



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 40

October 1, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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

## What local people talked about in early September 1963

Noted below are items retrieved from local newspapers published 52 years ago.

- Though sharply critical of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision that **banned Bible-reading in public schools**, the Joint High School Board decided to give a one-month trial to limiting students' daily opening exercises to activities such as reading poetry and famous peoples' quotation, and playing "good" music. Also, the Board was informed by the State Department of Public Instruction that Downingtown's plans for a planetarium-classroom could

not be eliminated from the school district's plan for an addition to the high school. The director of the State's Bureau of School Building Construction and Transportation claimed the planetarium-classroom provided a more adequate science program, and that the equipment could be bought for about \$11,000, part of which could be paid for with federal funds.

- In a preview of the **DHS football team's** prospects for the 1963 season, Coach Ray DiSerafino said, "Speed has always been Downingtown's biggest asset, and this year is going to be no different." DiSerafino, who was looking forward to his seventh season as head coach, admitted that, "our team is going to be small, averaging about 155 pounds, but that doesn't worry me. I would sacrifice weight for speed anytime." The team had a 5-4 record in 1962.
- Officers of the **Downingtown Elementary Home and School Association** were Charles Menas, president; Mrs. James McQuail, first vice president; Mrs. William Hildebeitel, second vice president; Mrs. Haviland Mecray, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Taylor, corresponding secretary; and Kenneth McCardell, treasurer.
- Members of the **Village League of the Uwchlans**, who were models in the organization's annual fashion show, included Mrs. Donald Farrell, Mrs. Lacey Lackey, Mrs. Richard Mahan, Mrs. William Meredith, Mrs. Garfield Smith and Mrs. William Wagoner. Mrs. Lyle Shoemaker and Edith Oberholser were guest models from the Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan. Mrs. Paul Otter was director of the show.

## Please help the Historical Society by supporting our annual Restaurant Raffle

The Historical Society's third annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle is bigger and better than ever, because those who buy a ticket will have an opportunity to win \$1,400 worth of dinners at seven great, local restaurants.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue its efforts to repair the stone walls of Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center in East Caln Township. That means your continued support will enable us to continue re-pointing the house's leaking, exterior walls.

Those who generously supported last year's raffle allowed us to replace the crumbling mortar that bonded the stonework on the east side walls of the house, plus the exterior of the summer kitchen, which was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,400, for meals at these seven area restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House, which is next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Francine Dague, 610-306-2904; or by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org). The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 15. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, including a disclaimer, go to: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

## Paranormal investigators to reveal what they recently found



The Chester County Paranormal Investigators will make presentations on their latest findings, after recently spending several nights at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters. The Investigators' presentations at Ashbridge House will be at 7 PM on Saturday, October 24 and at 2 PM on Sunday, October 25. Since each seating is limited to 35 people, you are urged to buy a ticket ASAP for either of the presentations.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 by sending a check to: the Downingtown Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335, or paying for tickets on a Sunday afternoon (1-4 PM) when you visit Ashbridge House, (next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln, or by making an online payment via Paypal.

Although it is likely that both presentations will be sellouts, if any tickets are still available at the time of either presentation, they will be sold at the door at a cost of \$12. Light refreshments will be available after the presentations.

One of the interesting discoveries the Investigators revealed when they made a presentation at the Historical Society several years ago is in the photo shown above. It appears to be a picture of someone holding a cat, taken during their earlier investigation at Ashbridge House. If you want to be sure to see the Investigators' latest findings, buy your tickets now.

## It was at East Lancaster Ave. and Green St. in Downingtown



Tom Lee is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site of Baird's gas station in the photo above, which was taken in about 1948. That's when Austin Windle worked there part-time, while he was attending business college. Austin recalls that gas cost about 20 cents a gallon back then. We're not sure when the gas station closed, but Nick Giunta opened his drug store on the site in 1954. It's now the site of the Lowe Rider Bikes and Board store.

## More local news about life in Downingtown during World War II

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of the World War II era.

- Once each month, *The Archive* published the names of Downingtown area residents who were **authorized to buy tires** for their cars. Tires were the first item to be rationed during World War II because the Japanese had conquered the prime rubber producing nations of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, eliminating 91% of America's rubber supply. To ensure there was enough rubber for military and vital civilian purposes, local Tire Rationing Boards issued certificates for tires or recapping upon application. Certificates for new tires were restricted to vehicles for public health and safety (medical, fire, police, garbage, and mail services), essential trucking (food, ice, fuel), and public transportation. Recapping was allowed at the discretion of the local board for any of the above, and occasionally for taxis and defense workers who shared rides. Civilians were allowed to keep five tires per automobile, and were required to surrender any others.

- Penn State was offering free **defense training courses** in the evening at DHS. The courses included courses in engineering drafting, foundations of engineering in mathematics and

physics, and foundations of engineering in engineering chemistry. The courses were part of a nationwide program conducted by the U.S. Office of Education.

- DHS students who took agriculture courses were encouraged to **work on local farms** during their summer vacations. The boys were being placed on Downingtown area farms through a program conducted by the local office of the U.S. Employment Service.

- Enrollment in the **Downingtown School District** in the 1942-43 school year totaled 1,050 students; 650 of them were in the senior-junior high school. The two-year high schools in Guthriesville and Glenmoore were being closed that school year, and students from those areas were going to start attending the junior-senior high on Manor Avenue in Downingtown.

## Shanahan's band serenaded Pope on his arrival



The marching band of Bishop Shanahan High School, Downingtown, serenaded Pope Francis when he arrived at Philadelphia Airport last Friday morning. And Monsignor Joseph McLoone, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, organized the distribution of Communion by 500 priests and deacons to thousands of people who attended the Papal Mass on Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Sunday.

# Vintage ad of the week

## The New Look

AT

## Sunnybrook



**California Rancher**  
Large foyer, excellent floor plan

**\$15,800**



**2-Story Traditional**  
1½ baths, Separate dining room

**\$16,990**

SEE THEM TODAY—SPECIAL FALL SHOWING—  
at Sunnybrook of our “New Look Houses.”  
Order from any of our buyers approved homes  
and move in before the holidays. The accep-  
tance has been great, check them out before  
its too late.  
City water and sewer with large 80x150 lots  
close to schools and shopping. FHA or cor-  
venient financing available.

Convenience: Sunnybrook is located ¼ mile North of  
Rt. 30 on Rt. 113 (Uwchlan Ave.) in Suburban Downning-  
town. 5 minutes to Tempika.



**Cochrane & Pasfield**  
Builders of American Houses



“YOU’LL  
LOVE  
THE  
VIEW!”

**Sunnybrook in Suburban Downningtown**

ANdrews 9-2323

The ad above for new houses in Downingtown’s Sunnybrook development, between East Pennsylvania and Uwchlan Avenues, was published in local newspapers in September 1963. Gee, houses were much less expensive 52 year ago.

# News items from *The Archive* in early 1922

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Downingtown Archive* in the early part of 1922.

- At the end of World War I in 1918, a citizens' committee conducted a campaign to raise funds for a large flag, to be displayed in the borough's Center Square. The response to the solicitation was so great—800 25-cent contributions—there was enough money to purchase three flags, each of which had three gold stars in memory of the three **local boys killed in the war**. They were Charles Moran, John Kemery and Joseph Hill. In addition to the flag displayed on Center Square, the other two were posted in front of the Minquas Fire Co, and at the intersection of West Lancaster and Stuart Avenues.

- Just two years after the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment—the women's right to vote—became part of the U.S. Constitution, **Martha Thomas** of Whitford announced her candidacy for the State Legislature, as the representative of Chester County's second legislative district. Miss Thomas was treasurer of the Chester County Recreation Board and a member of Chester County Hospital's Board of Managers.

- The **Downingtown Woman's Club** announced its plans to buy the Joseph Hoopes home and the surrounding 7-acre property on Manor Avenue for \$12,000. Over \$4,000 had been raised by club members and local businessmen.

- The **Downingtown Building and Loan Association** was established. The charter officers were Dr. Edgar Hutchison, president; Edgar Griffith, vice president; Howard Baldwin, secretary; and Joseph Miller, treasurer. Asa Pannebaker was the institution's solicitor.

- In Chief John Corcoran annual report on the Alert Fire Company's activities in 1921, he noted that both of the borough's fire units had responded to a blaze that caused \$1,500 worth of damage at the "**soap factory on Bradford Avenue**" in the Johnsontown section of town. Anyone know anything about that soap factory?

- Under the leadership of Coach Raymond Greenleaf, the **DHS track and field team** won the 1922 championship of Chester and Delaware Counties. The local high school had also won that championship in 1916.

- In its annual report, the **Board of Health** noted that some borough residents were using "water from springs and other sources in preference to the borough water. This to be deplored, as bad as the borough water may taste." The report also noted that the average age for the 30 people who died was 57.

- In a presentation on the history of **Uwchlan Township** at a meeting of the Uwchlan Grange, Ellis Smedley noted that, in 1778, Continental Army physicians demanded to have the key to the Uwchlan Friends meeting house in Lionville, so it could be used as a hospital for stricken soldiers. When the Friend in charge of the meeting house refused to turn over the key, the physicians gained forcible entry. Smedley also mentioned that the maternal grandmother of Teddy Roosevelt was buried in the meeting house's grave yard.

## **Clip Joint will be open at Ashbridge House on October 6 and 13**

Our next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, October 6 at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, next to the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. And we'll have our second evening Clip Joint session from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, October 13 at Ashbridge House, as well. You're all welcome to join us at either session, which involve lots of fun as well as local gossip (whoops, we meant history). And you can arrive and leave either session at your convenience.

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

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

## **Our Wish List**

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- A copy of Barbara C. Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about either of these requests, please send an email to:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

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

# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## **Stich-a-Thon**

Sign up for a Stitch-a-Thon, which will be held from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Downingtown Library. The event will involve knitting/crocheting for the "Warm Up America" charity. Some yarn will be available at the library. Templates for the squares can be picked up at the library ahead of time if anyone wants to get an early start. It is not necessary to stay all day. Monetary donations are welcome to help defray the cost of shipping. Register online at [www.downingtownlibrary.org](http://www.downingtownlibrary.org)

## ***Fire Co. Open Houses***

Fire Prevention open houses will be conducted from 6:30-9 PM on Wednesday, October 7 at the Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, and at the Minquas Fire Co., 141 Wallace Ave., Downingtown.

## ***Antique & Classic Olds Show***

The Delaware Valley Oldsmobile Club will sponsor its Fall Show in the Wallace Avenue parking lot, at Kerr Park, beginning at 9 AM, on Sunday, October 11. For details, see: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/delvaloldclub/>.

## ***Art Film/Discussions***

Art Professor Donna Usher will present a series of four Art Film/Discussions at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue, from 5:45-8 PM. The next session, on Wednesday, October 14, will focus on "As Seen Through These Eyes," a film on how Holocaust victims created art to document and survive in Nazi camps. And on October 28, the program will be about "Maya Lin, A Strong, Clear Vision," a story about the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial created by a female, Asian, Yale architecture student. It also includes information on public statues created by Maya Lin. All the programs will be presented in the library's media room. For more details, contact Karen Smith at 610-269-2741 or e-mail Professor Usher at [dusher@wcupa.edu](mailto:dusher@wcupa.edu).

## ***Fall Book Sale***

The annual Fall Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Downingtown Library, will be held at the library from 5-7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 16 and 9 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday, Oct. 17. Donations of books in good condition are currently being collected and can be dropped off inside the library.

## ***Roast Beef Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, as part of West Bradford Township's Fall Family Festival, will have its Roast Beef Dinner from 4:30-6:30 PM on Saturday, October 17. Open to all, the family-style dinner includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, mushroom & beef gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert, and beverage. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children aged 5 to 12. Meals are eat-in or take-out. For more info, call the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

## ***High School Homecoming***

The High School Homecoming events, sponsored by the DHS Alumni Association, will begin on Friday, October 2, with the DHS East vs. Unionville football game and crowning of DHS East's Homecoming Queen. DHS West's Homecoming events begin on Thursday, October 15 with a parade, starting at Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania Avenue at 7 PM, and ending at the high school on Manor Avenue with a bon fire. DHS West's Homecoming Queen will be crowned at the DHS West vs. West Chester East football game on Friday night, October 16. The STEM Academy's Homecoming will be held on November 12. DHS alumni, as well as local residents are encouraged to attend these events.

## ***The Age of Aquarius***

Ellen Endslow, Director of Collections/Curator at the Chester County Historical Society will present an eclectic trip down memory lane, back to the 1960s, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the East Brandywine Township building on Route 322. Ellen will tell how Chester County fit into the national timeline on topics such as civil rights, pop culture, and Viet Nam. The program is free and no RSVP is required. For more info, contact: [CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com).

### ***Program on Medicare***

You can learn about the ins and outs of Medicare and how to maximize your coverage at this program, to be held from 6:30-7:30 PM on Monday, Oct. 19 at the Downingtown Library. Register online via [www.downingtowntownlibrary.org](http://www.downingtowntownlibrary.org).

### ***Art of German Hexing***

Deb Estep, historian, author, educator and Civil War re-enactor, will speak on the history of the Art of German hexing at 7 PM Tuesday, October 20, at the West Caln Historical Society meeting in the township building, 721 Kings Highway, Wagontown. All are welcome to the free programs.

### ***Halloween Parade***

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM Saturday, October 3. The parade route will be along Pennsylvania Avenue between Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave., heading east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants in the parade must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM. Costumed participants will stage at Beaver Creek Elementary School and floats will stage at Grace Church at the corner of Lloyd and Pennsylvania Avenues. All participants will need a number in order to be judged. For more details, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN%202015.pdf>.

### ***Candlelight Dinner***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission is holding a Log House Candlelight Dinner for 4 raffle to benefit the placement of the Minquas Cannon at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via: [Vdilui@downingtowntown.org](mailto:Vdilui@downingtowntown.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

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

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

### ***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.



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## What local residents were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of October 1979.

- Members of the Downingtown Area School Board were upset when they learned that original cost estimates of building additions at two of the district's elementary schools were too low. In fact, the **new, higher projections were twice as high** as the current 13 percent inflation rate. Initially, the cost of constructing an addition at West Bradford School had been \$342,000. But after the architect reviewed the numbers, his cost-projection increased by about 25 percent, to \$460,000. And an analysis of the cost of the addition at Pickering Valley School leaped about 35 percent, from \$1,055,000 to \$1,275,000. Dr. Charles Micken, district superintendent, noted that the inflation rate for the construction industry was much higher than the rate for the rest of the U.S. economy. That observation didn't placate the school directors, especially when they noted that the architect's fee was to be 6 per cent of the total construction costs for the two additions.

- The **Robert G. Struble Biking and Hiking Trail** was dedicated by the Chester County Commissioners at the trail's entrance on Norwood Road. First proposed by the County Planning Commission in 1973, the project foundered until 1976, when Commissioner Robert Struble started promoting it again. The first phase of the nearly-completed, 3.5-mile trail was completed, and was open for hiking. It was expected to ready for biking in 1980. The trail follows the old right-of-way of the abandoned New Holland branch of the Penn Central Railroad Line. The Line, initially incorporated as the East Brandywine and Waynesburg Railroad in 1854, was built to link the paper mills along the Brandywine Creek, between Downingtown and New Holland. It also provided rural communities with postal, freight and passenger service. The Pennsylvania Railroad purchased the line in 1903. The line was abandoned in 1972.

- **Windsor Baptist**, in Upper Uwchlan, dedicated its new church. The church was established in 1846, primarily by 48 members of the Vincent Baptist Church who lived in the Eagle area. Windsor's first church, used from 1833 until 1869, was a one-story, 40-foot-by-60-foot building. A second church, on Conestoga Road, was dedicated in 1869, and it was used until the new one was opened in 1979. Electricity was added to the second church in 1925, and central heating was installed there in 1948. And an eight-room Sunday School was added to the rear of the church in 1958. Members of the building committee were James Runyen, Walter Styer, Rachel Nagle, Warren German, Donald Anthony, Carolyn Miller and Pastor Dean Hagerty.

- Downingtown Borough Council planned to open a parking lot along Viaduct Avenue, to alleviate the problem of **railroad commuters** taking the parking spaces in front of residences in neighborhoods near the railroad station.

- Jay Lammey, chairman of the **East Brandywine Fire Company's** eighth annual antique show and sale, said that nearly 1,100 people attended the show.

- Downingtown's Tom Schiltz was the overall winner in the **Marshallton Triathlon**, and DHS French teacher Yvonne McFadden, of West Bradford, won first place in her age bracket.

- Denise Mancini was the **DHS Homecoming Queen**. Members of the DHS Alumni Association who served on the Homecoming Committee included Madeleine Woodruff, Bev McCarty, Duke Charles, Theresa McCausland, Elma and Clarence Miller, Gerry Matthews, Suzanne and Ed McDermott, James Nelson, Pete Bonaduce, Peg and Tom Stern, Francis Summers, Joe Bird, Bill Mason, Ed McCausland, Warren Popjoy and Allen Popjoy.

- Those who prepared and served the food at **East Brandywine Baptist Church's** appreciation dinner for Sunday School teachers and helpers included Ernest and Jean Forshey, Leona and Bob Mendenhall, Alice Esworthy, Dick and Jackie Baker, Mabel Butler, Beth Hanna, Bob Fuller, Sally Arters and Glenn Arters.

- Hampered by losing a total of 100 yards because of penalties on crucial plays, the **DHS football team** suffered its first defeat in Ches-Mont League competition, losing to Boyertown by a 6-0 score. Although it was of little solace to DHS, the head referee who called most of those penalties was canned by the league. The Whippets bounced back the following week with a 34-7 win over Great Valley, as Ricke Stonewall scored three touchdowns and Tom Quinn connected on seven of eight passes. Dave Kucera caught three of the passes, including one for a TD, and recovered a fumble. Teddy Robinson also ran for a score. Coach Chiccino called linebackers Glenn Davis, Todd McNeill and Greg Wilson "the best in the league," and said ball hawks Brian Westmoreland and Ed Novak "the best I ever coached."

- Rob Sanders finished first in two meets, as the **DHS boys' cross-country squad** finished in second place in the Ches-Mont standings, as well as in the championship meet. The Whippets completed its season with a 25-30 win over Great Valley, when Rob Sanders, Larry Williams, Shawn Urbine, Matt Mingione and Andy Rolen scored points.

- And the **DHS girls' cross-country team** won the Ches-Mont championship. Members of the squad included Kristin Brandl, Melanie Wix, Jeanine Cheek, Anne Borland, Jayne Dickson, Megan McAuliffe, Lee McIntyre and Tracy Thornbury.

- The **DHS field hockey team** beat Pottsgrove 3-1 in a flick-off, after the regulation game ended in a scoreless tie. Doreen Warihay, Donna Allison and Julie Sten scored in the flick-off.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 70** who earned Mile Swim Awards at Camp Horseshoe were Grant Angeny, Scott Bell, Bob McMillen, Scott Millward and Mike Raysor.

- The **DHS girls' tennis team** completed its 9-3 season tied for third in the Ches-Mont League. The Blue and Gold beat Marple-Newtown 6-1 in their final match, with Judy O'Connell, Pam Smith, Chris Lefko and Sara Nothstine, and the doubles team of Vera Kockler and Kathy Gillooly winning their matches.

- Paul Hurley's **DHS soccer team** had its first winning season, with an 8-6-3 overall record. The Whippet booters closed the 1979 campaign with a 6-0 whitewashing over O.J. Roberts. Kirt Kessler, Vince Forgione and Mark Mathis each scored two goals, and Dale Russell and Tom Urban tallied assists.

## **Don't forget to get your tickets for the Paranormal Investigators' presentation on Oct. 24 and Oct. 25**

The Chester County Paranormal Investigators will make presentations on their latest findings, after recently spending several nights at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters. The Investigators' presentations at Ashbridge House will be at 7 PM on Saturday, October 24 and at 2 PM on Sunday, October 25. Since each seating is limited to 35 people, you are urged to buy a ticket ASAP for either of the presentations.

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Ashbridge Square Shopping Center Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln, or by making an online payment via Paypal.

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## Downingtown area news 51 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from October 1954 editions of *The Archive*:

- The **East Brandywine School District's PTA** committee chairpersons included telephone, Mrs. Norman Bicking, Mrs. Howard McGirk, Mrs. William Davey, Mrs. Charles Newlin, Mrs. P.T. Russell, and Mrs. L. McCausland; refreshments, Mrs. Clinton Smedley, Mrs. Lester Feiler, Mrs. Laura Hopkins, Mrs. Clifford Matthews, Mrs. Daniel Arters and Mrs. Earl Ames; projects, Mrs. Charles Ezrah, Mrs. Joseph Inslee, Mrs. Ralph Katherman, Mrs. Lawrence Thomas and Mrs. Richard Moore.
- **Glenmoore Girl Scouts** who camped overnight at Commodore Manor were Ann Galt, Pamela Shrader, Vonnie Hohl, Patty Houck, Linda Hogan, Nancy Ortlip, Karen Funk, Marian Jones, Eileen Mercer, Joan Stephens and Polly Jo Jones. Their leaders were Mrs. Robert Kerstetter, Emily Riley and Miriam Brooks.
- Johnny Chilla threw three TD passes, as the **Whippet football team** beat West Chester 39-16. Receivers who caught those scoring passes were Paul McComsey (2) and Tom Woodward.
- Student chairman of departments of the Future Farmers of America chapter at the **DHS Farm Show** included: Roger Manley, corn; Bob Davis, potatoes; Ralph Hall, hay; Larry Reed, miscellaneous; Frank Aaron, vegetables; Warren Reese, eggs; Jack Bingham, dairy; Earl Young, beef; and Howard Pierson, tractor driving.
- And committee chairmen of the **DHS Future Homemakers of America Club** were Betty Thomas, Joy Munzenmayer and Pat Snyder, canned goods; Betty Bird, Pat Stanley, Barbara Zittle, Elizabeth Rigg and Jane Louise Davis, candy; Arlene Arters, Jo Greenley, and Betty Hackman, clothing; and Evelyn Hettinger, Margaret Detweiler and Nancy Jo Davis, home decoration.

