



Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.14

April 4, 2013

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify this site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing and Heating, which is to be used at a local restaurant.

Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Local news items published in April 1977

The following news items were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in April 1977.

Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of schools, noted that, although there was a possibility of a **14 percent real estate tax increase**, the local school system's cost of education per student was at the bottom of the ladder, compared to other districts in the county.

Mary Mahan, Class of 1927, was honored by at the **DHS Alumni Association's** 90th annual banquet. The association also recognized Debra Parry and David Forbes as the outstanding girl and boy seniors in the Class of 1977. The association's officers were Duke Charles, president; Francis Summers, first vice president; William Mason, second vice president; Margaret Stern, financial secretary; Hazel Miller, recording secretary; and Turie Hayes, corresponding secretary.

Rhonda Althouse and Michael McCarraher of **St. Joseph's School** each took first place in the girls' and boys' competition in the oratorical competition sponsored by the Downingtown Optimists Club.

Members of the committee at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, responsible for the renovation of the barn on the church property and the construction of a new nave included: Richard Feldman, chairman; Harry Gebhart, vice chairman; George Drenker, Donna Dunn, Arthur Freas, John Green, Richard Jacobson, Milton Maslin, Herbert Wilt, Dale Smith, Walter Dauber, Anne Bennett, Eric Bittmann, Fred Jaeschke, Donald Parkhurst, Reba Vasile, Joseph Zona, Helen Freimuth and Dorothy Wright.

The congregation of **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, voted to buy the gray, stone house at 41 W. Lancaster Ave., to be used for Sunday School classes.

Deacons recently ordained at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, were James Dewees, Donald Anthony, Dean Seese, Edward Popjoy and Walter Styer.

Members of the nominating committee at **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, were Ed Kirkbride, RuthAnn Gillooly, Thomas Greenleaf, Jack Henry and David Landis.

Dan Tabas presented plans to the East Caln Township planning commission to build a 191-room hotel on his land across Route 30 from the **Downingtown Inn**. Established by Dan Tabas and his brother Charles, the inn had been sold to the Ramada Inns Inc. several years ago. In recent weeks, Ramada Inns announced plans to sell the inn back to the Tabas brothers. The brothers also bought the Black Hawk Apartments and Convenience Center in Downingtown for \$3.3 million

The **Uwchlan Ambulance Corps** planned to build a new headquarters on a 3.5-acre tract along Welsh Pool Road. The corps had been renting one bay in the Lionville Fire Co. The corps also recently bought a second ambulance.

Recent **property transfers** included: 5 W. Merion Circle, East Brandywine, \$58,060; 1526 Fox Run Drive, West Bradford, \$56,150; 82 Winding Way, East Caln, \$90,000; 274 Highland Ave., Downingtown, \$49,250; 566 Westwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$67,750; 11 Davis Rd., West Pikeland, \$67,000.

Officers of the **West Bradford Home and School Association** were: Barbara Campbell, president; Genise Lewis, first vice president; Angelo Baroni, second vice president; Lynn Huston, treasurer; and Barbara Shearer, secretary.

New officers of the **Downingtown Jaycees** were Charles Shagren, president; Russ Jones, external vice president; Lee Hawthorne, internal vice president; John DiBenedetto, secretary; Joseph Darlington, treasurer; Robert Noble, chaplain; and Jack Oberle, state director.

Recently elected to lead the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. William Ogborn, president; Mrs. William McQueen, first vice president; Mrs. Edward McDermott, second vice president; Mrs. Michael Doyle, recording secretary; Mrs. James Deisinger, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. James Pinola, treasurer.

The **Community Club of Uwchlan** was awarded the George Washington Medal by the Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, for their efforts to maintain the 1756 Uwchlan Meetinghouse in Lionville.

Jay Lamme was honored by the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** for his many years as a fire policeman and waiter at banquets, and for organizing the annual antique show. Also recognized was John Neff, chief engineer.

Info on Trestle Bridge guards' shed found, but we're still looking for more details

Patience is required when doing historical research; even if you're trying to find details about an activity that occurred only about 70 years ago. We've learned that lesson once again, while pursuing information on the volunteers who guarded the Pennsylvania Railroad's Trestle Bridge during World War II. The bridge, which is no longer used, ran in the Downingtown area, along the border of the Johnstown section of the borough and West Bradford Township. It was part of the PRR's Trenton Cut-Off system, which bypassed the tracks in the Philadelphia area.

We recently uncovered some of the information we're looking for, while talking to members of the Mascherino family. Brothers Jimmy and Joe, who were West Ward School students back then, told us that their father, Dominic "Daddy" Mascherino, was one of the guys who guarded the bridge.

They also recalled that Attilio "Barrelhouse" Sciarretta, was a guard at the bridge, but we haven't been able to find any more information about his involvement, so far.

Both Mascherino brothers remembered that the local volunteer guards were usually posted in a shack, which was situated on the hill above Johnstown, parallel with the tracks on the bridge. Joe says the guards reached the shack by walking up an old path, which was too rough to handle vehicles. Apparently slapped together with discarded pieces of scrap wood, Jimmy characterized the guards' hut as a "ramshackle" structure, while Joe says it looked like a "hillbilly outhouse."

Obviously, those descriptions of the shack doesn't sound like it was worth salvaging after the war, and it certainly wouldn't be confused with the well-constructed shed that was used as an enemy plane spotting site in the yard of Donato Menna at 428 W. Pennsylvania Ave. in Downingtown.

After World War II, the Mennas, and subsequent owners of that property on West Pennsylvania Avenue, used the shed to store gardening equipment for decades, until it

was donated to the Borough several years ago. Subsequently, Ginny Pierce of the borough's Parks and Historical Commission persuaded Jack Law, Downingtown Public Works director, to fix up the shed. Now, the spiffy-looking shed is located at Marinelli Park on Chestnut Street.

However, we need more info on the Trestle Bridge shed and the volunteers who guarded the site. What other Downingtown area residents were involved? Was it an all-volunteer operation, or were military personnel also involved? And what about the tent, which allegedly was used at the site?

Please send your answers to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

No one recognized Krauser's Bridge in Upper Uwchlan



The "Where and What Is This" photo (taken by Mike Dunn) in last week's Hist-O-Gram is of Krauser's Bridge, which is also known as Styer Road Bridge. It spans Marsh Creek, which feeds into the lake at Marsh Creek State Park, in Upper Uwchlan Township. Built in 1905, it's one of the best preserved examples of Chester County's arch bridges.

Although bridges with brick arches were not popular in Pennsylvania, there are more in Chester County than other parts of the state, according to the state's Historic Bridge Inventory, www.historicbridges.org/bridges/browser/?bridgebrowser=pennsylvania/chester131krausers/.

"They were built under the supervision of Chester County engineer Nathan R. Rambo, who favored masonry arches at a time when other county engineers were turning to reinforced concrete. The choice of brick arch bridges reflected as much a desire to build a bridge type that required little in the way of formal engineering design or calculations, as it did an aesthetic decision. The handsome brick arch bridges offered low maintenance costs and permanency," noted the Inventory.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, April 7

The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, April 7** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure

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The banquet will be held from 5-10 PM Saturday, April 20 at Whitford Country Club. The honored guest is Ron Ditzler, former choir director from 1969 to 1977. More information can be found on the website: www.downingtowndalumni.org.

DHS West Post Prom Party

The 10th annual DHS West Post Prom Party will be held at the Lionville YMCA. All seniors are invited, and they don't have to go to the Prom to come to the party. This year's theme is "Passport to the World." The YMCA will be transformed into a night filled with fun and activities, including the indoor pool, using exciting places to tour throughout the world, while providing a safe and fun environment for all. Last year's event drew over 250 seniors and their guests.

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

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

Please check out the P3 website: www.dwestpostprom.com for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

Savings opportunities available at DARC

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

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Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

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

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Vol. 4, No.15

April 11, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Does anyone else live in a Sears mail order house?

Eileen Moyer recently asked us if there are any Sears, Roebuck and Co. mail order houses in the Downingtown area, besides her home at 218 Whiteland Avenue in the borough.

Check out www.searsarchives.com/homes/images/1927-1932/1928_p3218.jpg, where you'll find an illustration and specs on her Solace model house, as it appeared in a Sears "Modern Home" catalog. The one and one-half story bungalow, which included six rooms and a bath, was priced at \$1,579 some 70 years ago.

Sears was neither the first nor the only company that marketed mail-order houses, selling more than 100,000 of them between 1908 and 1940. Over those years, buyers could choose from 447 styles, ranging from the "elaborate, multi-story Ivanhoe, with its elegant French doors and art glass windows, to the simpler Goldenrod, which served as a quaint, three-room and no-bath cottage for summer vacationers. (An outhouse could be purchased separately for Goldenrod and similar cottage dwellers.)"

Sears provided all the materials and instructions, and for many years the financing. The entire house would arrive by railroad, from pre-cut lumber to carved staircases, down to the nails and varnish.

Those who have information about a Sears mail order house in the Downingtown area should contact us at: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Downingtowntown area news published in October 1945

The **Downingtowntown Woman's Club** celebrated its final payment on the mortgage of the clubhouse on Manor Avenue by burning the note, as 110 members and their guests looked on. The organization was founded in 1914.

About 300 employees of **Collins and Aikman Corp.**, East Brandywine, attended their fifth annual banquet and dance at the Alert Fire Co. in Downingtown. Lincoln McCausland, plant superintendent, presented 10-year service pins to: Sara Baen, Earl Eppehimer, Frank Flynn, Ambrose Fulton, Lake Keifer, Frank Langford, Meredith Lewis, Bertha Mercer, Rufus Pierce, George Stine, Marvin Taylor, and Earl Thorn. Helen Todd received a 20-year pin. Door prize winners were James Houck, Charles Guiney, Clara Cosner and Ann Skiles, who each received enough gabardine cloth to make a suit.

"Sensational" running backs Dick Dague and Ray Barrow led the **DHS football team** to a 20-20 tie in a thrilling game against West Chester High School.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 10, Marshallton**, who spent a weekend at Camp Horseshoe included: Joseph Nichols, Granville and Vernon Ross, Kenneth Trimble, Robert Martin, William Flinn, Carl Bane, Ronald Yetter, Robert Busby, and Robert Bunting, their leader.

Although contracts for military equipment had vanished, due to the end of World War II, the **Downingtowntown Manufacturing Co.** was seeking four machine designers, eight draftsmen, three erectors, two pattern makers and one moulder.

Youngsters who were first graders at **Indiantowntown School** in Wallace Township included George Miller, Dawn Postles, John Mason, Dorothy Ann Rigg and Jimmie Smith.

Marshallton Hall was the scene of square and modern dancing on Saturday nights. The Colonial Entertainers provided the music and John Kilgore was the figure caller.

Theresa DiBerardinis was named the Harvest Queen at the fourth annual **DHS Farm Show**; sponsored by the Future Farmers of America. Miss DiBerardinis received her crown from Marjorie Windle, queen of the show in 1944. The court included Joan Moore, Virginia Thompson, Nancy Jones, and Dottie Jane McCausland. And Paul Hannum was awarded the show's grand champion for his entry of vegetables and fruit. Other winners were: Norman Detweiler, second; and Harry Nolette, third. The event also included a display by the Future Homemakers of America Club, a concert by the symphonic band, a magic show and a magic show.

Installed as officers of the Downingtown Lodge of the **Order of Odd Fellows** were Creston Shoemaker, noble grand; John Lamping vice grand; Charles Reel, secretary; Paul Blend, warden; and Allen Woodward, past grand.

It was once part of the Underground Railroad



Mary Ann Cardelli is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify the house in last week's "Where and What Is This?" photo, as being located at 341 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown. Currently, it's the office of Anthony Mascherino, CPA. And for many decades, it served as the home and office of Dr. Martin Neff and Dr. Richard Smith.

Built in 1729, by Thomas Moore, who established a water-powered grist mill in 1716, on the site where the McDonald's restaurant is now located in the borough, according to Jane Davidson's History of Downingtown.

The building was part of the Thomas sisters' boarding school, operated from 1837 to 1877 by the daughters of Zebulon Thomas. The school was headquartered across the street, at 330 E. Lancaster Ave., where the Downingtown Library is now located.

Zebulon Thomas, who lived at 341 E. Lancaster Ave., was an agent for the Underground Railroad in the Downingtown area. He created a space on the third floor of 341 E. Lancaster Ave., to hide escaped slaves from bounty hunters.

