



## 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. 27

July 2, 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).

## When Good Neighbor Day was revived in 1979

Good Neighbor Day was revived as Downingtown's Fourth of July celebration 36 years ago. The Run For Life road race allowed the some 400 entrants to run three, six or nine miles, according to the *East Branch Citizen*. The 3-mile race was won by Shawn Urbine, in 16:50 minutes. And Janis Frazer was the fastest female, 3-mile runner, with a 20:59 time.

The fastest 6-milers were Alfredo Gonzalez, 38:23, and Lex Ziobro, 39:56. And the winners of the 9-mile competition were Jerry Gluckman, 56:21, and Kathy Pomento Dodd, 63:19.

Also, Tony Przychodzien, who is the only runner to have competed in all 36 GND races, was the top fundraiser, with \$300 in pledges.

Good Neighbor Day also included a canoe race down the Brandywine, from Kerr Park to Georgia Farm in East Bradford. That race had been initiated several years earlier by the Downingtown Jaycees. Competing against 61 other canoes, Louise and Ed Ritti finished first in the 7.2-mile race, with a time of 1:11.12.

For a schedule of activities and other details on this year's GND, access:

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

### **Other news items published in early July 1979**

- Tabas Enterprises submitted plans for a 12-story addition to the **Tabas Hotel** on Route 30 in East Caln. If the plans were approved, the 168 additional rooms, would bring the hotel's capacity to a total of 359 rooms.

- The best crayon pictures were drawn by these budding artists at the **Lionville School** playground: Jenny Verstandig, Mike Nash, Cory Berg and Donna Sheinbach.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 111 Briarwood Drive, East Brandywine, \$70,900; 129 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, \$52,500; 415 Howell Road, Uwchlan, \$82,000; 1307 Dunsinane Circle, West Whiteland, \$60,000; 1302 Decator Court, West Bradford, \$52,760; and 3213 Raye Road, Caln, \$60,500.

- Larry Lark pitched a no-hitter as the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League** 14-15 all-stars beat Coatesville 2-0 in a playoff game.

- And pitcher Wally McCue went the distance, as Pepperidge Farm defeated St. Anthony's and won the **Downintown Little League** major league title. Members of the Pepperidge team included: Brian Ceulers, Wally and Kevin McCue, Pete Moran, Keith Farnum, Eric Wolfe, David Grant, John Angeny, Drew Gardiner, Steve Cox, Wayne Clark, Jimmy Zynn, John Hayes and Pat Rucker.

## **Interesting local news 68 years ago**

Noted below are news items published in local newspapers the latter part of December 1947.

- The **Community Christmas program**, held in Downingtown's Kerr Park, was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Downingtown Young Men's Association. The events included nearly 1,000 kids cheering when Santa Claus arrived by helicopter; and Christmas carols sung by about choristers from 20 local church choirs, under the direction of Stan Walters, director of the DYMA chorus. And the Chamber, the VFW, the Junior and Senior Woman's Clubs, the Rotary and Lions Clubs, plus several local churches made significant contributions so 40 baskets of food and toys could be distributed to needy families.

- Although Harold Martin's **Exton Lodge** suffered extensive damage when a Greyhound bus crashed into the main entrance a week earlier, repairs were done quickly and the restaurant still had a gala New Year's Eve party.

- Elected as officers of the **Wallace Township Mothers Club** were Mrs. Robert Mason, president; Mrs. William Hemplin, vice president; Mrs. Grier Miller, secretary; Mrs. Aaron Ward, treasurer; and Mrs. P.W. Bare, chaplain.

- Fifth and sixth grade students at **Marshallton School**, who had roles in a short Christmas play, included John Ramsay, Elmer Fred Lambert, Dolores Wilson, Wally McCue, Patsy Miller, Larry Williams, Caroline Ferri, Elsie Lambert, Dale Ellingsworth, Richard Busby, Malcom Preston and Harold Trimble.

- Elected as officers of the WSCS group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church** were Elva Bare, president; Lillian Matlack, vice president; Romaine Garrett, secretary; and Pearl Miller, treasurer. And participants in a one-act play at the church were Virginia and Thomas Bare, Joaquin Matlack, Merle and Shirley Hannum and Henry Beam.

- Members of the **Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge** elected the following officers: Edward Towson, worshipful master; John McCausland, senior warden; Charles Ezra, junior warden; Leland Wilson, treasurer; Arthur Walton, secretary; and trustees Arthur Glauner, John Fisher and Edgar Griffith.

- Following a Mother and Daughter Supper at **Marshallton Methodist Church**, these members of Girl Scout Troop 10 presented a play: Edith Albertson, Doris Cann, Mary Jane Place and June Ellingsworth.

- Members of the **DHS Dramatic Club**, who acted in a play during the high school's Christmas program, included John Windle, Netha Beumer, Robert Burns, Florence DeLuca, William Chalfant, Charles Fowler, Albert Palmateer, Marie Cozzone and Virginia Bare.

- By-laws of the recently formed **Junior Woman's Club of Uwchlan** were developed by Mrs. Carl Pfeil, Mrs. Otto Speis and Eleanor Ruth. Department chairmen included Elizabeth Happersett, home and citizenship; Mrs. Ted Hand, publicity; Mrs. Spencer Windle, ways and means; Doris Rosenbaum, drama; and Mrs. Wayne Bickel, literature.

- Six **Downingtown industries** pledged a total of \$57,332 to the Chester County Hospital Building Fund. Donations by the firms included: Downingtown Paper Co., \$20,000; Downingtown Manufacturing Co., \$15,000; Bicking Paper Co., \$10,000; Downingtown Iron Works, \$7,000; Davey Paper Co., \$4,000; and Shyrock Paper Co., \$1,332.

- Those who were cited for regular attendance at the Sunday School at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were: Harold Trego, 12 years; Franklin Glauner, 10 years; Robert Miller, 7 years; Joe Miller and Dorothy Underwood, 6 years; David Taylor, 3 years; Mary Drennan, Louise Shreiner, and Carl Ruth, 2 years; and Richard Ruth, one year.

- Officers elected by members of the **Glen Moore Fire Co.** were Leroy McConnell, president; Frank Miller, vice president; John Furlong, secretary; Harold Hannum, assistant secretary; Ernest Phillips; and Lloyd Johnson, trustee; Russell Harrington, fire chief; and John Reber and Frank Miller, assistant chiefs.

- Students from the **Lionville School** who had roles in a Christmas play included Alice Smedley, Margaret Detweiler, Sammy Matthews, Denny Ellmore, Bobby Peoples, Mary Drennan, Peggy and Dorothy LaRose, Lorraine and Louise Shreiner, Karen Rickard, Daniel Daylor, Elaine Smith, and Norman and Marvin Jenkins

- Although the **DHS basketball team** had a 19-16 lead at halftime, the Whippets lost to West Chester's St. Agnes High School by a 41-37 score. Bill Hayes and Joe Sciarretta scored eight points for Downingtown.

- Members of **St. Paul's Reformed (UCC) Church**, Lionville, who participated in a nativity scene at a Christmas service, were: Mr. and Mrs. William Whitely, Bayard and Audrey Samworth, Mildred and Horace Wilson, Harry Dewees, Chester Mull and Elmer Matthews.

## What local people were talking about in the autumn of 1920

Noted below are news items which have been retrieved from editions of the *Downingtown Archive*, published in the autumn months, 95 years ago.

- Tragedy was avoided in November 1920, when **Raymond Greenleaf**, a Downingtown pharmacist, spotted an early morning fire on McGraw's Alley in the Johnstontown section of the borough. When Greenleaf arrived at the scene, he discovered that the fire apparently had started at Adolph Rometsch's barn, and then quickly spread to the house rented by the Warnick family and a nearby barn owned by Harry Knauer. Greenleaf probably saved the lives of several members of the Warnick family when he roused them from their sleep by pounding on their front door. Then Greenleaf tried to telephone the Alert Fire Co., but that effort was inexplicably unsuccessful. So, Greenleaf dashed to the Alert firehouse on Downing Avenue and sounded the alarm himself. Then the responding Alert firefighters could not get the fire engine started. They finally got it running after they pushed it out onto the slightly hilly Downing Avenue so the engine could be turned over by gravity. Despite the significant fire damage—only the first floor of the Warnick home survived—no one was hurt. But the Alerts acknowledged that the property damage probably would have been much more extensive if Greenleaf had not come to the rescue. The Alerts also realized that the fire company should have an electric fire alarm system.

- Warren Harding, the Republican from Ohio, solidly won the hearts and votes of Downingtown residents, by a 636-383 margin, in the **U.S. presidential election**. However, Democrat James Cox won the majority of the votes (67-48) in West Ward's South precinct, the Johnstontown section of the borough.

- An investigation about why 14 borough residents had **typhoid fever** determined that much of the victims' milk, was supplied by a nearby, unnamed dairy farm. And many of the deliveries were made by the same milkman, including two members of his family.

- **Downingtown's fire companies** received plaudits for fighting a recent fire at the Shyrock Paper Co. at Dorlan's Mill in Uwchlan. However, Downingtown's Council said it was opposed to the fire companies responding to blazes that far outside borough.

- Although diners only had to pay \$1 for a dinner there, the dining room at the **Pennsylvania House**, a hotel on West Lancaster Avenue, next to the Downingtown railroad station, was closed due to low patronage.

- In a medical inspection at **East Ward School** in Downingtown, Dr. Edgar Hutchison found that 123 of the 194 students had decaying teeth.

- A Lancaster firm won the State Highway Department contract to **pave a section of Lancaster Avenue**, which was more than a mile long in the borough, for the first time. The contract called for the concrete construction to be 18 feet wide in the east end and 26 feet wide in the west end, to accommodate the trolley tracks. Construction was expected to begin the spring of 1921.

- The high school's Athletic Committee hired two new **football coaches** from Coatesville. John Johnson, the head coach, had played for Swarthmore, and assistant coach Joseph Atkinson, who had played for Penn State, was responsible for the linemen.



**It's at 1587 Broad Run Road in West Bradford Twp.**



Although it's located near the United Sports Training Center in West Bradford, not one soul recognized the building in the photo above which is located at 1587 Broad Run Road in West Bradford. Known as the John Valentine log house, it was built in 1788.

## **Clip Joint session postponed until July 12**

The clip joint sessions are usually conducted at our Ashbridge House headquarters on the first Sunday of each month. However, since the first Sunday in July will occur on the Fourth of July weekend, volunteers will be clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection from 1-4 PM on Sunday, July 12.

## **Your past may be seen at our booth on Good Neighbor Day**

Remember when your teachers claimed that all your transgressions would go on your **permanent record**? Well, the Historical Society will enable you to see at least part of your **permanent record** at our booth on Good Neighbor Day on Saturday, July Fourth in Downingtown's Kerr Park.

We're talking about an opportunity for you to look up your name on our Family File index, which will be available on a computer at the booth. The index will include a computerized listing of some 30,000 newspaper articles we've clipped and organized. For example, the listing may note that we have an article about your parents' wedding, a cousin's obituary, or even when your Uncle John had an accident.

Although you won't be able to see the actual articles on a computer at the park on GND, you can get a copy of any article in our index that you're interested in for just 25 cents by coming, on a Sunday afternoon, to Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant.

We also will have some neat items on sale at our booth on GND. They include: beautiful quilts—suitable for tabletops or wall hanging—made by Debbie Petty; Christmas tree ornaments, depicting Downingtown historic sites; books on Downingtown's history; and the Downingtown Lions Club's recipe books.

*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.*

## **Your friends and family can be Hist-O-Gram subscribers**

Tired of forwarding copies of each week's Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our FREE Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website:

[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org), and type their 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).

## **Free ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Good Neighbor Day Celebration***

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Downingtown Good Neighbor Day will be held Saturday, July 4. The day-long events start with the Run for Life (5K, 10K & 15K) and Freedom Walk at 8 AM, followed by the Canoe and Big Wheel races at 11 AM. Approximately 2,800 athletes participate each year. Good Neighbor Day activities benefit the ambulance and rescue squads within the Downingtown Area School District. Throughout the day, you can enjoy fabulous food, visit 80-100 craft exhibitors, see the Civil War cannon, tour the Log House, or simply enjoy one of the many activities and musical bands. The day is capped off with a Fireworks Grand Finale, which starts at dusk. For more info on the schedule of events, check: [www.goodneighborday.com](http://www.goodneighborday.com).

### ***Bats for Matt***

The seventh annual Bats for Matt co-ed softball tournament will be held on Friday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19. Registration closes July 13. For more details, access: [www.batsformatt.com/](http://www.batsformatt.com/).

### ***Chicken BBQ Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, July 25. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

### ***Links for the Library***

A golf outing, sponsored by Roberts Subaru in Downingtown, will benefit the Downingtown Library. The outing will take place on Monday, July 27 at Applecross Country Club in East Brandywine. Package includes lunch, golf, on-course refreshments, reception, & barbeque dinner. Prizes will be awarded to top teams, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Roberts Subaru will also host a hole-in-one contest in which the winner will win a new Subaru. To purchase tickets via PayPal, click the link below. Payment can also be made by check and mailed to: Francine Dague 122 Wallace Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335. For more info, see: [www.downingtownlibrary.org/](http://www.downingtownlibrary.org/).

### ***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 very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.





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## Stories about “colored” students at DHS and other articles in *Downingtown Archive* in December 1920

- The following verbatim news item, related to a second “colored” teacher being hired by the **Downingtown School Board**, was published in the *Downingtown Archive* on December 9, 1920:

*“This will make the second colored instructor in our corps of teachers since the colored people were provided with a special room a few years ago. The colored people are making unusual progress both in conduct and their studies. They are more healthy, better dressed, and more obedient and polite than some of the other rooms in our system. Many of them are fighting their way into High School and into teaching positions. There were more colored students graduated from the High School in the last five years, than were graduated from 1882 (when DHS was established) down to 1915, and the way conditions are running now, the number of colored graduates is destined to increase to larger numbers from year to year.”*

- The Minquas Fire Company’s gym was the scene of a college basketball game between **Penn State and Dartmouth**, which the Nittany Lions won by a 48-34 score. Charlie Way of Downingtown, who had been named the left halfback on Walter Camp’s 1920 All-American football team, and Glenn Killinger, who later became a legendary football coach at West Chester State College, were two star football players who also played on Penn State’s basketball squad. It was an important game for Dartmouth because the Big Green wanted to avenge its football team’s 14-7 loss to Penn State two months earlier, when Killinger’s 52-yard return of an intercepted Dartmouth pass, sewed up the victory. That contest, billed at the time as “the greatest football game in the eastern part of the country,” was played before 12,000 fans in the new Beaver Field, whose wooden bleachers could only accommodate 5,000 spectators.

- The possibility of building a bigger fire house, to replace the original one on Downing Avenue in the borough, was a topic of discussion after a meeting of the **Alert Fire Co.** Some of the possibilities considered were: a three-story building, whose third floor could be used as lodge rooms, to bring in needed revenue; a building that could include a cigar store, which would be a “place to loaf in;” one floor of the building could include a community auditorium for recitals, musicals, lectures and meetings; and making the new edifice a municipal building, where the cellar or horse stalls could be used as a jail, and there would be offices for the burgess and police chief. However those ideas were just fantasies, because the company still owed \$1,000 on the Seagrave pumper bought two years earlier. And there wouldn’t be a new fire house until 1941.

- The store, which had been operated for 40 years by **Howard Simmons** at the corner of Bradford Avenue and Church Street in the Johnsontown section of the borough, was sold to **Joseph Petrella**.

- Members of the Downingtown **American Legion Post** organized a Community Christmas program that included a Christmas tree, installed just east of the Swan Hotel and decorated with electric lights illuminated by the Electric Light Co. Choral concerts were held in the evenings.

- DHS students Helen Pollock, Catherine McCool, Charles Hertel, William Perry and Isadore Bloom earned **typewriting diplomas** for accurately typing at least 50 words per minute.

## 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 July 1979.

- **Chemical Leaman Tank Lines**, the world's largest tank truck hauler, revealed that it was planning to move its headquarters from East Lancaster Avenue in the borough to a five-story building in the Pickering Creek Industrial Park in Exton. The trucking firm, which had been a major employer in Downingtown since 1925, continued to operate a terminal on Wallace Avenue in the borough. In its early years, the company also had franchises to sell Pierce-Arrow, Hudson-Exsex and Chrysler-Plymouth cars, and Westinghouse appliances.

- Downingtown was considering the possibility that the **Exton-Lionville YMCA** would take over the programs offered by the **Downingtown-Lionville Recreation Commission**. Borough officials wanted to get out of the recreation business and not compete with the YMCA. However, Uwchlan officials appeared to be reluctant for the township to bow out of recreation programming.

- Plus Discount Foods, was a new supermarket in Downingtown, on the former site of the **A & P**, which had been located on the Roberts property, across from Kerr Park on Pennsylvania Avenue. The A & P had been moved one block away, to the Downing Center.

- **Ed Spang**, a teacher, coach and administrator in the Avon-Grove School District for 14 years, was hired as a vice principal and athletic director at DHS.

- The winning team in the kickball competition at **Wagenseller Park** in Glenmoore were: Mike Painter, Fred Davison, Scott Kirkpatrick, Becca Spinks, Amy Harpel and Rosie Forrest.

- David Swindin of East Caln was elected president of the **Downingtown Lions Club**. He succeeded Horace Schanely. Other new officers were Fred Longenecker, first vice president; Jim Zaferes, second vice president; Jim Ney, third vice president; Hank Pollock, secretary; and Bill Reed, treasurer.

- The J.B. Zynn Builders team won the **Downingtown Little League** minor league crown by beating the Downingtown Bike Shop team in a three-game playoff. Down 8-6 after three innings in the third game, the Builders responded with a 23-hit attack to win 17-9. Offensive leaders for the Builders were: Owen Brown, two singles and a triple; Benny Beck, two singles and a double; and Chris Silvestri and John Gray, who each hit three singles.

- The **Downingtown 13-15 year-old girls softball all-stars** defeated Methacton in the first round of tournament play. Winning pitcher Nici DiAntonio was relieved by Julie Ippolito. Leaders on offense were DiAntonio and Colleen Lyons, who each had three hits, and Sheila Lyons, Krista Lang and Sharon Draper, who had two hits apiece.

- And the **Downingtown Little League 11 and 12-year-old girls' softball all-stars** beat Chester Valley 10-7, as Lauren Nixdorf struck out five batters. With a 6-6 tie after six innings, Tracy Davis led off a four-run extra inning surge with an inside-the-park homer.

- The **LYA all-stars** won their opener by beating Bridgeport 2-1. Kevin Beaupit, the winning hurler, struck out seven batters, and slammed a bases-loaded single to bring in John O'Malley and John Talierco. In the third round, Beaupit tossed a no-hitter, as Lionville beat Exeter 5-0.

