



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 8, No. 1

January 5, 2017

## What & Where Is This?



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

# What was happening here 68 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of May 1949:

- The **Downingtown School Board** agreed to temporarily move the seventh grade class from the over-crowded DHS Junior-Senior High School on Manor Avenue to the West Ward School on West Lancaster Avenue.
- Margaret Doto and Joseph Sciarretta were crowned queen and king of the **DHS junior prom** by last year's king and queen, John Mingione and Helen Doran. The prom committees were headed by Louise Bartelmo, music; Joseph Forte, decorations; John Shisler, refreshments; and Clara Mancini, crowning.
- Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Woman's Club** were Mrs. Leo Hamilton, president; Mrs. Wesley Worrall, first vice president; Mrs. Austin Moore, second vice president; Mrs. William Bender, recording secretary; Mrs. Walter Snyder, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Herman Faucett, treasurer; Mrs. John Fisher, Mrs. Edgar Hutchison, Mrs. Nelson Dennis, Mrs. George Foreman, and Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, directors.
- Large "**safety signs**" were erected on Route 30, at the eastern and western borders of the borough. The signs included logos of these local organizations, each of which contributed \$50 to pay for the signs: Downingtown Young Men's Association, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Lions Club, VFW and American Legion.
- William Bixler, chairman of the **Soap Box Derby**, sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club, announced the following committee chairmen for the race, to take place on the Chestnut Street hill on Saturday, June 25: Leebert Chambers, inspections; Horace Miller, solicitation and prizes; W.I. Pollock, parade; William Rowland, operations; James Fennelly and Duer Smedley, concessions; and Ralph Kinzey, publicity.
- Officers elected to lead the Women's Christian Service group at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were Mrs. Edwin Keenan, president; Mrs. Earl Spellman, vice president; Mrs. Harry Wickersham, treasurer; Mrs. D. Ciaffoni, secretary; Mrs. Harry Cann, Christian social relations; Mrs. Clarence Moore, membership; Mrs. John Trimble, fellowship; Mrs. Edwin Nichols, missionary and children's work; Mrs. F.E. Henry, spiritual life; and Mrs. Merrill Cann, literature and publications.
- The **DHS Music Association** elected these officers: Mrs. James Stauffer, president; Mrs. Joseph Streamer, vice president; Mrs. Leo Hogg, secretary; Mrs. Henry Kriebel, treasurer; and directors Mrs. Benjamin Summers, Mrs. Orville Brammer and Mrs. Frank Lenhardt.
- Fifth and sixth graders at **West Ward School**, who performed in the "Streamlined Cinderella" operetta, included Richard Short, Gail Lammey, Ronald Jefferis, Thomas McKeever, Edward Caudill, Susie Guest, Joan Hughes, Joy Ann Stevens, Patty Hilton, Harry Flinn, Joseph Mascherino, Wayne Lapp and John Bousum.
- Among the 67 members of the DHS band, musicians featured in the **annual spring concert**, were: Janet Kriebel, played a marimba solo accompanied by pianist Barbara Seibert; flute soloist Annabelle Warnick, accompanied by Margaret Sciarretta; and saxophonist Christy Christ, accompanied by Robert Lillard.
- Installed as officers of the **Odd Fellows lodge** in Lionville were John Benner, noble grand; John Miller, vice grand; Richard Locke, warden; Samuel Supplee, conductor; Kenneth Kirkner, chaplain; Horace Reyburn and Schuyler Rennard, scene supporters; Horace Wilson and Leon Gordon, guardians.

## It's a fish pond in Downingtown's Kerr Park



Phil Barlow is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above. It's one of the fish ponds created by the Brandywine Trout Club, which was established in 1955 by a dedicated group of local sportsmen. Initially, the private club raised trout for stocking in the three ponds in Downingtown's Kerr Park. After incorporating in 1980, the club took on conservation as part of its role of maintaining and improving 10 miles of the East Branch of the Brandywine's water quality, from Glenmoore to Downingtown, and changed its name to the Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club. The club also acquired three miles of nearby Beaver Creek, from the Lloyd Avenue bridge to where it meets the East Branch in Kerr Park. In 1999, the club played a vital role in acquiring a "Delayed Harvest/Artificial Lures" status for a 1.2-mile length of the creek, spanning from the Dorlan's Mill bridge to the bridge at Dowlin's Forge. That stretch of water is stocked by the state and none of the club's fish are stocked in these waters. The club has been part of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Angler's Coalition since 2007. And the organization sponsors a fishing rodeo for kids in the borough's First Lake every spring.

## How to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

## Vintage homecoming program offers DHS football history

Mary Anne Brookover Geary recently donated a copy of the football program for the first DHS homecoming game, on October 12, 1963, to the Historical Society. Among the interesting segments in the program are several vignettes about the high school football team's history:

- The first record of a DHS football game was found in the November 13, 1899 edition of the *Daily Local News*, which noted that Downingtown had hosted a game with the Athenians from West Chester. Although Downingtown scored first, "the final outcome of the game cannot be determined since the game was called on account of darkness. When the Athenians left the field, they took the ball with them, but it was recovered before the West Chester team left."
- The next record of DHS gridiron history was reported in the October 1, 1901 edition of the *Daily Local News*, which included the observation that among Downingtown residents, "a number of enthusiasts suggest putting a team on the field. We have a suitable athletic field, and the team would receive support." Several days later, DHS advertised for opponents who weighed an average of 125 pounds. The article included the names of the DHS roster: Walter Fox, left end; Sam Phelps, left tackle; Percy Guie, left guard; Wilmer Johnson, center; Howard Smedley, right guard; Norman Chrisman, right tackle; Eddie Dixon, right end; H. McClure, left halfback; Clarence Bicking, right halfback; Clyde Guthrie, fullback. There was no name listed for the quarterback. Two other players listed—Charles Fox and Ira Moore—apparently were substitutes.

### Group Photo of the Week



The first DHS Homecoming program included this photo of the high school football team in 1923. The players were, left to right: front row, Thomas Runk, Rocco Donato, William Dague, Coach Harvey Fishburn, Maurice Bird, George Irwin, Aaron McGowan; second row, Calvin Ax, Charles Deets, Lewis Laird, Carl Smith, Floyd Crisman, George Jefferis; third row, Tony Wando, William Mahood, Leon Brown, Albert Schrumpf, Wendel Asburg, Edward Dixon, Emerson Weimer; back row, Allen Harris, Paul Tweed, Elmer Drake, George Foreman, Charles Ax; pillars on the sides of the steps, Percy Miller and Elmer Wilburn. The team only played three games that season, beating West Chester, 6-0, and Berwyn, 44-0. But it lost to Coatesville, 13-0.

## Missed any Hist-O-Gram published in December?

You can access any Hist-O-Gram published last month, if you missed any of them, by clicking on the URL addresses noted below:

December 1: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%201%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%201%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

December 8: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%208%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%208%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

December 15: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%2015%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%2015%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

December 22: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%2022%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%2022%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

December 29: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%2029%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2016%20Hist-O-Grams/December%2029%202016%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

## Vintage Ad of the Week

**GRAND  
OPENING WEEK  
NOVEMBER 4 to 8**

**Anita's Beauty Salon**  
213 Chestnut Ave

**Downingtowntown**  
ANITA DOTO  
Proprietress

**Phone 269-1518**  
JODI HAMILTON  
Operator

**Salon Hours:**  
Tues., Wed., Sat.  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Thursday & Friday  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Come In and  
Register for  
FREE WIG  
Your Choice of Color  
and Styling  
Drawing Nov. 8**

*Oct. 29, 1969*

This ad was originally published in the *Downingtowntown Archive* on October 29, 1969.

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

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

## **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

### ***Madame Curie***

Ann Atkins, author, historian, educator, will present Part 2 of her program on Madame Curie when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 17 at West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. Everyone is welcome and the meetings free to all.

### **A Midwinter's Night: A dram good time!**

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its eighth annual Whisky Tasting and dinner at the Marshalton Inn on February 4th. Taste six single malt whisky's, receive your own tasting glass, plus a filet mignon dinner, tasting plate to match the whisky flavors, chocolate desert, silent auction, enter to bagpipe music. \$100 per person. Call 610.696.7442 or email [thorndalerotary@gmail.com](mailto:thorndalerotary@gmail.com). Sponsorships available. Showcase your business by calling the above number.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Vol. 8, No. 2

January 12, 2017

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# What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are items published in local newspapers in the early part of January 1981:

- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of the Downingtown Area School District, reported that the district had **spent \$2,297 per pupil** in the 1980-81 school year. That meant Downingtown ranked ninth among the 12 districts in Chester County. The expenditures per pupil in the county's 12 districts ranged from \$3,472 to \$2,030. And Downingtown ranked 11<sup>th</sup> among the 12 school districts' real estate rates for the 1981-82 school year.

- History was made in Downingtown, when **two women**—Jennie Freas and Mary Burns—were elected to Borough Council. DHS teacher Marian Phillips had been a member of Borough Council in the late 1950s, but she had been appointed to the post to fill an unexpired term. Also sworn in was Mayor George Quinn, who succeeded John Fiore.

- The Tabas Hotel on Route 30 in East Caln was permitted to install large pictures of **Mickey Rooney** on the exterior walls at both ends of the hotel.

- **Community Service Providers**, a private, non-profit firm which trained Chester County residents who had a history of chronic mental illness, was established in the Pickering Creek Industrial Park in Lionville.

- A new church—**Thorndale Baptist Chapel**—began to have services in a building at Shannon Memorial Airport on Thorndale-Marshallton Road in West Bradford Township. Rev. John McJilton was the pastor.

- Members of the committee studying the possible construction of an addition at **Lionville Community Church** included Harry Boyanoski, Bob Thorne, Ed Butts, Craig Lenius, Ann Chan, Bob Clark and Jim Erwin.

- The **DHS girls' basketball squad** won the Knights of Columbus Holiday Tournament, after defeating Sharon Hill in overtime and clobbering Conestoga in the final. Beth Beebe was named the tournament MVP, and Dori Barton and Connie Kramer made the all-tourney team.

- The **DHS boys' basketball team** reached the finals of the Knights of Columbus Holiday Tournament by beating Chichester 81-65 and Upper Darby 68-50. But the Whippets succumbed to Philadelphia's Edison High School in the championship game. Mick Melvin, Mark Redfern and Rob Grim scored in double figures in the first two contests. And Redfern and Grim were named to the all-tournament team.

- The **DHS wrestlers** captured the Paoli-Malvern-Berwyn and the Chester County Invitational tournament crowns. Glenn Koser (138 pounds) won his third PMB title, and Duncan McIntyre (112) and Chris Goerlitz (heavyweight) also were successful in their final matches. Seven Whippet wrestlers won championships in the CCI tourney.

- The **DHS boys' swimming team** won its first match in history by beating Lower Merion 99-73. Rick Devine spearheaded the Whippets' effort with two firsts. However, the girls' team lost to the Aces by a 95-77 margin.

- Elected as officers of local fire companies were:

**West Bradford Fire Co.**—Ken Buckwalter, president; Joe Skinner, vice president; Bob Adams, treasurer; and Jack Hines, secretary.

**Lionville Fire Co.**—Ed Milham, president; Doug Ruth, vice president; David Ruth, membership secretary; Al Rabeneau, recording secretary; Harold Trego, financial secretary; Ray Rennard, trustee; and Richard Ruth, chief.

**Alert Fire Co.**—Bill Keen, president; Robert Stevens, vice president; Dick Myers, treasurer; Bill Wilmot, recording secretary; Bill Barrett, financial secretary; Jerry Keen, Bruce Nixdorf and Dave Caputo, trustees.

**Minquas Fire Co.**—John Beam, president; Angie Caputo, vice president; Georgene Doughts, recording secretary; Jim McGowan, treasurer; Dave DiLuigi, financial secretary; and Vince Panetti and James Johnson, trustees.

- First place winners in the **Downingtown Area Girl Scout Service Unit's** Christmas cookie container decorating competition included Christina Nathan, Felicia Cozzone, Supana Chaudhary, Cheryl Mendenhall, Vicki Patton, Maria Troemel, Allison Mathern, Kristyna Kiwak, Laurie Phillips, Nicole Curtin, Sandie Donovan, Michelle Hartzell and Kristen Whiteman.

## **These steps lead from East Lancaster Ave. into Kerr Park**



Heidi Smith is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many people who recognized the stairway in the photo above as an entrance from East Lancaster Avenue into the borough's Kerr Park. The three-year-old boy at the top of the steps is Larry Meredith, who provided the picture. The entrance and stairway, designed by Downingtown architect Gilbert McIlvaine, was a federally-funded WPA project, which was built in the 1930s, during the Great Depression.

## **Part II of “Slices of Downingtown History” series to be presented at library**

The second part of “Slices of Downingtown,” a series on local history, will be presented by the Downingtown Area Historical Society, in conjunction with the Downingtown Library, at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 26 at the library.

The first “Slices” program, presented in October, focused on the early settlement of Downingtown in the 1700s, with an emphasis on the village’s early mills.

This new “Slices” program will move into the 1800s and will focus on the inns and early transportation and their impact on the village, including the turnpikes and the building of the first railroad.

To register for a seat for the January 26 session, please call the library at 610-269-2741 or register online via the library’s website at:

<http://ereserve.ccls.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp?ag=&et=Adults%2C+Library+closings&n=0&private=0&ln=7>.

## **Group Photo of the Week**



These are the first graders at East Ward School during the 1955-56 school year. Members of the class were, left to right: front row, Gail Dunfee, David Shirk, Mike Miller, unknown, Mike Smith, Billy Brown; second row, Betty Lou Daller, Linda Wilson, Carole Miller, Glenn Johnson, Mary Biddle, unknown; third row, John Bostelle, Lynn Tucker, Charles Johnson, Mary Spickler, Deanne Harper, Dick Geiger; fourth row, Mary Anne Brookover, Jimmy Prouse, Carol Ruetter, Sheila Massimini, Mrs. Grace Pickell, teacher. Photo and names were provided by Mary Anne Brookover Geary.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**AACO**  
INC.  
10th

# Anniversary

## SALE

OPEN 'TIL 9 P.M.

### Front-loading FRIGIDAIRE Dishmobile



Model DW-6001  
4 colors or White

- Maple Chopping Block Top
- Your dishes come out much cleaner, more sanitary than dishwashing by hand.
- Big capacity usually means once-a-day dishwashing.
- Swirling Water Action scrubs every surface.

SALE \$199

Can Opener ...	\$8.81
Hair Dryer .....	\$9.81
Portable Mixer	\$8.15
Radio— 6-Transistor ...	\$6.21

Continuing Our  
Greatest Values Ever  
Our Famous —  
Much Wanted  
**FRIGIDAIRE**  
**APPLIANCES**

### Thrifتيest FRIGIDAIRE 2-Door Refrigerator!



Model RFD-630-2  
13.34 cu. ft.

- Porcelain Enamel exterior finish.
- 100-lb. zero zone top freezer.
- Automatic defrosting refrigerator section.
- Twin vegetable Hydro-lens hold nearly 3/4 bushel.

SALE \$249

### Lowest Priced Flair by FRIGIDAIRE!



RDF-630, 30", electric  
Aston Copper or White

- Dramatically beautiful—looks built-in but slides into place as easily as conventional range.
- Glass oven door glides up to open out of your way.
- Roll-Te-You cooking surface glides out.

SALE \$299

base incl.

