



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org

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

Vol. 6, No. 14

April 2, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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

Happenings in the Downingtown area 52 years ago

Noted below are tidbits of news published in local papers in the latter part of March 1963.

Some 200 members of the Chester County Medical Society and their families set up a “mock clinic” at **St. Anthony’s Lodge**, Downingtown, in preparation for Sabin Oral Sunday on March 24, when oral polio vaccines were to be administered to thousands of Chester County residents at 37 immunization centers. Nearly 700 volunteers worked at the immunization centers.

The **Downingtown Joint High School Board** adopted a record-breaking \$1,080, 946 budget for the 1963-64 school year. Most of the \$138,696 increase over the previous year’s budget was caused by the addition of 10 new teachers and an approximate \$400 salary increase for all teachers, in effort to be competitive with neighboring school districts.

The **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** learned that the Continental Can Co. would not move its operation in Devon to Downingtown, but at least one other industry was likely to relocate into the Downingtown area. Also, the **Shannon Airport** (located today in West Bradford, on the site of the United Sports Training Center) wasn’t eligible for federal funds to be used to help pay for an expansion because only publicly-owned airports were eligible to receive funding from the Federal Aviation Agency.

In a pre-season interview, **DHS baseball** coach Charlie Forte said there were only five returning lettermen and only two had been starters last year. Those returnees from the 1962 squad, which had a 4-7 record in Ches-Mont competition, were George Murphy, Beanie Williams, John Lauffer, Jim Jackson and Ellis Brown.

Elected to lead the **Marshallton Branch** of the Chester County Hospital Auxiliary were: Mrs. William Pancoast, president; Mrs. Lawrence Steele, vice president; Mrs. Frank Wright, secretary; Mrs. Morris Wood, treasurer; and Elizabeth Jones, corresponding secretary.

Downingtown Junior High’s student newspaper, *The Scribe*, won second place in nationwide competition, sponsored by the Columbia University Scholastic Press Association. Fred Martin was the newspaper’s editor.

Randall’s hair styling salon, at 213 Chestnut St., Downingtown, was offering a \$20 cold wave for only \$10 at its grand opening.

Members of the newly-formed **Boy Scout Troop 23**, sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, who met their Tenderfoot requirements, were Harry Joyner, Robert Kangas, Michael Norris, Jimmie Jarvis, Gary Stern, Joseph Hilton, Philip Garnett, Charles Diem and Thomas Hickey.

Seventh grade students in Margaret Smith’s history class at the **Junior High** put on a play about Gen. Robert E. Lee’s surrender to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Douglas Gindin portrayed Lincoln, Gordon James was Lee, and Tom Bowman played Grant. Other members of the cast were Dennis Henderson, Pete Supple, James Slonaker, Carl Mack, Mike Alexander, Barry Ortlip, Ralph Eller, Charles Williams, Fred Pollock, Margaret Dickenson, Peggy Staneski and Robert Woodard.

When Alex Bell, Villanova University’s football coach, was introduced as the featured speaker at the father-son breakfast, sponsored by the Holy Name Society of **St. Joseph’s Catholic Church**, six-year-old Jackie Helm pounded out the Villanova fight song on the piano. In addition to being the son of former Villanova football star Jack Helm Sr., Jackie was the grandson of Downingtown piano teacher Margaretta Helm.

Fourth graders from **Lionville Elementary School**, who put on a tumbling exhibition at the Pennsylvania Physical Education Convention in Philadelphia, were Robert Dunn, Greg and

Gerry Hartman, Robert Flick, Larry Long, Kevin Boyle, Linda Wunch, Carol Koser, Lynn Hoag, Mary Alice Worthington, Leslie Schultz, Susan Eubanks and Valerie Demos.

Students from **East Ward School**, who participated in the Downingtown School District's Science Fair, included first graders Richard McCardell and Laurie Usher, second grader Judy Foreman, and fourth graders Nancy Kohlhas, Francine Gabel, William Wilmot and Stephanie Parker.

Girls who earned the rank of Tenderfoot and were invested into **Girl Scout Troop 314**, Glenmoore, were Diane Bradbury, Patricia Forrester, Jean Hohl, Dorothy Slonaker, Janet Styer and Cathy Walker.