- The **Pennypacker Country Club** team won its first three meets in Brandywine Swim League competition. In a 275-199 win over Chester Valley, team records were set by Ron Ungvary, Chuck Messa, Rob Zwack and Steve Petrie.
- Harry Perdue, who recalled that he was just a boy when the **Marshallton Grange** was established in 1908, said the Grange in West Bradford had grown to about 100 members. However, Perdue acknowledged that he believed that all the local Granges would eventually fold.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 190 Beech St., Uwchlan, \$83,250; 441 Garfield Ave., Downingtown, \$37,000; 1319 Kerwood Ln., West Bradford, \$62,759; 1 Hillcrest Dr., Caln, \$59,000; 4 Carriage Ln., Upper Uwchlan, \$70,697; 2 Sussex Pl., East Brandywine, \$74,280; and 313 Anglesey Terr., West Whiteland, \$45,400.
- New members of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, were: Dan and Jean Beam, Bill and Jan Dilworth, Fred and Susan Glazier, Walter and Gertrude Horrocks, Judith Mulhern, Wallace and Elise Strevell, Sally Stewart, and Diane Vale.
- Members of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were surprised when no historical documents were found when the church's 1852 cornerstone was opened. The cornerstone opening was part of a series of events, which ultimately led to the dedication of a new church.
- The **Downingtown Babe Ruth League** all-star team included: Dave Zynn, Dan Dougherty, Scott Fennely, Tom Dooley, Ron Savastio, Penn Frey, Mike Lynch, Larry Lark, Jim Knapp, Brian Pomento, Eric Presson, Mark Ciarlone, Greg Barrow, Joe Schmidt, Bill Snyder and Don Forbes. Bob Stevens was the coach, and Ken Dunn and Frank Piper were the assistant coaches.

## News items published in *The Archive* 61 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from the *Downingtown Archive* in July 1954.

- Bill Osborne, catcher for Downingtown's **American Legion** team, was named to the Chester-Delaware Counties all-star baseball squad.
- Frank Hughes and Mark Bareford won the doubles competition in the Downingtown Young Men's Association **tennis tournament**.
- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were James Fennelly, president; Charles Raysor, first vice president; Wallace Houston, second vice president; Mylin Plank, third vice president; Horace Schanely, secretary; and Vinton Smedley, treasurer.
- Officers elected to lead the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** included Mrs. Leon Williams, president; Mrs. Francis Brown, vice president; Mrs. Francis Merkt, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Greenleaf, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. William Keen, treasurer.
- Members of the **Downingtown Teener Baseball League** all-star team were Richard Keers, Robert Sutter, Robert Thomas, Gerald Williams, Teddy Thompson, Eddie Aumiller, Nip Westmoreland, John Bousum, William Davis, Larry Dampman, Francis Valentino, Pete Sarmento, Robert Hamilton, Robert McClure, James DiSante and Richard Draper.
- Dorothy Kipp of Downingtown was the second runner-up in the **Miss Chester County** competition

## It's the St. John Vianney Center in East Caln



No one identified the building in the photo above. It's the Saint John Vianney Center, at 151 Woodbine Road in East Caln. Founded in 1946, the Center is the longest running behavioral health treatment facility in North America for Catholic priests and nuns. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia purchased the former home, which was part of the 175-acre J. Gibson McIlvain Estate. The estate also included the Lowebrook dairy farm, managed by Frank Smedley, and in later years, it was the site of the Tabas family's Downingtown Motor Inn complex, most of which is the Downingtown Country Club today.

## Clip Joint will be open this Sunday

Since you probably all are rested after last weekend's Fourth of July celebrations, all of you volunteers are encouraged to come to Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, April 12 for the next Clip Joint session. In addition to interesting gossip, you can clip and paste newspaper articles for our archival collection.

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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

### *Uwchlan's Community Day*

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Uwchlan Township Community Day will begin at 4 PM Saturday, July 11 in Lionville Park with musical entertainment. There also will be crafters and food vendors, as well as information about local non-profits in the community tent. The festivities end with fireworks at dusk. For more details, see: [www.uwchlancommunityday.com](http://www.uwchlancommunityday.com).

### *Bats for Matt*

The seventh annual Bats for Matt co-ed softball tournament will be held on Friday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19. Registration closes July 13. For more details, access: [www.batsformatt.com/](http://www.batsformatt.com/).

### *Unstoppable Mom*

Mary Lou King, Cochranville farmer, Farm Bureau member, TV contest winner on the Kelly and Michael Show, as well as an "unstoppable Mom," will offer a touching story as the featured speaker at the West Caln Historical Commission's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 21. The public is welcome.

### *Chicken BBQ Dinner*

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, July 25. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

### *Summer Jam*

The second of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, July 31 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food, crafts and music. For more info, see: [www.downingtowntownmainstreet.com/calendar](http://www.downingtowntownmainstreet.com/calendar).

### *Links for the Library*

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***Banquet room for rent***

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

Vol. 6, No. 29

July 16, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## News in *Downingtown Archive* in winter of 1921 included a plan for 8 townships to help pay for a new East Ward School

Noted below are news items originally published in the Downingtown Archive in the winter months of 1921.

- Although the **Downingtown School District** would not be consolidated for more than four decades, borough school officials started studying that possibility in the early 1920s. That's when the school district's administrators began considering the creation of a consolidated school in the borough, when making plans to build the new East Ward School. That meant students who attended the new school would include pupils who lived in East Caln, Caln, East Brandywine, West Bradford, Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan and West Whiteland Townships, as well as in the borough. The preliminary plan had already been presented to the State Board of Education and "experts" from the University of Pennsylvania. The consolidated school would replace the "unsafe, unhygienic" school currently located in the East Ward of the borough. The old building had been "rated unworthy and inadequate for church services for more than a score of years," when it was used as a church, before it was later turned into a school. However, since borough taxpayers were going to vote in a March referendum, on a proposed \$50,000 bond issue to help pave Lancaster Avenue, the School Board insisted it would not ask Downingtown residents to vote, in the near future, on a bond issue to pay for the new school.

- Members of Downingtown's **Minquas Fire Co.** agreed to buy 24 rubber coats and boots, and petitioned Borough Council to purchase 500 feet of hose.

- Officers elected to lead the **DHS Alumni Association** included Howard Baldwin, president; Mrs. Arthur Hess, vice president; Mrs. Wesley Worrall, secretary; Bertha Roberts, assistant secretary; Gordon Carpenter, treasurer; and Lowell Fisher, auditor. Named to the "efficiency committee" were Mary Allen, John Patton, Kathryn Hess, Charles Crossley, Mary Carpenter, Hathaway Frain, Mrs. Robert Ash and Sadie Reynolds.

- The **Lionville High School's** annual banquet began with music played on a Victrola phonograph, followed by a dinner served by the Lionville Fire Company's Ladies Auxiliary. The evening ended with toasts given by teachers and members of various classes.

- In an article headlined **Italian Elopement**, *The Archive* reported that the Johnson section of the borough was abuzz about the attempted elopement of Josephine D\_\_\_\_\_, "a comely maiden of 17," and Pietro M\_\_\_\_\_, "said to be three or four times as old." Their "sudden flight was discovered, and steps were immediately taken to detain them, for the young lady had not obtained permission to perpetuate any such romantics." Tommy Gray, Downingtown police chief, "took up the chase and the fleeing lovers were apprehended in Lancaster, where they suffered the indignity of incarceration until they could be properly and lawfully brought home."

- **Chief Gray** also made news in February 1921, when he resigned from the borough police force, after serving for 26 years. The resignation had nothing to do with the elopement noted above. And Gray claimed he was not resigning because Borough Council had just reduced all borough employees' pay in order to minimize a major tax increase. However, he was chagrined because he was on call 24 hours a day, with inadequate assistance and a small salary. Regarding enforcement of law and order since the onset of Prohibition in 1920, compared to the way it was in 1895 when he joined the force, Gray reminisced, "Times are not what they were." Those were the days, he recalled, when both of the hotels in the borough were selling booze.



## What local residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of June 1963.

- The entire length of the **Route 30 Bypass**, including the just-completed eastern section between Uwchlan Avenue and to the intersection with Route 30, was opened on June 22. The western section of the bypass had been open since May.
- The **planned addition to DHS** had to be enlarged to accommodate 1,350 students, which was the updated projected enrollment for the 1969-70 school year. The addition would also meet the housing needs for Junior High students until 1972-73. The high school's capacity in 1963 was 737 students.
- **Downingtown Water Department** superintendent Warren Showalter and Morris Holman, assistant borough manager for engineering, discovered that an unauthorized by-pass connection at the Brandywine Paper Co. had resulted in the loss of as much as 500,000 gallons of water, worth more than \$20,000.
- Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. applied to the **Upper Uwchlan** supervisors for a building permit to construct a butane delivery terminal in the township. Among the township residents who opposed the terminal was Mrs. Silas Irely, who claimed the terminal would be dangerously close to her home in the Milford Mills area, as well as the homes of Mrs. Hoopes Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. Paul McCardle, and the Prospect School. Texas Eastern already had a booster pumping station on the site where the terminal was to be installed.
- Helen Bittmann received a trophy at **Beaver Creek School** for having the highest average among sixth graders. John Stoviak had the second highest average.
- Members of **Brownie Troop 131** entertained their mothers at a covered dish supper at Central Presbyterian Church, followed by a fly-up ceremony. Brownies who flew up to Girl Scout Troop 180 included Sally Caldwell, Debbie Grey, Faye Hensen, Marcia Hammons, Debbie Moeller and Judy Reutter. Girl Scouts who participated in the ceremony were Debbie Beam, Glenda Buckwalter, Jean Shafran and Linda Walker.
- Members of **Brownie Troop 166** of Glenmoore spent a weekend at Camp Indian Run. The campers included Laverne Evans, Becky and Susan Wilson, Mary Lou Givler, Eugenia and Vickie Gabriel, Joann Mason, Selma Ortilip, Alisa Waldmann, Darlene and Linda Reber, Becky and Susan Evans, Ann Roeder, and Karolyn Kelly.
- Some 180 children had attended **Hopewell Methodist Church's** Vacation Bible School. The staff included: Mrs. Newton Thompson, superintendent; Bonnie Ker, secretary; Patty Whitely pianist; and Barry Piersol, playground supervisor. Teachers were Mrs. Marvin Furlong, Mrs. Roy Nellius, Phyllis Harrison, Mrs. Harry Bryant, Mrs. Orlin Ashinhurst, Bonnie Schmitt, Mrs. Ralph Whitely, Barbara Thompson, Jill Kring, Marcia Krapf, Mrs. Ira Cumens, and Mrs. George Krapf.
- Downingtown Mayor Creston Shoemaker discovered a fire at the **Morris Grocery Store** at 105 E. Lancaster Ave. Firefighters confined the blaze to a small storeroom. The store was owned by Max Morris, and it was operated by three brothers—John, Samuel and Hyman Spector.
- Members of the eighth grade basketball team at **St. Joseph's Catholic School** who received trophies were Thomas Nurthen, Jeffrey Kaminsky, Michael DiBerardinis, David and Andrew Caporale, Steven Nastase, Stephen Beam, Richard Hynes, Francis Esposito, Michael

Terramin, Anthony Mascherino and Carl Ziegler. David Massimini was named the most improved player.

- **West Pikeland School** students who participated in a musical program included Lois and Bobby Hayes, Mark Schreier, Katherine Fedyszyn, Charlotte Twaddell, Wesley Miller, Bill Vattilana and Diane Fink.

- Besides fireworks, a ferris wheel, a tug-a-war and fire engine rides, featured entertainment at the **West Bradford Fire Company's** 10<sup>th</sup> annual Carnival, held on the grounds of Marshallton School, included: Warren Mercer and his Royal Ramblers, Chris Sanderson, The Tommy Shorts Band, Lukens Steel Band and the Jack Williams Band.

- A restored 100-year-old, 3,000-pound pipe organ was rededicated at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown. And William Fenimore III, director of music at the Church Farm School in Exton and choirmaster and organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Exton, who did the restoration, gave a recital on the organ. Until Mrs. Madalene Mead formed an organ committee to raise money to pay for the restoration, the old organ had been deemed unplayable at St. James for 30 years.

## Brief, but important

- You'll find an interesting article about award winning author Jen Bryant, who lives in Glenmoore, at:

[www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20150712\\_Q\\_A\\_Jen\\_Bryant\\_of\\_Glenmoore\\_award-winning\\_children\\_s\\_writer.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20150712_Q_A_Jen_Bryant_of_Glenmoore_award-winning_children_s_writer.html).

- Mike Dunn tells us that **Major Curtis Dougherty**, a DHS grad (Class of 1998) has been a member of the Air Force's Thunderbird aerial demonstration squadron for three years. A 2002 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Dougherty, was on the Academy's soccer and parachute teams. He also jumped with the Black Knight's parachute team while he was an exchange student at West Point. And he has more than 800 hours experience of combat experience flying an F-15E jet.

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## **Gail McCahon has been running the Big Wheel races for 36 years**



Gregg Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the woman in last week's What and Who Is This? photo as Gail McCahon, who has been running the Big Wheel races on Pennsylvania Avenue on Downingtown's Good Neighbor Day since their inception in 1980. And Gregg recalls that when he was on the GND committee years ago, there was a discussion about charging an entry fee for Big Wheel racers. That's when Gail started having her family's veterinary practice, Colebrook Manor Animal Hospital, underwrite the costs related to the popular races.

# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

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## ***Bats for Matt***

The seventh annual Bats for Matt co-ed softball tournament will be held on Friday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19. Registration closes July 13. For more details, access: [www.batsformatt.com/](http://www.batsformatt.com/).

## ***Unstoppable Mom***

Mary Lou King, Cochranville farmer, Farm Bureau member, TV contest winner on the Kelly and Michael Show, as well as an "unstoppable Mom," will offer a touching story as the featured speaker at the West Caln Historical Commission's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 21. The public is welcome.

## ***Chicken BBQ Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, July 25. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

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## ***Art & Craft Show***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission will hold its annual Log House Art & Craft Show on Saturday, September 19, from noon – 4 PM at Kerr Park. Spaces are \$25. Vendor applications and information can be found on the website: [www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html](http://www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html)

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Vol. 6, No. 30

July 23, 2015

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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 early part of August 1979.

- It appeared that the projected September 10 completion date of the eight-room addition to DHS and the commitment to finish the new high school gymnasium by October 10 were not going to be met. The causes for the delays, according to Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, and representatives of T. A. Armbruster, the general contractor, were: unusually rainy weather, the inability of construction workers to drive to the job site due to the gas crisis, strikes delaying delivery of glazed brick from Texas, and the general contractor's submission of inadequate drawings to the steel fabricator. The construction contract included a \$500 penalty for every delayed day. But Micken didn't foresee any particular problems in housing students in the meantime. There would be continued use of areas, such as conference rooms, for classes until the addition was finished. And PE classes would be conducted outside during most of the fall, weather permitting, as usual.

- East Caln supervisors approved plans for the new **Downingtown United Methodist Church** on East Lancaster Avenue.

- The coalition opposing the showing of x-rated movies at the Marchwood Theatre was considering picketing the theatre in the **Marchwood Shopping Center**. Also, the coalition's lawyer filed a petition to intervene (join) in a suit that was filed by Bernard Hankin, owner of the shopping center, against Cinema Arts Inc., the theatre operator. Hankin claimed that the lease was re-assigned by the original tenant to Cinema Arts without his permission.

- Scottie Nengel tossed a three-hitter in a 4-1 victory over Railway Park of Pottsville, Kevin Beaupit hit a two-run double, allowed just three hits, and had nine strikeouts, as the **Lionville Little League** team became one of the four teams to earn a shot at the state title in Latrobe, by beating East Norriton 8-2 in an inter-district play. Two days earlier, Scottie Nengle led his team when he tossed a three-hitter in a 4-1 victory over Railway Park of Pottsville. .

- **Margaretta Helm** was celebrating her 66<sup>th</sup> year as organist for St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She started at age 11. Helm began her long career as a private piano and organ teacher, right after she earned a degree in music at the University of Pennsylvania in 1923.

- Winners in the decoupage competition at the **Lionville playground** were Karin DiDonato, Amy and Jon Lefko, Colleen Fisher, Angela Lewis, Kathy Wethman, Rick Poole, Joel Miller, Michelle McNally, Lisa Lewis and Chris Reilly.

- Officers of the **Wheel and Dealer Square Dance Club** were Roger and Dot Wight, president; George and Dot Roepe, vice president; Len and Maryann Keen, vice president; Nevin and Erma Bloss, treasurer; Burt and Jan Bates, secretary; and Ethel Moyer, reporter. The club, which danced at Uwchlan Hills School, was sponsored by the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Commission.

- **Pennypacker Country Club** won its 11<sup>th</sup> Brandywine Swim League championship. Pennypacker's Becky Messa and Ron Ungvary, who each earned five gold medals, were named the most valuable swimmers.

- **West Pikeland Township's** building was jammed when the supervisors considered buying six acres on its eastern border for \$27,000. The land was contiguous with the 68 acre-tract the township bought for about \$150,000 in 1976, through the Pickering and French Creek Conservation Trust Inc.

- John Foster and Paula West won the singles championships at **Pennypacker's Junior Tennis Tournament**.
- Brandywine Savings and Loan won the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth Minor League** title for the second straight year by beating Pepperidge Farm 4-1. In addition to pitching the entire game, Dan Dougherty also was the S&L squad's top hitter for the season with a .514 average.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 34 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$96,085; 214 Brecknock Terrace, West Whiteland, \$43,000; 540 Norwood Road, Uwchlan, \$77,000; 1322 Kerwood Lane, West Bradford, \$54,180; 350 Mary Street, Downingtown, \$35,000; 4 South Woodmont Drive, East Caln, \$93,000.
- The team of Fred Davison, John Miller, Monica Bailey, Becca Spinks, Steve and Mike Painter, and Margaret Orth won the capture the flag contest at **Wagenseller Park playground** in Wallace Township.
- **Bob Wagner's Mill Carpet** store was moved to 4531 W. Lancaster Ave. in Caln, just west of the Downingtown borough border.
- Members of the Downingtown team, which finished second in the **Chester County Team Tennis** competition, included Marc and Lisa Warnick, Ken Burkey, Cindy Dunleavy, Jane Gerlach, Andy and Chris Lefko, and Sean Anderson. They were coached by Millie Dunleavy.

## News items originally published 67 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from local newspaper published in January 1948.