Steam and Dry Iron .....	\$7.21
Steam Spray & Dry Iron ...	\$9.88
Toaster— 4-Slice .....	\$11.88

Instant  
Credit Terms  
Arranged  
To Suit  
Your Budget

# AACO INC.

Plumbing  
Heating  
Electrical  
Contracting

PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

NEXT TO A & P

DOWNINGTOWN

This ad was originally published in the November 18, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

## News of local crime case was reported across U.S. in 1857

News accounts about a mid-19th Century crime, which occurred in the Chester Springs and Lionville areas, gained widespread attention. Even the August 7, 1897 edition of the New York Herald, as well as many other newspapers across the U.S., carried articles about the “bloody tragedy.” The story was originally published in West Chester’s *Village Record*.

The “bloody encounter” began when West Chester constable William Lynch and C.M. Layman, another Chester County law enforcement officer, attempted to serve an arrest warrant on William Baugh, who lived on a property “on the road leading from Lionville to Yellow Springs.” The warrant charged Baugh with “inflicting wounds upon a colored man with a pitchfork.”

About 50 years old, Baugh was a cooper by trade. “And “when excited, his passions were violent and uncontrollable,” the article in the New York newspaper claimed.

Baugh was chopping wood with an ax, when Lynch and Layman arrived at his property in a horse-drawn wagon. When the officers informed Baugh of the reason for their visit, he struck Layman with the ax, inflicting a wound “of the most ghastly and deadly character” on Layman’s neck, which almost severed his jugular vein” And when Baugh began to swing the ax again, Layman jumped back, drew his revolver and fired a shot that grazed the assailant’s right arm and chin.

Baugh then grabbed Layman and the two men struggled for several minutes. Despite his severe wound, Layman was able to hold Baugh down while Lynch handcuffed him, and the two officers dragged him onto the wagon. Layman rapidly drove the wagon toward Lionville, as Lynch guarded the prisoner. However, Layman had to pull over to the side of the road before they reached Lionville, because he was so weak, due to the loss of so much blood.

That’s when Baugh attacked the two officers again and attempted to retrieve his gun from Lynch. A shot, fired during the brawl, resulted in Baugh suffering a severe wound in his temple.

Subsequently, the officers continued their dash toward Lionville, and the mortally wounded Baugh was taken to a hotel in the village. He died within an hour.

Although we haven’t found any press coverage regarding a follow-up investigation of the case, the August 8, 1857 edition of the *Easton (MD) Gazette* reported: “The general sentiments of the community, lawyers and laymen, appeared to be that the killing was clearly a case of justifiable homicide.”

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January 19, 2017

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# What was happening here 68 years ago

Noted below are items retrieved from local newspapers published in the early part of December 1949:

- Plans for **Downingtown's Christmas celebration** included a party for elementary school pupils in the Junior-Senior High School auditorium, sponsored by the Lions Club; and the arrival of Santa Claus (Warren Mercer wearing a recently purchased outfit) at a party at Kerr Park, where some 1,300 gifts were distributed to borough kids. And baskets of food, clothing and other gifts were given to 40 needy families.

- Officers elected to lead **St. Anthony's Lodge**, Downingtown, included: Benny Valocchi, president; Charles DiSante, vice president; Anthony DiBerardinis, treasurer; Anthony DiLuigi, Italian secretary; Frank Sack, English secretary; Anthony Viscichini, financial secretary; John Francella, auditor; Joseph Mento, assistant auditor; Armando Taraschi, censor. Councilors elected were Nello Caporale, Orlando Marino, Anthony Cozzone, Oscar DiBerardinis, Vincent DiLuigi, Edward Perley, Enio DiBerardinis, Louis D'Addezio, George Ciarlone, John Mascherino, Orlando Talucci and Lewis Capriotti.

- George Nixdorf, president, and Leland Wilson, vice president, were elected as officers of the **Downingtown School Board**. One of the issues discussed at the monthly board meeting was the limited seating at the DHS boys' basketball team's home games in the gym of the Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM Academy). Since the home games against league opponents were attracting an increasing number of DHS supporters, a decision was made to restrict the number of tickets sold to the number of seats in the gym.

- Nearly 200 boys came to **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, to hear a talk by Chicago White Socks pitcher Randy Gumpert. Also at Messiah, the following officers were elected to the Church Council: Frank Knauer, president; James Steganius, secretary; and Walter Shaw, treasurer. And the Council saw plans for the construction of a larger Sunday School facility.

- In addition to a Christmas party, the annual meeting of the Friendship Circle of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, included the election of these officers: Mrs. George Aumiller, president; Mrs. Robert Hadfield, vice president; Mrs. Corbin Mendenhall, secretary; Mrs. Robert Simmons, treasurer; Mrs. Warren Mitchell, auditor.

- The **Downingtown Young Men's Association** announced that the Community Basketball League would include teams sponsored by: the American Legion and VFW Posts, St. Anthony's Lodge, Downingtown Paper Co., and Downingtown Manufacturing Co., plus the East End Gunners.

- End Dan Hayes and fullback John Talierco were named the **outstanding lineman and back**, respectively, at the DHS football banquet. Also, DHS running back Jack Helm, was named Chester County's most outstanding football player by the Valley Forge chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

- The **Downingtown Lions Club** started raising money by placing gumball machines at local business establishments and clubs.

- Elected as officers of the Circuit Riders group at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, East Brandywine, were William Bixler, president; Alan McCausland, vice president; Mrs. Clifford Irons, secretary; and Allen Popjoy, treasurer.

- The Sunday School at **Marshallton Methodist Church** elected these officers: John Morris, superintendent; Earl Spellman, assistant superintendent; Mrs. David Johnson, second

assistant superintendent; Charles Busby, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Gordon Simmons, recording secretary; Evelyn Fling, treasurer; Mrs. George McAllister, temperance superintendent; Mrs. Austin Robinson, missionary chairman; Mrs. Maggie Mercer, home department; Mrs. Harold Robinson, music department; and Mrs. E.F. Henry, cradle roll.

- All the officers of the Mite Society at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were re-elected. They were Mrs. Frank Smedley, president; Mrs. Joseph Harvey, vice president; Mrs. Martha McAllister, financial secretary; Edna John, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Walter White, treasurer.

## It's the pool at Marsh Creek State Park



Tom Haas is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the location of the swimming pool in the photo above as Marsh Creek State Park, 675 Park Road in Upper Uwchlan. For more info about the pool, see: [www.marshcreekpool.com/](http://www.marshcreekpool.com/).

## How to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on: [http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

## Group Photo of the Week



Featured speakers at the “Growing Up Italian-American in Downingtown” program, presented at St. Anthony’s Lodge on May 1, 2008, were: left to right, Jim Mascherino, Rose Castaldi and Ben Valocchi. The program was sponsored by the Downingtown Area Historical Society.

## Have you registered for Part II of “Slices of Downingtown History” series?

The second part of “Slices of Downingtown,” a series on local history, will be presented by the Downingtown Area Historical Society, in conjunction with the Downingtown Library, at 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 26 at the library.

The first “Slices” program, presented in October, focused on the early settlement of Downingtown in the 1700s, with an emphasis on the village’s early mills.

This new “Slices” program will move into the 1800s and will focus on the inns and early transportation and their impact on the village, including the turnpikes and the building of the first railroad.

Since seating for the January 26 program is limited. You can reserve a seat for the session, by registering online via the library’s website at:

<http://ereserve.ccls.org/evanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp?ag=&et=Adults%2C+Library+closings&n=0&private=0&ln=7>, by calling the Downingtown Library at 610-269-2741.

Vintage Ad of the Week



**All the World Loves**  
**ICE CREAM**

**And no wonder!**

**It is delicious, delightful, delectable, satisfying, cooling, healthful and tempting.**

**The Ice Cream we serve is of the very best—made of the purest ingredients—pleases your palate in every respect.**

**Sold in bulk or brick and served at our fountain.**

**You'll smack your lips when you try some!**

**Also soft drinks, sundaes, and confections.**

**Saturdays & Sundays Only, during the summer**  
**Brick Ice Cream—40c qt. 25c pt.**

**Sweetland Confectionery**

**121 E. Lancaster Ave.**

**Downingtown**

This ad was originally published in the June 13, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## Additional interesting news clips

- The December 2, 1899 edition of the *Daily Local News* reported that the three-story girls' wing of the Soldiers' Orphans School at Chester Springs was nearly destroyed in a fire. Some portions of the lower floor and a few furnishings in the dining hall were saved by local farmers who raced to the scene. The farmers also took in many of the girls.
- Noted in the March 15, 1919 edition of the *Cleveland (OH) Gazette*: "The smallest penknife in the world is the handiwork of Dr. John Temple of Marshallton, PA." Also, according to the June 11, 1926 issue of the *Seattle (WA) Daily Times*: "Howard S. Kinsey of Downingtown, PA, claims to be the world's champion speller, and has offered to meet all competitors in that line." And the *Boy Scouts of America's 1927 annual report*, noted that members of Troop 1 in Downingtown, "attend to street-crossing traffic before and after school, as well as flag raising and lowering at schools daily,"

## Free Ads for Non-Profit

### ***History of Blacks and Lukens Steel Co.***

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Ave., Coatesville, will present a program about "Coatesville Steel: The Black Experience" at 6 PM on Thursday, February 2. Cost: \$5 per person.

### ***Student Art at Library***

DHS East art students are displaying their work at the Downingtown Library, 122 Wallace Avenue.

### ***A Midwinter's Night: A dram good time!***

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its eighth annual Whisky Tasting and dinner at the Marshallton Inn on February 4th. Taste six single malt whisky's, receive your own tasting glass, plus a filet mignon dinner, tasting plate to match the whisky flavors, chocolate desert, silent auction, enter to bagpipe music. \$100 per person. Call 610.696.7442 or email [thorndalerotary@gmail.com](mailto:thorndalerotary@gmail.com). Sponsorships available. Showcase your business by calling the above number.

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

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

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

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 8, No. 4

January 26, 2017

## What & Where Is This?



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

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# What was happening here in January 1981

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

- The possibility of Downingtown dissolving its **borough health department** and the county health department taking over its functions in order to save \$18,000 a year, drew protests from Dr. Norman MacKenzie, who had headed the Downingtown Health Board for many years. MacKenzie claimed the borough department “does not cost the borough one red cent,” because inspection fees covered the cost of the department’s operations.
- In an effort to combat a **water shortage in East Caln**, the township ordered 2,000 flow restrictors that fit into residents’ shower heads and faucets. The devices would reduce water flow by 60 percent, said township manager Ed Hill. Also, appointed to the township’s boards and commissions were: Karl Heideck, planning commission; John Dougherty, zoning hearing board; and Paul Brown, municipal authority.
- While executives of Reynolds Corp. worked on the plans for the purchase of the **Milprint plant** in the borough, employees of the Downingtown printing firm were sweating out the possibility of a layoff.
- Nominees for the council of **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were: Eugene Gerard, David Heydt, William Isinger, Holly Lopacki, Edgar Miller, Ethel Otter and Walter Riedi.
- Reappointed to boards and commissions in **Uwchlan Township** were: Arthur Rothe, municipal authority; Lacy Lackey, zoning hearing board; Robert Devaney, vacancy board; Edward Pyle, Frances Matthews, Shirley Dunwoody, Idamae Lackey and Ellen Bernard, historical commission; and Robert Costello, park and recreation commission. Also, the township sold an 8.7-acre tract at Whitford Road and Devon Drive to the Exton-Lionville YMCA for \$87,000. The township had purchased the land as a possible site for a municipal building. And for the first time in four years, the township did not issue one building permit in a 30-day period.
- **Upper Uwchlan** supervisors made the following reappointments: Anthony DiFernando, planning commissions; Tom Roach, zoning hearing board; Robert Trego, park commission; and Melvin Cohen, sewer commission.
- Dr. George Irwin was re-elected chairman of **West Pikeland’s** supervisors, and Albert Brady was elected vice chairman. Meta Miller was reappointed secretary-treasurer, and Harry Miller continued as the township’s roadmaster, William Cracas continued as subdivision officer, and Benjamin Saggese as zoning officer.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 251 Ridgewood Drive, West Bradford, \$48,000; 208 Meadow Drive, Caln, \$57,200; and 400 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$94,380.
- Members of the recently formed **Cub Pack 115**, which met at the New East Ward School in Downingtown, included: John Borst, Eric Clarke, Kyung Nam Kim, Mark Malone, Todd and Steve Shirk, Dan Abbott and Tom Linkins.
- DHS students who were selected for the **Southeastern Regional Chorus** included: Suzanne Grant, Kathy Parvensky, Jennifer Abrams, Karen Lammey, Brian Stahl, Tom Wallace, Tom Newlin and Brian Robison.
- **Hopewell United Methodist Church’s** board of trustees included: Robert Carmichael, Harry Christensen, Arnold Kring, Harry Bryant, George Dowlin, Arnold Sten, Parke Rissell, Peter Smith and Harold Thompson.

- The **DHS wrestling team** won its second holiday tournament when it topped a 10-team field to take the Chester County Invitational at West Chester University. Glenn Koser was named the tourney's Outstanding Wrestler, after he pinned all three of his opponents. Sophomore sensation John Lucerne also captured a division title by registering a pin and two decisions.
- Bishop Shanahan upset the **DHS boys' basketball squad** 40-39 in a triple overtime game of the Knights of Columbus Christmas Tournament at West Chester University. Mark Redfern, who made the all-tournament team, led the Whippet scorers with 18 points.
- Making only four of 12 foul shots was one reason why the **DHS girls' basketball team** lost to Bishop Shanahan 45-42 in the Knights of Columbus Christmas Tournament. Dori Barton and Connie Kramer each tallied 10 points for the Whippets.
- Sean Marks, Jim Poluch, Tim Frank, Larry Smith and Bill Castle each scored pins, as the **Downingtown Junior High wrestling team** beat Pottsgrove 18-39. Lancers who won by decision were Steve Ross, Chris Saello, Rollie Boyle, Chris Carcella and Pete Frank.

### Group Photo of the Week



This photo shows a sixth grade class at East Ward School in Downingtown during the 1953-54 school year. The photo and names, which include women's married names where possible, were provided by Connie Gara Hartman. Starting on the right side of the photo, the students in the class were, front to back: first row, Dorothy Chambers Murphy, Connie Gara Hartman, John Unger, Carol Mae Groff, Susan Wright; second row, Josephine Talucci D'Ginto, John Yamshak, Robert Fidler, Ron Meacham, Karen Sigel Mello, Larry Dague; third row, Ed Klunk, Betty May, Lois Emery, Mary A Phillips Curtiss, Dallett Norris, Charles "Bud" Bruton; fourth row, Patty Null, Barbara Wright, Eugene Reinhardt, Christy Castaldi, Timothy Britton, Elwin Algiers; Jack Law, Peggy Zittle, Jack Hoffman, Carol Buttermann and Richard Johnson. Miss Yost was their teacher.

