



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 26

July 7, 2016

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the vehicle in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news in early July 1980

Noted below are news items published in the East Branch Citizen 36 years ago:

- A **Downingtown School District** committee, which was formed to study possible changes in the makeup of the school board, voted to continue having one school director represent each township in the district and two members from the borough of Downingtown.
- The **East Brandywine Fire Co.** was celebrating the 25th anniversary of its founding. In its early days, old-timers recalled, fire calls came into John Frazer's feed mill in Guthriesville, and then he sounded a siren. The impetus for establishing a fire company was when East Brandywine's supervisors opposed paying the Downingtown Fire Department a \$40 fee every time the borough's fire company responded to a fire call in the township.
- Dave Lapp and Alexis Ziobro were winners in the 9-mile competition in the Run For Life road race at Downingtown's second annual **Good Neighbor Day**, which attracted 650 entrants. And the team of Nick Giunta and Dale Krapf won the 7-.1-mile canoe race, which involved 87 canoes. Those who came in first in the age divisions of the Big Wheel races were: David Brown, Bruce Dell, Shane Sigle and Matthew Nergert. Also, 3,200 people turned out for the Downingtown Jaycees' fireworks display at DHS Stadium.
- The **Downingtown Library** became a full member of the Chester County Library system. That meant the local library was eligible to receive up to \$1 per capita in county aid, based on matching funds from the borough.
- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Fred Longenecker, president; Jim Zaferes, first vice president; Jim Ney, second vice president; Terry Donahue, third vice president; Dave Gaskin, treasurer; and Hank Pollock, secretary.
- Fifth and sixth grade winners in the patriotic picture contest at the **Lionville Playground** were Robert Hervey, first; Sean Higgins, second; and Doug Kaiser, third. And at **Beaver Creek Playground** winners of the hat and sunglasses contest were: Chris Bronson, best sports hat; Dean Mooney, biggest; Brian Trimble, craziest; Megan Stecklair, most creative; Jenny Kuhns, prettiest; Don Zeiders, dressiest; Paul Brown, funniest; and Jeff Zeiders, most colorful.
- Members of the **Downingtown Girls Softball League's** senior division all-stars included: Krista Lang, Laura Evans, Tish Mascherino, Sue Ursini, Alex Grigson, Anne Marie Cipollini, Julie Ippolito, Emily Hornung, Colleen Lyons, Bernadette Bonaduce, Sally McClure, Eileen Ferris, Lauren Nixdorf, and Koren Horsey.
- Bargains that Devitt's Hardware was offering in the Downingtown merchants' **Sidewalk Sale** included 33% discounts on Hoover carpet sweepers and 50% off on all skateboards.
- The **Downingtown Babe Ruth League's** 14 and 15-year-old all-stars included: Tom McCool, Marc Ruggiano, John Reagan, Richie Smith, Penn Frey, Tom Sheridan, Mark Funk, Jack Oberle, Joe Rainey, Gary Francella, Tom Dooley, Joe DiCicco, Glen Harman, Bill Snyder and Brad Haldeman.
- **Downingtown firefighters** who participated in the "Fireman's Olympics" in Sadsburyville included: Bryan Rambo, Jerry Keen, Jeff Stevens, Gregg Nelms, Roy Troup, Tony Madiro, Bill McAlpine, Mike and Steve Miller, and Fred Wildauer.
- New officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Judy Bredickas, president; Anne Taylor, first vice president; Marsha McQueen, second vice president and treasurer; Jo McAdoo, corresponding secretary; and Nancy Heriegel, recording secretary.

- Installed as officers of the Downingtown chapter of the **Women of the Moose** were: Blanche Summers, musician; Lois Butler, argus; Betty Cliff, guide; Sylvia Winters, assistant guide; Rose Roop, recorder; Catherine Schreiber, treasurer; and Loretta Kline, chaplain.
- Newly elected officers of the **Lionville Lions Club** were Gene McCarney, president; Pete Hayes, Walter Kottmeyer and Walter Gardner, vice presidents; Harry Shreiner, secretary; and Earl Lambert, treasurer; Jack Haller, tail twister; and Howard Evans, lion tamer.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 1635 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$64,660; 302 Denford Way, Uwchlan, \$84,300; 5 Krauser Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$100,381; 113 Evergreen Drive, East Brandywine, \$90,900; 419 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$46,500.

It was the Montrose School in Milford Mills



Ellen Van Lew is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the Montrose School in the Milford Mills section of Upper Uwchlan. There were two one-room schoolhouses in Milford Mills—Prospect, built in 1861, and Montrose built in 1863. Both schools closed in 1965. Between 1964 and 1972 the State of Pennsylvania acquired properties in Milford Mills for the Marsh Creek project, relocating residents and finally flooding the village entirely. The village now lies beneath the 530-acre Marsh Creek Lake.

Items published in *The Archive* 61 years ago

Noted below are snippets found in *The Archive* in June and July 1955:

- Seniors, who were speakers at the DHS commencement, were Virginia Nixdorf, George Supplee, Joseph Mingione, Elease Keith and Ronald Jefferis.
- Uwchlan supervisors abandoned plans to establish zoning in the township.
- Officers of the **American Legion Post's Ladies Auxiliary** were Mrs. Gilbert Algier, president; Mrs. John Philips, first vice president; Mrs. William Keen, second vice president; Esther Williams, treasurer; Mrs. Paul Dague, treasurer; Mrs. C.O. Brown, historian; Mrs. Anna Dougherty, chaplain; and Mrs. Marvin Shirk, sergeant-at-arms.
- Members of the first eighth grade class to graduate from **St. Joseph's School** included Philomena Mascherino, Doris Trego, Margaret Doran, Sabatino Talucci, James DiBerardinis, David Fenimore and James Sheehan.
- Recent enlistees from the Downingtown area who joined the **U. S. Air Force** were: Emery Miller, John Miller, George Forbes, Thomas McKeever, Harry Schaeffer, Thomas Sheehan, Clyde Thomas, Edward Thompson, Francis Walton, William Sweeney and Walter McCue.
- **Cub Scouts** from Glen Moore, who performed in a "circus" at Fairview Presbyterian Church, were Mark Shrader, Jimmy Williamson, Billy Funk, Richard Myers, Vincent Myers, David and John Miller, Harold Miller, Bobby Shingle, Craig Kalemjian, Jay Kelley, Dick and Bobby Reiter, and Eric Clapp.

Missed any Hist-O-Grams published in June?

You can access any issue of the Hist-O-Grams published in June by clicking on the respective coding noted below:

June 2: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/June%202%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

June 9: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/June%209%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

June 16: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2016%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

June 23: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2023%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

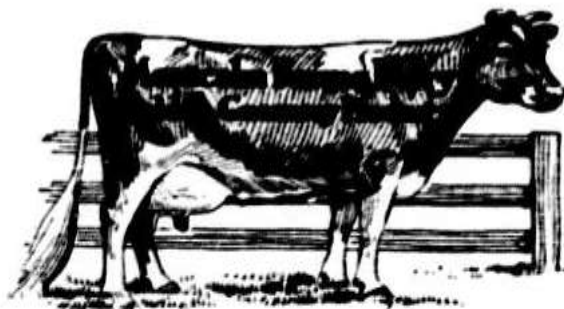
June 30: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2030%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

And you can see all previous issues of our Hist-O-Gram by accessing www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Congratulations Tony Przychodzien



The Run For Life road race has been an integral part of Downingtown's Fourth of July celebration ever since Good Neighbor Day was renewed in 1979. And the only runner who has competed in all 38 of those races is Tony Przychodzien. And Tony ran in the race this year with his granddaughter, Dana Przychodzien.



at the sign of the Guernsey Cow

COME out in the country for a drink of the best milk you ever tasted . . . buttermilk . . . milk shake!

New roadside stand de luxe at Exton, on the Lancaster pike, near intersection of the pike and the concrete road from West Chester to Pottstown. 27 miles from Philadelphia.

Buy milk to take home, rich creamy Guernsey milk from our own tested cows, imported from the Island of Guernsey . . . and ice cream made on the premises! Vegetables and poultry from our own farms in the hills.

Bring the children to see the ring-neck Chinese pheasants in the yard, and the strutting Mammoth Bronze turkeys.

Parking space for hundreds of cars. Modern comfort station.

Watch for the big sign of the Guernsey cow and turn in.

CLARENCE S. TACKETT, *Manager*
Telephone, Exton 740

Montcalm Farms Dairy

Exton, Pa.

What else was going on at DHS 44 years ago

Noted below are more tidbits about goings-on at DHS during the second half of the 1971-72 school year, according to copies of the *Penny Press* (the former name of the DHS student newspaper), which Rose Mascherino Ciarlone donated to the Historical Society.

- Students were learning a **computer language** known as Basic, so they could communicate, via a telephone line connection, between a terminal in Room 18 at DHS with an IBM 360 computer at West Chester State College.
- Members of the cast of the musical “**Fiddler on the Roof**” included: David Venditta, Terri Pearson, Ruth Worthington, Barbara Phipps, Mary Smiley, Patti Foy, Lisa Waldman, Meryl DeCovney, Craig Ardrey, David Turner, Ray Hagele, Nick Swindin, Harry Levering, Steve Loughin, Richard Thompson, David Kennedy, Andrea Parvensky, Laurie Pyle, Jeff Norris, Mary Beth Grigson and Bill Pratt.
- **Wrestlers** who took firsts in their weight classes at a Christmas tournament at Conestoga were Paul Givler and Jim McGuigan. Steve Long finished second, and John Ayers and Dave Barnes placed third.
- Vocational students Steve Windle, Mike Miller, Keith Treer and Pat Jamieson participated in the state **VICA competition**.
- The **boys’ basketball** squad scored 10 points in 48 seconds to beat undefeated Coatesville 59-58. The Whippets’ season record was 17-6. Tom Benton, who averaged 23.5 points a game, was named to the *Daily Local News* all-star team. And the team received the Matthey Bishop Sportsmanship Award, based on referees’ voting.
- In a meet against Great Valley, school records were set by the **DHS track team** members Jeff Booker, 100 yard and 220-dashes; and the 800-yard relay team comprised of Booker, Bruce McKee, Kevin Dougherty and Steve Horsey. The team finished second in the league championships.
- **DHS band members** selected for the Southeastern District band were Allen Popjoy, Craig Pierce, Ronald Schade, William McKibbin, Ronald Gibson and Judy Bell. And alto Meredith Grady won the Outstanding Musician at the Music Awards banquet; Mike Short was named the Outstanding Percussionist; and Brenda Holmes received the Outstanding Pom-Pom award. Also, Eddy Miller, a tenor, was named to the Region III Chorus.
- The **Penn State Center** planned to admit as many as 20 DHS students to three evening courses offered, free of charge, at the high school.
- **Beverly Maxwell** was named the Chester County Business Student of the Year.
- Featured in the **Drama Club’s** production of “The Odd Couple” were Tom Micken and Richard Hall.
- The **girls’ tennis squad** had a 8-1 Ches-Mont record, and tied for first in Ches-Mont competition. Alexis Ziobro took second and Pam Steimer came in fourth in singles in the league’s finals.
- The administration was considering the possibility of installing a **Coke machine** in the cafeteria, which would only be in operation after school.

Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you'd like to receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Wall That Heals

Hopewell United Methodist Church and East Brandywine Township will play host this summer to *The Wall That Heals*, a 250-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Part of a national tour, the replica memorial wall and accompanying mobile education center will be on display throughout the day and night, from Thursday, July 28 until Sunday, July 31 at East Brandywine Township Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road. The Wall will take a one-hour escorted route beginning at 10 AM on July 27, from Calvary Fellowship Church on Route 113, Lionville into Downingtown, where it will stop for a few minutes for wreath placement at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park, and then continue on to East Brandywine Community Park. For more details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=74.

Bats For Matt Softball Tournament

Softball teams that want to participate in the 2016 Bats For Matt Tournament--to be held Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17 on the Downingtown Little League Field on Manor Avenue--can enter by sending an email to: BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com, KrazzieLazzie224@yahoo.com or Bigciarlone@gmail.com. Entries close July 10. For more details, see: www.batsformatt.com/ or www.facebook.com/BatsForMatt/.

Shakespeare in the Park

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Board will present "Midsummer's Night Dream," performed by the PA Leadership Charter School at 6 PM Saturday, July 23 at Kerr Park's gazebo area. For more details on the free program, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Shakespeare%20in%20the%20Park%20flyer.pdf>.

Links for the Library Golf Outing

All proceeds for this golf outing will benefit the Downingtown Library. For info on packages, sponsorships and dinner, see: www.downingtowntownlibrary.org/.

Controversial Presidential Elections

Ross Kershey, historian and professor, will speak on Controversial Presidential Elections at 7 PM Tuesday, July 19 at the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The free program is sponsored by the West Caln Historical Society, and the public is welcome.

Give Something Back Day Golf Outing

A golf outing will be held at Whitford Country Club on Monday, July 18 in support of the Fund for Chester County and the Whitford Charitable Fund. For more details on sponsorships fees and the day's events, check out: events@chescofc.org.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, 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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 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.



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Vol. 7, No. 27

July 14, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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Local historians solve 134-year-old mystery of unknown immigrant

On the morning of July 18, 1881, an unknown immigrant was struck and killed instantly by the eastbound Pennsylvania Railroad's "Harrisburg Express," rumbling down the tracks in Caln Township, near the location of Coatesville Area High School. Subsequently, the victim's body was transported to the freight warehouse at the neighboring Downingtown Station, probably because that was the largest Pennsylvania Railroad facility between Philadelphia and Lancaster at the time, says railroad historian Jim Sundman, of Downingtown.

Meanwhile, a family in the village of Balzers in Liechtenstein (a small principality sandwiched between Switzerland and Austria) awaited news of their father and husband, Fidel Buchel. A 49-year old stone mason, Fidel had left his home in April of 1881, traveling with others from the village to Guttenberg, Iowa – where other relatives had previously settled. He was to send for his wife and five children once he could afford their transport. After just three months, the family learned he had decided to return home.

Instead, a telegram, written in English, arrived in Belzars. Fidel's worried wife took the paper around the village until she found someone who could translate the news that her husband had been killed. With only this document, the family lacked details of his death for 134 years, until his great-granddaughter, Sue Buchel, from Boise, Idaho, and her second cousin, Anna Hilti, an artist from Liechtenstein, pursued the mystery in 2015.

A retired museum curator for the National Park Service, Sue first heard about Fidel's death when she visited Liechtenstein in 1971. She also learned that the telegram from the U.S. was lost. The sketchy information she heard about Fidel's death from relatives seemed to be more legend than fact. One tidbit gave York, PA as the location of Fidel's death.

That sliver proved untrue when Sue contacted York County officials upon her return home. She continued to search the Internet periodically over the next decades, but never found any clues as to her ancestor's demise.

For Anna's part, this story of a lost ancestor in a foreign land had inspired her to create an art installation in Liechtenstein's capitol, Vaduz, last summer, focused on the experience of immigration. The two cousins decided to try to solve their family's mystery during a trip to the United States, which Anna had planned for the Fall of 2015.

In preparing for the research trip, Sue again searched the Internet, and this time located an article in the July 20, 1881 edition of the *York Daily* newspaper. The brief article noted, "An unknown German was killed Monday [July 18] by express train at Coatesville. PA. The body was taken to Downingtown for identification."

Thinking this might be their great-grandfather, Sue and Anna made plans to visit several historical archives in Chester County. Carol Grigson, volunteer archivist at the Downingtown Area Historical Society showed them the bound register of the Northwood Cemetery, listing details on the burial since the cemetery was incorporated in 1871. Bingo! Grigson found an entry for an unidentified person buried in the cemetery's potter's field on July 19, 1881, one day after the unknown immigrant's death. While viewing the register, Grigson and the researchers noticed that some 130 other people have been buried in unmarked locations at the cemetery– a not uncommon practice in earlier years.

During their research, the women found more clues at the Chester County Archives, with the help of Cliff Parker, and at the Chester County Historical Society, aided by Pam Powell. In the ledger books of the original Chester County Poorhouse at Embreeville, they found a payment of \$6 to J.T. Carpenter, the Downingtown undertaker and furniture maker with a shop on West Lancaster Avenue, to pay for a plain coffin and the digging of a grave. They also found that a coroner's inquest had been held regarding the train accident, at the Downingtown train station. But the coroner's report, sent to the state capital, had been destroyed along with many other documents, by a flood at the State Archives in Harrisburg.

Though those documents illuminated the sequence of events surrounding the death of an "unknown immigrant," nothing actually connected the women's relative by name. However, while looking through microfilm at the Chester County Historical Society, they found an article in a West Chester newspaper, the *Village Record*, published on July 23, 1881, which gave details

of the coroner's now-lost report. From this article, they learned what had occurred the morning of the accident, what this train accident victim looked like, and that he had only 8 cents in his pockets and carried a letter from home.

Then, remarkably, the news article went on to include an English translation of the letter found in the victim's pockets. By scanning the letter, seeing the name of their ancestor's village, the names of his children, and his wife's signature, the nearly-defeated researchers knew they had finally found their great-grandfather. Now they knew that Fidel Büchel had, indeed, been that unknown immigrant!

From the letter, they also learned that Fidel and his wife, Franciska, had mutually decided to abort their plans to emigrate to America. Rather than travel home in relative comfort, however, he chose to send his savings home to his family, and then walked or hopped on a freight train, to make his way over the 1,200 miles back to the eastern seaboard and board a ship home.

Sue and Anna kept members of the Buchel family--in Liechtenstein as well as those in the United States--posted as they retrieved each shred of information in Chester County. It seems as if all 37,000 residents of the tiny principality now knew about Fidel, as a result of their e-mail updates. The family's enthusiastic reaction to the news about their forebearer has led to a large family gathering in the home village and plans for a private family gathering near the tracks near Coatesville on the 135th anniversary of Fidel's accident.

Not forgetting that Fidel's resting place is only one *among over 130 unmarked burials* at the Northwood Cemetery, the family also determined that he and all the others deserve a marker in tribute to their lives. The European contingent of the family decided to raise funds to send a gravestone from Fidel's village to serve this purpose. Balzers boasts a granite quarry, which happens to be owned by a descendant of Fidel, while a local stone cutter is also a relative. The stone was quarried, chiseled and shipped to the Exton stone yard of Luminella Monuments. The one side of the huge stone, which stands five feet tall and four feet wide, gives Fidel Buchel's life information, and on the other side is incised, "In Tribute to all who rest here, unmarked, but not forgotten."

A short, public dedication of this potter's field monument will be held at Northwood Cemetery, at 10:30 AM Tuesday, July 19 —the 135th anniversary of Fidel's burial.

Ronald Selin, the cemetery's caretaker, coordinated the memorial's installation, and helped arrange the dedication. Luminella Memorials of Downingtown arranged for the transportation of the gravestone from their stone yard in Exton to Downingtown, and Miller's Concrete installed the cement base at the gravesite for the 3,000-pound stone.

In addition to members of the Buchel family, including many from Liechtenstein, Chester County residents who helped with various aspects of this project and the initial research will attend the dedication. One special guest is expected to be Claudia Fritsche, the Principality of Liechtenstein's Ambassador to the U.S. since 2002. This will possibly be the ambassador's final public appearance before she retires. The local public, especially people who have family members buried in the potter's field at Northwood, are invited to attend the program.

Following the dedication, the Buchel family and invited guests will attend a reception at Ashbridge House, the Downingtown Area Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln.

