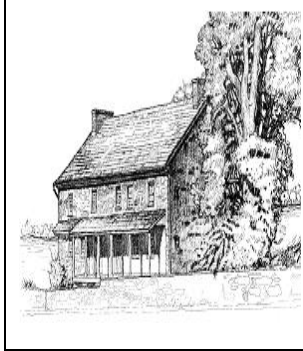


# Happy New Year!



## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 1

January 1, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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# Local news in the early part of December 1962

Here's what area residents were talking about 53 years ago, according to local newspapers.

A consultant hired by the **Uwchlan Township** planning commission reported that surging residential development, but limited commercial development, in Uwchlan was why a survey of 363 households showed that township residents preferred to buy groceries in Downingtown, do other shopping in West Chester, and go to Philadelphia for their entertainment.

The **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** had installed shelving in the children's room at the Downingtown Library.

DHS students named to the Southeastern Pennsylvania **District Chorus** were Linda Poole, Sandy Koppenhaver, Miriam Ezrah, Susan Whittaker and Roger Geisel.

Young ladies who were invested in **Girl Scout Troop 180** in Downingtown were Brenda Diem, Kathy Fleming, Cheryl Miller, Carol Ann Lynn, Kathy and Susan Snyder, Vickie Walker and Pam Davis. Thelma Williams was the troop leader, and she was assisted by Mrs. Donald Forbes, Mrs. Champ Echols, Mrs. Catherine Lynn and Mrs. William Snyder.

The Downingtown Area **Joint Elementary School Board** voted to build a 12-room addition to the Lionville Elementary School, and said construction of a new school at a site in West Bradford also was priority. Also, the board rejected a proposal to conduct double sessions at the district's elementary schools.

Alfred Peterman, of the Alert Fire Co., was appointed chief of the **Downingtown Fire Department**, succeeding Hallan Usher.

Also, George Perry was re-elected president of the **Minquas Fire Co.** Other officers chosen were Everett Hoopes, vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; William Wilmot, financial secretary; Vincent Smedley, treasurer; and Daniel Rothas, trustee.

Members of Downingtown's **Cub Pack 2**, who earned advancement awards, were Jimmy Fennelly, Joseph Miller, Arthur Harrison, Michael Bilka, Jimmy Jenkins and Larry Patrizio. And the Den Chief Cord Award was presented to David Robbins.

Mrs. Howard Stimson was named president of the Lutheran Church Women at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown. Also elected were Mrs. William Isinger, secretary, and Mrs. Roy Gulliford, treasurer.

Those who received attendance awards for Sunday School classes at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were John and Kimberly Fleck; Danny Martin; Russell, Janice and Darlene Windle; Edna Pivonka; Charlene and John Barton; Helen Bittmann; Thomas Isinger; Beverly, Lynn and Lonny Spence; and Charles and Nancy Martin.

Installed as officers of the **DHS Student Council** were Randy Reeves, president; Susie Martin, vice president; Mary Ann DiMatteo, secretary; Donna McElroy, assistant secretary; Mary Ann Smedley, treasurer; William Pollock, judge of the School Tribunal; and Jeff Smith, clerk of the Tribunal.

Members of **Cub Pack 79**, sponsored by Fairview Presbyterian Church, Glenmoore, who received Bobcat pins were Robert Gabriel, Steve Feters, Mike Kelly, Scott Sharp, Gary Coffey, Glen Lang, Peter Hickey, Donald Shellenberger, Allen Earnshaw and Barry Lewis.

DHS football players who were named to the **All-Chester County** first team were Bill Pollock, end; Ellis Brown, tackle; and Jim Price, quarterback. Whippets who made the second team were Grant Smith, tackle; and Gordy Flowers, running back.

Elected as officers of the **Library Service Club** at Downingtown Junior High School were Denise McCallin, president; Georgia Baker, vice president; Kathy Mohler, secretary; and Kathy Ayers, treasurer.

## More news originally published in December 1978

Noted below are news items originally published in the *East Branch Citizen*, a Downingtown weekly, in the latter part of December 1978.

Vince DiEuliis, president of Downingtown Council, bewailed the proposed 1.5 mill increase in the **borough real estate tax rate**. He noted that in 1950, a Downingtown resident with a home assessed at \$6,000, paid \$90 per year to the borough in real estate taxes. But in 1979, the owner of that house, still assessed at \$6,000, would pay \$150 in real estate taxes, a 16.6 percent increase over two decades.

Downingtown police officer Mike Dunn was elected president of the **Minquas Fire Co.** Others elected were Randy Holman, vice president; Jim McGowan, treasurer; Maryanne McComsey, recording secretary; Dave DiLuigi, financial secretary; and Mike Davis, trustee.

Joe DeMucci paced the **DHS boys' basketball team** with eight field goals, as the Whippets won their first game of the season, beating O. J. Roberts 53-41. But Downingtown lost its next two games, to Coatesville and Phoenixville.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1216 Ericcson Drive, West Bradford, \$62,900; 2908 Fisherville Road, Caln, \$87,500; 423 W. Church St., Downingtown, \$22,500; 720 Brainerd Road, Uwchlan, \$92,500; 1805 Thomas Road, East Caln, \$120,000.

DHS students who were selected for the **District 12 band** were: Connie Galbraith, clarinet; Judy Honey, bass clarinet; Ron Evans, trombone; and Jeff Henry, baritone horn.

## It's a former schoolhouse in West Bradford Township



No one correctly identified this as a residence, at 971 Broad Run Road in West Bradford. It had been the Cottage School, which was closed by the West Bradford School District in 1945 and was sold for \$500 in 1947.



## YMCA Camp was considered a country club in 1917

The camp, operated by the Philadelphia YMCA in West Bradford Township, near the Downingtown border, was considered to be a “delightful country club, according to the August 23, 1917 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*.

At that time, the camp had six cottages, where about 100 young men over the age of 18 could sleep. The cottages had running water and bathrooms. The camp also included a large dining hall, which could seat 150 campers, and a clubhouse (see photo below), which included two pool tables, a billiard table, a Victrola (record player) and a piano for entertainment.

The site also had a baseball diamond where Downingtown teams often were the opponents, a 200-foot-long swimming pool which was fed by neighboring springs, and two tennis courts. YMCA officials said they planned to add two more tennis courts, a rifle range, another pool, and a golf course.

When the Philadelphia YMCA formed the camp in 1895, it was originally known as Dwight Farms because Edward P. Dwight, then president of the Chester Steel Casting Co., donated 465 acres of his farmland in West Bradford Township.



The old clubhouse at the YMCA Camp along the West Bradford-Downingtown border.

## Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, January 4. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the local gossip (Did now-deceased comedian Joan Rivers own or lease a house in Caln Township?) as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.



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

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

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

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### ***Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities***

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Vol. 6, No. 2

January 8, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## Local news in the latter part of December 1962

Here's what area residents were talking about 53 years ago, according to local newspapers.

The **Downingtown Motor Inn's** 1896 House Restaurant was charging \$4 for a complete Christmas dinner. And the \$3 per couple, charged by the **Downingtown Moose Lodge** for its New Year's Party covered hats, noisemakers and novelties.

The Youth Fellowship group at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** put out their first edition of *The Ebb*, a newspaper covering the church's activities. Clem and Libby Regener were the advisors.

Soloists in the presentation of Handel's Messiah at a **DHS Christmas concert** were Wilma Matlack, Miriam Ezra, Nancy Martin, Susan Whittaker, Robert Crane and Charles Alexander. The concert began with members of the Boys' Chorus, dressed like waiters, marching down the aisles of the auditorium while singing "The Boar's Head" carol.

Officers of the Sunday School of **Bethel AME Church**, Downingtown, were Percy Miller, superintendent; Hezekiah Henderson, assistant superintendent; and Mrs. Ida Miller, organist. Recitations were given by Clara Shuler, Deborah and Lamont Wilkerson, Robert Horsey, Daniel Asparagus, Sara and Sharon Walls, Janet Miller and Paula Price during Bethel's Christmas program.

Young ladies from the Chester Springs area, who were taken into **Girl Scout Troop 252**, were Becky English, Terry Merkle, Wendy Weikel, Noreen Mahoney, Ruth Ott, Polly Quigley, Alice Smurthwaite, Donna Mitchell and Ann Lamb. Those who earned swimming badges were Nancy Sload, Harriet Wentz, Ann Barrow, Katie Hallman, Joy Henssler, Cheryl Miller, Susan Seel and Donna Twaddell.

Members of the **DHS cross-country team**, coached by Charles Ax, who received awards at the fall sports assembly, were Jeff Smith, Lloyd Asparagus, Charles Alexander, Lee Hayes, David Downing, Randy Dietrich and Ronald Brinton.

Installed as officers of the **Ladies Auxiliary of the East Brandywine Fire Co.** were Mrs. Pauline Moses, president; Mrs. Mae Swarner, vice president; Mrs. Hannah Harner, recording secretary; Helen Laird, financial secretary; Mrs. Gwen Dague, treasurer; and Mrs. Helen Frazer, chaplain.

Participants in a play, put on by the Youth Fellowship group at **Glen Moore Methodist Church**, were Mary Ann and Nancy Harple; Linda, Mary Jane and Patty Pizii; John Miller; Raymond Evans; Carol Williams; and Gary Keenan.

Students at Marshallton Elementary School, who did well in physical fitness testing, were Harvey Nicholson, Helen Freyberger, Justine Blackwell, Marshall Busby and Arlene Brown.

New officers, presented at the **Williamson Masonic Lodge's** annual banquet, included Thomas Peazzoni, senior warden; Fred Crosson, junior warden; Robert McClure senior deacon; David Whittaker, junior deacon; Philip Stocker, senior master of ceremony; William Broomell, junior master of ceremony; George Brookover, pursuivant; and Thomas Philips, chaplain.

Featured in the Christmas Play, put on by **St. Joseph's School** students, were Andrew Cozzone as Santa; Kathleen Cozzone as Nimble; and Carl Valente as Wimble. Mrs. Margaretta Helm was accompanist; Mrs. Joseph Mento was the dance instructor; Peter Tecce did the snow decorations; and John Morris handled the lighting.

The **Glen Moore Fire Company's** new officers were Edwin Evans, president; Frank Lutz, vice president; Thomas Trego, secretary; William Payne, treasurer; Thomas Miller, financial secretary; John Reber, fire chief; Thomas Reber, first assistant chief; James Griffin, second assistant chief; Edward Moore, trustee; and Leonard Bjorkman, chaplain.



A presentation of “The Christmas Story” was made by these **Brandywine Wallace School** students: David Lyman, Debbie Mertz, Susan Glazebrook, Paula Raysor and Bobby Meyers. And fourth graders who sang solos were Becky Wilson, Becky Evans, Buddy Thompson, Fred Smith, Adrian Keenan and Steven Feters.

## Neat items donated to our archival collection in 2014



Vance Usher donated many items to the Historical Society last year, and he brought us a lot more neat things in 2014. In addition to slot cars and toy space vehicles from his youth, Vance also contributed a 1914 Bell Telephone directory for the Philadelphia area, which included several phone numbers for Downingtown; several bottles found in the Halfway House on East Lancaster Avenue, before it was razed in 1968; and the mill race intake valve apparatus shown in the photo above, which had been used for decades in the mill race that ran behind the Usher’s family’s home on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown.



Marjorie Lawn Gazzola, DHS Class of 1957, who now lives in the suburbs of Washington, DC, gave the Historical Society a copy of “The Gee Family Book,” an 82-page genealogical study of her ancestry in England and the U. S. Marjorie is a descendant of Billy Gee, who emigrated from England in 1898 to the Thorndale-West Bradford area. One of the many photos in the book is the one on the left, which shows Marjorie’s grandmother, Mary Ann (Molly) Gee, in 1903, while employed as a nanny for the child in the photo, who is Thomas Parke. That little boy in a dress, which was typical in that era, grew up and became a prominent Downingtown physician.

## Neat items donated to our archival collection in 2014 (Continued)

Members and friends of the Historical Society donated many interesting items to our archival collection in 2014. Noted below are just some of the unique items, related to the Downingtown area, they donated last year. Those items and their donors included:

**Marsha Anderson**-Her father's (James Anderson) U.S. Army Air Corps uniform and discharge papers from World War II.

**Caroline Ash**-History of St. James Episcopal Church, 1994.

**Bill and Tom Brookover**-Photos of 1931 DHS football team, DHS Class of 1932, copy of May 30, 1932 edition of the *Downingtown Archive*, 1949 Downingtown City Directory.

**Donna Capriotti**-Several 1950s editions of St. Joseph's Catholic Church Bulletin.

**Kathy Conahan**-DHS 1970s basketball game passes, spirit tags, Whippet tea towel.

**Gail Miller Davis**-Deeds from 1874, 1877 and 1923 for 340 Washington Ave., Downingtown.

**Michael DiLuigi**-Baseball uniform advertising DiLuigi's Shoe Repair.

**Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce**-Downingtown Jaycees' 1967 Survey, 1962 Post Office dedication program, 1965 WFIL film *Salute to Downingtown*.

**Downingtown-Thorndale Rotary Club**-Banner, bell and gavel from Downingtown Rotary Club.

**Rena Francella**-Downingtown Annual Report, 1955 and 1960.

**Ernie Jameson**-Numerous directories and annual reports from First Baptist Church.

**Dr. William King**-Several DHS Class of 1946 reunion photos and directories, reprint of Charles Pennypacker's 1909 *History of Downingtown*.

**Robert Klinger**-Many photos, slides and films from when his father, Harold Klinger, was the DHS agriculture teacher and Future Farmers of America advisor for many years.

**Tom Lee**-Scrapbook of articles about the early days of the Downingtown Little League.

**Debbie Dunn Lutchkus**-Costume dresses she and sister, Patricia, wore in 1959 Centennial Parade.

**Cynthia Lyman**-Downingtown Woman's Club stock certificate, Downingtown Rotary Club banners, plaques and gavel.

**Ronald Meacham**-1960 DHS letterman's sweater, Witmer map of Downingtown.

**Michael Mento**-Downingtown 1897 and 1927 Directories, Copies of the six Alumni Association Newsletters, sent to all members of DHS Alumni serving in military during World War II.

**Phoenixville Area Historical Society**-Scrapbook with articles covering the extension of the West Chester trolley line to Downingtown.

**Ellen Plank**-Newspapers published on major historic occasions in late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, History of Chemical Leaman Tank Lines.

**Iva and Olin Siever**-1917 Downingtown City Directory, 1938 Chester County Handbook.

**Ronald Tipton**-DHS band emblem, programs for DHS concerts, plays, etc., many editions of the DHS *Blue and Gold* newspapers from 1950s.

**Tri-County Historical Society**-Photos of the YMCA Camp's early days.

**Ben Valocchi**-Minutes and other records of the Downingtown Area Senior Center, 2003-2010.

**Mark Walters**-Several DHS All Sports banquet programs.

**Austin Windle**-Booklet for dinner honoring Chester County men who served in World War I.

**Roxanne Wisler**-Photo of the 1912-13 DHS basketball team.

**Madeleine Woodruff**-Photos of 1918-1919 and 1919-1920 DHS basketball teams, plus 1920s era photo of Villanova basketball team, when John Francella played there.

We are most thankful to those who donated all the items to the Historic Society.

## Downingtown area news in the fall of 1917

Noted below are news items retrieved from the *Downingtown Archive* 98 years ago.

The first Liberty Loan war bond campaign conducted in August 1917 in Downingtown had reached \$65,000, and the second stage of that effort, in October 1917, was projected to total \$100,000.

After the U.S. entered World War I, a drill corps, known as the Home Guards, was formed in Downingtown, and soon two squads of the 36 local young men were drilling and receiving martial training twice a week at the Minquas Fire Co. Downingtown's Hancock GAR Post provided old Springfield rifles for the drill corps to use. The Minquas gymnasium committee requested that members of the drill squads wear rubber-soled shoes. And drill corps members who wished to be promoted to the rank of corporal were advised to buy a copy of the Drill Manual at Hutchison's Drug Store, to prepare for the exam. Also, formation of a Cadet Corps at Downingtown High School was proposed.

And the Minquas Fire Co. was where boys between 11 and 18 could participate in gymnasium classes three times a week for only a dollar a year. Since that year-old program was so successful, a senior exercise class for adult men was being formed.

Enrollment at the high school had increased to 165 students. The ninth grade had to be split into two sections.

And the 1917 football season got underway with a 7-6 loss to Phoenixville. The game was played in the infield of the race track (at the intersection of Brandywine Avenue and Boot Road) because the field behind the High School on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough was determined to be 40 feet short of 100 yards. The following week, Downingtown defeated Coatesville 20-6 in another home game at the race track.

Red Cross volunteers were now working in rooms at the Improvement building (at West Lancaster and Stuart Avenues). Among the items they produced in September 1917, which were shipped to Red Cross headquarters in Philadelphia were: 27 surgical shirts, 10 bath wrappers, 10 sets of pajamas, 8 shoulder wraps, 10 pair of bed socks, 200 compresses, 300 sponges, 115 slings, and 87 abdominal binders.