# What locals were talking about in January 1956

Noted below are news items originally published 61 years ago in the *Downingtown Archive*:

- The home of Theresa Sciarretta, 219 Church St., Downingtown, won the Christmas decorating competition, sponsored by the **Downingtown Christmas Committee**.
- Nominees for the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** board of directors were: Raymond Hallman, W.P. Canby, Roland Moore, John Brownstein, Newlin Moore, Thomas Roberts, Vinton Smedley, Frank Bishop, Creston Shoemaker, Clifford Orr, Gibson McIlvain, Dr. H. H. Sharpe and Benjamin Valocchi.
- Mrs. John Fisher and Mrs. Larry Polite co-chaired the **Downingtown Woman's Club's** New Year's breakfast.
- The **Exton Roller Rink**, owned by the West Whiteland Fire Co, was slated to open.
- DHS students, selected to participate in the **District Band**, were John Dawson, Joan Piersol and Irwin Rubincam.
- Led by John Chilla and Jack Skiles, the **DHS boys' basketball team** won its first Ches-Mont game by beating Bridgeport 58-40.
- The **Downingtown A & P** was selling coffee for 83 cents a pound.
- **Uwchlan Township** supervisors elected Clair Becker as chairman, Russell Miller as vice-chairman, and Schuyler Rennard as secretary-treasurer.
- Bill Osborne and Jack Francella led St. Anthony's Lodge in a 63-53 win over the Downingtown VFW in the opening game of the **Community Basketball League**, sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association.

## Phil Dague elected Historical Society's President

Phil Dague, also known as "Mr. Downingtown," was elected president of the Downingtown Area Historical Society. He succeeds Parry Desmond, who had been president of the Historical Society for seven years. Desmond will continue to put out the Hist-O-Gram, the Historical Society's free, online newsletter, which is sent every week to more than 900 households.

Jim Sundman, author of the recently published "Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations: Philadelphia to Harrisburg," was elected vice president, and is a new board member. He succeeded Ernie Jameson, who retired from the society's board after serving as an officer for several decades.

Lauren Fagan, who had served on the society's board years ago, has returned as treasurer. She succeeded Francine Dague, who retired from the board.

Marion Piccolomini, author of the recently published "World War II and Chester County, Pennsylvania," was re-elected as recording secretary.

And Jay Worrall is a new director on the board.

The board also includes: Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary; and directors Harry Helms, Dennis Walton and Mike Dunn.

## Vintage Ad of the Week

**THE CANDY BOX**  
for a  
**Delicious Easter Confection**  
try a  
**MARY LEE EGG**  
70c a Pound  
Orders taken now for named eggs  
**Mrs. HELEN PAWLING**  
80 W. Lincoln Highway  
Downingtown

This ad was originally published in the April 5, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## How to trace your home's history

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[http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

# It's at 500 Park Road, Upper Uwchlan



Not one soul identified the house in the photo above. Known as the Charles C. and Elizabeth B. Moore House at 500 Park Road in Upper Uwchlan, it was built in 1874. The photo was taken by Mike Dunn.

## **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

### ***Volunteer Military and Patriotism***

Robert Boyce, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.), nuclear submarine commander, historian and educator, will talk on Volunteer Military Service and Patriotism when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 21 at the West Caln municipal building, 721 West Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### ***History of Blacks and Lukens Steel Co.***

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Ave., Coatesville, will present a program about "Coatesville Steel: The Black Experience" at 6 PM on Thursday, February 2. Cost: \$5 per person.

### ***A Midwinter's Night: A dram good time!***

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Call 610.696.7442 or email [thorndalerotary@gmail.com](mailto:thorndalerotary@gmail.com). Sponsorships available. Showcase your business by calling the above number.

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



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

Vol. 8, No. 5

February 2, 2017

## What & Where Is This?



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# When a ‘colored boy’ was kidnapped in Downingtown by ‘notorious Negro stealers’

The *West Chester Village Record* reported in April 1849 that two Downingtown residents—Amos McFarlan and Solomon States—had been convicted of kidnapping 16-year-old Henry Lee Brown, a free black man. Brown, who had spent much of his early childhood in the Chester County Poorhouse, had been employed as an apprentice for about nine years by Wilmer Evans of Downingtown at the time he was abducted.

In the spring of 1849, McFarlan and States persuaded Brown to come with them to Philadelphia, where they claimed there was a job opportunity for him. After staying in Philadelphia for several days, Brown was forcefully taken to Baltimore, where he was kept in a “slave pen,” until he was sold into slavery.

However, Brown persistently told Bernard Campbell, the Baltimore slave dealer, that he was a free man. Since details of Brown’s story seemed credible, a man identified solely as “Mr. Needles” wrote to William Evans back in Downingtown. Evans and other Downingtown residents suspected the kidnappers were McFarlan and States. After Brown’s Downingtown supporters pursued the abduction case with the authorities, McFarlan and States were convicted of kidnapping by a jury in August 1849, and the defendants were sentenced to serve six and five years, respectively, in Philadelphia’s Eastern State Penitentiary.

Before he went to prison, McFarlan provided an affidavit, claiming that States believed that the reason for taking Brown to Philadelphia was “to get him in a better situation.” The affidavit also noted that States was “entirely innocent of the crime” because he had been “entirely ignorant” of any knowledge of a plan to abduct Brown and sell him into slavery. Despite McFarlan’s claims in the affidavit, States served his time in prison.

Meanwhile Evans travelled to Baltimore to bring Brown back to Downingtown.

Editor’s note: Some of the information in this article was retrieved from *Stealing Freedom Along the Mason Dixon Line*, authored by Milton Diggins and published by the Maryland Historical Society.

## Historical Society offers “Then & Now” series on Facebook

The Downingtown Area Historical Society recently began a series of posts on its Facebook page. Called “Then & Now,” they are short (8 to 9 second) videos showing locations in the Downingtown area. They start with an historic image and fade into a modern photograph taken from the exact same viewpoint. Each video is accompanied by a description and perhaps a noteworthy fact or two about the location or event.

Through this series, we hope to illustrate how the area has changed or show some of the interesting events that have taken place here.

To see the series go to our website—[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)—and click the Facebook icon in the lower right corner of the home page. Or it can be accessed directly from this link: [www.facebook.com/Downingtown-Area-Historical-Society-136323699717931/](https://www.facebook.com/Downingtown-Area-Historical-Society-136323699717931/).

## Group Photo of the Week



The staff at Beaver Creek School in Downingtown during the 1978-79 school year included, left to right, top row, Karen Rowe, Sue Bortree, Jessie Hellhake, Dick Byerly, Linda Huff, Diane White and Jane Ulsh; second row, Dot Stocker, John Miller, Bill Hopson and Trudy Phillips; third row, Marge Thorn, Sandy Carcella, Dot Menas, Bonnie Klingelhoeffter, Sylvia Kipp, Martha Waring and Margaret Helms; bottom row, JoAnne Heckman, Chuck Menas, Anne Mullin, Maryanne Lorine, Mary Brammer and Barb Scott. Photo and names were provided by Joanne Heckman, who was an administrative assistant at Beaver Creek for many years.

*Editor's note: We're constantly looking for group photos of local sports teams, scout troops, service clubs, church organizations, etc., which include a minimum of three people in the picture and the names of at least 80 percent of the individuals. We only need to borrow photos so they can be scanned for our archives. To arrange for us to borrow a photo, please send an email to: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).*

# What locals were talking about 53 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in local papers in the early part of December 1964:

- Elmer Schrumpf, a Pennsylvania Railroad official who had served on the **Downingtown School Board** for 20 years, was elected president of both the Downingtown Area Elementary and the Downingtown Joint High School Boards. Raymond Williams was elected vice president of the elementary board and Glen Wagner was named vice president of the joint high school board. The joint high school board agreed to spend \$60,000 to buy 13 acres of land behind DHS, which would be used for athletic activities. And the elementary board voted to alleviate overcrowding of the kindergarten class at **Marshallton School** by splitting the class into morning and afternoon sessions.

- The recently opened **Whitford Flower Shop**, at 220 North Whitford Road in Exton, was selling carnations, in most colors, for \$2.85 a dozen. However, red carnations cost \$4 a dozen.

- John Bycoskie, **DHS wrestling coach**, said the squad included five returning lettermen: Mark Stephenson, Bob Lewis, Richard Myers, Bob Carl and Ray Fry. However, several of the varsity grapplers—Art Reyling, Richard Connell, Joe Gara and Preston Mercer—were questionable for the opening match, against Unionville, because they were still nursing injuries from the football season.

- Officers of the **Upper Uwchlan School Board** remained unchanged. They included Rev. Carl Kopenhaver, president; Ruth Jackson, secretary; and Mary Shoemaker, treasurer.

- Cheryl Elmquist and Paula Scharek were the **DHS shorthand students** who earned gold Order of Gregg Artists. And certificates for their typing skills were Donna Cox, Robert Berger, Michael Bare, Dwight Bowen, Robert Biddle, Linda Sarmento and Edward Benjamin.

- Glen Wagner and Nevin Myer were re-elected president and vice president, respectively, of the **Pickering-Brandywine School Board**. Walter Hessinger, supervising principal of the jointure, reported that 600 people attended the recent dedication of the new Pickering Valley School.

- Members of the Sunshine Bible Class at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** included Grace Zynn, Alice Esworthy, Mineola Jones, Lois Smith, Myrtle Reisling, Marian Heidelbaugh, Anne Lilley, Mabel Yoder, Deborah McNelley, Myrtle Jefferis, Mae Taylor and Elizabeth Mendenhall. Robert Mertz was the teacher.

- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Opti-Mrs. Club** were Mrs. Clair Langham, president; Mrs. Anthony Viscichini, first vice president; Mrs. Clifton Walton, second vice president; Mrs. John Mascherino, secretary; and Mrs. Albert Burkhardt, treasurer.

- Committee chairpersons of the **Auxiliary of the American Legion** included: Mrs. William Keen, Americanism; Mrs. Mark Bareford, civil defense; Mrs. C.O. Brown, child welfare; Mrs. Donald Page, community service; Mrs. Ethel Trego, education and scholarship; Mrs. Belle Murray, legislation; Anna Dougherty; national security; and Mrs. Pennell Black, coupons.

- Girls who earned stars as two-year members of **Brownie Troop 999** in Eagle were Laura Blouser, Trish Hallman, Lois Hayes, Dianne Levering, Karen Rometsch, Margie Sload and Elaine Turner.

- Elected as officers of the Crusaders Class of **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Olin Sievers, president; Kenneth Garris, vice president; Mrs. Leona McCue, secretary; and Austin Windle, treasurer.

- Head coach Chic Chicchino and line coach Ken Platt were honored at a party for the **Downingtown Junior High football team**, which had its first undefeated and untied season in history.
- Members of the Friendship Circle at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, elected these officers: Margaret Stern, president; Beatrice James, vice president; Lois Mayberry, secretary; Lois Thatcher, treasurer; and Emily Walton and Phyllis Wilsons, auditors.
- Mrs. James Andrien and Mrs. Robert Myers were elected president and vice president, respectively, of the **West Bradford Fire Co. Women's Auxiliary**. Mrs. George March was secretary, and Mrs. John Trimble was treasurer.

## It's at 270 Indian Run Road in Glen Moore




No one correctly identified this vintage house, which is part of an 11-acre horse farm in Wallace Township.

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## Vintage Ad of the Week



# WHAT? Fuel Oil

at a

# 25%

Discount?

WELL, figure it out, madam. If you burned 2,000 gallons at 11½¢ a gallon with your present ordinary burner, your fuel bill would total \$230.00. But—a new TIMKEN Silent Automatic Burner will SAVE you up to 25% or more... so you'll burn only 1500 gallons. At today's price of 11½¢ a gallon, 1500 gallons cost \$172.50... and \$172.50 is EXACTLY WHAT 2,000 GALLONS WOULD COST AT ONLY 8½¢ A GALLON! Yes, ma'am! Buying oil for a TIMKEN Silent Automatic Burner, as compared to an ordinary burner, is like buying at a 3¢ a gallon discount—just like putting one dollar out of every four fuel dollars right in the bank!

First Payment FEBRUARY! No Money Down!

Only 5 Hours Needed to Switch Over!

**W. P. CANBY & SON**  
BRANDYWINE AVENUE  
DOWNINGTOWN, PA.

DAY PHONE  
DOWNINGTOWN  
288

NIGHT PHONE  
DOWNINGTOWN  
559-W

This ad was originally published in the December 7, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Phil Dague, president; Jim Sundman, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Lauren Fagan, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Dennis Walton and Jay Worrall. Carol Grigson is the archivist.*

## How to trace your home's history

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[http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

# Missed any Hist-O-Grams published in January?

You can access any issue of the Hist-O-Grams published in January by clicking on the clicking on the coding noted below:

January 5: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%205%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%205%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

January 12: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%2012%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%2012%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

January 19: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%2019%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%2019%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

January 26: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%2026%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/January%2026%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

## What to do before this Sunday's Super Bowl

Looking for something to do before you start scarfing up the guacamole dip at the Super Bowl party on Sunday? How about participating in the Historical Society's clip/paste session, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, February 5. The session, which will involve clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

## Free Ads for Non-Profit

### ***Blood Drive***

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 24 in the annex of Downingtown's Borough Hall, 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. To pre-register, see: [www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp](http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp).

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Robert Boyce, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.), nuclear submarine commander, historian and educator, will talk on Volunteer Military Service and Patriotism when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 21 at the West Caln municipal building, 721 West Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### ***History of Blacks and Lukens Steel Co.***

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 South First Ave., Coatesville, will present a program about "Coatesville Steel: The Black Experience" at 6 PM on Thursday, February 2. Cost: \$5 per person.

### **A Midwinter's Night: A dram good time!**

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its eighth annual Whisky Tasting and dinner at the Marshalton Inn on February 4th. Taste six single malt whisky's, receive your own tasting glass, plus a filet mignon dinner, tasting plate to match the whisky flavors, chocolate desert, silent auction, enter to bagpipe music. \$100 per person. Call 610.696.7442 or email [thorndalerotary@gmail.com](mailto:thorndalerotary@gmail.com). Sponsorships available. Showcase your business by calling the above number.

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

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

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

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 8, No. 6

February 9, 2017

## What & Where Is This?



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

## **A brief history of the railroad bridges over the Brandywine in Downingtown**

*By Jim Sundman, vice president, Downingtown Area Historical Society*

It's not easily seen from the roads in the borough of Downingtown, but the railroad viaduct over the Brandywine River is certainly an imposing structure. To get an idea of the viaduct's size and the workmanship of its stonework, it's best to walk on the trail through Johnsontown Park in the borough, or even paddle the waters of the Brandywine underneath it. The four-arch masonry viaduct (it's technically called a viaduct because it has multiple smaller spans of approximately the same length) was built in 1892 by the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR). It replaced an iron truss bridge built by the PRR in 1862.

The first railroad bridge at this location, however, was built in 1833 by the Philadelphia and Columbia (P&C) Railroad, but it was not the first Brandywine crossing surveyed. When the path of the P&C was originally laid out in the summer of 1827, the plan called for the railroad to be located about a mile north of the village of Downingtown, where bridges were to span both Beaver Creek and the east branch of the Brandywine River (about where the Route 30 Bypass crosses the Brandywine). However, problems with the planned alignment of the railroad in the eastern section of Chester County prompted an entirely new survey in the summer of 1828. The re-survey brought the railroad to its current location, just south of the village. Though it no longer needed to cross Beaver Creek, a 477-foot-long bridge was still needed to cross the Brandywine.

This first bridge was of a truss-style, made of wood set on stone piers. It was a covered bridge in order to protect the exposed wood decking and support structure from the elements. Covering a railroad bridge at the time, in particular on this railroad, was not expected to be an issue because rail cars for the most part were pulled by horses. Steam locomotives were still in their infancy and it was unclear how much they would be used on the new railroad. But when they were used, a steam locomotive spewing ash and cinders within a covered wooden bridge could be problematic. For example, the wooden railroad bridge over Valley Creek, just a few miles east of Downingtown (where the current twin tunnels are located on Valley Creek Road), burned down in 1838. Sparks from a passing locomotive were thought to be the culprit.