Group Photo of Week



There was much wailing by local high school students before 1928, because the bigger high schools—West Chester and Coatesville—had marching bands, but DHS didn't. "We admired these other bands," acknowledged the editors in the 1929 DHS *Cuckoo* yearbook. "Not only did they make a fine appearance, but they produced music that caused their schools to be justly proud of them. We had champion football teams, champion typists, prize-winning glee clubs, but no band to even 'try' for a championship."

But all the whining ceased in the spring of 1928, when a band was organized at DHS, with Amos Miley (on the far right in the photo above) as director. Shown above, in their splendid new uniforms, are the members of the first band, which had practice sessions on two nights a week.

The band's 33 musicians included, in no particular order: Theodore Dowlin, James Mahan, Galusha Marsh, Park Moore, Richard Robinson, Joseph Sciarretta, Mary Eva Dowling, Mabel Haberly, James Elston, Carroll Moore, Ada Miley, Donald Shultz, William Ash, Weldon Bicking, Stuart Pollock, Tony Carbo, Eugene Watts, Wilson Pollock, Horace Hutchison, Albert Fitzgerald, Jack Lamping, Leroy Pawling, Carrie Miley, Lois Brown, Mildred Deputy, Howard Baldwin, George McCowan, Jack McNab, Howard Moore, Carmen Travaglini, Marion Laird, Naomi Hashinger and Jack Pannebaker.

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What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the latter part of July 1980 editions of the *East Branch Citizen*.

- Seven candidates to replace Lew Wilson, retired **Downingtown police chief**, were interviewed. Some 75 applicants were interested in the position, according to borough officials.
- Tony Madiro, a member of the **Minquas Ambulance Corps** performed an emergency baby delivery. He was assisted by corpsmen Howard Freas and Steve Shirk, when Mrs. Lynn Mitchell gave birth to an 8-pound daughter, Grace Elizabeth at home, 227 Mary St., Downingtown.
- The Lionville Youth Association's **Lionville Park**, a 21-acre site, east of Route 113, was dedicated by Uwchlan officials. The LYA developed the park, which includes three baseball diamonds and will ultimately have three soccer fields. The volunteer group accomplished that by raising more than \$15,000 from private sources, plus \$15,000 contributed by local businesses, over the past five years. The LYA sponsored 63 baseball and softball teams, 60 soccer teams, 100 wrestlers, and 46 basketball teams.
- Upper Uwchlan Township residents complained, at a supervisors' meeting, that traffic problems caused by visitors at the **Marsh Creek State Park** were a nuisance. Some weekends, reported Police Chief William Brice, the police had to turn away 400-500 cars in about two hours because the park's parking lot was filled.
- Anthony Fiore and Carl Hurst, members of **Boy Scout Troop 216**, earned the rank of Eagle, awarded at a court of honor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville. Also promoted were David Honey, tenderfoot; John Dockstader and David Johnson, second class; and Tim Honey, first class.
- Jennifer Ely was the champion in the "connect four" competition at the **Wagonseller Park playground** in Glenmoore. Mary Jane Poluch came in second and Dana Kohler was third. Winners in the bingo contest at **Beaver Creek playground** were Becky Broomall, Sherri Evans, Lee Keen and Ann Terpstra. Awards for their crayon projects at the **Johnsontown playground** were presented to Tina Eastwood, Jimmy Mailliard and Rachel Hernandez. Winners in their age bracket in the broad jump competition at **East Ward playground** were Mark Norris, Byron and Jason Hazzard, Ed Shroeder, Jimmy Doedderlein, Stephanie Eldridge and Kris Goddard.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 1 Rose Tree Drive, Uwchlan, \$84,500; 79 Chatham Court, East Brandywine, \$50,500; 412 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$48,500; 508 Grant Avenue, Downingtown, \$49,500; 114 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$105,000; 1342 Sherwood Drive, West Bradford, \$60,750; 710 North Reeds Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$93,500; 1398 Ship Road, West Whiteland, \$70,000.
- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were: Richard Thatcher, president; Frank Brouse, first vice president; Bruce Bredickas, second vice president; Albert Homan, secretary; David Kirkner, treasurer; Charles Zittle, sergeant-at-arms; and Dr. Joseph McCahon, William Mason, Leon Bixler, Charles Bruton and Robert Cropper, directors.
- Representatives of two large packaging firms visited the **Milprint plant** in Downingtown, which was a division of the flexible packaging division of Reynolds Metals in Richmond, VA. But both representatives claimed they had no intention of purchasing the local facility, which was only operating at 25 percent of its capacity.

It was Lionville Fire Company's original pumper



Jeff Trego is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the hand-pulled pumper in photo above as the first firefighting apparatus used by the Lionville Fire Co. It was purchased in 1911, the year the company was established, and was used until 1923. The pumper was originally stored in several buildings in Lionville. In 1915, its permanent home in a one-story, frame garage, built by Aaron Slonaker on land provided by Christian Oberholser. The initial rental fee was 25 cents per year. The garage had a belfry with a bell donated by James Quaintence, which was used to summon firefighters when an emergency occurred. The hand-pulled pumper and belfry are still possessed by the fire company. You'll find more info on the fire company's history at: www.lionvillefire.org/content/firehistory/.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Vintage Ad of the Week

FREE . . . REFRESHMENTS FOR ALL

PHILLIPS 66

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

GRAND OPENING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 12 & 13

- 5 GRAND PRIZES
- FREE GIFTS FOR EVERYONE
- FIRE ENGINE RIDES FOR THE KIDDIES

Free Carrier "KING" Size Coke
WITH EVERY 8 GALLON PURCHASE

BALLENTINE'S "66" SERVICE

RT. 100- $\frac{1}{2}$ MI. N. OF TURNPIKE UWCHLAND, PA.

- COMPLETE CAR SERVICE
- STATE INSPECTION

This ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* on June 12, 1964

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Shakespeare in the Park

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Board will present "Midsummer's Night Dream," performed by the PA Leadership Charter School at 6 PM Saturday, July 23 at Kerr Park's gazebo area. For more details on the free program, see:

<http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/Shakespeare%20in%20the%20Park%20flyer.pdf>.

Wall That Heals

Hopewell United Methodist Church and East Brandywine Township will host to *The Wall That Heals*, a 250-foot replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Part of a national tour, the replica memorial wall and accompanying mobile education center will be on display throughout the day and night, from Thursday, July 28 until Sunday, July 31, at East Brandywine Township Community Park, 440 Dilworth Road. The Wall will take a one-hour escorted route, beginning at 10 AM on July 27, from Calvary Fellowship Church on Route 113, Lionville, into Downingtown, where it will stop for a few minutes for wreath placement at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park, and then continue on to East Brandywine Community Park. For more details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=74.

Bats For Matt Softball Tournament

Softball teams that want to participate in the 2016 Bats For Matt Tournament--to be held Saturday, July 16 and Sunday, July 17 on the Downingtown Little League Field on Manor Avenue--can enter by sending an email to: BatsForMattSoftball@gmail.com, KrazzieLazzie224@yahoo.com or Bigciarlone@gmail.com. For more details, see: www.batsformatt.com/ or www.facebook.com/BatsForMatt/.

Links for the Library Golf Outing

All proceeds for this golf outing at the Downingtown Country Club on July 25 will benefit the Downingtown Library. For info on packages, sponsorships and dinner, see: www.downingtowntownlibrary.org/.

Controversial Presidential Elections

Ross Kershey, historian and professor, will speak on Controversial Presidential Elections at 7 PM Tuesday, July 19 at the West Caln Municipal Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The free program is sponsored by the West Caln Historical Society, and the public is welcome.

Give Something Back Day Golf Outing

A golf outing will be held at Whitford Country Club on Monday, July 18 in support of the Fund for Chester County and the Whitford Charitable Fund. For more details on sponsorships fees and the day's events, check out: events@chescofc.org.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, 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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 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.



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 28

July 21, 2016

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Unknown immigrant's gravestone dedicated at Northwood Cemetery

The photos below were taken on July 19, when ancestors of Fidel Buchel, who was killed in a train accident in Caln Township on July 18, 1881, had a dedications service on the 135th anniversary of his burial in Northwood Cemetery. The service at the cemetery, on Route 113 in East Caln, included the dedication of a 3,000-pound gravestone, which was quarried and carved in Liechtenstein and shipped to the United States. More than 30 members of the Buchel family, including a large contingent from Europe, participated in the service. Claudia Fritsche, Liechtenstein's ambassador to the U.S., was a participant.

Following the accident, Fidel's body was taken to the Downingtown train station, and a Downingtown undertaker arranged for his burial in the cemetery's potter's field section - where the bodies of indigent and unidentified souls were buried in unmarked graves - because there was no ID information in Fidel's pockets. A letter written in German, from Fidel's wife and a son back in Liechtenstein, was found in one of his pockets. That letter, translated into English and published in a West Chester newspaper, enabled local historical archivists to discover the identity of the unknown immigrant.

If you missed all the fascinating details on how local historians solved the mystery of the unknown immigrant, which were published in last week's Hist-O-Gram, you can read them via: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2014%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.



This is a photo of the Buchel family, and representatives of local historical societies, members of the cemetery board+ and state legislators, who attended the gravestone dedication service.



Sue Buchel, left, spearheaded the search for information on where Fidel Buchel, her great-grandfather, was buried, and she arranged for the dedication of the 3,000-pound gravestone at Northwood Cemetery. Determining the unknown immigrant's identity was enabled through the efforts of Carol Grigson, center left, volunteer archivist at the Downingtown Area Historical Society, and Pam Powell, right, of the Chester County Historical Society.



Claudia Fritsche, Liechtenstein's ambassador to the U.S., is shown taking a picture of the page in the register of the Northwood Cemetery, which includes a listing for a burial of an unknown "German" on July 19, 1881. The register includes many details on every burial in the cemetery since its 1871 founding. The register is part of the archival collection at Ashbridge House, headquarters of Historical Society, where a reception was held, after the dedication service, for members of the Buchel family and other guests.

What locals were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in area newspapers in the latter part of November 1948:

- The **American Legion** moved into its new post home, at 336 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Planned improvements on the first floor included a game room; a large lounge (but no bar) with a TV set and a radio-phonograph player donated by the Smedley and Aumiller Insurance Agency; and a large kitchen operated by the Ladies Auxiliary. A general meeting room, an executive meeting room, and temporary quarters for the caretaker were to be on the second floor. The legionnaires were seeking donations of a piano, a refrigerator, chairs and lamps. Also, Francis Summers and Robinson McIlvaine were appointed to represent the post on the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's committee responsible for erecting a new permanent servicemen's plaque, to replace the one that was adjacent to Borough Hall.
- Telephone operators, who worked in the **Bell Telephone** office in Downingtown in 1948, included: Helen and Alice Doran, Grace Vernon, Eva Jane Marsh, Marjorie Lyons, Mary Thomas, Doris Howard, Nancy Jones, Lois Ross, Mary Hope, Mrs. John Moschitta, Mrs. John Muzii and Mrs. Charles Snyder.
- Appointed as committee chairmen for the **Downingtown Visiting Nurse Association** were Mrs. John Fisher, nursing; Mrs. Penrose Davis, ways and means; Mrs. William Mahood, transportation; Mrs. John Rogers, representative on the borough Christmas Committee; Mrs. Donald Edwards, publicity; and Mrs. Huston McIlvain, budget.
- **Lionville Elementary School** students who participated in a program on Armistice Day included Sam Matthews, Shirley Matlack, Doris Mull, Celestia Boyer, Bob Lytle, Barbara Simpkinson, Jerry Stinson, Bob Peoples, Jack Stewart, Alice and Cora Smedley, Marjorie Rickard, Carl Ruth, Marvin Jenkins, Kay Levengood, Susanne and Jacqueline Markey, Bob Ross, Arthur Fiester, Esther Supplee, Ronny Otter, Harry Dewees, Richard Taylor, Meredith Ruark and Jack Benner.
- More than 400 persons listened to eight church choirs on Choir Day held at **Bethel AME Church** in Downingtown.
- Elected as officers of **St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, were: Oscar DiBerardinis, president; Charles DiSante, vice president; Armando Taraschi, censor; Anthony Viscichini, financial secretary; Samuel Mento and Anthony Fazzini, corresponding secretaries; Frank Celii, treasurer; Albert DelPaggio and Joseph Mento, auditors; Michael Mento, John Mascherino, Vincent DiEuliis, Paul Taraschi, David D'Attilio, Edward Perley, George Ciarlone, Albert Donofrio, Americo DiLiberato, Oscar Fazzini, Ore Marino and Louis D'Addezio, counselors.
- Although the Whippets were way behind in offensive statistics (only three first downs and 13 yards gained) **DHS beat Pottstown 16-12** on Thanksgiving morning. Downingtown fullback Bill Hayes made the difference, as he scored two TDs and booted a 30-yard field goal. DHS had two wins, one loss and a tie since Downingtown started playing the Trojans in the season-ending classic four years earlier.
- **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, revived a custom, which had been discontinued during World War II, of having a turkey dinner, served at noontime, after a service on Thanksgiving morning. The dinner was prepared and served by Mrs. William Bixler, Mrs. John McCausland, Mrs. Earl Bryant and Mrs. Alex Jefferis.

It was the DOPACO loading dock



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as a loading dock of the Downingtown Paper Co. (DOPACO). The photo was first published in the firm's 75th anniversary booklet, which noted that Frank Miller founded the original papermaking company in 1881. In 1956, when the photo was taken, DOPACO was about to expand its production to 325 tons of paperboard per day. In 1968, DOPACO was sold as a subsidiary to Sonoco Products Co., of Hartsville, S.C., and continued operating in Downingtown until 2005, when a large fire that caused approximately half a million dollars in damages, forcing Sonoco to permanently close the paperboard mill on Brandywine Avenue.

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Downingtown area news 88 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in September and October of 1928:

- Several members of **Borough Council** were wary about the **Downingtown Fire Department's** proposal that they should have phone service installed—so both of the borough's two fire companies would have details about a reported fire before firefighters were dispatched—because of the costs, about \$6 per month. In the case of a recent house fire in the borough's east end, fire company officials pointed out, the existent alarm at the Minquas Fire Co. was inadequate because it “could scarcely be heard in the western portion of the town, and it is a safe bet that at least two-thirds of the firemen failed to hear the alarm and were unaware of the fire.”

- Students, who had graduated from a local elementary school but had failed in the spring to pass the entrance examination in order to continue to their education at **Downingtown Junior High School**, had an opportunity to take the entrance test again on August 31. The Downingtown School Board also established these tuition fees, to be paid by surrounding township school districts for each of their resident-students who attended a school in the borough: \$6 per month for students in the first through fourth grades; \$8 for those in the fifth through eighth grades; \$12 per month for those in the ninth through 12th grades. Tuition fees collected from the townships in the 1927-28 school year totaled \$11,067.

- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** had taken the new **DHS marching band** “under its wing,” and several members of the service club had offered to drive, in their cars, the musicians to away football games. That commitment enabled the funds for band transportation in the school district budget to be switched to the band's treasury for other purposes.

- The **Brandywine Rifle Club**, recently established for local boys by Downingtown's **American Legion Post**, had leased an indoor firing range, to accommodate five targets, in the Fisher Building on Washington Avenue in the borough. The club planned to become an affiliate of the National Rifle Association, and engage with other rifle clubs in the county. Officers of the club were H.C. Osman, president; Charles Nice, vice president; William Johnson, secretary; Joseph Miller, treasurer; and George Hibberd, executive officer. Member of the board of governors were Everett Hoopes, Robert Moore, Horace Mercer, Frank Parke, Paul Dague and Edgar Griffith.

- Male students at DHS, who were officers of the **Hi-Y Club**, included: Charles Ax, president; Carl Peterson, vice president; Dewitt Essick, secretary; Harry Brown, treasurer. The Hi-Y Club was affiliated with the town and country department of the Coatesville YMCA.

STOP — LOOK — READ
THANK YOU!

You, the people of Downingtown and community, were wonderful in the splendid support given to us at our opening last Wednesday and every day since.

The congratulatory cards, notes, telegrams, phone calls, verbal best wishes, and the profusion of beautiful baskets of flowers, which enhanced the beauty of the shop, were warmly and graciously received.

May we take this opportunity in expressing our sincere appreciation, and desire to continue to serve you in the best manner possible.

Colonial Bake Shop
140 East Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, Phone 1036

Walter H. McClure and Edith Irwin McClure
Owners and Operators

This ad was originally published in the November 17, 1948 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

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Vol. 7, No. 29

July 28, 2016

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What locals were talking about 68 years ago

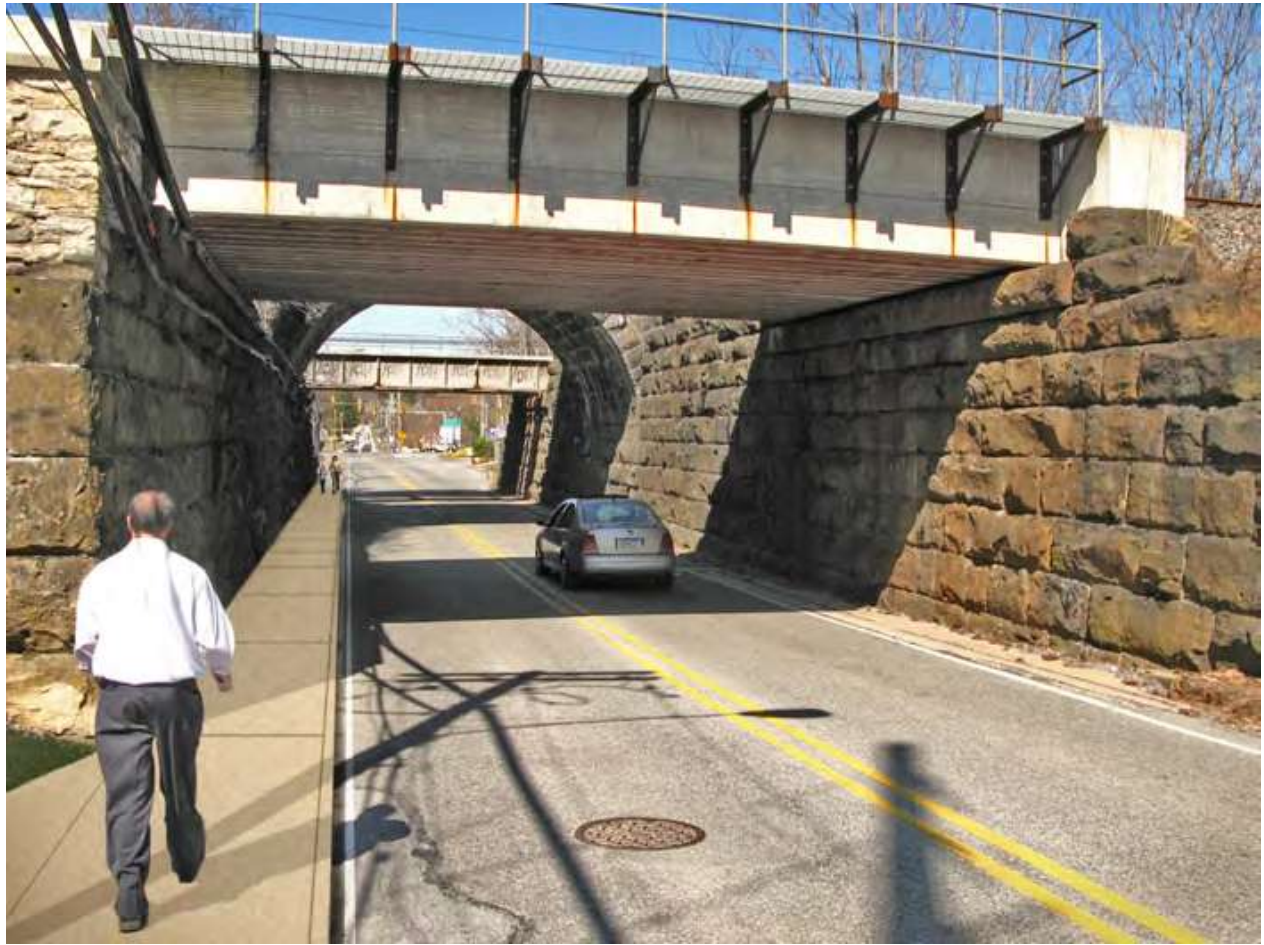
Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in December 1948:

- About 200 people turned out for the Downingtown's first annual **Charity Ball**, which generated about \$250 in proceeds, to be used by the borough's **Christmas Committee**. The committee's plans for the kids' Christmas party--also underwritten by donations from local businesses and service organizations--included: Santa Claus (Bob Barker), who landed his plane at Pollock's field (now part of the DHS West campus) and, accompanied by the DHS band, marched down Manor Avenue to the Log House in Kerr Park, where toys were distributed. Other Christmas activities in the area included: the Lions Club's party for kids in the DHS auditorium; the DYMA Chorus carol singing in the Town Motors lot on East Lancaster Avenue, a party for kids at the Moose Home, and free movies at the Roosevelt Theatre on the morning of Dec. 24.
- Based evaluations by coaches of football teams that had played Downingtown during the 1948 season, Bill Hayes was named the Whippets' outstanding back, and Anthony "Sonny" Milano was cited as Downingtown's outstanding lineman. The awards were given by the Downingtown Young Men's Association at the **DHS football banquet**.
- And at the annual banquet of **St. Anthony's Lodge** in Downingtown, University of Pennsylvania backfield coach Jack Welsh was the featured speaker. Welsh was a cheerleader at DHS before he went on to star as a back for both the Whippets and the Penn Quakers. Oscar "Skid" DiBerardinis, president of St. Anthony's, presided over the affair, which was attended by some 350 members and guests. Ben Valocchi was the toastmaster. The committee that prepared and served the five-hour-long meal, which got underway Sunday afternoon, was headed by Anthony "Cap Wando" DiGiovantonio, Ventura Visichini and Mary Sciaretta.
- Glen Moore's **John Shrader** was honored for his natural color photographs at the Photographic Society of America annual exhibition in Cincinnati, at the International Color Slide exhibition in Chicago, and at the California State Fair.
- News about Downingtown merchants: **Romig's Electronic Service**, 121 Washington Ave., had cut the price of GE radio-phonographs lowboy floor models by \$40, to \$119.95. You could buy a 1-pound box of mixed nuts for just 53 cents at **Daller's Food Market**, 208 E. Lancaster Avenue. **Charlie Furlong** sold his grocery store at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Chestnut Street to **Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Esworthy**. **Victoria's Ladies Specialty Shop**, 41 E. Lancaster Ave, was selling nylons for only \$1.60 a pair. Tartan coffee cost 57 cents a pound at **Mittel's Food Store**, 203 W. Lancaster Ave. And if you were too tired to cook after Christmas shopping, Jim Hurtt proprietor of **The Cottage**, 101 E. Lancaster Ave., suggested you stop in at his restaurant for a chicken in the basket dinner.
- Allan Hughes, owner of the Esso gas station at East Lancaster Avenue and Green Street, was elected president of the **Downingtown Young Men's Association**. Also elected were John Johnson, vice president; Morris Stevens, treasurer; and Francis Summers, secretary.

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It's the railroad tunnel at Marshallton-Thorndale Road & Route 30



Peter Chim is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above at the railroad underpass at the intersection of Marshallton-Thorndale Road and Route 30.

Downingtown area news 52 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of June 1964:

- **Downingtown Borough Council** appointed Larry Jamieson, a Republican, to fill the seat vacated when John Helm, a Democrat, was appointed as Downingtown's acting postmaster. Local Democrats had campaigned for Helm's wife, Theresa, to replace him.
- Bids for additions at **Lionville Elementary School**, which included 12 classrooms, a library, a special education room, a cafeteria, an expanded multi-purpose room, and additional boiler room space and equipment, totaled \$720, 896, 3 percent more than was projected.
- Nancy DiBerardinis and Richard Plunkett received awards at the eighth grade commencement of **St. Joseph's Catholic School**, for having the highest academic averages. Kathleen Brown received an award for excellence in music and service to the school. Also honored for their service to the school were Michael Caporale and Mary Jo Valocchi.

- Leaders of the **Downingtown's summer recreation programs** were: Edward Novak, overall director and tumbling; Daryl French, arts and crafts; Herbert Lee, basketball; George Pastino, tennis; and Lillian Schoenberger, libraries. Responsible for playgrounds were Carol Lillard, Mary Ann Phillips, Barbara Thompson, Bonita Plank, Mary Ann Smedley, Paula Tweed, Linda Hatfield and Ray DiSerafino.

- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Tom Courtless, president; Bill Woodruff, first vice president; Horace Rodgers, second vice president; Horace Schanely, third vice president; Ev Gill, secretary; William Wessner, treasurer; Francis Walton tail twister; Elmer Hemberger, assistant tail twister; Cal Mingione, lion tamer; Joe Tremul, assistant lion tamer; Stan Walters, chaplain; and Herb Lambert, Al Skiles, Larry Jamieson and Maurie Davis, directors. Warren Strawsnyder, outgoing president, noted that 1,037 persons had recently taken a train trip, sponsored by the Lions Club, from Downingtown to the World's Fair in New York.

- Members of **Brownie Troop 166, Glenmoore**, who spent two nights at Camp Indian Run, included Sherry Carr, Beth Ann Zulker, Vickie Stiffler, Paula Rissell, Linda Reber, Maria Oppenheim, Gwen Swavely, Wendy Colestock, Susan Evans, Jeanne MacDougal, Jean Ann Harrington, Billie Rae Haclerthorne, Peggy Nelson, Vicky Ireys and Helen McDowell.

- **East Ward School** students, who had an A average in the 1963-64 school year, included: Steven Fleck, Joseph Light, Dennis Bireley, Judith Bell, Kenneth McCardell, William Webb, Jeanette Moore, Deborah Ladika, and Patsy Green.

- Members of **Junior Girl Scout Troop 172, East Brandywine**, who spent a week at Camp Tweedale, included Robin Forbes, Loretta Moore, Ginny Baker, Marjorie Lewis, Cheryl Whiteman, Susan Dixon, Sharon Smith, Ann Lucas, Sharon Peazzoni, Pamela Whiteman, Meryl Decovny, Debbie Whiteman, Mary Rusden, Rosalinde Harrington, Lois Slater, Diane and Kathy Yost, Joan Baldwin, Terry Green, Lynda McGirk, Donna Fryberger and Debbie Alexander.

Vintage Ad of the Week

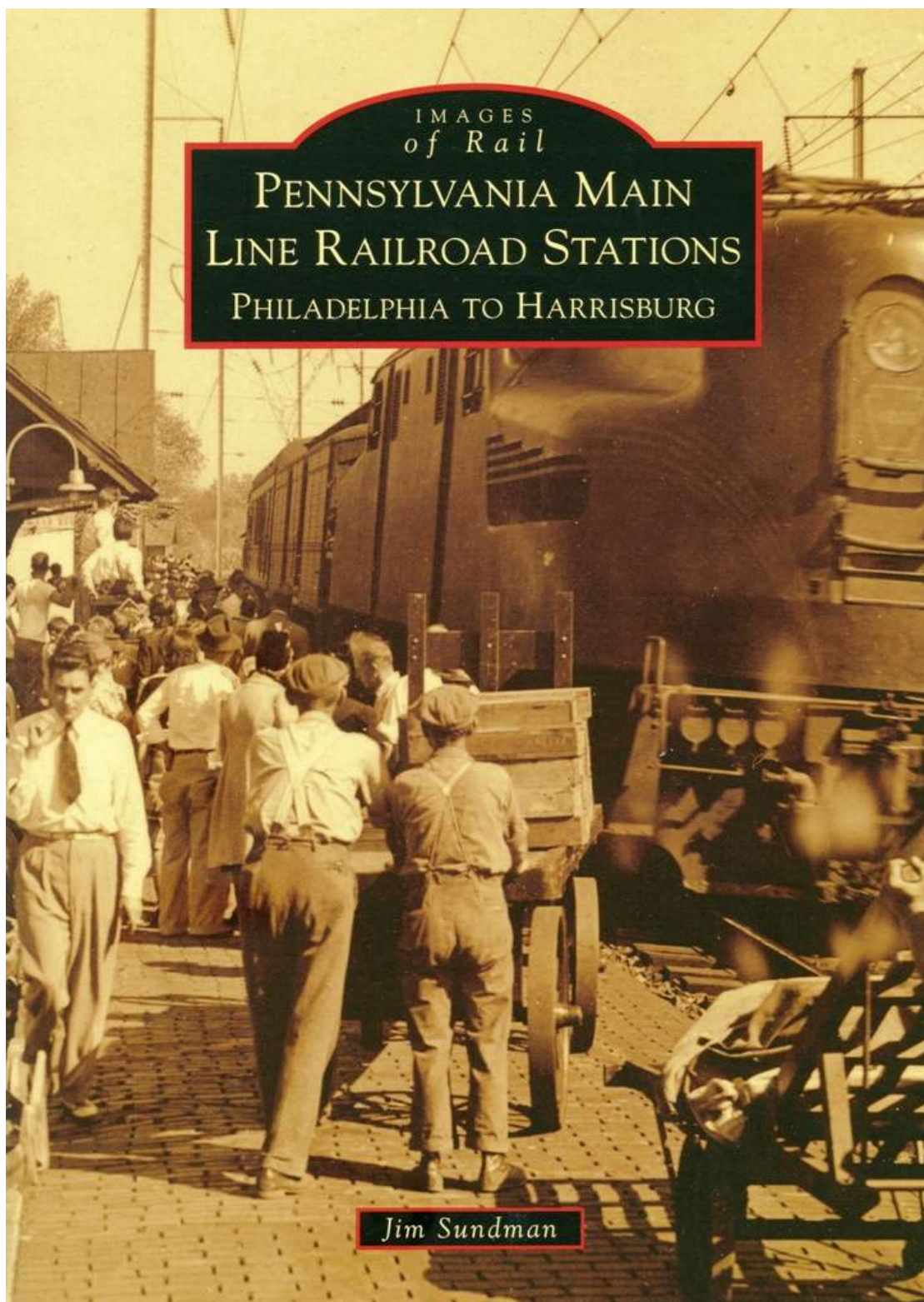
Loose Coffee, 2 lbs. for.....	75c
Waldorf Toilet Paper, 4 rolls for.....	25c
Worcester 5c Salt, 3 pkgs. for	10c
Tartan Shaker Salt, 3 pkgs. for.....	25c

**With every 30c Tin of Tartan Sliced Pineapple—
1 Tin of Tartan Peaches FREE !**

Myers & Bicking

Phone 280 135 West Lancaster Ave.

This ad was originally published in the Oct. 30, 1926 edition of *The Archive*.



The photo on the cover of Jim Sundman's book is of the Downingtown Station, taken in the early 1940s. The photo was found in the archives of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. For more details about the book, check out the article below.

Downingtown historian authors book on area railroad stations

Downingtown resident Jim Sundman was researching the Borough's train station, he expected to find a book on the Main Line stations to use as a reference. "There were a couple of very good books", Sundman said, "but these were large and expensive volumes written more for a railroad audience." As a result, and with his interest in history and early railroading, he saw an opportunity to do one himself, but for a more general audience. Sundman contacted Arcadia Publishing, which specializes in regional history books written by local authors, and they strongly encouraged him to do the project.

It took a little over a year from when Sundman first contacted Arcadia until *Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations, Philadelphia to Harrisburg* was released by the publisher earlier this week. He spent five months researching, acquiring images, and writing the text before sending a first draft to Arcadia. Those efforts were followed by several months of editing and replacing images if better ones could be found. One of the more challenging pieces actually turned out to be the book's cover image. "Arcadia rejected, albeit nicely, the first ten or so cover images I submitted to them," Sundman said. "I wanted an historic station photograph with a train and people, but at the same time Arcadia had layout guidelines that needed to be met." With the help of Carol Grigson, he found one of the Downingtown Station taken in the early 1940s in the archives of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. It met Arcadia's guidelines, and the photograph had everything Sundman wanted, including his favorite locomotive, the Pennsylvania Railroad's GG1.

Other challenges were finding quality images (there are 221 total in the book), especially ones that may not have been published before. In addition, because the book covers the Main Line from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, he wanted to arrange the stations in geographical order from east to west. "I felt the book would be easier to follow this way, but that ended up being quite hard to do," Sundman said. He also wanted to keep a balance, and include as many of the old stations as possible, but he admits, "Downingtown is generously represented."

All in all, he's very pleased with how the book turned out. "It was a really fun learning experience," Sundman said. "There was so much I didn't know about the old Main Line." Though many images in the book came from his personal collection, a large number also came from local libraries, historical societies, archives, and individuals. "Many people and organizations were great to work with. Many went out of their way to help with this project."

Copies of *Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations* can be purchased locally at Barnes & Noble in Exton, and online at: arcadiapublishing.com, amazon.com, or barnesandnoble.com. Copies are also available at the Downingtown Area Historical Society headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln. All proceeds from purchases of the book at DAHS go entirely to the Historical Society.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS field hockey team, which won the Ches-Mont championship in 1976, included, left to right: first row, co-captains Janet Reed and Heidi Bittmann; second row, Barb Dunwoody, Cindy Brown, Barb Blye, Colleen Murtaugh, Ronnie Della Motta, Leslie Ward, Kim Brian, manager; third row, Coach Jean Shiffer, Rene Sweeney, Janet Westenberger, Sharon Watson, Cathy Treer, Lina Mattioni, Sandy Bireley, Kathy Herion and Anne Kennedy.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Summer Jam Series

Downingtown's next Summer Jam Series event, brought to you by the Downingtown Main Street Association and Kimberton Whole Foods, will be held from 6-10 PM on Friday, July 29 in the Concert Gazebo at Kerr Park. The event will include live music, food, local crafts and more.

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Chicken Bar-B-Que

The Alert Fire Co. will have its annual Bar-B-Que at the fire house, 122 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 13. You can eat-in or take-out. A complete dinner—half of a chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage—costs only \$13.

Chicken BBQ Dinner

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Class Reunion

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Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, 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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 30

August 4, 2016

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

What local folks were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of August 1980:

- Preliminary figures released by the federal Census Bureau show that the **population of the Downingtown Area School District** had risen from 24,140 in 1970 to 34,661 in 1980, adding up to a growth of 69.7 percent. West Bradford Township had the sharpest increase, up 139 percent, to 7,160. Other municipalities in the school district that had grown at least 50 percent since 1970 were: East Brandywine, up 63.7 percent, to 4,487; Upper Uwchlan, up 74.3 percent, to 1,736; and Uwchlan, up 51.9 percent, to 8,315.
- New classrooms being added to **West Bradford** and **Pickering Valley Elementary Schools** were expected to be completed in time for the opening of a new school year. Renovations and construction of eight classrooms, a library and a gymnasium at **Brandywine-Wallace School** were slated to be completed in September 1981.
- For three months, **Jack Hines**, West Bradford's township manager, had been keeping an eye on truck traffic every morning in the Romansville section of the township. That effort paid off, when District Justice C. Burtis Coxe, Downingtown, ordered Strasburg Associates to pay \$29,750 in total fines, plus \$1,024 in court costs, because the trucks had been using roads in the Romansville area to haul waste to the Strasburg Landfill. Based on information provided by Hines, the landfill's operators were found guilty on 64 counts of violating West Bradford's zoning ordinance.
- Recent changes among **West Pikeland Township's** supervisors: Alfred Brady replaced Tom Ashton, who resigned. Also, George Irwin, former vice chairman, was named chairman, while former chairman Andrew McCreight was appointed vice chairman.
- Vandals apparently hot-wired a 1980 Chevrolet, normally used in **driver education classes at DHS**, and used it as a "battering ram" to cause about \$5,000 worth of damage to eight other school district vehicles in the high school parking lot. The driver-ed car, worth \$8,000, was totally destroyed, according to borough police.
- Playground news: The team of Shannon and Dana Kohler, Vicky Neufeld, David Englebert, Sandy McClung and Jennifer Posegate defeated all comers in the dodge ball competition at **Wagenseller Park** in Glenmoore. Winners in the Olympics for first, second and third graders at **Lionville Playground** included Cory Berg, Jon Lefko, Steve Snodgrass, Hawley Chester and Curt Haines.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe included Sean Barshay, Bill Buttner, Ron Chiesa, Brian Conte, Dan Cook, Brian Flaherty, Mike and Tom Gaffney, Ken Klunk, Chris Kremer, Leith McCann, Steve Musgrove, John Pfeiffer, John and Tim Sanner, Greg Sleeman and Bill Supplee.
- The **Downingtown Senior Center** now has a game room in its quarters in the basement of Downingtown United Methodist Church. The room will have a pool table, table tennis, darts, a stereo and shuffleboard.
- Pennypacker Country Club's Charlie Messa and Chris McShane of St. Anthony's were named the outstanding male and female swimmers, respectively, when they set individual **Brandywine Swim League records**, in the league's championships.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 8** earned 55 merit badges and partial badges, while attending Camp Horseshoe for one week. The troop's adult leaders were Bob Ackroyd, Leon Borst, Jim Flanagan and Tim Wrightstone.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 423 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$47,900; 389 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$100,406; 1411 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$70,151; 511 Lincoln Ave., Downingtown, \$40,000; 11 Davis Road, West Pikeland, \$81,000; 29 Cambridge Court, East Brandywine, \$46,750.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 8** earned 55 merit badges and partial badges, while attending Camp Horseshoe for one week. The troop's adult leaders were Bob Ackroyd, Leon Borst, Jim Flanagan and Tim Wrightstone.
- Winners of the **Home Run Derby** competition at Kerr Park were Steve Shirk, 8-9-year-olds; Bruce Wemmett, 10-11-12-year olds; Jon Hayes, 13-14-15-year-olds. The competition was sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies, the Tastykake Baking Co. and the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board.
- The **Downingtown Inn Sports Palace** on Route 30, East Caln, staged another Golden Gloves amateur boxing show, which involved five bouts.

It was the Alert's Chicken Bar-B-Cue in 1975



Ellen VanLew is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify what was going on in the photo above. That's Bob Stevens, Tom Lee III, Tom Lee Jr. and Bob Lee at the grill during the Alert Fire Company's Chicken Bar-B-Cue in August 1975. Looking on in the background are, left to right, Doug Rambo, Randy Holman, Ken Moore, Jeff Stevens, Steve DiLuigi and Les Sheeler.

What was happening in Downingtown 88 years ago

Noted below are items retrieved from editions of *The Downingtown Archive* in November and December 1928:

- After Assistant Fire Chief J. B. Corcoran pointed out that “no fair-minded person could call the clanging of an old bell and the feeble blasts of two air whistles an alarm system,” Borough Council’s fire committee met with **Downingtown Fire Department** officials. It was agreed that phone service should be installed at both of borough’s fire houses and at Downingtown Motor Co. and at the West End Garage. The Fire Department also was directed to provide the fire committee with information on various alarm systems and their costs, so Borough Council could resolve the issue at its January meeting.
- The DHS Athletic Committee unanimously agreed to establish **field hockey** as an interscholastic sport at the high school. DHS was the only high school in Chester County that did not have a girls’ field hockey team.
- DHS’s diminutive “Pud” Ax caught a game-winning touchdown pass in the waning moments of the fourth quarter as the **football squad** pulled off a major upset by beating Coatesville 21-14. The other two DHS TDs were scored by Chick Horning and Eddie Watson.

