



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 33

August 2, 2012

### **Where & What Was This?**



The first person who correctly identifies the building in this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your photo identity to:

[Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org). And this week's winner will receive a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown, to be used at a local restaurant.

# Local news items in August 1975

The following news was originally published 37 years ago in the *East Branch Citizen*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper:

Although the **Downingtown School District's** total enrollment had grown 52 percent over the past 10 years, the system's rate of enrollment had fallen off due to birth control and changing attitudes about the size of the ideal family, according to district officials.

**Glen Moore Fire Co.'s** 19<sup>th</sup> annual ox roast attracted 1,300 diners, who ate 1,500 pounds of ox meat, plus 40 gallons of gravy, 300 pounds of cabbage, 800 pounds of potatoes, and 176 pies and cakes.

Members of the Bucks, which won the Downingtown Recreation Commission's **Summer Basketball League**, were Jeb Bertoncini, Keith Bedwell, Mike Dooley, Steve Gotberg, Bob Dorsey and Mike Keller.

Winners in the Recreation Commission's **Home Run Derby** were, 8 and 9 year olds, Tommy McCool, first; Scott Fennelly, second; George Hipple, third. In the 10, 11 and 12 year-old bracket, the winners were Bobby Moore, first; Tommy Urban, second; Ricky Cox, third, And the 13, 14 and 15-year-old winners were Matt Urban, first; Matt Mingione, second; Jamie Bogush, third.

Members of the **Pennypacker** team, which won the Brandywine Swim League, were Kevin Glassco, Peter Mills, Randy Strawbridge, Erin O'Neil, Scott Butler, Lynn Kiesel, Becky Messa, Cheryl Prendergast, Laura Zempel, Bill Pitkin, Thor Cheyne, Dan Mountin, Jim Wallitsch, Barrie Benjamin, Charlie Messa, Connie Strawbridge, Robbie Ungvary, Lee McIntyre, Mike and Rick Palski, Margaret Elizabeth Jones and Bill Orr.

Members of the **LYA Senior Girls Softball** all star team were Lori Clifton, Karen Dankanich, Janet Reed, Sue Waldrop, Amy McGowan, Heidi Bittmann, Pam Fentnor, Nancy Urban, Cathy Treer, Debbie Bond, Mary Tribendis, Sue Berry, Joyce Miller, and Barb Millham.

Members of the DiBernardi's team, which won the **Downingtown Slo-Pitch League**, were Denny Luminella, Freddie Paup, Dino DiBernardi, Jack Helm, Steve Massimini, Rudy Malavolta, Chunky Klunk, Tom Benton, John Muzzi, and Mike Mento.

The **DHS Band Parents** were raffling off a 1975 Chevrolet Nova to help pay for the band's trip to the Orlando Music Festival.

Terry Heugel and Lex Ziobro dominated the **Downingtown Tennis Tournament**. Heugel beat Bob Edmonds in the men's singles final, and Ziobro beat Lorraine Dunkerly in the women's singles final. And in the **Junior Tennis** competition, Mike Bryant beat Keith Hess in the boys 17 and under singles, while Lynne Potts defeated Debbie Hannum in the girls' bracket. Steve Ziobro whipped Jeff Robertson in the boys' 14 and under singles final; Margaret Parvensky won first in the same age bracket for girls by besting Hannum.

**Gerry Mento**, 19, of Downingtown, won fifth and sixth place medals at the International Special Olympics, held at Central Michigan University.

## Interesting old, local ads

We've often told you about the news articles Historical Society's volunteers clip from vintage and current editions of local newspapers, and those clippings being added to our archives, after they're pasted on large cards.

Well, the volunteers also clip newspaper ads, which often are just as interesting as the news items, because they offer insights to a past we never experienced. Noted below are several Downingtown area merchants' ads published in the early 1930s—the Depression era—which we thought you'd enjoy:

The **Downingtown Hardware Store**, 145 E. Lancaster Ave. was offering a wide variety of "Nile Green Glassware" for just 10 cents each. Today, we call that stuff "Depression glass," and it costs a lot more than a dime for each piece.

H.R. Hughes, 120 Webster Ave., was selling "fresh killed domestic **rabbit meat**." He also had "breeding stock" for sale.

**James Grassie's Ford** dealership was located at 20 W. Lancaster Ave., about where the Downingtown Police Station is today. They were touting the new V-8, at almost the same price as the cost of the four cylinder model.

**Sarah E. Miller** had been running her casualty insurance and real estate business out of her home at 318 Washington Ave. "for a long while." Her phone number had recently been changed from 173-J to 298.

**Hutchison's Drug Store**, 116 E. Lancaster Ave., which opened in 1892, was selling Kantleek Hot Water Bottles for those cold, wintry nights.

Used cars offered in 1932 by **John H. McGowan & Son** in East Downingtown included: a Studebaker Phaeton for just \$35, and a Model A Ford Sport Coupe for \$200.

People must have been knowledgeable about the heating capabilities and applications of various grades of coal, since **Lineinger's** in Whitford was selling a wide variety of types of anthracite for these prices, per ton, including delivery: buckwheat, \$7.60; pea, \$9.25; egg, \$12.75; chestnut, \$12.75; and stove, \$13.25.

Items on sale at **Kaplan's Department Store**, 119 E. Lancaster Ave., included rayon stockings 79 cents; and 100% wool men's sweaters, as low as \$1.95.

**Charles W. Furlong's** grocery store, at Jefferson Ave and Chestnut St. in the borough, was selling pot roasts for 18 cents a pound and butter at 25 cents a pound.

We realize that most Hist-O-Gram subscribers don't remember many of these businesses because the ads are about 80 years old. However, we suspect some of you may have stories about those businesses because they were told to you by parents or older friends, and you'd like to pass those tales on to our readers.

## Brief, but important

✓ **Downingtown's Good Neighbor Day Committee** plans to upgrade its website—[www.goodneighborday.com](http://www.goodneighborday.com)—by including photos of the unique t-shirts given each year to entrants in the annual Run For Life. So, if you're willing to donate at least one of those t-shirts that have been cluttering up your dresser drawer for decades, please contact Josh Bruton, president of the GND Committee, at [pjbruton@brutonfinancial.com](mailto:pjbruton@brutonfinancial.com) or at 866-518-3900. We also hope that you'll donate your GND t-shirt(s) to the Historical Society's archival collection, after the Committee is finished with it.

✓ The **Clip Joint** will be open on Sunday afternoon, August 5, when we have our monthly clipping & pasting session from 1-4 PM in **air conditioned** Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. We'll be happy to see you, no matter when you arrive or leave.

✓ **Eileen Schafer** recently donated her son, Michael's (DHS Class of 1971 and Notre Dame Ph.D. in electrical engineering) DHS yearbooks. By the way, we have many of the high school's yearbooks, but we don't have any copies of the yearbooks put out by Downingtown or Lionville Junior High Schools. Please call us (610-269-1709) if you want to donate any to us.

And thanks to **Donna and Vance Usher**, we now have many photos of local schools, including the "one-room" schoolhouses operated by townships in the Downingtown area until the 1960s. Their latest donation proves, once again, that almost everyone has a lot of neat stuff in their attic that deserves a special place in our archive.

✓ There once were 40 covered bridges in Chester County spanning the Brandywine, according to research done by Dr. Arthur E. James. **Gibson's Bridge**, along Route 322, is the only local survivor. It was built in 1872 for \$2,668.

## When a knead was filled in Downingtown



Debbie MacKenzie was the first of many people to identify this as the bread production line at **Pepperidge Farm's** plant at Chestnut Street and Boot Road in Downingtown, shortly after the bakery operation was begun, with 18 employees, in May 1949. The firm, founded in 1937, became a division of Campbell Soup Co. in 1961. By 1988, the Downingtown plant had become the company's largest, on a 13.5-acre site, and the product line included cookies, crackers, frozen foods and dried soups, made by more than 1,400 employees. When a large part of Downingtown's baked goods and snack food operation was moved to a much larger facility in Denver, PA, in Berks County, in 1991, more than half of the Downingtown workers made that change as well. Today, there are

735 employees in Denver, while 350 people still work in the frozen food plant in Downingtown.

We'd love to hear from former Pepperidge employees about their experiences working in one of the Downingtown plants.

## **How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership**

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

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

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

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

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Business \$50\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$50 \_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_

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

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



## **Coming events & activities in Downingtown area**

### ***Lions Club Golf tournament***

Downingtown Lions Club's 13th annual golf tournament will be held Monday, Aug. 20 at the Downingtown Golf Club. Shotgun scramble at 8:30 AM. \$90 entrance fee includes golf cart, green fees and buffet lunch. Contact Lion Herb Mays, 610-389-3747, for registration info. Proceeds will benefit: Downingtown Lord's Pantry, Downingtown Area Senior Center, and Lions Club International.

### ***Join Rewards Program at Cropper's***

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

### ***Opportunities still available at DARC***

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

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

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

### ***Banquet Room For Rent***

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

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](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](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

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

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

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Vol. 3, No. 34

August 9, 2012

### Having problems opening your Hist-O-Gram?

If you've had problems opening your Hist-O-Grams in recent weeks, perhaps it's because you need to install the newest version of Adobe Reader. Val DiLuigi, the Historical Society's webmaster, brought this to my attention when I was having a problem, and she suggested that I install this upgrade: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. It worked!

And don't forget; you can access past editions (since October 2010) of the weekly Hist-O-Grams by clicking on [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

### Local news 62 years ago

The following news items were originally published in August 1950 editions of *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper.

**Dial telephone service** was being installed in the Eagle area. Customers were sad to learn that the operators, who had made connections for them, would no longer be needed.

Harold Stiefel, owner of the Roosevelt Movie Theatre on Brandywine Avenue, was asked by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce, to investigate the possibility of **building a swimming pool** in Kerr Park.

**Jack Helm** was one of the 15 boys on the Suburban All Stars who played the Philadelphia All Stars in Shibe Park. Helm's double drove in his team's solo run.

Percy Miller, chairman of **Downingtown's NAACP** executive Committee said block parties were to be held on East Church Street and Whiteland Avenue.

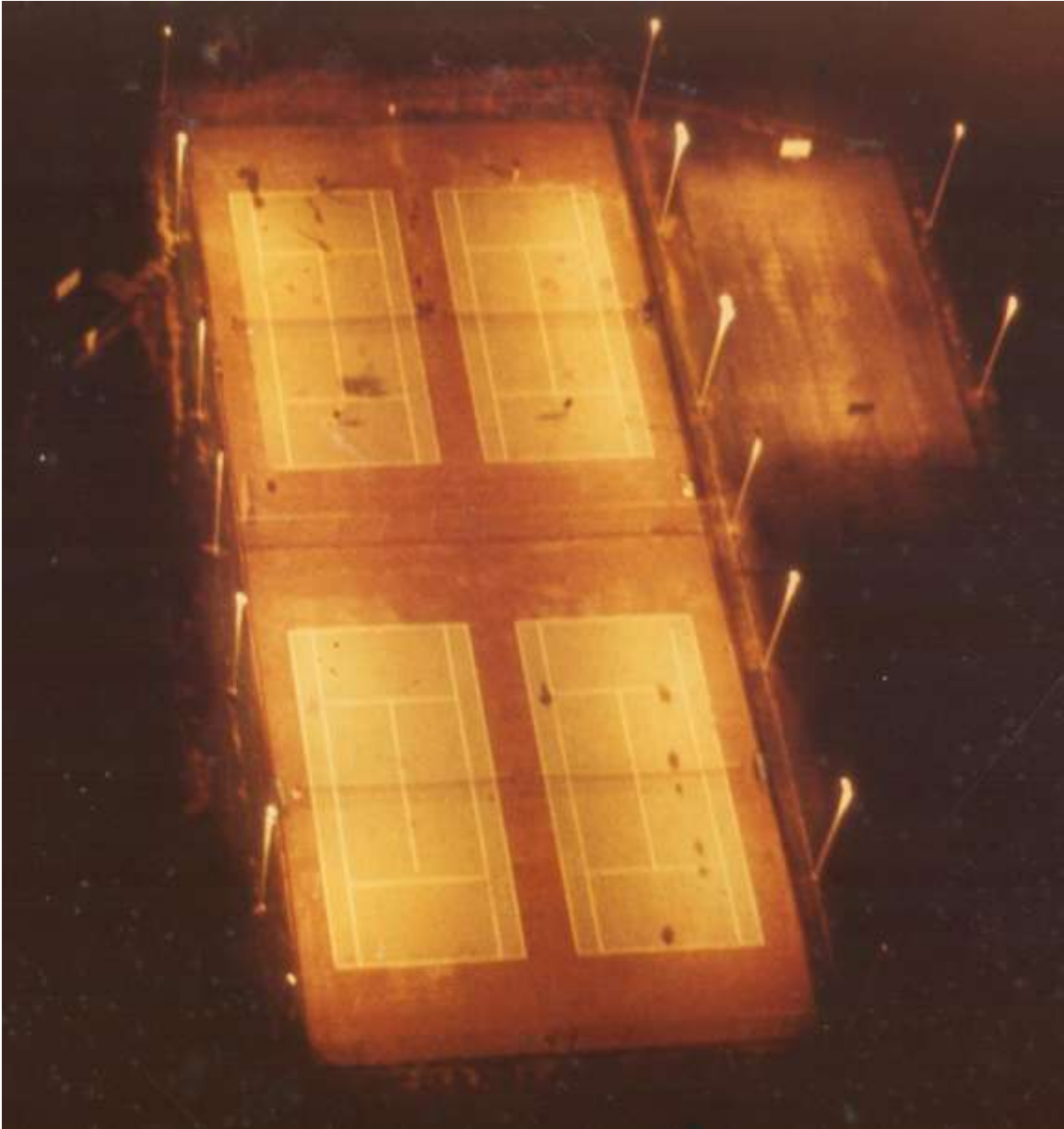
The **Harmony Hill School Reunion Association** decided to disband. After the school was destroyed by a fire in February 1947, the site was sold and a residence was built on the property.

Youngsters registered to attend first grade at **Indiantown School**, Wallace Township, were Patty Houck, Linda Hogan, Peggy Slonaker, Betty Ann Jones, Vonnice Hohl, Mark Shrader, Billie Miles, Alvin Wells, Vernon May, John Arters, Harold Miller, John Miller and Bobbie Shingle.

Local firefighters who attended State Fire School in Lewistown, PA, were Bill Rowland, Ben Summers, Ike Ames, Dan Zittle, and John Mitchell of the **Alert Fire Co.**; and Fred Jameson, William Barrett, Tom Peazzoni, Al Peterman, Walt Shaw and Bill Backenstose of the **Minquas Fire Co.**



## When Were These Courts First Lighted?



Obviously, these are the tennis courts at Kerr Park in Downingtown. So, to make the competition a little more challenging, we're asking you to tell us when the lights were installed. The first person who correctly tells us the year of installation will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your photo identity to:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org)

**It was razed about 50 years ago**



Norman Glass, who helped restore Downingtown's Log House in 1988-89, was the first person to identify this as the Hoopes Currying (tanning) Shop at the corner of Rte. 322 and Edges Mill Road. The 17-foot by 18-foot, one and one-half story, stone building was constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century; it had a 1795 date stone. It was built on a 280-acre site owned by John Hoopes from 1771 to 1817. The tract also included an 18<sup>th</sup> Century barn and house. It remained in the Hoopes family until 1921. Subsequent owners were Abner Williams, 1921-1927; Everett Hoopes, 1927-1932; Upper Darby Building and Loan, 1932-1941. Eugene Pollock, who bought the property in 1941, still owned it in 1958, when research for the Historic American Buildings Survey was done in 1958 by Bart Anderson of the Chester County Historical Society. The building was torn down in early 1960s, when Route 322 was widened.

## Local news in January 1945

The following news items were published in local papers 67 years ago:

Six people **died in a house fire** in the village of Milford Mills, Upper Uwchlan Township. The fire apparently was started when one of the victims used kerosene from a 5-gallon can, while starting a fire in one of the two stoves in the four-room, stone row house. The kerosene raced back to the can, which exploded in her hands.

These dairies were **delivering milk** in Downingtown, according to the borough's Health Board: W.L. Hannum, Frank Smedley, Eachus Dairies and Highland Dairies.

Elected as officers of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were: Isabel Acker, president; Myra Smedley, vice president; Edith Cornwall, secretary; and Ella Gordon, treasurer.

Elected as officers of the Washington Camp (Downingtown) of the **Patriotic Order of Sons of America** were: Elmer Schrumpf, president; Thomas Philips, master of forms; Horace Guest, conductor; and Gordon Carpenter, trustee.

Local men who were **inducted into the military service** included: Paul Talierco, Marines; Hugh McNeil, Navy; Robert and George Harlow, and Charles Gibbs, Army.

Three members of the **Downingtown Woman's Club**—Letitia Tweed, Louise Simmons Nelson and Elizabeth Downing—who were serving in the military, had their names engraved on an honor roll plaque, which was hung in the club's meeting room.

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## Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

### ***Red Cross Blood Drive***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., (Route 30) East Caln will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 2-7 PM. Call 610-269-3939 to schedule an appointment.

### ***Downingtown Day***

The Downingtown Historical and Parks Commission will present the first Downingtown Day on Saturday September 8. The family fun day kicks off with a craft fair, with some great local vendors. Application forms for artists and crafters are available at:

[www.downingtown.org/HistoricalParks.html](http://www.downingtown.org/HistoricalParks.html)

There also will be music presented by Moore Music and dancers from Chester County dance schools to keep the crowd entertained. In the early evening, a tribute to first responders and our young volunteer firefighters will be presented, followed by the finishing touch of The Floats and the Chester County Lawman. It will be a fun filled family day so bring the kids and show your support to our volunteers.

### ***Lions Club Golf tournament***

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Vol. 3, No. 35

August 16, 2012

### Why were they using headsets?



These are students at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School, probably in 1938. The first person to correctly identify why they're wearing headsets will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

[info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

### Downingtown area news in June 1970

The following items were originally published 42 years ago in *The Archive*, a weekly newspaper.

Commencement exercises for **314 graduating DHS seniors** had to be moved into the high school due to threatening weather. Class officers were Louis Mascherino, president; Rose Gazzo, vice president; Gail Wills, secretary; and Pat Corry, treasurer.

**Scholarship winners** included: Ruthann Popjoy, Nancy Romig, Harold Earnshaw, Madeline Grenz, Vernetta Foster, Rosemary Sack, Tris Baxter, Susan Hurst, and Elaine Fedastian.

**Faculty award winners** were Patricia Herion, health and physical education; Sherri Warner, art; Barbara Koehler, business education; Karen Donlon, languages; Nancy Romig, home economics; Bill Jensen, music-band; Larry Wagner, industrial arts; Doug Campbell, health and physical education; David Ratcliff, math and science; Kevin Lyons, special studies; Tris Baxter, English; and Mike McCardell, music-choir.



Retiring superintendent **Raymond Baugher** and his wife were honored by some 300 school district officials, employees and friends at a dinner at the Dutch Town and Country Restaurant.

**Uwchlan Township** residents were protesting against the building of a 650-unit, garden apartment complex in the Marchwood area.

**Donna Madrigale** won the Middle Atlantic AAU women's high jump championship in a meet at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field.

New officers of the **East Brandywine 4-H Sewing Club** were Robin Popjoy, president; Karen Smith, vice president; Sharon Capriotti, secretary; and Nancy Mauger, treasurer.

## Brief, but important

Jeff Stevens informed us that, when we noted in the August 9 Hist-O-Gram that a number of local firefighters attended State Fire School in Lewistown, PA, the fire companies they were affiliated with was mixed up. The listing should have been: Bill Rowland, Ben Summers, Ike Ames, Dan Zittle, and John Mitchell of the **Minquas Fire Co.**; and Fred Jameson, William Barrett, Tom Peazzoni, Al Peterman, Walt Shaw and Bill Backenstose of the **Alert Fire Co.**

**Downingtown barbers** were charging \$1.50 for adult haircuts and \$1.25 for kids in 1964. The barber shops that agreed to those prices were Blackie's, Jimmie's, Ozzie's, Teddy's, Tony's and Ursini's.

**Century Auto Sales**, 115 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, opened a used car lot on Route 30 (near the Farmer's Market) in East Caln in 1960. Among Century's many offers were these Mechanic's Specials for only \$99.95: a 1959 Pontiac, a 1949 Chevrolet, a 1950 Plymouth and a 1952 Ford convertible.

And in 1959, **Milak Buick**, across Route 30 from the Farmer's Market in East Caln, was selling Skodas, cars which were manufactured in Czechoslovakia.

The **Downingtown Department Store's** Easter Season bargains in 1955 included girls' Easter hats, \$1.95 to \$2.95; boys' two-piece suits, \$10.95 to \$12.95; women's Ship-N-Shore blouses, \$2.98 to \$5.98; and men's Arrow shirts, \$3.95.

In 1948, the **Daller Food Market**, 208 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was offering a pancake package deal, which included: 1 pound of sausage, a bottle of Karo syrup and a package of Aunt Jemima pancake mix--all three for just \$1.