The railroad bridge in Downingtown never burned down, but it was re-built at least once before the P&C was purchased by Pennsylvania Railroad in 1857. The need for a stronger, longer-lasting bridge resulted in the iron-truss span in 1862. And when much of the PRR's Main Line was expanded to four tracks in the late 1800s, the current viaduct was constructed. About 75 trains still cross the viaduct each day.

Editor's note: Downingtown historian Jim Sundman is the author of *Pennsylvania Main Line Railroad Stations, Philadelphia to Harrisburg*. Copies of the book can be purchased locally at Barnes & Noble in Exton, and online via: [arcadiapublishing.com](http://arcadiapublishing.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), or [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com). Copies are also available at the Downingtown Area Historical Society headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln.

**See a photographic history of the bridges over the Brandywine on the next two pages.**



This photo, taken in the 1870s, shows the iron bridge built by the PRR in 1862. It replaced the wooden bridge built by the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad.



Two fisherman try their luck in the Brandywine bridge, River as an eastbound Amtrak train roars over the viaduct. It was built in 1892, replacing one built In 1862.



These stone foundation of the 1862 bridge can Still be seen in the Brandywine under the Current bridge.



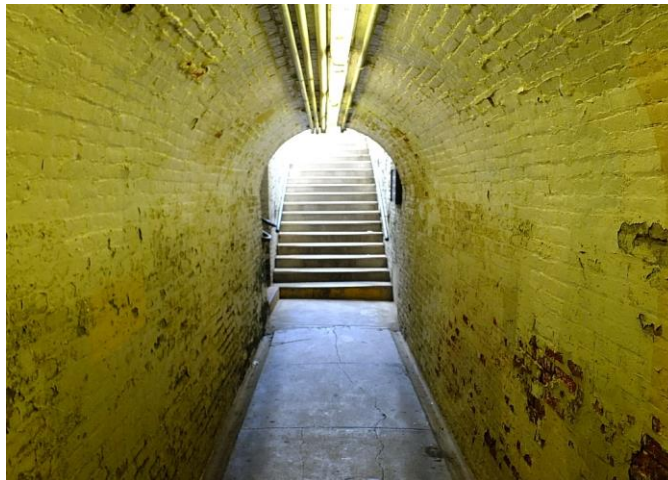
These stone blocks were recycled by the PRR for the foundation of the 1862 bridge and can still be seen in the water of the Brandywine River. The blocks, which predated the use of wooden railroad ties, once held the rails for the original Philadelphia wooden pegs which held down a metal plate on top of which the iron rail was placed.



Bradford Avenue, in the Johnstown section of borough, once crossed the railroad tracks at grade, but the crossing was eliminated in 1873 due to dangerous conditions.



The Viaduct Avenue tunnel was built in 1873 when Bradford Avenue crossing was closed in order to provide vehicular access in and out of Johnstown. It was built in two phases in order to minimize the impact to the railroad. Two separate sections are visible in the stonework when one drives through the tunnel.



The pedestrian tunnel at the Downingtown railroad station was also built in 1873, when the Bradford Avenue crossing was closed. The change in brickwork on the south-end of the tunnel is the “newer” section, which occurred when the station building was moved 17 feet to the south in 1905 to make room for a Track to access the nearby rail yard.

# What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of January 1981:

- Eloise McFalls, owner of the Barmay Store, was elected president of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce**. Elected as directors of the Chamber were Tony Rogevich, Downingtown National Bank; Joseph Stauffer, Brandywine Savings & Loan; Carl Hamilton, Dane Décor; Linda Winfield, Southeast National Bank; Scott Maxwell, Pepperidge Farm; Jeffrey Shur, Downingtown Army-Navy Store; and Leslie Silvestri, radio station WCOJ.
- Residents of **Lyndell** held a meeting in the local Grange Hall to form a Town Watch group, after the hamlet in East Brandywine was hit by a rash of burglaries.
- Downingtown's **Carol Smigocki**, a 21-year-old accountant, was one of the Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders who performed at the Super Bowl in New Orleans, 0. when the Eagles were defeated by the Oakland Raiders.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Frank Brouse, president; Bruce Breckas, first vice president; Leon Bixler, second vice president; Al Homan, secretary; Dave Kirkner, treasurer; and Bob Cropper, Bill Mason, Norm Piersol and Bruce Wetzel, directors.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 1303 Kerwood Lane, West Bradford, \$64,580; 466 W. Prospect Avenue, Downingtown, \$53,040; 606 Bough Road, Uwchlan, \$125,000; 1550 Bondsville Road, Caln, \$48,000; 102 Gloucester Court, East Brandywine, \$64,000.
- These three **former DHS field hockey stars** were standouts on Bucknell University hockey squad: Anne Kennedy, Jeanne Minahan and Amy Sten.
- The **DHS boys' basketball team** won its eighth straight Ches-Mont League game by manhandling Pottstown 66-46. Whippets who scored in double figures were Mark Redfern, 16; Art Harlow, 15; and Rob Grim, 12. Grim also grabbed 14 rebounds.
- Although Connie Kramer paced the Whippet offense with 15 points and six blocked shots, the **DHS girls' basketball squad** lost to Pottstown by a 75-34 margin.
- **St. Joseph's School boys' basketball team** lost a 52-50 double-overtime thriller to Our Mother of Good Counsel of Bryn Mawr. Ron Sheridan, with 16 points, was St. Joe's top scorer.
- Sean O'Donnell, 98 pounds, was named the **DHS Wrestler of the Week** as the Whippets creamed Great Valley 49-10.
- **Albert and Pauline Mentzer** of West Bradford attended President Ronald Reagan's inauguration and an inaugural ball in Washington.
- The **Crafty Lady Shoppe**, which conducted craft classes and sold supplies, opened at 52 East Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who participated in Klondike Derby at Marsh Creek State Park, included: Bill Supplee, Tim Wolfe, Bill Buckner, and Tim and John Sanner.
- Consecutive decisions in the bantam weight division were tallied by Joel Selcher, Tom Kuhn, Danny Carroll and Mark Jorgensen, as the **LYA wrestling team** beat the Lansdowne Boys Club 61-33.

## Group Photo of the Week



This is a photo of The Serenaders dance band, which was comprised of these musicians, left to right: front row, Bill Bray, tenor sax; Christy Christ, alto sax; Ev Lang, alto sax; Frank DiSilvestro, tenor sax; back row, Francis Underwood, trumpet; Ray Kipp, trumpet; Ozzie Mancini, drums; and Bob Lillard, piano. Except for Bray and Underwood, they all were DHS students when the band was formed in 1948, according to Lang. The band, which stayed together for about three years, played at many DHS dances and at the YMCA Camp (located south of Downingtown) on Wednesday and Saturday nights during the summer months. Usually, they were each paid \$7 for a gig. The photo was provided by Mary Jean Lillard. The musicians were identified by Mary Jean, Don Hannum and Ev Lang.

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

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

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## It's at 435 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown



Nancy Duca is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the person to correctly identify the location of the building in the photo above as 435 E. Lancaster Ave. in Downingtown, across from East Ward School. Built in 1827 for Dr. George Fairlamb, one of the founders of the Chester County Medical Society, the house is part of the borough's East Lancaster Avenue Historic District, which was certified in 1979 by the National Register of Historic Places.

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## Vintage Ad of the Week

# James C. Hamilton, Inc.

R. D. No. 1

West Chester

### *Brickwork on the following*

Caln Bell Telephone	Downingtown High School	Fisher Warehouse, Upper Merion
Parkview Apts.	Downingtown A & P	Willow Hill School-Willow Grove
Agnes Irwin School	Lionville School	Overlook School-Willow Grove
Firestone-Pottstown	Milprint	Superior Tube-Collegeville
St. Gregorys	Lambert Mobile Station	Hamburg School
Presbyterian Hospital	Freedoms Foundation	Penn. Military College
Washington School	Valley Forge - Boy Scouts	University of Delaware Library
Lincoln School	Klinger School-Southampton	Univ. of Delaware Sussex Hall
St. Paul's Church	Stackpole School-Southampton	Univ. of Delaware Brown Hall
Old Forge School	Chester Co. Court House	Campbell Soup-Camden
Germantown Friends	West Chester State Dining Hall	Haddonfield Bank-N. J.
Avalon Church	W. C. State Men's Dorm	Cherry Hill Inn-N. J.
Champlost Public Housing	W. C. State Women's Dorm	Lakehurst Naval Air Station
Bridgeton Public Housing	W. C. State Music Building	Somerdale School-N. J.
Best Store-Ardmore	W. C. State Boiler House	Kresson School-N. J.
P.S.F.S. - Ardmore	Greenwood School	Barrington School-N. J.
Lower Merion School	Lincoln University	Camden High School, N. J.
St. Anselm School	G. E. Space Science Center	Toms River School-N. J.
Audubon School	Korvette Center-King of Prussia	Sterling School-N. J.
Montgomeryville School	St. Philip & St. James-Exton	Hercules Powder-N. J.
Neshaminy School	Sears Store-Radnor	Holy Assumption-N. J.
Norristown Hospital	Klein Store-Marple	Strawbridge School - N. J.
Cardinal O'Hara	Coatesville Hospital	Buena School-N. J.
Phila. Suburban Water	Chester Co. Hospital	Minetola School - N. J.
Penndell Hill School	Bryn Mawr College	Christ of King - N. J.
Automatic Sprinkler	West Chester High School	St. Mary Magdalene-N. J.
St. Marie Goretti	W. C. Junior High School	Sacred Heart-N. J.
Darby High School	American Pam Cor-Tredyffrin	St. Francis-N. J.
Foote Mineral	General Wayne Office Building	Korvette Center-N. J.
Nativity BVM	Sun Oil-Marcus Hook	Sartain School-Philadelphia
Baptist Orphanage	Smith, Kline & French- West Conshohocken	Clymer School-Philadelphia
Stephen Smith Home	Donn Guannella School	31st & Ridge School, Phila.
Lansdale Tube	Eastern Baptist College	Rhodes School - Philadelphia

This ad, provided by Hank Hamilton, lists the buildings where his father's firm, James C. Hamilton, Inc., did the brickwork between 1956 and 1961. The company was headquartered on Hall Road in West Bradford. The ad was originally published in a football program in 1961. Hank recalled, "I personally worked on the University of Delaware library, Downingtown High School, Lionville Elementary School, Freedom Foundation, Coatesville Hospital and the Donn Guannella School. Granted, I was 10 and 11 years old; however, I still remember working on each one and did, indeed, get dirty."

# **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

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Vol. 8, No. 7

February 16, 2017

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# What was happening here 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in early February 1981:

- Due to limited parking space close to the churches and their congregations' continued growth in neighboring townships, two Downingtown churches were planning to build larger houses of worship. That's why members of **Downingtown United Methodist Church**, located on Brandywine Avenue in the borough since 1890, decided to build a larger church on an 11-acre parcel on East Lancaster Avenue in East Caln. The site had been donated to the church by Perry Tyson. And members of **First Baptist Church** were planning to build a new facility at Lloyd and Pennsylvania Avenues in the borough, on a 10-acre tract, which had been part of the William Lloyd farm. Services had been conducted at First Baptist's church at Manor and Lancaster Avenues since 1891.
- The new **Downingtown Professional Plaza**, on East Lancaster Avenue, next to the Black Hawk Apartments complex, had already leased 72 percent of its office space to physicians and other health care providers.
- The **Container Corp.** was in the process of moving into a plant in Uwchlan's Pickering Creek Industrial Park, in a building formerly occupied by Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals. The firm's 40-50 employees were manufacturing plastic lids for paper coffee cups.
- Selected to serve on the fire police unit of the **Lionville Fire Co.** were Joel Gramling, Harry Ruth, Ed Millham, John Vandenberg, Rick Gilbert, Ray Rennard, Russ Windle, Mike Mihalo, Don Farrell and Linda Glover.
- Officers elected by members of the **Tenants Association of St. James Place Apartments**, on East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown, were Mildred Klunk, president; Rose Simone, vice president; Jo Sapper, treasurer; and Catherine Townsley, secretary.
- Raymond Bickings and Mert Heriegel were new members of the board of trustees at **Marshallton United Methodist Church**. Officers of the trustees board were Clinton Fetterman, president; Ronald Trimble, vice president, treasurer and the cemetery chairperson; Susan James, secretary; and Joseph Chapmen, building chairperson.
- Ordained as leaders at **St. Paul's United Church of Christ** in Lionville were elders Harry Weaver and Bessie Rogers, deacons Carol Moroney and Donald Raudenbush, and trustees Jessie Ball and James Smith.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 142 Washington Ave., Downingtown, \$31,000; 1641 Farnham Lane, West Bradford, \$61,045; 7 Krauser Road, Upper Uwchlan, \$ 104,405; 24 Williams Way, Caln, \$56,000; 14 Clearview Drive, East Brandywine, \$65,400; 52 Peck Road, Uwchlan, \$71,000.
- The **DHS boys' basketball team** locked up a playoff spot with a 62-37 win over West Chester East. Mark Redfern paced the Whippets with 19 points, and Vic Johnson tossed in 11 markers.
- The **DHS wrestling squad** ran its Ches-Mont League record to 6-0 with a 54-5 victory over West Chester Henderson. Pins were recorded by Sean O'Donnell, Duncan McIntyre, John Lucerne, Rick Waltman, Ron Wenk, and Chris Goerlitz.
- The **DHS girls basketball squad** rallied to beat West Chester East 47-45, as Lisa Lynch made a steal with 18 seconds on the clock, and Connie Kramer nailed a 12-footer with three seconds left in the game.

## It's the bridge over Beaver Creek at Edge's Mill Road



Karen Christen is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above at the bridge over Beaver Creek at Edge's Mill Road in Caln Township. The bridge was built by Dunleavy Brothers in 1916, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

## What locals were talking about 61 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in February 1956:

- Featured actors in the DHS Junior Class play included: Warren Reese, Jane Louise Davis, Schuyler Rennard, Dorothy Fisher, Barry Wickersham, Stella Karahalas, Vaughn Yarnall, Robert Manning, Douglas Hedrick, Joseph Bird, Ruth Hall, Thomas Hughes, Gwen Curry, Joanne Quartucci, Josephine Greenly and Dolores Luminella.
- Local Chevrolet dealer Ray Sheeler was named Downingtown's "Citizen of the Year" at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner, held at St. Anthony's Lodge.
- Howard Caskey, resigned as head coach of the DHS football team for health reasons. A former Penn State lineman, Caskey's record as head coach for six years was 32-19-3.

## Brief but important

Here are several interesting advertisements, which were published in early 19<sup>th</sup> Century newspapers:

- An ad, placed by Thomas Davis in the August 29, 1815 edition of *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, published in Philadelphia, claimed that a new "first rate" paper mill, "built of the best material," was for sale in Uwchlan Township. The 20-acre property also included two stone dwellings. According to Susannah Brody, local historian: "That's the mill that became Dorlan's Mill. (The last owner was the Shryock Brothers. It finally closed less than twenty years ago.) There was a fire in 1810 that destroyed the first mill building. This ad refers to the new mill that replaced the one that burned, probably built on the original foundation in 1811 or 1812. Thomas Davis apparently did not sell the mill in 1815. In 1833 James Dorlan purchased the mill from the Davis family. Technically, the remains are located in Upper Uwchlan, but it was in Uwchlan at the time of this ad."