Missed any Hist-O-Grams published in June?

You can access any issue of the Hist-O-Grams published in July by clicking on the respective coding noted below:

July 7: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%207%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

July 14: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2014%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

July 21: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2021%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

July 28: www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/July%2028%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

Please come to our Clip/Paste sessions

We’re looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society’s clip/paste sessions, to be held next week, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, June 5 and from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, June 14. Both sessions, which involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

News in *The Archive* 61 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the Downingtown weekly newspaper in the summer of 1955:

- Ralph Lineinger was elected president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Other new officers were Robert Plank, vice president; Clarence Dorsey, secretary; Edward McCausland, treasurer; Henry Smith, sergeant-at-arms; and directors Ted Johnson, Gordon Carpenter, Everett Griffith, Larry Polite, Robert Piersol and Dr. John Phillips.
- The 123-acre **Bell School** tract in East Caln was sold by Henry Smith to Daniel and Charles Tabas, owners and operators of the Downingtown Motor Inn.
- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 181**, Downingtown, who visited the 30th Street Railroad Station in Philadelphia, included: Jane Moore, Jean and Carol Shisler, Patricia Daller, Patricia Dukeman, Frances Serafino, Beatrice DiFernando, Sandra Thompson and Sandra Hadfield.
- Due to some rowdy behavior, Robert Kaster, borough recreation director, said teenagers who plan to attend **dances at Kerr Park** must have ID cards.
- Charles Raysor was elected president of the **Downingtown Lions Club**. Also elected were Wallace Houston, first vice president; Mylin Plank, second vice president; Elton Weikel, third vice president; Maurie Davis, secretary; Rider Brandau, treasurer; Raymond Jones, chaplain; Hathaway Frain, tail twister; Bob Dougherty, assistant tail twister; Charles Shihadeh, lion tamer; and Ronald Brinton, assistant lion tamer.
- Members of the **Downingtown Little League's** all-star team were: Robert Poussey, John Snyder, Jack Law, Paul Miller, Anthony Antonelli, Thomas Booker, Thomas Yerkes, Robert Stringer, Kenneth Mills, Stanley Sarmento, George Pomento, Edward Klunk, David Radcliffe and George Murphy.
- Winners of the **Home Run Derby** competition at Kerr Park were Steve Shirk, 8-9-year-olds; Bruce Wemmett, 10-11-12-year olds; Jon Hayes, 13-14-15-year-olds. The competition was sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies, the Tastykake Baking Co. and the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board.

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Vintage Ad of the Week

The New
FORD CAR
For Xmas Is Here

What Finer Gift Could You Make

Beautiful new low body lines
Choice of four colors
55 to 65 miles an hour
Remarkable Acceleration
40 horsepower engine
Four-wheel Brakes
Standard, selective gear shift
Hydraulic shock absorbers
20 to 30 miles per gallon of gasoline
Theft-proof coincidental lock
Typical FORD economy and reliability

Come In and See It Today!

*Arrange for Demonstration and
Delivery Date*

John McGowan & Son
DOWNTOWN, PA.

This ad was originally published in the December 15, 1928 edition of *The Archive*.

The Wall That Heals in East Brandywine



The Wall That Heals, a 250-foot long replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, was on display in East Brandywine Community Park for several days last week. The Wall honors the more than 3 million Americans who served in the Vietnam War and bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The exhibit included a mobile education center that displayed photos of the 79 Chester County residents who were killed in Vietnam. The Wall project was co-sponsored by East Brandywine Township and Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Nearly 100 motorcyclists, who were military veterans, participated in an escort for the Wall between Downingtown and East Brandywine, which included a stop for a wreath laying at the Veterans Memorial in Downingtown's Kerr Park.

The 12 veterans from the Downingtown area who were killed in Vietnam, according to the Veterans Memorial in the borough, are: Edward Clarke, William Davidson, Charles Eubank, Kenneth Ivory, Walter Jankowski, John Kwortnik, Richard Myers, J. Lawrence Piersol, Tracy Riffey, James Rylee, Kenneth VanLew and Daniel Yaddock.

To be eligible to be listed on Downingtown's Veterans Memorial, veterans had to serve in the military in times of war, between World War I and the Persian Gulf War, and were a resident of one of these municipalities: Downingtown Borough, East Brandywine, East Caln, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, Wallace and West Bradford Townships.

Group Photo of the Week



Students in this kindergarten class at Beaver Creek School in 1963-64 were, left to right: first row, David Miles, Bryan Boyer, John DiSilvestro; second row, Keith Baen, Kathy Donnon, Nancy Fossett, Darlene Brown, Peter Bonaduce, Joseph Horsey, Letha Casenta, Holly Howard; third row, Tommy Fulton, Timmy Ippolito, Earl Walls, Pamela Bradley, Freddie Porrecca, David Ciarlone, Lucy Myers, Kenny Rodeback, Kim Osborne; fourth row, Perry Neudorff, Diane Piersol, Glenna Plummer, Janice Romanelli, Alan Dorman, Susan Seibert, Brenda Jo March and Miss Thorne, teacher.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

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The Alert Fire Co. will have its annual Bar-B-Que at the fire house, 122 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 13. You can eat-in or take-out. A complete dinner—half of a chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage—costs only \$13.

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Blood Drive

Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Thursday, September 1 at the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up, access: www.downingtowntown.org.

Class Reunion

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

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Vol. 7, No. 11

August 11, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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What area folks were talking about in August 1980

Noted below are more news items originally published 36 years ago in the *East Branch Citizen*:

- Between \$1,500 and \$2,000 had been embezzled from the **Downingtown Little League**, according to Chester County detectives. The missing funds had been stolen from money collected at the concession stand operated at the League's field on Manor Avenue in the borough.
- Officers elected to lead the Helping Hands group at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchlan, were Sarah Bixler, president; Janna Cracas, vice president; Bev Runyen, program chairman; Gail Carmichael, treasurer; Eva Taylor, secretary; Alice Styer, missionaries; Barbara Gottier, special services; Emily Popjoy, hospitality; and Margie Trego, music.
- In a hotly contested see-saw balancing contest at **Wagenseller Park** playground in Glenmoore, the team of Jennifer Ely, Marni Antrim Heather Kirkpatrick and Sharyn Jones was victorious with a record-setting time of three hours and 36 minutes.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 432 Concord Ave., Uwchlan, \$73,000; 1526 Telegraph Road, West Bradford, \$58,800; 3213 Sylvan Drive, Thorndale, \$55,000; 120 Holly Drive, East Brandywine, \$88,800; 329 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$46,000.
- Performances of the Passion Play at **Hopewell United Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, attracted more than 3,000 spectators. Officers of the Hilltoppers, which puts on the Passion Plays, were Ray Hunter, president; Ann Krum, vice president; Joyce Landon, secretary; and Joe and Nancy Hollister, treasurers.
- Members of the **Downingtown United Methodist Church** unanimously approved of plans to build a new church on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, near the Downingtown-East Caln border. The church's building committee, headed by Thomas Brookover, had been working on the plans for two years.
- Downingtown's **Joey DiPietro** won the Junior World Open Pool Tournament in New York City. The 13-year-old Downingtown Junior High School student practiced four hours a day at the Corner Cue pool hall at the corner of Pennsylvania and Wallace Avenues, which was owned by his father, Carmen DiPietro.
- Four Js won the **Downingtown Fast Pitch League** championship, by beating Speedy Print Shop 6-4 in the final games of the league playoffs. Arnie Sten, with three hits, and Bill Mendenhall, who hit a three-run homer, paced the winner's offense. Four Js also won the regular season crown.

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More local news in the summer of 1955

Noted below are items originally published in *The Archive* 61 years ago:

- **Sheeler Chevrolet** moved from the intersection of Lancaster and Manor Avenues in Downingtown to 21 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough.
- The **Lionville Fire Co.** team outpulled the **West Bradford Fire Co.** team in the tug-of-war finals at the Goshen Fair. Members of the Lionville team included Harry and Carl Ruth, Henry Worthington, George Ruark, William Isinger, Jim Murphy, “Windy” Miller, and Jack, Harold and Leroy Trego.
- Officers of the **DHS Parents Club** were Mrs. R.T. Kent. President; Mrs. Herbert Ash, vice president; Mrs. J.P. Kahler, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Bruton, treasurer. Committee chairpersons were Mrs. Clifford Orr, program; Mrs. Lee Hamilton, ways and means; Mrs. Robert Hadfield, publicity; and Mrs. Raymond Schollenberger, membership.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 2**, Downingtown, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe included: Anthony Antonelli, Dexter Carter, Thomas Edge, Mylin Plank, Sabatino Talucci, Joseph May, Philip March, Howard Hopkins, Dellett Norris, John Massimini, John Stine and Richard White.
- Rev. William Fenerty announced plans to expand **St. Joseph’s Catholic School**, Downingtown, to include a ninth grade, which could be a step toward developing a Catholic high school in the area.

Group Photo of the Week



Officers of the Friends of the Downingtown Library group in the early 1970s were, left to right: Mrs. Jill Pettus, president; Mrs. Jane Davidson, vice president; Mrs. R.E. McKibbin, secretary; and Mrs. John Benner. Other members of the group’s executive board were Mrs. T.W. Reinbrecht and Mrs. Michael Golden.

Brief, but important

1. In previous Hist-O-Grams, we told of several locations in Downingtown, Exton and Glenmoore, where volunteer **plane spotters** spent hours, often in an elevated shed, searching the skies for enemy planes flying over the Downingtown area during World War II. Tacked on the shed walls were cards with black silhouettes of enemy and American planes printed on them.

Bud Bruton tells us that another one of the plane spotting sites was the press box of the original DHS football field, now known as DiSerafino Stadium. The plane spotters probably often stood on the roof of the press box.


2. Speaking of World War II, the summer edition of *Immaculata Magazine* includes an interesting article on the war's impact on the area university during that period. And a significant amount of the information in the two-page story is attributed to "World War II and Chester County," which was authored by Marion Piccolomini, secretary of the History Society's board of directors. In case you missed it, you'll find a write-up on Marion's book about life here on the home front at: www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/March%2010%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

It's the Lloyd Avenue bridge over Beaver Creek



Gregg Nelms is the truly perceptive scholar who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the Lloyd Avenue bridge over Beaver Creek, near the Downingtown-Caln Township border. The stone bridge, built in 1919, was improved in recent years. The stone building at the right is the Downingtown Municipal Water Authority's pumping station.

Vintage Ad of the Week

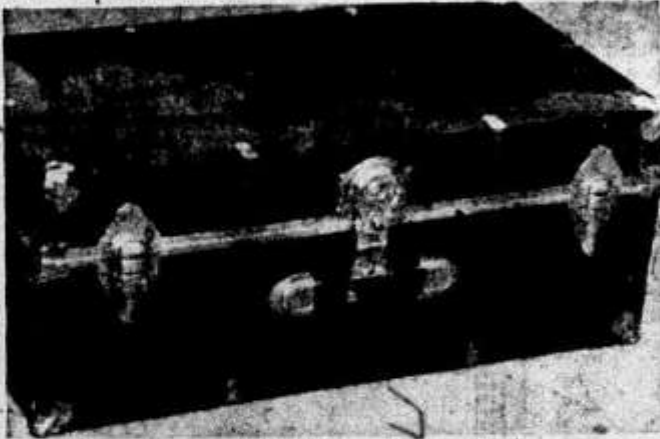


CAMPING HEADQUARTERS

**DOWNINGTOWN
ARMY & NAVY**

112 EAST LANCASTER AVE., DOWNINGTOWN—269-2773

The Best Prices in Chester County!



**BIG 36" FIBRE
FOOT
LOCKER**

\$12.99

31½x17x12
STEEL
FOOT LOCKERS

\$8.44

AIR MATTRESS 1.77—ARMY COTS 4.88


CHOW KIT special 59c

LAUNDRY BAGS 77c	SLEEPING BAGS 5.55	CANTEENS 94c	MESS KITS 1.49	EATING UTENSILS 3-pc. Set Stainless Steel 59c	All Wool O. D. BLANKETS 4.77
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28" Steel

Foot Lockers

\$5.33



This ad was originally published in the August 17, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

An easier way to make a contribution, directly from an IRA, to your church or favorite charity

In 2015, Congress made permanent the ability for individuals to make tax-free contributions directly from their IRAs to their church or favorite non-profit organization. This specific type of distribution is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). When done properly, a QCD will satisfy all or a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) in the year that it is distributed, while not being added to that year's adjusted gross income.

For example, assume you are 72 years old, and your RMD for 2016 is \$5,000 which you are required to take no later than December 31 of this year. After reviewing your financials, you decide that you don't need all the RMD money to help meet your living expenses, and decide that you would like to donate some of the RMD to a local church or non-profit organization, such as the Downingtown Area Historical Society. In April 2017, for example, you take a distribution of \$3,500 and have a check for that amount sent directly to you. And the next month, you have a check for \$1,500 sent directly to your church or favorite non-profit organization. At the end of the year, you will need to count the \$3,500 that you received directly toward your gross income for 2016, but the \$1,500 that was sent directly to the church or non-profit does not get added to your gross income for the year. However, that \$1,500 does count toward satisfying your RMD for 2016.

So, before you take any RMD in 2016 or beyond, remember the needs of your church or favorite non-profit, such as the Downingtown Area Historical Society, and consider making a direct donation.

When considering a Qualified Charitable Distribution, remember these important points:

1. You must be over 70 years of age.
2. The distribution must be made directly to the church or non-profit.
3. A Required Minimum Distribution that you receive and then send directly to a church or non-profit, does not qualify as a QCD.
4. A distribution that goes directly to a church or non-profit can help to satisfy your RMD requirement.
5. A QCD must be a taxable distribution, and there are special rules to consider when your IRA includes non-deductible contributions.
6. Always consult with your financial advisor or tax consultant before making any financial transactions.

This information was provided by Bruton Financial Advisors of Downingtown.

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The Alert Fire Co. will have its annual Bar-B-Que at the fire house, 122 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 13. You can eat-in or take-out. A complete dinner—half of a chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, dessert and beverage—costs only \$13.

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Run For Parks

To register for the Run for the Parks, presented by Hopewell Road Pharmacy, to be held at 9 AM on Saturday, August 20, starting at East Brandywine Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road. Events include a 5K run, a 3K walk, and a 1K kids' run. Entry fee for the Run/Walk is \$25. For more details, see:

www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=574. <http://www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575>

Community Day & Fireworks

East Brandywine Township's Community Day will be held from 11-3 on Saturday, August 20, at East Brandywine Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road. Events include: Shriners clowns, Speed Stack competition, fire company rescue demonstrations, hat rides, martial arts, pony rides, tennis and a car show. Rain date is Sunday, August 21.

Festivities at the park end with the East Brandywine Fire Company's fireworks, beginning at 7 PM with a fireworks show after dark. Donations and sales benefit the East Brandywine Fire Co.

For more details on Community Day, see: www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=414, and for details on the fireworks, see: www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575.

Car & Cycle Show

The Minquas Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary will have its seventh annual Car and Cycle Show at Kerr Park, 11 AM – 2 PM on Saturday, August 20.

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The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Banquet room for rent

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 32

August 18, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

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What local people were talking about in early July 1964

Noted below are news items first published in local papers 52 years ago:

- **Downingtown Borough Council** turned down a request to re-zone an 8-acre tract, bordering Routes 30 and 113, so a 252-apartment complex could be built there.
- More than 75 residents of **West Pikeland Township** came to a supervisors' meeting to voice their opposition to a proposed zoning amendment, which would allow a nursing and convalescent home to be built on a 97-acre tract at Route 113 and Clover Mill Road.
- **Wallace Township** residents were encouraged to hear what its planning commission had done to prepare for the impact of the development of **Marsh Creek State Park**. "We want to protect our residents against improper use and exploitation of our land and preserve the present character of the area as much as possible," said Norman Piersol, chairman of the planning commission.
- Teachers in the **Pickering-Brandywine Joint School District** who attended a reading course at Shippensburg State College were Mary Bennetch, Miriam Bond, Hannah Harper, Freda Johnson, Margaret McClintock and Rebecca Bray.
- Members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** elected these officers: Earl Radcliffe, president; Steve MacNeill, first vice president; William Balderston, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; and Lloyd Swarner, treasurer.
- Officers elected to lead the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown included Barbara Lee, argue; Loretta Beebe, sentinel; Blanche Summers, guide; Betty Long, assistant guide; Katherine Lammey, recorder; Eva Marsh, treasurer; Winnie Hallman, junior regent; Jenny Levensgood, chaplain; Catherine Tucker, senior regent; and Alice Zittle, junior regent.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 29**, Lionville who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe included Gary Morinelli, Andy Parsons, Tom Shreiner, James Young, Steve Behrndt, Gary Cross, Dale Coover, James Roan, Robert Baker, Tim Hertzler, Paul Draper and Raymond Worthington.
- Cadettes in **Girl Scout Troop 67**, Lionville, who earned badges in a Court of Honor, were Helen Bittmann, Jill Corneal, Carol Fowler, Cheryl Hartman, Rosalie Herion, Joyce Mull, Linda Peterson, Patricia Morinelli, Susan Murray, Toni Rossi, Heather Smith, Nancy Sommer, Darlene Windle and Donna Zeltwanger.
- **Downingtown Little League** players who were named to the all-star team included Don Wood, Bill Bricker, Dom Mascherino, Joe Seeds, Joe Petrella, Dan Massimini, Bob Ifert, Jack Hough, Ed Thomas, Rob Whiteman, Gerry Menna, Jack Leonard and Larry Patrizio. And members of the **Downingtown Babe Ruth League** all-star team were Wayne Boggs, Phil Barlow, Mike Bruno, Doug Gindin, George Hilton, Bill Kline, Jim Klunk, Wayne Kofke, Jim and Steve Long, Preston Mercer, Tom Nurthern, Dan Phipps, Dave Robbins and Laverne Thomas.
- The cornerstone for a \$70,000 education building was laid at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glen Moore, as part of the church's 125th anniversary celebration. The church had been known as the West Nantmeal Presbyterian Church in 1839, when it was organized by Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian, the mother church. Members of the anniversary and cornerstone committee were Kenneth Comstock, Mrs. Raymond Beiler, Mrs. Harold Hannum, Margaret Howson, Mrs. Walter Ford, Mrs. Thomas Zuber and Rev. Leonard Bjorkman.

It was Greenleaf's Pharmacy on West Lancaster Avenue



Tim Plank, who grew up in Downingtown and now lives in Dallas, TX, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people to correctly identify the site in the photo above as Greenleaf's Drug Store, across from the railroad station, at 207 West Lancaster Avenue in the borough. Initially established at that address by Capt. George C. Eicholtz in 1859, the drug store was sold to Howard Sides in 1878. In 1929, Sides sold the pharmacy to Raymond Greenleaf, who operated the business until 1964. Greenleaf's was reputed to be the only pharmacy in Pennsylvania that had a "night bell" outside the store so patrons, in need having a prescription filled in the middle of the night, by rousing the pharmacist in his quarters above the store.

