



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 18

May 3, 2012



These are two of the many unidentified couples whose pictures are on display in the Prom Photo Exhibit at the Historical Society's Ashbridge House headquarters.

Last weekend to participate in Prom Photo exhibit

Fewer than 50 of the 225 students, pictured in the Prom Photo Exhibit, have been identified. Those identified so far, include: John Armstrong, Sue Bertram, Ray Bixler, Cindy Brown, Jill Carbutt, Thor Cheyne, John Chilla, Sue Colatta, Victor Cozzone, Joyce DeMucci, Cheryl Desmaris, Andrea DiAntonio, Tina DiMartin, Anthony Farnum, Linda Glattes, Phil Grant, Jesse Hamilton, Jimmy Hasson,

And Rob Hellhake, Jeff Hoey, Tom Honey, Carl Hurst, Joe Jewell, Ann Kennedy, Debbie Klein, Vera Kockler, Sandy Lang, Rob Latoff, Apple Logan, Mike Mathis, Sally McClure, Shane McCusker, Jack McGeehan, Tracy Meyer, Jeanne Minahan, Johnny Nichols, Eddie Novak, Daniele Obendorfer, Tony Poluch, Scott Seymour, Tina Talucci, Wendy Thompson, Laurie Usher, Doreen Warihay, Susan Widen, Robbie Whittaker, and Steve Ziobro.

In addition to identifying people in the photos, the program also includes voting for the King and Queen of the exhibit.

And we're asking exhibit visitors to bring us any printed materials--which have been collecting dust on a shelf in your home for decades and your kids have no interest in--from your days as a pupil in the Downingtown Area School District. By the way, we need

DHS yearbooks, published after 1965. All the printed materials you donate will immediately become historical documents when they're added to our archival collection.

We'll still welcome you, and allow you to identify prom-goers and vote for a King and Queen, if you don't donate a printed piece from your school days.

Anne McGee Chiccino, retired DHS math and computer science teacher, took the photos when she helped chaperone DHS proms between 1971 and 1983.

The free exhibit will be open to the public again this weekend, from 10 AM to 8 PM Saturday May 5; and 2 PM to 4 PM Sunday, May 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln.

We're also hosting P3 auction Saturday

The lawn of Ashbridge House, headquarters of the Historical Society, will be the scene of a fund raising auction from 5 PM to 9 PM Saturday, May 5.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to pay for the ninth annual Post Prom Party (P3) for teenagers who attend Downingtown West High School's senior prom on Friday, June 1 at the Drexelbrook ballroom in Drexel Hill.

The P3 party will be held at DHS West, in an effort to prevent students from being injured or killed in an accident after the prom.

The auction is sponsored by P3, a non-profit organization comprised of parents and members of the local business community. Sponsors include Downingtown Country Club, TD Bank, Plato's Closet, Kinetic Therapy, PJ Whelihan's and Jeff DiAmbrosio.

Silent auction bidding will close at 7:30 PM, and a live auction, handled by Col. Rodger Paisley, starts at 8 PM.

Items to be auctioned off include: a one-week stay in a beach-front condo in Ocean City, MD, a \$1,500 value; two full-year Gold Golf Memberships (valued at \$3,100 each) at the Downingtown Country Club; a leather Harley jacket (\$500 value); two balloon rides (each a \$250 value); sailing lessons; and artwork by several artists including Richard Bollinger and Cheryl Sander-Decker.

The evening will include live music by the Philadelphia String Quartet, and free food and non-alcoholic drinks will be served.

The theme for this year's P3 will be "A Night at the Movies. Singer/Songwriter Liz Longley, a graduate of DHS West as well as the renowned Berklee College of Music, will be the featured live entertainer. She has won top prizes at some of the most prestigious songwriting competitions in the country.

More info about the P3 auction is available at <http://www.dwestpostprom.com>

News items about the Downingtown area in May 1975

Tim Kabatt, a Lionville Junior High ninth grader, won a poster contest sponsored by the Garden Class of the Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan. Second prize was won by Ernie Jenkins, and James Woods came in third.

Members involved in the Uwchlan Hill Home and School Association's spring fair included Doris DiSantis, Dorothy Foster, Sally Glattes, Sylvia McFadden, Ruth DelVecchio and Nancy Evangelista.

New officers of the Brandywine-Wallace Home and School Association were Mrs. Karen Ross, president; Mrs. Robert Brown, vice president; Mrs. Kathy DiPierro, secretary; Mrs. Helen Hopkins, treasurer.

DHS artists exhibiting in the Chester County Intermediate Unit's first Student Art Show were Kim Steimer, Kathy Weston, Darlene Hawk, Mary Ann Clark, Todd Meyers, Sharon Kerr, Ginger Beavers, Mary Lou McDonald, Wendy Verngren, Carolyn Dunn, Mike Rozzo and Jodi Potter.

Downingtown Junior High wrestlers Mike Anthony, Mike Marcocci, Mike Massimini and Paul Sparklin qualified for the National Junior Olympics tournament.

Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, said the number of openings for teaching positions had declined. He noted that the district hired 66 new teachers in 1970; while only 22 were hired in 1974, and he projected only a dozen new-hires for the school year beginning in September 1975. The district employed 360 professionals in 1975.

The recently formed Uwchlan Ambulance Corps expected to be operational by June. A \$16,000 ambulance was on order, and 25 emergency medical technicians were taking an 80-hour first aid course.

A science lab, a library and a remedial reading unit were opened in the new wing at St. Joseph's Catholic School, Downingtown.

Mrs. Marjorie Myers was named director of the Vacation Bible School at Downingtown United Methodist Church. Teachers were Mrs. Betty Jo Tinsman, Mrs. Marilyn Walters, and Mrs. Joyce Hartman. Teacher-aides were Darla Woodward, Mrs. Martha Tyson, Carol Harman and Mrs. Annetta Schollenberger.

New officers of the Downingtown Home and School Association were Becky Meacham, president; Janet Cannella, vice president; Lil Georg, recording secretary; Betty Charles, corresponding secretary; and Judy Spizzirri, treasurer.

Susan Sardi was installed as president of the Downingtown Welcome Wagon. Other officers were Lina Dannemann, first vice president; Peggy Maney, second vice president; Ruth McFeaters, secretary; Bea Yorczyk, treasurer; and Marion Ambrozio, historian.

Newly selected cheerleaders at Lionville Junior High were Jeannie Spatola, Kathy TenHoppen, Lisa Wolf, Donna Storm, Lisa Redenour, Bonnie Bull and Missy Franklin.

New officers of the sodality at St. Joseph's Catholic Church were Janie Kalbitzer, prefect; Rose Woodward, assistant prefect; Joan Martin, secretary; and Ann Bowman, treasurer. New officers of the Ladies of St. Joseph's were Mrs. Virginia, president; Mrs. Dolores Delaney, vice president; Mrs. Mary Burns, recording secretary; and Mary Alice Moore, corresponding secretary.

Eleanor Landis was appointed directress of Altar Guild at St. James Episcopal Church. She was assisted by Louise Nelson. Amy McIlvaine and Dorothy were appointed secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Members of the team that won the DHS girls' intramural league were Lisette Lux, Diane Baldwin, Barbara Smith, Donna Waldenmaier, Linda Verzinckie, Nancy Runyan and Barbara Baldwin.

DHS valedictorian George Glackin won seven awards, and salutatorian Gerry Gottier received four at the Senior Academic Awards program.

Service awards were presented to Rev. Thomas Clarke, Marvin Furlong, Philip Kirtland and Thomas Miller at the Glen Moore Fire Co.'s annual banquet. Roy Killian was named outstanding fireman.

New officers of the West Bradford Home and School Association were Mrs. Cynthia Markley, president; Mrs. Ralph Palmer, vice president; Mrs. Betty O'Connor, treasurer; and Mrs. Carol Walker, secretary.

Linda Weston and Fred Paup were named Outstanding Athletes at the DHS at the All Sports Banquet.

Brief, but important

- We are most grateful to the irrepressible Eileen Schafer, who's been a local Rotarian for many decades. Eileen toted several boxes full of records of the Downingtown Rotary Club to Ashbridge House last weekend. The historical files, which date back as far as the 1930s, have been added to our archival collection.
- The Historical Society was honored recently by the Downingtown Service Unit (#602) of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania. The Downingtown Unit conducts monthly leaders' meetings at Ashbridge House, our headquarters. The Unit, which covers the western half of the Downingtown Area School District, comprises: 48 troops with 544 girls in grades K-12. It also includes 433 adults made up of 90 leaders and assistant leaders, and 322 registered parents and other adults working directly with troops.

Where and What Is This?



This is another shot taken by DHS grad Mike Hoover, who's now studying photography at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. The first person to correctly identify this photo and sends their answer to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org first will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Clip joint will be open on Sunday afternoon

Although the DHS Prom Photo Exhibit will be going on, we'll still have our monthly clipping & pasting session from 1-4 PM Sunday afternoon, May 6, at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays.

And those who come to the clip and paste session also will have an opportunity to vote for the King and Queen of the Prom Photo Exhibit, even if they didn't attend DHS.

How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

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Also, we have cut expenses by limiting our publications to an Annual Report because printing and postage costs have increased so much. Now, Hist-O-Grams are our primary means of communication with our membership.

Those are some of the reasons why we're asking Hist-O-Gram readers to help us by either joining the Historical Society or renewing your current membership.

Please complete the membership form below. Your support and continued interest in the Historical Society is most appreciated.

PS: We will continue to send free Hist-O-Grams to ALL of you, every week.

Please complete this Membership Form to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

* We can't send you Hist-O-Grams unless you include your email address. We promise not to give your email address to any business or organization.

Individual \$20 _____ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$15 _____ Family \$30 _____

Business \$50 _____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

I wish to add a \$ _____ donation, which is critical to the Historical Society's survival because less than 12% of its income comes from dues. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible, since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please mail the completed form to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Join Rewards Program at Cropper's

If you shop at Cropper's in Guthriesville and want to participate in their Shurfine Community Rewards Program gold card, you can help the Downingtown Area Historical Society. Cropper's Rewards Program donates \$60,000 to community non-profit organizations. To ensure that the Historical Society receives a percentage of the donations made by the Rewards Program, please send your name and Gold Card number to Carol Grigson at: info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org. Carol, the Historical Society's certified Rewards Program administrator, will enroll you. Thanks for helping the Historical Society.

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, May 19, or Thursday, July 19. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 6 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

St. Michael's, Maryland Bus Trip: Saturday, May 5. Depart: 8 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8 PM. Cost: \$74 per person (includes coach bus transportation, dinner, & gratuities). We will meet at 4:45PM for an early dinner at the famous Crab Claw Restaurant. Please note your choice for dinner on your registration form (crab cakes, crab imperial or fried chicken). We will depart for home promptly after dinner.

Jersey Boys on Broadway Bus Trip: Wednesday, May 16. Depart: 7:30 AM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30 PM. Show Location: August Wilson Theater in New York. Cost: \$155 per person (includes coach bus transportation & show tickets). Show tickets will be orchestra or front mezzanine. We'll arrive in New York around 10 AM. Enjoy the city, see the sights or go shopping until the matinee show at 2:00PM. After the show you will have time for a quick dinner before we depart for home at 6:15PM. No stops on the way home.

Wicked on Broadway Bus Trip. Wednesday, May 16. Depart: 7:30 AM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30PM. Show Location: Gershwin Theater in New York. Cost: \$155 per person (includes coach bus transportation & tickets to show). Show tickets will be orchestra level. Depart New York City at 6:15PM. No stops on the way home.

Fireworks with the Phillies Bus Trip. Monday, June 25. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Section 310 on the first base side. Seats are in section 310 on the first base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

A Night with the Phillies Bus Trip. Friday, September 21. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Sections 425 & 426 on the third base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

Discount Movie Tickets: \$7.50, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

Banquet Room For Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-9352 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses.

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:
Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

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Vol. 3, No. 19

May 10, 2012



Who are these seven sailors from Downingtown? The photo was taken in front of the Moose Lodge on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough, shortly after World War II. Send your answers to Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Exhibit of DHS Prom Photos extended

Many of you will take your Mom out for lunch or dinner on Mother's Day. Perhaps you could complete the celebration of that special day by bringing Mom and the rest of the family to our Prom Photo Exhibit at Ashbridge House, our 18th Century headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln. The free exhibit will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 13.

In addition to identifying about 120 of the students, pictured in the exhibit, who still have not been identified, visitors will have an opportunity to vote for the King and Queen of the exhibit.

Anne McGee Chiccano, retired DHS math and computer science teacher, took the photos when she helped chaperone DHS proms between 1971 and 1983.

Those who were identified this past weekend include: Dan Bradlee, Diane Bricker, Dave Brown, Becky Bull, Debbie Burgess, Mark Daghir, Gary DiBerardinis, Damian DiEuliis, Danny DiFrancesco, Debbie Eckert, Teresa Gaskins, Rose Gazzerro, Sue

Grigson, Jeff Hellhake, Jeff Hoeing, Kathy Lynch, Joe Madrigale, Bob Kolar and Glen Lang.

And Rick Lang, Helen Maragakes, Nick Mento, Terry Miller, Joe Mozzani, Lori Novak, Deb Parry, Jim Pike, Bill Pitkin, David Plante, George Quinn, Robin Rosenzweig, Bruce Schelkopf, Ruth Schlomann, Patti Snodgrass, Price Stevenson, Shelly Uber, Kathy Ursini, Jeff Whalen, and Wendy White.

Exhibit visitors are encouraged to bring us any printed materials from their days as a pupil in the Downingtown Area School District. All the printed materials you donate will become historical documents when they're added to our archival collection.

Downingtown area news from February 1960

The following news items were published in local newspapers 52 year ago:

Mrs. Earl Stern, Downingtown, was named district chairman of the Girl Scout Cookie Sale. She was assisted by Mrs. Robert Forrest, Mrs. Lambert McGuckin, Mrs. Edward Kerr, Mrs. John Kistler, and Mrs. Edward Quartucci.

Headed by Mrs. James Echols, Mrs. Thomas Byerly and Mrs. James Kauffman, the Mothers March on Polio committee collected \$659.56.

Elected to three-year terms on the Council of Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were Earl Shirk, Ralph Ralston and Mrs. Lautra Lenhardt. Also, Helen Leiter was appointed to the Communion Service Committee for three years.

Den mothers and their assistant of Downingtown area Cub Packs included Mrs. Jason Dreibelbius, Den 5; Mrs. Thomas Jenkins, Den 2; Mrs. Neils Olsen and Mrs. John Kaempfer, Den 4;.

Leaders of the Ladies of St. Joseph's Church, Downingtown, included: Mrs. Allen Cardwell, president; Mrs. Peter Bonaduce, secretary; Mrs. John Helm, treasurer; Mrs. William Woodruff, corresponding secretary; Florence Ceulers, hospitality chairman; Mrs. Anthony Milano, ways and means chairman; and Mrs. Robert Bowman, membership chairman.

