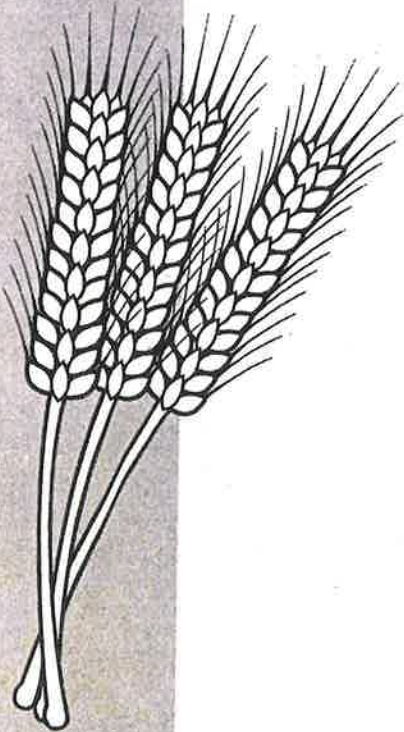


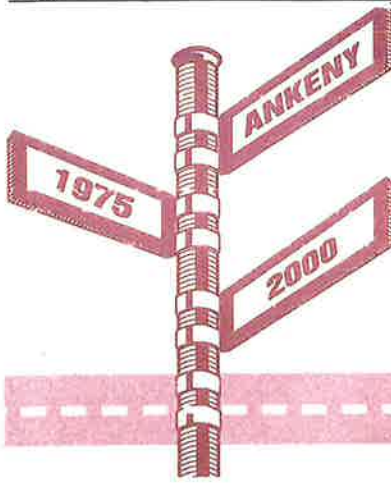
Sampson

ANKENY

— 1975 - 2000 —

25 Years Since The Centennial





ANKENY

— T I M E L I N E —

News And Newsmakers In Ankeny Over The Past 25 Years...

1800-1850

In 1803 the Louisiana Purchase was made for \$15,000,000. Iowa was the first free state carved out of the territory in 1846 as the 29th State of the U.S. Prior to that, the area was

1850 - 1890

Ankeny was platted by John and Sarah Ankeny on an 80-acre tract. Ankeny was a doctor from Illinois and helped in Lincoln's 1860 election campaign. He was also a

1890-1940

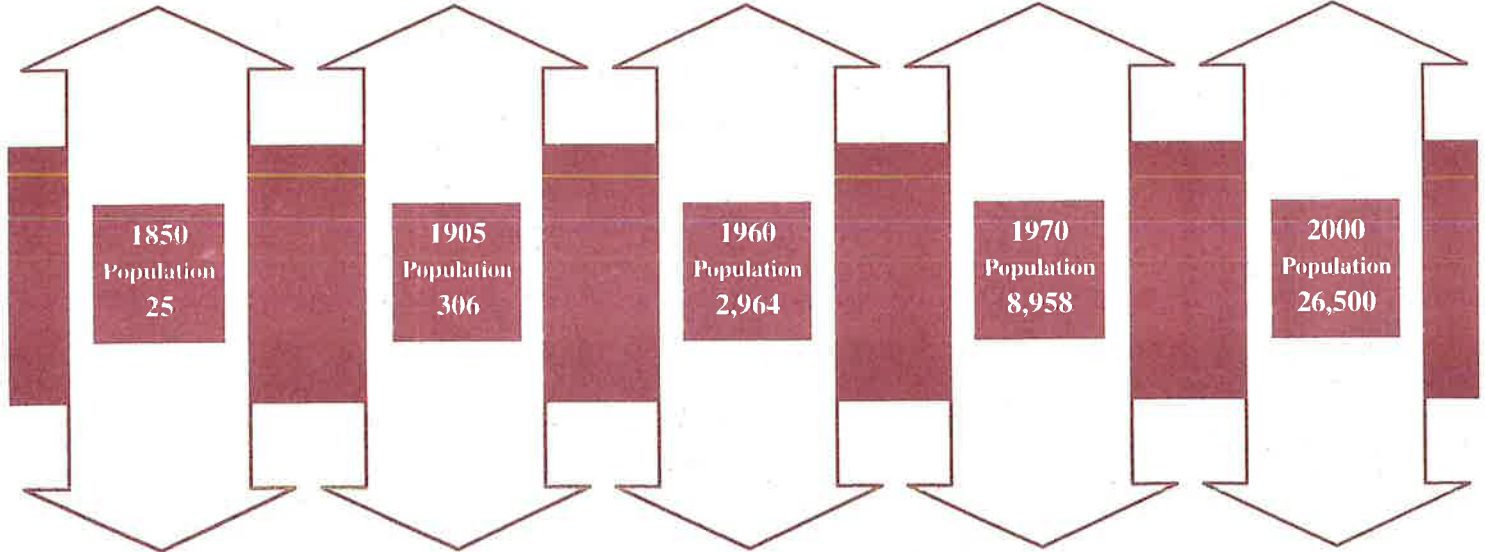
By 1903 Ankeny had 445 people. Telephone service arrived and in 1907 electricity was available. The first fire department consisted of 3 ladders and 24 pails in 1907.

1940-1975

By 1950 the town had grown to 1,229 citizens and by 1958 the first home mail delivery began. Ankeny was officially declared a city in 1961 and the number of residents living in

1975-2000

Ankeny has exploded to over 26,000 residents and added a Regional airport in the heart of a new industrial corridor along I-35.



inhabited mostly by six Indian tribes: the Sac, the Sioux, Otoc, Omaha and Pottawattamie.

During those 50 years, white settlers and fur traders flooded into the area. Indian tribes moved west and most sold interests in Iowa. Keokuk, Chief of Sacs, resided just four miles south of Ft. Des Moines before moving to Kansas.

stockholder in the Minnesota Narrow Gauge Railroad which was later to run through Ankeny.

There were no decent roads between Ankeny and Des Moines... just swampy ruts much of the time. In 1880 the Chicago Northwestern Railroad put in a commuter service. Rides to Des Moines were 33¢. In 1881, Ankeny had seven houses, a church, a depot, a store and post office, livery stable, hotel, school and machine shop.

Between 1932 and 1940, Ankeny experienced four major fires that almost destroyed the uptown business area. Most of the businesses rebuilt. By 1942 the federal government had established an ordnance plant for the manufacture of ammunition on the site now occupied by Iowa State Research Farm and the John Deere Des Moines Works.

Ankeny was 2,964, more than double the 1950 total. A special census taken in 1965 revealed Ankeny's population had nearly doubled since the preceding five-year census.

In 1975, Ankeny celebrated its 100th birthday. The fantastic growth of Ankeny has been one of the success stories in Iowa's recent history.

Ankeny has 2 colleges, 10 parks, a golf course and a swimming pool.

There are now 3 golf courses, 12 parks, 10 tennis courts, 3 swimming pools, 25 churches, several health centers and nearby Saylorville recreation facility.



28 Pages of 25 Years of Ankeny Happenings...

— TABLE OF CONTENTS —

	<u>PAGE</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
Schools	4-7	Old Guard, New Regime	18 & 19
In 25 years Ankeny has gone from graduating classes of under 200 pupils to over 400! Bond issues have been passed, new schools built, expanded staffs and the Ankeny Alumni Hall of Honor is an attraction.		Like any town, Ankeny has had its movers and shakers. And now a new generation is guiding Ankeny keeping the intent of their forefathers in focus.	
Athletics, Arts	8-11	Business	20 & 21
Ankeny's sporting teams have won championships in the league and in the state. Plus over the past 25 years, Ankeny has put its first athletes into professional sports. Ankeny's world-class band has marched to many national honors.		Smaller merchants have come and gone, others have expanded and most recently Ankeny has become the battleground for some of the nation's super-heavyweights.	
Industry	12 & 13	1975-2000 Headlines	22-25
From humble beginnings in the 1960's to the booming seventies, Ankeny's Industrial Corridor has blitzed central Iowa in the 90's.		A variety of Ankeny facts, figures, stories and events.	
Government	14 & 15	From the Mayor and the Governor	26
When a town leaps from 8,968 people in 1970 to 26,000 in 2000 you know that the city services and the people that man them are running at full tilt.		Optional Reading— From The Editor	27
Our Town-Pages	16 & 17	Ankeny's Historical Society	28
Ankeny has had its challenges and protests during its growth spurts. To widen or not to widen First Street...an airport or not...a golf course owned by the city...and name it Otter Creek????			

*Also, through the book are vignettes
by Ankeny People about Ankeny — Tidbits and Insights.*

Ankeny Schools Grow and Grow

Education has always been paramount to the citizens of Ankeny. From the first log cabin school, which was located just west of the Deere Credit Union location today, to the complex of 9 buildings, 5,828 students, 731 staff and personnel of today...Ankeny has continued it's strides towards excellence.

The first new-construction building for education-use was the Old Central building erected in 1909 and served the community in various ways until the 1974 tornado made it unsafe. In 1919, Neveln was built to accommodate the growing enrollment. Finally, in 1952, the first phase (of three) was completed at Parkview.

Since 1975, Ankeny schools have added: Ankeny Senior High School, Northview Middle School, Westwood Elementary School and Northeast Elementary School. Substantial additions are being made to or have been made to Parkview, Ankeny High School and several other elementary locations.

In the year 2000, it was announced that the district has agreed to buy 35 acres of ground for two schools...one located near NE 18th and Ash and the other near Polk City Drive in southwest Ankeny.

Cooperative Efforts

"The Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Development Corporation, the City of Ankeny and the Ankeny Community Schools have attained a new high in cooperation by passing a referendum for 17 million dollars in school and city construction of improvements."

Ollie Weigel

Ankeny Superintendents — 1975-2000



Keith Hopkins

Besides being "headmasters" at the Ankeny schools, superintendents here have always been civic-minded and generous with their time for the community. Keith Hopkins served the system from 1960 to 1986. During that time, Dr. Ben Norman served for a period as his administrative assistant. Dr. Norman has been superintendent since 1988.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF ANKENY SCHOOLS

H.H. VanBethuysen	1917-1919
E.G. Clark	1919-1921
E.W. Neveln	1921-1943
Cliff Evans	1943-1947
Ted Karges	1948-1951
Ralph Jorgensen	1951-1958
Melvin Anderson	1958-1960
Keith Hopkins	1960-1986
Dr. Ben Norman	1986 to Present

During Ankeny's 25-Years of Growth, DMACC & FBBC Flourish

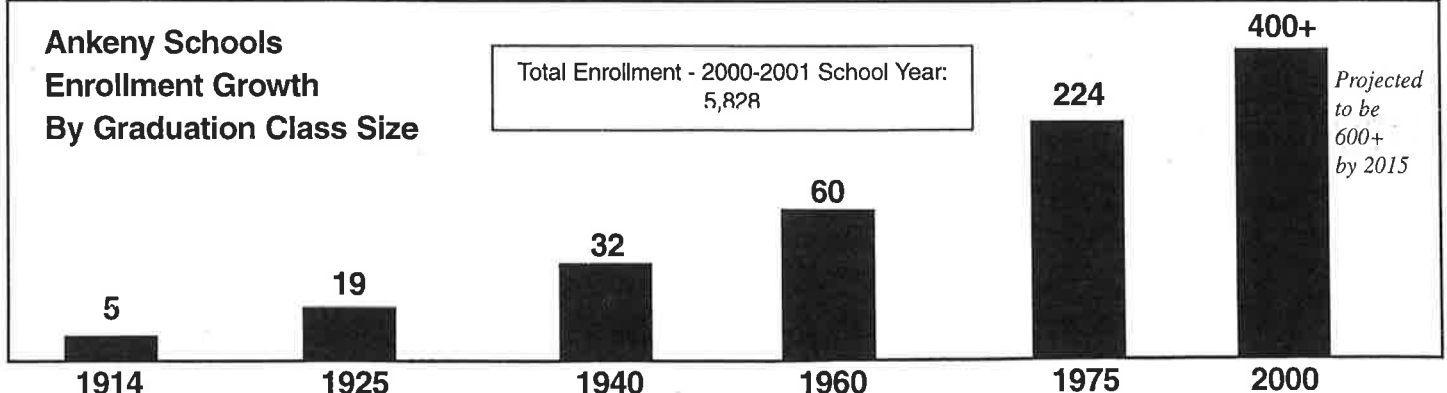


At the same time that Ankeny's schools have grown, so too has the Des Moines Area College, just south of town. Founded in 1965, it has grown to 11,000 students today. There are presently 23 buildings.