Many subscribers were unable to access last week's Hist-O-Gram. We apologize. You still can access the August 11 Hist-O-Gram by clicking on:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2011%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

Also, you can always find the latest Hist-O-Gram on the home page of our website:

What was happening in the Downingtown area 67 years ago

Noted below are news items published in local papers in the early January 1949:

- There were 1,152 students enrolled in the **Downingtown school system**, and more than 300 of them lived in 18 municipalities outside the borough.
- The **Downingtown Fire Department** responded to 60 calls in 1928; 31 of them were outside the borough.
- Elected to the **Downingtown Library's** board of directors were Dr. Thomas Parke, Theodore Griffith, William MacFarlan, Dr. Joseph Huggins, Mrs. Gibson McIlvain, Anna Miller and Mrs. George Fisher.
- New officers of the **Downingtown Young Men's Association** were Allen Hughes, president; John Johnson, vice president; Francis Summers, secretary; and Morris Stevens, treasurer. Future plans included the association's members playing basketball games against a team comprised of Philadelphia Eagles and a squad of Major League baseball players who lived in the Philadelphia area.
- The **Downingtown Sportsmen Club** was seeking youths to help trap rabbits in the borough. The rabbits were to be released in open areas.
- **James Hurtt**, a former borough police officer who now operated the Cottage restaurant at 101 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was appointed as the constable for the East Ward. Hurtt replaced **Ches Glisson**, former borough police chief, who resigned when he took over the former Sheehy's restaurant on East Lancaster Ave.
- Elected as officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** were George Taylor, master; Fred Fisher, overseer; DeWitt Pyle, lecturer; Edwin Smedley, steward; Howard Pyle, assistant steward; Mrs. Warren Moore, chaplain; Isabel Acker, secretary; and Charles Long, gatekeeper.
- **Marshallton School** students, who attended the State Farm Show included Dale Ellingsworth, Harold Trimble, John Everett, Miriam and Russell Ramsay, Joan Romig, Carol Ann Stouff, and Larry, David and Thomas Hoffman.
- Sunday School students at **Glen Moore Methodist Church**, who received perfect attendance awards, were Douglas and Jack Matlack; Richard and Joseph Mason; Thomas Miller, Dorothy, Betty and Delores Simmers, David Grimes, Virginia Burgess, Grier Miller; Billy Houck; Denise Ayers; and Harry Muller.
- The **Downingtown and Chester Valley Community Chest** elected the following officers: Jack Brownstein, president; Richard Warren, first vice president; William Cadbury, second vice president; C.O. Brown, third vice president; Mrs. Gibson McIlvain secretary; and Vinton Smedley, treasurer. Gordon Carpenter and A. J. Ostheimer were appointed directors, and Mrs. John Fisher was named executive secretary.
- The **Downingtown Christmas Committee** reported that over 100 needy children received toys, clothing and candy, and 37 families were given baskets filled with food for a traditional Christmas dinner.
- Mrs. Paul Dowlin, chairman of the **DHS Music Parents** group, said her committee included Mrs. Stanley Fredericks, Mrs. H.C. Kriebel, Mrs. Benjamin Summers, Mrs. Elmer Schruppf, Mrs. James Stauffer, Mrs. Gordon Thomas, Mrs. Leo Hogg, Mrs. Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, Mrs. Russell Davis and Mrs. Paul Detterline.

- New officers of the Chester Springs Camp **Patriotic Sons of America** were William Thompson, president; Frank Cole, vice president; John Ballentine, master of forms; Howard Vail, conductor; Frank McBride, inspector; Raymond McBride, recording secretary; Elmer Holman, guard; Harold Hallman, treasurer and Hibberd Wells, trustee.

- Elected as officers of the Women's Missionary Society at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Mrs. Elmer Ruth, president; Edith Cornwall, vice president; Isabel Acker, secretary; Mrs. Joseph Phipps, treasurer; and Annie Smedley, assistant treasurer.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Future Homemakers of America organization at DHS in 1949 were, left to right: First row, Eleanor Matlack, Freda Seeds, Susanne Popjoy, Mary Trego, Betty Simmers, Christine Shaeffer; second row, Mary Henley, Virginia Popjoy, Martha Matthews, Dorothy Ingram, Joan Sheehan, Mary Smedley, Mazie Smedley; back row, Lois Strouse, Viola Patterson, Alice Trego, Anna Lammey, teacher-advisor Evelyn Thompson, Josephine Rimel, Faye Baldwin.

See you on Saturday at East Brandywine's Community Day

The Historical Society will have a space from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, August 20 at East Brandywine Township's Community Park. Marion Piccolomini, the Historical Society's secretary, will be there from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, to sign copies of her new book "World War II and Chester County," which reveals what life was like in Chester County during World War II. We'll also be selling copies of "Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations, Philadelphia to Harrisburg," which was authored by Jim Sundman, of Downingtown and a member of the Historical Society.

Vintage Ad of the Week

Opportunity Sale

Rotarex Electric Washer

**Regular
Price
\$115.00**



**SAVE
\$15.00**

***The first 3 Washers sold during
this Sale will go for***

\$100.00

ASK FOR DEMONSTRATION

Rotamo Electric Shop

Downingtown, Pa.

This ad first appeared in the April 6, 1929 edition of The Downingtown Archive.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Downingtown Library Programs

Programs offered at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave. in the coming weeks include “Welcome to Kindergarten” at 10 AM on Monday, August 22. It will feature stories and crafts for kids entering kindergarten this fall. And from 10 AM to 1 M on Saturday, September 10, kids can explore and learn about trucks and all kinds of other special vehicles on “Touch a Truck Day.” For more info on all the Library’s programs, check out: www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs.

Run For Parks

To register for the Run for the Parks, presented by Hopewell Road Pharmacy, to be held at 9 AM on Saturday, August 20, starting at East Brandywine Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road. Events include a 5K run, a 3K walk, and a 1K kids’ run. Entry fee for the Run/Walk is \$25. For more details, see: www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=574. <http://www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575>

Community Day & Fireworks

East Brandywine Township’s Community Day will be held from 11-3 on Saturday, August 20, at East Brandywine Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road. Events include: Shriners clowns, Speed Stack competition, fire company rescue demonstrations, hat rides, martial arts, pony rides, tennis and a car show. Rain date is Sunday, August 21. Festivities at the park end with the East Brandywine Fire Company’s fireworks, beginning at 7 PM with a fireworks show after dark. Donations and sales benefit the East Brandywine Fire Co. For more details on Community Day, see: www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=414, and for details on the fireworks, see: www.ebrandywine.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=575.

Expo at VA

Coatesville Veterans Resource Expo will be held Friday, August 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Great Hall (Building 5), 1400 Blackhorse Hill Road, Coatesville. Dozens of community, government and military organizations can assist you in the areas of housing, basic needs, health, finance/benefits or training, employment, education and more.

Boys of the Civil War

Joel A. Moore, former educator, historian, and author, will talk about boys as young as 10 years of age who fought in the American Civil War at the West Historical Society’s meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome, with no charge.

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August 25, 2016

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What local people were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in local papers in the latter part of July 1964:

- **Mayor Creston Shoemaker** told members of the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce that a small hospital in the borough was needed to handle industrial emergencies and on weekends when both of the doctors in the borough were on vacation.

- A meeting was held at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown, to introduce youngsters and their parents to the Bert Bell Memorial Football League. Two teams from Downingtown—a 90-pound squad with a 9-12 year age limit and a 110-pound team with a 10-13 year age limit—were entered into the league. The league already included teams from Strafford, Paoli, Whitemarsh, Rose Tree and Narbeth. (*Editor's Note: Obviously this was beginning of the successful Downingtown Young Whippets program*).

- Residents of **West Pikeland Township** were encouraged to sign a petition that urged the repeal of Act 299, the state law requiring the consolidation of school districts into jointures. And regarding an attempt to amend the zoning code so a nursing and convalescent home could be built in the township, one resident said, "Chester Springs is an oasis in the commercial crass of society. I moved here to get away from industry and commercial business. It may seem like snobbery, but in our society today, there has to be exceptions, especially since we are near the third largest city in the United States. This is a place we discovered as an oasis and we want to keep it that way." There was a murmur of assent from many others in the audience.

- Officers elected to lead the Junior Christian Endeavor group at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Upper Uwchlan, were David Gottier, president; Chip Oatman, vice president; Susan Stephenson, secretary; Judy Dewees, treasurer; and Jimmy Peterson, song leader.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 79**, Glen Moore, who attended the huge National Jamboree at Valley Forge Park, included: Harold and Allen Earnshaw, William and David Funk, Gregg and Jeff Hannum, Raymond Chilcote, Harvey Roeder, Carl Shrader, Bobby Keen, Carl Harple, Martin Haines, Mike Messner and Kenny Terry.

- Members of **Brownie Troop 69**, East Brandywine, who flew up to **Girl Scout Troop 172** included Connie Matthews, Joan Layne, Robin Radcliff, Paula Raysor, Barbara Miller, Cherylen Nellius, Linda Stillwell, Patsy Baldwin, Sandy Fry, Anne Johnson, Sue Nailor, Debbie Mertz, Cindy Baker and Melinda King.

- Elected as officers of the Methodist Youth Fellowship group at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Gina Myers, president; William Barlow, vice president; Barbara Curry, secretary; Jeffrey Swisher, treasurer; Philip Barlow, outreach chairman; Larry Showalter, fellowship chairman; and Thomas Adkins, membership chairman.

- A total of 530 youngsters were involved in the Downingtown Recreation Summer Program. Winners in the hat show at *Beaver Creek playground* were Karen Protivnak, prettiest; Patty Davis and Brenda Murphy, most original; Kenny Rodeback and Grace DiBerardinis, smallest; Eddie Weir and Diane Peterman, most colorful. And Ann Story, Beverly Reutter, Lamonte Wilkerson and Mike Story won the peanut scramble at **East Ward playground**.

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Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission, pictured in front of the Log House in 1976, were, left to right: Gladys Brookover, James McGowan, Norman Pannebaker, Emily Lewis, Dick Radcliff, Enid Brown and Charles Hayes.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Vintage Ad of the Week

LUDWIG'S CORNER INN
Southwest Corner Routes 100 and 401
DINNER SERVED DAILY
LUNCHEON BY RESERVATION
ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR
PRIVATE PARTIES
CLOSED MONDAY
UNDER MANAGEMENT OF
McILVAINE'S LITTLE HOUSE
PHONE EAGLE 15-R-11

This ad first appeared in the January 15, 1949 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

It was the groundbreaking for St. Joseph's School



Mike Lyons is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the 1954 groundbreaking for St. Joseph's Catholic School at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Manor Avenues in the borough. Mike was in the second class to start at the school, and he graduated from there in 1963. The fronts of the houses in the photo's background were located on Downing Avenue. The building site had been home of the Downingtown Little League for several years; the league's baseball diamond was moved further up Manor Avenue, where it's still used by the Little League today.

What was happening here in late January 1949

Noted below are news items published in local papers 67 years ago:

- **Pepperidge Farms**, of Norwalk, CT, "large wholesale distributors for health bread," leased 30,000 square feet of the Acorn Building on Chestnut Street in the borough. Equipment for the operation was being shipped to Downingtown, and Pepperidge officials hoped that the plant would be running by June 1. Ultimately, it would have a three-shift baking operation, involving between 200 and 400 employees.
- Eugenia Carter and Lillian Hammond, eighth graders who lived in Marshallton, travelled to Washington, DC, to witness the **inauguration of President Harry Truman**, while several of their classmates went to JoAnne LeFevre's house to watch the inaugural ceremonies on TV.
- Chosen as leaders of **St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church**, Lionville, were: Arlene Davis, organist; Mrs. George Graham, assistant organist and publicity chairman; Anna Dewees, treasurer; William Whitely, church secretary; Heber Wilson, elder; William Peterman, deacon; and Emmet Gordon, trustee.
- Members of the **Future Homemakers of America at DHS** from Lionville, who won prizes at the State Farm Show in Harrisburg included Caroline Matthews, for her sponge cake

and her butter cake; and Mary and Mazie Smedley, for their entries in the canned goods competition.

- Downingtown optometrist **Dr. Horace Tracton** offered to examine the eyes of students in the Downingtown School District without charge, when he spoke to the Mothers Club of the West Ward School.
- Ralph Wilson and Donald Mitchell were asked by the **Marshallton School PTA** to draw up a petition, which was to be presented to State Representative Amos Leisey, requesting that School Bus bill be amended. The amendment would have required school bus drivers to exit the bus and personally ensure the children's safety when the kids had to cross a road. Leisey's original bill only required vehicles travelling in all directions to stop and remain at least 10 feet away from the bus while student-passengers safely get on and off a school bus.
- Despite a valiant effort in the fourth quarter, the **DHS boys' basketball team** lost a 54-53 heartbreaker to West Chester. The Warriors were leading 40-31 at the end of the third quarter, when Sonny Milano and Ron Hogg paced a sensational 22-14 comeback in the final frame. Hogg (11 points), Milano (12), Bill Hayes (11) and Joe Sciarretta (10) led the Whippet offense.
- The Mothers Club of **East Ward School**, Downingtown, agreed to raise funds for new playground equipment. Fifth graders Virginia Law, Carol Lee Bruton and Marcia Ann Chambers played piano selections at the club's meeting.
- Officers of the choir at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, were Parke Moore, president; Weldin Bicking, vice president; Mrs. Morris Jackson, secretary; and Marjorie Windle, treasurer.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Summer Jam

Downingtown's next Summer Jam Session, brought to you by the Downingtown Main Street Association and Kimberton Whole Foods will be held from 6-10 PM at Friday, August 26 in the Concert Gazebo at Kerr Park. I will include live music, food, local crafts and more!

Clam Bake

Lionville Fire Co. will have annual Clam Bake from 1 -7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 4. Tickets are: \$40 for 3 Dozen clams; all you can eat corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, Fred's homemade clam chowder; drinks, including beer. \$20 kids' (3-12) tickets do not include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament. For details, see:

www.lionvillefire.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=437.

Barley Sheaf Players

The Barley Sheaf Players, a community theatre at 810 North Whitford Road in Lionville, will present "Hay-Fever," where four unsuspecting guests of the Bliss family discover that a weekend in the idyllic English countryside can be anything but blissful. This witty comedy of manners becomes a hilarious, roaring 20s farce. Ticket Prices: adults, \$17; students (18 and under) and seniors (60 and over), \$13 Call 610-363-7075 to reserve seats. For more details, check out: www.barleysheaf.org/Show.aspx/99/Hay-Fever.

Teri's Run

The 15th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk for Scleroderma will be held at 7 PM on Friday, September 9 in Downingtown. Teri's Run is dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. Details and online registration are available via: www.terisrun.org.

Downingtown Library Programs

Programs offered at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave. in the coming weeks include: On “Touch a Truck Day,” kids can explore and learn about trucks and all kinds of other special vehicles from 10 AM to 1 M on Saturday, September 10. For more info on all the Library’s programs, check out: www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs.

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Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Thursday, September 1 at the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up, access: www.downingtown.org.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1966 will celebrate its 50th Class Reunion from 7-11 PM on Friday September 23, at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, www.golfdowningtown.com
For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or email goo1966@verizon.net, or call 610-745-0864.

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Banquet room for rent

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An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 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.



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

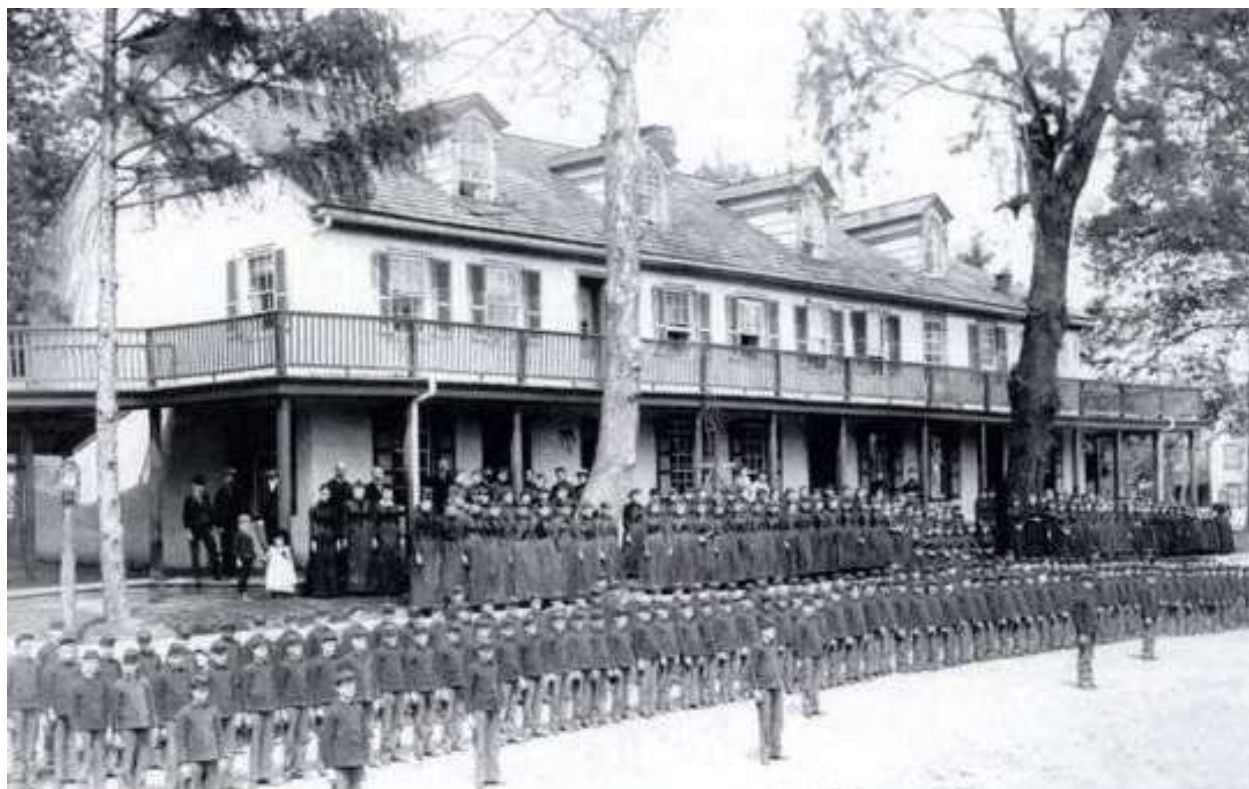
www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 34

September 1, 2016

Where and What Is This?



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Here's how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

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What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of September 1980:

- The Downingtown Area Education Association, the collective bargaining unit for 374 teachers employed by the Downingtown Area School District, **went on strike** on September 4, and the district's 7,500 students got an extended summer vacation. The school board's "final offer" in a proposed three-year contract, which included a 10.4 percent increase the first year; a 9.4 percent hike the second year; and an 8.4 percent increase the third year. Negotiations continued during the strike's second week. The board's proposed package meant that a new teacher with a bachelor's degree would receive \$10,795 a year; a teacher with a master's degree and five years' experience would earn \$14,925; and a teacher with 10 years' experience, plus a master's degree, would get \$17,435.
- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, noted in his weekly column that the number of students enrolled in the school district **increased by 18 percent** in recent years. He also noted that the district would send students to the Chester County Intermediate Unit's Alternative School for the first time. The Alternative School was established to provide an option for students who had difficulty in adjusting to regular school experiences and who had special needs.
- Brian Formica was appointed chairman of the borough's **Up With Downingtown** committee, which was established to identify and attempt to solve community problems such as parking and housing.
- Coach Sally Anderson's **DHS field hockey team** had four letter winners—Julie Sten, Amy Horne, Danine DiBernardi and Sherri Sarmiento— among 17 varsity players, who had a 7-4 record in Ches-Mont action in 1979.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 327 Penwyllt Court, Uwchlan, \$59,800; 260 Corner Ketch-Lyndell Road, East Brandywine, \$49,900; 33 Creek Road, Glenmoore, \$62,500; 459 Spruce Drive, West Whiteland, \$96,987; 1502 Bondsville Road, Caln, \$40,000; 214 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$45,900; 1506 Hillcrest Drive, West Bradford, \$64,000; 8 Downing Road, East Caln, \$133,000.
- East Caln Township supervisors turned down Landhope Farms' application to build a 24/7 **convenience store** with three gas pumps on Route 113, between Woodmont Drive and Garris Road, because residents in the neighborhood said the store wasn't needed and it would create more traffic problems.
- **DHS football coach** Chic Chiccino cited the play of Teddy Robinson, Bruce Tiller, Bill Pitkin, Chet Eagles, Mike Bartone and Chris Goerlitz in a scrimmage against Conestoga.
- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown-Uwchlan Babe Ruth League** were Jack Oberle, president; Bob Stevens, vice president; Bill Hall, secretary; Ken Dunn, treasurer; Tom Donovan, player agent; Ron Savastio, equipment manager; and Paul Boggs, publicity chairman.
- Whippet coach Paul Hurley said he would be "very disappointed" if the **DHS soccer squad** was not a contender for the Ches-Mont League title. Returning lettermen included Vince Forgione, Kurt Kessler, Mike Pastino, Joe Woodward, Taylor Ward, Dale Russell, Tom Urban, Jeff Carey, Frank Pechin, Garry Johnson, Bob Trauger, Vic Johnson and Dave DiEugenio. Although Forgione's goal gave Downingtown a 1-0 lead in the first period, and Pastino scored in the third frame, the **DHS soccer squad** lost its opener to Penncrest by a 3-2 margin.

