

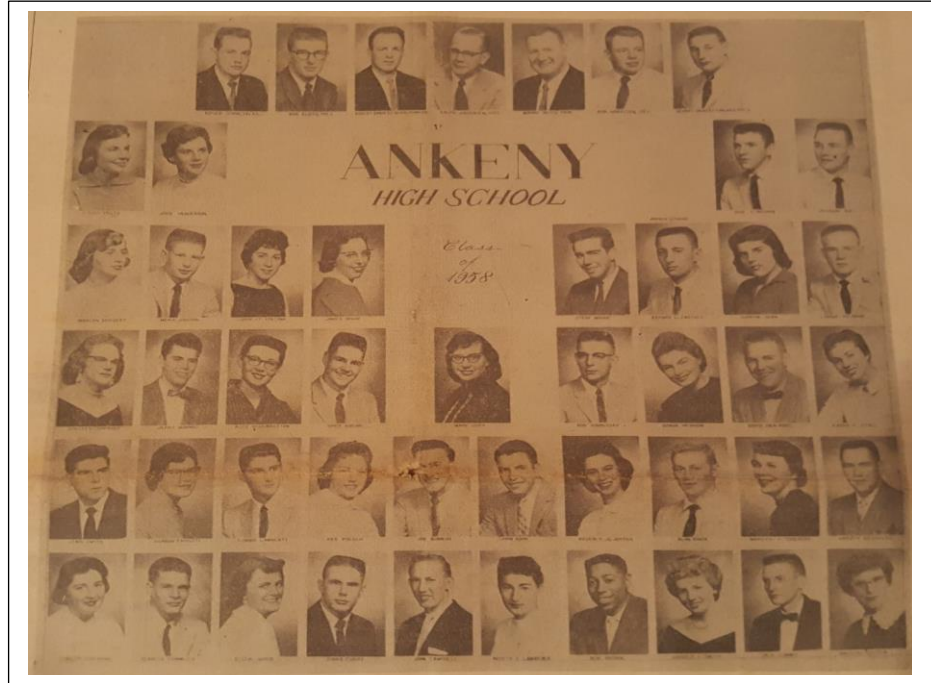
Ankeny through the decades...

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

May 2018



1950s



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
Thursday Evening, May 29, 1958
Parkview Auditorium
Eight O'clock
Program
Processional—"Pomp and Circumstance" Elgar
Suzanne Moore
Invocation Rev. Paul E. Syster
"As Torrents in Summer" Elgar
Girls' Glee Club
Introduction of Speaker Ralph Jorgensen
Superintendent of Schools
Commencement Address—"Assignment: Greatness"—
Dr. Robert F. Ray
Director, Institute of Public Affairs
State University of Iowa
"Etude" Chopin
Janice Spahr
Presentation of Class Wayne Begg
High School Principal
Presentation of Diplomas Raymond Peitz
Chairman, Board of Education
Presentation of Legion Awards Albaugh-McGovern Post
"The Halls of Ivy" Henry Russell
Girls' Glee Club
Benediction Rev. Paul E. Syster
(Audience please stand for the Processional)

45 Seniors will Receive Diplomas Here Thursday: The annual commencement exercises for the forty-five seniors in the 1958 Class of Ankeny High School will be held Thursday, May 29, at 8 p.m. at Parkview Auditorium. Robert F. Ray, Professor and Director, Institute of Public Affairs of the State University of Iowa, will give the address. Raymond H. Peitz, chairman of the Board of Education, will make the diploma presentation. Albaugh McGovern Post No. 42 will present Legion Awards. *Ankeny Times, May 29, 1959*

*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.



