



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 1

January 5, 2012

Downingtown girls were “a little wild” 125 years ago

If you're one of those people who constantly rant about “these kids today,” consider a news story about two Downingtown girls, which was published in the Dec. 27, 1887 edition of the *New York Herald*. Headlined **They Are A Little Wild**, the content of the article read:

“John F. Pedrick, living this side of Downingtown, is the owner of very fine horses and a sleigh. He drove this spanking team into Downingtown on Monday, and stopped at a village store. Several girls were coasting (sledding) nearby, and he asked them to keep an eye on his team while he went in to make some purchases.

“When he came out, his horses and sleigh had disappeared. He learned that the two pretty girls, fond of fun, had jumped into the sleigh and driven away in the direction of West Chester. He obtained another team and in hot haste, arriving there late last night. Procuring the services of West Chester police officers Maloney and Wallace, they started through the town in search of the girls and team, and finally found the young women sitting in the sleigh, with the horses still and blanketed, on Church Street, north of Chestnut.

“The girls were taken to police headquarters, where their names and residences were registered, and subsequently were taken to jail.

“Pedrick decided today not to push the case against them, and the erring ones were allowed to depart. They are of respectful parentage and are the same girls who ran away from home some time ago and slept out of doors three nights in succession.

“They are quite good looking, but a little wild.”

Another major train derailment in the 1970s

After reading the story in last week's Hist-O-Gram about the Amtrak passenger train derailling in Downingtown on Dec. 26, 1976, several people reminded us that there was another major railroad problem in the borough nearly 40 years ago.

That one occurred at about 4 AM on Feb. 5, 1973, when 21 cars of a westbound Penn Central freight train derailed. The tank cars involved spilled tons of sulfuric and nitric acid, causing some 1,500 local residents to be evacuated from their homes due to choking fumes. There were no serious injuries. However, about 300 feet of track was torn up, and nearly one mile of overhead power line was damaged.

City slickers appeared in East Ward operetta



This photo, provided by Ron Tipton, shows some of the fifth and sixth grade boys who starred in an operetta many decades ago at East Ward School in Downingtown. We don't know anything about the operetta, but we suspect its setting wasn't in New York City. Left to right in the front row are: Bud Bruton, Duer Smedley, Bill Brookover and Stuart Meisel. Those in the back row are: Ron Tipton, Bumper Dague, Denny Myers and Larry Meredith.

When were the first DHS class rings produced?

Ron Meacham has a DHS 1882 class ring with three initials. If that person could be identified, Ron would love to give the ring to a relative of that student. However, says Ron, the high school doesn't have records that old, and the DHS Alumni Association wasn't established until 1884.

Ron, we doubt that a DHS Class ring, marked 1882, could have been bought by a member of that class because the high school was just established in 1882. So we doubt that there a graduating class that year.

We don't know when class rings for specific classes were first sold at DHS, but we suspect rings for each class couldn't have been purchased for DHS pupils in the late 19th Century because the classes were so small back then. So instead of manufacturing a unique ring for each of those small classes, vendors only showed the year when the high school was established. And we have no idea when the first DHS class rings, produced for members of a specific class, were manufactured.

Anyone know when the first real DHS class ring was for sale? Send your answer to info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Clip joint will re-open on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8

You're all invited to clip and paste newspaper clips from 1-4 PM (arrive and leave when it's convenient to you) on Sunday, Jan. 8 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays.

And although many of you have promised not to eat another cookie for many months, we are authorized to sweeten our offer by issuing special waivers to those who help us clip and paste.

How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

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

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Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

Business \$50____ Sponsoring \$50 ____ Supporting \$100 ____

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

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

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January 12, 2012

News about life in the Downingtown area in 1975

The following news items were retrieved from January 1975 issues of the *East Branch Citizen* weekly newspaper.

Bradford Shuman, personnel manager of Pepperidge Farm in Downingtown was elected president of the Chester County Industrial Relations Association.

Linda Weston of DHS and Mary Kay Conahan, a Downingtown resident who plays for Bishop Shanahan, were named to the all-star team among players in the girls' basketball tournament hosted by DHS over the Christmas holidays.

Officers chosen to help lead Central Presbyterian's Women's Association were Judith Wade, secretary; Olive Konick, treasurer; Miriam Bicking, Circle 2 leader; Anne Pearson, Circle 4 leader; Vivian Piersol, fellowship chairman; Judith Bullock, nominating committee; and Lois Thatcher, Presbyterian home secretary.

Sam Matthews, who replaced Edwin Kalemjian, was the second Uwchlan Township supervisor to be appointed in five months. The other appointee was William Lally, who succeeded Gerald Knapp. Uwchlan's population rose from 900 in 1960 to 7,000 in 1976.

Property transfers included: East Brandywine, 3 Independence Ln., \$45,465; Downingtown, 512 Grant Ave., \$34,000; Uwchlan, 416 Devon Dr., \$52,000; West Bradford, 1530 Waimea Dr., \$36,700.

New members of First Baptist Church, Downingtown, were: Sandra and Teal Burns, Cheryl and Deborah Hipp, Brenda Phillips, Margaret Hendricks, Bonnie Oberteuffer, James and Joyce Meadows, Joyce, Cynthia and L.A. Rimes, and Hilbert and Vivian Crocker.

Although it was snowing heavily, Norm Hawk, Roger Patrizio, Joe Anderson and Dick Nelms continued to play tennis on the Kerr Park courts on the afternoon of Dec. 31.

Officers elected by members of the Alert Fire Co., Downingtown, were: Leslie Sheeler, president; William Keene, vice president; William Wilmot, secretary; Richard Myers, treasurer; William Barrett, Harold Trego, Richard Nields and Richard Keers, trustees. Line officers were Alfred Peterman, assistant chief; Richard Keers, captain; Robert Stevens, David Caputo, and Wes Pannebaker, lieutenants.

The staff of the DHS yearbook was headed by Karen Ladd, editorial editor and Marty Lantz, business editor.

New officers at Hopewell United Methodist Church included: John Bonham, chairman, and Robert Carmichael, vice chairman.

John Piersol was elected president of the East Brandywine Fire Co. Other officers elected were Harold Thompson, vice president; Ronald Rambo, secretary; Lewis Laird, treasurer. Trustees were Charles Thompson, Walter Crandall and Robert Zynn. Line officers were Dr. Brent Follweiler, chief; Edward Pennell, chief engineer; Richard O'Neil and John Cropper, assistant chief engineers; John Schmidt and Zynn, captains; and James Baker, lieutenant.

Richard Radcliff was elected president of the Downingtown Rotary Club. Other officers were Grey Olliver, first vice president; Robert Schafer, second vice president; Peter Smith, secretary; Lewis Wilson, treasurer; Robert Brown, assistant treasurer. New trustees were Charles Bruton, Arthur Colley, Millard Ryan and Dr. Joseph McCahon.

DHS sophomore David Murphy pulled a young girl out of the second lake along East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown. The girl was up to her shoulders in the icy water when Murphy saved her.

William Hill was the new president of the West Bradford Fire Co. Other officers were James Andrien, vice president; Frank Bates, secretary; and Gary Schmidt, treasurer. Line officers were Jack Hines, chief; Larry Amoriello, first assistant chief; William Fowler, second assistant chief; William Dilworth, lieutenant; Charles Entress, chief of fire police.

DHS students named to the Lower Southeastern Pennsylvania District band were Mike Shaughnessy, Missy Turner, Lori Hummel, Mark McClure and Steve Rowan.

David Miller was the new president of the Glen Moore Fire Co. Other officers were Philip Kirtland, vice president; Charles Zeiders, secretary; Harold Ziserman, treasurer; Marvin Furlong financial secretary. Line officers were Thomas Miller, chief; and Barry Ortlip and David Miller, assistant chiefs. Marlene Miller was elected president of the Ladies Auxiliary. Other officers were Lena Sassaman, vice president; Mary Ann Glisson, secretary; Esther MacDougal, treasurer.

Owner of 1882 DHS class ring discovered, but other high school mysteries still exist



This is the 1882 DHS class ring that was owned by Florence Martin, who graduated in 1885. Photo taken by Ron Meacham, who found the ring.

In last week's Hist-O-Gram, Ron Meacham revealed that he has a DHS 1882 class ring, which has the initials "FFM" engraved on the interior band. Subsequently, Ron discovered in Jane Davidson's *History of Downingtown* that there was a student with those initials, Florence Martin, in the DHS Class of 1885.

According to U.S. Census data, Florence was born in November 1868 on a farm in Uwchlan. Her father, Benjamin, died between the census of 1880 and 1900. Later,

Florence, her two siblings and her mother lived together in West Chester at 310 Dean St. Her mother died in the 1920s. Florence was still there in 1930, according to that year's Census. Ron would like to give the ring to a member of Ms. Martin's family. Perhaps one of our readers knows one of her descendants.

With six graduates in 1885, that year was the largest class at DHS between 1882 and 1888, according to Davidson's book. Besides Florence, others in that class were: William Kline, Homer Dowlin, Maude Neal Cleefield, Carrie McFarlan, and David Patterson.

And those small class sizes explain why rings that included the year they graduated would have been very expensive to make and difficult to sell. So that's probably why they were marked 1882, the year the high school allegedly was established.

Although it appears we may have solved the mysterious class ring case, data in Davidson's history about DHS during the late 19th Century creates additional mysteries.

If, for instance, the high school was established in 1882, how could two students—Ella Smith and William Smith—have graduated in 1882? Although we don't know what constituted a high school curriculum in those days, you would think that an 1882 graduate would have begun their final year in September 1881. But that would be impossible at a high school that wasn't founded until 1882.

Later, high schools—usually two-year programs—were established by the township school boards in East Brandywine, Uwchlan, Wallace and West Pikeland, and some of students from those high schools spent their last two years at DHS. But those township high schools weren't established until the early 20th Century.

If any of you has an explanation for this quandary, please send your answer to:

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January 19, 2012

Happenings in the Downingtown area in January 1950

Here's what was going on in January 1950, according to information retrieved from the Downingtown Archive, a now-defunct weekly newspaper.

Ray Sheeler succeeded Nelson Dennis as president of Downingtown Borough Council. Dennis had served on Council for 13 years. The Borough's tentative budget items included: \$14,900 for the police department, and \$4,400 for the fire department.

Newly elected officers of the Ursula Cottage Class of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, were Mrs. James Thackery, president; Grace Gordon, vice president; Mrs. Gilbert Smedley, secretary; and Mrs. Percy Yoos, treasurer.

The following promotions were announced by Downingtown Paper Co.: Joe Formica, from laborer to millwright helper; Frank Pendergrast, from sheet boy to fourth hand; Barbara Ax, from switchboard operator to clerk in the Purchasing Department; Dorothy McCombs, new switchboard operator; Carl Beam, Sewell Rowe, Matthew Menna, Gerald Lyons and Charles Thomas, from extras to plant helpers.

The Downingtown Community Basketball League opened its season, with the East Enders slaughtering the American Legion five, 65-31, as Dick Dague and Floyd Lilley setting the pace for the winners, with 13 points each.

Mrs. Norman Springer was appointed postmistress in Glen Moore, following the resignation of Mrs. Henry Slider.

Dale Illingworth, Robert McCue, Charles Brooks, Ralph Hall Jr., Harold Trimble, Malcolm Preston, and Donald Lambert of Marshalltown's Boy Scout Troop 52 enjoyed a hike to Harvey's Rocks.

New officers of St. Paul's Reformed Church, Exton, were William Peterman, president; Robert Davis, vice president; Emmett Gordon, treasurer; William Whitely superintendent; Mrs. James Messner, pianist; Arlene Davis, assistant pianist.

DHS musicians named to the Southeastern Pennsylvania District Band were Louise Bartelmo, clarinet; Joan Lenhardt, cornet; Joseph Streamer, bass clarinet; and Paul Miller, bass horn.

A new drive-in theatre is expected to open at Ingleside Farm, Thorndale, in April.

Members of the Young Girls Sunday School Class of Hopewell Methodist Church who had a meeting at Peggy Astheimer's house included Mary Trego, Virginia Popjoy, Patsy Piersol, Ruth and Betty Sensenig, and Mrs. Charles Newlin, their teacher.

The Downingtown Joint School Board received a request to admit pupils from West Pikeland, the only township which failed to support the bond issue in last fall's election. Township officials expect the issue to be voted on again this fall.

Downingtown Library to celebrate its 136th birthday

Back in 1876, when the Downingtown Library was formed, there were only 426 books in its collection. And the librarian was paid just \$75 a year.

However, things have changed over the past 136 years. Now the library's shelves are jammed with some 27,000 books and 1,151 DVDs. Circulation of those items totaled 114,339 last year. And the number of people, who visited the little library on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, averaged more than 2,000 a week in 2011. Those figures are accurate, because electronic counters have been installed at the doors.

But before we provide more information on the library's current situation, let's take a peek at its past.



Founded in 1876, the Downingtown Library has been housed at 330 East Lancaster Avenue in the borough since 1913.

Most of the historical information noted below was provided by Dawn Nunciato, who handles marketing duties for the Friends of the Downingtown Library. The Friends group of volunteers works to supplement the library's operating budget through fund-raising activities such as house and garden tours, used book sales, and flea markets.

The library's roots can be found in the Downingtown Society for the Acquisition of Natural Knowledge, formed in 1817. The society, comprised of people who wrote essays and presented them to the members, who "promoted the attributes of an educated mind," according to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*.

That insular core of essayists evolved to the point that the Downingtown Franklin Library Co. was incorporated in 1829. That library's books were housed in a room next to Jacob Edge's general store, where the main office of the Downingtown National Bank is now located in the borough.

But by 1876, the borough's population had increased to nearly 1,500 souls, and some of them must have recognized that the town needed a facility that could handle more than 426 books. So, the Downingtown Library Co. was organized, and a building at the intersection of East Lancaster Avenue and Green Street was rented for \$5 a month.

Although some of the new library's financial obligations were covered by the borough's dog tax, much of the revenue required to operate the library was generated from members' subscriptions and fundraising events such as magic shows. However, students weren't required to pay the \$1 membership fee.

With an increased need for more space, the library company bought the building at 330 East Lancaster Avenue in 1913. And 99 years later, the building continues to be the library's home. The library was able to undertake that major acquisition because it had inherited \$5,000 from the estate of Abner Williams, a former Downingtown resident.

The building had been constructed in 1802 as the residence and office of Dr. William Todd. And in 1817, the property became the site of the Downingtown Boarding School for Boys. Soon after the boys' school was moved to West Chester in 1834, a boarding school for girls was opened there. Tuition was \$150 a year, and the third floor was used as a dormitory.

The girls' school was operated until 1877 by three daughters of Zebulon Thomas. He was an agent for the Underground Railroad network, hiding run-away slaves at several locations, including inside of the school.

So even before the library was located there, the building often has been a place where difficult challenges have resided.

In recent years, under the direction of Karen Miller, head librarian since 1994, and a board led by Deborah Miles, the library has handled those challenges very well.

Currently, the library is a \$252,296 operation, but 2011 revenues only totaled \$235,530, primarily due to lower funding from the state. Major revenue sources are: the state, \$62,073; the county, \$53,894, and local municipalities.

Contributing municipalities in the Downingtown Library's service area include the Borough of Downingtown, East Caln, East Brandywine and West Bradford townships; plus a portion of Uwchlan. Although they're not formally in Downingtown's service area, the library also receives municipal contributions from Wallace and Upper Uwchlan townships.

Another significant revenue source has been private donations; last year, they totaled about \$30,000.

The staff of two full-time employees and 10 part-timers costs \$191,312, the largest expense item.

And to supplement its management, the Downingtown facility has been part of the Chester County Library System for about 50 years. One of the services the county system

provides to community libraries is computer equipment and their maintenance. The computers enable people to use an on-line catalogue to see if a certain book is available at any of the county libraries, or when it's slated to be returned; or to put a book on hold, or designate the library in the system where they wish to retrieve an ordered book. The centralized computer catalogue also cuts costs because fewer books have to be purchased to satisfy the needs of the community libraries in the county.

Despite its financial challenges, the library's services extend far beyond borrowing items from its collection. Some of the many innovative programs offered include: weekly Story Times for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers; a Summer Reading Club, a Lego Club and an American Girls Club for elementary-age kids; Book Talks at the Downingtown Area Senior Center and at Simpson Meadows retirement community.

The library recently took on a new challenge: It plans to move to the Downingtown Area School District's former headquarters, the Micken Building, on Wallace Avenue in the borough. Originally, the Downingtown Area Senior Center had been part of that plan, but it recently decided not to participate in the project.

In addition to being a much larger facility, the new site offers much more parking.

The library expects to acquire the Micken Building in a year or two from the borough, which bought it from the school district for \$800,000. The library already has a \$500,000 grant from the state to cover a large part of the cost of purchasing the building from the borough, and much of the balance could be covered by sale of its early 19th Century home on East Lancaster Avenue.