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**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you**



Marybeth Fusco is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many people who correctly identified a similar photo of Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln. The repointing of the leaking stone wall on the east side of the house was expected to be completed by the end of this week, weather permitting. We would not have been able to undertake this major repair project without the fantastic donations made by our members and friends. Thank you very much.

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# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Bike Rack Design Contest***

In a collaborative effort between the Borough of Downingtown, Downingtown Main Street Association and the Downingtown Area School District Engineering Department to provide bike-friendly racks in the Borough of Downingtown, *the Student Designed Bike Project invites School District students to design a bike rack. It can be historical in nature, artistic, fundamental or just plain fun. Any* materials—such as markers, crayons, colored pencils—can be used, and the design can be done on a computer, made with pipe cleaners or popsicle sticks, etc. Please read the information sheet for other details. The top 20 designs selected by the judges will be turned over to volunteer technology students in the School District high schools. They will model and prototype the 20 finalists' designs. One (or more) of those designs will be selected to be turned into bike racks.

[Click here for more information](#) and an entry blank. All designs should be turned into your DASD public school's art teacher by Wednesday, January 14.

## ***Program on Golda Meir***

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Vol. 6, No. 3

January 15, 2015

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## Local news items from early January 1979

Noted below are snippets of news originally published in the East Branch Citizen 36 years ago.

Data provided by the Chester County Intermediate Unit showed that the **Downingtown School District** spent \$1,662 per pupil in the 1977-78 school year, while the county average for that period was \$1,940. Overall, Downingtown ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among the county's 12 school districts that school year. And the budget data for the 1978-79 school year, showed that Downingtown planned to spend \$1,771 per pupil, while the county average was \$2,107. And Downingtown continued to rank 10<sup>th</sup> among the county's 12 school districts for that school year.



New members of **Lionville Community Methodist Church** were Ed and “Cookie” Butts, Laura and Joseph Brown, Pat Cohen, Dorothy Devaney, Earle Fegley, Coney and Juanita Galbraith, Frank and Carole Galbraith, Romeo LaMarch, Ted and Pat Rowland, and Tony and Debbie Harley.

Nominated for four positions on **Messiah Lutheran Church’s** council were Mary King Autry, Maj-Brit Gabel, Jo McAdoo and Dan Rothas. Also, Dixie Shirk and Michael Petrillo were appointed to fill unexpired terms on council.

And nominees for the council of **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Eric Bittmann, Arthur Freas, John Green, Kenneth Service, Nancy Hurst and Joyce Wood.

Leaders of the Live Wire Class of **Downingtown United Methodist Church** were Mabel Davis, chairman; Frances Hilden, co-chairman; Florence McGuckin; Marie Showalter; Dorothy Weiss; Mae Thompson; and Sue McFalls,

The DHS **wrestling team** opened its Ches-Mont campaign with a 36-12 win over Pottstown. Dave Blye turned the match around for Downingtown, when he got a pin with only 33 seconds left in the third period.

Students of art teacher Donna Usher, who created a **sculpture in the courtyard of DHS**, were Alan Lasoff, Vince Talucci, Gregg Mehrhoff, Joan Haase, Steve Ziobro, Joe DeMucci, Erin Conaghan, Dina DiSantis, Brian Smith, Dave Kucera and Jeanne Minahan.

**Disco classes** and dances for adults and teenagers were being offered by Gussie Irons at the Village Square in Guthriesville.

The **DHS Ecology Club**, founded and still supervised by biology teacher Edith Hille, was established on Earth Day in April 1970. Members of the club accepted paper and glass on a Saturday morning each month. The paper was taken to the Sonoco paper mill in Downingtown, and the glass was sold to firm in Springfield. Proceeds from the sales were used to provide a bike rack at DHS, care for trees and provide benches at the high school; and dues for the club’s memberships in several conservation organizations. Over the years, the club also sponsored an American Indian child; painted the Downingtown train station, maintained a trail at the Charlestown Nature Center, and helped maintain the Lakes Project in Downingtown.

The board of **Historic Yellow Springs** announced plans to open a restaurant at their site in West Pikeland.

A **McDonald’s Restaurant** was opened at Green Street and East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, on the former site of the Bicking Paper Mill. A bakery was opened at the **Ingleside Diner** on Route 30 in Thorndale. And **PJ’s Family Restaurant**, Route 113, Uwchlan, was featuring take-out boxes of chicken. Also, the **Bakery Outlet**, located in Four J’s Mini Mall on East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown, was offering fruit tarts, strawberry pies, and Italian pastries and breads.

Elected to lead **Boy Scout Troop 79**, Glen Moore, were Tom Reber, senior patrol leader; Bill Golding, Tim Land, and Jay Rutherford, patrol leaders; Doug Comstock, Charles Zeiders Dave Lewis and Steve Lewis, assistant patrol leaders.

Members of **St. Paul’s UCC Church**, Lionville, who went caroling about 10 days before Christmas were Curtis and Barbara Wright, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Marmon, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Faddis, Alice Behrndt, Linda and Bill Davis, Cindy Shultz, Bonnie Grubb and Larry Delpino.

The two **DHS basketball teams** won consolation games in holiday tournament games played at the high school. Jeff Robertson scored 21 points, and Bob Melvin had 15, as the boys' team defeated Chichester 57-42. The Whippets narrowly lost their opening round to Conestoga 62-60. With Lauri Carcella scoring 20 points and Jen Ward canning 13, the girls' team beat Octorara 63-33. However, they were clobbered 64-46 by Conestoga in the opening game.

Recent **property transfers** included: 321 Stuart Ave., Downingtown, \$40,500; 3 Marshall Circle, Thorndale, 58,000; 7 Skyline Drive, West Pikeland, \$39,000; 122 Lori Circle, Uwchlan, \$73,900; 104 Hilltop Drive, East Brandywine, \$95,900; 426 Longwood Drive, West Whiteland, \$84,100; 2212 Persimmon Drive, West Bradford, \$57,660; 15 Carriage Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$71,625; and 126 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$85,000.

**Bentley-Harris Manufacturing Co.**, Lionville, presented a \$1,000 check to the Coatesville-Downingtown Junior Achievement Center, where students could participate in a learn-by-doing education program.

Although many of them live within one mile of Lionville Elementary and Lionville Junior High, parents of students who live in the Marchwood development in Uwchlan asked the **Downingtown School Board** to waive the one-mile restriction, and allow their kids to travel by school bus to their respective schools because the sidewalks were hazardous during the winter. The parents also claimed their children's health was at risk, if they continued to be required to walk to school while it was raining, snowing and in frigid weather. Under a recently established policy, the School Board said elementary students should walk up to one and one-half miles to school, while secondary level pupils were expected to walk up to two miles.

A group of **West Pikeland** residents protested against the establishment of a heliport on the 3.1-acre tract of Haig Kurkjian on Newcomen Road, between Route 113 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. And township supervisors declined to send a consent form to the state's Bureau of Aviation because the plan didn't comply with zoning regulations and wasn't in the best interests of the township.

## What local residents were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in July of 1947.

An estimated crowd of 5,000 people turned out for **Good Neighbor Day**, sponsored by the Downingtown Young Men's Association, at Kerr Park in Downingtown on July Fourth. William Harrison was chairman of the program. Events included a track meet, baseball games and a tennis tournament. Local winners included Anthony Mento Jr. in the track competition and Anthony Mento Sr. in the plug casting contest. Two "name bands" played in the afternoon. Other competitions included: rolling pin throwing, cake and pie baking, quoits, archery, child calling, and a tug-o-war.

New-elected officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** included Mrs. Penrose Moore, president; Leta Tweed, vice president; Mrs. Donald White, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Carl Engle, recording secretary; Mrs. Leon Williams, treasurer; and Mrs. Raymond Greenleaf, senior advisor.

Eddie Popjoy, Shirley Garvine, Dodie Hoffman, Mildred Sorensen and Mary Henley were rewarded for their outstanding work while attending **Windsor Baptist Church's** Vacation Bible School, which had an enrollment of 65 youngsters.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Women of the Moose** Chapter were Helen Babb, senior regent; Nellie Donovan junior regent; Dorothy McClure, junior graduate regent; Mary Burnett, argus; Dorothy Bruno, sentinel; Jessie Taylor, pianist; Margaret Dowlin, guide; Mary Algiers, recorder; and Carrie Francella, treasurer.

A 1947 Oldsmobile sedan was the grand prize at the carnival, co-sponsored by the **Downingtown American Legion** and **VFW**, which was held for nine nights on the lot at Stuart and Manor Avenues in the borough.

Thirty-three members of the **Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co.**, Downingtown, who had worked at least 60 percent of banquets and dinner held at the fire hall, went on a three-day trip to Niagara Falls and Buffalo, NY. The train trip, paid for with tips paid by diners at the fire hall the past year, was arranged by Elizabeth Whiteman, Blanche Summers, Mrs. George Williams, Gerald Lyons and Elmer Schrupf, a representative of the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., who lived in Downingtown.

## **Glen Moore Fire Co. is 100 years old**

Fire protection for the Glen Moore area was first considered in 1912 by members of the Glen Moore Improvement Society, according to the website of the Glen Moore Fire Co. And proceeds from a festival, held at that time in Glen Moore Park, were used to buy four hand-held fire extinguishers. Two of the extinguishers were put in the Glen Moore Post Office, and the other two were placed in Elmer Dunwoody's store on Creek Road (Route 282).

And the possibility of establishing the Glen Moore Fire Co. was first discussed in a series of meetings held in Burton Foreman's in May 1915, and it was decided to form the fire company at a meeting held on June 1, 1915.

The first officers were: Barton Foreman, president; Wilmer Dickinson, vice president; Earl Wagonseller, secretary; Elmer Dunwoody, treasurer; William Fleming, William Peck and James Davis, trustees; Walter Davis, chemical man; Silas Ireys, George Keeley, George Welsh and William McEwen, assistant chemical men; Jerry Harple, chemical pipeman; Harry Benner, Granville Lewis, Clyde David and William Fleming, assistant chemical pipemen; Mark Trego, fire chief; John McClure, first assistant fire chief; and William Ireys, second assistant fire chief.

Although there were many financial challenges in the early years, the fire company's treasury grew with proceeds from festivals, dues and donations. And two (\$125 and \$250) bank certificates and three \$50 Liberty War Bonds were purchased.

Meanwhile, the ladies of Glen Moore started doing Red Cross work, such as knitting and making supplies for the soldiers during World War I. When the war was over, several of those women decided to form an auxiliary in June 1919 that would benefit the fledgling fire company. The auxiliary's first officers were Alice Dickinson, president; Mrs. William Montgomery, vice president; Amy Bailey, secretary; and Adda McClure, treasurer. In a short period, the auxiliary



grew to 100 members, and they raised \$3,000 via bake sales, suppers in members' homes, street carnivals, dances and card parties.

By 1919, plans to build a fire hall on Fairview Road were resolved, and construction began in 1923. Much of the work was done by volunteers, who often used equipment, teams and wagons provided by local families. The hall included an auditorium and stage, a basement with a kitchen and dining rooms, a meeting room and "two large, hungry, coal-devouring furnaces," which cost about \$20,000.

While working on the fire hall, a group of fire company members also were soliciting money for the apparatus fund. In 1925, a Hahn unit with an open air cab and a power pump was purchased for \$5,250. The Hahn was sold in 1947, so a new Chevrolet chassis could be bought.

A proposal to construct a second building on the fire company property was approved in 1957, and part of the new engine house was rented to the Glen Moore Post Office that year as well. And more equipment was bought in 1963, with the major contributions by the Auxiliary.

There was a gala affair in 1964, including a parade with 30 pieces of equipment from neighboring fire companies, to celebrate the burning of the mortgage and the housing of two pieces of apparatus. And the company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated with a parade and two block parties in June 1965.

Current officers of the fire company are: Richard King, president; Scott Welker, vice president; Len Morley, treasurer; Desiree Seese, secretary; and Jason Trego, Fred Clark and Joe Lewis, trustees; Michael King, fire chief; Jeff Seese, deputy chief; Steve Miller, assistant chief; Anthony Bocchicchio, lieutenant and Centennial Committee chairman; Joe Crawford, EMS Captain; and Keith Blevins, chief engineer.

For more info on the 100 years of Glen Moore Fire Co. history, see:  
[www.glenmoorefire.org/content/history/](http://www.glenmoorefire.org/content/history/).

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

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

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

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

## **Loading books on wagon train for the trip to the new library**



Pictured above are supporters of the Downingtown Library who used their little wagons on a frigid Saturday, January 3 to transport about 1,200 boxes of books some six blocks, from the 100-year-old library at 330 E. Lancaster Ave. to the new facility on Wallace Avenue. The wagon train project had been inspired and coordinated by the Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club's Jack Hines. The new, 7,000-square-foot library, which opened last Wednesday, is located next to Kerr Park. Many of the 45 wagons involved in the historic event were brightly decorated. Carol Nelms is the truly perceptive scholar who was the first of many subscribers to correctly identify where this photo was taken and what was going on when the photo was taken.

## **Paid ads for businesses**

### ***Vance Usher, registered representative***

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.net](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.net), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

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

***Blood Drive***

The Borough of Downingtown will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 13 in the Annex Building of Downingtown Borough Hall, at 4 W. Lancaster Ave. For more info, see: [www.downingtown.org](http://www.downingtown.org).

***Program on Golda Meir***

Ann Atkins, author and historian, will talk about Golda Meir's early years, before she was Israel's prime minister, at the West Caln Historical Society's meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 20, at the West Caln Municipal Bldg., 721 W. Kings Hwy., Wagontown. The public is welcome.

***Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities***

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

***Banquet Room for Rent***

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

***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

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



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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 4

January 22, 2015

### Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify what local fire company's fire apparatus is shown in the photo above will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Please send your responses to [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

### What local people were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are snippets of news originally published in local newspapers in the early part of January 1963.

The Pickering-Brandywine Joint School Board revealed that it didn't want its elementary schools in East Brandywine, Wallace, Upper Uwchlan and West Pikeland Townships to be



administered by the **Downingtown Area Joint School Board**, under a consolidation package developed by the Chester County School Board. The controversial merger plan was to be placed on the ballot in the fall election.

Downingtown postmaster John Welsh reported that there had been a run on one-cent stamps because the postal rate on first class mail had risen from four cents to five cents, effective on January 6, and many people didn't want to get stuck with four-cent stamps. Local residents also bought one-cent stamps because postage for postcards and air mail also increased by a penny.

Elected to lead the **Ladies Auxiliary of the Minquas Fire Co.** were Rose Nichols, president; Liz Whitman, vice president; Doris Unruh, financial secretary; Edna Pendergast, chaplain; and Dot Peters, recording secretary.

Leaders of **Girl Scout Troop 57**, sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lionville, were Jean Rice, Mrs. Donald Corneal, Mrs. Hugh Feeley, Mrs. John Barton and Mrs. Eric Bittmann.

Installed as council officers at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Rev. H. Raymond Jones, president; Ralph Ralston, vice president; Mrs. Laura Lenhardt, secretary; William Wessner, treasurer; Henry Kriebel, financial secretary; Irvin Geschwindt, finance; Andrew Roman, stewardship; Ray Kipp, worship and education; and William Keller, property.

Officers elected by members of the Evening Missionary Society at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, included Mrs. Vernon Jameson, president; Mrs. Thomas Gabel, vice president; Mrs. James Manley, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Wilbur Felten, secretary; Mrs. Melba Lynn, treasurer; Mrs. Lawrence Emery, Christian social relations; Mrs. William Wick, spiritual life; Mrs. William Robb, love gift; Mrs. George Bell, leadership training; Mrs. Lawrence Dilworth spiritual interest missionary; Mrs. Lydia McManus, literature; Mrs. Donald Shields, White Cross; Mrs. Henry Drumheller, sunshine; and Mrs. William Hayes, membership.

New officers of the Women's Association at **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, were Mrs. Leon Williams, president; Mrs. Nelson Norris, vice president; Mrs. Elton Weikel, secretary; Mrs. Robert Forrest, treasurer; Mrs. George Nordblum, programs; Mrs. Wallace Pearson, spiritual life; Mrs. Ira Buckwalter, world service; Mrs. Earl Stern, fellowship; Mrs. Killian Dixon, local church service; Mrs. Hallan Usher, Presbyterian Home secretary; and Mrs. Joseph Eby, Presbyterian Home assistant.

## Local news in the latter part of January 1979

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

Many **East Brandywine** residents turned out for a supervisors' meeting after they read in a daily newspaper that small game hunting might be prohibited in the township. However, only banning deer hunting with high-powered rifles had been considered, and the supervisors said they didn't have the authority to restrict hunting. Only the state Game Commission could make that ruling for a second class township such as East Brandywine.

Mike Dunn, president of the **Minquas Fire Co.** in Downingtown, wanted to increase the size of the fire company's ambulance service so it could respond to all calls during the daytime, when most of the volunteer ambulance crew is at work. One of the ways to expand the service, said Dunn, was to recruit women.

Officers of the newly formed Rev. William Fenerty Knights of Columbus Council at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church** were John Francella, grand knight; Edward Maney, deputy grand knight; John Morris, chancellor; Edward Campagna, recorder; Peter Bonaduce, warden; Ben Scalia, recording secretary; James Rowan, treasurer; Joseph Wusinich, John Fiore and John Helm, trustees; Brian Formica, inside guard; and James McDonald, outside guard. Winners of the foul shooting contest, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, were Mike McHugh, Mary Jacobson, Kevin Lyons, Chris Thomas, Billy Golden, Matthew Moran, Jennie Conahan, Bernadette Bonaduce and Maryellen Francella.