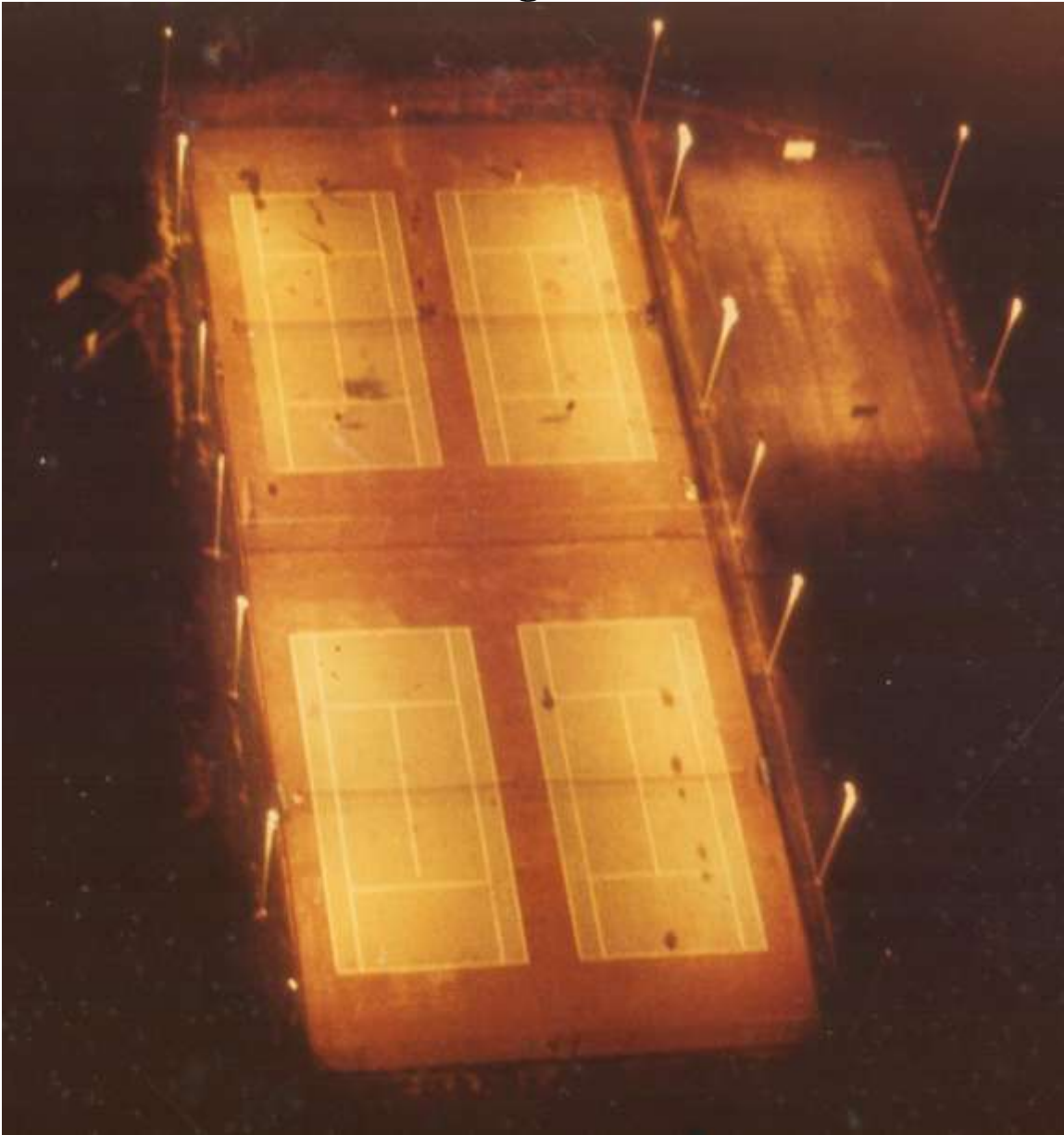
**Downingtown Junior High** students saw a demonstration of radios, powered by transistors developed by Bell Labs in 1960. A Bell Labs representative also predicted that a miniature radio transmitter would be used in wristwatch radios in the not-too-distant-future.

Eighth graders who graduated from the elementary school in **Wallace Township** in 1948 were Doris Schmehl (highest honors), David Johnson, Katherine Bowers, Amos Ammon, Donald Good, Ralph Hannum, and Stanley Johnson.

Saw a 1928 milk bottle from **William L. Hannum's dairy** for sale on eBay. Winning bidder got it for \$7, plus \$2.50 for shipping. Don Hannum tells us he thinks that the dairy farm may have been located where the Mattioni farm property and plumbing business (on the east side of Route 113, as you approach East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown) are today. Don says his father, George Hannum Jr., and Dr. B.F. Davis used to deliver milk in a horse-drawn buggy in Downingtown. Anyone know anything about that dairy?

In 1942, members of the executive committee of the **East Brandywine Civil Defense Council**--part of a county-wide operation under the leadership of Downingtown's Paul Dague--were: Herbert Clavier, chairman; Jack McCausland, Everett Henderson, Lester Piersol, and Glenn Clark. William Hemphill and William McComas volunteered their station wagons to be used by the hospital units organized by the Civil Defense Council. And Clement Congdon, chief air raid warden, reported that five electric air raid sirens being installed. Also, students who brought the largest amount of scrap would receive rewards.

## **No one knew when the lights were installed**



Many people took a shot at guessing when the tennis court lights were installed at Kerr Park, but none of them were correct. They were lit for the first time in the summer of 1970, according to the Sept. 2, 1970 issue of *the Daily Local News*.

The photo of the lighted courts was taken by Don Greenleaf, borough manager at the time. To get the shot, Greenleaf leaned out of a Piper Cub J-3, owned and flown by Bob Shannon of Shannon Airport, West Bradford.

That 1970 article, an end-of-summer review of Downingtown's recreation program 42 years ago, also noted that the borough's Recreation Commission also provided:

- Playgrounds at six school district facilities.
- A Teen Center for high school-age kids at the Minquas Firehouse, supervised by Len Collier.
- Five bi-weekly dances, with live music, for teenagers in the Beaver Creek School gym. The dancers were limited to 9th through 12<sup>th</sup> graders living in the Downingtown School District. They could bring one guest. They could buy season tickets for \$3, or pay 75 cents to go to individual dances.
- Tennis classes for kids, taught by DHS tennis coach Becky (Casner) Desmond every week day afternoon. She also offered instruction and adult programs under the lights.
- A five-day arts and crafts program for elementary-age kids at East Ward School, taught by Donna Usher. Kids in the program couldn't have known that Ms. Usher would earn a BFA in painting and BS in art education and design at Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia, plus an MFA from the University of Delaware. The West Chester University art prof's paintings and sculptures have been exhibited in more than 70 national and international juried and invitational exhibitions. Her artwork is in the permanent collections of museums in the U.S, Mexico and Egypt, and in U.S. corporate offices, and numerous private collections. Some of her new art work will be shown locally at the **"Incredible Dane Décor Arts Event."** In addition to an opening reception from 3-8 PM on Saturday, Sept. 8 at Dane Décor, 216 E. Lancaster Ave., her art will be exhibited there from Saturday, Sept. 1 through Friday, Nov. 30.

**(Editor's Note): Several people revealed to us last week that dances for teenagers were held on the Kerr Park tennis courts on Wednesday nights in the 1950s. We'd like from Hist-O-Gram readers about how the courts were lit, and other tales they can reveal after all these years.**

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

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

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

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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All proceeds will go to research on the cause, treatment and cure of scleroderma.

### ***Downingtown Day***

The Downingtown Historical and Parks Commission will present the first Downingtown Day on Saturday September 8. The family fun day kicks off with a craft fair, with some

great local vendors. Application forms for artists and crafters are available at:

[www.downingtown.org/HistoricalParks.html](http://www.downingtown.org/HistoricalParks.html)

There also will be music presented by Moore Music and dancers from Chester County dance schools to keep the crowd entertained. In the early evening, a tribute to first responders and our young volunteer firefighters will be presented, followed by the finishing touch of The Floats and the Chester County Lawman. It will be a fun filled family day so bring the kids and show your support to our volunteers.

### ***Lions Club Golf tournament***

Downingtown Lions Club's 13th annual golf tournament will be held Monday, Aug. 20 at the Downingtown Golf Club. Shotgun scramble at 8:30 AM. \$90 entrance fee includes golf cart, green fees and buffet lunch. Contact Lion Herb Mays, 610-389-3747, for registration info. Proceeds will benefit: Downingtown Lord's Pantry, Downingtown Area Senior Center, and Lions Club International.

### ***Join Rewards Program at Cropper's***

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

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

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

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

### ***Banquet Room For Rent***

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

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](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](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:**  
**[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org)**.





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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 36

August 23, 2012

### **What was going on here?**



Why were these kids, standing outside West Ward School, dressed like members of a wedding party? The first to correctly tell us what was going here will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to:

[Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

### **Long lost sister's history found in our Family Files**

You may recall that we've included information in past Hist-O-Grams about the Historical Society's collection of Family Files. Our Family Files, which have been expanded to 6,600 names, are an integral part of our Archives. They are comprised of articles—clipped from local newspapers, about engagements, retirements, weddings, deaths, etc.—concerning people and places in the Downingtown area.

But our Family Files are much more than a collection of clippings, sitting in filing cabinets at Ashbridge House, our 303-year-old headquarters.

Here's a flesh-and-blood example of how the Family Files were useful to Darlene Clegg, who lives in Utah and knows no one in the Downingtown area. Clegg recently

contacted Carol Grigson, our volunteer archivist, seeking information on Eva Lee Huey, who died in Downingtown in 1974, and her family.

Clegg is a grand niece of Joseph Lee, who had two sisters—Cora and Eva. All three siblings were born in the 1890s. However, by 1900, the three youngsters were living separately, following their parents' tragic deaths. One was with the stepfather, another was with the maternal grandparents, and it's unclear who the third child lived with.

When Joseph came of age, he began a search for his two sisters. He was reunited with Cora in the 1930's, but he never found Eva.

The search for Eva was continued by members of Joseph Lee's family in the ensuing years. They determined that Eva Lee Huey had died in 1974 in Downingtown. At the same time Clegg sent us a query about Eva and her family, she also applied to the Social Security Agency, seeking more information about Eva and her relatives.

Meanwhile, our archivist, Grigson, searched the *Daily Local News* on microfilm and found the obituaries of Eva, her husband Clarence Huey, and their son Joseph Huey, all of whom had lived in East Brandywine for many years. The obituaries also noted the existence of another Huey, their son Lee, whom Clegg knew nothing about, because his name, inexplicably, never was listed in the U.S. Census.

Better yet, Grigson found an article in the *Daily Local News*, which noted that Lee was about to start college in 1964. Assuming that he had graduated from Downingtown High School in June 1964, Grigson started looking through early 1960s era DHS yearbooks in our archives, to no avail.

In her search, however, she found an article in the clipping files at the Chester County Historical Society, about the Lyndell Grange, which mentioned Lee was a member. Then Grigson looked for Lee's name among the East Brandywine Township School District's records, at the County Historical Society. That's how she learned that Lee was born in 1941, and that he was in fifth grade at the Guthriesville School in 1951.

Grigson immediately realized that, 18 years after his birth, Lee probably graduated from high school in 1959. That assumption was verified, when she found Lee's photo in our copy of the 1959 DHS yearbook.

But wait, it gets better. Our archival collection also includes booklets put out by some DHS classes, when they have a reunion. And the Class of 1959 booklet, published for its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2009, included a write-up sent by Lee Huey. At that time, he was a medical researcher, married with four kids, living in Augusta, GA, and noted that he was the last member of his family.

No, working on our Family Files isn't always that intriguing. But if you're one of those inquisitive types, who enjoys cutting out news articles about people and places in the Downingtown area, and realizes that pasting those stories on 8x14 inch cards will help people learn about their family history, we'd like you to help us. Currently, there are two faithful groups of people who come to Ashbridge House to cut and paste clippings from old and current newspapers.

The articles were published by local newspapers such as the *Downingtown News*, *The Archive*, *The East Branch Citizen*, *The Daily Local News*, *The Downingtown Ledger*, and the *Community Courier*. Those articles are indexed and can be accessed by going to our website, [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and clicking on "Online Indexes".

Constantly updating and expanding the “Online Indexes” database would not be possible without the continued devotion shown by Michael Homan, a June graduate from Downingtown East High School. Michael does all the computer entry for these files.

Also, if any of you have a stack of old local newspapers in your basement, attic, garage, etc., they are a potential treasure trove for us. Give us a call (610-269-8037) and we will make arrangements to pick them up.

## **Manufacturing Company boomed for many years**

The Downingtown Manufacturing Co. was founded in 1880 by A.P. Tutton, his son-in-law Guyon Miller, and Miller’s brother Frank. Gradually, the firm on Washington Avenue in the borough increased its product line to include paper mill machinery, castings, small steam engines, creamery equipment, waterwheels, and power transmission equipment.

According to Jane Davidson’s *History of Downingtown*, two of their beating engines were selected to be part of the American Paper Makers’ Exhibit at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892.

Shortly after the United States entered World War II, the company started producing items such as PT boat rings, steer gears, ballast and counterweight castings for buoys, tank turret ring assemblies, gun rings, escape hatch covers, tank gudgeons, and submarine deck-gun breech mechanisms, according to the *DMC News*, published by the company during the war years. And since more than 1,000 local men had joined the armed service, many of those products were manufactured by women.

In the post-war era, the company continued to prosper. For example, it built two combination felt and liner board machines for U.S. Gypsum. The two machines weighed a total of 3,948 tons or 182 freight car loads. Each one was the largest machine of its type in the world, according to an article on the company’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a March 31, 1955 edition of *The Archive*.

That anniversary year, however, the company was sold to Black Clawson, and it was purchased several years later by Wisconsin’s Beloit Iron Works. Operating under the name Beloit Eastern, the company experienced significant expansion as a major manufacturer of equipment used to produce newsprint. However, Beloit Eastern closed its doors in 1971, primarily due to strife between labor and management.

## **See you at East Brandywine’s Family Day**

The Historical Society will have a booth at East Brandywine’s annual Family Day at East Brandywine Community Park from 2 PM to 6 PM Saturday, August 25. The rain date is August 26. The day begins with a bicycle parade and ends with a hot air balloon.

Also on the day’s menu: antique and classic cars, vendors and crafters, magic shows, free bingo, and hay and pony rides and much more. Hopewell Boy Scouts will serve hot dogs and funnel cake; Victory Brewing will offer sandwiches and homemade root beer.

## They wore headsets during a hearing test



Dick McConnell is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first person to correctly inform us that the DHS students in this photo were taking a hearing test. According to the caption with the photo, which was published in the 1938 Cuckoo (title of the DHS yearbook then), all students in grades 3 through 12 in the Borough schools took the audiometer test. The testing was sponsored by the Chester County School System through the PA Department of Public Instruction.

Dick recalls he took a hearing test while he was a student at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School in Brooklyn. He also noted that was during the Cold War era, the students were issued dog tags, noting their blood type, in case the school was bombed during a nuclear attack. “Oddly, my blood type is correct on my grammar school dog tags and wrong on my Army dog tags,” says Dick.

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*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 37

August 30, 2012

## What and Where Is This?



The first person who correctly identifies the site in this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your photo identity response to: [Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

## Downingtown area news in early June 1960

The following news items were originally published by local papers in the first two weeks of 1960.

A group of horse racing enthusiasts took steps to incorporate the **Uwchland Raceway**, with hopes to operate a race track in Upper Uwchlan Township. The track was to be located along the west side of Route 100, at the foot of Black Horse Hill.

There were 112 graduates in the **DHS Class of 1960**. The top four students were Thomas Booker, Edward Matthews, Paul Edelen and Sonia Raysor.

Jeanne Beam won the prize for highest academic average, and George Ciarlone and Stephanie Valocchi were awarded American Legion medals at commencement exercises at **St. Joseph's School**.

Officers elected to lead the Young Adult Class at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Joseph Dawson, president; Cynthia Seruntine, vice president; Frances Dawson, secretary; and Peggy Whitely, treasurer.

New officers of the **Uwchlan Township Civic Association** were Charles Martin, president; Robert Bicking, vice president; Mrs. Louis D'Ginto, secretary and treasurer.

Officers elected to lead the **West Pikeland School PTA** were Mrs. Grover Hallman, president; Mrs. A.E. Vail, vice president; Mrs. Richard Dettry, secretary; and Mrs. John Hennsler, Treasurer.

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

Summer recreation programs were offered by the **Downingtown-West Bradford Joint School Board**. The sites and their directors were: East Ward School, Eileen McCardell and Jeanne Emery; Alert Fire Co., Mary Jean Lillard; Lionville Elementary, Laura Ericson; and Marshallton Elementary, Edward Novak.

New officers of the Mothers Group of the **Downingtown Friends School** were Mrs. Albert Herman and Mrs. Elliot Jones, co-chairman; Mrs. Francis Brown, Treasurer; Mrs. Phillip Bradley, recording secretary; and Mrs. William Goessel, corresponding secretary.

The National Chamber of Commerce's monthly newsletter included a photo of **Downingtown's Log House**, which was recently made the local Chamber's headquarters.

Frances Knight was crowned May Queen at the **Wallace Township Schools' June Festival**. Her attendants were Christine Harrison and Nancy Edwards. Her court also included Lloyd Lutz, Russell Slater, Roland Saathoff and Gene Dowlin.

## Downingtown area news in January 1945

The following news items were published more than 67 years ago by local newspapers:

A **Committee for Post-War Planning and Lasting Peace** was formed. Its leaders were Paul Dague, chairman; Nelson Dennis, vice chairman; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; and Joseph Miller, treasurer. A minstrel show, directed by Thomas Phillips, was planned; Chester Glisson agreed to handle ticket sales.

Newly elected officers of the **Ladies Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co.** were Mrs. Elmer Schrupf, president; Mrs. Clifton Walton, vice president; Mrs. Warren Yocum, treasurer; Mrs. Gerald Lyons, secretary; Mrs. Ruth Trego, financial secretary; and Mrs.

Arthur Phillips, chaplain. New members were Mrs. Joseph Ashenfelter, Katherine Mullen, Mrs. Frank Weiler, Mrs. Cora Osborn, and Mrs. Ella Cozzone.

The **Senior Service Girl Scout Troop 2** completed furnishing its new room at the Downingtown National Bank. Brownie Troop 85 was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Thomas Davis, assisted by Mrs. Charles Diehl.

New officers of the **Brandywine Building and Loan** were Joseph Miller, president; Arthur Glauner, vice president; W.C. Johnson, secretary; Richard Warren, treasurer; and Perry Tyson, solicitor. The board of directors included Samuel McDonald, Leland Wilson, Leon Gable, Leo Hamilton, William Mittel, Frank Diffenderfer, Leroy Campbell and Gilbert McIlvaine.

The **Chester Valley Community Chest's** new office was moved to East Ward School; Miss Anna McIlvaine Miller's enclosed porch had been the headquarters for many years.

## Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon

Yes, we know it's a holiday weekend. But you should rest up for all your laborious activities on Monday. That's why we're going to have our leisurely clipping and pasting session from 1-4 PM on Sunday in air conditioned Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

## They were participating in a Tom Thumb wedding



Dan Lindley is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of youngsters participating in a Tom Thumb Wedding. The kids in this 1915 photo were standing outside West Ward School because they were members of a Tom Thumb wedding party for some kind of fundraiser, probably for the school, which was located where Messiah Lutheran is now. One of the kids in the center of the photo was George Bousum, who became a prominent dentist in Downingtown, according to his

son, John. Tom Thumb weddings were a popular way for schools, churches, communities and clubs all over the United States to raise funds in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. All of the major wedding roles are played by small children. And companies provided all the clothing, scripts and props needed to put on such a wedding.

The weddings are re-enactments of the actual wedding of the famous little person General Tom Thumb (born Charles Stratton) to Lavinia Warren, another little person, in 1863. The wedding attracted considerable publicity and was a major event of the time. Tom Thumb was a celebrity, promoted by the circus entrepreneur P.T. Barnum.

We found an August 1954 edition of the Coatesville Record, which reported on a Tom Thumb Wedding conducted in Kerr Park in the summer of 1954, as part of the community's recreation program. Some 400 people turned out for the Parents Night program, which began with the introduction of celebrity wedding guests, portrayed by youngsters from the borough. They included Mamie Eisenhower, Marilyn Monroe, Joe DiMaggio, Jerry Lewis, Esther Williams and Willie Mays.

Members of the wedding party were Patty Robinson, bride; David Pollock, groom; Sue Fox, maid of honor; and James Ferguson, best man. Costumed in dresses made of colored crepe paper, the bridesmaids included Rose Ann DiFernando, Mary Emery, Charlotte Senneff, Gayle Davis, Janet Talucci, Barbara Short, Janine Davis, Michelle Buckley, Mary LeFevre, Mitzi Pollock, Jill King, Ruth Miller, Cindy Henry, Audrey Strouse, Vickie Thompson, Sandra Baen, Mary Brookover and Drue Diffenderfer. Linda Dowlin and Laureen Tweed were the lower girls.

Posing as ushers were Charles Rogers, Tommy Booker, Bobby Ziegler, George Murphy, Billy Pollock, Ronnie Conrad, Francis Kline, Pete Landis, Bobby Cumens, Michael Pollock, Richard DiEugenio, David Landis, Lyn Ziegler, Jimmy Ganders, David Robins and John Landis. Kenny Baen was the ring bearer.

The evening also included the selection of Miss Downingtown, from 16 teenage nominees. Joan Hughes was crowned by Marjorie Eppolito, Miss Downingtown of 1953.

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Vol. 3, No. 38

September 6, 2012

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## Local news in September 1975

The following news items were originally published 37 years ago in the *East Branch Citizen*:

The **DHS soccer team**, which had been a club sport in 1974, faced Southern Chester County League competition for the first time. Coached by Paul Hurley, the Whippet kickers got their first win by beating O.J. Roberts 1-0.

Anne Baroni, West Bradford, won blue ribbons in several competitions at the **4-H Sheep Round-up** for Chester and Delaware Counties.

**Property transfers** included: 409 Devon Drive, Uwchlan, \$52,000; 613 Highland Ave., Downingtown, \$38,000; 46 N. Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$73,000; 1580 Kelly Ann Drive, West Bradford, \$57,225; and 16 Waterview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$49,565.

Glenn Usher, Jeff Vincent, David Rowley, John Hendricks, Steve McDonnell, and Charles Bradford of **Boy Scout Troop 82**, sponsored by Messiah Lutheran Church, had attended Camp Horseshoe.