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

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

# Please help the Historical Society by supporting our annual Restaurant Raffle

The Historical Society's third annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle is bigger and better than ever, because those who buy a ticket will have an opportunity to win \$1,400 worth of dinners at seven great, local restaurants.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue its efforts to repair the stone walls of Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center in East Caln Township. That means your continued support will enable us to continue re-pointing the house's leaking, exterior walls.

Those who generously supported last year's raffle allowed us to replace the crumbling mortar that bonded the stonework on the east side walls of the house, plus the exterior of the summer kitchen, which was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,400, for meals at these seven area restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House, which is next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Francine Dague, 610-306-2904; or by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 15. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, including a disclaimer, go to: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

Please help us preserve Ashbridge House, a local historic treasure.

## What was going on in the Downingtown area 93 years ago

Noted below are news items published in the *Downingtowntown Archive* during the summer of 1922.

- Downingtown area residents were looking at several **major attractions** in the borough during August 1922. The week-long Alert Fire Co. carnival was held along Lancaster Avenue, between Manor and Downing Avenues. That event was followed by a Farmers' Picnic and Races, a three-day affair held at the race track at Boot Road and Brandywine Avenue, which attracted thousands of people from all over Chester County. In addition to many horse races, crowds were drawn by a merry-go-round, side shows along the midway, a balloon ascension and band concerts. Downingtown's summer events concluded with a five-day Chautauqua assembly, which were popular throughout rural and small-town America until the mid-1920s. A Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day. Former US President [Theodore Roosevelt](#) was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is "the most American thing in America." The 1922 Chautauqua was the 10th one held in the Downingtown Opera house on Brandywine Avenue.
- Local residents also were excited that summer about the reopening of the **Pennsylvania House Hotel**, next to the railroad station on West Lancaster Avenue. The grand opening on the Fourth of July featured a chicken dinner, followed by music and dancing until midnight. Better

yet, hotelier John Ryan announced in August that he was going to install three bowling alleys at the Pennsylvania House.

- Also in July, A. H. Walton began to operate a **bus line** between Downingtown and Phoenixville. It left the railroad station in Downingtown twice daily, at 7:30 am and 2 PM. Stops along the way included Whitford, Lionville, Chester Springs, Pikeland, Kimberton and the terminal at the Phoenix Hotel.
- However, all was not going smoothly in Downingtown in the summer of 1922. That's because the once-popular, three-team **Twilight Baseball League** was "fizzling." Players weren't showing up for games, forcing managers to ask people in the crowd to play. And some games had to be forfeited. One manager claimed "Dan Cupid is the cause of his team's failure. The gang can't make love and play ball, so they have abandoned the ole game for the fair sex. And it is impossible to get them to spare even one evening's time to our national game."

## Lord's Pantry has served needy families in our community for 50 years

An informal program to help several needy families in the congregation of St. James Episcopal Church in Downingtown in 1965 has grown over the past 50 years to the point where it provides a seven-day supply of food and household items to some 700 families who live in the Downingtown Area School District.

Today, the Lord's Pantry is an independent operation, based in a building at 141 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough, which it bought in 2006 with a \$250,000 Chester County Community Development grant.

The operation's 110 volunteers work under the leadership of Jan Leaf, executive director; and Linda McAssey, assistant director. The Pantry's hours are 10 AM to 12:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; and from 6-7 PM on Thursdays. To qualify for assistance, families' incomes must be within 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

## Next evening Clip & Paste session is on Tuesday, Oct. 13

Our first evening Clip Joint session, in September, was a rousing success and we had a great turnout. And we're looking forward to more people coming to the next one, which will be held from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, October 13 at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, next to the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. You're welcome to arrive and leave either session at your convenience.

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

## It's the Marshall Farm in East Brandywine Twp.



Matt McCausland is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above, which was commonly known as the Marshall Farm, located at the intersection of Little Washington-Lyndell and Marshall Roads in East Brandywine Township. Also known as Bridge Mill Farm, the property included a late 18<sup>th</sup> Century stone grist mill, a farmhouse, an Italianate-style outhouse with four seats, and a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century carriage house, plus a double-arched stone bridge. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

According to Barbara Paul's *A History of East Brandywine Township* (1992), the property was owned by several generations of the John Culbertson family, who operated a mill on the site, between 1739 and 1821. Following several short-time owners, Samuel Pancoast Harrison bought the property, and moved his family into the millhouse, while building the 1842 banked farmhouse. Harrison's daughter, Ella, married William D. Marshall in 1887, and he revamped the mill into a creamery, to make butter. Soon he was shipping 80-pound wooden boxes stamped "Yellow Rose Butter, Bridge Mill Creamery, Lyndell, PA" to a concession stand in the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia. Several years later, Marshall relocated the mill to Lyndell to be closer to the railroad line. The property was purchased in 1981 by Horace Stellwagon, who restored many of the outbuildings on the site.

Shelley Smyth Francies, who has lived in Lyndell since she was a child and now is on the DHS West faculty, recalls that, "When my sister and I were teenagers, we (and other local teens) rented barn space there to stable our horses. The farmhouse was still owned by the Marshall family and was rented out. Old Mr. Marshall lived in Lyndell. Every month he expected all of his teen renters to come to his house and pay our stall rental fee of \$1. His house was a museum, mostly unchanged from the 19th Century."

# Vintage ad of the week

**Give the Children  
cooled  
water  
without  
ice in it**



**Theo. M. Griffith & Son**  
**East Downingtown, Pa.**

Perhaps your grandparents told you about huge cakes of ice being delivered to their residence. Those were the days when people used ice boxes, because refrigerators weren't available yet. That all changed in the 1920s, when started buying refrigerators that had the motor on top. This Griffith's Hardware ad was published in the Oct. 8, 1922 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

# Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- **A vacuum cleaner that still works.**
- A copy of Barbara C. Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org). And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### ***Library Fundraiser***

The Downingtown Library is having a fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse from noon to 5 PM on Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11. 15% of food, liquor, to-go food, and gift card purchases go to the library with presentation of flyer, available at the library or via its website: [www.downingtowntlibrary.org](http://www.downingtowntlibrary.org).

### ***Antique & Classic Olds Show***

The Delaware Valley Oldsmobile Club will sponsor its Fall Show in the Wallace Avenue parking lot, at Kerr Park, beginning at 9 AM, on Sunday, October 11. For details, see: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/delvaloldclub/>.

### ***Art Film/Discussions***

Art Professor Donna Usher will present a series of four Art Film/Discussions at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue, from 5:45-8 PM. The next session, on Wednesday, October 14, will focus on "As Seen Through These Eyes," a film on how Holocaust victims created art to document and survive in Nazi camps. And on October 28, the program will be about "Maya Lin, A Strong, Clear Vision," a story about the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial created by a female, Asian, Yale architecture student. It also includes information on public statues created by Maya Lin. All the programs will be presented in the library's media room. For more details, contact Karen Smith at 610-269-2741 or e-mail Professor Usher at [dusher@wcupa.edu](mailto:dusher@wcupa.edu).

### ***Fall Book Sale***

The annual Fall Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Downingtown Library, will be held at the library from 5-7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 16 and 9 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday, Oct. 17. Donations of books in good condition are currently being collected and can be dropped off inside the library.

### ***Roast Beef Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, as part of West Bradford Township's Fall Family Festival, will have its Roast Beef Dinner from 4:30-6:30 PM on Saturday, October 17. Open to all, the family-style dinner includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, mushroom & beef gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls, dessert, and beverage. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children aged 5 to 12. Meals are eat-in or take-out. For more info, call the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

### ***High School Homecoming***

DHS West's Homecoming events begin on Thursday, October 15 with a parade, starting at Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania Avenue at 7 PM, and ending at the high school on Manor Avenue with a bon fire. DHS West's Homecoming Queen will be crowned at the DHS West vs. West Chester East football game on Friday night, October 16. The STEM Academy's Homecoming will be held on November 12. DHS alumni, as well as local residents, are encouraged to attend these events.

### ***The Age of Aquarius***

Ellen Endslow, Director of Collections/Curator at the Chester County Historical Society will present an eclectic trip down memory lane, back to the 1960s, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the East Brandywine Township building on Route 322. Ellen will tell how Chester County fit into the national timeline on topics such as civil rights, pop culture, and Viet Nam. The program is free and no RSVP is required. For more info, contact:

[CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com).

### ***Spaghetti Dinner***

You can get a spaghetti dinner at the Downingtown Area Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., from 3-6 PM on Thursday, Oct. 18. Tickets are \$10; children's portions, 10 and under, \$6. Call 610-269-3900 for take-out orders.

### ***Program on Medicare***

You can learn about the ins and outs of Medicare and how to maximize your coverage at this program, to be held from 6:30-7:30 PM on Monday, Oct. 19 at the Downingtown Library. Register online via

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

### ***Art of German Hexing***

Deb Estep, historian, author, educator and Civil War re-enactor, will speak on the history of the Art of German hexing at 7 PM Tuesday, October 20, at the West Caln Historical Society meeting in the township building, 721 Kings Highway, Wagontown. All are welcome to the free programs.

### ***Halloween Parade***

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM Saturday, October 31. The parade route will be along Pennsylvania Avenue between Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave., heading east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants in the parade must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM. Costumed participants will stage at Beaver Creek Elementary School and floats will stage at Grace Church at the corner of Lloyd and Pennsylvania Avenues. All participants will need a number in order to be judged. For more details, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN%202015.pdf>.

### ***Candlelight Dinner***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission is holding a Log House Candlelight Dinner for 4 raffle to benefit the placement of the Minquas Cannon at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via:

[Vdilugi@downingtowntown.org](mailto:Vdilugi@downingtowntown.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

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

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 42

October 15, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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

## More news about the home front during WW II

Noted below are news items retrieved from *The Archive* during the fall of 1942.

- A two-part dedication of Downingtown's **World War II Honor Roll** that listed the 327 Downingtown boys who were serving in the military, as of December 1942. The dedication started with a program at the Roosevelt Theatre, which included music by the high school band and a quartet of DHS singers, comprised of John Wray, William Barrett, Gerald Kline and

Robert Laird. The second part involved the unveiling of the Honor Roll at Borough Hall by Edwin Wagner, president of the Rotary Club and Elmer Schrumpf, president of the Lions Club. Members of the two clubs had been responsible for constructing the Honor Roll and compilation of the names placed on it. The costs of building the Honor Roll were borne by the Borough government.

- Downingtown housewives and high school girls started conducting a second **scrap drive** in the borough by going to 1,166 homes in the borough to promote the effort in late September 1942. The borough was divided into 11 districts, and each district had a captain. Subsequently, borough trucks picked up the piles of scrap metal, rags and rubber items placed by Downingtown citizens on the curbs in front of their residences. Also, housewives were urged to take waste fats and oils from their kitchens to their butcher; the federal government paid five cents for each pound of the kitchen waste they turned in. The federal War Production Board's goal for Downingtown was 230 tons of scrap. Sixty tons had been collected in the initial household drive, plus the 38 tons retrieved when the trolley tracks on Lancaster Avenue were torn out. And 58 tons of scrap were collected in one month by the **Salvage Committee in East Brandywine**. That total was 25 percent over the township's quota. Items contributed included an old treadmill once used for grinding corn, a water wheel with copper buckets, metal clocks, obsolete farm equipment, and a child's tricycle.

Also, more than three tons of metal were added to Downingtown's scrap pile after about 500 local children each "paid" their admission fee to the theatre by bringing at least five pounds of scrap in September 1942, so they could see a special show--a western feature and several reels of cartoons--**at the Roosevelt Theatre** on Brandywine Avenue in the borough.

- Six coal cars, several box cars and an oil tank unit, which were part of a 125-car-long **Pennsylvania Railroad train, buckled and tore up all four tracks** while passing through Downingtown, about 200 yards west of Brandywine Avenue in November 1942. The derailed oil tank car burst into flames. Both borough fire companies were on the scene in record time, but the firefighters couldn't get close to the fire for about an hour because the heat from burning oil was so intense it melted the electric power lines. There was fear that the fire might spread to the nearby lumber yard of W.P. Canby and the rear of the Bicking Paper Company's No. 1 Mill. All trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad's Main Line tracks were switched over to the low grade line between Thorndale and Glen Loch for several hours. Assistance was provided by the Coatesville Fire Department and a Steelton fire company that was experienced in fighting oil fires. The local firefighters were in action for 12 hours, in a heavy rainfall most of that time.

- With all of its military contract work, the **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.** was operating on three shifts, and 350 people were on the payroll. And about 30 of those employees were female machine tenders, who had been hired to relieve the acute labor shortage caused by so many men serving in the military. And the **Downingtown Iron Works** was running "Men Wanted for War Work" ads. The ads noted: "Experience not necessary for some jobs," and "Men now engaged in war work cannot be considered."

- Although the **DHS football team** had lost every game so far that season, the Whippet gridders closed their 1942 campaign with a 13-0 upset win over Pottstown. Johnny DiBernardi scored both of Downingtown's TDs.

- According to the November 1942 Parish Bulletin of **St. Joseph's Catholic Church** in Downingtown, 106 members of the parish were serving in the military. The number serving in each of the various branches were: Army, 62; Navy, 31; Marines, 7; and Air Corps, 6.

## **Now is the time to get your tickets for the Paranormal Investigators' presentation on Oct. 24 and Oct. 25**

The Chester County Paranormal Investigators will make presentations on their latest findings, after recently spending several nights at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters. The Investigators' presentations at Ashbridge House will be at 7 PM on Saturday, October 24 and at 2 PM on Sunday, October 25. Since each seating is limited to 35 people, you are urged to buy a ticket ASAP for either of the presentations.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 by sending a check to: the Downingtown Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335, or paying for tickets on a Sunday afternoon (1-4 PM) when you visit Ashbridge House, (next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln, or by making an online payment via Paypal.

Although it is likely that both presentations will be sellouts, if any tickets are still available at the time of either presentation, they will be sold at the door at a cost of \$12. Light refreshments will be available after the presentations.

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## What local residents were talking about 93 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from the *Downingtown Archive* in the latter part of 1922.

- The cornerstone for the **new East Ward School** was laid in early September 1922. The items placed inside the cornerstone by John Patton, president of the school board, included a Bible and a copy of the Downingtown Archive. (*Editor's Note: Anyone know what happened to that cornerstone?*)
- **Downingtown Woolen Mills**, which had bought a factory building and 17 acres in the borough, after it moved from Philadelphia several years earlier, announced that it planned to double its capacity here.
- A chemical truck, which costed \$3,000, and an ambulance, which was almost completely built for \$1,500 by members of the fire company, were housed at the **Minquas Fire Co.**
- Enrollment at the high school had reached 182 pupils. Organizations established at DHS for the first time were **an orchestra, a glee club and a Student Council**. Officers of the DHS Student Council were Lewis Laird, president; Marian Tweed, vice president; and Anne Downing, secretary.
- The **DHS football team** ended its 1922 season by clobbering Parkesburg 68-0, and it beat Spring City's first-ever squad 58-0. But Downingtown's overall record was 5-5.
- Local residents had an opportunity to see a 30-person cast, direct from New York, present "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the **Downingtown Opera House**.

## Brief, but important

- Remember when the **Young Whippets** football program got underway in Downingtown the fall of 1964? A member recently brought us a copy of the program's first annual banquet, which was held on January 30, 1965. Featured speakers were Ray DiSerafino, DHS athletic director; and Chic Chiccino, head coach of the Junior High football team. Officers of the organization were Roger Patrizio, chairman; Frank Allen, general manager; Charles Dumont, secretary; and Raymond Schollenberger, treasurer. Other members of the board were Charles Menas, Pete Hayes, James Hamilton, Tom Woodward, Herb Lee, Robert Miller, Owen Story, William Bricker and Ramsey Hipple. Head coaches of the teams were Ramsey Hipple, 75-pounds; Tom Woodward, 100-pounds; and Herb Lee, 110-pounds.
- Don Greenleaf, retired Downingtown borough manager, says that when he read about the 1979 dedication of the **Struble Hiking and Biking Trail** in last week's Hist-O-Gram, that event brought back some poignant memories. Don says the engineers who were designing a piping system to transport wastewater along the East Branch of Brandywine Creek—from the facilities at Marsh Creek State Park in Upper Uwchlan Township to the regional sewage treatment plant in Downingtown—originally planned to have the piping system criss-cross the Brandywine at six points in order to maintain downward gravity. "Those crossings would be hard to maintain and costly to build," explains Don. So, he suggested that the piping systems be built on the old railroad right-of-way of the New Holland branch of the Penn Central Railroad Line, which had been abandoned in 1972. By installing the piping under old railbed, the gravity flow of the wastewater could be maintained, and the construction costs were much cheaper. Don also mentioned that the railbed also could be used as a hiking trail in the future. Armand Taraschi, president of Downingtown's Borough Council proposed the railbed idea to the County Commissioners, and the "rest is history," concludes Don.

# It's Whitford Lodge on Route 30 in Exton



Although many Hist-O-Gram readers often drive past the building in the photo, not one of them guessed its identity. It's the former Whitford Lodge on Route 30, near Route 100 in Exton. The 1782 building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. The site has served as a bank branch in recent years. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was a summer vacation home for working girls; \$3 for a one-week stay in 1913. During World War I, volunteers in the Women's Land Army, who worked on local farms, stayed there. And it was a tea room in the 1920s, operated by the Chester Valley Nurse Association. It also was the site of the first Chester County Library, in the 1930s.

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**This edition's Vintage Ad:**

**ATTENTION  
Downtown  
WOMEN**

**Free Transportation  
To Work**

*PLN 11-29-46*

We need women to work  
in food processing plant.  
Make up to 65c per hour.  
Time and half time over 40  
hours. Double time for Sun-  
day. Vacation with pay.

**~~SMOCKS LOANED~~ FREE  
TO YOU**

Free coffee in our modern,  
comfortable lounge. Free ac-  
cident and sickness insur-  
ance.

Where else can you find  
such ideal working condi-  
tions?

*Apply NOW in Person to*

**GROCERY STORE  
PRODUCTS CO.**

**Union and Adams Sts.  
Phone West Chester 1880**

This ad was published in the Nov. 29, 1946 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

# Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

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- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *Art Film/Discussions*

Art Professor Donna Usher will present a series of four Art Film/Discussions at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue, from 5:45-8 PM. The next session, on Wednesday, October 28, will be about "Maya Lin, A Strong, Clear Vision," a story about the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial created by a female, Asian, Yale architecture student. It also includes information on public statues created by Maya Lin. All the programs will be presented in the library's media room. For more details, contact Karen Smith at 610-269-2741 or e-mail Professor Usher at [dusher@wcupa.edu](mailto:dusher@wcupa.edu).

### *Fall Book Sale*

The annual Fall Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Downingtown Library, will be held at the library from 5-7:30 PM on Friday, Oct. 16 and 9 AM to 4:30 PM on Saturday, Oct. 17. Donations of books in good condition are currently being collected and can be dropped off inside the library.

### *Roast Beef Dinner*

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, as part of West Bradford Township's Fall Family Festival, will have its Roast Beef Dinner from 4:30-6:30 PM on Saturday, October 17. Open to all, the family-style dinner includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, mushroom & beef gravy, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce, rolls,

dessert, and beverage. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children aged 5 to 12. Meals are eat-in or take-out. For more info, call the church office at [\(610\) 696-5247](tel:6106965247).

### ***High School Homecoming***

DHS West's Homecoming events begin on Thursday, October 15 with a parade, starting at Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania Avenue at 7 PM, and ending at the high school on Manor Avenue. DHS West's Homecoming Queen will be crowned at the DHS West vs. West Chester East football game on Friday night, October 16. The STEM Academy's Homecoming will be held on November 12. DHS alumni, as well as local residents, are encouraged to attend these events.

### ***The Age of Aquarius***

Ellen Endslow, Director of Collections/Curator at the Chester County Historical Society will present an eclectic trip down memory lane, back to the 1960s, at 3:30 PM on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the East Brandywine Township building on Route 322. Ellen will tell how Chester County fit into the national timeline on topics such as civil rights, pop culture, and Viet Nam. The program is free and no RSVP is required. For more info, contact:

[CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com).

### ***Spaghetti Dinner***

You can get a spaghetti dinner at the Downingtown Area Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., from 3-6 PM on Thursday, Oct. 18. Tickets are \$10; children's portions, 10 and under, \$6. Call 610-269-3900 for take-out orders.

### ***Program on Medicare***

You can learn about the ins and outs of Medicare and how to maximize your coverage at this program, to be held from 6:30-7:30 PM on Monday, Oct. 19 at the Downingtown Library. Register online via

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

### ***Art of German Hexing***

Deb Estep, historian, author, educator and Civil War re-enactor, will speak on the history of the Art of German hexing at 7 PM Tuesday, October 20, at the West Caln Historical Society meeting in the township building, 721 Kings Highway, Wagontown. All are welcome to the free programs.

### ***Halloween Parade***

Downingtown's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM Saturday, October 31. The parade route will be along Pennsylvania Avenue between Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave., heading east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants in the parade must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM. Costumed participants will stage at Beaver Creek Elementary School and floats will stage at Grace Church at the corner of Lloyd and Pennsylvania Avenues. All participants will need a number in order to be judged. For more details, see: <http://downingtowntown.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN%202015.pdf>.

### ***Candlelight Dinner***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission is holding a Log House Candlelight Dinner for 4 raffle to benefit the placement of the Minquas Cannon at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via:

[Vdilugi@downingtowntown.org](mailto:Vdilugi@downingtowntown.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

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

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 43

October 22, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## Paranormal Investigators will reveal info about ghostly residents at Ashbridge House this weekend

Haunted History at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters? Join members of Chester County Paranormal Investigators as they explain how they used modern paranormal equipment and techniques to discover some fun facts about life, in and around Ashbridge House. Hear about encounters with some ghostly residents of the house, who make their presence known in out-of-the-ordinary ways. Participate in an EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena) session and have a chance to ask your own questions of the ghostly occupants of Ashbridge House.

The program includes a presentation of some of the evidence gathered from several investigations of the house and a hands-on demonstration of some of the equipment. You won't want to miss this opportunity to become involved in a bit of local Haunted History.

The Chester County Paranormal Investigators will make their presentations at 7 PM on Saturday, October 24 and at 2 PM on Sunday, October 25. Tickets, which cost \$10, can be purchased at the door before the two presentations at Ashbridge House, located in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center Square Shopping Center, next to the Chick Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln.