In the 1940s, the building was occupied by The Tea House restaurant, which was acclaimed for its chicken a la king (chicken, waffles and syrup). In addition to a waffle iron from the restaurant in the Historical Society's archives, our archival collection also includes a Tea House menu, noting that a full-course chicken a la king dinner was priced at \$1.75.

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Vol. 4, No.16

April 18, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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She lived in this Sears mail order house for 16 years

We received a bunch of information about the locations of Sears mail order houses in the Downingtown area, after we introduced that topic in last week's Hist-O-Gram, which can be accessed via:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/April%2011%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

And you'll find much more information about Sears mail order houses at: www.searsarchives.com/homes/index.htm.

One of those houses is at 201 Boot Road, which is located one block east of the intersection of Boot Road and Brandywine Avenue (Route 322) in East Caln Township. We learned about that place from Caroline Ash, DHS Class of 1962, a Chicago resident, who lived there for 16 years with her parents, Herbert and Harriet Ash and her older sister, Harriet, better known as "Sis."

While her mother was recovering in Chester County Hospital for a week after she was born in 1944, Caroline's father purchased the house and moved the family as a surprise for her mother.

"Boot Road was then a tree-lined, two-lane street. It really was a charming little neighborhood," she says. "Across the street, the neighbors shared a huge victory garden, a 'truck patch' as my father referred to it. My father worked at Downingtown Paper; so it was a short walk to work for him."

Caroline believes the house was built around 1930, but it's unclear who the original owners were. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Brookover rented the place in the early years, when Mr. Brookover was superintendent of the Downingtown Paper Co. The Ashes sold the property to the McBall family in 1960.



The photo above, taken several years ago, shows Caroline Ash, who lived with her family at 201 Boot Road from 1944 to 1960.

When she lived there, Caroline remembers there was an enclosed front porch and all of the living quarters were on the first floor. Above the first floor was a crawl space, which could be reached by pulling down a trap door, located in the ceiling of the hall.

Coal was used to heat the house. Caroline suspects today's environmental agencies wouldn't approve of the air quality, after a truck delivered coal through a window into a bin in their basement.

The Ashes paid a \$1 a year to lease part of their backyard from the nearby Downingtown Paper Co. "The paper mill was a good place to get comic books," which were part of the wastepaper Dopaco recycled into new paperboard stock, adds Caroline. Also, "the mill workers were great Girl Scout cookie customers."

Obviously, it was a different world back in the 40s and 50s. "One telephone and one bathroom worked for four people," claims Caroline.

The building's current owners are Colburn Brothers, a car repair business whose garage is in the back, on Reed Street. They were unaware that they owned a Sears mail order house.

Also, there are two Sears mail order houses next to each other, near the intersection of Bondsville Road and G.O. Carlson Boulevard in Thorndale. Rick Milne has owned his Sears home and his sign business, known as Tam **Arte Design Studio**, at 103 Bondsville Road for some 20 years. Rick says the original owner of his place was Clyde Mann, a Lukens Steel foreman, who built the Sherbourne model, which cost \$1,200, in 1925. In recent years, Rick replaced the cedar shake exterior with a new version of cedar shake siding, which includes insulation on the underside.

Rick advised us that Larry McGibboney owns the Osborne model of the Sears mail order houses, which is next door, at 105 Bondsville Road. When that house originally was built, ca. 1925, it served as a schoolhouse, on the land now occupied by the CVS Pharmacy, at the intersection Routes 30 and 340 in Thorndale. Several years later, that house became a residence after it was moved next to his place on Bondsville Road.

We'll be providing more stories about other Sears mail order houses in the Downingtown area in future issues of the Hist-O-Gram.

They raised funds to build a stone arch holding a historic bell



These Brownies, shown with principal Dr. Michael Solon, raised funds to pay for the materials used to build an arch that houses the historic bell at Bradford Heights School.

Brownie Troop 41188, comprised of third graders at Bradford Heights School, recently completed a community service project that raised funds and sold Girl Scout cookies to pay for the materials needed to construct a stone arch that houses the historic bell. The bell had been used at a nearby country school on Romig Road in West Bradford Township from 1876 to 1941. The project was suggested to the troop by Dr. Michael Solon, principal of the school.

Robert T. Romig (1918-2007), who had attended the one-room schoolhouse, and his wife, Susanna Elston Romig (1920-2011), bought the former schoolhouse in 1949, and converted it into their home in 1949. Several years ago, she donated the school bell to Bradford Heights School.

Now, the bell rests in front of the flagpole at the school's entrance. The stone arch was created and constructed by Don Landsman of Old World Masonry, Downingtown. The bell was cleaned, painted and made ready for display by David O'Reilly of Reilly Remodeling, Downingtown. Both contractors donated their labor and time, and a good portion of the materials necessary to complete the project.

Troop 4188 is honored to be part of a project that brought some of Downingtown's history back to life, because Susanna Romig exemplified what the Girl Scouts stand for. Raised on farms in southeastern Pennsylvania, she excelled in school, and after graduating from Downingtown High School in 1937, she went on to earn a teaching degree from West Chester State Teacher's College (now WCU). She taught upper grades in several one-room schools in the area. She also demonstrated kindness and generosity by giving the bell to an elementary school.

It's the eastern end of the Brandywine Trail



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site of last week's Where & What Is This? photo, taken by Joe Moser. It's the eastern end of the Brandywine Trail, near the intersection of Route 322 and Skelp Level Road.

The 2.4-mile trail is a cooperative project done by West Bradford and East Bradford Townships. It extends along Brandywine Creek, from the Brandywine Meadow Preserve, near Trestle Bridge area in West Bradford, and then crosses a pedestrian bridge into the Harmony Hill Nature area in East Bradford. From that point, the trail continues along the abandoned trolley line bed, which was used to transport people between West Chester and Downingtown, and on to the West Valley Nature area, as shown above. The 8-to-10-foot-wide trail was designed to accommodate walkers, joggers and bicyclists.

The townships received \$1.7 million in federal, state, county and local funding to create the trail. Ultimately, the trail along Route 322 will be linked to a corridor that extends from the Delaware state line to the northern boundary of Chester County, and includes the Struble Trail in the Downingtown area.

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Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.17

April 25, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Many news stories were about local schools in May 1961

Noted below are news items, which were originally published by papers in May 1961.

Toni McCombs and Tom Yerkes received the Lettermen's Club Awards for being the girl and boy who exhibited the most leadership, sportsmanship and athletic ability at the **DHS sports banquet**.

The **DHS student newspaper**, The "Blue and Gold," won third place in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association competition. The paper's editors were Barbara Rothas, editor-in-chief; Barbara Flinn, make-up editor; Beatrice Hilton, assistant editor; Stanley Landis, sports editor; and Katherine Forbes, art editor.

Thomas Brookover and Robert Hadfield were elected to the **Downingtown Area Joint School Board** in at-large race to represent East Caln and Uwchlan Townships, as well as Downingtown borough.

Helen Simmons, a DHS junior, was chosen by the American Field Service to spend the summer in Germany.

Members of the cast of "**Swinging High**," the musical performed by DHS students, were Jim McCausland, Judy Jones, Anne Galt, Charles Newlin, Steve Charles, Jim Williamson, Janice Windle, George Shoemaker, Nancy Gindin, Georgia Wagner and Lewis Wilson.

St. Joseph' School students Aleta Sack and George Hilton won the essay contest sponsored by the **Auxiliary of the American Legion**. The Auxiliary also chose to send Joanna Pope, a DHS junior, to attend the Keystone Girls State Camp.

Newly elected officers of the **Marshallton School PTA** were Mrs. James Daly, president; Mrs. Donald Moore, vice president; Mrs. Clarence Middleton, secretary; and Mrs. William Grigson, treasurer.

Teachers who retired were; Rhoda Yost, sixth grade, East Ward, after 38 years in the Downingtown system; Mrs. Theresa Yonker, third grade, Lionville Elementary, following a teaching career of 31 years; and Mrs. Mary Jefferis, first grade, Marshallton School, with 13 years service.

Paul Miller blasted a double, a triple and a homer, and southpaw John Snyder gave up only two hits as the **Whippet baseball squad** beat West Chester for the second time in three days.

DHS musicians Ralph Girafalco and Marie Pollock were named to the State Band, Region III.

Other Downingtown area news in May 1961

The **Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co.** announced plans for a block party in June. Assisting co-chairmen Mrs. B. Moore, Marie Norris and Marie Hamilton were: Rose Simone, cake wheel; Alice Zittle, fancy work; Rose Nichols, Blanche Summers and Thelma Collier, hot dog stand; Helen Dague and Bernadine Downing, soda stand; Florence Cumens and Pat Zittle, soda stand; Viola Murray and Elaine Miller, candy; and Dot Peters, fish pond.

The **Exton Lions Club** sponsored the Royal International Circus, which performed at the Downingtown Farmers Market. Tickets cost \$1 for children and \$1.50 for adults.

Officers elected to serve in 1961-62 by members of the Afternoon Circle of **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Ethel Entrekin, president; Mary Getman, vice president; Florence McGuckin, secretary; and Mrs. John Haas, treasurer.

Elected to be officers of commissions and committees at **Hopewell Methodist Church** included: Earl Bryant, Membership and Evangelism; Charles Mentzer, Education; Mrs. Richard Warren, Missions; Edward Plank, Stewardship and Finance; John Boyd, Christian Social Concerns; Arthur Lowery, Pastoral Relations; Rev. Howard Adams, Nominating; Wayne Raysor, Methodist Men; and Mary Mowery, Methodist Youth Fellowship.

Newly elected officers of the **Ladies of St. Joseph Catholic Church** were Mrs. Anthony DiStefano, president; Mrs. Joseph Mento, vice president; Mrs. Anthony DiLuigi, recording secretary; Mrs. John Mascherino, corresponding secretary; and Dolly Colella, treasurer.

New officers of **Marshallton Methodist Church's** Circle 1 were Mrs. Douglas Barr, president; Mrs. Gilbert Cann, vice president; and Mrs. George Fling, treasurer.

Sears mail order house planted in Guthriesville

When Norman and Sara Mayhew had a Sears mail order house built ca. 1930 in the Guthriesville section of East Brandywine, they couldn't have known that it would blossom into Jane's Flower Patch business many decades later.

It was the Great Depression era, and the Mayhews didn't have a lot of money. But they wanted to buy a home where they and their kids could thrive. So they scraped together \$850 to buy a mail order cottage from Sears, and have it built on a lot at 1219 Horseshoe Pike (Route 322). Actually, they spent about \$1,200 when you add in the prep work and paying local tradesmen to do things like plastering.

The property changed hands several times before John and Mildred Neff bought the place in 1949. And many improvements were made as the Neff children—Jane and her siblings Janet, Joyce and John—came along.

Jane, who lives there with her husband, Richard Heidelbaugh, and Alison, their 12-year-old daughter, recalls hearing that when her parents had bedrooms and a bath built, and added dormers to the second floor, they discovered that the sub-flooring had been constructed of crating material marked "Downingtown Manufacturing Co." That's where Norman Mayhew was employed as a welder in the 1930s.

Significant upgrades continued to be made over the years, especially after her husband, a contractor, remodeled the interior, says Jane. That's when they found different numbers marked on the original lumber that Sears shipped to the Downingtown railroad station more than 80 years ago.

And over the past 29 years, the property's exterior has also blossomed, as Jane's Flower Patch has thrived in Guthriesville.

Editor's Note: This is a part of a series on Sears mail order houses in the Downingtown area. However, we won't be able to do an article on all of them, because so many of the mail order houses were built in the area. More info on the houses can be found at:

www.searsarchives.com/homes/index.htm.

Ruins of Mary Ann Forge in the Dowlin Forge area, Uwchlan



Theodore J. Gacomis, whose office, Edward B. Walsh and Associates, is located at 125 Dowlin Forge Road, is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to identify this as a photo (taken by Beverly Wiker) of the ruins of Mary Ann Forge in Dowlin Forge Park, along the Struble Trail in Uwchlan Township.

Mary Ann Forge was built in 1785 by Samuel Hibberd; he refined pig iron into bar iron and plate iron, according to Susannah Brody's *Uwchlan Township, 300 Years Above the Valley*. In 1801, Hibberd sold the forge to John Dowlin, which was part of the industrial community known as Dowlin Forge. Over three generations of Dowlins, the community included, wrote Brody, "two grist mills, a blacksmith shop, a company store, a sawmill, a woolen factory, a school and several dwelling houses, from modest log cabins to large stone mansions." Mary Ann Forge survived until the 1880s.

According to Brody, Uwchlan Township acquired the land, on which the ruins stand, from Dowlin descendant Marie Inslee in 1990. Preservation of the ruins was done in 1993.