Members of the Live Wires group at **Downingtown United Methodist Church**, who served a covered dish supper, were Frances McAllister, Jean Steeley, Mildred Barr, Sally Woodward and Linda Wolfe.

Members of **Student Council** at DHS were Heidi Parvin, president; Wayne Davis, vice president; Kathy Caldwell, secretary; and Deirdre O'Connor, treasurer. **Senior class** officers were Bob Thomas, president; Chris Norman, vice president; Debbie Burgess, treasurer; and Mimi McGeehan, secretary.

Elected officers of the Brandywine Lodge of the **Odd Fellows** were John McCausland, noble grand; Creston Shoemaker, vice grand; Horace Wilson, treasurer; and Gilbert Cox, secretary.

The **DHS Band Parents** built a refreshment stand at the high school football field (now DiSerafino Stadium).

## Local news items 62 years ago

The following new items were published in *The Archive* in September 1950.

**Secretaries hired** to work at DHS were Loretta Kaempfer, Mary Foreman and Josephine Flynn.

Officers of the Mothers Club of **West Ward School** were Mrs. Herbert Ash, president; Mrs. Theodore Noll, vice president; Mrs. Mary Lamb, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Ax, treasurer.

Elected officers of the **East Ward School** Mothers Club were Mrs. John Miller, president; Mrs. John Moyer, vice president; Mrs. Ross Dague, secretary; and Mrs. John Snyder, treasurer.

Members of the incoming nursery class at the **Downingtown Friends School** were Whittier Atkinson, George Chandler, Patricia Erwin, Theodore Griffith, Harlan McIlvain, Catherine Mitchell, Jean Morrison, Geoffrey Roehrs and Barbara Smith.

Members of the cast of the **Downingtown Lions Club's** musical production of "Headin' Hollywood" were Ida Mae Carr, Joe Travaglini, Park Moore, Margaret Love, Dr. William Reed, Ruth Jackson, Catherine Moschitta, George Quinn, Lois Miller, Louise White, Diane Kline, Barbara Ax, Lew Lear, Doreen Hurst and Della Ippolito.

Officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** included Fred Fisher, master; Edwin Smedley, overseer; Mrs. George Taylor, lecturer; Maurice Darlington, steward; David Taylor, assistant steward; Gilbert Smedley, treasurer; Isabel Acker, secretary and Robert Lytle, gatekeeper.

## **Downingtown Girl Scouts won first prize in 1926**



This is a photo of a group of Girl Scouts from Troop 8 of Downingtown, which took first prize in the canning competition at the Chester County Fair in 1926. The leader was Capt. Ruth Paxson John, who lived with her husband, William, a railroad worker, at 220 Stuart Avenue in the borough. According to the 1930 Census, Mrs. John was employed by the State Health Department as a trainer of nurses. She died in 1962, at age 84, and is buried in Northwood Cemetery. Can someone identify any of the girls in the photo, or know more about Mrs. John? Please send that info to:

[Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

## **Steps were near railroad overpass on Brandywine Ave.**



Jeff Stevens is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo (taken by Mike Dunn) of the steps, which are just before the railroad underpass on the east side of Brandywine Avenue, also Route 322 at that point in Downingtown, and next to McGuckin & Pyle. There used to be an old railroad siding at the end of the steps, according to Jeff. Anyone know any more about this site?

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## Downingtown area news in February 1945

The following news items were published in local newspapers 67 years ago.

T/Sgt. **Pete Duca**, 29, of Downingtown, received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with two Silver and one Bronze Clusters. He flew 67 missions as a radio gunner on B-26 bombers.

And Mr. and Mrs. George McAllister of Marshallton received the Purple Heart, awarded posthumously to their son, **Pvt. William McAllister**, who was killed in France in November 1944.

Patrons of the **Roosevelt Theatre**, Downingtown, donated \$313.88 to the March of Dimes fund.

Burgess Leo Hamilton told members of the Rotary Club that the **coal shortage** remained acute, with barely enough anthracite coal arriving to meet the needs of borough households. To date, however, no family has been without sufficient coal to keep their home warm.

And enough bituminous coal has arrived in the borough, keeping local institutions and factories operating for the next week or two. The situation was controlled by the borough staff, which investigated every request for emergency coal and satisfied all the requests when absolutely needed. Hamilton concluded by saying the widespread coal shortage would continue to be serious for some time.

The newly opened **Youth Center** on the second floor of the Minquas firehouse was open from 7:30-10 PM to boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 19. More than 170 kids paid 25 cents to join. The supervisory board was headed by Rev. Peter Van der Heil, rector of St. James Episcopal Church. The Center offered shuffleboard, ping-pong, darts, and a juke box which supplied music for dancing.

*(Editor's Note: Can anyone offer reasons why the Youth Center ultimately closed? Please send your responses to: [Info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org))*

The **DHS Alumni Association** decided that the printed programs for the annual banquet should include memorials for the seven alums who had died in the war. They were: Joseph Bowman, Richard Zook, Joseph Cozzone, Alvin Gottier, Robert Wiemer, Anthony DiCristafaro and Arthur Pickell.

Local boys **inducted into the Army** that month included Robert Ammeralt, Chester Mull, George Cain, Thomas Miller, Mark Dague, Charles Clark, Lloyd Warren, and Lewis Muzii.

## News found in the DOPACO Diary

Here are some of the interesting news items we found in the early 1950s editions of the DOPACO Diary, the employee newsletter published by the Downingtown Paper Co. Stanley Walters, Personnel Manager, was the editor. Janet Knauer, Barbara Lee and William Ash were the associate editors. Earl Chrisman handled the photography.

At that time, the local plant produced 270 tons of paperboard per day.

DOPACO's softball team schedule included games against Bickings, the Downingtown Manufacturing Co. and Downingtown Iron Works.

Service award pins were presented to following men in the spring of 1951: Jack Gray, 30 years; Thomas Manion and Parke Glauner, 25 years; Florindo Mattioni, Carlo DiOttavio, Huston Mattson (President of Local 414 of the United Paperworkers of America), Tom O'Donnell, James Biondi and Paul Detterline, 10 years.

Dr. Herman Kramm was the medical director, and Ella Lammey was the full-time company nurse. In 1951, 2,427 people were treated or examined in DOPACO's dispensary.

More than 280 people attended Local 414's annual picnic in August, at "Breezy Point," Tony Sciaretta's property on Boot Road. And the annual company banquet was held in October at the Columbus Center in Chester.

Suggestion winners included: Charles Loughlin, John Christman and Mario Pizii. Members of the Suggestion Committee were Rick Gindin, Ben Summers, Homer Welch, Art Ruoss, Daniel Saylor, Al DiPaolantonio, Charles Habecker, John Ayers, Herb Buckley, Fred Rissell and Russ Cannella,

Employees in the combined Accounting, Billing and Payroll Departments were Stanley Seneff, Charles Soulliard, Wendell Ross, Kenneth Ellingsworth, Joseph McGrogan, Eugene Capriotti, Walter Fitzgerald, Arthur Hyde, Ruth Peace, Leo Hogg, Arthur Summers, Dorothy McCombs and Joseph Mento.

Promotions announced in December included: Joseph Bruno, to beater operator; Attilio Terriman, to brokeman; and Joseph DiFerdinando, to sheet boy.

Bennett Norris, who started at DOPACO—then known as the Frank Miller Paper Co., the company—as a machine tender in 1902, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the company in 1952. There was a testimonial dinner for Norris at the Exton Lodge.

Members of the King Keglers, who won the company bowling league, were Daddy Mascherino, Scotty DiBernardinis, Jim Fredrick, Booby Sciaretta, Bill Null, Ronny Brinton, and Don Forbes.

Members of the baseball team, sponsored by Local 414, in the Downingtown Teeners League (13-15 years old) were John Carter, Joseph DiMarco, Huston Mattson, Robert Henry, Richard Goudie, John Dawson, Fred Sweigert, Joe Bird, Bill Bird, Joseph Mingione, Francis Valentino, Eddie Clayton, Harry Flinn, Frank Hammons, Joseph Mascherino, Peter Sarmento and Robert Simmons. Ray Kipp was the manager and Bob Lillard was the assistant manager.

Nearly 600 people attended the company's Athletic Association dinner-dance in October 1952 at the Ephrata American Legion Hall

## **Brief but important**

- Except for the borough of Downingtown, most of the area that now comprises the Downingtown Area School District was farmland back in the World War II era. And when we read recently that thousands of German prisoners of war were sent to work on Pennsylvania farms, we wondered if any of them were assigned to local farms. If your family had such an experience, please send us your recollections of what it was like to have POWs working on your farm.

- He may be in his 90s, but Jack Henry keeps plugging along. The longtime Downingtown artist moved to Florida several years ago, but he returned recently to live in Simpson Meadows in the borough. That's where Jack will exhibit some of his artwork, from 4-7 PM Friday, September 14. Many of you have seen his beautiful painting of customers sitting at the counter at the Coffee Cup. It's been on display at Ashbridge House, our 18<sup>th</sup> Century headquarters, for several years.

- When Bell Telephone had a switchboard office on Green Street in Downingtown in the 1950s, the 24/7 operation involved 42 operators. They handled more than 9,000 calls per day; including an average of 3,000 pay calls.

## It once was the home of the Woman's Club



We were surprised how many people identified this old farmhouse at 121 Manor Avenue in the borough as the former home of the Downingtown Woman's Club until Lori Petrie bought it 1989 so she could run her Pre-School there.

Brian Formica was the first person to make a correct identification, earning the title of truly perceptive scholar as well as a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant, awarded by F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, Downingtown.

Although it's unclear when the original part of the farmhouse was built, historians estimate that it was sometime between the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and early in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. According to the Woman's Club records in the Historical Society's archives, the house had 16 rooms and 7 fireplaces.

The Woman's Club bought the 4.5-acre property from Joseph and Mary Hoopes for \$12,000 in 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Hoopes never lived there; they lived on East Lancaster Avenue. They inherited the Manor Avenue property in 1920 from Joseph's mother, Sallie Downing Hoopes.

The vintage photo above was provided by sisters-in-law Mrs. Robert (Ellen) Plank and Mrs. Park (Mary Jean) Plank. Their husbands' maternal grandfather, Howard Abel, was born in the farmhouse in 1884.

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 40

September 20, 2012

### Where Is This?



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## Downingtown area news in July 1960

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

**Bob's Kwik-Kook** opened on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough. Its take-out specialties were "steamfried" chicken and seafood dinners.

The **Downingtown Visiting Nurse Association** and the **American Legion** were making plans to co-sponsor a horse show at Ingleside Farm in August. Members of the VNA's committee were Mrs. Ralph Ralston, president, and Fanny McIlvaine, secretary, Mrs. John Forbes, Mrs. Walter Roehrs, Mrs. David Anderson, Mrs. Herman Kramm, Mrs. Ben Valocchi, Mrs. Walter Leland and Mrs. M.S. Meisel.

Members of the **Downingtown Little League** all star team were Kenny Sigel, Wilbur McQueen, Barry Piersol, Dennis Dancy, Robert Giunta, Preston Mercer, Leonard Collier, Larry Piersol, Ralph Miller, Raymond Fry, Richard Biondi, Thomas Nurthen, Michael Bruno and David Robbins.

Warren Strawsnyder told fellow members of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** that plans to buy the Bicking Paper Co. property on East Lancaster Avenue, to be used as a shopping center, were underway.

Jeanne Charles received the Outstanding Bedside Manner and Florence Nightengale awards, and Helen Pannebaker was named the Best All-Around Nurse award at the **Chester County Hospital School of Nursing** commencement.

Newly elected officers of the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown were Katherine Lammey, senior regent; Mrs. Daniel Zittle, junior regent; Mrs. Byron Dawson, graduate regent; Mrs. Thomas Moffat, chaplain; Mrs. Ross Dague, treasurer; and Mrs. Benjamin Summers, recorder.

A survey of **Wallace Township** residents determined that they liked the country life. Objections included long distance from shopping centers, the lack of police protection, and the lack of water and sewage systems.

Approximately 3,000 people turned out for **Good Neighbor Day**, sponsored by the **Downingtown Optimist Club**, in Kerr Park on July Fourth. Chris Sanderson emceed the afternoon entertainment. Highlight of the day was the unveiling of the pavilion, built by the Optimists. Donald Collier and Francis Swisher co-chaired the project. Winners of the children's pie eating contest were Lila Mae Price, Geraldine Thomas and Howard Bruder. Michael Fennelly, Allen Harrington and Sharon Tipton won the singing competition. And Janie Forbes and Cherylen Nellius won the hoop twirling contest.

The Philadelphia Council of Girl Scouts opened **Camp Indian Run** in Wallace Township for its 28<sup>th</sup> season. New features included horseback riding instruction on camp horses and riflery instruction. The camp was established after Girl Scout Council bought the 136-acre Hollinger-Yoder farm in 1930. An additional 16 acres of woodland was bought in 1956.

**Brownie Troop 69**, led by Mrs. Jay Lammey and Mrs. Glen Wagner, conducted a "fly-up" ceremony on the stage of Guthriesville School. Bindy Von Hacht, troop president, introduced the flag ceremony. Members of the color guard were Sandy Lammey, Lynn Forbes, Marilyn Elikor and Linda Wagner. Linda Kemp and Mary Ellen Dawson were announcers for the program.

## Downingtown Mfg. Co. played big role in WW II

We noted in a brief article about the Downingtown Manufacturing Co. (DMC) in the August 23 Hist-O-Gram that the firm played a significant role in meeting the needs of the armed forces during World War II.

Here's a more detailed listing of some of the machinery and parts produced at DMC during war years, according to copies of the *DMC News*, the employee newsletter published in that period by the Downingtown Manufacturing Co.

DMC sold machinery to several vulcanized fibre manufacturers, which used it to produce millions of ration tokens every day. Vulcanized fibre was used to make the tokens because it was durable, inexpensive, non-strategic to the war effort, and not easily duplicated by counterfeiters. The tokens simplified shopping for rationed foods bought by 130 million Americans during WW II. Red tokens were used as change for rationed red meat stamps, and the blue tokens were for the new processed blue food stamps.

Breech mechanisms for guns mounted on the decks of submarines were manufactured by DMC. The on-deck guns enabled submariners to fire at enemy ships at a great cost savings because the shells they fired cost about \$15 each, while torpedoes each cost \$10,000.

And DMC built sintering machinery, which reduced the size of iron ore used by steel companies to produce guns and shells. At one steel company, the machines produced 450,000 tons of high-grade ore, annually sintered to a sand-like consistency.

Another DMC machine was used to make an asbestos paper, which was wrapped around the "Big Inch" pipeline being installed to transport crude oil 1,475 miles from Texas to refineries near New York and Philadelphia.

Scott Paper Co. was using equipment with suction roll equipment produced by DMC. The machinery was used to make a special soft tissue paper, which the military used to clean lenses of periscopes, range finders and many other instruments.

DMC produced rings, each about 80 inches in diameter, which were used in the manufacture of tank turret ring assemblies. The ring assemblies allowed three-ton tank turrets to turn quickly and direct fire on the enemy. DMC also made rings for thousands of roller race assemblies, which enabled sailors to make quick sideways movements when aiming 50 caliber machine guns installed on PT boats.

DMC also manufactured nearly 3,000 escape hatches, made of armor plate, for Sherman tanks. The hatch assemblies were placed directly under two tank operators who could escape in an emergency.

And special steel butterfly valves made by DMC were installed on the atomic bombs assembled at DuPont's secret plant in Hanford, WA.

Another wartime job at DMC was making 81 castings for buoys, used to mark channels through mine fields in the ocean and to designate navigation obstructions. The castings produced weighed a total of 320,000 pounds.

Many local women took over jobs traditionally done by men, who were serving in the military. They included Margaret Sciarretta, Alice Gordon, Josephine Fazzini, Josephine Duca, Rita Madrigale, Leah Baen and Catherine Spangler.

Despite the war effort, there still was time for relaxation. Captains of the bowling teams at DMC in 1943 were Buzzy Yohn, Bus Phillips and Chink McCaughey. Members of Yohn's championship team included Bob Weller, Claude Ryder, Carm Travaglini and Lee Mercer.

## They're in their early 50s today



This photo of the fifth grade class at Pickering Valley Elementary School in 1971-72 was provided by Philip Hemcher. In addition to Carl Deutsch, principal, and Lee Ely, their teacher, in the top row, the fifth graders are, left to right: Pauline May, Jimmy Flasher, Marty Porter and Mary Fabo; second row: Joanne Book, Keith Riley, Don Farrell and Kate McClatchy; third row: Linda Simmers, Jack Stine, Philip Hemcher and Sandy Dewees; fourth row: Scott Mitchell, Patty Yenser, Marc Wollner, Pam Cunningham, Steve Senn and Linda Beard; fifth row: Teresa Hannum, David Flasher, Joan Haas, Ann Hummer, Dana Smith, David Huth and Lori Gathman. We're looking for more photos of classes, teams, scouts, etc. with names. Please send them to [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).



## It's a mill race in Downingtown



Linda Draper was the first caller to correctly identify this site as the mill race fed by the First Lake on Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown. The mill race still flows behind the homes in the 300 block of E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown. It used to provide water for the Bicking Paper Co., which had been located on the site of McDonald's Restaurant. Linda knows the site well, because she spent many hours ice skating there in the 1970s. The photo, taken by Mike Dunn, also shows the pump house next to First Lake and the dam and sluice gate at head of the culvert at Green Street.

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual \$25\_\_\_\_ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$20\_\_\_\_ Family \$35\_\_\_\_

Business \$50\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$75 \_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_

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Vol. 3, No. 41

September 27, 2012

### **A much different site today**



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### **War dominated local news in March 1945**

As Allied forces in Europe raced toward Berlin and the U.S. military expected to be fighting the Japanese for a long time in the Pacific theatre, here are some of the stories Downingtown area people were reading in local newspapers in March 1945.

Marine Sgt. **Andrew Cozzone** of Downingtown received a Silver Star for gallantry,

after the fire group leader of a rifle squad advanced 100 yards through grenade fire and located the machine gun, hidden in the mouth of a concealed cave, which had cut down several of his buddies on the island of Guam. Then Cozzone, killed six Japanese machine gunners, and carried the captured 75-pound weapon back to his unit.

And the Navy reported that Lt. (j.g.) **Penrose M. Davis Jr.** of Downingtown was killed in action in the Pacific. No further details were available at the time.

Also, First Officer **Malcolm Ashby** of Marshallton was one of the pilots in the Army Air Transport Command, which flew 5.2 million miles, transporting more than 6 million pounds of military cargo, 2.5 million pounds of military mail, and 33,500 military passengers without one mishap or injury. Flying in sleet, snow and sometimes 100-mile winds, they transported personnel and supplies from Anchorage, Alaska, to Aleutian Island outposts.

Downingtown area boys **inducted into military service** that month included: Elmer F. Miller, Howard P. Bicking, Charles T. Baxter, Gilbert J. Algier, George E. Nixdorf, Charles F. McCaughey and Norman W. Warner.

The **American Legion Auxiliary** reported it had donated 125 cakes of soap to the Navy Hospital in Philadelphia and a large number of coat hangers to the Army Hospital at Valley Forge.

West Bradford Township residents were encouraged to drop off at least one cake of soap in the containers at **Chambers' store** in Marshallton. Mrs. Harry Cann was in charge of the "Soapless Europe" project.

The **Good Citizenship Club of Marshallton** named these Marshallton School students as outstanding citizens: Horace Wilson and Thelma Pugh, eighth grade, and Ronald Yetter and Joyce Powell, seventh grade;

The **Downingtown Visiting Nurse Association** reported that five hospital units—each comprised of a bed, spring and mattress, linens, a pillow, a bedside table, and other equipment used in a sick room—had been received from a disbanded Wilmington hospital. The hospital units were loaned to local families that needed them.

And **W.P. Canby & Son**, Brandywine Avenue, Downingtown, was encouraging local farmers to buy "scientifically planned, sturdily built" metal Rilco Hog Houses and Pre-fabricated Poultry Houses.

Also, DHS seniors hoped to sell 1,000 tickets (60 cents each) for the **Gilbert and Sullivan operetta** "Pirates of Penzance," being presented for two nights in the Junior-Senior High School auditorium.

Newly elected officers of the Ladies Working Guild of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Clarence Reed, president; Mrs. Corbin Hutchison, first vice president; Mrs. John Byerly, second vice president; Mrs. Norman Howe, secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Brown, treasurer.

## Are you too young to remember this?



Hilda Tarlecky and her daughter, Michelle Mento, provided us with info on the Sunset View Farm, which was established by Hilda's father, W.L. Hannum, many years ago. The dairy was in business into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. Some of you may remember the dairy farm, which stretched along the east side of Route 113 (Uwchlan Avenue), starting from where Central Presbyterian Church is in Downingtown and continued north to above the Route 30 Bypass in East Caln. The horse in the photo was called "Topsy," and it knew every stop along the route, according to Bill Venditta (Michelle Mento's cousin) who provided the photo of the horse and wagon. Although that's Ralph Hannum inside the wagon in the photo, Bill Hannum usually handled the deliveries.



## Before they took the stucco off



Rahn Brackin earned the title of truly perceptive scholar last week because he was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of Glenmoore United Methodist Church before the stucco was taken off. Rahn remembers going to the church cemetery on Memorial Day with his grandmother as a kid (before the stucco was stripped off) to see his grandparents' and great grandparents' (sur name: Hocker) graves. According to its website, the church was known as Springton Methodist, when it was founded in 1831, and was located one mile south of its current site, at 1920 Creek Road (Route 282) in the village of Glenmoore. When the congregation outgrew its first location, the church's trustees approved the purchase of 3.5 acres from Lucien Hoguett in 1871. The cornerstone was laid on July 1873, and the church was dedicated five months later.