It's the intersection of Routes 113 and 30 in the borough



Don Lynn is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the intersection Uwchlan Avenue (Route 113) and East Lancaster Avenue (Route 30) in the borough. We suspect the photo was taken in the 1960s, before the New East Ward School (the school district's first Sixth Grade Center) was added to the rear of the Old East Ward School.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

What was happening here in September of 1955

Noted below are news items published in the *Downingtown Archive* 51 years ago:

- Plans for a **drive-in movie theatre** on Route 100 in Exton, with a 700-car capacity, were unveiled at a West Whiteland Township supervisors' meeting.
- **Mary Fazzini** received the Florence Nightingale award and was named the best all-around student nurse during the Chester County School of Nursing's commencement exercises.
- Dan Tabas announced that the **Memphis Can Co.** leased 25,000 square feet of plant space near Boot Road. The cans were to be produced for the Pillsbury mill in the adjoining building. It was estimated that the can plant would employ 1,000 people.
- New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Norman Sanders, Mrs. Edward Young, Mrs. Quayle Barlow, Mrs. Ernest Fieni, Rea Swarner, Mrs. Edward Foreman and Mrs. James Kinloch.
- Members of the committee responsible for the construction of **St. James Episcopal Church's** \$100,000 parish house were Lucy Lloyd, Anna McI. Miller, Scott Maddux, Charles Perrin, Stanley Landis, James Landis and Mrs. Neils Nelson.
- Officers of the newly formed **Future Teachers of America** chapter at DHS were Irvin Rubincam, president; Joan Piersol, vice president; Peggy McCausland, secretary; and Nancy Hadfield, treasurer.
- Enrollment in the **Wallace Township School District** grew so much that it had to re-open the one-room Seminary School.

Vintage Ad of the Week



DOWNINGTOWN PARK

330 East Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown
Chester County's Most Desirable Apartments

Color  Appliances

Rentals From **\$95.00**

**Deluxe Nylon
WALL-TO-WALL
CARPETING**
included with each
apartment

WHERE ELSE WILL YOU FIND ALL THIS?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● GE Refrigerator, Garbage Disposal, Electric Range● GE Air Conditioning and Individually Controlled Hot Water Heat● Venetian Blinds, Screens and Coin Operated Laundry Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Loads of Off-Street Parking● Hall Foyer and Court Lighting Through Evening● Adjacent to Shopping Center, Schools, Churches● Expressway Minutes Away
--	--

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Managing Realtor
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This ad was originally published in the July 10, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

Group Photo of the Week



Sporting their new uniforms in the photo above are members of the Alert Fire Company's fire police unit sometime in the 1930s. They included, left to right: Clarence Clarkson, William Backenstose, Sr., Marcus Ward, Gerald Lyons, Harry Paul and Paul Backenstose. Each of them was packing heat, although their guns and holsters are difficult to see in this photo because they blend in with the dark uniforms.

Miss a Hist-O-Gram in August?

If you missed any of the Hist-O-Grams we released in August, here's how you can still access them:

August 4: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%204%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

August 11: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2011%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

August 18: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2018%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

August 25: www.downtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/August%2025%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.



Woody Sbei is shown blowing out the candles on the cake at his 100th birthday celebration given by fellow members of the Lookin' Good lunch group, which gets together every Thursday at Pronto Restaurant in Thorndale. State Rep. Harry Lewis Jr. presented a congratulatory proclamation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Woody Sbei celebrates 100th birthday

Querino “Woody” Sbei, , a son of Rose and Albert Sbei, who was born in Downingtown on August 24, 1916, recently celebrated his 100th birthday. A 1936 graduate of Downingtown High School, Woody was captain of the gymnastics team, manager of the football team, and a pole vaulter and broad jumper on the track and field team.

He married Mary Farnum in St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Downingtown on September 6, 1939. The Sbei family now includes four children—Eileen, Doreen, Marlene and Joseph—nine grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. After working in construction for his uncle in Ohio for several years, Woody began a career with the Philadelphia Electric Co. in 1944. He retired from PECO in 1984, as a supervisor.

Woody passed Federal Communications Commission examinations, to earn an Amateur Radio license in 1952, and he continues to hold that license. In the early years, he enjoyed building his own amateur radio equipment, antennas and power supplies to use with his radio gear. He loved to climb towers and do his own antenna work, as well as for other ham radio operators. His favorite means of chatting with people as far away as South Africa and New Zealand was by employing his expertise in high-speed Morse Code. He was an active member for many years of two ham radio organizations.

Please come to our Clip/Paste sessions

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste sessions, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, September 4. The session, which will involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Community Day

Caln Township's Community Day will be held from 3-8:30 PM on Saturday, September 10 on G.O. Carlson Blvd., between Municipal and Thornridge Drives. Activities and events will include fireworks, a beer garden, a petting zoo, pony rides, moon bounces, a zip line, a dunk tank, and a car smash. For more info, check out: www.calntownship.org/details.html.

Clam Bake

Lionville Fire Co. will have annual Clam Bake from 1 -7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 4. Tickets are: \$40 for 3 Dozen clams; all you can eat corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, Fred's homemade clam chowder; drinks, including beer. \$20 kids' (3-12) tickets do not include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament. For details, see: www.lionvillefire.org/apps/public/news/newsView.cfm?News_ID=437.

Barley Sheaf Players

The Barley Sheaf Players, a community theatre at 810 North Whitford Road in Lionville, will present "Hay-Fever," where four unsuspecting guests of the Bliss family discover that a weekend in the idyllic English countryside can be anything but blissful. This witty comedy of manners becomes a hilarious, roaring 20s farce. Ticket Prices: adults, \$17; students (18 and under) and seniors (60 and over), \$13 Call 610-363-7075 to reserve seats. For more details, check out: www.barleysheaf.org/Show.aspx/99/Hay-Fever.

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Programs offered at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave. in the coming weeks include: On "Touch a Truck Day," kids can explore and learn about trucks and all kinds of other special vehicles from 10 AM to 1 M on Saturday, September 10. For more info on all the Library's programs, check out: www.downingtownlibrary.org/upcoming-programs.

Boys of the Civil War

Joel A. Moore, former educator, historian, and author, will talk about boys as young as 10 years of age who fought in the American Civil War at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome, with no charge.

Library Love

Roberts Subaru will sponsor the Library Love fun night from 6-9 PM on Thursday, September 29 at the Downingtown Country Club. In addition to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, there will be auctions and a raffle. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds go to the Downingtown Library. For more info, see: <http://downingtown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/LibraryLove9-29-16.jpg>,

Artists & Crafters Wanted

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Blood Drive

Borough of Downingtown will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Thursday, September 1 at the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building. To sign up, access: www.downingtowntown.org.

Fall Fest

The annual Fall Fest, sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce and presented by the Victory brewing Co. and the Borough of Downingtown, will be held from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, September 25 on Green Street and East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown. For details, see: <http://downingtowntownfallfest.com/index.html>.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1966 will celebrate its 50th Class Reunion from 7-11 PM on Friday, September 23, at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, www.golfdowntowntown.com. For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or email goo1966@verizon.net, or call 610-745-0864.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1986 will have its 30th Reunion, from 6-10 PM on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Brickside Grille, 540 Wellington Square, Exton. For more info, email dhs86reunion@gmail.com or see the DHS Class of 1986 Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/113326642077578/.

Trimbleville Historical Marker

Friends of Martin's Tavern invites everyone to join them in the unveiling of the Trimbleville historical marker at 311 Broad Run Road, West Bradford. The marker commemorates the role the hamlet of Trimbleville played in the Revolutionary War, and in the cultural heritage of colonial America. The program & dedication will begin at 1 PM on Sunday, September 11.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtowntown-farmers-market>.

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Vol. 7, No. 35

September 8, 2016

Where and What Is This?



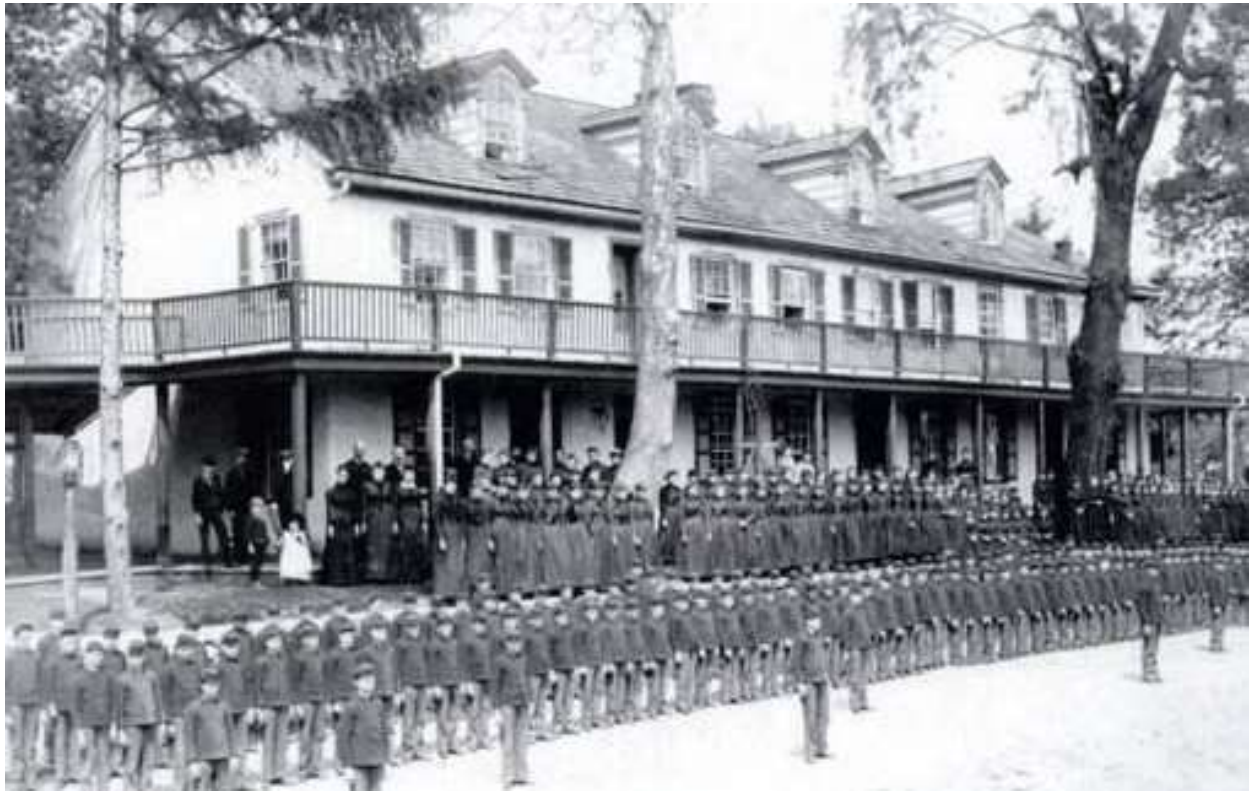
The first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Teachers' strike continued through September

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of September 1980:

- Although the School Board and the Downingtown Area Education Association (the teachers' collective bargaining unit) claimed "substantial progress" had been made, the 374 teachers in the Downingtown Area School District **continued their strike** through the end of September. And there were no reported incidents when substitute teachers and school buses crossed picket lines around the high school when 550 DHS seniors reported for classes on September 23. Classes offered were English, mathematics, social studies, science, and physical education. Some of the classes at DHS were taught by school district principals and administrators. Classes in other subjects were to be made up when the strike was over. Also, principals and other district administrators took over responsibility for DHS's fall sports and marching band programs.
- Harold Ziserman, who had served on the **Wallace Township** board of supervisors from 1972 through 1977, was appointed to the board, replacing Kenneth Comstock, who had resigned because he was moving from Glenmoore. However, Ziserman said he would only serve one year, to complete Comstock's unexpired term.
- **Speedy Print Shop** won the Downingtown Slo-Pitch League for the second consecutive year by winning three out of five games in playoffs against Burroughs. Speedy's Dean Kaley was the winning pitcher in the fifth game. The Printers' played long ball in the playoffs, hitting a total of 13 homers. Those who hit round-trippers were: Carl Bleacher four; Ron Dankanich, three; Larry Cornell, two; and Butch Scott, Kaley, John Yaroze and Joe Ballentine, one each.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 100 Governor's Circle, East Brandywine, \$74,500; 394 Devon Drive, Uwchlan, \$70,375; 1652 Carlisle Road, West Bradford, \$56,820; 447 Spruce Drive, West Whiteland, \$88,050; 305 Manor Avenue, Downingtown, \$74,500; 11 Lisa Drive, Caln, \$45,390; 519 Saybrooke Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$90,585.
- Those who received outstanding service plaques at the annual banquet of the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** were John Piersol, Chester Smith, Corrine O'Neill, Dot Piersol, Scott Piersol, John Schmidt and Rich O'Neill.
- Former DHS football star **Charlie Way** was honored before the Penn State-Nebraska game at University Park on September 27, 1980 because that was the 60th anniversary of the first time the Nittany Lions faced the Cornhuskers, which Penn State won 20-0. Way scored one TD and later "broke the game open" with a 60-yard run. He was named to Walter Camp's 1920 All-America team; Notre Dame's George Gipp was the other halfback.
- The **DHS tennis team**, coached by Dr. Walter Kottmeyer due to the teachers' strike, opened its season with a win over St. Pius X. Whippets who swept the doubles competition, were Debbie Hartman-Vera Kockler, Rochelle Buhr-Cindy Lichok, and Jane Gerlach-Arlene Murtaugh. Singles winners for DHS were Sara Nothstine and Kathleen Gillooly.
- Ed Spang, acting coach of the **DHS soccer team**, was "disappointed" with the Whippets' 1-1 tie with Boyertown because "we dominated play." Mike Pastino scored Downingtown's lone goal, with an assist by Kurt Kessler.
- Members of the **Pennypacker Country Club** swim team, who were named as the top competitors in their age brackets, were Lauren Gardiner, Rod Bell, Lisa Myers, Paula West, Jeff Ungvary, Steve Petrie, Cathy Palski, Mike Ungvary, Maribeth Ficca and Charles Messa.

It was an orphanage at Yellow Springs for Civil War vets' kids



Dan Lindley is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above, as the state-run orphanage for children of Civil War veterans in the village of Yellow Springs, which was operated in the Washington building between 1868 and 1912 in West Pikeland. The boys, wearing military-style uniforms, are lined up in front, and the girls are in front of the porch. The Washington building on Art School Road, near Route 113, had also been used as a hospital during the Revolutionary War and a health spa in the 18th Century. And between 1916 and 1952, the village served as the site of a country art school operated in the summer by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. From 1952 until 1974, it was the headquarters of the Good News Productions movie studio, which created over 400 films, including the sci-fi cult film classic "The Blob." Since 1974, Historic Yellow Springs Inc. has preserved many of the village's original structures and educates visitors about its unique past. For more info on Yellow Springs, see: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacheste/chester_sos.htm.

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Vintage Ad of the Week



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WALLPAPERS
D. Schultz — Asam — Imperial — York
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VINYLS Walltex — Sanitas — Varlar
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Original Gross Clothes — Burlaps — Silks — Satins — Murals

FREE Fast Delivery
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EV GILL'S
DOWNINGTOWN WALLPAPER & PAINT
PENNSYLVANIA & WALLACE AVES., DOWNINGTOWN

This ad was first published in the September 7, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

What local people were talking about 87 years ago

Noted below are news items published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the Spring of 1929:

- Members of the **Minquas Fire Co.** voted to spend about \$12,000 to upgrade its service performance and improve the fire house. The projected costs included \$3,000 to purchase a “fine modern squad wagon,” and \$3,300 to be used to install three bowling alleys on the ground floor. Also, the pool tables were to be moved up to the second floor, and entrance to the gymnasium upstairs would be limited to the west side of the fire house.
- A campaign to raise \$500 for uniforms, to be worn by the Downingtown **American Legion Post’s** firing squad on ceremonial occasions such as veterans’ burials, was begun.
- Benjamin Markward, **Downingtown police chief**, handed in his resignation after being suspended for unknown reasons by Downingtown’s burgess. Subsequently, he was hired as a salesman by the **B. F. Leaman & Sons** car (Hudson and Essex) dealership at 520 E. Lancaster Avenue in the borough.
- Some 30 **DHS seniors** in the Class of 1929 were expected to graduate in commencement ceremonies at the Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue. Dewitt Essick was the valedictorian and Norman Algier was the salutatorian.
- The Boys Work Committee of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**, chaired by Raymond Greenleaf, put on a program for local boys over the age of 14 in the DHS auditorium. In addition to a magic act, a concert by the high school band, and an illustrated lecture on birds and mammals, the program included the awarding of medals to Oliver Nichols, who won the Downingtown and Chester County marbles championships, and would compete for the state title.



Tom Lee donates vintage Alert Fire Co. parade uniform shirt to Historical Society

Tom Lee, who has served in leadership positions with the Alert Fire Company in Downingtown for nearly 50 years, recently donated a vintage parade uniform shirt from his personal collection of firefighting memorabilia.

The shirt had been owned and worn by Arthur Glauner in the early 20th Century. A community leader, Glauner (1877-1974) was the Alert Fire Company’s financial secretary for several decades. He also served on Borough Council in the early 20th Century, and was president of the Brandywine Building and Loan Association during the post-World War II era.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS basketball team in 1930 were, left to right: front row, Nelson Norris, Donald Dixon, George Snyder, Earl Fulton and Harry Deets; back row, Earl Entrekin, Harry Deets, Coach Merle Brown, Joe Sciaretta and James Mahan.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

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Church History Tour

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture and tour on the 200-year history of Hopewell United Methodist Church, located at 825 Hopewell Road from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, September 18.

Blood Drive

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be conducted at the East Brandywine township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, from 2-7 PM on Wednesday, September 21. Call 1-899-733-3267 to schedule your appointment.

Downingtown Library Programs

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Fall Fest

The annual Fall Fest, sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce and presented by the Victory brewing Co. and the Borough of Downingtown, will be held from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday,

September 25 on Green Street and East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown, For details, see: <http://downingtowntfallfest.com/index.html>.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1966 will celebrate its 50th Class Reunion from 7-11 PM on Friday, September 23, at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, www.golfdowningtowntown.com. For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or email goo1966@verizon.net, or call 610-745-0864.