Members of the **Beaver Creek School** basketball team, which had a 14-2 overall record, were Steve Long, Bob Ifert, John Stoviak, Tom Stoner, Farney Cattell, Mike Smith, Fred Reutter, Jack Leonard and Billy Klunk. Scorekeepers and timers for the team's games were Annawynn Menas, Helen Bittmann and Wendy Wetherill.

Downingtown area news during the summer of 1918

Noted below are news items retrieved from summer 1918 editions of the *Downingtown Archive*.

Downingtown Burgess (Mayor) Vinton Philips responded to current complaints about pigs being kept by borough residents by noting that an ordinance, passed in 1862, **prohibited pig pens** being located within 100 feet of any dwelling.

The U.S. Civil Service Commission announced that an examination for candidates for postmaster of the **East Downingtown Post Office** were to be given. The postmaster's annual salary was \$1,900.

Members of the **Alert Fire Co.** unanimously agreed to buy a Seagrave motor-driven, combination chemical and pump truck, which cost \$9,500.

The Sunday Schools of the **four Protestant churches** in Downingtown had a joint, all-day picnic on a Thursday in August at Lenape Park. About 1,000 local Sunday schoolers attended the picnic. Many of the men who attended the picnic, held on a Thursday, had been given the day off by their borough employers so they could join their families at the park.

In response to an appeal by the Federal Food Administration, a **community market** was established in a commercial garage owned by Joseph Hoopes, at the intersection of Manor and Lancaster Avenues in the borough. The cooperative market enabled the direct sale of local farmers' surplus garden products to area residents.

The **Downingtown Iron Works**, which had four workers in its tiny plant when it was started in 1914, had 185 production employees and a much larger office staff in a significantly bigger facility four years later. Much of the firm's growth was due to federal government contracts during World War I. And plant's \$7,000 weekly payroll was critical to the area's economy.

Herbie Lee to be inducted into DHS Alumni Hall of Fame

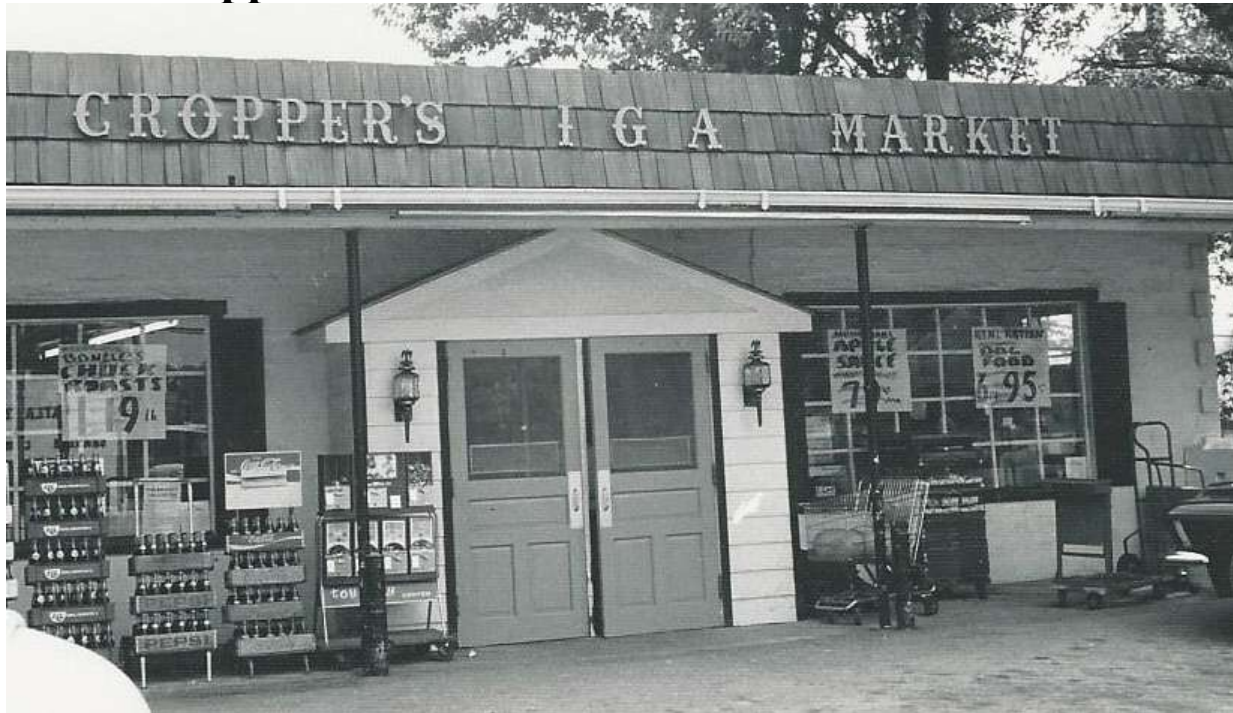
Herbert "Herbie" Lee, Class of 1954, is one of the six DHS graduates who will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131st annual banquet at the Downingtown Country Club on Saturday evening, April 25. Details about the banquet and reservations for it can be made by accessing: www.downingtownalumni.org/banquet.html.