Mrs. Leonard Watterson, Mrs. Arthur Douglas and Mrs. Charles Clark were leaders of Girl Scout Troop 57, which met at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville.

Earl Stern, retiring chief, presented the chief's badge, helmet and boots to Hallan Usher, new chief of the Downingtown Fire Department, at the fourth annual Fireman's Banquet. Usher presented Outstanding Fireman Awards to Robert Pollock of the Alerts and James Mitchell of the Minquas.

Mrs. Edward Nichols, president of the Minquas Ladies Auxiliary, named the following chairmen: Mrs. Robert Moore, hospitality; Mrs. Joseph Miller, kitchen supplies; and Mrs. Charles Peters, publicity.

Mrs. David Anderson was named chairman of the Downingtown Woman's Club Garden Class's annual flower show. She was assisted by Mrs. James McCahon, Mrs. Ethan Berry, Mrs. John Forbes, Mrs. Gordon Carpenter, Mrs. Kurt Wandel, Mrs. Leonard Mygatt, Mrs. Herman Kramm, Mrs. Harold Richie, Mrs. John Bonham and Mrs. Edwin Johnson.

Members of the West Bradford Township School Board were Horace Rodgers, president; Mrs. Fred Hoopes, secretary; Mrs. A.L. Anderson; Edward Stouff; Joseph Fell Jr. and Hayes Jones.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 83, Lionville, who spent a recent weekend at Camp Horseshoe were Fred and Bob Donaghy, Lynn Spence, William Kennedy, Joseph Bicking and Fred Reynolds.

Mrs. Clifton Walton was chairman of the monthly card party put on by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co. She was assisted by Mrs. Clarence Patton, Mrs. Mary Yocum, Mrs. Dorothy Peters, Mrs. Fred Jameson, Mrs. Aubrey Dawson, Mrs. Maynard Collier and Mrs. Paul Dowlin.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 82, Downingtown, who attained the rank of Eagle were Mark Jones, Glyn Jenkins, Lewis Wilson and Jerry Thompson.

Appointed committee chairmen of the United Lutheran Women at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, were Mrs. Robert Poole, Mrs. Harry Ruth, Mrs. Ida Koogler and Mrs. Eric Bittman, membership; Mrs. W.C. Spence, Mrs. Howard Stimson, Grace Moore and Mrs. James Underwood, Christian service; and Mrs. Horace Phipps, Edith Cornwall and Mrs. Edith Heuer, education.

Downingtown borough council made the following appointments: Joseph Sabellico, planning commission; Glenvar Harman, zoning board; Dr. Howard Davis and Dr. Herman Kramm, park commission; Donald White, civil service commission; and Dr. Norman MacKenzie, board of health.

DHS students who were named to the Southeastern District Band were Helen Simmons, Mary Louise LeFevre, Carmelia Cressman, Evelyn Eshleman, Edward Matthews, Walter Supplee and Howard Reinard.

Installed as officers of the Women's Guild at St. Paul's UCC Church, Lionville, were Mrs. Norman Davis, president; Mrs. William Whitely, vice president; Mrs. Francis Shaeffer, secretary; and Mrs. Elmer Matthews, treasurer.

Elected as leaders of East Brandywine Baptist Church, were Ed Crane, William Mendenhall, Robert Mertz, Jesse Sanners, and James Stringer, deacons; and Melva Carr and Connie McFalls, deaconesses.

Officers of the DHS Alumni Association were Palmer Raysor, president; Leon Williams, vice president; Mrs. Earl Stern, recording secretary; and Mrs. Mary Johnson, financial secretary.

New members of the National Honor Society at DHS were David DiEugenio, Barbara Dinn, Mike Echols, Paul Edelson, Lamar Howe, Margaret Jenney, Nancy Kohls, Sonia Raysor, Nancy Shreiner, and Walter Supplee.

Thomas Booker and Bob Meads shared the outstanding back honors, and Dave DiEugenio was named the outstanding lineman at St. Anthony's All Sports Night banquet.

Mrs. Inez Corley and Mrs. Roger Miller were leaders of the new Brownie Troop in Lionville.

Our Wish List

Since we're an all-volunteer operation with a hand-to-mouth budget, we're going to shamelessly ask for your help for a variety of needs. Two of our immediate needs are:

- A sturdy 6-foot ladder.
- An electrician who can fix an exterior outlet and an outdoor post light whose light sensor is on the fritz. We'll cover the cost of materials.

If you can help, please call 610-269-8037.

Here's what was going on at DHS in the mid-1970s

When Kathy Creamer Conaghan came to see our Prom Photos Exhibit this past weekend, she brought along several copies of the student newspaper at DHS--called the Penny Press back then--from the mid-1970s. Based on the weekly publication, here's what was newsworthy at the high school nearly 40 years ago:

1972: Nominees for Homecoming Queen were Sue Henry, Barb Fittje, Michelle Carr, Cheryl Minnick, Kathy Cozzone, Sheree Johnson, Colleen McCausland, Kathy Hurst, Carla Boggs, Freda Nicholson, Jayne Tinson, Beth Grigson, Terry Trader, Karen Forte, Jo Lynn Coble, Cindy Suleski, Judy Foreman and Diane Derk. And a bottled Coke machine was finally installed at the school. Stars in the Senior Class play were Ray Hagele, Bill Pratt and Richard Thompson. Jerry Mingione, Jim Gockley, Ken Ebert and Paul Usavage attended the Lukens Student management Conference. And Robert Hodge was a finalist in the state championships of the 4-H Safe Tractor Driving Exhibition.

1973: Craig Ardrey was named the Outstanding Musician, and Ed Miller, Robin Radcliff and Ruth Worthington received Concert Choir Service Awards. Karen Watson won the Home Ec Department's cake bake-off competition, and Judy Martin came in second. Gail Fogelman, Susan Ladika, Camille DiEuliis and Kathy Shaw, members of the Tumble Bee Gymnastics team, participated in the District I meet. Cathy Golden's oil painting took first prize at the Eastern College art show. Marianne Hildebeitel and Ed Miller were named Outstanding Senior Girl and Boy by the DHS Alumni Association.

Where and What Is This?



No one identified this photo correctly. We'll give it another shot in a couple of months.

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Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

* We can't send you Hist-O-Grams unless you include your email address. We promise not to give your email address to any business or organization.

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Coming events & activities in Downingtown area ***One-room school reunion in Uwchlan***

Those who attended Lionville School, Mount Airy School or White School in Uwchlan are invited to come to a One-Room School House Reunion at 1 PM Saturday, May 19 at the Uwchlan Meeting House. Sponsored by the Township Historical Commission and the

Uwchlan Conservation Trust, the reunion is part of Uwchlan's year-long tricentennial celebration. For reservations or information, call 610-280-9522.

Those who have photos or memorabilia connected with Uwchlan's one-room schools should contact the Commission. 610-280-9522, so they can be copied or scanned.

DHS Alumni Assn. meeting & elections

The DHS Alumni Assn., established in 1884 and the nation's oldest, will meet at 9 AM Saturday, May 19 in Room 137 at DHS West. Enter the school via the rear door marked 3-7. The association will be electing new officers for the upcoming year.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 20

May 17, 2012

Boy cheerleaders at DHS? What was that all about?



You've probably noticed on televised football games that most colleges have male, as well as female, cheerleaders. Back in the day, that was commonplace at the high school level, as well. Please send the names of these DHS cheerleaders and when this photo was taken to: info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Baseball in Downingtown area more than 100 years ago

Fans, who expected big things from the Phillies this season, are distraught over the Phillies mystifying play so far this season. To relieve your frustration, we decided to take a look at what Downingtown area baseball teams were doing more than 100 years ago. It wasn't always a pretty picture around here either.

- In 1894, 500 fans reportedly watched the Bondsville squad defeat Downingtown team 11-7. In a return game at Bondsville, the home team's female fans screeched throughout the game, which Bondsville won 20-14.
- There was a huge celebration after the Downingtown Athletic Association beat Coatesville's Brandywine team in 1900. The Downingtown band paraded the streets, followed by hundreds of enthusiastic men and boys, and Burgess Hunter Wills allowed them to set off fireworks.
- In 1902, the recently formed Downingtown Stars, comprised primarily of "colored" players who worked at Florey's Brick Co. in the borough, sported new gray uniforms on the Fourth of July. Following the baseball season, many of the players formed a football squad.
- Since the Downingtown's baseball field on West Lancaster Avenue had been plowed over and the recently enlarged grandstand was torn down, the team had to find a new diamond in 1904. That problem was solved when the team in the Chester County League was permitted to play home games inside William Kerr's half-mile horse racing track, located on the large tract of land—bounded by Boot Road, the Pennsylvania Railroad, Chestnut Street and Brandywine Avenue—where harness races were conducted on Saturday afternoons and holidays. The new, fenced-in field, including a grandstand and bleachers, were completed in time for the start of the season on Memorial Day.

The field also was used that year by teams sponsored by the Downingtown Manufacturing Co., Cohansey Glass Works, and local fire companies.

The Downingtown-West Chester trolley line, which ran along Brandywine Avenue, enhanced the attendance at games.

- Downingtown's Memorial Day celebration in 1906 got underway with a baseball game at Kerr's race track in the morning, followed by the annual parade and horse races in the afternoon.

But some borough residents complained to Police Chief Tommy Gray that season about games being played on Sunday afternoons. "It looks bad for the town," complained one citizen about town officials not enforcing blue laws.

- In 1907, a large crowd turned out for a literary and musical entertainment fundraiser, conducted by the Downingtown Baseball Club at the Opera House on Brandywine Avenue. In addition to selections played by the Downingtown Orchestra and sung by West Chester Normal School's glee club, featured acts included readings by a Philadelphia elocutionist and "electric club swinging."

Another Downingtown team that was active in 1907 was sponsored by Miss Brown's Academy. It's unclear whether the boys on the team were students at the school.

Local news items in May 1950

The following tidbits were published in *The Archive*, a Downingtown area weekly newspaper, 62 years ago:

Stanley Walters headed the Red Cross blood drive in the Downingtown area. Division chairmen were Mrs. Charles Bruton, professional; Mrs. John Miller, women's organizations; Mrs. J. Morris Jackson, house-to-house canvassing; Duer Smedley, men's divisions; Jack Brownstein, merchants; Robert Piersol, industry; and William Allen, churches.

Senior Girl Scouts who spent a week at Camp Tweeddale were Joanne LeFevre, Millie Mershon, June Ellingsworth, Carlene Bausch, Betty and Sue Palmer, and Verna Hall.

Percy Raymond won the Downingtown marbles competition. Grade-level champs were Jackie Hughes, second grade; Donald White, third grade; Dave D'Attilio, fourth grade; and Pete Sarmento, fifth grade.

Barbara Durnall's toy terrier won first place in the Marshallton Hobby Club's pet show. John Gaines' white rabbit came in second; and Marian McCardell's angora cat won third place.

New officers of the Lionville Hi-Y were Robert Peoples, president; Alice Smedley, vice president; Jerry Stinson, secretary; and Sam Matthews, treasurer.

New officers of the Marshallton PTO were Mrs. Ralph Wilson, president; Mrs. Norman Moulder, vice president; Mrs. David Johnson, secretary; and Mrs. Milton Durnall, treasurer.

Students in Louise Brink's Adult Night School art class, who exhibited their work in the windows of Griffith's Hardware Store, were Marian Ciaffoni, June Berry, John Farrell, Dorothy Galt, Drusilla Streamer, Eloise Nixdorf, Thelma Umble, Margaret Robinson and Col. Horace Shelmire.

Morris Jackson was the new president of the Downingtown Lions Club. Also elected were Dr. William Reed, first vice president; Leebeert Chambers, second vice president; W.I. Pollock, third vice president; John Rogers, secretary; and Joseph Matthewson, treasurer.

New members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, were Barbara Rosenbaum, Janet Wallace, Carl Ruth, Harry Dewees, Dennis Ellmore, and Ronald Otter.

Committee chairmen of the Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan were Mrs. Wayne Millard, American home and citizenship; Virginia Farquier, art; Mrs. Max Morris, conservation and gardens; Mrs. George Benham, education and motion pictures; Mrs. Wirt Robinson, drama; Mrs. Joseph Phipps, historian and parliamentarian.

Mary Smedley was elected president of the DHS Future Homemakers of America Club. Other new officers were Jean Swinehart, vice president; Anne Lammey, secretary; Josephine Rimel, treasurer; Peggy Rodri, historian; and Mary Henely, song leader.

Thanks John; we still need electrical work done

John Talierco called us just minutes after we released last week's Hist-O-Gram, and offered us a sturdy, 6-foot ladder. In fact, he even delivered it to us. Talk about service!! However, we're still looking for an electrician who can fix an exterior outlet and an outdoor post light whose light sensor is on the fritz. We'll cover the cost of materials. If you can help, please call 610-269-8037.



Teresa Talucci is truly a perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify all of these sailors. They were, left to right: Albert “Baldy” Del Paggio, Tony DiEuliis, Orlando “Herbie” Talucci, Dominic “Little Midge” Talucci, Lewis “Jiggs” Capriotti, Anthony “Keene” Viscichini and Nello Caporale. The photo was taken after the sailors had marched in the Memorial Day Parade in 1946. The picture was provided by Donna Capriotti.

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Also, we have cut expenses by limiting our publications to an Annual Report because printing and postage costs have increased so much. Now, Hist-O-Grams are our primary means of communication with our membership.

Those are some of the reasons why we’re asking Hist-O-Gram readers to help us by either joining the Historical Society or renewing your current membership.

Please complete the membership form below. Your support and continued interest in the Historical Society is most appreciated.

PS: We will continue to send free Hist-O-Grams to ALL of you, every week.

Please complete this Membership Form to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

* We can't send you Hist-O-Grams unless you include your email address. We promise not to give your email address to any business or organization.

Individual \$20 _____ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$15 _____ Family \$30 _____

Business \$50 _____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

I wish to add a \$ _____ donation, which is critical to the Historical Society's survival because less than 12% of its income comes from dues. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible, since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please mail the completed form to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

One-room school reunion in Uwchlan

Those who attended Lionville School, Mount Airy School or White School in Uwchlan are invited to come to a One-Room School House Reunion at 1 PM Saturday, May 19 at the Uwchlan Meeting House. Sponsored by the Township Historical Commission and the Uwchlan Conservation Trust, the reunion is part of Uwchlan's year-long tricentennial celebration. For reservations or information, call 610-280-9522.

Those who have photos or memorabilia connected with Uwchlan's one-room schools should contact the Commission. 610-280-9522, so they can be copied or scanned.

DHS Alumni Assn. meeting & elections

The DHS Alumni Assn., established in 1884 and the nation's oldest, will meet at 9 AM Saturday, May 19 in Room 137 at DHS West. Enter the school via the rear door marked 3-7. The association will be electing new officers for the upcoming year.