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Prescription Drug Take Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which will take place from 10 AM to 2 PM on Saturday, April 27, at the Downingtown Borough Hall Annex Building, 4 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. This is an opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or

who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused and expired prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

In the five previous Take-Back events, the DEA, in conjunction with its state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners, have collected more than 2 million pounds (1,018 tons) of prescription medications that were removed from circulation.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposal, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of these medications. For more info, call 610-269-0344, ext. 200 or visit the Borough website at www.downingtowntown.org.

DHS West Post Prom Party

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

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

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

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

Those who wish to help are invited to join us at 7 PM at meetings being held in Room 139 at DHS West on **May 14**. Please check out the [P3 website](#):

www.dwestpostprom.com for more details and to sign up as a volunteer.

Savings opportunities available at DARC

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

Banquet Room for Rent

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

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Vol. 4, No.18

May 2, 2013

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify this site will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card, which is to be used at a local restaurant, from F.H. Swisher Plumbing and Heating.

Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news 36 years ago

The following news items were originally published in local papers in May 1977.

East Caln Township announced plans to move its headquarters to a new site. Since its township building will be razed so a parking lot for the **Tabas Hotel** (now Ashbridge Manor) on Route 30, East Caln will soon move to a building on 103 Garris Road, off Route 113.

Officers of the Hope-Twos group at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were Sandy and Ron Ruth, president; Flora and Barry Hoch, vice president; Ann and Bruce Krum, secretary; and Charlotte and Don Hatt, treasurer.

Downingtown's council decided to have the recently installed **speed bumps** removed from Mary Street after several residents claimed their cars were damaged by the bumps, and sent repair bills to the borough.

Alice March of West Bradford was honored by the Freedom Valley Girl Scout Council for 13 years of distinguished service.

Women of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown, who were responsible for the annual plant sale included RuthAnn Gillooly, Jane Greenleaf, Leslie Landis and Anne Buell.

Officers elected to lead the **Welcome Wagon Club of Downingtown** were Mrs. George Nicholson, president; Mrs. Edward Moore, first vice president; Mrs. Jack Rodgers, second vice president; Mrs. August Wacker, treasurer; Mrs. J.B. Hackenberry, secretary; and Mrs. Jack Moody, historian.

The **DHS 440-meter relay team**—comprised of Bill Wright, Ike Warnick, Joe Martin and Matt Mecray—set a school record (44.0 seconds) when competing at the Penn Relays.

Lauri Carcella hit a double and a triple and pitched a no-hitter as the DHS softball team beat Boyertown 6-0, and took sole possession of first place in the Ches-Mont League.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1514 Hillcrest Lane, West Bradford, \$50,275; 2 Pinewood Dr., Uwchlan, \$54,500; 341 Mary St., Downingtown, \$32,500; 6 Christina Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$56,449; 123 Lambeth Court, East Brandywine, \$48,435.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 52, Cub Pack 152, and several Girl Scout units, all of West Bradford, participated in a **trash clean-up project**. Adult supervision was provided by Ken Trimble, John Pfeiffer, Dean Bowser, Florence Supplee, Barbara Lavin, Tom McGrady and Price Stevenson.

Bowlers who had the highest scores in the intramural program at **Downingtown Junior High** were Kim Piersol, Julie Sykora, Ruth Zimmerman, Joel Baldwin, J.P. Gorman and Ron Sheridan.

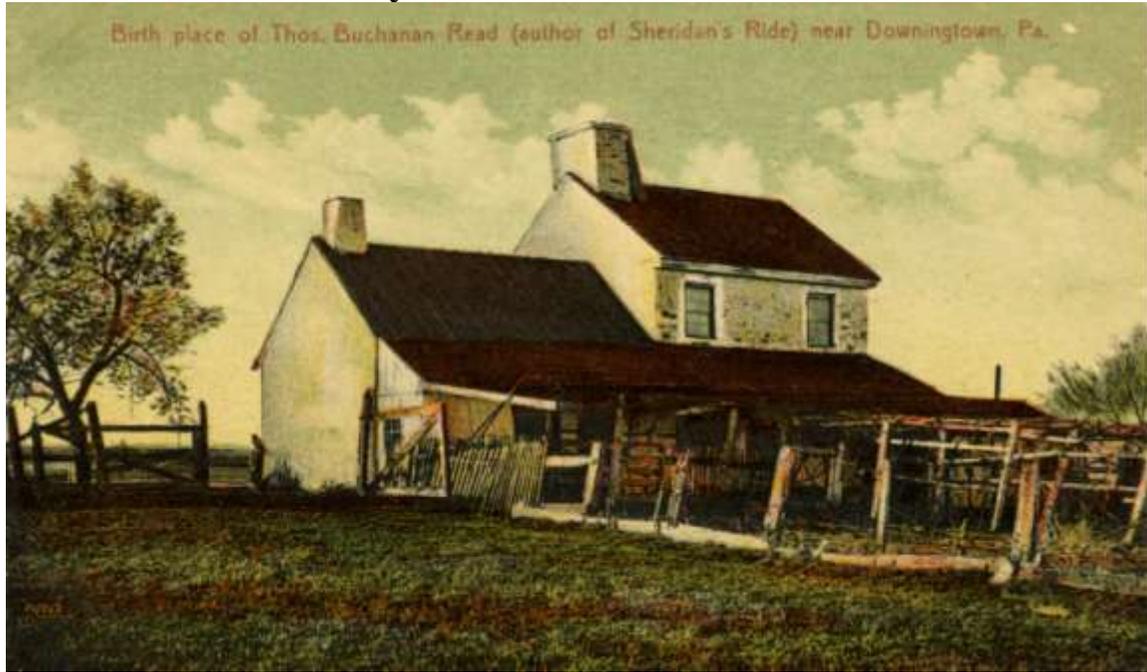
Officers elected by members of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dick Byerly, president; Horace Shanely, first vice president; John Canning, second vice president; Lew Pyle, third vice president; David Swindin, secretary; and Dick Herbster, treasurer.

DHS students, named to the **Who's Who Among Vocational and Technical Students in America**, were Vincent Freas, Michael Madrigale, Eric Muzii, Jeff Gottier, Valerie Hilton, Martin Sorensen, James Williams, Robin Dunn, Debbie Shavor and Sue Steganius.

The Downingtown School decided to pursue the offer of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, to purchase several acres of land on the east side of Devon Drive, across from Lionville Junior High School.

Members of the Downingtown Recreation and Planning Commissions told the Borough's Zoning Hearing Board they were unanimously opposed to the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** occupying 122 Wallace Ave., an office building on the edge of Kerr Park.

Who was East Brandywine's Thomas Buchanan Read?



You may have heard of Thomas Buchanan Read, who was born in East Brandywine Township in 1822. He must have been important. Why else were postcards of his boyhood home on Corner Ketch-Lyndell Road, like the one above, so popular many years ago?

Well, now you can stop wondering, because Read's accomplishments as a poet and artist are part of the Civil War exhibit at the Chester County Historical Society. The exhibit includes the Historical Society's vast collection of Civil War artifacts, reflecting Chester County's role in the nation's bloodiest conflict.

And you can learn more about Read's achievements—his epic poem, *Sheridan's Ride*, "went viral" in 1864, dramatizing Gen. Philip Sheridan's famous ride that changed the course of a key Civil War battle—by accessing:

www.chestercohistorical.org/photoarchive/on-the-edge-of-battle-poetry-to-the-rescue/#respond.

The CCHS is located at 225 N. High St., West Chester. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9:30 AM. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 610-692-4800 or visit.

Click on <http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-1A1> for more information about Read.

Another Sears mail order house in the borough

Norman Rodgers built a Sears mail order house at 516 Washington Ave. in Downingtown in the early 1930s. He operated his clock and watch repair business there for many years, according to his granddaughter, Barbara Short Givler, who was raised in the house.

Newlyweds Joanne and Stan Landis, who now live in Macungie, PA, told us they bought the house at auction in 1967 for \$12,500. The Landises sold it in 1973 to Mrs. Lorraine Woods, who owned a deli at the intersection of Jefferson Avenue and Chestnut Street in Downingtown. And the LaRue family lived there in the 1980s. Brad and Renay Schoenfeld are the current owners of the property.

Benson's Chapel was forerunner of Hopewell Methodist



Pete Chim is the truly perceptive scholar, who was the only person to correctly identify this as a photo (provided by Dan Lindley) of remnants of a walled-in cemetery, which was part of Benson's Chapel, located on West Township Line Road off Route 100 in Upper Uwchlan Township. The congregation, organized by James Benson, was established in 1772. The chapel, a log building constructed in 1781, is believed to be the first house of worship built by Methodists in Pennsylvania. A 1774 map shows that there also was a nearby schoolhouse, which also may have been built by the Methodists. The chapel was part of the Chester Circuit, which was served by Methodist traveling preachers. The last worship services were held at the chapel in 1832.

While the chapel's congregation began to decline in the early 19th Century, several Methodists who had been founders of the chapel in Upper Uwchlan, including James Batten, began worshipping at Batten's Meeting House, a small log house built in 1805 in East Brandywine Township. In 1828, the name of Batten's group was changed to Hopewell, and that's why Benson's Chapel is considered the parent of Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Information noted above was extracted from: Susannah Brody's *Uwchlan Township, 300 Years Above the Valley*; an article, written by Joseph F. DiPaolo, entitled "Benson's Chapel ME Church, A Forgotten Landmark," in the *Journal of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church's Southeastern Pennsylvania Conference*, and click on <http://usgarchives.net/pa/chester/bensonschapel.htm>.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday, May 5

You haven't been invited to a Cinco de Mayo party? You might have as much fun at our monthly clipping and pasting session, which will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, May 5** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure. Sombreros are optional.

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

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Vol. 4, No.19

May 9, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Local news in November 1945

Borough voters nixed Sunday movies

The following items were published in Downingtown area newspapers 68 years ago:

Downingtown's four precincts split their vote when they participated in a referendum on whether to allow **Sunday movies** in the borough. Residents who lived in the West Ward, North Precinct, overwhelmingly (264 No vs. 106 Yes) voted against the proposal. However, the West Enders in the South Precinct (Johnsontown section of the borough)

avored movie-going on Sundays by a 93-25 margin. Voting in the East Ward was closer, with the East/East Precinct residents supporting (166 Yes vs. 102 No) Sunday movies, while the voting in the East/West Precinct was close (101 Yes vs. 105 No). West Chester residents also voted against Sunday movies.

And only those movie-goers who had purchased a **victory bond** had an opportunity to see Bing Crosby and Betty Hutton in two special showings of “Duffy’s Tavern” at the Roosevelt Theatre in Downingtown.

East Brandywine residents formed a committee to determine the best way to **create memorial** honoring the township citizens who had served in the military in World War II. The committee decided that the memorial should be of a benefit to the township residents, and not a monument or plaque. However, the memorial would include a listing of names of those who served in the war. Early suggestions included planting of memorial trees and establishment of a local fire department.

Leaders of the committee included Lester Piersol, president; C.H. Congdon, vice president; W.H. Marshall, treasurer; and Lillian Peters, secretary. The committee’s commissioners were Mrs. Wallace Pearson, Mrs. Henry Stewart, Clarence Cook, Everett Henderson, Charles Ezra, Arthur Lowery, James Manley, Dr. J.H.N. Waring, Robert Piersol and Thomas Hadfield.

The Chester County Library’s bright red **bookmobile** began making monthly visits to Glenmoore. The bookmobile, which transported 300 books, was parked in front of Ben Hannum’s house in the center of the village.

The DHS football team kicked off a series of annual **Thanksgiving morning games** against Pottstown by tying the Trojans in a come-from-behind thriller. Down 13-0 late in the game, Ray Barrow sprinted 14 yards for the Whippets’ first TD. And Dick Dague knotted the score, when he intercepted a pass and then scored on a three-yard plunge near the end of the hard-fought contest.

Prior to the **Senior Class play**, DHS student pianists Helen Windle and Joyce Hesser played several numbers, and vocalists Nancy Jones and Ruth Hicks sang popular songs.

Prize winners in the costume competition at the Halloween Party for students of **Upper Uwchlan’s four elementary schools**—Eagle, Font, Prospect and Montrose—were Bruce Loud, Nancy and Wanda Martin, Barbara Powell, Sara and Martha Funderwhite, Charlotte Lammey, Leroy Trego, Alice Styer, Christine Roberts, Betty Seeds, and Gene Edwards.

And **Lionville Primary School** students who won prizes for their costumes at their Halloween party were Kathleen Levengood, Thomas Fisher, Mary Drennan and Walter Trego.