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Vol. 3, No. 42

October 4, 2012

## Where and What Is This?



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Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## Downingtown area news in October 1975

The following news items were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen*:

Members of the Brandywine Lodge of the **Independent Order of Odd Fellows** who were eligible for 50-year service pins included Lewis Laird, Allen Smedley, Alvin Phipps, Hathaway Frain, Horace Lamping and Creston Shoemaker.

New Sunday School teachers at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Nancy Giancola, Barbara Spirko, Pat Tuting, Eileen Fetterman, Betty Busby, Brenda McFarland and Caroline Collier.

**Property transfers** included: 115 Princeton Dr., Uwchlan, \$46,000; 62-A Old Kings Hwy., E. Caln, \$74,500; 1204 Glenside Ave., W. Bradford, \$41,900; 5 Harvey Cir., Downingtown, \$32,000; 52 Hunt Ln., W. Pikeland, \$64,500;

**Central Presbyterian Church** dedicated its new sanctuary. The church's education center was completed in June 1972. The baptismal font and rebuilt Moeller organ were brought to the new facility from the former church on East Lancaster Avenue.

A triathlon, co-chaired by George Mershon and Jack McFadden, was the highlight of the **West Bradford's** Bicentennial and Historical Committee day-long kick-off event.

New officers of **Hopewell Methodist Church** included Chris Paul, president; Mark Lucas, vice president; Steve Hillamm, secretary; and Kirk Bower, treasurer.

The Holstein shown by **Tina Acker** won a second place ribbon at the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show in Harrisburg.

Jack Henry was installed as president of the **Downingtown Optimists Club**. Other officers were Fran Schevets and Fran Swisher, vice presidents; and Irv Geschwindt, secretary-treasurer.

**Sheree Johnson** of Downingtown was first runner-up in the Miss Lancaster County Scholarship Pageant. A junior at Millersville State College, Sheree sang "Home" from the Broadway musical *Wiz*, in the talent portion of the competition.

Members of the troop committee of **Brownie Troop 83**, which met at First Baptist Church, Downingtown, were Mrs. Charlotte Ferry, Mrs. Theresa McCausland, Mrs. Kathryn Doyle, Mrs. Patricia Hyatt, Mrs. Helen Swanson and Mrs. Frances Mattia.

DHS seniors who were recognized as **Merit Scholars** were Rick Kerber, Mark Gaspero, Carol Schafer, Paul McKibbin and Kate Caldwell.

Donna Valentino was named **DHS Homecoming Queen**. Her court included Polly Canale, Kim Colestock, Joy DeArmit, Karen MacDonald, Mimi McGeehan, Kim Miller, Rosalind Tiller, Darlene Tolley, Teresa Ursini and Gretchen Worth.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, who were promoted, were John Stalder, life, John Tagland, star; George Hall and Vic Hagerstrom, first class; Jan Janes and Benny Steele, second class; Carl Wise, David Ivey, Danny Turner and Dave Mundy, tenderfoot.

Larry Priori bought the **Dining Room** restaurant on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, from Benny DiFernando.

Connie Galbraith won a \$50 savings bond from the **Lionville Fire Co.** because her entry won the fire company's shoulder patch design competition, conducted at Lionville Junior High School.

## Local news in The Archive in October 1950

These news items were originally published 62 years ago in *The Archive*, a Downingtown weekly newspaper:

Some of the local "talent" in the **Downingtown Lions Club's** production of "Headin' Hollywood" included: Mylin Plank, emcee; Patty Sciaretta, tap dance; Judith Henry, toe dance; and the Lions Club Octet, which included Joe Travaglini, Nelson Dennis, Anthony Ricci, William Reed, Wilson Pollock, Nelson Norris, Ed Towson and James Fennelly. The Octet was directed by Stan Walters and accompanied by Ed Ellmore.

Participants in the **Indiantown School**, Glenmoore, pet show were Ruth Parrot, a puppy; Larry Piersol, a springer spaniel; Charles Davis, a bantam and peeps; Frank Aaron, a cocker spaniel; Mary Lou Davis, a carrier pigeon; and Dorothy Riggs, bunnies.

**Downingtown firefighters** Ike Ames and Al Peterman received distinguished service awards from the Downingtown Rotary Club.

After the **Nice Yarn Co.**, Downingtown, was purchased by the International Resister Co., the world's largest producer of resisters for TV sets and other electronic devices, the operation was moved to Wakefield, RI.

Models in the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** fur fashion show were Mrs. Walter Gallagher, Mrs. Emanuel Gindin, Mrs. Nels Olsen, Mrs. Park Moore and Mrs. Ethan Berry.

**DHS art students** who won awards in the competition sponsored by the Downingtown Woman's Club were Carol Cameron, first; Kay Carson, second; and Jane Romig, third.

Leading roles in an opera put on by members of **St. Matthews Lutheran Church**, Chester Springs, were Mrs. Clyde Griffith, Louise Glassmyer, James Haldeman, Robert Casner, Mrs. Ralph Casner, and Charles Merroth. The opera was directed by Mrs. Oliver Mosteller. Mrs. Ray Loomis was in charge of costumes, and Suzanne Evans handled PR.

Winners of automatic dishwashers in a contest sponsored by the **Canby's** store in Downingtown were Joseph McCloskey, Mrs. Gilbert Cox and Mrs. James Moore.

DHS students who won awards from the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** for their painted Halloween decorations on Downingtown store windows were Carol Royce, Yolanda Ippolito, Sara Taylor, George Lowe, Esther Flowers, Sara Popjoy, Jane Romig, Barbara Schweiker, Wayne Smith, Martha Lowe and William Arrowood.

Winners in the costume competition at the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School Association's** Halloween party were Nancy McQueen, Shirley Hannigan, Joan Miller, Lucille Walters, Harry Styer, Glen Lumis, Marie Smith and Joan Quartucci.

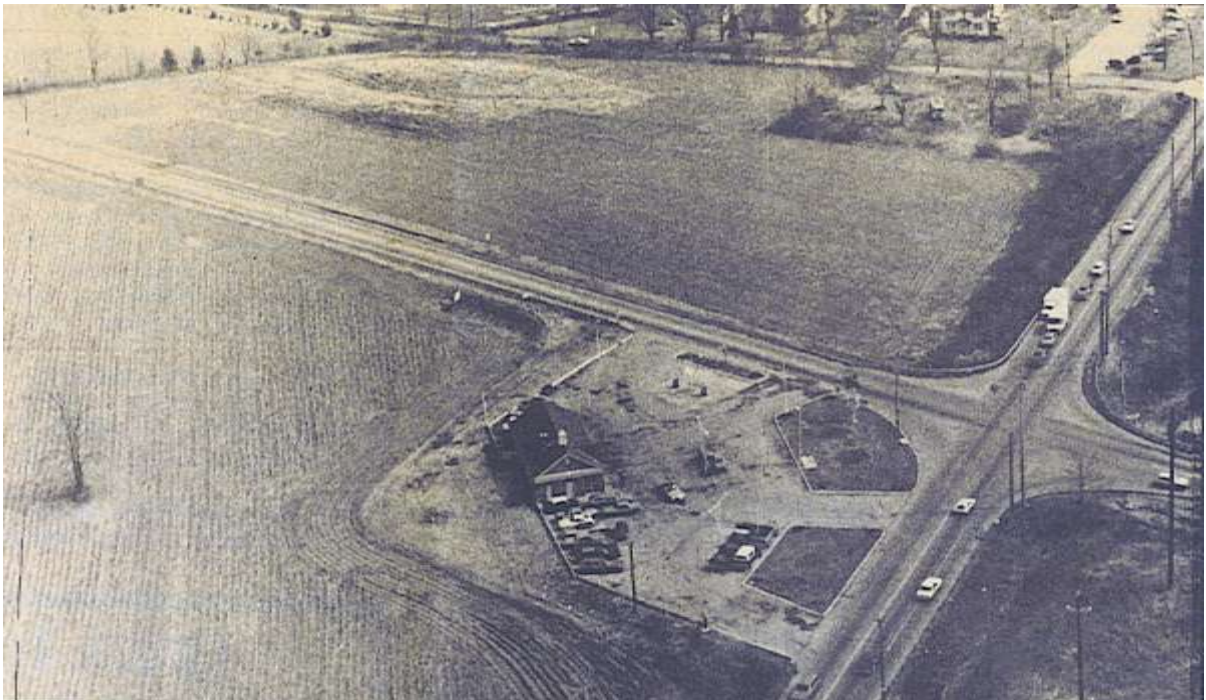
Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton who enjoyed a hayride were Bob Wallace, Woody Bossert, Skip Passmore, Richard Busby, Don Lambert, Dale Ellingsworth, Ernest Amoriello, Harold Miller and John Nicholas.



## **Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon**

The Historical Society will have its monthly clipping and pasting session from 1-4 PM on Sunday at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

## **It's the intersection of Routes 100 and 113**



Many subscribers can't understand why our Hist-O-Grams don't include more news about the rural townships surrounding Downingtown. Well, the aerial photo we ran in last week's Hist-O-Gram graphically answers that question. There wasn't much going on at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113 in Lionville, as well as the other local farm communities, before suburbia started blossoming back in the 1960s. By the way, Rahn Brackin was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to identify the location of this photo, which includes Leon Guthrie's Sunoco gas station on the northeast corner of the intersection. Phillip Hemcher, who provided the aerial photo, said his brother Jim pumped gas there, and Jim Francies and Greg McCann say they were gas jockeys there, too. Allen Puy noted that Guthrie received awards for the beautiful flower beds he planted and maintained at the station.

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

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

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual \$25\_\_\_\_ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$20\_\_\_\_ Family \$35\_\_\_\_

Business \$50\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$75 \_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_

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

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

## **Coming events & activities in Downingtown area**

### ***Operation Military Christmas Package***

Volunteers from East Brandywine Township are again collecting items to fill Christmas stockings for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2007, the volunteers stuffed over 1,500 stockings and "Santa Bags".

This year's goal is to send 1,000 stuffed stockings to the troops. Donations will be used to purchase items such as eye drops, snacks and baby wipes, and financial donations will



help defray the cost for shipping. All items should be new and small enough to fit in a pocket. No glass or aerosol cans be shipped.

Because the troops are stationed at bases supplied by a roving PX (a store on wheels) that visits every 2 weeks, they're often the fourth or fifth base to be visited that day, and the store is bare of the basic essentials such as eye drops and baby wipes. The toys, games and puzzles help the troops pass the time – last year every stocking included a jar of bubbles!

One hundred percent of the donations go to the military deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan! Working in partnership with Hibernia United Methodist Church, the stuffed stockings are sent to battalion chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they're distributed to those who might not receive much in the way of holiday gifts.

Items may be dropped off before Saturday, Oct. 20 at:

East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, weekdays from 9am to 4pm, and the Village Hardware Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, Saturdays 8am – 4pm and Sundays 10am – 4pm

Feel free to fill a stocking and include a Christmas card.

You can help with the stuffing on October 20 at Easy Brandywine Township Building from 9am till noon.

For further information, call Aimy at 484-343-0081 or the Township at 610-269-8230.

### ***Bingo for Scholarship Fund***

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Longaberger Basket Bingo fundraiser will be held Sunday, November 4 at the East Brandywine Fire Co. Doors open at noon; bingo begins 1pm. The event supports the education advancement of local students. The Chamber is accepting donations for baskets. Sponsoring a basket is between \$25 and \$50 donations. You may also choose to fill a basket with your products, gift certificate for your business or a gift certificate/item from a vendor of your choice. For more info on donations or sponsoring a basket, contact Al DiMatteo, 610-383-1114 or 610-873-1115, or Linda Draper, 610-269-1523.

### ***Marine Corps League Golf Classic***

The Chester County Marine Corps League will conduct a golf tournament on Monday, Oct. 8 at the Applecross Country Club in East Brandywine Township. It will include breakfast at 9 AM, a golf clinic or 18 holes of golf beginning at 10:30 AM, a buffet dinner at 3:30 PM, and evening events starting at 4 PM. Details on sponsorship packages and registration can be accomplished by contacting Leif Jacobsen at 610-518-5375 or [ChesterCountyMCL@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyMCL@gmail.com).

### ***Join Rewards Program at Cropper's***

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

### ***Savings opportunities available at DARC***

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

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

### ***Banquet Room For Rent***

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

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](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](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: [Info@downingtowntnareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntnareahistoricalociety.org).**



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

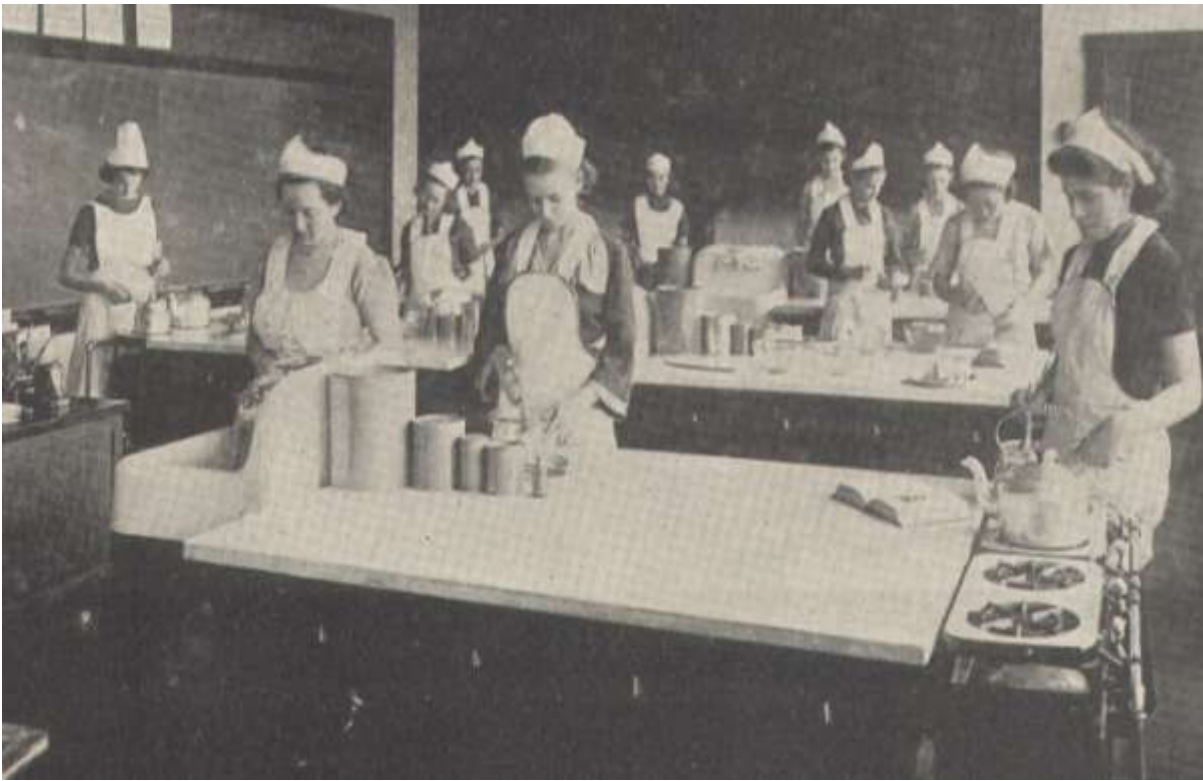
*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 43

October 11, 2012

### Where and When Was This Taken?



The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to:

[Info@www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

### Downingtown area news in October 1960

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

**Superintendent Raymond Baugher** proposed that the school district should buy a planetarium for \$8,500. However, Thomas Brookover, school director, claimed that the money would be better spent if it were used to raise teachers' salaries.

Brookover also presented the results of a survey he did on the effectiveness of the school district's efforts, based on DHS students' SAT scores over the past three years, which were "no better than average," compared to College Board scores nationwide.

Results of the **1960 U.S. Census** for Downingtown area municipalities determined that their respective populations 52 years ago were very low, compared to their populations in the 2010 Census, which are shown here in parentheses: Downingtown, 5,635 (7,891); East Brandywine, 1,483 (6,742); East Caln, 759 (4,838); Upper Uwchlan, 913 (11,227); Uwchlan, 997 (18,088); Wallace, 1,046 (3,458); West Bradford, 1,885 (12,223); and West Pikeland, 784 (4,024).

**Downingtown Junior High's** Student Council officers were Michael Dorsey, president; Carole Cann, vice president; Michelle Plank, secretary; and Richard Walton, treasurer.

Members of the cast of the **DHS Senior Class Play** were Barbara Noll, Janice Windle, Lee Thompson, George Shoemaker, Faye Thomas, John Rogers, Judy Jones, Georgia Wagner, John Houston, Barbara Young, Robert Logan, Joyce McCombs and Paul D'Argenson.

Newly elected officers of the Ladies of **Chester Valley Rebekah Lodge 512**, Lionville, were Irma Kachel, noble grand; Mrs. James Underwood, vice grand; Mrs. Heber Wilson, recording secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Smedley, financial secretary; and Mrs. Grace Benner, treasurer.

**Fire chiefs** recognized at the Downingtown Rotary Club were Hallan Usher, Downingtown; John Leslie, Thorndale; William Hill, West Bradford; John Reber, Glen Moore; Allen McCausland, East Brandywine; and Albert Miller, West Whiteland.

Everett Hoopes, chairman of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** Improvement Committee, reported that Dr. Milton Osborne, chairman of Penn State's Architecture Department, was designing new fronts for four buildings in the borough's business district.

Officers of **Messiah Lutheran Church's** newly formed women's group were Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Alison Hallowell, vice president; Helen Leiter, secretary; and Mrs. John Collins, treasurer.

Officers of the **DHS Student Council** were David Schaeffer, president; Pete Landis, vice president; John Rogers, secretary; and Dave Radcliffe, treasurer.

Forty-six students from 23 countries were guests of 30 local families as part of the **Downingtown Lions Club's** International Students Weekend.

Anna Taylor's 15-page report, in opposition to **fluoridating Downingtown water**, sparked a controversy at the Borough Council meeting. Council announced plans to conduct hearings on the topic.

Those who participated in the Variety Show put on for members of the **Ladies of St. Joseph** were: piano selections by Timothy and Michael Terramin and Genevieve Esposito, tap dancing by Linda Lozinski, Cindy Talucci and Francis Vischichini, and Donna and Allan Katherman; ballet by Janice Falini and Kathy Stanford; accordion solo by Robert Doto; and vocal solos by James Fennelly and Dolores Parker. Allen Cardwell was the emcee.

Officers of the new **DHS Parents Club** were William Ash, president; Ronald Brinton, vice president; Mrs. Wanda Barron, secretary; and Mrs. Mervin Thomas, treasurer.

Officers elected to lead the **Indiantown School Reunion Committee** were Elwood Earnshaw, president; Hazel Bemm, vice president; Mrs. Florence Keenan, secretary; and Mrs. Bessie Smealey, treasurer.

And officers of the **Wallace Township Parents Club** were Roland Evans, president; Robert Gabriel, vice president; Mrs. George Conaghy, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Earnshaw, treasurer.

## It was the paper mill's power plant/boiler house



Teresa Talucci was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this photo, taken by Mike Dunn. It's the former power plant/boiler house at the Sonoco Paper (nee' DOPACO) plant at 300 Brandywine Ave. in Downingtown. The plant was dismantled and partially demolished in 2007 as part of the proposed River

Station redevelopment. It has been proposed by River Station developer Peter Ullman that the existing structure be re-used as part of the new Amtrak/Septa train station. “When we were kids, we could see that smokestack from our house, and we always said it looked like a giant cigarette because of the black tip,” recalls Teresa. “Both of my grandfathers and two of my brothers worked there. I remember going with my grandmother, when she would drive my grandfather there after he retired, because the company nurse still monitored his blood pressure for him. I hadn’t thought about this stuff since I was a kid.”

## **An update on the Route 100/113 intersection**

In a recent Hist-O-Gram, we included an aerial photo of the intersection of Routes 100 and 113 in Lionville. Doug Hanley, who has been Uwchlan Township’s manager for more than 30 years, kindly provided us with some of his recollections of that area.

He says Route 113 had been comprised of two 11-foot paved lanes and a 9-foot area of stone shoulder in spots, until the latter part of the 1980s, “when we were lucky (?) enough to have developers start widening (the road) to what you see out there today.”

He also remembers when the Turnpike Commission was going to redo the Interchange and get rid of the “t” intersection with Route 100, back around 1985. Initially, Doug says, the Turnpike Commission was not going to carry the four-lane widening project down through the Route 100/113 intersection, and thus create an hour glass effect, since the four-lane widening of Route 100 stopped at the DNB property at that time. “Several of our State legislators stepped in to get that changed.”

Although he doesn’t have immediate access to the current vehicle count for that intersection, Doug believes “it is now the most heavily traveled intersection in the County, with something like 65,000+ vehicles a day going through it. If my memory is right, in 1984 we were looking at somewhere around 30,000 to 35,000 vehicles a day. Who knows what it was when your picture was taken,” he wonders.

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### ***Downingtown Ghost Walk***

When: October The Downingtown Historical & Parks Commission will present its fourth annual Downingtown Ghost Walk on Oct. 26, 27 & 28, conducted by the Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators. Participants will be guided to some of Downingtown's historic and haunted landmarks. The Paranormal Investigators will present documented stories and communications that will give tour-walkers an evening that's both spooky and historic.

At 7 pm on Friday evening (10/26), there will be a 90-minute theater-type production at the Alert Fire House on West Pennsylvania Ave., featuring all of the characters and paranormal information for those who cannot or do not wish to "walk" the tour. On Saturday (Oct. 27) and Sunday (Oct. 28), the 90 minute walking tours leave Downingtown Borough Hall every 20 minutes. The line forms at 3:45 pm for the first tour at 4 pm. Tours leave every 20 minutes. You must check in by 8:30pm to ensure a spot on the Saturday tour. This tour has sold out the past 3 years. And the line forms at 3:15 pm for the first tour at 3:30pm. You must check in by 8 pm to ensure a spot on the Sunday tour..

'Babes in arms' & children in front/back packs or strollers are not permitted. This event is not recommended for children under 6.