Elected as Sunday School officers at **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle were Jim Runyen, superintendent; Joe Cura, assistant superintendent and song leader; Gail Kuhlkin, secretary-treasurer; Deirdre Murdoch, assistant treasurer; Randy Shaw, librarian; and pianists Jenny Peterson, Rita German, Sandi Contner, Diane Fitzmier and Stan Miller.

**Boy Scout Troop 70**, Thorndale, planned to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner at the east Brandywine fire hall. Founded in December 1928 under the sponsorship of the Caln School PTA; the troop was sponsored for the past 40 years by Thorndale Methodist Church.

Pins were recorded by Keith Grant, Jim Webb, Victor Cozzone, Dan Howard, Mike Marcocci, and Paul Sparklin, as the **DHS wrestling team** demolished Coatesville 59-6.

**Lionville Junior High's basketball team** clobbered Downingtown Junior High 48-18, as Mike Cominsky tallied 19 points for the Lions.

Elected as officers of the **East Brandywine Fire Co.** were John Piersol, president; John Neff, vice president; Ron Rambo, secretary; Lewis Laird, treasurer; Scott Piersol, membership secretary; Walt Crandall, trustee; Dr. Brent Follweiler, fire chief; and Tucker Thomas, fire police captain.

Recent **property transfers** included: 3210 Windsor Lane, Thorndale, \$52,900; 1196 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$46,900; 106 Hilltop Drive, East Brandywine, \$93,900; 708 Brainerd Road, Uwchlan, \$92,500; 221 William St., Downingtown, \$34,900; 2 Carriage Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$71,700; 282 Creek Road, Wallace, \$60,000.

Elected as officers of the consistory of **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Joseph Moroney, president; Mrs. Gordon Ralph, vice president; and Mrs. Harman Rogers, secretary. Daniel Shoop was re-elected as head of the elders.

## Downingtown area news in early 1954

These news items were retrieved from the *Archive*, a Downingtown area weekly, 61 years ago.

Leon Gabel was elected president of **Downingtown Borough Council**. Other borough officials in 1954 were Robert McKinney, borough manager; Theodore Griffith, solicitor; William Walton, building inspector; and Howard Baldwin, treasurer.

Theresa Sciaretta, 219 Church St., Downingtown, won first place in Downingtown's outdoor Christmas decorating contest, sponsored by the **Chamber of Commerce**. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Ax, 106 Webster Ave., came in second; and Mary Jane Detterline, 110 Brandywine Ave., took third place.

Mrs. George Fisher, secretary of the board, and Mary Rogers, librarian, were honored at a retirement dinner attended by members of the **Downingtown Library** board.

John Chilla was the hero when he sank a foul shot, and the **DHS basketball team** beat Tredyffrin-Easttown 36-35. And Dick Goudie scored 24 points, as the Whippets beat Coatesville 60-44. It was Downingtown's first win over the Red Raiders since 1945.

The **Downingtown A&P** was selling lobsters for 89 cents a pound, and boneless beef roasts cost 39 cents a pound.

Patience Kinloch led the **DHS girls' basketball team** with 24 points, as the Whippettes edged Bridgeport 41-40.

Officers of the **Downingtown Teener Baseball League** were Tom Courtless, president; Robert Plank, vice president; Orville Brammer, secretary; and Herman Faucett, treasurer.

## Marble was quarried in the Exton area

The Thomas Marble Quarry, established the Exton area in 1833, were "easily the most famous industry to ever operate in West Whiteland," according to the township Historical Commission's application to have the site placed on the National Historic Landmarks and National Register of Historic Places.

The marble "might have lain dormant for centuries" if the Columbia Railroad had not begun to provide service between the Exton area and Philadelphia (initially via the West Chester Railroad) several months after marble was discovered on the John R. Thomas farm on South Whitford Road.

The quarry closed in 1844, after marble from the Thomas property was used to construct Girard College in Philadelphia. That building was designed by Thomas U. Walter, the Philadelphia architect best known for designing the iron dome on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, as well as several significant buildings in West Chester.

The quarry was reopened in 1867, when steam-powered was used to cut the stone, and keep the quarry free of water. But the operation had to be shut down when the quarry filled with water. In more recent years, the quarry was used as a private swim club.

## Historical Society of Pennsylvania evaluated our archives

Two project surveyors from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), located in Philadelphia, spent nearly two days this past summer at the Downingtown Area Historical Society's headquarters to check our Archives, as part of a survey of the "Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories," in the five-county Philadelphia region. The repositories include volunteer-run historical institutions, museums, fraternal and ethnic organizations, community groups, churches, clubs, and other non-profit organizations with important archival collections. The project is funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

You can access the HSP project surveyors' perspectives on our archives, after they visited Ashbridge House, at: <http://hsp.org/blogs/archival-adventures-in-small-repositories/downingtown-industrial-hub>.

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

## **It's at 681 Boot Road, Downingtown**



No one correctly identified the location of the house in the photo above as being at 681 Boot Road, Downingtown. For more info on the property, see: [www.homesnap.com/PA/Downingtown/681-Boot-Road](http://www.homesnap.com/PA/Downingtown/681-Boot-Road).

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*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 6, No. 5

January 29, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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

# Local news in the early part of February 1979

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

Elected as directors of the **Greater Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were John Francella, Chemical Leaman Tank Lines; Dr. Charles Micken, superintendent of the Downingtown Area School District; Pat O'Brien, O'Brien Machinery; John Riccardo, Four Js; Tony Rogevich, Downingtown National Bank; Joseph Stauffer, Brandywine Savings and Loan; and Jonathan Stott, Downingtown Savings and Loan. Others on the Chamber's board were Richard Herbster, James Doran, Michael Doyle, Leonard Frame, Rick Gindin, Bill Hildebeitel, Eloise McFalls and Earl Meyers.

Line officers of the **Alert Fire Co.** were Tom Lee, assistant chief; Richard Keers, captain; and Robert Stevens, Bryan Rambo and Doug Rambo, lieutenants. Company officers included Leslie Sheeler, president; William Keen, vice president; William Wilmot, recording secretary; Karol Beiler, financial secretary; Richard Myers, treasurer; and Al Peterman, Jerry Keen and Doug Rambo, trustees. Officers of the Alert's Ladies Auxiliary were Jo Pacinelli, president; Sharon Seese, vice president; Mary Lynam, secretary; Emily Walton, financial secretary; and Doris Yocum, treasurer.

Three school records were broken when the **DHS indoor track team** competed in a meet sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Track and Field Coaches Association. The records were broken by the distance medley relay unit's Phil Grant, Rob Sanders, Ray Bixler and Shaun Urbine; Drew Proctor's triple jump; and George Hall's 600-yard run.

Senior citizen specials, served between 1:30 and 4 PM at the **Ingleside Diner** in Thorndale, included \$2.10 for chicken croquette and eggplant parmesan; and \$2.40 for two filled crepes.

**Steve Whiteford**, DHS Class of 1970, had a featured role in a TV commercial for Genesee Beer. He had portrayed Sky Masterson in the high school production of *Guys and Dolls*, as well as played French horn in the marching band and sang in the choir at Marshallton United Methodist Church.

New officers at Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, were Helen Campbell, Bette Smith and Norm Uber, elders; Mildred Basehore, Harlan Fenimore, Frank Morrison, James Sciandra, Diane Banghart and Mark Kottmeyer, deacons; Donald Bilyew, Jane Brown and Frederick Brubaker, trustees.

Members of the cast of the comedy-mystery "A Stranger in the Night," put on by **Downingtown Junior High School** students, included Denise Barber, Shaun Fennelly, Sue Garnett, Tim Newell, Tim Reed, Jennifer and Chris Remley, Joe Swift, Maria Terry, Johanna Warihay and Steve Wilmot.

Rev. and Mrs. Donald Bower moved into the new parsonage at **Hopewell United Methodist Church**, East Brandywine. Members of the building committee were Ray and Wenona Paul, Charles Ax, Wayne Carmichael, George Dowlin, Eleanor Krapf, Park Risssel, Peter Smith, Mary Warren and Teddi Wright.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1304 Ridgeview Circle., West Bradford, \$61,900; 469 Brookwood Drive, Uwchlan, \$84,271; 43 Dorothy Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$65,775; 365 Balderston Drive, West Whiteland, \$80,065; 209 Brandywine Avenue, Downingtown, \$20,000;

226 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$91,000; 291 Meadow Drive, Caln, \$54,450; 20 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$66,500.

Don Greenleaf, borough manager, told members of **Downingtown's Council** that by installing an \$11,550, energy-efficient lighting system on the tennis courts at Kerr Park would pay for themselves in a few years. One of the other projects proposed by Borough Council was a \$5,000 baseball diamond at Kardon Park. Those were two of the recreation projects the borough submitted for federal and state Community Development funding.

Recently elected leaders of **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, were Elmer Murdoch, vice moderator; Mildred Supplee, church clerk; Sarah Styer, assistant clerk; Esther Popjoy, financial secretary; Libby Hughes, treasurer; James Dewees, deacon; Elmer Murdoch, Milton Shaw and Warren German, trustees; Rachel Nagle, adult chairman of Christian education; and Charles Popjoy, junior chairman.

### **Tidbits from the January 1918 issues of the *Downingtown Archive***

Members of the **Downingtown Soldiers Comfort Association** met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edge Lewis on Washington Avenue to pack 80 boxes, which were mailed to "soldier boys" in training at various military camps across the nation during World War I. In addition to toiletries and stationary items, each box contained three packs of cigarettes, three bags of tobacco and a box of Nabisco crackers. Money used to buy the items for the boxes was raised at a benefit show held at the Lincoln Movie Theatre (on Stuart Avenue in the borough).

Officers of the Washington Camp (Downingtown) of the **Patriotic Order of Sons of America**, who were installed at a meeting held in the Grange National Bank on East Lancaster Avenue, included: John Kemery, past president; Morris Happersett, president; Howard Moore, vice president; J. Kirk Smith, corresponding secretary; Frank Swarner, financial secretary and treasurer; David Balentine, master of forms; Edward Murray, conductor; William Trumbower, inspector; and Copeland Nichols, guard.

A rummage sale, to benefit the **Visiting Nurses of Downingtown**, was held at Hoopes Garage (now Creekside Antiques) at Manor and Lancaster Avenues in the borough.

Officers of the **high school's junior class** were Wilmer Dolby, president; Charles Fernald, vice president; Margaret Bray, secretary; and Helen Hibbard, treasurer.

Sworn in as newly-elected members of **Downingtown's Borough Council** were: Burgess (Mayor) Vinton Philips, Robert Ash, Frank Parke, and Joseph Moulder, plus Arthur Glauner, who had been re-elected. Councilmen who retired were Frank McGraw, George Crossley and Dr. Edward Kerr. McGraw had served 21 years and Kerr was a member for 17 years. Dr. Joseph Huggins was elected president, and Paul Brown was appointed secretary.

### **Deflated? Maybe the Clip Joint will pump you up**

Feeling deflated about the Eagles not playing in the Super Bowl? Perhaps you'll get pumped up by participating in our monthly Clip Joint session, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, February 1, when you can clip and paste newspaper articles for our collection of Family Files. The sessions are held at Ashbridge House, our headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure. And the Super Bowl doesn't start until 6:30 PM.



## It was the Alert Fire Company's Silsby Steamer



Paul Backenstose is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to say the apparatus in the photo above belonged to Downingtown's Alert Fire Co. According to Jeff Stevens, an Alert Fire Co. historian, the unit, pictured in last week's Hist-o-Gram, was the old 1892 Silsby Steamer. The Alerts owned it from 1892 to 1908, and the Minquas Fire Co. owned it from 1908 until the early 1970's, when it was briefly owned by a private party until the Minquas got it back around 2000. In 2010, volunteers from both companies started spending over 200 hours and their money on cleaning the many layers of dirt and rust off the Silsby, to get it in shape for parades.

When it was new in 1892, and when it was used by the Alerts, says Jeff, the boiler was bright nickel plated. And the name plate on the side of the frame read ALERT No. 1. When the Minquas was formed in 1908, the borough sent the steamer to be refurbished for the new company. A new black painted boiler was installed and the name plates were flipped over and engraved to read MINQUAS No. 2.

The photo below shows how the steamer looks today. It takes 22 Downingtown Fire Department volunteers to pull the steamer, instead of the two horses that pulled in the old days! On one side of the steamer the name plate now reads ALERT No. 1 and the other side of the steamer reads MINQUAS No. 2. The steamer is still owned by, and can be seen in, the Minquas Fire Museum on Wallace Avenue in Downingtown.



The young fellow in the driver's seat of the Silsby Steamer, as it was pulled down Lancaster Avenue in the 2014 Christmas parade, was Tom Lee Jr., former fire chief and ex-president of the Alert Fire Co.

## Interesting goodies from interesting sources

Found on the front page of the July 19, 1896 edition of the *Rome (NY) Daily Sentinel*: O'Brien's Circus was stranded in Downingtown Saturday. The show was billed for Christiana, but owing to the fact that Mr. O'Brien was unable to pay his freight bill from New Holland to Downingtown, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company refused to haul the cars any further and they were side-tracked at Downingtown. The railroad company finally agreed to transfer the cars to Philadelphia and hold them there until the freight bill was paid. After the show in Downingtown, on Friday night, the cornet band struck for wages due, alleging that O'Brien had not paid them daily according to contract, and an attachment was issued by Squire Johnson against the pole wagon. The matter was finally settled, and the trouble with the railroad company followed during the day. The show's western trip was abandoned.

\*\*\*

Seen in the August 1939 edition of *Radio and Television Mirror* magazine: Charlotte Bicking, of 33 Downing Avenue in the borough, was president of the **Gene Krupa Fan Club**, according to the August 1939 edition of *Radio and Television Mirror* magazine.

\*\*\*

And Austin Windle tells us that the mention in the January 22 Hist-O-Gram, of the DHS boys' basketball team's 28-26 victory over Coatesville in 1945 brings back some wonderful memories. Austin noted that, in addition to Charlie Forte and Ray Barrow being the Whippets who starred in that contest, those two got a lot of help from Jack Lyons, Bill Valocchi and Dick Dague. He also recalls that Dague was a starter on the football, basketball and baseball teams from when he was a ninth grader. Austin and his wife, Eva, are former borough residents, who now live at Tel Hai in the Honey Brook area.

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 6

February 5, 2015

### Where and What Is This?



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## What Downingtown people were talking about 97 years ago

Noted below are snippets of information originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* during the winter of 1918, when the U.S. was involved in World War I.

U.S. Army personnel apparently were guarding the **Pennsylvania Railroad** property in Downingtown, a newspaper article noted that one of the soldiers on duty there accidentally shot himself in the chest without any serious consequences. The soldiers were quartered at an encampment near the Trestle Bridge.

The **Downingtown Library** was asking residents to donate books and magazines, to local men who were serving with military units in the U.S. and overseas.

The **Harbison-Walker** brick works announced plans to build 10 single homes for employees in the borough. Each of the five-room dwellings, cost \$2,500.

**Tommy Gray**, Downingtown's chief of police, had sought a headquarters for the borough's police force for years, but Borough Council ignored his requests. So, Gray took the matter into his own hands and purchased a property on West Lancaster Avenue, and apparently turned part of it into the Downingtown police station.

Rev. M. R. Heilig, pastor of **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, was editor of the new, eight-page *Messiah Messenger*, a monthly publication.

Officers of the **Downingtown Home and School League** were Mrs. George Kerr, president; Mrs. Edward Bicking and Mrs. L. T. Bremmerman, vice presidents; Endora Freeman, secretary; and Mrs. Raymond Dennis, treasurer.

In its annual report for 1917, the **Downingtown Health Board** reported that it had fumigated 35 houses, and 91 homes were placarded with a quarantine notice due to a resident of those dwellings having a communicable disease.

There was serious coal shortage in February 1918. Hundreds of local families were without heat, and the **Miller Paper Co.** had to shut down due to the lack of coal. Downingtown schools were using soft coal, instead of the usual anthracite.

Rev. Elmer Walker, pastor of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, was assigned to a three-month tour as a military chaplain at Camp Meade, MD.

The **Downingtown Men's Club** had shipped Christmas packages to 80 of the 86 local boys serving in the military; addresses for the other six were unknown. Officers of the club were Harry Raudenbush, president; Amos Moyer, first vice president; Edward Young, second vice president; B.F. Eckman, recording secretary; W. B. Stauffer, financial secretary; Evans Miller, assistant financial secretary; Joseph Miller, treasurer; Rev. Henry Noon, chaplain. The club's executive committee included Hunter Wills, Dr. L. T. Bremmerman, Gilbert McIlvaine, Chandler Roberts, Howard Baldwin, Frank Parke and Edgar Griffith.

## Downingtown area news in August 1947

Noted below is information retrieved from local newspaper articles 68 years ago.

The **Ladies Auxiliary of the Alert Fire Co.** of Downingtown donated \$1,000 to the fundraising campaign for new uniforms for the **DHS marching band**.