Officers elected to lead the **Marshallton Grange** included Harry Perdue, master; Gilbert Gray, overseer; Esther Hill, lecturer; John Romig, steward; George Murphy, assistant steward; Albert Anderson, treasurer; Mary Gibson, chaplain; and Alice Shoemaker, treasurer.

John Wannamaker used to summer in Glenmoore

Glenmoore historian John Miller informed us that John Wannamaker, the department store mogul, had a summer place in Wallace Township in the late 19th Century. Miller says Wannamaker bought the large John Patterson estate, which now is part of the Devereux Foundation School complex in Wallace Township, in 1888. Wannamaker

already had a successful clothing business in Philadelphia by then, but he didn't establish America's first, modern department store in Center City until 1910.

In 1890, Wanamaker built a summer home, known as Glen Cairn, on the former Patterson estate on Devereux Road. He often commuted to Philadelphia by taking the Downingtown and Lancaster Railroad from the Cornog station in Wallace Township, and then caught the Pennsylvania Railroad train at the Downingtown station.

Interestingly, Wanamaker had commissioned Patterson, an artist, in 1883 to design and paint the walls of his clothing store at 13th and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia.

Wanamaker also donated a bell to Fairview Presbyterian Church in Glenmoore for its new spire in 1871.

Plane spotting tower was located at McIlvaine farm

We learned about another local plane spotting operation during World War II, when Paul DiFonzo recently told us that he used to walk from his home on Jefferson Avenue in Downingtown to be a volunteer plane spotter, operating from a tower on the McIlvaine farm. The tower was near the northeast corner of the intersection of Whitford Road and Route 30 in the Exton area.

Dick McIlvaine, whose family owned the farm, explained to us in a telephone interview that they had a huge, three-story coop, which housed some 12,000 chickens during the WW II era. Today, the Salon DeSante beauty salon is located near where the coop was situated back then, and the plane spotting tower was behind the coop. Dick said he and his brothers, who were school-age kids at the time, all took turns as spotters.

Joe Puliti told us in an email that his brother, Larry Polite, who owned The Guernsey Cow, volunteered as an aircraft spotter at the McIlvaine farm. He says. "Larry often could not make his appointed time, so he had me fill in for him. As far as I can remember, there was a crudely built tower on the farm and the shifts were for four hours, 24/7. We were issued binoculars and had to record every air craft that flew in our space; the type of aircraft; and the direction it was flying. I was expecting to spot bombers and fighters, but the only planes I spotted were Piper Cubs and other small aircraft. Needless to say, it was a very boring assignment."

For more information on airplane spotters during World War II, click on: <http://askville.amazon.com/organizational-structure-WWII-airplane-spotters-network/AnswerViewer.do?requestId=11146950>

Hist-O-Grams available on DHS Alumni Assn. website

Tell your friends and family that they can always access the latest (as well as past editions) Hist-O-Grams by going to the DHS Alumni Association's website: www.downingtownalumni.org/. You can thank our webmaster, Val DiLuigi, a DHS alumna, for providing us with that opportunity.

Plaque honors Collins & Aikman employees who served in WW II



Dan Lindley was the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this photo (provided by Mike Dunn) as the memorial honoring Collins and Aikman employees who served in the military during World War II. The veterans' memorial, erected in 1946, is on the mill property along Bondsville Road in East Brandywine. The mill was known to locals as the "plush mill" when Collins and Aikman produced upholstery fabric for the automobile seats in the 1930s.

During World War II, 300 employees produced lining fabric for Air Force jackets, and foam rubber backing for carpeting was manufactured in the early 1950s. When Collins and Aikman shut down the mill in 1954, 135 people lost their jobs. Subsequently, several other owners used the property, until it was permanently closed in 1969.

The mill was named for Abraham Bond, who built a water-powered facility in 1841, to produce twilled cotton material used to make trousers, known as "Kentucky jeans." Subsequently, the mill was owned by the James Roberts family from 1866 until 1872, when it was bought by Fred Pearson. In addition to the mill, Pearson's purchase also included the 40 workers' houses and the owner's 18-room mansion. The Pearson family sold the mill to Collins and Aikman in 1932.

In 2004, East Brandywine Township purchased the 25-acre site, and established the Bondsville Mill committee two years later. The committee is developing plans for a passive park there, to include re-use and preservation of the historic mill complex's dilapidated buildings.

For more detailed information on the Bondsville Mill project, click on:

<http://www.ebrandywine.org/Bondsville%20Mill%20Park/Master%20Site%20Plan%20Report%20for%20Bondsville%20Mill%20Park.pdf>

Events & activities in the Downingtown area

Mac-n-Cheese Cook-off

The second annual Cook-off will be held, rain or shine, at noon Sunday, June 9 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. Hosted by the Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club, the cook-off will have local restaurants, businesses, organizations and hometown cooks competing against each other for the title "BEST Mac-n-Cheese in Chester County." Admission is \$10 per person, enabling people to sample each participating group's dish.

Downingtown Farmers Market

The Downingtown Farmers Market at Kerr Park is open from 3-7 PM every Thursday. All 25 of the farmers and food artisans at the market must grow, raise or make what they sell – meriting its classification as a "producer only" market.

Offerings include: local fruits and vegetables; pasture raised meats (beef, pork, lamb, veal) and poultry, fresh eggs; dairy products, including cheeses; whole grain breads and other baked goods; handmade pasta and sauce; honey and maple syrup; small-batch frozen desserts; artisan chocolates; hummus and salsa; jams and jellies; roasted coffee and hand-blended teas; fresh ground nut butters; field grown flowers; handmade soap; and doggie treats.

The market will also feature weekly musical guests and activities for children. Consistent with the market's social mission, food drives will be held periodically to benefit the Lord's Pantry and other organizations in need of food donations. Additionally, market space will be made available to non-profit groups if their mission is similar to that of the market.

There is plenty of parking in the Kerr Park lots, as well as in the Borough Hall parking lot

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Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding,
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Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.20

May 16, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Local news published 52 years ago

The following news items were originally published in local newspapers in May and June 1961:

Awards were presented to three—Judy Jones, Georgia Wagner and Lewis Wilson—of the 123 **DHS graduates**, during commencement exercises at the new high school on Manor Avenue. Officers of the senior class were Lee Thomson, president; John Snyder, vice president; Peter Bousum, secretary; and Janice Windle, treasurer.

Faculty awards for excellence in particular subjects at DHS were presented to: Barbara Noll, English and language; Carmelia Baxter, social studies and music; Joan Farra, mathematics; Linda Bloom, science; Mary Louise LeFevre, commercial; Mary Louise Parker, art; Benjamin Hash, agriculture; Warren Howe, industrial arts; and Toni McCombs, home economics.

Employees of the **Milprint** plant in Downingtown, and their families, were treated to a two-hour show of live entertainment. Milprint, a subsidiary of Philip Morris Inc., was the world's largest printer and converter of flexible packaging materials. The Downingtown operation had 500 employees.

Members of the Junior Youth Fellowship at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, who won a week at summer camp, were Diane and Judy Shirk, Dougie Habecker, Sandy Mattison, Joy Emery, Susan Ashenfelder, Janet Haas, Jay Rambo and Bobby Murphy.

Awards at a Court of Honor, conducted by **Boy Scout Troop 82** at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were presented to: Eugene Dennis, Richard Keller, Fred Pollock, and Larry Farnum, tenderfoot badge; Billy Barlow, first class badge; Charles Backenstose, Star Scout. Morris Farnum and Ronald Renshaw received 50th anniversary awards.

Officers of the Senior High MYF at **Hopewell Methodist Church** were: Robert Shank, president; Jeanne Watts, vice president; Jill Watts, secretary; and Dale Krapf, treasurer.

Christa Edelen, Debbie Harrison, Martha Chalfant, Barbara Clapp and Kathy Ayers, members of the **Safety Patrol in Wallace Township schools**, were among the 300 Chester County boys and girls who participated in the National AAA School Safety Patrol Parade in Washington, DC.

Officers of the new **Girls 4-H Club of Chester Springs** were Pam Twaddell, president; Barbara Knox, vice president; Barbara Fuhr, secretary; Harriet Lauffer, treasurer; Jacqueline West, game leader; Donna Twaddell, song leader; and Rosiland McMinamee, news reporter.

Members of Brownie Troop 83 who toured the **Downingtown Paper Box** plant included Carol Steidler, Grace DiBerardinis, Brenda Murphy, Anne Ziegler, Debbie Beam, Martha Dunlap, Nancy Barlow, Betsy Robbins, Joan Hartman, Terrie Hayes, Debbie Barry, and Susan and Janice Mento.

Officers elected to lead the **DHS band** during the 1961-62 school years were Robert Shank, captain; Neil Shields, lieutenant; and Barbara Thompson, staff sergeant. Also, Ralph Girafalco, Marie Pollock, Mary Ann Smedley, James Williamson, all sergeants; and Robert Crane, Ruth Ann Miller, Helen Simmons and Donna Thompson, all corporals.

Plans for **Boy Scout Troop 64's** summer activities were to be resolved at Bethel AME Church, Downingtown. The troop's leaders included William Tinson, chairman; Leon Brown Jr., assistant chairman; Theodore Williams, treasurer; and Robert Miller, secretary.

Officers of the DHS chapter of the **Future Farmers of America** during the following school year included Walter Jankowski, president; Edgar Donnon, vice president; Robert Frame, secretary; Chester Ortlip, reporter; James DuBosq, sentinel; and Robert Ruark, treasurer.

When Judith Ann Mento was the May Queen at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church's May Procession**, her attendants were first communicants Donna Lang, Kathleen Dougherty, John Cerra and Michael Milano.

Chuckie Mitman, a third grader at East Ward School, was the fourth-place winner in the **jingle contest**, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.

An armed bandit covered his face with a bath towel when he robbed **Bill's Country Store in Romansville** in West Bradford. Store owner Bill Osborne told state police that he was forced to hand over \$110 to the robber, who brandished a German Luger pistol.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 83**, Lionville, who attended a camporee at the King Ranch, near Unionville, were Donald Corneal, Steve and Bill Behrnt, Gregg and Brad Gregory, Roger Lackey, Peter Plank, Robert Worthington, Thomas Phipps, Arthur and Dan Winkler, Thomas and Dick Shreiner, Charles Wertz, Donald Basset and Bill Daley.

Seventeen Brownies from Troop 94, Lionville, visited the Statue of Liberty and other sites on a trip to New York City. They included: Edna Pivonka, Toni Rossi, Carol Fowler, Rita Tipton, Brenda Lotz, Helen Bittmann, Joyce Mull, Nancy Sommer, Penny Renz, Debbie Devaney, Nancy Fillman, Betty Taylor, Heather Smith, Charlene Barton, Darlene Windle and Joann Risbon.

There was a battle over **Upper Uwchlan Township's** plan to straighten a 100-yard-long, S-shaped curve in Township Line Road, near the Route 100 intersection, which forms the boundary between Uwchlan and Upper Uwchlan Townships. The Modernist camp—mostly residents of the two-year-old Susan Hill development—supported the plan to pave the dirt and gravel road, and chop down a venerable, 150-foot-tall tulip popular tree so the road could be straightened. But the Traditionalist faction, who wanted to keep the area “truly rural,” claimed that 90 percent of the vehicular traffic on the road was local, and paving it would increase the traffic load. However, after the supervisors studied the issue more thoroughly, they decided to back off on their plan to upgrade the road.

It's the mansion at Springton Manor



John Miller is a perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo (taken by Mike Dunn) of the mansion at Springton Manor Farm in Wallace Township. That's no surprise because, after he retired as a teacher at Beaver

Creek School in Downingtown, John was a part-time park technician and historian for several years at Springton Manor.

According to John, Springton Manor Farm was settled in 1730 by the Robert McConaghy family. The 300 acres the McConaghy family claimed were originally part of 10,000 acres set aside for the use of the Penn Family as a manor site. From 1730 to the present, eight families would claim the farm as their home. And two of these families, the McIlvaines and the Bartols, had the greatest impact on the property and buildings you see today.

James McIlvaine, who purchased the farm in 1818, sold it to his son, Abraham Robinson McIlvaine, in 1830. McIlvaine built manor house, which originally had six rooms—three each on the first and second floors. He was a close friend of Abe Lincoln, from when they lived in the same boarding house, while they served in Congress together. McIlvaine also helped persuade Lincoln to run for President.

In 1886, George Bartol, a successful Philadelphia businessman, purchased the property from the estate of Dr. George Washington Atlee, who had purchased the farm from the McIlvaine family. Bartol was responsible for shaping the farm as it is today.