# News published in local papers in November 1979

Noted below are items retrieved from area newspapers published 36 years ago:

- Downingtown councilman **Frank Manetta** said the rumors that he was a likely successor to Lew Wilson, borough police chief, were “ludicrous.” Mayor John Fiore had recently asked Wilson to retire, but Wilson said he had not made a decision to retire. Meanwhile, Manetta, who had served on the police force for several years, said, “My family and I got a chuckle out of it at first. But now I want it stopped. It’s not fair to Lew, to me, or to my family.”
- West Bradford resident Al Gerhard set a **world record for boomerang distance throwing** by tossing his self-made boomerang 123 yards and 1 foot.
- New members of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were Marrone’s Automotive, Gee Auto Parts, Progress Plumbing, Heating and Electric Co., Lillard Insurance, and Chester County Beauty Supplies.
- The Downingtown School District adopted a new policy on **administering medications and first aid** to students. The policy requires a written request from a parent or guardian for any type of medication.
- The **DHS football squad** beat O.J. Roberts 34-13, as quarterback Tom Quinn connected on pass plays to Brain Westmoreland and Dave Kucera that resulted in TDs. Ricke Stonewall scored his 13<sup>th</sup> touchdown on an 80-yard run, and Teddy Robinson tallied his fifth TD of the season. Fullback Glenn Davis finished Downingtown’s scoring by bulling his way across the goal line in the fourth quarter. Cited for their defensive play were Reese Hunt, nine tackles; Todd McNeil, eight tackles and a fumble recovery; and Ed Novak, who got his fifth interception of the season.
- Members of **Cub Pack 23**, who received one-year service pins, included Sammy Greer, Eddie Schroeder, Greg Hauptert, Steve Snyder, Larry Bronson, Jeff Steidler, Richard Wagner and Todd Roman.
- The **DHS field hockey team** finished its 12-5 season with a 2-1 win over Phoenixville. The Phantoms were up 1-0 when Barrie Benjamin’s goal knotted the score, and Tina Arcaro tallied the winning goal. Coach Sally Anderson said the Whippets’ improved record were the result of the outstanding efforts of Sue Widen, Donna Allison, Sue Daylor, Betty Tiller, Laura Roepe, Doreen Warihay, Linda Carroll and Debbie Klein. Players who were named to the all-Ches-Mont League team were Arcaro, Carroll and Warihay.
- Officers of the **DHS Music Parents Association** were Mitchell Mauger, president; Robert Nash, vice president; and Mary Jo Schloman, secretary; and Peg Yeoman, treasurer.
- DHS students who had recently **participated in exchange programs** and the foreign land they had visited, were: Kathy Parvensky, France; Mark Myers and Dan Cook, Spain; Ellen Jones, Mexico; and Rick Betres, Denmark.
- Recent **property transfers** included 93 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$89,900; 203 First Ave., Caln, \$47,000; 1298 W. Strasburg Road, West Bradford, \$75,200; 208 Spring Run Lane, Uwchlan, \$71,132; 501 Thomas Road, Downingtown, \$48,230; 97 Gloucester Court, East Brandywine, \$52,900; 8 Shore Line Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$85,000.
- Members of the DHS cross-country squad who made the **all-Ches-Mont League team** were Larry Williams and Rob Sanders.

## Girl Scout leaders' CPR training at Ashbridge House



Area Girl Scout leaders attended a day-long CPR/First Aid certification class last Saturday at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters.

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

# What area residents were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from local papers published in early April 1948:

- The **Pickering Valley Railroad** was authorized to abandon the 6.7-mile line that ran between Kimberton and Byers. The line was built in 1871, to serve dairy farmers whose milk was transported on the Pickering Valley Railroad to Philadelphia. The line was especially important when it was used for freight and passenger service to the **Chester Springs Soldiers Orphan School**, which was founded in 1868 and closed in 1912. A huge amount of info about the Orphans School is available at: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacheste/chester\\_sos\\_nwsart.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pacheste/chester_sos_nwsart.htm).
- Charles Emery, supervisor of Downingtown Schools, was the chief bingo caller at the **DHS Music Association's** Game Night. However, when his voice became extremely hoarse, he had to be relieved by Paul Dowlin.
- The new club rooms being built in the former gymnasium (where the DHS boys' and girls' basketball teams had played home games for decades) at the **Minquas Fire Co.**, were expected to be ready for the Downingtown Fire Department's housing of two trucks and a huge parade on June 12.
- Officers elected to lead the **Downingtown branch of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** were: Mrs. Donald White, president; Mrs. William Reed, first vice president; Mrs. John Miller, second vice president; Mrs. Morse Garwood, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Moore, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Clifton Walton, treasurer.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary** were: Mrs. Herbert Ash, president; Mrs. William Mittel, vice president; Mrs. George Grieb, secretary; and Mrs. Shartle Brookover, treasurer.
- The **Odd Fellows Lodge in Downingtown** elected the following officers: Allen Popjoy, junior past grand; Gilbert Cox, noble grand; Arthur Lowry, vice grand; Creston Shoemaker, assistant secretary; Paul Blend and Frank Laird, supporters, noble grand; Mark Shaw, warden; Roy Rimel, conductor; Allen Woodward, chaplain; Ernest Smedley, inside guardian; Theodore Griggs, inside guardian; John McCausland and Herbert Pritchard, supporters, vice grand; and Ralph Kinsey and Morris Stiefel, scene supporters.
- Installed as officers of the **Ladies Society at Messiah Lutheran, Downingtown**, were: Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Earl Shirk, vice president; Mrs. Leon Dickinson, secretary; and Mrs. Edward Murray, treasurer.
- The **Downingtown Moose Lodge** elected these officers: Francis Francella, governor; Harry Hilton, junior governor; Hugh Kyle, prelate; James Dolan, secretary; William Warren, treasurer; and Joseph Katherman, trustee;
- Candidates initiated into **Downingtown's Washington Camp of the POSA** were: Ernest Smedley, Josiah Ashenfelter, Robert Hadfield, William Whiteman and Clifford Irons.

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

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

# Please help the Historical Society by supporting our Restaurant Raffle

The Historical Society's third annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle is bigger and better than ever, because those who buy a ticket will have an opportunity to win \$1,400 worth of dinners at seven great, local restaurants.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue its efforts to repair the stone walls of Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center in East Caln Township. That means your continued support will enable us to continue re-pointing the house's leaking, exterior walls.

Those who generously supported last year's raffle allowed us to replace the crumbling mortar that bonded the stonework on the east side walls of the house, plus the exterior of the summer kitchen, which was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,400, for meals at these seven area restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House, which is next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Francine Dague, 610-306-2904; or by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 15. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, including a disclaimer, go to: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

## Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- A copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

[Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

Ad published in May 22, 1947 issue of the *Daily Local News*

# **Fridays and Saturdays are ALWAYS Downingtown Days**

**The only place in Central Chester County  
where you can shop Saturday Night**

DLN  
5-22-47

## **NOW**

**In tune with the times, we are having  
two big days of specially reduced prices—  
Friday and Saturday, May 23 and 24**

## **Come to Downingtown Shop at leisure after work**

### **Free Parking Lot on Wallace Avenue**

Johnson's Jewelry Store  
Downingtown Dept. Store  
Newberry's 5 and 10c Store  
The Morris Store  
Groff's News Agency  
Kauffman's  
G. H. Wagner, Grocer

Theo. M. Griffith & Sons, Hardware  
Western Auto Associates  
Wm. M. Mittel, Fairlawn Grocer  
Murphy's Furniture Store  
Romig Electronic Service Co.  
J. W. Maxwell & Son  
Di Luigi's Shoe Store

W. P. Canby & Son

## It was Loller's Cigar Store and a general store



Both Jack Hines and John Carbo are truly perceptive scholars because they were the first persons to correctly identify the site in the above photo. Jack told us that it was Nelson Loller's Cigar Store in Marshallton when the photo was taken in the 1940s. And John knew that it was a general store operated many years earlier by Harry LeFevre, as shown in the postcard below.



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## ***Dash of the Living Dead***

At 2 PM Saturday, Oct. 31 the **Dash of the Living Dead** road race down will be conducted on Pennsylvania Ave. to Aston Ave., through Kerr Park, and continue on the path into Johnsontown, then back to Kerr Park for the finish. The race, which is sponsored by Downingtown Main Street Association, will occur prior to Downingtown's Halloween Parade. Pre-Registration is \$35 (\$40 day of). The event includes Un-Dead After Party with a great spread from Downingtown restaurants, t-shirt, entertainment, and beer from Victory Brewing Co. Zombified runners will earn an extra beer for their extra effort. Get more details and register for the event, see: [http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race\\_info/34099](http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/34099).

## ***Halloween Parade***

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Vol. 6, No. 44

October 29, 2015

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## More local news published in November 1979

Noted below are items retrieved from area newspapers published 36 years ago:

- The **DHS football team** pulled a major upset when it crushed undefeated Pottsgrove 28-0. Highlights of the win were Brian Westmoreland's 90-yard, second-half kickoff return for a touchdown and the 22-yard scoring pass reception by league-leading receiver Dave Kucera. Coach Chic Chiccino claimed that defensive down linemen Ed LaSorda, Jeff Gehrlein and Bob

Ricci, plus ends Art Vellatuto and Bill Pitkin, had dominated a much bigger Falcon offensive line. The following week, Downingtown edged West Chester Henderson 21-18. Ricke Stonewall ran 70 yards for a touchdown on the Whippets' first play from scrimmage, and scored two more times. Downingtown completed the 1979 campaign with a 28-19 victory over Coatesville on Thanksgiving. Although the Whippets finished second in the Ches-Mont League, Coatesville coach Al Black acknowledged that he had projected the Papertowners to be league's top squad before the season started. However, the DHS coaching staff wasn't as optimistic, because of its concern about the offensive line. That group—Ricci, Horace Sorenson, LaSorda, Carl DiFrancesco, Jeff Gehrlein and Tom Honey—"came on faster than expected," said Chiccino. He also noted that the defense "played like maniacs all year." Glenn Davis was the leading tackler for the season, with 85; Greg Wilson had 71; Todd McNeill got 63; and Westmoreland had 60. As a result, opponents were held to an average of 8.1 points a game, while the DHS offense piled up an average of 24.1 points. Overall, Chiccino said the 1979 team was the "most potent and powerful" group he had ever coached.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 1603 Winfield Drive, West Bradford, \$61,650; 325 Peck Road, Uwchlan, \$84,500; 121 Governor's Circle, East Brandywine, \$70,870; 10 Downing Circle, East Caln, \$129,000; 9 Rabbit Run Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$77,793; 306 Lincoln Avenue, Downingtown, \$38,000; 18 Lyn Boulevard, Caln, \$47,550.

- Borough officials said that **opening Green Street**, between Lancaster and Pennsylvania Avenues would help businesses in the Downing Center shopping center. However, the extension of Green Street couldn't be accomplished until 1981, at the earliest, due to "red tape," explained Vince DiEuliis, council president.

- Plans to drop the **ski clubs** in the School District's secondary schools were defeated by the school board. More than 550 of the district's students were involved in the ski clubs.

- Dawn Boyer, Julianne Wilson, Katie Wright, April Bossert and Jason Hoch were honored at the Downingtown Library for reading more than 10 books while participating in the March of Dimes **Reading Olympics**.

- GTE Sylvania Inc. announced plans to open a plant in **Pickering Creek Industrial Park** in Uwchlan. Fifteen or more employees there were going to make components for electrical switch gears, said Gene Iborg, plant manager.

- Charles Shagren, coordinator of the **DHS Work Experience** program, reported that 110 students, participated in the program during the 1978-79 school year. They worked an average of 27 hours a week, and were paid about \$3 an hour.

- **Upper Uwchlan** supervisors agreed to amend the township's zoning ordinance to allow 6-foot-high windmills to be erected in the township.

- Hervey Painter, grand noble of **Downingtown's Odd Fellows** lodge, presented 50-year service pins to John McCausland, Vinton Smedley and Allen Woodward.

- The **Young Whippets'** 75-pound team won the Termite Bowl, held in Delaware County, by defeating Prospect Park 18-0. The Downingtown team broke into the scoring column on a 22-yard pass from quarterback Billy Straub to Drew Bradley. Other scores were tallied by Tom Wolfe on a 3-yard run, and by Kevin Doran on a 50-yard pass play.

- New officers of the Luther League at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Deanna Wood, vice president; Wendy Chikla, secretary; and Dan Lammey, treasurer.

- DHS students who won regional awards for their **welding projects** were Don Leach and Jerry Ware.

- Officers of the Downingtown branch of the **Needlework Guild of America** included: Mary Pollock, president; Margie McCombs, vice president; Estelle Kauffman, secretary; and Mary Jane Patrizio, treasurer.
- New officers of the **Downingtown School District's Secretaries Association** were Naomi Dunn, president; Joan Fink, vice president; Betty Ahern, secretary; and Loretta Savastio, treasurer.
- **David McNamara**, a member of Boy Scout Troop 23, received the Uwchlan Township Citizen Award for spearheading a tree-trimming and grounds clean-up of a park in the township, which was his Eagle Scout project.

## Bondsville School students in 1923-24



Matt McCausland sent us this neat photo of the students who attended the Bondsville School in the 1923-24 school year in East Brandywine Township. According to Barbara Paul's *A History of Brandywine Township*, the one-room school was built ca. 1872 for \$1,400. Students from the Bondsville-Fisherville area attended the school until the early 1940s. The building, which also was used as a Sunday School, has been converted into a residence. Those pictured in the photo above were, left to right: first row, Martha Mitchell, Ethel Harple, Marie Osborne, Walter Hadfield, James Powell, Marple Guie, Norman Osborne, Warren Guie, Earl Parrott, Guy Slider, Elwood Davis, Marvin Zynn; second row, Helen Guie, Pearl Zynn, Earl Hart, Hamilton Mitchell, Alfred Zynn, John Hadfield, George Zynn, Howard Hart, Elmer Harple, George Powell, Adda Page, Melva Zynn, Catherine Kennedy, Frida Guie, Viola Mendenhall (teacher), Alberta Grayhill, Lydia Nailen, Mary Powell, Clara Guie

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## What local people were talking about 61 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in The Archive in the fall of 1954:

- Howie Bedell, who went on to be an outstanding major league pitcher, led the Pottstown football team in a 33-12 victory over DHS on Thanksgiving.
- Downingtown quarterback Johnny Chilla and center Tony Doto were named to the All-Chest-Mont League first team. Paul McComsey, end, and Tom Woodward, fullback, were selected for the second team. Earning honorable mention were Tom Lee, guard, and Norris Miller, running back.
- The Hotel Crossroads, formerly known as DiSantis's Bar and Grill, opened on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough.
- Philomena DiPietro, Christine DiSantis, Patricia Sarmento and Mrs. Albert Sarmento were new members of the Ladies Auxiliary of St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown.
- Alice Smedley was named the Harvest Queen at the DHS Farm Show. Her court included Barbara Ford, Phoebe Nelson, Connie Osborn and Mary Ann Clayton.
- Officers of the Wallace Township Mothers Club were Rose Edelen president; Velma Moore, vice president; Margaret Miles, treasurer; and Jeanne Aaron, secretary.
- John Bousum received a trophy for having the highest batting average (.354) at the Downingtown Teener Baseball League's banquet.

# Downingtown's social scene in the winter of 1923

Noted below are two interesting news items retrieved from issues of *The Downingtown Archive* in January and February of 1923:

- As many as 500 spectators were expected to come to see the boxing and wrestling matches on the “**Athletic Night**” to be held at the Minquas Fire Co. gymnasium. One of the special attractions were to be the “high class” prizefighters that Lewis Bailey, a Downingtown native, was going to bring out from Philadelphia, where he was a big time boxing promoter. And several local wrestlers were going to put on a “lively” exhibition before the prizefighters from Philly climbed into the ring. However, Downingtown Burgess Harry Reed refused to issue a permit for the event because he was concerned about the “morals and general interest” of the program. But when the fire company decided to drop the boxing bouts, Reed was willing to grant a permit. Although the exhibition attracted only 100 men, the show was considered a success. One of the highlights was the wrestling match between Norman Bird of the Downingtown Manufacturing Co. and Dick Wells from the Downingtown Paper Co. Wells won the match. Another crowd-pleaser was when Wells returned to the ring to wrestle Andy Milanese, who benefited from his 40-pound weight advantage and won. Also, the Minquas team beat the squad from the Downingtown Box Shop in a tug-of-war competition.

- The Minquas was more than just a haven for brawny brawlers during the winter of 1923. The firehouse gym had been gorgeously decorated when it was the scene of a **masquerade ball**, conducted by the Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary. A \$1 ticket entitled guests with access to the fruit punch bowl, and coffee and sandwiches, served by a French maid, were available for a minimal cost. The fundraiser, which opened with a grand march, included a minuet gracefully danced by four couples who wore colonial attire.

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

## Clip Joint will be open at Ashbridge House on Nov. 1 and Nov. 10

Our next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, November 1 at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, next to the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. (Don't forget to reset your clocks because Daylight Savings Time will end that Sunday.) And we'll have our monthly evening Clip Joint session from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, November 10 at Ashbridge House, as well. You're all welcome to join us at either session, which involve lots of fun as well as local gossip (whoops, we meant history). And you can arrive and leave either session at your convenience.

## It was the Downingtown Motor Inn on Route 30 in East Caln



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the postcard artwork above as the Downingtown Motor Inn on Route 30 in East Caln, which opened in the summer of 1961. In addition to 100 guest-rooms, the 100- acre resort motel complex included convention and banquet facilities that could accommodate as many as 2,500 people, two swimming pools, and the 1896 Restaurant and cocktail lounge. The Motor Inn's owners were Samuel Tabas, founder; Charles Tabas, chairman; and Daniel Tabas, president. After an 18-hole golf course was built, it was known as the Downingtown Inn and Golf Club. In 1983, the Tabas family sold its holdings in the Inn to the Ramada Corp. in exchange for stock. The Inn was demolished in 1994, and a year later the 750,000 square foot Brandywine Square shopping center opened on the site.

*Editor's Note: Since many of you Hist-O-Gram subscribers worked at the Motor Inn when you were younger (There were 3,500 employees during the summer peak season in the mid-1970s), we'd love to publish some of your interesting recollections of what it was like working there.*

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

## Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- A copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

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## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### **Dash of the Living Dead**

At 2 PM Saturday, Oct. 31 the **Dash of the Living Dead** road race down will be conducted on Pennsylvania Ave. to Aston Ave., through Kerr Park, and continue on the path into Johnstown, then back to Kerr Park for the finish. The race, which is sponsored by Downingtwn Main Street Association, will occur prior to Downingtwn's Halloween Parade. Pre-Registration is \$35 (\$40 day of). The event includes Un-Dead After Party with a great spread from Downingtwn restaurants, t-shirt, entertainment, and beer from Victory Brewing Co. Zombified runners will earn an extra beer for their extra effort. Get more details and register for the event, see: [http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race\\_info/34099](http://www.runtheday.com/registration/race_info/34099).

### ***Halloween Parade***

Downingtwn's Halloween Parade will be held at 3 PM Saturday, October 31. The parade route will be along Pennsylvania Avenue between Beaver Creek Elementary School at 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave., heading east to the Kerr Park Gazebo. Participants in the parade must be at the staging area by 2:30 PM. Costumed participants will stage at Beaver Creek Elementary School and floats will stage at Grace Church at the corner of Lloyd and Pennsylvania Avenues. All participants will need a number in order to be judged. For more details, see: <http://downingtwn.org/Documents/Temporary%20Documents/DTOWN%20HALLOWEEN%202015.pdf>.

### ***This Run's Personal***

The second annual Team CMMD "This Run's Personal" 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk will be held Saturday, Nov. 7 at DHS West. To register and for more details, see: <https://secondwind.webconnex.com/CMMD>.

### ***Vendor & Craft Show***

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co. will have a vendor and craft show from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the firehouse, 141 Wallace Ave., Downingtwn.

### ***Ghosts of St. Anthony's Lodge***

The Downingtwn Area Paranormal Investigators will make a presentation at the Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtwn, from 7-8:30 PM Sunday, Nov. 15, on what they found in an investigation at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtwn. Proceeds from \$5 donation will go to the fire company.

### ***Sea-going Cowboys***

Mark Nestleroth, historian, B&B host, farmer and Heifer Int'l advocate, will talk about sea-going cowboys during World War II, when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 17 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontwn. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### ***Candlelight Dinner***

Downingtwn Borough's Historic Commission is holding a Log House Candlelight Dinner for 4 raffle to benefit the placement of the Minquas Cannon at the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via: [Vdilugi@downingtwn.org](mailto:Vdilugi@downingtwn.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

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

***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 45

November 5, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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# News retrieved from local papers in Sept. 1963

Noted below are items retrieved from area papers published in the latter part of September 1963:

- Thomas Brookover, a member of the Downingtown Joint High School Board, urged his colleagues to carry their fight against a **ban on devotional reading of the Bible** in public schools to a “higher authority.” Brookover said the exercises, piped into classrooms in the Downingtown district at the beginning of each school day—music, a thought for the day, a moment of silence, the pledge of allegiance, and singing the “Star Spangled Banner—established by the School Board as an alternative, since the U.S. Supreme Court had recently ruled that Bible reading and prayer in public schools was unconstitutional. “I have read the Constitution, and I cannot find any place in it that forbids Bible reading,” added Brookover. He suggested that the first step should be to pursue the issue at the State School Directors’ annual meeting in Philadelphia in October.

- About 60 **Upper Uwchlan** residents jammed a room at the Windsor Elementary School to hear an appeal, before the township Zoning Board, for revoking the building permit for the construction of a pipe line terminal, which was nearly completed. Realtor John Giantonio and two other property owners in the township, claimed the facilities, being built by a subsidiary of the **Texas Eastern Transmission Corp.**, were in violation of the township zoning code. They said the fuel storage terminal created a safety hazard for nearby homes and the Windsor Elementary School. Counsel for Texas Eastern countered indirectly that it was a public utility and had “the right of eminent domain.”