Tickets are \$7 and are available at Borough Hall, Downingtown Country Gifts, Pinball Gallery and Margo's Ice Cream. For more details, visit [www.downtontown.org](http://www.downtontown.org).

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 44

October 18, 2012

## Where and What Is This?



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## A peek at Downingtown schools 75 years ago

Based on the 1936-37 Annual Report of Downingtown Public Schools, many changes have occurred in local schools over the past 75 years.

At that time, the borough's school system was comprised of three buildings: East Ward and West Ward (on West Lancaster Avenue; razed in 1961) Elementary Schools and the Junior-Senior High School (now the site of the STEM Academy on Manor Avenue).

Most of the Downingtown system's students lived in the borough back then, since the surrounding townships operated their own elementary schools and several of them also had two-year high schools. Townships paid tuition for each pupil from their municipality who was enrolled in the borough school system.

However, most of the modifications in the local education system since 1936-37 report reflect significant changes over the years in the institution of public education in America.

Here are some of the interesting findings discovered in the Annual Report:

- Surprisingly, enrollment in the elementary grades dropped from 949 in 1932-33 to 778 in 1936-37, while the number of secondary level students rose from 336 in 1932-33 to 678 in the 1936-37 school year.
- Revenues in that school year were \$119,107 in revenues; costs totaled \$116, 631.
- Classes began at 8:45 AM, and dismissal is at 3:30 PM. Illegal absences resulted in a 3% deduction in the grades of all courses missed.
- Two activity periods were provided every day so all students could participate in club activities. For example, club options at the Junior High level included: first aid, harmonica, knitting, stamps, chess and games.
- All Junior-Senior High School students were required to take an Art and Music course every year. Both grade schools had a drum and bugle corps and an orchestra. Entries by three DHS art students—Roy Eshleman, Julia Ludwick and Jack Henry—in a nationwide poster contest entries were chosen to be exhibited in Cleveland. And Eshelman's entry won the competition and was reproduced in over 500 magazines. Also, both of Sophie Matalsky's entries were accepted for the "Young America Paints" exhibit in New York City's Rockefeller Center and then went on tour across US.
- There was "a crying need" for a movie projector so films "of a pleasurable nature" could be shown in the cafeteria during lunch periods, as well as for educational purposes. Plans called for a projector to be purchased with proceeds from the annual magazine subscription campaign.
- Museums in the grade schools included exhibits of mounted birds (including an eagle, shot near Downingtown, at West Ward) , bird eggs, rocks, Indian relics, and butterflies and moths.
- Student patrolmen helped avoid congestion in the halls, and were responsible for answering phones and delivering messages, as well as helping the principal place orders for supplies.
- The system's school nurse made 270 home visits, and dental hygiene was taught in a 20-minute period every week in the elementary schools.
- One-third of the Junior-Senior High boys participated in at least one of these interscholastic sports: football, basketball, baseball and track. Interscholastic sports available to girls at the secondary level were field hockey and basketball.
- Junior High girls had a Home Economics class once a week, while Senior High girls had a class daily. In Chester County Farm Show competition, the Home Economics Department took a first for best cotton dress and a second for a cotton slip, a third for cotton pajamas, a first for angel food cake and a second for muffins.
- Girls were required to take a minimum of 45 periods of gym during the school year, while the boys' minimum was 70 periods.
- "If corporal punishment is necessary, it would be advisable to send the offender to the office in order to avoid necessary and frequently dangerous consequences." Slapping or hitting students was a "sign of weakness," and "was not viewed with favor by the administration. A sound whipping, properly administered, in the presence of a impartial witness is more effective and less dangerous. "
- Home room teachers or designated students were required to read at least 10 verses of Scripture each day, without comment, usually followed by the Lord's Prayer.

- To rectify the “considerable shortage in appropriate reference and fictional material” in the school libraries, it was suggested that the budget should include a “relatively large appropriation” for the next five years.
- “Teachers may grant permission to the library to (Junior-Senior High) students who certify that they have need of special books in connection with their school work. A special permit, bearing the teacher’s signature, is necessary for admission to the library. Of course, teachers may judiciously allow **boys** to do independent reading in the library, but this favor should be restricted to superior students. If boys and girls are admitted to the library promiscuously, then the library becomes a Glorified Study Hall, and nothing more.”

## A Home Economics class at DHS in 1936-37



Ralph Hall is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first person to determine that this is a photo of a Home Economics class, which apparently is learning how to bake, at the Junior-Senior High School in the late 1930s. The photo was originally published in the 1936-37 Annual Report of the Downingtown Public Schools. The report was in a box full of material Kathy Creamer Conahan recently donated to the Historical Society. Kathy’s father was Joseph Creamer, DHS guidance counselor for many years.

### **How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership**

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

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual \$25\_\_\_\_ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$20\_\_\_\_ Family \$35\_\_\_\_

Business \$50\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$75 \_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_

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

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

## **Coming events & activities in Downingtown area**

### ***Operation Military Christmas Package***

Volunteers from East Brandywine Township are again collecting items to fill Christmas stockings for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2007, the volunteers stuffed over 1,500 stockings and "Santa Bags".

This year's goal is to send 1,000 stuffed stockings to the troops. Donations will be used to purchase items such as eye drops, snacks and baby wipes, and financial donations will help defray the cost for shipping. All items should be new and small enough to fit in a pocket. No glass or aerosol cans be shipped.

Because the troops are stationed at bases supplied by a roving PX (a store on wheels) that visits every 2 weeks, they're often the fourth or fifth base to be visited that day, and the store is bare of the basic essentials such as eye drops and baby wipes. The toys, games and puzzles help the troops pass the time – last year every stocking included a jar of bubbles!

One hundred percent of the donations go to the military deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan! Working in partnership with Hibernia United Methodist Church, the stuffed stockings are sent to battalion chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they're distributed to those who might not receive much in the way of holiday gifts.

Items may be dropped off before Saturday, Oct. 20 at: East Brandywine Township Building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, weekdays from 9am to 4pm, and the Village Hardware Horseshoe Pike, Guthriesville, Saturdays 8am – 4pm and Sundays 10am – 4pm

Feel free to fill a stocking and include a Christmas card. And you can help with the stuffing on October 20 at Easy Brandywine Township Building from 9am till noon. For further information, call Aimy at 484-343-0081 or the Township at 610-269-8230.

### ***Downingtown Ghost Walk***

The Downingtown Historical & Parks Commission will present its fourth annual Downingtown Ghost Walk on Oct. 26, 27 & 28, conducted by the Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators. Participants will be guided to some of Downingtown's historic and haunted landmarks. The Paranormal Investigators will present documented stories and communications that will give tour-walkers an evening that's both spooky and historic.

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'Babes in arms' & children in front/back packs or strollers are not permitted. This event is not recommended for children under 6.

Tickets are \$7 and are available at Borough Hall, Downingtown Country Gifts, Pinball Gallery and Margo's Ice Cream. For more details, visit [www.downtontown.org](http://www.downtontown.org).

### ***Bingo for Scholarship Fund***

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

### ***Banquet Room For Rent***

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\*\*\*\*\*

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 45

October 25, 2012

## What and Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to:

[Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## Big changes were brewing here in November 1960

Here are some news items, published in local papers, which reveal what was going on in the Downingtown area 52 years ago.

**Downingtown's planned annexation** of the industrial section of East Caln Township got underway, when a petition was presented to Borough Council. East Caln industries sought the annexation along Boot Road because they had been plagued by a lack of water, which could be accessed from the borough, but not from the township. The affected area ran east along Boot Road, from the borough line, then north on Woodbine Road to East Lancaster Avenue.

A total of 379 residents of **West Pikeland** residents voted in the November presidential election. Only eight eligible voters didn't come to the Good News Production building to vote. Election officials included: Eber Wilson, judge; and Vince Spangler and Mrs. O.E. Collins, inspectors.

Winners of the costume competition at the **Ladies of St. Joseph Catholic Church's** Halloween party were: Gail Cain, prettiest; Peggy Panetti, ugliest; Alice Mascherino, funniest; Betty DiLuigi, Antoinette Morris, Alice March, Ginny Muzii, and Irene Valentino, most original; and Lucy Menna and Josephine Pizzi, best couple. The Ladies of St. Joseph also began to sponsor Brownie Troop 205, under the leadership of Mrs. Edwin Brown and Mrs. Dominic DiLuigi.

In a **mock election at DHS**, Richard Nixon defeated John F. Kennedy 190 to 110, and Nixon beat Kennedy 433-221 in the election conducted by the Junior High students.

New officers of the Pilgrim Lodge, **International Order of Odd Fellows, Lionville**, were Everett Wilson, noble grand; John Benner, vice grand; Kenneth Fell, secretary; and Horace Wilson, treasurer.

A survey of residents of **Wallace Township** revealed that the 596 taxpayers in the township were employed in 133 different occupations. And of the 297 dwellings in the township, 196 were owned and 91 were rented. Also, there were 378 children under the age of 18.

**Elmer Hemberger**, industrial arts teacher at DHS, was elected president of the Industrial Arts Assn. of Pennsylvania.

Winners of the costume competition at the Halloween party at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Gary Maga, last one guessed; Richard Meredith, funniest; Michael Huffman, ugliest; David Emberger (as an ear of corn), most original; and Corrine Taylor, prettiest.

The Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board learned that **the new grade school in Lionville** was over-crowded already. Raymond Baugher, Downingtown Superintendent of schools, said the over-crowding had occurred because Uwchlan Township was getting swamped with new residents. The board also learned that the two old schools in Lionville were each worth about \$10,000 when they were put up for sale.

Newly elected officers at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, included: Wilbur Felton, trustee and Sunday school superintendent; Josiah Ashenfelder, Edwin Eshelman and Lawrence Dilworth, deacons; Mrs. Joseph Woodward, church clerk; Mrs. Marvin Shirk, treasurer; and Mrs. Gerald Lammey, financial secretary.

**Downingtown National Bank** mailed Christmas Club checks to 1,808 persons, representing a total of \$203,952. That's a \$12,000 increase over the total amount of Christmas Club checks sent to 1,634 people in 1959.

**Pepperidge Farm Inc.**, which had two plants in Downingtown, announced plans to become part of the Campbell Soup Co. in 1961.

Dr. Thomas Parke, Dr. Anthony Ricci and Edward Towson told members of the Lords and Ladies groups of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, about the benefits to be derived from the planned fluoridation of the borough's water system.

Officers installed to lead the **Uwchlan Grange** were J.P. Styer, master; George Taylor, lecturer; and Edith Oberholser, chaplain.

## Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon

We're going to have our leisurely clipping and pasting session from 1-4 PM on Sunday at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

## Dormer windows on the Library roof



Bob Stevens is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo (taken by Mike Dunn) of the dormer windows on the roof of the Downingtown Library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough.

For more information on the building and the library's history, see the second page of our January 19, 2012 Hist-O-Gram, which is accessible via <http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/JAN%2019%202012.pdf>.

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## Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

### ***Pancake Breakfast***

The Downingtown Lions Club will have their "William Woodruff Memorial" Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 to 11: 30 AM Saturday, Nov. 17 at Central Presbyterian Church, 100 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown. For tickets—\$6 for adults and \$4 for children (4-12)—call 610-269-3650 or buy them at the door.

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Vol. 3, No. 46

November 1, 2012

### **What and Where Is This?**



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### **Local news items in November 1975**

These news items were originally published 37 years ago in the *East Branch Citizen*:

The **DHS Concert Choir**, directed by Ronald Ditzler, was invited to sing at the Musical Educators' National Conference convention in Atlantic City in March. And the

high school's **Concert Band**, directed by William Ifert, was invited to play at the Orlando Music Festival in February.

The Governor's Trophy was presented to Mindy Titus, Kelly Osborne, Bob and Chuck Gerringer, Holly and Heather Henry, and Denise Luminella, who dressed as Santa Claus and his reindeer in the **Downingtown Halloween Parade**, sponsored by the Optimist Club.

Members of **Hopewell Methodist Church** who were responsible for the sponsorship of a Vietnamese family included Polly Henry, general chairperson; Arnold Kring, employment; Dick Barringer, transportation; Newton Thompson, finance; Arnold Sten, recreation; and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Williams, furnishings.

Winners of the poster contest, promoting the **Ladies of St. Joseph** bazaar, were James Buss, first; Pam Romanelli, second; and Dan Smith, third.

Committee chairpersons for **St. James Episcopal Church's** Christmas Boutique were Liz Wagoner, food; Jane Greenleaf, crafts; Mary Priest, plants; and Amy McIlvaine, fruit cakes.

New members invested in **Brownie Troop 1201** at Marshallton Methodist Church were Melissa Benner, Ginny Davis, Diana DeFrate, Cathy Pfeiffer, Gina Sanzone, Lori Sleeman, Arissa and Linda Strouth, Tracy Sullivan and Hannon Webb.

Prizes for their costumes at the seventh grade's Halloween party at Downingtown **Junior High School** were won by Albert Madrigale, Adrienne Jenkins, Sharon Draper, Robert Switzer, Jennifer Rorke and Donna McCann.

**Paul Matter** of DHS was named Teacher of the Year by the Industrial Arts Association of Pennsylvania.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted for the **McDonald's restaurant** in Downingtown.

New members of **Junior Girl Scout Troop 442** were Theresa Burns, Laura Clark, Cathy Madiro, Linda Rieffer, Judy Schollenberger, Margie Snyder and Lisa Warnick.

Officers elected by members of the **Lionville Youth Association** were Paul Seymour, president; Jack Waiboer, chairman; Vince Forgione, treasurer; and directors Dorothy Foster, Joel Gramling, Carl Box, Jerry Swack, Illa Waiboer, Don Wix and Rick Talazus.

**To be continued in next week's Hist-O-Gram.**

## **Downingtown Moose celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Several members of the Historical Society's board were guests Saturday night, when the Downingtown Lodge 1153 of the International Loyal Order of Moose celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The International Loyal Order of Moose, founded in 1888, comprises nearly 1 million men in some 2,400 Lodges, in all 50 states and four Canadian provinces, plus Great Britain and Bermuda. And the Women of the Moose group has more than 400,000 members in about 1,600 Chapters in the same areas.

Here's some information about the Downingtown Moose found in the Historical Society's newspaper clipping files in our Archives:

- There were 52 original members when the Downingtown was founded on October 22, 1912.

- The local Lodge was furnishing its rooms in December 1913 in the Odd Fellows Hall at 151 W. Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, to make them “more attractive and home-like.” An open was planned, and a player piano was to be installed. And Christmas dinners in baskets were going to be distributed to the less fortunate.
- In May 1914, a Moose baseball team was organized, and an 18-piece orchestra, connected with the Lodge, was “flourishing nicely”
- And in June 1914, the Downingtown Lodge’s baseball team, a member of the InterState Moose League, played the Coatesville Moose in the infield of the Downingtown Driving Association’s race track, located near the intersection of Boot Road and Brandywine Avenue in the borough.
- In August 1916, the Downingtown and Coatesville Lodges debated on women’s right to vote. “The room was packed”, with women outnumbering the men. Entertainment was provided by a four-piece orchestra and a men’s glee club.
- When the Downingtown Lodge celebrated its fourth anniversary in 1916, it had more than 500 members. Officers in 1916 were: Harry Moses, past dictator; John Kagenhuber, dictator; Sidney Iron, vice dictator; Harry Sauders, prelate; Leroy Rawling, secretary; Frank Foster, treasurer; George Charles, Jesse Harris and W.M. Gordon, trustees; J. Hess, inside guard; B. Hardt, outside guard; Frank Lenhardt, sergeant-at-arms.
- Members of the Downingtown Lodge’s Mooseheart Legion held their meetings during the winter of 1918 in the homes of Ada Kelly, Philena Hart and Mary Ingram, because of the coal shortage.
- The Downingtown Lodge gave a banquet at the Lincoln Stuart Building on Stuart Avenue in September 1919 for those who were returning from military service in World War I. Badges inscribed “Downingtown Welcomes You from Service,” were given to all the soldiers by the Business Men’s Club.
- The Downingtown Lodge, which had 394 members at the time, conducted a drive in early 1924, with a goal of reaching 500 members by April, when the charter would close and the membership fee would increase “considerably.”
- The Lodge’s shuffleboard team won the Inter-Club League championship in 1937.
- In 1941, extensive improvements were made to the Moose Home at 225 W. Lancaster Ave., which was to be the site of the Chester County courthouse back in 1780s.
- When Downingtown Little League was founded in 1949, one of the sponsors of the four teams was the Downingtown Moose.
- In September 1951, “Cap” Wando, president, appointed Arthur Phillips, Harry Robertson, Charles Broomell, LaVerne Moore and Adam Nichelowski to handle arrangements for the annual banquet.
- Newly elected officers of the **Women of the Moose** in Downingtown in July 1960. were Katherine Lammey, senior regent; Mrs. Daniel Zittle, junior regent; Mrs. Byron Dawson, graduate regent; Mrs. Thomas Moffat, chaplain; Mrs. Ross Dague, treasurer; and Mrs. Benjamin Summers, recorder.



## Clip Joint will be open Sunday, Nov. 4

We messed up our notice in last week's Hist-O-Gram, when we advised you that the next clipping and pasting session would be on the following Sunday afternoon, Oct. 28. Obviously, that was the WRONG DAY. The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, Nov. 4** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure

## It's the former James Dorlan house



Becky Corbin was the first person to correctly identify this photo (taken by Mike Dunn) as the former James Dorlan house on Dorlan Mill Road, at the trailhead of the Struble Trail, near the intersection of Creek Road (Route 282). Once known to area residents as the "Pink House," it bears a date stone inscribed "J.M. and E.D. Dorlan 1849," according to Barbara Paul's *A History of East Brandywine Township*.

Dorlan married Elizabeth Dowlin in 1832, and they had 11 children. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1851, and served for one term.

In 1833, Dorlan bought the nearby Davis and Cooper paper mill, where he began producing waterproof wallpaper. After a change in ownership, followed by a destructive fire and reconstruction in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the mill began to produce binder board. The plant was taken over by Shryock Brothers in 1915 and by Robert McIlvain in 1952. McIlvain sold it to his son-in-law, Charles Barber, in 1989. The business closed about five years ago.

## Family Files have info on more than 7,000 people

The Historical Society's Family Files Index is a listing of articles about local persons' engagements, retirements, weddings, deaths, etc. The articles have been clipped from

local newspapers, including The Downingtown News, The Archive, The East Branch Citizen, The Daily Local News, The Downingtown Ledger, and the Community Courier.

The clippings are pasted on 14 x 8 cardstock. The collection contains articles involving over 7,000 names, and is constantly being updated. They primarily include articles from the 1970's to the present. However, some articles were clipped from earlier newspapers.

The Index is organized by the last name, and the first letter of the first name. Hence the cards often contain articles about several persons who have the same last name and the same first initial of their first name. The index also includes family genealogy data.

For more information on our Family Files system and the names included, contact us at [info@Downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@Downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

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The event is coordinated and funded by parents and members of the community. All funds that are raised will be used for the event and are utilized in securing activities, games, food and prizes.

Volunteers are needed for all committees, and parents of students in all grade levels are encouraged to get involved. Please do not wait until your child is a senior to get involved.

Those who wish to help are invited to join us at 7 PM at meetings being held on: 11/13/12, 1/15/13, 2/19/13, 3/19/13, 4/16/13, 5/14/13 in Room 139 at DHS West.

Please check out the P3 website: [www.dwestpostprom.com](http://www.dwestpostprom.com) for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

### ***Bingo for Scholarship Fund***

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Longaberger Basket Bingo fundraiser will be held Sunday, November 4 at the East Brandywine Fire Co. Doors open at noon; bingo begins 1pm. The event supports the education advancement of local students

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\*\*\*\*\*

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 47

November 7, 2012

## What Was This?



The first person to correctly identify how this artwork shown above was originally used will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

## More news items from November 1975

The following news items were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* 37 years ago:

- **Paul Schiltz**, Downingtown, took second place in the Bikathon competition, sponsored by the Chester County Unit of the American Cancer Society.
- New members of the **Downingtownt Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Thomas Campbell, Mrs. Robert Bredickas and Mrs. Douglas Gindin.
- Parents who coordinated a one-day trip to New York City by **Uwchlan Hills School** fourth graders included Theresa Talierco, Mary Wychgel, Carol Faccioli, Maureen Brock, Martha Curtis, Cherrie Perkins and Joanne Robideau.
- Co-ed **physical education** classes, involving non-contact sports such as tennis, golf and archery, were being introduced at DHS.
- **Property transfers** included: Uwchlan, 28 S. Village Ave., \$37,500; and Downingtown, 416 Farmhouse Rd., \$39,950.
- The **DHS Band Parents** and the **Downingtownt Optimists Club**, co-sponsors of the fundraiser, scratched their plans to offer a Night at the Races program at St. Anthony's Lodge in the borough. A representative of the Band Parents group claimed they feared the fundraiser would be raided, after someone contacted the office of William Lamb, Chester County District Attorney. Proceeds from the fundraiser were to be used to help cover the costs of the DHS Concert Band's trip to the Orlando Music Festival.
- Students at **Old East Ward School**, who were eligible to compete in an oral spelling bee, were Grant Angeny, Mark Funk, Phyllis Grove, Jill Haynes, Dana Jenkins, Susan Molnar, Andy Natalie, Kim Otto, Linda Piccone, Kim Postgate, Jim Price, Christine Remley, Brent Ross, Diane Wickwire and Glenn Winship.

## Local happenings 62 years ago

Here are some of the news items that were originally published in November 1950 editions of *The Archive*.