Governor James Duff approved spending \$4.3 million on improvements at **Embreeville State Hospital**. The increased funding was to make a "real hospital" of the mental institution in West Bradford.

Proceeds from the **Chester County Baseball League's** all-star game, played at Kerr Park in Downingtown, were for the benefit of the league's injured players.

Committee chairman for the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** programs and activities in 1947-48 were Jack Brownstein, retail; Ed Towson, transportation; Sam Charles, Christmas lighting; Creston Shoemaker, legislative; Dr. Charles Bruton, health and recreation; and Ray Sheeler, membership.

**Uwchlan Township Republicans** agreed to place these names on the ballot for the September election: George Thompson, supervisor; Edwin Smedley, school director; Emmet Gordon, auditor; Horace Roberts, judge of elections; James Thackeray, inspector of elections; and Isabel Acker, justice of the peace.

The office team won the softball playoff at the **Downingtown Manufacturing Co.'s** annual picnic at Lenape Park. Members of the winning squad included: Cliff Morrow, Andrew MacIntire, Francis Daylor, Grant LeFevre, Francis Merkt, Herb Smith, Horace Hill, Gerald Lyons, Bill Broschard and George Loomis. The team of Clyde Esworthy and James Miley won the quoit tournament; Charles Broomall and Ed Klunk came in second. And Norman and Helen Pannebaker took first in the "Sir Walter Raleigh" race. Also, Bobby Burns and Alvy Kelly won the three-legged race.

A man employee of a Paoli electric shop was fatally injured and a teenage helper was seriously burned, while they were installing a steeple-type TV antenna on the roof of **Sheehy's bar and restaurant** at 151 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Rescue workers, supervised by local physicians Dr. Martin Neff and Dr. Norman MacKenzie, spent two hours trying to revive Walter Palmer, who was fatally shocked by 33,000 volts of electricity.

Members of the **Twin Valley 4-H Club**, who talked about their projects at a meeting of the **Uwchlan Grange**, included: Martha Matthews, home economics; Carl Ruth, pigs; Sam Supplee, tomatoes; Meredith Ruark, baby beef; and George Taylor, bees.

Winners of cash gate prizes at the Glen Moore Fire Co. Carnival were Lavern Simmers and Robert Shoemaker. Other prize winners were Thomas Reber, a Kelvinator refrigerator; Harry Evans, a Philco radio and record player; and Margaret Gabriel, a GE iron.

And a two-door, 1947 Chevy was the grand prize at the **Thorndale Fire Co. Fair**, which was held for eight nights.

Also, Margaret McGraw of Downingtown won the 1947 Oldsmobile, which was the grand prize at the fair co-sponsored by the Downingtown posts of the **American Legion** and the **VFW**.

Dickie Rice and Janet Hoffman, Hugh Follet and Florence Mulligan, and Alice and Bobby Trego won the bag race at **Windsor Baptist Church's** annual picnic. And winners of the three-legged races included Earl Garvine, Joe Styer, Elvin Hershey, Barbara Trego, and Dorothy and Milton Edwards.

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## St. James Preschool celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary



St. James Preschool of Downingtown is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Members of the 1973 class and their teachers, shown in the photo above, were, left to right: front row, Amy Ireton and Todd McQueen; middle row, Jennifer Lyman, Dawn Regner, Mary Beth Reed, Cathy Eckman, Lisa Clay, Sandy Long, Kristen Colazzo; back row, Mrs. Julie DeRocco, Kevin McCool, Brian Wells, Jon Mitchell, Glen Butler, Chuckie Neald, Chipper Firestone, Michael Gaffney and Dora Cumens. Photo and children's names provided by Jenn Wagner.

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## It's at 331 Little Washington Road in E. Brandywine



No one correctly identified the location of this stone house at 311 Little Washington Road in East Brandywine Township. The original part of the building was constructed in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century. For more info on the property, see: [www.century21.com/property/311-little-washington-rd-downingtown-pa-19335-REN014545880](http://www.century21.com/property/311-little-washington-rd-downingtown-pa-19335-REN014545880).

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### ***Lecture on Golda Meir***

Ann Atkins, Historian and Author, will focus on Golda Meir's "True Grit, Later in Life," when she makes her second presentation at 7 PM Tuesday, February 17 at the West Caln Township Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting, sponsored by the West Caln Historical Society, is free and open to the public.

### ***Lecture on Colonial Taverns***

The East Brandywine Historical Commission will present a lecture on Colonial Taverns from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, March 15 at Beaver Creek Tavern, 1350 Bondsville Road, Downingtown. There is no cost but you are welcome to order from their menu and/or enjoy a leisurely dinner after the program. Beer historian Rich Wagner will be available to autograph and purchase his book "Philadelphia Beer: A Healthy History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty." He will present information on a time when the taverns were the place to get the news, and there were four taverns in East Brandywine Township. For more information: [CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com), 484 237-8071.

### ***5K race in Downingtown***

The Readers on the Run 5K race and a 1 Mile walk, plus a Kids Dash will be held on Green Street in Downingtown on Saturday morning, April 11. The races will benefit the Downingtown Library. For details and to register on line, go to: <http://library5k.secondwindtiming.com> or you can pick up a registration form at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue.

### ***Brochure on DARC Classes & Activities***

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## Downingtown Area Historical Society Hist-O-Gram

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

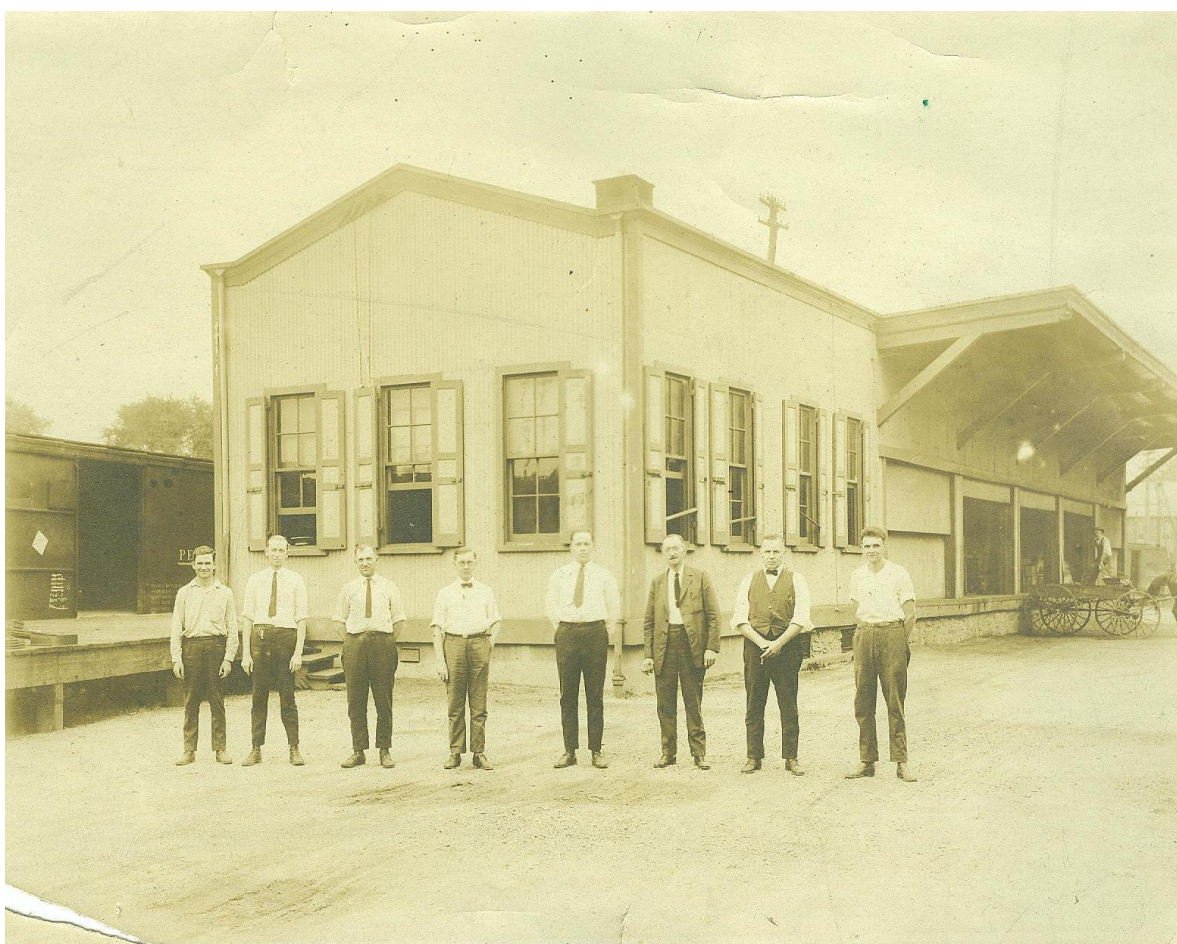
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Vol. 6, No. 7

February 12, 2015

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### DHS Alumni Assn. reveals names of Hall of Fame inductees

Six DHS graduates will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's annual banquet on Saturday, April 25. The inductees, chosen by the selection committee, their year of graduation and their categories are: Scott Butler, Class of 1984, Military

Achievement; Maria DiBernardi, Class of 1970, Coaching and Athletics; John Gates, Class of 1971, Arts and Entertainment; Herbert Lee, Class of 1954, Education and Community Service; Sam Matthews, Class of 1956, Business and Community Service; Charles Way, Class of 1916, Coaching and Athletics.

Details on each inductee and the banquet will be published in coming Hist-O-Grams.

## **Downingtown area news in the latter part of January 1963**

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

Officers of the **Uwchlan Township Civic Association** were: Robert Herion Jr., president; Harry Rauch, secretary; Robert Herion Sr., treasurer; Wade Hayhurst, sergeant-at-arms; and John Robinson, Philo Farnsworth and Daniel "Pete" Hayes, directors; Daniel Hoag, membership; Mrs. Ralph Erskine, program and recreation; Ralph Erskine, publicity; and Charles Seibert, ways and means. Also, the association had begun publishing "The Uwchlan Citizen," a bi-monthly newsletter.

John Stoviak scored 10 points for the **Beaver Creek School** basketball team, as the Beavers beat St. Joseph School 30-13 in the DHS gym.

Elected as leaders of **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were: Robert Worthington, elder; Anna Dewees, deacon; Donald Klaebel and Donald Willoughby, trustees; and Rev. Charles Williman, president.

Members of the **Downingtown Ministerium** decided to expand so the organization also would include pastors from churches located in the townships surrounding the borough.

Officers of the **Downingtown Lions Club** were Ben Valocchi, president; Warren Strawsnyder, first vice president; Charles Beamesderfer, second vice president; Thomas Courtless, third vice president; Joseph Mento, secretary; William Woodruff, treasurer; Don Jones, tail twister; Ray Jones, assistant tail twister; Tom Roberts, lion tamer; and Philip Manno, assistant lion tamer. Directors were Wilbert Smith, Bradford Ferguson, Horace Rogers, Maurie Davis and Dr. Anthony Ricci.

Nancy Jessee and Liz Von Hacht each scored 10 points, as the **DHS girls' basketball team** beat Phoenixville 34-28.

The **Chestnut Village** apartment complex was opened in the 200-block of Chestnut Street in the borough. The apartments included Caloric gas ranges and Westinghouse refrigerators.

Officers elected to lead the **Chester Springs Athletic Association** were Elmer Miller, president; Clarence Byer, first vice president; Harry Byer, second vice president; Harold Hallman, treasurer; Mrs. David Cory, recording secretary; Mrs. Raymond Hamilton, corresponding secretary; and Raymond Hamilton, membership chairman.

Jacob Lammey was promoted from cashier to vice president, and Raymond Schollenberger was named cashier at **Downingtown National Bank**. Officers who were re-elected included Joseph Miller, president; Richard Warren, executive president; and Mary Thompson, assistant cashier.

Thomas Lee Jr., a lieutenant of the Alert Fire Co., and William Wilmot, assistant chief of the Minquas Fire Co., were named Firemen of the Year at the **Downingtown Fire Department's** annual banquet.

Members of the **Future Teachers of America** chapter at DHS, who attended the regional convention, included: Sandy Koppenhaver, Gwen Habecker, Janine Davis, William Ash, Jeanne Watts, Mary Ellen Crosby, Susan Martin, Margaret Harrison and Barry Piersol.



Silas Kimes, John Barton and Frederick Heuer were named to the Council of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville. They replaced Harry Ruth, Warren Reese and Charles Martin, whose terms had expired.

**DHS wrestling** coach John Bycoskie explained the basics of the recently introduced sport at an assembly. Members of the varsity who participated in the program were Harry Simms, Jack Trego, Frank Biondi, Robert Crane, Ronald Brinton, Carl Styer, Arthur and Robert Reyling, Leroy Cox, co-captain Jeff Smith, Raymond Fry, Richard DiEugenio and Charles Kuhs.

Leaders of the **Girl Scout** cookie sale in the Springton Neighborhood included Mrs. Roland Evans, Mrs. Herbert Wampler, Mrs. John Frankland, Mrs. Donald Yost, Mrs. Orville King, Mrs. Howard McGirk, Mrs. Thomas Peazzoni, Mrs. Levi Hohl, Mrs. Robert Mason, Mrs. Edwin Evans, Mrs. Robert Walker; and Mrs. Eugene Gabriel.

The **DHS boys' basketball team** garnered its first Ches-Mont League victory when it edged Great Valley 48-46. Coach Jack Appleby noted that the rebounding by Clarence Wilkerson (12 boards), Clark Bartell (11) and George Murphy (8) made a huge difference in the overtime win.

## Downingtown area news originally published 36 years ago

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

Dorothy Foster received the Outstanding Citizen Award from Uwchlan's **Cub Pack 221**. In addition to being a den leader for five years and the Chester County Council pow wow coordinator, Foster had been the Lionville Youth Association's administrative vice president for several years.

After 30 years of service as the managing officer of the **Brandywine Savings and Loan Association**, John Rogers retired. He was succeeded by Francis Walton, former executive vice president. When Rogers started at the institution in 1949, the average house in Downingtown sold for \$6,000.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 788**, sponsored by Hopewell United Methodist Church, who earned a hiking merit badge while they went winter camping, were: Beth Bond, Karen Brian, Stephanie Hogarth, Becky Ray, Stephanie Steimer, Dana Stevens and Jenny Wallace.

Elected to **Messiah Lutheran Church's** Council were Mary Autry, Maj. Britt Gabel, Jo McAdoo and Dan Rothas.

Members of the music committee of **Lionville United Methodist Church** included Dave Fradin, Margaret French, Juanita Lace, Betty Mitchell and Rev. Fred Parkyn.

Recently elected to the Consistory at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Joe Moroney, president; Esther Ralph, vice president; and Bessie Rogers, secretary.

Bob Melvin scored 24 points and Jeff Robertson had 14, as the **DHS boys' basketball team** upset the highly-touted Lions of St. Pius 58-55. And Laurie Carcella tallied 17 points and Debbie Hannum canned 14, as the **girls' basketball squad** upset West Chester East 44-41.

Also, Jim Webb, Dan Howard, Mike Marcocci and Paul Sparklin got pins, as the **Whippet wrestlers** beat West Chester Henderson 45-10.

Recent **property transfers** included: 609 Brecknock Road, Uwchlan, \$62,990; 1 Surrey Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$64,707; 20 William Way, Caln, \$51,150; 25 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$77,250; 501 Mark Lane, Downingtown, \$46,230; 2203 Persimmon Street, West Bradford, \$59,900.

Installed as officers of the **Uwchlan Ambulance Corps** were Bob Karr, president; Doug Whipple, vice president; Mary Ellen Morrissey, secretary; Chuck Storm, treasurer; Judy Whipple, financial secretary; Cal Wilhelm, trustee; and Alice Anderson, operations chief.

Elected to the Council of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Eric Bittmann, Arthur Freas, John Green, James McIsaac, Kenneth Service, Nancy Hurst, Joyce Wood and David Sievilla.

**Lionville Junior High's wrestling team**, coached by Ellis Brown, won its invitational tournament for the sixth consecutive time.

## **Recollections of the Manufacturing Co. picnic**

Joan Miley Stanford, DHS Class of 1954, who now lives in Elverson, sent us these recollections of going to the annual Downingtown Manufacturing Co. picnics at Lenape Park.