Join Rewards Program at Cropper's

If you shop at Cropper's in Guthriesville and want to participate in their Shurfine Community Rewards Program gold card, you can help the Downingtown Area Historical Society. Cropper's Rewards Program donates \$60,000 to community non-profit organizations. To ensure that the Historical Society receives a percentage of the donations made by the Rewards Program, please send your name and Gold Card number to Carol Grigson at: info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org. Carol, the Historical Society's certified Rewards Program administrator, will enroll you. Thanks for helping the Historical Society.

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, May 19, or Thursday, July 19. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 6 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

Fireworks with the Phillies Bus Trip. Monday, June 25. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Section 310 on the first base side. Seats are in section 310 on the first base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

A Night with the Phillies Bus Trip. Friday, September 21. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Sections 425 & 426 on the third base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

Discount Movie Tickets: \$7.50, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

Banquet Room For Rent

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Vol. 3, No. 21

May 24, 2012



The first person to correctly identify all of the members of this softball team, sponsored by the Downingtown Rotary Club in the 1983 East Brandywine Youth Athletics League, will be considered a truly perceptive scholar.

Please send the girls' names to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

How you can connect with heroes who died in Viet Nam

Bud Bruton and Jay Fischer have provided us with directions on how you can access info on each of the military personnel whose names are on the wall in Washington, DC, because they lost their lives while serving in Viet Nam.

First go to: <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>. Then go to the state, and when that opens, scroll down to the hometown you're looking for. The names of fallen vets will then appear. When you click on a name, you should find a photo of many of them, plus their bio and the medals they earned.

The virtual wall enables us to connect with the heroes who made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Please pass this info on to your friends and family.



After Dick Ash, Downingtown native and Ash family historian, saw our article about baseball more than 100 years ago in last week's Hist-O-Gram, he sent this photo of the Downingtown Athletic Association baseball team in 1902. Members of the team were, left to right: first row: Albert Garner, Charles Newlin, Laban Stroud; second row: James Fitrer, Edgar Hutchison, Robert T. Ash (Dick's father), James Barton, John Lilley, Jukey Ford; third row: Frank Duff, Robert McCaughey, Albert Kams, Kirk Smith, Herbert Ash, Sr., Manager.

Lots of info and photos on the Guernsey Cow

Remember getting ice cream at the Guernsey Cow? Sean McGlinchey, grandson of Larry Polite, one of the founders of Guernsey Cow, has sent us a ton of neat stuff about the long-gone hot spot in Exton. It's available at <http://theguernseycow.com>.

Smiths volunteer to spruce up Ashbridge

Thanks to Gloria and Bob Smith of Downingtown, the landscaping surrounding Ashbridge House looks much better because they have begun weeding and planting there. Lord knows what our headquarters and the surrounding area would look like if we didn't have volunteers like the Smiths.

Oh boy, no one could identify all these cheerleaders



Occasionally, a boy was a cheerleader at DHS over the years. However, they were an integral part of the cheerleading squad in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Cheerleaders during the 1928 football season were, left to right: James Hurtt, Sara Bentley, Victor Amway, Sara Diffenderfer, George Ciarlone and Marian Foreman. No one correctly identified all of them in the photo.

Downingtown area news items in March 1960, Part I

The following tidbits were published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

Boy Scout Troop 83's new co-sponsors were St. Paul's UCC, Lionville, and St. Matthews UCC, Upper Uwchlan. The troop had been sponsored by the Lionville Fire Co. for 14 years. In addition to scoutmaster Harry Rauch, the troop's leaders included Garfield Smith, Robert Donaghy, Seth Pope, Harry Ruth, Conrad Rodney, William Spence, Robert Sommer, Chester Wenger and Robert Thompson.

Dick Shreiner's perfect attendance record in the Uwchlan Township School System was broken when the eighth grader was absent for two days.

Members of Brownie troop, sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, toured the packaging division of the Downingtown Paper Co. They were transported to the box shop by Mrs. George Douglas, Mrs. Robert Fowler and Mrs. Eric Bittmann.

Elected trustees at Hopewell Methodist Church were Clair Piersol, Howard Laird and Alex Jefferis.

Mrs. Robert Kaster of the Downingtown Junior Woman's Club won the Vogue Sewing Contest, and will represent the club in the statewide competition at Strawbridge & Clothier in Philadelphia.

New directors of the Downingtown Rotary Club were Edwin Johnson, Ralph Ralston, William Balderson, John Fraser, James Hines, Stephen MacNeill and Earl Radcliffe.

Mrs. George Bousum and Nancy Laird were new members of the East Brandywine Fire Co. Auxiliary.

Women, who modeled clothing from Leta's Dress Shop, Downingtown, in the fashion show conducted by the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Anthony's Lodge, included Mrs. Orlando Talucci, Mrs. Anthony DiAntonio, Mrs. Edward Bogush, Mrs. Edmund Cohill, Mrs. Frank DiSilvestro, Mrs. Sebastian Ruffini, Mrs. Gaetano DiSante, Mrs. Joseph Bruno, and Catherine Moschitta.

Finalists in the spelling bee at DHS were Hunt Berryman, Sonia Raysor, Carolyn Meyer, Elizabeth Cannella, Bob Fidler, Janice Windle, Mary Ann Charles, Bob French, Eleanor Robinson and Tom Booker.

Leaders of the Sunday School Association at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were Warren Strawsnyder, superintendent; Mrs. Dolores Kohlhas, secretary; and Harry Robertson, treasurer.

The Blue and Gold banquet of Cub Pack 2, held at St. Anthony's Lodge, attracted 137 people. Fred Pollock was cubmaster of the pack, which was sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club.

The Marshallton School PTA was collecting money for a water fountain to be installed outside the school.

And the winners are.....



The King and Queen of our recent DHS Prom Photo Exhibit were Vera Kockler and Joe Jewell. They were selected by people who visited the exhibit on recent weekends at Ashbridge House, our headquarters. We conducted the competition because DHS Proms did not include the selection of a King and Queen between 1971 and 1983, when the photos were taken by Anne McGee Chiccino, DHS math and computer science teacher from 1969 to 2004.

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Vol. 3, No. 22

May 31, 2012

Who are they?



There was a time when majorettes were an integral part of high school marching bands. Shown above are the girls who marched in front of DHS band in the mid-1950s. The first person who correctly identifies all of them will be recognized throughout the Downingtown area as a truly perceptive scholar. You can gain that honor by sending the names to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news items in March 1960, Part II

The following tidbits were published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

Six freight cars, part of an 88-car **Pennsylvania Railroad** train traveling from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, were derailed just east of the Downingtown railroad station on March 25. One of the cars plunged into the Brandywine

Committee chairmen of the **East Brandywine School District PTA** were: Ruth Lammey, membership; Ruth Gindin, hospitality; Roy Nellius, ways and means; and Charles Alexander, nominations.

New members of the **Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co.**, Downingtown, were Allie Calhoun and Mary Ibaugh. The auxiliary's upcoming shuffleboard matches were against ladies' teams from the West Chester Moose and the Red Men. Blanche Summers, chairman of the Auxiliary's card party in April, selected Dorothy Peters, Florence Cumens, Rose Nichols, Helen Dague, Marie Hamilton, Alice Zittle and Rose Simone as her assistants.

The congregational covered dish supper at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown was put on by Mrs. William Mercer, Mrs. Leon Gabel, Mrs. Donald Shields, Mrs. Gerald Lammey, Mrs. Palmer Keech, and Mrs. Mary Bagshaw.

Mrs. Albert Greenfield Jr., Glenmoore, hosted members of the Mothers Group of the **Downingtown Friends School**. She was assisted by Mrs. Paul McVickar, Mrs. Phillip Street and Mrs. William Goessel.

Members of the **Glen-Lion Card Club** who played on a recent afternoon were Mrs. Edwin Smedley, Mrs. Ernest Cornwall, Mrs. George Graham, Mrs. George Blake, Mrs. Walter Styer and Mrs. Fred Fisher.

Candidates for officers of the **Downingtown Optimist Club** were Jack Bray and Albert Burkhart, president; Don Collier, Tom Lee and Francis Swisher, vice president; Joseph Fletcher and Joseph Poltrone, sergeant-at-arms; Pete Ippolito, Paul McCombs and Roy Nellius, directors.

DHS band members were conducting their annual candy drive. Proceeds would be used to help pay for one Junior to go to a summer camp at Penn State and for their trip to the college's Band Day; and buy letters and sweaters for graduating seniors.

DHE members of the **Future Teachers of America** who attended the Southeastern District conference were Nancy Shreiner, Marie Abel, Mary Ann Phillips, Lewis Wilson and Robert Shank.

St. Patrick's Day was observed once again at the **Junior High** by students showering science teacher Rita Gleason with oranges. The custom started four years ago, when eighth graders decided to upset Miss Gleason's practice of adorning her classroom with green for the March 17 holiday.

General chairman Mrs. Lewis Riddell appointed the following committee chairmen for the telephone card party sponsored by the Downingtown branch of the **Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** were Mrs. Robert Hadfield, tickets; Mrs. Kurt Wandell, door prizes; and Mrs. Samuel Hall, Mrs. Ralph Ralston and Mrs. William Jobe, hostesses.
(Editor's Note: What's a telephone card party?)

New officers of **VFW Post 845** were Herbert Lammey, commander; Charles Hilton, senior vice commander; Angelo Capuito, junior vice commander; William Wilmot,

quartermaster; Henry Thomas, chaplain; Earl Parker, Francis Fennelly, Theodore Jameson, Vincent King, and George Hilton, trustees. And new officers of the Post's Auxiliary were Mrs. Leon Beam, president; Mrs. Charles Hilton, senior vice president; Mrs. Edward Lynam, junior vice president; Mrs. Schrack Steward, treasurer; Mrs. Velma Merrill, chaplain; Mrs. Jean Laird, conductress; Margaret Lender, guard; and Mrs. George Hilton, trustee.

Mrs. Robert Pool and Mrs. Paul Pollock were chairmen of the Fun Fair sponsored by the **Downingtown Elementary Parents**. Committee heads for the Fair included Mrs. Dickey Hutchison, Mrs. Charles Shreiner, Mrs. Charles Menas, Mrs. Maurice Davis, Mrs. Stanley Landis and Mrs. Robert Flagg.

The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** was setting up a 24-hour coverage program, so doctors and dentists would be available around the clock in emergency cases via the Mowday Telephone answering service.

New officers of **Hopewell Methodist Church's** Bethany Circle were Mrs. Richard Warren, president; Mrs. Edward McCausland, vice president; Mrs. William Davey, secretary; and Mrs. Jay Lammey, treasurer.

Mrs. Inez Cline bought the **Dining Room** restaurant on East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, from Chris Nichols. Inez had owned the **Coffee Cup** since she moved to Downingtown from New York State.

Re-elected as officers of the **Visiting Nurse Association** were Mrs. R. Trimble Kent, president; Mrs. Ralph Ralston, first vice president; Mrs. Walter Roehrs Jr., second vice president; Mrs. M.S. Meisel, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Collier Lewis, recording secretary; and William Gibbs, treasurer.

DHS students Evelyn Eshleman and Carmelia Cressman were selected to sing in the Eastern Division Chorus at the Music Educators national conference in Atlantic City.

We seek advice on stackable vs. folding chairs

A non-profit organization has offered to buy some new chairs for our meeting area at Ashbridge House. Currently, we're using a wide variety of chairs, donated to us over the years. All we're looking for are inexpensive, but reasonably sturdy chairs. So, we're asking for advice from people from churches and organizations who have had success with their chair purchasing decision-making.

Is there much difference between setting up, tearing down, and storing stackable or folding chairs? Are plastic, molded stackable chairs sturdy enough? Have you had problems with the backs of plastic, molded stackable chairs?

Although many groups appear to favor stackables, are there issues with those chairs that we never thought of. Same goes for folding chairs as well.

Why are we being so fussy? Well, this isn't a one-time decision, because we'll want to buy additional chairs that match the ones we got first. So we have to make the correct choice right from the start, especially because we're a hand-to-mouth operation, financially.

Please send your suggestions and comments to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org. Your help is most appreciated.



The turnout for the annual Memorial Day program at the Downingtown Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park seemed to be larger than ever this year, because of the efforts of Rodger Paisley and his hardworking committee. Paisley announced that additional funding is needed so the names of 95 more veterans can be engraved on the stone memorials. Donations, made out to DVMF, should be sent to: Rodger Paisley, 212 Highland Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335. *Photo by Mike Dunn*

Francis Brown: He helped save the Log House

Francis Brown, a leader in Quaker activities in the Philadelphia area and a charter member of the Historical Society, passed away on April 27. News about his death brought back memories of his active involvement in our organization for many years, and the major role he played in the efforts to save the Log House in the late 1980s.

Mr. Brown represented the Historical Society in negotiations with Borough Council, regarding the movement of the Log House in 1988, according to Don Greenleaf, retired borough manager and one of the Historical Society's founders. The house was moved about 70 feet from its original location and about 30 feet back from Lancaster Avenue to a safer location in Kerr Park.

Clip joint will be open on Sunday afternoon

Ice cream will be served Sunday afternoon, June 3, when we have our monthly clipping & pasting session from 1-4 PM in air conditioned Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays.

Some of these players still aren't identified



Teresa Talucci and Jen Whiteman identified the following members of the girls' softball team, sponsored by the Downingtown Rotary Club, which played in the East Brandywine Youth Athletics League in 1983: Shown in the photo, published in the May 24 Hist-O-Gram, are: front row, Denise Sotis, Maria (can't recall last name), Sandy Long, Bobbi Stevens, Jen Whiteman, unknown. In the middle row, they recognized Katie Finnegan, unknown, Kim Pierson, Tracy Davis, Debbie Sotis, Kristi Hee, and Janelle (can't recall last name). In the back row, Sal Sotis Sr. was the coach on the left.

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Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

* We can't send you Hist-O-Grams unless you include your email address. We promise not to give your email address to any business or organization.

Individual \$20_____ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$15_____ Family \$30_____

Business \$50_____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

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Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:
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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 23

June 7, 2012

Identify this site and win a \$25 dinner gift card



The first person to correctly identify this site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. He or she also will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown, to be used at a restaurant. (See the Brief, but important section below for details). Please send the name and location of this photo to:
Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news reveals reactions to start of WWII

We recently had an opportunity to look through two 1942 editions of *The Archive*. In various ways, many stories in the Downingtown weekly newspaper reflected how the community reacted to the declaration of war less than a year earlier. Other articles showed that life went on in our area.

- Downingtown's Mary Louise Simmons was among the first group of women in the nation to be accepted into the U.S. Navy's WAVES program. A DHS Class of 1938 graduate, she was to be trained as a radio technician.
- Members of the Catholic Young People's Club of Downingtown registered for defense work, and, under the chairmanship of Mary Schneider, girls in the club made blankets for the Red Cross at a meeting held in the Downingtown Woman's Club.