Ankeny Area Historical Society

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Urge Voters to Participate in Primary Election, June 2: With the primary elections now just around the corner, it is time that all people-regardless of party affiliation- give due consideration to this important American privilege and voting your voting prerogative. At no time in our political and world history has there been a time where leadership and integrity of the highest and moral quality was needed as in our democratic governmental system today. The following borrowed lines are for your consideration and thoughtful reading: *Ankeny Times, May 29, 1959*

Do you vote

“They say taxes are too high, but do you vote?
About extravagances you sigh, but do you vote?
How long, you wail, must we endure?
The state of things that keeps us poor?
How long? I do not know, I’m sure!
Our country is now a mess. But do you vote?
Your imagination you express, but do you vote?
You say that the bosses rule the show. That graft
is reaching high and low,
And doubtless, all you say is so, BUT DO YOU
VOTE?”



Ankeny Family Loses Possessions in Fire: Fire of an undetermined origin played havoc to the home and furnishings of a young Ankeny couple living northeast of town. Mr. and Mrs. David Chance and their three children, Mike 6, Steve 4, and Randy 2, have been staying with relatives in Des Moines, after a fire and explosion burned out the interior of their small home Wednesday afternoon. The home where Chance and his family lived was being rented from Harold Kirkpatrick and will be remembered by many readers as the Riley farm. L.R. Fontanini, Ankeny Fire Chief, said the cause was unknown. He said the intense heat from the fire probably caused the explosion. *Ankeny Times, May 29, 1959*

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Williams New Ankeny Coach: Gary R. Williams, Central College graduate who is now coaching at McCallsburg High School has been named boys basketball coach here. Williams basketball team at McCallsburg won 13 games, lost nine and his baseball team won 21 games, lost five. Robert VanderLinden will continue as coach of the Ankeny football teams. Dick Lantz will remain as girls basketball coach. Williams will assist in football. *Ankeny Times, May 14, 1959*

Religious Census Completed by Ankeny Churches: Thirty-six local churches members recently completed the Ankeny Religious Census by telephone. The census was sponsored by the North Polk Ministerial Association, but only included the Woodland 4 telephone exchange. The Association made over 400 calls. The cooperation they received was appreciated and no calls were made to known church members. 70 families gave no religious preference, 9 gave mixed preferences. 25 preferred churches in Elkhart and Alleman. 79 gave Roman Catholic preference. 38 preferred Baptist (Ankeny and Oralabor), not including 40 members in Ankeny. 34 preferred Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, not including 114-member families. 33 preferred the Congregational Church, not including 150-member families. 68 preferred the Methodist Church not including 340-member families.

Want more Ankeny area history? Remember to check out other pages on our website for articles, upcoming activities, and photos! Also, watch your mail for Ankeny Living Magazine each month – our Ankeny Through the Decades is included in part.

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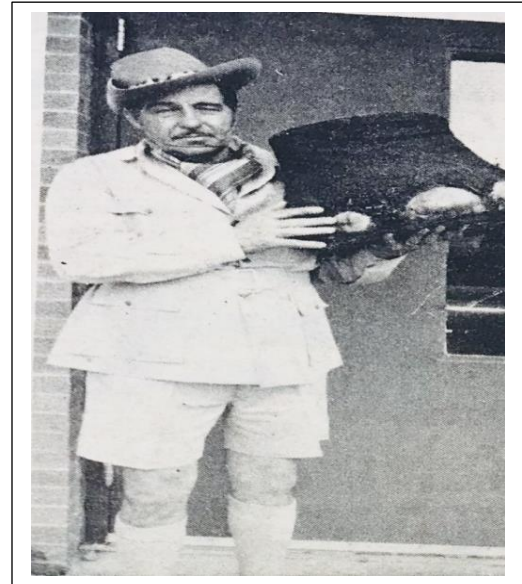
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1970s

Al Bell Assembly. Neveln has again been visited by Al Bell. This time he has just completed a safari in Kenya, a country in Africa. His latest visit with us came last Friday, May 1. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bell, who have made their home in Ankeny, were present to give accounts of their adventures. The Bells visit schools throughout Iowa and entertain students with their annual travels. This year, they brought many souvenirs to show us, including an elephant's foot that measured more than fifty inches around. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 7, 1970*