Faith Baptist Bible College has also continued its fine presence in Ankeny. Today, FBBC boasts 498 students.

Ankeny Schools Enrollment Growth By Graduation Class Size

Total Enrollment - 2000-2001 School Year: 5,828



and Grow and Grow and Grow

ANKENY'S GROWTH

"During this past twenty-five years Ankeny has emerged from a large town to a booming city. It seems such a short time ago that we were celebrating the 100th anniversary of the town that was termed "A Progressive Town, a Place to Grow". That it has done, and very well at that. Out of the ruins of the tornado of 1974, the visionaries shared their hopes and dreams of Ankeny that have become a reality during this milestone.

Ankeny leaders identified that being at the center of the crossroads of the nation with I-35 & I-80 was a tremendous opportunity for industrial and residential growth. It was also necessary to improve the layout with an easily accessible city grid for the flow of its people for homes, businesses, and schools. This intermixed with municipal city support and parks has lead Ankeny to be a community that newcomers desire to join.

The leaders of Ankeny is a mixture of people who have lived in Ankeny their whole life as well as new residents whom have wanted to become involved in making this a city to prosper and flourish. They have supported the businesses, schools, and civic activities. The school district has sought out the best staff to continue the high standards of excellence for education, athletics and the fine arts.

I believe the leadership and the vision of those leaders are the keys that have made Ankeny prosper."

JoAnn Adamson

Past President, Ankeny Historical Society

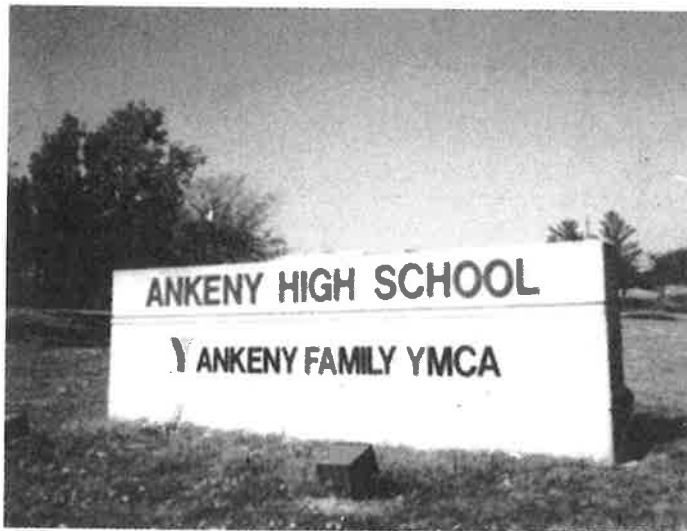
ANKENY SCHOOLS EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:	Proposed 2000-2001
Instruction	\$ 21,866,844
Student Support Services	\$ 1,202,901
Instruction Staff Support	\$ 2,212,708
General Administration	\$ 647,072
Building Administration	\$ 1,620,779
Business Administration	\$ 343,662
Operation & Maintenance	\$ 3,203,748
Transportation	\$ 802,994
Central Support	\$ 145,912
Noninstructional Program	\$ 123,742
Total District Expenditures	\$ 32,170,362
AEA Flow Thru	\$ 1,577,765
Total	\$ 33,748,127

Manilla Coppock - Ankeny's Own Original Graduate!

Manila Abuhl Coppock is Ankeny's living legend. A graduate of Ankeny schools in 1917, she spent all of her years in the Ankeny system, has never missed an alumni banquet in her 83 years as an alum, played the organ at the Methodist church for 39 years and taught Sunday school for 70 years.



Married to Marion Coppock in 1920, they raised two daughters on the farm, Janet and Norma, and started a seedcorn business. Manila still lives on her own at 102 years of age on NW Des Moines Street where she has been since the 1960's.



Ankeny has several unique situations attached to the schools. The first of its kind joint usage with the YMCA is also a first-in-the-nation project.

The Ankeny School curriculum is revised and updated continuously through a curriculum mapping process. Standing committees composed of K-12 professional staff are charged with curriculum coordination and articulation.

These efforts result in a well-rounded, organized program of studies emphasizing the mastery of basic skills. Typically, Ankeny students perform above grade level and rank at the top nationally on standardized achievement tests.

**1999-2000 Iowa Test of Basic Skills
National Percentile Ranking
of Average Composite Scores**
Grade 385 Grade 4 . . .86
Grade 584 Grade 6 . . .86

**1999-2000 Iowa Test of
Educational Development
National Percentile Ranking
of Average Composite Scores**
Grade 987

**PLAN Composite Scores
Grade 10**
Ankeny19.3
National16.6

**ACT Composite Scores
Administered to 80% of students:**
Ankeny23.0
Iowa21.9
National20.8

Ankeny Hall of Honor Salutes

The Ankeny High School Alumni Hall of Honor was established in 1993. The Hall of Honor has two main goals:

- To recognize graduates of Ankeny High School for outstanding achievements and contributions to society after graduation.

- To promote role models for students enrolled in high school.

Selection criteria includes the following rules:

- Candidates must have graduated from Ankeny High School at least 10 years prior to the induction.

- Candidates must have contributed to his or her community in an exemplary manner.

- Candidates must have achieved outstanding success in business, academics, education, the Arts, humanitarian efforts or community service.

- Candidates must be or have been a distinguished role model for students at Ankeny High School.

Commemorative plaques are on display at Ankeny School

THE FIVE INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1993 ARE:

Lloyd E. Brewbaker - Mr. Brewbaker is a 1916 graduate of Ankeny High School. After serving in World War I, Mr. Brewbaker spent 47 years working in banks in Ankeny, retiring as vice-president of Ankeny State Bank. He was a charter and 50-year member of Logic Masonic Lodge, a charter and 50-year member of Albaugh-McGovern American Legion Post, a charter member of Ankeny Lions Club, and a charter member of Ankeny Golf and Country Club. He served for 42 years as treasurer of the city of Ankeny, was treasurer of the Ankeny School District for many years, and served on the Board of Education.

Dr. Nello A. Lamberti - Dr. Lamberti is a 1938 graduate of Ankeny High School. Dr. Lamberti has earned degrees in engineering and management from Iowa State University and the University of Southern. He served his country during World War II in the Navy Air Corps.

Dr. Lamberti has served as a chief industrial engineer and chief executive officer for such large companies as the McCullough Corp., Ryder-Elliott, Inc., the Studebaker Corp., and Universal American Corp., a conglomerate with 38 plants around the world. He also created his own company Lamberti Industries.

He has received numerous academic and professional awards. He has published articles and given speeches nationally.

Chester F. Randolph - Mr. Randolph is a 1943 graduate of Ankeny High School. He is best remembered for his work in international agriculture. A graduate of Iowa State University, Mr. Randolph received the first Iowa World Citizenship Award in 1971.

As director of overseas market development for the National Soybean Association, where he negotiated contracts with 13 countries. He was also farm broadcaster for station WHO for 10 years and served 16 years as host of the award winning program *Market to Market* on public television weekly in 20 states.

Reno D. Bertogli - A 1945 graduate of Ankeny High School and after serving his country in the Korean Conflict, Mr. Bertogli returned to Ankeny to operate a highly successful insurance business until his death in 1979.

Mr. Bertogli is best remembered for his active involvement in community affairs. He was a founding member of the Ankeny Golf and Country Club, and was an active board member in the Ankeny United Church of Christ. Mr. Bertogli enjoyed working with students exploring business as a career and had a reputation as one who could be counted on to accomplish civic projects. In 1979, the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce awarded Mr. Bertogli the Outstanding Citizen Award for his years of leadership and support.

Dennis Albaugh - Dennis is a 1968 graduate of Ankeny High School. He received an agricultural business degree from Des Moines Area Community College and served his country in the National Guard.

In 1979, Dennis started an agricultural chemical company from the basement of his home. This has grown into a \$33 million a year business with sales in 48 states.

Mr. Albaugh developed two housing projects in Ankeny, Country Club Court, and Fountainview and Barclay Estates. He has served in leadership

positions with the Chamber of Commerce and Ankeny Businessmen's Club. He has supported many youth activities and been a supporter of school projects.

THE FOUR INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1994 ARE:

Vernon W. Smith - Mr. Smith was a 1929 graduate of Ankeny High School, participating in athletics and chorus while in high school. After graduation, Smith became a prominent businessman and community leader in Ankeny.

He owned Smith Oils, Inc., for 63 years. Smith was a past president of the Petroleum Marketers of Iowa. He also helped form Ankeny National Bank and the Ankeny Golf and Country Club.

Smith led the group that built the Ankeny Church of the Brethren, and served as president of the Ankeny chamber of commerce and Lions Club. In 1983, Smith was recognized as Ankeny's Outstanding Citizen.

Doug Conway - Doug Conway is a 1939 graduate of Ankeny High School. He served in the United States Air Force during World War II. His plane was shot down, and Conway was listed as missing in action for eight months while hiding in Belgium.

Conway's civic accomplishments include service as director of the Ankeny Golf and Country Club, past member of the Ankeny School Board, past president of the Iowa Investment Bankers and past trustee of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church in Ankeny.

Conway served as director of The Service Corporation, a company with 14,000 employees. He was also executive vice president and director of I.F.S. Industries.

Virginia Pearson Snyder - Virginia Pearson Snyder graduated from Ankeny High School in 1935. Her career as a dietitian spanned over 40 years from 1944 until her death in 1986.

She was the head dietitian in pediatrics and a clinical dietitian for New York Hospital, Cornell University Medical Center. In addition to her primary job, she trained dietitian interns and taught dietetic classes to doctors, medical students, nurses and new mothers.

Upon graduating from Iowa State College, she was selected to intern at New York Hospital, Cornell University Medical Center. After completing one year as an intern, she was offered a staff position. She continued to work at New York Hospital, Cornell University Medical Center until her death in 1986.

Cathy Hull O'Brien - Cathy Hull O'Brien was a 1963 Ankeny High School graduate. She participated in athletics and instrumental music while attending Ankeny.

Cathy received her nursing degree from Iowa Methodist Medical Center and the College of St. Francis, and has been employed at Iowa Methodist Medical Center since 1966.

Cathy Hull O'Brien is nationally recognized for the work she has done with Life Flight. She organized the flight program in 1979 when only a dozen programs were in operation through out the country. Having served as chief flight nurse until 1991.

In 1987, Life Flight, the movie, was filmed at IMMC and documented many of the struggles Cathy Hull O'Brien experienced with the growth of Life Flight.

THE THREE INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1995 ARE:

Richard Logli - Mr. Logli is a 1944 graduate of Ankeny High School, attended Iowa State University, and then served in the United States Army in World War II. He joined his family business (Logli Super Valu), after the war, retiring from the business in 1974. He has been an active participant in many civic organizations and activities including the Lion's Club and the American Legion. He is an active member in the Ankeny First United Methodist Church.

Myrtle Sexauer - Ms. Sexauer is a 1935 graduate of Ankeny High School and graduated from Capitol City Commercial College. Myrtle worked as a secretary for the John Deere Des Moines Works for 32 years. She is a member of the First United Methodist Church, Ankeny Area Historical Society, and the

Outstanding AHS Graduates

Ankeny Alumni Association.

Marvin Nichols - Mr. Nichols is a 1953 graduate of Ankeny High School. He owns and operates Nichols Cryo-Genetics. He has received many honorary awards recognizing his accomplishments in the field of cattle genetics. He is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Ankeny Kiwanis Club.

THE TWO INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1996 ARE:

Willard Nagle - Mr. Nagle was a 1934 graduate of Ankeny High School. Nagle is best remembered for his numerous volunteer endeavors and service to his community. He served in World War II, was active in banking, real estate and small business ownership. Nagle was elected to the Ankeny School Board and the city council. He was selected as Citizen of the Year in Ankeny and named as recipient of the Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind Award in 1985. Nagle was a charter member of the Ankeny Dollars for Scholars and Ankeny Historical Society organizations.