- The Downingtown Junior Woman's Club mailed 70 packages to local "boys" serving in the military. The packages contained: cigarettes, a comb, stamps, writing paper, shaving cream, razor blades, pencils, tooth paste, two handkerchiefs and a towel.
- The Downingtown Victory Book Campaign, chaired by John Kagerhuber, was collecting books to be sent to men in the military. Drop-off points were at the Downingtown Motor Co. and the Atlantic gasoline station on West Lancaster Avenue.
- The Downingtown Lions Club meeting included a discussion on establishing a Red Cross unit in the borough and the collection of articles needed for a hospital unit in the community for emergencies. Another topic was air raid signal practice.
- Members of American Legion Post 475 heard that aircraft warning stations in the Glen Moore area were being covered by women in the daytime and by men at night.
- Men and boys who had been trapping near the high railroad bridge south of the borough, were warned not to go there after dark because the bridge was being guarded by U.S. Army personnel.
- At DHS, John DiBernardi, Robert Laird, William Fleck, William Dague and Armando Ippolito were being trained as junior air raid wardens, while Miss Flinn, the school nurse, was teaching first aid to teachers. Pupils assigned to handle fire extinguishers were Alfred Ebord, Joseph Petrella, Joseph Manetta, Armando Lafiato, George Paige and Leonard Francella.
- Burgess Leo Hamilton fined five violators \$8 each for failing to observe a blackout in the borough, based on air raid wardens' reports.
- At a fair conducted by the Minquas Fire Co., war bonds were awarded as prizes. Winners included: Mrs. Charles Ellis, first prize, a \$500 bond; Warren Latshaw, a \$200 bond; and Anna Westmoreland, a \$50 bond.
- A service flag, in honor of the 16 men from the church serving in the military, was dedicated at Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown.

Typical local activities, which weren't related to WW II in 1942 included:

- Officers elected at the annual re-organization of the Brandywine Building and Loan were Joseph Miller, president; Herbert Ash, vice president; W.C. Johnson, secretary; Mabel Olsen, assistant secretary; and Richard Warren, treasurer.
- The Alert Fire Co. decided to buy a lot, owned by George Nixdorf, on the east side of the firehouse on West Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown. The additional property cost \$1,500.
- Members of the Junior High's Dramatic Club were Teresa DiBerardinis, Marjorie Windle, Margaret and Virginia Roop, Virginia Thompson, Tom Roberts, Anthony Rossi, William Nick and Stu Means.
- DHS cheerleaders were Barbara Carlson, Mary Jane Duca, Josephine Sack, Elsie Cozzone, Janet Knauer, Norma Wharry and Margaret Doto. Junior High cheerleaders were Nancy Jones, Rita Simone, Mary Wagoner and Helen Jensen.

Usher donates memorabilia to our archival collection

Vance Usher recently donated many interesting things to our archival collection, including his 1970 DHS yearbook and class ring. The most fascinating items include: a notary public stamp used by Brandywine Nash Motor Co., which his grandfather,

E. Hallan Usher, owned and operated until he signed a franchise contract with Oldsmobile. Eventually, that dealership, known as Usher Motors and located at 206 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was taken over by Vance's father, Hallan J. Usher. Currently, the building is now leased to Colonial Electric Supply Co.

Vance also brought us three movie posters from the 1930s, which had been displayed at the Roosevelt Theatre, 118 Brandywine Avenue, Downingtown. In mint-condition, the posters were found underneath carpeting in the balcony area by carpenters George Jefferies Sr. and George Jefferies Sr., who were sprucing up the building, after Vance bought it from the Borough of Downingtown in 2003.

Constructed in 1903 as the Downingtown Opera House, the building was designed so the seats could be removed for activities such as DHS commencements, boxing matches and basketball games, and minstrels in the early 20th Century.

According to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*, crowds lined up all the way to the intersection of Lancaster Avenue in 1919, when a movie entitled, *The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin*, was being shown there. It's possible that this new phenomenon, "moving pictures" and not the subject matter attracted the crowd.

Movies continued to draw crowds to the Roosevelt until the late 1950s when it succumbed to the popularity of television. Today, the former theatre and opera house is a multi-purpose business building.

Brief, but important

- You can help the Downingtown Library secure a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant, to be used toward the purchase of the Downingtown Area School District's former Micken Building on Wallace Avenue in Downingtown. To enhance that grant application, the library is asking people (not just Borough residents) of all ages to stop in at the library, at 330 E. Lancaster Ave., between June 5 and June 19, and sign a petition to demonstrate that the library is serving all demographic groups in the community. See www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/JAN%2019%202012.pdf for more info on the library, its history and its great programs.
- We apologize for including an incorrect date in the notice of Francis Brown's death in last week's Hist-O-Gram. He passed away on May 27.
- You can find a list of local men and women whose names are engraved on the Downingtown Veterans Memorial stones in Kerr Park at www.dvmf.org/veterans.html. Speaking of honoring veterans, Bud Bruton, who was an Army pilot in Viet Nam, suggests that we all check out: www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2L3skZ7FEw&feature=youtu.be.
- You probably noticed that F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown, is offering a \$25 gift card for a restaurant, which is part of a nationwide chain such as an Olive Garden or a Red Lobster, to the first person who correctly identifies the *What and Where Is This* photo. Swisher's will give a dining card prize to the winner in the first Hist-O-Gram we publish every month. Winners will continue to be recognized as a Truly Perceptive Scholar, as well. That means we're looking for other public-spirited merchants and professionals to make a similar offer for the second, third and fourth editions of Hist-O-Grams we publish each month. In the occasional months with five editions, winners will have to cope with being recognized as a Truly Perceptive Scholar. Anyone who wants to offer a prize once a month should contact Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037

Who are they?



Marjorie Lawn Gazzola, DHS Class of 1957, just missed being recognized as a truly perceptive scholar because she correctly identified five of the six majorettes, shown above, who marched in front of DHS band in the mid-1950s. They were, starting with Virginia Stayer in the center of the back row and going clockwise: Wanda Farra, Barbara Warren, Shirley Rowe, Claudette Rimel and Beverly Laird.

Now we know what a “telephone card party” is

Teresa Talucci has a wonderful sense of curiosity. So when we asked in last week’s Hist-O-Gram what a “telephone card party” was, Teresa immediately went in action.

First, she contacted her friend, Judy Ralston Neale, whose mother, Mrs. Ralph Ralston, was one of the hostesses mentioned in the story about the telephone card party, sponsored by the Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary in March 1960.

Then Judy called her 93-year-old mother, better known as Dot Ralston, who lives at the Garden Spot Village retirement community in New Holland.

According to Dot Ralston, who’s still sharp as a tack, each of the hostesses set up card tables in their home so participants could play pinochle. Hostesses also served food to the guests.

But this wasn't high-stakes poker. The players only had to cough up a couple of bucks to participate. Their goal wasn't to win a lot of money. Instead, their entry fee went to a designated charity.

However, the pinochle game was still competitive because a chairperson, who had overall responsibility for all the card parties, would make phone calls to the home of each hostess when the afternoon of play was winding down. And when that call came through, everyone had to stop playing immediately, and the person with the most points was declared the winner.

So no one raked in a ton of money, but they all had fun, while raising money for a charitable organization.

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June 14, 2012

Can you identify some of them?



We suspect no one can identify all of these kids, who were fifth graders at St. Joseph's School in Downingtown 46 years ago. However, we'd like to have the names of most of the kids, who are middle-aged now, for our archival records. Please send the names of those you recognize to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.



Evelyn Hoey, who died in Glen Moore of a self-inflicted gunshot wound

When “pretty, blonde” singer committed suicide in playboy’s Glen Moore farmhouse, Part I

Sadly, Evelyn Hoey, a 24-year-old, “pretty, blonde” singer, who had starred in musical comedies on Broadway and in London and Paris, committed suicide in Glen Moore on the night of September 11, 1935.

We’re not writing this article about a tragic event to titillate our readers. Instead, this story offers insights into how a sensational criminal case was handled in Chester County by the press, law enforcement officials and the judicial system more than 75 years ago. The information noted here was found in the *Daily Local News* and wire service reports in newspapers across the country.

Hoey was a guest at the Indian Run Farm in Glen Moore, a village in Wallace Township, about 12 miles north of Downingtown. In early coverage of Hoey’s death, most newspapers mistakenly identified the location as being in Lyndell, a hamlet several miles south of Glen Moore.

Tragedy was not unknown to Lyndell. In 1933, the bodies of two slain women, known to be connected with Philadelphia gangsters, were found buried there, and two years earlier, picnickers discovered the decomposed body of an unidentified woman in a shallow grave there.

The 65-acre farm was owned by 31-year-old Henry H. Rogers III, who bought the place about five years earlier. Rogers and Hoey, who maintained residences in New York City, had stayed at the farm several times before.

He was estranged from his wife, whom he had married in 1929.

Roger's neighbors, who thought he was a little strange, said he often hosted friends from New York at the farm. They also said he had a large kennel where about 25 dogs were kept, and he treasured a large collection of guns, which he used when practicing target shooting on the premises.

He was the wealthy son of millionaire Henry Huddleston Rogers, who had made a fortune, together with the family of John D. Rockefeller, as a Standard Oil Co. executive. When the elder Rogers died several years earlier, his estate was estimated to be worth more than \$15 million. The younger Rogers believed he had been virtually disinherited because a trust fund established in his father's will only provided him with an annual income of \$500,000.

According to newspaper reports, Rogers and his friend William Kelly, a movie cameraman from New Jersey, had taken a train the day before the shooting from New York City to Downingtown. They were picked up at the Downingtown railroad station by Hoey, who had arrived at the farm several days earlier, and Frank Catalano, who was employed as Rogers' part-time chauffeur and butler when he visited the farm.

After talking to witnesses who had been at the farmhouse when Hoey shot herself in the right temple with a .45 caliber pistol in an upstairs bedroom, Chester County District Attorney William Rogers and county detective Charles Grubb acknowledged that there was "no doubt" that the shooting was a suicide, since no motive had been found to indicate murder.

Parke's conclusion was substantiated by the results of an autopsy done at Chester County Hospital by Dr. Howard B.F. Davis of Downingtown, who also said Hoey died almost instantly.

After the autopsy, Hoey's body was moved to the Keim and Wilson Funeral Home in Downingtown. When her father, Henry Hoey, a St. Louis chemist, came there to claim the body and make arrangements to send it back to Missouri for burial, he sobbed.

However, Rogers and Kelly, who were in the farmhouse on the night of September 11, were held on "suspicion of murder," and were remanded to the Chester County prison.

Also on the first floor of the farmhouse when the shooting occurred were George Yamada, a recently-hired cook from Malvern, and Cloud Battin of Malvern, a part-time worker on the farm, who was there to pick up \$107 in unpaid wages. Catalano was in a station wagon, next to the house, at the time.

All three said Rogers and Kelly were in the living room when the shot was fired. After he heard the shot, Rogers raced upstairs to the bedroom, where he found Hoey's lifeless body on the floor beside a bed.

Then Rogers came back downstairs, shouting, “She’s done it; she’s done it. She’s committed suicide. What have I to live for now.” He then ran outside, in a hysterical state.

The only mystery involved in the suicide case was a series of arguments Hoey had with Rogers for several hours before the shooting. At one point, Rogers went outside and ripped the telephone wires off the side of the house when Hoey wanted to contact friends in New York. The also quarreled about Hoey’s attempts to borrow money from Catalano and Kelly for train fare back to New York.

During a coroner’s inquest, held in the County Courthouse annex about a week after the shooting, Rogers revealed that shortly before Hoey took her life, she called Rogers upstairs and asked him to give her \$15 so she could return to New York. Rogers told her there was no need to ask for money because they were all going to return to New York by car.

(This article will be continued in next week’s Hist-o-Gram, when we reveal how the national media and Chester County court system contentiously handled the case.)

Several guesses, but no one identified it correctly



Several people incorrectly claimed this photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram is the former Bondsville Mill complex, which was the site of the Collins and Aikman plant between 1927 and 1954. But, according to Scott Piersol, East Brandywine Township manager, “the homes on the hillside behind the mill are the primary indicators to me that this photo is not of the former Collins & Aikman Mill.”

Instead, says Piersol, the main building in the photo above is the former Fisherville Mill, which once existed near the intersection of East Fisherville Road and Bondsville Road, approximately 1/10th of a mile south of the Bondsville Mill Park property. Several other mills also existed along the portion of Beaver Creek, from Hadfield Road south into Caln Township.

“I believe the ruins of the Fisherville Mill, as I have heard this area referred to, are still visible along the Beaver Creek, as you approach East Fisherville Road travelling south on Bondsville Road,” says Piersol.

“Originally known as Duhrling’s Woolen Factory, it appears this mill site was established on or about 1847,” continues Piersol. “It spanned East Brandywine and Caln Townships, as anecdotal information shows the housing located further south of Fisherville Road was for the mill employees. The factory name changed to Beaver Valley Woolen Mill as the Civil War came upon this country. A wind-driven fire in December of 1876 destroyed the mill and row homes of the workers. The property was re-built in 1877 by Samuel Hartshorn and Jarvis Ellis in 1877 and the mill produced “Beaver Valley Buckskins.”

Brief, but important

- Jim Sundman, who lives in the Johnstontown section of the Borough, posted a great article on “**How Johnstontown got its name**” on the Downingtown Does site. It describes what evolved in the southwest section of town over the past 141 years, after John Johnson paid \$5,509 to buy an 18-acre tract in 1871, and subdivided the property into 102 building lots. You can see the story at: <http://downingtowndoes.com/2012/06/10/how-johnstontown-got-its-name/>.
- Remember the names of the DHS Majorettes from the mid-1950s we ran in last week’s Hist-O-Gram? Well, several of the identities we used are being debated. And it’s not likely that the names will be resolved for a while, after the issue is debated at one class reunion next week. .
- Speaking of photos, this is a reminder that we’re always looking for group photos of sports teams, scout troops, etc. Obviously, you don’t have to provide the names as well. You can arrange to drop off a photo by contacting Parry Desmond at 610-269-8037. We’ll scan the shot and return the original if you wish. Or just send a digitized copy to us via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

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1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Section 310 on the first base side. Seats are in section 310 on the first base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

A Night with the Phillies Bus Trip. Friday, September 21. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Sections 425 & 426 on the third base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

Discount Movie Tickets: \$7.50, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all

show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

Banquet Room For Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-9352 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses.

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:
Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 25

June 21, 2012



Evelyn Hoey was a famous musical comedy star and torch singer.

How the Evelyn Hoey case evolved into a circus

(This is Part II of the article about Evelyn Hoey, who committed suicide on September 11, 1935, in a Glen Moore farmhouse. That tragic event offers insights into how major cases were handled by the judicial system in Chester County more than 75 years ago. The information offered here was found in many *Daily Local News* articles.)