- Housing for World War II vets and their families was discussed at a meeting of the Charles F. Moran **American Legion Post**. Vets seeking housing were asked to complete an application, so the Legion had better perspective on that issue. And Leon Gable reported that he had contacted representatives of the American Stores, Inc. about the possibility of leasing space on the first floor of the proposed Post home, to be built on the recently purchased property on Pennsylvania Avenue, near Wallace Avenue, in the borough. Also discussed were a membership drive, chaired by Walter Crandall; new uniforms for the firing squad attending veterans' funerals; and plans for the fair, co-sponsored by the **Downingtown VFW Post 845**, to be held in July. The VFW was making final plans to move into its new Post home on West Lancaster Avenue in early February.
- The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** had its first annual banquet at the Alert Fire Hall. Dr. Charles Swope, president of West Chester State Teachers College was the featured speaker and Creston Shoemaker was the master of ceremonies. The Chamber's activities in 1947 included sponsorship of the Miss Chester County Beauty Pageant, additional parking in the borough's business district, sending a borough Boy Scout to a jamboree in France, and the borough's Christmas program.
- Officers re-elected to the board of the **Brandywine Building and Loan** were: Arthur Glauner, president; S. F. MacDonald, vice president; Wilmer C. Johnson, secretary; Richard Warren, treasurer; and Theodore Griffith, solicitor.
- Members of **Central Presbyterian Church** who were recognized for perfect Sunday School attendance were: Mr. and Mrs. Norman Pannebaker and their children, Norman Jr. and Helen; Harry Flinn, George Lowe, Mrs. Anna Lowe, Helen Eachus, Virginia Nixdorf and Mrs. Earl Hadfield.



- Re-elected as directors of the **Downingtown Library** were Mrs. Gibson McIlvain, Anna McIlvaine Miller, Dr. Thomas Parke, William McFarlan, Theodore Griffith, Joseph Huggins and Mrs., George Fisher. In the business session, it was noted that a new heating system had to be installed and the roof probably would have to be installed in the spring. Circulation totaled 11,027, and there were 918 members.

- Sixty-eight employees, with 10 or more years of service with the **Collins and Aikman** “plush mill” on Bondsville Road in East Brandywine, were entertained with a dinner at the Mansion House Hotel in West Chester, followed by a bus trip to Philadelphia to see a musical comedy at the Locust Street Theatre.

- New members of the **Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co.** were Mrs. William Harrison, Clara Bond, Mrs. Creston Shoemaker, Alice and Helen Doran, and Mrs. Harry Peoples.

- Elected to **Messiah Lutheran Church’s** Council were Mark Shaw, Joseph Streamer, Henrich Reutter and Frank Knauer. Other members of the Council were Arthur Glauner, Leon Dickinson, Claire Skiles, Hathaway Frain, Dr. Frank Lenhardt, Dr. George Bousum, Charles Ax and Emerson Glauner.

- The **DHS boys’ basketball team** threw a scare into the Henderson Warriors when the Whippets had a 24-23 lead at halftime. However, the West Chester cagers rallied with a 13-point surge in the last three minutes in the contest, and won by a 50-40 margin. Downingtown’s top scorers were Danny Barrow, 15 points, and Vince Massimini, 13. And Coach Hank Goudie’s Papertowners beat St. Agnes of West Chester 42-39 in a close clash. That victory countered the Stags’ 41-37 win over Downingtown several weeks earlier. Massimini was the Whippets’ leading scorer, with 19 points.

## Items published in *The Downingtown Archive* 61 years ago

Here are several news items, which were originally published in *The Downingtown Archive* in August 1954.

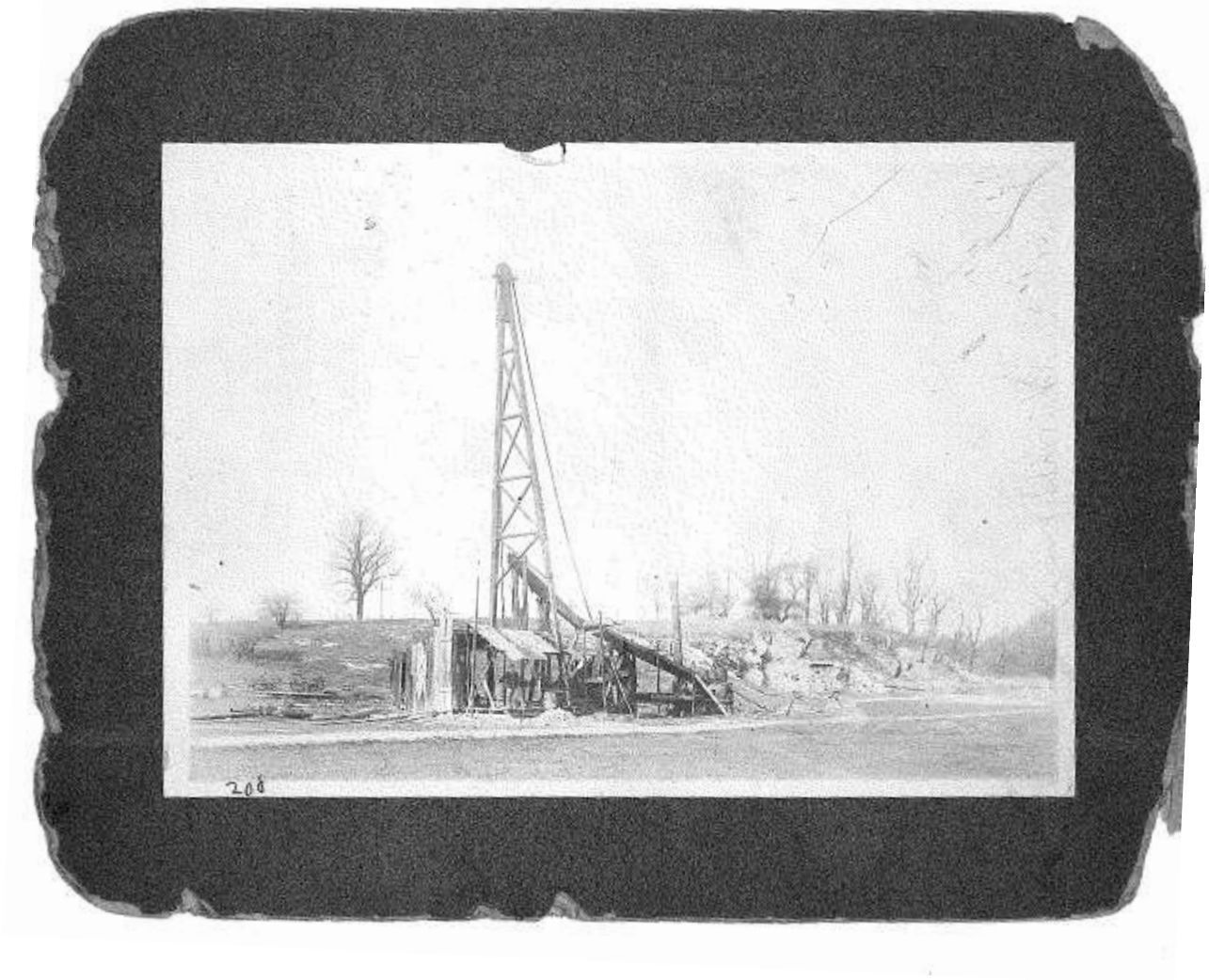
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville, who went to Camp Horseshoe, included Albert Miller, Steven Pope, Terry Skeen, Glen Lumis, John Cunningham, Schuyler Rennard, Frank Pechin, Roger Northrup and Joseph McClure.

- “**The Silver Stars**” dance band was comprised of local fellows, who appeared on Paul Whiteman’s “On the Boardwalk” TV show. They were Joe Ursini and John Dawson, trumpet; Tom Sheehan, drums; Skip Amway, Earl Thomas and Herb Jameson, sax; Jackie Miller, bass; Wayne Smith, trombone; and Joe Whiteman, piano.

- Glenmoore **Girl Scouts** who attended day camp were Linda Hogan, Patty Houck, Marlene and Mary Ann Harple, Betty MacDougal, Bonnie Moore, Joan Morrison and Catherine Bingaman.

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# They were drilling for oil in Lyndell



No one identified one of the rigs which were drilling for oil in Lyndell in 1919. Oil reportedly had been discovered in **Lyndell** by John Lewis, proprietor of the general store there. Skeptics in the neighborhood pointed out that there was an oil tank, with a capacity of about 100 gallons, in the cellar of Lewis's store, which was about 25 feet behind where the oil had been discovered. Lewis insisted that the tank wasn't leaking. Despite those suspicions, nearby property owners were leasing their land, and many drilling rigs were brought into the area. Those who took a sample of the discovered oil said it had a "distinct kerosene odor" and "burns about as readily as artificially refined kerosene." Also, an "analysis discloses the presence of some lubrication oils, as well as kerosene." Carol Sinex Schmidt, whose father, Frank Sinex, operated the Lyndell Country Store for many years, provided the photo of the oil drilling rig. Despite those suspicions, many people bought stock in the Farmers Oil Company, which was underwriting the drilling operation in Lyndell. The stock certificate shown below was provided by Matt McCausland.



## Our Wish List

Here's our Wish List, which notes stuff the Historical Society especially needs to reach our goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well. We're starting our pursuit with a request for these items:

- DHS yearbooks published since 1964.
- A digital SLR camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-shooter) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts in our archival collection. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

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.

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There will be a Red Cross drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, Aug. 21 at Downingtown Borough Hall annex building. See [www.downingtowntown.org](http://www.downingtowntown.org) to register.

### ***Chicken BBQ Dinner***

Marshallton United Methodist Church, 1282 West Strasburg Road, will host a Chicken BBQ Dinner on Saturday, July 25. The menu includes BBQ chicken (leg/thigh), cole slaw, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll & butter, dessert, and beverage. Hours for the "Eat-in" or "Take-out" option are from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Cost is \$10/adult and \$5/child (5 to 12 years of age). Contact the church office at (610) 696-5247 or [office@marshalltonchurch.org](mailto:office@marshalltonchurch.org) with any questions.

### ***Summer Jam***

The second of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, July 31 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food, crafts and music. For more info, see: [www.downingtowntownmainstreet.com/calendar](http://www.downingtowntownmainstreet.com/calendar).

### ***Links for the Library***

A golf outing, sponsored by Roberts Subaru in Downingtown, will benefit the Downingtown Library. The outing will take place on Monday, July 27 at Applecross Country Club in East Brandywine. Package includes lunch, golf, on-course refreshments, reception, & barbeque dinner. Prizes will be awarded to top teams, longest drive, and closest to the pin. Roberts Subaru will also host a hole-in-one contest in which the winner will win a new Subaru.

To purchase tickets via PayPal, click the link below. Payment can also be made by check and mailed to: Francine Dague 122 Wallace Ave. Downingtown, PA 19335. For more info, see: [www.downingtownlibrary.org/](http://www.downingtownlibrary.org/).

### ***Art & Craft Show***

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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).

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





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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 6, No. 31

July 30, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## What area residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from local newspapers published in early July 1963.

- Uwchlan residents and the township's supervisors expressed frustration when the secretary of the State Department of Highways **denied a request for a traffic light at the intersection of Routes 100 and 113** because an investigation of the issue had determined that "the volume of traffic passing through the intersection (less than seven vehicles per minute between 4-5 PM) is not sufficient to justify the operation of stop and go signals....However, due to the apparent accident potential at this location, we feel that the installation of flashing beacons is justified." But residents claimed that there had been two fatal accidents in two months at the intersection, despite the fact that stop signs were already were installed there. The residents also said the secretary's vehicle count during peak traffic hours was inaccurate. The supervisors suggested to Mrs. Samuel Windham, a township resident and a school teacher, that she should circulate a petition, in favor of a stop light, and forward it to Harrisburg.

- The Downingtown Joint Elementary School Board gave a committee of three **West Bradford Township school directors** authority to get appraisals from two independent realtors on a tract, which, if purchased, would be the site of a new elementary school with a capacity of 800 pupils. And the State Health Department had to approve the site's sewage treatment capability, since West Bradford had no public sewer system and the school had to be built near a water supply to serve a treatment plant. The new school would eventually replace the Marshallton School.

- Downingtown Council approved changes in the **borough's health code, regarding quarantine periods for childhood diseases**, so they would conform with state requirements. The seven-day quarantine period for German measles was eliminated, while the periods for measles and mumps was cut from ten to seven days. The quarantine whooping cough was kept at four weeks. The conflict between the borough and state codes arose last winter in the Downingtown Joint School District, when children from surrounding townships, who were governed by the state code, were not sent back to school until the borough's quarantine period was completed.

- **Downingtown National Bank** dedicated its new branch in the east end of the borough.
- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Optimist Club** were Donald Collier, president; Jack Stine, vice president; and Glenn Echhoff, secretary-treasurer.

- The new **Downingtown East Garden Apartment complex** (now known as the Downingtown Commons) at 335 E. Lancaster Ave., was charging \$92 a month for a one-bedroom apartment.

- Girls from Downingtown's **First Baptist Church** who spent a week at Sandy Cove Camp were Jean Casella, Janis Frazer, Joan Haas, Susan Ashenfelder, Turie Hayes and Sandra Mattison.

- One of the ways members of **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, celebrated its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary by wearing period costumes. Those who were recognized for their vintage attire included Mrs. Edward Plank, most authentic (her grandmother's wedding dress); Mrs. Arthur Kring, most original; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Smith, best looking couple; Timothy Bryant and Kathy Kring, best looking child couple; and Lynn Bower, prettiest child.

- Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** team, which won the tug-of-war competition at the West Bradford Fire Co. Carnival were Charles Young, Francis Hill, Richard Ruth, Hayes Clark Jr., Robert Ruark, Robert Sylott, Lewis Dewees, John Trego, George Ruark, Sonny Trego, and Walter and Harold Trego.

- Teachers and helpers at the **Marshallton Methodist Church's** Vacation Bible School included Mary Jane Martin, Delores McClure, Rose Liney, Barbara Blakney, Dorothy Ludwick, Susan James, Betty McClure, Cathy Obert, Carol Smyers, Nancy Jordan, Nancy Busby, Mrs. William Keeler, Edith Young, Helen Hall and Shirley Robinson.
- College credits were being offered by **Penn State** for those who completed 16-week freshmen and sophomore level courses at DHS. The courses included English, history, speech, education, chemistry, mathematics, psychology, political science and art.
- A Chester County judge ruled that Fred Schubert, the developer of the "**Pickering Hunt Estates**" could no longer use that name for his development on Route 113 in West Pikeland. The ruling was based on the right of the plaintiff to protect its name, the Pickering Hunt, a licensed, well-known fox-hunting club, which had a clubhouse within eight miles of Schubert's development.
- The staff conducting **Downingtown Area Summer Recreation** programs at playground sites were: Jeanne Emery, Mary Ann Phillips and Douglas Wolfe, East Ward School; Grace Bennett, Marshallton School; Bonita Plank, Gwen Habecker and Ray DiSerafino, Beaver Creek School; and Nancy Kohlhas, Linda Hadfield and Ronald Meacham, Lionville Elementary School.

## News in the March 1921 editions of *The Archive*

- Downingtown residents overwhelmingly approved of a proposal for the borough to **borrow \$50,000** as its contribution to the paving of Lancaster Avenue. Those in favor of the loan in a referendum totaled 660; only 124 voters opposed it. Most of the paving project's cost was covered by the State Highway Department and the County.
- A major storm, **purportedly a tornado**, struck the Downingtown area and did major damage to properties in the borough. The entire roof of the Frank Miller Paper Co. office on Brandywine Avenue was torn off; a shed at the Pennsylvania Railroad station was blown across the tracks and deposited on the roof of the Pennsylvania House Hotel; the roofs of a dozen houses on Church Street in the Johnstown section were destroyed; farm silos in rural townships were blown over; and a two-horse wagon on William Mendenhall's farm was blown onto the roof of his barn.
- The **DHS basketball team** beat Coatesville 29-27, making it a contender for the county championship. And the high school **track team**, coached by Ray Greenleaf, were in training for six meets, including the Penn Relays in Philadelphia.
- Borough resident Samuel Lewis was appointed as **Downingtown's police chief**, to replace Tommy Gray who had resigned after serving on the police force for 26 years. Lewis had been in the U.S. Army for six years, including service as a medic during the brief war with Mexico and suffered several wounds while involved in five major battles in France during the First World War. *Editor's note: Gray's resignation respite apparently didn't last long. A newspaper article in February 1927 noted that he was resigning as Downingtown's police chief once again, at age 75.*

*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 old Lionville Firehouse on Village Avenue



Marybeth Fusco is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the old Lionville Firehouse on Village Avenue. The fire company was formed in 1911, and beginning in 1915, it stored its first, hand-pulled pumper, in a one-story, frame garage in the village, according to “Uwchlan Township: 300 Years Above the Valley,” published by the township’s Historical Commission in 2011. The pumper was replaced in 1923 by a motorized fire truck. In 1929, the firehouse shown above was built for \$9,000, on land purchased for \$500 from Christian Oberholser. This original fire station is still a part of the company’s facilities, and company meetings are still held in the original, second floor meeting room, according to: [www.lionvillefire.org/content/firehistory/](http://www.lionvillefire.org/content/firehistory/). An addition to the firehouse, consisting of four apparatus bays, numerous offices and storage areas, kitchen, and banquet facility, was designed and constructed by the members of the department in the 1960s. Another addition, was built in 1994.

## Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, August 2. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the local gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

## Brief, but important

- Remember when seemingly blood-thirsty women competed in Roller Derby on TV back in the 1960s? Well, the sport is back, and the Brandywine Roller Girls, who practice at the Caln Skating Center on West Lancaster Avenue, will compete in the playoffs in Cleveland next month. For more details on the Roller Girls, see: [www.dailylocal.com/lifestyle/20150727/brandywine-roller-girls-head-to-play-offs](http://www.dailylocal.com/lifestyle/20150727/brandywine-roller-girls-head-to-play-offs).
- And Downingtown's Diamond Dogs won the Region 3 American Legion Baseball title. For details, see: [www.dailylocal.com/sports/20150722/legion-dominant-performance-by-jarema-leads-downingtownto-region-3-title](http://www.dailylocal.com/sports/20150722/legion-dominant-performance-by-jarema-leads-downingtownto-region-3-title).

## Our Wish List

Here's our Wish List, which notes stuff the Historical Society especially needs to reach our goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well. We're starting our pursuit with a request for these items:

- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964.
- A digital SLR camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-shooter) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts in our archival collection. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

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.

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# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Caln Community Day***

The Caln Township and the Caln Township Business Group are co-sponsors of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Caln Community Day, from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Caln Municipal Park in Thorndale. The event will include live entertainment, food, a children's area, flea market sponsored by the Thorndale United Methodist Church and much more. New this year will be a Caln Police vs Thorndale Fire Department softball game at 2 PM.