*Thank you for the article that appeared in the February 15 edition of the Hist-O-Gram. The trips to Lenape Park, for the company picnics there were one of the highlights of my growing-up years and a time that I looked forward to with much anticipation.*

*We were free to roam about the park and were given as many tickets as we wanted, to ride on anything we wanted. I liked the carousel the best and of course used many tickets on that, and the swings were great fun too. In order to ride the swings, you had to have a partner and each sat facing each other and pulling on the rope to make it work.*

*Not to be forgotten was the rollercoaster. I did ride it at least once each year. It was the old, wooden type, and it was quite a ride and very fast for that time.*

*They also had various contests, such as log rolling which was really fun watching the men standing on logs in the Brandywine while trying to knock others off their logs; always was very boisterous and exciting. I also remember the full-sized model lady that laughed and laughed while bending back and forth from the waist in front of the fun house. I didn't really go through that more than once or twice....too dark and scary...!!!*

*When we ran out of tickets, there were men from the Manufacturing Company who walked around the park with huge rolls of tickets and handed out more as we needed them.*

*Around noon, we all ate the picnic lunches our parents packed, and then we went off again to ride, ride, ride. As you can imagine, by the end of the day there was a carload of very tired, but happy, children.*

*It was so sad when the Company stopped doing the picnics. Then as the years passed, the park closed and finally the carousel horses were sold off to the highest bidders.*

*The article really brought back so many fond memories of that time in 1947, when my Dad, Jim Miley, and Uncle Clyde Esworthy won the quoit tournament. I thank you so much for reminding me of that wonderful summer day when I was nine. This was a time when a child could roam around an amusement park alone for the day and no one seemed to worry about where they were.*

**It was the entrance to Camp Castle, part of the YMCA Camp complex in West Bradford Twp.**



Don Ash is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the above photo as the entrance to Camp Castle, which was part of the YMCA Camp complex in West Bradford Township.

Jeanne Charles Fox, DHS Class of 1957, sent us this unique perspective on her family's experience at the YMCA Camp:

*My family moved to Downingtown in the summer of 1947, when my father, Hap Charles, was offered a job at the Downingtown Iron Works. There were no houses available in the borough since there was a huge pent up demand for housing right after World War II; so we lived at the YMCA Camp Hilltop. My parents and younger brother, Steve, lived in a small "homette" at Camp Hilltop. My brother, Duke, spent the summer at Camp Dwight for boys, while I went to Camp Castle for boys & girls of elementary school age.*

*During the fall and early winter of 1947, still with no house to buy, we all lived in the small summer cabin at Camp Hilltop. Dad rode a bike to work. Duke and I caught the school bus at the bottom of the hill. I was a third grader at East Ward School, and Duke was a seventh grader at the Junior-Senior High School on Manor Avenue. Steve, who was a pre-schooler, stayed with my Mom, Gene. We finally found a house to rent in the east end of town until our new house on Hunt Avenue in the west end of the borough was completed in the summer of 1948. My parents, Hap and Gene, lived there for the next 60 years, happily supporting the activities of the town they loved.....Downingtown.*

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

### ***Blood Drive***

The Borough of Downingtown will hold a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1-6 PM on Friday, February 13 in the Annex Building of Downingtown Borough Hall, at 4 W. Lancaster Ave. For more info, see:

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

### ***Lecture on Golda Meir***

Ann Atkins, Historian and Author, will focus on Golda Meir's "True Grit, Later in Life," when she makes her second presentation at 7 PM Tuesday, February 17 at the West Caln Township Building, 721 W. Kings Highway, Wagontown. The meeting, sponsored by the West Caln Historical Society, is free and open to the public.



### ***Lecture on Colonial Taverns***

The East Brandywine Historical Commission will present a lecture on Colonial Taverns from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, March 15 at Beaver Creek Tavern, 1350 Bondsville Road, Downingtown. There is no cost but you are welcome to order from their menu and/or enjoy a leisurely dinner after the program. Beer historian Rich Wagner will be available to autograph and purchase his book "Philadelphia Beer: A Healthy History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty." He will present information on a time when the taverns were the place to get the news, and there were four taverns in East Brandywine Township. For more information: [CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com), 484 237-8071.

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*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

Vol. 6, No. 8

February 19, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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## **Area news published in the *East Branch Citizen* in 1979**

Noted below are news items, which were originally published in the East Branch Citizen in early March 1979.

In a letter to the State Department of Health, Sister Mario Carmel Ann, a member of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm, and administrator of the Sacred Heart Manor in Germantown, stated that the nursing home no longer met safety code regulations and renovations to resolve those problems would be too expensive. Instead, Sister Mario noted in her letter to

Harrisburg that the property on Manor Avenue in Downingtown, owned by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, would be a “very lovely” site for a **new 140-bed nursing home** which could accommodate the 137 guests who had been staying at the Germantown facility.

Plans for a nursing facility, as part of the St. John Neumann Hospital project on the Manor Avenue property, had been shelved when the State Department of Health failed to approve the Neumann Hospital application in 1977.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 82**, sponsored by Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, who visited the national headquarters of Boy Scouts of America in New Brunswick, NJ, included Mike Hirthler, Glenn Ussher, George Bradford, Bob Hausch, Ron Orr, Joe Swift, Jeff Kinstler, Robb McLarin and Jeff Vincent.

Honored at the **West Bradford Fire Company’s** dinner dance were: Mike Reeves, fireman of the year; Bill Tuting, past president; and Larry Bickings, apprentice fireman of the year,

New members of the **Brownie Troop 431**, which met after school at Beaver Creek School, were Lauren Gardiner, Janelle Keeny, Krystyna Kiwak, Samantha Lowe, Jennifer Manley, Jennifer Marshall, Amanda Tarsa and Jenny DiFuccia.

Leaders of the **Downingtown Area Meals on Wheels** program were Sue Englebert, general chairman; Irene Gaskins, assistant general chairman; Lois Walters, applications chairman; Cindy Staggers, follow-up chairman; Jo Burghart, treasurer; and Joyce Sten, volunteers chairman.

Members of the Senior Youth Fellowship group at **St. Paul’s UCC Church**, Lionville, who went on a three-day skiing trip, were Lori Romig, Beth Parina, Patty Simpson, Karen and Susan Shoop, Robert Bonsall and Michael Fusco.

**DHS wrestlers** who qualified for regionals were Jim Webb, Dave Blye, Duane Krapf, Mark Mathis, Vic Cozzone and Dan Howard.

Once again, Bob Wagner had to find more space for his growing, four-year-old **Mill Carpet** business. That’s why he announced plans to build a 15,000-square-foot store on Route 30 in Caln.

Recent **property transfers** included: 402 Crump Road, Uwchlan, \$66,000; 3303 Humpton Road, Caln, \$52,000; 422 Longwood Drive, West Whiteland, \$99,000; 410 Grant Ave., Downingtown, \$39,200; 3 Raymond Circle, East Brandywine, \$68,900; 1226 Marshallton-Thorndale Road, West Bradford, \$53,000.

Joe DeMucci and Jeff Robertson, members of the **DHS boys’ basketball team**, were named to the Southern Chester County all-star squad which played their northern counterparts. Also, DeMucci and Bob Melvin, another Whippet cager, played in another all-star game, which attracted the best high school players in the Delaware Valley.

## **Local news published in Downingtown weekly 97 years ago**

Noted below are some of the local news items, published in the *Downingtown Archive* in April 1918, while the U.S. was involved in World War I.

The U.S. Merchant Marines had a recruiting station at the Hutchison Brothers pharmacy, 166 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown.

\*\*\*

Six members of the Home Guard unit (boys aged 11-18 who drilled twice a week at the Minquas Fire Co.) were officially sworn in by Chief Burgess (Mayor) Vinton Philips. The youngsters were expected to do “police duty” when their services needed.

\*\*\*

Citizens on the home front, all across America, helped support the war effort by participating in the Home and School Gardens program, which had been successfully started in Downingtown in 1917.

In February 1918, President Woodrow Wilson hoped that, “this spring every school will have a regiment in the volunteer war-garden army. Following up on that statement, the U.S. Commissioner came up with a national school garden program.

It was proposed that all children between the ages of nine and fifteen be enlisted in systematic gardening work on vacant lots and in backyards. At the time, it was estimated that 5 million of the 7 7 million boys and girls in that age group could find some available space for gardening. On average, it was expected that one teacher-director would be in charge of 100 to 150 children.

In addition to teachers or directors, it was hoped that parents or older siblings would assist the boys and girls in their gardening work. Gardening was to be done after school, on Saturdays, during vacation periods.

A parade, followed by a rally in the high school auditorium, was conducted in April 1918, to ensure that the program was successfully conducted in Downingtown.

\*\*\*

A problem with the fire whistle, situated at the Downingtown Motor Co. on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough, was a hot topic at a meeting of the Minquas Fire Co. Apparently, increasing the compressed air needed to make the fire whistle louder wouldn’t work because the compressed air tank couldn’t withstand the increased pressure. It was suggested that the fire company install its own tank.

\*\*\*

Elected as vestrymen at St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown, were: Dr. Joseph Huggins, A.P. Ringwalt, Joseph Ashbridge, W.P. Canby, Hunter Wills, Howard Simmons, John Lloyd, W.E. Ash, John Noll. Chandler Roberts, Gilbert McIlvaine and Joseph Bicking.

\*\*\*

And members of the Brandywine Driving Association, which conducted horse races on Saturdays and holidays at the race track at the intersection of Boot Road and Brandywine Avenue in Downingtown, elected Lowell Gabel as president and W.H. Morrow as treasurer. The directors included Wyckoff Smith, David Golder, E. Hill, James Keely, Jere Reardon, Lewis Baldwin, George McCurdy, Frank Elston, Willaim Kerr, and Fred Toth. John Baldwin was the track superintendent.

## Whoops!

Elsie Sinex Tarr informed us that we incorrectly noted that Joan Miley Dixon Stanford graduated from DHS in 1954, when we ran Joan’s recollections, in last week’s Hist-o-Gram, about attending the Downingtown Manufacturing Co. employee picnics as a little girl.

Elsie knows that Joan graduated in the high school in 1956, because they have been “fast friends” ever since they met in the early 1950s.

Also, both women have some local historic connections. Joan is the granddaughter of Amos Miles, the first director of the DHS marching band, which was formed in 1928. And Elsie is the daughter of Frank Sinex, who owned the Lyndell Country Store for many years and was the unofficial Mayor of Lyndell.



## It was the freight station on Jefferson Avenue in Downingtown



Dan Rothas, who grew up in Downingtown and now lives in Florida, is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the freight station on Jefferson Avenue, near Brandywine Avenue, in Downingtown. The men standing in the front of the station in about 1920 were, left to right: Bob Dougherty, Norman Rodgers, Jim Keenan, Norman Gray, freight agent Earl Morrison, Charles Rodgers, Adam Rohrer and Dick Hadfield.

The photo brought back boyhood memories to Ron Meacham, a lifelong borough resident until he and his wife, Karen, recently moved to a retirement home in Coatesville. Here's what Ron told us:

*We lived across the street from the station on Jefferson Avenue. My cousin and I would play in the box cars that were on the siding, and in the creek that ran alongside the rails. There also was a small ice house located behind the freight building, on the other side of the tracks. On the east side of the freight station were some large coal bins and usually a rail car, which was seemed like a regular passenger car but it had sleeping areas and a kitchen where a railroad cook prepared meals for the other employees. On some days, the cook would give us cookies on our way to school at East Ward.*

*One day my cousin and I were in a box car, playing with some matches. Well, one thing led to another and the next thing we knew the cardboard lining in the box car was on fire. We took off for home. My cousin hid in the coal bin behind his house and I just got scarce. Luckily, the fire went out, but shortly thereafter the Railroad Police were at our doors. Appropriate punishment was received. Fortunately, it didn't include jail time.*

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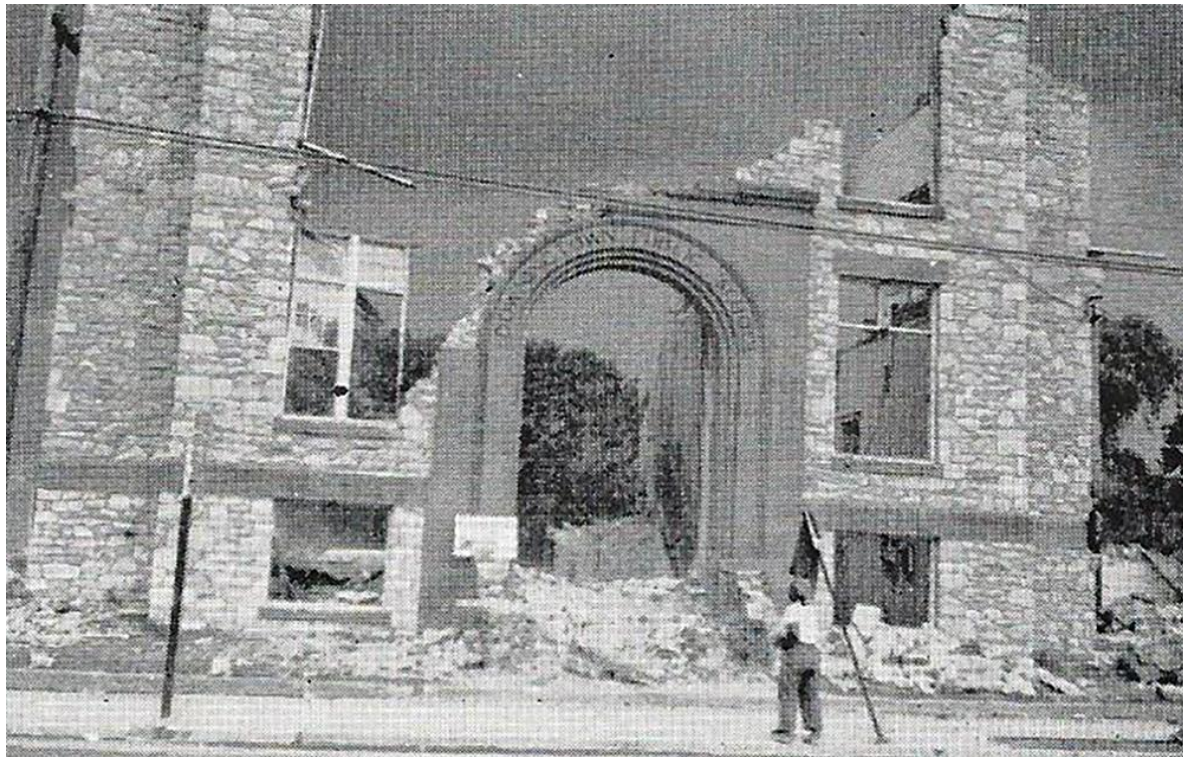
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Vol. 6, No. 9

February 26, 2015

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## What area residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are snippets of news, retrieved from local papers in the early part of February 1963.

The **Downingtown Area Elementary School Board** found temporary facilities for an additional 150 students projected to enroll in the system next fall. They included: one room at the West Bradford Fire Co to house the Marshallton School's kindergarten, three rooms at the Alert Fire Co. in Downingtown; plus the multi-purpose room at East Ward was to be converted into two classrooms.

Members of the recently formed **Civil War Buffs** group at DHS were Michael Dorsey, John Miller, Charles Alexander, Allen Davis, Clifford Murduagh, John Getty, Richard Walton, Bert Nordblum, James Partlow, Stephen Pollock, George Dilworth, Eric Wasmuth, Scott Echols, Edward Hildebeitel, Daniel Yost and Robert Hackman. Howard Caskey was the faculty advisor.

Elected to serve as trustees at **East Brandywine Baptist Church** were Robert Arters, Leon Faddis, Everett Henderson, Joseph McFalls, Elmer Moore, Francis Summers and William McFalls Jr. Chosen to serve as deacons and deaconesses were Norman Horner, Tom McKeever, Robert Mertz, Asa VanLew, Alice Esworthy, Marian Heidelbaugh, William Shaw and Sandra Plank.

**Downingtown's Borough Council** agreed to apply for \$72,800 in federal assistance for the planning of an urban renewal project in the borough's central business district. Known as Downing Center, the project covered 14.2 acres. The package's net cost was projected to cost \$509,000, and local participation's cost was estimated at \$153,400.

Junior High students of art teacher Rebecca Casner, whose work was displayed at the **Scholastic Art Award** competition in Lancaster, included Kathy Black, Gayle Collins, Joan Poffenbarger, Susan Just, Gertrude Williams, Alan Heughs, William Inslee, Joy Wertz and Bill Kline.

Scoutmaster Duane Spiese and members of **Troop 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, who participated in a Boy Scout Sunday service were Harry Joyner, Robert Kangas, Mike Norris, James Jarvis, Thomas Hickey, Philip Garnett, Gary Stern, Robert Norris, Joe Hilton and Harry Foreman.

Members of the cast of the **Junior Class play** at DHS included Bob Poore, Deirdre Collins, June Williamson, Stephen Pollock, Kenneth Matthews, Geoff Roehrs, Mary Ellen Crosby, Ronald Renshaw, Connie Smedley, Carol Weiler, Sharon Donaghy, Mary Jane Wagner, Linda McElroy, Isabelle Scarborough, Fern Murray, Roger Geisel, Diane Gindin, Raymond Barry, Ralph Kurash and Kenneth Jordon.

New members of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** were Mrs. Robert Crook, Mrs. Joel Gee, Lucille Dampman, Mrs. Thomas Brookover Jr., Mrs. Donald Schwartz, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Orville March, Jane DelPaggio, Mrs. Rosaline Shepherd, Mrs. Lawrence Jamieson and Mrs. Robert Kucker.

Elected as trustees at **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, Glenmoore, were Walter Hadfield, Austin Reeser and Robert Ford; and elected as members of the session were Charles Alexander, Claude Werntz and Foster Ranck. Ray Sheeler and Roy Cummins were re-elected to the board.