- An ad in the May 10, 1820 edition of West Chester's *Village Record* read: "Lewis Bennett takes this method to inform his friends and the public generally that he has opened A House of Entertainment on the Horseshoe Turnpike, six miles north of Downingtown, at the sign of the Mermaid, where travelers or boarders may be conveniently accommodated, either by week or day. Being provided with a spacious yard and sufficiency of stabling and sheds for horses and wagons, and with all kinds of horse feed, wagoneers will find it an advantageous and convenient place to stop at." Bennett also noted that he by always served "the Best of Liquors, to merit a share of the public patronage."

- Irwin & Torbert, a new store on the Lancaster Turnpike in East Caln, advertised in the May 12, 1819 edition of the *Village Record* that they had a "large assortment of Fresh Goods" including "fancy wares" and "nails, spikes and brads at factory prices...all of which will be sold cheap for cash."

- An ad soliciting students to matriculate at Joshua Hoopes' Downingtown Boarding School for Young Men (established in 1817 and located on East Lancaster Avenue), was published in the May 26, 1819 edition of the *Village Record*. It noted that the curriculum included these courses: algebra, geography, "mensuration" (a branch of mathematics that measures geometric magnitudes, lengths, areas, and volumes), surveying, navigation, spherics, mechanics, astronomy and optics. It also noted that lectures on magnetism, electricity and chemistry were delivered to the students. Boarding and tuition for one quarter was \$45, payable in advance. Reading books were supplied without charge; however, students had to pay the "usual prices" were for other books and mathematics instruments.

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# **SALE AT LYNDELL COUNTRY STORE**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**HALF PRICE  
ON MANY GIFT ITEMS!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Picnic and Fishing In Our  
Camp - Site Area**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Located 6 Mi. North of  
Downingtown on Route 282  
3 Mi. from Eagle**

**FOLLOW THE BRANDYWINE CREEK**

This ad was originally published in the August 21, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

## Group Photo of the Week



Marjorie Lawn Gazzola, DHS Class of 1957, sent us this montage of individual photos of students who were seventh and eighth graders at the Old Thorndale Elementary School in 1928. The montage was created by Marjorie's mother, Evelyn Pennell. The school, located a short distance north of Route 30 on Bondsville Road (Route 340) on the right side, as you're driving north, apparently was razed in the 1930s. The students pictured above were, left to right: top row, Margaret Cloud, Margaret Hilton, Evelyn Pennell Lawn, Russell Fischer; second row, unknown, Florence Long, Bob Amway, Sue Mull, Wilson Skinner, Jack Winning, Ida Miller, Margaret Hilton, Harry Hilton; third row, Charles Wilgis, Kirk Beale, Harold Moore, Charles "Bill" Oshorne, Ed Russell, Isabella Shofstall, Dorothy Miles, Evelyn Algier, Chester Harple; bottom row, Martha Mitchell, James Lawn (Marjorie's father), Francis Klunk, Clarence Milligan.

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# **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

## ***Blood Drive***

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 24 in the annex of Downingtown's Borough Hall, 4 W. Lancaster Avenue. To pre-register, see: [www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp](http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp).

## ***Volunteer Military and Patriotism***

Robert Boyce, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret.), nuclear submarine commander, historian and educator, will talk on Volunteer Military Service and Patriotism when the West Caln Historical Society meets at 7 PM on Tuesday, February 21 at the West Caln municipal building, 721 West Kings Highway in Wagontown. The meeting is free and open to the public. .

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

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

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

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

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 8, No. 8

February 23, 2017

# What & Where Was This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [dahs19335@gmail.com](mailto:dahs19335@gmail.com).

## If you couldn't access last week's Hist-O-Gram

Many of our subscribers had difficulty opening last week's Hist-O-Gram. Once again, the apparent problem was caused by a gremlins corrupting our website address. We apologize.

You can access the February 16 edition at:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2016%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2016%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

## What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of February 1981:

- Downingtown's Council, questioned the \$5,000 fee charged by John Milner Associates for a two-page report on the feasibility of moving the **Log House**, the borough's oldest structure, located in a flood plain in Kerr Park along East Lancaster Avenue. The two pages were only an interim report, said Milner, who also noted that the fee reflected three months of work on the proposal, not just a preliminary report.

- The **Downingtowntown Area School Board** voted to spend \$40,000 annually to lease a new computer system, which replaced an older system whose lease had cost \$32,500. The new system, a Burroughs B1700, was 50% faster and its memory was four times greater than the Burroughs B1910 system in current use.

- Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of the Downingtown Area School District, reported that 38.5 percent of the DHS Class of 1980 entered a four-year college, and 4.4 percent were attending a junior college. When those who were enrolled at nursing schools, business schools, or technical schools were included in the total, 49.8 percent of the class was **attending a post-secondary, educational institution**.

- **Stock Grange**, a 350-acre estate in West Bradford that dates back to 1745, was put up for sale by Harrison Wetherill. The site probably was best known by area residents as the former residence of actor Claude Rains, who lived there from 1940 until he sold it to Wetherill in 1956. And aviator Charles Lindbergh added to the estate's mystique, when he stayed there overnight in 1928, after he had to make an emergency plane landing at the farm due to foggy weather.

- The 33 members of the **Town Watch** program in East Brandywine Township had begun to patrol the Lyndell area. And although some voters recently had to wait in line for more than an hour before they could cast their ballots, the **Chester County Board of Elections** turned down East Brandywine's request for an additional voting machine and more Election Day volunteers.

- A **white oak tree**, which was 105-feet tall, had a 102-wide span, had a circumference of 73 inches, and was between 400 and 500 years old, according to Dr. John Swartley, retired chairman of Temple University's horticulture Department, was cut down because it had deteriorated to the point that it had become a hazard to people who lived along the west side of Uwchlan Avenue (Route 113), near the Route 30 Bypass.

- Members of **Cub Pack 221** who received achievement awards at the pack's annual banquet were Michael Sullivan, Steve Kelly, Robbie Antonius, Brad Sandor, David Good and Brian Thompson.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 157 Lake Drive, Downingtown, \$55,000; 370 Bala Terrace, Exton, \$56,100; 345 French Circle, Uwchlan, \$83,900; 1644 Ithan Circle, West Bradford, \$65,015.

- The **DHS wrestling team** won its first Ches-Mont championship in 10 years with a 32-24 victory over Spring-Ford. The Whippets overall record was 18-1.
- The **DHS boys' basketball team** established a new school record with a record of 22-5, and Coach Bob Boyer got his 200<sup>th</sup> win.
- The **DHS girls' basketball team** closed their season with an 8-19 record. But Coach Bob Schnure was looking forward to next year because all of his starters were returning. One of them, Connie Kramer, scored a season total of 359 points. The prior season total record (293 points) had been shared by Kathy Herion in 1978 and Laurie Carcella in 1979.

## It was a crafts class at the YMCA Camp in the 1920s



Drew Schwartz is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the scene in the photo above as the YMCA Camp, operated by the Philadelphia YMCA from 1895 until the 1980s at a site near Downingtown's southern border. According to a 1930 brochure, attendance at the overnight camp grew from 1,447 campers in 1922 to 4,526 in 1929. Also, campers were expected to bring their own knife, fork and spoon, plus two bowls and two cups. In 1930, costs ranged from \$14 a week for anyone attending camp for one week to \$12 a week for those attending five or more weeks between May 29 and September 9.

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## What was happening here in late February 1956

Noted below are news items originally published 61 years ago in the *Downingtown Archive*:

- Paul Campbell won the DHS business education department's annual **spelling bee**. Robert Manning came in second.
- DHS students Thomas Newlin and Henry Jankowski won silver medals in state-wide competition, sponsored by the **Future Farmers of America**.
- Members of the **Downingtown Woman's Club's** drama group, who performed in a one-act play, included Mrs. Lee Hamilton, Mrs. Theodore Noll, Mrs. Arthur Summers, Mrs. John Fisher, Mrs. Charles Ezrah, Mrs. John Phillips and Mrs. Walter Hadfield.
- Patrol leaders and secretaries of **Brownie Troop 243** included Jane Kaempfer, Michelle Plank, Dolores MacIntire, Deborah Morrison and Lynne Dowlin.
- Involved in the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's **flower box project** included: DHS industrial arts students who built 31 boxes; members of Boy Scout Troop 82, who filled the boxes with dirt; the Woman's Club's garden class, who provided the flowers; and the Girl Scouts who planted the flowers in the boxes, which were installed on the Lancaster Avenue bridge.

### Group Photo of the Week



This photo, taken in the spring of 1947, is of East Ward School's first kindergarten class. Members of the class included, left to right: back row, Grace Styer, Frank Marcocci, Jack Swarner, Denny Myers, Peggy West, Bobby Reifsnyder, Donna Kay Detweiler, Stuart Meisel and Toni Yost; front row, Keith Howe, Doris Ann Trego, Patty Zittle, Iva Darlington, Mary Jane Sabellico, Judy Wagner, Christy Castaldi, Bobby Sheehan, Duer Smedley and Bill Brookover. Marjorie Throne was their teacher. The photo and names were provided by Bill Brookover.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**YOUR CHECK IS IN THE MAIL!**  
and aren't you glad you joined  
our '64 CHRISTMAS CLUB!



over  
**\$231,000**  
was mailed  
to members  
of the  
**DOWNTOWN  
NATIONAL  
BANK'S '64  
CHRISTMAS  
CLUB!**

Now you'll have  
the extra cash  
you need for  
Christmas and  
to meet year  
end expenses, too!

**1965  
CHRISTMAS CLUB  
NOW OPEN**

**downtown  
national Bank**

**MAIN OFFICE:** 4 Brandywine Ave., DOWNTOWN  
**EAST END OFFICE:** 701 E. Lancaster Ave., DOWNTOWN  
**LIONVILLE OFFICE:** Route 100, Lionville

Member F.D.I.C.

This ad was originally published in the November 9, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

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

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## How to trace your home's history

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Vol. 8, No. 9

March 2, 2017

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

# What locals were talking about 53 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of December 1964:

- **Jim “Chunky” Klunk** got a first-period pin in 48 seconds to give the DHS wrestling team a come-from-behind victory over Spring-Ford in the Whippets’ Ches-Mont League opener. Klunk’s teammates “just about carried him off the mat, although he weighs over 210 pounds,” claimed Coach John Bycoskie.
- Richard Wolfe was elected president of the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** Other officers elected were Lawrence Lutz, vice president; Thomas Trego, secretary; Harry Evans, financial secretary; and Lloyd Johnson, treasurer. Farney Forrester was elected trustee. John Trego and Edward Moore were incumbent trustees. Thomas Reber was re-elected fire chief, and James Burkey and Chester Ortlip were assistant chiefs. Officers of the fire company’s Ladies Auxiliary included Mrs. Edward Moore, president; Mrs. John Trego, vice president; Mrs. Wilmer Ferrell, secretary; and Mrs. Raymond MacDougal, treasurer.
- DHS students, who had been a member of the **marching band** for three years and received a white letter sweater at an assembly, included: Donald Ash, William Barlow, Cindy Bowe, Lee Ann Cohen, Edwin Connor, Barbara Curry, Dennis Dancy, Lynne Dowlin, Rojayne Ellis, Sharon Fennelly, Howard Fitzgerald, Ray Fry, William Hopson, Bonnie Ker, Linda Laird, Tom Marino, Gene Martin, Betty Mercer, Larry Nuse, Robert Pannebaker, Barry Piersol, Judy Ralston, James Sanders, Jeff Swisher, Jack Trego and Patricia Whitely.
- Airman 2/C **John McCombs**, of Downingtown, was one of the members of the 6989<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron at Misawa Air Base in Japan, who received a Community Relations Achievement Award for their work with the blind. They initiated and supported “Operation Eyesight,” which gained nationwide attention in Japan. Since they started sponsoring eye surgery for blind Japanese, their efforts resulted in restored sight for more than 30 Japanese citizens.
- Members of the new **Girl Scout Troop 1069**, sponsored by the Ladies of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Downingtown, included: Catherine March, Jane Mento, Kathleen Murray, Nancy Sheeler, Catherine Snyder, Elizabeth O’Tap, Susan Snyder, Cheryl Mitchell, Mary Fitzgerald, Donna Madrigale, Patricia Cardwell, Paula DeLiberato, Jeannie D’Attilio, Catherine Dolan, Susan Mento, Claire Paylor, Brenda Showalter, Diane Swarner, Nancy Massucci and Andrea Cook. Troop leaders were Mrs. Henry Cook, Mrs. George March and Mrs. William Snyder.
- Third, fourth and fifth graders, who participated in a Christmas program at **East Ward School**, included narrators Robert Taylor, Laurie Usher, Richard Thomas, Diane Hall, Jennie Powell, Sam Corliss and Walter Murray. Vocalists who sang solos were Michael Davis, Ricky Weist and Robyn Massimini. And a trio of trumpeters was comprised of Ted Fleck, David Burghart and Charles Hinkley also provided music.
- It took several months for these members of **St. Paul’s United Church of Christ**, Lionville, to put together the Christmas Story: Mrs. Harry Dewees, script; Mrs. Francis Shaeffer, costumes; Ms. Fred Geiger, Eleanor Robinson, Mrs. Darrell Lewis and Mrs. Harry Weaver, organ music; Robert Bergen, setting up properties; and Conrad Rodney, Mrs. Marple Lewis and Harry Dewees, photography.
- Members of the **Blue and Gold school newspaper staff** at DHS, who raised \$55 to put on a Christmas party for residents of the Tel Hai retirement home in Honey Brook,

included Pam Krigbaum, Ann Osborne, Connie Webster, Jeanne Dorsey, Cathy Mohler, Nancy Helms, Lois Quinn, Bill Shirley, Bill Behrndt, Russell Mattison, Jim Vail and Bob Ferguson.

- Momentarily, in the first five minutes of the opening quarter, **DHS boys' basketball** coach Mel Brodsky thought the Whippets had a shot at beating Coatesville. But that remote possibility of a major upset didn't last long, and the Raiders rolled to a 102-44 win. Oscar Asparagus and Ken Sigle sparked Downingtown's offense with 13 points each. The Whippets tallied its first Ches-Mont victory, by beating O.J. Roberts 66-50. The Whippets' well-balanced scoring was provided by Sigle (18 points), Tommy Price (17), and Roy Nellius (16).

- Members of the **DHS field hockey squad**, who received varsity letters at the fall sports assembly, were: Lynne Dowlin, Sharon Fennelly, Patricia Findley, Bonnie Ker, Robin Mattison, Sharon Michelfelder, Jo-Ellen Smith, Diane Wilkerson, Dorothy Zittle, Martha and Miriam Alexander, Mary Smith, Sandy Horsey and Carol Patrizio.

## It's the Viaduct Avenue tunnel in Johnsontown



Mark Myers was the first of many people who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the Viaduct Avenue tunnel under the PRR railroad bridge. It was built in 1873, to provide vehicular access to and from the Johnsontown section of the borough.