After Hoey's lifeless body was found in a bedroom of Henry H. Rogers' Indian Run Farm in Wallace Township, the focus of the case switched to West Chester.

And although the case had been sensationalized by the press because it involved a 24-year-old, "pretty, blonde" musical comedy singer, who shot herself with a pearl-handled .45 caliber revolver in a farmhouse owned by the 31-year-old playboy-son of a multi-millionaire, Chester County District Attorney William Parke had no reason to suspect it would be a complicated case. In fact, Parke had acknowledged from the outset of the investigation that there was "no doubt" the shooting was a suicide, and no evidence was found to indicate murder.

"Personally, I believe that she was disgusted with herself and disillusioned in her friendship with Rogers," added Parke.

A coroner's inquest—a judicial inquiry once used to determine the manner (e.g. suicide, homicide, accident, natural causes) of a person's death, especially if it was violent or considered suspicious—was conducted in the courthouse annex about a week after the shooting. The three-day inquest involved a coroner's jury, comprised of six West Chester residents, who heard testimony by many witnesses connected with the case.

Widespread press coverage

Some 50 press representatives—including 18 from New York newspapers, five from Philadelphia, several news wire services, and two news reel companies—swept into sleepy, little West Chester and turned the case into a circus.

Several New York newsmen told a *Daily Local News* reporter it was the biggest out-of-town case they had handled since Richard Hauptmann went on trial for kidnapping and killing the Lindbergh baby in 1932.

The media's invasion of the county seat created a financial bonanza for West Chester businesses, especially the hotels and restaurants. Both of West Chester's hotels were filled to capacity, and a score of newsmen had been turned away. Rooms in borough homes were at a premium, and some reporters had to spend nights in their cars. And a press headquarters was established in a lunch room at the Turks Head Inn, where some 20 borrowed typewriters were provided for reporters.

Western Union transferred seven Morse Code operators from its Philadelphia office, Postal Telegraph added three operators to their staff in the county seat. Using 20 machines, the telegraph services transmitted a total of 50,000 words in stories newsmen sent back to their home offices the day the suicide was first reported. Messenger service between the courthouse and the press headquarters were maintained with the assistance of five experienced message runners from Philadelphia.

(Editor's Note: The term newsmen is used here because males dominated the ranks of reporters back then. At best, most female reporters were relegated to the Society Pages of newspapers. Also, there was nothing like 24/7 breaking news on CNN in 1935. That was the era when film footage of news from the previous week was shown to moviegoers several minutes before they watched a featured film. Newsreels shown in movie theatres stopped in the 1950s when most people started seeing news programs every night on TV).

"A curious citizenry looked askance at the host of newspapermen and cameramen, representing every Philadelphia and New York newspaper, who congregated on the corners and besieged the District Attorney's office and the Coroner's office in the

courthouse annex. The newsreel men from Paramount and Movietone attracted large crowds, as they ground away, foot after foot of film of witnesses” connected with the case, noted a *Daily Local News* reporter.

And the day after the suicide was first reported in the media, scores of reporters were admitted to Rogers’ farmhouse. They inspected every piece of furniture and accoutrement in the living room. They were especially intrigued by all the guns displayed throughout the house. Press photographers took pictures of the blood-stained carpet in the second-floor bedroom, where Hoey fell after she shot herself. The photos were published in newspapers across the country.

One witness, Cloud Battin of Malvern, who had worked on Rogers’ farm and was inside the farmhouse when the shooting occurred, even bargained with press photographers and newsreel men when they wanted him to pose for them.

Initially, he sought a \$5 payment, but no one bought that offer. However, when someone offered a \$1, Battin retorted, “Let’s see the dollar.” When the photographer held a \$1 bill, Battin grabbed it, and then stuck his head out the window of DA Parke’s office at the courthouse annex, so the battery of cameramen could get a shot of him.

All hell broke loose

Also, before one of the hearings during the inquest, all hell broke loose, when many local residents and the press corps fought to get seats. Initially, court officials thought there wouldn’t be a seating problem when the hearing was switched from the grand jury room to Court Room No. 2. That plan didn’t work because out-of-town reporters tried to ensure that they’d get the best seats by writing their names on slips of paper and pasting the slips on the chairs in the two front rows of seats in the courtroom. However, that tactic didn’t succeed when Parke had the reservation slips removed from the coveted chairs, which local citizens who arrived early sat in.

Due to the seating problem and an overwhelming number of agitated people who came to the hearing, court authorities quickly decided to switch the session to the much larger Court Room No. 1. When that last-minute change was announced, the corridor between the two courtrooms was jammed with a “surging crowd of almost hysterical people, who shoved, pushed, kicked and elbowed their way in the mad rush for seats. It was the wildest scene ever enacted in the court house corridor, with State Highway Patrol officers and local cops trying to keep order.”

Despite the melee, all the newsmen were able to capture front-row seats in Court Room No.1. However, several hundred people were still packed in the corridor and there was a larger crowd in the streets outside the courthouse as well.

The inquest proceedings continued to be unsettled, when an evening session had to be postponed after two of the six jurors didn’t show up. The *Daily Local News* reported that “it was quite freely rumored that the two missing jurors were suffering the effects of a hangover from a drinking party,” which apparently involved several New York reporters.

Although witnesses had provided incontrovertible evidence to the coroner’s jury that substantiated Parke’s belief that Hoey died from a gunshot wound, surprisingly, the jurors determined that the witnesses had not provided enough evidence to prove that Hoey had died “at the hands of a person or persons unknown.”

Since the juror's inexplicable decision indirectly indicated a homicide had been committed, a distraught Parke petitioned for a grand jury investigation. He also said the coroner's jury's conduct should be investigated.

In addition to all those who had testified at the coroner's inquest in September, plus several members of the coroner's jury, the 18 men and four women on the grand jury, convened in November, heard from several new witnesses. One of them was Victor Andoga, Hoey's New York singing coach. Andoga said he thought Hoey took her life because of anguish over a secret love affair with an unidentified New York theatrical man. And Hoey—the first singer to popularize classics such as “What Is This Thing Called Love” and “April in Paris”—was worried that her voice was failing. Andoga also said Hoey told him on two occasions that she wanted to end her life.

Andoga's testimony about Hoey's depression was supported by Rogers' claim during the coroner's inquest that, shortly before coming to the Glen Moore farm in September, she threatened to jump out the window of a New York hotel. Rogers told the coroner's jury that she was despondent about her career, and he decided to bring to the farm “to lighten her spirits.”

Following a week of testimony, the grand jury finally concluded that Hoey's death was a suicide. The jurors also asserted that although there was no evidence of corruption or criminal interference by members of the coroner's jury, several of them had been too cozy with news reporters.

Although handling of the case wasn't the Chester County judiciary's finest hour, the conclusion of the coroner's inquest created one positive change.

On the Monday following the end of the inquest, Chester County's judges, sitting at the opening of Common Pleas Court, wore their flowing black judicial robes in court for the first time since the turn of the century. Undoubtedly, that change was an effort to re-establish dignity in the courthouse.

Local news items in June 1975

The following news items were originally published in June 1975 editions of the *East Branch Citizen*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper.

Dan Tubas was relieved of his duties as president of the **Downingtown Inn**, as executives of the Ramada hotel-motel chain took over management of the East Caln-based resort. Ramada bought the facility in 1972.

Diplomas were presented to 477 graduates at the DHS commencement. Following greetings from Mark Franklin, class of 1975 president, the speakers were Gerry Gottier, Kathryn Hubler, Ann Madden and Bart Glackin.

New officers of the Live Wires at **Downingtown United Methodist Church** were Frances McAllister, president; Jean Steeley, vice president; Mildred Barr, secretary; and Sally Woodward, treasurer.

New members of **Marshallton United Methodist Church** were Tom Barker, Timmy Bickings, Mark and Sherry Dampman, Steve Gerringer, Gregg Jackson, Dennis McClure, Jay Meister, and Art and Marty Shupard.

New officers of the **Downingtown Area Educational Secretaries Association** were Marian Cattell, president; Rosalie Rowan, vice president; Agnes Lyons, secretary; and Jean Gainor, treasurer.

Members of the **Greater Downingtown Girl Scout Service Unit** who completed training courses included Mrs. David March, Mrs. Stephen Meacham, Mrs. Olin Sievers, Mrs. Thomas Corrigan, Mrs. Marian McFalls and Mrs. Bruce Nixdorf.

Recent **property transfers** included: 102 Crump Rd., Uwchlan, \$45,000; 220 Stuart Ave., Downingtown, \$33,000; 1603 Linda Dr., West Bradford, \$45,300; 117 Constitution Dr., East Brandywine, \$46,900.

Members of the **DHS Ecology Club** announced plans to rejuvenate the Downingtown Railroad Station on West Lancaster Avenue. Edith Hille, club advisor, said, "We want to make this a community-wide project....so we are asking service clubs, church groups and scout troops to help."

New officers of the **Ladies of St. Joseph Catholic Church** were Virginia Martini, president; Dolores Delaney, vice president; Mary Burns, recording secretary; Mary Alice Moore, corresponding secretary; and Rose Woodward, treasurer.

New officers of the **Junior Woman's Club of Downingtown** were Mrs. John Taylor, president; Mrs. Edward McDermott, first vice president; Mrs. Kenneth Klunk, second vice president; Mrs. William McQueen, recording secretary; Mrs. Edward McCausland, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Darryl Taylor, treasurer.

New officers of the **Auxiliary of the Charles F. Moran American Legion Post** were Mrs. Paul McCombs, president; Mrs. Earl Thornton, first vice president; Mrs. Arthur Pickell, second vice president; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; Mrs. William Keen, historian; and Mrs. Lewis Wilson, chaplain.

New members of **Central Presbyterian Church** were Donald and Judy Black, John and Susan Dougherty, William Fry, Edward and Patricia Fulton, James McGowan, John and Linda Yurkutat, and Lew, Louise, Marian, Dave and Amy Lynn Prekup.

DHS band director Bill Ifert formed a community band, comprised of local musicians who wanted to continue playing after they finished high school.

The **Downingtown Optimist Club** announced there would be no Good Neighbor Day on July Fourth in the borough due to the recession. However, the annual canoe race down the Brandywine was conducted by the **Downingtown Recreation Commission** and the **DHS Ecology Club** on Sunday, July 6.

Boy Scouts Scott Harrop, Richard Kiester, Tim Matlack, Mark McClure, Bill Roepe, John Rosenlieb, and David Zemple went to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

New officers of the **Uwchlan Hills Home and School Assn.** were Mrs. Alfred Foster, president; Mr. and Mrs. William Saeger, vice presidents; Mrs. Edward Kirkbride, secretary; and Mr. and Mrs. Norman McQuillin, co-treasurers.

Downingtown School District teachers who retired at the end of the school year were Winifred Fahey, Kathryn Hall, Elizabeth Wells, Erma Fulton and Marion Noll.

DHS Home Economics teacher Toni Janiec gave a belly dancing demonstration at a meeting of the **Downingtown Lions Club**, which was enjoyed by the following new officers: Donald Bireley, president; John Gainor, first vice president; Joseph Jacobs, second vice president; and Richard Byerly, third vice president.

New officers of the **Downingtown Ministerium** were: Rev. Donald Bowers, Hopewell United Methodist, president; Rev. Richard Bartholomew, St. James Episcopal, secretary; and Rev. Bruce Ingles, Central Presbyterian, treasurer.

Take another shot at trying to identify some of them



Al DiMatteo was the only person who tried to identify some of these kids, who were fifth graders at St. Joseph's School in Downingtown 46 years ago. So, let's give it another try. If you just tell us the name of one kid and where they're positioned (e.g. third row down; second from the left), you'll make us happy. Please send the names of those you recognize to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

These are the names Al came up with: Top row, left to right: Gail Dague, can't recall, James D'Antonio, Luigi Chelli, can't recall, can't recall, can't recall, Hugh MacNeal, Patricia Mento, Kathy Cozzone. Second row: Marian can't recall last name, Donna Hadley, Tom Redick, Agnes Pollini, Debbie Valentino, can't recall, can't recall, can't recall, Felica Ficca, Rose Mascherino. Third row: John DiBerardinis, can't recall, Sarah Althouse, can't recall, can't recall, can't recall, Joseph Formica, Steve Mento, Tom Terriman, Eugene DeCarlo, James Jacobson. Fourth row: can't recall, can't recall, can't recall, Andrew Maschiti, can't recall, Thomas Cozzone. Fifth row: Susan Troup, can't recall, can't recall, can't recall, Joseph Creamer, Samuel Perella. Sixth row: Amberto Mattioni, Gerald Mingione, can't recall, Wayne Cocco, Bruce Chicosky, Steve Lang, Mark DiLuigi, Kirk Ruffini. Seventh row: can't recall, can't recall, Jeffrey Chalfant, can't recall, Lawrence Herman, Ronald Lawler.

Brief, but important

- Thanks to electrician Jason Corey of Downingtown for making several repairs at Ashbridge House, our headquarters. Jason also is a working member of the Alert Fire Co.
- Two things we'd love to have in our archival collection: a copy of Barbara Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown, and one of the many copies of a painting of the old St. Joseph's Church in Johnsontown, which were done by the now-deceased Bob Smith.
- We also are looking for any photo of Civil War veterans, who were members of the John Hancock GAR Post, based in Downingtown until the late 1920s. We'd be thrilled just to borrow an original so we could make a digital copy for our archives.

How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

Over a year ago, we started emailing Hist-O-Grams to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. We want to thank you for your continued support of the Hist-O-Gram system, which offers recollections of local historical events and personalities. Better yet, Hist-O-Grams have evolved into a valuable communication tool, which helps make the Downingtown area a Good Neighbor community. That's why we have begun to include, in every edition, free announcements of public events and activities sponsored by local non-profit organizations.

In recognition of our efforts to make Hist-O-Grams part of the glue that holds our community together, we are asking readers like you to strengthen your connection with the Historical Society by becoming a member.

Also, we have cut expenses by limiting our publications to an Annual Report because printing and postage costs have increased so much. Now, Hist-O-Grams are our primary means of communication with our membership.

Those are some of the reasons why we're asking Hist-O-Gram readers to help us by either joining the Historical Society or renewing your current membership.

Please complete the membership form below. Your support and continued interest in the Historical Society is most appreciated.

PS: We will continue to send free Hist-O-Grams to ALL of you, every week.

Please complete this Membership Form to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

* We can't send you Hist-O-Grams unless you include your email address. We promise not to give your email address to any business or organization.

Individual \$20_____ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$15_____ Family \$30_____

Business \$50_____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

I wish to add a \$_____ donation, which is critical to the Historical Society's survival because less than 12% of its income comes from dues. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible, since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please mail the completed form to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Join Rewards Program at Cropper's

If you shop at Cropper's in Guthriesville and want to participate in their Shurfine Community Rewards Program gold card, you can help the Downingtown Area Historical Society. Cropper's Rewards Program donates \$60,000 to community non-profit organizations. To ensure that the Historical Society receives a percentage of the donations made by the Rewards Program, please send your name and Gold Card number to Carol Grigson at: info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org. Carol, the Historical Society's certified Rewards Program administrator, will enroll you. Thanks for helping the Historical Society.