David Fennelly of Boy Scout Troop 115, sponsored by St. Joseph's Church, and James Duca, of Troop 2, sponsored by Downingtown Methodist Church, were installed as **Eagle Scouts**.

Several residents of Mount Airy Drive in Uwchlan petitioned the township's supervisors to change the name of the street to **Peck Road**, because the Peck family was the first to settle in that area, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Samuel Acker** of Chester Springs was named the state's Outstanding Young Farmer by the Pennsylvania Jaycees.

The **DHS boys' basketball team** lost an overtime game, 61-60, to Kennett, the defending Southern Chester County champions. The Whippets were led by Clarence Wilkerson, 20 points, and George Murphy, 17.

Leaders elected by the congregation of **Windsor Baptist Church** in Eagle were Walter Styer, vice moderator; Mrs. Clarence Rice, treasurer; Mrs. Warren Supplee, church clerk; Mrs. John Krisch, assistant church clerk; George Benham, financial secretary; Vinton Ash, organist; and Carolyn Supplee, assistant organist.

## When traveling was done in 'stages'

Dr. Bill King, DHS grad and retired dentist who's now living in a retirement community in northern Arkansas, recently donated several interesting books to the Historical Society's library at Ashbridge House.

One of them—*The Great Wagon Road, From Philadelphia to the South*—includes a lot of interesting information on travel between Philadelphia and Lancaster, a 66-mile trip, in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

When faster, five-passenger stagecoaches started replacing covered wagons in the 1780s, horses were changed at "stages." The stages usually were taverns, such as the one operated by the Downing family in the building now occupied by the Pook and Pook auction house at the corner of Lancaster and Uwchlan Avenues in the borough. By 1800, there were so many stages along the road between Philadelphia and Lancaster, they averaged about one every mile.

Stagecoaches departing from Philadelphia and destined for Lancaster usually began their trip at 2 AM. And they typically reached Downings Town, the half-way point, by nightfall. After an overnight stay at the Downing tavern, it took another 12-18 hours to reach Lancaster. The wide variance in travel time was determined by how muddy the roadway was.

After the American Revolution, states began to charter private turnpike companies, since most state governments didn't have enough funds to build "highways." The first stone-surfaced turnpike was completed in 1792. It took two years to construct the Philadelphia-Lancaster Turnpike, at a cost of \$465,000.

## Members of St. Joseph's Church were dramatic in 1928

The Dramatic Club of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Downingtown, put on a production of "The Left Overs" at the Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue in the borough in April 1928, according to a program, recently donated to the Historical Society.

The comedy's cast included: John Donnelly, Mary Mahan, Neil Sheridan, Roselyn Kane, Andy Mento, Fred Simone, Teresa Francella, Margaretta Mahan, Peg Bray and Jack Welsh, who also was the director. Celia Dougherty was manager of the two and one-half hour production.

A "special musical number" was provided by A. Travaglini between the second and third acts.

## Issues of *Lions Pride* donated to Historical Society

Philip Hemcher, DHS Class of 1979, recently donated two editions of the *Lions Pride*, a newspaper put out by Lionville Junior High School students.

The January 1976 issue noted that the newspaper's staff that year included: Annette DiRenzi, editor; Maureen Murtaugh, co-editor; and Mitzi Cole, secretary.

That edition also noted:

- Winners of the ninth grade typing contest were Kathy Williams, fastest girl, 52 words per minute; and Ed Trost, fastest boy, 38 wpm.
- Students in the new Contemporary Industrial Technology course, for those who wanted to make industrial arts their career, included Tom Lance, Todd Walton, Jack Smith, John Miller, John Stine, Matt Roussel, Ron Crossley, Mike Quimet, Carl Schaubert and Robert Popjoy.
- Soloists in the band's Christmas Concert were Joan Ridings, Kathi TenHooopen, Margie Caldwell and Matt Ladd.
- Swimmers who participated in a winter training program were Scott and Lee McIntyre, Jennifer and Charles Messa, Mike Palski, Lori Zwack, Sue Howley, Laura Zempel and Melanie Wix.

The April 1975 edition, which was edited by Frances DiFuria, included these news items:

- Members of the Foreign Language Club, who wore costumes to the Mardi Gras party, were Daniele Obendorfer, Lori Schwabenbauer, Stephanie Forgione, Mike Whitman, and grand prize winner Tina Porter.
- Students who had major roles in the school play, *Hip Hippie Hooray*, included Tracy O'Connell, Mike Walker, Kathy Stelzer, Mark DiSilets, Sean Roberts, Mike Whiteman, Sue Sten, Helen Maragakes, Ray Obendorfer and Matt Ladd.
- Players on the varsity boys' basketball team, which had a 6-7 record, included Bob Linton, Dave Ranieri, Steve Kolar, Rick Grubb, Craig Thompson, Mark Feller, Mike Ficca, Drew Parvin, Bill Minahan, Dave Farling, Tripp Carey and Don Sample.

*(Editor's Note: We'd love to publish more tidbits from student newspapers put out by the Junior Highs and Middle Schools, as well as DHS. So if you wish to donate copies of those newspapers (or any other published materials related to Downingtown Area School District activities) to us, please contact us via: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org).)*

## Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, March 1. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the local gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

## It's the tenant house at 780 Marshall Road in Glenmoore



Shelley Francies, social studies teacher at DHS West, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the photo above as 780 Marshall Road in Glenmoore. Built in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century as part of William Farmstead, the most recent owners of the tenant house were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Greenfield.

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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 10

March 5, 2015

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

## What Downingtown area residents were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items retrieved from the East Branch Citizen, a Downingtown weekly, in the latter part of March 1979.

Representatives of many Downingtown area organizations agreed to participate in the revitalized **Good Neighbor Day** events on July Fourth at Downingtown's Kerr Park. Events planned so far were a Run For Life road race, chaired by Bud Bruton, in the morning. Proceeds from the 3-mile race over borough streets would be donated to local ambulance corps and rescue squads. The road race was to be followed by the annual canoe race down the Brandywine. And to complete the day's activities, the Downingtown School District had given permission for a fireworks program in the high school athletic area.

**DHS seniors** Kathie Plante and Steve Wisdom were named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

**Boy Scout Troop 70**, Thorndale, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a banquet held at the East Brandywine Fire Co. Honored guests included former scout masters Cecil Good, John Johnson, John Bateman, Charles Wilgis, Robert Mercer, William Jones, plus current scoutmaster Price Stevenson. Troop committee chairman Joseph Skinner was the emcee, and banquet arrangements were handled by Nancy Bell, Anita Angeny and Helen Hurley.

Among the **Girl Scouts** who participated in a merit badge exhibition at Exton Square were these members of Troop 538, sponsored by St. Paul's UCC Church, Lionville: Jennifer Ford, Cathy Gitzendanner, Marie Gillooly, Joy Mudd and Karen Meier.

Jennifer Lyman, a fifth grader at Brandywine Wallace School, won a historical essay contest sponsored by the **Chester County Chapter of the DAR**. And DHS senior Rob Rambo won the DAR's Good Citizenship Award.

The Hudecheck Roofing team--led by Sam Means, Jim Doran, Robert Kocher and Jill Avenick--won the **West Bradford Youth Basketball League**.

The **DHS Alumni Association** was planning its 92<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet, to be held at the East Brandywine Firehall. Officers of the association were: Francis Summers, president; William Mason, first president; James Nelson, second vice president; Hazel Miller, recording secretary; Margaret Stern, financial secretary; and Turie Hayes, corresponding secretary.

**DHS wrestler Jim Webb**, qualified for the state meet at Hershey, after coming in second in the 105-pound class at regionals. He had a 17-0 dual meet record. Downingtown's team finished fourth in District I competition and had a 15-2 record in the Ches-Mont League.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1429 Oak Lane, West Whiteland, \$54,900; 5 Hillcrest Drive, Caln, \$59,840; 1424 Manor Drive, West Bradford, \$57,000; 96 Gloucester Court, East Brandywine, \$51,550; 3 Carriage Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$71,214; 128 Andover Drive, Uwchlan, \$53,500; 238 Mary St., Downingtown, \$36,000.

**Glen Wagner**, of East Brandywine, who served as a member of several local school boards from 1952 until 1978, was named the Distinguished Citizen of the Year at the Greater Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's 34<sup>th</sup> annual dinner, held at the Downingtown Inn.

Flora Jean Hoch, who had set up the library at Lionville Junior High, was named librarian at the **Downingtown Library**.

Cast in the leading roles in the DHS rendition of the **Broadway musical Lil Abner** were: Chris Daghir, Kurt Thompson, Jody Cura, Charlie Zeiders, Jennifer Abrams, Curt Schroder, Bill Kennedy, Margie Caldwell and Matt Ladd.



## Field Tire Co. fire was biggest local news story in September 1947

Noted below are news items, retrieved from local newspapers 68 years ago.

A fire, set by two young boys “taking a smoke,” destroyed the two-story, frame building owned and operated by the **Field Tire Co.**, near the intersection of Lancaster and Viaduct Avenues in the borough. The fire, which raged for three hours, caused about \$40,000 damage to Field Tire’s sales store and recapping operation, and part of the adjacent John Nolan feed mill and warehouse. Havard McCurdy, of Lionville, the tire company’s owner, estimated that only about 25 percent of the loss was covered by insurance.

Some 2,500 campers spent time at the **YMCA Camp** complex in West Bradford during the summer of 1947. On average, there were 615 campers per day staying at one of the complex’s four camps. They were supervised by 96 staff members, including a resident physician. Plans for the future included several older cottages being replaced by dormitory-style buildings, and a lake for canoeing, bathing and fishing.

The **Downingtown Young Men’s Association** sponsored a track and field meet at the DHS stadium. Among the featured competitors was sprinter Barney Ewell of Lancaster, who would win two silver medals and a gold, while competing in the 1948 Olympics in London.

The **DHS football team**, coached by Don White, won its season-opening game, by beating St. Patrick’s of Norristown 19-12. The Whippets got a 19-0 lead in the first half, when Dan Barrow threw a scoring pass to Charley Garwood, and fullback Paul Dowlin tossed a TD pass to Carmen DiPietro. The final Downingtown score—by Barrow—was setup by a fumble recovery on St. Pat’s nine-yard line by substitute tackle John Shisler.

Members of the **Marshallton School PTA** were appointed to these committees: Anna Nields, Mrs. Merrill Cann and Mrs. Fred Hoopes, playground equipment; and Mrs. Henry Ramsay, Mrs. Earl Johnson, Mrs. Joseph Mattson and Mrs. James Sweeney, membership.

## Remember Miles Teller when he lived in Downingtown?

Miles Teller, who has appeared in several major films, including this year’s Oscar-nominated movie *Whiplash*, is a Downingtown native. Teller’s official biography notes that he was born in Downingtown on February 20, 1987, and that he was the son of Merry, a real estate agent, and Mike Teller, a nuclear plant engineer when the Teller family lived in this area 28 years ago.

And many locals showed up at the Coffee Cup on East Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown several days before the Oscar Awards TV show was broadcast because they heard that a crew from ABC’s *Good Morning America* show was going to shoot some footage in the popular eating establishment in Teller’s hometown. Although the TV folks never showed up, we’re still curious about how long Teller lived in Downingtown. We suspect it wasn’t for long, because the movie star’s bio notes that the Teller family moved often when Miles was a child because of his father’s career.

So, does anyone remember the Tellers when they lived in the Downingtown area? Perhaps, a few of you remember Miles Teller as a playmate or a neighbor. If you knew him, please let us know via: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org).

However, we’re not star-struck; just curious. After all, two DHS grads have won Oscars for visual special effects in recent years. Mark Lasoff, Class of 1988, won one in 1998 for his work on the movie *Titanic*, and Scott Vosbury, Class of 2000, won in 2013 for his work on *The Life of Pi*.

## **We're selling Lions Club recipe books**

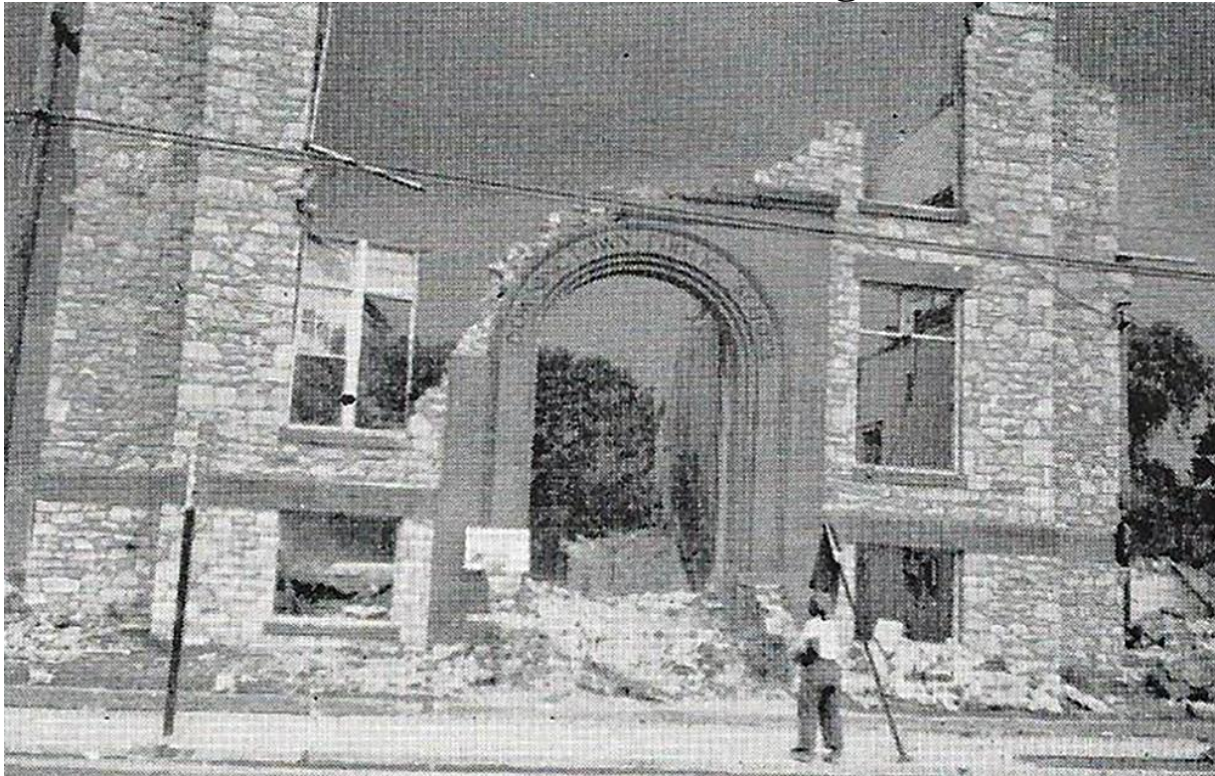
Among the many items connected with the now-defunct Downingtown Lions Club (established in 1928) that Mary Ciarlone recently donated to the Historical Society were two boxes of the club's recipe book, published in 2010.

The book is jammed packed with more than 125 recipes, provided by members of the club and their spouses, including appetizers, soups, entrees, breads, desserts, cookies and candies. The book also contains eight pages of Helpful Hints.

Copies of the book can be purchased for just \$5 on Sunday afternoons (1-4 PM) at Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters, next to the Chick-Fil-A Restaurant on Route 30 in East Caln.

The club's officers the year when the book was published included: Mark Kenworthey, president; Herb Mays, first vice president; Bob Test, second vice president; Danielle Weber, secretary; Brad Smith, treasurer; Mary Ciarlone, membership chair; Don Greenleaf, tail twister; Marty Elliott, lion tamer; and directors Ben Valocchi and Fred Longenecker.

## **It was when West Ward School was being razed in 1958**



Don Ash is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the West Ward School, as it was being razed in 1958. It's now the site of Messiah Lutheran Church on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. The school building cost \$60,000 to be constructed in 1910. It housed grades one through 12 until 1933, when the secondary grades were moved to the new Junior-Senior High School (now the STEM

Academy) on Manor Avenue, and the former Central School's name was changed to the West Ward Elementary School.

According to an article published in the *Daily Local News* in October 1959, the school district sold the site of the former West Ward School, for \$14,000, to the winning bidders, Thomas Byerly and Archie Maclean. They planned to build a "modern funeral home" with off-street parking. Obviously, that plan did not reach fruition. The only other bidder was H.J. Usher, owner of the Usher Motor Co., an automobile dealership on East Lancaster Avenue.

Apparently, the former West Ward School kids were re-assigned to other buildings—including church facilities and firehalls—between 1958 and 1961, when 550 students started attending the new Beaver Creek School on West Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough.

## **Correction of news item in last week's Hist-O-Gram**

Elected as trustees at **Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church**, Glenmoore, were Walter Hadfield, Austin Reeser and Robert Ford; and elected as members of the session were Charles Alexander, Claude Werntz and Foster Ranck. Ray Sheeler and Roy Cummins were re-elected to the board.

## **Clip joint rescheduled for this Sunday, March 8**

We had to postpone last Sunday's Clip Joint session because of the snow/ice problems. But since we have a ton of news articles from local papers to clip and paste, the Clip Joint had been rescheduled for 1-4 PM on Sunday, March 8.