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1986 will have its 30th Reunion, from 6-10 PM on Saturday, Sept. 10, at the Brickside Grille, 540 Wellington Square, Exton. For more info, email dhs86reunion@gmail.com or see the DHS Class of 1986 Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/113326642077578/.

Trimbleville Historical Marker

Friends of Martin's Tavern invites everyone to join them in the unveiling of the Trimbleville historical marker at 311 Broad Run Road, West Bradford. The marker commemorates the role the hamlet of Trimbleville played in the Revolutionary War, and in the cultural heritage of colonial America. The program & dedication will begin at 1 PM on Sunday, September 11.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtownt-farmers-market>.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, 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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 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.



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 36

September 15, 2016

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Here's how **YOU** can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you'd like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org, and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

What was happening here in early August 1964

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers 52 years ago:

- Pittsburgh Steel Co. announced plans to acquire a 50,000 square-foot structure in the Downingtown area from Tabas Enterprises. The firm said it would produce steel rods, wire and wire products. And **Pepperidge Farms Inc.** executives said they planned to build a 40,000 square-foot addition to their building on Chestnut Street, making room for another oven and more warehouse space.
- Trained drivers of the **Minquas Fire Co. ambulance corps** included Hallan Usher, Ernest and Duer Smedley, Lew Pyle, Charles Bloom, William Wilmot, Joseph Miller, Earl Gillespie, James Mitchell, Harry Shreiner, Earl Parker, Gene Reinhardt, Robert Wright and Frank Baen. When the service was established in 1923, the Minquas ambulance was a used car which had been modified to transport the sick and injured. But by 1964, the ambulance was a “fully-equipped,” \$14,000 Cadillac that responded to an average of 20 calls a month.
- The teaching staff at the **Downingtown Friends School** included Mrs. Josie Caruthers, nursery; Mrs. Frances Ash, kindergarten; Mrs. Lucille Germain, first grade; and Mrs. Jeanette Elston, second and third grades.
- Members of the **Lionville Fire Co.** who won the tug-of-war championship at the Goshen Fair were George Ruark, Harold Trego, John Trego, Jake Dewees, Louis Dewees, Charles Young, Francis Hill, Carl Ruth, Fred Schlimme and Howard Edwards.
- A survey of residents by the **Wallace Township** planning commission determined that: 92 percent of the 293 residences were single-family homes; 133 of the families had two cars, 88 had one car, and 18 didn’t own a car.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52, Marshallton**, who earned junior leader training patches included Charles Fitzgerald, Larry Amoriello, Joe Kirkner, Daniel Hoxter, Peter Griggs, Ronald Cogan and Douglas Barr.
- The teaching staff of the primary grades at the Vacation Bible School, conducted by **St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, Lionville**, included: Martha Matthews, Cathy Reichard, Mary Ellen Fagley, Mrs. Dale Coover, Mrs. Floyd Reber, Mrs. Lawrence Borne and Linda Davis.
- Winners of the flower show contest at the **East Ward School playground** were Beverly Reutter, Kathy Murphy, Pam Osborn and Terri Sheehan.
- Approximately 150 firemen from nine companies responded to a fire that destroyed the **Green Bank School barn** and several pieces of farm equipment, owned by Mrs. Joseph Gibbons in Upper Uwchlan. The fire also attracted about 200 motorists, whose vehicles caused a huge traffic jam, making it difficult for fire trucks to reach the scene.
- An Olympic-size swimming pool was the latest addition to **Camp Indian Run**, the 152-acre camp site in Wallace Township, operated by the Philadelphia Girl Scout Council.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

It was a cabin at the YMCA Camp in West Bradford



Tommy Lee is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the structure in the photo above as one of the cabins at the YMCA Camp in West Bradford. The camp was operated in West Bradford, near the Downingtown border, from 1895 until 1984 by the Philadelphia YMCA. Edward P. Dwight, then president of the Chester Steel Casting Co., donated 465 acres of his farmland to be developed into the camp. The former camp site now is the Brandywine Ridge development.

What local people were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspaper in early February 1949:

- Borough Council agreed to increase the **amusement tax** by 10 percent, which was applied to admission fees for sports events, movies and theatre shows, and use of pinball machines.
- The **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club's** "Mammies Minstrel" drew a capacity audience to the West Ward School auditorium. Mrs. Robert Hadfield was the interlocutor, and Mrs. Harry Simmons, Mrs. Arthur Anderson, Mrs. Horace Miller and Mrs. Donald White were the "endmen." Members of the chorus were Mrs. Ogier Norris, Mrs. Charles Menas, Mrs. James Newcombe, Mrs. Robert Williams, Mary Jane Pawling and Jane Fennelly.
- Downingtown elementary school students, who participated in a **music recital** included piano soloists Tommy Brookover, Kathleen D'Attilio, Ross Ney, Gayle Miller, Helen Burkhardt, Sallie Johnson, Gerry Deets, Jean Bicking Susie Norris, Mary Jane Jameson, Mina DiBerardinis, Virginia Nixdorf, Gerald Williams, Marcia Ann Chambers and Carol Lee Bruton.

- DHS students chosen to participate in the Southeastern **District Chorus** concert at Upper Darby High School were Mena Cozzone, Margaret Sciarretta, Marguerite Ciarlone, Eleanor Detterline, Joan Lenhardt, Mae Hertel, John Shisler, Gordon Carpenter and Ronald Hogg.

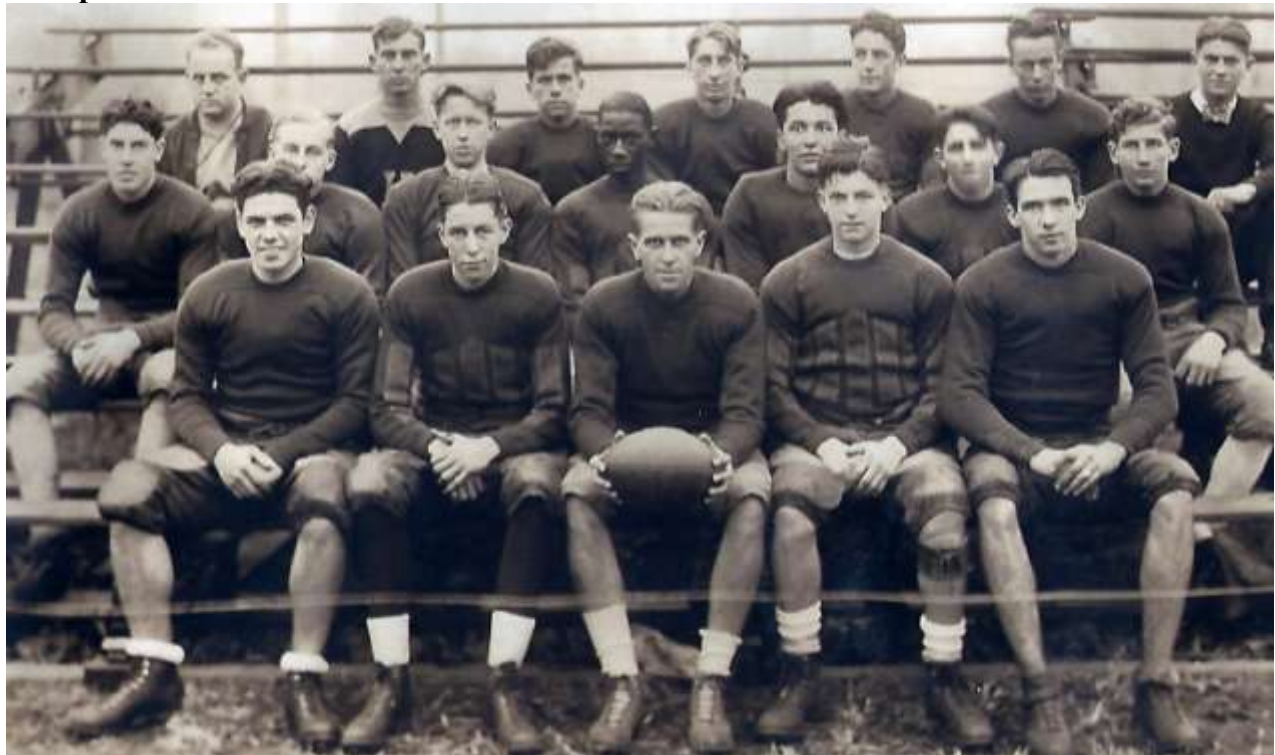
- **Marshallton Girl Scouts** who were appointed as patrol leaders were: Troop 10, led by Dorothy Gray—Betty Palmer, Glenna Hurley and Nancy Ford; Troop 34, led by Mrs. Marshall Chambers and Vera Woodward—June Ellingsworth, Sue Palmer and Jo-Anne LeFevre.

- Officers of **Messiah Lutheran Church's** Ladies Bible Class were Mrs. Joseph Streamer, president; Mrs. James Lynn, secretary; Mrs. Karl Klunder, treasurer; and Mrs. Fred Runk and Mrs. Edward Murray, teachers.

- More than 150 people attended the deer and bear banquet put on by the **Glen Valley Hunt Club of Glen Moore**. Kenneth Comstock and Leroy McConnell furnished the deer, and Guy Mercer provided the bear. Following the dinner, Betty Jean Halpin entertained with several dance acts, and the Guy Mercer Orchestra played music for dancing. The Glen Moore Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary served the meal.

- **Lionville Cub Scouts**, who attended a National Scout Week service at Grove Methodist Church, were Robert Peoples, Marvin Jenkins, John Benner, Robert Ross, Jerry Stinson, Larry Stine and Robert Spies.

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS Football team ca. 1929- 1930 were, according to a list of names on the back of the original photo, left right: front row, Harold Forbes, George Snyder, Earl Fulton, Nelson Norris, Donald Dixon; middle row, Bill Showalter, Newlin Moore, Ross Dague, Nip Westmoreland, June Pawling, unknown and unknown; top row, Coach Spurgeon Gingrich, Assistant Coach ? Allen, Ralph Katherman, Parker Irwin, Charles Horning, Harry Deets and Manager James Mahan.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**before the flies
move in —**



**SCREEN WITH
PEARL Wire Cloth**
Outwears Galvanized Wire Cloth Several Times

Don't Wait

Shut out mosquitoes and flies.
They are carriers of diseases.
Keep them out with PEARL Wire Cloth.
Due to its metallic coating, PEARL is a guarantee
of beauty and long life—the most handsome and
economical screen wire cloth.
We carry the genuine—two copper wires in the
selvage. PEARL outwears galvanized cloth several
times.

OIL, GAS and ELECTRIC STOVES
LAWN MOWERS GARDEN TOOLS
GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS
GENERAL ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS

Theo. M. Griffith & Son
DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

This ad was originally published in the May 4, 1929 edition of *The Archive*.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Clothing Drive

There will be a drive for fall/winter clothing at the Christian Faith Fellowship, 156 Wallace Ave., Downingtown. Drop-off dates are 5:30-7:30 PM on Wednesday, Sept. 14 and 21; 11 AM-1 PM on Thursday, Sept. 15 and 22; 10 AM-12 noon on Saturday, Sept. 24. For more info, check out:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/CFFClothingDriveSept2016.pdf>.

Child Safety Seat Checks

The PA State Police will have certified child passenger safety technicians checking car seats for proper installation at the West Bradford Fire Co. substation, 1385 Campus Drive, from 2-8 PM on Wednesday, **Sept. 21**. Parents and caregivers will be educated on how to choose the right car seat and how to properly install them in their vehicles.

This event is part of the National Child Passenger week and is free to the public. Appointments are not required, but are recommended. For appointments, contact Trooper Gonzalez at (610) 486-6181.

Blood Drive at St. Elizabeth's

A Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, at Route 100 and Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan, will be held from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 24. You can register via: www.redcrossblood.org. For more info, call Matthew Ward at 610-873-0275.

5K and Fun Run

The Downingtown Community Education Foundation will host a Super Hero 5K race and a 1-mile fun run on Saturday, September 24 in the Town Center at Eagleview. The fun run will be at 9 AM and the 5K will start at 9:15 AM. For more details, see: www.dcef.org or contact Jackie Fenn at jfenn@decf.org.

Church History Tour

The East Brandywine Township Historical Commission will present a lecture and tour on the 200-year history of Hopewell United Methodist Church, located at 825 Hopewell Road from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, September 18.

Blood Drive in E. Brandywine

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be conducted at the East Brandywine township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, from 2-7 PM on Wednesday, September 21. Call 1-899-733-3267 to schedule your appointment.

Boys of the Civil War

Joel A. Moore, former educator, historian, and author, will talk about boys as young as 10 years of age who fought in the American Civil War at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the West Caln Township Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome, with no charge.

Library Love

Roberts Subaru will sponsor the Library Love fun night from 6-9 PM on Thursday, September 29 at the Downingtown Country Club. In addition to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, there will be auctions and a raffle. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds go to the Downingtown Library. For more info, see:

<http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/LibraryLove9-29-16.jpg>,

Artists & Crafters Wanted

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

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Vol. 7, No. 37

September 22, 2016

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What locals were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the August 26, 1948 edition of *The Archive*:

- The Downingtown School District's elementary school teachers that school year were: **West Ward School**—Marjorie Thorne, kindergarten; Helen Walk, first grade; Marjorie Webb, first and second grades; Lillian Noll, second grade; Emily Lewis, third grade; Irma Miller, third and fourth grades; Jean Priest, fourth grade; Madeline Laird, fifth grade; Ralph Emery, fifth grade; Florence Moore, sixth grade; Theresa Jones, first through fifth grades in the segregated (African-American students) Union classroom; Dorothy York, special class..

- **East Ward School**— Marjorie Thorne, kindergarten; Mary Warren, first grade; Margaret Rimel, first and second grade; Sara Way, second grade; Elizabeth Ezrah, third grade; Sara Powell, fourth grade; Lillian Schoenberger, fifth grade; Rhoda Yost, sixth grade; Mary Thompson, first through fifth grades in the segregated (African-American students) Union classroom.

- Downingtown's **Nice Yarn Corp.** purchased the North Star Woolen Mill of Wakefield, RI. Charles Nice, president of the local yarn plant, said he had wanted to expand his operation here, but the cost of building additional production space in Downingtown was too expensive, and the borough's water supply was inadequate. Nice also said that yarn produced in Downingtown would be dyed at the Rhode Island facility, instead of contracting Philadelphia dye houses to handle that process.

- When an all-star game was played by Chester County Baseball League players, it was the first game to be played under the newly-installed lights at Kerr Park, Downingtown. About 3,000 fans attended the game.

- Lady Baden-Powell, who established the Girl Guides in England and was the widow of the founder of the Boy Scout movement in Great Britain, was a guest of honor at **Camp Indian Run in Glenmoore**. It was from Lady Baden-Powell that Juliette Low, an American, learned about the Girl Guides and brought that concept to the United States, and established the Girl Scout movement in the United States in 1912.

- Dave Ginsberg said his new aluminum truck-trailer plant, **Gindy Manufacturing Co.**, on Boot Road in East Caln would soon open.

- A 1948 Chevrolet sedan was the grand prize awarded on the last night of the Thorndale Fire Co. fair, held behind the Thorndale School on Route 30. Other prizes given that night were a 7-cubic-foot refrigerator, a Filter Queen vacuum cleaner, and a Shetland pony. Entertainment on Saturday night was provided by Warren Mercer's Royal Ramblers.

- Local stores, whose ads focused on kids' back-to-school items, included: Cinderella dresses, ranging in price from \$2.95 to \$4.95, at the **Downingtown Department Store**; pencils, 29 cents for a dozen, and pencil cases for 59 cents at the **J.J. Newberry Five and Dime Store**; Zenith and GE portable radios in "nifty leather cases, just the ticket for back to college," at the **Romig Electronic Service Co.** And at **Di Luigi's Shoe Store**, Little Yankee shoes cost \$5.50 a pair, for up to size 12 and \$5.95 per pair for larger sizes.

- If they passed Dr. Herman Kramm's physical exam, members of the **DHS football squad** went through a week of preseason training at Camp Collie near Quakertown. Howard Caskey, a former Penn State player, was a new assistant coach on head coach Don White's staff.

It's a scene from "The Blob"



Bob Stevens is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above as part of the sci-fi classic, "The Blob," which was partially filmed in Downingtown in 1957. Many of the film's interior scenes were shot in Good News Productions' buildings now occupied by the Historic Yellow Springs Foundation in West Pikeland. The essence of the film was that 26-year-old Steve McQueen, in his first starring movie role, and his girlfriend in the movie were trying to warn people in their hometown about a monster, composed of a viscous silicone substance, enhanced with red gasoline dye so it would show better in the Technicolor movie.

Scenes in the movie also were at Phoenixville's Colonial Theatre, at a Royersford supermarket and at the former Spring City High School. The climactic scene was shot at the Downingtown Diner, at Downing and West Lancaster Avenues in the borough. That's when the monster attacked the diner while most of the lead characters were trapped inside. The teenagers reached safety when the monster was sprayed with carbon dioxide.

The only local person who had a speaking role was Rev Thomas Ogden, pastor of Downingtown Methodist Church. Local firefighters who had non-speaking parts in the scene at Royersford supermarket were: Bob Pollock, Elmer Schrupf, Al Peterman, Richard Keers, Harry Flinn, Gerry Williams, Bill Dawson, Paul Backenstose and George Dowlin. Sonny Sciarretta drove the Alert Fire Co.'s Seagraves fire truck in that scene. Locals who were in the crowd outside the diner, with their hotrods, were Richard Cabott, John Walker (later DHS basketball coach) and Lou Rambo.

What was happening here 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of February 1949:

- The **Downingtown Fire Department** was considering the purchase of a two-way radio system, which would have a base unit at the Alert Fire Co. and portable units on each of the department's trucks. Appointed to work on the project were Benjamin Norris, Martin Binder, Thomas Hyde, Arthur Phillips and Benjamin Summers.
- The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** was making plans for the third annual Chester County Talent Pageant, to be held in the borough in June. Committee assignments for the pageant included these Chamber members: Everett Hoopes, director; Fred Howe, staging; Creston Shoemaker, program; Jack Brownstein and Jim Fennelly, general activities; Mrs. Penrose Davis, awards; Vinton Smedley and Earl Entrekin, tickets; Charles Emery, judges; Herb Kreider, treasurer; and Mrs. Walter McClure, publicity.
- Although the **DHS boys' basketball team** lost 54-53 when it played West Chester High School in January, the Warriors crushed the Whippets 59-39 in a revenge match. Jack Helm was Downingtown's leading scoring, with 17 points, and Sonny Milano tallied 10.
- The borough's Zoning Board of Adjustment granted **Butch DiBernardi** a permit to build a larger grocery store at 311 Highland Avenue in Downingtown.
- The annual audit for **St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, showed that the club had donated \$6,339 to charitable causes in 1948, including \$1,000 to the DHS band uniform fund and \$1,500 to Chester County Hospital. And the lodge's Ladies Auxiliary put on a Gay Nineties Review which included these "can-can girls: Romaine Capriotti, Lucy and Delia Ippolito, Elsie DiStephano and Theresa Mascherino. The review was directed by Mrs. Mario Pizii; she was assisted by Mrs. Lewis Capriotti and Mrs. David D'Attilio.
- Entertainment provided at the **East Ward School Mothers' Club** meeting included accordion numbers played by Ruth Ann Wood, and piano selections by Judy Gregg, Helen Burkhart, Duer Smedley, Jean Bicking and Teddy Miller.
- About 100 guests attended a pork and sauerkraut dinner at the VFW Home. Members of the **VFW Auxiliary**, who prepared and served the dinner, included Mrs. Henry Thomas, Mary Warren, Doris and Rose Colella, Mrs. William Reed, Ruth King, Betty and Jane Fennelly, Mrs. James Echols, Louise Ayers, Mrs. Joseph Eby, Dorothy McCue and Mrs. Walter Hadfield.
- Elected as officers of the Luther League at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Albert Skiles, president; Joseph Streamer, vice president; and Ruth Romig, secretary-treasurer.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, honored at a court of honor were Robert Bunting Jr, who earned the rank of Eagle; Albert King and Albert Miller, Tenderfoot. The troop's committee included John Miller, John Trimble, Edward Ellingsworth, Merrill Cann, Frank Kahler and Robert Ciaffoni.
- New officers of the **Downingtown branch of the American Red Cross** included Charles Sigle, chairman; Mrs. William Reed, vice chairman; Marie Francella, secretary; and William Mahood, treasurer.