Lee, who is being posthumously recognized for his achievements in education and community service, was an educator, athlete, coach, mentor and pioneer in education. He began his education in a segregated classroom at West Ward Elementary School in Downingtown. And he went on to establish himself as an outstanding student-athlete, when he played football for DHS, the University of Illinois and West Chester University, where he was selected as all-conference offensive guard and defensive end.

Lee began his career in education with teaching positions in the West Chester, Phoenixville and Downingtown School Districts. He subsequently was a professor and chairperson in the Department of Educational Services at West Chester University. Among many other positions at WCU, he was an assistant football coach and student teaching supervisor.

And he was the first director of the Chester County Head Start Program, President of the Downingtown Lions Club, President of the WCU Alumni Association and President of the DHS Alumni Association. Also, he pioneered the innovative Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) for minority students and received, among many other awards, the NAACP Human Rights Award. The winner of the Battle of the Brandywine (Downingtown's annual East vs. West high school football game) receives the Herbie Lee Trophy.

When Cropper's Market was at Route 322 & Bondsville Rd.



Ellen Van Lew is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first of many callers who correctly identified the building in the above photo as the original Cropper's IGA Market, which was located at the intersection of Route 322 and Bondsville Road in Guthriesville, when Bob Cropper and his wife, Lora, opened it in 1953. It's where Weaver Memorials business is located today.

In 1975, Bob and his son, John, bought the property at 1155 Horseshoe Pike and built a supermarket that was four times larger than the original store. That store was where Guthriesville Hardware is now located. And in 1995, Cropper's became the flagship of the Brandywine Village Shopping Center, at 1257

Horseshoe Pike. In 2002, Cropper's was purchased by Associated Wholesalers Inc., and in 2011, AWI sold the store to the Stauffer's chain, which also has several supermarkets in central Pennsylvania.

Clip Joint won't be open on Easter Sunday

Although a group of volunteers usually come to Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln on the first Sunday of each month to clip and paste newspaper articles for our archival collection, the next Clip Joint session will be held on Sunday (1-4 PM) April 12 because the first Sunday in April will be on Easter.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.

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, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Old Caln Historical Society events

The Old Caln Historical Society is sponsoring these events:

An open house on Sunday, April 12 from 1- 3 PM, will include free tours of the Old Caln Meetinghouse and Museum (circa 1726) on Route 340, Thorndale and the Hexagonal Schoolhouse (circa 1837) on Municipal Drive, Thorndale. The tours will be given by members of the Old Caln Historical Society and the Caln Township Historical Commission. The public is invited and parking is available. For information call 610-384-8153.

A program on the Underground Railroad in Chester County will be given at 2 PM on Sunday, April 19 at the Caln Township Municipal Building. Christopher Desmond, director of the Friends Historical Library at both Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges, and well known writer and speaker on the Underground

Railroad, will present the program. The program is free and parking is available. Please use the back door of the meeting room. For information call 610-384-8153.

Also, table space is available for the Historical Society's Craft/Antique/Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 9, from 9 AM-2 PM on the grounds of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. For information please call 610-384-9496 or 610-384-8153.

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://downingtownseniors.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22.

Trout Rodeo

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club 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.