So if you want to spend a raucous afternoon, catching up on the local gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're encouraged to come to Ashbridge House, our 305-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

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### ***Harp Orchestra concert re-scheduled***

The Brandywine Harp Orchestra will play in the Tel Hai Retirement Community's in the chapel at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 12. The orchestra consists of 15 harpists with seasoned skills and extensive musical backgrounds from Southeastern PA, DE and MD. The public is welcome to enjoy an evening with one of America's premier harp ensembles.

### ***First Ladies of the United States***

The Old Caln Historical Society will sponsor a program on the First Ladies of the United States, at 2 PM Sunday, March 22, at the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. The program will be presented by Barbara Felini, a retired West Chester School teacher of 42 years, who also presents programs for Learning in Retirement, OLLI, and retirement communities. The program is free and the public is invited. Parking is available. Please use the backdoor of the township building. For more information call, 610-383-4891.

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Vol. 6, No. 11

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# News items originally published 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of February 1963.

Continental Can Co., which had indicated a desire to move its plant in Devon to another site, was the first target of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce's** industrial task force, which was established to attract new industry to the Downingtown area. Chamber president Tom Roberts appointed Chandler Cushman, William Hayward, Ray Sheeler, and Kennard Porter to pursue the possibility of bringing the can firm to the Downingtown area.

Plans for an addition to the two-year-old Downingtown **High School** on Manor Avenue were approved by the County School Board. Members of the site committee for the addition were Warren Supplee, Mary Shoemaker, Edward Stouff, James Martin, Robert Gabriel, William Corey, Nevin Myer, Edward McCausland and Raymond Williams.

The interior of the **Downingtown Library** was painted; new lights and shelves were installed; and it was to begin being open on Saturday mornings, according to librarian Mrs. Malcolm Kirkpatrick.

After she scored highest in a test at DHS, **Barbara Warner** was selected to represent the high school in the Betty Crocker Search for the national American Homemaker of Tomorrow competition. And **Harold "Randy" Reeve**, DHS Student Council president, received the Citizenship Award from the Soroptomist Club of West Chester

Also, **DHS musicians**, who were chosen to play in the Southeastern District Band, were Ruth Anne Miller, Richard Seibert, Kenneth Matthews, Ralph Carson, Richard Walton and Berton Nordblum.

Donald Metz and Albert Merkle were appointed to the planning commission of **West Pikeland Township**. They replaced Charles Platt and Sam Acker. Other members of the commission were George Beechwood, Beverly Wheat and James Driscoll.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 52**, Marshallton, who survived a cold weekend (it was zero degrees on Sunday AM) at Camp Horseshoe, were Larry Amoriello, Douglas Barr, Ronald and Terry Cogan, Earl and Roger Edwards, Charles Fitzgerald, Dennis Giancola, Peter Griggs, David Hallman, Carl Hamilton, James Harkins, Carl Harper, Joseph and Kenneth Kirkner, Michael Macolley, Stephen Phillips, Michael Riggins, Stephen Schmieding, Raymond Townsend, Charles and Raymond Williams, Jack Enochs and Francis Wood.

Elected as officers of Downingtown Court 132, **Order of the Amaranth**, were Helen Buffington, royal matron, Elizabeth Gunkle, royal patron; Edna Bozette, associate matron; Amanda Dowlin, associate patron; Mary Yocum, secretary; Jessie Rodgers, treasurer; Dorothy Rodgers, conductress; Ethel Sturges, associate conductress; and trustees Marion Getty, Eleanor Detteline and Bertha McCardell.

**Downingtown candidates**, who were endorsed by the Republican Party, included: Elmer Schrupf and Raymond Williams, to be re-elected the Downingtown Elementary and Joint High School Boards; and Talbert Swarner, to be re-elected as auditor.

**Marshallton Farms**, a development of new, split-level houses along Route 162, was offering three models of homes, starting at \$14,990.

New members of **Downingtown Methodist Church** were Robert Brookover; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns; Mary Hulme; Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Myers and daughters Gina and Susan; Ralph Pearce; Mr. and Mrs. Yerkes Peoples, and daughters Katherine, Mary and Sara; Mrs. J. Schollenberger; Laverne Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Tipton; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Troup; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vogel; and Jane Ulsh.



## **Interesting tidbits gleaned from the Borough's 1958 annual report**

Here's some interesting information retrieved from Downingtown Borough's annual report for 1958. Since the report was published in 1959, the year the borough celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it included a lot of local history.

- When Downingtown was incorporated as a borough in 1859, its population was 761, and only 118 kids were enrolled in the borough's school system.
- The borough's population had increased to about 900 souls when the Civil War began in 1861, and 90 men from Downingtown served in the Union Army and Navy.
- The first gas lamps were installed here in 1876. And the borough briefly (1878-79) had one of the few female lamp lighters (Anne Smith) in America.
- When the first Police Chief, George Stuart, was hired in 1883, his salary was \$3 a month. Before then, constables had been paid a flat fee for each arrest. And shortly after Joseph Newlin was hired by the Police Department in 1929, he drove a motorcycle while on patrol. The first patrol car was not purchased until 1942.

Members of Borough Council in 1958 were: George Snyder, W.P. Canby, Earl Radcliffe, John Rogers, Armand Taraschi and Paul Walker. Other borough officials included: Creston Shoemaker, burgess (mayor); Walter Leland, borough manager; Joseph Newlin, police chief; Earl Stern, fire chief; Theodore Griffith, solicitor; George Aumiller, tax collector; Howard Baldwin, treasurer; Daniel Rothas, health officer; and Elmer Ralston, building inspector. The 40-page annual report was donated to the Historical Society by Don Greenleaf, retired borough manager.

## **What Downingtown people were talking about 97 years ago**

Noted below are news items published by the *Downingtown Archive* in the spring of 1918.

Students who graduated from Guthriesville High School in June were Ella Elston, Mary McCausland and Marple Lewis.

The Downingtown Canning Club began operations at the high school again, on July 1. Last summer, 49 women participated in the club's activities, and they produced 2,000 containers of canned vegetables—an average of 53 per day. They included 48 jars of jam which were turned over to the Emergency Aid for soldiers, and 60 jars of vegetables and jellies which were placed at the disposal of the Visiting Nurse Association. The club was part of a nation-wide effort to conserve food during World War I.

Varsity letters were earned by these members of the DHS girls' basketball team: Ruth Baker, Madelaine Rometsch, Anna Wharry, Margaret Yohn and Anna Townsley.

In another effort to produce food during the war years, a camp of the Chester Valley Woman's Land Army was established along Route 30 in West Whiteland. The dozens of "farmerettes"—attired in khaki uniforms and living in tents—apparently were staying on the grounds of Whitford Lodge while working on area farms.

A quartet of DHS track men—Wilmer Dolbey, John Francella, Harry Haines and Hathaway Frain—beat relay teams from much larger schools and came in second in the high school relays at the Penn Relays held at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field.

## **Capt. Scott Butler, DHS Alumni Hall of Fame inductee**

Six DHS graduates will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131<sup>st</sup> annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday evening, April 25. Details about the banquet and reservations for it can be made by accessing:

<http://www.downingtowndalumni.org/banquet.html>.

Noted below is the information on one of the inductees, Captain Scott Butler, Class of 1984, who was selected for his accomplishments in the Military Achievement category. Capt. Butler has excelled in the U. S. Navy, since he was commissioned in 1988. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia, he received his Navy wings in February 1990. His service to date includes efforts in Operation Desert Storm, USS Constellation Bounty Hunters, Operation Southern Watch (Iraq), Operation Restore Hope (Somalia), and Top Gun Graduate Honors. Captain Butler has served as a Legislative Fellow in the Office of Senator John McCain and then as the Operations Officer for the US Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. He then served as Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station in Sigonella, Italy, from June 2010 – May 2013. Currently, Capt. Butler serves as the Commandant of NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, where he commands a faculty and staff representing 24 different NATO and Partnership For Peace nations.

Information on each of the other inductees will be published in the next five Hist-O-Grams.

## **It's St. Paul's UCC Church in Lionville**



Hilary Collins of Chester Springs is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this as the apex of St. Paul's UCC Church in Lionville.

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### ***Lecture on Colonial Taverns***

The East Brandywine Historical Commission will present a lecture on Colonial Taverns from 3:30-5 PM on Sunday, March 15 at Beaver Creek Tavern, 1350 Bondsville Road, Downingtown. There is no cost but you are welcome to order from their menu and/or enjoy a leisurely dinner after the program. Beer historian Rich Wagner will be available to autograph and purchase his book "Philadelphia Beer: A Healthy History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty." He will present information on a time when the taverns were the place to get the news, and there were four taverns in East Brandywine Township. For more information: [CarolSinex@gmail.com](mailto:CarolSinex@gmail.com), 484 237-8071.

### ***Harp Orchestra concert re-scheduled***

The Brandywine Harp Orchestra will play in the Tel Hai Retirement Community's in the chapel at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 12. The orchestra consists of 15 harpists with seasoned skills and extensive musical backgrounds from Southeastern PA, DE and MD. The public is welcome to enjoy an evening with one of America's premier harp ensembles.

### ***First Ladies of the United States***

The Old Caln Historical Society will sponsor a program on the First Ladies of the United States, at 2 PM Sunday, March 22, at the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. The program will be presented by Barbara Felini, a retired West Chester School teacher of 42 years, who also presents programs for Learning in Retirement, OLLI, and retirement communities. The program is free and the public is invited. Parking is available. Please use the backdoor of the township building. For more information call, 610-383-4891.

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### ***Banquet Room for Rent***

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





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

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

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

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

Vol. 6, No. 12

March 19, 2015

## Where and What Is This?



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

## What area residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are tidbits of news retrieved from local papers in the early part of March 1963.

The **Downingtown School Board** decided to pay new teachers \$4,500 a year, effective September 1963. The increased salary was established to “meet the competition” of neighboring school districts. The beginning salary had been \$4,100.

Named to the recently established planning commission in **West Bradford Township** were Harrison Wetherill, Douglas Turpin, Charles Reilly, Ernest Martin and John Griggs.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Rotary Club** were Guy Kline, president; Earl Radcliffe, first vice president; Steve MacNeil, second vice president; Ernest Smedley, secretary; and Lloyd Swarner, treasurer. Directors elected were Bill Balderson, William Bender, Andy Kissh and Cheston Hall.

Winners of best-in-show awards in their grade divisions at the Downingtown Joint Schools Science Fair were Harry Simms, senior high division; Lois Carson, junior high division; and Jeff Kohlhas, elementary schools division.

Former presidents of the Holy Name Society, honored at **St. Joseph’s Catholic Church**, Downingtown, were Frank Nurthen, John Morris, Ben Valocchi, Joseph Massucci and Victor Sarkissian.

Members of the Teener Class at **First Baptist Church**, Downingtown, included Linda Crosson, Joy Emery, Judy Ralston, Diane Shirk, Thomas Haas, Gilbert Cox Jr. and Jay Rambo.

The **West Bradford** Republican Committee announced its endorsement of these candidates in the May primary: Harry Cattell, road supervisor; Stanley Schofield, auditor; and school directors Edward Stouff and Jack Hines. Candidates on the Democratic ticket in an open election in West Bradford were: Mike Caffey and Dennis O’Donnell, supervisor; Marshall Busby and Parke Book, auditor; and Mrs. James Hamilton and Frank Bates, school director.

Mrs. Raymond Miller of Downingtown received an autographed memorial citation from President Kennedy, in recognition of her devoted service to members of the military service.

Members of the **Junior High boys’ basketball team** who won letters were Leonard Collier, Daniel Phipps, Patrick Murphy, Wesley Snyder, John Barton, Charles Stone, Glenn Archie, Edwin Berry, William Kline and manager Richard Stine.

David Seel was the winner and James Wunch was the runner-up in the oratorical contest sponsored the **Downingtown Optimist Club**. Other participants were David Corry, Wayne Kofke, Alan Novak and Eugene Dennis.

Members of **Cub Pack 2** who earned awards at the Blue and Gold Banquet, held at St. Joseph’s School cafeteria, were Charles Menas, Edward Campbell, William Dorman, Joseph Miller, Michael Brown, Stephen Massimini, Stuart Pollock and David Hemberger.

Members of the choir at **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, were Linda Dewees, Christine and Raymond Warner, Mike Roberts, Karen Gottier, Mary and Martha Sorenson, Gail Hinton, Donna and Susan Garvine and Patty Wheatley. Vinton Ash was the director.

Members of Cub Pack 79, sponsored by **Fairview Presbyterian Church**, who were inducted into the Glenmoore Boy Scout Troop were Ricky Harter, Louis Waldmann, David Funk, Harold Earnshaw, Raymond Chilcote, and Jeffrey and Gregory Hannum.

Third graders who participated in a Japanese assembly program at **East Ward School** in Downingtown included Kathy Jones, Joyce Beam, Richard Forbes, Francis Collins, Eartha Flowers, Nancy Boyd, Sharon Trego and Vicki Freas, who recited original Japanese poems. Also, Jennie Powell, Denise Holden, Michael Miller and Glenn Phillips sang a Japanese song.

## It's the receiving vault at Hopewell Cemetery



Matt McCausland is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the above photo as the Harrison C. Rea receiving vault in Hopewell Cemetery in East Brandywine Township.

In addition to being a memorial gateway to the cemetery, the vault was used to store corpses during the winter when the ground was frozen, preventing new graves from being dug.

Harrison Rea was an immensely wealthy Philadelphia building contractor who apparently was related to several members of the Rea family buried at Hopewell, and when he died in 1922, he bequeathed \$8,000 (about \$100,000 in today's money) to the cemetery in order to build the vault. Although the church was founded in 1783, and the earliest tombstone dates back to 1799, there are no records of cemetery lot owners prior to 1883.

Matt's grandfather, Ed McCausland, who passed away in 1992, took Matt on many a tour through the graveyard when he was a boy," recalls Matt. In fact, according to an article in the April 12, 1979 edition of the *East Branch Citizen*, Ed McCausland started helping out at the cemetery when he was still in high school. And by 1934, he was doing a lot of the bookwork, and many other tasks involved in managing the cemetery for more than 45 years. Early on, his annual salary was \$25 per year salary, but he soon started turning over the paycheck to the church.

Ed recalled in the newspaper story how difficult that job was during the Great Depression. In 1934, he said, the Chester County Trust Co. in West Chester failed, and all the cemetery's money was in that bank when it closed.

Back then, it cost \$12 to open a grave for a simple, wooden-box burial, and occasionally Ed helped with the digging. Sometimes, when a grave site was located in a rocky area of the cemetery, a dynamite specialist from the Cornog Quarry had to be brought in. And running the cemetery during World War II was particularly challenging, because he had to find part-time grave diggers since so many men were in the military. In those days, he'd help digging for an hour or two because he found it "relaxing."



The photo above is of the vault's interior, which includes a stained glass window. Both photos were provided by Dan Lindley, who is responsible for the Find A Grave in Chester County website, which includes an incredible amount of data on local burial sites. That data can be found at: [www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CScnty=2255](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=csr&CScnty=2255).

## **Huge celebration when new Route 100 was opened**

In 1923, some 5,000 people attended an ox roast at the Eagle Tavern in Upper Uwchlan to celebrate the opening of the concrete, two-lane highway (part of Route 100) between Pottstown and West Chester. Two huge oxen were cooked over charcoal pits, and 3,000 loaves of bread were consumed at the party, according to Meg Daly Twaddell's *Inns, Tales and Taverns of Chester County* (1984). Back then, Village Avenue in Lionville was part of Route 100.



## **Maria DiBernardi to be inducted in DHS Hall of Fame**

Maria DiBernardi, Class of 1970, is one of the six DHS graduates who will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131<sup>st</sup> annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday evening, April 25. Details about the banquet and reservations for it can be made by accessing: <http://www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html>.

DiBernardi, who was selected for her Achievements in Coaching, is one of the winningest softball coaches in NCAA history. As head coach of the Villanova University Wildcats, she has recorded 762 wins in her 30 years at the helm, more than any coach of any sport in Villanova's history. During her time at Villanova, she has led the Wildcats to 12 Big East Tournaments and three 40-plus win seasons, in 1999, 2001 and 2002. She has also served as the president of the Big East Conference Softball Committee, and is active in numerous camps and clinics in the Philadelphia area. DiBernardi has also coached at the Keystone State Games, winning two gold medals and two silver medals in the over-18 fast pitch division. DiBernardi stresses excellence on and off of the field for her players. Her teams have produced 64 Big East All Conference Players, and 189 Big East Academic All Stars. As a player in the Norristown Amateur League, DiBernardi was named co-player of the 20th Century, and was selected as an All-American on 1990 ASA team. She is a graduate of Immaculata College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Information on each of the other inductees will be published in the next four Hist-O-Grams.

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

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

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

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

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Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.net](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.net), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

# **Free ads for Non-Profits**

## ***Flute choir concert***

The Pennsylvania Flute Choir will perform a free concert at Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA, at 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 28. The public is invited.