- A **dial telephone system** was installed in the Eagle area. As a result, these switchboard operators, who worked at the Eagle telephone exchange for many years, retired: Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Mrs. Myrtle Eachus, Mrs. Harvey Funderwhite and Mrs. George Bright. The first switchboard was installed in Miller's Store in 1909.
- **Marshallton Girl Scouts** who enjoyed a hay ride to Hoopes Park, West Chester, were Lynn Klunder, Sylvia Hall, Emily Lambert, Susie McCue, Sarah Miller, June and Mary Brackbill, Gwen Curry, Anna Sheetz, Barbara Stevenson, Alice Wallace, Joan Woodward, Mary Yarnall, and Florence and Mary Pierson.
- Downingtown Burgess Leo Hamilton was the borough's Civil Defense coordinator as well. Other local **Civil Defense Committee** leaders were Ray Sheeler, emergency transportation and evacuation; W.P. Canby, communications control; Police



Chief Joseph Newlin, security; Edwin Wagner, power, water and sanitary systems; and Dr. Thomas Parke, medical director.

- New officers of **St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, were Oscar DiBerardinis, president; George Ciarlone, vice president; Carl Valente, financial secretary; Samuel Mento, corresponding secretary; James Mento, treasurer; Michael Mento and Oscar Fazzini, auditors; and Anthony DiObilda, censor.
- Mrs. Jacob Edge was chairman of the book fair at the **Downingtown Friends School**. Other committee members were Mrs. William Rowland, finance; Mrs. Frederick Koepnick, display; and Mrs. W.E. Mullenstein, publicity.

## Reflections on the meaning of Veterans Day

Although Veterans Day is no longer known as Armistice Day and that day of remembrance will be officially observed on Monday, November 12, Jesse Davis of Downingtown's Thomas Moran Post 475 of the American Legion sent us this message:

"Sunday is "Armistice Day", November 11th., and at 11 AM, many old veterans will stop and be silent for two minutes, as originally intended for Armistice Day. They are doing honor to those killed in WWI, as well as WWII. They are still doing so, just as they were taught when they were children.

"This tradition is going the way of standing with hand over the heart when our flag passes, or during the playing of our national anthem, or the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. These simple displays of the American character are disappearing with these old veterans.

"Today's adults are losing the reason behind the origins of our "Holidays", and they, with their progeny, no longer hear what happened on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918.

"Many know nothing about the War of 1812 and the birth of our National Anthem.

"Our National Holidays are changing, and today "Presidents Day" loses the emphasis we used to place in honoring the exceptional characters of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We now equate them with other Presidents, such as Franklin Pierce, William Henry Harrison, and all the others who served without distinction.

"The Fourth of July is no longer celebrated for our freedom and independence from English tyranny, but has become "Good Neighbor Day," as though it is the only day we should be good neighbors.

"It will not be today's adults, but the youth of our nation, who will be the ones deciding if these traditions, and the original meaning behind many of our "Holidays" remain for posterity, or die with the old veterans. Their parents and their educational system have cut them adrift from their national heritage."

## Block captains needed for Luminaria project

Good Neighbors in the Downingtown area who want to make the Christmas holidays brighter this year are being asked to participate in the Downingtown Area Historical Society's Luminaria project.

The tradition of displaying as many as 15,000 lighted Luminaria candle sets along the sidewalks and driveways of homes in Downingtown and the surrounding townships has been a local Christmas Eve tradition for more than 30 years.

The Historical Society is looking for volunteers who will serve as block captains, to help make the Luminaria project a success by taking orders from neighbors, friends and family for Luminaria sets. The sets are comprised of a candle positioned in a plastic base, which is placed in a wax-coated paper bag.

The Luminaria project is a major source of funding for the Historical Society. Proceeds from the project are used for the continued restoration and maintenance of Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters, and to preserve its archival collection of documents, photos and artifacts. The 303-year-old Ashbridge House is located on Route 30 in East Caln.

For additional information, call Carol Grigson at 610-269-5413.

## **It's at 363 Washington Ave. in the borough**



Downingtown Fire Chief Gregg Nelms was the truly perceptive scholar, who was the first person to correctly identify this photo as a cupola, which was part of the residence at 363 Washington Ave., in the borough. Gregg said he's familiar with the house because his grandmother, Lena Nelms, lived next door for many decades. It was the home, for many years, of Emily Lewis, legendary teacher at West Ward School (See photo below). Her father, Edge Lewis, built the house in 1900. In more recent years, it has been home and studio of noted artist Adrian Martinez.

## Emily Lewis' third grade class at West Ward in 1952



This photo of Emily Lewis' third grade class at West Ward School in Downingtown (now the site of Messiah Lutheran Church on West Lancaster Avenue) was taken in December 1952. The students were, left to right: first row, Glyn Jenkins, Kathie Forbes, Tommy Williams, Carmella Carbo, Lee Hayes, Bonnie Dawson, Philip Girafalco, Caroline Ash; second row, Francis Bonaduce, Gaetano DiPietro, Theresa Bucci, Ralph Girafalco, Mary Ann Chilla, Richard Johnson, Jack Getty, Kathleen Dugan, Barbara Katherman; top row, Miss Lewis, Carole Lillard, Nancy Gindin and Joe D'Attilio.

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Vol. 3, No. 48

November 15, 2012

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## **DHS was a football powerhouse under Tweed**

Down in the dumps about the “Fiscal Cliff” in Washington or the demise of the Philadelphia Eagles?

To lift your spirits, let’s look back nearly 75 years, when DHS was a football powerhouse, despite the fact that it was often competing against larger high schools such as West Chester, Coatesville and Phoenixville. Back then, Downingtown High School’s enrollment only totaled 340 boys and girls.

We became aware of the Downingtown team’s accomplishments between 1938 and 1940, after the Historical Society was given two scrapbooks, filled with newspaper articles about the football squad’s extraordinary success, when Francis Tweed was the head coach. The scrapbooks were donated to us by Paula Spang, Tweed’s daughter, and her husband, Ed Spang, former DHS principal.

In 1922, Tweed graduated from DHS, where he was a skinny quarterback on the football team. In that era, the team played its home games on a field full of cinders, behind the high school, which was located back then on West Lancaster Avenue, where Messiah Lutheran Church is today. He also played football at West Chester State Teachers College, where he earned a degree in physical education.

Tweed was hired in 1931 as a math and physical education teacher at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School, and as the DHS assistant football coach. He was named head football coach in 1934.

During his seven years as head coach, Tweed’s gridders won 77 percent of their games, compiling 47 wins, 11 losses and three ties. The team won county championships in 1938 and 1939.

Since the newspaper stories in the scrapbooks covered Tweed’s teams between 1938 and 1940 extensively, this article will focus on that period.

In pre-season newspaper stories, Tweed claimed he wasn’t too optimistic about the 1938 squad because several of Downingtown’s All-County players from the 1937 team had graduated, including Pepper Petrella, who went on to star as a running back at Penn State and the Pittsburgh Steelers; Charlie Raysor, who also played at Penn State; and lineman Paul Gillespie.

Despite Tweed’s initial doubts, Downingtown won the county championship in 1938. The All-County first team that season included Downingtown tackle Zeke Osborne, lineman Julian Girafalco, and backs Johnny Donofrio, who scored 102 of Downingtown’s 139 total points, and Joe Mattioni, who only was a ninth grader. Halfback Tony Sciarretta and guard Louis Capriotti were named to the All-County second team. Donofrio, known as “Johnny Saturday,” also was selected to the first team of the Philadelphia All-Suburban Conference, comprised of 35 high schools, and was voted Chester County’s top player in 1938.

One of Downingtown’s biggest victories that year was a 20-12 win over Phoenixville, which had captured the county title the previous four seasons. Despite a sprained ankle, Donofrio scored two TDs, including a 47-yard dash to pay dirt, and converted two PATs in that rain-soaked contest. He also ran for four touchdowns, as DHS routed West Chester 25-0. And he took the opening kickoff for a 90-yard score, as Downingtown beat Coatesville 13-7.

Stars on the 1939 team included Zeke Osborne, who made the All-Suburban first team. Downingtown players named to the All-Suburban third team were halfback Tony Sciarretta and guard Paul Talierco.

Highlights of the 1939 season were when Mattioni and Tony Sciarretta each scored two touchdowns as DHS creamed undefeated West Chester 31-6. One of Sciarretta's TDs was a 79-yard jaunt. Ev Gill, who served as Downingtown's mayor in the 1970s, scored West Chester's lone touchdown.

And when DHS beat Norristown 13-7 on Thanksgiving morning, 1939, it was Downingtown's first undefeated season since 1926. Following the Downingtown contingent's return to the borough, the players, coaches and band celebrated winning its first county crown by parading down Lancaster Avenue.

Following the 1940 season, Mattioni was named Chester County's Player of Year. Guard Paul Talierco and tackle Bob Williams joined Mattioni on the All-County first team. While Osborne was the lone DHS player to make the All-Suburban Conf first team, Talierco and Sciarretta were named to second team. Also, Talierco made the All-Philadelphia Area team.

Highlights of the 1940 campaign included Johnny LaFito's 59 yard run for Downingtown's first touchdown in a 21-7 win over West Chester. And Downingtown beat Pottstown 44-0, as Mattioni scored three times. All of Downingtown's 58 players were in the lineup, in the 20-7 win over Coatesville.

However, Downingtown didn't win a third, consecutive county championship when Phoenixville beat DHS 18-0. It was DHS' first loss since 1938.

Tweed resigned at the end of the 1940-1941 school year, after teaching at Downingtown Junior-Senior High School for ten years and enjoying seven extraordinary seasons as head football coach, to take a position with Lukenweld Inc., a subsidiary of Lukens Steel Co. in Coatesville.

He was one of the three former football coaches (the others were Howard Caskey and Ray DiSerafino) who were honored at the DHS Alumni Association's first Homecoming, in 1963.

Tweed passed away at age 64 on July 30, 1969.

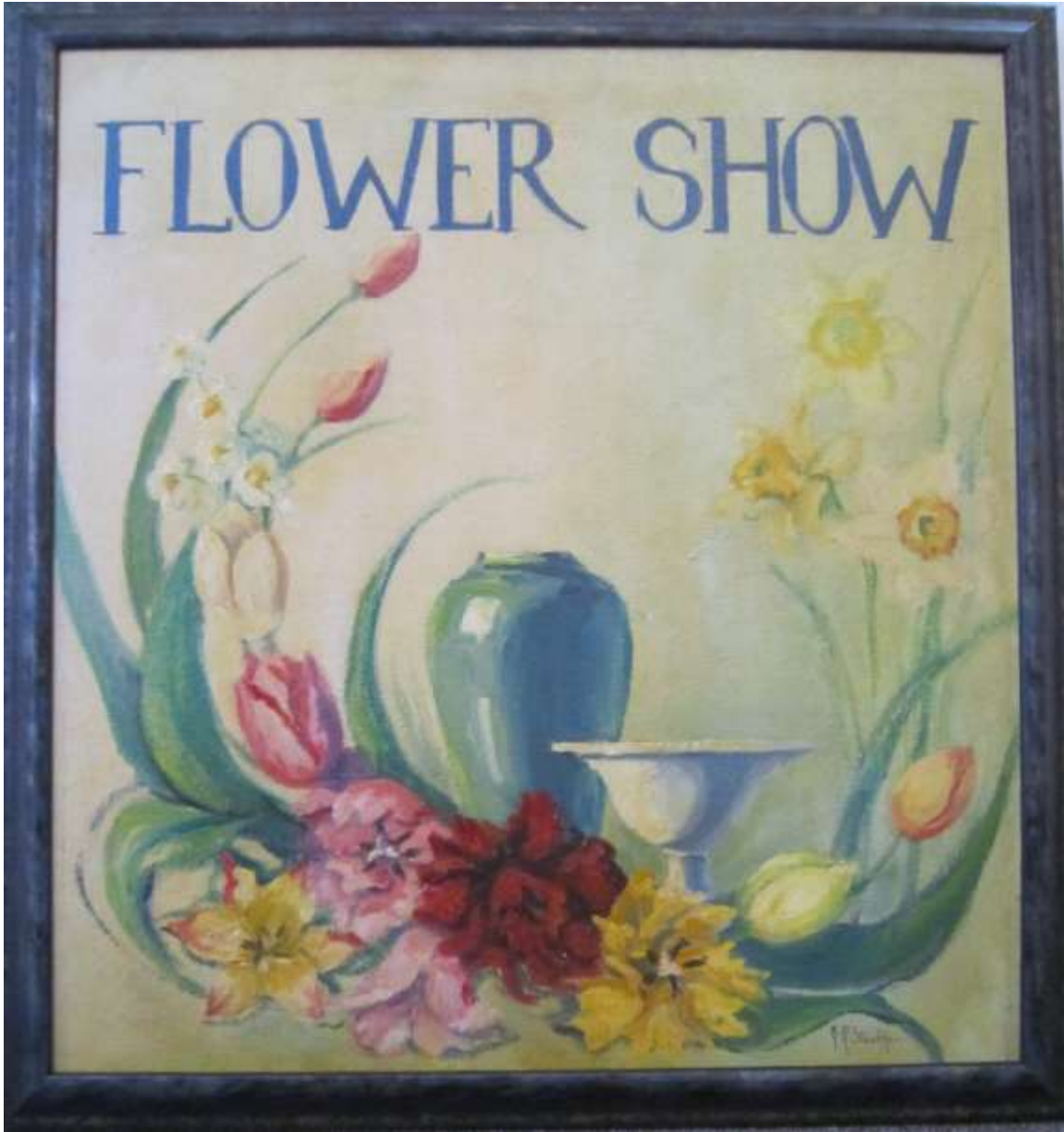
## Former student fondly recalls Miss Lewis

Regarding the **Where and What Is This?** photo of the former residence of Emily Lewis's house on Washington Avenue, Downingtown, and the shot of her third grade class at West Ward School in recent Hist-O-Grams, we received the following comments from Dr. John Rogers, retired English professor at Shippensburg University.

"How curiously the hooks and eyes of memory work! In identifying the photo of the turret of Emily Lewis' house, you included a photo of her and her third grade class at West Ward School, taken in 1952. Many of my young friends were members of that class. Miss Lewis was also my third grade teacher just the year before, and I remember her well and fondly. She was always full of fun and I think enjoyed being "larger than life" in every way. Oddly, one of the things I still clearly remember is a little riddle she posed to us one day in class. She told us that morning that a train had run over her watch, and asked us how it could therefore still be running. I don't know that anybody answered correctly, but of course we all laughed with delight when she told us that she was driving under the underpass on Brandywine Avenue while a train was moving overhead. Yes, it's

a dumb riddle, but strangely I still remember it, and Miss Lewis who told it, and the turret of her house.”

## **Painting was posted outside to promote Flower Shows**



Although neither was aware that this 1955 oil painting by Mabel Stauffer used to be displayed outside the Downingtown Woman's Club, when that organization had its annual flower show at the clubhouse on Manor Avenue in the borough, Rahn Brackin and John Miller were the perceptive scholars who provided details about the painting's connection with the Club.

Ruth Patterson donated the painting to the Historical Society. She bought it in 1991 when the Woman's Club auctioned off most of its holdings, before the clubhouse was sold.

Miss Stauffer, who died at age 94 in 1984, spent much of her life at her family's residence at 346 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough. A graduate of the Philadelphia Museum College of Art, she taught art at the West Chester Friends School, and in the Pottstown and Atlantic City public school systems. She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church and the Downingtown Woman's Club, where she exhibited her work. She was best known locally for her series of watercolors of doorways of Downingtown historic sites, which she did for the borough's 1959 centennial celebration.

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The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 8. The Donner Dash, a 1K Fun Run along the Parade route, will take place prior to the Parade. More information about the Parade and the Race can be found at [www.dtownchristmas.com](http://www.dtownchristmas.com).

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The 10th annual DHS West Post Prom Party (P3) will be held at the Lionville YMCA. All seniors are invited, and they do not have to go to the Prom to come to the Post Prom Party.

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The event is coordinated and funded by parents and members of the community. All funds that are raised will be used for the event and are utilized in securing activities, games, food and prizes.

Volunteers are needed for all committees, and parents of students in all grade levels are encouraged to get involved. Please do not wait until your child is a senior to get involved.

Those who wish to help are invited to join us at 7 PM at meetings being held in Room 139 at DHS West on Nov. 13; Jan.15, 2013; Feb. 19, 2013; March 19, 2013; April 16, 2013 and May 14, 2013.

Please check out the P3 website: [www.dwestpostprom.com](http://www.dwestpostprom.com) for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downtontownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downtontownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 49

November 22, 2012

# *Happy Thanksgiving!*

## **What and Where Is This?**



The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to:

[Info@downtontownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downtontownareahistoricalsociety.org)

## April 1945 news reflected impact of WWII on Downingtown area families

Chester County newspapers included many stories in April 1945 about Downingtown area GIs during WWII. Here are some examples of the sad news and tales of heroism reported back then. The number of details published in each news item was dependent on how much information was provided by the respective servicemen's families.

- Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman, Downingtown, received the Silver Star, which was awarded posthumously to their son, **Staff Sergeant Joseph Bowman**, who was killed in action in September 1944. Bowman joined the Army a day or two after the attack on Pearl Harbor; he was one of six brothers serving in the Army.

According to the citation accompanying the medal, Bowman was second in command of a platoon that was halted by an enemy road block near the town of Bure, Belgium. He was killed when he crawled forward reconnoiter the road block. As Bowman began to remove enemy mines in the road block, the enemy opened fire. An enemy shell hit one of the mines, which exploded and killed Bowman.

- **PFC Ralston Webster** of Downingtown was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry when he and another soldier advanced under heavy machine gun fire in the vicinity of Fraulautern, Germany, toward a maze of barbed wire surrounding an enemy pillbox. Although the other soldier was severely wounded by an exploding mine, Webster continued alone, emplaced his and his companion's charges in the German pillbox, and set off a time fuse. Then he crawled back to move the wounded soldier to safety before the charges exploded, completely destroying the pillbox.

- Marine **Corporal. Gerald Kline**, age 19, of Downingtown, was killed in action on Okinawa on Easter Sunday 1945. He also had been wounded in July 1944.

- **Private Walter Price**, of Downingtown was killed in action on Okinawa. He joined the Marines in 1941.

- Members of the Rev. Roy Eshleman family, Marshallton, must have been elated when they were informed that their son, **Lt. Edgar R. Eshleman** was a prisoner in a German prisoner of war camp. The Eshlemans had been told in December 1944 that their son was missing in action after his plane crashed in Germany. The Eshlemans got the good news from Rev. George Myers of Suwannee, TN, whose son had escaped from the camp. When Lt. Myers arrived home, he told his parents to notify the Eshlemans that their son had survived the plane crash, and still was a POW in the same German camp.

- And Mr. and Mrs. Canullo Pizzi of Downingtown received a letter from their son, **paratrooper Mario Pizzi**, who wrote that he was a POW in a German camp and not missing in action, as originally believed. He was captured by German troops in December 1944, while fighting in Belgium.

- **Second Lt. Robert Templin** was awarded the Air Medal after his B-24 Liberator bombardment group hammered enemy rail lines which were feeding the Russian and Italian fronts.

- **Tech Sgt. Robert Hoskins**, Downingtown, was awarded three Oak Leaf clusters, along with the Air Medal. He was an aerial gunner on a B-24 Liberator.

# Brief, but important

## Staneski sisters are California girls

Sarah Brady, who uses her stage name as a professional musician, was known as Peggy Staneski when she was growing up in Downingtown. She wrote this note after she read last week's Hist-O-Gram

"Although I live in California, I left my heart in Downingtown. My sister, Mary Staneski Webb, told me about your site, and I am so pleased that you honored my uncle, Francis Tweed. Do you know he was a very good banjo player?

"I think Miss Lewis went to the (Downingtown) Methodist Church, where my family was members. How I miss that old church and have such fond memories of my time there."

And Peggy's sister, Mary Staneski Webb, also a Californian now, sent us a separate email, claiming that although she never had Emily Lewis as a teacher, "I remember if you had a loose baby tooth, she would pull it for you."

## Intriguing news items in 1895

While searching through local newspapers on microfilm at the Chester County Library, we found these two items published in April 1895:

- A man on horseback "performed the remarkable feat of riding from Coatesville to Downingtown in 15 minutes and 5 seconds, with a strong wind to contend with."
- The East Brandywine Dramatic Association cleared about \$50 (equivalent to nearly \$700 in today's money) by putting on a production of *Ten Nights in a Barroom*, which helped demonize alcohol in the eyes of the American public. Proceeds from the melodrama were given to the Bondsville Baseball Club, which "will endeavor to take the scalps of Downingtown and other clubs in that section during the present season."

## Luminaria displays can help brighten your Christmas

Downingtown area residents can help make the Christmas holidays brighter this year by participating in the Downingtown Area Historical Society's Luminaria project.

The Good Neighbor Community's tradition of displaying as many as 15,000 lighted Luminaria candle sets along the sidewalks and driveways of homes and businesses in Downingtown and surrounding townships has been a local Christmas Eve legacy for more than 30 years.

Luminaria sets are comprised of a candle positioned in a re-useable plastic base, which is placed in a wax-coated paper bag. Each base and each candle and bag set cost 75 cents.

Those who wish to place an order for Luminaria sets or want more information on the project should contact Carol Grigson at 610-269-5413.

The Luminaria project is a major source of funding for the Downingtown Area Historical Society, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that receives no government funding. Proceeds from the project are used for the continued restoration of the 302-year-old Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, and to preserve its archival collection of documents, photos and artifacts.

## Bridge carries Dowlin Forge Road across Shamona Creek in Uwchlan



Susannah Brody and Mary Lou Buchenauer of the Uwchlan Township Historical Commission were the truly perceptive scholars who were the first persons to correctly identify this as a photo (taken by Mike Dunn) of the former Chester County Bridge #257, located in Uwchlan Township, near the ruins of the Dowling Forge industrial site. The bridge carries Dowlin Forge Road across Shamona Creek near the intersection with Shelmire Road. As you can see in the photo below, the bridge is a double arch stone bridge. The smaller arch once provided separate space for the mill race. The bridge is located along the Uwchlan Trail near its access to the Struble Trail and the east branch of Brandywine Creek.