- The **Whippet football team** pulled off an upset in its season opener by beating Springfield 27-0. DHS got its first TD when Andy Harden completed a 72-yard drive late in the second quarter. Early in the third quarter, a fumble recovery by Rich DiEugenio put Downingtown in position for Oscar Asparagus to score a touchdown. Quarterback Tom Price scored on an 8-yard slant in the fourth quarter, and Roy Nellius’s second interception enabled Downingtown to score again, on a 21-yard run by Len Costello.

- The **Handi-Crafters** workshop for the mentally and physically handicapped was moved to 166 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, which was owned by Ray Sheeler. The original workshop had been located on the grounds of the Brandywine Nursing Home in West Chester.

- Officers of the **DHS Student Council** were Susie Martin, president; Richard DiEugenio, vice president; Donald McDermott, secretary; Cindy Dellet, assistant secretary; Diane McDermott, treasurer; Kenneth Matthews, sergeant-at-arms; and Liz VonHacht, tribunal clerk.

- Elected as officers of the **Uwchlan Grange** were J.P. Styer, master; Edwin Smedley, overseer; George Taylor, lecturer; Eloy Buttermann, steward; Rose Smedley, assistant steward; Edith Oberholser, chaplain; Gilbert Smedley, treasurer; Isabel Acker, secretary; and Bessie Smedley, gatekeeper.

- Eight girls nominated to be queen at the first **DHS Homecoming** included: Nancy Leonard, Connie Smedley, Eileen Smith, Susie Martin, June Williamson, Margaret Harrison, Mary Ellen Crosby and Dianne McDermott.

- Members of the executive board of the **Lionville Elementary School PTA** were Mrs. Richard Plank, president; Douglas Pagett, vice president; Mrs. John Krisch, secretary; Mrs. Charles Williman, treasurer; Mrs. John Tanguy, home room mothers; Mrs. Warren Smith, hospitality; Daniel Hayes, ways and means; Calvin Rowan, programs; and Mrs. Wade Hayhurst, publicity.

- The **DHS field hockey team** won its first two matches. Judy Brown scored two goals and Shirely Hadfield and Shirley Smith each tallied a goal in the 4-1 opener over Pottstown. Brown and “Shrimp” McElroy both scored in the 2-1 win over O.J. Roberts.

- Officers of the senior Luther League at **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Nancy Martin, president; Nancy Cousins, vice president; Linda Dahlberg, secretary-treasurer; Helen Hare, social chairman; and Clark Bartell, program chairman. And officers of the junior Luther League included Cheryle Hartman, president; Helen Bittmann, vice president; Donna Zeltwanger, secretary-treasurer; and Lois Dahlberg, social chairman.

- New members of the **Whitford Auxiliary** of the Memorial Hospital were Mrs. Dudley Meek, Mrs. Donald Kleintop, Mrs. Christian Christiansen, Mrs. Wilbur Fiske, Mrs. Walter Johnson, Mrs. Anthony English and Mrs. Robert Weldstad.

## Young Whippets’ 75-pound team in 1977



Jennifer Lyman Wagner sent us this photo of the Young Whippets’ 75-pound team in 1977. They included, left to right: front row, Robbie Testa, ?, Timmy Lynch, Eddie Klunk, Bobby Cumens, Eric Marks, Kris Goddard, Brian Ciarlone; middle row, ?, Brian Murphy, Anthony Springler, Ricky Poluch, Sean Marks, ?, Desmaris Ray, Eddie McDermott, Brian Mayo; back row, Kevin Miller, Fred Davison, Earl Galloway, David Lucerne, Joe Burns, Bill Straub, Kevin McCool, Matt Wagner, Ed Brownley, Brad Titus; coaches: Mr. Walker, Mr. Burns and Mr. Simmons.

*Editor’s Note: We’d like to have an opportunity to publish group photos, taken before 1990, of any team, class, scout troop or organization that’s based in the Downingtown area. However, we must have the names of at least 80 percent of the individuals shown in the photos.*

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## Local news items related to WW II in early 1943

Noted below are news items retrieved from *The Downingtown Archive* during the early months of 1943.

- The Downingtown School Board voted to give all school district employees a \$75 **“emergency bonus”** on March 1, to help cover the skyrocketing costs of living expenses. And shop courses were established for girls as well as boys, so all students were prepared to work in local industries, which had military contracts. Also, because of a “drastic cut” in the school district’s fuel oil allotment by the federal Office of Price Administration, the school directors were considering the possibility of switching to coal to heat buildings in the district. Steps taken to reduce heating fuel costs at the high school included: dropping all nighttime school activities and not to heat the gymnasium for basketball games; limiting the heat in classrooms during the school day as much as possible; dismissing students from classes 30 minutes earlier, and discontinuing Adult Night School classes. And, under revised graduation rules of the State Department of Instruction, students who left the high school to serve in the military or work in industry during their second semester of their senior year, were eligible to graduate in June.
- Downingtown area car owners were congratulated by Charles Nice, chairman of the local War Price and Rationing Board, for helping reduce gas consumption when **“petroleum supplies were desperately short this winter . . .**Until warm weather sets in, it will be necessary to use every available tank car (to transport via rail) fuel oil to heat homes and operate industrial plants doing war work,” said Nice.
- Since the annual **senior class trip** to Washington, DC, was cancelled because of the war, all senior class members were invited to participate in a **formal dinner-dance** in the banquet hall of the Alert Fire Co. in Downingtown. The dancing portion of the event included a jitterbug contest. Most of the expenses were covered by the senior class treasury.
- A **service flag**, bearing the number 232, which represented the number of DHS alumni serving in the military at the time, and an **Honor Roll**, created by Mary Mahan’s art students, were dedicated in a special assembly at the high school.
- A goal of selling \$1,000 worth of **war bonds and stamps** had been set at the beginning of the school year at East Ward School. That goal was reached by February, when 158 of the school’s 202 students had participated in the program. And if they sold an additional \$1,000 worth of bonds and stamps by June, principal Rhoda Yost promised a Victory picnic for all the students. Participants were allowed to wear special buttons and other forms of insignia.
- The **DHS Alumni Association** decided not to have a dinner as part of its annual reunion. However, the alumni association had an annual business meeting at West Ward School, which included an “emphasis on sociability and informal speeches,” to keep the organization’s traditions alive.

## Next evening Clip & Paste session is on Tuesday, Nov. 10

The next evening Clip Joint session will be held from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, November 10 at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, next to the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. You’re welcome to arrive and leave the session at your convenience.

# Please help the Historical Society by supporting our Restaurant Raffle

The Historical Society's third annual "A Taste of Chester County" restaurant raffle is bigger and better than ever, because those who buy a ticket will have an opportunity to win \$1,400 worth of dinners at seven great, local restaurants.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue its efforts to repair the stone walls of Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center in East Caln Township. That means your continued support will enable us to continue re-pointing the house's leaking, exterior walls.

Those who generously supported last year's raffle allowed us to replace the crumbling mortar that bonded the stonework on the east side walls of the house, plus the exterior of the summer kitchen, which was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,400, for meals at these seven area restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are \$50 each. They can be purchased at Ashbridge House, which is next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, from 1-4 PM on Sundays. You also can order them by calling the Historical Society, 610-269-1709; Francine Dague, 610-306-2904; or by sending an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org). The winning ticket will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, November 15. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, including a disclaimer, go to: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).

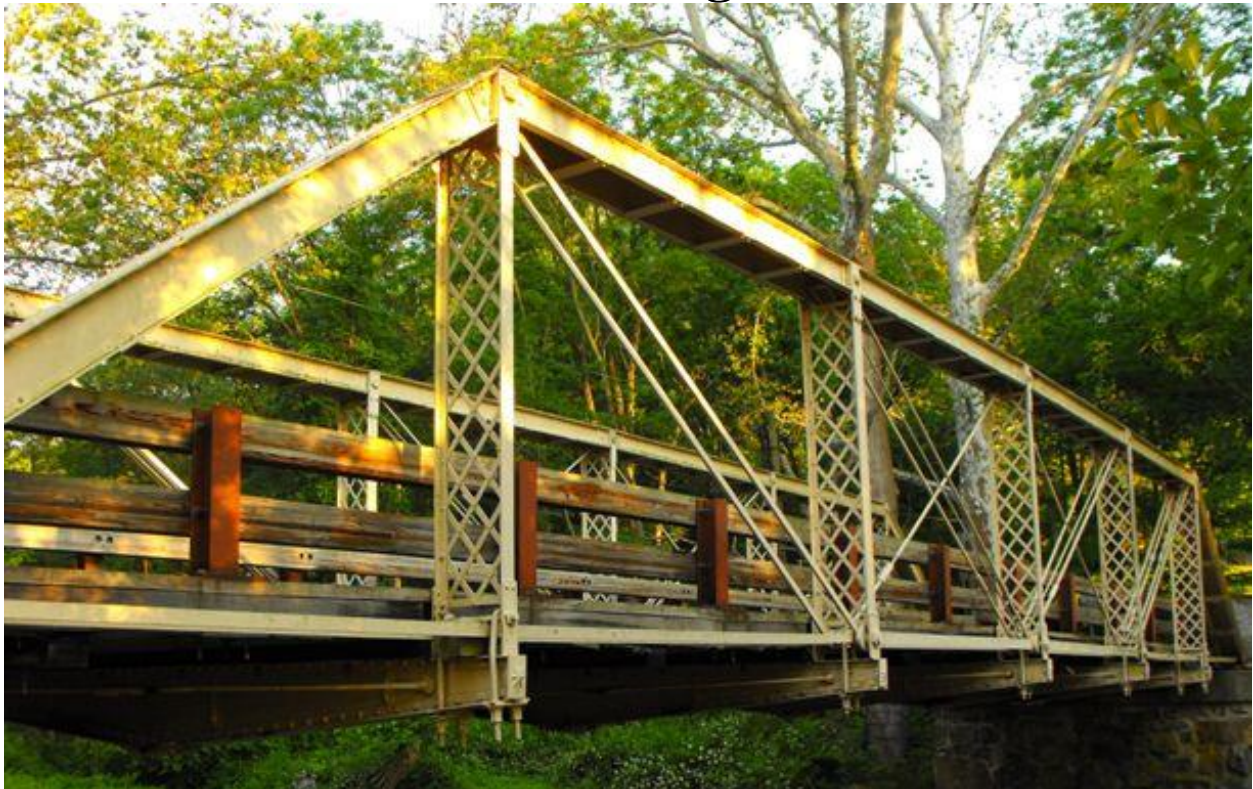
## What area residents were talking about 92 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the Downingtown Archive in the spring of 1923:

- Downingtown's **Board of Education** decided not to give teachers a raise in the coming school year because of increased operating expenses and "uncertainty" of how much funding they'd get from Harrisburg. It was acknowledged the salary freeze would motivate Downingtown teachers to consider working at nearby school districts, where salaries were about 25 percent higher.
- Downingtown businessmen attended a meeting in the **Lyndell Grange Hall**, where residents north of the borough discussed how they could persuade the State Highway Department to improve driving conditions along Route 282, between Glenmoore and Downingtown,
- The **Downingtown Dairies** was advertising its ability to deliver milk (only 12 cents a quart) to customers' doors, "a few hours after it is drawn from the cows." And the milk, which was tuberculin tested, also was "guaranteed free from grass and garlic tastes and undesirable odors."
- The **Chester Valley Electric Co.**, located on the second floor of Downingtown National Bank, was offering a free, five-day trial on a Eureka Electric Vacuum Cleaner, which would be delivered to your residence.

- The **Downingtown Library** had established an Auxiliary, began a fundraising campaign, which generated \$403. Eleanor Ashbridge was chairman of the 24-member Library Auxiliary, and Edith Stauffer was its finance committee chairman.
- Members of the new **bowling club** were expected to pay \$1 per month for a year, in order to cover the costs of installing at least two alleys at the Minquas firehall.
- The DHS **boys' basketball team** completed its 1922-23 campaign with a 16-7 record. Teams that lost twice to the high school cagers during the season were Parkesburg, Phoenixville and Berwyn.

## It's the Devereux Road bridge in Glenmoore



Tom Kelly is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the structure in the photo above as the bridge on Devereux Road, which crosses over the East Branch of the Brandywine in Wallace Township. Although one subscriber believes the bridge is “newish” because she assumed it was built recently, the bridge was constructed in 1877. And although the bridge has been rehabilitated, the historic integrity of the original bridge material remains good.

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This week's vintage ad:

# **ST. ANTHONY'S FAIR & CELEBRATION**

DLN

6-13-61

Nightly June 15 — 16 — 17

ALL Day Sunday, June 18

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Games — Prizes — Entertainment  
Fun for the Whole Family

---

## **ST. ANTHONY'S LODGE GROUNDS**

DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

---

**June 15th - Sawdust Sam WFIL TV Star**

**June 16-17 - Ray and Sylvia's Animal  
Comedians and Sunny Saunders  
and his Jumping Jacks**

This ad was originally published in June 1961.

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### ***Flag Raising***

Area residents are encouraged to attend the Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremony, which will be held at 11 AM on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at Kerr Park. VFW Post 845 will participate in the event, which will be hosted by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce's Chester County Friends of the Flag Committee.

### ***Local Authors Day***

Fifteen local authors will be at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave., from noon until 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 14, to sign their books, give readings and participate in a discussion panel. A great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping. Also the library's Bag Sale is underway; all the books you can fit in a bag for just \$3.

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# Downingtowntown Area Historical Society

3rd Annual

“A Taste of Chester County”

## Restaurant Raffle

Seven Restaurants



\$1400 worth of dinners

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The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn,  
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The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1400, for meals at the seven restaurants listed above. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

Raffle tickets are only **\$50 each**. You can purchase a ticket either by sending a check to: Downingtowntown Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, Downingtowntown, PA 19335, or by purchasing a ticket online via:

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

The winning ticket will be drawn at **3 PM on Sunday, November 29**. You don't have to be at the drawing to win. For more info on the raffle, call 610-269-1709 or send a query to : [Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downtowntownareahistoricalociety.org).

# What local people were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of October 1963:

- The State Department of Highways approved **Uwchlan Township's** application for overhead traffic lights at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113. The township supervisors also said flashing lights would soon be installed at the six-corner intersection at Route 113 in Lionville.
- **Urban renewal** plans for Downingtown's business district included the establishment of a Citizens' Advisory Committee. Members of the committee were: Albert Skiles, Edward Gillespie, Lee Hamilton, Ray Sheeler, Rev. Robert Taylor, Gilbert Cox, Gordon Carpenter, James Warnick, Warren Strawsnyder, Rev. Thomas Flowers, Anthony Viscichini and Rev. Richard Bartholomew.
- A delegation of parents asked the **Downingtown Elementary School Board** to appoint a crossing guard to supervise and assist the 173 students who caught one of the three school buses at Waterson's service station on Route 113 in East Caln. The request was approved, as long as East Caln's supervisors authorized the crossing guard. Also discussed at the meeting was the protracted, still-unresolved search for a site for a new elementary school in West Bradford Township. One of the challenges was the high cost of potential "development land."
- Leaders of the **Downingtown-Chester Valley Community Chest** campaign included: Stanley Walters, president; Chandler Cushman, residential drive, assisted by Lee Hamilton, M.M. Caffrey and Charles Seibert. Commercial employees were handled by Ray Schollenberger, assisted by Larry Polite; and professional people were covered by Dr. Richard Smith.
- Mrs. Theodore Noll was elected chairman of the Downingtown branch of the **American Red Cross**. Other officers were Mrs. William Bender, vice chairman; Mrs. Harry Martini, secretary; and Richard Warren, treasurer. Named to the board were Mrs. Lucy Lackey, Mrs. Robert Lucas, Mrs. Francis Strouse and Mrs. Fred Pollock. Service chairmen were: Richard Franklin, blood drive; Earl Stern, disaster; Mrs. Bender, Junior Red Cross and student volunteers; Dr. Herman Kramm, safety services; Raymond Lemmon, first aid; Mrs. David Ross, volunteer services; Mrs. Robert Garrett, Gray Ladies; Mrs. Earl Stern, motor service; and Mrs. Anthony Serafino, staff aides.
- Michael McCardell was captain of the safety patrol at **Beaver Creek School**. Ford Greenleaf was the lieutenant and Linda Stoner was the patrol's secretary. Other members were Pamela Davis, Susan Smith, Patricia Herion, Gwen Swarner, Robert Whiteman, Darla Zaso, William Hayward, David Williams, David Pollock, Daniel Hayes, Robert Hildebeitel, Nancy Romig, Edward Showalter and Rhys Williams.
- Officers of two youth fellowship groups at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included: Junior High group, Susie Myers, president; Sandy McCombs, vice president; Susan Reed, secretary; Jennifer Bruton, treasurer. And leaders of the Senior High group were Francis Strouse, president; Bill Barlow, vice president; Gina Myers, secretary; and Gordon Hickman, treasurer.
- Janine Davis was elected president of the **Future Teachers of America** chapter at DHS. Other officers were Rodger Geisel, vice president; Jan Strawsnyder, secretary; and Kenny Matthews, treasurer. And leaders of the DHS chapter of **Future Farmers of America** were William Peppernick, president; William McClain, vice president; Fred Miley, secretary; Paul Detweiler, assistant secretary; Steven Walker, treasurer; James Horsey, assistant treasurer; Gary Hoxter, chaplain; Richard Stine, parliamentarian; James Smith sentinel; and Ricky Stubbs, reporter.

- Officers of the **West Pikeland School PTA** were Mrs. Harley Fink, president; Mrs. James McClung, vice president; Mrs. Eric Kern, secretary; Mrs. Ernest Schreiber, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Charles Alfieri, treasurer.
- William vonHacht was president of the Student Council at **Downingtown Junior High School**. Other officers were Frances Williamson, vice president; Dawn Ratcliffe, secretary; and David Findley, treasurer. The Student Council's projects and their leaders were Philip Barlow, lost and found; David Seel, suggestion box; and Alan Novak, school store.
- Most of the first **DHS Homecoming** festivities were a huge success. The 4,000 spectators were pleased when several former standout football players and coaches were honored, and Homecoming Queen Dianne McDermott was crowned. However, Phoenixville's football team turned out to be the skunk at the party, as the Phantoms defeated the Whippets 32-6. Perhaps the nullification of John Miller's 80-yard kick-off return for a Downingtown touchdown due to a penalty was an indication of how the game would turn out. Clark Bartell helped DHS avoid a shutout when he blocked a Phoenixville punt, and Andy Harden scored a TD for the Blue and Gold five plays later.

## Nominations for DHS Alumni's Hall of Fame must be in by Dec.15

Nominations for the Downingtown High School Alumni Association's 2016 Hall of Fame must be submitted by mail or email by December 15, to: DAHS Hall of Fame Committee, 540 Trestle Place, Downingtown, PA 19335, or via [downingtownalumni@gmail.com](mailto:downingtownalumni@gmail.com). For more information on the third annual Hall of Fame, call (610)269-8460 ext. 6208, or access: [www.downingtownalumni.org/HallOfFame.html](http://www.downingtownalumni.org/HallOfFame.html).

Nomination criteria include: nominees must have graduated from any Downingtown Area High School at least ten years ago and self-nominations will not be considered. All nominations will be held in consideration for two years.

Accomplishments in the following areas will be considered: arts and entertainment; athletics and coaching; business and professional affiliations; charitable involvement; education and community service, military achievement, politics and government, science and engineering.

Selections of inductees will be announced by January 15, and their inductions in the Hall of Fame will be presented at the Alumni Association's 132<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on April 16. For more about the Alumni Banquet, access: [www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html](http://www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html).

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

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[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

*Vintage ad of the week:*

**WANTED !**

**Young and Middle-Aged Women  
and Large Girls. Steady Work  
and Good Wages !**

**Downingtown Woolen Mills, Inc.**

**East Downingtown, Pa.**

This ad was published in a 1923 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

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

## Local news in *The Archive* in the summer of 1923

- The newly constructed **East Ward Elementary School** was ready to be opened in September 1923. The school included grades one through five, plus the consolidated “colored room.” Each day’s classes started at 8:30 AM and concluded at 3:40 PM. There was a 45-minute lunch period.
- About 75 members of the Washington Camp (Downingtown) of the **Patriotic Order of the Sons of America (POSA)** had their annual picnic at Fetters’ Grove. In addition to quoits and a baseball game, other competitions included: a fat man’s race, leap frog, tug-of-war, and 100 yard dashes. Some 150 local members planned to march in the POSA’s Diamond Jubilee parade in Philadelphia, along with about 50,000 other POSA members from across the country.
- The **Minquas Fire Co.** reduced its debt by \$5,374, to \$3,900 in August 1923, after proceeds from a week-long fair and carnival in early July were counted up.

## It’s at 125 Township Line Road in Exton



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the only person to correctly identify the location of the site in the photo above as 125 Township Line Road in Exton. The house was built in 1865. For more info about the property, see: [www.trulia.com/property/3172734024-125-Township-Line-Rd-Exton-PA-19341](http://www.trulia.com/property/3172734024-125-Township-Line-Rd-Exton-PA-19341).

# What was happening here 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of April 1948:

- Improvements needed at **Kerr Park** and the possibilities of how the **Log House** could be used were two of the topics discussed at a special meeting of Downingtown's Borough Council and the Dr. Kerr Memorial Park Commission. Park Plank, president of the Park Commission noted that the park's restrooms and water fountain were inoperative, and that use of tennis courts might be increased if the surface were switched from clay to macadam. Regarding the Log House, where a \$4,000 restoration had been completed, Nelson Dennis, borough council president, suggested that area social service agencies be queried for recommendations on how they might use the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century building. Another possibility discussed was having an answering service for physicians and other professionals be located in the Log House. However, before any of those possibilities were pursued, heating and electrical service would have to be installed there first.
- Elected to lead the **American Legion's** Downingtown Post were: Edward Lyman, senior vice commander; Maurie Davis, junior vice commander; Walter Touchton, quartermaster; Dr. William Wood, chaplain; Arthur Hyde, adjutant; Dr. Charles Bruton, surgeon; Robert Dougherty, patriotic instructor; James Dancy, service officer; Donald Forbes, legislative officer; Robinson McIlvaine, publicity officer; and trustees Gerald Whiteman, Henry Thomas, Franklin Dague, Joseph Petrella and James Fennelly.
- About 800 people turned out for the **DHS Spring Band Concert**. The 67 band members wore their new uniforms for the first time. Featured soloists were Duane Chesney, William Cole, Janet Kriebel, Annabelle Warnick and Frank DiSilvestro, plus a saxophone quartette comprised of Christy Christ, Sara Hall, Frank DiSilvestro and Everett Lang.
- Newly elected officers of the **Glen Moore Improvement Society** were Eleanor Bartol, president; Frank Henderson, vice president; Mrs. Walter Russell, secretary; and J.B. Matlack, treasurer.
- Voters in the Johnsontown section of the borough were advised that their polling place had been changed to the garage behind the residence of **Anthony Fazzini**, 256 W. Church St.
- New officers of **Lionville's Odd Fellows** group included: Horace Wilson, noble grand; John Benner, vice grand; Everett Wilson, warden; Samuel Supplee, conductor; and Kenneth Kirkner, chaplain.
- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** were: Francis Francella, governor; Harry Hilton, junior governor; Joseph Katherman, trustee; Earl Lemon, sergeant-at-arms; Marshall Nuse, inside guard; Donald Dixon, outside guard; and James Dolan, secretary.
- Elected as officers of the **Marshallton School PTA** were Mrs. Ernest Martin, president; Mrs. Gloria Chapman, vice president; and Mrs. John Trimble, treasurer. New playground equipment—swings, see-saws, rings, bars and slides—had been recently installed.
- The Mothers Club at Downingtown's **West Ward School** had elected these officers: Mrs. Atlee Ney, president; Mrs. George Bowman, vice president; Mrs. William Bolan, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Ax, treasurer.

# Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- A copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League. Also, any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

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

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Local Authors Day***

Fifteen local authors will be at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Ave., from noon until 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 14, to sign their books, give readings and participate in a discussion panel. A great opportunity to start your Christmas shopping. Also the library's Bag Sale is underway; all the books you can fit in a bag for just \$3.

### ***Vendor & Craft Show***

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co. will have a vendor and craft show from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the firehouse, 141 Wallace Ave., Downingtown.

### ***Ghosts of St. Anthony's Lodge***

The Downingtown Area Paranormal Investigators will make a presentation at the Alert Fire Co., 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, from 7-8:30 PM Sunday, Nov. 15, on what they found in an investigation at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown. Proceeds from \$5 donation will go to the fire company.

### ***Sea-going Cowboys***

Mark Nestleroth, historian, B&B host, farmer and Heifer Int'l advocate, will talk about sea-going cowboys during World War II, when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 17 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### ***Holiday Fair***

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 101 Worthington Road, Lionville, will have a Holiday Fair from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21. There will be baskets for auction (ending at 2 PM), baked goods, attic treasures, good used toys and games, and lunch. Kids can have their picture taken with Santa, and make and take a craft. For more info, call 610-363-7285 or visit: [www.stpauluccexton.org](http://www.stpauluccexton.org).

### ***Gift and Craft Show***

Crafters and vendors are invited to participate in a Holiday Gift & Craft Show from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21 at St. Anthony's Lodge, Church St., Downingtown. Tables are available for \$40. The show is sponsored by St. Anthony's Women's Auxiliary. Free admission and refreshments can be purchased. To book a table or more info, contact: Angela at 484-459-1905 or [staladies@hotmail.com](mailto:staladies@hotmail.com).

***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [p-](#). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

***Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [p-](#) 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).

***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

**Drawing date for winning Restaurant Raffle ticket extended to Sunday, Nov. 29. A second prize has been added. Details on page 2.**



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 47

November 19, 2015

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



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

# Downingtowntown Area Historical Society

## 3rd Annual

### “A Taste of Chester County”

# Restaurant Raffle

Seven Restaurants



\$1400 worth of dinners

Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant,  
The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn,  
The Orangery, The Bordley House Grill,  
The Downingtowntown Country Club.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue repairing the leaking stone walls of Ashbridge House, our headquarters in East Caln.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1400, for meals at the seven restaurants listed above. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

**Second prize: \$50 gift certificate from Pomodoro Pizza & Italian Restaurant in Downingtowntown, and two bottles of wine from Phoenixville's Black Walnut Winery.**

Raffle tickets are only **\$50 each**. You can purchase a ticket either by sending a check to: Downingtowntown Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, Downingtowntown, PA 19335, or by purchasing a ticket online via:

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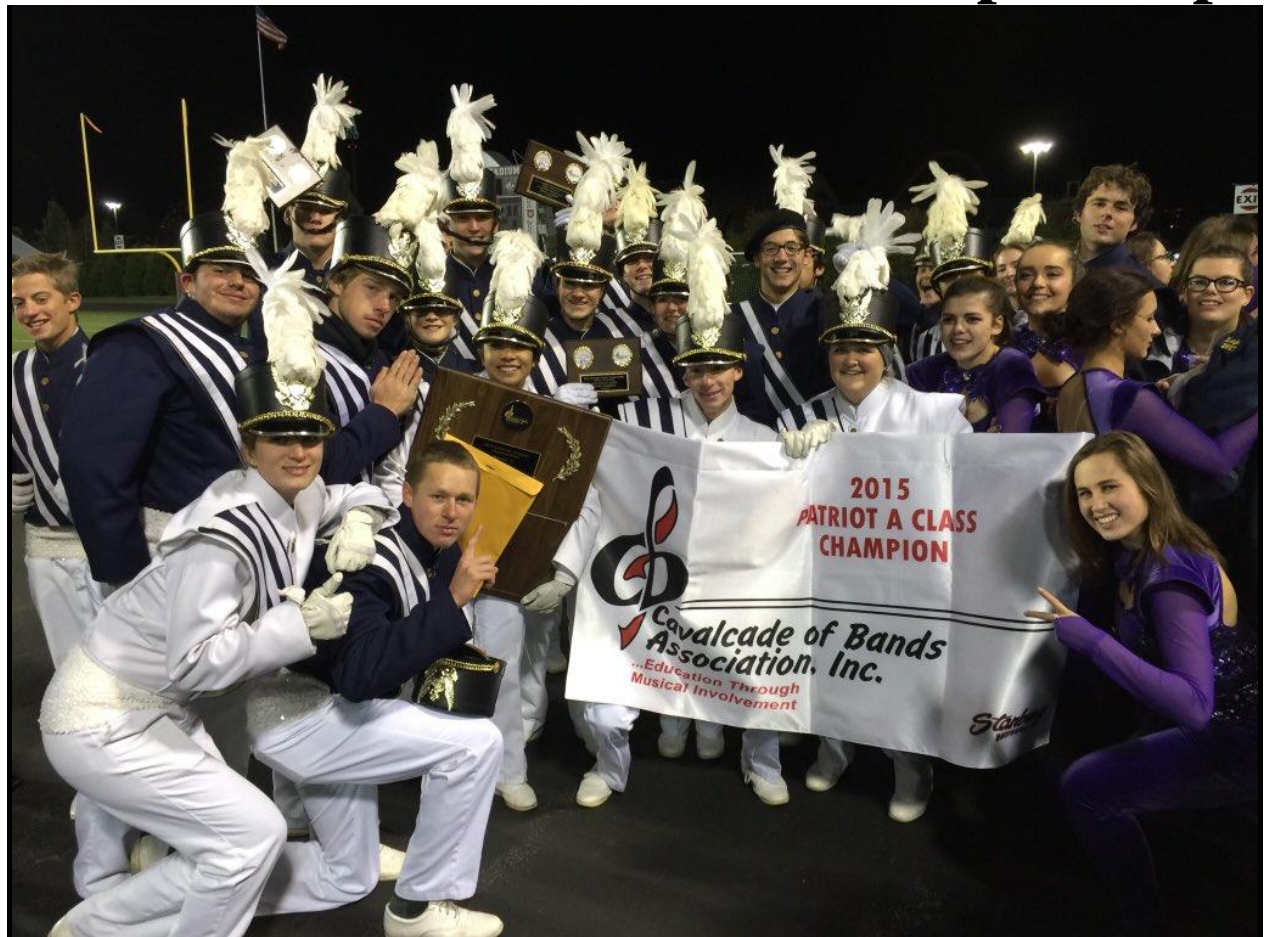
## More issues area people were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of October 1963:

- A Philadelphia architectural firm presented details to the Joint High School Board on the proposed **\$1.4 million, two-story addition to DHS**, which--in addition to 18 classrooms, a library, offices, an enlarged cafeteria kitchen, and an auditorium--included an auxiliary gym or an Olympic-size swimming pool. The architects estimated that building pool facility, including locker and shower facilities, would cost about \$345,368. But an auxiliary gym would cost only \$131,445, and it could fulfill the state's requirement, in place of a pool. The original high school, completed in 1960, cost \$2.7 million to construct.
- St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Worthington Road in Lionville was celebrating its **125<sup>th</sup> anniversary**. According to a 41-page, anniversary booklet on St. Paul's history, the church had its roots in the White School, the first public school in Uwchlan Township, which also served "as a meeting place for the Union Sunday School until a Union Church (initially used by the Lutheran as well as Reformed Churches) was erected across the road from the schoolhouse" in 1838. And as a new, independent church back then, it was known as St. Paul's German Reformed Church. The church was rebuilt in 1884, and an education wing was added in 1958. In 1934, it became St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church, and it has been called St. Paul's UCC since 1957. The anniversary committee included William Peterman, Mrs. Elmer Matthews, Mrs. Fred Geiger, Mrs. Norman Davis, Robert Worthington and Richard Shreiner.
- Leaders of the **Downingtown-Chester Valley Community Chest** campaign included division chairmen Chandler Cushman, Charles Seibert, M.M. Caffey and Leo Hamilton, Captains and co-captains of various areas included: Mrs. Charles Campbell, Mrs. William Woodruff, Mrs. Victor Taraschi, Mrs. Robert Sommer, Mrs. Walter Styer, Mrs. Richard Franklin, Mrs. Kenneth Frye, Mrs. Edward Read and Mrs. Robert Ellis.
- Phillies outfielder Johnny Callison made an appearance at the grand opening of the **Sports City sporting goods chain store** at 115 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown.
- Officers of the Crusaders Bible Class at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Art Beatty, president; Olin Siever, vice president; Mrs. Kenneth Garriss, secretary; and Henry Drumheller, treasurer.
- WFIL-TV star **Happy the Clown** was the featured attraction at the Halloween parade put on by the Downingtown Farmers Market on Route 30 in East Caln.
- **David Robbins**, a ninth grader at Downingtown Junior High who had been delivering the *Daily Local News* for four years, was selected as the Outstanding Newsboy of 1963 by the Pennsylvania Publishers Association.
- Winners of the Fire Prevention Week art contest at **Brandywine-Wallace School** were Leah Campbell, first; Mike Kelly, second; and Sheila Smith, third.
- Officers of the **Future Nurses Club** at DHS were Anne Woodruff, president; Sandra DeMatteo, vice president; Janet Rigg, secretary; and Verna Stevenson, treasurer. And leaders of the DHS **Future Homemakers Club** included Betty Spickler, president; Dorothy Hendrix, vice president; Janet Haas, secretary; Mary Lou Warner, treasurer; and Dottie Zittle, historian. Also, officers of the DHS **Lettermen's Club** were Richard DiEugenio, president; Andrew Harden, vice president; Lloyd Asparagus, secretary; and George Ciarlone, treasurer.

- Receiving attendance pins for not missing more than one Sunday School classes at **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Mrs. Allen Miller, Mrs. Hiram Potter, Mark Bareford, Ruth Brookover, Margaret and Ruth Ann Dickinson, Debbie and Robert Dunn, Barbara Keiter, Virginia Potter and Francis Strouse.
- The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** sent photos of the less-than-picturesque, subteranium pedestrian tunnel, between West Lancaster and Bradford Avenues in Downingtown, to A.J. Greenough, president of the **Pennsylvania Railroad**. As a result, the railroad cleaned up the tunnel.
- Officers of the Women's Association at **Forks of the Brandywine Church** included Evelyn Albright, president; Mary Lou Stauffer, vice president; Edna Ranck, secretary; Miriam Wise, treasurer; Dorothy Ranck, programs; Dorothy Givler, world service; Ann Weber, fellowship; Dorothy Ford, literature; and Dorothy Wallace, spiritual life.

## DHS West band wins state championship



The DHS West marching band won the state championship on Saturday night. Congratulations to Director Ed Otto, his staff and student musicians. You can see the band's presentation in the state championship competition at Hershey via: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vijtrLibbg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vijtrLibbg).

**Vintage ad of the week:**

# **Downingtown Tobacco Co.**

**Wholesale and Retail**

---

**DISTRIBUTORS FOR**

**The Aristocrat, El Dallo & El Werth Cigars**

---

**DOWNINGTOWN TOBACCO CO.**

**209 WEST LINCOLN HIGHWAY**

**John Leahy, Mgr.**

**Full Line of Pipes and Smokers' Articles**

This ad was published in the *Downingtown Archive* in 1923

# Local news in *The Archive* 92 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in The Archive during the fall of 1923:

- Following a special meeting in the high school auditorium, where William Easby, a hydraulic engineer, presented the results of topographical and geological surveys he had done to determine the most available source of a municipal water supply, Borough Council proposed the construction of a **water works and filtration plant** that would cost about \$130,000. The proposal would have to be approved by Downingtown voters in a referendum election.
- Four members of the **State Police** were headquartered in a new station in the Swan Hotel
- “Gib,” one of the gray horses that had faithfully pulled the equipment of Downingtown’s Alert Fire Co. since 1908, **had to be put down** by Dr. Simon Yetter, “The animal passed over without a groan or struggle—his last call.”
- The **DHS football team** opened its season with a 33-2 win over Spring City, despite several fumbles. Downingtown coach Harvey Fishburn was particularly pleased with the efforts of substitute “Cap” Wando, a 123-pound fullback.
- A want ad, placed by the **Shryock Brothers binder board mill** in Dorlan Mill, was offering a bungalow for rent as well as steady employment to the right applicant.
- The high school’s Athletic Association decided to **drop the girls’ basketball team**, and “recommended that provisions be made to substitute something better to take the place of basketball.” One option was inter-class games, “but no males will be admitted to witness these contests.”

## Brief, but important

1. Feeling uncomfortable about spending too much time watching TV? Seeking something worthwhile, to get those juices flowing again? Well, here’s one solution: Why don’t you become a **volunteer at the Historical Society**? We could use some help from “handy” folks who know how to fix things at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln. And we really need some assistance from those who have computer skills. But, most of all, we need people who can help us by joining a group of people who cut, paste, organize and file the hundreds of newspaper articles that are constantly being added to our archival collection. So, if you’re interested, please send an email to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

2. Speaking of newspaper articles, we came across one that was originally published in the *Daily Local News* on October 26, 1913. In addition to noting that **St. James Episcopal Church** in Downingtown was going to celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary the next day, the article also informed us that former Downingtown resident George Kirk had donated an ancient tile to St. James, as a memorial to his mother. According to an inscription on a memorial plate installed with the tile at St. James in 1913, the tile initially had been placed in a church in Rome in the Fifth Century. And in 1360, it was removed to a church in England. The tile was removed from that Anglican church while it was undergoing repairs about 250 years ago, and the tile continued to be cared for ever since by the Kirk family. Can anyone provide us with more info on that tile?

## It's at 406 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown



Anthony D'Addezio is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above as 406 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown.

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

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### *Gift and Craft Show*

Crafters and vendors are invited to participate in a Holiday Gift & Craft Show from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21 at St. Anthony's Lodge, Church St., Downingtown. Tables are available for \$40. The show is sponsored by St. Anthony's Women's Auxiliary. Free admission and refreshments can be purchased. To book a table or more info, contact: Angela at 484-459-1905 or [staladies@hotmail.com](mailto:staladies@hotmail.com).

### *Christmas Carol Program*

The Old Caln Historical Society's annual Candlelight Christmas Carol program will be held at the Old Caln Meetinghouse, Route 340, Thorndale, at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 1. Music will be provided by the Caln School Chorus, the Belltones and Redmen, a select group from the CASH Meistersingers, and by Kevin Pierce, well-known local vocalist. The program is free and the public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served after the program. Supervised parking is available. For more information, call 610-384-8153.

### ***Tree Lighting***

East Brandywine Township will have a Holiday Tree Lighting in the East Brandywine Community Park on Dilworth Road at 3 PM Sunday, December 6. Children will make ornaments and hang them on the tree. Refreshments: hot chocolate and cookies. Bring canned goods for the Lords Pantry, or hats and gloves for the Salvation Army, and you'll get a chance to "throw the switch" and light the tree.

### ***Talbots helps Library***

Talbots will donate to the Downingtown Library 10% of pre-tax sales on purchases at its store, Brandywine Square, 1096 E. Lancaster Ave., East Caln, from 3 PM to 9 PM Thursday, December 10.

### ***Wreaths Across America***

Hopewell Cemetery, at 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown, will be the site of the Wreaths Across America program at 11 AM on Saturday, December 12. This is a national day of recognition where wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans across the country, and this will be the second year that Hopewell has participated. You are invited to come and help or observe this incredible site. If you have a veteran relative buried at Hopewell and you would like to place their wreath, contact Linda Mento at [OCityLinda@aol.com](mailto:OCityLinda@aol.com) or call 484-798-5520.

### ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

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

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [p-](#) 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).

### ***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

# Happy Thanksgiving!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 48

November 26, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building on the left in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

# You can still buy Restaurant Raffle tickets

We will draw the winning ticket in our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “A Taste of Chester County” Restaurant Raffle at 3 PM on Sunday, November 29. That means you can still buy a ticket online by accessing [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/TasteOfCCRaffle.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/TasteOfCCRaffle.html). Or you can purchase a ticket if you come to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters, in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center (next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant) on Route 30 in East Caln before the drawing.

The raffle winner will receive seven \$200 vouchers, with a total value of \$1,400, for meals at these fine, local restaurants: Amani’s BYOB, St. Anthony’s Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club. Vouchers are good for one seating at each restaurant. Exclusions may apply.

The second prize is a \$50 gift certificate from Pomodoro Pizza and Italian Restaurant in Downingtown, plus two bottles of wine from Phoenixville’s Black Walnut Winery.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue repairing the leaking stone walls of Ashbridge House.

## What was happening here in December 1979

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

- About 300 **West Bradford** residents jammed the auditorium of the West Bradford School to hear how their properties and families were allegedly being threatened because waste materials were being dumped in the Strasburg Landfill in bordering Newlin Township. Although he refused to approve of a moratorium on the disposal, at the Strasburg Landfill, of increasing volumes of potentially dangerous materials, Clifford Jones, the secretary of the state Department of Environmental Resources agreed to review the special permits which had been granted in recent months, and not to grant any more permits until West Bradford and Newlin officials were notified. Jones also agreed to hold a public hearing on the landfill’s plan to increase the size of the operation from 22 acres to 200 acres.

- Two new directors, who replaced members who had decided not to run again, were named to the **Downingtown School Board**. They were Karen Kenworthy, of West Pikeland, who replaced Jonathan Kulp, and Edward Layton, of Upper Uwchlan, who replaced Melvin Cohen..

- Officers elected to the board of the **Exton Chamber of Commerce** included: Fronia Corry, editor of the *Suburban Advertiser*, president; Stephen Bierds, manager of the Andrews & Pinkstone Realty office in Exton, first vice president; Jim Knipe, owner of the Ship Inn, vice president; Dr. Donald Robbins, dentist, vice president; Howard Strong, Commonwealth Land Title Insurance, secretary; Carl Croft, CPA, treasurer; and directors Stephen Logan, Exton Florist; William Butler, attorney; Elton Haynes, Strawbridge & Clothier; and Ronald Williams, Exton Square.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 22 Dorothy Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$79,900; 1128 Glenside Ave., West Bradford, \$ 72,000; 112 Taylor Mill Road, Uwchlan, \$79,022; 505 Thomas Road, Downingtown, \$47,900; 265 Cardigan Terrace, West Whiteland, \$45,500; One Independence Lane, East Brandywine, \$70,000; 106 Bondsville Road, Caln, \$52,000.

- Members of the Lutheran Church Women at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, for 30 years were Mary Bousum, Dorothy Brookover, Isabelle Collins, Lilliann Friedline, Anna Grube, Caroline Hadfield, Anne Lacey, Laura Lenhardt, Cora McClure, Naomi Miller, Belle Murray, Rhoda Robertson, Marvenia Shoemaker and Dixie Shirk.

- Nine members of the **DHS football team**, who were named to the All-Ches-Mont squad included: Ricke Stonewall, Brian Westmoreland, Ed Novak, Dave Kucera, Horace Sorenson, Carlo DiFrancesco,

Bob Ricci, Greg Wilson and Tom Quinn. And **DHS soccer** players Vince Forgione, Mark Mathis, Rob Hellhake and Jeff Davis were named to the All-Ches-Mont soccer squad.

- Residents of the Fox Ridge development in **West Pikeland** complained to township officials that the high-pitched noise from a neighboring farmer's corn dryers, which were running day and night, were a nuisance. Township supervisors said they were perplexed, because the corn dryer was an "agricultural use" in an agricultural county, and they would have little chance of success if the case were brought to court. They pressed the farmer to install baffles in the corn dryers as soon as possible.

- The **DHS boys' basketball team** was victorious over two Ches-Mont opponents, defeating Spring-Ford 69-46 and beating Pottsgrove 51-43. Bob Melvin (19 points), Brent Thompson (17) and Mark Redfern (14) led the Whippet offense in the Spring-Ford contest. The Pottsgrove game was a see-saw battle, until Downingtown iced a win with a six-point run in the fourth quarter. Coach Bob Boyer cited the stellar play of Alvin Walton and substitute Don Harlow.

- Although the **DHS girls' basketball team** lost a hard-fought, 49-47 game to Spring-Ford, Coach Ginny Davis's squad bounced back to beat Pottsgrove 51-46. Standouts for Downingtown in that fray were Tina Arcaro, 17 points and 21 rebounds, and Lisa Diehl, 12 points and 10 rebounds.

- Elected to the board of **West Bradford Youth Athletics Inc.** were Jim Hobbs, president; Scarlotte Hobbs, secretary; Sharyn McGann, treasurer; and directors Ken Klunk, Don Barber, Jim Strebler, Rick Carter, Jim Vorgang and Bob Wilson.

- Pat Webb (98 lbs.), Keith Grant (112) and Glenn Koser (126) recorded pins in the **DHS wrestling team's** match with Solanco. Highlight of the contest was Duane Koser's 145-pound match, which DHS coach Alray Johnson said, "was one of the best high school matches I've ever seen."