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Vol. 6, No. 32

August 6, 2015

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## Local news items originally published in late August 1979

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

- Most people who lived near **St. Joseph's Cemetery** near the Downingtown-West Bradford border didn't want to talk to a reporter about the legend of the graveyard being haunted by ghosts. "I have no comment," insisted one Glenside Avenue resident who lived near the cemetery. "We just want to leave them alone," she added, without divulging who "them" were. Ghost stories about the cemetery, however, go back for decades, explained Mary Mahan, longtime Downingtown resident and local art teacher. "We were told not to walk past there (the cemetery) after a certain time of night," recalled Mahan, because the ghost of a headless dog supposedly waited in the archway of the cemetery.

- Vince DiEuliis, president of the Downingtown Council, claimed there were several sites in the borough, which would meet **Chemical Leaman Tank Lines'** needs for a new headquarters, instead of relocating the trucking company's main office from the borough to Lionville, as planned. One was an 8.5-acre site on Jackson Avenue, near the Pepperidge Farm plant on Chestnut Street. Another was the historic Pollock's Mill property on the east side of Manor Avenue. Both sites were zoned for industrial use. Although about half of the Pollock's Mill site was in a flood plain, regrading work could make it useable, according to borough manager Don Greenleaf. And though it wasn't for sale, a third possibility was the farm land on the west side of Manor Avenue, just beyond the borough line, in Caln Township, which was owned by the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia. That site had been where the proposed St. John Neumann Hospital was to be built, but the plan was shot down by federal and state governmental agencies.

- The Downingtown School District again voted against providing **mid-day bus service** for kindergarten students because the service would cost the district between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year. Kindergarten pupils who attended morning sessions had bus service to school, and those who attended afternoon classes had transportation from school. However, parents of kindergarten students could make private agreements with a bus contractor to provide mid-day service.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 110 Aberdare Lane, Uwchlan, \$50,990; 1471 Federal Drive, West Bradford, \$61,900; 504 Thomas Road, Downingtown, \$47,830; 332 South Balderston Drive, West Whiteland, \$90,000; 3401 Windsor Lane, Caln, \$50,000; 32 Hastings Court, East Brandywine, \$45,500; 10 Highview Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$73,000; 119 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$118,000.

- Elected as officers of the Knights of Columbus Council at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, Downingtown, were: Ed Maney, grand knight; Peter Bonaduce, deputy grand knight; Stanley Sarmento, recording secretary; and Frank Saello, warden.

- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 8**, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church, East Brandywine, who earned merit badges while attending Camp Jubilee were Steve Dolnack, Keith Brian, Jeff McCarty, John Ackroyd, Sean Breckley, Bill and Jim Flanagan, Jack Church and Bob Mauger.

- DHS grads **Leslie "Hoppy" Hayes**, Class of 1972, and **Roger Patrizio**, Class of 1973, became Pikebusters by running in the 14-mile Pikes Peak Marathon, over a twisting path up the Colorado mountain, which is 14,110 feet above sea level.

# News published in *The Archive* 61 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in August 1954 issues of the *Downingtown Archive*.

- **Joseph Driscoll** of Downingtown, a PECO employee, saved the lives of two West Chester youths after their car crashed into a utility pole.
- These members of **Boy Scout Troop 2**, Downingtown, earned the rank of second class: George Archie, Dominick Carbo, Thomas Edge, Jeff Everhart, Howard Hopkins, Jack Law, Joseph Natalie, Dallett Norris, Jack Stine and John Yamshak.
- **Samuel Matthews**, Chester Springs, won the Chester County 4-H Club tractor driving contest.
- **Robert Roussey** won the Downingtown Little League batting championship with a .441 average.
- **Joan Hughes** was named Miss Downingtown of 1954.
- A machine to be used to destroy secret Pentagon documents was being built by the **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.**
- The **Swan Diner** was moved from Brandywine Avenue in the borough back to the intersection of Route 100 and Boot Road, where it had been located about 20 years earlier.
- With an enrollment of 247 students, **St. Joseph's Catholic School** was about to open its doors in Downingtown for the first time.
- The **Downingtown Rotary Club** donated a public address system to the borough to be used at Kerr Park.
- Officers of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan** were Dr. Anna Biddle, president; Mrs. Robert Chapman, first vice president; Mrs. William Balderston, second vice president; Mrs. Ethel Leslie, recording secretary; Mrs. Paul Smith, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. J.M. Acker, treasurer.

## Brief, but important

- Apologies to the legendary lions from the **Lionville Fire Co.**, who won tug-of-war contests all over Chester County for decades. Despite those accomplishments, we incorrectly claimed in last week's Hist-O-Gram that the Alert Fire Co. team won the tug-of-war competition at the West Bradford Co. Carnival in July 1963. Mea maxima culpa.
- Congratulations to the **Downingtown Diamond Dawgs**, who won the State American Legion baseball championship by beating Red Land 5-1 at the Owl's Field in West Lawn, near Reading, on Saturday. The Dawgs, who started playing in the Middle Atlantic Tournament this week, are managed by Scott Rambo. The Dawgs' Kenny Jarema was named the state tournament's Most Valuable Player and Most Outstanding Offensive Player. Winning pitcher Jeff Armstrong struck out nine and allowed only three hits in seven innings. Jarema picked up the save. Downingtown clinched a spot in the Mid-Atlantic Regional by beating Nanticoke 10-1. Jarema was 4-for-5 in that game, with a triple, home run and three runs scored. Downingtown had lost 5-3 to Nanticoke in the first round, before winning five straight games for the state title.

## What area residents were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in early February 1948.

- **Brandywine VFW Post No. 845**, Downingtown, led by Commander James Fennelly, moved into its new home on West Lancaster Avenue. The Post had 27 members—veterans of the Spanish American War (1898) and World War I—when it was founded in 1932. Howard Harvey was the first post commander. And its Auxiliary was established in 1947; Lillian Thomas was the first madam president. In 1999, the organization's name was changed to the Henry J. Thomas Memorial Post, in honor of the Post's commander for many years.

- Dr. M.H. Neff bought the popular **Tea House** restaurant, at 341 E. Lancaster Avenue in the borough for \$38,000. The restaurant had been famous for its chicken and waffles, since 1914. Built in 1730, the house served as a "station" on the Underground Railroad for runaway slaves before the Civil War.

- Downingtown's **First Baptist Church** had a mortgage burning celebration. The loan was used to pay for the construction of the Sunday School building.

- Youngsters who sold the most tickets for the turkey dinner at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Jo-Ann LeFevre, Robert Sellers, June Ellingsworth, Sonny Wallace, Barbara Durnall, Lois Hoopes, Robert McCue, Harold Trimble, Barry Wickersham, Richard Busby, Philip Young and Tootie Ferri.

- Members of **Troop 79**, who came to a special Boy Scout service at Glen Moore Methodist Church, included Ralph Hannum, Harry Muller, David Johnson, Francis Flynn, Joseph Young and Stanley Young. Those who earned Tenderfoot badges were David Grimes, Grier Miller, Kenneth Comstock and Joseph Mason.

- Although the Whippets had thrown a scare into the West Chester Henderson basketball team in their first meeting, the **DHS boys** were crushed 64-41 by the Warriors in the return battle. It didn't help Downingtown's cause when Dan Barrow suffered a dislocated shoulder in the third quarter and had to leave the game with 13 points.

- Officers elected by members of the Washington Camp of the **Patriotic Order of Sons of America**, Downingtown, included: Frank Swarner, president; Frank Bicking, vice president; Thomas Philllips, master of forms; Graham Bentley, recording secretary; Gilbert Cox, financial secretary; Leland Wilson, treasurer; Marvin Shirk, conductor; Parke Darlington, inspector; Attmore Pollock, guard; and Horace Carpenter, trustee.

- Members of the **Downingtown Visiting Nurse Association** agreed that they had to sponsor more fund raising events in order to cover the \$50 per month spent on the new dental clinic.

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## It's at 31 Downing Avenue in the borough



Although hundreds of people pass the house in the photo above every day, not one soul recognized it as 31 Downing Ave. in the borough. It was built by Herbert and Laura Ash, grandparents of Caroline Ash of the Chicago area, who provided the photo. Caroline said her grandparents waited until the house was completed around 1902 before they married. “My grandfather died in 1942 and my grandmother lived there until she died in 1965. In the early 1950's, they made the second floor an apartment. My parents (Herbert and Harriet Ash) moved into the first floor in 1966.”

*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**

## ***Community Day in E. Brandywine***

The East Brandywine Park and Recreation Commission's Community Day on Saturday, August 22 at the Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road, will begin with a 5 K Run, Walk & Kids Run for the Parks at 9:30 AM (See: <https://secondwind.webconnex.com/ebtparks5k>), followed by these events and activities from 11 AM to 3 PM. They will include antique and classic cars, crafters, vendors, great food, music, pony and hay rides, bingo, speed cup stacking, Shriners Clowns on Cycles, Stubby the Helicopter, police and fire demonstrations, Civil War cavalry, Chester County Sheriff's K9 Unit, karate demonstrations, Rita's Water Ice, fun tennis activities, plus lots of kids' stuff. New this year will be some members of the Uptown String Band, who will have costumes on display for you to see, touch, try on and have your picture taken. They will also perform some of their traditional mummers' songs. Organizations which want to be a part of this year's Community Day, contact Sandy Lammey or Dave Summers by leaving a message at the township office at 610-269-8230 or send an email to: [parkandrec@ebrandywine.org](mailto:parkandrec@ebrandywine.org).

## ***Teri's Run***

The 14th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be on Friday, September 12, beginning on Green Street in Downingtown. The event is dedicated to the memory of Downingtown's Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. This year's Run will also raise funds for research and raise awareness of Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia. The Run donated \$15,000 last year to the National Scleroderma Foundation, and it has raised over \$125,000 over the past 13 years for research into the cause and someday a cure for this debilitating disease. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM, followed at 7 PM by the 5K Run and the 1.5 mile Walk. The deadline for pre-registering (\$25) is August 28. Registration cost after August 28 is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students 18 and under, and \$5 for the Kids Run. For more info, see: [www.terisrun.org/](http://www.terisrun.org/)

## ***Caln Community Day***

The Caln Township and the Caln Township Business Group are co-sponsors of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Caln Community Day, from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Caln Municipal Park in Thorndale. The event will include live entertainment, food, a children's area, flea market sponsored by the Thorndale United Methodist Church and much more. New this year will be a Caln Police vs Thorndale Fire Department softball game at 2 PM.

## ***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. Winner will win a Dinner for 4 people at the Log House in early November. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via: [Vdiluigi@downingtowntown.org](mailto:Vdiluigi@downingtowntown.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

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## ***Blood Drive***

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***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).

***Banquet room for rent***

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## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 33

August 13, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## Campaign for just one Post Office in Downingtown got serious in April 1921

Many of our subscribers know that Downingtown wasn't always known as the Good Neighbor community it claims to be today. That's because, for decades, residents of the borough's East and West Wards didn't always get along with each other.

A prime example of that strife occurred in the late 1880s, when residents of the borough's East Ward wanted the Post Office to be re-located to their end of town. Back then, the Post Office was on West Lancaster Avenue, across from the railroad station, because that location provided easy access to the Pennsylvania Railroad, which carried much of the mail to and from the borough. The cantankerous dispute reached a point where Congressman Smedley Darlington tried to settle the problem by convincing the U.S. Postmaster General to establish two postal

facilities in March 1890, making Downingtown the only borough in the nation to have two post offices, for more than 30 years.

That embarrassing municipal wound was finally healed when the new borough hall was dedicated on October 7, 1926, and the municipal building included a leased space for one, consolidated Downingtown Post Office.

But, according to articles in the April 1921 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*, the merging of the two Post Offices wasn't a slam-dunk in 1926.

Merging of the two Post Offices had been brewing for several years, and many of the town's business leaders had publicly acknowledged that two Post Offices in a small town was a "disgrace."

The Post Office issue generated lots of grumbling, but little action, in the community until April 1921, when a postal inspector from Philadelphia scoped out the situation on a visit to the borough and subsequently published a legal notice in the *Archive*. The inspector's notice sought proposals for the "furnishing of suitable quarters for Post Office purposes at Downingtown, Pa., under a lease of five or ten years from proposed consolidation of Downingtown and East Downingtown Post Offices." The proposed lease space was to have at least 1,500 square feet of floor space, with "good daylight," and include closets, urinals (only males handled the mail back then?), and a safe or vault, as well as standard office equipment. The proposal also was to include diagrams of the Post Office's rooms, noting dimensions and window locations. The site also was to be located in the business district and midway between the two existent Post Offices, as well as within 80 rods of a railroad depot.

It's likely, that the re-launching of the Downingtown Businessmen's Club in April 1921 had a lot to do with the U.S. Post Office Department's solicitation of proposals for a suitable space for a centralized Post Office space in the borough that same month. After all, it was the reorganized Business Men's Club that subsequently established the Citizens Holding Co., in 1925, which underwrote construction of the \$43,985 municipal building on a plot of land, purchased for \$700 by borough council, on the south side of Lancaster Avenue, on the edge of the Brandywine.

In addition to creating a central seat of government in the growing town, which would help heal the psychological split in the community, the new Borough Hall included space for a consolidated Post Office, leased at \$1,800 annually, for 10 years. To sweeten the deal, federal postal officials also agreed to provide delivery to all borough residences and businesses at no extra cost. The feds also requested the borough to install street signs throughout the town.

Although the new Borough Hall didn't settle all the East Ward versus West Ward tiffs in Downingtown over the coming decades, it's easy to see why Downingtown's leaders had good reason to celebrate, when the new municipal building was dedicated in 1926.

### **Other news items in April 1921**

Editions of the *Downingtown Archive* in April 1921 also included these news items:

- One of the features of the 34<sup>th</sup> annual banquet of the DHS Alumni Association was the introduction of the high school's **alma mater**, which was written by Kathryn Hess, Class of 1920. Also at the banquet, it was agreed that \$250 should be spent on a memorial plaque in honor of John Hunsicker, who had been DHS principal for 25 years.
- Speeches at the **DHS commencement exercises** in June were to be offered by valedictorian Virginia Clark, salutatorian Evelyn McKinney, Elsie Clark and Willard Rindlaub. Also, the graduating seniors were allowed to wear gray caps and gowns, instead of traditional black robes and mortarboards.



- A survey of seven plants in Downingtown determined that 137 employees were transported to and from their work place by a trolley. Based on that information, the rejuvenated Downingtown Business Men's Club formed the **Downingtown Development Co.**, a non-profit firm, to stimulate home building in the borough. The company proposed to help any man or family employed in Downingtown, who had saved \$100 or more, and wanted to buy or build home in the borough. Its services included helping with the house plans and specifications, letting of contracts, and arranging for financing.

- To control the costs of building homes in the borough, representatives of Downingtown's **building trades** met and agreed to these reduced hourly rates: carpenters, 75 cents instead of 85 cents; bricklayers, 85 cents instead of \$1.10; and common laborers, 30 cents instead of 55 cents. Officers of the building trades organization were Palmer Hughes, president; Mark Shaw, secretary; and Lewis Snyder, treasurer. Other members included Edge Lewis, John Walton, John Snyder, Harry Deets, John Stine, Ralph Brown, E.A. Worth and Arthur Hess.

- Students from the nine elementary and high schools in the **Uwchlan and West Pikeland Township School Districts** participated in an annual, day-long carnival, which included competitive academic and athletic events. They started with spelling, mathematics and penmanship contests at each grade level, followed by declamation competition, which was similar to a debate, but it could be poetry, debating an argument for or against something. Speakers were judged not just by content, but by performance as well. In the high school singing competition, Lionville High School won over West Pikeland High School. Among grade school vocalists, Lionville Elementary's choral group placed first, while Mount Airy's came in second. There also were baking, sewing, seed identification, cow judging, rope tying and bird box building contests. The relay, sprint, broad jumping, chinning, and high jumping competitions were held after lunch. Total points scored by participating schools were: Lionville High, 87; Lionville Elementary, 83; West Pikeland Grammar, 65; West Pikeland High School, 63; Mount Airy, 49; Lionville 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, 42; Franklin Hall, 31; Hillside, 17; and Seminary, 15.

## What area residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from local newspapers published in the latter part of July 1963.

- Youngsters from **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, who attended Camp Sunnybrook at Echo Lake in the Poconos, included Randy and Mickey Morris, Chuckie Miller, Robert Marlow, Stephen and Jim Stringer, Carol Ann Burkey, Ronnie Detterline, Beverly and Bob Summers, Kenneth Shaw, John Crane, June and Jeanette Faddis, and Ruth Ann Regener.

- Nine **Girl Scouts from the Lionville area**, who went to Camp Tweeddale for two weeks, were Darlene Windle, Jill Corneal, Penny Renz, Charlene Barton, Helen Bittmann, Caroline Rice, Marjorie Phipps, and Rosalie and Patty Herion.

- Steve Long slammed a three-run homer in the top of the sixth inning to push the **Downingtown All Stars** to their second win in the District 23 Little League Tournament. Downingtown overcame a six-run deficit and beat the Caln All Stars 11-9. Downingtown reached the second round by beating the Coatesville All Stars 5-2. Papertown pitcher Kenny Baen gave up only three hits and three walks.

- Members of the Teeners' Sunday School Class at Downingtown's **First Baptist Church**, who swam and played tennis on an outing at New Holland's Community Park, were Gilbert Cox,

Joy Emery, Diane Shirk, Kathy and Claudette Puccini, Thomas Haas, Diane Kugler, Jay Rambo, John Shank, Beverly Mitchell, Rebecca Hobert and Janis Frazer.

- Winners in the freckle contest at the **East Ward** playground were Kitty Snyder, Debbie Charles, John Nixdorf, Holly Love and Tom Gillespie. And in the decorated bicycle competition at the **Beaver Creek** playground, the winners were Camille DiEuliis, Terri Trader, Geri Jo Wasmuth, Donna Gilmore, Butch Skiles and Billy Shuler. Members of the winning team in the treasure hunt at the **Lionville** playground were Robert and Patty Dunn, Karen Donlon, Greg and Cheryl Hartman, Beth Feeley, James and Linda Peterson, Ernest and Terry Baker, Mary Jane Finney, Arnold Roberts, Carol Koser, Mary Alis Worthington, Jamie Rice and Debbie Carlson. Hat show contest winners at the **Marshallton** playground included Cindy Edwards, Pat, Mike and Dennis Riggins, Randy Ludwick, Linda Sellers, Cheryl Harper and Ray Wood.

## Brief, but important

- The **Indiantown School** in the village of Glenmoore in Wallace Township was named after an Indian settlement of wigwams nearby. The first story of the school was built in 1859, and the second story, used initially by local social and beneficial organizations, was added in 1865. The schoolhouse also was used in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as a practice hall by the West Nantmeal and Glen Moore Bands. In 1907, the school building was remodeled and a belfry for the school bell (donated by Sara James Templeton) was built. The second floor was the site of the Wallace High School for some 40 years, until it was discontinued in 1942; thereafter the upper level was used by elementary classes.