Dr. Richard T. Howard - Dr. Howard was a 1943 graduate of Ankeny High School. He was actively involved in football, school clubs and organizations, and the 4-H. He attended Iowa State University, where he graduated second in his class from the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1947 and was selected as a Cardinal Key member. He also had a very distinguished football career at ISU. He was a three-year starter, an All-Conference selection and established many team records. After graduation from ISU, Howard established a veterinary practice in Kanawha, and later moved to Ankeny. He was very active in both communities in school, church, civic, and business activities. Howard died in 1980 after a long battle with cancer.

THE TWO INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1997 ARE:

Cornelius Hutton - Cornelius Hutton was a 1940 graduate of Ankeny High School. A fixture at Ankeny civic events his entire life, Cornelius Hutton had an outstanding military career as a pilot and flight instructor in World War II. After the war, Hutton continued his service in the Iowa Army National Guard. He became one of Iowa's first helicopter pilots and continued to fly until his retirement in 1978, when he retired as a Colonel. For over 20 years he was a rural mail carrier.

Heavily involved in church and civic functions, he played Santa, marched in parades for the color guard, washed dishes at Legion spaghetti suppers, participated with his daughters in Campfire, his sons in Indian Guides, 4-H and other activities.

Steve Moyer - Steve Moyer is a 1975 graduate of Ankeny High School. After graduation, he attended DMACC, graduated from Grinnell with a degree in Economics, and pursued his education at Stanford Law and Chicago Business Schools, receiving his J.D. and MBA degrees.

He is currently a vice president and senior analyst with Montgomery Securities in New York, has made his mark in the fields of law and finance. Moyer's diverse business career has included working with the first portable computer maker, expanding the home and commercial mortgage markets and, just recently, financing this year's largest health care services merger.

THE TWO INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1998 ARE:

Dr. Gerald L. Dutcher - Jerry Dutcher, a 1959 graduate of AHS, has enjoyed a 35 year career in engineering design and management in the California aerospace and electronics industry. He earned his B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University in 1963, after which he joined the engineering staff at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California for two years.

Jerry then entered graduate school at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he subsequently earned Masters and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering. His interest in space science and technology led him to join the Space and Communications Group of Hughes Aircraft Company in 1969. During the following 27 years he became one of Hughes' leading systems engineers and program managers, and also managed several large engineering organizations.

Manila Abuhl Coppock - Manila was born in 1898 in Polk County. Her family built the house on the NW corner of School & Third Streets. She spent all of her school years in attendance in the Ankeny school system. Manila graduated from Ankeny High School in 1917 and has never missed an Ankeny Alumni Banquet in her 81 years as Ankeny alum. She is still an active recorder, and shared in the duties of secretary for the first years of the association's organization.

As a young lady, she took music lessons at Drake University and became the organist for the Methodist Church where she has been a lifetime member. She was the Methodist Church organist for 39 years. Manila started teaching the **Beginners Sunday** school class and taught for 70 consecutive years. She was also a charter member of the Greenwood Community Club and the Unity Club of Ankeny...both originating in the early 1920's. In 1920, she married Marion Coppock of rural Ankeny and moved to the family farm. They had two daughters, Norma Coppock Reppert, and Janet Coppock Nichols. Manila was a real help-mate to Marion where she worked on the farm and in the family business of raising seed corn called "Coppock's Hybrid".

Manila was 100 years old on November 3, 1998. Her health has been a real blessing, along with her family. She always says she is "happiest" when her family is with her. She has two daughters and sons-in-laws, seven grandchildren, and eleven great grandchildren.

THE TWO INDUCTEES AND THEIR BIOGRAPHIES FOR 1999 ARE:

Asa J. Hutton - Upon graduation with the class of 1937, Asa continued classes at American Institute of Business. Joining the National Guard in 1940, Pvt. Hutton mobilized Jan. 1941 and was discharged 1st Lt. in 1946. As a member of the Iowa National Guard in 1947, he was active in its reorganization and retired in 1965 as Lt. Colonel.

Asa served a term as Post Commander of Albaugh-McGovern Legion Post #42 and its service officer for 35 years; served as post Commander for the Polk County Legion. A member of the Knights of Columbus, he served as Grand Knight, 4th Degree Knight and their financial secretary for 25 years.

He donated his culinary skills for many years to our alumni banquet and various other organizations in which he actively participated.

The Ballard Brothers - Gerald, Orville, and Cecil - These three brothers have remained in the Ankeny community and have actively given of themselves for the betterment of Ankeny. Upon graduating from Ankeny School and serving their country during World War II, these three joined their father in business.

Gerald remained in this business for over 30 years; was recognized for his outstanding contribution to agricultural and community affairs by an award from the Kiwanis Club.

Known for his success as a nursing home administrator, Orville is widely recognized as "Polk City's Greatest Magician" and his magic has delighted many family gatherings and nursing home residents. He has worked tirelessly to improve the Ankeny historical museums.

Cecil became owner of the Phillips 66 station. Gerald and Cecil served many years as Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 88.

Outstanding Citizen for 1969 was awarded to Gerald for his community contributions in scouting.

THE INDUCTEE AND BIOGRAPHY FOR 2000 IS:

JoAnn Kochheiser Adamson - A lifelong Ankeny resident and 1965 graduate JoAnn is co-secretary of the Ankeny Alumni Association and also class recorder for the class of 1965. She has been president of the Ankeny Area Historical Society for 1999 and 2000. JoAnn has been employed by the John Deere Des Moines Works for 35 years where she was promoted as the first female supervisor of the factory production operations in 1976.

She is a past board member of the Deere Community Credit Union and was a 4-H leader of the Ankeny 4-H Club for 10 years. JoAnn is an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church having taught confirmation, Sunday school, and serving on numerous committees. She and her husband Terry live on the family century farm.

Honors Abound In 25 Years

Since 1975, Ankeny High School has won a total of 23 state championships. That's almost one per year—a rate that is envied by most schools throughout Iowa.

One of the biggest reasons for Ankeny's success has been the hiring of talented coaches, including many who remained at the school for the rest of their careers.

Dick Rasmussen became one of the winningest softball and girls' basketball coaches in the nation, racking up 16 state titles along the way. Longtime coaches Larry Ireland (boys' basketball), Mel Murken (baseball) and Jerry Pezzetti (football) also captured state championships at Ankeny.

"Once we got it rolling, the girls just worked so hard to keep it going," said Rasmussen. "And it even shows today with Scott (DeJong), because he's won two (basketball) championships. I'd like to think we kind of laid the foundation for that success."

Rasmussen came to Ankeny in the summer of 1972. He previously coached at South Hamilton, where he won his first state title in softball.

Rasmussen said he and his wife, Sue, used to drive through Ankeny on their way to Des Moines, where Sue's parents lived.

"Ankeny was kind of down at that time, and I thought it might be fun to try and build a program there," Rasmussen said. "When the opportunity came about, I thought it would be a good challenge."

It didn't take Rasmussen long to turn the Ankeny program into a winner. The Hawkettes won a fall softball title in 1977, then captured the basketball crown and a summer softball championship in 1978.

"The first one was the greatest. You always remember the first one," Rasmussen said. "And that was just a tremendous run that we had, winning three championships in the same school year."

Rasmussen also led the Hawkettes to the basketball title in 1980 and 1989. He is the only coach in Iowa to win three six-on-six crowns.

Rasmussen went on to lead Ankeny to a state-record 12 softball titles. Many of his teams were expected to win the crown, but the 1991 squad wasn't one of them. That team surpassed expectations by winning the championship.

Rasmussen later announced his retirement during the summer of 1996. The Hawkettes then captured another softball title in his final season.

Under Rasmussen's guidance, Ankeny has produced some of the



The Hawkette starters for the 1978 State Champs.

Rasmussen's final Hawkette team won the state title in 1996.



of High School Athletics

best female athletes in state history. Perhaps the best known are sisters Connie and Mary Yori, who have gone on to become successful coaches at the collegiate level.

Ankeny's
Championship
Billboard



TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS

Ankeny Makes The Pros

Several former Ankeny athletes have enjoyed success during the past 25 years on the professional level. Pat Dunsmore and Dennis Gibson both played in the Super Bowl, Kevin Little became one of the top sprinters in the world, and Benj Sampson pitched his way to the major leagues.

Here's how each of those elite athletes reached the highest level of their respective sports:

- **Pat Dunsmore.** He played just one year of high school football under Ankeny Coach Jerry Pezzetti, who recalled that Dunsmore "had no idea he could even start for our team." But Dunsmore played well enough at Ankeny to earn a scholarship to Drake, where he went on to become an All-American receiver for the Bulldogs.

Dunsmore eventually played three seasons in the National Football League as a tight end. He was a member of the Chicago Bears' squad that won the Super Bowl in 1985.

- **Dennis Gibson.** He was a standout linebacker at Ankeny, then started for three years at Iowa State. An eighth-round draft pick by Detroit in 1987, Gibson immediately earned a starting position as a rookie. He helped the Lions to the NFC Championship Game in 1991 and went on to make nearly 500 tackles during his seven seasons in Detroit.

Gibson joined San Diego as a free agent in 1994 and helped the Chargers to the AFC championship that season. He made the "Immaculate Deflection" in the final seconds of the AFC title game at Pittsburgh, preserving San Diego's victory and sending the Chargers to the Super Bowl.

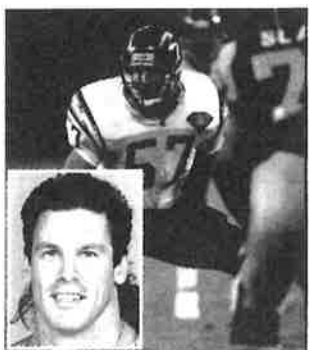
- **Kevin Little.** He was a state track champion at Ankeny, where he set an Iowa high school record in the 200 meters. Little then blossomed into one of the best collegiate sprinters during his career at Drake, where he was a four-time All-American for the Bulldogs.

Little went on to become a steady performer at the international level, competing in several World Championships and coming close to earning a berth on the U.S. Olympic squad in 1996. Some of his best races have come on the indoor circuit, where Little once set an American record in the 200. He has also been a fixture at the Drake Relays, competing in front of his hometown fans nearly every year for almost two decades.

- **Benj Sampson.** As a junior in 1992, Sampson pitched the



Pat Dunsmore



Dennis Gibson



Kevin Little



Benj Sampson

Ankeny baseball team to the Class 4-A state championship. He later committed to play for Wichita State, but Sampson elected to turn pro after being selected by Minnesota in the sixth round of the 1993 amateur draft.

Sampson spent nearly six seasons in the minors before making his major-league debut with the Twins in September of 1998. He compiled a 1.56 ERA in five appearances, which earned him a spot on Minnesota's opening-day roster in 1999. Sampson spent most of that season with the Twins, posting a 3-2 record before being sent back to Triple-A Salt Lake, where he helped the Buzz to a Pacific Coast League division title in 2000. He currently has 59 career minor-league victories.

Ankeny Boys Capture Crowns In



Although Rasmussen has been responsible for the majority of Ankeny's state titles in the last 25 years, other coaches have also enjoyed tremendous success. Here are some other highlights:

- In 1992, Murken guided Ankeny to a state baseball championship. The Hawks were led by Benj Sampson and Todd Sears, who are now both members of the Minnesota Twins' organization.

"Those two guys worked really hard, and they loved the game," Murken said. "They deserved to have the success that they did, and I hope that they continue to do well in the future."

Murken emphasized, however, that his championship squad was far from a two-man team.

"They just played together well as a team," he said. "If someone had a bad night, then someone else had a good night. It seemed like we had a different hero every night."

- In 1995, Ireland led Ankeny to a boys' basketball title. The Hawks posted a 76-67 victory over Valley in the Class 4-A final, avenging a loss to the Tigers in the 1993 championship game.

Ankeny won the crown behind the play of sharpshooting guards P.J. Dauterive and Ryan Sears. Sears is now a standout point guard at Creighton University.

"That team was young, but they were very competitive and they all shot the ball well," Ireland said. "They



Larry Ireland



Dick Rasmussen



Mel Murken



Jerry Pezzetti

Ankeny Bands Post 25 Years of

As the town of Ankeny has grown, so has the Ankeny Band Program. Twenty-five years ago as the Ankeny School system was



starting to make the transition from a small school to a large school, the Ankeny band program was making the same transition.