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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual \$25\_\_\_\_ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$20\_\_\_\_ Family \$35\_\_\_\_

Business \$50\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$75 \_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_

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

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## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 50

November 30, 2012

### Where Is This?



This shot is a toughie; so we'll give you a little hint: It's in the borough of Downingtown, and it's located along a main thoroughfare. The first person to correctly identify the site of this photo will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your identification entries to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

### A blizzard of events in December 1960

Noted below are some of the events that occurred in the Downingtown area 52 years ago, according to local newspaper accounts.

Although a heavy snowfall caused classes in Downingtown schools to be cancelled the following day, more than 300 people turned out for the December 11 **dedication of the new high school** on Manor Avenue in the borough, followed by an open house. Participants in the dedication ceremonies in the new school's 800-seat auditorium were: Raymond Baugher, superintendent; Congressman Paul Dague; Harrison Wetherill, vice president of the school board authority; Horace Rodgers, president of the school board; and Elmer Schrumpf, building committee chairman.

There also was special dedication of the high school's new 1,006-seat gym before the Whippets' played their first Ches-Mont League basketball game there. Under the tutelage of new coach Jack Appleby, Downingtown's Tom Yerkes sparked a rally which **resulted in a 43-38 victory over West Chester Henderson.**

The **Pennsylvania House**, 206 W. Lancaster Ave., went on the auction block. The property was comprised of five stores and eleven apartments, next to the railroad station in Downingtown.

**Fourth graders at East Ward School**, taught by Emily Lewis, received a thank you note from Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower, the nation's first lady, for the birthday card they sent her a month earlier.

Three members of the **Brandywine Lodge in Downingtown** were elected to office in the Chester County Association of the International Order of Odd Fellows. They were Creston Shoemaker, president; John McCausland, vice president; and Gilbert Cox, secretary.

Some 300 people attended the dedication of the new **Chester Springs Post Office** on Route 113. It was located next to the West Pikeland Elementary School., which had an enrollment of 62 students. Lucy Windolph taught fourth, fifth and six grades, and Mrs. John Carmichael taught first, second and third grades.

Installed as officers of the **Alert Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were: Elmira Thomas, president; Helen Frazer, vice president; Pauline Beam, financial secretary; Shirley Nelms, recording secretary; Helen Filoromo, treasurer; and Helen Laird, chaplain.

**"Downingtown has more union people**, in proportion to the total population, than any other place in America," claimed William Roberts, a United Steel Workers official. Roberts made the statement at a dinner for 31 graduates of a 16-hour USW counselors' course.

Officers named at the East Brandywine-Wallace Elementary Jointure reorganization meeting were Glen Wagner, president; Robert Gabriel, vice president; and Robert Mason, secretary.

Members of Brownie Troop 69 brought Christmas gifts to the residents of the **Anderson-Berg Convalescent Home** in the Cornog section of Wallace Township.

And 20 members of Cub Pack 79 of Glen Moore brought Christmas presents to kids between the ages of four and twelve, who lived at the **Downingtown Special School**, located on Lyndell-Little Washington Road in East Brandywine. Janet McGavin, assisted by a staff of six, was director of the school.

New officers of **the ninth grade at the Junior High School** were Clyde McGinnis, president; Richard DiEugenio, vice president; Janine Davis, secretary; and Charles Chalfant, treasurer.

DHS seniors who entered the National **Betty Crocker All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow** competition were: Mary Ann Charles, Dolores Harple, Beatrice Charles, Suzy Knecht, Emily Lawn, Toni McCombs, Alice Miliron, Mary Mowery, Irene Lammey and Lola Matlack.

## **Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon**

The **Clip Joint** will be open on Sunday afternoon, December 2, when we have our monthly clipping & pasting session from 1-4 PM at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. We'll be happy to see you, no matter when you arrive or leave.

## It's the “Little Church” in Wallace Township



John Miller, retired teacher and chairperson of the Wallace Township Historic Commission, was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this photo (taken by Mike Dunn) as the “Little Church” on Creek Road (Route 282) near the intersection of Marshall Road in the Cornog section of Wallace Township.

It was built in 1928 by Frank Cannella (1875-1952), a native of Palermo, Italy. Cannella made a vow, while crossing the Atlantic, that he would build a chapel if he arrived safely in the United States. He settled in the Cornog area in 1907, after he got a job with the Pennsylvania Railroad. The property was sold to Betty Ann Pike in 2000.

The building, reputed to be America’s smallest church, is 8 feet wide and 8 feet deep. The walls are constructed of rubble stone, and they have no windows.

According to the Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form (1995), the chapel’s interior contains a “fully equipped altar, a kneeler, votive lights and depictions of the 14 stations of the cross.” Although the chapel barely holds two people, newspaper clippings state that Mass has been celebrated inside the chapel.

## **The history of the Luminaria project in the Downingtown area**

The practice of lighting Luminaria candles at Christmastime started in Mexico hundreds of years ago, then it reached Southwestern United States in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Today, the tradition of displaying lighted Luminaria candle sets along the sidewalks and driveways of homes and businesses across our nation on Christmas Eve has spread all across our nation.

Displaying lighted Luminaria candles began in the Downingtown area in 1979, a year after the Downingtown Historical Society was founded. That first year, the Luminaria display was limited to Lancaster Avenue in the borough, from the bridge in the center of town to Uwchlan Avenue.

In 1980, the project was expanded when we sold some 3,000 Luminaria candle sets to residents all over the borough, according to newspaper clippings in our archival collection.

Form those humble beginnings, the Luminaria project has evolved over the past 30 years into a major fundraising effort for the Historical Society, as many as 15,000 Luminaria candles sets are sold and displayed every Christmas Eve in Downingtown and the surrounding townships.

In addition to using the proceeds from the project to underwrite the publication of a History of Downingtown, help stabilize the Roger Hunt Mill, and aid in the moving of the Log House on Lancaster Avenue, the funds we have raised are also used to restore and maintain Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 303-year-old headquarters, and preserve our extensive Archives.

The Luminaria project also helps all of us be residents in a Good Neighbor community. That's because the Luminaria project wouldn't be such a success every year, if a network of Block Captains didn't solicit orders for Luminaria sets from their neighbors.

Each Luminaria set is comprised of a plumber's candle, which burns for about 10 hours. The candle is positioned in a fire-resistant, re-useable plastic base that's placed in a wax-coated paper bag. Each base and each candle and bag set, cost 75 cents.

If you wish to make the Christmas holidays brighter this year by participating in the Luminaria project, and have not been contacted by anyone, either leave a message at Ashbridge House, 610-269-1709, or contact Carol Grigson, project chairperson, 610-269-5413.

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## **Coming events & activities in Downingtown area**

### ***Toys for Tots***

The Downingtown Police Department is participating in the 2012 Toys for Tots campaign. Donated toys should be new and unwrapped. They may be dropped off at the Police Department, 10 W. Lancaster Avenue, on weekdays between the hours of 9 AM and 11 PM until December 14.

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 51

December 6, 2012

### **Where Is This?**



The first person to correctly identify the building above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, to be used at a local restaurant.

Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

### **Local news items published 52 years ago**

Here's what was happening in the Downingtown area, according news reports published by the *East Branch Citizen* in December 1960.

Penny Bricker, Kathleen Moffit and Sheena Westmoreland were invested in **Brownie Troop 88**. They were welcomed by their leader, Mrs. John Kiefel.

Winner in the rocket competition, conducted by **Cub Pack 23**, Downingtown, were Glenvar Harmon, best looking; Kurt Longstadler, fastest; and Chuck Brown, second fastest.

Of the 60 students who participated in **Lionville Junior High School's** annual cross-country run, Mark Roscoe set a new record for the 1.5-mile course, with a time of 8 minutes, 13 seconds. And a new record was set by Joy Branyan, who ran the course in 10 minutes, 34 seconds.

Elected to lead the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** in 1976 were John Piersol, president; Harold Thompson, vice president; Lewis Laird, treasurer; Walt Crandall, trustee; Dr. Brent Follweiler, chief; Tucker Thomas, captain, fire police.

New members of **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Mr. and Mrs. James Kennedy, and Mr. and Mrs. William Trapnell.

A \$3 million expansion project at **Downingtown Junior High School**, begun in December, was expected to be completed by the fall of 1977, according to Richard Thatcher, principal. Thatcher also said there would be split sessions during the next school year. Students who took a school bus would attend the morning session (8 AM to noon), and those who walked to school would be in the afternoon session (12:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Lunch would not be served.

Members of the **Downingtown Christmas Committee**, led by Enid Brown, Society of Friends, included Joann Ogborn, Junior Woman's Club; Barbara Dillman, Messiah Lutheran Church; Mrs. Earl Garrison, Central Presbyterian Church; James Murphy, Optimist Club; Adeline Page, American Legion Auxiliary; Anthony Spingler, Pepperidge Farms; Edie Kramm, Woman's Club Garden Class; Tom Stoner, principal, Lionville Junior High School; and Ray Lemmon, Downingtown Rotary Club.

DHS students, selected to sing in the Lower Southeastern Pennsylvania **District Chorus**, were Janet Westenberger, Paul Wasmund, Charles Thompson and Scott Harrop.

New officers of **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Mrs. William Cracas and Robert Norwood, deacons; Joyce Miller and James Page, trustees; Alice Behrndt and David Luning, elders; Mrs. Daniel Shoop, treasurer; and Mrs. Walton Harrold, financial secretary.

Newly elected officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Don Farrell, president; Carl Ruth, vice president; Rick Gilbert, treasurer; Lu Ann Trego, financial secretary; James Ferrante, recording secretary; Richard Ruth, chief; George Ruark, assistant chief; George membership chairman; and Barry Mortzfield, trustee.

The **Downingtown Little League** was seeking donations to help defray the cost of building a third diamond on their complex on Manor Ave in the borough. Little League officers were Ron Lucerne, president; Carl Meister, vice president; Bob Fennelly, secretary; and Joseph Panicelli, treasurer.

Members of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, voted to sell a 3.3-acre tract of its property to a Wilmington developer for \$82,500. The land was to be developed for a 67-apartment complex for senior citizens.

The **volleyball team**, sponsored by the Downingtown VFW Post 845, won the Downingtown Recreation League title. Members of the team included Tom Williams, Bruce Moore, Mike Nagy, Tony Mascherino, Bill McHenry, Mike DiLuigi, Barry Kimes, Ed Shaw and John Regener.



David Miller was elected president and chief of the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** Other officers were Edwin Evans, vice president; Charles Zeiders, secretary; Harold Ziserman, treasurer; Marvin Furlong, financial secretary; and Clarence Miles, trustee.

Members of the **DHS band** selected to play in the Southeastern District band were Steve Rowan, Mark McClure, Sue Berry, Jeff Martini, Kip Smith and Lori Hummel.

Officers of the **Minquas Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were Blanche Dawson, president; Diane Brooks, vice president; Ethel Bryson, chaplain; and Carol Sagnor and Rose Simone, trustees.

DHS students selected to attend the **Lukens Steel Student Management Conference** were Eric Branyan, Nancy Mark, Margot Haynes and Scott Long.

## **We helped them earn a Girl Scout badge**



These girls, who are all fifth graders in the Downingtown School District, are members of Girl Scout Troop 41201. They recently visited Ashbridge House, our headquarters, while working toward their Inside Government Badge. Their requirements included interviewing a local historian, and learning about how the community has changed over the years. Highlights of their visit included: Hearing about the ghosts (a little boy and a cat) in the Ashbridge House; seeing the water well inside the summer kitchen; looking at all the neat artifacts; and learning about Downingtown's history.



## **Local author to talk about Napoleon's 1812 invasion of Russia**

The public is invited to come to the Downingtown Area Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln for a presentation at 2 PM Sunday, December 9 by Scott Armstrong about the events behind the most famous novel of all time, *War and Peace*. Leo Tolstoy, the author, used Napoleon's disastrous 1812 invasion as the central event of his book. Of the 500,000 strong Grande Armée that invaded in June of that year, only 20,000 returned to safety six months later. This disaster led to the eventual downfall of Napoleon's empire.

Crossing the border into Russia, Napoleon's plan was to strike quickly, defeat the Russian army and dictate peace to Russian Emperor Alexander. The Russians, however, would not stand and fight. Instead, they kept slipping further and further east, with Napoleon in pursuit. Major battles in August and September were French victories, but did not destroy the Russian forces or bring Napoleon the peace he sought. The French occupied Moscow unopposed, but the city soon burned, denying the French a place for winter quarters. By the time Napoleon began to head back toward home, disease, hunger and exhaustion had drained the strength of his army. Then the Russian winter hit and the army deteriorated into chaos as it retreated.

Armstrong wrote and self-published a work of historical fiction for middle school readers called *Russian Snows: Coming of Age in Napoleon's Army*. In doing the research for the book, he studied the eyewitness accounts left by the survivors. He will be talking about the events of the campaign with a special focus on the stories of those who experienced the heat, cold, hunger, illness, fierce battles, rain and snow that led to the army's destruction.

Come to Ashbridge House, the Downingtown Area Historical Society's 303-year-old headquarters to hear about what Napoleon's soldiers endured 200 years ago, as they marched to victory and then retreated in defeat.

For more information about the presentation, contact Armstrong at 610-327-1591.

## **It's the house at 361-363 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown**



We were surprised how many people recognized this as the roof line of the houses at 361-363 East Lancaster Ave. in the borough. Teresa Talucci was the truly perceptive scholar who correctly identified the photo.

The 363 side of the property shown below has been owned by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Lehr since 1966 when they bought the house on the east side from Mr. and Mrs. Mark

Bareford, and Dr. Lehr opened his optometry practice there. The Lehrs bought the 361 (west) side in 1986 from Marcia Chambers Wells, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leebert Chambers, had lived there since the 1930s.

The Lehrs currently live in an apartment on the second and third stories of 361. The Shoemaker Nationwide Insurance agency and Edward Jones Investments have first floor offices on the 361 and 363 sides, respectively.



The house was built by Mrs. Mary Parke Miller, a widow, in 1884, according to a local newspaper article. The photos were taken by Mike Dunn.

### **How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address\* \_\_\_\_\_

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

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. Citizen (over 60) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsoring \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ Supporting \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

### ***Toys for Tots***

The Downingtown Police Department is participating in the 2012 Toys for Tots campaign. Donated toys should be new and unwrapped. They may be dropped off at the Police Department, 10 W. Lancaster Avenue, on weekdays between the hours of 9 AM and 11 PM until December 14.

### ***Christmas Parade***

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 8. The Donner Dash, a 1K Fun Run along the Parade route, will take place prior to the Parade. More information about the Parade and the Race can be found at [www.dtownchristmas.com](http://www.dtownchristmas.com).

### ***DHS West Post Prom Party***

The 10th annual DHS West Post Prom Party (P3) will be held at the Lionville YMCA. All seniors are invited, and they don't have to go to the Prom to come to the Post Prom Party.

This year's theme is "Passport to the World." The YMCA will be transformed into a night filled with fun and activities, including the indoor pool, using exciting places to tour throughout the world, while providing a safe and fun environment for all. Last year's event drew over 250 seniors and their guests.

The event is coordinated and funded by parents and members of the community. All funds that are raised will be used for the event and are utilized in securing activities, games, food and prizes.

Volunteers are needed for all committees, and parents of students in all grade levels are encouraged to get involved. Please do not wait until your child is a senior to get involved. Those who wish to help are invited to join us at 7 PM at meetings being held in Room 139 at DHS West on Jan.15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16 and May 14.

Please check out the P3 website: [www.dwestpostprom.com](http://www.dwestpostprom.com) for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

### ***Join Rewards Program at Stauffers (formerly Croppers) Market***

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

### ***Savings opportunities available at DARC***

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

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

### ***Banquet Room for Rent***

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

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tues. 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](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

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

**Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:**  
**[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).**



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

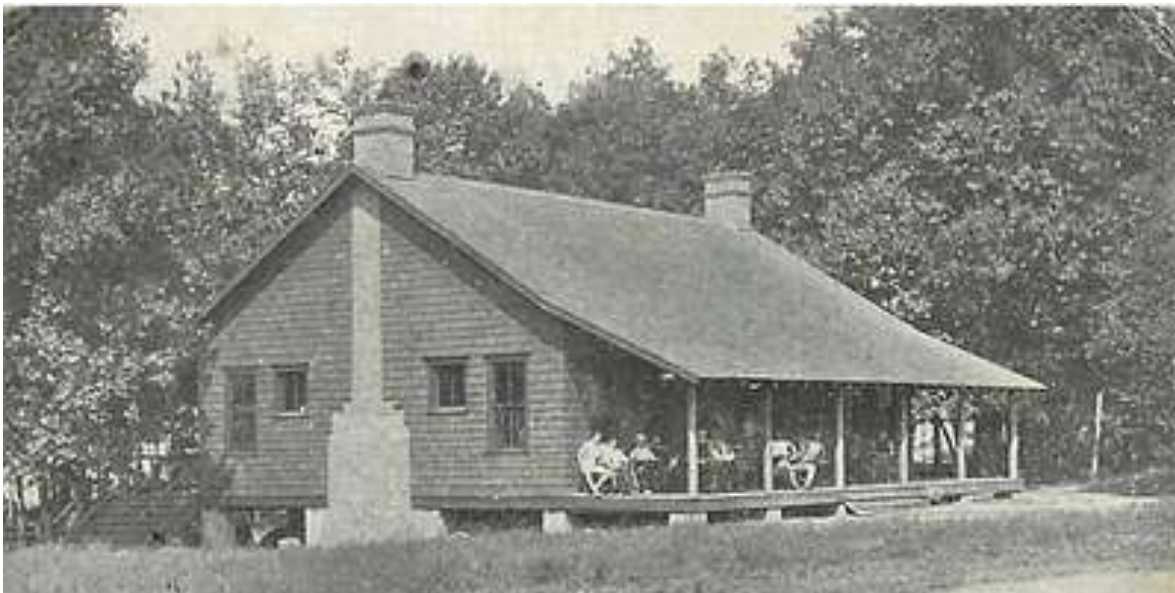
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Vol. 3, No. 52

December 13, 2012

### What Was This?



The first person to correctly identify the building above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

### Downingtown area news in December 1950

The following news items were originally published in *The Archive* 62 years ago.

Pupils of music teacher **Clarence Miller** who participated in a recital included: piano students Barbara Terriman, Charles Ax, Patsy Mason, Virginia Law, Ogier Norris, Eddie Aumiller; trumpet students Larry Reed and Charles Berstler; clarinet students Bobby Thomas, Freddie Estheimer and Eddie Aumiller; and saxophone students Rose Ann Pace, Ernest McNeil and Arthur Burgess.

Members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** committee that sponsored a Cub Pack were Tom Brookover, William McNamara, Ed Towson, Horace Miller, Charles Ax, William Houston, and Rev. George Bass.



New officers of the **Minquas Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were Ruth Miller, president; Mrs. Horace Lammey, vice president; Mrs. Horace Rodgers, recording secretary; Mrs. Homer Weimer, financial secretary; and Mrs. Albert Dipaolantonio, treasurer.

The 14 men from Guthriesville, who enjoyed a **dinner prepared from the game they shot** while hunting in Lycoming County, included Donald and Lewis Laird, Norm Souden, Richard Carter, Robert Popjoy, Bill Kain, Ray Noble, George Rubincam, John Ferko, Warren Krapf, Calvin Rimel, Everett Henderson, Frank Watters and John Piersol.

**Santa Claus** visited Kathy, Loretta and Albert Pacinelli at home because they were quarantined with chicken pox, and couldn't join the 1,200 kids who turned out to see Santa at the Log House in Downingtown.

New officers of the **Williamson Masonic Lodge** were George Aumiller, worshipful master; Robert Hadfield, senior warden; Ralph Kinsey, junior warden; Leland Wilson, treasurer; Palmer Raysor, secretary; and Arthur Glauner, Edgar Griffith and John Fisher, trustees.

Members of the primary class at **St. James Episcopal Church School** who gave recitations at the Christmas program included: Jimmy Ferguson, Leroy Strohl, Caroline Ash; James Andes, Charles Rowland, Nancy Lee, Judy Allen, Dottie Chambers, Mary Deets, Nancy Knier and Barbara Noll.

Members of the **DHS Girls Chorus** who sang solos in the annual Christmas Concert were Philomena DiBerardinis, Shirley Cumens, Ronald Piersol, Carolyn Pritchard, Virginia Burgess, James Zaferes, Clinton Law and William Royce.

Winners of the **Christmas Lighting** contest, sponsored by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce, were Samuel Charles, most artistic; Harry Peoples, most appropriate; Howard Charles, most ingenious; Dr. Howard Davis, most original; Ernest Smedley, most unusual; and Harry Camp, quaintest.

William Backenstose was appointed chief of the **Downingtown Fire Department**. New officers of the Alert Fire Co. were Fred Jameson assistant chief; Earl Stern, captain; William Barrett, first lieutenant; Lewis Wilson, second lieutenant; Al Peterman, engineer; and Tom Peazzoni, assistant engineer.

New Minquas leaders were Arthur "Bus" Phillips, assistant chief; Dan Zittle, captain; Edward Klunk, first lieutenant; and William Rowland, second lieutenant.

Those who were recognized at **Marshallton Methodist Church** for perfect attendance included Maggie Mercer, 15 years; Doris Cann, 12 years; JaAnne LeFevre, 11 years; Harold Trimble and Barry Wickersham, 9 years; and Nancy Robinson, 8 years.

## **Please support our Preserve and Protect Programs by sending us a tax-deductible contribution**

Subscribers to our free, weekly Hist-O-Grams are requested to help the Downingtown Area Historical Society continue to conduct our **Preserve and Protect Programs**, which are noted below:

- **Restore Ashbridge House**, our 303-year-old headquarters. In 2012, we upgraded the monitoring capabilities of our sophisticated alarm systems.
- **Put on interesting programs**. This year, we presented an exhibit of vintage (1971-1983) DHS Prom photos, and hosted two local authors' book signings.