- The trail at Bondsville Mill Park is open. For a history of the site and info about the trail, see: [www.ebrandywine.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Bondsville-Mill-Park-13](http://www.ebrandywine.org/Facilities/Facility/Details/Bondsville-Mill-Park-13).

## Our Wish List

Here's our Wish List, which notes stuff the Historical Society especially needs to reach our goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well. We're starting our pursuit with a request for these items:

- All DHS yearbooks published since 1964.
- A digital SLR camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-shooter) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts in our archival collection. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

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.*

## It's the Humphrey Marshall house in Marshallton



Jack Hines is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the house in the photo above as the Humphrey Marshall house, at 1407 W. Strasburg Road in downtown Marshallton. The Georgian-style house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built by Marshall in 1773-1774. The house included the botanical garden, which had native and exotic plants, and in 1785, he wrote the first American book on native trees and shrubs.

Jack says he worked for Campbell Weir on the 2.7-acre property, when it was a multi-family dwelling about 20 years after Weir bought it in 1940s. Jack claims Weir was a stickler about maintaining equipment. "He always checked the equipment when you put it away, before you got paid. If you mowed, the tractor had to be greased, filled with fuel, and put away properly. The sickle bar had to be put on blocks, greased, knives sharpened and tightened, and ready for the next time. He didn't bother to look at the work; if you took care of the equipment, he believed that you would do the work properly." Jack also recalls building a boat from old fence boards that were replaced on the property. Weir was so impressed with those efforts, he bought mahogany at Hoffman's Lumber so Jack could build another boat.

Weir bequeathed the property to the Chester County Historical Society, which sold it in about 1990, with easements to protect the house.

# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Chicken Bar-B-Que***

The Alert Fire Co. will have its annual Chicken-Bar-B-Que dinner and bake sale from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 22 at the firehouse, 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown. Dinners (eat-in or take-out) include a half chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, dinner roll, dessert and beverage, all for just \$13. There will be advance ticket sales at the firehouse on Wednesday nights from 7-9 PM and on August 22. For more details, see the Alert's website, [www.alertfire.org](http://www.alertfire.org) or their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/alertno1?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/alertno1?ref=hl).

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## ***Clam Bake***

The Lionville Fire Co. will have its annual clam bake from 1-7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the firehouse on Village Avenue. Tickets (\$40 for adults) can be ordered via: [www.ticketriver.com/event/15728](http://www.ticketriver.com/event/15728). Food includes 3 dozen clams, plus corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, clam chowder and drinks including beer. Tickets for kids between 3 and 12 are \$20; they don't include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament.

## ***Summer Jam***

The last of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, August 28 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food, crafts and music. For more info, see: [www.downingtownmainstreet.com/calendar](http://www.downingtownmainstreet.com/calendar).

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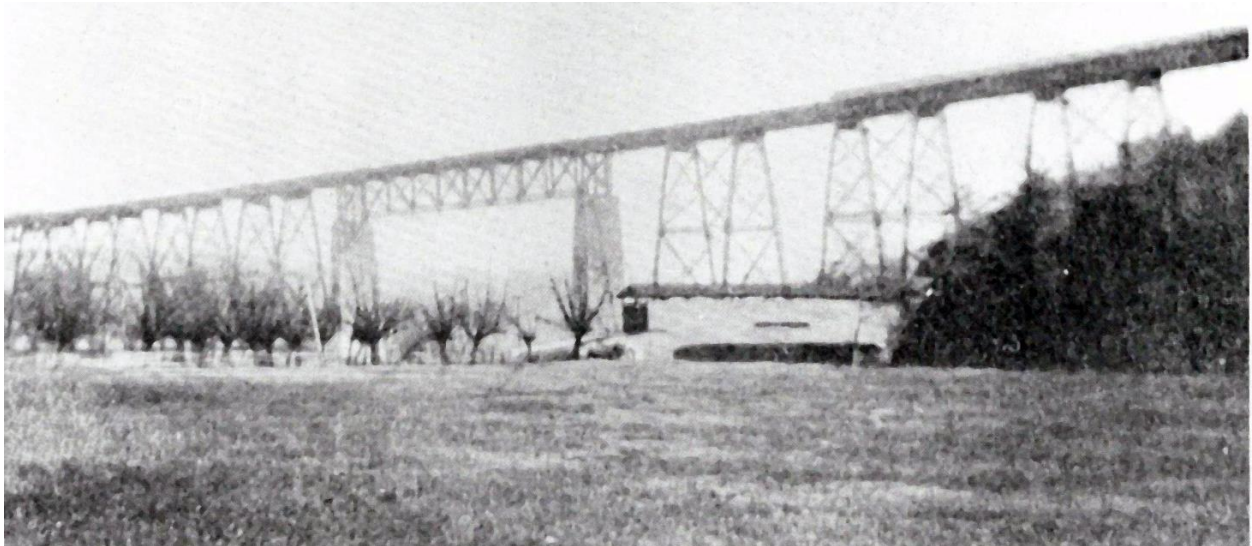
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Vol. 6, No. 34

August 20, 2015

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## What area residents were talking about in early September 1979

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

- Several tenants of the Lakeside Apartment complex, located in several buildings between East Lancaster and East Pennsylvania Avenues in the borough (now known as the **Downingtown Commons**) expressed fear since it had been the site of four, arson-caused fires that resulted in four deaths between 1975 and 1978. The complex had been known as the Downingtown East Apartments when it opened in the early 1960s, until the name was changed to the Lakeside Apartments, following a fire in 1978 that took the lives of three elderly women.

- The Christian Education Committee at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, included Russell Faffette, Nancy McCleary, Dixie Gailey, David Smith, Sadie and Sam Greer, Sandy Shaffer, and Betty Hayes.

- Downingtown's **John DiBernardi**, a recent graduate of Villanova University, appeared on "Whew," a CBS daytime game show, which was produced in Los Angeles. In addition to briefly meeting Valerie Bertinelli on the show's set, John won: \$2,640, Kentucky Fried Chicken every Sunday for a year, a coffeemaker, and undetermined amounts of Trident gum, stone ground wheat crackers and Z-brick wall covering.

- Although the Whippets scored first on a 12-yard pass from Tom Quinn to Ed Novak, the DHS football squad lost its opener, 14-12, to Upper Darby. Coach Chic Chiccino said his team "did everything right, but win the ballgame." He praised the efforts of linebackers Todd McNeil, Glenn Davis, Greg Wilson and Dom Bartone.

Those responsible for **Marshallton Methodist Church's** annual picnic were Susie James, Winnie Johnson, Delores McClure, Brenda Johnson, Ellen Barker, Clint Fetterman, Brenda Nye, Carol Chapman, Bill and Dot James, Joan and Ron Trimble, Alice Shoemaker, and Lynn Seegers.

- Becky Desmond, coach of the **DHS girls' tennis team**, which had a 9-2 record in 1978, said only two letter winners were returning this season. They were co-captains Judy O'Connell and Pam Smith; the two seniors were slated to play first and second singles, respectively. Expected to be third and fourth singles players were Chris Lefko and Sarah Nothstine.

- The staff of **Messiah Lutheran Church's** Sunday School included Jayne Westley, Sylvia Kipp, Miriam Madden, Vera Metivier, Allen and Sally Covington, William and Dorothy Shaw, Roberta Sabotta, Sue Larson, Joan Vincent, Richard Nields, Lucille and Bob Clark, Mary Autry, Cheryl Tyson, Len Snyder, Michael Petrillo, and Fred and Karen Ford.

- Jerry Nowak, who was about to make his debut as head coach of the **DHS boys' cross-country team**, inherited a veteran squad. Returning lettermen were Steve Beaver, Ray Bixler, Matt Mingione, Shawn Urbine, Larry Williams and Rob Sanders. Bill Schmidt, who guided the girls' cross-country team, had these returning letter winners: Jeanine Cheek, Melanie Wix, Megan McAuliffe and Lee McIntyre.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 202 Autumn Drive, Uwchlan, \$115,165; 1307 Lawson Lane, West Bradford, \$55,215; 12 Gunning Lane, East Caln, \$54,850; 453 Delphi Court, Caln, \$44,900; 4 Tradition Lane, East Brandywine, \$60,000; 301 South Balderston Drive, West Whiteland Drive, \$90,520. Also, the property at Jackson Avenue and Green Street in Downingtown, which formerly had been owned by the Beloit Corp., was sold to Tabas Enterprises for \$330,000.

- The eight letter winners on Coach Sally Anderson's **DHS field hockey team** were Doreen Warihay, Anne Hayes, Debbie Klein, Tina Arcaro, Linda Carroll, Laura Roepe, Sue Widen and Barrie Benjamin. Also competing for playing time were Betty Tiller, Donna Allison, Sue Daylor, Danine DiBernardi, Julie Sten, Sherri Sarmiento and Amy Horne.

- **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, dedicated its new house of worship. It was the congregation's third church since it was established in 1835. Features of the new church, which was added to a renovated stone and timber bank barn, were a large chancel window designed by Philadelphia's Willet Studios and a computerized organ from Allen Organ Co., of Macungie, Pa.

- The **DHS golf team**, which came in second last year with a 9-2 Ches-Mont record, had four returning lettermen: Eric Meyer, Brad Weiss, Bob Minster and Jeff Birch.

- The **DHS boys' soccer team** won its first Ches-Mont match with a 6-0 victory over Boyertown. Mike Pastino had two goals, and Tom Urban, Mark Mathis, Rob Hellhake and Vince Forgione each tallied one.

## News in the May 1921 editions of *The Archive*

- The eight students who graduated from **Lionville High School** in 1921 were: Alvin Phipps, Mabel Gordon, Catherine Dinkel, Joseph and Francis Dinsdale, Lewis Bond, Mary Rice and Allan Smedley. Some of the new graduates of the two-year high school planned to go on and earn a high school diploma at DHS or West Chester High School.
- Members of the **Minquas Fire Co.** were promoting the installation of bowling alleys at the firehouse because many of them had to go out of town to bowl.
- Four local residents bought the **Hunt mansion property**—bounded by Hunt, Highland and West Lancaster Avenues in the borough. Built in 1727, on the 500-acre estate of Downingtown pioneer Roger Hunt, his seven children were born in the mansion. After razing the mansion, the buyers said they planned to subdivide the tract into four equal building lots.
- The borough was abuzz about the **DHS baseball team** losing an 18-inning, 4-3 heart-breaker to Spring City. Earl Garrison, who struck out 22 Spring City batters, pitched the entire game for Downingtown.
- Local residents were also excited by the **DHS track team's** second place finish at the Penn Relays, losing to the winning Swarthmore High team by a sliver. And broad jumper **Fred Runk** was doing so well in his first year of competition that he was invited to compete in a special competition at the University of Chicago.
- The **POSA's minstrel show** at the Opera House was a huge success, especially the four end men—George Taylor, Archie Baen, Ross Keech and Ray Greenleaf.
- The most recent project pursued by the **Downingtown Development Co.** was to replace the town's crumbling brick sidewalks with cement pavements. The strategy was to get a masonry contractor to bid on the laying a minimum of 7,000 cubic feet of pavement around the town, in order to minimize the cost of the cement sidewalk for each willing property owner.

## U.S. Continental Congress delegate was born in Downingtown area

Alert Fire Co. historian Jeff Stevens informs us that a relative, William Henry (1729-1786), was a Pennsylvania patriot, who was born in the Downingtown area. He moved to Lancaster after his father died here in 1747. Henry was a Pennsylvania delegate to the Continental Congress (1784-1785). Henry also was a gunsmith and provided rifles to the British during the French and Indian War: By 1760, Henry had largely abandoned his occupation of gunsmith and had become a successful ironmonger and merchant in Lancaster. Henry also was a common pleas court judge in Lancaster County in 1770, 1773 and 1777; canal commissioner of Pennsylvania in 1771; member of the State Assembly in 1776; assistant commissary general with the rank of colonel for the district of Lancaster, Pa., during the Revolutionary War; member of the council of safety 1777; treasurer of Lancaster County 1777-1785; president judge of the court of common pleas in 1780; inventor of the screw auger and the first to suggest steam as a motive power. He died in Lancaster, and is buried there in Greenwood Cemetery.

For more info about Henry, see: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Henry\\_\(gunsmith\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_(gunsmith)), <https://archive.org/stream/lifeofwilliamhen00jord#page/n7/mode/2up>, and [www.wikitree.com/wiki/Henry-1223](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Henry-1223).

## It was Sonny's Exxon at W. Lancaster Ave. and King St.



Donna Kneisly is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the above as Sonny Sciarretta's Exxon station at 901 West Lancaster Avenue, at King Street in Downingtown. The photo was taken in 1985, when gas prices were a lot cheaper, according to Tina Sciarretta. Currently, the former gas station now is the site of Downingtown Automotive Service, owned and operated by a member of the Sciarretta family, which has been in business there for more than 44 years. Previously, the gas station was operated by Jim DiMartin. In 1999, the station was the site of a murder of a tank truck driver who was making a post-midnight delivery of gasoline.

## Our Wish List

The items noted below in bold type are additions to our Wish List, which notes the materials the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well:

- 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 team, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League..**
- **Any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.**
- A digital SLR camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-shooter) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts in our archival collection. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

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

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

### ***MultiSport Festival***

An all-day Downingtown MultiSport Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13 at Kerr Park, Downingtown, beginning at 9 AM. Events include; a kids' fun run, a group bike ride, and an adventure challenge, plus CrossFit and skateboarding tournaments and tae kwon do, roller derby and tennis demonstrations. Proceeds go to Downingtown Library, Downingtown Skate Park, the Team CMMD Foundation, and the Chester County Hero Fund. For more info, see: <http://downingtownmultisportfestival.org/>.

### ***French Boys' Choir***

Les Petits Chanteurs de France will perform a concert at 7 PM on Monday, August 24 at Central Presbyterian Church, 100 W. Uwchlan Ave., Downingtown. Based in Paris, the choir is comprised of 22 boys between ages 7-17. They will present a repertoire of classical sacred masterpieces, and lighter theatrical and folk music. No tickets required; free will be a free-will offering. For more info, contact the church office via 610-269-1576 or [info@cpcdowningtown.org](mailto:info@cpcdowningtown.org).

### ***Chicken Bar-B-Que***

The Alert Fire Co. will have its annual Chicken-Bar-B-Que dinner and bake sale from 4-7 PM on Saturday, August 22 at the firehouse, 122 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown. Dinners (eat-in or take-out) include a half chicken, corn on the cob, baked potato, apple sauce, dinner roll, dessert and beverage, all for just \$13. There will be advance ticket sales at the firehouse on Wednesday nights from 7-9 PM and on August 22. For more details, see the Alert's website, [www.alertfire.org](http://www.alertfire.org) or their Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/alertno1?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/alertno1?ref=hl).

### ***Community Day in E. Brandywine***

The East Brandywine Park and Recreation Commission's Community Day on Saturday, August 22 at the Community Park, 444 Dilworth Road, will begin with a 5 K Run, Walk & Kids Run for the Parks at 9:30 AM (See: <https://secondwind.webconnex.com/ebtparks5k>), followed by these events and activities from 11 AM to 3 PM. They will include antique and classic cars, crafters, vendors, great food, music, pony and hay rides, bingo, speed cup stacking, Shriners Clowns on Cycles, Stubby the Helicopter, police and fire demonstrations, Civil War cavalry, Chester County Sheriff's K9 Unit, karate demonstrations, Rita's Water Ice, fun tennis activities, plus lots of kids' stuff. New this year will be some members of the Uptown String Band, who will have costumes on display for you to see, touch, try on and have your picture taken. They will also perform some of their traditional mummers' songs. Organizations which want to be a part of this year's Community Day, contact Sandy Lammey or Dave Summers by leaving a message at the township office at 610-269-8230 or send an email to: [parkandrec@ebrandwine.org](mailto:parkandrec@ebrandwine.org).

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### ***Blood Drive***

There will be a Red Cross drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, Aug. 21 at Downingtown Borough Hall annex building. See [www.downingtowntown.org](http://www.downingtowntown.org) to register.

### ***Teri's Run***

The 14th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be on Friday, September 12, beginning on Green Street in Downingtown. The event is dedicated to the memory of Downingtown's Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. This year's Run will also raise funds for research and raise awareness of Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia. The Run donated \$15,000 last year to the National Scleroderma Foundation, and it has raised over \$125,000 over the past 13 years for research into the cause and someday a cure for this debilitating disease. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM, followed at 7 PM by the 5K Run and the 1.5 mile Walk. The deadline for pre-registering (\$25) is August 28. Registration cost after August 28 is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students 18 and under, and \$5 for the Kids Run. For more info, see: [www.terisrun.org/](http://www.terisrun.org/)

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The Lionville Fire Co. will have its annual clam bake from 1-7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the firehouse on Village Avenue. Tickets (\$40 for adults) can be ordered via: [www.ticketriver.com/event/15728](http://www.ticketriver.com/event/15728). Food includes 3 dozen clams, plus corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, clam chowder and drinks including beer. Tickets for kids between 3 and 12 are \$20; they don't include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament.

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### ***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.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

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

Vol. 6, No. 35

August 27, 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).

## Prank in *Archive* in 1920 worked again in Hist-O-Gram

Perhaps you recall reading the news item noted below, which was published in July 9, 2015 Hist-O-Gram. That article was based on a news report in the December 23, 1920 edition of the *Downingtown Archive* about a game allegedly played on December 22, 1920.

*The Minquas Fire Company's gym was the scene of a college basketball game between Penn State and Dartmouth, which the Nittany Lions won by a 48-34 score. Charlie Way of Downingtown, who had been named the left halfback on Walter Camp's 1920 All-American football team, and Glenn Killinger, who later became a legendary football coach at West Chester State College, were two star football players who also played on Penn State's basketball squad. It was an important game for Dartmouth because the Big Green wanted to avenge its football team's 14-7 loss to Penn State two months earlier, when Killinger's 52-yard return of an intercepted Dartmouth pass, sewed up the victory. That contest, billed at the time as "the greatest football game in the eastern part of the country," was played before 12,000 fans in the new Beaver Field, whose wooden bleachers could only accommodate 5,000 spectators.*

Frankly, we were pretty impressed with the "fact" that two major colleges teams would travel all the way to little Downingtown, PA, to play a basketball game in the gym on the second floor of the Minquas fire hall. And they made that trip just three days before Christmas!

Of course, we realized that college basketball 95 years ago was small potatoes compared to the wildly popular sport it is today. But, after all, we thought, the information had been published in a newspaper; so it had to be true.

