families from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church awaited their landing. Pictured with the family are Msgr. Schmitz and Father Hans, both from OLIH. The Vietnamese family evacuated from Saigon during the rush N. Vietnamese Communist takeover, has set up home in Ankeny as the eleven-member clan arrived at the Des Moines Airport Monday evening. Nguyen Phu Noonan, wife and children have been awaiting sponsorship by some organization in the United States. The family has been stationed at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas since May 12 after being rescued by the US Greenwave April 25. Sponsorship will be a joint set-up between Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church. A house at 517 SW Cherry was acquired two weeks ago and equipped with all the modern conveniences. Both churches agreed June 22 to take the responsibility of setting the family in a new adventure into life. According in a letter received by Rev. William Adix of Holy Trinity, the family converses mainly in French. But the father speaks both English and French fluently.



Prior to the Communist regime in So. Vietnam, the father was a contractor and landlord in Saigon. The man is very able in his occupation, equipped to various odd jobs. He repaired office machinery and vehicles, has done electrical and plumbing work, refurbished furniture, repaired fiberglass boats and swimming pools, and cared for orchards. His wife has served as a restaurant cook. The family's children range from 7 years of age to 19. The oldest daughter is ready to attend college for her first year. *Ankeny Press Citizen* –July 24, 1975

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

1990s

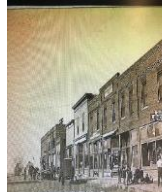
Ankeny-by-the-lake? City official says it's more than dream. Pssst! Wanna buy some property in Ankeny-by-the-lake? While lakefront property in Ankeny might seem to be a pipe dream, Ankeny's growth could push its boundaries about two miles westward to Saylorville by the turn of the century, said Community Development Director John Peterson. "We've been extolling the virtues of Ankeny," said Councilman John Voigt. "We've been trying to tell people in the state what we have to offer and we are making people aware of Ankeny." While unremarkable by standards of Des Moines' west suburbs, Ankeny's 20 percent population growth was 12th highest in the state among 272 cities with populations of 1,000 or more. Ankeny grew from 15,429 to 18,482 population between 1980 and 1990. Over the past four years, the city's property value increased about 13 percent. Ankeny Councilman Gerald Fehn said the city has a special allure in that it is located on the outskirts of a metropolitan area, yet still set in a predominantly rural setting. "We have the best of both worlds," said Fehn, an Ankeny resident for 21 years. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, June, 5, 1991*

The Browns of Des Moines. I was very pleased to see that the Brown-Camp name had been retained for use with the renovation of the old Youngers warehouse into apartments. The Brown of Brown-Camp was Ernest Warren Brown (1867-1934) who would not have minded the reuse of the name a bit since he was the builder of the Brown Apartments (1912), which later became the Brown Hotel at Fourth Street and Keosauqua Way in Des Moines. ... To bring the story around to the beginning, Joseph and Rollin Valentine Ankeny were the father and brother, respectively, of John Fletcher Ankeny (1824-1886), the founder of Ankeny, just north of Des Moines. One of the daughters of John Fletcher was Susan, the wife of Ernest Warren Brown. The name connection is preserved in the person of Philip Ankeny Brown, grandson of Ernest Warren and Susan Ankeny Brown, a well-known Des Moines businessman who now lives in Okoboji in Dickinson County. *Letter to the Editor, Ernest Weitz Brown, DM Register, July 10, 1996*

Karls Chevrolet ad, DM Register, July 29, 1996

Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

1990s

Ankeny charges to lead. Baserunning helps Hawkettes sweep.

Aggressive baserunning helped fourth-ranked Ankeny sweep eighth-ranked Urbandale in a Central Iowa Metropolitan League National Conference softball doubleheader on Monday. The Hawkettes won both games in their final at-bats on close plays at home plate. Ankeny handed Urbandale its first conference loss with a 3-2 victory in eight innings in the opener. The Hawkettes then took the conference lead with a 2-1 victory in the nightcap. Carisa Albin singled to lead off the seventh inning of the second game. Albin moved to second base on a sacrifice by Leah Heston before stealing third base. Albin scored on Jenny Voss' bunt. *DM Register, July 2, 1996*

Ankeny council to hold meeting on one-cent tax. The Ankeny City Council will hold a special meeting at 5 p.m. Monday at City Hall to discuss the proposed countywide one-cent sales tax. Ankeny Mayor John Voigt said the public forum will explore ideas on how money from the tax could be spent if the proposal passes. Projections show that Ankeny would receive more than \$2.2 million in additional revenue. "We welcome input from any interested party," Voigt said.