Before all those changes occur, the library will celebrate the present. Its 136th birthday will be observed in a variety of ways during the month of February. And everyone is invited to a day-long birthday party on Saturday, February 25.

St. Anthony's Lodge seeks old photos

St. Anthony's is planning to spiff up its quarters on Church Street in the Johnstown section of the borough. Specifically, it wants to display old photos of buildings and groups connected with Johnstown and the Lodge.

Ideally, Val DiLuigi, Francis Taraschi and Vito Taraschi would like to have original pictures, many of which have been lounging in bureau drawers and boxes in attics, basements and garages for decades. Otherwise, they'd like to borrow photos, which can be scanned and returned to the owners.

Please contact us at Info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org, if you want to have photos that may be used in the photo project, and we'll pass that information on to the project leaders at St. Anthony's.

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Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, March 24. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

Discounted Tickets to area ski resorts: Including-Bear Creek, Jack Frost & Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Elk Mountain, Snow Mountain, and Shawnee Mountain. Typically, tickets (cash only) are available until early March.

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 \$1.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres. For more info/complete price list on these opportunities, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30AM-4:30 PM), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown, PA 19335.

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January 26, 2012

Where and What is This?



This photo was taken by Mike Hoover, who graduated from DHS West last June. He now is a photography major at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Mike took the photo for his graduation service project.

The first person to correctly identify this photo and sends their answer to Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org won't win a fabulous prize. However, the winner will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

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photo, plus the name and phone number of the person who entered the photo, should be sent along with the scanned photo.

When trolleys were widely used in Downingtown area

Primary sources of information for this article included Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*, news articles in 1901 and 1902 editions of the *Daily Local News*, and the 1975 booklet entitled *Trolleys of Chester County Pennsylvania*, written by Stanley Bowman and Harold E. Cox.

Loud factory whistles usually signaled the beginning or end of a work shift, or alerted volunteers that they were needed to fight a fire in the Downingtown area.

But when the whistles at the Bicking Paper Co. and Cohansey Glass Works sounded for several minutes shortly after noontime on May 2, 1902, frightened housewives ran out of their homes in the borough and looked to the sky for evidence of a major fire, and farmers in the surrounding townships quickly saddled up and raced on horseback into the town, according to a *Daily Local News* reporter.

Had the whistle blasts meant there was a big fire or another type of catastrophe?

No, that rousing sound wasn't signaling a big problem. Instead, it was a celebratory exclamation, revealing that—after nearly a decade of contention—there would be trolley service between Downingtown and West Chester.

The celebration continued the following night, as an enthusiastic crowd turned out to see the Mount Raymond Methodist Episcopal Church cornet band parade through the center of town, before the musicians gave a concert at Center Square.

Obviously, trolleys, electrically-powered via overhead wires, were a big deal back then.

Downingtown's Borough Council authorized street cars to run on the borough's streets two years after the West Chester Street Railway Co. started running them in the county seat in 1892,

However, battles over which railway company would get the contract and which streets the trolleys could travel over in Downingtown ensued because almost every business owner, especially those in the town's West Ward, wanted to ensure that the trolleys passed their front doors.

Finally, after nine years of wrangling, the West Chester Street Railway Co. won the contract in 1902 to build the street car line that extended from West Chester's High Street and ended at the Swan Hotel at the intersection of Brandywine and Lancaster Avenues in Downingtown, and ultimately would reach Coatesville.

Initially, two cars were used on the Downingtown branch, running at hourly intervals. That route was zoned into two sections; with passengers paying a nickel for travel through each zone.



A large part of the route between the two boroughs was scenic because much of it ran parallel with Brandywine Creek. However, construction of the line was difficult at some points—especially the excavation of the steep, rocky section near Sugar’s Bridge Road shown in the photo above..

Traffic control at the narrow underpass on Brandywine Avenue was corrected by requiring that trolleys always had to yield to oncoming vehicles. And firefighters wearing department badges, going to or coming from a fire and policemen on duty could ride free.

The new trolley system proved to be a boon to West Chester residents, who now could travel to and from Downingtown, where there were more, higher-paying industrial jobs at that time.

The new transportation system also had an impact on how some young people socialized. They organized impromptu trolley parties, and showed up at homes of surprise hosts in neighboring towns.

After installation of the Downingtown branch reached Lancaster Avenue, extending the line westward along Route 30 in the borough was begun almost immediately. But expectations that the expansion all the way to Coatesville would be completed in three months were unfulfilled, as a series of obstacles stalled the project until 1906.

The section between Downingtown and Coatesville became the West Chester Street Railway's most profitable section, by 1919. And in the 1920s, twice as many trolleys were operated on the Downingtown-Coatesville link, at 30-minute intervals, while street cars on the Downingtown-West Chester branch never ran more frequently than once an hour.

By 1927, West Chester Street Railway's revenues were beginning to drop, and the company raised its price for each of the five zones in the 14.5 miles between West Chester and Coatesville to a dime. Despite the fare increase, trolley service revenue continued to decline, primarily due to the availability of competing bus service, the growing popularity of automobiles, and improved highways. As a result, the Railway company shut down its trolley business in 1929, and focused on its bus operations. The company's land assets were sold for \$350,000 at a public sale in January 1930. And the steel tracks in Downingtown were sold for scrap during World War II.

Editor's note: Please contact us, via Info@downingtowntoreahistoricalociety.org, if you wish to donate or loan us any old photos, printed materials and artifacts that relate to trolley service in the Downingtown area.

We also seek info on funeral trolleys being used in Downingtown. Reportedly, they were draped in black as they transported the deceased in a casket and mourners to a church or cemetery.

1950 news in Jan. 19 Hist-O-Grams generates recollections

Jack McCombs, DHS Class of 1957, who now lives in The Outer Banks of North Carolina, offered these recollections, based on news items published in last week's Hist-O-Gram:

Promotions announced at the Downingtown Paper Company: Dorothy McCombs was the daughter of my paternal grandfather's brother. Her Father was killed in the 1930s (can't give you the specific year) at the Downingtown Manufacturing Company, which later became the site of Beloit and is now the site of townhouses (bounded by Washington Avenue and Green Streets). A very large ladle of molten iron broke and spilled the molten iron on the floor. His clothes were on fire, but not to the extent of killing him. But to put the flames out, he dove on the floor which was covered in saw dust. What he didn't realize was the molten iron (in liquid form of course) was under the saw dust and he rolled into it. He lingered for a day or two, but died of the severe burns.

Marshallton's Troop 52: I belonged to that troop between 1951 and 1954, when we lived in Downingtown. With that troop, I had my first scouting experiences, to include both summer and winter camp at Camp Horseshoe, which is still a scout camp in Northern MD. I can recall very clearly walking down the main street of Marshallton (well to be accurate, the only street in Marshallton) on the other side of the street from the Grange building, where Troop 52 met and thinking to myself 'golly my troop is 52 and it's 1952!' That was 60 years ago! Funny how some things stick in your mind for a lifetime. The Grange building is now a very, very beautiful private home. When the work was completed and it was put up for sale about five years ago, my Mother toured it. I also remember when Marshallton's blacksmith shop actually had a blacksmith working it!

St. Anthony's Lodge seeks old photos

St. Anthony's is planning to spiff up its quarters on Church Street in the Johnsontown section of the borough. Specifically, it wants to display old photos of buildings and groups connected with Johnsontown and the Lodge.

Ideally, Val DiLuigi, Francis Taraschi and Vito Taraschi would like to have original pictures, many of which have been lounging in bureau drawers and boxes in attics, basements and garages for decades. Otherwise, they'd like to borrow photos, which can be scanned and returned to the owners.

Please contact us at Info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org, if you want to have photos that may be used in the photo project, and we'll pass that information on to the project leaders at St. Anthony's.

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Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email:
JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 5

February 2, 2012

News in the Downingtown area in February 1975

The School Board allocated \$22,000 to buy new uniforms, which were worn by both the DHS marching and concert bands. And Mary Mott received the Musicianship Award at the DHS Music Department banquet.

Gibbs Kane, West Bradford, was named general chairman of the 1975 Heart Fund in Chester County, and Warren Strawsnyder was co-chairman of the business-industry major gifts division.

Boy Scout Troop 82, sponsored by Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, celebrated its 20th anniversary. Charles Bradford was scoutmaster.

Officers of the Senior High Sunday School at First Baptist Church, Downingtown, were Donna Russell, president; Cheryl Hipp, vice president; Teal Burns, secretary; and Mark McCue, treasurer.

Recent property transfers included: West Bradford, 1240 Glenside Ave., \$27,500; Downingtown, 115 Brandywine Ave., \$31,000; Uwchlan, 234 Biddle Dr., \$49,000.

Members of the Council at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were Richard Nields, president; Robert Clark, vice president; and Carol Leffler, secretary.

Gold medal winners in the space derby conducted by Cub Pack 221, Lionville, were Richard Evangelista, Jim Barker, Jeff Stauffer and Ross Sweetland.

Paul Seymour, president of the Lionville Youth Association, presented the organization's Community Service Award to Alex and Joanne Urban.

The Chester County DAR planned to restore a book, published in 1782. The book had recently fallen from a truck transporting scrap paper to the Downingtown Paper Co. The book contained a listing of Chester County residents who claimed their property had been damaged by the British Army during the Revolutionary War.

Members of the Maccabees, which won the Intramural A Basketball League at DHS, were Pat Dougherty, Timmy Ippolito, Mike Formica, Duane Graveno, Jack McGeehan and Larry Bricker.

When Pillsbury biscuits were "toast" in Downingtown

In early 1954, Pillsbury Mills Inc. started making refrigerated "Oven Ready" biscuits in a 30,000-square-foot building, which had been recently constructed by Tabas Enterprises at the Acorn Industrial site at the intersection of Whiteland Avenue and Acorn Lane, in Downingtown.

Pillsbury officials said the Downingtown site was chosen to serve the Middle Atlantic states because it was near the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and served by a Reading Railroad siding.

Initially, the plant had a total of 60 employees, working two eight-hour shifts, plus a clean-up shift. The employees “overwhelmingly” voted to sign a contract with the American Federation of Grain Millers, according to the March 18 edition of *The Archive*. Following two days of negotiation, the union and Pillsbury reached an agreement to increase employees’ wages by 5.5 cents an hour.

By December 1954, the operation was expanded and the work force was more than doubled to produce Quick Cinnamon Rolls.

Several months after a wildcat strike, involving all 159 union employees, was settled in March 1957, Pillsbury officials announced plans to build a new refrigerated biscuit facility in East Greenville, PA. The new plant, to be constructed on a 39-acre tract, will employ 300 people, Pillsbury officials said. They also claimed the Downingtown operation, whose production had already grown to 10 items by August 1957, could not handle the increased volume of work.

Clip joint will be open on Sunday afternoon

You’re all welcome to help us catch up on clipping & pasting newspaper articles about people and events in the Downingtown area this Sunday afternoon, Feb. 5, at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays.

Brief, but interesting:

Whoops! We inadvertently added another year to **Jack McCombs’** illustrious life in last week’s Hist-O-Gram, when we claimed Jack was in the Class of 1957 at DHS. He was in the Class of 1958. But Jack would love to be an honorary member of the Class of 1957. We’ll see if Joe Bird, president of the Class of 1957, approves of that.

Retired borough manager **Don Greenleaf** recently donated a notebook to the Historical Society in which his late father, pharmacist **Raymond Greenleaf**, made interesting observations in the early 1940s. Here are two of them; more to come in future Hist-O-Grams:

- Prior to Prohibition, there were two establishments in Downingtown that served beer and whiskey. But after Prohibition was repealed 1933, you could get booze at ten establishments in the borough.
- There were 13 gas stations along Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown.

We often include the names of people and organizations that make generous monetary donations to the Historical Society. We make note of those who make in-kind contributions. One of them is **My Favorite Plumber**, owned by **Mark Joseph**. Mark did a mandated test on the backflow prevention device that’s connected with the interior sprinkler system at Ashbridge House. Another is “**Chunky**” **Klunk**, who gave us a beautiful conference table and a matching set of chairs.

Where and What is This Photo Identified



Steve DiLuigi is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person, among a shockingly large number of contestants (Could some of them have been familiar with the lockup?), who correctly identified this photo as one of the jail cells in the basement of Downingtown's Borough Hall. Now used for storage, the cells were left intact when the Police Department was moved into a building across the driveway from Borough Hall. Also, we apologize for the typo when we tried to provide an email address as the way to send responses to so our photo quiz. Don't worry; there will be many opportunities for Hist-O-Gram subscribers to win this competition. Another photo quiz will be in next week's edition of our Hist-O-Gram.

And don't forget; Hist-O-Gram subscribers are encouraged to send us scanned copies of photos of historic sites or groups (e.g. teams, classes) via

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Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

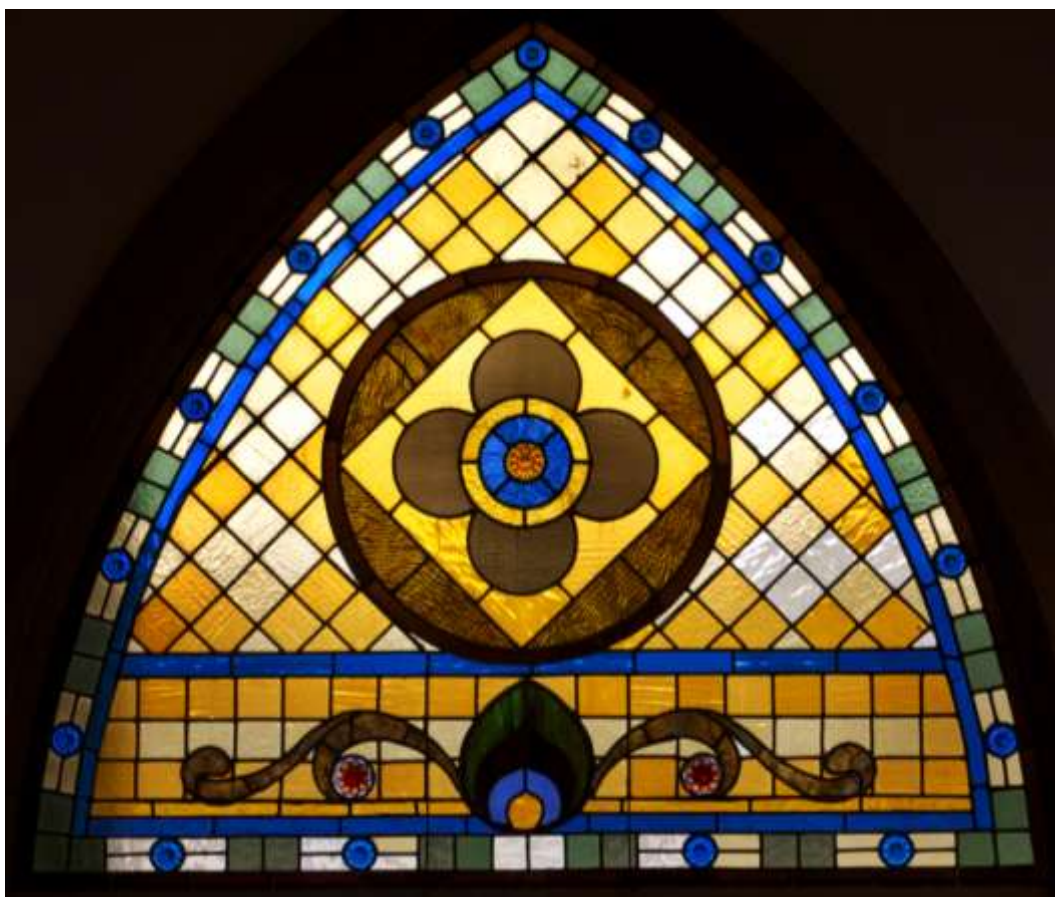
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Vol. 3, No. 6

February 9, 2012

Where is this located?



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Greenleaf explains history of mill race and lake systems

Since several Hist-O-Gram readers recently sought info on Downingtown's five lakes area, we asked Don Greenleaf, retired borough manager, to offer some history and insights.

First of all, explains Don, before the lakes were created, the original part of a mill race (a channel created for the water that drives a mill wheel) was apparently built in 1716 by Thomas Moore to provide a supply of water to power his corn grist mill. The mill was located where the Bicking Paper Co. had been on East Lancaster Avenue until 1974 and where McDonald's is now.

The mill race system ultimately consisted of the head race that flowed westward under the businesses, which were constructed later along the north side of East Lancaster Avenue, to Brandywine Creek. The tail race, which flowed eastward just north of Mill Alley and parallel with East Lancaster Avenue, completed the loop of the water channel.