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

Nite at the Races

A Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races will be offered on Saturday, May 2 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown. Doors open at 6 PM. Races start after a viewing of the actual Kentucky Derby on TV. Cost: \$25 per person; limited number of tickets available for \$30 at the door. Includes beef and beer & soda. Cash bar. Adults over 21 only. Benefits Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee. To order tickets go to: www.dtownchristmas.com/Documents/NATR2015/TICKETS-HORSES%20FORM.pdf. For more info, see: www.dtownchristmas.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 150th," 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, 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

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 73rd 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.brandywinewatershed.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. 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 unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610-873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: JPCheryl@verizon.net.



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Where and What Is This?



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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 latter part of April 1979.

Marsh Creek State Park officials said the new pool--replacing the one built there in 1972--was expected to be opened in July.

Jeanne Minahan and Robin Rambo received the Senior Awards at the **DHS Alumni Association's** 92nd annual banquet, held at the East Brandywine Fire Co. And Eloise Sigle, Class of 1938, won the Distinguished Service Award. She had been the Association's recording secretary from 1966 until 1973, and served on many committees.

The **East Brandywine Fire Co.** announced plans to inaugurate emergency medical service in July 1979. The service would not include an ambulance to transport people to area hospitals. However, it would involve stabilizing injured and acutely ill patients before an ambulance arrived, according to John Schmidt, the service's operations chief.

Fred Costello and Otto Preikszas were co-chairmen of the **Lionville Youth Association's** annual dinner dance, held at Sts. Philip and James Catholic Church in Exton. Other committee members were Peggy Coldren, Dick Lynch, Sue Buzzard, Andrea Bell, Dave Luning, RuthAnn Gillooly, Mary Preikszas and Dorothy Foster.

Members of **Cadette Girl Scout Troop 129**, Lionville, who participated in a child care course offered by the Red Cross, included Kathy Tharp, Cindy Good, Debbie Mundy, Tina Kerstetter, Diane Shivers, Sue Sanko, Anne and Denise Kane, Chris and Michelle Jaceko, Cindy Vogel, Sue Puritano, Lois Schmidt and Arlene Murtaugh.

James Wilson, owner of the **Marsh Creek Inn**, told Wallace Township officials that he wanted to cut the restaurant's utility costs at least 60 percent by installing a water turbine system to provide electrical power. Water would be drawn from the Brandywine Creek at a point near the Devereux Road bridge, and then it would go through a network of pipes and a canal to a section of Wilson's property, where the turbine and a generator were to be housed. Wilson hoped to finance the project via a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Energy Department.

Members of **Boy Scout Troop 70**, Thorndale, who went on a winter weekend camping trip, were Jeff and Scott Bell, Dave Bishop, Brian and Drew Gardiner, Lane Jarvis, Joe Leofsky, Bob McMillen, Scott Millward, Mike Raysor and Greg Steele.

Pitchers Ed Lasorda, Bob Ricci and Larry Protivnak combined their efforts for a no-hitter, as the **DHS baseball team** beat Octorara 9-0. Larry Mayo led the Whippet offense with four RBIs.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1100 Persimmon Drive, West Bradford, \$60,400; 15 Gunning Lane, East Caln, \$65,000; 24 Dorothy Lane, Upper Uwchlan, \$68,900; 123 Lambeth Court, East Brandywine, \$56,900; 604 Highland Avenue, Downingtown, \$44,500; 1801 Old Kings Highway, West Whiteland \$159,000; 421 Bianca Circle, Caln, \$44,900; 141 Glen Manor Road, Wallace, \$75,900.

Central Presbyterian won the **Downingtown Church Youth Basketball League**, as it blasted Hopewell Methodist 63-28. Mark Dague and Jimmy Schmitt each netted 16 points to lead Central's offense.

Members of the **LYA Intermediate** boys' basketball league all-stars were Kevin Beaupit, Hugh Burke, Frank DiOttavio, Jeff Guyon, Tim Leppick, Andy Lefko, Sam Means, Andy Rosenlieb, Craig Styer, Scott Talbert and Josh Woodward.

Missy Murdock took three firsts, as the **DHS girls' track team** beat OJ Roberts 74-58.

Clip Joint will be open this Sunday

Volunteers are encouraged to come to Ashbridge House, the Historical Society's headquarters on Route 30 in East Caln, from 1-4 PM on Sunday, April 12 for the next Clip Joint session, where they can clip and paste newspaper articles for our archival collection.