## ***First Ladies of the United States***

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## ***Basket Bingo for Scholarship***

Sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce and benefiting the Chamber's Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Fund, the Longaberger/Vera Bradley Basket Bingo will be held Sunday, April 19 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church St., Downingtown. Doors open at noon. Bingo begins at 1 PM. Tickets are \$20 (includes 20 regular games). Prizes are filled Longaberger Baskets & Longaberger Pottery and Vera Bradley items. Raffle and door prizes; (4) special games of Bingo; food available for purchase. For tickets or info, call Rochelle at 610-383-1114 or via [Dimatteo003@yahoo.com](mailto:Dimatteo003@yahoo.com).

## ***Bus trip to Washington, DC***

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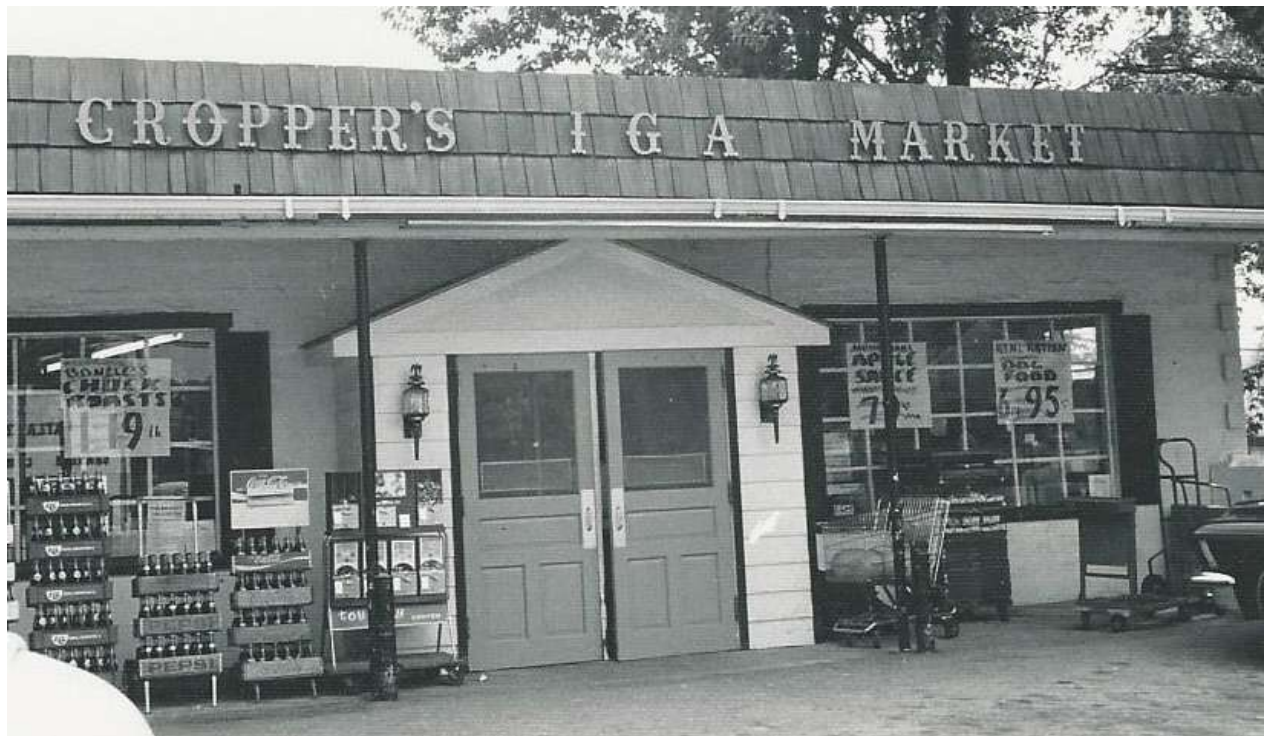
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Vol. 6, No. 13

March 26, 2015

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## Downingtown area news items 36 years ago

Noted below are snippets of news originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the early part of April 1979.

Plans for the **Hidden Valley Swim Club** in West Bradford drew spirited opposition from residents of the Montvale Circle neighborhood, who expressed concern about increased vehicular traffic, among other issues. The swim club property would include an Olympic-size pool, tennis



courts and out-buildings on a 5-acre site, behind a township park, off Montvale Circle. The site was to be purchased from Bob Hodge, according to Dave Stinson, spokesperson for the swim club. The private club was to be limited to 200 members, and 160 potential members had already had signed up.

Those who received their first Communion at **Messiah Lutheran Church**, Downingtown, were Betsy Autry, Paul Mills, Ken Petrie, Brad Titus and Donna Wilson.

Some 40 DHS students participated in a dance-a-thon sponsored by the student council. Held at Cliff and Gussie Irons' **Village Square Hall** in Guthriesville, the event raised \$1,000, which was donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Society.

Members of the children's chorus at **St. Paul's UCC Church**, Lionville, were Katie Schug, Jeanne Elser, Brian and Erin Smith, Tracy and Beth Hain, Jason and Amy Marmon, Charles Romig, and Bobby, Erik and Cary Hockensmith.

Committee chairperson for the **West Bradford Home and School Association's** Barnyard Festival were Linda Smith, plants; Carol Wertz, boutique; Linda Moyer, games; and Ann O'Brien and Carol Marchitell, white elephant items.

Members from **Windsor Baptist Church**, Eagle, who were elected to the county Christian Endeavor group were Charles Popjoy, president; Stan Miller, first vice president; Carole Styer, recording secretary; David Supplee, youth delegate; and Elmer Murdock, board of directors.

Bob Stevens and Pat Murphy were two of the ten Pennsylvanians who graduated from the **Babe Ruth League** managers' and coaches' training course.

Members of the **Marshallton Methodist Church**, who were elected to lead the United Methodist Women group were Alice Shoemaker, president; Joan Trimble, secretary; and Catherine Trimble, treasurer. Ethel Rissinger and Melody Herr were named chairmen of the Christian Personhood; and Jane Hill was named needlework chairman.

Firefighters honored at the **Downingtown Fire Department's** annual banquet were: Tom Lee and Phil Burns, who were named the Outstanding Firefighters of the Minquas and Alert Fire Co., respectively. And Priscilla Cumens, of the Women of the Minquas Fire Co. presented a \$400 check to the Minquas Fire Co., and Josephine Pacinelli of the Alert's Ladies Auxiliary presented a \$1,000 check to the Alert Fire Co.

Edith Hille, who was starting her fourth year at the helm of the five-year-old **DHS girls' track team**, said Debbie Donlon, Clarisse Foster, Jeanine Cheek, Leah Washington, Renee Gallman and Barbara McAuliffe had potential to score points in the dash events.

Major roles in a comedy mystery put on by members of the **Downingtown United Methodist Church**, were Henry Simmons, Joyce Harman, Lee Bradley and Rev. Dick Wolfe.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1412 Price Lane, West Bradford, \$45,900; 6 Arianna Lane, Uwchlan, \$82,300; 48 Marshall Circle, Caln, \$57,500; 112 Holly Drive, East Brandywine, \$76,850;

The **DHS boys' track team** opened its season with a 128-22 victory over Pottsgrove, as all the Whippets runners swept their events.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown Area Education Association** were Bob Whitehead, president; Jackie McCalla, vice president; Margaret McFalls, corresponding secretary; and Nancy Robinson, representative-at-large.

William Brice, chief of **Uwchlan's Police Department**, told the township's supervisors that if people living in the Three Mile Island area had been evacuated, 10,000 of them would have been sent to Chester County and 500 of them would have been sent to Lionville Junior High School.



Matt McCausland sent us a bunch of neat items, including the above photo of students who attended Guthriesville School in 1947. The names of the kids in the photo are, left to right: front row, Lee Eckenroth, George Miller, ??, John Hackman, Jim Miller, Eddie Clayton, Eddie McCausland, Jr., Paul McComsey, Ira Eckenroth and Bill Arters; second row, Mildred Hart, Mary Jane Blosenski, Mary Ann DelPaggio, Carrol Ann Burkholder, Alice Brubaker, Shirley Laird, Jane Irons, Peggy Hackman (partly hidden), Maxine and Marlene Ingram, Ruth Ann Burkey, Hayes Carr and Dave Thomas; back row, Christine Smith, Florence Miller, Mrs. Horner, Helene Fleming, Bob Arters and Charles Stringer.

## What Downingtown area people were talking about 51 years ago

News items retrieved from the *Downingtown Archive* in April 1954 included:

- Horace "Junie" Miller was named manager of **Griffith's Hardware Store**; Sam Graveno was in charge of electrical appliances and services; Frank Knauer was in charge of hardware, tools and paints; Warren Latshaw was responsible for shipping and receiving; and Betty Johnson handled gifts and housewares. Florence Waltz was the office manager.
- Earl Fulton was elected president of the **DHS Alumni Association**. Other officers were Thomas Deets, vice president; Mary Jane Pawling, recording secretary; and Barbara Mento, financial secretary.
- Members of the chorus in a musical variety show, put on by the Women's Auxiliary of **St. Anthony's Lodge**, included Agnes Girafalco, Rose DeLuca, Mary Farnum, Mary Ciarlone, Theresa Capriotti, Catherine Moschitta, Mary Mento, Jerry Marina, Jeanne Canestra, Molly Taraschi, Margaret DiLiberato, Florence DeLuca, Peggy DiOttavio, Josie Girafalco, Mary Cortelessa, Mary Sbei, Rose Formica, Irene Perella, Florence Bartelmo, Agnes Mento, Quindie Mento and Toni Morris.

- Herb Ash succeeded George Aumiller as president of the **Downingtown Rotary Club**. Other new officers were Ralph Lineinger, vice president; Clarence Dorsey, secretary; Charles Richmond, treasurer; and Henry Smith, sergeant-at-arms.
- New committee members of **Boy Scout Troop 2** were Luigi D'Addezio, Jack Law, Stanley Sarmento, Howard Hancock and John Stine.

## John Gates to be inducted in DHS Hall of Fame

John Gates, Class of 1971, is one of the six DHS graduates who will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131<sup>st</sup> annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday evening, April 25. Details about the banquet and reservations for it can be made by accessing: [www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html](http://www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html).

Gates, who is being recognized for his achievements in arts and entertainment, has been involved in the music business since 1967, as a drummer and vocalist. He started playing drums in local bands in 1971. In 1976, he signed with Capitol Records as a solo artist. By 1978, he had a contract with RCA Records, and continued his music career on an international level, performing and recording with well-known secular artists of the day and many major TV shows. In 1985, he was asked to join Benson Recording Artists, GLAD. Since then, they have recorded 19 albums and traveled throughout the world doing concerts and communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also continued to freelance as a session drummer and vocalist until 2005, at which point he moved into Christian radio full time. Until recently, he was the music director and on-air personality for Bridge FM radio in the NJ/NY Metro area.

## Tidbits found in 1918 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*

Noted below are tidbits originally published by the *Downingtown Archive* during the early summer of 1918.

- In addition to several unidentified bands and representatives of industrial firms in the borough, members of the Boy Scouts, the Home Guard (boys 11-18 who drilled at the Minquas Fire Co.), both Downingtown fire companies, the Hancock GAR Post (Civil War vets), and Red Cross chapters from Downingtown, Wyebrook, Whitford, Marshallton and West Chester, the borough's annual Fourth of July parade also included a contingent from the Downingtown Colored Club. (*Editor's note: Anyone know anything about that organization?*) Following the morning parade, which formed on Church Street and continued through the borough, local residents went to the horse races at the track near the intersection of Boot Road and Brandywine Avenue, and St. Joseph Catholic Church's annual picnic.
- Thomas Hoskins, Chester County administrator for the U.S. Food Administration, announced that local restaurants could serve roast beef (hot or cold) only on Mondays at mid-day meals, and serving of stewed, boiled or beef hash was limited to mid-day meals on Wednesdays and Saturdays. But by-products of beef, such as oxtail, liver, tongue, sweetbreads, heart, kidney, brain and tripe could be served at any time. These were some of the constraints, established by the federal government in an effort to conserve food during World War I.

## It's at 1150 Boot Road in East Caln



Marybeth Fusco is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the house in the above photo, taken by Mike Dunn, as 1150 Boot Road. It's in a section of East Caln, which was known as Ackworth.

According to an article about the hamlet of Ackworth in the January 17, 1988 edition of the *Daily Local News*, there was no concentration of homes in Ackworth, but it was an industrial center. The Baldwin family owned much of the land there, including a four-story woolen mill in the 1840s. By 1862, the mill had switched over to producing high quality silk velvet. In 1866, the mill was burned down by an arsonist, and all the machinery was destroyed. After a three-story mill was built on the site in 1872, the Pennsylvania Railroad acquired the mill and several nearby limestone quarries from the Baldwin family. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, many of the Italian railroad workers and some of their families boarded at the former mill, which had been converted into a house. One of them, Dominic Castaldi of Downingtown, was born there in 1929. Today, the building is occupied by several business tenants.



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- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.net](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.net), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

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

### ***Senior Center's Spring Fling***

The Downingtown Area Senior Center will have a Spring Fling at the Lexus of Chester Springs dealership on 400 Pottstown Pike, from 7-11 PM on Saturday, April 25. The fundraiser will include a dinner cabaret, which begins at 9 PM. Cost is \$75 per person. For more details or to purchase tickets, please call Sue McIntyre, associate director, at 610-269-3939, or access:

[http://downingtownsensiors.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22](http://downingtownsensiors.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22).

### ***Free fishing clinic and Trout Rodeo***

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club (BTCC) will have a free fishing clinic for kids at 9 AM Saturday, March 28 at the Moose Lodge, 233 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown.

The BTCC also will have a free Kids Only (15 and younger) Trout Rodeo at Kerr Park in Downingtown on Saturday, April 18. Registration begins at 8 AM and the Rodeo will be from 9 AM to 2 PM.

### ***Flute choir concert***

The Pennsylvania Flute Choir will perform a free concert at Forks of the Brandywine Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 1648 Horseshoe Pike, Glenmoore, PA, at 7:30 PM on Saturday, March 28. The public is invited.

### ***Easter egg hunt***

East Caln's Park and Recreation Commission will host an Easter egg hunt for kids 9 and under at Bell Tavern Park from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, March 28.

### ***Basket Bingo for scholarship.***

Sponsored by the Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce and benefiting the Chamber's Amina C. Valocchi Scholarship Fund, the Longaberger/Vera Bradley Basket Bingo will be held Sunday, April 19 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church St., Downingtown. Doors open at noon. Bingo begins at 1 PM. Tickets are \$20 (includes 20 regular games). Prizes are filled Longaberger Baskets & Longaberger Pottery and Vera Bradley items. Raffle and door prizes; (4) special games of Bingo; food available for purchase. For tickets or info, call Rochelle at 610-383-1114 or via [Dimatteo003@yahoo.com](mailto:Dimatteo003@yahoo.com).

### ***Bus trip to Washington, DC***

Phil Dague and the 97th PVI Civil War reenacting group are hosting a "Washington, DC on your own" bus trip on Sunday May 17, and the public is invited. Guests will meet at the Downingtown Library at 122 Wallace Ave. in Downingtown at 5:30 AM where they will board a Krapf luxury coach bus. Upon arrival in our nation's capital at 8 AM, you will be free to explore D.C. on your own. Washington will be bustling with activity on that spring day, including "The Grand Review 150<sup>th</sup>," a parade commemorating a parade that happened 150 years ago, marking the end of the Civil War. At 4:30 PM, we will start our return trip back to Downingtown, with a stop along the way for dinner (not included), arriving back home at 8:30 PM. It's a long day, but you can nap on the bus! The cost is \$40 per person. If you are interested, please e-mail Phil at [PRD1961@gmail.com](mailto:PRD1961@gmail.com), or call (610)873-7059.

### ***Registration for soccer players with special needs***

The Glenmoore Eagle Youth Association's HIGH 5 soccer program will be held at Fellowship Field #1, 241 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs, from 3-4 PM on Saturdays, from April 11 to May 30. This free program is for players between 5 and 19 years of age who have special needs. We need teens and adults to volunteer as "buddies" to work one-on-one with players. No soccer experience necessary -- just enthusiasm! For more info and to register, go to: [www.geyasoccer.org](http://www.geyasoccer.org)

### ***Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A re-scheduled***

20% of sales at the Chick-Fil-A restaurants in Downingtown (Ashbridge Square) and Upper Uwchlan (Eagleview Blvd.) from 5:30 to 8 PM on Monday, March 30 will be donated to the Downingtown Library. A flyer-coupon for the event can be downloaded from the Library's website, [www.downingtowntownlibrary.org](http://www.downingtowntownlibrary.org), or be picked up at the Downingtown Library.

### ***5K race for Downingtown Library***

The Readers on the Run 5K race and a 1 Mile walk, plus a Kids Dash will be held on Green Street in Downingtown on Saturday morning, April 11. The races will benefit the Downingtown Library. For details and to register on line, go to: <http://library5k.secondwindtiming.com> or you can pick up a registration form at the new Downingtown Library on Wallace Avenue.

### ***Point-to-Point Race***

The 73<sup>rd</sup> running of the Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point race will be held on Sunday, April 5 at the Brandywine Valley Association's Myrick Conservation Center, on Route 842, between Unionville and West Chester. Gates open at 10 AM. First race: 11:30 AM. General admission is \$20 per carload. For more info, see: [www.bandywinewatershed.org/pointtopoint](http://www.bandywinewatershed.org/pointtopoint).

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

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

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

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

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

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