# What was happening here 86 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from January 1931 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- The Downingtown School Board was looking at two potential locations for a **new Junior-Senior High School building**. The options under consideration were 10-12 acres owned by the Pollock family on Manor Avenue and two contiguous tracts at the northeast corner of Manor and Pennsylvania Avenues, owned by the Downingtown Woman's Club and Joseph Hoopes, respectively. Although the Woman's Club-Hoopes 4.5 acre site was smaller and comparatively more expensive than the Pollock tract, some residents believed those space issues could be overcome by having the students use the neighboring Kerr Park for recreation/athletic activities. Also, Woman's Club-Hoopes option would not necessitate the expense of extending the municipal sewer and water lines to the north end of the borough. However, the Pollock tract offered a better space for athletic fields as well as room for future growth.
- During the early days of the Great Depression, the **Downingtown Lions Club** welfare committee reported that it had recently provided 88 local families, with 153 orders of groceries and meats, including a weekly total of 250 quarts of milk. And 30 Christmas baskets—containing 4 pounds of sugar, 4 loaves of bread, 5 pounds of oatmeal, 2 cans of milk, 1 pound of coffee, 1 can of molasses, 1 can of cocoa, 1 bag of flour, and 2 pounds of beef—were delivered to needy families. Also, 1,250 Christmas toys were distributed to 220 kids. All of the items were donated by Downingtown area organizations, churches and individuals.
- Students at **West Ward School** finally had a cafeteria, in the basement of the neighboring **Messiah Lutheran Church** where a bowl of soup could be purchased. East Ward School's cafeteria had been opened in 1927. However, many of the students who lived in the borough still went home for lunch.

## Missed any February issues?

In case you missed any February issues of our Hist-O-Gram, you can access them via:

February 2: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/February%20202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

February 9: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/February%209%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

February 16: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2016%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

February 23: <http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/February%2023%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf>

## Clip/Paste sessions slated for Sunday

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste session, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, March 5. The session, which involves clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

### Group Photo of the Week



Pictured, left to right, in front of the Junior-Senior High School in the early 1950s were these students: front row, Louise Bartelmo DeMucci, Edie Forte Bartone and Laura Chandler Ericson; back row, Mary Jane Bird Augustin and Janet Kriebel Hesse.

Vintage Ad of the Week



**GIFTS to PLEASE the BRIDE**

Electric Waffle Irons, Toasters,  
Percolators and Sweepers

Chinaware, Glassware, Pewter-ware,  
Casseroles, Carvers, etc.

Electric Stoves - Fans - Washing machines  
Window Screens - Tontine Shades

---

**General Electric  
Refrigerators**

---

Milk Cans - Bottles - Caps - Strainer Pads

**FARM MACHINERY**

Garden and Truck Sprays

**TENNIS PLAYERS !**

Get Our Prices on Bancroft, Spalding and  
Ken-Wel Rackets

**TENNIS BALLS at EXTREMELY LOW PRICES**



**Fishing Tackle**

**Golf and Base Ball  
Equipment**

**Theo. M. Griffith and Son**  
**Downingtown, Penna.**

This ad was first published in the May 30, 1930 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

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## **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

### ***Lessons Learned***

Del Staecker, author of two award-winning WW II memoirs, will speak about “Lessons Learned from the Greatest Generation” at the West Caln Historical Society’s meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 21. He’ll share his insights from WW II stories, and his thoughts about heroes and the personal cost of war - and why their stories matter now. The meeting, which will be held at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown, is free and all are welcome.

### ***Workshop for prospective DAR members***

Women, ages 18 and older, are encouraged to attend the “Prospective Member Workshop,” conducted by the Chester County Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to be held from 10 AM until noon on Saturday, March 18 in the atrium of the Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Dr. Chester Springs. The library is located near the intersection of Routes 100 and 401, by Ludwigs Corner in West Vincent Township. It is about 4 miles from Exit 312 of the PA Turnpike.

### ***E. Brandywine’s speaker series***

Local author and historian Bruce Mowday will make a presentation on “The Brandywine—America’s River” at 3:30 PM Sunday, March 19 to kick off the East Brandywine Historical Commission’s spring speaker series. The program will be conducted at the township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville.

### ***Oldies Night***

Jerry Blavat, the Geator, will appear at the Oldies Night dance party, sponsored by the Downingtown Area Senior Center from 7-11 PM on Saturday, April 12 in the covered bridge room at the Kimberton Fire Co. on Route 113. Tickets, \$75 each, include food, beer and wine. With reserved seating, tickets must be pre-ordered by calling 610-269-3939.

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

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Vol. 8, No. 10

March 9, 2017

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# What was happening here 68 years ago

Noted below are items originally published by local newspapers in late December 1949:

- Downingtown organizations made major efforts to make Christmas a wonderful holiday for kids and needy families. Accompanied by the DHS marching band, Santa Claus (Warren Mercer) paraded over the borough's principal streets to the Log House at Kerr Park, where he gave a toy and candy to more than 1,000 children. The program, sponsored by the **Downingtown Christmas Committee**, was chaired by Huston Mattson. The committee also distributed clothing and toys to some 150 youngsters from needy families. They were delivered in trucks provided by Herman Faucett, Mylin Plank, Louis D'Addezio, James Hilton, Walter Hadfield, Lewis and Stanley Sarmiento, Edgar Griffith and Aubrey Goudie. Also, the Downingtown Lions Club put on a Christmas party in the auditorium of the junior-senior high school for some 800 elementary students from the borough, Marshallton and Guthriesville.
- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Young Men's Association** were: Allen Hughes, president; Gerald Lyons, vice president; Floyd Lilley, recording secretary; Charles Forte, corresponding secretary; and Morris Stevens, treasurer.
- Members of the **Williamson Masonic Lodge** in Downingtown elected the following officers: Charles Ezrah, master; George Aumiller, senior warden; Robert Hadfield, junior warden; Palmer Raysor, secretary; Leland Wilson, treasurer; and John Fisher, Edwin Baldwin, Arthur Glauner, trustees.
- **Lionville Primary School** students who provided Christmas entertainment for parents and friends included Jimmy Rennard, Albert Miller, Roger Tracy, Donna Fay Matlack, Jean Dowlin, Janice Windle, Norman Jenkins, Jane Miller, Jackie Stine, Raymond Whitely, Janice Tryon, Eddie Pringle, Marie Abel, Judith Jones, Joseph McClure, Nancy Shreiner, Walter Supplee, Sandra Meredith and Eddie Matthews.
- Jack Helm's 20 points spearheaded the **DHS basketball team's** offense, as the Whippets won their season opener by beating Parkesburg 64-32. Sonny Milano and Pete Hayes contributed to the effort by scoring 11 points each.
- Elected as officers of the Alpha Bible Class at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Robert Laird, president; Anna Hall, vice president; Mrs. Frank Smedley, secretary; and Mrs. Walter Fisher, treasurer.
- Members of **Marshallton's Cub Pack** who earned badges included Jackie Tinder, Harry Cann, Charles Bossert, Curtis and Eugene Eaby, Donald Lambert, Ralph Hall and Charles Brooks.
- Those who performed in a Christmas play at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glen Moore, included George McConaghy, Jane McLaughlin, Bill and David Harrop, Mrs. Charles Earnshaw and Mildred Davis.
- **DHS students** who had featured roles in the production of "Don't Open Until Christmas" were Joan Lenhardt, Frank DiPietro, Eleanor Detterline, Ann Hutchison, Leo Ciarlone, Arlene Harkins and Joseph Young.
- Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** elected these officers: Gordon Carpenter, president; George Nixdorf, vice president; Elmer Schrupf, recording secretary; Arthur Glauner, financial secretary; Leland Wilson, treasurer; Lloyd Mason, trustee; Charles Broomall, assistant chief; W. H. Backenstose, captain; Fred Jamison, first lieutenant; and Earl Stern, second lieutenant. Also, the final payment was made on the new cement block building constructed in the rear of the Alert's property on West Pennsylvania Avenue.

## It was the Ladies Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co. in a parade



Jeff Stevens, the Alert Fire Co. historian, as well as assistant chief, was the only person who correctly identified the scene in the photo above as the Alert's Ladies Auxiliary in a parade. Larry Meredith, who provided the photo, says it was taken in 1948, and that his grandmother, Esther Wilson Brown, is pictured in the front row. It appears that the parade photo was not taken in the borough since there was no brickwork surfaces on any of Downingtown's thoroughfares at that time, and no one can recall a Pure Oil gas station in town back then. The auxiliary marched in parades with the Alert firefighters and vehicles back in the day, according to Stevens. And the uniforms the auxiliary members were wearing in the photo were comprised of a white skirt/blouse or dress, which also were the uniform they also wore while serving at banquets, held on the second floor of the firehouse on West Pennsylvania Avenue. The capes they wore in the parade were navy blue on one side and red on the other side. Auxiliary officers wore the red side out and all of the other members wore the navy side out. The fire company has some of those capes and the parade banner, shown in the lower right of the photo, in its archives. Although fire companies marching in parades started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, says Stevens, the Alerts didn't hitch-up the horses and drive the old steamer to a parade. Instead, the fire company's meeting minutes show that the Alerts booked two or three Pennsylvania Railroad cars to take the volunteers to march in parades in Lancaster, York, Harrisburg and Reading in the late 1890's and early 1900's.

*Officers of the Downingtown Area Historical Society are: Phil Dague, president; Jim Sundman, vice president; Marion Piccolomini, recording secretary; Lauren Fagan, treasurer; and Donna Capriotti, corresponding secretary. The board of directors includes: Harry Helms, Mike Dunn, Dennis Walton and Jay Worrall. Carol Grigson is the archivist.*

# What locals were talking about 57 years ago

Noted below are items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* on June 9, 1960:

- Raymond Baugher, superintendent of schools, predicted that “a major portion” of the **\$2.6 million high school** under construction would be completed in time for senior high students to attend classes in the new facility in September.
- **Faculty awards** presented to graduating seniors at the high school’s final assembly were: Thomas Booker, English; Edward Matthews, social studies; Michael Echols, mathematics; Paul Edelen, science and music; Linda Hadfield, commercial; Jeanne Keehn, art; Lamar Howe, agriculture; Roy D’Ginto, industrial arts; and Eleanor Robinson, home economics.
- Parents of graduating DHS seniors sponsored an **all-night party** at St. Anthony’s Lodge, following commencement exercises.
- Ground was broken for **Beaver Creek Elementary School**, to be built on part of the Lloyd Farm property at West Pennsylvania and Lloyd Avenues in the borough. Students who participated in the ceremonies were Charles Menas, Betsy Robbins, Eric Dreibelbis, Debbie Beam, Tommy Connors, Ann Osborne and Leonard Collier.
- Directors for **summer recreation programs**, conducted by the Downingtown-West Bradford Elementary School Board, were Eileen McCardell and Jeanne Emery, East Ward School; Mary Jean Lillard, Alert Fire Co.; Laura Ericson, Lionville School; and Edward Novak, Marshallton School.
- Elected as officers of the **Pickering Valley Women’s Club** were Mrs. Charles Stanford, president; Mrs. Norman Frank, vice president; Mrs. Jacob Dewees, secretary; and Mrs. Paul McCardell, treasurer.
- Members of Intermediate **Girl Scout Troop 180**, Downingtown, who went on a nature hike and had a cook-out, included Linda Boyd, Linda Wilson, Ruth Keller, Carol Reutter, Mary Ann Brookover, Linda Broomall, Yvonne Bertram, Judy Williams, Ruth Jean Bicking, Carol Miller and Virginia McElyea.
- Installed as officers of the **Ladies of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church** were Mrs. John Falini, president; Mrs. Nello Caporale, vice president; Mrs. Calvin Mingione, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert Cozzone, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Mario Pizzi, treasurer.
- Frances Knight was crowned Queen of the **Wallace Township School District’s** spring fete. Her attendants were Nancy Edwards and Christine Harrison. Court attendants were Ronald Saathoff, Gene Dowlin, Lloyd Lutz and Russel Slater.
- Students, who performed at the **East Brandywine Music Festival**, held at Guthriesville School, included Debbie Whiteman, Jane Neff, Jonathan Inslee, Janie Fraser, Bindy Von Hacht, Kathy Irons, Jerry Feiler, Louise Herring, John Pollock, Douglas Gindin, Donald Campbell and John McGirk.
- Chosen to be members of the **DHS marching band’s color guard** were Frances Fitzgerald, Mia Kangas, Eileen Moyer, Barbara Noll, Jeanne Watts, Rosemary Krzysko and Bonnie Plank.

Vintage Ad of the Week

# **GALA NEW YEAR'S DINNER PARTY**

**THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 31, 1964**



**GENEROUS FULL COURSE ROAST PRIME RIBS OF BEEF DINNER with Everything from Soup to Nuts. Served Regally in the Lower Grand Ballroom . . . New Year's Hats, Horns, Novelties, Noisemakers Included FREE.**

**DINNER WILL BE SERVED from 9:00 to 11:30  
and Great DANCING and ENTERTAINMENT from 9:45 to 2 a.m.**

## **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**RESERVE NOW, DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED AFTER  
OUR LIMITED QUOTA IS ALL SOLD, ACT NOW!!  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MAIN DESK IN LOBBY!**

**\$7.50 PER PERSON  
DOWNTOWN MOTOR INN**

This ad was originally published in the December 21, 1964 edition of the *Daily Local News*.

## In case you couldn't access a Hist-O-Gram

You can access last week's (March 2 edition) Hist-O-Gram by clicking on:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%202%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%202%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

Also, you can use a bookmark, which is a list of favorite websites that provide a handy way to access the most recent Hist-O-Gram. By clicking on our bookmarked website—

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org)—you will gain access to our website's home page, where the latest Hist-O-Gram always will be on the left side.

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## Repointing of Ashbridge House stone walls is almost completed



If you drove by Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, in recent weeks, you probably noticed that the exterior stone walls are being repointed. That means that all of the old mortar was removed and is being replaced. The project was initiated two years ago, when the wall on the east side of the house was repointed. Now the other three sides are being done. That was made possible through a wonderful donation by a local organization. The project has been handled by Paul Steiner's firm, of Kennett Square, which specializes in doing masonry work on historic buildings. You can check out the history of Ashbridge House via: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Ashbridge%20House%20History.html](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Ashbridge%20House%20History.html).

## Group Photo of the Week



The DHS Alumni Association's fifth annual Homecoming was held on October 14, 1967. That year's Homecoming court included, left right: front row, Denise Asparagus, Lauren Tweed, Lyn Jaeschke and Susan Seel; back row, Rhonda Hugill, Susan Myers, Rose DiOttavio, Homecoming Queen Donna Usher, Susan Richards, Joan Poffenbarger and Alexis Mecray.

## **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

### ***Lessons Learned***

Del Staecker, author of two award-winning WW II memoirs, will speak about "Lessons Learned from the Greatest Generation" at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 21. He'll share his insights from WW II stories, and his thoughts about heroes and the personal cost of war - and why their stories matter now. The meeting, which will be held at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown, is free and all are welcome.

### ***Workshop for prospective DAR members***

Women, ages 18 and older, are encouraged to attend the "Prospective Member Workshop," conducted by the Chester County Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to be held from 10 AM until noon on Saturday, March 18 in the atrium of the Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Dr. Chester Springs. The library is located near the intersection of Routes 100 and 401, by Ludwigs Corner in West Vincent Township. It is about 4 miles from Exit 312 of the PA Turnpike.

### ***E. Brandywine's speaker series***

Local author and historian Bruce Mowday will make a presentation on "The Brandywine—America's River" at 3:30 PM Sunday, March 19 to kick off the East Brandywine Historical Commission's spring speaker series. The program will be conducted at the township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville.

### ***Oldies Night***

Jerry Blavat, the Geator, will appear at the Oldies Night dance party, sponsored by the Downingtown Area Senior Center from 7-11 PM on Saturday, April 12 in the covered bridge room at the Kimberton Fire Co. on Route 113. Tickets, \$75 each, include food, beer and wine. With reserved seating, tickets must be pre-ordered by calling 610-269-3939.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 8, No. 11

March 16, 2017

## What & Where Was This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [dahs19335@gmail.com](mailto:dahs19335@gmail.com).