## It's at 1880 Art School Road in Chester Springs



Philip Hemcher is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as the one located at 1880 Art School Road in West Pikeland. For more info on the property, see: [www.zillow.com/homedetails/1880-Art-School-Rd-Chester-Springs-PA-19425/9164888\\_zpid/](http://www.zillow.com/homedetails/1880-Art-School-Rd-Chester-Springs-PA-19425/9164888_zpid/).

## How twin tunnels were built on Valley Creek Rd. in E. Caln



There are many mysteries connected with twin tunnels on Valley Creek Road in East Caln. Although there are many stories online about hangings and a suitcase stuffed with a woman's body parts, and the tunnels are purported to be haunted, we can't explain what was behind those mysteries. However, how the tunnels were constructed are no longer a mystery because Jim Sundman, a Downingtown resident and a railroad historian, did extensive research on the tunnels, and here's what he found:

*Valley Creek was one of five (I believe) significant water courses/gaps the Philadelphia and Columbia (P&C) Railroad had to cross on the railroad portion--Philadelphia to Columbia, PA--of the Main Line of Public Works. Although that section was surveyed in the late 1820s, the first bridge over Valley Creek wasn't built by the P&C until 1834. It was a wooden bridge and very susceptible to fire. In fact, it burned down in 1838, from the sparks of a passing locomotive. Incredibly, it was re-built in 19 days.*

*In 1860, the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) built an iron truss bridge over Valley Creek, replacing the wooden bridge that had been re-built in 1838. This bridge was replaced by the PRR in the 1880s with a large stone arch bridge when the railroad, which went through the Bradford Hills area, was realigned. That bridge was the first "tunnel" that you travel through when driving south on Valley Creek Road, from Boot Road. One arch is for the road and the other two arches are for the creek. The first tunnel doesn't look like you're going under a bridge now, but it has been like that for about 20 years.*

*The second "tunnel" was constructed around 1902-1904, as part of the PRR's Low-Grade freight line. Instead of creating a second bridge to cross the gap in the hills, the PRR filled in the gap and sort of made the two railroad sections (the PRR's Main Line and Low-Grade Line) into one unit. Another reason why the two railroad sections were created was because the Main Line tracks were elevated at the same time, and the south side of this elevation needed support. Before then, the Main Line tracks were about 5 feet above the top masonry course of the first tunnel. Later, the tracks were raised about 15-20 feet above the first tunnel's top masonry course.*

*The light shaft between the two tunnels was done for construction reasons. A space was needed between the two tunnels because they are two independent structures, running in slightly different directions. As you approach the tunnel from the south, it looks like Valley Creek Road was bored into the side of a large hill, but that isn't the case. The arch/tunnel was built first--*

*both for the road and a lower two-arched tunnel for Valley Creek. Then the entire area was filled in on top of the arches. Temporary tracks were built during the construction, to bring in the fill. It's hard to imagine how many train car loads of rocks and dirt were brought in to fill the space between the hills. It certainly looks natural, especially the view from the south, but this massive "hill" is entirely man-made.*

*I'm not familiar with who exactly worked on the tunnels. Since the first tunnel was constructed in the 1880s, the makeup of the workforce could have been different than the workforce that built the longer tunnel in the early 1900s. I've read in news clippings where laborers at this time tended to be Italian (late 1800s and early 1900s) and that Irish workers were predominant in the mid-1800s. But I can't say that definitively, or if that was true in this case.*

## What area residents were talking about 92 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* during the winter months of 1923-24.

- Since providing service outside the borough was a contentious issue back then, J.M. Binder, chief of the **Downingtown Fire Department**, informed leaders of both borough fire companies of the geographic boundaries of their service areas. Those boundaries were: the Bell School, on the east; the Harbison-Walker brick works, on the north; East Brandywine Baptist Church, on the northwest; the Thorndale Store, on the west; and Kerr Paper Co., on the south. Also, the **Minquas Fire Co.** assumed responsibility for operation of the new ambulance service in Downingtown. The Businessmen's Club had recently purchased the ambulance. And members of the **Alert Fire Co.** were considering acquisition of land on West Lancaster Avenue, between Stuart and Downing Avenues, on which to build a new firehouse.

- Since the School Board felt that **student tardiness** "forms a bad habit in young people" in later life, School District officials focused a lot of attention on that issue 92 years ago. And that's why the school directors were concerned about the high total of 127 "tardy marks" recorded in September, as measured against the school system's total enrollment of 934 pupils. And 37 percent of those tardy marks were recorded against the high school's 181 students. Also, supervising principal (superintendent) A. B. Moyer reported that there were 46 students in the first grade at the new **East Ward School**, despite the fact that the classroom's capacity was 40 pupils, and Moyer acknowledged that no primary grade should have more than 25 students. Moyer also thanked the Home and School League for raising most (the School District provided the last \$16) of the funds needed to purchase a **\$450 piano** for the new school.

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

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

## Vintage Ad of the week:

# How To Save Coal!

Few people are familiar with the principles of hot air heating. They think if a heater does not heat it is the fault of the heater, but that is not often the case.

We laugh at an automobile built twenty years ago, but expect a hot air heater installed at that time to heat as well as the latest design in hot water, steam, vapor or other heating systems.

You can have heat with less coal by having your heater changed so that it will conform to the modern methods of hot air installations.

Constant study of the problems and experience enable me to help you to get more out of the coal you burn.

You cannot afford to waste coal now when it is scarce and the price so high.

A line or a call will assure you prompt attention.

## ELLIS R. WARREN

**Hot Air Heating, Roofing, Spouting, Stovepipe, Etc.**

**LANCASTER AVE., EAST DOWNTOWN, PA.**

This ad was published in the December 6, 1922 edition of *The Archive*.

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# Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

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- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

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## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Christmas Carol Program***

The Old Caln Historical Society's annual Candlelight Christmas Carol program will be held at the Old Caln Meetinghouse, Route 340, Thorndale, at 7 PM on Tuesday, December 1. Music will be provided by the Caln School Chorus, the Belltones and Redmen, a select group from the CASH Meistersingers, and by Kevin Pierce, well-known local vocalist. The program is free and the public is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served after the program. Supervised parking is available. For more information, call 610-384-8153.

### ***Candlelight Tour***

There will be a Candlelight Tour at Hibernia Mansion in Hibernia Park, on Park Road, Coatesville, from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5, and from 2 PM to 4 PM on Sunday December 6. There will be refreshments and having live holiday music. Also, Santa Claus will be there. Admission is \$5; children under 12 are free. For more info, call 610-383-3812.

### ***Borough Christmas Activities***

Santa will be at the Log House on East Lancaster Avenue from 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 5. The event will be hosted by the Downingtown Historic Commission. And the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade, with eight marching bands, will be held on Lancaster Avenue at 3 PM on Saturday, December 12. For details, see:

[www.dtownchristmas.com/](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/).

### ***Tree Lighting***

East Brandywine Township will have a Holiday Tree Lighting in the East Brandywine Community Park on Dilworth Road at 3 PM Sunday, December 6. Children will make ornaments and hang them on the tree. Refreshments: hot chocolate and cookies. Bring canned goods for the Lords Pantry, or hats and gloves for the Salvation Army, and you'll get a chance to "throw the switch" and light the tree.

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

Vol. 6, No. 49

December 3, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## What area residents were talking about in the spring of 1924

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* 91 years ago:

- Twenty-four state police officers, travelling in 12 patrol cars from the Lancaster barracks, swept into Downingtown on the evening of March 5, 1924, and conducted a synchronized raid at **11 alleged “booze joints and speakeasies,”** made 14 arrests, and confiscated three truckloads of liquor. The liquor was found in “pint bottles, quart jars, tin cans, green jugs, varnish cans, pails, kegs and every imaginable kind of receptacle.” All of the defendants, who were arraigned in Squire Wilmer Johnson’s office, and each of them was released on \$500 bail.

- Tommy Gray, who had served as the borough’s **police chief** for more than two decades until he retired in 1921, was unretired by Borough Council, replacing Elmer Ralston. The raid by state police, noted in the news item above, may have had something to do with Gray’s surprising return to the helm of the town’s police department.

- Adoption of **Daylight Savings Time** (DST) was a controversial issue across America back in the 1920s. And although all the railroads and most municipalities conformed to the adjusted time table, DST created problems in some communities. One of them was Downingtown, where the Downingtown Iron Works observed DST, but the Downingtown Paper Box Co. and the Frank Miller Paper plant decided to remain on Standard Time.

- William Levi “Buck” Taylor, who was America’s first King of the Cowboys when he was a major star in **Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show**, died in Chester County Hospital. Taylor and his family had lived in East Brandywine after he retired from show business. For more info on Taylor’s life, see: <http://coffeewithken.blogspot.com/2011/07/guest-blogger-amy-arden-on-buck-taylor.html>

- With late-season, nail-biter wins over Coatesville and West Chester, the DHS boys’ basketball team won the **Chester County championship**. Members of the team were George “Dink” Irwin, Charles “Reds” Deets, captain Carl Smith, Lew Laird and Earl Drake.

- A majority of **East Caln** voters were in favor of all township students attending schools in the Downingtown system, and the Bell School was closed.

## What was going on here more than 100 years ago

Noted below are snippets of early local history republished in *The Archive* in the 1920s:

**1893:** The new Chestnut Street bridge, over the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, was opened in Downingtown.

**1896:** The “greatest and most successful bicycle parade,” involving more than 150 bicycles, was staged in Downingtown.

**1897:** High Mass was observed at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, in honor of the removal of the remains of former pastors Rev. Nicholas Bowden and Rev. Thomas Toner from the church yard in the Johnstontown section of the borough, to the new cemetery on Glenside Road in West Bradford Township. The transfer of their remains was in compliance with a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century ordinance, forbidding burials within the borough.

**1901:** Although 75 houses had been constructed that year in the borough, there still was a housing shortage in Downingtown. The shortage was primarily due to so many people, who had been hired by the Cohansey Glass Works on Chestnut Street, couldn’t find lodgings in the borough.

## Vintage ad of the week:

### Still Doing Business At The Old Stand !

1765



1923

*The tract on which this mill stands was sold from the "Aston Terrace" Property by George Aston to Rodger Hunt in 1739. The road in front of mill was laid out in 1752 and run from Center Square to Lancaster, passing by Nine Dozen and Caln Meeting House. Present Mill was built in 1765, and has been in continuous operation since that time.*

The first addition made in that time being a Roller Process Flour Mill, added by John T. Pollock. The old mill stones still used in the mill are of the same type Samson pulled for the Philistines, and for the quality of work done have never been improved upon. Presto! The twentieth century craze for speed; an up-to-date Electric Mill has been added by the present owner, but without removing the old stones. On these stones was ground some of the flour used by the American soldiers at Valley Forge.

To the north, and within sight of the Mill, there still exists over 200 feet of trenches thrown up by Revolutionary soldiers about the time of the Battle of the Brandywine.

Anyone interested in the old landmarks of Colonial history are welcome to visit the Mill at any and all times.

**POLLOCK'S FEED MILL**

This ad was published in a 1923 edition of the Downingtown Archive.

# Interesting local news 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in early May 1948:

- School directors representing seven townships in the Downingtown area had a dinner meeting with members of the Downingtown School Board to discuss the **consolidation of their schools** into one school district. A representative of the State Department of Public Instruction explained the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation, under provisions outlined in Act 361, which were suggested, but not mandated.
- The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** revealed that the Cardinal Cottons Corp. had purchased a site on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough, and planned to move its dress manufacturing plant there, from Maytown, PA. Cardinal officials said they would move machinery to Downingtown immediately and ultimately would employ 50 women here.
- An SRO crowd attended the **Spring Choral Concert** at the Junior-Senior High School. A DHS octette, comprised of Netha Beumer, Marguerite Ciarlone, Mena Cozzone, Eleanor Detterline, Mary Graden, Shirley Habecker, Caroline Saylor, and Margaret Sciarretta, sang four pieces. And fourth graders from West Ward School, who danced while the mixed chorus performed, included: Robert Detterline, Harry Flinn, Bobby Hamilton, Lee Rowland, Kathleen D'Attilio, Connie Osborne, Mary Jane Perella and Barbara Warren.
- These **Marshallton School** students, who were to graduate in June, went on the PTA's annual sightseeing trip in West Chester: Mary Jane Place, James Sweeney, Robert Sellers, Verna Hall, William Baldwin, David Lambert, Donald frame, Pearl Boggs, Dorothy Whiteman, Barbara Ferguson and June Ellingsworth.
- The **Alert Fire Co. Auxiliary** won a \$25 prize for their appearance in a parade in Reading. The 52 women wore white uniforms with blue and red caps and capes. And the 40 men from the fire department, who also marched in the parade, also wore new uniforms.
- The **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission** unveiled plans for the \$70 million, 100-mile extension of the state's "high-speed, superhighway" system, from Carlisle to King of Prussia, included an exit at Route 100 in Uwchlan Township.
- The **VFW's Downingtown post** planned to establish a drum and bugle corps.

## Restaurant Raffle winners announced

Victoria Goodfellow told her husband, Dr. Hank Pollock, that they should buy a ticket for the Historical Society's third annual Restaurant Raffle because she often has been "very lucky." Goodfellow was incredibly lucky on Sunday afternoon, when board member Harry Helms drew her ticket, and won \$1,400 worth of dinners at seven great, local restaurants.

As a result, the Pollocks received \$200 vouchers for meals at these restaurants: Amani's BYOB, St. Anthony's Restaurant, The General Warren Inn, The Kimberton Inn, The Orangery, The Bordley House Grille and The Downingtown Country Club.

And Mary Holleran won the second prize, a \$50 gift certificate for the Pomodoro Pizza and Italian Restaurant in Downingtown and two bottles of wine from Phoenixville's Black Walnut Winery.

Proceeds from the raffle will enable the Historical Society to continue its efforts to repair the leaking stone walls of Ashbridge House, its 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln Township.

## **It's at 1335 W. Strasburg Road in Marshallton**



Built in 1912, after the Knights of Pythias Hall had burned down on that site, the building on the left has had an interesting history over the past 103 years. Ed Hill informs us that it was a Farmers & Mechanics Building, as well as a Town hall where township meetings and election polls took place. The first of many people who remembers it as the Grange Hall was Brad Titus. Also, several folks recall when it was used by Boy Scout Troop 52. And Marilyn Martin says it was a dance hall. Currently, it's the Merchant of Menace Art Gallery.

### **We need more volunteers for Clip Joint session on Sunday, Dec. 6**

For those who are seeking a pleasant, relaxing experience on Sunday December 6, we have the answer. Our next Clip Joint session will be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, December 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, next to the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. You can come and depart at your convenience.

# Uwchlan Historical Commission seeks members

Uwchlan Township Historical Commission has openings for three new volunteers. Residents or Uwchlan Township property owners are eligible to place applications to become members of the Commission.

Prospective members should be available for the following:

- Attend monthly Board meetings on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM (except for the month of December).
- Help with historical interpretation of two Township-owned facilities, welcoming visitors on the first Sunday of the month from April through November from 2 – 4 PM. These facilities are the John Cadwalder House on North Village Avenue in the Uwchlan Township National Historic District and the Edith P. Moore one-room School nearby.
- Adhere to the policies and procedures of the Commission.
- Attend an interview with the Commission that includes your interest in local history and a written resume. Based on the interview, a recommendation will be passed on to the Board of Supervisors to make the final decision.

Please send a resume by email to chairperson Patricia D. Gaines ([fpgaines@verizon.net](mailto:fpgaines@verizon.net)) or to 204 Southside Circle, Downingtown, PA 19335. All resumes will be reviewed and a time will be set up for applicants to appear in person.

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

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- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

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[www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html).

## **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Candlelight Tour***

There will be a Candlelight Tour at Hibernia Mansion in Hibernia Park, on Park Road, Coatesville, from 6:30 PM to 9 PM on Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5, and from 2 PM to 4 PM on Sunday December 6. There will be refreshments and having live holiday music. Also, Santa Claus will be there. Admission is \$5; children under 12 are free. For more info, call 610-383-3812.

### ***Borough Christmas Activities***

Santa will be at the Log House on East Lancaster Avenue from 1-4 PM on Saturday, December 5. The event will be hosted by the Downingtown Historic Commission. And the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade, with eight marching bands, will be held on Lancaster Avenue at 3 PM on Saturday, December 12. For details, see: [www.dtownchristmas.com/](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/).

### ***House Tour***

Friends of Chester Springs Library will have a Christmas House Tour on Saturday, Dec. 6. The tour offers eight stops, which range from a historic, 60-acre estate to two one-room school houses. The self-guided tour runs from 1-4:30 PM, with a reception from 4:30 to 6 PM at Montgomery School, 1141 Kimberton Road (Route 113), Chester Springs. Tickets at \$45 are available in advance only. For information, visit [www.friends-csl.com](http://www.friends-csl.com)

### ***Tree Lighting***

East Brandywine Township will have a Holiday Tree Lighting in the East Brandywine Community Park on Dilworth Road at 3 PM Sunday, December 6. Children will make ornaments and hang them on the tree. Refreshments: hot chocolate and cookies. Bring canned goods for the Lords Pantry, or hats and gloves for the Salvation Army, and you'll get a chance to "throw the switch" and light the tree.

### ***Talbots helps Library***

Talbots will donate to the Downingtown Library 10% of pre-tax sales on purchases at its store, Brandywine Square, 1096 E. Lancaster Ave., East Caln, from 3 PM to 9 PM Thursday, December 10.

### ***Craft Show***

Chester County Library, Exton Square, will have its 5th annual Craft Show from 10 AM–3 PM Saturday, Dec. 12. Vendors will be set up throughout the library to display and sell their crafts.

### ***Wreaths Across America***

Hopewell Cemetery, at 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown, will be the site of the Wreaths Across America program at 11 AM on Saturday, December 12. This is a national day of recognition where wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans across the country, and this will be the second year that Hopewell has participated. You are invited to come and help or observe this incredible site. If you have a veteran relative buried at Hopewell and you would like to place their wreath, contact Linda Mento at [OCityLinda@aol.com](mailto:OCityLinda@aol.com) or call 484-798-5520.

### ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

***Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) , or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

***Banquet room for rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 50

December 10, 2015

## Where and Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building on the left in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

## Interesting local news published in November 1963

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

- Downingtown became the first municipality in Chester County to authorize **fluoridation** of its public water system.

- Jack Helm, a former DHS and Villanova football star, was the **first Democrat** to be elected to Downingtown Borough Council in eight years. Helm, elected to represent the borough's West Ward, defeated GOP-hopeful Thomas Roberts, 577-487. In **West Bradford**, Edward Stouff was re-elected to the school board in a hotly contested race that created a larger-than-usual turnout because of a controversial sample ballot and Republicans working for Democrat candidate Gloria Hamilton.

- Jonathan Styer of the **Uwchlan Grange** turned the keys to the **Uwchlan Friends Meeting House** in Lionville over to Mrs. Theodore Rogers, president of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan**. The event ensured the preservation of one of Chester County's historic treasures. The Uwchlan Meeting was established in 1714, and the meeting house was built in 1756. It was remodeled in 1875. During the Revolutionary War, military surgeon Dr. Bodo Otto, who established the American Army hospital at nearby Yellow Springs, commandeered the Uwchlan Meeting House and converted it into a military hospital. Beginning in 1904, Lionville High School used the meeting house for classes, until 1932 when the school closed. Subsequently, the building was occupied by Lionville Elementary, until 1960. The Uwchlan Grange, which had been meeting in the building since 1906, purchased the property in 1920. However, the graveyard continued to be owned by the Friends Meeting. The Woman's Community Club, which was formed in 1922, was committed to restoring the meeting house.

- The Downingtown Area Elementary School Board approved preliminary sketches of the proposed, two-story addition to the two-year-old **Lionville Elementary School**. The state was to cover 82 percent of the \$750,000 cost of building the addition, which increased the school's capacity to 700 pupils.

- Mrs. Warren Radcliffe was chairman of the Christmas bazaar at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown. Committee chairmen included: Mrs. W.P. Canby, Mrs. Jacob Edge and Mrs. Ellis Brown, pantry cupboard; Mrs. Thomas McIlvaine, bake table; Mrs. Guy Jordan, children's table; Mrs. Allen Powell, white elephant table; Margaret Fletcher and Mrs. Francis Tweed, Santa's Surprise; Mrs. Walter Leland and Mrs. Maurie Davis, lunch; and Mrs. Herbert Ash, waitresses.

- Winners in the costume competition at the Halloween party of **Cub Pack 2**, Downingtown, were: David Hemberger, Frank Bishop, Bill Dorman, Steve Massimini and Palmer Raysor. Judges were Lewis Capriotti, Palmer Raysor and Mrs. William Woodruff. Cubs who were recognized for earning badges and arrow points included: Joel Swisher, Vincent Cozzone, Joseph Miller, Ned Beamsderfer, Gordon Patrizio and Billy Woodruff.

- Sunday School teachers at **Marshallton Methodist Church**, who completed a six-week leadership training course, included: Mrs. William Ludwick, Mrs. Robert Martin, Mrs. Edith Young, Mrs. Harry Wickersham, Mrs. Lawrence Dampman, Mrs. Raymond McClure, Mrs. Martin McClure, Mrs. Esther Hendry, Mrs. Keeler and Clifford Queen.

- Kindergarten students at **Brandywine-Wallace School** who won prizes for their costumes at the school's Halloween party were: Sharon Capriotti, Robert Arters, Edward Thompson, Donald Yost, Jayne Hall, Jeff Martini, Anne Radcliffe, Jerry Lockhard and Kathy Zinn.

- Norman Geddes was the new leader of **Cub Pack 152 in Marshallton**, and the den mothers were Mrs. Francis Wood, Mrs. Jack Sellers and Mrs. Joseph Kirkner. A quartette, comprised of Don and Ray Wood, Kelly Fitzgerald and Steve Vergren sang Halloween songs at the Pack's October meeting.