According to oral history passed down for several generations, the lakes had several uses:

1. The stone for 18th and early 19th Century houses built on East Lancaster Avenue was quarried from one (Second Lake) or more of the lakes. If they had been quarries, then clay, brought in by train for a local brick works was not stored in the lakes until later.
2. First Lake, on the south side of East Pennsylvania Avenue, was built around 1880 for the nearby Bicking paper mill.
3. Perhaps some clay for the brick works was dug from the lakes.

Second Lake, just north of East Pennsylvania Avenue, was once known as "Lake Warm." Three more, less visible, lakes are located further north of East Pennsylvania Avenue. Fourth Lake has an island in it. And the comparatively smaller Fifth Lake, where developers plan to build houses in East Caln Township, was filled in with paper waste and no longer exists.

In 1976, the borough got a grant to dredge the lakes. They dredged Third and Fourth Lakes, but ran out of grant money before they could do any more dredging.

In order to get a better flow through the lake area, the borough altered the mill race. Fourth Lake was not connected to the race. It is feed by springs. So, the borough built a silt pond before having the race enter it, and then filled in the race along Fourth Lake, so the water flowed through Fourth Lake and to Third Lake. The mill race, which flowed along Second Lake, was also closed with fill so the water flowed directly from Third Lake into Second Lake. Then the borough built a small dam at the lower end of Second Lake, to maintain the proper water elevation so the flow would move downstream properly.

If the mill race does not feed water from the Brandywine Creek Dam, located near the Route 30 Bypass, along the Struble Trail, then the flow is maintained by the springs in Fourth Lake. If the work on the lakes and mill race had not been done in 1976, the lower lakes would probably have dried up by now.

Brief, but interesting:

- Downingtown's Parks and Historical Commission (a borough agency) is looking for old photos of the following areas in **Kerr Park**: The old softball field with the chain link fence, the old bandstand near the fish ponds, and the old wading pool off Pennsylvania Avenue. If you have any of them, contact **Carolyn Whitelock** of the Borough's Code Enforcement office at Cwhitelock@downingtowntown.org, or commission member **Ginny Pierce** at nannievlp@aol.com.

- Here's another interesting tidbit about Downingtown, entered in a notebook in the early 1940s by local pharmacist **Raymond Greenleaf**: When the huge smoke stack, which now is part of the **Firecreek Restaurant** property on Lancaster Avenue, was installed many decades ago by the Bicking Paper Co., it was secured with quick sand.

- Our website, www.downingtowntownareahistoricalandsociety.org, was accessed a total of 16,416 times in January. That works out to **an average of 549 people visiting the website EVERY DAY** last month. Obviously, 95% of those hits were to access our Hist-O-Grams, new and old. Thanks for your ever-increasing support. We enjoy doing the research for them, as much as most subscribers apparently do reading them.

- **Karen Miller**, librarian at the Downingtown Library, tells us that **Caln Township** is one of municipalities that makes an annual contribution to the library.

- We only have six copies of *Downingtowntown's Greatest Generation* left. The 80-page booklet is chock full of authentic stories about Downingtown High School alumni, who grew up during the Depression and then fought in World War II, while family and friends back home contributed to the war effort as well.

Reprinted in the booklet are the 10 issues of the *Alumni News*, which were eight-page newsletters, put out by the **DHS Alumni Association**. They were sent free to local GIs serving in the military between Aug. 1, 1943 and Nov. 1, 1945.

Besides information about classmates who were in the military, the newsletters include many stories about DHS reunions, Whippet sports victories, and tales about goings-on around town.

The booklet, a cooperative project of the Downingtown Area Historical Society and the Downingtown Area High School Alumni Association, costs \$10. If the booklet must be mailed, add \$3.38, per copy, for postage.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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Vol. 3, No. 7

February 16, 2012

More info on mill race & lake systems:

1. Better explanation of how mill race worked

We apologize for messing up when we wrote about the history of a mill race system in Downingtown in the Feb. 9 Hist-O-Gram.

Yes, as we noted last week, the system was apparently built in 1716 by Thomas Moore, to provide water from Brandywine Creek to power the water wheel that ground local farmers' corn and grain in Moore's grist mill.

The system consisted of a head race and a tail race. Water in the tail race, which was located just above Mill Alley and paralleled East Lancaster Avenue, flowed westward back into the Brandywine. However, when water was needed to operate the grist mill's water wheel, a gate was lifted so water from the tail race could travel, via the head race, into the mill.

After water flowed through the mill, it continued westward along the north side of East Lancaster Avenue, (where businesses constructed later), to the Brandywine Creek.

Moore's mill, built on land near where East Lancaster Avenue and Green Street intersect today. It was replaced by the much larger Shelmire grist mill, which became part of the electric-powered Bicking paper mill. The Bicking mill was torn down in 1974, and replaced by McDonald's.

2. Mill race was still being used in 1952

Bill Brookover sent us the photo below, taken in 1952, of his sister, Mary Anne, in an old row boat on the Mill Race, behind his family's home at 319 E. Lancaster Ave. Bill's father (Tom Brookover) had built a little dock to tie the boat to. Mary Anne is shown in the photo with the clothes pole she used to push the boat through the race.

Occasionally, Bill and some friends would take the boat down the race to a bridge (actually a driveway that spanned over the mill race and allowed trucks into the back of the Bicking Paper Co. (where McDonald's is now).

"We were warned not to go under the bridge, or else we would wind up as pulp in the mill," recalled Bill. "So, we would tie up at the bridge and walk down to Zittle's Store (where Giorgio's Restaurant is now) for some penny candy. However, Ted Miller, Dave Fidler and I would contemplate passing in a boat under the stores on Lancaster Ave. After all, there was a trap door in the floor of Griffith's Hardware Store on Lancaster Avenue, which presumably opened to the Mill Race."



Mary Anne Brookover in row boat in mill race

3. Some questions about the lake area and Pennsylvania Ave.

Vance Usher, who had been a neighbor of Bill Brookover many years ago, sent us several questions about the borough's lake area and Pennsylvania Avenue.

He recalls a small lake, called "Dead Man's Lake," which was next to First Lake. He wonders if anyone perished there.

Vance also remembers a big dump hole next to the Downingtown Iron Works on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue. The dump hole had a small standing water table in it. He wonders if it had been a quarried lake, which eventually was filled residual materials during the 1950s and early 1960s.

And he remembers an elderly, one-legged man, who was stationed in a small shack along side a dump hole, in the Pennsylvania Avenue area, which ultimately was filled. The man's job was to oversee the dumping operation and payment of user fees.

Can anyone provide some answers and/or insights to these recollections?

Brief, but important:

- We received two vintage uniforms recently. **Phil Dague** donated the jacket he was awarded as a member of the Warren Pontiac team, which won the Downingtown Little League in 1970. And retired Downingtown cop **Mike Dunn** gave us the uniforms he wore as a rookie in 1970.

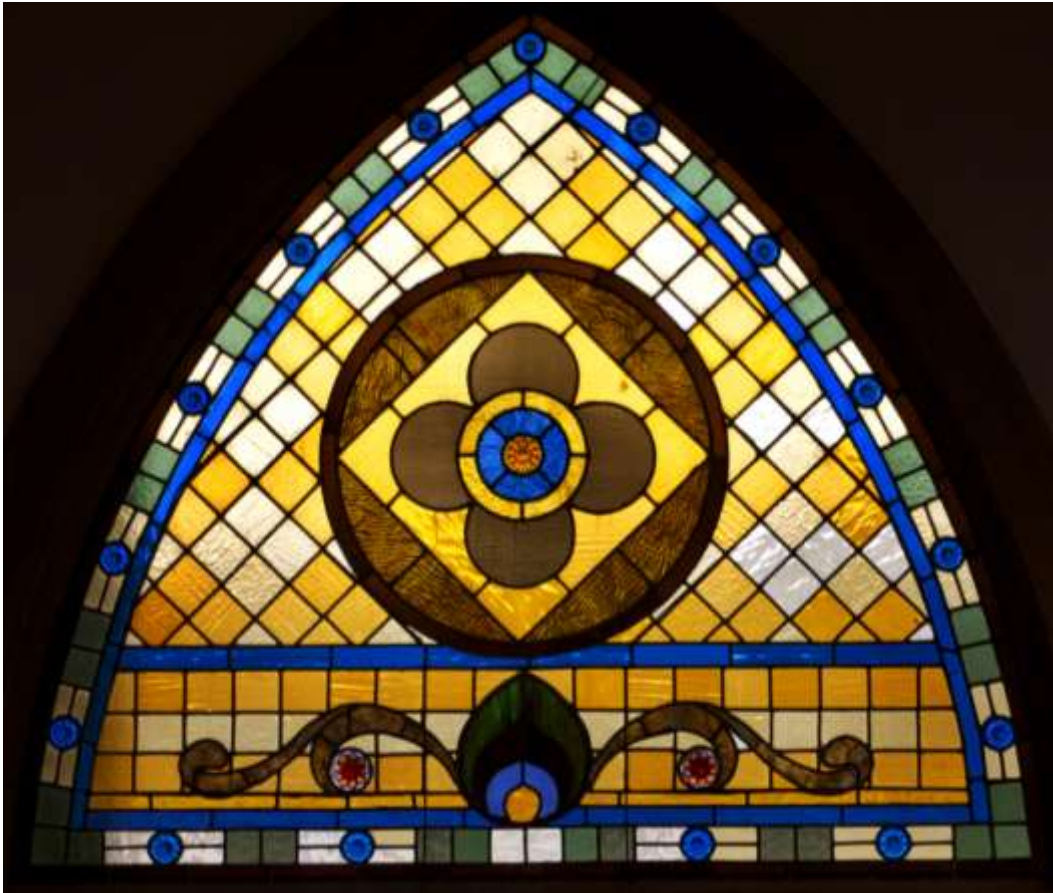
We'd love to add many other interesting uniform items—now stuffed in drawers, cabinets and boxes—to our archival collection. Donors should call us at 610-269-8037 and leave a message. We'll work out a time for you to drop them off at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30, East Caln.

- An arts and crafts style oil lamp with a hand-hammered copper and slag glass shade and an oak base, created about 1900 by Lionville native **Charles Limbert** (1854-1923) was featured on *Antiques Roadshow* earlier this week. Its appraised value was \$2,500-\$3,500.

Charles' father, Levi Limbert, was a cabinetmaker and furniture dealer in Lionville before the family moved to the Midwest in 1866. After Charles moved to western Michigan, his factory manufactured arts and crafts-style furniture and lamps for 20 years.

- The Downingtown High School Alumni Association wants to locate as many DHS grads as possible. **Rose Ciarlone**, president of the Alumni Association, is asking a contact person from each class to email her at rciarlone@yahoo.com or call 610-873-6601 so the Association's files can be updated. The Association would like to have as many alumni as possible to attend its annual banquet is on April 21.

Mike Dunn knows where this window is located



Retired Downingtown police officer Mike Dunn is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as a stained glass window in Dane Décor, which is located in the former Central Presbyterian Church, on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. The church, built in 1863, was replaced by a new facility on Uwchlan Avenue in the borough in 1972. Dane Décor opened its Scandinavian furniture store in the former church in 1973.

There will be another **What and Where Is This?** Photo in next week's Hist-O-Gram.

You can help us by joining Rewards Program at Cropper's

If you shop at Cropper's in Guthriesville and do, or want to, participate in their Surfine Community Rewards Program gold card, you can help the Downingtown Area

Historical Society. Cropper's Rewards Program donates \$60,000 to community non-profit organizations.

To ensure that we receive a percentage of the donations made by the Rewards Program, please send your name and Gold Card number to Carol Grigson at: info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Carol, the Historical Society's certified Rewards Program administrator, will enroll you. Thanks for helping the Historical Society.

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

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Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

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

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, March 24. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

Discounted Tickets to area ski resorts: Including-Bear Creek, Jack Frost & Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Elk Mountain, Snow Mountain, and Shawnee Mountain. Typically, tickets (cash only) are available until early March.

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 \$1.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming Winter programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30AM-4:30 PM), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown, PA 19335.

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Vol. 3, No. 8

February 23, 2012

Local connection to the Lindbergh baby kidnapping

The Downingtown area was abuzz in late April 1932, when residents read in local newspapers that Rev. G. Paul Musselman, rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown, had been instrumental in the arrest of a couple who claimed they knew the location of the recently kidnapped son of Col. and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh.

Before we get into details about the Downingtown connection with the case, you should be aware of the facts surrounding the abduction of the 18-month-old boy from his crib in the Lindbergh home near Hopewell, NJ, on March 1, 1932. The case generated an incredible amount of coverage by the media in the 1930s because the toddler's father was the world-famous aviator, who was the first person to make a non-stop, solo flight across the Atlantic, in 1927.

The crime captured the attention of people all across the country. President Herbert Hoover said he'd "move Heaven and Earth" to help recover the child. *Baltimore Sun* columnist H.L. Mencken called the case "the biggest story since the Resurrection." And it spurred Congress to pass the Federal Kidnapping Act, which made transporting a kidnapping victim across a state line a federal crime.

Sadly, the boy's body was found, on May 12, 1932, a short distance from his parents' home. The cause of death was a massive skull fracture.

Following an investigation that lasted more than two years, Bruno Hauptmann was charged with the crime. In a 1935 trial, he was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to death. Hauptmann was executed by electric chair in April 1936. He claimed he was innocent to the end.

Based on information provided by Musselman, Edith Crebbe, 25, a Detroit nurse, and Albert Lacher, 30, who worked for a Philadelphia butcher, were arrested by Downingtown police on April 22. Musselman got involved after he learned that a woman in the Downingtown Post Office had offered to pay someone \$5, if that person would hand address a letter being sent to Col. Lindbergh. The letter allegedly offered information about Lindbergh's still-missing son's whereabouts.

The clergyman kept the woman under surveillance for several days before he contacted Downingtown police. He said he was a friend of the proprietor of the rooming house, several miles east of Downingtown, where the couple had been staying since March 3, two days after the Lindbergh baby's abduction.

When arrested, the couple had bank account books from financial institutions in several cities, and they refused to tell police where the large sums of money in the accounts had come from.

While incarcerated on a disorderly conduct charge in Chester County Prison, they were questioned for several days by New Jersey State Police investigators, as well as local law enforcement officials. The couple often provided conflicting information. For example, when asked where they were when the baby was abducted, each claimed to have been in a different city that night.

When the police learned that Crebbe had a six or seven-month-old child, who was being cared for by her parents in Michigan; and that she had been paid to loan the baby's birth certificate to someone, and she later alleged that the birth certificate had been stolen, the investigators probably suspected they were dealing with some type of scam, which had nothing to do with the Lindbergh baby abduction. That suspicion gained further credence when the Downingtown Police Department was requested by Detroit police to detain Crebbe.

(Part II of this story will be published in next week's Hist-O-Gram)

Downingtown area news in February 1950

These news items were retrieved from February 1950 editions of *The Archive*:

New officers at First Baptist Church were Austin Windle, president; Joe Ashenfelder, vice president; Russell Wilkins, secretary; Shirley Habecker, treasurer.

Oil paintings by Mrs. Thomas Burneson, Mrs. Frederick Hertig, Mabel Sellers, Jane Hall, Mary Ciaffoni, June Ellingsworth and Richard Johnson were entered in the Art and Hobby Show at Marshallton Methodist Church.

Committee members who were in charge of the Lincoln Day program, presented by pupils at Lionville Elementary School, were Dorinda Mabry, Alice Smedley, Esther Supplee and Kay Levengood.

Members of the Charles F. Moran American Legion Post who presented a show at the VA Hospital in Coatesville were Frank Natalie, accordionist; singer Gloria Wharry and a quartet comprised of Ronald Hogg, Gordon Carpenter, John Shisler and James Zaferes.

New members of the Post include: Daniel Street, James Groome, Dominic Valente, Amberto Mattioni, Humphrey Happersett, Arthur Fasel and Theodore Gottier.

Committee chairmen of the DHS Alumni Association were Frank Bishop, banquet; Earl Entrekin, nominating; Joseph Miller, auditing; William Wharry, awards; Stella Ballentine, necrology; Walter Touchton, publicity; T.H. Frain, decorations; Hazel Laird, reception.

Two schools in Lionville were closed for two days due to one student's unidentified illness. After three of the township school board members fumigated the buildings they were re-opened.

Honor students, taught by Mrs. Eppiheimer at Indiantown School, Glen Moore, were: seventh grade, Betty Henderson, Kenneth Johnson, Barbara Ford; sixth grade, Donald Ray, Frank Aaron, Katherine DeHaven; fifth grade, Ruth Parrott.

Marshallton School students who presented a patriotic program were Charles Ferguson, Paul Campbell, Irvin Rubincam, John Nichols, Everett Ramsey, Patsy Glennon, Donald Jones and Joan Romig.