Newspaper accounts relate that Bartol had the original barn on the property taken down and erected a great barn in its place. He also built a tenant house. Both of the buildings remain on the property. The newspaper report also indicated that Bartol planned to tear down the manor house and replace it with a more appropriate building for his family. “Fortunately,” says John, “over the winter of 1886-87, Mr. Bartol decided to keep the manor house.” Instead, he added a kitchen wing, with bedrooms above, a porte cochere, and a veranda on to the original building in 1887-1888.

The next major changes to the manor house were done in 1912, when the porte cochere was removed, and it was replaced with the pillared porch we see today. Also in 1912, a two-story addition was built on the east side of the manor house. The addition added a music room on the first floor and a large bedroom suite on the second. During the construction, the walls separating the east and west parlors were removed, creating one large space. At the same time, the original stairway to the second floor was replaced with a more impressive center stairway.

Evidence is scarce, but there is some support to the belief that, during the 1912 renovations, the dormers may have been enlarged to make the building more balanced, with the increased length caused by the new addition.

Although the site was significantly researched before it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, “there is still much to be learned about the manor house and the other buildings on the property,” concludes John.

The site has been owned and operated by Chester County’s Parks and Recreation Department since 1980.

You can find more details on Springton Manor in the application for its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places:

www.dot7.state.pa.us/ce_imagery/phmc_scans/H001585_01H.pdf.

Events & activities in the Downingtown area

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will have local restaurants, businesses, organizations and hometown cooks competing against each other for the title "BEST Mac-n-Cheese in Chester County." Admission is \$10 per person, enabling people to sample each participating group's dish.

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The market will also feature weekly musical guests and activities for children. Consistent with the market's social mission, food drives will be held periodically to benefit the Lord's Pantry and other organizations in need of food donations. Additionally, market space will be made available to non-profit groups if their mission is similar to that of the market.

There is plenty of parking in the Kerr Park lots, as well as in the Borough Hall parking lot.

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Downingtown Area Historical Society
Hist-O-Gram

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Vol. 4, No.21

May 23, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Local news in December 1945

Here's what was happening in the Downingtown area 68 years ago, according to newspaper coverage at that time.

The theme of the newly remodeled **Lyndell Store**, owned by O.G. Shock, was "A Bit Out of the Way—But Less to Pay."

Officers of **Marshallton Methodist Church's** Sunday School were Mildred Leid, superintendent; John Morris, first assistant; M.H. English, second assistant; Mrs. Ralph Wallace, recording secretary; Betty Keehn, corresponding secretary; and Evelyn Fling, treasurer.

Evening **adult classes** were being offered at DHS for the ninth year. They included these subjects: blue print reading and shop sketching; typewriting; sewing and cooking; and shop courses in wood, metal and electrical work.

A Turkey Fair, to benefit the American Legion welfare fund, was held at the **Downingtown Motor Co.**, 21 East Lancaster Ave.

St. Agnes High School of West Chester had a major upset victory when the Stags beat the DHS basketball team 40-24. Although Ray Barrow, the Whippets' leading scorer last season, was shut down, his brother, **Dan Barrow**, tallied 11 points.

When the **Roosevelt Theatre** in Downingtown offered a free movie for kiddies on the afternoon of Christmas Day, that might have been a wonderful gift for the parents, who were exhausted because they had been up half the night assembling toys, as well as for the young children.

Majorettes Antoinette Perella, Josephine DiBerardinis, Mary DiPetro, Theresa Mascherino, Irma DelPaggio, and Helen Rodri received awards at the DHS band banquet. Jean Esworthy, a senior member of the band, was the toastmistress.

The equipment, used at the **Ration Board** office on Washington Avenue in Downingtown, was auctioned off. Many filing cabinets were bought by J.I. Hoffman of the Coatesville YMCA, to be used to store thousands of local servicemen's letters.

The Downingtown post of the **Catholic War Veterans** was organized at a meeting held in the rectory of St. Joseph's Church. The officers were: Andrew Mento, commander; Michael Mento, treasurer; William Boylan, adjutant; Rev. Francis Fox, chaplain; and Rev. Thomas Lawler auxiliary chaplain.

C.R. Lipka opened an electrical appliance store at 137 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Anthony Ciarlone, the manager, said the business would continue to service all types of washing machines and other appliances.

A supper was given for returning servicemen at **St. Paul's Reformed Church**, Lionville. Servicemen in attendance were Ellsworth Maxton, Horace Wilson, William Peterman, Harry Hartshorne, James Messner and Joseph Aicholz.

DHS football players who were named to the All Chester County team included: Ray Barrow, first team halfback; and Charles Mills, second team guard and Dick Dague, second team halfback. Whippets receiving honorable mention were tackle Ray Kipp and center Charles DiSantis.

Mrs. Paul Dague reminded members of the **Auxiliary of the American Legion** post that they were far below their goal of 125 boxes of Christmas gifts to be given to hospitalized veterans. Local residents were encouraged to drop off their "Gifts For Yanks" at: Greenleaf's Pharmacy, Griffith's Hardware Store, or the Downingtown Department Store.

More info about enemy plane spotting here during WW II

We've found more information about local volunteers during WW II who were involved in plane spotting, at a post located in a field, where Central Presbyterian Church now is on Uwchlan Avenue (Route 113) in Downingtown. We first learned about that site from Ginny Pierce, who visited it with Eddie Aumiller, when they were just kids and George Aumiller, Eddie's father, was a volunteer spotter there.

Eddie recently told us that Bert Byler, the Aumiller's Washington Avenue neighbor, also volunteered at that post. And Ruth Lowe said her father, Harold Lowe, also was a volunteer spotter there.

We learned a lot about the operation from Eileen McCardell, who now lives at Freedom Village. Eileen remembers going to the spotting site, when her family lived on Washington Avenue and she was a sixth grader at East Ward School. She used to tag along with her father, William Wharry, on Sunday afternoons because that was the only time he had off from his job as pharmacist-manager of Hutchison's Drug Store on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. Eileen said she accompanied him whenever possible because she "absolutely adored" her father.

Eileen recalls that the spotting shed was situated on a tower that "wasn't very high." Inside, there was a table, two chairs and a phone. They used the phone to call an office in Philadelphia whenever they saw any--not just those that appeared to be German or Japanese planes—aircraft flying overhead. To identify the planes they reported, they used cards with black silhouettes of planes printed on them, she explained.

Many readers may remember Eileen, from her 35-year teaching career, when she taught at many of the elementary schools in the Downingtown system. Her first assignment was a kindergarten at the Alert Fire Hall in Downingtown. That was in the 1950s, when baby boomer generation had begun to overwhelm school districts across the United States.

(Editor's Note: We'd love to publish more stories about volunteers who were involved in enemy plane spotting during WW II and the sites in the Downingtown area where they were assigned. Please contact us at Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org if you want to help us on this project.)

Ashbridge House will be closed on Sunday

The Historical Society's 304-year-old headquarters on Route 30, East Caln, is usually open from 1-4 PM on Sundays. However, since it's a holiday weekend, we'll be closed.

We hope you will come on the following Sunday afternoon, June 2, when we'll be having our monthly cutting and pasting session.

It's on Route 322, in Guthriesville



Ben Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this building, constructed in 1928, at 1131 Horseshoe Pike (Route 322) in Guthriesville. As shown in the photo above, it was the residence and store/gas station, owned by Oscar and Mary Miller before WW II. Shown below is a photo of the building, a residential property, as it appears today.

The Millers sold the property to James and Anna DelPaggio after James finished serving in the Navy during WW II. Gaunt Enterprises bought the place about 10 years ago, according to the DelPaggio's daughter, Jane, who now lives in Glenmoore. She still has the Coke sign shown in the old photo above.



This is what the property, now a residence, looks like today.

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

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Vol. 4, No.22

May 30, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Downingtown area news in June 1961

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

The **Lionville Fire Co.**'s new engine won first prize for the best appearing apparatus in Elverson's 50th anniversary parade. Firefighters who rode on the truck in the parade were Carl and Richard Ruth, Joseph Bicking and William F.B. Isinger.

A total of 125 youngsters were enrolled in the Vacation Bible School at **East Brandywine Baptist Church**. Superintendents of various grades were Mary Mull, toddlers;

Annabelle Burkey and Alice Moxley, nursery; Mabel Butler, primary; Miriam Beale, middlers; Ruth Stringer, juniors; and Ethel Sink, junior high.

Jack Barry won the Misplaced Item Contest, sponsored by the **Downingtown Community Promotional Plan**, because he found the largest number of misplaced items in store windows of local merchants.

Elected officers of the Auxiliary of the Charles F. Moran **American Legion Post** were Esther Williams, president; Mrs. Belle Murray, first vice president; Mrs. William Keen, second vice president; Mrs. Earl Thornton, treasurer; Mrs. Paul Dague, secretary; Mrs. Paul McCombs, historian; Anna Dougherty, chaplain; and Mrs. Alford Nichols, sergeant-at-arms.

At a Court of Awards ceremony, conducted at Kerr Park by **Girl Scout Troop 180**, the following girls received second class rankings: Jean Keen, Lillian Echols, Donna Usher, Jennifer Bruton, Elaine Geiger, Mary Ann Hipple, Marvene Dennis, Ruth Weaver and Linda Massimini. Leaders of the troop were Mrs. Leon Williams, Mrs. Donald Forbes and Mrs. Hallan Usher.

One of the featured attractions at **St. Anthony's Fair and Celebration** was WFIL-TV's "Sawdust Sam," and Sunny Saunders and his Jumping Jacks.

Officers elected by **Women of the Downingtown Moose Lodge** were Mrs. Thomas Moffett, senior regent; Mrs. Ashton Lammey, junior graduate regent; Mrs. Daniel Zittle, junior regent; Mrs. Edward Robinson, chaplain; Mrs. Ross Dague, treasurer; and Mrs. Benjamin Summers, secretary.

Some 600 employees and their guests attended the **Downingtown Iron Works** picnic at Rocky Springs Park, near Lancaster. Winners of contests included: Howard Mowday, Diana Fryberger, Doug Lamb and Tonya Farina, peanut scrambles; Janet and Paul Rubin, balloon kicking; Barbara Ashton and Dora Steeley, shoe scramble; and Carol King, Susan Steeley, Steve Rubin and John Burkey, basketball heave.

New officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dr. Anthony Ricci, president; Ben Valocchi, first vice president; Dickey Hutchison, second vice president; Warren Strawsnyder, third vice president; Albert Skiles, lion tamer; Thomas Roberts, assistant lion tamer; Wilbert Smith, tail twister; Don Jones, assistant tail twister; Rev. William Skinner, chaplain; and Horace Rodgers and Charles Beamsderfer, directors. The club announced it would sponsor the Mills Brothers Circus at the Downingtown Farmers Market in August. Proceeds were given to Handicrafters Inc.

Mrs. Mary Eppiheimer was honored at a banquet at Zynn's Diner upon her retirement as a teacher for 26 years in the **Wallace Township School System**. All told, she was a teacher for 43 years. And Susan Ross reigned as Queen of the Wallace Township schools at the annual June Festival. Her honor attendants were Kathy Ayers and Bettie Saathoff, and Harold Hannum, Lewis Riggins, Ronald Hohl and Bruce Pierce were heralds.

Members of the **Hi-Lo team from Lionville**, who won the Housewives Bowling League, were Mrs. Riley Gilbert, Mrs. John Trego, Mrs. Helen Faddis and Mrs. Helen Miller.

The staff of the Vacation Bible School of **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, included: Gussie Robertson and Judy Jones, nursery; Mrs. Robert Romig, Michael Myers, Lois Quinn, and Nancy Helms, kindergarten; Mrs. David Kohlhas, Linda Poloncic and Janet Strawsnyder, primary 1; Mrs. John Keller, Kathy Forbes, and Joyce

hart, primary II; Mrs. Albert Skiles, junior intermediate; George Lowe, arts and crafts; and Danny and Larry Winkler, general assistants.

Elected officers of the **Pickering Valley Women's Club of Upper Uwchlan** were Mrs. Richard Wheatley, president; Mrs. Robert Simpson, vice president; Mrs. John Lockhard, treasurer; Mrs. Ralph Moore, recording secretary; and Mrs. Frank Gottier, corresponding secretary.

The Downingtown Area Joint Elementary Schools' **summer recreation program** was conducted from July 10 through August 18. Morning programs and their supervisors were: East Ward School, Eileen McCardell and Jeanne Emery; Alert Fire Hall, Mary Jean Lillard; Lionville School, Nancy Kohl; and Marshallton School, Rosalie Shepherd.