Just one example of that growth can be seen by looking at the increase in the number of tubas and sousaphones. When Paul Brizzi, the current band director, took over the program 18 years ago there were two tubas from grades 8-12. Today there are 19 tubas in the high school alone.

The growth of the Ankeny program is about more than the number of instruments in the school system or even the number of young adults in the program. It's really about the growth in musicianship and for the love of music.

When Brizzi came to the program there were about 120 members in the band from grades 9-12. The band program was trying to make the move to a large school program. Brizzi was preceded by Bill Ballenger, who left Ankeny to direct the Nebraska marching band. Ballenger is currently the chair of the music department at Oklahoma State.

Prior to Brizzi and Ballenger, George Friedmeyer had been the long-time director of the Ankeny Bands.

Baseball, Basketball and Football

did what they had to do to win.

"I had a lot of good teams over the years, but winning the title was kind of the frosting on the cake," Ireland added.

• In 1997, Pezzetti led Ankeny to the Class 4-A football crown. The Hawks defeated Iowa City High, 17-14, in the championship game at the UNI Dome.

Among the stars on that team were quarterback Ryan Justice, running back Adam Bengé, receiver Matt Fredericksen and kicker Todd Sievers—who set a state record with a 63-yard field goal earlier in the season.

"That team had a lot of talent, but they also worked very hard," Pezzetti said. "They just kept battling and battling."



1995 Boys State Champs 4-A



1997 4-A Football Champs



*Record-setting
kicker
Todd Sievers
now kicks at
the University
of Miami*

The seniors on that team fulfilled a promise that they made to Pezzetti two years earlier. As sophomores, they put a letter on Pezzetti's desk, promising to win a championship if he stayed around to coach them.

"They told me that they'd win the state title, and they did," Pezzetti said. "It was just a great effort by a group of young men that set their goals high and went out and got the job done."

Growth, Excitement, Championships

Today there are over 200 musicians in the high school band, which is now composed of grades 10-12. The band had increased in size to over 300 musicians and color guard prior to moving the ninth graders to Northview middle school.

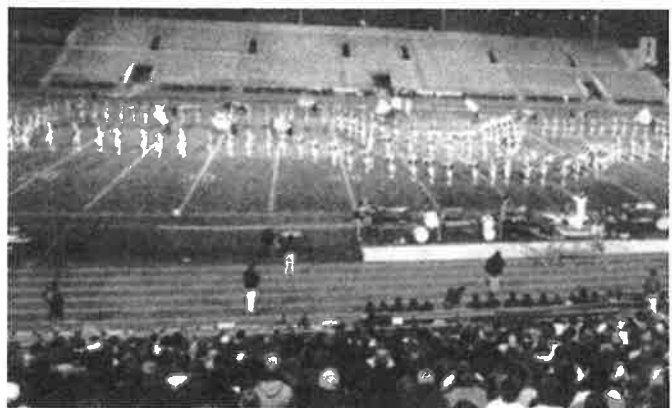
While there have always been excellent musicians in the Ankeny program, perhaps the biggest difference is the quality of the middle of the road performers. For Brizzi and most of the staff, it's really about teaching their students to have a "love of music."

That love of music certainly shows through whether the band is performing at half time of a football game or in concert band competition. In state competition, the Marching Hawks have earned 17 consecutive Division One ratings. The concert band and jazz band have had similar results in state competition.

As the new millennium dawns, the program is poised for even greater success. Two major additions to the program include the recent addition to the facilities and the formation of the Ankeny Instrumental Music (AIM) Foundation.

This past fall the band moved into a new 6000 square foot band

room. The practice facilities and access to technology will enable young musicians to hone their skills and further explore their love of music.



The Nineties Quietly, Efficiently Usher Industrial Corridor To Ankeny

Ankeny's first attempts at an Industrial Park in the 1950's and 1960's led to the cluster of businesses in the southeast part of town. Eventually AGI and Younkers anchored that park.

But the best was yet to come.

Denny Elwell envisioned an industrial corridor along Interstate 35 and along Ankeny's Southeast Delaware. And at the close of 2000, that vision is nearly in place. With Elwell's ability to attract Casey's General Stores' warehouse and home offices, Tone's Spices, Praxair Distribution and Techniplas - among many others, Ankeny's profile of industry took a definite upswing.

ANKENY'S GROWTH

The Regional Airport

"The construction and development of the Ankeny Regional Airport has been amazing. In the face of considerable opposition, including a public vote on changing Ankeny's form of government, the mayor and city council were unanimous in their support of the project.

It is now the third or fourth largest airport in the state of Iowa (depending on the yardstick you use), and home base for over 120 privately owned aircraft. It is also the fastest growing airport in the FAA's nine-state central region."

John Voigt

Otter Creek

"A farm donated to the City of Ankeny for support of a public library by the Kirkendall brothers was developed into a municipal golf course. The City council was severely criticized for this project but now it is a wonderful recreational area and also a good financial source for the City."

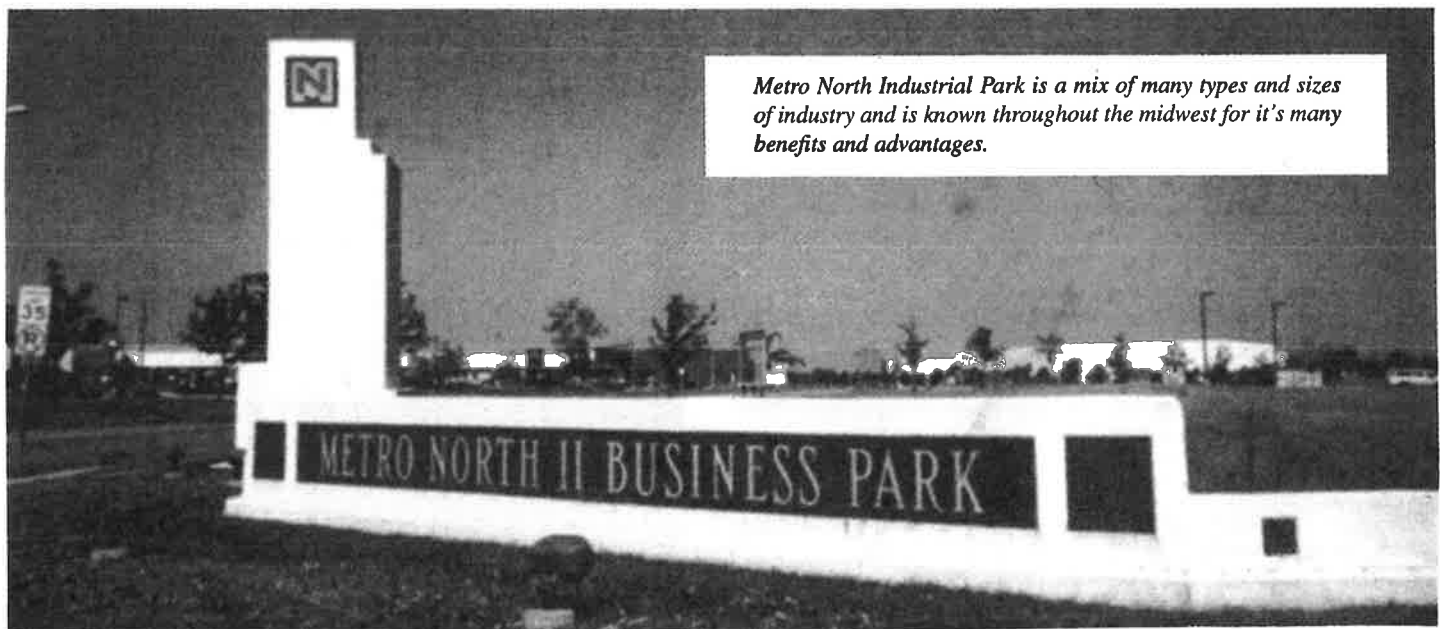
Ollie Weigel



Tone's Spices employes over 600 workers



Casey's General offices and warehouse employes 350 people.



Metro North Industrial Park is a mix of many types and sizes of industry and is known throughout the midwest for it's many benefits and advantages.

The term "build it and they will come" must be true for the new Metro North Business Park. It is truly a jewel in Ankeny and is recognized as unsurpassed in the midwest with its offering of location and amenities...not to mention the convenience of outstanding transportation with I-35, I-80 and the Regional Airport.

In addition to Elwell's efforts, the Ankeny city council is also credited with an aggressive behavior towards new industry and business...constantly looking for state money for development, offering tax incentives and tax increment financing for roads, public improvements and job training programs.



Younkers Warehouse has been a staple for the Ankeny Industrial Park for many years.

ANKENY'S GROWTH

Ankeny's Water Supply

"After several studies over the years, to learn whether to dig new deep wells, go to Saylorville Lake, connect to Des Moines and other ideas, it was decided to be more cost effective and reliable to connect to the Des Moines system. This plan included lines along Delaware Ave., East 14th, and the John Deere line plus more storage space to be built. Now recently we have made use of the old wells to store vast amounts of water under ground to be used in times of emergency."

Ollie Weigel



Perishable Distributors of Iowa employes 470 people.

Ankeny's Largest Employers

NAME	EMPLOYMENT	UNION
John Deere Des Moines Works manufacturing farm implements	1,200	UAW & IAM
Des Moines Area Community College two year community college	625	ISEA
Perishable Distributors of Iowa wholesale food distribution	470	none
Casey's General Stores corporate office/distribution	350	Teamsters
Tone's Spices spice manufacturing and distribution	640	Teamsters
Younkers Distribution Center wholesale distribution	175	Teamsters
Snyder & Associates engineering and surveying	80	none
XPEDX paper and printing supplies	72	none
Mrs. Clark's Foods manufacturing/distrib. salad dressing/juice	83	none
Techniplas custom injection mold plastics	104	none
Praxiar manufacturing gases; felding equipment	130	none
On With Life head injury rehabilitation	91	none
Ankeny Community Schools public education system	675	ISEA/PPME

Number of manufacturing plants in community 13
 Number of manufacturing plants with unions 2
 Number of manufacturing employees in community 2,300
 Number of work stoppages in last five years 0

John Deere Carries On As Backbone To Ankeny



A landmark for five decades, John Deere took over the World War II Ordnance plant which manufactured 35 train carloads of bullets daily...and put in an implement manufacturing plant that employs over 1,200 people in 2000.

City Services Expand To Meet Demands

Ankeny's city government has carried on the council-mayor form of rule since 1903. Five councilmen and a mayor are elected by the citizens. In 1973 Ankeny hired its first city manager.

The first complaint ever noted that requested council action was from Dr. Patterson—complaining that hogs were being kept too close to his home by his neighbor. Another order was given by the council asking that the clerk send a note to Howard Bachman asking that he tie his cow so she cannot get onto the sidewalk.

Ninety seven years later, Ankeny's city council still works with citizens about sanitation and sidewalk safety...but in different circumstances.

As the city grew, so did the city government and the force that it takes to run the operation. In the year of 2000 there was a permanent staff of 126 people plus another 125 to 150 hired part-time during the year. With an operating budget of about \$20 million much of that goes to water, sewer and recycling...with an equal amount going to police, fire and rescue.