Tom Greenleaf was named "He-Man of the Year" by members of the Pi Beta Phi social sorority at Duke University.

After members of the Downingtown Branch of the NAACP petitioned the Downingtown School Board to abolish the segregation of white and Negro students in

first through fifth grades, the Board announced that it would discontinue the practice of having “union” classrooms at East Ward and West Ward Schools. However, no effective date was given.

Where is this?



This is another shot taken by Mike Hoover, a DHS West grad, who now is photography major at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. The first person to correctly identify this photo, and sends their answer to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Hist-O-Gram subscribers are encouraged to send us scanned copies of photos of historic sites or groups (e.g. teams, classes) via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org. Photos of individuals won't be accepted. The identity of people and/or the location in the photo, plus the name and phone number of the person, who entered the photo, should be sent along with the scanned photo.

Presidents' Day also had a local connection

Presidents' Day, observed on Monday, is primarily celebrated in honor of two presidents, who were born in February: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Phil Dague wrote an interesting article, in a recent edition of *Downingtowntown Does.com*, about The Orangery at Glen Isle Restaurant, 130 South Lloyd Ave., Downingtown, and its historical connection with both Washington and Lincoln.

Phil noted that Washington *really* did sleep at the Orangery, when it was known in the 18th Century as The Ship Tavern, The Sign of the Ship and The Ship Inn. The original inn, in Downingtown, was opened in 1735; The Ship Inn in Exton is a newcomer.

In fact, Washington wrote in his diary on June 3, 1773: "About 11 o'clock left Philadelphia; dined at the "Sorrel House" 13 miles from it; and lodged at the Ship Tavern, 34 miles off."

And President Lincoln's funeral train made a stop in Downingtown, en route to his final resting place in Springfield, IL. That stop was made because Lincoln had begun a long friendship with A.R. McIlvaine, whose home was at Glen Isle in 1865. The two men had served together in Congress in 1848-49, and lived in the same boarding house in Washington

You can access the entire article at

http://downingtowntodoes.com/mr_downingtowntown_post/the-original-ship-tavern-aka-the-sign-of-the-ship/.

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Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Library Birthday

The Downingtown Library will celebrate its 136th birthday from 10 AM to 3 PM Saturday, Feb. 25. There will be ongoing events, including music, magic, and birthday treats.

Magic Show

Nine top magicians perform at 7:30 PM Saturday, March 3 at DHS West HS. Tickets: \$12, adults; \$8, kids 12 and under; Family 4-Pack (2 adults & 2 kids), \$30. Tickets can be purchased at the door or via www.phillybmrng6.com/tickets.

Join Rewards Program at Cropper's

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Nite at the Races

Join the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce for its annual Nite at the Races, at 6 PM Friday, March 2, at Dane Decor in Downingtown. There will be food, fun and plenty of opportunities to raise funds for the Aminia C. Valocchi Scholarship Fund. All proceeds go towards scholarships for local students. To donate door prizes or bottles of wine for a basket of cheer, contact the Chamber office via 610-269-1523 or info@trcc.com.

More information on Nite at the Races is accessible at www.trcc.com/Nite%20at%20the%20Races%20%202012.pdf.

The Chamber also will have its annual dinner on April 27, when the Citizen of the Year winner will be announced. Nominations forms for the award are available at www.dtrcc.com. Nominations should be submitted to Jillian M. Fragale, executive director, Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce, 38 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, Pa. 19335 by March 23.

Alumni Assn. seeks names

The Downingtown High School Alumni Association wants to locate as many DHS grads as possible. **Rose Ciarlone**, president of the Alumni Association, is asking a contact person from each class to email her at rrciarlone@yahoo.com or call 610-873-6601 so the Association's files can be updated. The Association's next meeting will be held at DHS West on Saturday morning, March 17, and it would like to have as many alumni as possible to attend its annual banquet is on April 21.

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

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Vol. 3, No. 11

March 1, 2012

Lindbergh baby kidnapping suspect in Downingtown accused of baby substitution in Philadelphia hospital

Part II of an article about Downingtown's brief involvement in the 1932 Lindbergh baby kidnapping case. Part I of this story can be found at <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/FEB%2023%202012.pdf>.

Several days after she was arrested, based on evidence provided by Rev. Paul Musselman, rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Downingtown, local law enforcement officials realized that Edith Crebbe and Albert Lacher, her accomplice from Philadelphia, had nothing to do with the 1932 kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby, or knew the location of the child's body.

But before Crebbe was released from Chester County Prison in late April 1932, the Detroit nurse's "story" took another twist, when she was accused of being involved in a baby-switching case in Philadelphia.

Details of that case came to light when Philadelphia newspapers reported that Euston Sullivan, a resident of the Main Line community of Merion, PA, requested, in a petition filed in Harrisburg, that the record of the birth of a female child at St. Vincent's Hospital, Philadelphia, on October 12, 1931 should be erased from the state vital statistics records. Sullivan insisted that he was not the father of the child, and his wife, Helen Blair Sullivan, had not given birth to the child.

He further claimed that Crebbe was the baby's mother, and that his wife conspired with Crebbe so St. Vincent Hospital records would show that the woman who gave birth to the child was Mrs. Euston Sullivan.

Had Mrs. Sullivan been the source of the \$18,000, Crebbe had stashed in several financial institutions, according to bank account books investigators found in the rooming house several miles east of Downingtown, where Crebbe and Lacher were staying when they were arrested by Downingtown police for possible involvement in the kidnapping case.

Euston Sullivan's petition also declared that Crebbe refused to relinquish her newborn baby to Mrs. Sullivan, allegedly as planned. However, another unmarried mother at St. Vincent's willingly gave her baby to Mrs. Sullivan.

Other factors connecting Crebbe with Mrs. Sullivan's baby substitution plans, which were discovered by investigators while they working on the Lindbergh case, included: Crebbe had a six or seven-month-old baby, who was being cared for by her parents in

Michigan; and she had been paid to loan the baby's birth certificate to someone, and she later alleged that the birth certificate had been stolen.

Also, Euston Sullivan said he had no idea where his wife or the newborn baby she got at the hospital was located.

Mrs. Sullivan allegedly perpetrated the baby substitution because she would not be eligible to collect an inheritance from the estate of her late father, William Blair, a former partner of Milton Hershey, the candy manufacturer, if she were childless.

Meanwhile, Lacher insisted he had nothing to do with the Lindbergh case and that Crebbe was mentally unbalanced. He said that Crebbe sent the letter to Lindbergh "out of sympathy."

While being interviewed by reporters in the office of Downingtown police chief Chester Glisson, after he was released from the prison, Lacher threatened to kill himself or sit on the steps at St. James Episcopal until he was hired as a janitor.

Lindbergh made an accidental visit here

By the way, Col. Lindbergh was familiar with at least part of the Downingtown area. A dense fog forced Lindbergh to land his plane, (*The Lone Eagle*, a duplicate of *The Spirit of St. Louis*, which he flew in the first solo trans-Atlantic flight, in 1927) on the farm of Emmor Way in the Romansville section of West Bradford Township on March 13, 1928. He and his passenger, a New York lawyer, stayed overnight at the nearby farmhouse of Charles Elkington, which is now part of the Stock Grange development. The following morning, several hundred curiosity-seekers turned out to watch the aviator and the attorney continue on their flight to Washington, DC.

Lone Eagle Road, near Romansville, was named to commemorate Lindbergh's accidental, but historic, visit.

Little Mary Jane Bird almost died in millrace accident

Our stories on Downingtown's mill race brought forth recollections of when five-year-old Mary Jane Bird slipped into the race's water near the corner of Wallace Avenue and Mill Alley in May 1940, while she was playing with Jimmy Zaferes.

As soon as Jimmy saw Mary Jane being swept down the race, which went underneath the borough's Center Square at Wallace and Lancaster Avenues, he dashed up to the nearby, second-floor apartment of Mary Hess, Mary Jane's grandmother, screaming about what had happened. Mrs. Hess immediately called her husband (and Mary Jane's grandfather), William Hess, at his oyster house, across Wallace Avenue from the race.

Hess sprinted down Wallace Avenue and across Center Square, to where the race resurfaced between the Downingtown National Bank and the Bicking Paper Co. (now the Firecreek Restaurant). Hess and several mill workers and some passersby were able to grab Mary Jane and pull her out of the race before she was swept into the paper mill, which probably would have resulted in a fatal tragedy.

Mary Jane remembers being pulled, by the race's flowing water flow, toward the paper mill, but she doesn't recall being rescued from the race. The next thing she remembers today is waking up after the accident in the emergency room at Chester County Hospital.

A 1952 grad of DHS, Mary Jane (Bird) Augustin lives in Morrisville, PA. She has two children (Thomas and Michael) and two grandchildren (Thomas Jr. and Kathleen

Jane). About 18 months ago, she showed the spot where she was pulled out of the mill race to her granddaughter. That open race spot can still be seen today, between the bank and restaurant.

Digging the race was an arduous task, with limited manpower

We've been mystified about the many aspects of the mill race systems, which supported Downingtown's 18th Century water-wheel-powered grist mills. For instance, where did they get all the people who dug the race system used by the grist mill, built by Thomas Moore in 1716?

As we know, during the 19th Century, Irish immigrants dug the original railroad beds for the Amtrak and SEPTA trains that pass through the borough today, and laborers born in Italy were the pick-and-shovel guys who built the trolley lines between West Chester and Downingtown in the early 20th Century.

However, when you consider that Moore's early 18th Century mill—located where McDonald's is today, at East Lancaster Avenue and Green Street—and that Brandywine Creek was the source of water, you're talking about digging a race across a long stretch of land between the mill and the creek. Also, don't forget, that the millrace system included both a head race and a tail race, both of which had to be dug from the mill back down to the Brandywine.

Now, consider that Moore's millrace system was dug when the hamlet, later known as Downingtown, was sparsely populated, at best. After all, the population of East Caln Township, a large area which included the geography that comprises Downingtown today, totaled just a few hundred souls nearly 75 years later, in the 1790 Census.

So, the area's original settlers—primarily Quakers and Scotch-Irish—must have spent a long time digging the race system, which probably totaled about a mile in length.

Brief, but important

- The Downingtown Lions feted the Downingtown team, which captured the Chester County Baseball League crown in 1938. Members of the team who received lettered jackets were: George Stine, Mike Mento, Ralph Entrekin, Harry Simmons, John Donofrio, Maurice Yohn, Walter Hadfield, Bill Kellan, Larry Haas, Bill McGraw, Sid Mento, Jack Forbes, co-managers Bus Phillips and Charles Campbell, mascot Henry Fazzini, and scorekeeper George Cozzone.

- March 19th is the 54th anniversary of the huge snowstorm that shut down the Downingtown area. Please send your recollections of that blizzard and how it affected you, your family and friends to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

- Were you one of those people who were *tricked* into believing that the date for the Magic Show, to be held at DHS West, will be performed on March 3? Obviously, some sort of sorcerer sneaked in and changed the date in the last Hist-O-Gram. Of course, the correct date is **March 10!** See details below, under Coming Events & Activities in Downingtown area.

- According to an item in the May 28, 1909 edition of the *Coatesville Record*, a bunch of the Downingtown area's glitterati at the time established the Beaver Creek Country Club more than a century ago. The club's property, apparently located somewhere in the Bondsville-Guthriesville area, included a clubhouse and tennis courts.

The club's officers were: Ellis Y. Brown, president; Thomas S. Downing, treasurer; and Frank Parke, secretary. Members of the board of directors included: Jane Breese, Mary Dilworth Wells, Andrew C. Breese and Jay Edge. Anyone know where the club was located, or what happened to it?

- Channel 12, the local PBS TV station, did an American Masters documentary on Monday night about Cab Calloway, who was a student in 1921-22 at the Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School, before he became a high-profile band leader and scat singer in the 30s and 40s.

The state-aided boarding school—geared toward neglected or under-achieving African American youth—was operated from 1905 until 1993. It was situated where the Downingtown campus of Delaware County Community College is now located.

Younger folks—those under 50—are more likely to remember Calloway from *The Blues Brothers*, the 1980 musical comedy which starred John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd.



Gregg Nelms, chief of the Downingtown Fire Department, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify this as a photo of one of the decorative elements, reflective of the building's Richardson Romanesque architectural style, on the front of the building at 118 Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown, which once was the Downingtown Opera House and later was known as the Roosevelt Theatre.

In the early 20th Century, many stage plays were seen here, before or after they were offered in Philadelphia. Built in 1903, the building was designed so the seats could be removed for activities such as DHS commencements, boxing matches and basketball games, and minstrels. According to Jane Davidson's *A History of Downingtown*, crowds lined up all the way to the intersection of Lancaster Avenue in 1919, when a movie entitled, *The Kaiser, the Beast of Berlin*, was being shown there. It's possible that this new phenomenon "moving pictures" and not the subject matter attracted the crowd.

According to Vance Usher, the current owner who significantly refurbished the theatre's interior, the theatre's and balcony's flooring, pictured below, still have the original slight slant, to allow for more favorable audience viewing of the elevated stage. The stage still has a "trap door", which allows an actor to magically appear, by rising from the actors' dressing room, located underneath the stage.

The theatre space is used for church services on Sunday mornings.

Inquiries to rent street-front commercial space, or to acquire the building, should be directed to Century 21 Absolute, 610-348-6075.



Interior of refurbished Roosevelt Theatre

Clip joint will be open on Sunday afternoon

We're going to have another newspaper clipping & pasting on Sunday afternoon, March 4 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays.

The sessions will be between 1 PM and 4 PM, but you can come and go at any time that's convenient to you. Don't forget your scissors. As usual, cookies and root beer will be served.

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

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

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

We have not solicited membership renewals in more than 12 months.

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

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

Business \$50____ Sponsoring \$50 ____ Supporting \$100 ____

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

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

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area ***Magic Show date correction***

Nine top magicians perform at 7:30 PM Saturday, **March 10 (not March 3)** at DHS West HS. Tickets: \$12, adults; \$8, kids 12 and under; Family 4-Pack (2 adults & 2 kids), \$30. Tickets can be purchased at the door or via www.phillyibmring6.com/tickets.

Flea market at library

The Friends of the Downingtown Library, 330 E. Lancaster Ave., will hold a flea market 3-7:30 PM Friday, March 9 and 9 AM-4 PM Saturday, March 10. New or gently used items (no furniture or clothing), donated for the fundraiser, can be brought to the library through Wednesday, March 7. For more info, contact 610-269-2741.

Join Rewards Program at Cropper's

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

Nite at the Races

Join the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce for its annual Nite at the Races, at 6 PM Friday, March 2, at Dane Decor in Downingtown. There will be food, fun and plenty of opportunities to raise funds for the Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Fund. All proceeds go towards scholarships for local students. To donate door prizes or bottles of wine for a basket of cheer, contact the Chamber office via 610-269-1523 or info@dtccc.com.

More information on Nite at the Races is accessible at www.dtrcc.com/Nite%20at%20the%20Races%20%202012.pdf.

The Chamber also will have its annual dinner on April 27, when the Citizen of the Year winner will be announced. Nominations forms for the award are available at www.dtrcc.com. Nominations should be submitted to Jillian M. Fragale, executive director, Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce, 38 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, Pa. 19335 by March 23.

Alumni Assn. seeks names

The Downingtown High School Alumni Association wants to locate as many DHS grads as possible. Rose Ciarlone, president of the Alumni Association, is asking a contact person from each class to email her at rciarlone@yahoo.com or call 610-873-6601 so the Association's files can be updated. The Association's next meeting will be held at DHS West on Saturday morning, March 17, and it would like to have as many alumni as possible to attend its annual banquet is on April 21.

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, March 24. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

Discounted Tickets to area ski resorts: Including-Bear Creek, Jack Frost & Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Camelback, Elk Mountain, Snow Mountain, and Shawnee Mountain. Typically, tickets (cash only) are available until early March.

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 \$1.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming Winter programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30AM-4:30 PM), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown, PA 19335.

Banquet Room For Rent

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80

people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-9352 for more information.

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:
Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.



Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 10

March 8, 2012

Subscribers recall March 1958 blizzard

When Downingtown area residents went to bed on the night of March 19, 1958, snow had been falling for several hours, and a fairly big storm was predicted. No big deal; they had handled a 12-inch snowfall just a month earlier. And the next day, March 20, was the first day of spring.

Local residents didn't realize, as they climbed under the covers that night, that chaos would reign for the next several days. A blizzard (between 2 and 3 feet fell in the Downingtown area; while Glen Moore got 50 inches) of wet, heavy snow would pile up on the roads, and no one had electrical power for days. As a result, most homes were without heat, and businesses and schools were closed for days.

Here are some recollections by people who had to cope with the 1958 storm:

- "My enduring memory of that storm was the loss of power and hence our home on King Street (in Downingtown) became very cold," recalls Jack McCombs, DHS Class of 1958, who now lives in Kill Devil Hills, NC, with his wife, the former Margie Eppolito.