Bicycle Rodeo: Ankeny adults as well as children turned out for the annual Bicycle Rodeo held Saturday morning at Wagner Park. Bicycles were inspected, licenses were available and children competed in a rodeo exercise. Members of various Ankeny civic organizations and employees were involved with the annual event. Prizes were awarded to children performing best in bike condition, safety knowledge and bicycle driving. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 7, 1970*

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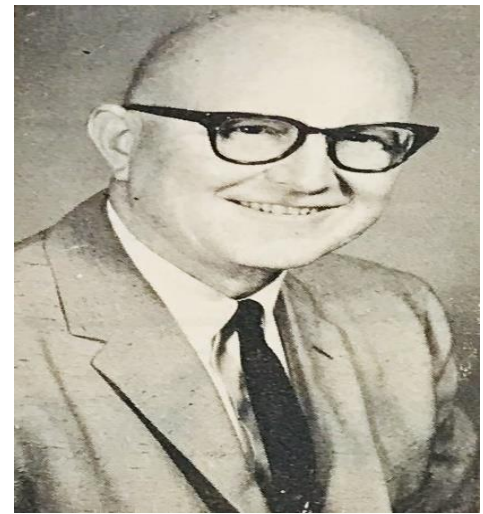
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1970s

Ankeny Teacher Heads Bandmaster's Convention. The Iowa Bandmaster's Association is holding its 43rd annual state convention in Des Moines May 21 – 23. George Friedmeyer, director of the Ankeny High School Band, is president of this association which is considered the world's largest of its kind. The membership has hit an all time high this year with over seven hundred band directors and other music educators as members. Being president of this organization is a high honor for any Iowa band director. Friedmeyer is a graduate of the State College, Kirksville, MO, received his master's degree from the University of Iowa, and has done further graduate work at Drake University and at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa. He has served as president of the central Iowa Bandmaster's Association and various other association positions. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 21, 1970*



Theater, Market to Locate in Ankeny; Building Increases. Other Plans in Building Report from City. A theater will be located in Ankeny, according to the April building permit report recently released by the City of Ankeny. A permit was issued to Frank Lint for construction of a theater valued at \$30,000 to be built at 1612 First Street in Ankeny. Lint was also issued a permit for construction of a dress shop located at 1616 First Street and valued at \$20,000. Dillion Investment firm received a permit for the construction of a \$40,000 market to be located at 710 Third Street. Other building permits for commercial buildings were issued to John Phillips, Jr. for a structure valued at \$48,000 built for Quality Screw at 1112 Lorenz Drive; and to Milan Sinclair for a body shop erected at 314 Pleasant valued at \$15,000. Six permits were issued for single family dwellings, and permits for the construction of private garages were issued to nine persons. *Ankeny Press – Citizen, May 14, 1970*

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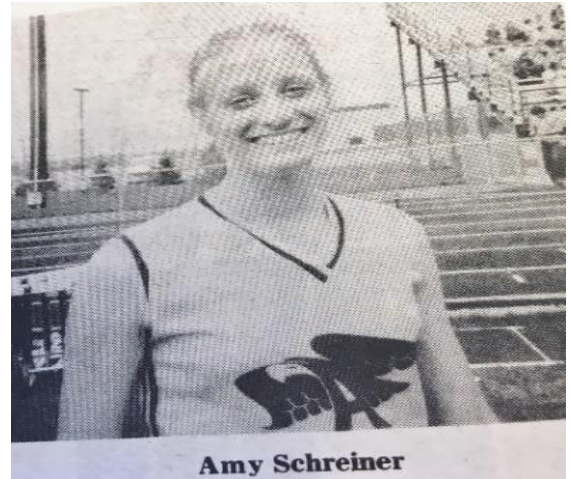
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1980's