What Downingtown residents were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local newspapers in the early part of October 1947.

Members of the **Downingtown Burial Association** met at the Minquas Fire Co. to decide if the 45-year-old organization should continue to function, despite a precipitous decline in membership. In the early days, the organization had 300 members, who contributed \$1 each to ensure that their heirs would receive several hundred dollars to help defray funeral expenses. The 1947 meeting was called by Horace Carpenter, association president; and its executive committee, comprised of Mrs. George Fisher, Mrs. Edgar Hutchison, E. I. Griffith and Charles Reel. Faced with a membership slightly greater than 100, a large turnout unanimously voted to carry on, and every member pledged to recruit a new member.

East Ward School marked the 25th anniversary of its opening with a celebration arranged by the school's Mothers Club. Rhoda Yost, principal, introduced Mary Swayne and Endora Freeman, two of the school's first teachers who had retired, and Anna Hall, another "first" who was then teaching at the Junior-Senior High School.

The **Alert Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** won a \$75 first prize in the Pennsylvania State Fireman's Convention parade in Lancaster. The Downingtown marching unit included 50 women, led by Mrs. Elmer Schrumpf, auxiliary president.

Dr. Charles Bruton was unanimously appointed to the **Downingtown Borough Council**. He filled the vacancy caused by C.O. Brown's resignation. Other members of Council at the time were Nelson Dennis, Charles Nice, A.L. Schneider, Mark Shaw and Ray Sheeler.

After winning its season opener with a 19-12 win over St. Patrick High School of Norristown, the **Whippet football team** was beaten 20-6 by Upper Merion and 12-0 by Phoenixville in the next two games.

Help Wanted ads placed by the **Collins and Aikman** plush mill in East Brandywine were soliciting "young men and women" who would be paid while learning to weave.

The **Lincoln School in Wallace Township** was reopened for third, fourth and fifth graders, all of whom were taught by Freda Johnson.

Elected as leaders of the WSCS group at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were: Mrs. Earl Johnson, president; Mrs. Earl Spellman, vice president; Mrs. Clinton Griffiths, secretary; Mrs. Joseph Fell, treasurer; Mrs. Harry Cann, chairman of social relations and church activities; Mrs. E.F. Henry, missionary and child life; Mrs. Ralph Keiser, literature and publications; Mrs. Edwin Keenan, membership; Mrs. John Trimble, fellowship; Mrs. D. Ciaffoni, publicity and printing; and Mrs. George McAllister, bank and cards.

Woodland Products Inc., the first farm woodlot cooperative in Pennsylvania when it was established in 1945, had a sawmill on Boot Road. It was featured in an article in the *Pennsylvania Co-op Review*. Among those who had an active role in the cooperative were James McGowan and John Romig of Downingtown, and Russell Worthington of Lionville.

Installed as officers of the **Odd Fellows Lodge in Lionville** included: Schuyler Rennard, noble grand; Horace Wilson, vice grand; Russell Allison, secretary; Kenneth Fell, treasurer; Horace Reyburn, warden; Samuel Supplee, conductor; Harry Quay, chaplain; James Thackeray, inside guardian; and Leon Gordon, outside guardian.

Members, guests and supporters of the Downingtown team, which won the **Chester County Baseball League**, were feted by local businessmen and civic leaders at a party held at Frank Palumbo's Restaurant in South Philadelphia. The evening included a dinner and a show.

Interested in the history of DHS football?

If you're interested in the history of football at Downingtown High School, you might want to check out this site: www.facebook.com/groups/594722887247727/?ref=bookmarks. Local lawyer John Kiefel is using the Facebook site to show what he has found while doing research for a book on that topic. It includes many photos and news articles he discovered in the Downingtown Area Historical Society's archives.

It was Simpson's General Store in Eagle



Marybeth Fusco is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the interior of Simpson's General Store, which was owned and operated by members of the Simpson family on Route 100 in Eagle for more than 100 years. The last owners of the iconic store were Bob and Nancy Simpson. Somehow, they were able to keep track of all their widely varied merchandise. The Simpsons retired in 2000, and the landmark building was demolished. The store's former site is now occupied by a bank, which is part of a shopping center in Eagle.