Merle Johnson



Ollie Weigel



John Voigt

In the past 25 years, Ankeny has had three mayors: Dr. Ollie Weigel 1974-1993, John Voigt 1993-1997 and Merle Johnson 1997 to present. While all three mayors served during incredible growth periods, it is natural that Weigel's legacy is the most remembered as it covered 20 years and two very large debates. One of Weigel's first pledges as mayor was to widen and improve First Street. But, after a gym packed with 500

ANKENY'S GROWTH

Ankeny's City Government

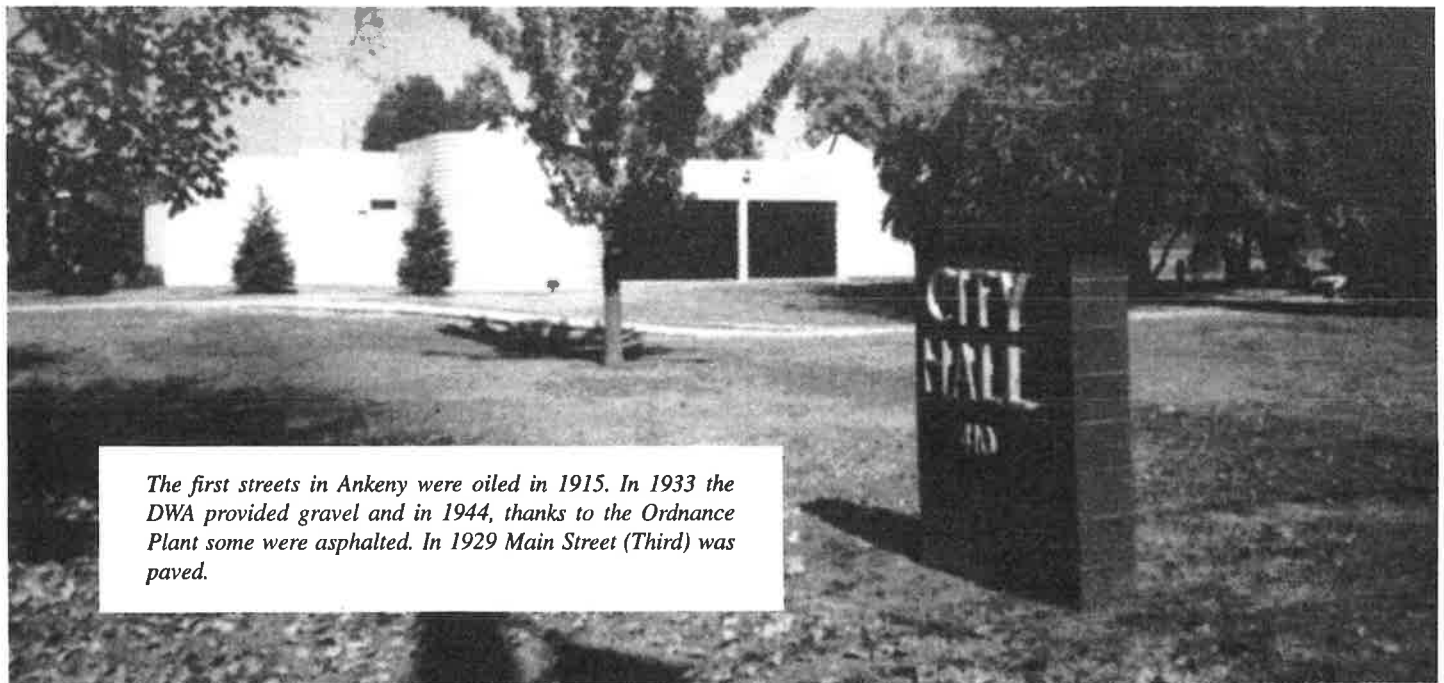
"Eldon Leonard would wade in where angels feared to tread. He was blunt, candid, lovable, intimidating, and forceful, but perhaps the single biggest force in bringing commerce to Ankeny. He also was a bit of a "Tom Sawyer." He was a master of getting other people to do the work.

Carl Metzger is a city manager's city manager. You feel that everything is under control with Carl in charge. If Carl can't find the solution to a problem, there is no solution. He is the master of tactfully getting private sector people as well as politicians to agree with his point of view."

John Voigt



Ankeny's Fire Department has come-up a few rungs on the ladder since 1907 when the list of equipment included three ladders and 20 pails. Ankeny's new station was just completed in 1999.



The first streets in Ankeny were oiled in 1915. In 1933 the DWA provided gravel and in 1944, thanks to the Ordnance Plant some were asphalted. In 1929 Main Street (Third) was paved.

angry protesters made their feelings known to the council it was another two years before it came up again...and then it was the public asking how soon it could get done.

The other debate was the Regional Airport location in Ankeny. This time, protesting citizens threatened the project by forcing a vote to change the form of city government. Again, a majority expressed confidence in the mayor and council and Ankeny was chosen for the airport facility now located in Metro North, just east of town.

All three mayors have continued the cooperative spirit with the school system that has given Ankeny so many favorable opportunities, including the YMCA and other recreational and civic-use areas.

Carl Metzger is the 15-year veteran of the city manager's office and gets much of the credit from all three mayors of Ankeny's efficient operation.

In 1903, Ankeny's law enforcement consisted of one marshall. In 1975 Ankeny boasted one chief, two detectives, a lieutenant, 14 patrolmen, one liaison officer, one policewoman two dispatchers and three cadet dispatchers.

The Marshall's salary in 1903 was \$25 per year...it was doubled in 1911. In 1924 Milton Fox was the first motorcycle traffic cop. He split the fine money 50-50 with the town.

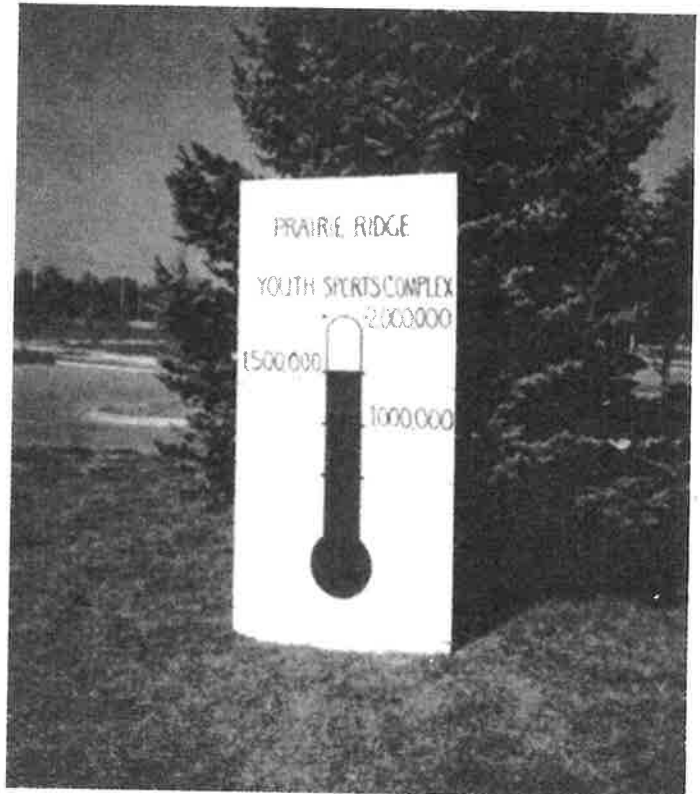
One of Ankeny's newest features on the force is the canine cop, Paco.

For the year of 2000, 3rd-year chief Paul Scranton is in charge of the 15th largest police force in the state of Iowa. His 37 sworn staff members had 20,000 calls for service and answered 4,000 911 emergency calls. Five members of the force have a quarter century of service for Ankeny—Sid Conkel 30 years, Merlin Christians 27, John Evers 25, Arnie Porath and Stan Warner 24. The department has 20 patrol officers, 4 supervisors, 20 marked cars and 11 unmarked cars.

Fire chief Tom Strait has five fulltime employees including the chief, two captains and two paramedics. Ankeny is allowed 55 part-time/paid-per-call volunteers. In the first 11 months of 2000 there were 500 fire calls answered and 930 ambulance calls. Currently, AFD has 3 ambulances, a rescue truck, 3 pumpers, a 95-ft. platform ladder, one tanker and a 4x4 utility vehicle.



In 1970, Ankeny hired it's first fulltime director—Bill Boswell. Today, Al Olson is the head of the Parks Department.



Ankeny's city and school system have cooperated on a number of projects that have benefited the citizens.



ANKENY'S GROWTH

Local one cent Sales Tax

"Several sales tax proposals for the city of Ankeny were opposed which would have lowered our real estate taxes and avoided some bond issues. These were voted down but recently the same proposal for the school system was passed and a great deal of improving of school facilities is taking place. This is going to let our schools keep up and remain ahead of needs caused by our rapid growth."

Ollie Weigel.

ANKENY'S GROWTH

General

"So many things are taking place which are increasing values of land and homes and fueling tremendous growth and should over time lower taxes due to the increasing tax base. It also makes commercial growth flourish and provides services and convenience in shopping."

Ollie Weigel.

Our Town

Ankeny Grows and Prospers Through Promotion, Protests, Politics

Ankeny's growth spurts have not come without their sputters.

Each time Ankeny attempted a seemingly revolutionary change, like widening First Street or building a golf course, there has always been a healthy dose of public discussion and dissension.

Two of the most memorable were the packed meetings, a decade apart, that debated the need, the cost, the viability of taking a lumpy, pothole-laden farm-to-market First Street and widen it to what some called: "...a freeway that threatened lives of all children in Ankeny..."

For months, the Ankeny city council knew what they must do: sell the idea to the citizens that in order for Ankeny to grow, First Street must be four lanes. Convinced that it would be a speedway with no stoplights and impossible to enter from side streets, Ankeny nearly erupted into a civil war. But, after time healed, tempers cooled and stoplights were promised...First Street, all four lanes, became a reality. And it would be impossible to imagine Ankeny without it.

But if the council thought that the success of First Street would make the next project any easier...they were sorely mistaken.

In fact, people were so against the Regional Airport that they sought to replace the present form of city government assuring that the resolution would go away. Planes falling from the sky, unbearable noise, declining property value and even spooked livestock were among the fears by locals.

But, a vote of confidence by the public in the council led to the construction and successful opening of the Ankeny Regional Airport.



First Street widening was heateaty protested, but eventually won voter's and driver's approval.



Ankeny's Historical Society got a home in 1995 by moving the former Marts/McCleary home which was due to be demolished. \$100,000 in cash and \$35,000 of services were donated and it opened a year later.



Another tough debate was the Regional Airport...which almost cost Ankeny's city government an overhaul.

Ankeny's Churches



Ankeny's three mainstay, landmark churches have each undergone or are undergoing substantial facelifts at the close of the century. Top photo—Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church, middle photo—Holy Trinity Lutheran and bottom—Ankeny United Methodist Church have each expanded tremendously in membership and physical size.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Ankeny Baptist Church
2842 SW Third Street | Church of the Nazarene
510 NW Ash Drive |
| Ankeny Church of the Brethren
417 SE Grant | Cornerstone Baptist Church
701 East First Street |
| Ankeny Christian Church
2506 SW Third Street | First Church of Christ
310 NW Ash Drive |
| Ankeny Church of Christ
224 SW Third Street | Harvest Community Church
700 SE Oralabor Road (ACC) |
| Ankeny Evangelical Free Church
118 NW Linden Street | Heartland Assembly of God
1125 SW Third Street |
| Ankeny First United Methodist
206 SW Walnut | Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
517 SW Des Moines Street
Open Bible Fellowship
209 East First Street |
| Ankeny Mt. Zion Missionary
Baptist Church
1945 NE 76th Place | Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic
Church
510 East First Street |
| Ankeny Presbyterian Church
317 SE Trilein Drive | Resurrection Lutheran Church
(ELCA)
914 NW Ash Drive |
| Ankeny United Church of Christ
602 SE Delaware | St. Anne's By-The-Fields
2110 West First Street |
| Ankeny Family Worship Center
Assembly of God Church
1125 SW Third Street | St. Paul Lutheran Church
1100 SE Sharon Drive |
| Bethany Reformed Church
720 NE 52nd Avenue | Seventh Day Adventist Church
409 SW Maple Street |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
Saints
729 East First Street | |

Doctors In Ankeny



Mercy Ankeny Medical Clinic was the first of its kind in Ankeny...housing several doctors and affiliating with a regional hospital.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Ankeny Chiropractic Clinic
309 E. 1st St | Family Chiropractic Clinic
110 NE Trilein, Suite 3 |
| Ankeny Dental Center, P.C.
306 SW Walnut St. | Family Dentistry
319 N. Ankeny Blvd. |
| Ankeny Dental Arts
121 NE 18th St. #C | Integra Health
1105 N. Ankeny Blvd. |
| Ankeny Family Dental Care
380 SE Delaware | Laks Jagnandan DDS
2302 W 1st St. |
| Ankeny Family Vision Center
311 N. Ankeny Blvd. | R.A. Jenkins, DDS &
R.D. Lund, DDS
401 NW 18th St. |
| Ankeny Physical & Sports Therapy
301 N. Ankeny Blvd. | Kennedy Chiropractic Office
2202 W 1st St., Suite D |
| Cervetti & Associates
Family Foot Care Specialists | Drs. Kinser, Langwith,
Hull & Bernhardt, PC
114 NW 5th St. |
| Collins, James, dDS
114 SW State St. | Oral Surgeons, PC
111 NE 9th |
| Excel Physical Therapy
309 N. Ankeny Blvd. #2 | Vision Clinic of Ankeny
102 East 1st St. |
| EyeCare Associates
111 NW 9th St. | |

The Old Guard...The New Regime...