The re-chartering of **Sea Explorer Scout Ship 34** was pursued by St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown. The unit's committee included Rev. Alfred Vail, Robert Flagg, Chan Cushman, Richard McIlvaine, Stanley Landis, Wallace Huston Jr. and Warren Radcliffe.

The Downingtown Joint School Board decided to spend \$11,600 for **permanent bleachers**, constructed of steel and concrete, for the north side of the DHS (now DiSerafino) football stadium. The bleachers had a seating capacity of 1,020 spectators.

Camp Indian Run, operated by the Philadelphia Girl Scout Council in Wallace Township, was opened for the 28th year. Four Conestoga covered wagons were a new feature that year were. Each camper could spend one night sleeping in one of the wagons.

Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Ralph Ralston, president; James Hines, first vice president; Guy Kline, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; Lloyd Swarner, treasurer; and Edwin Johnson, Rev. Donald Bower and William Kline, directors.

Girl Scout Troop 267, under the direction of Mrs. Armand Taraschi and Mrs. Herbert Talucci, held a Court of Awards. Girls receiving Second Class badges were Kathleen Brown, Nancy DiBerardinis, Christine Ippolito, Mary Beth Lambert, Candace Madrigale, Lucy Perella, Virginia Potter, Cassia Taraschi and Mary Jo Valocchi.

Members of **Brownie Troop 205**, led by Mrs. H.E. Brown, Mrs. Richard Showalter and Mrs. Dominic DiLuigi, who advanced to intermediates in fly-up ceremonies were Marsha Anderson, Ruth Ann Evans, Brenda Showalter, Patricia Cardwell, Sheila Moyer, Jean D'Attilio, Carol Mozzani, Catherine Dolan and Kathleen Pomanto.

Mrs. Harry Perdue was chairman of the troop committee of the new Girl Scout unit in **Marshallton**. Other committee members were Mrs. Milton Durnall, Mrs. John Robinson, Mrs. Austin Fowler and Mrs. Warren Rissel.

Clip Joint will be open Sunday afternoon, June 2

The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on **Sunday, June 2** at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure.

It's a Sears mail order house in Marshallton



Jack Hines, retired West Bradford Township manager and cabinetmaker extraordinaire, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this house as 1314 W. Strasburg Road in Marshallton. Located next to the Marshallton Inn, the house was built in the 1920s by Oliver Baldwin, according to Ron Trimble, who grew up in Marshallton. Mr. Baldwin lived there with his wife, Frances, until sometime in the 1930s, according to U.S. Census data.

George Mershon lived in the house while he owned the Marshallton Inn, from 1965 until 1996. And the house was part of the deal when Mershon bought the historic inn from Tom Baldwin. Mershon said the house was the Olivia model, which sold for about \$1,200 between 1920 and 1929.

Current owner of the house, as well as the Marshallton Inn, is Wistar Woods LP of Chester Springs.

For more info on Sears mail order homes, see: www.searsarchives.com/homes/index.htm.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 4, No.23

June 6, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Please send your responses to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

What was happening here 36 years ago?

The following news items were originally published in local newspapers in June 1977.

The Downingtown Area School Board adopted a **\$12.1 million budget** for the 1977-78 school year.

The **DHS girls' softball team** lost a semi-final game to Twin Valley during the state championships at Shippensburg State College. The Whippettes, who also lost to Twin Valley in their first game of the season, had a 17-2 overall record and won the Ches-Mont League crown.

The **DHS baseball squad** also won the Ches-Mont League, but it lost to Pennsbury in the District I playoffs.

Recent local **property transfers** included: 307 Morris Rd., Uwchlan, \$64,500; 1431 Crestmont Dr., West Bradford, \$27,500; 33 Jenkins Dr., East Caln, \$73,500; 110 Chapel Ct., East Brandywine, \$41,600; 225 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, \$40,000; 37 Christine Dr., Upper Uwchlan, \$61,551.

The **Glenmoore Fire Co.** housed a \$33,000 field truck and a \$84,000 pumper-tanker during festivities that attracted some 200 firefighters.

Confirmed at **Messiah Lutheran Church** were George Bradford, Joann Carl, Katherine Donaldson, Holly Henry, Jane and Joan Leffler, Sheri Leonard, Roseann Merkel and William Schelkopf.

New officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Dick Byerly, president; Horace Schanely, first vice president; John Canning, second vice president; Lew Pyle, third vice president; David Swindin, secretary; and Dick Herbster, treasurer.

Glyn Jenkins, a teacher at Old East Ward School, was elected president of the **Downingtown Area Education Association**. Also elected were Barbara McLaughlin, first vice president; Leonard Fredericks, second vice president; Martha Waring, recording secretary; Lynn Morgan, corresponding secretary; and Walter Supplee, treasurer. James Eisenhardt was executive director of the association.

Pledges exceeded \$900 when the **Downingtown Area Junior Tennis Association** conducted a 24-hour tennis marathon fundraiser on the Kerr Park courts. Steve Steimer and Pam Smith had the most sponsors.

There were **507 seniors** who graduated from DHS. Students selected to speak at the commencement, but were not heard because the ceremony was cut short because of rain, were Suzanne Gable, Margot Haynes, Susan Berry and David Forbes. Class officers were David Salinas, president; Elizabeth Antrim, vice president; Andrea Deufel, treasurer; and Anne Fisher, secretary.

Local students who made the **Dean's List** at Millersville State College were Ann DiOttavio, Luann Ross, Katherine Conahan, Doreen Kuneck and Michael Polinko.

New members of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Arthur and Carol Griffith, Gary and Patricia Hannum, Elizabeth Hoffman, Judith Scanlin, Charlotte Vogel and Louise Watterson.

Winners in the Downingtown Police Department **Fish Rodeo** included Fran Talucci, first blue gill; Robbie Marburger, largest blue gill; Dino Sarmiento, first crappie; Mark Whitson, biggest crappie; Tina Fox, first trout; Nelson Yocum, biggest trout; Ricky Luminella, first bass; Bobby Berry, biggest bass; and Jeff Steidler, first and biggest catfish.

Eight Girl Scouts in **Cadette Troop 1242**, West Bradford, earned first class badges. They were Cheryl Beatty, Beth Bozarth, Kelly Dempsey, Terrilyn Elliott, Debbie Kain, Natalie Koh, Kamie Marshall and Amy McClure.

It's the ruins of the Hunt-Pollock Grist Mill



Jamie Bruton is a truly perceptive scholar because he was first person to correctly identify this as a photo of the remnants of the Hunt-Pollock grist mill on Race Street, just off Manor Avenue in Downingtown.

The mill, powered by two wooden wheels driven by water from a raceway linked to Beaver Creek, was built in 1759 by Roger Hunt. The raceway's sluice gate controlled the flow of water to the mill when it was in operation and diverted the water to the Beaver Creek when the mill was not in operation, according to Don Greenleaf, longtime borough manager. A large French-style mill stone ground the grain and supposedly is still inside the ruins, adds Greenleaf.

Hunt had coordinated the movement of supplies from this part of Chester County during the French and Indian War. After Hunt died in 1764, the mill changed hands several times over the next 82 years, until Col. Samuel Ringwalt bought it 1846.

Ringwalt was one of the people who fostered the incorporation of Downingtown as a borough in 1859. And after Ringwalt led the call to support the Union when the Civil War began, by calling a meeting which resulted in enlisting about 17% of the town's male population, he became quartermaster of the Second Brigade of the Pennsylvania Reserves, commanded by Gen. George Meade.

Ringwalt died in 1875, and his family sold the mill to John T. Pollock in 1894. In 1911, it was sold to John T. Pollock's grandson, William T. Pollock, who owned the mill property until he died in 1956 and his wife inherited it.

After Charles and Daniel Tabas bought the property from Mrs. Pollock, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

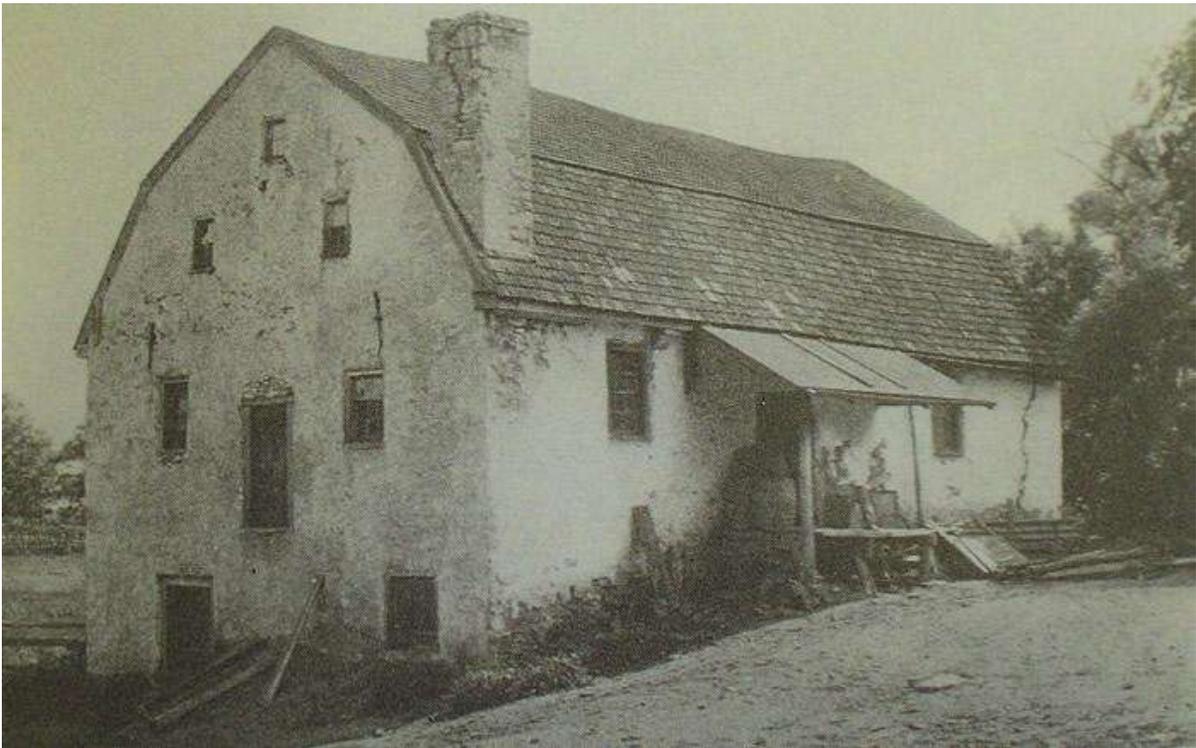
In 1992, the property was bought by the Downingtown Municipal Water Authority, and, two years later, ownership was transferred to the borough government. Today, the mill property is part of the 15-acre Samuel Tabas Memorial Park, along Manor Avenue, which was donated by the Tabas family to the borough in 2004.

(Editor's note: Much of the information about the mill's history was found in the 1979 application for the National Register for Historic Places:

www.dot7.state.pa.us/ce_imagery/phmc_scans/H050987_01H.pdf, and the 1959 Historic American Buildings Survey in 1959:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pnp/habshaer/pa/pa0200/pa0268/data/pa0268data.pdf>.

Both photos were provided by Ed Lacey, great, great grandson of John T. Pollock.)



The Hunt-Pollock mill, as it looked in 1900.

What happened to the pump house and reservoir?

Though she's no longer a school librarian or an editor in the McGraw-Hill children's materials department, Eileen Moyer still is an inquisitive soul. And although Eileen has been concerned about the borough's future for many years (she has served on Downingtown Planning Commission for 40 years) she's also curious about the borough's past, as well. That's why she sent us the query noted below.

In the 1950s, those of us who grew up in the Washington Avenue/Green Street neighborhood of Downingtown spent countless hours playing in the creek—Parke Run; also spelled Park on some old maps—at the Green Street bridge.

Ten or fifteen yards upstream from the bridge were the remnants of the foundation of a small pump house. And back in the time when railroads were powered by steam engines, water was pumped uphill from the creek to a reservoir near the railroad tracks, and then to a tank with a pipe which could be swung out over the steam engine.

Did the water pipe go over or under Lincoln or Jackson Avenues? And when was the pumping operation discontinued?

My brother, Jack Moyer, told me that the reservoir was located closer to Chestnut Street than to Green Street, and it had a brick floor.

And an older relative told Jack that the pump house operation was no longer needed after a trough/scoop mechanism was installed there. The water trough ran parallel to the tracks, allowing a device on the steam engine to scoop up water, without the engine having to stop.