Schreiner Shines for Hawkettes – Ankeny Hawkette Coach Roy Crabtree wishes he could run junior Amy Schreiner in about six events in track meets and it is easy to see why. Amy is one of the best girls in the state out of the blocks and goes after whomever she has to to get the Hawkettes the lead. Schreiner is currently ranked in the top twenty of the state in the open 200 and her best event is the 400. Amy usually runs in two to three quarters in relays for the Ankeny team in every event. Monday night in the Hawkette Invitational meet Amy brought the Hawkettes distant medley team from fourth to first place running the 400 and teammate Christie Carle went on to anchor the team in it's first victory over Indianola at that distance. *Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 8, 1980*



Amy Schreiner



Ankeny Press-Citizen, April 9, 1970

**Junior-Senior
PROM**
May 7, 1983
Airport Hyatt
9:00-12:00
\$7⁰⁰ Per Couple
Band: Cruise Control

Ankeny Press-Citizen, May 5, 1983

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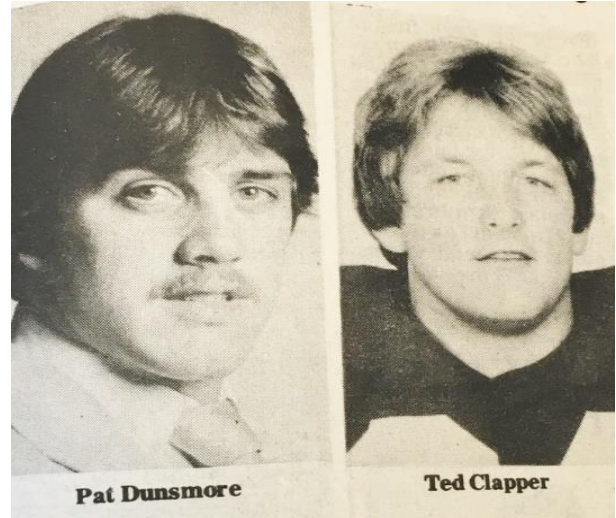


1980s

Celebration Dubbed - Ankeny Summer Fest

- After over a decade of bearing the name Ankeny Fun and Feed Days, Ankeny's annual celebration has been renamed Ankeny Summer Fest. The new name was chosen by the Ankeny United Community Organization at their April 26th meeting. The winning name chosen from 48 entries was submitted by Ankeny resident, Dee Towers. Towers will be awarded a \$30 gift certificate to the business of her choice.

This year's Ankeny Summer Fest has been set for Friday-Sunday, Aug. 26-28. Traditional events including the Kiddie Parade, Grand Parade, Talent Show, Sweet Sixteen Contest, and fireworks are being organized, as are a number of new activities. New events tentatively include: a pie eating contest, a community chorus, a show by the Ankeny Swim Club, a baton twirling contest, and soccer meets. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 5, 1983.



Pat Dunsmore

Ted Clapper

Dunsmore Called to the Bears, Clapper to the Jets – Ankeny prep Pat Dunsmore was picked in the fourth round last week to play football for the Chicago Bears and Ted Clapper received a call from the New York Jets inviting him to try out as a free agent.

Pat Dunsmore was the only player in the Missouri Valley Conference to be awarded the honor and these marks the first time since 1951 that a Drake player has received first team all-American recognition. Ted Clapper was a Big Eight offensive lineman starting for four years for the Iowa State Cyclones. During that period which included forty-four games, Ted missed one as a freshman and a half as a senior. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 5, 1983

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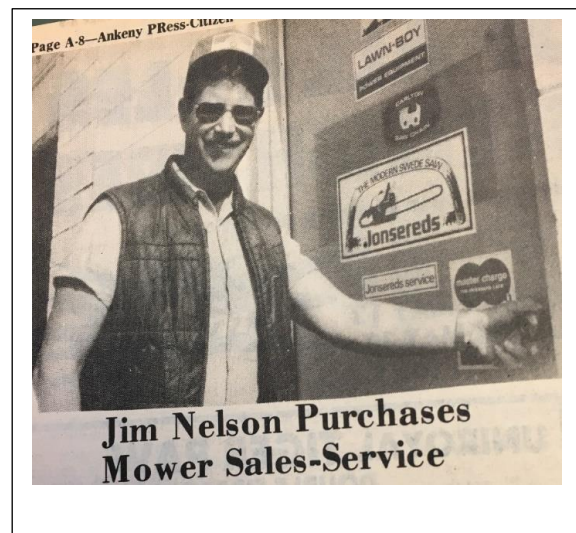
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1980s