In Passing...



V. W. Smith



Eldon Leonard



Dick Hermann



Wayne Begg



Willard Nagle



Keith Hopkins

Over the past 25 years, six very influential leaders have passed on, leaving Ankeny richer for their presence. It seems that every community has its natural leaders, but Ankeny has always been blessed with several leaders who have given selflessly to the betterment of the city.

Dick Hermann was the eternal optimist. As an attorney, as a civic leader, as a dad and a husband, Dick was energetic and always there to serve.

Eldon Leonard was Ankeny's full time ambassador. As Mayor, as industrial development representative, as an Indian Guide dad, Eldon was always promoting Ankeny wherever he went.

V.W. Smith was one of Ankeny's original merchants. As the owner of V.W. Smith Oils and Texaco Station (as well as Smitty's Cafe) he was recognized as the person who gave Ankeny its first slogan: "Start Living, Move to Ankeny!" and that was emblazoned on all of his business trucks.

Willard Nagle was always there. On the schoolboard, on city boards, running for Mayor, heading up the effort to a new library. Willard was willing to serve and give wisdom to Ankeny's challenges.

Keith Hopkins and Wayne Begg...you could not really think of one without the other. Both were at the helm of the schools during some of Ankeny's neediest times. Active in school functions by trade and in church and civic affairs by choice, both participated in and helped guide the conscience of a community.

So where do the leaders of tomorrow come from? Every community faces that question every so often. Will men of vision like John Ankeny, Rolfe Wagner, Ed Neveln and the Hildreths, Sexauers and Spahrs come along again?

The answer is yes. They have and they will. They will always come along in a community like Ankeny where roots and civic pride run deep. They will come from farms, grocery stores, banks and businesses. The original roster of leaders was replaced and along came the Steffensons, the Hicks, the Smiths, and the Liechtys. The Lints, the Fontaninis, the Bianchis and the Ballards. Then along came the Elwells, the Lundstroms, the Albaughs, the Leins and the Weigels.

The names and the accomplishments go on and on...but the message is the same: "Give back to the community that made it possible for you to be able to offer it back."

As the original history book of Ankeny shows, the land developers play a big part in the success of a town. Their willingness to take gambles, to experiment, to allow growth certainly can lead to riches, personally...but it also takes good sensible stewardship to spur the right kind of growth in a community.

Ankeny has been fortunate to have good stewards.

Stepping Stones To Ankeny's Successful Growth

"Several events come to mind as I reflect back on the transformation of the City of Ankeny from a small, sleepy town of less than 5,000 to a growing and dynamic community with a population of over 26,000 residents.

In the 1940's a significant change for our community was the purchase of the old Ordinance Plant by John Deere Des Moines Works.

In the 1950's, Highway 69 was widened to four lanes and I-35 was in the planning stage. In addition, during this time, plans were underway in the legislature to create the area college concept and Ankeny became a designated site for the construction of a college campus.

In the 1970's, the widening of 1st Street became a very emotional issue with our residents. Upon reflection, I do not think anyone would disagree, that this proved to be a very positive change for Ankeny, providing us with our first east-west major arterial street.

In the 1980's, the new sewer treatment plant was constructed.

The 1990's saw the completion of SW State Street, the development of the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex, the construction of a new library, fire station, aquatic center, as well as the remodeling of the existing police station.

As we entered the year 2000, plans were underway for the construction of a new interchange south of Ankeny; the development of the Iowa State Research Farm site, and continued growth and prosperity."

Merle O. Johnson
Mayor

Honoring The Past—Building The Future!

35 Years of Outstanding Citizens

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARDS

presented by the
Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce

CRITERIA as established in 1972: The person receiving the Outstanding Citizen Award must have made a significant contribution to the improvement of the entire community. Criteria rating being based on the contribution the person makes to the community, outside their chosen trade or profession. The recipient may have a wide range of interests and be actively involved in community service.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

1965	Frank Lint	1971	Paul Lowry	1989	Virginia Koch
1966	James Maggert		Noel Liechty (Posthumously)	1990	Ben Norman
1967	Keith Hopkins	1972	Vernon W. Smith	1991	Pat Brewbaker
1968	Wayne Begg	1973	Eldon Leonard	1992	Annette Vance
	Ted Johnson	1974	Richard Logli	1993	Ollie J. Weigel Darel Hildreth (posthumously)
	Barbara Johnson	1975	Bob Madison	1994	Merle Johnson Wayne Begg (posthumously) Bob Kratky (posthumously) Bob Vanderlinden (posthumously)
	Marvin Nichols	1976	Ollie J. Weigel	1995	Dwight Mollison Ray Hall (posthumously)
	Barbara Leigh	1977	Richard Hermann	1996	Larry Cairns
	Gerald Ballard	1978	Asa J. Hutton	1997	Gary Welch
	Jerry Card	1979	Joseph Flatt (posthumously) Reno Bertogli (posthumously)	1998	Jean M. Jones Myrtle Sexauer
	Harold Bush	1980	Milford Johnson	1999	Danielle Chappell
	Norris Adams	1981	Everett A. Smith		
	Barbara Puff	1982	Richard Rasmussen		
	Russ Mowry	1983	John Lundstrom		
	George Friedmeyer	1984	Everett Albaugh		
1969	Betty Rorebeck	1985	Willard Nagle		
	Gordon Rorebeck	1986	Jeff Segin		
	Jerry Fulton	1987	John Voight Noel Liechty		
	Don Hick	1988	Lynn Pitts		
	Bob Wagner				
	Robert Priest				
Others Honored:					
	Marvin Frisk				
	Mary Peters				
1970	Carmen Zimmer				
	Milton Aunan				
	Marion Kochheiser				
	Don Haines				
	Ed Thayer				
	Ankeny Volunteer Fire Department				

Business Community Undergoes Many Facelifts In 25 Years!

One of Ankeny's major challenges over the years is the struggle that small retailers encounter when they are located next to a larger metropolitan situation like Des Moines. Add the facts that Ankeny is not a county seat and has no town square...and well, even merchants with good intentions and ideas may quiver.

However, over the years, Ankeny has never had a problem replacing stores that go out. There are virtually strip malls in every corner of Ankeny. And the battle to revive "uptown" Ankeny that started 35 years ago still goes on today.

So, Ankeny merchants are not quitters.

In fact, the resilience of the Ankeny merchant is quite astounding. Even with national giants like Target, Wal-Mart and Home Depot coming to town, smaller mom and pop stores still are opening on Main Street, in strip malls and even expanding to try to catch on with the astounding growth in traffic along SE Delaware.

Over the past few years, Ankeny has cut the ribbon for an average of 25 new businesses per year...some brand new, some expanding, some changing location, but all attempting to serve the Ankeny public with merchandise and service with the hometown touch.

Ankeny has averaged increases in retail of about 7% over the past few years to a high of \$255 million in 1998!

And even the strip malls that aren't strip malls any longer are put to good use. Formerly Frontier Shopping Center and later the Paramount Center, the complex at West First Street and State is now home to the Ankeny Christian Academy. Once home to grocery stores, drug and hardware stores, men's and women's clothing, a bike shop, children's clothing and more...it most recently held a four-screen theatre. Now, it is the K-12 center for a popular Christian school.

So, diversity and flexibility has served Ankeny's merchants and business people well. While location, location, location is a key...service, service, service has become the battle cry for more merchants than ever before.

Strip Malls Are There... The Faces Have Changed



Formerly a strip mall of merchants, this complex is now a school.



Once the bustling center of Ankeny with city hall, a hardware store, shoe store, jewelry store, car dealer, bank, grocery store and more..."Uptown" Ankeny has done much to solve street problems and attract new merchants. It is still the sentimental center of Ankeny and always will be.



Although their building was once a great hang-out for kids as Toy Villa in the sixties and the tornado of 1974 tried to blow them away, Luke Brothers Carpet has been a generational mainstay of Ankeny. It is one of a handful of businesses that has remained relatively unscathed over the past 30+ years.

THERE WERE TOUGH TIMES

"The good times are easy and fun to remember. But, I recall one meeting in the early 80's, in fact it was the afternoon that there was an attempted assassination of President Reagan, and our meeting was about the tough times in Ankeny. Businesses were closing, enrollment was down in the schools, the farm crisis was on going and interest rates were high...I don't know if we solved anything but we got through that period."

Richard Logli



Super Target, SuperWal-Mart, Home Depot and Mennards have made SE Delaware a definite destination for shopping in Central Iowa.



Carl Moyer took a struggling location at SE Delaware and Oralabor and turned it into a picturesque, flourishing auto dealership, with Karl Chevrolet.

Remarkable Actions Gave Birth To Historical Jewel In Uptown Ankeny!

"We were literally "busting at the seams" in 1995 in our original museum located behind Neveln School and searching for a larger home to display more than 1,210 gifts donated to us since 1990.

Monday morning, July 3, 1995 when, as president of the Ankeny Area Historical Society, I called Bud Wuiff about a rumor that the former Marts/McCleary home behind the Dairy Sweet was being demolished which he confirmed. Demolition was scheduled in two weeks, but he said he would give the house to us if we could have it moved within six weeks. By 2 p.m. that afternoon 20 Society members gathered for a walk-through and made the decision to move it to its present location if the School Board and City could O.K. The following weeks were the busiest and most exciting of my life...the house was moved Sunday, August 20, 1995, and ribbon cutting, dedication, ice cream social and open house held one year later, on Sunday, August 27, 1996. Our quarterly newsletters depict the happenings of the year with a \$100,000 fundraising campaign and over \$35,000 in in-kind services, which covered all expenses and kept us loan free. This was accomplished with a dedicated group of senior citizens leading the way and the support of numerous volunteers. A charter member had made the comment "I'll never see it in my lifetime," when we were meeting at the Chamber. Those words served as an inspiration to me. What a beautiful and educational addition this museum has made to Ankeny!"

*Barbara White
President 1994-1996
Ankeny Area Historical Society*

Chamber Helps Market Ankeny, Coordinates Events

Ankeny's Chamber of Commerce has been a source of strength and ideas for the business community for decades. With a small staff and a treasure chest of volunteers, the Chamber has put together hundreds of retail events, helped coordinate Easter Egg Hunts, dinners, banquets, public awareness meetings and other Ankeny-cheerleading projects. Headed for many years by Jean Jones, the Chamber is now managed by J.D. Mullen.

Chamber of Commerce Presidents

1951	Dr. Russell Love	1976	Dale Miller
1952	James Bower	1977	Dick Herman
1953	Ollie Weigel	1978	Dave Hoover
1954	Otis Cross	1979	John Voigt
1955	Charles Feight	1980	Jeff Segin
1956	V.W. Smith	1981	Steve Long
1957	Francis Hall	1982	Gene Samuelson
1958	Dr. Paul Dougan	1983	Gerry Fehn
1959	Donald Steffensen	1984	Jayne Cloutier
1960	Earl Olmsted	1985	Gregg Sunner
1961	Dr. Glenn Higgins	1986	Gary Baugher
1962	George Keays	1987	Larry handley
1963	Jerry Fulton	1988	Shirley McClain
1964	James Maggert	1989	John Lundstrom
1965	Richard Miller	1990	Mike Moyer
1966	Frank Lint	1991	Pat Brewbaker
1967	William Wallace	1992	Dale Froelich
1968	Forest McClure	1993	Steve Boal
1969	Don Steffenson	1994	Bill Konnath
1970	Ollie Weigel	1995	Paul Maxwell
1971	Norris Adams	1996	Craig Block
1972	Joseph Flatt	1997	Don Zuck
1973	Larry Cairns	1998	Mike Lydon
1974	Larry Donaghy	1999	Deb McKittrick
1975	Eldon Leonard	2000	Cindy Miller

Notable News — 1975 to 2000...