Subsequently, however, the story still didn't pass the "smell test." So, we contacted a Dartmouth grad, John Bousum, Class of 1960, who has lived in the Downingtown area all of his life. Not one to dawdle, John immediately sent an email to Dartmouth's Dean of the College, seeking confirmation on the alleged game in Downingtown.

Life must slow down considerably on the Dartmouth campus in July, because John's query quickly landed in the college's library, where Dr. Morgan Swan, reference librarian, replied, "I'm now officially intrigued." Swan scanned pages from the student newspaper and the Dartmouth yearbook that covered the college's basketball squad during the 1920-21 season, and emailed them to John. There was no mention of a Dartmouth vs. Penn State basketball game in any of the material he had emailed.

Our next step was to check out sources up at University Park, PA. That's where Paul Dzyak, Penn State sports archivist, aided our pursuit by emailing us information on the Nittany Lions' 1920-21 basketball team, which he had retrieved from that academic year's yearbook, plus information on every basketball game Penn State played against Dartmouth. It showed that Penn State beat the Big Green in 1917, and didn't play Dartmouth again until 1942, when Penn State lost in a NCAA tournament contest. More important, the yearbook information on Penn State's 1920-21 basketball team revealed that Charlie Way wasn't even a member of the team. However, Glen Killinger was the team captain.

Obviously, we, as well as the *Downingtown Archive*, got snookered. We have no idea how the Downingtown weekly newspaper got the information on the game, which probably was a pick-up contest played by some Penn State students from the Philadelphia area, against guys who never had been in Hanover, New Hampshire. But we suspect Charlie Way, Glenn Killinger and their pals must have been laughing their heads off.

No laughs here; just a humbling experience.

## What local residents were talking about in early March 1948

Noted below are news items originally published on local newspaper 67 years ago:

- Downingtown contractor Leon Gable presented preliminary plans for the construction of a model Cape Cod-style house in the borough to 75 members of the Charles F. Moran American Legion Post, their wives and interested community residents at a meeting held in the Post's room in Borough Hall. The plan was to **build 25 of the bungalows on William Street**, beyond Ashton Avenue. Initially, the location of the housing project had been in the east end of the borough. Gable said the single dwellings would cost about \$6,000, and they would include a living room, bath, kitchen and two bedrooms on the first floor. On the second floor, there was to be two unfinished rooms, to be finished by the owner at a later date. Construction of the 25 X 30 feet houses would be cinder block with a stucco exterior, and they would be heated with coal. Arrangements for mortgages were made with the Brandywine Savings and Loan Association. Originally, the housing project was to be limited to former military service people and their families, but the widespread enthusiasm resulted in making the new houses available to all who wanted inexpensive housing.

- Building improvement plans at the **Minquas Fire Co.** were presented by Atlee Nye. They included the former gymnasium (the site of DHS basketball teams and community dances in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century) on the second floor being changed into a large recreation area, containing three card rooms, a 30-foot long bar and shuffleboard. Also, the firefighters had received their new, double-breasted, dark blue uniforms. New members were Ronald West, Lewis McFalls, Lambert McGuckin, Paul Fillman, Joseph Roney, Luigi D'Addazio, Charles Gilbert, James Daylor and John Gregory.

- **Lionville Elementary School** students who made the honor roll were Gwen Hamer, Janet Wallace, Cora Smedley, Robert Ross, Kathleen Levingood and Barbara Rosenbaum. Also, sixth graders who were on the student newspaper staff included Dorinda Mabry, Harry Dewees, Ronald Otter, Tommy Fisher, Richard Taylor, Meredith Ruark and Sammy Smith.

- The **Downingtown Sportsmen's Club** elected the following officers: Elmer Schrumpf, president; Amos Summers, vice president; Edward Dunmore, secretary; George Aumiller, treasurer; and trustees James Dukeman, Earl Stern and Clyde Lemmon.

- The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** Christmas Committee announced plans for a charity ball, to be held in the fall. Members of the committee were James Fennelly, Stanley Walters, Richard Lowry, Mrs. John Fisher and Mrs. Everett Hoopes. Proceeds from the event were to be used to pay for the community's Christmas programs. The chamber also planned to have a sunrise service at the DHS stadium on Easter Sunday morning.

- A new Ladies Society was organized at **Messiah Lutheran Church**. The officers were Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Earl Shirk, vice president; Mrs. Leon Dickinson, secretary; and Mrs. Edwin Murray, treasurer.

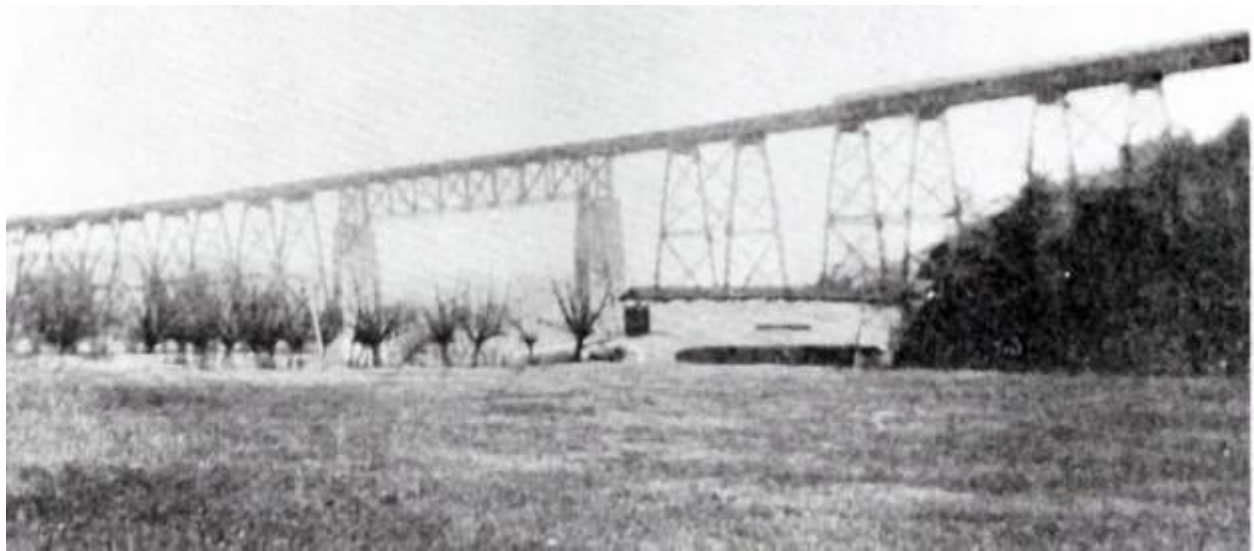
- Members and leaders of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a weekend at Camp Horseshoe, were Robert Bunting Sr., Robert Bunting Jr., Howard Smoyer, Robert Ciaffoni, Kenneth Trimble, Ronald Yetter, Raymond Fellenbaum, James and Donald Liney, Carl Bane, Dale Ellingworth, Robin Nelson, Frederick Martin, Robert McCue, Joseph Ferri, and William Billings.

- An octet from DHS, who entertained members and guests at the **Downingtown Lions Club's** Ladies Night, included Shirley Habecker, Philomena Cozzone, Netha Beumers, Caroline Saylor, Mary Graden, Margaret Sciarretta, Margaret Ciarlone and Virginia Bare.



- DHS students Ruth Schrumpf, Austin Windle and Marjorie Lyons modeled the new marching band uniforms at a meeting of the **Alert Fire Co. Auxiliary**, which had donated \$1,000 to the band uniform fund.
- **Girl Scout troops** in the Downingtown area celebrated the national organization's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary by displaying examples of the craft items they had created, in the windows of local businesses. The **Downingtown Lions Club** awarded cash prizes for the best exhibits. First place was won by Troop 94, led by Mrs. William Gibbs, for its ceramics display in the window of the Downingtown Motor Co. Mrs. Leo Hamilton and Mrs. Russell Gilkin helped the girls make and display their ceramic pieces.

## It was the Kerr-Hoopes Bridge (1852-1929)



No, we didn't run the photo above in last week's Hist-O-Gram because we thought almost everyone would recognize the Trestle Bridge. Instead, we were wondering if anyone would correctly identify the Kerr-Hoopes covered bridge, which was next to the Trestle Bridge in East Caln, just south of Downingtown. We found the photo of the covered bridge and much of its history in "Pictorial History of Chester County," authored in 2000 by Downingtown banker Spencer Windle. The bridge was built for \$1,377 in 1852 by Robert Russell. And Jack Hines is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the only person who identified the covered bridge. Most important, Jack told us that Franklin Malin was killed and a companion was seriously injured in 1907 when Malin drove a steam-powered, 8-ton tractor over the bridge's flooring, which gave way due to the excessive weight, and the farm vehicle collapsed into the Brandywine. The county repaired the bridge, and most of the siding was removed in 1920. In 1929, the State Department of Highways replaced the old bridge with a steel structure, which was later relocated east of the Trestle Bridge, and the County sold the remnants of the old bridge for \$50.

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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).

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### ***Field Day***

Downingtown's Parks and Recreation Commission will sponsor a Field Day from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 19 at Kerr Park. Activities include: games for kids, prizes, raffles (prizes from Phila. Eagles and Flyers, Downingtown Playdium, Longwood Gardens) and a DJ. If you can be a volunteer that day, send an email to: [downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com](mailto:downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com).

### ***Amish Quilts***

Janneken Smucker, WCU History professor and author, will give a talk on "Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon," when the West Caln Historical Society's meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 15 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meetings are free and open to the public.

### ***Teri's Run***

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### ***Flea Market***

The Eagle/Glenmoore Lions Club will have a flea market and craft sale from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 19 at the corner of Park Road and Little Conestoga Road in Eagle. Rain date is 9 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, September 20. Those who wish to have a space should contact: [rebecca.nash@verizon.net](mailto:rebecca.nash@verizon.net).

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

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

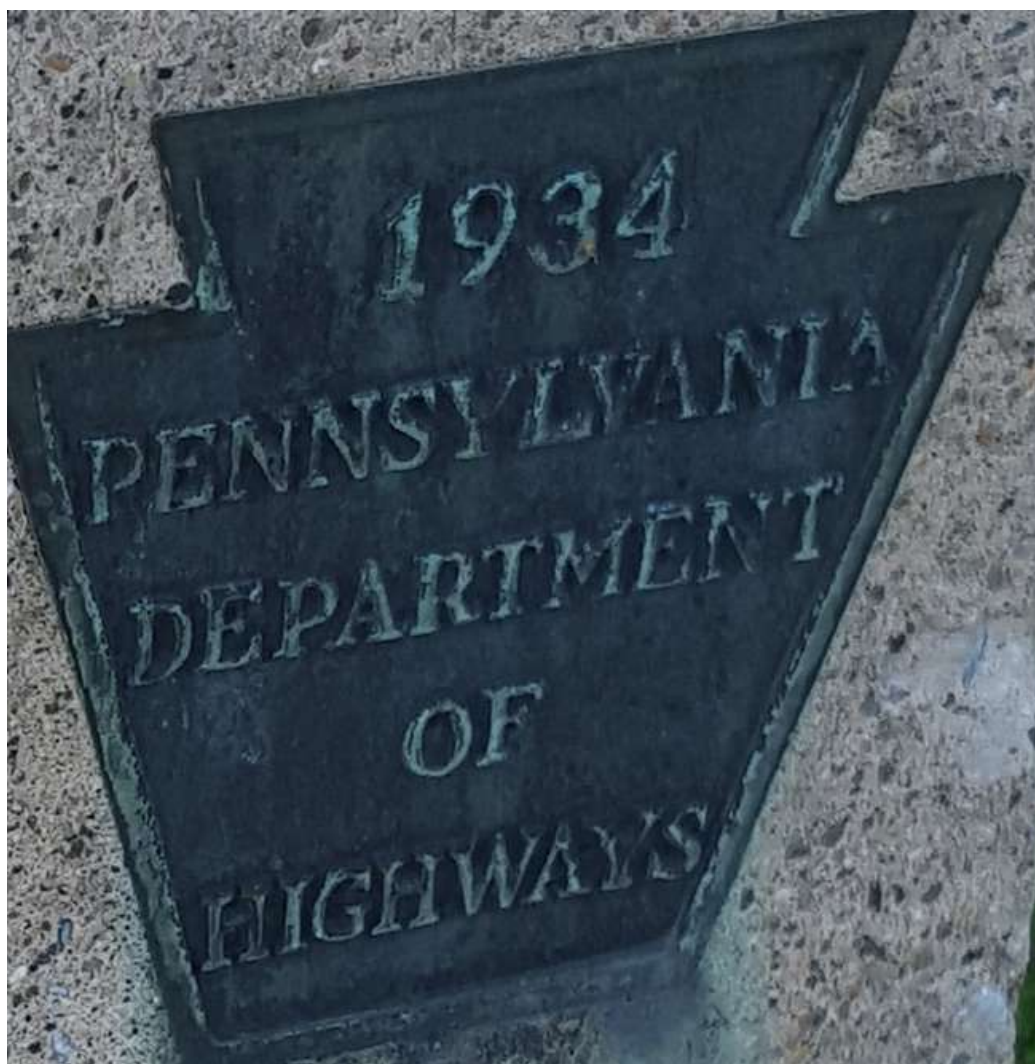
[www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org)

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

Vol. 6, No. 36

September 3, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## Local news items in the latter part of September 1979

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

- The **Downingtown School Board** agreed to study the possibility of changing how many representatives each municipality should have on the board. When the school district was consolidated in the 1960s, Downingtown borough had two seats on the board because it was the largest municipality in the jointure back then. However, two townships—Uwchlan and West Bradford—had grown in the ensuing years to the point that they now had larger populations than the borough. And Norma Smith, school director representing Uwchlan Township, and Andrew Dinniman, East Caln's representative on the board, said they planned to resign from the school board because they both were buying homes outside of the school district.
- Downingtown's **Good Neighbor Day Committee** contributed \$1,800 each to three area ambulance or rescue squads—Minquas, Uwchlan and East Brandywine. The contributions were proceeds from the Run For Life road race on July Fourth.
- Ron Smalley, the fire company's engineer who had kept the aerial unit in top shape, and fire chief Dr. Brent Follweiler were honored at the **East Brandywine Fire Co.'s** 17<sup>th</sup> annual banquet. Also, the Ladies Auxiliary presented a \$9,000 check to the fire company at the banquet. Officers of the fire company were John Piersol, president; John Neff, vice president; Ron Rambo, recording secretary; Scott Piersol, membership secretary; Lewis Laird, treasurer; Howard Laird, chaplain; and trustees Walter Crandall, Jay Lammey and Charles Thomas. Auxiliary officers were Corrine O'Neill, president; Kathryn Rambo, vice president; Dorothy Piersol, treasurer; Myra Thomas, secretary; Judi O'Neill, chaplain; trustees Judy Neff and Hazel Laird; and Beverly McCarty, membership chairman.
- The Sunday School staff at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle included Suzanne Murdoch, Bev Cura, Sue Nesspor, Bev Runyen, Janet Supplee, Judy Shaw, Adell Anthony, Esther Popjoy, Chuck and Sarah Bixler, Sandy Styer, Carolyn Miller, Nancy Pyle, Bill Butler, John Meissner, Ed and Elsa Popjoy, Charles Popjoy, Janna Cracas, Joe Cura and Ed Pyle.
- Ricky Stonewall scored three TDs, as the **DHS football team** trounced Pottstown 35-0. Linebackers Todd McNeill and Glenn Davis led the defense with 11 and 10 tackles, respectively. And fleet-footed Stonewall racked up 251 yards on 25 carries the following week, as the Whippets beat Phoenixville 21-13 in a come-from-behind battle. Offensive lineman Horace Sorenson and defensive tackle Bob Ricci were cited by coach Chic Chiccino for their outstanding play.
- Honored at the **Downingtown-Lionville Babe Ruth League's** annual banquet were Bob Stevens, all-star team manager; Dan Dougherty, the National league's most valuable player; Michael Lynch, the American League's MVP; and Don Forbes, who won the Philip Burns memorial trophy.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 209 Karen Drive, Downingtown, \$48,200; 128 Lambeth Court, East Brandywine, \$58,000; 1409 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$49,900; 1200 Black Horse Hill, Caln, \$40,000; 216 Concord Avenue, Uwchlan, \$73,000; 201 Township Line Road, West Whiteland, \$74,000; 17 Indian Run Road, Wallace, \$53,000.
- DHS history teacher **Alan Petty** was writing a history of the high school over the past 50 years. Much of the research was being done by these students: Diane Davis, Mary Dougherty, Jeanne Minahan, Rich Altringer, Jane Thompson and Martha Wagoner.
- DHS seniors who were named semi-finalists in the **National Merit Scholarship** program were Larry Williams, Scott Kohler, Lori Schwabenbauer, Arch Robison and John Armstrong.

- Rob Sanders set a new course record (15:29) as he came in first in a win over Coatesville for the **DHS boys' cross-country squad**. And Kristin Brandl, Melanie Wix, Lee McIntyre, Megan McAuliffe and Ann Borland scored points, as the **Whippet girls' team** beat the Red Raiders.

- Coach Paul Hurley's **DHS soccer team** beat Marple-Newtown 3-2 and Conestoga 4-2 in non-league matches, but the Whippet kickers lost 2-0 to West Chester East. The victory over Marple was a struggle because DHS had to rally twice for the win, as Mike Pastino and Vince Forgione each scored. Hurley cited the play of Jeff Davis, John McClung, Bob Trauger and Kurt Perrson in the Conestoga match.

- After losing a match to Pottsgrove by a 6-1 margin, the **DHS girls' tennis team** rebounded with a 4-3 victory over West Chester East. Points were tallied by Downingtown singles players Judy O'Connell, Chris Lefko and Pam Smith and the doubles team of Lisa Diehl and Sue Sabellico.

- Following a 4-1 loss to West Chester Henderson, the **Whippet field hockey team** came back and beat Boyertown 2-0. Coach Sally Anderson praised Doreen Warihay and Ann Hayes for their efforts against the Bears.

## Here are more reasons why 1921 was significant in the borough's history

We noted in recent Hist-O-Grams that 1921 was important in Downingtown's history because steps were taken to consolidate the borough's two Post Office. Here are several more news items, retrieved from editions of the *Downingtown Archive*, published in the summer of 1921, which illustrate that there was a lot going on in the borough at that time.