"A good friend of mine, Bill Landrum (who is now in God's hands) was visiting and couldn't get home. So he stayed with us.

"I forget exactly when Mr. Charles "Pud" Ax, who was active in the Boy Scouts (as well as an English teacher at DHS), was bringing charcoal to many homes to be used for heating. I can't recall how we arranged this fuel to be burned safely, but we got it burning and it was giving some much needed heat. Bill and I slept in the living room, while the rest of the family went to bed. Sometime in the night, I heard a very loud knocking at the front door, but for some reason I could not get up. But Bill, with considerable effort, made it to the front door and after opening it discovered Mr. Ax's son there, saying the charcoal was not safe to use in the house. He and Bill got (the burning charcoal) outside somehow, while I was unable to help, as I felt paralyzed. Apparently, I was feeling the full effects of the charcoal's deadly fumes! I seem to recall that I was told that Mr. Ax and others had gone to all the homes to get the charcoal that had previously been distributed. I think it probable that some of us would have died that night if they hadn't done that."

Jack also wrote that his parents, "even though it was snowing hard, went to work at the Pepperidge bread plant on Chestnut Street" (in the borough). "Only a few of the folks were able to get to work, but they started making bread. Management called it a day at about 10 AM, but they had a lot of dough (500-1,000 lbs) with no place to put it; so they dumped it in the parking lot. Despite the cold, the yeast really worked on that dough, and a mountain of Pepperidge bread dough grew in the parking lot."



One of the reasons why some rural townships in the Downingtown area were overwhelmed by the March 1958 snowstorm was because they didn't have snow plows. As shown in the photo of Bondsville Road above, provided by Donna Capriotti, front-end loaders often were the only available option

- Carol Sinex Schmidt, whose father, Frank Sinex, owned the Lyndell Country Store for many years, recalls that “my Dad put a bell and a note on the counter for people to ring the bell, if they made it in to the store. We were upstairs, where we lived, with blankets hung from doors to keep the heat in the kitchen where the fireplace (the sole source of heat) was located.”

- John Miller, retired school teacher and life-long resident of the village of Glen Moore, says Wallace Township's schools were closed for two weeks because of the snow, while classes in Downingtown Borough were shut down for a week.

John also noted that Route 282 wasn't passable in the township until after front-end loaders, brought in from the nearby Cornog Quarry, were made available. Many of the rural townships didn't have plowing equipment back then.

- And Don Greenleaf, Downingtown's Borough Manager at the time, remembers that the Chester County Association of Boroughs had its monthly meeting at St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown, on March 19.

“People started to arrive at about 6 PM. When Ernie Bayliss, Director of Public Works in West Chester, arrived, it had just started to snow. Ernie was a bombastic sort of guy, and when someone mentioned the snow, he replied in an authoritative way that the flakes were too big and wet to amount to any accumulation and there would be no problem traveling.”

By the time the meeting was over and everyone was leaving at about 9:15 PM, Ernie insisted he'd have “no problem in getting back to West Chester. Well, Ernie ended up spending the night at the Downingtown Motor Inn and conducted (West Chester's) snow removal from there during the night.

So what was life like in the Borough after the March 19 storm? “The next seven days were miserable,” replies Don.

What & Where Is This?



The first person to correctly identify this photo, taken in 1942, and sends their answer to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Hist-O-Gram subscribers are encouraged to send us scanned copies of photos of historic sites or groups (e.g. teams, classes) via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Photos of individuals won't be accepted. The identity of people and/or the location in the photo, plus the name and phone number of the person, who entered the photo, should be sent along with the scanned photo.

Local news items reported in March 1975

Editor's Note: The following news items were first published 37 years ago, in the *East Branch Citizen*.

Lionville Junior High students, who had lead roles in the school's production of "Hip Hippy Hooray, were Helen Maragakes, Tracy O'Connell, Susan Roberts, Mike Walker, Mark DiSilets, Kathy Stelzer, Matt Ladd and Sue Sten.

Members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1069, who helped serve the luncheon at the Day of Recollection at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downingtown, were: Lynn Baran, Kathy Black, Marsha Baseshore, Diane Diehl, Julie Golden and Susan Snee. They were supervised by Mrs. Frank Leon Guerrero, troop leader, and Mrs. Alex Baran, committee member.

Committee chairmen at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were Bob Donaldson, worship and music; Richard Nields, stewardship and evangelism; John

Collins, financial; Wanda Snyder and Tammy Shirk, social ministry; Silas Dillman, property; Dr. George Bousum, Future Messiah; and William Schoelkopf, Christian education.

Joseph Cincotta was named Scout of the Year at the Father-Son banquet of Boy Scout Troop 83, Lionville. Runners-up were Steve Rowan, first; Wayne Kelton, second; and John Stalder, third.

DHS students who participated in a Quit-A-Thon, to help them stop smoking, were Jeannie Zinni, Chris Hanson, Dave Hart, Mike Gorens, Jackie Dallas, and Denise Brown.

Members of the champion bowling team at Downingtown Junior High were Wes Pannebaker, Jerry Marleau, Dave Baldwin, Matt Van Lew and Mark Walton.

Members of the Central Presbyterian Church team, which won the Church League, were Wayne Davis, Gary Kershaw, Scott O'Neill, Ray Ifert, Drew Schwartz, Ken Boylan, Mike Lee, Norm Joyner and Irv Brown. Bob Ifert was the coach.

Eddie Childs retained his crown as he again won the foul shooting contest, sponsored by the Downingtown-Uwchlan Recreation Board. Bill Willard took second, and Wayne Taylor came in third.

Recent property transfers included: Downingtown, 420 Farmhouse Rd., \$37,480; West Bradford, 1678 Suzanne Way, \$58,500; East Brandywine, 120 Constitution Dr., \$44,000; Uwchlan, 411 Forge Ln., \$45,000; East Caln, 96 Holleran Dr., \$78,200.

Bob Stull and Joe Solecki were named Apprentice Firefighters of the Year by members of the West Bradford Fire Co.

Members of the Beaver Patrol of Boy Scout Troop 52, sponsored by the West Bradford Home and School Assn, who won the Klondike Derby, were Steve Morris, Tom and Ray Shea, Gregg McFadden, and Neal and Todd Bowser.

John Riccardo opened the 4 Js appliance and carpeting store at the corner of Wallace and Pennsylvania Avenues in Downingtown.

A Nursery School was opened in the basement of St. James Episcopal Church in Downingtown. The staff included Mrs. Mary West, teacher-director; Mrs. Shirley Woodward, Mrs. Julie DeRocco, Mrs. Dora Cumens, and Mrs. June Wolcott.

Officers of the Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co. were Mrs. Ralph Pacinelli, president; Mrs. Pennell Black, vice president; Mrs. Joseph Brown, secretary; Mrs. William Yocum, treasurer; Mrs. Clifford Walton, financial secretary; and Mrs. George Hannum, chaplain.

Honored at the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner were: Hallan Usher, Citizen of the Year; the DHS Ecology Club, led by Edith Hille; and contractor Fred Betz was recognized by the Downingtown Historical Society for saving a 500-year-old oak tree in the Sunnybrook development.

Ernie Jameson was appointed to the Downingtown Area School Board, replacing Andrew DiAntonio.

Communicants received into membership of Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, were: Dennis and Susan Archer; Wayne and Betty Banghart; Alfred and Andrea Bell; Jeff Singleton; Donald, Carolyn, Diane and Donna Wilson; Polly Weiss; and James and Mary Wychgel.

Officers of the Brandywine Lodge, Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, Downingtown, were John McCausland, noble grand; Creston Shoemaker, vice grand; Allen Popjoy, treasurer; and Gilbert Cox, secretary. The 125-year-old Downingtown Lodge merged with the Pilgrims Lodge, Lionville, in November 1974.

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Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Magic Show is fundraiser for DHS West band

Some of the proceeds from the Magic Show at 7:30 PM Saturday, March 10 at DHS West HS will be donated to the DHS West band. Nine top magicians perform at the show. Tickets: \$12, adults; \$8, kids 12 and under; Family 4-Pack (2 adults & 2 kids), \$30. Tickets can be purchased at the door or via www.phillyibmring6.com/tickets.

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Chamber's annual dinner

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Alumni Assn. banquet

The Downingtown High School Alumni Association invites all DHS grads to its 128th annual Banquet, to be held at 5 PM Saturday, April 21 at the Downingtown Country Club, 93 Country Club Dr., Downingtown. Cost is \$35 per person, plus \$10 for annual Alumni Association dues. Reservations must be received by April 6. For more information, please contact Caryn Menna via e-mail: carynmenna@comcast.net or call her at 610-883-3917

As the oldest active public high school alumni association in the U.S., the DAHS Alumni Association remains committed to celebrating the accomplishments of the current students at Downingtown East and Downingtown West High Schools. We are also committed to honoring our history and traditions.

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, March 24, or Saturday, May 19, or Thursday, July 19. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 6 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

St. Michael's, Maryland Bus Trip: Saturday, May 5. Depart: 8 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8 PM. Cost: \$74 per person (includes coach bus transportation, dinner, & gratuities) We will meet at 4:45PM for an early dinner at the famous Crab Claw Restaurant. Please note your choice for dinner on your registration form (crab cakes, crab imperial or fried chicken). We will depart for home promptly after dinner.

Jersey Boys on Broadway Bus Trip: Wednesday, May 16. Depart: 7:30 AM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30 PM. Show Location: August Wilson Theater in New York. Cost: \$155 per person (includes coach bus transportation & tickets to show). Show tickets will be orchestra or front mezzanine. We will arrive in New York around 10 AM. Enjoy the city, see the sights or go shopping until the matinee show at 2:00PM. After the show you will have time for a quick dinner before we depart for home at 6:15PM. No stops on the way home.

Wicked on Broadway Bus Trip. Wednesday, May 16. Depart: 7:30 AM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30PM. Show Location: Gershwin Theater in New York. Cost: \$155 per person (includes coach bus transportation & tickets to show). Show tickets will be orchestra level. Depart New York City at 6:15PM. No stops on the way home.

Fireworks with the Phillies Bus Trip. Monday, June 25. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Section 310 on the first base side. Seats are in section 310 on the first base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

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

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

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, 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.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 11

March 15, 2012

Good Samaritans' trip became a marathon in March 1958

This is Part II of our coverage of recollections of the March 1958 snowstorm. Part I was published in the previous Hist-O-Gram. This week's edition reveals how one local family coped with the storm, including an 18-hour marathon.

Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown held a potluck supper on March 19, 1958, the night the snow started falling. The speaker that night was a seminary student from Lincoln University. When it became apparent the storm was going to be a biggie, Rev. Bill Skinner, pastor of Central Presbyterian, asked Bob Plank to drive the student back to Lincoln, because he had exams the next day.

Back then, the church was located on East Lancaster Avenue. Dane Décor occupied the building, shortly after Central Presbyterian moved to 100 Uwchlan Avenue in the borough in 1972.

Under normal circumstances, they probably would have made the round trip in Bob's 1952 Chevy, with Bill riding shotgun, in about two hours. But the area's impassable, snow-stacked roads turned the Good Samaritans' effort into nearly an 18-hour marathon.

In addition to being a member of the congregation, there was another reason why the new pastor of Central Presbyterian asked Bob to drive the seminarian back to Lincoln. Bob, a Downingtown native who had recently been hired to work as a dispatcher for Chemical Leaman Tank Lines, headquartered in the borough, was dating Bill Skinner's sister-in-law, Ellen Haggard. Ellen had recently moved to Downingtown from Tupelo, MS, so she could be close to her sister, Jane Skinner, her brother-in-law, and the Skinners' nine-month-old son, Billy.

Yes, Tupelo was Elvis Presley's hometown, but Ellen was willing to come to Downingtown because Old Swivel Hips had recently moved to Memphis. Anyway, she and her girlfriends thought "we were just too cool" for the new King of Rock and Roll.

Although the snowstorm would be a significant new experience for her, Ellen felt comfortable in her new environment. She was boarding in the Washington Avenue home of elementary school teacher Emily Lewis, just around the corner from the Skinner's manse (the Presbyterian term for rectory). And she was working in the business office of Bell Telephone in West Chester.

Well, now that you know who's in the cast of characters, let's see how Bob and Bill were doing, as they carefully drove to southern Chester County.

"We got to a point near Avondale on US Route 1, and could go no further," recalls Bob. "At that point, the road was either closed or traffic had just stopped. I don't remember the exact circumstance of the blockage.

And although he wasn't dressed to be out in the blizzard, the student insisted he could walk the rest of the way to Lincoln, explained Bob. So, after they dropped off the seminarian, the other two adventurers set out to find a place to stay overnight. "Bill knew that Presbyterian minister in Avondale, and we wound up on his porch, seeking refuge for the night."

The next morning, it was still snowing lightly when Bob and Bill left the minister's home. And with some difficulty, they got the car turned around and headed northeast on Route 1. Their first effort was to head true north from Chadds Ford, where old Route 100 intersected with Route 1. There was one set of tire tracks on Route 100, and the snow was piled 2 to 3 feet on each side of the car.

"We got about one mile up 100, but we could go no further," continued Bob. There was no way to turn around, so Bob had to back the car down to Route 1, worrying about the car overheating. Upon reaching Route 1, in reverse, they headed west toward Painter's Crossroads and Route 202, but no traffic was moving north on that road. So, they continued east to Route 352, but nothing was moving on that road either. They finally were able to get on Route 252 and drive north to Route 30 in Paoli, and continue west. They arrived in Downingtown late that afternoon.

Meanwhile, back in Downingtown, after the March 19 pot luck ended, Ellen and Jane, carrying nine-month-old Billy, trudged from the church, back to the manse at 324 E. Lancaster Ave., now a law office, and waited for Bob and Bill to return from their jaunt to southern Chester County.

"When the electric and phones went out, we shut the big heavy sliding doors of the living room leading into the entry hallway and the dining room, and set about building a fire in the fireplace," recalls Ellen.

Ellen also remembers using the heat from the fireplace in an effort to warm the milk for Billy's bottle, but she can't recall how that worked. However, she does remember waiting all night, and most of the following day, worrying about where Bob and Bill were and unable to track them down, since there was no phone service.

Sometime, well into the following day, says Ellen, Eddie Clayton and Wes Pannebaker arrived, wearing their fire company gear, with firewood, to see how the Skinner family was coping with the storm. Their first question was, "Hasn't Bob been here to help you out?"

Later that afternoon, the two men got back to Downingtown. Their adventure in the snow finally ended, but they would repeat the tale for many years to come. Bob is retired. He and Ellen have been married since 1959, and live in the Downingtown area once again. Rev. Bill Skinner passed away nearly a year ago. His widow, Jane, lives in Iowa City, and Bill(y) Skinner is a lawyer in Marlton, NJ.

Corrections

Our article about the March 1958 Blizzard in last week's Hist-O-Gram had some drifting and got a little slushy at some points, which require corrections.

Jack McCombs tells us he was chastised by his 89-year-old mother, Mrs. Mary McCombs, because he messed up his re-telling of her recollections about the impact the storm had at Downingtown's Pepperidge Farm plant.

She said: "There were at least 6,000 lbs of dough, perhaps as much as 10,000 lbs. We literally had no place to put it in the plant, and hence decided to dump it outside in the

parking lot, thinking it would stop the yeast from working on the dough. It did not, and as I said, it became a mountain!"

Further, "when the power went out, the oven was full of dough; some nearly done baking, but most not done. We had to hand crank the oven to get the straps out (a strap held multiple loaves), and then pull the loaves out of the baking pans that were in the straps".

And although we reported in the same article that Don Greenleaf was Downingtown's Borough Manager in 1958, he says he wasn't appointed to that position until 1967.

Don also noted that it must have been Downingtown's Historical Commission that honored Fred Betz at the Chamber of Commerce dinner in 1975, for saving that 500-year-old oak tree in the Sunnybrook development, because the Historical Society wasn't founded until 1978.

By the way, when houses in the Sunnybrook development went on sale in 1974, the prices started at \$32,500.

What & Where Is This?



Mike Hancock, DHS Social Studies teacher and assistant football coach at DHS West is the truly perceptive scholar, who was first person to correctly identify this photo. Taken during a flood in 1942, the shot shows the north side of East Lancaster Avenue, at the intersections of Wallace Avenue and Park Lane in the borough. The darker building on

the left, which now includes Studio 3 and Roberts Insurance Agency on the ground level, still exists. However, the two stores, which are in the center and on the right of the photo, have been razed so Wallace Avenue could be widened. The business on the right had been Wafers' bar.

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Brief, but important

- Discovered that there was a Saturday afternoon boxing match at the Glenmoore Firehall in 1931, to settle a dispute over an automobile. No further details, except that the combatants were K.O. Marple and Kid Lawrence.