— 1975 —

The Centennial Celebration

1975 was a red-letter year for Ankeny. It marked the celebration of the town's 100th birthday. It also provided the springboard for 25-years of unprecedented growth that would see the population explode from 11,000 to over 26,000 by 2000!

The headlines from 1975 were as varied as the folks making them: The Centennial Committee elected Ankeny clothier Joe Flatt president of the celebration and Dick Hermann his vice-president. George Friedmeyer is pageant director.

After being blown apart by the June 18, 1974 tornado, Henry's Hamburgers is back in business (World Series hero Denny McClain signs autographs for the Burger eaters)...U.S. Olympian Dan Gable comes to town to put on a demonstration sponsored by Sportsman's of Ankeny...Flatt's Mens Store has Leisure suits on sale from \$30-\$50...the Centennial beard-growing contest begins...Anderson's Shoes and Clothing has low-rise bell-bottoms for \$10 and the base salary for Ankeny teachers is set at \$8,800.

An issue that will be a focal point for Ankeny for a number of years begins as citizen challenges begin against the widening of First Street from two-lanes to four-lanes...the Ankeny council put the cost figures at \$2 million and base the need on projected 1990 projections...500 people packed to object, one stating that the widening of highway 69 "...was rammed down our throats..." and that wouldn't happen again.

Richard Logli is given the community service award. His Logli Super Market, closed in 1974, had served Ankeny for over 68 years. Ray Fontana is inducted into the Iowa High School Basketball Hall of Fame...serving on the city council is: Ed Shepherd, Jack Lienen, Ed Augustine, Larry Cairns and Jim Bradshaw with Jeff Segin as city manager...the Mayor is Ollie Weigel...

A meeting is held to start looking for a sports complex, possibly at DMACC for the 500 Little Leaguers and 300 girls softballers...

Wilma Axmear is elected Miss Centennial.

A bond issue for \$1.2 million is set for the completion of the new high school's sections for home-ec, math, science and the lunchroom.

Norm and Abe McCleary announce that they will participate in the 3rd bicycle trek across the state otherwise known as RAGBRAI.



Ankeny's Centennial Commission and Friends



Joe Flatt
and Historian
Marjorie Mehls.

ANKENY'S GROWTH The 1st Street Project

"The first proposal to rebuild First Street was strongly opposed at a public hearing held in the Neveln Gym and attended by about 500 protesting citizens and property owners. This proposal was voted down but within a few months, citizens were asking that the project be resurrected and was soon back before the council but with a different assessment schedule which excluded residential assessments. Over a period of a few years the project from I-35 to Irvindale was completed."

Ollie Weigel



Mayor Ollie Weigel and Judge Dick Hermann hold court for the Keystone Kops.



Ankeny's beard-growing contest got hairy by summer.

1976-1979 — Years of Challenges

1976 began with two landmark Ankeny businesses changing hands. V.W. Smith turned over the keys to his Texaco station at 3rd and Ankeny Boulevard to G.G. Tomlinson and Mel Cory sold his hardware store to Strother Scott. The Corys had been in business in the area for over 76 years.

Ben Norman is named Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Keith Hopkins...Alco Discount Store announces plans to build in Ankeny...Safeway opens doors in Ankeny...AGI will locate in Ankeny's Industrial Park and florist Sterling Lundell breaks ground for a new shop at NW 9th and Ankeny Boulevard:

In 1977 Ankeny's City Hall moves to new quarters...the old Kirkendall Library across from the Methodist Church...Dr. Larry Gray retires from the schoolboard after 12 years and Dr. Gregg Sunner joins Dr. Glen Higgins in his optometrist office.

Ankeny Parks and Rec starts the first soccer league in town: William Shatner of Star Trek was in town to promote a bike ride against diabetes...165 acres of land is procured by the city for possible ballfields, community theatre and a golf course...Gus Johnson buys Ankeny Ford and plans to move it to I-35 and Oralabor...

1978 marks the opening of Zane Smith Realty...Larry Gottula purchases Frontier Super Market from developer Frank Lint...after 21 years on TV, Ankeny resident Duane Ellett and his partner Floppy begin a cartoon in the Press Citizen...Public hearings begin again on the widening of First Street...the city council approves a \$3.1 million dollar budget...former AHS basketball star Rhonda Penquite plays for the Iowa Cornets, a professional women's team...Everett Albaugh visits Russia on a goodwill farm tour...

Gasohol makes its first appearance in Ankeny in 1979...Ankeny State Bank is sold to Robert Van Deist of Webster City...Lew Clarkson's Century 21 Realty comes to town...voters say no to a new pool at Ankeny high school...work on the widening of First Street will begin soon.



Santa's North Pole Village Craft Show is an annual Ankeny event that draws thousands!

The Pope visits West Des Moines and many Ankeny people participate in the event...George Friedmeyer retires as AHS band director...it is a big year for John Lundstrom as he is elected to the city council, heads the local United Way effort, is Realtor of the Year in the DM area and heads up the First Street Study Committee...politicians Joe Kennedy Jr. and Chip Carter visit town.

1980-1984 — Groundwork For New Growth

1980 begins a new decade honoring Don Hick for his 50 years at Denniston and Partridge Lumber...AHS grad Dave Peterson writes from Bangkok (where he teaches English) that a story and photo of the state champions Hawkettes basketball team was in the local paper there...the grain embargo is affecting local grain movement and prices.

Ankeny schools cut 8 teaching positions in 1981 as the system reports fewer students than the year before...AGI announces a \$6 million dollar expansion...Rod Lein announces his plans for a retirement village at West First and Kline...Larry Gottula opens his first "bag your own groceries" store in Ankeny...the Chamber of Commerce opens new offices at SE Third in Uptown and merchants adopt the theme "Ankeny Has It All"...in two days, 2 truckloads of soybeans tip over at Third and Cherry...Don Steffenson sells his pharmacy and variety store to Peoples and Ankeny National Bank becomes part of Hawkeye Banks.

The weather is the first headline of 1982 as windchills of minus 50 freeze waterlines and close schools...soaring interstate rates and tough economic times make the school budget a nightmare...On Golden Pond opens at the 4-Star Theatre...John Voigt wins a "fun run" grudge match between Dick Chamberlain, John Lemon and John Lundstrom.

Firemen in 1983 battle minus 30 degrees and a fire at the Dee Zee plant in the Ankeny Industrial park...Richard White takes over at John Deere...820 youngsters are fingerprinted and \$500 is raised for the Help Find Johnny Gosch Fund...Ankeny Press Citizen is sold to former area mortician Paul Hamilton.

1984 begins with Dale Frolich being named Ankeny State Bank's new president...McCleary's Shoe Store closes after 26 years of business.

ANKENY'S LEADERS

"The growth and progress of Ankeny over the past 30 years is due to the willingness of people involved and taking the lead. The leadership of the Past Presidents of the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce comes to mind. Joseph Flatt as Chamber President during the 100th Centennial year celebration as chairman of the Commission broke a tie vote to engage a company to manage the festivities. His wise words were, "Yes, we have many capable people in Ankeny, but for something so vitally important to the community as the Centennial we should do this. Then we will still be united as a chamber and the temporary leaders will have left town."

Each Board of Directors and the supportive membership became involved in worthwhile projects for the good of the community and gave of their time and talents to build an outstanding organization we are proud of. Each President has the unique ability to lead and bring the people together to "get the job done."

Jean M. Jones

1985-1989 — The Growth Begins

Local developer Rod Lein begins his new Maplewood Village project...it is announced that Ankeny will be the site of the 1986 Farm Progress Show...Take Stock in Ankeny event begins...Chemlawn moves to Ankeny and rumors have it that a new dog track may consider coming to Ankeny.

1986 and 1987 are a blend of rapid changes...several businesses close, but more open...Wal-Mart opens its doors on East First Street...Young Villager closes, Alco and Cuy's Hardware close, meat distributor PDI announces plans to come to Ankeny...and Mercy Medical Clinic announces plans to come to town...In 1987 the Ankeny Airport issue tries for another take-off and Decre Community Credit Union completes their new facility on South Ankeny Boulevard.

Ankeny resident and Floppy's friend Duane Ellett dies while jogging at age 64...Mrs. Clark's Foods announces plans to come to Ankeny...Rod Lein adds 29 units and a lodge to Maplewood...finally the new pool issue passes at the high school/YMCA facility with 73% approval...

1988 headlines with plans for a new Westwood elementary school...the Ankeny Historical Society is formed...Walgreens opens a new location and Parkview Campus breaks ground.

1989's news is dominated by the Regional Airport issue. Citizens against the idea claim dangers, noise and lessening of property values and petition for a new form of city government. The pro airport folks put forth a positive campaign and the issue passes.



The Drum and Bugle Corp competition is now an annual summer treat in Ankeny.

1990-1994 — Hang On Tight, Here We Go!

Area resident Bob Kramme runs for county supervisor and upsets longtime supervisor Red Brannan. It is thought that Brannan was mostly defeated for his staunch support of Prairie Meadows...Fareway announces plans to come to Ankeny...NE Delaware is paved from East First Street to NE 18th...On With Life opens in Ankeny...Denny Elwell begins a project called Metro North...Ankeny's Regional Airport opens for business...Tones Spices announces plans to come to Ankeny in Elwell's Metro North...Hillary Clinton comes to Ankeny to gain public support and input for her husband's national healthcare initiative...an Ankeny beautification committee begins planting trees at the entrance to Ankeny's First Street...The Ankeny Alumni Association begins a project called the Hall Of Honor. It will pay homage to Ankeny graduates who have excelled in life, set good examples and given back to their communities. Plaques will be on display in the high school and different grads will be honored each fall at homecoming.

1994 marks the end of the Weigel era. Mayor Ollie has been in public service for over 40 years. The local dentist was on the Planning and Zoning Commission for 12 years, council for 8 years and served as Mayor for 20 years.

ANKENY'S GROWTH

Ankeny's Sanitary Sewer & Treatment

"The sewer treatment and sewer line system was extremely inadequate and sewage and storm water backups were frequent in many parts of our city. The Federal Government made many millions of dollars available but required some matching funds from local government. It was first proposed by the US Government that large trunk lines be installed and extensive inter connections made which would relieve this situation and transfer the sewage through huge lines to enter the Des Moines system and be treated at the Des Moines treatment center. This plan was later deemed to be not cost effective and a much larger treatment center was built in South East Ankeny. This made it possible for the city to attract large development tracts of residential, commercial and industrial construction. We are enjoying the fruits of this now and with expansion will continue for many years."

Ollie Weigel

1995-2000 — The Growth Explosion Continues

The local sales tax initiative passes...Jeff Lamberti is sworn in as Ankenys State Representative...after 30 years on the Ankeny Police force chief Denny Ballard retires...

Standard Bearings opens in Metro North...Tone's Spices announces an expansion...Briarwood Golf Course opens for business...Mayor John Voigt announces that agreements have been made with the Army Corps of Engineers to extend State Street from Oralabor to Highway 415...

Northview Middle school opens...framework goes up for a new Kirkendall Library and it will be attached to Northview...Osco Drug announces plans to come to Ankeny...

1996 has several public projects being approved and underway...a new \$2.1 million aquatic center will be built just alongside the new Kirkendall Library...a 100-acre Prairie Ridge complex proposal is made to serve soccer, baseball, softball and junior football...a study shows that numbers in those sports in Ankeny are: 1,500 players in Little League, 200 in junior football, 500 in girls softball and 1,000 in soccer...Neveln is renovated with numerous new uses being housed...

1997 marks the first time Ankeny has a police dog...the new Ankeny fire station issue stays under consideration...Merle Johnson defeats John Voigt for mayor...the new design for city hall is approved—it will be located in Wagner Park in the former Kirkendall Library.

The new Gateway Savings Bank opens in 1998...Ankeny's schools approves a \$29 million budget...lifelong residents Manilla Coppock and Verna Parmenter are 100 years young...Super Wal-Mart announces plans to build on SW Delaware and Oralabor...Ground is broken for the new

ANKENY'S GROWTH

A+ For Ankeny's Education System

"A plus for Ankeny was always our outstanding consolidated school system headed by Supt. E.W. Neveln for many years. This reputation has been continued to the present guided by Supt. Dr. Ben Norman with major recognition in music-athletics-debate and academics.