Jim Nelson Purchases Mower Sales-Service -

Because I like Ankeny is the reason Jim is adding Ankeny a business he purchased this month from Merle Johnson. It is located at 217 South Ankeny Blvd. Nelson has owned and operated Nelson Builders in Ankeny for the past ten years and said he is using this lull in the construction business to try his hand at retail sales and service. Ankeny Mower Sales and Service is open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Perry Wilson and Roger Robinson, who worked for Merle Johnson, will continue to work for Nelson. Susan Johnson is the firm's bookkeeper. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 15, 1980.



Council Approves Re-zoning of Car Dealership Area-The council approved a Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation to rezone the southeast properties at the intersection of SE Delaware and Oralabor Roads from C-2 Commercial to M-1 Light Industrial. The properties include the closed Ford sales and garage facility, seven acres owned by Tom Powell, and the Ewing Implement Company. Also present were Kenneth Scholes who was representing property owner Tom Powell, Duane Spicer of P&Z, Carl Moyer and Zane Smith.

Raymond DePaglia of 4500 Merle Hay Road in Des Moines, of the National Properties Corp. which owns 45 acres on the northwest portion of the intersection, opposed the rezoning. His property is zoned commercial as is the property southwest of the intersection. The northeast property is zoned R-1 Residential. The major reason for support of the rezoning request was that completion of the sale to Elwell would put the Ford building, vacant for about three years, back into business. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 19, 1983.

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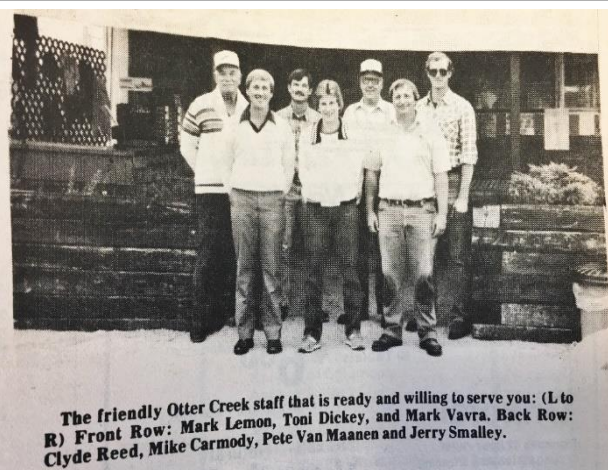
Otter Creek is a Year Old: A first-class sign and beautiful landscape greets you at the entrance of Otter Creek Recreation Area. The Otter Creek Golf Course is now meaner and greener as it nears its first birthday. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 26, 1983



Otter Creek Is A Year Old

Ruth Bond Honored – Over 100 faculty members and administrators attended a retirement coffee honoring Ruth Bond, Ankeny teacher, on May 5th at the Parkview media center. Hosts were the Parkview Elementary staff. After Ms. Bond greeted the guests at the door, a program followed with Mr. Bob Beilstein, Parkview principal, acting as master of ceremonies. Kurt Svalstad, high school music instructor, introduced a mixed quartet and a barbershop quartet who sang several numbers. Supt. Keith Hopkins presented Ms. Bond with a plaque from the Ankeny School Board.

On May 11, a retirement dinner was given for Bond at the Best Western Inn. Special guests were present and former principals, faculty members, family members and friends. Ms. Bond has taught school for 40 years. *Ankeny Press-Citizen*, May 26, 1983



The friendly Otter Creek staff that is ready and willing to serve you: (L to R) Front Row: Mark Lemon, Toni Dickey, and Mark Vavra. Back Row: Clyde Reed, Mike Carmody, Pete Van Maanen and Jerry Smalley.