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Vol. 3, No. 28

June 28, 2012

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in this photo and sends their answer to Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Local news items in June 1950

The following news items were originally published in *The Archive*, a Downingtown area weekly newspaper.

Downingtown's Borough Council voted to rent the Log House to the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** for only \$1 a year. The Log House will be the Chamber's headquarters. Those who prepared the Log House as an information center for the Boy Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge were Mrs. Russell Gilkin, Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, Mrs. Herman Kramm, Mrs. Owen Pritchard, Mrs. L.D. Hamilton, Mrs. Edwin Baldwin, Emily Lewis, Mrs. Nelson Dennis, Mrs. Morris Jackson, Edward Towson, Mrs. Gordon Carpenter, J.J. Brownstein and James McGowan.

Elected officers of Local 414, **United Paperworkers of America**, were Huston Mattson, president; Fay Sigle, vice president; Ashton Lammey, secretary; George Meacham, financial secretary; trustees Tom Gee, Arlington Mattson, and Robert Harple.

New graduates of **Mount Airy School**, Uwchland, who were slated to enter Downingtown Junior-Senior High School were Lois McElyea, William Scott, William Collins and Edward Quay.

Lionville School students cited for academic achievement were Janice Tryon, first prize; Nancy Shreiner, second; Jimmy Rennard, third; and Harry Shreiner, fourth.

Bobby Hughes of Lyndell won the **Downing town Lions Club Soap Box Derby**, conducted on the Chestnut Street hill in the borough. Margaret Wilson came in second, and Marcia Chambers came in third. Other entrants were Leebert Chambers, James Nelson, James DiSante, Ogier Norris, Joan Romig and Paul Fidler. John Atkinson couldn't compete because he broke his leg on a practice run.

New officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Ernest Smedley, president; Samuel Evans, vice president; Clarence Dorsey, secretary; Stuart Pollock, treasurer; and directors Donald Eastburn, C.O. Brown, David Ross and Herb Ash.

Mark Bareford was elected commander of the **Charles F. Moran American Legion Post**. Other officers were George Gregory, first vice commander; John Mercer, second vice commander; Joseph Miller, finance officer; Rev. David Stewart chaplain; Earl Shirk, sergeant-at-arms; Paul Dague, historian; Ralph Howard, service officer; and Francis Summers, adjutant.

New officers of the **Future Farmers of America** chapter at DHS were Walter Styer, president; Jay Walton, vice president; Grant Wells, secretary; Hugo Schwandt, treasurer; Joseph Miller, reporter; and Ralph Benner, sentinel.

Winners at the pet show at the **Central Presbyterian Church's** country fair were, largest dog: Jane Miles, first; Maureen Renshaw, second; and Eileen Moyer, third. Winners in the smallest dog competition were Lee Robertson, first; Dolly Buttermann, second; and Sissy Ash, third.

Can you help us?

We're looking for free advice on exactly how to repair or re-surface the crumbling brick floor of the patio at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 (next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant) in East Caln. If you're interested in offering your expertise, please email us at: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org. Thanks.

Clip Joint will be open & visit our GND booth

Mr. Downingtown may be joining us Sunday afternoon, July 1, when we have our monthly clipping & pasting session from 1-4 PM in air conditioned Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays.

We'll have a booth on **Good Neighbor Day** on July 4th at Kerr Park. Hope you stop by to see us.

Almost all of them have been identified



Thanks to Patti Conner, Rose Ciarlone, Vince Panetti and Al DiMatteo, we've been able to identify most of the kids in this photo of fifth graders at St. Joseph's School 46 years ago. However, since there were more than 80 pupils in that grade, we suspect there were two class pictures. Those who were included in the photo below were:

Top row, left to right: Gail Dague, James D'Antonio, Luigi Celli, Catherine Golden, Anne Huet, Nicholas Formica, Diane Wosko, Hugh McNeal, Patricia Mento. Second row: Marian McGinnis, Donna Hadley, Tom Redick, Agnes Pollini, Debbie Valentino, Patricia Dougherty, Michael Allen, Christine Dailey, Diane Morinelli, Felicia Ficca, Rose Mascherino. Third row: John DiBerardinis, ??, Sarah Althouse, Patricia O'Tap, ??, ??, Joseph Formica, Steve Mento, Tom Terriman, Eugene DeCarlo, James Jacobson. Fourth row: John King, ??, ??, Andrew Moschita, Ben Valocchi, Thomas Cozzone. Fifth row: Susan Troup, Theresa ??, Patricia Panichelli, Edward Podziomek, Joseph Creamer, Samuel Perella. Sixth row: Amberto Mattioni, Gerald Mingione, Thomas Watters, Wayne Cocco, Bruce Chicosky, Steve Lang, Mark DiLuigi, Kirk Ruffini. Seventh row: Linda Abbott, Steve Loughlin, Jeffrey Chalfant, Jack Kaminski, Lawrence Herman, Ronald Lawler.

Local news items in April 1960

New members of the **Lyndell Grange** were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Garver and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Miley. Winners in the Grange's dressmaking competition were Mrs. Howard Laird, Mrs. Warren Patterson, Mrs. Paul Garver, and Mrs. Mary Ann Lockhard.

Traffic was at a standstill for an hour throughout the borough last Saturday night, when there was a rush to reach the **Downingtown Farmers Market** in time to participate in a car give-away at midnight.

New officers of the Woman's Society of Christian Service at **Hopewell Methodist Church** were Mrs. Clifford Diller, president; Mrs. Edward McCausland, vice president; Mrs. Hannah Harner, secretary; and Mrs. Richard Warren, treasurer.

There was an argument at a meeting of the **Downingtown Joint School Board** over the \$12,000 budgeted for the libraries for both the new high school, slated to open in September, as well as the Junior High School. However, it was noted that the state had told school district authorities that the money was needed because the allotment of books per students should be between six and ten, and not the current average of two books per student in the existent Junior-Senior High School. And following a fiery discussion, the board also agreed to pay \$7,000 a year for the newly-established position of business manager, who would be responsible for facilities and transportation management.

The women in charge of the Election Day soup and bake sale, conducted by the **West Bradford Fire Co. Auxiliary** were Mrs. Ernest Fling, Mrs. David Johnson, Mrs. Robert Crawford, Mrs. Craig Janney and Mrs. Lester Judy. Tony Lee Amoriello, Phyllis Edwards, Wendy Verngren, Lois Corson and John Cattell were winners at the fifth annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the **West Bradford fire police**.

Donald Corneal and Robert Donaghy, members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, reached the rank of Star, at a court of honor conducted at St. Paul's UCC Church, Lionville.

Elected to the vestry at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, were William Ash, J.W.B. Bausman, Samuel Corliss, Robert Flagg, and Thomas McIlvaine.

Elected as officers of the Philathea Sunshine Class of **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Mrs. Myrtle Jefferis, president; Alice Esworthy, vice president; Elizabeth Heisey, secretary; and Jean Drayton, treasurer.

Officers of the **Chester Springs Athletic Assn.** were Harry Byer, president; Harold Hallman, vice president and Treasurer; and Clarence Byer, secretary.

The **midget race car track**, west of Marshallton, was being readied for the coming season, which got underway on Memorial Day.

Albert Burkhart was elected president of the **Downingtown Optimists Club**. Other new officers were Don Collier and Fran Swisher, vice presidents; Jack Bray, secretary-treasurer; directors Paul McCombs and Pete Ippolito; and Joe Poltrone, sergeant-at-arms.

DHS students Harry Simms and Paul Edelen won certificates of merit at the **Delaware Valley Science Fair**.

Award winners, honored at the DHS chapter's **Future Farmers of America** banquet were Lamar Howe, tomato and corn projects; and Jack Hoffman, Star Chapter Farmer; and John Ballentine and Albert Hultz, mechanical awards.

Officers of the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** were Phillip Kirtland, president; Milton Howe, vice president; Roger Irely, secretary; John McLain, assistant secretary; Elwood Earnshaw, financial secretary; William Payne, treasurer; John Reber, fire chief; Edgar Schlimme and Richard Mason, assistant chiefs; and John Galt, Marvin Furlong, and

Lloyd Johnson, trustees. Ladies Auxiliary officers were Mrs. Joseph Mason, president; Mrs. George Stutler, vice president; Mrs. Edward Quartucci, secretary; and Mrs. Edward Moore, treasurer.

Models at the fashion show, sponsored by the **East Brandywine Fire Co. Auxiliary**, were Mrs. John Bonham, Mrs. Frank Swarner, Mrs. Michael Filoromo, Mrs. Earl Laird, Mrs. Vernon Jameson, Pauline Beam, Mrs. Joseph Kahler, Mrs. Donald Bower, Mardette and Marcia Krapf, and Beverly Laird.

Marshallton School students who won prizes in the Elementary Division of the Downingtown School District's Science Fair were Gary Yetter, Lois Carson, Steven Hendry and Jeanne Dorsey.

New officers of the Auxiliary of **St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Anthony Bartelmo, president; Mrs. Richard Ciarlone, vice president; Mrs. Calvin Mingione, recording secretary; Marie Valente, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Nicholas Formica, treasurer.

We've named them all, finally!



With the assistance of Marjorie Lawn Gazzola and Tom Lee, plus a caption in the 1955 DHS yearbook, we have finally resolved who these majorettes are, starting with head majorette Virginia Stayer (back row, center, and going clockwise), Beverly Laird, Claudette Rimel, Shirley Rowe, Barbara Ford and Barbara Warren.

How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

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Also, we have cut expenses by limiting our publications to an Annual Report because printing and postage costs have increased so much. Now, Hist-O-Grams are our primary means of communication with our membership.

Those are some of the reasons why we're asking Hist-O-Gram readers to help us by either joining the Historical Society or renewing your current membership.

Please complete the membership form below. Your support and continued interest in the Historical Society is most appreciated.

PS: We will continue to send free Hist-O-Grams to ALL of you, every week.

Please complete this Membership Form to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

* We can't send you Hist-O-Grams unless you include your email address. We promise not to give your email address to any business or organization.

Individual \$20 _____ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$15 _____ Family \$30 _____

Business \$50 _____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

I wish to add a \$ _____ donation, which is critical to the Historical Society's survival because less than 12% of its income comes from dues. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible, since we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please mail the completed form to: DAHS, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335

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Discount Movie Tickets: \$7.50, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

Banquet Room For Rent

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Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses.

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.



Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 29

July 4, 2012

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in this photo and sends their answer to Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. That person also will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown, to be used at a local restaurant.

Local news items in July 1950

The following items were originally published 62 years ago, in *The Archive*, a Downingtown area weekly.

Three-year-old Bobby Ward's singing won first prize in the talent contest at the annual **Good Neighbor Day**, Geraldine Garra took second prize, and Ruth Ann Ward took third. Quoits champions were Raymond Cortelessa and Bill Lyons. Mrs. Elsie Brown won the rolling pin throwing competition.

Some 300 workmen, involved in the building of the World's biggest pipeline, will be involved in the project in the Downingtown area for three months.

Andy Kissh hit a grand slam home run, as the **Downingtown Lions Club** beat the **Downingtown Rotary** team 11-4. Tom Pollock was the winning pitcher and Tom Brookover was the losing hurler.

Members of the **Downingtown Little League's** all-star team were John Chilla, Mike Sciarretta, Francis Valentino, William Stringer, Lloyd Price, Donald Mull, Don Miley, Harry Watson, Tom Woodward, J. Mingione, R. Thomas and Nip Westmoreland.

Ernest Larry won the 1950 Chevrolet grand prize at the **American Legion's** carnival, held at the edge of Kerr Park.

Members of DHS chapter of the **Future Farmers of America** who won prizes at the Kimberton Fair were Otto Schwandt, Bob Walton, Grant Wells and Stanley Johnson.

Members of the **Busy Bee 4-H Club** in West Bradford were Judy Moulder, Carol Ann Stouff, Margaret Nixon, Phoebe Nelson, Betty Jo Hammons, Ann Jefferis, Geraldine D'Ginto, Marian McCardell and Corrine Cook.

Local girls who took swimming lessons at **Camp Tweedale Girl Scout Camp** were Jacqueline Bartelmo, Joanne Emery, Judith Henry, Elizabeth Jenkins, Shirley Miller, Barbara Osborne, Ruth Ann Thomas and Barbara Ann Thomas.

Brief, but important

- **Downingtown Moose Lodge #1153** was chartered in 1912. It is part of the International Loyal Order of Moose, founded in 1888, which comprises nearly 1 million men in some 2,400 Lodges, in all 50 states and four Canadian provinces, plus Great Britain and Bermuda. The **Women of the Moose** with more than 400,000 members in about 1,600 Chapters in the same areas.

In preparation for its 100th anniversary celebration in October, the Downingtown Moose are seeking any printed materials, photos, etc, about the local Lodge or Chapter. Anyone who is willing to share their items is requested to contact trustee Martin Davis at 610-380-8473.

- Saw an old photo on eBay, which was taken about 100 years ago at the **Eureka Art Studio**, located at Lancaster and Downing Avenues in the borough. Anyone know anything about that photography studio?

Almost everybody identified this correctly



Jamie Bruton is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first of MANY who correctly identified this as Camp Hilltop, one of the camps operated for decades by the Philadelphia YMCA. Today, it's part of the Brandywine Ridge development in West Bradford Township.

According to research done in 2003 by Roger Grigson, former president of the Downingtown Area Historical Society:

- The YMCA established the first camp in 1898 on a 467-acre tract, which had been the site of the Dwight farm. A pond for swimming and ice skating was dug in 1902 at the base of the hill, next to the Brandywine. The West Chester-Downingtown trolley stopped at the camps between 1906 and 1929 (For more info on the trolley line, see: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/JAN%2026%202012.pdf>).
- The respective camps and the demographics they served included: Camp Castle, boys and girls, ages 8-11; Dwight, boys, 11-16; Lookout, girls, 10-16; and Hilltop, boys and girls, 16 and older. In 1962, the fee to attend Camp Dwight for two weeks was \$40.
- In 1934, despite the efforts of 50 firefighters who had to lay 2,600 feet of hose from the Brandywine, fire destroyed the administration building and mess hall.
- The Main Hall at Hilltop, which included a dining room, offices, and a recreation hall, burned down in 1954.
- Camp Dwight was closed in 1962 for extensive rehabilitation; it was reopened in 1964.

And here are some of the recollections of the camp, sent by some of the many people who tried to be the first to correctly identify the photo above:

- Milt Bozarth recalls: "In 1957, I traveled by school bus from Philadelphia to Camp Hilltop; to participate in a week-long Drexel freshman camp. I thought then that it was at

the edge of the earth. Years later I was a parent-counselor there for a weekend camp of 6th graders from West Bradford Elementary.”