This school reputation has been a major impetus for the large increase in our population."

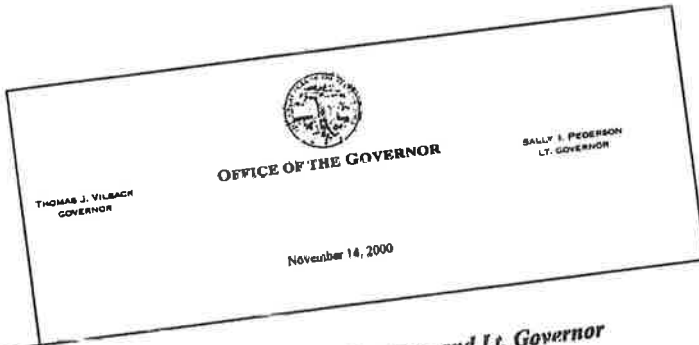
Myrtle Sexauer

Ankeny fire station...Fridley Theatres announce plans for a new 9-screen complex just east of Fareway...

1999 into 2000 whizzes by with plans to survive the Y2K threat...Myrtle Sexauer and Jean Jones share Citizen of the Year honors...the uptown road improvements take place...beginning teacher's salaries are approved with a base set at \$27,706...Ankeny says farewell to independent grocers Gary and Carol Dillow as Super Target, Home Depot and Archer's Furniture and Appliance join Wal-Mart and Mennard's on SE Delaware...as 2000 closes, longtime Des Moines Ford dealer, Mark Vukovich announces plans to move to Ankeny with Dewey Ford just south of Case Implement on SE Delaware.



Ragbrai — Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa - invaded Ankeny in 2000.



Governor
TOM VILSACK

A Message from the Governor and Lt. Governor

Congratulations to the residents of Ankeny as you celebrate the city's 125th anniversary. What a wonderful milestone! We were pleased to hear that the Historical Society of Ankeny is marking this special occasion by creating a commemorative "25-year" book.

The city of Ankeny has enjoyed amazing growth in the last several decades, and nothing pleases us more than to see Iowa communities thrive and prosper. We commend the residents and businesses of Ankeny for their aggressive and intelligent approach to that growth, and we have no doubt that Ankeny will continue to play a vital role in Iowa's economy.

We look forward to following Ankeny's success in the years to come. Once again, congratulations on this special anniversary, and best wishes to all the residents of your fine community.

Sincerely,

Tom Vilsack
Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor

Sally J. Pederson
Sally J. Pederson
Lieutenant Governor

STATE CAPITOL DES MOINES, IOWA 50319 515 281-9211 FAX 515 281-4611



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Mayor
MERLE JOHNSON

I am privileged to be able to extend my sincere congratulations in honor of this historic event, the 125th anniversary of the City of Ankeny, Iowa.

It is fitting that we take the time to mark a significant milestone in the history of this remarkable city. A city you have inherited from generations of Iowans who faced adversity and embraced opportunity with courage and character, who tended the soil, built churches and schools and nourished their families.

Today, it is a time to look back - and a time to look forward. As we look back, let us reflect with gratitude and inspiration on the progress made by those who came before us. Moreover, as we look forward, to honor that legacy and the inspiration that comes with it, to strengthen the days and years ahead.

History demonstrates that we don't stumble upon great futures; we build them with vision and commitment with courage and with sacrifice. Ankeny summoned the courage to rebuild after a devastating tornado in 1974. We summoned the vision to invest in our youth by building the Prairie Ridge Sports Complex. History has shown us that we build great futures by investing in our people—their schools, their roads, their economy and their opportunity.

It is my hope that history will show that we seized our own moment in time—that we inspired, we challenged, we sacrificed and we dreamed.

Thank you and have a wonderful 125th anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,

Merle O. Johnson

Merle O. Johnson
Mayor, City of Ankeny

MY PERSPECTIVE: GROWING UP WITH ANKENY

Optional Reading

By
Ron Sampson



Kindergarten thru 12th grade... Publisher thru Today

The year is 2000. It has now been 11 years since I last wrote the column that ran for 11 years of the 18 that I edited and published the ANKENY PRESS CITIZEN.

My affiliation with the paper started at age 16 and a junior at Ankeny High School. Starting out writing sports for three schools for five dollars a week. I ended up owning the paper and earning about the same amount. During those years there were lots of council meetings, schoolboard meetings, ribbon cuttings, took lots of pictures of lemonade stands, basketball games, candidate forums and parade floats. I figure that I put together over 936 editions of the Press Citizen (there was never a full 7-day vacation during that time as lay-out day was sacred), numerous Progress Editions, a Centennial Edition, a special Tornado issue in 1974, scores of special sporting event issues and sold enough advertising to keep the doors open.

Finally, that is going to be useful. The Ankeny Historical Society has asked me to gather and report the highlights of Ankeny's past 25 years. This book will accompany Marjorie Mehls' ANKENY — THE FIRST 100 YEARS issue that she so splendidly put together, along with her Eagle Scout son Steve, in the late 60's and early 70's. This accounting will take readers from the Centennial of 1975 to the present. There will be some recalls to the pre-1975 history to give some background. But so many changes and progressions have taken place the past 25 years that it may be difficult to do it all justice.

My roots in Ankeny began at age three when my dad took a transfer from Roland's Pipe Line terminal to work in Des Moines. We lived in a white house with red shutters on School street just east of the present Historical Society Museum. During our two years there, he built a house on Northwest Des Moines Street in the middle of a soybean field. It was just the third or fourth house in the area. Kline street was the west edge of town and I knew that it was a mistake and we'd be living like Laura Ingalls in Little House On The Prairie until I was out of high school.

Later, I learned that our roots in Ankeny went back even further. My grandfather, a mortician from Roland, served as a watchman at the Ordnance Plant as his contribution during World War II and my folks had many a flat tire traveling through Ankeny from Roland during their courtship years which coincided with the rationing and tread-bare tire days.

I feel very fortunate to be one of those rare folks that attended Ankeny Schools K-12 beginning the mid-50's. Parkview was new and housed lower elementary and high school. First Street was a two-lane oil and rock road, highway 69 was two lane, Third Street uptown housed a shoe store, hardware store, cleaners, city hall, a barber, a five and dime store, drug store, doctor's offices and the local car dealer. It was closed-off during several evenings of the summer so that the high

school band could set up chairs and put on a concert.

Frank Lint put in the first swimming pool in Ankeny in the backyard of his California-style home two blocks from our house. The elegant home was the style with cement oozing out between the bricks. He paid some of us boys a dollar to hand out fliers for his furniture store during the Fun and Feed Days Parade and we thought he was the richest man in the world.

In the early sixties, on highway 69 along First Street we had an A&W Drive-In, a roller rink and a 12-unit in-ground trampoline business called Jumpin' Jimminie. We played Little League baseball where First Star Bank is now at Third and Ankeny Boulevard, walked beans where the new high school, Community State Bank and Briarwood Golf Course is now. Each summer there would be an air show at the Sexauer Air Field where First and Linden are now. Each noon hour, Fred Sexauer would ring his old farm bell just before the noon fire whistle. At 5:30 every evening, the Methodist church played it's chimes reminding kids that it was dinner time and you better head for the house.

It only took a handful of us to cover Ankeny for the delivery of the Des Moines Register and Tribune. We would all meet uptown in the entryway of By-Lo Grocery (now a printshop), swap stories, lie in the middle of the street looking at the stars waiting for our papers. Some of us would return later in the afternoon to get the evening version of the news and deliver that, as well.

Now, forty years later, my sons have had the opportunity to experience Ankeny much as I had. For many years they would help me deliver advertising tearsheets to my grocery stores, drug stores and car dealers. They would dash into such hang-outs as Luke Bros. Carpet, toss a pile of papers on their desk and tell them that their dad says hi, jump back into the truck and we would head for the next stop.

They cruised the same streets, attended the same schools and remarkably, had the same football, baseball and basketball coaches as old dad—a generation ago.

One of the great jobs in the world is that of Public TV's David McCallum. He is always bringing us great history lessons in such matter-of-fact manner. I only hope that you learn and remember as much reading this as Ankeny's last quarter century deserves.

Ankeny is a great town. And, as towns go, it has just passed through its adolescence. The awkward growth spurts are over and a mature looking, handsome city is emerging. A new generation of leaders is taking reign, all the while in reverent respect and awe of the foresight of those that came before.

Enjoy ANKENY—1975-2000. But most importantly, enjoy being part of ANKENY—2000-2025!

ANKENY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Shary Albaugh - Vice President
Barbara Penquite - Secretary
Joyce Lundstrom - Treasurer

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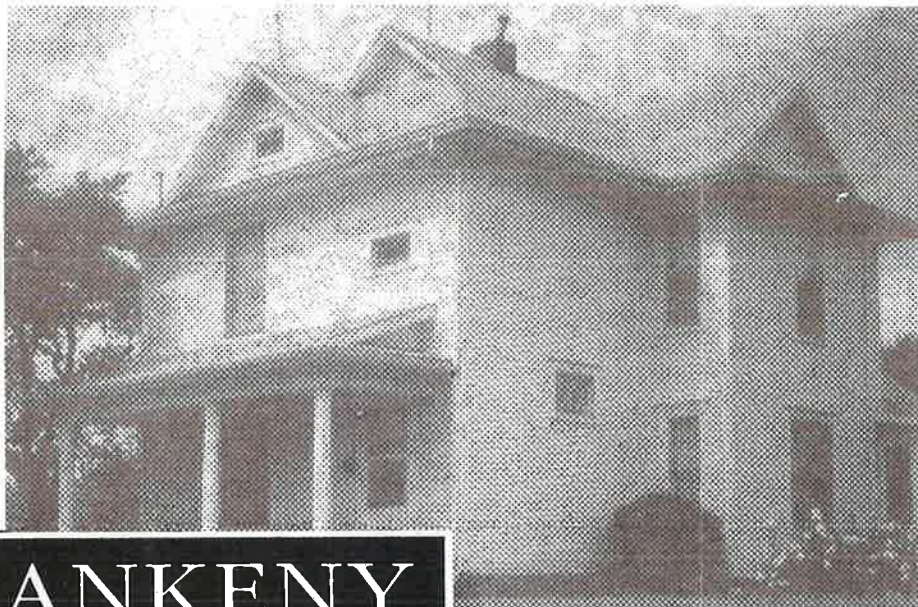
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ANKENY
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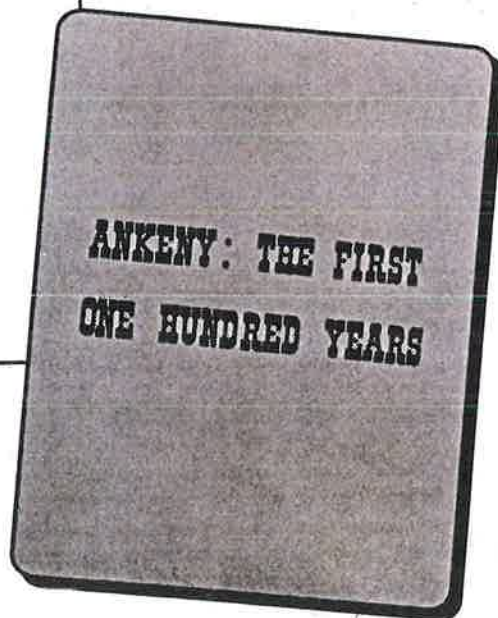
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The Ankeny Area Historical Society has been established to collect and secure artifacts and historical records representing Ankeny, Alleman, Bondurant, Carney, Elkhart, Enterprise Polk City and Sheldahl for the purpose of preserving our heritage. Since 1988 the Society has been meeting in various locations and now has a permanent home at 301 SW Third Street north of the Ankeny School District offices. Complete with displays of home situations, school room, a kitchen, a hospital room from the Ordnance Plant and a large meeting room downstairs. The Society exists on membership dues, fundraisers, donations and gifts and sales of history books.