- The Downingtown Business Men's Club agreed to underwrite the cost of **building a second bridge across the Brandywine**, in addition to the bridge on Lancaster Avenue. Since the project would include the acquisition of privately owned property, the Business Men's Club agreed to cover those costs as well. In addition to building a bridge at Pennsylvania Avenue, the project included an eastern extension of Pennsylvania Avenue beyond Manor Avenue. The new bridge and eastward extension of Pennsylvania Avenue were two projects which the private Town Planning Committee claimed should be pursued immediately because of traffic congestion on Lancaster Avenue. However, the Committee opposed the creation of a public park along the Brandywine, adjacent to Wallace Avenue, because it would inhibit further industrial development in that area.

- The **Downingtown School Board** voted to replace the grade school in the east end of the borough with a new, 14-room elementary school on East Lancaster Avenue. However, borrowing money to construct the new building would have to be approved by borough residents in a referendum in the November general election. Meanwhile, the board agreed to purchase two portable structures to temporarily meet the immediate classroom needs of the old, overcrowded East Ward School.

- At the DHS commencement, Esther Eppehimer won a medal, presented by **Downingtown's Charles F. Moran American Legion Post**, for writing the best essay on the subject of Americanization. (*Editor's note: The following year, the local post's School Medal program was adopted by the American Legion as a national program to foster the ideals of*

*Americanism. And today, nearly 100 years later, the School Medals continue to be presented by local American Legion posts to students across America).*

- A **Twilight Baseball League** was established in the borough. The league's teams included the Moose, the Red Men, the Downingtown Manufacturing Co. and the Field team. Games were played on the high school diamond on West Lancaster Avenue. After several weeks of play, it was ruled that each team's roster was limited to 15 players and players could only compete for one team. Games typically attracted 400-500 spectators, when the borough's population was only 4,500.

## **Clip joint to be open this Sunday; evening sessions to begin Sept. 15**

If you want to rest up in preparation for a wild Labor Day, we suggest that you consider coming to the Historical Society's restful, but gossip-filled Clip Joint session, which will be conducted from 1-4 PM on Sunday, September 6.

And if your social or work obligations have made it impossible for you to come to the Clip Joint sessions on the first Sunday each month, we will start having evening sessions. The first one will be from 6:30-8:30 PM on Tuesday, September 15 at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. You're welcome to arrive and leave either session at your convenience.

## **Our Wish List**

The items listed below in our Wish List notes the materials the Historical Society especially needs to reach its archival goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well:

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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 team, and the Downingtown Girls' Softball League.
- Any printed materials related to the Lionville Youth Association, West Bradford Youth Association, or the East Brandywine Youth Athletics.
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If you need more info about either 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.

## **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.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).

# It's the original Messiah Lutheran Church



Jeff Stevens is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the original Messiah Lutheran Church on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown.

Constructed in 1860 for the First Presbyterian Church of Downingtown, which disbanded during the Civil War; subsequently, the building was sold to the Downingtown National Bank, which used it as a bank facility. In 1870, the building was sold to Thomas Binns, who turned it into a community center known as Central Hall, where itinerant entertainment, concerts, wrestling matches, public meetings, and high school commencements were held. In 1883, some 20 people, who subsequently formed the nucleus of the forthcoming First Baptist Church, held religious services there. In 1893, the site was sold to the Christian Temperance League of Downingtown for \$2,300.

A 1902, survey determined that there were enough Lutherans living in Downingtown to warrant establishing a Lutheran Church. Many of them worked for the Cohansey Glass Manufacturing

Co., which was located on Chestnut Street, at a site later occupied for decades by Pepperidge Farm. The first preparatory meeting before the church was organized in 1902, was held in Central Presbyterian Church. Shortly thereafter, the newly organized congregation bought the former Central Hall for \$2,105, and used it as its church until 1986, when a new church was constructed on a site, partially occupied by a strip mall, next to the original church, which was razed later that year.

*(Information noted above was gleaned from church histories authored by Jane Davidson and Elaine Burgess.)*

*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**

### ***Clam Bake***

The Lionville Fire Co. will have its annual clam bake from 1-7 PM on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the firehouse on Village Avenue. Tickets (\$40 for adults) can be ordered via: [www.ticketriver.com/event/15728](http://www.ticketriver.com/event/15728). Food includes 3 dozen clams, plus corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, deli salads, clam chowder and drinks including beer. Tickets for kids between 3 and 12 are \$20; they don't include clams or beer. Kids under 3 are free. Activities include live entertainment and a horseshoe tournament.

### ***Join the Girl Scouts***

An open registration for Downingtown Girl Scouts will be held from 7-8:30 PM on Thursday, September 10, at Downingtown United Methodist Church. Registration to join the Girl Scouts is open to girls between 5 and 17 years old, or in grades K-12. Adult volunteers are also needed, and those interested can obtain information that evening. For more info, see: [GirlScoutsDtwn@gmail.com](mailto:GirlScoutsDtwn@gmail.com).

### ***Teri's Run***

The 14th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be on Friday, September **11**, beginning on Green Street in Downingtown. The event is dedicated to the memory of Downingtown's Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. This year's Run will also raise funds for research and raise awareness of Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia. The Run donated \$15,000 last year to the National Scleroderma Foundation, and it has raised over \$125,000 over the past 13 years for research into the cause and someday a cure for this debilitating disease. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM, followed at 7 PM by the 5K Run and the 1.5 mile Walk. The deadline for pre-registering (\$25) is August 28. Registration cost after August 28 is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students 18 and under, and \$5 for the Kids Run. For more info, see: [www.terisrun.org/](http://www.terisrun.org/)

### ***Caln Community Day***

The Caln Township and the Caln Township Business Group are co-sponsors of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Caln Community Day, from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Caln Municipal Park in Thorndale. The event will include live entertainment, food, a children's area, a flea market sponsored by the Thorndale United Methodist Church and much more. New this year will be a Caln Police vs Thorndale Fire Department softball game at 2 PM.

### ***Parking Lot Sale***

Boy Scout Troop 216, Lionville, will hold a parking lot sale from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 104 South Village Ave., Lionville. For more info and to reserve a space, contact Karen Momot via [kaz.creations@yahoo.com](mailto:kaz.creations@yahoo.com).



### ***Drug Take Back Day***

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***MultiSport Festival***

An all-day Downingtown MultiSport Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13 at Kerr Park, Downingtown, beginning at 9 AM. Events include; a kids' fun run, a group bike ride, and an adventure challenge, plus CrossFit and skateboarding tournaments and tae kwon do, roller derby and tennis demonstrations. Proceeds go to Downingtown Library, Downingtown Skate Park, the Team CMMD Foundation, and the Chester County Hero Fund. For more info, see: <http://downingtownmultisportfestival.org/>.

### ***Amish Quilts***

Janneken Smucker, WCU History professor and author, will give a talk on "Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon," when the West Caln Historical Society's meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 15 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meetings are free and open to the public.

### ***Field Day***

Downingtown's Parks and Recreation Commission will sponsor a Field Day from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 19 at Kerr Park. Activities include: games for kids, prizes, raffles (prizes from Phila. Eagles and Flyers, Downingtown Playdium, Longwood Gardens) and a DJ. If you can be a volunteer that day, send an email to: [downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com](mailto:downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com).

### ***Flea Market***

The Eagle/Glenmoore Lions Club will have a flea market and craft sale from 8 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, September 19 at the corner of Park Road and Little Conestoga Road in Eagle. Rain date is 9 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, September 20. Those who wish to have a space should contact: [rebecca.nash@verizon.net](mailto:rebecca.nash@verizon.net).

### ***Art & Craft Show***

Downingtown Borough's Historic Commission will hold its annual Log House Art & Craft Show on Saturday, September 19, from noon – 4 PM at Kerr Park. Spaces are \$25. Vendor applications and information can be found on the website: [www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html](http://www.downingtown.org/LogHouseArtCraftShow.html)

### ***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. Winner will win a Dinner for 4 people at the Log House in early November. The dinner will be catered by St. Anthony's Restaurant. Ticket cost: \$50. To purchase tickets, please contact Val at Borough Hall via: [Vdiluigi@downingtown.org](mailto:Vdiluigi@downingtown.org) or 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

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

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# What local people were talking about in August 1963

Noted below are items originally published in area newspapers 52 years ago.

- Representatives of **East Caln Township** and **Downingtown Borough** had several meetings, which initially focused on water and sewage issues. However, the discussions evolved into the possibilities of merging the two municipalities or annexation of East Caln properties adjacent to the borough's eastern border.
- Representatives of the **Daring Paper Co.** and Local 804 of the United Papermill Papermakers and Paperworkers Union announced plans to reopen the Downingtown plant, which had been closed since a "wildcat" strike in April 1962.
- Superintendent Raymond Baugher reported that **enrollment at DHS** had increased to 670 students in the 1963-64 school year, up from 544 the previous year. However, there was less significant growth at the junior high school—from 735 to 793 pupils.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who spent a week at Camp Horseshoe included: Larry Amoriello, Stan Amway, Douglas Barr, Terry and Ronald Cogan, Robert Collins, Earl Edwards, Charles Fitzgerald, Ronald Follmar, Peter Griggs, Dave Hallman, James Harkins, Carl Harper, Steve Hendry, Kenneth and Joseph Kirkner, Steve Phillips, Steve Schmeiding and Raymond Townsend.
- The staff of the Vacation Bible School at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, included Mrs. Warren Radcliffe, Mary and Katherine Peoples, Mrs. Edward Foreman, Mrs. David Whittaker, Mrs. Yerkes Peoples, Mrs. Guy Jordan, Mrs. Frederic Seibert, Mrs. Richard Smith, Steve Pollock, Lois and Christie Jordan, Thomas McIlvaine, Virginia Priest, Richard Priest Jr, and Dan Hildebeitel.
- Officers elected to lead the **Glen Moore 4-H Club** were Ruth Ann Givler, president; Louise Jones, vice president; Becky Evans, secretary; Mary Lou Givler, song leader; and Carol Ann Burkey, reporter.
- Members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** faced the Frazer Lions in a donkey baseball game at Kerr Park in the borough.
- Homes in the **Edgewood Manor Farms** development in Thorndale, across from the Ingleside Country Club, were selling for as little as \$19,900.
- Youngsters who modeled in the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** outdoor fashion show included Diane and Sandy Piersol, Brenda and Judy Foreman, Nancy and Jeff Kohlhas, Robin Skiles and Jill Walton.
- Umpires and team managers, who were recognized at the **Lionville Little League's** swim party and spaghetti dinner at the Pennypacker Country Club, were Pete Hayes, Harry Dewees, O.J. Ashinhurst, Paul Otter, Hugh Feeley, Samuel Windham and William Meredith.
- Proceeds from the **Marshallton Horse Show** were used to help pay for the West Bradford Fire Co. engine, being built at National Foam Co.
- **Bob's Sporting Goods**, 115 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was having a Going Out of Business Sale.

## E. Brandywine Bulls won Mid-Atlantic championship



The East Brandywine Bulls 12-year-old baseball team, which was part of the East Brandywine Youth Athletics program, won the Mid-Atlantic regional championship of the Cal Ripken Baseball League and advanced to the league's World Series in California. Members of the team in the photo above were, left to right: first row, Jason Hoertz (bat boy), Nate DiRocco, Chase Reardon, Zach Hoertz, Cole Rupp, Jacob Massa, Drew Turner (bat boy), Cameron Trego, Casey Caulfield; back row Dennis Reardon (head coach), Louis Lombardi, Buddy Trego (coach - dark glasses), Matt Turner, Pete Kern, Jack Ginsburg, Lonnie White, Spencer Mochulski, Chad Britt, Steve Mochulski (coach), Todd Rupp (coach)

## Brief, but important

- According to an article in the August 14, 1913 edition of the *Daily Local News*, the Downingtown chapter of the **No-License Campaign Committee** held its monthly meetings in Corral Hall in the borough, and agreed to send \$50 to the organization's county headquarters. The No-License group was a large organization, which focused on opposition against hotel bars and saloons. However, the No-License people didn't promote women's right to vote, as the Women Christian Temperance Union did.

- Downingtown Borough Council struggled in the spring of 1942, according to the May 7, 1942 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*, over what to do with the **Log House**, which had been bequeathed to the borough in the late Thomas Downing's will. Council acknowledged that the building needed many repairs and that it should be moved a short distance from Lancaster Avenue, because increasing heavy truck traffic would continue to take a damaging toll on the nearly 250-year-old structure. However, the councilmen also recognized those projects would cost thousands of dollars.



## Public projects created tensions in the borough 94 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from issues of the *Downingtown Archive* published in September and October 1921.

- The Pennsylvania Legislature allocated funds in 1921, to pave state roads running through boroughs. In addition to paving Lancaster Avenue for the first time, with state and local funding, the State Highway Department also agreed in 1921 to replace the original, three-arch, stone bridge, over the east branch of the Brandywine, which had been built in 1801. So, it sounds like Downingtown should have been enjoying all those improvements in 1921. Well, not exactly. Obviously, with all that construction going on, it was impossible for vehicles to travel through town via Lancaster Avenue. Instead, motorists travelling on Lancaster Avenue, from the east end of the borough to the west end, for example, had to take a detour which involved making a left turn onto Brandywine Avenue, and continuing for several blocks until they had to cross the rickety, old, wooden Kerr's Bridge and continue onto the unpaved Laurel Road into the Johnstown section of the borough, and finally get back on Lancaster Avenue, via Bradford and Viaduct Avenues. The detour situation was a mess until the Downingtown Business Men's Club came to the rescue by agreeing to underwrite the cost of building a second bridge across the Brandywine, at Pennsylvania Avenue. Better yet, the Business Men's Club saved a bunch of time and money on the project by moving the iron trolley bridge from its location, next to the Lancaster Avenue Bridge, and installing it at Pennsylvania Avenue. Downingtown contractor Harry Deets built the piers needed to support the relocated, narrow trolley bridge. That bridge was replaced in the 1980s.

- Almost everyone in Downingtown acknowledged that the current elementary school in the borough's east end was "inadequate, unsuitable and unsanitary." Worse yet, over-crowding in the old building had forced the school district to buy two portable buildings and spend \$2,500 furnishing them. However, building a new East Ward School would require local voters to approve of a \$100,000 bond in the November election to pay for the new building was a challenge. That wouldn't be a slam-dunk, because the Central School (later called the West Ward School after the Junior-Senior High School was opened on Manor Avenue in 1932) only cost \$10,000 to build in 1910. And local taxpayers had already agreed to kick in \$50,000 several months earlier, as the borough's portion of the cost to pave Lancaster Avenue, a project that was underway now and causing loads of traffic problems.

- Contention concerning a building in the east end of town wasn't limited to the new school. A group of plutocrats who lived in that "distinctly residential part of the town" were aghast when they learned that a gas station was going to be built at the corner of East Lancaster and Wagner Avenues, according to a letter they sent to Borough Council. The petitioners also claimed they had chosen to live in a "neighborhood for our homes to be away from the business section of the town." Several Council members failed to agree with the petitioners' request that the firm planning to operate the service be denied a building permit. But instead of getting involved in the tiff, they chose a more diplomatic route by not responding until a "full investigation on the matter" was completed.

- Borough Council also refused to respond to a petition, signed by several businessmen who were against a carnival being conducted in a lot next to the Alert Fire Co. on Downing Avenue, to benefit a local baseball team. And in an apparent effort to take the fun out of every borough resident's life, the petitioners asked Council to ban all traveling shows, circuses, carnivals and hucksters in Downingtown. That petition didn't warrant a full investigation.

- Despite all that anxiety, there was some good news in Downingtown in the fall months of 1921. Harvey Fishburne had been hired as the school district's first director of athletics. He also served as coach of the DHS football team, which had clobbered Parkesburg 65-0 in its opening game. And the AD would no longer be "embarrassed" about the high school's "abominable facilities for bathing and dressing, because plumber John Maxwell was installing showers there.

- And Cardinal Dennis Dougherty took a train (no doubt he read about all the borough's traffic problems while Lancaster Avenue was being repaved and the new bridges over the Brandywine were being built) from Philadelphia to confirm 41 youngsters at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The cardinal and his entourage was met at the Downingtown Railroad Station by the Lukens Band, the parish's Holy Name Society and many members of congregation.

- Also, the two-mile stretch of road between Thorndale and Fisherville in Caln Township was going to be macadamized by Downingtown contractor Pollock, Johnson and Gibney in the spring. The project would cost \$70,000, with the State paying for one-half of the total, and the county and township each coughing up \$17,500.

## **Evening Clip & Paste sessions to begin Tuesday, Sept. 15**

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- A digital SLR camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-shooter) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts in our archival collection. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

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[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.

**It's the bridge over Beaver Creek on Manor Ave. (Route 322)**



Mary Beth Fusco is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first, and only, person who correctly identified the plaque in the photo above as the one on the 64-foot long bridge on Manor Avenue (Route 322) over Beaver Creek in the borough. The contractor which built the bridge for the state was the Edward Daylor Co. The 1934 concrete bridge retains the plaque stone from the previous stone arch bridge, which was built at this location in 1805.

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## **Free ads for Non-Profits**

### ***Join the Girl Scouts***

An open registration for Downingtown Girl Scouts will be held from 7-8:30 PM on Thursday, September 10, at Downingtown United Methodist Church. Registration to join the Girl Scouts is open to girls between 5 and 17 years old, or in grades K-12. Adult volunteers are also needed, and those interested can obtain information that evening. For more info, see: [GirlScoutsDtown@gmail.com](mailto:GirlScoutsDtown@gmail.com).

### ***Teri's Run***

The 14th annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be on Friday, September **11**, beginning on Green Street in Downingtown. The event is dedicated to the memory of Downingtown's Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma. This year's Run will also raise funds for research and raise awareness of Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia. The Run donated \$15,000 last year to the National Scleroderma Foundation, and it has raised over \$125,000 over the past 13 years for research into the cause and someday a cure for this debilitating disease. The Kids' Run begins at 6:30 PM, followed at 7 PM by the 5K Run and the 1.5 mile Walk. The deadline for pre-registering (\$25) is August 28. Registration cost after August 28 is \$30 for adults, \$20 for students 18 and under, and \$5 for the Kids Run. For more info, see: [www.terisrun.org/](http://www.terisrun.org/)

### ***Caln Community Day***

The Caln Township and the Caln Township Business Group are co-sponsors of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Caln Community Day, from 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the Caln Municipal Park in Thorndale. The event will include live entertainment, food, a children's area, a flea market sponsored by the Thorndale United Methodist Church and much more. New this year will be a Caln Police vs Thorndale Fire Department softball game at 2 PM.

### ***Parking Lot Sale***

Boy Scout Troop 216, Lionville, will hold a parking lot sale from 9 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 104 South Village Ave., Lionville. For more info and to reserve a space, contact Karen Momot via [kaz.creations@yahoo.com](mailto:kaz.creations@yahoo.com).

### ***Drug Take Back Day***

The Downingtown Police Department will again partner with the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to participate in a Prescription Drug Take-Back Day from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, Sept. 12. This is an opportunity for the public to safely discard unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. For more information, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200.