• **Help local organizations.** We provided a place for monthly meetings of Downingtown area Girl Scout leaders, and helped Girl Scouts earn badges. And Ashbridge House was the site of fundraisers for the DHS West Post-Prom Party and St. James Episcopal Church. We also conducted tours of Ashbridge House for members of several organizations,

• **Work on our archival collection of local newspaper clippings.** Newspaper articles about local people are clipped and pasted on 14 x 9 cards by volunteers every week. They comprise the Family Files, which now include clippings on more than 8,000 people. Also this year, we developed an on-line index, noting all the names in the Family Files, which can be accessed on our website. A listing of artifacts and printed materials, donated to our Archival collection in 2012, has been published below in this Hist-O-Gram.

**To help us continue to conduct our Preserve and Protect Programs next year, please send a tax-deductible donation to the Downingtown Area Historical Society.**

Kindly make out your check to the DAHS and send it to: P. O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335.

If you have any questions, please contact Parry Desmond, 610-269-8037 or via [info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

Thank you for your support.

## **Thanks for donating these items to our Archives**

Noted below are many of the items, with a Downingtown area connection, which were donated to the Historical Society so far in 2012. Our archival collection also includes thousands of photos and printed materials related to the activities of local organizations, churches, schools and businesses.

However, we know that there are many other neat items related to the Downingtown area, which have been sitting in drawers, boxes and cabinets for decades. So, as a public service, the Historical Society will help you clean up your attics, basements and garages by accepting some of those items. Just call us at 610-269-1709 or send an email to [Info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and we'll arrange for you to either bring them to Ashbridge House, our 18<sup>th</sup> Century headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, or we'll pick them up at an agreed-upon time.

### **Items donated so far this year include:**

**Joyce Arters:** 1952 photo of Dopaco employee dinner.

**Caroline Ash:** Her father's and grandfather's 50-year Rotary Service pins, and a photo of a Downingtown minstrel production.

**Sandy Brannan:** Calendars published by the Wallace Township Historical Commission, sewing items which belonged to her mother, Jean Page Snyder, and memorabilia from Wallace Township's Indiantown School.

**Josh Bruton:** Good Neighbor Day programs and photos.

**Elaine Burgess:** Messiah Lutheran Church anniversary booklets, newsletters and a plate.

**Rose Ciarlone:** Photos of 1946 and 1981 DHS Class reunions, kitchen staff at DHS, school spirit and local political buttons.

**Kathy Conahan:** DHS yearbooks, Downingtown Lions Club records and other items, 1936-37 annual report of Downingtown Schools and School District plans, copy of DHS

Penny Press, pep button, Honor Society pin, cheerleading letter and shoe pom-poms, 1971 commencement invitation, Downingtown National Bank deposit bag and calendar.

**Jim Cook:** Checks, statements and account book from Grange National Bank, Downingtown, on account of Robert Cook & Sons hardware/general store, Elverson.

**Sunny Cook:** Photo of the 1945-46 DHS girls' basketball team.

**Daniele Coper:** Numerous printed items from her student days at LJrHS and DHS.

**Phil Dague:** Little League jacket, Centennial Belle buttons and stock certificate, and photos of O'Brien Manufacturing Co., Kissh Motor Parts, Western Auto, Downingtown Motor Inn, Exton Drive-In, and 1985 flood in Downingtown.

**Downingtown Historical and Parks Commission:** Histories of Minquas Fire Co. and Downingtown Little League and several Borough annual reports.

**Mike Dunn:** Downingtown police uniform.

**Don Greenleaf:** Family Bible, billing statements from Thorpe's Pharmacy, Raymond Greenleaf's painting of Pollock's mill, and a cash ledger and vintage apothecary bottles from family pharmacy.

**Ralph Hall:** Family photos and picture of Shadyside School.

**Hank Hamilton:** Photos and information on the Heilbron mansion and photos of the borough business district in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Gail McCahan:** Several Good Neighbor Day t-shirts.

**Susie McClure:** Downingtown Woman's Club scrapbook, Downingtown recipes and cook book, Pepperidge Farm newsletter, and several Cuckoos (pre-1955 DHS yearbooks).

**Ronald Meacham:** early DHS class ring

**Sue Myers:** Two Cuckoos.

**Ruth Patterson:** Downingtown Woman's Club plate and Flower Show painting by Mabel Stauffer.

**Ellen Plank:** DHS Prom and Plank family photos.

**George (Ed) Pollock:** Photos of the Pollock family, the class trip of the DHS Class 1936 and Pollock's Mill off Manor Avenue, and a painting of the mill property.

**Dr. Hank Pollock:** Movie display cards from the Roosevelt Theatre, and many local photos scanned from glass negatives.

**Busty Ruffini:** Scanned photos from family scrapbook.

**Eileen Schafer:** Decades of the Downingtown Rotary Club minutes, records, photos and related memorabilia; Little League photos, DHS yearbooks

**Hilda Tarlecky:** Schiffer's *Survey of Chester County Architecture*, several Cuckoos

**Arvilla Usher:** Documents and programs related to Downingtown's 1959 Centennial.

**Vance Usher:** Old records from Miller Brothers store in Downingtown, personal items of J. Vance Miller, and photos of T. Vance Usher; Roosevelt Theatre movie posters, Downingtown Opera House advertising stencil, and corporate seal of Brandywine Nash Motor Co., Downingtown; 1970 DHS class ring.

**Liz Wagoner:** Photo of fifth grade class at East Ward School in 1945 and pen knife advertising Field Tire store in Downingtown.

## **A wonderful Christmas gift: A Historical Society membership**

Can't figure what to give someone for Christmas? How about a gift membership in the Downingtown Area Historical Society? Just complete the membership form, which can be accessed via:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf).

## **It's the Northwood Cemetery caretaker's house**



Mike Lyons was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo (taken by Mike Dunn) of the caretaker's house on Norwood House Road, just below the Northwood Cemetery in East Caln.

The Northwood Cemetery Co. was chartered in 1871, three years before Downingtown Council ruled that the deceased could no longer be buried in borough churchyards because it was feared that decomposing bodies might imperil the lives of residents, due to decomposition poisoning their water wells. The first Downingtown church to exhume the bodies of parishioners buried in their graveyard, and move them to Northwood was St. James Episcopal, which still designated section in the cemetery. The local branches of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the International Order of Odd Fellows also special sections at Northwood.

More than 5,000 people are buried at Northwood, according to Ron Selin, the cemetery's caretaker.

Some of the prominent people buried there include

- Abraham McIlvaine (1804-1863), who served in the U.S. Congress 1843-49. He befriended Abraham Lincoln, when they lived in the same Washington rooming house while they served in Congress together.

- Walter Edge (1873-1956), who was New Jersey's Governor from 1917-1919 and 1944-1947. He also served in the U.S. Senate from 1919 to 1929.
- Paul B. Dague (1898-1974), who served in Congress from 1946 to 1966
- Ernie Padgett (1899-1957), a Major League infielder for eight years in the 1920s, who played for the Boston Braves and the Cleveland Indians.

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Vol. 3, No. 53

December 20, 2012

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Can't figure what to give someone for Christmas? How about a gift membership in the Downingtown Area Historical Society? Just complete the membership form, which can be accessed via: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/2012MembershipForm.pdf).

### **May 1945: A month of hope, heartbreak and heroism**

The news items below reflect what was going on in the Downingtown area in May 1945, based on stories in local newspapers:

As soon as people in the Downingtown area heard President Harry Truman announce that Germany had finally surrendered on May 8, church bells tolled, factory whistles blasted, car drivers tooted their horns, and local stores and businesses closed for the balance of **VE Day**.



And while Carl Ruth tolled the bell, **Lionville School** students put on a special VE Day program, which included Robert Miller leading the recitation of the Pledge to the Flag, Marjorie Conner reading verses from the Bible, and Carolyn Supplee saying prayers.

Sad announcements in local papers during May 1945 included:

- The death of Navy **Lt. Henry Stehman**, who had been the DHS football coach for one season before he joined the Navy in 1942.

- Marine **PFC. Dominick Marinelli** of Downingtown was killed in action on Okinawa. Marine **Cpl. James Marinelli**, also a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marinelli, had been killed in action in Italy. And Mrs. Marinelli's brother, **Staff Sgt. Tony Duca**, also had been killed in action in Italy.

- Navy **Lt. William Downing**, Thorndale, was killed in action somewhere in the South Pacific

Local servicemen who were awarded the Bronze Stars included: **Army Staff Sgt. Leslie Sheeler, Army First Lt. Donald Mitman, and Army Sgt. Kenneth Jefferis.**

Quotas and campaign chairmen for the local municipalities participating in the **Seventh War Bond Drive** in the Downingtown area were: Caln, \$33,000, Harry Cole and James Cohen; Downingtown, \$67,000, Chester O. Brown; East Brandywine, \$33,000, Mrs. Robert Piersol; East Caln, \$26,000, William Mendenhall; Upper Uwchlan, \$25,000, Mark Moore; Uwchlan, \$20,000, William Cadbury; West Bradford, \$20,000, Mrs. Sidney Montgomery; West Whiteland, \$33,000, Laird Snowden.

Downingtown's goal, in a nation-wide campaign, was to collect **20,000 pounds of used clothing**, to be sent to the war-ravaged populations of Europe and China.

Trustees elected at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Mr. and Mrs. George Lied, Mrs. Francis Kendig, Mrs. Harry Cann, Mrs. Ralph Keiser, Merrill Cann, Mrs. George McAllister and John Morris.

Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Woman's Club** were Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. John Fisher, first vice president; Mrs. Joseph Harvey, second vice president; Mrs. Frank Smedley, recording secretary; and Mrs. George Foreman, treasurer.

Charles Emery, **principal of Downingtown Junior-Senior High**, told members of the Downingtown Rotary Club that 86 seniors—48 girls and 38 boys—were expected to graduate in June 1946. Ten of the 38 graduating boys are planning to go to college, and 18 of them would be inducted into the military before the school's June 1 commencement exercises. Also, 6 of the 23 girls, who had taken commercial training, already had secured jobs; 11 expect to study nursing, 4 will study to be a teacher, and 5 will pursue beauty culture.

Elected to lead the Downingtown branch of the **Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** were Mrs. Joseph Harvey, president; Mrs. Poyntell Canby, vice president; Mrs. Herbert Ash, secretary; and Mrs. Shartle Brookover, treasurer.

Mrs. Charles Ezrah was elected President of the **Junior Woman's Club**. Other new officers were Mrs. John Forbes, vice president; Mrs. George Aumiller, recording secretary; and Emily Lewis, treasurer.

New officers of the **Downingtown Board of Trade** were Edgar Griffith, president; Poyntell Canby, vice president; Vinton Smedley, treasurer; and Everett Hoopes, secretary. Chosen to be on the executive committee were Howard Baldwin, Chester Brown, Creston Shoemaker, John Brownstein and Edward Towson.

Pigeons owned by Mark Dague and his son, Dick, set a new record when their birds placed first and second in a 200-mile race sponsored by the **Downingtown Racing Pigeon Club**.

The annual **Memorial Day Coon Trial** was conducted by members of the Chester County Coon Hunters Association at Thousand Acre Farm, on Route 113 between Downingtown and Lionville.

## Mistaken date in Dec. 6 edition caused confusion

Donna Kneisley and Janna Cracas informed us that we made a mistake in the December 6 Hist-O-Gram, when the headline and opening sentence of an article claimed that news items had been originally published in December 1960 editions of the *East Branch Citizen*. Donna and Janna were correct, because the news items in that Hist-O-Gram were originally published in the **December 1975 editions** of that now-defunct, weekly newspaper. We apologize for the confusion. And to clarify the confusion, those news items from December 1975 editions of the *East Branch Citizen* were:

Penny Bricker, Kathleen Moffit and Sheena Westmoreland were invested in **Brownie Troop 88**. They were welcomed by their leader, Mrs. John Kiefel.

Winner in the rocket competition, conducted by **Cub Pack 23**, Downingtown, were Glenvar Harmon, best looking; Kurt Longstadler, fastest; and Chuck Brown, second fastest.

Of the 60 students who participated in **Lionville Junior High School's** annual cross-country run, Mark Roscoe set a new record for the 1.5-mile course, with a time of 8 minutes, 13 seconds. And a new record was set by Joy Branyan, who ran the course in 10 minutes, 34 seconds.

Elected to lead the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** in 1976 were John Piersol, president; Harold Thompson, vice president; Lewis Laird, treasurer; Walt Crandall, trustee; Dr. Brent Follweiler, chief; Tucker Thomas, captain, fire police.

New members of **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Mr. and Mrs. James Kennedy, and Mr. and Mrs. William Trapnell.

A \$3 million expansion project at **Downingtown Junior High School**, begun in December, was expected to be completed by the fall of 1977, according to Richard Thatcher, principal. Thatcher also said there would be split sessions during the next school year. Students who took a school bus would attend the morning session (8 AM to noon), and those who walked to school would be in the afternoon session (12:30 PM to 4:30 PM). Lunch would not be served.

Members of the **Downingtown Christmas Committee**, led by Enid Brown, Society of Friends, included Joann Ogborn, Junior Woman's Club; Barbara Dillman, Messiah Lutheran Church; Mrs. Earl Garrison, Central Presbyterian Church; James Murphy, Optimist Club; Adeline Page, American Legion Auxiliary; Anthony Spingler, Pepperidge Farms; Edie Kramm, Woman's Club Garden Class; Tom Stoner, principal, Lionville Junior High School; and Ray Lemmon, Downingtown Rotary Club.

DHS students, selected to sing in the Lower Southeastern Pennsylvania **District Chorus**, were Janet Westenberger, Paul Wasmund, Charles Thompson and Scott Harrop.

New officers of **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Mrs. William Cracas and Robert Norwood, deacons; Joyce Miller and James Page, trustees; Alice Behrndt and David Luning, elders; Mrs. Daniel Shoop, treasurer; and Mrs. Walton Harrold, financial secretary.

Newly elected officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Don Farrell, president; Carl Ruth, vice president; Rick Gilbert, treasurer; Lu Ann Trego, financial secretary; James Ferrante, recording secretary; Richard Ruth, chief; George Ruark, assistant chief; George membership chairman; and Barry Mortzfield, trustee.

The **Downingtown Little League** was seeking donations to help defray the cost of building a third diamond on their complex on Manor Ave in the borough. Little League officers were Ron

Lucerne, president; Carl Meister, vice president; Bob Fennelly, secretary; and Joseph Panicelli, treasurer.

Members of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, voted to sell a 3.3-acre tract of its property to a Wilmington developer for \$82,500. The land was to be developed into an apartment complex for senior citizens.

The **volleyball team**, sponsored by the Downingtown VFW Post 845, won the Downingtown Recreation League title. Members of the team included Tom Williams, Bruce Moore, Mike Nagy, Tony Mascherino, Bill McHenry, Mike DiLuigi, Barry Kimes, Ed Shaw and John Regener.

David Miller was elected president and chief of the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** Other officers were Edwin Evans, vice president; Charles Zeiders, secretary; Harold Ziserman, treasurer; Marvin Furlong, financial secretary; and Clarence Miles, trustee.

Members of the **DHS band** selected to play in the Southeastern District band were Steve Rowan, Mark McClure, Sue Berry, Jeff Martini, Kip Smith and Lori Hummel.

Officers of the **Minquas Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were Blanche Dawson, president; Diane Brooks, vice president; Ethel Bryson, chaplain; and Carol Sagnor and Rose Simone, trustees.

DHS students selected to attend the **Lukens Steel Student Management Conference** were Eric Branyan, Nancy Mark, Margot Haynes and Scott Long.

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## It was the clubhouse at Dwight Farms, the original Y camp



Rahn Brackin is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of the clubhouse at Dwight Farms, the original YMCA camp near Downingtown. When the Philadelphia YMCA formed the camp in 1895, it was originally known as Dwight Farms because Edward P. Dwight, then president of the Chester Steel Casting Co., donated 465 acres of farmland in West Bradford Township. According to a report published in 1897, “the expected patrons were young men who were poor and out-of-work, generally in despair and with no choice before them but beggary and crime,” wrote Catherine Quillman in *Between the Brandywines: A History of West Bradford*. “The men would pay a small fee for the privilege of living along the Brandywine and building the grounds into a model camp.”

Dwight Farms included a large fruit orchard and was later the site of an agricultural school run by the YMCA, according to Quillman. She also noted that a reporter claimed in 1910 that “the place is fitted up like a fashionable country club with tennis courts, an open air swimming pool, baseball diamonds, and facilities for all out and indoor sports.”

## Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

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The event is coordinated and funded by parents and members of the community. All funds that are raised will be used for the event and are utilized in securing activities, games, food and prizes.

Volunteers are needed for all committees, and parents of students in all grade levels are encouraged to get involved. Please do not wait until your child is a senior to get involved.

Those who wish to help are invited to join us at 7 PM at meetings being held in Room 139 at DHS West on Jan.15, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16 and May 14.

Please check out the P3 website: [www.dwestpostprom.com](http://www.dwestpostprom.com) for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

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# Happy New Year!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

Vol. 3, No. 52

December 27, 2012

## Where Is This?



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## News items originally published in January 1961

The Downingtown Area Joint Elementary School District decided to sell the former **Lionville Grade School** to Uwchlan Township, and to put up the **Mount Airy School** for auction. Revenues realized from both sales were used to help pay for the new elementary school on Route 113.

Downingtown Borough Council voted to annex 245.8 acres, which had been part of East Caln. Businesses in East Caln that petitioned for the annexation so they could have access to the borough's water and sewer services included **Gindy Manufacturing Corp., Milprint Inc., the Reading Railroad, the Pennsylvania Railroad and Black Horse Frozen Pastry Inc.**

New leaders of the **Whitford Country Club's Women's Golf Division** were Mrs. Charles Lakin, Mrs. Kenneth Werner, Mrs. Harrison Lackey, Mrs. Francis Lynah, Mrs. James Brunen, Mrs. George Kellner, Mrs. John Schroeder, Mrs. Hugh Kenworthy Jr., Mrs. Robert Brown and Mrs. Richard Moulton.



**Wallace Township's** supervisors re-elected William Funk as chairman, and Marvin Furlong replaced Frank Comstock as roadmaster.

**Warren Strawsnyder**, local car dealer, received the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Civic Award at the organization's 16<sup>th</sup> annual banquet.

Elected to lead the **Washington Camp of the Patriotic Order of Sons of America** were Elmer Moore, president; Walter Randall, vice president; Robert Laird, master of forms; Ernest Smedley, treasurer; Gilbert Cox, secretary; Robert Metz, conductor; Copeland Nichols, inspector; Thomas Philips, guard; and Weldon Bicking, trustee.

New members of **Brownie Troop 94**, Lionville, were Charlene Barton, Kim Baker, Penny Renz, Jo Ann Risbon, Nancy Fillman, Betty Taylor, Barbara Brumgard and Edna Pivonka.

Members of the **West Pikeland School Board** were chairmen of the following committees: Nevin Meyer and Elwood Loughin, transportation; Frederick Cage and Elwood Loughin, property; Mrs. Paul Dilworth, education; and Mrs. Cromwell Hand, absentees.

Members of the Evening Missionary Society at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, who were installed as officers, included: Mrs. Thomas Gabel, president; Mrs. Clarence Miller, vice president; Mrs. Wilbur Felten, recording secretary; Mrs. Vernon Jameson, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. William Hayes, treasurer.

Officers of the **Downingtown Library**, who were re-elected to the board of directors, were Stanley Landis, president; Mrs. Jacob Edge, vice president; Gordon McGovern, treasurer; and Mrs. William Ash Jr., secretary.

New officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Robert Devaney, president; George Ruark Jr., vice president; Richard Ruth, secretary; Jonathan Windle, treasurer; Harry Shreiner, membership secretary; Harold Trego, chief; William Isinger and John Trego, assistant chiefs; Russell Allison trustee; and James Pinkerton, fire police.

Officers elected at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Victor Steinberg, president; Robert Worthington, vice president; Anna Dewees, secretary; Harry Weaver, treasurer; Donald Willoughby, financial secretary; Everett Wilson, elder; Clair Koser, trustee; and Donald Corneal and Anna Dewees, deacons.

The **Glenmoore Fire Co.** announced that the \$20,000 mortgage on the building, used to store fire fighting equipment and the Glenmoore Post Office, had been paid off. Officers in 1961 included: Thomas Frazer, president; Lloyd Johnson, vice president; Roger Irey, secretary; John McClain, assistant secretary; William Payne treasurer; Ellwood Earnshaw, assistant financial secretary; Charles Earnshaw, assistant financial secretary; John Reber, chief; Edgar Schlimme, first assistant chief; and Thomas Reber, second assistant chief.

Elected as officers at the **Downingtown Savings and Loan Association's** annual meeting were: George Foreman, president; Edwin Baldwin, vice president; Ray Sheeler, second vice president; Chandler Roberts, secretary; Ellen Ann Roberts, assistant secretary; and Joseph Miller, treasurer.

## It's the railroad overpass on South Lloyd Avenue



Teresa Talucci is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this photo (taken by Mike Dunn) as the railroad underpass on South Lloyd Avenue along the borders of Downingtown and Caln Township, just south of West Lancaster Avenue.

Don Greenleaf, retired borough manager, tells us that the railroad tracks above South Lloyd Avenue carried the Pennsylvania Railroad's "Low-Grade" line, comprised of long trains pulling heavy freight via the Trenton Cutoff, in order to skirt around the congested rail yards in Philadelphia, and to continue on through Montgomery, Chester and Lancaster Counties to Harrisburg and beyond.

"I remember trains with four engines hauling tanks, airplanes, cannons etc. during WW II. Some trains were over a mile long, or so it seemed," recalls Don.

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