Also at that time, there was a Fretted Instrument Band in Glenmoore, and a pair of nylon stockings was the door prize at Saturday night dances held at the firehall.

Can anyone fill us in on the details about any of these scenarios?

- William Patterson won the \$50 prize in the log chopping contest held in May 1930 at Griffith's Hardware, 123 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. More than 500 people turned out to watch the competition.

Also at that time, Griffith's was selling flags for car radiators. Huh?

- George Murphy won Cub Pack 23's Pinewood Derby in 1967. Robby Gill, winner of the Derby last year, came in second. Jim Williams' car was voted best looking.
- Members of the Guthriesville Pig Club, formed in June 1921, included James Manley, Andrew Spence, Robert and John Hadfield, Elmer Wilson, Marian Abel, Edward and Jack McCausland, Frances and Ruth Larkin, George Fisher, Edgar Lutz, and Robert Moore. At a meeting, held at Guthriesville High School, each of the ten boys and three girls was given a pig to care for. In a round-up, held four months later, Manley's pig was selected as the grand champion.

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

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Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

Business \$50 _____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

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

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

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Alumni Assn. banquet

The Downingtown High School Alumni Association invites all DHS grads to its 128th annual Banquet, to be held at 5 PM Saturday, April 21 at the Downingtown

Country Club, 93 Country Club Dr., Downingtown. Cost is \$35 per person, plus \$10 for annual Alumni Association dues. Reservations must be received by April 6. For more information, please contact Caryn Menna via e-mail: carynmenna@comcast.net or call her at 610-883-3917

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

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, 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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An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to:
Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.



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

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Vol. 3, No. 12

March 22, 2012

When city boys helped local farmers during WWI

During the summer of 1918, after many men had left local farms to serve in the military during World War I, at least part of that loss of manpower was covered by teenage boys from Philadelphia and other nearby locales, who worked on farms in the Downingtown-Exton area, according to several articles in the *Daily Local News*.

They were part of a program, established in 1917 by the U.S. Department of Labor's Boys Working Reserve, and administered sequentially, at the state and county levels. Nationwide, more than 200,000 boys were involved. Participants, who were 16-20 years of age, first went through a two-week training camp, to learn the rudiments of farming, such as how to milk a cow and hitch up a team of horses. They learned those skills at Penn State, the nation's first training site for boys in the Liberty Camp program.

Locally, most of the 10 boys, who started working out of the local Liberty Camp No. 8, set up in May 1918, stayed in a farmhouse on the property of George Acker farm in Uwchlan Township. Then, in July, the contingent was increased to 25 boys, who were moved to the John Thomas farm in West Whiteland, where they lived in tents, provided by the state. Known as Camp Wawfus (We all work for Uncle Sam), it was one of 10 Liberty Camps established in rural parts of the Philadelphia area. There were a total of 67 boys working out of camps in Chester County.

The Wawafus campers were wakened at 5: 30 AM, ate breakfast, and then, taking their lunch with them, put in 10 hours working on local farms within a 5-mile radius of Exton. If the farm they were assigned to was less than 2 miles from the camp site, they had to walk back and forth. When the distance was greater, the boys were driven there.

They were paid about \$2 a day. Their tasks included cutting, loading and storing hay; harvesting wheat; pulling weeds; and thinning and cultivating corn.

As expected, the program was dropped after a cease fire was declared in November 1918, effectively ending World War I.

We wonder if any young men, who worked out of a Liberty Camp in Chester County in 1918, eventually settled here years later.

Brief, but important

- Originally known as "Fountain" and later called "Fairmont", the village of Font in Upper Uwchlan Township was a bustling place in the late 19th Century. Metropolitan

Font, back then, had a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a wheelwright shop, a nail factory, a bone factory, a grist mill, a flour mill, two shoemakers, a tinsmith, a saw mill and a general store.

And some 200 dairy farmers brought their milk every day in horse-drawn wagons to a cooperative creamery (built in 1858) in the village, according to a 1932 *Daily Local News* article. Think of the traffic jams the wagons must have created. And think of all the other “issues” those horses must have left there, as well.

- Susie Norris McClure, DHS Class of 1957, recently donated a bunch of interesting material to us, including a Student Handbook for the Junior-Senior High School, when it was located on Manor Avenue, and now is the STEM Academy.

The 1950s era handbook noted that a pupil-conducted Tribunal helped maintain student discipline. Offenders—who were reported, in writing, by faculty members or Hall Monitors—had a hearing, and if found guilty, penalties were applied.

Although Susie Norris was a class officer and certainly not a rowdy, she had to pick up all the trash in the football stadium after a game, after she was caught cutting into the cafeteria line. And in another instance, several DHS students in the 1950s had to pick up paper outside the school building

Some parents probably would freak out if their little darlings had to do that today.

- Bill Griffith, a packaging machine operator at Pepperidge Farm biscuit plant in Downingtown, won first prize at the Chester County Coin Show in 1968. His award-winning entry was a small replica of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, made with over 1,000 uncirculated pennies, according to the April 1968 edition of *The Conveyor*, Pepperidge Farm’s employee magazine.

- On another note, Tony Madiro of Economy Glass in Downingtown, provided the special, expensive archival glass, needed to protect the original copy of the 1843 Charter of St. James Episcopal Church. The charter was given to the Historical Society in November.

We couldn’t survive if we didn’t have the support of local businessmen like Tony Madiro.

Aerial views of all of PA are available on line

Joe Mosher, WCU math prof who lives in East Brandywine, tells us that the Penn Pilot website enables all of us to see aerial photos of every square foot of PA, between 1937 and 1967. Aerial shots, done in 1937, 1957 and 1967 can be accessed by going to

<http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu>. We found the shot of the Downingtown area below at: http://data.cei.psu.edu/pennpilot/era1940/chester_1938/chester_1938_photos.jpg_200/chester_091537_ahk4396.jpg.

9-15-37-2-20

AAA-1:20,000-AHK-43-96





The first person to correctly identify this photo—taken by Mike Hoover, a recent DHS West grad—and sends their answer to Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org first will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

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

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Vol. 3, No. 13

March 29, 2012

Another monster in the Downingtown area?

The Typo Monster struck again last Thursday morning. That's the only way we can explain why and how transmission of last week's Hist-O-Gram, via our bulk email service, got so discombobulated. We apologize for all the frustration caused by the ever-present monster.

Despite the Typo Monster's efforts to destroy the March 22 Hist-O-Gram, you can still access it at:

www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/March%2022%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

Also, the latest Typo Monster intrusion isn't a unique phenomenon in the Downingtown area. However, most of them were characterized in 1930s newspapers as devils. One was called the "Dorlan Devil" because of the locale north of Downingtown, where it was seen in 1932. And in 1937, a similar devil allegedly was seen near where Marsh Creek State Park is now located.

According to articles in the *Daily Local News*, a sighting occurred on January 19, 1932, when two employees of a nursery service heard a groaning sound while they were digging out several trees in a heavily wooded area along the Dorlan-Milford Mills Road. When the men went to investigate the source of the noise, one of them, John McCandless, claimed he saw a "thing that looked like neither beast nor human."

McCandless also noted that the creature was "about the height of a man and was without any clothing of any kind. Its skin was a yellowish-gray in color, and its face was more horrible than any animal I have ever seen pictured. Its head, hands and feet appeared to be unusually large, and it stood partly erect when walking."

Both men admitted they fled the area in terror, without looking back to see what happened to it.

And here's how Philadelphia's *Evening Bulletin* reported the July 27, 1937 monster-sighting and its impact: "Armed with guns and clubs, and led by a pack of dogs whose barking in the moonlight almost reached blood-curdling heights at times, a hastily-formed posse of two dozen farmers skipped their sleep last night to scour the hills and fields for a bounding critter with huge eyes.

"The strange monster was reported shortly after 9 PM by Cydney Ladley, a paper mill employee, who lives near Milford Mills.... Rushing into town with bated breath, Ladley, his wife and Mrs. Chester Smith, a neighbor, told of seeing the creature on a back road near their home, just as dusk was settling over the hills.

"It leaped across the road in front of my car," Ladley said. "It was about the size of a kangaroo, was covered with hair four inches long and it hopped like a kangaroo. And eyes! What eyes!"

"And how it jumped," chimed in Mrs. Ladley.

"Right in front of us, too," added Mrs. Smith.

"The descriptions were enough. Within a half hour, more than 20 neighboring farmers had taken their shotguns, unleashed their hounds and were abroad in the moonlight, resolved to track the prowler to its lair."

Neither monster was ever found, but we can't deny that a Typo Monster caused havoc here on March 22, 2012.

Local news items reported in *The Archive* in April 1950

Mrs. Frederick Bicking and Mrs. John Forbes co-chaired the Junior Woman's Club card party and fashion show. Modeling spring fashions were Mrs. James Newcombe, Mrs. George Bass, Mrs. Wayne Bucher, Mrs. Hibbert Wells, Mrs. Arthur Phillips and Mrs. Nelson Norris.

Students of Downingtown piano teacher Harry Ryner who earned an 'A Plus' or an 'A' when they took an exam in Philadelphia were Doris Priest, Ruth Davis, Lee Hanes, John Schimmel, Donna Trapnell, Eleanor Feitz, Carol Say, Phyllis Miller, Lucilla Hartman, and Maxine and Marlene Ingram.

Members of the committee planning a card party and white elephant sale at St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown, were Chandler Roberts, George Loomis, William Houston, William Ash, James Nelson, Earl Knier, Francis Tweed, Bill Rowland, Stanley Landis, Maurie Davis, Roy Strohl and Arthur Phillips.

Lionville Cub Scouts who were promoted to Boy Scout were Jack Stuart, Bobby Peoples, Donnie LaRose, Marvin Jenkins, Larry Stine, Larry Reed, Jerry Stinson, Jack Benner and Denny Ellmore.

New members of the National Honor Society at DHS were Joan Garrison, Dutchie Pomento, Eleanor Detterline, Betty Sensenig, Rose Formica, Paul Miller, Ronald Hogg, Jane Romig and Joyce Harple.

Participants in the "How Can We Live Together" program, sponsored by the West Ward School Mothers Club, included: mediator Marian Phillips, DHS teacher; Rev. Francis Fox, St. Joseph's Catholic Church; Rev. Christopher Atkinson, St. James Episcopal Church; Rabbi Eihu Schagrin, Coatesville; Mrs. James Waring, Downingtown Industrial School; and Mrs. Dorothy Davison, Downingtown Friends School.

Chairmen and committee members for Bethel AME Church's Woman's Day in Downingtown were Mrs. Walter Smith, Helen Watson, Lavinia Henderson, Samella Miller, Henrietta Warnick, Ethel Thomas and Eliza Smith.

Attending the party for members of the Junior Girls Class at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, were Marie Whitely, Margaret Kriston, Mary Louise Thomas, Barbara Rosenbaum, Kay Levengood, Dolores Stewart, Shirley Matlack, Audrey Spence, and Margaret Detwiler.

Officers of the Future Farmers of America at DHS were Robert Watson, president; Walter Styer, vice president; Joe Miller, secretary; Richard Gottier, treasurer; James Nelms, doorkeeper; and Jay Walton, reporter.

Brief, but important

- The Downingtown posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars co-sponsored a carnival from July 30 to Aug. 7, 1937. In addition to a nightly gate prize, major attractions included a military parade featuring the Legion-VFW bugle corps; a Chair-O-Plane ride as well as a ferris wheel; bingo, with \$50 being top prize; the Four Wishards aerialists; and the “grand award,” a Ford V-8 sedan.

Not to be outdone, the grand prize at the Glenmoore Fire Co. carnival, held in August 1937, was a Chevrolet sport sedan.

- We recently came across a 1949 Woodhouse Banner Agricultural Implements Catalog, put out by the Woodhouse firm, which apparently had an office on Chestnut St. facility in Downingtown. Anyone know anything about it?
- Coon Club suppers were a big social event in Lionville, early in the 20th Century. But roast raccoon, “secured” by local hunters, was not the only delicacy served at the annual feasts. The menu served at a supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Moore in January 1918 included scalloped oysters, stewed chicken, sweet and white potatoes, creamed corn, peas, olives, pickles, cranberries, cake, ice cream, and coffee. Following the repast, the guests enjoyed games and phonograph music.

Not one truly perceptive scholar



We decided to quit lobbing softballs at you guys. It was time for a toughie in this competition. And tough it was. Not one soul tried to identify the building where this winding staircase is located. We'll trot it out in a future edition, when our subscribers are more wide awake.

How and where to find data about your home's history

We receive many requests for information from people who are trying to find out their home's history. It's impossible for us to do it because we are an all-volunteer operation, and the research entails visiting several county offices in West Chester.

However, the Chester County Archives and Records Services office has put together an outline that lists where the sources of information about your home's history are located. You can find that information at www.chesco.org/archives.

Who are they?



This is the third grade class at East Ward School in 1964, taught by Elizabeth Ezrah. We're trying to determine the names of the kids pictured in that class. Please send the names to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

Clip joint will be open on Sunday afternoon

You're all welcome to help us catch up on clipping & pasting newspaper articles about people and events in the Downingtown area this from 1-4 PM Sunday afternoon, April 1, 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.

The free munchies clippers and pasters will have an opportunity to enjoy are candy Easter eggs, home-made by the Holy Rollers at Glenmoore United Methodist Church.

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We have not solicited membership renewals in more than 12 months.

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

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

Business \$50 _____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

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

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

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

Banquet Room For Rent

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

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An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtontownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 14

April 5, 2012

10 years of DHS prom photos to be exhibited

A few months after she graduated from Bucknell University in 1969, Anne McGee Chiccino started teaching math and computer science at DHS. And several years later, Anne began chaperoning the high school's proms, where she took photos of students dressed in noteworthy and unusual attire. Based on the gowns and tuxedos they wore several decades ago, they lived in a different world back then.



Miss McGee started teaching at DHS in 1969.

Many of those photos, taken between the early 1970s and the early 1980s, will be on display at the Historical Society's Ashbridge House headquarters on Lancaster Avenue, for several weekends, beginning on Saturday, April 28. Additional details on the exhibit will be noted in future Hist-O-Grams.

Those who come to see the exhibit will have an opportunity to help us identify many of the prom-goers in the photos, since Anne doesn't recall the names of all the kids she taught in her 35-year career at DHS. During that period, Anne was chairperson of the Math and Computer Science Department. She also headed the Pep Club for 20 years and the National Honor Society for 10 years.

Anne, who retired in 2004, is married to former DHS football coach, Chic Chiccino. They live in Malvern.

And since the DHS proms didn't have elections of Kings and Queens of proms in those days, we will try to rectify that flaw by allowing those who come to the exhibit to vote for a King and Queen from all the prom-goers whose photos are on display.

News items in the *East Branch Citizen* in April 1975

County Glass Co. and Covatta's Thorndale Inn were new members of the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce.

New members of Hopewell United Methodist Church, East Brandywine, were Doyle and Kim Brian, Harry and Ruth Brown, Mrs. Robert Cumens, Mrs. Kathy Deisinger, Mrs. Joan Dixon, Mrs. Kathy Forbes, Kathy Healy, Charles Kastner, Willi and Gail Kuhlkin, Robert and Jan Richards, Thomas and Gail Rodgers, David Piersol, George and Emily Sharp, and Hazel Starkloff.

Original copies of *The Literary Casket and General Intelligencer*, a weekly newspaper which was published 183 years ago in West Pikeland, were found at the Chester County Historical Society.

New members of Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, were Larry and Phyllis Watson; Darryll, Kathy and Jennifer Kuhns; David, Beverly, David Jr., and Matthew Ackerman.

DHS seniors Mark Franklin and Rich Clifton attended the Presidential Classroom for Young Americans in Washington, DC.

Members of the cast in the production of "They Run in Our Family" at Downingtown Junior High School were Mark Phipps, Cathy Jordan, Roberta Ekdahl, Jane Kaster, Sharon Forbes, Carol Brown, Jimmy McFalls, Bill Mason, Joan Savastio, Carol DiBerardinis, Jay Meister, Curt Schroeder, Patty McCue, Kim Henry, John Rorke, Cindi Griggs, and Karen Heckman.

Recent property transfers included: 313 Paul Circle, Downingtown, \$38,750; 309 Biddle Drive, Uwchlan, \$52,700; 9 Independence Lane, East Brandywine, \$43,900;

Top speakers in their respective divisions of the Downingtown Optimists oratorical competition were Cathy Treer, Jack Waiboer and Donna Stalder, from DHS; and Christine Valocchi, David Bradford and Matthew Mingione, from St. Joseph's School.