Sam Matthews to be inducted into Alumni Hall of Fame

Sam Matthews, Class of 1956, is one of the six DHS graduates who will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131st 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.downingtowntownalumni.org/banquet.html.

Matthews, who is being recognized for his achievements in business and community service, grew up on a farm in Uwchlan Township, where he had the traditional chores. But he found time to become involved in extracurricular activities at school ranging from playing football to serving as President of his class. He earned a BA in history from Lehigh University in 1960, a master's from Yale Divinity School in 1963, and a master's in History from Brown University.

In 1971, Sam returned to Chester County where he worked as the Assistant Director of the Chester County Economic Development Council. Eventually he decided on full-time farming as his profession. Today, he is a member of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, and the national Holstein Association. Sam has received numerous awards, including the Chester County Farmer of the Year Award in 1996 and the Pace Setter Award by the PA Dairy Stakeholder Association in 2005.

Today, Sam and his family run their beloved Milky Way Farm, which has been placed into the Chester County Farmland Preservation program to ensure that the farm will survive for future generations.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Program on Dowlin Forge

Susannah Brody will present a local history program on Dowlin Forge as part of the East Brandywine Historical Commission's lecture series at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 19, at the East Brandywine Township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike (Route 322 near Hopewell Road). A storyteller and historian, Brody will talk about and show slides of John Dowlin's properties, which straddled the Brandywine. Her presentation will help you envision just how important his forge was in the development of the area. No reservations required. Admission is free. All are welcome. For more information contact Carol Schmidt via carolsinex@gmail.com or 484 237-8071.

Baked ziti dinner

A baked ziti dinner will be held at Marshallton United Methodist Church from 4:30-7:30 PM on Saturday, April 18. There will be continuous seating. Menu includes ziti, bread, salad, drinks and dessert. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Proceeds to benefit the MUMC Youth who will be traveling to Bonafil, Mexico this summer on a mission project.

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Bike the Brandywine

Family event presented by the Downingtown Borough Parks & Rec Commission at Kerr Park, from 9 AM to noon Saturday, May 16. Activities include: bike consignment sale at 9 AM; bike safety tips and info from Downingtown Police Dept. at 10 AM; ride from Kerr Park to Johnsontown Park and back; 11 AM, music at the gazebo in Kerr Park. For more info, access:

www.downingtowntown.org/images/BiketheBrandywine%202015.jpg

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

Nite at the Races

A Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races will be offered on Saturday, May 2 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown. Doors open at 6 PM. Races start after a viewing of the actual Kentucky Derby on TV. Cost: \$25 per person; limited number of tickets available for \$30 at the door. Includes beef and beer & soda. Cash bar. Adults over 21 only. Benefits Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee. To order tickets go to: www.dtownchristmas.com/Documents/NATR2015/TICKETS-HORSES%20FORM.pdf. For more info, see: www.dtownchristmas.com/.

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Bus trip to Washington, DC

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Registration for soccer players with special needs

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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.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Banquet room for rent

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An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, 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.



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

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

Vol. 6, No. 16

April 16, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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Happenings in the Downingtown area 52 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the early part of April 1963.

Dan Tabas petitioned Downingtown Borough Council to have the Downingtown Motor Inn, the Farmer's Market, and the remainder of his holdings in East Caln Township—a total of 250 acres—to be incorporated in the borough in order to take advantage of the Downingtown water and sewer systems.

The new **Lakeview Swim Club**, located in the Cornog section of Glenmoore, was offering yearly family memberships for \$50 and \$20 for individuals. The club had a 500-foot X 80-foot lake, as well as bathhouses, a sun deck, a picnic area and a refreshment stand. The club also offered early morning skin diving and ice skating during the winter.

Schanely's Jewelry Store, at 130 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough, announced its Going Out of Business. All of the store's merchandise was being sold at one-half prices.

Members of the cast in the **DHS production** of "The Guy from Venus" included Mary Ann Smedley, Jack Hines, Steve Charles, Robert Crane, Barbara Warren, Susan Schofield, Jim Helms, James Williamson, Pam Backenstose and Bill Ash.