- Dick Ash, retired FBI agent who grew up in Downingtown, was a life guard at the Hilltop pool during the summer season of 1942.
 - Don Hannum remembers when he and Bob Lillard worked there for camp manager Harry Flynn, in the summer of 1946, for 50 cents per hour, doing jobs such as picking up trash and garbage. They also worked in the camp’s large garden, which was located in the field on the creek side of Route 322. And “we pulled nails from old, reclaimed lumber that was donated to the YMCA; so more cabins could be constructed,” recalls Don.
 - Vince Panetti remembers, as a member of Alert Fire Co. in the 70s and 80s, responding to several fires at the camp. On one call, “they were just trees; we saved all the buildings. The fire was burning under ground, from the tree roots which started more fires.” But on another occasion, “the Circle Y building was fully engulfed when we got there,” and was ultimately destroyed.
 - Caroline Ash was one of the many Downingtown area residents who had a family membership at Hilltop, which enabled them to swim in the pool and use some of the other camp facilities. She particularly misses going to the candy/ice cream store near the pool and buying an orange Dreamsickle that cost just a nickel.
- We’re looking for more recollections about the Y camps noted above. Please send them to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Also, The Philadelphia Inquirer published the following article on the camp in 1990:

The tree-lined uphill drive leads to 500 acres where children once played and campfires once flickered.

Most of the old cabins are gone now, and the swimming pool has been filled in, but the YMCA residence camp off Route 322 just south of Downingtown remains in the minds of many Downingtown residents.

The campground, sold six years ago, is now being developed.

"I spent a lot of happy days up there as a kid," said Donald Greenleaf, Downingtown's borough manager, who remembers trekking up the big hill to summer camp.

"A lot of borough residents joined in the 1960s," he recalled. "It was quite a nice facility. For \$25 a year, you could join. It was like the local country club."

According to Darryl Johnson, former director of the camp, informally known as the Brandywine Camp, the site was opened in 1894 as a country facility of the Philadelphia YMCA. For convenience, it was located along the railroad line. Prominent Philadelphia women and their children would spend weeks at a time up on the Downingtown hill, then touted as a resort and known officially as Camp Hilltop. Husbands often hopped on the train and joined their families for the weekends.

"It was used by the Philadelphia Y initially as a men's retreat," said Johnson.

About 1950, Camp Hilltop became a year-round conference center - a 200-bed facility with a kitchen, tennis courts and a swimming pool.

Three other camps opened for boys, girls and teens. Most recently, Camp Dwight was a trip/adventure camp for teenagers; Camp Castle was a horseback-riding camp, and Camp Lookout was a recreation camp for elementary-school children. Those three were run as summer programs only.

During other times of the year, local high school football teams held preseason practice on the camp's fields, and new games such as "orienteering," a Scandinavian survival game, were introduced at camps like Brandywine.

According to Johnson, the Brandywine camp in recent years was a \$1 million- a-year operation attended by almost 1,000 children annually.

"The kids were from all over, but mostly from areas where there are YMCAs, like Ambler and Hatboro and Ardmore," he said. He estimated that 35 to 45 percent of the campers were from Philadelphia.

Also, the article below was found on the Internet. Entitled "Summer Kiss," it's an adult man's recollections of his stay at Camp Dwight, when he was 14 years old and he had a romantic encounter with a girl named Maryanne. The characters' names have been altered.

Summer Kiss

This is my favorite time of year - summer. And August is my favorite month. For me August is the long lazy back-end of summer, with August feelings that stretch out long into the rest of the year. I love August. When I think of August as a kid, I think of hot humid city streets and summer camps when the sun would beat down and lick my skin all day; and when it set, it would set with the most brilliant colors imaginable: oranges, reds, and purples all mixed together. That was August. But now as an adult, summer and August are just more and more of the same: budgets, money, worry, constant commuting from here to there, and searching for a single moment in the middle of the day when I might find just a little bit - just the tiniest bit - of peace, or a hug, or a lingering caress, or maybe even... passion. Summer passion. You know what I'm talking about, summer passion? Those wet hot moments when nothing else matters, all is consumed, everything combusts, life burns and time stands still. That's what I think of when I think of August, when I think of summer, when I think back to my first summer kiss.

I was 14 and going to an over-night YMCA Camp just outside of Downingtown, PA. Camp Dwight was on the top of a very large hill, set in the woods, with a huge playing field right in the middle, and girls' cabins in the woods on one side and boys' cabins in the woods on the other side. And like any summer camp, Camp Dwight had all the things you'd expect a summer camp to have: swimming, archery, baseball, volleyball and canoeing, my personal favorite. But Camp Dwight also had a riflery.

I loved riflery. I was good at riflery. It was so easy - relax, point and shoot - just like in the movies. No problem. The rifles we used were these puny .22 caliber things - tiny little bullets - no kick. Now normally, I hated guns - 'cause in the city where I grew up, guns only had one purpose, for shooting people. That was their only purpose in the city. So I never had anything to do with guns. But at summer camp, guns were meant for shooting paper targets--hanging on a wire--which was so easy. All you had to do was relax, point and shoot, just like in the movies.

The rifle range was down near the mess hall, just a short walk into the woods. It had a long, brown wooden structure which looked out across a small ravine, the other side of which was the side of a hill. In front of the hill a wire was strung for hanging the paper targets. We would usually shoot from a prone position on the floor of this structure, which had about ten or so old mattresses on it for doing just that.

Every chance I got I took riflery. And each time, a long string of campers would carry rifles down from the locked closet in the mess hall to the rifle range in the woods. The counselor always carried the ammo. And when we got there we'd wait and suffer through hearing the rules and regulations of the rifle range each and every time, wait for the distribution of the tiny bullets, and then finally we'd get to relax, point and... ping-ping, ping-ping -- the guns were so small, they didn't even go "bang." Then everyone would reload, and again: Relax, Point and Shoot. After it was all over, there'd be a long line of campers carrying rifles back up through the woods to the locked closet in the mess hall. And again the counselor carried the ammo. But this one time when I didn't have a rifle to carry back, I stayed behind along with Maryanne.

Now I had my eye on Maryanne for a long time. She was a shy, quiet, skinny girl with black horn rimmed glasses. She wore jeans - tight jeans - as only girls could wear. And she had on this... top, one of those tube top things with horizontal stripes. Except some of the stripes weren't quite so horizontal; which caught my 14 year old interest.

Now Maryanne and I both knew about the other use of the rifle range mattresses. Everybody in camp did. It was part of camp lore. We did all but sing campfire songs about it. And there must have been something electric in the air, because I didn't invite her to stay behind and neither did she invite me. We just did and were drawn to each other without ever saying a word. Once the rest of the campers wandered off, once we heard nothing but the gentle rustle of the wind in the trees, we stood there, close, looking at each other. I was so close to her I could feel her body heat. So close I could hear her heartbeat, or was that my own. I looked deep into her eyes, our faces almost touching, and I heard, "Yo Kev! What's happenin'!?"

It was my friend Monk. My former friend Monk, who happened to be wandering through the woods. There was never any understanding Monk. "Yo Kev - what chu' up to, man?" When I didn't answer, Monk looked at me - then he looked at Maryanne - then he looked at me - then he looked at Maryanne - then he looked at me. Then he looked at Maryanne, and a smile started to grow on Monk's face. It was small at first, but got bigger and bigger. I thought - Well, I'm dead. I'm dead. I have no idea what Monk's going to do, I don't know what he's going to say, don't know who he's going to tell. But I'm just dead. That's it - bury me here where I stand, because I am just dead. Monk looked at Maryanne, and then looked at me. "Well, catch you guys later," and he was gone. Gone! Shhhhhhhhhup Maryanne and I were back together like magnets. And again, I felt her body heat. And again, I heard her heartbeat. And again, my face was so close to hers. I looked deep into her eyes, and I... panicked. I panicked! I didn't know what to do I didn't know what to say I couldn't even move! But then I realized where I was. I realized the place where we were standing and the mantra of the rifle range.

Relax. I was relaxed in an excited sort of way.

Point. I reached up and held her as gently as I could, startled at first by the touch of her blouse fabric against my arm, the curve of her body in my hand, but comforted by her weight against me as we held each other.

Shoot. I leaned in and brushed my lips against hers. At first, all I felt were lips. But then the heat of August rushed in and filled my body. I leaned in and brushed my lips to hers again, and again, and again. They fit! Our lips fit together! Just like in the movies. And as we kissed one long last time, we fell to the ground, barely making it to a mattress.

Now I am told that somewhere in this land there is a tall mountain whose peak reaches beyond the clouds to heaven. And I am told that somewhere else in this land there is an ocean whose floor reaches down to the very center of the earth. I don't know. But, I do know that somewhere else, on a large hill outside of Downingtown, PA, there is a spot where time stood still in August.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

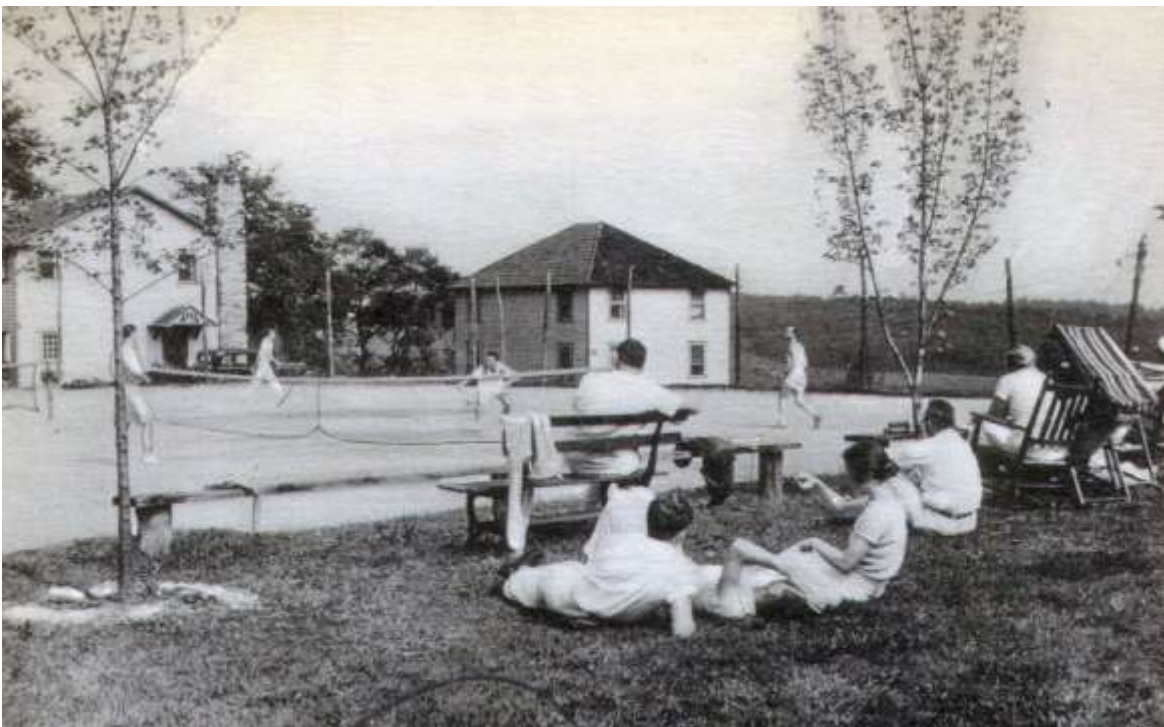
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Vol. 3, No. 30

July 11, 2012

Where & What Is This?



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Myth shattered: Downingtown was never our nation's capital

Some local residents were upset when they read in a 1975 edition of the *East Branch Citizen*, a weekly newspaper, that Downingtown--known as Milltown back then-- never was the capital of the United States.

Yes, Downingtown area residents accepted the fact that it was a historical stretch, but just the possibility that we were the nation's momentary capital was intriguing, especially if you had a rich imagination.

The myth was based on the fact that members of the Second Continental Congress escaped from Philadelphia when British troops captured the city in September 1777, after the Battle of the Brandywine. And since the congressional patriots' had determined that York, PA, would be a safe place to ultimately draft and adopt the Articles of Confederation over a nine-month period, they headed west. En route, they did conduct some official business in a one-day session in Lancaster.

Now here's an example of how logic does not always prevail: Typically it took about one day to ride a horse from Philadelphia to Downingtown. In fact, there were several local inns that thrived because so many travelers stayed overnight, as they traveled to and from Philadelphia.

However, it's unlikely that the escaping congressmen stayed overnight in Downingtown because taking the most direct route to Lancaster and York would have been very risky. Many parts of the rutted, stump-filled road--which would essentially become the rudimentary Lancaster Turnpike (Route 30) about 20 years later--were blocked by British troops. And many Chester County residents were supporters of the British crown. So, the new nation's leaders knew it would be stupid to take a direct, westward route.

That's why they, individually, took circuitous routes, usually through safer areas north of Philadelphia, where independence-supporting German-Americans lived. For example, John Adams noted in his diary that he traveled through Trenton, Easton, Bethlehem and Reading, as he rode toward Lancaster.

Most members of the Continental Congress were scattered as they rode westward, but even if just a few of them stayed overnight in a Downingtown inn, they could not have conducted any official business without a quorum at the session.

So what did we learn from this bubble-bursting? Perhaps we should consider what Adams said when he defended the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre trial in 1770: "Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."

Some history about Good Neighbor Day

Ever wonder how and why Good Neighbor Day became such a popular Fourth of July event in Downingtown? Phil Dague, better known as Mr. Downingtown, wrote an interesting article about the history of Good Neighbor Day, which can be accessed via: http://downingtowndoes.com/mr_downingtown_post/a-little-history-on-good-neighbor-day/.

We'd love to have more Good Neighbor Day recollections and photos, especially the era when it was sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association. By the way whatever happened to that organization?

We have a winner!



Bob Stevens is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the site in this photo as a 19th Century structure at the southwest corner of Green Street and E. Lancaster Avenue in the borough. Starting in 1820, it was a residence for several people, including Rev Newkirk, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church. Then in 1870, it was purchased by F. Donleavy Long, who relocated his private school, Chester Valley Academy, from the building now used by the Downingtown Library. The building continued to be used as a boarding school until 1879, when it became a summer hotel. In 1900, it was bought by the Theodore Griffith family, who stayed there until 1927. The building, known as the Heilbroun, was torn down around 1938. In the last half of the 20th Century, the site was occupied by a gas station, pizza shop, convenience store, and today it's where the Foster Boys restaurant is located.

And since this was the first Hist-O-Gram *Where & What Is This* competition this month, Bob also won a \$25 gift card, to be used at a local restaurant, from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown.

More recollections of YMCA camps in Downingtown

- As a truly perceptive scholar, Bob Stevens is a font of knowledge and opinion. That's why he was surprised that no one mentioned--among all the recollections and info about the YMCA camps in Downingtown in last week's Hist-O-Gram--about the road to Camp Hilltop, where his family had a swimming membership, when he was a kid.