Jack thinks the trough was located near the tracks in the west end of the borough, in the area of Gabel Avenue, and the railroad planted hedges there to keep the water from splashing the cars on Lancaster Avenue when the train went through.

Anyone who has some information and/or insights on the railroad pumping operation is encouraged to send it to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Where was Seven Springs Tree Farm?



We came across this metal sign on eBay. The sign was made in 1947. If you know where it was located, please tell us via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Ever hear of a calithumpian orchestra?

Nancy Thompson, local Girl Scout leader for decades, recently gave us a copy of the Philips Family Newsletter, which is sent to descendants of Joseph and Mary Philips, who settled in Chester County in 1755. One of the items in the newsletter noted that:

Josiah Philips (1867-1961) was a prominent resident of Downingtown. He served, for 30 years, as superintendent of the Sunday School at First Baptist Church. He also was a postmaster, a leader of the Masons, and was president of the Downingtown Building and Loan Association from its founding until his death at the age of 94.

Despite Josiah's reputation as a dignified and sober man, a local newspaper reported on February 8, 1898 that "the discordant strains from a calithumpian orchestra were heard from the residence of Josiah Philips and his bride. The occasion had been arranged in good form, and the permission of the Burgess (mayor) had been secured on the grounds that there would be no riotous conduct, and that all of the affairs of the evening would be orderly.

None of that information is troubling to us. However, we're befuddled about the term "calithumpian orchestra." According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, it's a "noisy boisterous band or parade."

Anyone ever heard of such a musical group in the Downingtown area. Perhaps your Great Uncle Harry was one of those guys whose musical skills were limited to banging on pie pans? Please send your responses to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

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Vol. 4, No.24

June 13, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Local news items published in January 1946

Here are some items, which were originally published in Downingtown area papers 67 years ago.

- Jackie Welsh, who had starred on the DHS and **University of Pennsylvania** football teams, joined George Munger's Penn staff as a backfield coach, following his discharge from the Navy after World War II.

But when Welsh first enrolled at Downingtown High School, he became a male cheerleader for one season, and not a football player. Shortly, however, that arrangement changed and he became one of the stars on Coach Francis Tweed's Whippet football team. Then, he played under Coach George Munger, when Penn had powerhouse teams that

played schools like Michigan and Penn State, and the Quakers attracted capacity crowds to Franklin Field. He also lettered in basketball and track (pole vault) at Penn.

In just his third game at Penn, Welsh intercepted four passes in one game, which is still a Penn record 73 years later. Several weeks later, he picked off a pass and returned it 76 yards for a TD in a 20-0 win over Navy (back when the military academy teams were nationally ranked). For his career, Welsh picked off 13 passes, just one short of the school record established by All American Chuck Bednarik. He was recognized as Penn's most outstanding athlete when he graduated in 1943.

- Newly elected officers of the Sunday School at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Sherman Kirkpatrick, president; Everett Wilson, vice president; Mrs. Harmon Rogers, secretary; Emmett Gordon, treasurer; Mrs. George Peck, superintendent; William Whitely, assistant superintendent; Sara Maxton, pianist; Arlene Davis, first assistant pianist; and Anna Dewees, second assistant pianist.
- Installed as officers of the **Marshallton Grange** were Harry Perdue, master; Gilbert Gray, overseer; Esther Hill, lecturer; John Romig, steward; Albert Anderson, treasurer; and Mary Gibson, chaplain.
- Ray Barrow "ran wild," as he scored 27 points and the **DHS basketball team** avenged an earlier loss to St. Agnes High School, West Chester, by beating the Stags 44-29.
- Newly installed officers of the **Lyndell Grange** were: Samuel Lantz, master; Edward Towson, overseer; Sarah Abel, lecturer; John McCausland, steward; Ruth Moore, chaplain; Warren Marshall, treasurer; and Julia Peck, secretary.
- **Betty Bird**, a student at Uwchlan Township's Mount Airy School, received a copy of the Japanese surrender documents from the U.S. Treasury Department in commemoration of the end of WW II because she had sold so many E Bonds.
- Mr. and Mrs. Norman Gottier received a posthumous citation and Bronze Star for their son, **Cpl. Alvin Gottier**, who was killed in action in Italy. The Gottiers had three other sons—Ernest, Theodore and Maurice—who also served in WW II.
- The **Brandywine Building and Loan Association** of Downingtown elected to the following officers: Arthur Glauner, president; F.S. McDonald, vice president; W.C. Johnson, secretary; and Richard Warren, treasurer.
- Six-year-old **Bobby McClure** woke up his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McClure, when he started coughing and choking from the smoke caused by a chimney fire in their home at 319 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown. Downingtown firemen put out the fire, which caused about \$1,000 worth damage.
- Deceased members of the **Downingtown Fire Department** were honored at the annual memorial service, held at First Baptist Church. Those from the Alert Fire Co. who died in the past year were Dominic Marinelli, Harry Harvey, Horace Guest, Jacob Edge, Herbert Pritchard and Robert Osborne. Members of the Minquas Fire Co., who had passed, were Philip Burns and Joseph Miller. And members of the Alert Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary who had died were Mrs. Merritt Ibaugh, Mrs. John Bareford and Mrs. Gerald Lyons.
- **Helen Hess Howe**, 350 Washington Ave., Downingtown, was nearing the end of her tour with a USO Camp Show unit in Europe. Most recently she had appeared in Brussels, Belgium with the Broadway cast of "Personal Appearances." She also toured with the cast at U.S. military bases in Italy and France. And she was slated to be in England for two weeks. In addition to playing on the New York stage for five years before she went on the USO tour, she had appeared in several movies.

BELL PHONE 50

ATLANTIC ICE MANUFACTURING CO.

DEALERS IN
COAL AND ICE

DOWNINGTOWN, PA., *June 29*, 19 *43*

Robert M. Hall

30 Lancaster Ave.

Dgtn, Pa.

BALANCE

2 ton Chestnut @ .12.14 = \$ 24.28

ATLANTIC ICE MFG. CO.



This is one of the items that Gene Martin, who lived at 30 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown when he graduated from DHS in 1965, recently donated to the Historical Society.

Obviously, the Atlantic Ice Manufacturing Co., sold coal as well as ice in 1943. In an earlier part of the 20th Century, the firm was located on Brandywine Avenue in the Borough, according to Jane Davidson's *History of Downingtown*. If you know anything about the company, or why coal was used to heat most homes in the first half of the 20th Century, please tell us about it via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

It's the Downingtown Country Club



Rahn Brackin is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this photo (taken by Mike Dunn), as the clubhouse at the Downingtown Country Club in East Caln. For many years, the house was part of the Downingtown Inn complex, owned by Tabas Enterprises. In the early 20th Century, it was the home of several generations of the J. Gibson McIlvain family, which ran the Downingtown Paper Co. until the firm was sold to Sonoco in 1968.

Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area

Community Festival at St. Joe's

Every night will be Family Night at the Community Festival at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, on Manor Avenue in Downingtown, from 6-10 PM Tuesday, June 18 until Saturday, June 22. In addition to an opportunity to going on rides all night long for \$20, attractions include: food, bingo, live music, a beer garden, a bake sale and a cheer wheel. And there will be tours of the new church.

Lions Club Golf Outing

Downingtown/Lionville Lions Clubs will have a golf outing on Monday, August 19 at the Downingtown Country Club, to raise funds for the Lords Pantry, Downingtown Area Senior Center and The Chester County Association for the Blind. For more information, contact Herb Mays (610-389-3747) or Don Greenleaf (484-954-2273).

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Hist-O-Gram

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Vol. 4, No.25

June 20, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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St. Joseph's new church was dedicated on Saturday.

Old bell rings in a new era at St. Joseph's

When the new St. Joseph's Catholic Church was dedicated on Saturday, June 15, a throng of people had an opportunity to see—and hear—a connection with a parish

tradition once again. We're talking about the bell, which has been an integral part of St. Joseph's for nearly 120 years.

Now, the bell hangs in the belfry of the new church, which was built because the parish has experienced explosive growth in recent years. Today, there are some 4,600 families in the parish, making it the second largest congregation in the Philadelphia archdiocese. That's why the new structure, whose design is reminiscent of the original St. Joseph's church on Bradford Avenue in the Johnsontown section of Downingtown, can accommodate 1,200 souls. The total cost of the church's construction, which was begun in March 2012, is projected to be \$9.6 million.

The bell originally became part of the parish shortly after Rev. James O'Reilly was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's in 1894, and he started renovating the church, which had been built a year after the parish was founded in 1851.

The remodeling project included the addition of a sacristy and vestibule, plus the installation of nine stained glass windows and new Stations of the Cross. Other enhancements at the time were two side altars and three statues from Europe, which were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murphy.

But the gift that had the greatest impact for many years was the bell, which the Murphys gave to the church 1894.

According to the parish history, published in 2001, "Father O'Reilly was so proud of the bell that he insisted that it be rung exactly on time. The rope pullers—young boys of the parish—knew better than to be late for duty. It was rumored that the bell was so accurate that townspeople set their watches by its tolling."

The youthful bellringers continued to pull the ropes at St. Joseph's for many decades, until a new church was opened on Manor Avenue in the borough in 1971. Then the bell rested silently in a steel cradle on a brick pedestal for four decades outside that modern church building, which will be razed to create a larger parking area.

The 953-pound bell was lifted to the bell tower of the new church in late March, after it was refurbished by the McShane Bell Foundry in Glen Burnie, MD.

More of this saga will be published in next week's Hist-O-Gram, when we will provide details on the life of Michael Murphy, the millionaire-philanthropist, who was an Irish immigrant, Civil War vet, nemesis of Standard Oil's John D. Rockefeller, and breeder of champion horses on his country estate near Downingtown.

For photos of the dedication ceremonies, see: <http://catholicphilly.com/2013/06/local-news/photo-features/second-largest-parish-in-the-archdiocese-dedicates-new-church/>.

Downingtown area news in July 1961

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

Three-legged race winners in various age groups at **Good Neighbor Day** in Kerr Park included: Alvin Groff and Ronald Paup, Janet Mento and Margaret Staneski, Ronald Willis and Ronald Lawler, Donna Usher and Sheryl Stong, Jonathan and David Stott, Charlou Van Lew and Pat Brown. And chariot race winners were: boys, Robert Horsey, Bob Murphy, Paul Boggs and Howard Smith; girls, Sherry Dick, Rosemary Gazzerro, Patricia Farnum, Marcella Echhoff and Margaret Staneski.

In the baking contest, Mrs. Charles Langham got first prize for her cake, and Mrs. Earl Neuhauser won for her banana split pie.

Members of the **Downingtown Optimists Club** who organized the Fourth of July event were Fran Swisher, chairman, Don Collier, Clair Langham, Al Hughes, Albert Burkhart and Ray Doan.

Officers elected to lead the Young Adult Bible Class at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Mary Lou Walters, president; William Owens, vice president; and Doris Witherow, secretary-treasurer.

Teachers at the **Glenmoore Methodist's Vacation Bible School** were Mrs. Esther MacDougal, Mrs. William Zulker, Mrs. Ann Trego, Denise Ayers, Mrs. Jeanne Roberts, Mrs. Betty Nagle and Mrs. Evelyn Ferguson.

Downingtown Council heard the first reading of three street names proposed for the Highland Crest development in the west end of the borough: Gabel Avenue, Copeland Place and Beaver Place.

Raymond Baugher, **Downingtown superintendent of schools**, appeared in Chester County Court, seeking permission to increase the real estate tax rate to 43 mills. State law required court permission when a millage increase would generate 10 percent more tax revenue than in the previous year. The court approved the increase after Baugher testified that there had been rapid growth in school enrollment, requiring the opening of new schools and hiring more teachers.

A group of 40 residents of Upper Uwchlan Township announced plans to protest against the state Department of Forests and Waters' proposal to erect a dam on Marsh Creek, and create a 3,000-acre park and recreation area. Flood control and water conservation were also targets of the proposal. The group, which met at Windsor School in Upper Uwchlan, formed the **Marsh Creek Area Taxpayers Association**. Leaders of the association were B. Franklin Peirson, president; Frederick Higham, vice president; and Morris Jackson, secretary-treasurer. The association claimed that Upper Uwchlan would suffer a major loss of taxable property and create a significant burden for the remaining land owners.

Two buildings at the intersection of East Lancaster and Wallace Avenues in Downingtown were demolished. They were the **Coffee Cup restaurant** on the northeast corner and the **Center Square Inn** and apartments on the northwest corner. Both buildings were owned by Nick Zaferes of Downingtown.