Members of **Cub Pack 2** who earned awards included Lewis Capriotti, Norman Sendler, Kenny Harmon, Bill Dorman, David Hemberger, Edward Campbell, Gordon Patrizio, Michael Miller, Danny Snyder, Arthur Harrison and Billy Woodruff. Leaders of the pack, which met in Downingtown's Borough Hall, were Clifford Ratcliffe and Roger Patrizio.

New members of the **Caln Township** planning commission were Victor Sarkissian, Charles Drasher, Edgar Buchanan and Louis Seltzer. They joined planning director Robert Dougherty on the five-member board.

Elected as officers of the **Downingtown branch of the Chester County Hospital** were Mrs. Ralph Ralston, president; Mrs. Allison Hallowell, vice president; Mrs. Charles Huber, recording secretary; Mrs. Stanley Senneff, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Weldon Bicking, treasurer.

Students who participated in a **Junior High talent show** were singer Susan Myers, trombonists Dale Moore, Christine Harrison and Debbie Harrison, ukulele player John Johnson, guitarist Terry Davis, saxophonists Irwin Williamson and pianists Jane Jarvie and Alan Novak.

The board of the **Downingtown Library** voted to join the Chester County Library system.

Newly elected officers of the WSCS group at **Romansville Methodist Church** were Ruth Wertz, president; Carlene Huyard, vice president; May Osborn, secretary; Dorothy Mattson, treasurer; Gladys Beale, flower fund chair; Catherine Duncan, spiritual life secretary; and Erma Collins, secretary of literature.

Sandy Koppenhaver and Randy Reeve were recognized as the two outstanding seniors at the **DHS Alumni Association's** annual banquet. Edwin Baldwin won the association's Distinguished Service Award.

Elected to lead the **Downingtown branch of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary** were Mrs. Larue Frain, president; Beth deBordenave, vice president; Mrs. Charles Bruton, treasurer; Mrs. George Nixdorf, recording secretary; and Mrs. Clifton Walton, corresponding secretary.

The third annual Community **Easter Sunrise Service** was held at the Exton Drive-In Theatre on Route 100. The 6:30 AM service was sponsored by the Exton Community Baptist Church.

Members of the **Marshallton School girls' tumbling team**, who demonstrated their skills at a PTA meeting, included Molly Anderson, Linda Bateman, Joanne Carey, Gayle Clark, Patricia Collins, Helen Freyberger, Charlotte Griggs, Cheryl Harper, Linda Hurley, Joan Keeler, Deborah Lawn, Patrice McLearn, Kathleen Newman, Nancy Russell, Elaine Siter and Cheryl Warner.

The Whippets took a first in every running event, as the **DHS boys' track team** defeated Kennett Square 75-43. Those fleet-footed winners included Clark Bartell, Andy Hardin, Clarence Wilkerson and Sam Smith. Firsts also were tallied by Jack Darby, discus, and Edgar Donnon, pole vault.

Charlie Way to be inducted into Alumni Hall of Fame

Charlie Way, Class of 1916, is one of the six DHS graduates who will be inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame at the organization's 131st 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.downingtowntalumni.org/banquet.html.

Way, who is being recognized for his achievements in athletics, probably was the first DHS graduate to receive national recognition. He was a consensus, first-team All-American football player for Penn State in 1920.

As a DHS senior, Way scored 32 of 33 touchdowns the DHS football squad scored during the 1915 football campaign. He left Penn State at the beginning of his junior year to serve in the Army during World War I. He returned after the war and led the Penn State football team to an undefeated 1920 season. Way began his professional career in the National Football League (NFL); first with the Canton Bulldogs in 1921, and became an All-Pro as a member of the Frankford Yellow Jackets in 1924. He also played for the 1926 American Football League champion, the Philadelphia Quakers. Later, Way coached football at the University of Dayton and Virginia Tech. He earned a degree in finance from Penn State in 1921 and had a long career with the Internal Revenue Service following his playing days. He lived in Thorndale until his death, at age 90, in 1988.

To learn more about Way's illustrious football career, see: www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2014%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf and www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/November%2021%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.

Lincoln's funeral train stopped in Downingtown 150 years ago

Following his assassination on April 15, 1865, President Lincoln's body was transported by rail back to Springfield, IL for burial. And one of the stops the funeral train made was in Downingtown, on April 22, 1865.