Bob says, "It was very scary to be in a car, either going up or going down the hill. The road was wide enough for one car, and there was one turn on the road that was very sharp, on a very steep grade. In some places, there was a stone wall to prevent your car from going over the edge. If you did, you may not have been found."

"On the day of the big fire in 1954," recalls Bob, "we were at the camp, swimming."

What Bob remembers most about that fire was that the "nasty" firefighters emptied all the water from the pool, as they fought the major blaze.

Obviously, Bob gained a sense of perspective about the firefighters' need to suck all the water from the pool that day, as he matured and served as a member of Downingtown's Alert Fire Co. for 53 years.

- Paul Socorso's memory of Camp Hilltop dates back to the early 1970s, when he was a member of the marching band at H.C. Conrad High School in Woodcrest, Delaware, and the band spent Labor Day weekend practicing the band's halftime routines during the football season.

"If memory serves me right, we'd leave by school buses on the Friday before Labor Day, practice on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and then leave for home sometime on Sunday afternoon," recalls Paul. "What a great time everyone had! I'm curious if anyone currently in the Downingtown area went to Conrad High School?"

- Obviously, we'd like to have lots more info about the YMCA camps in Downingtown. For example, when did it shut down permanently, and why?

Brief, but important

Maybe, you're going to go to England for the Olympics and plan to make a side trip to the City of Bath to visit the American Museum there? Well before you leave, you should know there's a Downingtown connection with the place. According to Barbara Paul's "A History of East Brandywine Township" (1992), Dallas Pratt and John Judkyn, the two antique collectors and dealers who founded the museum in 1961, owned an early 19th Century house on Dilworth Road in East Brandywine between 1941 and 1950. It's known that at least one painting, which was hung in a bedroom of the house, as well as some of their American antiques, are now on exhibit in the museum.

Now here's the "Well-I'll-be-damned" moment: Dallas Pratt, a New Yorker, had a connection with another character featured in recent Hist-O-Grams. Pratt's maternal great-grandfather was Henry H. Rogers, the multi-millionaire who helped John D. Rockefeller found Standard Oil. That's the same Henry H. Rogers, who was the father of Henry H. Rogers III, the 31-year-old playboy, who owned the Glen Moore farmhouse where Broadway musical comedy star Evelyn Hoey committed suicide in 1935. You can find details about that sensational case in a two-part Hist-O-Gram series at:

www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/June%2014%202012%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf and
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Vol. 3, No. 31

July 18, 2012

Where & What Is This?



No one correctly identified where this spiral staircase is located, when we ran this Mike Hoover photo several months ago. So, we're giving it another shot, so to speak. The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news items published in July 1975

The following news items were originally published 37 years ago by the *East Branch Citizen*, a Downingtown area weekly newspaper:

Uwchlan Township recently purchased the 17-room former Hobart Baird mansion and estate on North Ship Road for \$141,000. Township officials said it would have cost \$700,000 to build a new municipal building, which includes space for the police department headquarters.

Members of the **Downingtown Little League 10-year-old** all star team were Richard Smith, John Lucerne, Scott Eagles, John Reagan, Jeff Whiteman, Penn Frey, Mark Richards, Mark Funk, Jimmy Falcone, Larry Clark, Tom Sheridan, Steve Taraschi, Michael McShane and Gary Francella. Rich Wagner was the manager, and Don Guerrier and John Zaccharelli were the assistant managers.

Players on the **Downingtown Little League's major league** all star team were Bill Jemison, Gerry Panicelli, Timmy Dankanich, Brent Ross, Jay McNeill, Denny Lewis, Jeff Dague, Mark Ciarlone, Joe Linton, Ron Sheridan, Larry Protivnak, Rick Carcella, Dan Dougherty, Joe Schmidt, Tim Fossett, Don Forbes and Tim Kimes. Don Scott was the manager; Jim Sacco and Rick Mattioni were assistant coaches.

Phillies slugger Greg Luzinski signed autographs at the opening of the **Downingtown Savings and Loan's** new Exton branch.

Newly installed officers of the **Lionville Lions Club** were William Davis, president; Lacey Lackey and Donald Horn, vice presidents; Ray Foley, treasurer; Harry Shreiner, secretary; Earl Lambert, Walter Millard, Harvey Cook, and William Meredith, directors; and Howard Edwards, tail twister.

Counselors for the **Hopewell Methodist Church's** Youth Fellowship, which spent a week at Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes, DE, were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Neyman, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hollister, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Barringer; and Rev. and Mrs. Don Bower.

Among the accomplishments in his annual report to members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**, president Tom Brookover noted that the club had grown to 62 members, and 650 people attending the annual clambake ate 15,000 clams. Recently installed officers of the club were Richard Radcliff, president; Grey Olliver, first vice president; Robert Schafer, second vice president; Peter Smith, secretary; Lewis Wilson, treasurer; Robert Brown, assistant treasurer.

Members of the **Downingtown Girls Softball League** all star team, which won the District 23 championship, were Heidi Hornung, Doreen Warihay, Lisa O'Neil, Danine DiBerardi, Michelle Conahan, Gina Lockhard, Sherri Clayton, Stephanie Rule, Jeannie Driscoll, Rohnin Chilla, Rhonda Althouse, Thersa Mento, Kathy Lyons, Patti Forbes, Colleen Lyons, Sally Roberts, and Robin Kapinski. Wilma Bird was coach, and Linda Barlow was manager.

Members of the **Downingtown Junior Babe Ruth League** all star team were Darren Price, Drew Parvin, Doug Martin, Mike Ficca, Bruce Irrgang, Tim Burns, Bob Kucker, Tony Ippolito, Rick Chew, Dick Hipple, Wes Pannebaker, Bill Minahan, Jerry Klein, Bob Linton, Buddy Trego, Jeff Hoeing, Thor Cheyne, and Chris Watts. Pat Murphy was manager; he was assisted by coaches George Murphy and Denny Meyers.

Verne Shaw and Scott DiBerardinis paddled to first place in the fifth annual, six-mile **Canoe Race** down Brandywine, from Kerr Park to Georgia Farm in East Bradford. Ray Hagele and Jay Steimer came in second. The race was co-sponsored by the Downingtown Recreation Commission and the DHS Ecology Club. Edith Hille, DHS Ecology Club advisor, was the race director.

Members of the **LYA Little League** all star team were Bruce Tiller, Derik Presson, Vince Forgione, Frank DiSantis, Tom Urban, Scott Seymour, Jay Oakes, Jim Wallitsch, Dubby Daniels, Geoff Williams, Vic Johnson, Pete TenHooopen, Jeff Hastings, Pat Marra, and Bob Trauger. George Watts was the manager, assisted by Richard Birch.

Marianne Crawford Stanley, All-American player on the Immaculata College national championship team, was teaching local girls basketball fundamentals as an instructor in the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Joint Recreation** summer program. She went on to coach for 21 seasons on the collegiate level, winning a pair of AIAW championships (1979 and 1980) as well as an NCAA crown (1985) as the head coach at Old Dominion University. Her coaching experience also includes stints as the head coach at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California, and the University of California as well as an assistant with the LA Sparks and the Washington Mystics in the WNBA.

Recent **property transfers** included: 71 Woodmont Dr., E. Caln, \$70,000; 106 Constitution Dr., E. Brandywine, \$51,250; 109 Lakeview Dr., Uwchlan, \$32,000; 1394 Sawmill Dr., W. Bradford, \$45,800; 316 Mary St., Downingtown, \$27,500.

Members of the **West Bradford Girls Softball League** all star team were Denise Barber, Donna McCann, Sandy Johnson, Susan Garrett, Sarah Borns, Valerie Smith, Judy Simmes, Louise Cooper, Donna Pierce, Sandy Young, Kelly Garnett and Karen Vicheck.

Turie Hayes was the first woman to be elected president of the **DHS Alumni Assn.** Other new officers were Gerald Matthews, first vice president; Duke Charles, second vice president; Mrs. Margaret Stern, financial secretary; Hazel Miller, recording secretary; and Joseph Darlington, corresponding secretary.

Herbie's Meat Market, Downingtown; Holiday Travel City, Uwchlan; Tantala's Cabinet Shop, Upper Uwchlan; and Art Miller Insurance Co., Downingtown; were new members of the **Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce**.

Jamie Bruton did it again



Jamie Bruton was the first person to correctly identify this as the tennis court at one of the YMCA camps near Downingtown. Since he earned the title of Truly Perceptive Scholar several weeks, for identifying an earlier What & What Is This? photo, we'll have to come up with an even more superlative title.

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Vol. 3, No. 32

July 25, 2012

Where & What Is This?



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Please send your photo identity to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Local news items in May 1960

The following tidbits were published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

The **Upper Uwchlan** and **West Pikeland School Districts** asked the Chester County School Board to build an elementary school in their area. Upper Uwchlan almost joined the **Downingtown Area-West Bradford Elementary Jointure** in May 1959, but that effort was scuttled after township residents voted against the plan in a referendum. School directors representing the townships said they wanted to follow the pattern recently established by the **Wallace and East Brandywine School Districts**, which felt becoming members of the Downingtown Area-West Bradford Elementary Jointure would bring heavy tax burdens and loss of local control.

And bids for the construction of **Beaver Creek School**, beginning in June, came in at \$550,000, \$50,000 lower than expected. .

The final section of the **Valley Green** development of homes, at the intersection of Hunt and Mary Streets in Downingtown, were being sold for \$10,950. The down payment was \$350, and the monthly mortgage payment was \$82.

Downingtown Iron Works and the United Steelworkers reached an agreement, whereby wages will be increased by about eight cents an hour in the second and third years of the three-year contract. Also, effective immediately, the company assumed full costs for medical coverage and life insurance for employees and their families.

New officers of the **Downingtown Branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** were Mrs. Clair Langham, president; Mrs. Charles Snyder, vice president; Mrs. Thomas Jenkins, recording secretary; and Mrs. Anthony Serafino, treasurer.

After Allen Hughes informed Burgess Creston Shoemaker that the **Downingtown Young Men's Assn.** would not be able to sponsor the 14th annual Good Neighbor Day festivities, the **Downingtown Optimist Club** agreed to take on the project.

Mildred Albertson, Marshallton, was elected Pennsylvania's **Flying Farmer Queen**.

New officers of the **Village League of Uwchlan** were Mrs. Francis Hill, president; Mrs. Edwin Stevens, vice president; Mrs. Paul Otter, secretary; and Mrs. Roger Miller, treasurer.

Susie McCue, of Marshallton, was the only Downingtown area resident in the **Miss Chester County** contest. She won the bathing suit competition; publicity for the contest noted that the honey blonde's measurements were 33-23-35.

Girl Scout Intermediate Troop 267 hosted a party for members of Boy Scout Troops 2 and 82 in Downingtown's Borough Hall. The party was arranged by Mrs. Donald Forbes, troop leader, and Nancy Rice, troop secretary.

Winners of the **Downingtown American Legion Auxiliary** essay contest winners were Nancy Lawn, junior high; Sonia Raysor, senior high; and John DeWald, St. Joseph's School. Miss Raysor's entry also won the County Council's competition.

New officers of the **Ladies of St. Joseph's Catholic Church** were Mrs. John Fallini, president; Mrs. Nello Caporale, vice president; Mrs. Calvin Mingione, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Cozzone, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Mario Pizii, treasurer.

Officers elected by the **Marshallton School PTA** were Clifford Queen, president; Mrs. Donald Moore, vice president; Mrs. James Daly, secretary; and Mrs. Herbert Phillips, treasurer.

According to the 1960 Census, **Uwchlan Township's** population grew to 997, while **Upper Uwchlan's** rose to 913.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who attended Camp Horseshoe were Raymond Baer, Eric Baxter, Robert Caldwell, Ronald Donnon, William Fowler, Dennis Giancola, Jack Hines, Gary and Daniel Hoxter and Douglas Turpin.

Officers of the **Elementary Parents Club of Downingtown** were Mrs. Kenneth McCardell, president; Mrs. Eugene Hampton and Mrs. Charles Menas, first vice presidents; Glen Echhoff, treasurer; Howard Fitzgerald, recording secretary; and Mrs. Hallan Usher, corresponding secretary.

And officers of the Parents Club for the new **Lionville School** were Mrs. Robert Poole, president; Mrs. Jay Walton, vice president; Mrs. Robert Dunn, secretary; and Mrs. John Herr, treasurer.

Officers of the newly-formed **DHS Band Fathers Club** were Thomas Yerkes, president; Charles Siebert, vice president; and Newton Thompson, secretary-treasurer.

West Pikeland School music students who participated in a program were pianists Centa Logan, Barbara Fuhr, Linda Karlson and Diane Chevalier; and Rhonda Hugill, flute; David Reber, guitar; and Ricky Partlow and Ben Woodland, accordion.

It's inside the Pook and Pook auction house



Marie Ciarlone, with the help of her East Brandywine neighbor Terry Gaul, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this as the spiral staircase in what is now known as the Pook and Pook auction house, located at the intersection of Routes 113 and 30 in Downingtown.

Marie said she “just made a wild guess because she thought it was the only place in Downingtown that could have had a spiral staircase.”

Gerry Deets Short, DHS Class of 1957, who lives in the York area, recalls the staircase from when she visited the house to play with her classmate, Helen Huggins, daughter of local dentist Dr. Joseph Huggins. “The house just seemed so big--old--and a little dark to me as a 7 or 8 year-old, little girl, recalls Gerry. “We used to go up into the attic. There were big trunks up there, with clothing from back in 1800's. Helen and I would get dressed up in them and parade up and down the sidewalk. There were parasols that we would carry. Funny thing is that we were only in third grade when we did this. Granted, she and I were both tall, but those long dresses fit us. Carrying the parasols made us feel like princesses. I always chose the black outfit, and she chose a lighter color. Fun memories.

The 18th Century inn was ideally located because it was half the distance and one day's travel between Lancaster and Philadelphia. Thus, it was a major stop for teamsters who hauled goods and foodstuffs between the two cities, as well as for stagecoach travelers, especially after the Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike was opened in 1794. (Back

then, the turnpike was no super highway. In fact, the Downingtown area section of what now is known as Route 30 wasn't paved until 1921).

Originally opened by John Downing in 1761 as the Downing's Mill Inn and later called the King in Arms, the inn was renamed the Washington Inn at the time of the Revolutionary War. It also served as a food commissary for the Continental Army. John's son, Hunt Downing, followed in his father's footsteps as proprietor. In 1796, Hunt Downing opened Chester County's first post office (the only one between Lancaster and Philadelphia) in one of the Inn's rooms.

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Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

Hist-O-Grams are emailed weekly to members and friends of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. If you want to make a comment, add your email address to the sign-up box on the home page of our website. We won't share or sell any email addresses.

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.