Service pins were presented to these adult leaders of the Greater Downingtown Girl Scout Service Area: Lillian Georg and Patricia Tuting, 15 years; and Aline Akin, Beverly Bozarth, Kathleen DeCecco, Patricia Evans, Helen Filoroma, Patricia Leon Guerrero, Sally Moatz, Virginia Pierce, Mary Richey, Barbara Snee, Kate Snyder, Stella Ursini and Shelley Wilgis, 10 years.

Leaders of the Youth Traffic Safety Council at DHS were Heidi Parvin, Don Brown, Cathy Spatola, and Lynn Ridenour.

And DHS students who received Merit status in the National Merit Scholarship competition were George Glackin III, Gerry Gottier, Ann Madden, Betsy McIntyre, Paul Schafer and David Stocker.

Officers of the DHS Alumni Assn. were Edward McDermott, president; Turie Hayes, vice president; Gerald Matthews, second vice president; Helen Eachus and Margaret Miller, recording secretaries; and Joseph Darlington, corresponding secretary.

Boy Scout Troop 52, sponsored by the West Bradford Home and School Assn. conducted a roadside clean-up in the township.

Mrs. Priscilla Cumens, Mrs. Adeline Best, Mrs. Ginny Shirey and Mrs. Timmy Adrian of the Women of the Minquas Fire Co. Working Force conducted a garage sale.

The Downingtown Heart Fund campaign was chaired by Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Brown. Captains were Mrs. Iola Brown, Mrs. Mary Hemberger, Mrs. Vincent DiEuliis, and Mrs. Ralph Pacinelli.

Members of the Downingtown Home and School Association's Country Fair committee were Dottie Lewis, Darlene Clark, Regina Falcone, Becky Meacham and Joyce Lucerne.

Members of Cub Pack 89, who participated in a physical fitness competition, were Eric Routzahn, Jeff Zona, Fran Mastrangelo, Chris Ireland, Scott Butler, Joe Butz, David Seiple, and Jonathan Ireland.

Members of the Uwchlan Hills Home and School Assn. who planned a Spring Fair were Ruth DelVecchio, John Kinyon, Maria Hamby, Sylvia McFadden, Teddi Wright, Nancy Roble, and Doris DiSantis.

Featured in the Old East Ward School's production of "The Wizard of Oz" were John Poluch, Timothy Lang, Kristi Treer and Karen Lammey.

DHS students who won awards for their entries in the Eastern Baptist College's annual Art Exhibit were Denise Doran, Kim Steimer and Todd Meyers.

Sad news

We have been informed that Elizabeth Ezra passed away Tuesday night, April 3. We published an article about Miss Ezra's 105th birthday celebration and many other facets about her illustrious life in our Dec. 8, 2011 Hist-O-Gram, which can be accessed at: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/Vol%202%20No%2045.pdf.

Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify this photo and sends their answer to Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org first will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

Hist-O-Gram subscribers are encouraged to send us scanned copies of photos of historic sites or groups (e.g. teams, classes) via Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. Photos of individuals won't be accepted. The identity of the people and/or the location in the photo, plus the name and phone number of the person, who entered the photo, should be sent along with the scanned photo.

Brief, but important

- In the *Daily Local News* in April 1957 were ads telling shoppers they could “Complete Your Easter Wardrobe:” by buying a mink stole for \$75 or a mink jacket for \$100 at the Becker and Burns stand in the Downingtown Farmers Market.
- The Glen Moore Post Office was moved from the C.O. Miller Store to the new firehouse. Besides postmistress Alice Springer, other members of the staff were Marvin Furlong Jr., rural mail carrier; Rodney Ray, substitute carrier; Ethel Furlong, clerk; and Margaret Miles, substitute clerk.
- The committee of business people responsible for Christmas lighting in the borough planned a \$10,000 fund raising drive in order to buy attractive displays for the business district. The committee, chaired by Carl Nelson, also suggested that every home have one white candle burning in a window. The article didn’t note whether the candles would be electrified or have a real flame.
- War bond purchases by East Brandywine residents during World War II totaled \$27,323.75. In current dollars, that total exceeded \$275,000. And that campaign, conducted in 1944, was the township’s fifth money raising drive to support the war loan effort. Members of East Brandywine’s war bond committee were Mrs. Anna Fulton, Mrs. Charles Ezrah, Mrs. Alex Jefferis, Mrs. Warren Mowery, Mrs. Robert Piersol, Mrs. Edward Russell and Mrs. Lloyd Swarner.
- Correction: It was incorrectly noted in a recent Hist-O-Gram that the Nursery School was opened in the basement of St. James Episcopal Church in Downingtown in 1975. The Nursery School was established in 1965.

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

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Vol. 3, No. 15

April 12, 2012



Prom Photo Exhibit opens on weekend of April 28-29; we're looking for "best" prom memories

These are two of the unidentified couples who were photographed by Anne McGee Chiccino when they attended a DHS prom between 1971 and 1983. Although the girls' dresses appear to be pretty conservative, we doubt if the guys' tuxedos would have been found in issues of *GQ* magazine 30-40 years ago.

In addition to having an opportunity to choose a King and Queen from all the pictures on display at our Ashbridge House headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, those who come to the Historical Society's exhibit of DHS Prom Photos on the weekends of April 28-29 and May 5-6 also will be asked to identify as many of the prom-goers as possible.

Send us your prom recollections

To help Hist-O-Gram readers get back into the spirit of their high school years, we're asking you (that means everyone and not just DHS grads) to send us your prom recollections. The "best" prom memories will be published in coming Hist-O-Grams. Since we've all mellowed over the years, the "best" recollections aren't of the vengeance variety. Instead, we're looking for humorous tales and What-Was-I-Thinking insights that come with the wisdom of the passing years. We have the right to edit even the most interesting entries for reasons such as length and a limited budget for legal fees.

Please send your entries to: Info@Downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.

Mowday to talk about his book on Richie Ashburn

Chester County author Bruce Mowday will talk about his latest book *Richie Ashburn ... Why The Hall Not. The Amazing Journey To Cooperstown.* at 2 PM Sunday, April 22 at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln. There will be parking space available next door, at the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant, which is closed Sundays.

The book chronicles the career of Ashburn, a member of the Philadelphia Phillies' league championship Whiz Kids team 1950, his relationship with a young fan and Ashburn's induction into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

"This is a wonderful true story about a star athlete who takes time to talk to a young fan and sign an autograph and later the fan mounts a grassroots campaign to help the star athlete get into the Hall of Fame," said Barricade Books Publisher Carole Stuart. "You don't find many uplifting stories about athletes these days. This book tells such a story."

The book was released less than a year ago and is in its third printing. Mowday's books include history, business, sports and true crime. For more information on the books, to schedule talks, or to obtain signed copies, see www.mowday.com or E-mail mowday@mowday.com.

Brief, but important

- The Lionville High School Alumni Assn. had its first reunion in the Odd Fellows Hall on Village Avenue in January 1920. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Lionville Fire Co. prepared and served the meal. William Simpson was the toastmaster. Alumni Association officers were Edmund Pechin, president; J. Benton Dinkel, vice president; Edith Oberholser, secretary and a current teacher; and Jeanette Stiteler, treasurer.

- Athens Zafes of Downingtown contacted us after she read that the Where and What Is This photo, which was identified in the March 15 Hist-O-Gram as a shot taken during the 1942 flood of several businesses on the north side of East Lancaster Avenue, at the intersection of Wallace Avenue in Downingtown's Center Square.

Athens tells us that her father, Nick Zafes, had purchased the original frame building along Wallace Avenue, when it went up for auction. Nick replaced that structure with a new building in 1932, and opened the family's restaurant there. Behind Zafes's restaurant was William Hess's Oyster House which he later sold to Polly Swarner. In more recent years, Swarner's restaurant site was subsequently occupied by a tailor shop and a TV repair business.

- Members of the DHS Ski Club, who modeled the attire to be worn on the slopes in a fashion show at the high school in 1969, were Jean Brewster, Angela Caimi, Sandy Kinsey, Nancy McAllister, Ford Greenleaf and Mike McCardell.
- Anyone remember anything about the Peacock Café on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough in the 1950s?
- Did you notice our spiffy home page when you accessed this Hist-O-Gram issue? The brighter and improved design of our website was done by Val DiLuigi, our webmaster.
- Mysterious: The Sept. 8, 1880 edition of the *Daily Local News* noted in an article about a Downingtown School Board meeting that "Book-keeping will be added to the list of studies in the high school." Gee, we thought Downingtown High School wasn't established until 1882.

Bill Jenkins, Hot Rod Hall of Famer, died; was DHS grad

It was brought to our attention by Liz Wagoner that the April 3 edition of the *New York Times* obituary, noting the passing of her brother, William “Grumpy” Jenkins, at age 81, on March 29, didn’t mention that he was a graduate of DHS. In fact, he was ranked second in the class of 1949, explained Liz.

However, the “paper-of-record” did include these observations about him: “Jenkins, a short, stocky, gravelly-voiced man who often chomped cigars, sometimes while driving, played a leading role in lifting drag racing to the level of a sanctioned sport from its ‘dirty-fingernails street racing days,’ said Ron Watson, president of the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, into which Jenkins was inducted in 1996.

“To fans and fellow racers he was Grumpy Jenkins, and he relished the nickname — particularly because he knew that almost everyone knew that his gruff front was just that. “People called him the lovable old grump,” said John Jodauga, an editor at National Dragster, the newspaper of the National Hot Rod Association.

He “earned his well-deserved spot in drag racing’s Top 10,” the association said in a statement, “because no other individual has contributed more” to improving the engines that made straight-line, quarter-mile racing from a standing start more popular.

“His innovations included a front-suspension system that improved the performance of a stock car by transferring weight to the rear tires, and a “slick-shift manual transmission” that allowed the driver to shift gears without lifting a foot from the gas pedal. He also installed a so-called cool can, containing ice, along the fuel line to lower gasoline temperature, which increased horsepower.

Where and What Is This?



Linda Brown is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this photo, taken in 1962, as the wading pool in Downingtown’s Kerr Park. Don Greenleaf, retired borough manager, tells us that its construction—the perimeter and steps were cement and the floor was sand—was paid for by two sisters, but he can’t recall their names. Can one of you help us with that mystery?

How to join the Historical Society, or renew your membership

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

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

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

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address* _____

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

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

Business \$50 _____ Sponsoring \$50 _____ Supporting \$100 _____

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

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

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area ***Join Rewards Program at Cropper's***

If you shop at Cropper's in Guthriesville and want to participate in their Shurfine Community Rewards Program gold card, you can help the Downingtown Area Historical Society. Cropper's Rewards Program donates \$60,000 to community non-profit

organizations. To ensure that the Historical Society receives a percentage of the donations made by the Rewards Program, please send your name and Gold Card number to Carol Grigson at: info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org. Carol, the Historical Society's certified Rewards Program administrator, will enroll you. Thanks for helping the Historical Society.

Chamber's annual dinner

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will have its annual dinner, catered by Victory Brewery, at Dane Decor at 6 PM on Friday, April 27. In addition to the Citizen of the Year winner being announced, Shawn Roe will be the featured speaker.

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, May 19, or Thursday, July 19. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 6 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

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

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website www.darcinfo.com, 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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Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downtontownareahistoricalociety.org

Vol. 3, No. 16

April 19, 2012

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Mowday's books include history, business, sports and true crime. For more information on the books, to schedule talks, or to obtain signed copies, see www.mowday.com or send an email to mowday@mowday.com.



The gowns worn by the two unidentified girls shown above, when they attended a DHS prom between 1971 and 1983, would have no problem meeting the standards in the dress codes, which high schools across the country are adopting in response to many of today's risqué' prom dresses, according to a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*. "Prom fashion in some stores goes way beyond plunging necklines and hiked-up hems to include low-slung backs, thigh-high slits and midriff-bearing cutouts," noted that story.

Prom Photo exhibit visitors asked to bring memorabilia

Sadly, DHS students never had an opportunity to vote for Kings and Queens of their respective proms years ago. Well, the Historical Society will try to rectify that tragic flaw when it offers a display of photos of DHS prom-goers between 1971 and 1983. The photos were taken by Anne McGee Chiccino, DHS math and computer science teacher.

Those who come to the exhibit of DHS Prom Photos on the weekends of April 28-29 and May 5-6 at our Ashbridge House headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln will have an opportunity to elect a King and Queen, in addition to identifying the couples pictured in the exhibit.

No charge, but please bring printed memorabilia from school days

Entrance to the exhibit will be free, but we won't turn down free-will offerings. However, we're asking exhibit visitors to bring us any printed materials, which have been collecting dust on a shelf in your home for decades and your kids have no interest in, from your days as a pupil in the Downingtown Area School District.

We're not talking about seemingly insignificant pieces of paper, such as copies of school newspapers or programs from school plays, concerts, etc. from your elementary as well as junior or senior high school days. All of those printed materials you donate suddenly will become historical documents when they're added to our archival collection.

We'll still welcome you, and allow you to vote for a King and Queen if you don't donate a printed piece from your school days.

Send us your prom recollections

And to help Hist-O-Gram readers get back into the spirit of their high school years, we're asking you (that means everyone and not just DHS grads) to send us your prom recollections. The "best" prom memories will be published in coming Hist-O-Grams. Since we've all mellowed over the years, the "best" recollections aren't of the vengeance variety. Instead, we're looking for humorous tales and What-Was-I-Thinking insights that come with the wisdom of the passing years. We have the right to edit even the most interesting entries for reasons such as length and a limited budget for legal fees.

Please send your entries to: Info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Downingtown area news in January 1960

These news items were found in Chester County newspapers published 52 years ago:

- About 20 friends and Lionville neighbors spent several days, using tractors, trucks, and wagons to clear the debris left after a 190-year-old barn—on the 206-acre dairy farm owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Moore and operated by her son-in-law, George Ruark—burned down on January 7.

Silas Irey, a newspaper delivery man making his rounds at 2:30 AM, started blowing his car horn to wake nearby villagers after he discovered the fire, and then he went to the Lionville Fire Co. to sound the alarm. Under the direction of Harold Trego, Lionville chief, more than 100 firefighters from five fire companies fought the blaze. The herd of

69 cows was saved, after Irey went back to the barn and let the cows out into a pasture. However, much equipment was lost.

- And Downingtown firefighters had to battle two major warehouse fires in the borough. On Jan. 23, two attached warehouses at the Bicking Paper Co., 223 E. Lancaster Ave., and their contents were destroyed.

The Downingtown volunteers were called out 28 hours later when the frame warehouse-garage of Griffiths Hardware Co. caught fire. About half of the building on Mill Alley, located directly behind the store at 123 E. Lancaster Ave., was destroyed.

- Officers elected to the board of the Downingtown Library were Joseph Huggins, chairman; Lucy Lloyd, vice chairman; Mrs. Paul Brown, treasurer; and Mrs. W.W. Ash Jr., secretary.

- Judy Jones, George Shoemaker and Lewis Wilson III had leading roles in a play at Downingtown Junior High School.

- Lucy Lloyd was elected president of the Guild Auxiliary at St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown. Other officers were Mrs. Thomas McIlvaine, vice president; Margaret Whitecar, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Seth Pope, recording secretary; Mrs. Maurie Davis, treasurer; and Mrs. Stanley Landis, assistant treasurer.

- Officers at St. Paul's UCC Church, Lionville, were William Peterman, elder; Robert Worthington, deacon; Mrs. Elmer Matthews, Harry Weaver and Francis Shaeffer, trustees.

- The first "Penny Friday" was held at DHS, with \$41.70 being raised for the foreign exchange program at the high school. The Downingtown chapter of the American Field Service, chaired by Ray Hallman, needed \$1,300 to host a student and to send a DHS student abroad for a semester or the summer.

Members of the local committee included: Rev. Howard Mattison, Downingtown Ministerium; Mrs. Lewis Wilson, Junior High School Parent's Club; Thomas Clark, Earl Parker and Vincent King, VFW Post 845; Thomas Roberts, Chamber of Commerce; Paul McCombs, Optimist Club; Ray Hallman, Rotary Club; Mrs. Lillian Gibbs, Senior Woman's Club; Guy Kline, school administration; Anne Kalemjian and Toni McCombs, school council; Harry Stong and Mrs. Marion Noll, French Club; Mrs. Lewis Wilson Jr., Future Teachers of America; and James Fry, Downingtown Area Teachers Assn.

- William Mahood, sales manager of Downingtown Paper Co. announced that Gordon Carpenter and Andrew DiAntonio Jr. had been hired as sales reps.

- Officials of Milprint Inc., a flexible packaging firm, told local employees that it planned to build an addition to the Downingtown plant so the expanded facility could handle the work, which had been done at the soon-to-be-closed Christiana plant.

- Officers of the West Bradford Fire Co. were Edwin Hill, president; Henry Rohrer, vice president; John Sharp, secretary; C.L. Moore, treasurer; and Harry Cann and Ernest Fling board members.