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

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

# What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early March 1981:

- Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted at the future site of the **First Baptist Church**, at West Pennsylvania and Lloyd Avenues, Downingtown. The congregation hoped to move into the new structure in December. The plans called for a seating capacity of 340 and an education wing for some 260 people. At the time, First Baptist was located at the corner of East Lancaster and Manor Avenues in the borough. Members of the construction committee included John Frazer, Henry Drumheller, Wilbur Felten, Kenneth Garriss, Ronald Heckman, Vernon Jameson and Jeffrey Wendel. And members of the finance committee were Thomas Haas, Marguerite Charles, James Manley, Kay Oberteuffer and Spencer Windle. First Baptist was organized in 1891.
- Elected to the consistory of **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**, Lionville, were Mary Shoop, president; Harry Levering, vice president; Alice Behrndt, secretary; and Muriel Lewis, treasurer.
- Members of the parish life committee at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, were Michael Petrillo, Charles Sabotta, Carol Zeiders, Jim Madden, Dan Burgess, and Joe and Sherry Danke.
- The nine **Whippet wrestlers**, who advanced to the District I tournament included Tom Urban, Glenn Koser, Duncan McIntyre, Frank Saello, Ron Wenk, Jim Kaiser, Dave Ross, John Lucerne and Dave Massimini.
- **DHS sprinter Ted Robinson** won two gold medals at the Tournament of Champions indoor track meet at Lehigh University. And **DHS indoor track** records were set by the Whippet 1-mile relay team (Craig Ogburn, Ken Phillips, Jim Falcone and Mike Woodward), and the 880 relay team (Ogburn, John Kielfel, Todd Tyler and Mike Allen).
- **Old East Ward School** students who made the A Honor Roll were Julie Frank, Beth Anne Johnson, David Lucerne, Chitra Ramanathan, Paula Rucker, Chris Sabotta, Jennifer Snyder, Kelli Theakston and Cathy Samples.
- Officers of the **Downingtown Fireman's Relief Association** were William Barrett, president; Robert Stevens, vice president; William Wilmot, secretary; Robert Brown, treasurer; and directors Donald Page, Richard Myers and Vinton Smedley.
- West Whiteland Township supervisors approved of plans to convert an **early 19<sup>th</sup> Century house and barn** on a three-acre site on South Whitford Road into a restaurant and guest house. The house and barn were purchased from John Young by Carr and Knauer Inc., which had developed Pickering Creek Industrial Park in Lionville. Plans for the transformation were designed by John Miner Associates of West Chester.
- Brian Hetrick, Donny Lynn and Michael Rodriguez received the Arrow of Light, **Cub Scouting's** highest award at the Blue and Gold banquet of Pack 8, sponsored by Hopewell United Methodist Church, East Brandywine.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 216**, Lionville who were tapped into the Order of the Arrow were John Dockstader, Matt Woods and Chuck McLean.
- Officers of the deacons board at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, included Ed Popjoy, chairman; Alvin Wells, vice chairman; Jim Runyen, secretary; and Jim Dewees, treasurer. And officers of the board of trustees were Bill Butler, chairman; Walter Styer, vice chairman; Bill Butler, secretary; and Jack Funderwhite, treasurer.

## Registering for youth sports the old fashioned way



No one correctly identified the scene in the photo above, which was taken in 1980s. It's a shot of parents, in a local school, signing up their kids for one of the sports programs offered by the Lionville Youth Association. The registration process no longer is as arduous today, because most local youth sports organizations now enable parents to use the Internet to register their kids online.

## What was happening here 86 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from the March 1931 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- A campaign to build a **swimming pool** in Downingtown's Kerr Park was "virtually assured" when some 70 representatives of Downingtown service clubs, veteran's group, fire companies, school district and borough government met. It was estimated that construction costs could be reduced by \$5,000 if some of the work was done by unemployed local men, and local plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other skilled tradesmen, who were under-employed during the Great Depression. The plan to finance the project, which received the most support from people at the meeting, was to form a "holding company," which would sell bonds to local residents. An advisory committee—composed of Chairman Charles Nice, Park Plank, Henry Lillard, William Ludwick, Paul Brown, Frank Parke, Herbert Ash, John Galt and Martin Binder—was formed to determine if the pool project should be pursued or abandoned.
- **East Ward School's** orchestra, which had only six to eight musicians when it was organized in the fall, had increased to 20 boys and girls. Ruth Shumway was their faculty

director. Home Economics students at East Ward were making towels, princess slips, kimonos, pajamas and dresses, plus infant's clothing which was given to the Visiting Nurse program.

- **Whitford Lodge** in Exton, home of the Chester County Library and a recreation center, was being re-papered and painted. A benefit bridge party was held there to pay for the paint.

- Members of the **DHS boys' basketball team**, who earned letters or certificates, included manager Robert Plank, Tom Deets, Joseph Sciarretta, Morris Yohn, Newlin Moore, Earl Entrekin, George Stine, Mike Mento, "Nip Westmoreland, Pusey Lammey, Paul Daylor and John Francella. And members of the **girls' basketball squad**, who received letters or certificates, were Hazel Walton, Marion Laird, Helen Lewis, Ella Mae Nichols, Eileen Farrell, Dorothy Nice, Annawyn Johnson, Ruth Pannebaker and Isabel Wray.

- An ad for **Swede's Clothing Store** in Coatesville offered street dresses, regularly priced at \$1.95, for only 69 cents to the first 200 Downingtown women who shopped there on the following Saturday or Monday.

- William Miller of Philadelphia, was hired to direct Downingtown's **Community Chorus**, according to Paul Brown, Chorus president.

### Group Photo of the Week



This is Downingtown Junior High's 1964 football team, which was undefeated. Members of the team were, left to right: first row, John Kline, Doug Gindin, Doug Habacker, Paul Siever, Larry Amoriello, Kenny Baen, Tony Cosenzo, Hank Hamilton, Ron Donnon, Toby Morris, George Price, Aubrey Proctor, Donny Boggs, unknown; second row, Val DiEuliis, Jim Vible, Tom Isinger, Donald Walls, Jay Sigle, Jeff Reed, Eric Horsey, Fran Gillespie, Herb Brown, Joe Hilton, Steve Long, Bill Smith; third row, Ken Platt (line coach), Bob Boggs, Don Mitchell, Mike Norris, Jon Mitchell, Tom McCurdy, Neils Nelson, Don Wilgis, Carl Hamilton, John Stoviak, unknown, Tom Stoner, Farney Cattell, Chic Chiccino (head coach). Photo and names provided by Hank Hamilton.

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Vintage Ad of the Week

**PLAY GOLF**  
at  
**BO-GREEN**  
**MINIATURE GOLF COURSE**  
at  
**BELL TAVERN**  
**ON LINCOLN HIGHWAY ONE MILE EAST OF**  
**DOWNINGTOWN**  
**18-HOLE COURSE**

<b>Real Grass Fairways</b>	<b>Natural Bunkers</b>
<b>25c in Daytime</b>	<b>35c at Night</b>

This ad was originally published in the *Daily Local News* on August 1, 1930.

## How to trace your home's history

If you're seeking the history of your residence or other property in Chester County, click on:  
[http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching\\_Historic\\_Properties\\_files/ResearchingGuide\\_De edAbstract.pdf](http://spesvox.org/prammer/EBHC/Researching_Historic_Properties_files/ResearchingGuide_De edAbstract.pdf).

## If you can't access our Hist-O-Grams

Some of our subscribers have been unable to access their Hist-O-Grams recently. We apologize. We're trying to resolve the problems with our bulk email service.

You can access last week's (**March 9 edition**) Hist-O-Gram by clicking on:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%209%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%209%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf).

*According to Icontact.com, our bulk email service, one of the reasons why some subscribers have difficulty opening their Hist-O-Grams is because they don't maintain their computers properly. Icontact.com recommends that you should have an up-to-date browser, provided by your Internet Service Providers (i.e. Verizon, Comcast, Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) to access websites, or use a file clean-up program periodically, to minimize access challenges.*

Here are some of the alternative ways you can open your Hist-O-Grams:

1. Whenever you can't access a Hist-O-Gram by clicking on the historical society's website address link—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org)—just **copy** the website address and then **paste it** into your web browser.

2. Also, you can use a **bookmark**, which is a list of favorite websites that provide a handy way to access Hist-O-Grams. By clicking on our bookmarked website—[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org)—you will gain access to our website's home page, where the latest Hist-O-Gram always will be on the left side.

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And at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 23, Marion Piccolomini, local author and historian, will present a program at the township building on her book, "World War II and Chester County" which describes how life changed for local residents, businesses and institutions during the World War II years.

### ***Senior Resource Fair***

A free Senior Resource Fair will be held from 9 AM until 3 PM on Tuesday, April 4 at the Downingtown Area Senior Center, 983 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. The fair will include more than 20 local businesses and organizations, including travel planners, continuing education reps, and health and wellness resources.

### ***Oldies Night***

Jerry Blavat, the Geator, will appear at the Oldies Night dance party, sponsored by the Downingtown Area Senior Center from 7-11 PM on Saturday, April 12 in the covered bridge room at the Kimberton Fire Co. on Route 113. Tickets, \$75 each, include food, beer and wine. With reserved seating, tickets must be pre-ordered by calling 610-269-3939.

### ***Alert's Golf Outing***

The Alert Fire Co. will have its fourth annual golf outing on Tuesday, May 8 at the Downingtown Country Club. Entry fee is \$110 for each golfer includes: registration and lunch starting at 11:30 AM, shotgun start at 1 PM, greens fees, cart, beverages on the course, awards dinner, various prizes and door prizes. Proceeds benefit Alert Fire Co. For more info, see: <http://alertgolfouting.org/>.

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

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Vol. 8, No. 12

March 23, 2017

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# What locals were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items first published in the *East Branch Citizen* in late March 1981:

- Glenn Koser was the first DHS wrestler to win a **state championship**. Koser, a 132-pounder, was the only wrestler to pin three opponents at the PIAA tournament.  
*(Editor's note; Cole Zapf became the first DHS West wrestler to capture a state crown, last week. In 2002, Brad Forbes became the only other Whippet wrestler to win a state title.)*
- Vince DiEuliis, who had served on the borough's planning commission and as a councilman over a 15-year period, was named **Citizen of the Year** by the Greater Downingtown Chamber of Commerce.
- Models for the **Ladies Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Company's** fashion show included: Jo Pacinelli, Gertie Woodward, Linda Broomell, Blanche Dawson, Bessie Brown, Jo Bruno and Kathy Przychodzien.
- Tickets for the **West Bradford Fire Co. spaghetti dinner** cost \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12.
- DHS students who had featured roles in the dual-cast production of **"Once Upon A Mattress,"** included Brian Robison, Allen Puy, Charlie Zeiders, Carole Styer, Jennifer Abrams, Brian Stahl, Sean Fennelly, Karen Lammey, Sean Connelly, Colette Owens, Allison Rabineau, Jeff Carey, Kevin Copp, Ed Otto, Tom Wallace, Joe Dayle, Walter Pietchmann, Jeff Turner, Bob and Bill Wisler, Sue Grant, Jeanne Hessinger, Michele Bolay, Patti Gable, Sheila Owens and Sue Bertram.
- Members of **Girl Scout Troop 1081**, Downingtown, who exhibited their dolls in an exhibit at Exton Square, were Nicole Bonaduce, Dessa Hartz, Tammy Hansberry, Chrystal Barlowe and Kari Leonard.
- The **LYA junior girls all-star team** was comprised of Donna Popplewell, Marbie Guyon, Sue Wait, Laurie Boyce, Megan Kelley, Laura Connell, Jen Sheron, Vicki Keaton, Debbie Lustig and Jill Weigner.
- Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52, Marshallton**, who spent a weekend at Camp Horseshoe, were Bill Buttner, Ron Chiesa, Brian Flaherty, Bill Fowler, Tom Gaffney, Geoffrey Hines, Ken Klunk, Keith McCann, John Pfeiffer, and John and Tim Sanner.
- Officers of the **Lionville Fire Co.**, who participated in the unit's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, included Fred Donaghy, president; Ed Milham, vice president; Harry Ruth, treasurer; and Richard Ruth, chief.
- Modern dance students who performed in the **DHS Gymkana**, included Nelli Lafitte, Scott Seymour, Rhonda Kapinski, Cliff Cheek, Vera Kockler, Bill Pitkin, Wendy Greenhalgh and Glenn Usher.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 1411 Dodd Drive, West Bradford, \$68,540; 81 Canterbury Court, East Brandywine, \$49,700; 313 David Circle, Downingtown, \$62,500; 404 Brandham Way, Uwchlan, \$86,250; 37 Lafayette Circle, Upper Uwchlan, \$121,993; 4206 Hazelwood Drive, Thorndale, \$55,500.
- DHS students, who were finalists in the **Merit Scholarship competition**, were Alison Hubler, David Stockoff and Allison Rabeneau.

## It was Windsor School in Upper Uwchlan



Scott Piersol is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person who correctly identified the site in the photo above as the Windsor School in Upper Uwchlan Township. Built in 1859, Windsor was one of the last one-room schoolhouses in Chester County, according to “The Upper Uwchlan: A Place Betwixt and Between,” published by the Tri-County Heritage Society in 1999. The school was closed in 1964, when Pickering Valley Elementary School was opened.

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

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1. **Hist-O-Gram Archives**, which provides access to every Hist-O-Gram we have published since 2010.
2. **Then and Now Videos**, which provide short video clips depicting how local sites have changed over the years.

## Group Photo of the Week



Members of the DHS orchestra, ca. 1930-31, included: C. Travaglini, H. Baldwin, S. Pollock, J. Elston, A. Miley, M.E. Dowlin, E. Levenite, C. Moore, J. Lamping, M. Deputy, L. Brown, C. Miley, J. Sciarretta, L. Pawling, P. Moore, W. Pollock, W. Bicking, W. E. Ash, A. Harrison, R. Ash, H. Hutchison, M. Travaglini, D. Heilig, J. Francella, M.J. Kehler, H. Mitman, R. Entrekin, H. Hyde, B. Pollock and GH. Ciarlone. Ruth Shumway was the director.

## What was happening here 61 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in March 1956 in the *Downingtown Archive*:

- DHS students named to the **District Chorus** were Nancy Hadfield, Marcia Chambers, Joan Miley, Thomas Lee, Dominic Mattioni, John Bousum, Patty Hilton and John Dawson.
- Elected to the **Downingtown Rotary Club's** board of directors were Andy Kissh, Dave Ross, Larry Polite, Everett Griffith, Edwin Johnson, John Phillips and Robert Piersol.
- Herbert Buckley, machine tender, and Huston Mattson, millwright, were honored by the **Downingtown Paper Co.** for turning in the most acceptable suggestions in 1955.
- According to a survey done by the borough government, **67 percent** of the people working for Downingtown industries lived outside the borough.

- **Beloit Eastern** announced that two Downingtown men had received promotions. John Collins was named superintendent of the machine division, and Norman Pannebaker was made foreman of the machine shop.
- Members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club**, who performed in a one-act comedy, were Mrs. Homer Robbins, Mrs. James Holden, Theresa Sciarretta, Mrs. Charles Sigle and Mrs. Alfred Singer.
- **DHS basketball players** Tony Price and Johnny Chilla were named to the All-Ches-Mon League's second team, and John Bousum earned an honorable mention.
- **Ray DiSerafino** was named head coach of the DHS football team, succeeding Howard Caskey, who retired.
- Local **Girl Scout leaders** who received five-year service pins included Mrs. Maurie Davis, Mrs. Arthur Phillips, Mrs. Earl Radcliffe, Gloria Sweeney, Ella Miller, Katherine Watson, Mrs. Peter Short, Mrs. John Nolan, Mrs. James Hare, Miriam Brooks, Mrs. Robert Kerstetter and Mrs. William Bender.