### ***MultiSport Festival***

An all-day Downingtown MultiSport Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 13 at Kerr Park, Downingtown, beginning at 9 AM. Events include; a kids' fun run, a group bike ride, and an adventure challenge, plus CrossFit and skateboarding tournaments and tae kwon do, roller derby and tennis demonstrations. Proceeds go to Downingtown Library, Downingtown Skate Park, the Team CMMD Foundation, and the Chester County Hero Fund. For more info, see: <http://downingtowntmultisportfestival.org/>.

### ***Amish Quilts***

Janneken Smucker, WCU History professor and author, will give a talk on “Amish Quilts: Crafting an American Icon,” when the West Caln Historical Society’s meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 15 at the township building, 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meetings are free and open to the public.

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

Art Professor Donna Usher will present a series of four Art Film/Discussions at the new Downingtown Library from 5:45-8 PM, beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 16. The first session’s topic, “How Art Made the World,” will cover How humans made art and art made us human. The sessions for anyone who's interested in the connection between social/political history and how the art that occurred during that time reflects those historical issues. They will be held 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).

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### ***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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*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 6, No. 38

September 17, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## What area residents were talking about in early October 1979

Noted below are news items, which Downingtown area people were talking about 36 years ago.

- A terror-stricken housewife (whose name the former editor of the now-defunct *East Branch Citizen* still refuses to reveal) provided important information to the police, which helped them apprehend the three men who robbed the **Brandywine Savings and Loan** office at Manor and Pennsylvania Avenues in the borough. The Webster Avenue resident noticed that three males had parked a Cadillac on her street, and after they started walking toward the borough's business area, she wrote down the car's license number because she thought the vehicle might have been stolen. A few minutes later she saw the men run up her street, jump into the Cadillac, and drive away. That's why the Downingtown woman immediately turned on her police scanner and learned that the savings and loan office had been robbed.

Realizing that the men who had parked their car near her house probably were the culprits involved in the \$3,000 robbery, she contacted the Downingtown Police Department, and provided a description of the suspects, their car, and its license number. Based on those tips and other information, the robbers were ultimately arrested by the police in West Chester and Philadelphia.

- Members of **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, Downingtown, who served as monitors when Pope John Paul II celebrated an outdoor Mass during his visit to Philadelphia, were Frank Manetta, Dennis McBride, John Francella, Jim McDonald, Victor Taraschi, Al Homan, Dominic Romanelli, and Frank, Francis and Michael Saello. Nine busloads of parishioners from St. Joseph's made the trip to the Mass.

- George Mershon and Jack McFadden predicted that about 500 people would compete in the fifth annual **Marshallton Inn Triathlon**, an event that included bicycling, canoeing, and walking over a 10-mile course in West Bradford Township. Proceeds from each \$2 entry fee went to the West Bradford Fire Co. The fire company also received a portion of the money earned at the three bars the Inn had set up, and part of the \$101 fee some participants had paid to rent a canoe.

- During the 1978-79 school year, 1,357 junior and senior high students—about 40% of all of the Downingtown Area School District's secondary level pupils—**played on at least one of the 18 interscholastic sports teams.**

- DHS seniors nominated for **Homecoming Queen** included: Lynn Christman, Sue Grigson, Dede Mancini, Tina Talucci, Melanie Wix, Dawn Williams, Sue Colatta, Kim Ritchie, Dena Gabriel and Cheryl Scott.

- Supervisor Earl Cooke reported that **Wallace Township** expected to buy a 4-acre property at Route 282 and Indiantown Road, where a building to house the township's maintenance equipment and other vehicles could be constructed. Part of the tract was already being used to hold the township's salt and cinder supply.

- The **Downingtown Lions Club** offered free hearing and glaucoma exams at Downing Center. The testing was done by Hershey medical Center.

- New officers of the **Lionville Home and School Association** were Susan McVeigh, president; Marianne Kozak, vice president; Susie Sparkman, treasurer; Sue Ellen Katancik, secretary; and Bobbie Dick, corresponding secretary. Board members included Mary Quirk, membership drive; Maddie Kujawski, publicity; Trudy Traynor, ways and means; Kathy Kaiser, programs; and Chris Farling and Jacki McCalla, teacher representatives.

- Ricke Stonewall scored three touchdowns as the **DHS football team** trounced Spring-Ford 35-0. Also scoring were Dave Kucera, on a 51-yard pass play, and Teddy Robinson on a 49-yard run. And TDs were set up by pass interceptions by Kucera and Ed Novak. Coach Chic Chiccino also praised the blocking and defensive prowess of Horace Sorenson, eight tackles, and Glenn Davis, nine tackles.

- Spring-Ford also lost to the **Whippet field hockey team**, as Doreen Warihay scored a goal on an assist by Donna Allison. And DHS beat Pottstown 2-0, as Sue Widen and Amy Horne tallied goals.

- Mark Mathis (3), Joe Woodward, Taylor Ward, Vince Forgione and Dale Russell scored goals, as the **DHS soccer squad** clobbered OJ Roberts 7-0.

- In addition to placing fourth in the prestigious Steel City Invitational, the **DHS cross-country team** defeated West Chester Henderson and Spring-Ford. Six Downingtown runners—Shawn Urbine, Larry Williams, Rob Sanders, Matt Mingione, Steve Beaver and Andy Rolen—were the first runners in the Henderson meet, and Sanders set a new course record at Spring-Ford.

- **DHS tennis** player Judy O'Connell finished fourth in Ches-Mont singles competition, and qualified for District I play. The doubles team of O'Connell and Pam Smith came in second in the Ches-Mont championships.

- And **DHS golfer** Eric Meyer qualified for the state tournament by coming in second in District I competition.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 522 Grant Ave., Downingtown, \$40,000; 295 Woodland Ave., Uwchlan, \$82,000; 1212 Kerwood Lane, West Bradford, \$48,170; 606 Municipal Drive, Caln, \$55,000; 470 Spruce Drive, West Whiteland, \$80,700; 100 Evergreen Drive, East Brandywine, \$77,850; 45 Dorothy Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$74,800; 110 Garriss Road, East Caln, \$45,400;

## **Items published in *The Archive* in November and December of 1921**

Noted below are interesting snippets of news, published in Downingtown's weekly newspaper during the last two months of 1921.

- A large majority of Downingtown voters in the general election approved of the borough school district proposal to borrow \$50,000 to build a new East Ward School. Only 288 residents were against the plan, while 531 were in favor of it. The only precinct that voted against the bond issue were residents of the Johnsontown section of the borough. There was much concern about the referendum on the loan because, several months earlier, borough voters had approved of Downingtown contributing \$50,000 toward paying for the paving of Lancaster Avenue.

Apparently, many of the borough's taxpayers recognized that there was a real need to replace the elementary school because there had significant growth in Downingtown (from 3,300 in the 1910 federal census to 4,000 in 1920) as well as in the outlying townships, which fed students into the borough high school. As a result, total enrollment in Downingtown's three overcrowded schools had reached 879 pupils, including 117 who lived in the neighboring townships.

Worse yet, the four classrooms at the existent East Ward Schools had been condemned as "unsuitable for school purposes" by the State Education Department.

- Downingtown's American Legion Post made arrangements for the following Armistice Day events: a memorial service in the morning in Downing's meadow for the unknown servicemen who died in World War I, followed by a tolling of all community's church bells; the planting of 15 memorial trees along the extension of Pennsylvania Avenue; an afternoon football game at the race track infield between the DHS team and the Legion team, which was won by the bigger Legionnaires; a banquet, put on by the Legion's Auxiliary, at the parish hall of St. James Episcopal Church for veterans who served during the Civil War, Spanish-American War or World War I. The day ended with a dance at the Minquas Fire Co.

- Borough Council refused to grant a building permit to the Keystone Auto Service Corp., which wanted to erect a gas station at Wagner and Lancaster Avenues. Several months earlier, the hoi polloi of East Lancaster Avenue, had petitioned Council to deny the permit request because they lived in that "distinctly residential part of the town."

- Husbands, who couldn't figure out what to buy for their wife for Christmas in 1921, had an opportunity to buy her a Eureka vacuum cleaner from the Chester Valley Electric Co. (located on the second floor of the Downingtown National Bank) if the purchase was made before Christmas. Better yet, the deal included a free, complete set of attachments.



Remember this place?

**COFFEE CUP**  
A 10.17.57  
101 E. LANCASTER AVE.  
OPEN 24 HOURS



**GRAND OPENING**

**FRIDAY - OCTOBER 18**

**SPECIALTIES OF THE HOUSE**

SPAGHETTI & MEAT BALLS	PIZZA PIE	RAVIOLI
SUBMARINE SANDWICHES (All Italian meats, sliced on order)		
ODA FOUNTAIN	JUMBO HAMBURGER	ALL KINDS SANDWICHES
STEAK SANDWICHES	PIES	ICE CREAM
FRIED SHRIMP	FILLET of HADDOCK	
FRIED SCALLOPS	LOBSTER TAIL	
OYSTERS in season	DEILED CRAB	

<b>PLATTERS</b> Ham Croquettes	Breaded Veal Cutlet	Special Club Steak
	Breaded Pork Chops	T-Bone Steak
	Southern Fried Chicken	Delmonico Steak
	Grilled Pork Chops	Roast Beef & Roast Pork
	Chicken Croquettes	Turkey Cutlet

Remember when Al Brango's Coffee Cup was located at the corner of East Lancaster and Wallace Avenues in Downingtown? Several years later, the eating establishment was relocated up the street, to 117 E. Lancaster Ave. The ad above was published in the October 17, 1957 edition of *The Archive*. This is the first of a series of old ads and photos of local businesses retrieved from our archival collection, which we'll include in the Hist-O-Gram every week.



## **It's the Wheelen House, at 575 Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan**



Tom Kelly is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the Wheelen House, at 575 Fellowship Road in Upper Uwchlan Township. Built by James Wheelen, a farmer, the Georgian-style, mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century house has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974. The house was restored in the late 1940s and early 1950s by architect Edgar Otto.

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*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.*



# 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. This week's list includes an addition noted in bold print:

- **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 team, 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

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September 24, 2015

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## What area residents were talking about 67 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in late March 1948.

- Although the consolidation of school districts in Pennsylvania wouldn't be resolved until the 1960s, the winds of change had begun to blow through Chester County in 1948. That's when **West Bradford** residents learned that the Chester County School Board was going to set up a tentative reorganization of school districts, and rural school districts, such as West Bradford's, would lose their independence. That's why about 100 township residents met in the Marshallton

Elementary school, where they learned that the county board's proposal included a plan for township pupils in the seventh through twelfth grades would attend Downingtown Junior-Senior High School. Although many—but not all—West Bradford pupils had been attending the junior-senior high school in Downingtown for decades, many other West Bradford residents wanted to have the option of sending their kids to the junior and senior high schools in West Chester or Coatesville. In a subsequent meeting, the township decided to retain a research group from the University of Pennsylvania to study the options under consideration.

- Lambert McGuckin, chairman of the Downingtown American Legion Post, announced that the number of **new homes built for veterans** and their families in the west end of Downingtown were increased from 25 to 49. And three of the houses were assigned to non-veterans. McGuckin also said the Cape Cod-style houses would be built on land formerly owned by G.O. Carlson and Wilmer C. Johnson. The building lots were located on William and Mary Streets and Ashton Avenue.

- New officers of the Ladies Auxiliary of the **Brandywine VFW Post** were Ruth King, president; Louise Ayers, senior vice president; Jane Fennelly, junior vice president; Mrs. Richard Forbes, treasurer; Mrs. Leland MacIntire, chaplain; Katherine Ceulers, conductress; Mrs. George Hilton, guard; and Mrs. James Echols and Mrs. Ronald West, trustees.

- Sixth grade pupils at Downingtown's **West Ward School** who participated in an operetta included Dick Goudie, Chaddie Campbell, Dottie Kipp, June **liver**, Helen Jane Henry, Elmer Esworthy, Ray Thompson, Billie Osborne, Esther Flowers, Theresa Ciarlone, Richard Valentino, Fay Bousum, Shirley Cumens, Bob Plank and Nancy Yohn.

- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 10, Marshallton**, who helped the troop celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, were Verna and Jo-Ann Woodward, Bunny Bunting, Patty Bittle, Caroline Ferri, June Ellingsworth, Didi Wilson, Edith Albertson, Mary Brackbill, Jeannie Thompson, Carlene Yetter, Shirley Lamborn, Mary Jane Place, Jo Ann LeFevre, Doris Cann, Lee Ashby and Edith Smyers.

- DHS students who had major roles in the **senior class play** included Marie Cozzzone, Ruth Schrupf, Philip Burns, Duane Chesney, Charles Pollock, Marjorie Lyons, Virginia and Thomas Bare, Frances DiPietro, Richard Warren, Rena Eachus, Frank Pomento, Betty Moore, Jane Wallace, Dorothy Perley, Frank Wagoner and A.C. Hammons. Music was offered between acts by these soloists: Elsie Manetta, violin; and Peter Edgar, trumpet.

## Local news during the early years of World War II

- An all-night **air-raid blackout**, conducted in the borough in June 1942, was “most successful,” according to Downingtown Defense Council chairman Chandler Roberts. About 350 volunteers were involved in the air raid. The practice event included several staged medical casualties and fires. The town was divided into 10 air raid districts; each had a warden, auxiliary police and messengers, according to Ed Towson, chief air raid warden. Phone calls in and out of the Control Center at Borough Hall were handled by Ted Griffith and Leo Hamilton. The Council's medical corps, supervised by Dr. Thomas Parke, included 10 station wagons which brought practice casualty victims to the Alert Fire Co. The Red Cross canteen at the East Ward School, supervised by Mrs. Edwin Baldwin and Mrs. Wesley Worrall, served 500 sandwiches and 250 cups of coffee.

- Downingtown's salvage campaign began in August 1942, with the collection of 40 tons of metal and rubber items, as well as rags, brought from local homes. And Borough Council added a huge amount of metal to the salvage total when it voted to **remove the trolley tracks** from Lancaster Avenue, between Brandywine Avenue and the borough's western border. The trolley tracks were installed in 1906, but the service stopped in 1929 when the West Chester Railway Co. went bankrupt.
- The **Downingtown American Legion Post** was participating in a national campaign of collecting old phonograph records, which were to be given to military service personnel. The records were dropped off at Griffith's Hardware, Greenleaf's Pharmacy and Hutchison's Drug Store.

## Why was the Grange National Bank torn down?



We know that the Grange National Bank, on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown, was chartered in 1907 and that it merged with Downingtown National Bank in 1932, during the Depression era. And we know that in later years the landmark building was the site of several businesses, including a liquor store, Cookie's Produce and a poolroom. So, why and when was this substantial building torn down?

## What was happening in the Downingtown area 60 years ago



Noted below are news items retrieved from the October 13, 1955 edition of The Downingtown Archive:

- The equipment, buildings, property and machinery of **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.**, which had been producing internationally recognized heavy paper making equipment in the borough for nearly 75 years, were purchased by Beloit Eastern Corp., a Wisconsin firm. And Black-Clawson Co. of Hamilton, OH, bought the Downingtown firm's suction roll operations and paper making patents. Horace Rodgers, who had been the works manager for the local company, would continue as general manager of Beloit Eastern's Downingtown operation. In its early years, the Downingtown firm also manufactured steam engines, castings, creamery equipment, water wheels and power transmission equipment.

- **Downingtown Paper Box Co.** announced its plans to build a new plant and offices on Boot Road in East Caln Township. The box company's former property was taken over by the Downingtown Paper Co., to be used to expand its production capabilities. Construction of the 72,000-square-foot building was projected to cost \$600,000. Plans for an additional expansion of the paper box operation on Boot Road would increase the production space by 77,000 square feet. Gibson "Bud" McIlvaine, president of the paper box firm, also said \$300,000 would be spent on new equipment—a color rotogravure press and a cutter and creaser. The two machines would increase the company's production capacity by about 50 percent.

- The **DHS football team** scored almost at will, as Coach Howard Caskey's gridders won their first Ches-Mont League game, by beating Phoenixville 34-13. The offense was led by Johnny Chilla, who tossed TD passes to Jack Skiles, John Bousum and Harry Watson. Jimmy DiSante also scored.

- Officers of **Girl Scout Troop 165** in Downingtown were Jackie Thomas, president; Mary Ann Charles, vice president; Linda Aumiller, treasurer; Mary Ann Phillips, assistant treasurer. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Earl Radcliffe, Mrs. Chester Charles and Mrs. Merwin Thomas.

- The Methodist Youth Fellowship's officers at **Glen Moore Methodist Church** were Margaret Miller, president; Jane Louise Davis, vice president; Clarence Miles, treasurer; and Charlotte Davis, secretary.

- Members of the newly organized **Brownie Troop 243** at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were Deidre Collins, Lynne Dowlin, Jane Kaempher, Dolores MacIntire. Martha Menas, Deborah Morrison, Judy Olsen, Jean Perella, Ann Woodruff and Barbara Yohn. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Nels Olsen, Mrs. Harlan Morrison and Mrs. George Dowlin.

- A marker in memory of Abigail Hartman Rice, a Revolutionary War nurse who was stricken with typhoid fever and hospitalized at **Yellow Springs Hospital**, was placed at her former home in West Pikeland by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

- Connie Osborne was crowned Harvest Queen at the annual **DHS Farm Show**, which would soon be replaced as a major social event at the high school by all the new homecoming activities.

*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.*

**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.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).

## **It's the covered bridge in Lyndell, next to the general store**



Russell Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the covered bridge over the Brandywine in Lyndell. The bridge, which connected East Brandywine and Upper Uwchlan Townships, was built in about 1875. After a Chester County engineer determined that the bridge was unfit for traffic, it was replaced by a steel girder bridge in 1932. Next to the bridge in the photo above is part of the Lyndell general store, which was established in 1835 and was long reputed to be the nation's oldest general store in continuous operation. Currently, the building is a residence. Sandy Lammey tells us that her mother, Ruth Lammey, was born on the second floor of the general store 90 years ago. Ruth's grandfather, John J. Lewis, owned the store from 1917- 1937. He purchased the entire stock of general store merchandise, plus the contents of the coal yard located at the Lyndell train station, for \$3,200.

# 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.

## **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 will be on Wednesday, Sept. 30. It will focus on the film "The Rape of Europa." The documentary covers the theft, recovery and repatriation of Europe's art masterpieces during and after World War II. Future programs this fall include: Wednesday, October 14, "As Seen Through These Eyes" a film on how Holocaust victims created art to document and survive in Nazi camps; and on October 28, "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).

### ***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.

### ***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).

### ***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).

### ***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.

### ***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@downingtown.org](mailto:Vdilugi@downingtown.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.