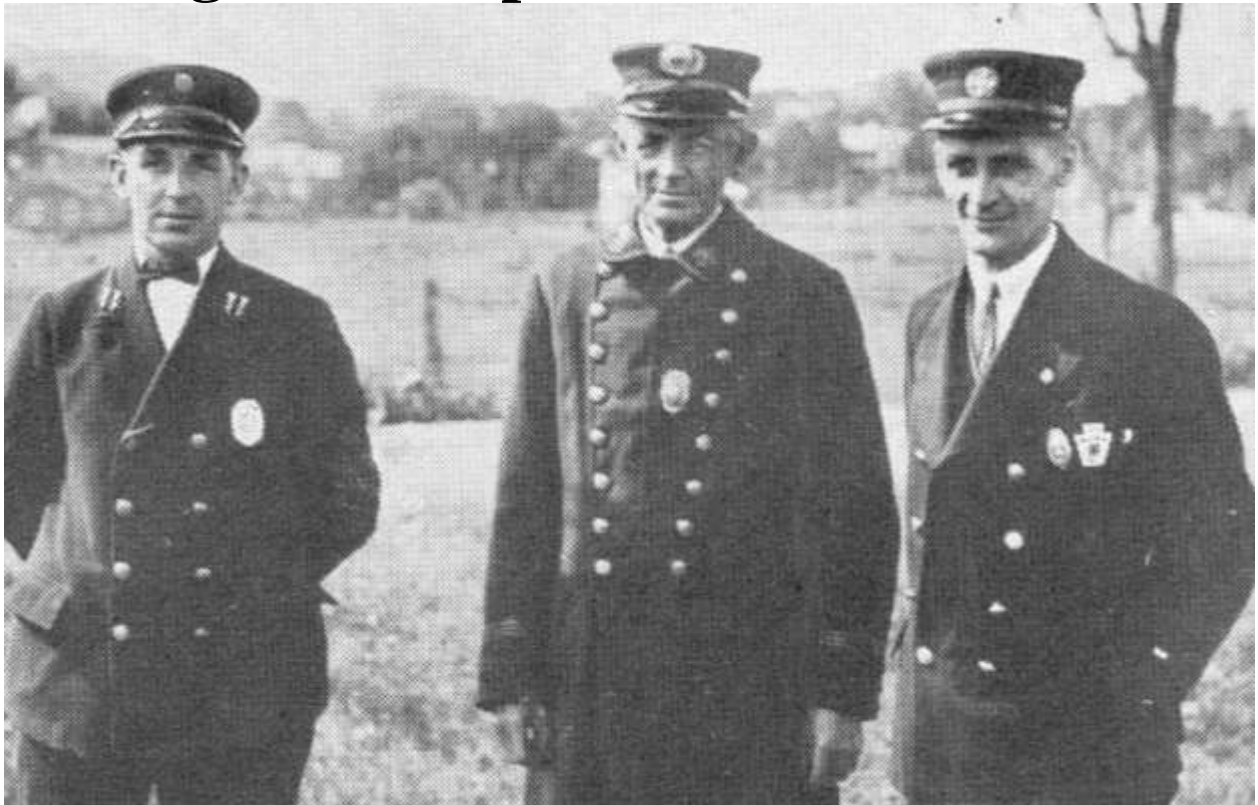
- Winners of the costume competition at the **Ladies of St. Joseph's** Halloween party included Edith Filoromo, Carmen DiPietro, Rose Brown and Rose Marie Cipollini. Mrs. Charles Snyder, Mrs. Donald Stubbs and Mrs. Mary Jo DiEuliis were the judges.

- The **DHS field hockey team** won its seventh game by beating Phoenixville 1-0, as Judy Brown scored her eighth goal of the season, with an assist by Shrimp McElroy. The Whippet jayvees beat the Phantoms 2-0, as goals were tallied by Lynne Dowlin and Pat Findley. Downingtown players who were named to the All-Ches-Mont team were Brown, Shirley Smith and Suzie Martin.

- New members of the Junior Girl Scout Troop, sponsored by **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Debbie Austin, Nancy Brumgard, Mary Lou Demos, Leona Finkbiner, Christine Goodwyn, Leona Finkbiner, Lynn Hayhurst, Nancy Just, Gwyn Kiernan, Donna Klaebel, Mary Ellen MacCausland, Gay Mason, Kathy McQuail, Susan Pagett, Nan Shea, Kathleen Shreiner and Sally Wallace.

- Officers of the Downingtown Junior High School **Honor Society** were James long, president; Linda Broomell, vice president; Joanne Beam, secretary; and David Robbins, treasurer.

## Borough Fire Department leaders in 1926



Jeff Stevens, historian at the Alert Fire Co. in Downingtown, has responded to our constant quest for group photos (including individuals' names) of members of organizations, teams, scout troops, school classes, etc. by sending us the above photo, taken in 1926. In the picture are, left to right: John Bray, Assistant Chief, Minquas Fire Co.; John Corcoran, Assistant Chief, Alert Fire Co.; and J. Martin Binder, Chief Fire Marshall (Fire Chief), Downingtown Fire Department.

## What area residents were talking about 91 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in the summer of 1924:

- Installation of an **electric power transmission line**, between Downingtown and Glen Moore, was expected to be completed in September. "It is not improbable that the village of Glen Moore will take on the appearance of a city, and illuminate its streets in the not distant future." The line was completed in August as far north as Cornog, where the Keystone Trap Rock Co. was using electricity to crush stone from the quarry. Also benefitting from the newly-accessible electric line was the Sypherd Creamery in Lyndell. And there was "a prospect" that the often-inaccessible Route 282, north of Downingtown, would soon have a macadam surface.
- The **Downingtown Woolen Mills** filed for bankruptcy, and the receiver was authorized to sell the plant and its machinery, which was appraised at \$475,000. It was expected that most of the nine biggest stockholders would buy the equipment and plant, re-organize the corporation, and continue operation of the company. The firm's assets totaled \$178,000, while its liabilities were \$275,000.
- The name of the **Frank Miller Paper Co.** was changed to the **Downingtown Paper Co.** Officers of the re-named firm were J. Gibson McIlvaine, president; Walter McIlvaine, vice president; Frank Parke, secretary-treasurer; Horace Pyle, assistant treasurer; and A.J. Brookover, superintendent.
- The recently closed **Bell School** on Bell Tavern Road, near Route 30, in East Caln was sold to Lewis Downing for \$6,900.
- Since the authorities at the **YMCA Camp** in West Bradford were opposed to trespassing on its grounds, an Italian woman (probably a resident of neighboring Downingtown) was arrested while gathering berries and was taken before a magistrate.
- An estimated 10,000 people came out on July 4th for the **Minquas Fire Co.** fireworks display, which cost \$1,000. Although there was no admission fee for the fireworks, the fire company had arranged for enough parking space for 1,500 cars, for a \$1 charge per car.

## How to buy Luminaria supplies & Xmas ornaments

You can purchase Luminaria supplies (candles, re-useable plastic bases and/or bags) and Christmas ornaments depicting historic Downingtown sites at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln (next to the Chick Fil-A restaurant) from 1-4 PM on these dates: Sunday, December 13; Saturday, Dec. 19; and Sunday, December 20.

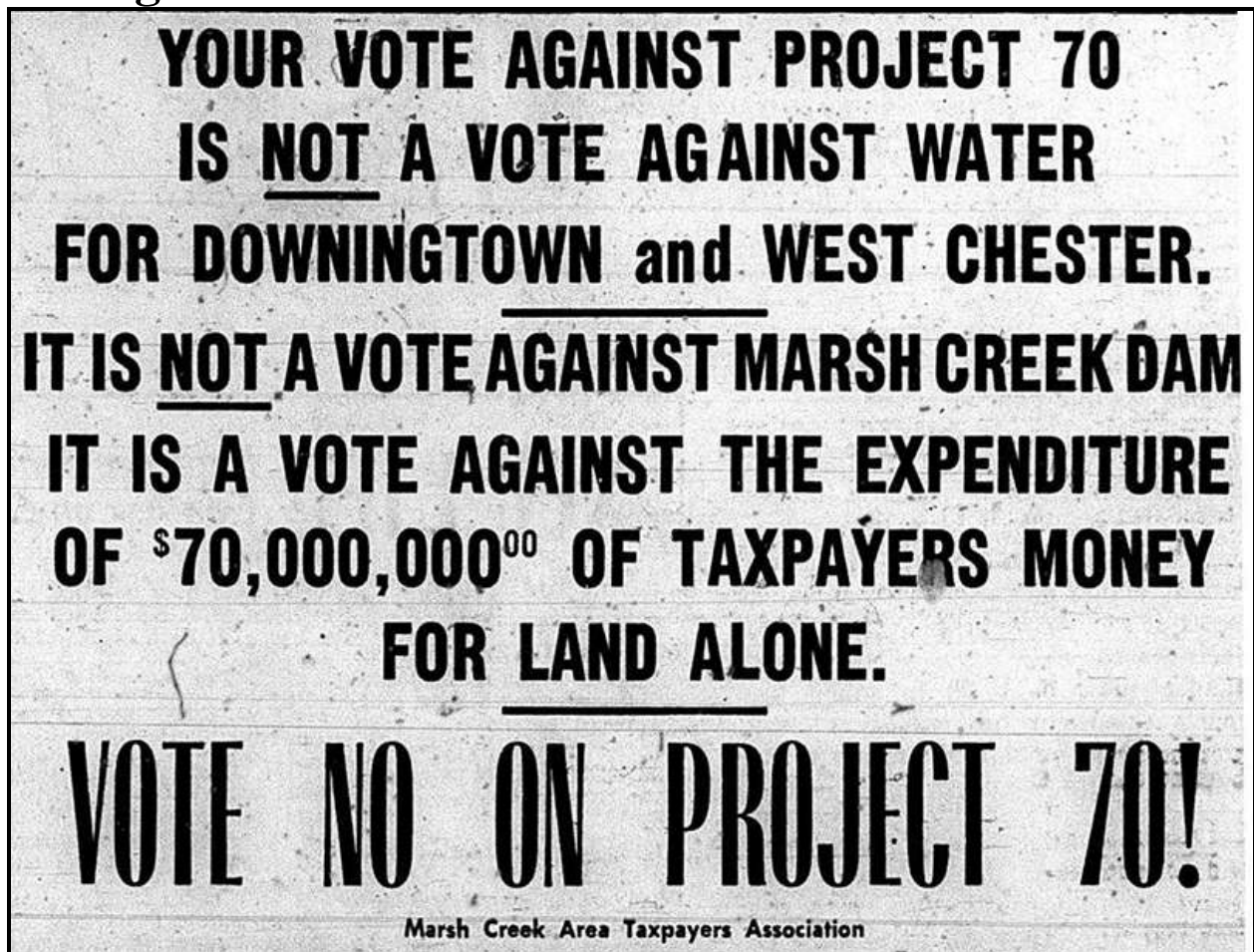
Christmas ornaments depicting local historic sites include: Downingtown Borough Hall, West Ward School, Alert Fire Hall, Minquas Fire Hall and Downingtown Junior-Senior High School. They cost \$5 each or three for \$10.

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

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## Vintage ad of the week:



This ad was published in local newspapers in November 1924.

## Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals.

- A copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Downingtown.
- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.
- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

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

## It's at 288 Church Street in Johnstown



Marybeth Fusco was the first of several people who correctly identified the location of the house in the photo above as 288 Church Street in the Johnstown section of the borough. One of the house's former owners was Michael Bartone, who passed away in 2002 from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease). His family and friends have since raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the ALS Society via annual, multi-event benefits. They also sponsor scholarships to attend Stephens Technical School, Michael's alma mater.

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# **Free Ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Christmas Parade***

The Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Parade, with eight marching bands, will be held on Lancaster Avenue at 3 PM on Saturday, December 12. For details, see: [www.dtownchristmas.com/](http://www.dtownchristmas.com/).

## ***Holiday Food Drive***

Area residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable item, such as canned vegetables and fruit, pancake mix and syrup, instant potatoes, peanut butter, pasta, rice, beans, stews and soups at the East Caln Township office, 110 Bell Tavern Road. For more info, call: 610-2691989.

## ***Craft Show***

Chester County Library, Exton Square, will have its 5th annual Craft Show from 10 AM–3 PM Saturday, Dec. 12. Vendors will be set up throughout the library to display and sell their crafts.

## ***Wreaths Across America***

Hopewell Cemetery, at 852 Hopewell Road, Downingtown, will be the site of the Wreaths Across America program at 11 AM on Saturday, December 12. This is a national day of recognition where wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans across the country, and this will be the second year that Hopewell has participated. You are invited to come and help or observe this incredible site. If you have a veteran relative buried at Hopewell and you would like to place their wreath, contact Linda Mento at [OCityLinda@aol.com](mailto:OCityLinda@aol.com) or call 484-798-5520.

## ***Community Sing***

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas Community Sing at 11 AM on Sunday, December 20 at the Bradford Friends Meeting House, 1366 West Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

## ***Warm Coat Drive***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center is sponsoring a Warm Coats Drive. New and gently used coats will be accepted at the Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, until Wednesday, Dec. 23. Call 610-269-3939 for details.

## ***Brochure on DARC classes & activities***

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

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org), or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).

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Vol. 6, No. 51

December 17, 2015

## What and Where Is This?



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## More local news published in November 1963

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

- Although several school administrators said they believed it would be a wiser investment than an auxiliary gym, Downingtown's Joint Senior High School board decided not to spend \$213,000 for an Olympic-size **swimming pool** as part of an addition to DHS. The addition—which included 19 classrooms, an art room, a library, a gym and an administrative suite—increased the high school's capacity to 1,350.

- The Chester County Court paved the way for the opening of the **Greenback School** in Upper Uwchlan, despite the opposition of township administrator Forrest Gottier. The school was established by owner Rachel Gibbon as an academic school for boys in grades seven through 12 with a low intelligence quotient. However, based on testimony by several of the school's supporters, Gottier claimed the school would be a “mental institution,” which didn't conform with the township's zoning ordinance.

- New ranchers (starting at \$15,900) and two-story homes (\$16,900) in the **Rock Raymond Country Estates** development, on Rock Raymond Road in East Brandywine Township, were open for inspection.

- Elected to lead the **Opti-Mrs. Club** of Downingtown were: Mrs. Clifton Walton, president; Mrs. Donald Collier, vice president; Mrs. Clair Langham, secretary; and Mrs. Albert Burkhart, treasurer.

- New local businesses included: the **Downingtown Music Center**, 821 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, (organs pianos, stereos, TVs, records and musical instruments); and Barbara Peoples' **Beauty Hut** hair salon, 208 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown.

- Girls received into **Brownie Troop 131** were: Deborah Ann Jones, Mary Ann Hildebeitel, Melanie Lacey, Sherry Lee Andress, Janice Wassmuth and Connie Williams.

- Major roles in the **DHS production** of “Bachelor Father,” the senior class play based on the TV show with the same name, were: Robert Poore, Mary Ellen Crosby, June Williamson, Kenneth Jordan, Ralph Kurash, Diane Gindin, and Yvonne Horsey.

- Baptized at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Pam Detterline, Leona Faddis, Sharon Plank, Louise Starkloff, Susan and James Stringer, Dale Malin, Sandy Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Barlow, Samuel Piper and Winfield Fryberger.

- DHS pupils on the staff of the **Blue and Gold student newspaper**, who attended a PA School Press Association conference in Greensburg, included: Sharon Donaghy, Pamela Krigbaum, Joy Wertz, Gail Dilworth, Connie Smedley and Fred Martin.

- Elected to lead the **East Brandywine Fire Co. Auxiliary** were: Dorothy Piersol, president; Peg Pierce, vice president; Beverly McCarty, recording secretary; Helen Laird, financial secretary; Ruth Lammey, treasurer; and Hannah Harner, chaplain; and trustees Olga Irons, Myra Thomas and Helen Frazer.

- **Uwchlan Township residents** elected to office in the November election, included: John Bausman, supervisor; James McQuail, auditor; and Raymond Williams, school board. Jonathan Windle was the judge of election; inspectors were Republican Warren Smith and Democrat William VanWyjk; and the election clerks were Mrs. Ernest Cornwall and Chester March.

- Mel Brodsky, **new DHS boys' basketball coach**, had only two returning lettermen (Bill Pollock and Clark Bartell, who were both 6-5). Other candidates for the starting five were Ken Sigle, Bob Helms, Barry Piersol and Bob Wagner. Brodsky, who had played for Temple University when the Owls suffered a one-point loss to Kentucky in the final round of the NCAA

championship tourney, conceded that most of the DHS players were “green, small, young and not particularly fast.” The Whippets had a 2-14 Ches-Mont League record last season.

- Four members of the **Downingtown Ministerium**—Rev. Richard Bartholomew, Rev. Howard Mattison, Rev. Howard Adams and Rev. Robert Taylor—conducted the borough’s Christmas lighting ceremonies on the East Lancaster Avenue side of Kerr Park, next to the Log House. Charles Seibert led the group singing of Christmas carols.

- Newly-elected officers of the **West Bradford Fire Co.** were James Andrien, president; Jack Hines Sr., vice president; Robert Crawford, secretary; and C.L. Moore, treasurer. Ernest Fling was re-elected to the board.

- Harold Ritchie, chairman of the Pickering-Brandywine School Board’s building committee, reported that construction of the new **Pickering Valley School** in Upper Uwchlan would be completed in September.

- Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** sold Christmas trees at the fire house, for the benefit of the equipment fund. And trees were delivered to residences for no extra charge.

- Jane Forbes, Jayde Wassmuth, Carol Reutter, and Ruth Jane Bicking spearheaded the creation of **Girl Scout Troop 226** in Downingtown.

## It’s at 351 Dowlin Forge Rd. in Uwchlan



Kim Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the site in the above photo as 351 Dowlin Forge Road in Uwchlan Township. For more information of the house, see: [www.weichert.com/57903384/](http://www.weichert.com/57903384/).

## What area residents were talking about 91 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in The Archive in the fall of 1924:

- Plans for a **movie theatre** on West Lancaster Avenue, across from the Central School (later known as West Ward School), were unveiled at a public meeting in the school's auditorium. The multi-story theatre building plans also included a central post office, bowling alleys in the basement and a dance hall.
- An average of 80 students were being served bowls of soup, cocoa and milk at the new **East Ward School** in Downingtown. After the Christmas holidays, the menu was increased to include sandwiches and other "nourishing food." Members of the Home and School League assisted with preparation and distribution of the meals.
- The Downingtown Moose team competed in the newly established **Chester County Basketball League**. Members of the local squad included John Francella, Charlie Way, Sam Charles, Eugene Yeager, Dink Irwin, Clyde Hughes, George Davis and Robert Simmons. Other communities with teams in the league were Parkesburg, Christiana, West Chester and the Independent and Lukens teams from Coatesville.
- Downingtown Police Chief Tommy Gray led a raid on the **Swan Hotel** in the borough. In addition to discovering wine and liquor at the hotel, the cops found several slot machines. Stephen Woron, proprietor of the hotel, furnished \$1,000 bail. Meanwhile, Maurice Stolove, who had recently taken over the **Pennsylvania House**, said he planned to make big changes at the hotel next to the Pennsylvania Railroad station. In addition to converting several street level sections of the hotel into stores, Stolove also renovated rooms on the second floor, to include hot water, and new lighting fixtures and furniture.
- The **Uwchlan Good Roads Association** was formed in Lionville. Its main purpose was to have Route 113 macadamized. Officers of the association were Sherman Kirkpatrick, president; Thomas Furry, treasurer; and Perry Tyson, secretary.
- Arrangements were made to establish a **Rotary Club** in Downingtown. Charter officers were Dr. Joseph Huggins, president; Frank McGraw, vice president; Allen Keim, treasurer; and Charles Nice, secretary.

## You can still buy Luminaria supplies & Xmas ornaments

You can purchase Luminaria supplies (candles, re-useable plastic bases, and/or bags) and Christmas ornaments depicting historic Downingtown sites at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln (next to the Chick Fil-A restaurant) from 1-4 PM on: Saturday, Dec. 19; and Sunday, December 20.

Christmas ornaments depicting local historic sites include: Downingtown Borough Hall, Old East Ward School, West Ward School, Alert Fire Hall, Minquas Fire Hall and Downingtown Junior-Senior High School. They cost \$5 each or three for \$10.

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## Vintage ad of the week:



### Select Your Christmas Gifts Now

In appreciation of the kind and ever increasing patronage of our Customers, we have this year secured an unusual assortment of Christmas Gifts. Our aim is to give the people of Downingtown and vicinity good goods at reasonable prices, and we earnestly hope you will take advantage of our immense stock and pay us a visit.

---

**We Now Have on Display**  
**VICTOR VICTROLAS**  
**From \$25 to \$150**  
Also a Large Assortment of Victor Records  
Including Many Christmas Records

**Our Candy Department** contains a full and complete line of delicious confections, including the best to choose from — Liggett's, Page & Shaw's and Belle Mead Sweets in 1 to 5 lb. boxes.

We are proud of our **Cigar Department**, with a full line of Domestic and Imported Cigars. Also pipes, Cigarettes and Smoking Sets. Cigars in Boxes of 10, 25, 50 and 100.

**Stationery**— Many handsome boxes, containing a generous supply of paper and envelopes, 25c to \$10. Christmas Cards, Booklets, Calendars and Post Cards.

**Gift Boxes** in various styles, shapes and colors.

**Fountain Pens** — Parker (Duofold), Waterman and Sheaffer's Pens and Pencils.

**Perfumery** — Toilet Waters, Talcum and Face Powders, all put up in stylish packages for Xmas Gift.

**Brush and Comb Sets** — Infant Sets, Toilet Sets, Candelabras, Electric Lamps, Candle Sticks.

**Books** — A full line of Popular Fiction, also Girls and Boy's Books.

Picture Frames in Wood and Ivory, Leather Goods, Ladies' and Gent's Pocket Books, Bill Folds, Card Cases Memorandum and Address Books, Gillette, Gem, Ever Ready and Duplex Safety Razors. Also a variety of Shaving Sets, Thermos Bottles and Universal Lunch Kits.

**Cameras** — Including Vest Pocket, Autographic and the Little Brownie. Films and Photographic Supplies.

Many other Useful and ~~Amusing~~ Gifts and Novelties will be found in various parts of the Store.

---

**Be Sure to Get Your *Rexall* Weather Chart Calendar for 1924**

---

**C. C. HUTCHISON,** **THE REXALL STORE**  
116 Lancaster Ave. East Downingtown, Pa.

This ad was published in The Archive in December 1923

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[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

# Our Wish List

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials with a Downingtown connection, the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals. Since the first item is new, we have emboldened the typeface.