- Members of the committee making plans for the annual banquet of the Downingtown Fire Department and its Ladies Auxiliaries were: Leslie Sheeler, Elmer Schrupf Jr., Emidio Sciarretta Jr., Richard Myers and Arthur Glauner of the Alerts; and Charles Broomell, William Wilmot, James Mitchell and Richard Zittle of the Minquas.

- Local residents whose names were drawn to serve on juries in April and May were William Keppel, George Kalbitzer, Margaretta Helm, Stella Ballentine, Joseph Cortlessa, Philip Burns, Ethel Entrekin and John Getty.

- Charlie Newlin scored 13 points and Stan Sarmento and John Snyder each tallied 11, as the DHS basketball team broke its 35-game losing streak when it beat OJ Roberts 57-48. The Whippets had not been victorious since it beat OJR in 1957.
- The Women's Guild at Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, elected the following officers: Mrs. Stanley Walters, president; Mrs. Creston Shoemaker, vice president; Mrs. Albert Skiles, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Beamesderfer, treasurer.
- Lanston Industries Inc., a manufacturer of printing machinery and other graphic arts equipment, planned to relocate its operation from Philadelphia to a one-story building under construction on land owned by Dan and Charles Tabas, near Woodbine and Boot Roads in East Caln. The firm had 500 employees. Anyone know what happened to them?
- Officers of the Lionville Fire Co. were Jonathan Windle Jr., president; William Isinger, vice president; Richard Ruth, secretary; Morris Griffith, treasurer; Harold Trego, fire chief; John Trego, assistant fire chief; Harvey Happersett, trustee; and George Ruark Jr., membership chairman.

DHS grads have connections with sinking of the *Titanic*

There are several local connections with the sinking of the *Titanic*, which occurred 100 years ago, on April 15, 1912.

In publicity about last week's DHS West production of *Titanic, the Musical*, it was noted that several relatives of Peter Sinkler, a DHS grad who lives in West Bradford, were on the ship's maiden voyage. They were prominent Philadelphians George and Eleanor Widener, and their son, Henry. George and Henry perished, but Eleanor survived.

And Mark Lasoff, DHS Class of 1981, was part of the team that won an Academy Award for the best Visual Effects in the 1997 blockbuster movie *Titanic*.

Besides *Titanic*, Lasoff worked on other Academy Award-winning or nominated films, including *Apollo 13*, *The Hollow Man*, *True Lies* and *Total Recall*. He also received an Emmy Award as animation supervisor on NBC's 1992 Summer Olympics worldwide broadcast opening. Lasoff has managed large projects, serving as supervisor of computer graphics, digital effects and visual effects.

Brief, but important

- Newspaper ads often are a treasure trove of interesting information. For example, the September 18, 1950 edition of *The Archive* included an ad for Everett Hoopes' realty and insurance business at 143 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The ad promoted polio insurance, covering the entire family for two years for \$10.

Back then, people were terrified by the possibility of someone in their family—kids and young adults were the most vulnerable—contracting polio, a highly infectious viral disease that, in its acute forms, causes inflammation of motor neurons of the spinal cord and brainstem, leading to paralysis, muscular atrophy, and often deformity. That fear lasted until the 1960s, when Jonas Salk's injectable vaccine and Albert B. Sabin's oral vaccine were discovered.

- Brian Formica tells us that the wading pool in Kerr Park was known as the Peter Pan Pool. That brings up another long-gone Kerr Park feature. We're talking about the ice skating rink. Not sure what happened to it

- Came across a clipping from the July 19, 1945 edition of the *Daily local News*, which noted that Lt. Richard Robinson, DHS class of 1936, had held members of the Downingtown Rotary Club spellbound as he talked about the 11 months he spent as a prisoner of war in Germany. Robinson, who was in the Army Air Corps, and two of his gunners, parachuted out of their burning plane over the city of Amiens in France.

Robinson landed right in the center of Amiens, and he was immediately captured by German soldiers, who took his watch, money and cigarettes. His burns were treated by American and British doctors who also were POWs.

He said the German guards at his first prison camp, where 10,000 POWs were held, were easily corrupted. They would do almost anything for cigarettes, which were in the packages provided to prisoners by the American Red Cross. Conditions in his second camp, near Moosburg in southern Germany, were “terrible.”

- We’re still looking for photos of the Downingtown Farmers’ Market, which thrived from the 1950s into the 1980s. It was located where Home Depot now is in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Lancaster Avenue in East Caln.

- Carol Grigson, our archivist, tells us that the total number of Family Files cards in our archival database has increased to 7,500. Family Files are cards on which newspaper articles about engagements, retirements, weddings, deaths, etc.—clipped from local newspapers, primarily since 1970—are pasted. The Family Files database is organized by the last name and the first letter of the first name, mixing names, and gender. Cards often contain several articles.

You’re all invited to join the volunteers, who clip and paste the articles our Ashbridge House headquarters on Route 30, East Caln, on Thursday afternoons (women only) and at coed sessions on the first Sunday afternoon of each month. For more details, contact carol.k.grigson@verizon.net.

What & Where Is This?



This is another shot taken by DHS grad Mike Hoover, who’s now studying photography at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia. The first person to correctly identify this

photo and sends their answer to Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org first will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar.

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Coming events & activities in Downingtown area
Downingtown Police taking back unwanted prescription drugs

On Saturday, **April 28, from 10 AM to 2 PM**, the Downingtown Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. The service is free and anonymous; no questions asked. For more information, please contact Val DiLuigi at 6140-269-0344, ext. 200.

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www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

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Prom Photo Exhibit opens this weekend



These are four more of the unidentified people who will be vying for the King and Queen honors at the exhibit of DHS Prom Photos. The free exhibit will be open to the public from 10 AM to 4 PM Saturday, April 28; 2 PM to 4 PM Sunday, April 29; 10 AM to 8 PM Saturday May 5; and 2 PM to 4 PM Sunday, May 6 at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln.

Anne McGee Chiccino, retired DHS math and computer science teacher, took the photos when she helped chaperone proms between 1971 and 1983.

Since their photos will be on exhibit at the Historical Society, that means all of the prom-goers pictured will become part of local history at a comparatively young age.

We're asking exhibit visitors to bring us any printed materials--which have been collecting dust on a shelf in your home for decades and your kids have no interest in--from your days as a pupil in the Downingtown Area School District. All the printed materials you donate will immediately become historical documents when they're added to our archival collection.

We'll still welcome you, and allow you to vote for a King and Queen, if you don't donate a printed piece from your school days.

And Hist-O-Gram readers (that means everyone and not just DHS grads) are asked to send us their prom recollections. The “best” prom memories will be published in coming Hist-O-Grams. Since we’ve all mellowed over the years, the “best” recollections aren’t of the vengeance variety. Instead, we’re looking for humorous tales and What-Was-I-Thinking insights that come with the wisdom of the passing years. We have the right to edit even the most interesting entries for reasons such as length and a limited budget for legal fees.

Please send your entries to: Info@Downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Historical Society to host Post Prom Party auction

The lawn of Ashbridge House, headquarters of the Historical Society, will be the scene of a fund raising auction from 5 PM to 9 PM Saturday, May 5.

Proceeds from the auction will be used to pay for the ninth annual Post Prom Party (P3) for teenagers who attend Downingtown West High School’s senior prom on Friday, June 1 at the Drexelbrook ballroom in Drexel Hill.

The P3 party will be held at DHS West, in an effort to prevent students from being injured or killed in an accident after the prom.

The auction is sponsored by P3, a non-profit organization comprised of parents and members of the local business community. Sponsors include Downingtown Country Club, TD Bank, Plato’s Closet, Kinetic Therapy, PJ Whelihan’s and Jeff DiAmbrosio.

Silent auction bidding will close at 7:30 PM, and a live auction, handled by Col. Rodger Paisley, starts at 8 PM.

Items to be auctioned off include: a one-week stay in a beach-front condo in Ocean City, MD, a \$1,500 value; two full-year Gold Golf Memberships (valued at \$3,100 each) at the Downingtown Country Club; a leather Harley jacket (\$500 value); two balloon rides (each a \$250 value); sailing lessons; and artwork by several artists including Richard Bollinger and Cheryl Sander-Decker.

The evening will include live music by the Philadelphia String Quartet, and free food and non-alcoholic drinks will be served.

The theme for this year’s P3 will be “A Night at the Movies. Singer/Songwriter Liz Longley, a graduate of DHS West as well as the renowned Berklee College of Music, will be the featured live entertainer. She has won top prizes at some of the most prestigious songwriting competitions in the country.

More info about the P3 is available at <http://www.dwestpostprom.com>

Local news items reported in *The Archive* in April 1950

The Downingtown School Board named Don White to the newly created position of Athletic Director, and Howard Caskey was appointed DHS head football coach. Former jayvee coach Ray DiSerafino was made an assistant on the football coaching staff.

The Bell Telephone Co. announced plans to install dial service to customers in Eagle and Glen Moore.

New officers of the Downingtown Rotary Club were Ernie Smedley, president; Sam Evans, vice president; Stewart Pollock, treasurer; and Clarence Dorsey, secretary.

Shirley Garvine, clarinet; Diane Hoffman; and Doris Hoffman, piano, provided musical entertainment for members of the Upper Uwchlan Home and School League.

Officers of the West Pikeland Parent-Teacher Assn. were Mrs. Kenneth Hall, president; Edmund Burbank, vice president; Mrs. Charles Platt, secretary; and James Stull, treasurer.

Members of the Marshallton Auxiliary of the Chester County Hospital who worked at the point-to-point races were Mrs. Clarence Moore, Mrs. Harry Cann, Mrs. George Hubbard, Mrs. Edgar Woodward, Mrs. Harry Wickersham, Mrs. John Trimble, Mrs. Fred Hoopes, Mrs. Milton Durnall, Mrs. George Fling, Mrs. Gertrude Johnson, Mrs. Henry Moore and Mrs. D. Ciaffoni.

Managers and their assistants of the four teams in the Downingtown Little League were Chad Campbell and Don Greenleaf, Chic Peoples and Phil Burns, John Donofrio and Francis Tweed, and Bus Philips and Dave Pardee.

Leaders of the Downingtown Cancer Fund drive were Ralph Emery, chairman, Charles Emery, vice chairman; Jean Pollock, treasurer; and William Mahood, secretary.

Christy Christ and Adeline Capriotti were selected as king and queen of the DHS junior prom.

New officers of the Glen Moore Improvement Society were Jack Kelly, president; Mrs. Walter, Russell, vice president; Mrs. Lloyd Johnson, secretary; H.F. Baumer, treasurer.

Mrs. Elmer Matthews was elected president of the Senior Woman's Club of Uwchlan. Other officers were Mrs. Clarence Gailbreath, vice president; Mrs. Carl Thomas, second vice president; Mrs. Gilbert Smedley, recording secretary; Mrs. Ernest Cornwall, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Earl Leslie, treasurer.

The Downingtown Lions Club's men's octet, directed by Stanley Walters, who presented a signing program on WCOJ were Nelson Dennis, Dr. William Reed, Dr. Anthony Ricci, Mylin Plank, Frank Bicking, Nelson Norris, James Fennelly and Wilson Pollock.

New officers of the Sunday School at Glen Moore United Methodist Church were Mrs. Freda Johnson, superintendent; Mrs. Jane Houck and Mrs. Romaine Garrett, assistant superintendents; Mrs. June Ayers, recording secretary; and Mrs. Frances Mason, treasurer.

Brief, but important

When the Peter Pan wading pool in Kerr Park was discussed in a recent Hist-O-Gram, the conversation has since drifted toward the skating pond, built in the early 1960's in Kerr Park. Retired Borough Manager **Don Greenleaf** says it "just faded away. The black top did not hold up under the frost and thaw of several years; so it was removed. Fun while it lasted."

And **Dick Ash**, retired FBI agent now living in Illinois, wonders when and where the first traffic light or stop sign was installed in Downingtown. Whichever was deployed first, Greenleaf suspects it was located at Center Square (intersection of Lancaster and Brandywine Avenues) in the borough. However, he adds, it must have been after 1921, because that's the year Lancaster Avenue in the borough was paved for the first time. If you know more about this issue, send it to: Info@Downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

Josh Bruton, chairman of the Downingtown's Good Neighbor Day celebration, recently donated all the records of the GND committee, going back to the late 1970s, to

the Historical Society. We bet that many of you have at least one t-shirt in a dresser drawer from when you ran in the Run For Life race on a beautiful Fourth of July morning. We'd love to have one from each year. Before you donate yours, it's OK to run it through the washing machine if you never found time to get that done after running in the road race 20 or 30 years ago.

Velma Warren found a copy of a 1914 newspaper or magazine ad being sold on Ebay. The ad promoted the sale of sausage, ham, lard, scrapple and apple butter, being marketed by Big Oak Farm in the Downingtown area. Anyone know anything about Big Oak Farm, where it was, or what's on that property today? Send your answers to: Info@Downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

What & Where Is This?



Jack Law III, Downingtown's Public Works Director, was the first person to correctly identify this photo of the "trading window," built on the north side of the Log House in the borough.

The Log House was built on a stone foundation by John Hickman ca. 1705, along a wagon trail later known as the Conestoga Road. The house served as a trading post in the early 18th Century, but the small window may not have been used solely as a pass-through for trading items, such as flour, cornmeal, salt, vegetables in season, gunpowder and tools, according to Harlan B. Morrison's *The Log House and The Way It Was*.*

It's also likely that Hickman used the window to keep on eye on his crops and if an unsuspecting deer, turkey or rabbit wandered into the area, the small window became a gunport, claimed Morrison.

Constructed with 62 saddle-notched logs which had to be sawed to the proper length, The house had three rooms on the first and second floors

In 1713, Hickman sold the house and the accompanying 375 acres of wilderness to Thomas Moore, who operated a tavern there for several years. In 1716, Moore built a bridge over the Brandywine and a corn grist mill on the site of where McDonald's is today, and in 1729, he moved to a new stone house, at 341 E. Lancaster Avenue, which is still standing today.

Thomas Downing, whom the borough was named after, acquired the land on which the Log House stood in 1739. While occupied by a series of tenants for much of the next 201 years, the house was owned by the Downing family, until it was bequeathed to the borough in 1940.

Following restoration by the borough, the house was leased by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce from 1950 to 1988, when it was restored again and moved some 70 feet from its original location and about 30 feet back from Lancaster Avenue to a safer location in Kerr Park.

*The book's complete title is *The Log House and The Way It Was: The Story of the Downingtown Log House*. It was published by the Historical Society in 1996.

Coming events & activities in Downingtown area

Downingtown Police taking back unwanted prescription drugs

On Saturday, **April 28, from 10 AM to 2 PM**, the Downingtown Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to Downingtown Borough Hall Annex at 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. The service is free and anonymous; no questions asked. For more information, please contact Val DiLuigi at 6140-269-0344, ext. 200.

Join Rewards Program at Cropper's

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

Opportunities still available at DARC

New York City on Your Own Bus Trip: Saturday, May 19, or Thursday, July 19. Must pre-register. Depart: 7:30 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown). Return: Approx. 6 PM. Cost: \$45 per person (coach bus transportation). No scheduled stops on the way up or back.

St. Michael's, Maryland Bus Trip: Saturday, May 5. Depart: 8 AM from the parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8 PM. Cost: \$74 per person (includes coach bus transportation, dinner, & gratuities) We will meet at 4:45PM for an early dinner at the famous Crab Claw Restaurant. Please note your choice for dinner on your registration form (crab cakes, crab imperial or fried chicken). We will depart for home promptly after dinner.

Jersey Boys on Broadway Bus Trip: Wednesday, May 16. Depart: 7:30 AM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30 PM. Show Location: August Wilson Theater in New York. Cost: \$155 per person (includes coach bus transportation & show tickets). Show tickets will be orchestra or front mezzanine. We'll arrive in New York around 10 AM. Enjoy the city, see the sights or go shopping until the matinee show at 2:00PM. After the show you will have time for a quick dinner before we depart for home at 6:15PM. No stops on the way home.

Wicked on Broadway Bus Trip. Wednesday, May 16. Depart: 7:30 AM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 8:30PM. Show Location: Gershwin Theater in New York. Cost: \$155 per person (includes coach bus transportation & tickets to show). Show tickets will be orchestra level. Depart New York City at 6:15PM. No stops on the way home.

Fireworks with the Phillies Bus Trip. Monday, June 25. Depart: 4:45 PM from parking lot behind Ashbridge Manor (971 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown). Return: Approx. 1 AM. Location: Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia. Cost: \$58 per person (includes bus transportation & ticket to game). Game tickets will be in Section 310 on the first base side. Seats are in section 310 on the first base side. Bus will be air conditioned.

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

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

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

Banquet Room For Rent

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.

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

Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, send an email to: Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org.