### Vintage Ad of the Week



**Approved  
PURINA  
CUSTOM  
MIXING  
SERVICE**

**LET US MAKE  
YOUR GRAIN WORTH MORE**

We are equipped to grind your grain and balance it with a Purina Concentrate for more meat, milk or eggs. We use approved Purina formulas. See us today.

**LINEINGER'S**  
FUEL OIL—COAL—FEED  
WHITFORD, PA.  
Phone Exton 751

This ad was originally published in the Daily Local News on December 17, 1949.

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## **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

### ***Spring Book Sale***

The Downingtown Library's Spring Book Sale will be held from 5-7:30 PM on Friday, March 24, from 9 AM-4 PM on Saturday, March 25, and from 1-4 PM on Sunday, March 26. On sale are thousands of adult fiction and non-fiction books and kids' books, as well as a BOGO deal on hundreds of movies and music CD's. Proceeds will benefit the Library.

### ***Free Trout Rodeo***

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club's Free Trout Rodeo, for kids 15 and younger, will be held from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, April 25. Registration starts at 8 AM at the shed in the Kerr Park parking lot near the playground.

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At 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 23, the East Brandywine Historical Commission will offer a program by Marion Piccolomini, local author and historian, on her book, "World War II and Chester County," which describes how life changed for local residents, businesses and institutions during the World War II years. The program will be conducted at the township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike in Guthriesville.

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### ***Oldies Night***

Jerry Blavat, the Geator, will appear at the Oldies Night dance party, sponsored by the Downingtown Area Senior Center from 7-11 PM on **Saturday, April 29** in the covered bridge room at the Kimberton Fire Co. on Route 113. Tickets, \$75 each, include food, beer and wine. With reserved seating, tickets must be pre-ordered by calling 610-269-3939.

### ***Alert's Golf Outing***

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

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

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 8, No. 13

March 30, 2017

## What & Where Was This?



The first person to correctly identify the scene in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your response to: [dahs19335@gmail.com](mailto:dahs19335@gmail.com).

# What locals were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are items first published in local newspaper in the early part of January 1965:

- Downingtown became first Chester County municipality to award an **exclusive cable TV system franchise** when Borough Council selected Triangle Publications, parent of TV station WFIL. Triangle claimed the cable system would cost homeowners “about \$8 a month.” Council also approved the construction of an **ice skating rink in Kerr Park**. The Downingtown Lions Club had been promoting the project, and agreed to cover some of the costs. Several borough officials and Lions Club members had recently journeyed to Quakertown to inspect a similar rink, with a clay base that precluded water seeping into the ground.

- Carl Garrison, superintendent of elementary schools in the Downingtown District, presented a plan to reshuffle several hundred students among four schools. Overcrowding at Beaver Creek and Marshallton Schools, plus a soon-to-be completed addition at Lionville School, were the reasons for changing boundaries to more evenly balance pupil assignments among four schools for the 1965-66 school year. The plan hit a snag when the issue of continuing to **lease space at the Alert Fire Co. in Downingtown and the West Bradford Fire Co. in Marshallton** to alleviate some of the overcrowding was discussed. The school directors agreed to review the plan at the February board meeting

- Charles Mentzer was elected chairman of **East Brandywine Township’s** board of supervisors, and Roy Nellius was elected vice chairman. Mrs. John Frazer was the board secretary, and Alan McCausland was the township roadmaster.

- **G. Roland Moore** was named Citizen of the Year at the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce’s 20<sup>th</sup> annual dinner-dance. Moore had recently sold his office supply business.

- New members of **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Byerly, Mr. and Mrs. William Haering, James Harman, Walter Millard, Irvin Rubincam, Mrs. David Tracey, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Troyer.

- DHS classmates were shocked when they learned that **Robert Carl**, a senior from Uwchlan, had died after sustaining severe head and other injuries in a car accident on Route 100, near Eagle. Carl was captain of the high school’s football and wrestling teams. Also injured in the crash were James Dewees, 13, and his brother, Jacob, 16, both of Uwchlan.

- Mrs. James Andrien, president of the **West Bradford Fire Company’s Ladies Auxiliary**, made these appointments: Mrs. William Keeler, chaplain; Mrs. John Miller, sunshine chairman; Mrs. Josephine Simmons and Mrs. Edwin Hill, house committee; Mrs. Hestor Wallace, kitchen committee; Mrs. John Trimble, Helen Crawford and Mrs. Mary Lou Elliott, membership; Mrs. Jack Sellers, lending committee; Mrs. Ernest Fling, fair committee chairman; and Mrs. Robert Crawford, way and means committee.

- Installed as faculty members for the Sunday School of **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Mrs. Frederick Walker, Dolly Buttermann, Janice Windle, Mrs. Elroy Buttermann, Nancy Martin, Mrs. William Davies, Mrs. Alfred Kochel, Mrs. Frederick Dahlberg and Mrs. Robert Poole.

- After the **DHS basketball squad** suffered its third loss in early January, a 78-46 thrashing by Phoenixville, Coach Mel Brodsky said, “Some of the players were disinterested in playing ball tonight. And I’m going to be disinterested in playing them Friday or afterwards, until they look like they want to play ball.” However, Brodsky noted that Whippet guard Ken Sigle had done “a good job setting up the offense, had several assists, and scored well.”

## Group Photo of the Week



This photo of a basketball team was taken in 1896, and we know the team had a Downingtown connection. But since most of them were in their early twenties, it was not a DHS team. Also note that their uniforms looked more like football gear than basketball togs. The players and adults connected with the team were, in no particular order: William Broschard, George Perry, Ira Ingram, Afton Wilkinson, Will Miller, Leach Holliday, E. Broschard, William Ash, Herbert Ash, William Shoad, M. Thomas, Bill Bochastin, Harry Hutchison, Bob McCaughey, Bob Ash and Walter Smith.

## How to trace your home's history

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# What was happening here 86 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from the spring 1931 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*:

- Borough Council and the Park Commission agreed to lease land in Kerr Park to the **Downingtown Swimming Pool Association**, so a swimming pool, plus bath houses and showers, could be built there. The \$15,000 project was to be financed by establishing a holding company, which would sell 15-year debenture bonds. About 30 % of the bonds issued were pledged within days of project's approval.
- The Downingtown School Board decided that the **new junior-senior high school** should be built on some 12 acres that were part of the W. Irwin Pollock farm property, which fronts on Manor Avenue, near Race Street. Two other sites considered by the school directors were the Woman's Club property on Manor Avenue and the land where the East Ward School was located on East Lancaster Avenue. Although the Pollock farm property option provided space for athletic fields, that location would be costly because the municipal water and sewer lines, plus sidewalks, would have to be extended for several blocks in a rural section part of the borough.
- Despite the enthusiastic support for a pool, the **Alert Fire Co.** decided not to have its annual carnival in the coming summer because many borough residents were experiencing "hard times" due to the Great Depression.
- The Field Club represented Downingtown in a new **Chester County Baseball League**, which was formed at a meeting at the Swan Hotel in the borough. The Field Club's leaders were Howard Harvey, manager; Joseph Terramin, coach; Anthony Mento, president; Daniel Kennedy, vice president; Edward Fahey, treasurer; and Andrew Mento, secretary. Other communities that had teams in the league were Coatesville, Modena, Thorndale, West Grove, Kennett Square, Longwood and Doe Run.
- And the **Downingtown Twilight League**, comprised of four borough teams, also was established in 1931, according to Raymond Greenleaf, league director. The teams and their managers were: Alert Fire Co., Lewis Moses; Downingtown News, Ross Dague; Downingtown Athletic Association, Percy Miller; and Greenleaf's Pharmacy, Raymond Greenleaf.
- Merle Brown, DHS biology teacher, had a group of his high school students spray oil on local streams, to **alleviate mosquito problems**.
- Musicians in the **Glen Moore Fretted Instrument Band** were Charles, Norman and Granville McCardell; Gilbert and Violet Hock; Flossie Parrott; Ethel Harple; Winfield and Edward Ford; Alice Dunlap; Mabel Hellinger; W. E. Corson; and Bill Benner.
- The **trout pond** in Kerr Park, stocked with over 100 brook trout, ranging in length from 8 to 12 inches, was dedicated. The pond, built by John Englerth, was christened by Lucy Lloyd, whose father, William Lloyd, spearheaded the pond project.
- The **DHS orchestra**, directed by Ruth Shumway, won the Chester County Orchestra Competition, which involved musical groups from 11 high schools.
- Sixth grade boys at **East Ward School**, who built bird houses, included George Haberle, Elmer Jameson, Raymond Hadley, Richard Clarke, Grant LeFevre and Frank Moore.

Vintage Ad of the Week

**B. JUGLIELMO**  
**Expert Shoe Repairing**  
**Has Moved from Center**  
**Square to**  
**315 Washington Avenue**  
**and is ready and equipped to**  
**serve you now as before**  
**All Work Guaranteed**      **Prices Reasonable**

This ad was originally published in the May 8, 1931 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

## Clip/Paste sessions slated for Sunday

We're looking for volunteers to participate in the Historical Society's clip/paste session, to be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, April 2, and from 6:30-8 PM on Tuesday, April 4. The sessions, which involves clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection, will be held at Ashbridge House, our 308-year-old headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Shopping Center on Route 30 in East Caln.

## **Obituary:**

### **Roger Grigson spearheaded restoration of Ashbridge House**

D. Roger Grigson, 83, of Downingtown passed away on Thursday, March 23, 2017, at Chester Valley Rehab. He was the husband of Carol Grigson with whom he shared 32 years of marriage.

Born in Bryn Mawr in 1933, Roger was the son of the late William Herbert and Gretchen Schweitzer Grigson.

He was a 1951 graduate of West Chester High School and attended Cornell University.

Roger served in the U. S. Marine Corps and was stationed on a troop ship off the coast of Guatemala for five months. As a veteran, he was a member of the American Legion Post 134 in West Chester, where he had served a term as Commander. He was also a life member of the Marine Corps League.

After returning to civilian life, he entered the insurance field; first as an agent and later as the owner of a property/casualty agency. Roger ran the company with his wife, Carol, until 2012.

For many years, Roger was a part of the family Christmas tree business, which was founded in 1950. When it was started, it was the first 'choose-and-cut' tree farm in Chester County. After his father's death, Roger ran the tree farm until 2000.

He was always active in community affairs. Growing up as a Boy Scout, he became a leader in 1960 of Troop 55, sponsored by Grove United Methodist Church and later established Troop 134, sponsored by the American Legion in West Chester.

After marrying his wife, Carol, they became involved with Project Children - a program bringing children from troubles in Northern Ireland to America - to witness tolerance and understanding. He served as coordinator for Project Children for many years, which was sponsored by First Presbyterian Church in West Chester.

Because of his love for military history, Roger started the World War II census for Chester County. Working with the Chester County Historical Society, Roger and his committee were able to conduct hundreds of interviews, along with statistical information, of Chester County residents who served during World War II. Over 13,000 names are now part of the census.

His later years were consumed with his passion for the Downingtown Area Historical Society, finding a place for its headquarters, and negotiating to preserve the 1709 stone house, now known as the Ashbridge House. Rescued from the wrecking ball, the Society inherited a building in great despair. Roger led the drive to restore the building so that it could be used to preserve and share the history of the Downingtown area.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Grigson is survived by his children, Geoff Grigson, Gregory Grigson and Melissa Grigson; three grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was also predeceased by his brother, William H. Grigson, Jr.

A celebration of Roger's life will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, April 22 at the James J. Terry Funeral Home, 736 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, where friends and family may visit from 9 AM until the time of a service.

Interment will be private at the request of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Roger's name may be made to the Downingtown Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 9, Downingtown, PA 19335.

## It's the "Norseman" sailing on the lake at Marsh State Park



Ellen Van Lew is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person who correctly identified the scene in the photo above as the lake at Marsh Creek State Park in Upper Uwchlan, where the "Norseman," a 40-foot Viking ship replica, is launched annually in October by members of Leif Ericson Viking Ship Inc. (LEVS) a nonprofit Chester County-based organization. The group's goal is to educate people about Leif Ericson and the Viking people as merchants, navigators, shipbuilders and more, as well as to re-create the experience of traveling on water as the Vikings did 1,000 years ago.

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And if you missed the March 23 Hist-O-Gram, you can access it by clicking on:

[www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%2023%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2017%20Hist-O-Grams/March%2023%202017%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf)

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## **Free Ads for Non-Profit**

### ***Mulch Sale***

Members of the DHS football team are selling mulch, and they are willing to come to your home to spread the mulch you purchase. The mulch is provided by Sweetwater100 Inc., which deliver it to your home. The cost is \$28 per yard of mulch. For more details call: Karen Laughman, 484-574-9728, or Tim Glennon, 484-999-7590.

### ***Muzzy Run***

The 11th annual Muzzy Run on the Struble Trail will be held on Saturday, April 8. It will include a 5K, a 1-mile fun walk, and a kids' fun run. Registration online ends on April 7. For details, see:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Downingtown/MuzzyRun>

### ***Community Christmas Tree***

In 2016, the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee celebrated the start of the holiday season by purchasing a live Christmas tree, which was placed next to the Log House next to Kerr Park, where a well-attended tree lighting ceremony—with music, refreshments and Santa—was conducted. However, the Committee's search for a large, live tree for Christmas 2017 has proved to be difficult and expensive. So, the Committee has decided to purchase a 17-foot-tall Giant Everest artificial tree, with a 3-foot-tall lighted star for the 2017 Community Christmas Tree, which will last for many years. To cover the cost of making that one-time purchase, the Committee has undertaken a fundraising effort. If you would like to help the Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee buy this tree, please visit the website: [www.dtownchristmas.com](http://www.dtownchristmas.com), where you'll find all the information about sponsorship levels, or contact Dianne at 484-678-6835 for more information.

### ***Craft/Antique/Flea Market & Ross Kershey***

Table space is available for craft/antique/flea market to be held from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, May 13 on the grounds of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. Sponsored by the Old Caln Historical Society; call Joan 610-384-9496 or Lois 610-384-8153 for information. The Old Caln Historical Society also will sponsor the program when Ross Kershey speaks about Aaron Burr - Hero or Villain? The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 2 PM on Sunday, April 23. Also at the Caln Township Municipal Building. Parking is available. Reservations not required. For information, call 610-384-8153.

### ***Free Trout Rodeo***

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club's Free Trout Rodeo, for kids 15 and younger, will be held from 9 AM until 2 PM on Saturday, April 25. Registration starts at 8 AM at the shed in the Kerr Park parking lot near the playground.

### ***Readers on the Run***

The Readers on the Run races, to benefit the Downingtown Library, will be held on Saturday, April 22. Events include a 5K, 1.5-mile timed walk, and a kids' dash. Registration at Green Street and East Pennsylvania Avenue, Downingtown, begins at 7 AM. Cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 will be awarded to the three top male and female runners in the 5K race. There also will be team competition. For more details, see:

<https://www.runtheday.com/register/detail/readers-on-the-run>

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

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

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