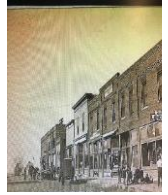
DM Register, July 20, 1996

Ankeny girls win, honor coach. Since 1972, Ankeny softball players have feared "the look" that Coach Dick Rasmussen gives his players when they fail to perform up to expectations. Wednesday night, Rasmussen had a different look – tears filled his eyes during a ceremony commemorating his final regular-season home game as the Hawkettes' coach. The surprise tribute took place after second-ranked Ankeny defeated ninth-ranked Lincoln, 1-0, in 11 innings in a non-conference game. Rasmussen was presented with an engraved jewelry box. He was overcome with emotion when he tried to address the crowd. "I didn't think I would do this," Rasmussen told the crowd. "I'm supposed to be pretty hard core. I guess I have a heart after all." Rasmussen has compiled a 1,158-314 record in 33 years of coaching. He is 935-248 in 25 seasons at Ankeny. Rasmussen has won 12 state titles, 11 with the Hawkettes. *DM Register, July 18, 1996*



Ankeny through the decades...

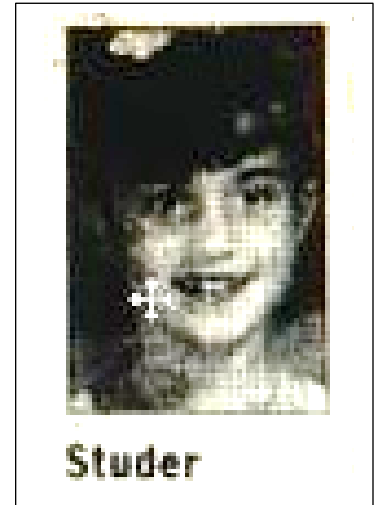
recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

1990s

8-year-old brings home 9 medals from Iowa Games. Eight-year-old Jaryn Studer of Ankeny won nine medals in swimming at the Iowa Games recently held in Ames. Jaryn, the daughter of Jon and Mary Studer in Ankeny, won two gold medals for the 25-yard breaststroke and the 100-yard mixed free relay; three silver medals for the 25-butterfly, 25-yard freestyle and the 100-yard mixed medley relay; and four bronze medals for the 25-yard backstroke, 100-yard freestyle, 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard medley relay. Jaryn swims for the Ankeny Aquahawks and the Central Iowa Aquatics Club. *DM Register, July 29, 1998*



Studer

Ankeny drug dog in high demand. Paco has conducted 33 drug searches and found drugs in 25 of those cases.

Both members of Ankeny Police Department's canine unit have a good reason to be dog tired. Officer Craig Phinney and Paco, the drug-sniffing dog, have been in big demand for drug searches within Ankeny and from several law enforcement agencies in the metro area since they returned from 400 hours of training in late February. In addition, Ankeny's canine unit has made

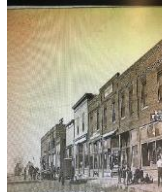


dozens of public relations presentations at schools, city functions and service clubs since it debuted three month ago. As of last week, Phinney said the unit has made 33 drug searches and found narcotics in 25 of those cases. Phinney said about 75 percent of those cases are within Ankeny. *DM Register, July 3, 1998*



Ankeny through the decades...

recalling Ankeny news from the 1950s, 1970s, 1990s*



July 2021

ANKENY FACES



JoAnn Adamson

*Training
administrator at
John Deere
Des Moines Works*

- **Address:** 3230 N.E. 78th Ave., Ankeny
- **Family:** Married to Terry Adamson for 32 years; son, Mike Adamson of Johnston.
- **Years in Ankeny:** 51
- **Community activities:** Vice president of Ankeny Area Historical Society; class recorder and secretary for Ankeny Alumni Association; member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; former leader of Ankeny 4-H Club.
- **What Adamson says about Ankeny:** "I like the people — their qualities, their work ethic and their friendliness."
- **Next on the agenda:** Adamson will be president of Ankeny Area Historical Society in 1999. "We have a goal of getting younger people actively involved and growing the membership," she said. "We also want to get more active participation from those that are already members."

DM Register, July 15, 1998

The Ankeny Area Historical Society sends you a huge "Thank You" for your support during the pandemic. Good news! The museum is open on Sundays, July 11 through the rest of summer from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Come and see all the updates, videos, and new displays.



SummerFest Parade, July 1993