Have you ever wondered about the History where you live?

“SLICES OF DOWNINGTOWN HISTORY”

*A ‘Free to the Public’ Multi-Part Program presented by
The Downingtown Area Historical Society and the Downingtown Library*

SLICE 1:
Friday, October 7
6:30PM
“MILLTOWN”

SLICE 2:
Thursday, Jan. 26
6:30PM
**“Iron Horse Comes to
Downingtown”**

Location:
Downingtown Library
122 Wallace Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335

Register your spot for
either or both sessions
today!

Call the Library
@ 610 269 2741, or,
Register Online:

www.downingtownlibrary.org

- Why was it called “Milltown”?
- Who started Downingtown?
- Who was here first and why?
- How does a Mill work?
- Does the area where I live have history?
- What is a “Mill Race”?

- How did people move around in the 19th Century?
- Who built the roads and railroads?
- What is the Pennsylvania Railroad?
- What did the road and railroad system look like?
- How did the road and railroad system attribute to the growth of Downingtown?

Come “Grab a Slice” of History!

Group Photo of the Week



Members of the Downingtown Junior High School basketball team in the late 1930s were, left to right, According to a list of names on the back of the original photo, front row: ? Lyons, W. Horsey, ? Guy, V. Petrella, M. Pannetta, A. Ippolito, J. Mascherino, F. Francella, A. Farnum, M. Mascherino. In the back row is Coach Don White, flanked by managers D. Jameson and L. Sheeler.

Hope to see you on Sunday at the Fall Fest

The Historical Society will have a booth at the Downingtown-Thorndale Chamber of Commerce's Fall Fest, which will be held on East Pennsylvania Avenue and Green Street in the borough, from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, September 25. In addition to selling ornamental replicas of historic buildings in Downingtown, two local writers, who are members of the Historical Society, will be signing their new books at our booth. They are Marion Piccolomini, who wrote "World War II and Chester County," and Jim Sundman who authored "Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations, Philadelphia to Harrisburg."

Vintage Ad of the Week



Luncheons
\$1.50

FULL COURSE

Dinners
\$2.25 plus tax

Complete Facilities For

- **WEDDING RECEPTIONS**
- **BANQUETS**
- **BUSINESS MEETINGS**
- **CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

accommodating from 15 to 140 persons

featuring Fresh Strawberry Pie!

ZINN'S NEW MODERN DINER

INGLESIDE FARM, THORNDAL, PA.

Between Downingtown & Coatesville (Rt. 30)

This ad was originally published in the Daily Local news in September 6, 1964.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

Tour of National 9/11 Memorial Museum

Lukens Veterans Guild is sponsoring a trip to the National 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City on November 2. An Elite bus coach leaves Coatesville at 11 AM. Trip, which costs \$95 a person, includes a timed museum ticket, dinner at Hometown Buffet Restaurant and driver gratuity. Reservation deadline is September 29. For more details and to make a reservation, call Sharon Tandich at 610-715-2993.

Fall Craft Festival & Chili Cook-off

There will be a Fall Craft Festival and Chili Cook-off, plus hand-crafted items galore and treasures from Granny's Attic, at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza drive, Downingtown, from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 22.

Operation Military Christmas Care

Hibernia United Methodist Church will be sending much-needed care packages to servicemen and women overseas this holiday season. Operation Military Christmas Care Package runs from September 20 through October 17. Drop-off locations include the East Brandywine Township Building and Village Hardware. Downingtown drop-off locations are: Downingtown Borough Hall, Dad n Jac's This & That, and Dane Décor. For more details and a o view flyer a list of suggested items, click on:

www.downingtown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf<http://www.downingtown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf>, or call Jane Bracken at 610-733-1212.

Roast Beef Dinner

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, October 15. The menu will also include mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, dessert and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$12/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or via office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Jim Croce

Carol Sinex Schmidt, member of the East Brandywine Historical Commission, will speak about the life and times of singer/songwriter Jim Croce, who lived in Chester County, at 7 PM Tuesday, October 18 when the West Caln Historical Society meets at the township building 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Senior Expo & Octoberfest

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have a Senior Expo, sponsored by State Rep. Harry Lewis, from 10 AM until 2 PM on Tuesday, October 11. It will include county, and state agencies, as well as local businesses and non-profits, which provide services to seniors. And from 6:30 to 11 PM. on Saturday, October 22, the Senior Center will have an Octoberfest, which will feature dinner and dancing. To purchase tickets (\$35 per person), call the Senior Center, 610-269-3939.

Clothing Drive

There will be a drive for fall/winter clothing at the Christian Faith Fellowship, 156 Wallace Ave., Downingtown. Drop-off dates are 5:30-7:30 PM on Thursday, Sept. 22; 10 AM-12 noon; and on Saturday, Sept. 24. For more info, check out: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/CFFClothingDriveSept2016.pdf>.

Blood Drive at St. Elizabeth's

A Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, at Route 100 and Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan, will be held from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 24. You can register via: www.redcrossblood.org. For more info, call Matthew Ward at 610-873-0275.

5K and Fun Run

The Downingtown Community Education Foundation will host a Super Hero 5K race and a 1-mile fun run on Saturday, September 24 in the Town Center at Eagleview. The fun run will be at 9 AM and the 5K will start at 9:15 AM. For more details, see: www.dcef.org or contact Jackie Fenn at jfenn@dcef.org.

Library Love

Roberts Subaru will sponsor the Library Love fun night from 6-9 PM on Thursday, September 29 at the Downingtown Country Club. In addition to cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, there will be auctions and a raffle. Tickets are \$40. Proceeds go to the Downingtown Library. For more info, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/LibraryLove9-29-16.jpg>,

Class Reunion

DHS Class of 1966 will celebrate its 50th Class Reunion from 7-11 PM on Friday, September 23, at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Drive, Downingtown, www.golfdowntowntown.com. For more info, refer to the class Facebook page: Downingtown HS Class of 1966, or call 610-745-0864.

Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market has returned to Kerr Parks. It will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM on Saturdays. For more info, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtowntown-farmers-market>.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: www.darcinfo.com. For more info, 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 reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org <http://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.



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

The past is never done. It is not even past--William Faulkner

Vol. 7, No. 38

September 29, 2016

Where and What Was This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

What was happening in here 67 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local papers in early March 1949:

- Although DHS was offering excellent academic programs, a Middle States Evaluation team determined that the **high school was “overcrowded.”**
- Downingtown’s Borough Council authorized the advertising for \$100,000 worth of bonds to pay for a new sewage treatment operation, after the Pennsylvania Sanitary Water Board approved Downingtown’s plans to build a **new waste disposal facility**. Also discussed at length at a Council meeting was the issue of the fire whistle not being heard throughout the borough.
- Members of the **DHS Alumni Association**, who were assigned to make arrangement for the annual banquet at the Alert Fire Co. in April, were Vinton Smedley, chairman; Thomas Brookover, nominations; Stella Ballentine and Paul Dague, necrology; Marion Phillips, reception; Frank Bishop and Ann McGraw, publicity; Mary Mahan, decorations; and Mrs. Edgar Hutchison, awards.
- The **American Legion Post** held an open house at the recently renovated post home at 336 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Guests were given a cigarette lighter when they arrived. The committee responsible for the affair included Paul Martin and William Wharry, plus Ladies Auxiliary members Mrs. Paul McCombs, Mrs. Paul Dague, Mrs. Mark Bareford and Esther Williams.
- When the **DHS Music Association** met, several of Marion Phillips’ Problems of Democracy students offered a program on “Federal Aid to Education.” The participants were Caroline Matthews, Nancy Wagoner, Joseph Eby, John Windle and Rogers Bender.
- Elected as officers of the **Ladies Auxiliary of St. Anthony’s Lodge** were Agnes Sciarretta, president; Mary Mento, vice president; Eva Taraschi, secretary; and Florence Pomento, treasurer.
- Amos Summers was elected president of the **Downingtown Sportsmen’s Club**. Also elected were Yerkes People, vice president; Edward Dunmore, secretary; George Aumiller, treasurer; and directors Clyde Esworthy, Norman Roberts, Dr. George Bousum, Curtis Dowlin and Elmer Schrupf. The club had purchased 37 pheasants, at a cost of \$3 each, for a shoot.
- Robert Ash, Oscar Darlington, Frank Swarner and Evans Miller were the four members of the **Patriotic Order of Sons of America** camp in Downingtown, who were honored for having been POSA members for 50 years. Elected as officers of the POSA camp were Weldon Bicking, president; Marvin Shirk, vice president; Thomas Phillips, master of forms; Graham Bentley, recording secretary; Leland Wilson treasurer; Gilbert Fox, financial secretary; Atmore Pollock, conductor; Parke Darlington, inspector; and Allen Keim, sentinel.
- Jack Helm canned 10 points, as the **DHS boys’ basketball team** defeated Bridgeport 42-37 in the first round of the Spring City Lions Club Tournament, which apparently involved teams which had not qualified for the PIAA playoffs. And although DHS was ahead 22-15 at the end of the first half, the Whippets lost to Amity by a 43-40 margin in the next round. Once again, Downingtown’s offense was led by Helm, 12 points, and Ron Hogg, 10.

Have you ever wondered about the History where you live?

“SLICES OF DOWNTOWN HISTORY”

A *‘Free to the Public’* Multi-Part Program presented by
The Downtown Area Historical Society and the Downtown Library

SLICE 1:
Friday, October 7
6:30PM
“MILLTOWN”

SLICE 2:
Thursday, Jan. 26
6:30PM
“Iron Horse Comes to
Downtown”

Location:
Downtown Library
122 Wallace Avenue
Downtown, PA 19335

Register your spot for
either or both sessions
today!

Call the Library
@ 610 269 2741, or,
Register Online:
www.downtownlibrary.org

- Why was it called “Milltown”?
- Who started Downtown?
- Who was here first and why?
- How does a Mill work?
- Does the area where I live have history?
- What is a “Mill Race”?

- How did people move around in the 19th Century?
- Who built the roads and railroads?
- What is the Pennsylvania Railroad?
- What did the road and railroad system look like?
- How did the road and railroad system attribute to the growth of Downtown?

Come “Grab a Slice” of History!

Park Commission wanted to move Log House in 1929

Noted below are items originally published in the Downingtown Archive in the winter of 1929:

- The Downingtown Memorial Park Commission was considering the option of moving the **Log House**, the borough's oldest building, from East Lancaster Avenue to a spot near the tennis courts in Kerr Park. The relocation proposal also called for installing the Log House on top of a cement basement foundation, which would include showers and a dressing room on the lower level, to be used by athletes competing in the park. And it was suggested that the Log House would become a museum where antiques were displayed
- Downingtown residents turned down the proposition to **use voting machines** in future elections, by a 738-437 margin.
- Installation of three bowling alleys on the ground floor of the **Minquas Fire Co.** was completed. The alleys were located in the rear of the fire station, in the area formerly used by the Downingtown Motor Co. to store cars. The pool tables were relocated from the second floor to the bowling alley area. The gymnasium on the second floor continued to be used for DHS physical education classes, as well as DHS's home court for basketball games.
- Members of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** took some 45 borough boys and girls in eight cars to Philadelphia for a Christmas treat, which included touring historic sites in the city, a visit to Gimbel's Department Store to see the toyland and eat lunch, and attended a Christmas party at the Mastbaum Theatre.
- Extensive renovations at the **Pennsylvania House** in the borough by new owner Albert Goldberg, included six store fronts on West Lancaster Avenue and creation of nine apartments on the second floor. Two of the six stores were already occupied, by Candyland and Albert's, a men's haberdashery.
- The Sunbeam Class, comprised of young ladies in the congregation of **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, sponsored a children's birthday party. Entertainment at the party included several songs played by the Sunday School's orchestra.
- The Cheerio Club, which was connected with the **Glenmoore Fire Co.**, conducted a card party at the fire station. Proceeds were to be used to finance the purchase of a fire engine.
- Leaders of the **Downingtown Business Men's Club** were assured by State Senator William Clark that he would help secure the funding needed to complete the macadamizing of the road between Downingtown and Lionville, which was often called Cemetery Road, and is now known as Route 113.
- Although the **DHS football team** had only won two games--against Glen Nor and Spring City-- and lost to Phoenixville, Berwyn and West Chester, the lighter Whippets essentially pulled off a major upset when they tied Coatesville, 14-14 in their final home game. Players who received varsity letters at the annual post-season banquet were Earl Fulton, William Showalter, Nelson Norris, George Snyder, Donald Dixon, Joseph Mento, Harold Forbes, Charles Horning, Harry Deets, Newlin Moore, Ross Dague, Junior Pawling, David Heilig and Morris Yohn. Student manager James Mahan also received a letters. *(Editor's note: Downingtown had not yet begun its annual rivalry against Pottstown on Thanksgiving morning.)*

It was a protest against speeders on Route 322 in Guthriesville



Dean Krapf is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the scene in the photo above as a protest in the late 1970s against PennDOT's failure to lower the speed limit to 35 miles per hour on Route 322, and its refusal to install a traffic light at the crossroads in Guthriesville in East Brandywine Township. The protest occurred after a local youngster was killed on that highway while delivering newspapers on his bicycle.

What local folks were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in area newspapers in late August 1964:

- The new **Pickering Valley Elementary School** was opened, according to principal Walter Hessinger and Glen Wagner, president of the Pickering-Brandywine Joint School District. Personnel hired to work in the new school's cafeteria were manager Alma Arrowwood, Mary Styer and Dorothy Greenleaf.
- Richard Warren was named president of **Downingtown National Bank**, following the death of Joseph Miller. Other promotions included: Jacob Lammey, executive vice president, Raymond Schollenberger, vice president, and Spencer Windle, cashier, William Sheridan, assistant cashier, and Gilbert Algier, teller.
- **Helen Pawling** sold her house and store at the intersection of West Lancaster and Viaduct Avenues in the borough to **Peter Bonaduce**. Many West Ward School students bought penny candy at Mrs. Pawling's store for decades. Bonaduce razed the buildings on the Pawling property, to add space and remodel his service station at the site.

Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Parry Desmond, president; Ernie Jameson, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Francine Dague, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Phil Dague and Dennis Walton. Carol Grigson is the archivist.

Group Photo of the Week



The DHS Class of 1956 recently had its 60th reunion. Those who attended included, left to right, seated: Judy Moulder Ellingsworth, Amelia Talucci D’Ginto, Elsie Sinex Tarr, Betty Roberts Marcocci, Joan Piersol Burks, Geddy Manzi; second row: Florence Smith McKeever, Ginny Law Pierce, Sam Matthews, Philomena DiBerardinis Kanouse, Joe Francella, Patty Hilton O’Reilly, Carol Bloom Cook, Joan Miley Stanford, Patty Mason Simmons, Mary Jane Perella Bulotta, Ed Delio, Danny Marcocci, Ralph Hall; third row: Jack Skiles, Don Mull, John Bousum, Jack Dawson, Tom Lee, Corrine Cook Bailiff, Donald Ray, Jim Wells, John Carmichael, Fred Whitely, Roger Manley.

Here’s how YOU can receive a Hist-O-Gram every week

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, and you’d like to receive a copy of our free Hist-O-Gram directly every week, you can do that by accessing our website: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org, and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won’t share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html.


Please come to our Clip/Paste sessions

We’re looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society’s clip/paste sessions, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, October 2. The session, which will involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 307-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**Grand
Opening
TONIGHT
Exton Roller Rink**

ROUTE 30—JUST EAST OF EXTON CROSSROADS



SKATING
7 P.M. 'TIL 10 P.M.

Watermelon Party
10 P.M.

Record Hop
10 P.M. 'TIL MIDNIGHT

ADMISSION ONLY **5^c**

SKATE TO LIVE ORGAN
MUSIC ALL NIGHT

This ad originally appeared in the September 12, 1948 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

Mascherino mystery has been solved

As many of you know, the extended Mascherino family in Downingtown is HUUUUUUUGE! And when many in the Mascherino clan saw that one of the players on the Downingtown Junior High basketball team in the late 1930s, which was included in the Group Photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram (www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/September%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf) was listed as "M. Mascherino," they were perplexed. Yes, they recognized John "Topy" Mascherino who also in that team photo, but they claimed there was no "M. Mascherino" in that generation.

Thankfully, Michael Lyons came to our rescue, when he not only advised us that the little guy on the far left in the photo was his uncle, Jack Lyons, who passed in the past year, but he also noted that the big guy on the far right was Michael Moschitta.

Don't forget, we used the names listed on the back of the original photo, when we published picture last week. But back in those days, names of individuals in a group photo in the DHS yearbook were unnecessary because it was a small community and everyone knew everybody. Maybe that's the real reason why the DHS yearbook was known as "The Cuckoo" until 1955.

Free Ads for Non-Profits

DHS West Homecoming

Homecoming weekend begins with a parade at 6:30 PM on Thursday, September 29, followed by a football game at 7 PM on Friday, September 30.

Tour of National 9/11 Memorial Museum

Lukens Veterans Guild is sponsoring a trip to the National 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City on November 2. An Elite bus coach leaves Coatesville at 8 AM. Trip, which costs \$95 a person, includes a timed museum ticket, dinner at Hometown Buffet Restaurant and driver gratuity. Reservation deadline is September 29. For more details and to make a reservation, call Sharon Tandarich at 610-715-2993.

Del-Val Olds Show

The Delaware Valley Oldsmobile Club will have its 14th annual show at Kerr Park at 9 AM on Sunday, October 9. For more info, see: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/delvaloldclub/DVOCfallshow2016.pdf>.

Fall Craft Festival & Chili Cook-off

There will be a Fall Craft Festival and Chili Cook-off, plus hand-crafted items galore and treasures from Granny's Attic, at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza drive, Downingtown, from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, October 22.

Operation Military Christmas Care

Hibernia United Methodist Church will be sending much-needed care packages to servicemen and women overseas this holiday season. Operation Military Christmas Care Package runs from September 20 through October 17. Drop-off locations include the East Brandywine Township Building and Village Hardware. Downingtown drop-off locations are: Downingtown Borough Hall, Dad n Jac's This & That, and Dane Décor. For more details and a o view flyer a list of suggested items, click on:

www.downingtown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf<http://www.downingtown.org/Documents/Operation%20Military%20Christmas%20flyer%202016.pdf>, or call Jane Bracken at 610-733-1212.

Open House at Fire Companies

The Downingtown Fire Department will have open houses from 6:30 PM until 9 PM on Wednesday, October 12 at the Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave. and the Minquas Fire Co., 141 Wallace Ave.

Roast Beef Dinner

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, October 15. The menu will also include mushroom & brown gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls & butter, dessert and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$12/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or via office@marshalltonchurch.org with any questions.

Jim Croce

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