The 11 young people from **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, who won half camperships to attend the Lutheran Leadership Training Camp in the Poconos, were Suzanne Robertson, Sherry and Robert Geist, John and Ruth Keller, Steve and David Shirk, Robert Henne, Jim Hostutler, Caroline Kline and Darrell Umberger.

Members of the faculty of the Bible School, conducted by **Hopewell Methodist Church** in East Brandywine, were Mrs. Edward Plank, Donna McElroy, Mrs. Hannah Harper, Jeanne Watts, Mrs. Ralph Whitely, Bonnie Schmitt, Mrs. George Krapf, Marcia Krapf, Mrs. Vincent King, Joan Klase, Mrs. Robert Piersol, Mrs. Arnold Kring, Mrs. Donald Bower and Rev. Donald Bower. The school's enrollment totaled 170 youngsters.

Ninth grade students who attended the Bible School since they were four years old were Ken Furlong, Joan Seeds, Connie Smedley, Phyliss Harrison, Arthur Anderson, Richard Watts and Karen Cockerham.

It's on Lionville Station Road in Uwchlan



Philip Hemcher is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first person to correctly identify this as one of two 18th Century farmhouses on Lionville Station Road in the Chester Springs section of Uwchlan Township. The historic houses are located on the 242-acre tract that Philip Street sold to Shared Medical Systems (now Siemens) in the 1980's. The Downingtown School District bought the property ca. 2007, with intentions of building a third middle school and third high school there. That plan was abandoned, and now the School District is trying to sell the property.

Events and Activities in the Downingtown Area

Free Concert in Kerr Park

Grab your blankets and chairs for the first of this summer's free Downingtown's Concerts in Kerr Park, at 5 PM Sunday, June 23. Gina Belnomi Miller's "Just Us" band will be playing at the gazebo. If the weather looks iffy, check www.downingtowntownconcerts.com before you head for the park. Borough rules don't allow alcohol or digs in the park.

Community Festival at St. Joe's

Every night will be Family Night at the Community Festival at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, on Manor Avenue in Downingtown, through Saturday night, June 22. In addition to an opportunity to going on rides all night long for \$20, attractions include: food, bingo, live music, a beer garden, a bake sale and a cheer wheel. There also will be tours of the new church.

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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 4, No.26

June 27, 2013

Where and What Is This?



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

Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Michael Murphy was a winner in the oil and horse racing businesses

(Editor's Note: This is the second part of the story about the bell, pictured below, and Michael Murphy, who donated it to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in 1894, when it was located in the Johnstontown section of Downingtown. Murphy went to Mass at St. Joseph's, when the Philadelphia millionaire was spending time at his racehorse training farm several miles north of Downingtown. Today, the bell hangs in the belfry of the recently dedicated St. Joseph's Church on Manor Avenue in Downingtown. The first part

of the story can be accessed by clicking on:

www.downingtowntonareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/June%2020%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)



Michael Murphy donated this bell to St. Joseph's Catholic Church in 1894.

The saga of Michael Murphy's rise to the top of the heap began when he was a 13-year-old Irish immigrant who arrived in Philadelphia in 1855. Ultimately, he became one of the city's richest, most powerful men.

Murphy's quest for the best started when he was an apprentice cooper (barrel maker) in Philadelphia. He apparently caught on to the cooperage business quickly, but that pursuit was interrupted in 1861, when he responded to President Lincoln's pleas for young men to join the Union forces during the Civil War.

According to a chapter on Murphy in *The Story of Milford Mills*, written and published in 1989 by Catherine and Stuart Quillman, newspaper stories noted that Murphy met Lincoln twice while he served four years in the Civil War.

The first time, Murphy was stationed on a gunboat in the Chesapeake, and he and Lincoln were rowing a boat together toward a flagship. That's when Lincoln suggested, "Bub, place your feet against mine, and give yourself a brace."

The second encounter occurred when Murphy had been directed to go to Washington "for the mail," according to a 1906 article in the *Daily Local News*. "He must have been on foot since he was said to have been overtaken by the President, who leaned out of his carriage and invited Murphy to join him. The President drove Murphy to his destination."

Following his discharge from the service, Murphy went back to his cooper's bench, and made barrels for oil producers. Soon, his involvement in the oil business evolved into exporting oil from fields he opened or helped finance in western Pennsylvania, West

Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and was shipping the oil to bulk tank farms in Germany, Holland, Belgium and England.

By the 1890s, Murphy was one of the leaders of the Producers Protective Association, a cooperative comprised of independent oil men who refused to buckle under to their implacable enemy, Standard Oil's John D. Rockefeller. Murphy also helped organize and became president of the Pure Oil Co. and the U.S. Pipe Line Co.

He also was on the board of directors of the Keystone Telephone Co., and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co., the world's largest trolley system at the time.

Chester County author Wilmer MacElree provided a perspective on Murphy, when he wrote in *Down the Eastern and Up the Black Brandywine* (1906): "A shrewd Irishman is Mr. Murphy—a speculator in oil—the richest man in the community—brief in speech and decisive in action—a warm friend and a bitter foe—a fighter who can take knocks and give them."



Michael Murphy

Murphy buys Chester County property

Although Murphy was a rich and powerful philanthropist, who avoided limelight, he caught much attention in 1880, when he bought the Milford Mill, a former textile factory near Lyndell, whose interior had been gutted by fire earlier that year.

The mill had been owned and operated for four decades by Dr. Joseph McClure, who graduated from Jefferson Medical College, but joined the family cloth manufacturing business in 1848, instead of practicing medicine. The mill primarily manufactured denim,

and during the Civil War, it won a large contract to produce woolen goods used to make uniforms for soldiers in the Union Army.

Murphy made a major commitment to having one of the nation's premiere horse training facilities, when he constructed large box stalls on the first two stories of the former mill. He also built three tracks behind the stables, including a one-eighth-mile ring covered by a roof. His investment in upgraded facilities bore fruit; many of his horses won many major races in an era when horse races were America's most popular spectator sport.

And in 1886, Murphy acquired the neighboring McClure mansion. It was "an imposing Victorian structure of 40 rooms on the slope overlooking Marsh Creek," according to a report prepared in the 1960s for Upper Uwchlan Township's Planning Commission.

Murphy usually stayed at the country retreat from June through November. He commuted to his Philadelphia office, by taking a milk train, operated by the Waynesburg and Downingtown Railroad, from Lyndell to Downingtown, where he caught a ride on the "Pennsy" to the city.

The mansion remained vacant for nearly a decade after Murphy died in 1917, at age 76, in his Lower Merion home. Then, during the Prohibition era, Max "Boo Boo" Hoff, a notorious Philadelphia bootlegger, took over the property for several years. After Hoff and his gangsters left in the early 1930s, several owners operated the mansion over the next two decades, with limited success, as a resort hotel and restaurant. The former showplace was vandalized and severely damaged by fires while it sat vacant for many years, until Upper Uwchlan's supervisors got rid of the problem in the late 1960s, by authorizing the Lionville Fire Co. to set the place on fire and use it as a practice exercise.

Meanwhile, the mansion was back in the news, when plans for the Marsh Creek State Park project were unveiled in the early 1960s. Despite local citizens' protests and legal actions against eminent domain condemnations of more than 100 structures—including all the residences and barns that comprised the hamlet of Milford Mills—were razed as part of the State Park project. The park, opened in July 1979, was developed for drought and flood control, as well as recreational purposes.

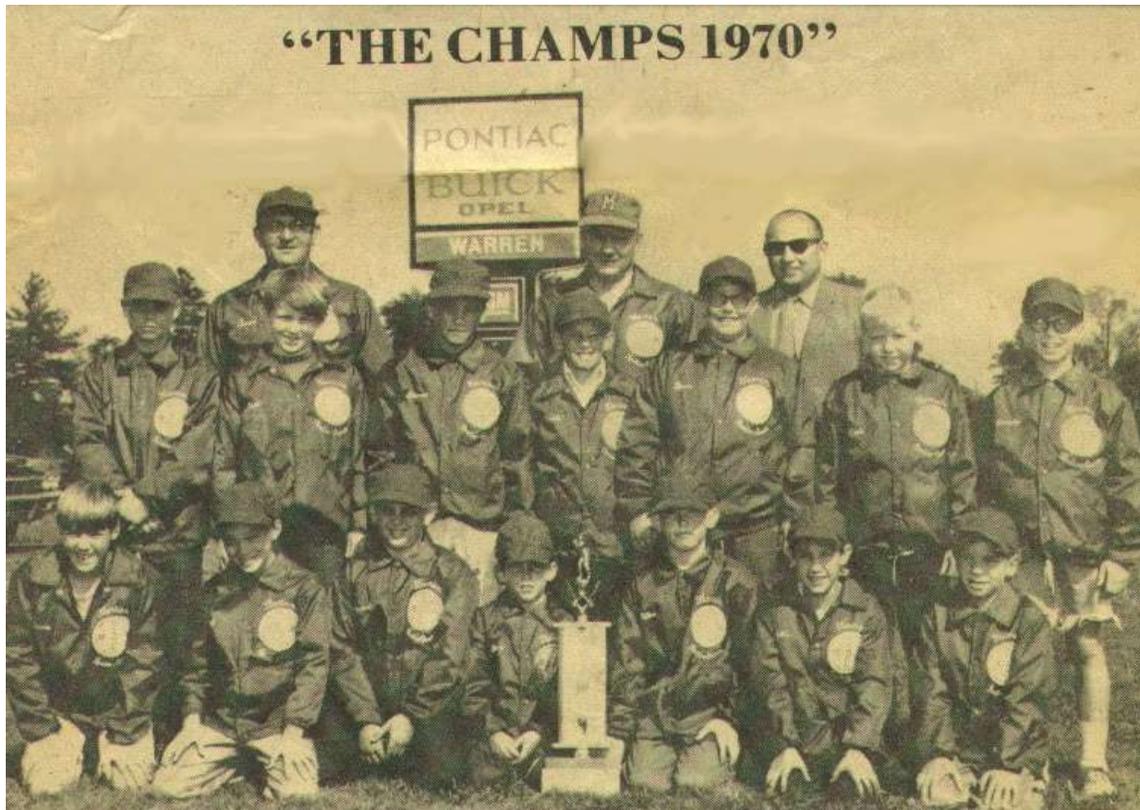
The mansion's foundation and front steps, and portions of the stone walls for the estate's outbuildings can still be seen near the boat dock on the west side of the lake. And sailboats whip across the lake, while remnants of Milford Mills residents' homes are far below under water.

Family Files now number 8,000

Through the great devotion of the Sunday and Thursday afternoon clipping/pasting crews, and the tireless efforts of Michael Homan who inputs all the data, the number of large Family Files cards in our Archives now totals 8,000. That total means we have Family File cards on more than 8,000 individuals, since the cards are filed by a last name, and the first letter of the first name. And many cards contain more than one article. The articles that are clipped from newspapers and pasted on Family File cards include engagements, weddings, deaths, retirements, achievements, promotions, etc. Though most of the articles were published in papers sometime after 1969, we have begun collecting older articles from local newspapers which are on microfilm.

To see if we have any information on your family members, click on the online indexes on our website, www.downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org. You may be surprised.

This is what they looked like 43 years ago



DOWNINGTOWN LITTLE LEAGUE (MINOR) 1970 CHAMPS

Front Row (l to r) Kevin Morris, Philip Dague, Dennis O'Neill, David Osborne, Mike Moore, John Ippolito, Matthew Mingione.

Second Row (l to r) Steve Helm, Nick Cortlessa, Daniel Castaldi, Chad Mc Neil, Glen Schmid, Ricky Woodall, Randy Schmid.

Rear (l to r) George Schmid, asst. coach; Rich Woodall, coach; Warren Strawsnyder of the sponsoring agency.

MISSING (but mighty important) Eric Milano, Mike Whitman and George Quinn.

Warren Pontiac-Buick is proud to have sponsored this year's championship team. We are however equally proud of all the teams we have sponsored in this great program in many years past. To all involved in little league efforts everywhere, our very sincere congratulations.

1771 E.
Lincoln
Hwy.



Phone
363-7790

It's 216 Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown



Teresa Talucci is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of the house at 216 Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown. It's owned by Chris Wrenn, who bought the place in 1990. He says it was built in 1881, based on a notation written on a second floor wall. When excavating the dirt floor in the basement, in order to pour a concrete floor, many bottles and ceramic pieces were found, most of which were donated to the Historical Society. The carriage house behind the house was originally a stable. It was converted into an antique store, and 20-30 years ago, it was made into a residence, adds Chris.

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