And thank you, **Rose Ciarlone**, for donating a copy of Barbara Carlson Travaglini's History of *St. Joseph's Catholic Church* to the Historical Society.

- **Vintage uniforms worn by members of the DHS or Junior High marching bands and those worn by Downingtown firefighters in parades.**

- All DHS yearbooks published since 1970. And any yearbooks or newspapers published by DHS, or by Downingtown and Lionville Junior High Schools.

- Any printed materials related to: the Downingtown Young Whippets, Downingtown Little League, Downingtown Babe Ruth League or the Downingtown American Legion Baseball teams, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League, the Lionville Youth Association, the West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.

If you need more info about any of these requests, please send an email to:

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## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *Holiday Food Drive*

Area residents are encouraged to drop off non-perishable item, such as canned vegetables and fruit, pancake mix and syrup, instant potatoes, peanut butter, pasta, rice, beans, stews and soups at the East Caln Township office, 110 Bell Tavern Road. For more info, call: 610-269- 1989.

### *Community Sing*

Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas Community Sing at 11 AM on Sunday, December 20 at the Bradford Friends Meeting House, 1366 West Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

### *Warm Coat Drive*

The Downingtown Area Senior Center is sponsoring a Warm Coats Drive. New and gently used coats will be accepted at the Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, until Wednesday, Dec. 23. Call 610-269-3939 for details.

### *Farmers Community Market of Downingtown*

The Community Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Dec. 19, Jan. 2 and 16, Feb. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact [gauckerfarms@gmail.com](mailto:gauckerfarms@gmail.com); or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

### *Brochure on DARC classes & activities*

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# Merry Christmas!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 52

December 24, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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

## Unique artifacts donated to the Historical Society in 2015

We received many artifacts from members and supporters of the Historical Society in 2015, and we are most grateful for all of those donations. Since we received so many of donations, we had to limit the listing below to the most unique items that were added to our archives in 2015.

**Sandy Brannan:** Copy of "History of Forks of the Brandywine Church."

**Mary Ciarlone:** Many items from the Downingtown Lions Club.

**Rose Ciarlone:** Copy of Barbara Travaglini's "History of St. Joseph's Parish," 2002.

**Francine Dague:** Banner related to Bishop Shanahan band playing for Pope Francis' arrival at the Philadelphia Airport.

**Randy Davidson:** 1994 Comprehensive Plan for Downingtown.

**Morris Farnum:** Photo and program for 40<sup>th</sup> reunion of the DHS Class of 1943.

**Don Greenleaf:** Numerous items from Sides' Drug Store in Downingtown.

**Philip Hemcher:** Copies of Lionville Junior High's student newspaper, "Lions Pride," published in 1975 and 1976.

**Chuck Hossack:** Bulletins of the West Bradford Hunt, 1982-83.

**Dr. William King:** Copy of "The Wayside Inns on the Lancaster Roadside, Between Philadelphia and Lancaster," published in 1912.

**Ernie Jameson:** Printed materials related to proposed Community Center in Downingtown and the Main Street program.

**Toni R. Kilkeary:** Two 19<sup>th</sup> Century maps of Downingtown.

**Debbie Dunn Lutchkus:** Many items related to her days at DHS, Class of 1965 reunions, and the Lionville area.

**Steve Mascherino:** Documents related to the long-term lease of a part of the Downingtown Water Authority property, to be used by Young Whippets football teams, and the Veterans Memorial in Kerr Park.

**Nancy and Steve McFalls:** T-shirts for St. Joseph's Carnivals and Terri's Run

**Frank Pechin:** His badges for membership in the Lionville and Downingtown Fire Companies.

**Jeff Swisher:** Sweater with DHS music insignia sewn on it and DHS football shirt from mid-1960s.

**Lois and Dick Thatcher:** Many materials related to Downingtown Rotary Club and Uwchlan Township.

**Dennis Walton:** Stock certificates for Downingtown's 1959 Centennial and Charles News Agency.

**Winchester (VA) Historical Society:** Collection of correspondence to DHS art teacher Mary Mahan.

**Austin Windle:** Tapes of DHS football team in state championship game and DHS marching band in Rose Bowl parade.

**Emily Windle:** Many items collected by her late husband, Spencer Windle, and his parents, Percy and May Brown Windle, including Pennypacker's 1909 "History of Downingtown."

**Robert Wisler:** Printed materials and photos related to local history, especially Uwchlan Township.

**Cindy Starr-Witman:** Many items from her school days, including Beaver Creek School.

**Madeleine Woodruff:** Program for 1941 Triple Play in Downingtown for the occasion when the Alert Fire Station was dedicated, the mortgage for Borough Hall was paid off, and equipment for both Downingtown fire companies was housed.

# Local news published in December 1979

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

- Downingtown's **East Lancaster Avenue Historic District** was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district stretches from the Brandywine Creek to almost the eastern edge of the borough. In 1979, it included 94 residences, 35 commercial properties, seven physicians' and dentists' offices, three houses of worship, three financial institutions and a library. Of the 142 total properties, 59 were considered historically significant, and 64 were classified as contributing to the district's history. In August 1979, the district was recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

- **East Brandywine** supervisors' latest request that PennDOT implement a graduated speed reduction on the east-west approaches to Guthriesville on Route 322 was denied. PennDOT claimed a reduction in the speed zone was "not realistic."

- The School Board increased the daily rate paid to contractor's 72-passenger **school bus** from \$62.50 to \$65.25 since the cost of fuel had risen from 60 cents a gallon to 80 cents a gallon.

- The **DHS wrestling team** won its unbeaten string to four when it defeated Conestoga (38-16) and Upper Moreland (43-18) in a tri-meet. Pins against Conestoga were garnered by Glenn Koser, Tom Urban and Duane Krapf. And Keith Grant and Anthony Fiore recorded pins in the Upper Moreland contest. Coach Alray Johnson expressed concern about the lack of support for the team by the student body and the community.

- Although coach Dave Mitchell said Pat Marra was "doing everything for us" the **Downingtown ice hockey team** lost to Malvern Prep 10-2, and its record was 1-6.

- The **Downingtown Young Whippets** 75-pound team won the Northern Division of the Bert Bell Memorial Conference. Individual award winners for that squad were: David Lucerne, offensive linemen; Chris Baroni, defensive lineman; Kevin Doran, offensive back; and Billy Straub, defensive back. The 75-pounders' coaching staff included: George Murphy, Skip Weiss, Skip Wolf, Denny Myers and Wes Pannebaker.

- Ginny Davis's **DHS girls' basketball team** lost two Ches-Mont League contests, against O.J. Roberts and Coatesville. However, the Whippettes bounced back with a 52-45 win over Phoenixville. Four Downingtown players—Doreen Warihay, Lisa Diehl, Jeanine Driscoll and Tina Arcaro—hit in double figures.

- The **DHS boys' basketball team** record was 4-2 overall, after it beat O.J. Roberts and Phoenixville, but succumbed to Coatesville. Downingtown's leading scorers in the Phoenixville game were Bob Melvin, Tom Anderson and Alvin Walton.

- Several members of coach Bruce Norris's **DHS indoor track team** broke school records in a meet at Haverford. Members of the record-breaking distance medley relay team, comprised of Steve Beaver, Dave Domblesky, Matt Mingione and Shawn Urbine. And members of the record-setting four-lap relay team included Brian Geschwindt, Mike O'Reilly, Don Wix and Bryan Gallman. Also Barb McAuliffe, Judy O'Connell, Barrie Benjamin and Melanie Wix set a new record in the girls' sprint medley relay. The two-mile relay team of Meg McAuliffe, Ave Gaffney, Jayne Dickson and Kris Brandl also set a new mark.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 1106 Vermont Lane, West Bradford, \$65,195; 106 Clearview Drive, East Brandywine, \$56,990; 440 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$90,305; 321 Mary Street, Downingtown, \$37,000; 443 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$47,900; 472 Spruce drive, West Whiteland, \$80,805; 8 Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$100,000; 770 North Reeds Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$93,500.

## Vintage ad of the week:

*Santa Suggests Gifts*  
from **BARMAY**  
Wallace and Penna. Ave., Downingtown

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**OPEN NITELY 'TIL 9 P.M.**  
**SATURDAYS 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

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**HOSIERY SPECIALS!**



Full Fashion, Dress Sheer  
3 pr. 1.50  
Full Fashion, Business Sheer  
3 pr. 99c  
Seamless, Mesh Sheer  
3 pr. 1.99  
Seamless, Mesh Sheer  
3 pr. 1.99  
All Sizes 8½-11  
All First Quality

All Colors



**MENS**  
Banlon  
**STRETCH SOCKS**  
Reg. 1.00  
79c  
Reg. 1.50  
1.19

Ladies

**SPORT BLOUSES**  
Cotton & Dacron  
Solids & Prints  
All Sizes & Colors  
**1.99 to 5.59**



*Sweaters*  
Newest Styles & Colors



Cardigans Pullovers



**MEN'S**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**CHILDREN**

This ad was published in the November 27, 1963 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

## It's at 441 E. Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown



Gregg Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the location of the building in the above photo as 441 E. Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. Many oldtimers will recall that it once was where Dr. Neff and Dr. McKenzie had their offices.

## What locals were talking about 90 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in the winter of 1925:

- The **Downingtown Library's** board of managers realized it faced a \$76.50 deficit, and that its book purchasing budget would be depleted in two months. So, the board decided it should solicit financial support from every household in the borough, instead of auxiliaries continuing to conduct "spasmodic" fundraising campaigns.

- After the **DHS boys' basketball team** suffered a 64-9 loss to Reading, followed by a 46-14 drubbing by Ephrata, the squad had more detractors than fans, especially after last year's team had won the county championship. "We admit, without any argument, that these boys cannot play basketball. They look bad against any team that comes here, but, by gravy, there is nothing yellow about this bunch of boys....The boys do their stuff in the face of hoots and jeers," bewailed *The Archive's* high school sports reporter. Meanwhile, the girls' team—coached by history teacher Marian Philips and led by Clara and Louise Huggins—had defeated Phoenixville and Unionville that same week. (*Editor's note: The high school's Athletic Association had*

*decided in 1923 to drop girls' basketball team as an interscholastic sport. However, pressure by parents and other adults in the community forced the Association to reconsider that decision).*

- East Ward residence were peeved about the **Post Office Department's** new rule that required East Enders, whose mail had been initially sent to the Downingtown Post Office on West Lancaster Avenue, to pay the full rate of postage again for the mail to be forwarded to the East Downingtown Post Office.
- The **Pennsylvania Railroad** moved its supervisor's office and staff from Paoli to the Downingtown station in the borough's West End. Also, a blacksmith and four other Pennsy employees, who worked in Downingtown's rail yard, had been moved from Paoli to the borough.
- A new **A & P store** was opened on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown.
- Members of the **Coon Club** met at Bob Backenstose's residence for its annual supper, which included roast pork, as well as roast coon.
- After 20 members of **Downingtown's Boy Scout Troop 1** and their parents had a dinner at St. James Episcopal Church in Downingtown, Scoutmaster Gilbert McIlvaine presented awards to Earl Fulton, Herbert Kennedy and Joe Sabellico for their commitment to scouting.

## **We'll be closed on Dec. 27, but we'll be open on Jan. 3**

Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 306-year-old headquarters, will be closed on Sunday afternoon, December 27. However, we will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, January 3, because that's the day we'll have our first Clip Joint session in 2016. Better yet, we'll have our first evening clipping and pasting session on Tuesday, January 12.

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

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# Happy New Year!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

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

Vol. 6, No. 53

December 31, 2015

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# Local news items published in May of 1948

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers 676 years ago:

- Eighty-three seniors **graduated from DHS**. Beverly Chandler and Duane Chesney were recognized as the seniors who had the highest scholastic standing in the class. The 66<sup>th</sup> annual commencement also included the DHS Alumni Association's presentation of a bronze plaque, listing these names of graduates who were killed in World War II: Joseph Bowman, Joseph Cozzone, Anthony DiChristofaro, Paul Entriiken, Alvin Gottier, Herbert Kennedy, Gerald Kline, Arthur Pickell, Robert Weimer and Richard Zook.

- Local talent featured in a musical put on at **Downingtown Methodist Church** included: pianists Virginia Bare, Mrs. William Kline, Arlene Hoskins and Mrs. Atlee Ney; an octette from DHS comprised of Eleanor Detterline, Shirley Habecker, Marguerite Ciarlone, Caroline Saylor, Mary Graden, Netha Beumer, Mena Cozzone and Margaret Sciarretta; trumpeter Pete Edgar; singers Edward Irwin and Clifford Morrow; and saxophonist Mrs. Elmer Schrumpf. And newly elected officers of the Live Wire Bible Class at the church were Mrs. Vernon Yarnall, president; Sara Brown, vice president; Mrs. Gilbert Algiers, secretary; and Mrs. Benjamin Summers, treasurer.

- Mrs. Frank Lenhardt was elected president of the **DHS Music Association**. Other officers were Mrs. James Stauffer, vice president; Mrs. Frank Helms, secretary; and Mrs. Elmer Schrumpf, treasurer. Mrs. Leo Hogg, Mrs. Henry Kriebel and Mrs. Paul Detterline were the directors.

- The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** decided to postpone the dates of the Miss Chester County Beauty Pageant, from June 23 to June 22, because two major events—the National Republican Convention and the Joe Louis vs. Jersey Joe Walcott heavyweight championship fight—were being televised on June 22.

- Third and fourth graders at the **Marshallton School** put on a musical program, which included these featured students: Anne Sheetz, Woodie Bossert, Eddie Martin, Barry Wickersham, Suzanne Robinson, Carole Anne Stouff, Gwen Curry, Shirley Mercer, Mary Brackbill, Kenneth Brooks, Richard Albertson, Lynn Klunder, Robert and Billy Shockley, Phoebe Nelson, Jane Sturgis, Mary-Jane Fennimore, Marjorie Lawn, Ruth Hunter, Patty Reeve, Joel Gee, Billy Bird and Donald Lambert.

- Members of the safety patrol at **Windsor School**, who were treated to a Phillies game at Shibe Park in Philadelphia, included Richard Patterson, Robert Chrisman, Barbara Powell, Alma Jane Thompson, Mildred Sorenson and Doris Gottier.

- Installed as officers of the Hi-Y Club at **Lionville School** were Cora Smedley, president; Carl Ruth, vice president; Ronald Otter, secretary; and Tommy Fisher, treasurer. Students who graduated from the eighth grade were Martha Matthews, Eleanor Matlack, Gwen Hamer, Janet Wallace, David Taylor and William Jackson.

- Members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** who modeled in the annual fashion show included: Mrs. John Miller, Mrs. Gerald Lyons, Mrs. Mylin Plank, Mrs. George Dowlin, Mrs. George Bousum, Mrs. Ruth King, Mrs. Alexis Staneski and Mrs. Penrose Davis.

- Elected to lead the Downingtown-Chester Valley **Girl Scout District** were Mrs. Donald White, president; Mrs. Helen Wooten, vice president; Mrs. Orville Brammer, secretary; and Mrs. Ruth King, treasurer.

- **Mount Airy School** students, who participated in a Chinese Shadow Show, included: Henry Hine, Betty Bird, Shirley Wenger, Billy Scott, Vivian Perkins, Theodore Graybill, and Jimmie and George Dinsdale.
- New officers of the **St. Anthony's Lodge Auxiliary** were Barbara Mento, president; Josephine Pizzi, vice president; Rose DiBerardinis, secretary; and Ann Viscichini, treasurer. Committee chairmen included: Alice Mascherino, entertainment; Mary Cortelessa, refreshments; Edith D'Attilio, hostesses; Emily DiEugenio, membership; Josephine Perella, hospitality; Florence Bartelmo, finance; and Mary LaFiata, publicity.

## What locals were talking about 90 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in *The Archive* in the spring of 1925:

- Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** almost unanimously voted to purchase part of the Thomas Pedrick property on the north side of West Lancaster Avenue, between Downing and Stuart Avenues, in Downingtown for \$3,500. A new fire station was expected to be built on the site. (Editor's Note: Building a fire station on the Pedrick site never reached fruition. Instead, the Alerts bought the Ringwalt estate on West Pennsylvania in 1940, and the fire house there was dedicated in 1941).
- George Taylor, secretary of Minquas Fire Co., who raised the last \$3,000 needed to pay for the \$8,000 **ambulance**, drove the new vehicle from the York Body Co., to the fire house in Downingtown. The Downingtown Motor Co. provided the chassis.
- **St. Joseph's Parish** purchased about 2 acres of property at Manor and Pennsylvania Avenues in the borough, from Joseph Hoopes. The parish planned to build a church and parochial school on the site. (Editor's Note: a church was not built on the land, but a parochial school was opened there in 1954).
- Downingtown's **Moose Lodge** team won the Chester County Basketball League by beating West Chester's Knights of Columbus squad. The Moosers closed their season with a benefit game to aid Sam Charles, who suffered a serious knee injury in the championship game.
- Students from **Downingtown School District** competed in singing contests between the schools' grades during Music Week.
- Jacob Ringwalt, a prominent borough resident, visited the **West Ward School** and promised to reward 25 cents to the students in each of four grades who killed the most flies during the month of April. Those who won a quarter from Ringwalt and the number of the flies they killed were: Albert Donofrio, 1,014; Matthew Collins, 1,014; Clarence Myers, 133 (perhaps a typo?); and Mike Mento, 1,246.

## First Clip Joint session in 2016 will be on Sunday, Jan. 3

We will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, January 3, because that's the day we'll have our first Clip Joint session in 2016 at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's 307-year-old headquarters in Ashbridge Square, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, on Route 30 in East Caln. Better yet, we'll have our first evening clipping and pasting session on Tuesday, January 12.

## Vintage ad of the week:

# EXTON DRIVE-IN

## GRAND OPENING

OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S NEWEST  
AND MOST MODERN DRIVE-IN THEATRE  
— OPENING TONITE —

★ 1000 CAR CAPACITY

★ CAFETERIA STYLE  
FOOD SERVICE

★ PLAYGROUND  
FOR THE KIDDIES

★ IN CAR HEATERS  
FOR WINTER TIME  
OPERATION!




★ MACADAMIZED  
FIELD - NO DUST!

★ 105 FT. WIDE SCREEN  
FOR THE FINEST IN  
CINEMASCOPE  
ENTERTAINMENT

★ WELL OFF THE HIGHWAY  
NO DISTURBING NOISES!

★ TWO CONVENIENT  
ENTRANCES ON ROUTE  
100 and 30

CHILDREN UNDER 12 ADMITTED FREE - AT ALL TIMES



Whoever You Are...  
Wherever You Are

★ ★

FOR YOU FOLKS on  
Our WEST SIDE...

Take U. S. Route 30 from Coatesville or Downingtown and go East to Route 100 - the Exton Crossroads.

★

From the SOUTH ... take Route 100 from West Chester going North to U. S. 30.

★

EXTON DRIVE-IN  
... Is Easy To Reach  
From Any Direction!

★ ★

FOR THE FOLKS on  
... Our EAST SIDE

From Ardmore, Wayne or Pott, Take U. S. Route 30, West to Route 100, the Exton Crossroads.

★

From WEST CHESTER or the SOUTH, take Route 100, North to U. S. 30 at the Exton Crossroads.

★

"OUR POLICY IS TO SHOW FILMS THAT ARE CLEAN AND WHOLESOME AND ENJOYABLE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY"

BOX OFFICE OPEN 7 P.M. - SHOW STARTS AT DUSK

SEE SALLY STARR IN PERSON ON FRIDAY NIGHT

**TIBURZIO AND GREENSPAN**  
GENERAL CONTRACTORS  
**PETER TIBURZIO**  
WILLOW GROVE 1342

**BEST WISHES**  
**RUSSEL GREENSPAN**  
TURNER 7-2511

**W. ARNOLD BLYTH**  
EXCAVATING AND ROADWORK  
DOYLESTOWN 5620  
**HARRISON THEATRE**  
WEST CHESTER 2-2625

This ad was originally published in the July 11, 1956 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

## Group photo of the week:



The DHS Class of 1965 recently had its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. One of the photos in the impressive reunion booklet, sent by Debbie Dunn Lutchkus, was this shot of the class officers: Paul Bien, president; Lois Quinn, vice president; Sally Campbell, secretary; and Gail Katherman, treasurer.

## Story behind this bridge site continues to be a mystery



Not one soul even tried to identify the site of the bridge abutments in the photo above, which was provided by Jim Sundman, local railroad and Civil War historian. The site is in West Whiteland, less than a mile west of the Whitford Station. Here's what Jim wrote: "There used to be a road connecting Burgoyne Road and Clover Mill Road and this bridge was part of the road over the tracks. However, on an old map this road was called "Whites Road." He also noted: "These bridge abutments have been driving me crazy for years. I pass by them every day, but since there were no other recognizable features nearby along the tracks, I didn't know exactly where they were or why they are there...until I did a little exploring... My thinking is the bridge was torn down and the entire connecting road was done away with when this part of the line was electrified in 1938. There was no way the bridge could have stayed along with the overhead catenary lines."

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

If you occasionally receive a pass-along copy of our Hist-O-Gram from a subscriber, you can receive a copy of our FREE Hist-O-Grams every week by accessing our website:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org), and typing your email address into the sign-up box on the home page. We won't share or sell any email addresses. And you can access previously published Hist-O-Grams at: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms.html).

## Free Ads for Non-Profits

### *Civilian Conservation Corps*

Bob Ford, historian horticulturist, war memorabilia collector and sportsman, will present a program on the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The meeting will be held at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. All meetings are free and open to the public.

### *Farmers Community Market of Downingtown*

The Community Market, at the Dane Décor Warehouse parking lot, 216 Washington Ave., Downingtown, will be open from 10 AM until noon on the first and third Saturdays, through March: Jan. 2 and 16, Feb. 6 and 20, March 5 and 19. For more info, call 724-454-3674; or contact [gaugerfarms@gmail.com](mailto:gaugerfarms@gmail.com); or via Community Market of Downingtown on Facebook.

### *Brochure on DARC classes & activities*

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com). For more info, call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road, Downingtown.

### *Banquet room for rent*

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

***Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) , or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).