That wasn't the first time Downingtown area citizens had a personal connection with Lincoln. When he was traveling from Springfield to Washington for his inauguration, the train stopped in Downingtown on February 21, 1861 and the President-elect said a few words to a large crowd while the train was refueled with wood and water.

Jim Sundman, a Downingtown resident who is a railroad historian, wrote an interesting account of those two special moments in Downingtown history in the February 14, 2013 Hist-O-Gram. You can access Jim's article via:

www.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org/Histograms/2013%20Hist-O-Grams/Feb%2014%202013%20Hist-O-Gram.pdf.

Senior Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary

The Downingtown Area Senior Center was established in 1974 as an extension of the Meals Together program in the borough. Back then, the Meals Together program in the Downingtown area only involved four seniors, who met weekly in the original Downingtown United Methodist Church on Brandywine Avenue, for a noon meal and social time. As the popularity of the program grew, the need for a senior center to serve residents of Downingtown and 14 surrounding communities, was realized. Thus, spearheaded by Amina Valocchi, the Downingtown Senior Center was formed.

The center's home continued to be Downingtown United Methodist for more than two decades, including the years after a new Methodist church was built on East Lancaster Avenue. Subsequently, after temporary stays at St. James Episcopal Church and the St. James Place Apartments in Downingtown and the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Exton, the center was relocated in 2002 to its current site in the Ashbridge Commons complex on Route 30 in East Caln Township. The 5,000-square-foot facility, which includes several offices, a multi-purpose office, a large program area, a kitchen and restrooms, cost \$500,000 to build.

The center received national recognition in 2012 from the National Council on Aging for its Food for Thought program, which educated seniors on health-related issues.

Then in 2013, the center had to find temporary quarters when mold problems were discovered on two occasions. So, the center had to move to the Thorndale United Methodist Church until the environmental issues were recently resolved by Ashbridge Commons' owners, and the center's permanent home could be re-opened.

Obviously, coping with those environmental issues made it impossible for the center to celebrate its anniversary in 2014. But since the center is operating out of its permanent home once again, and members are returning to the Senior Center to have lunch and participate in programs and events, the 40th anniversary is being observed now.

Part of the celebration will be the Spring Fling, to be held 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, contact Sue McIntyre, associate director, at 610-269-3939, or access: http://downingtownseniors.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22.

DMYA members also staged a play in 1947

You may have noticed in previous Hist-O-Grams that the Downingtown Young Men's Association (DMYA) ran the early Good Neighbor Day celebrations on the Fourth of July in Downingtown's Kerr Park for several years after World War II. And the DYMA sponsored an invitational track meet for several years back then, as well.

Several months after the DMYA was formed in 1947, the organization put on a production of "Tomorrow Never Comes," a three-act comedy, which was performed in the auditorium of the Junior-Senior High School in November 1947. The play written and directed by Charles "Pud" Ax, who many oldtimers remember as an English teacher at DHS. Pud also wrote and directed the Passion Play, produced for decades by members of Hopewell United Methodist Church.

Those who performed in Pud's DYMA's play included: Mylin Plank, Richard Warren, James Mahan, Robert Romig, Robert Mitman, Alex Bareford, William W.E. Ash, Vinton Smedley, Peg Fisher, Hathaway Frain, Gertrude Hickey, Peter Short, George Ciarlone and Marguerite Murray.

The production staff included; Dr. Anthony Ricci, production manager; James Diffenderfer, publicity; Horace Miller, stage manager; Francis Sommers, scenery; Robert Romig, sound; Morris Stevens, lighting; and Ross Dague, tickets.

DMYA officers at the time were Gerald Lyons, president; Francis Sommers, vice president; Dr. Ricci, treasurer; and Mark Bareford, secretary. The organization's directors included John Donofrio, Aubrey Goudie, Frank Bishop, Allan Hughes, A.F. Travaglini and Ross Dague.

It's the Bradford Friends Meetinghouse in Marshallton



John Carbo is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the Bradford Meetinghouse in Marshallton, which was built in 1765. In addition to being the final resting place for three Civil War veterans, also buried in the meetinghouse's graveyard was Nathan Simms, who allegedly assisted John Wilkes Booth escape after he mortally wounded President Lincoln in Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC. Simms, who died in the Chester County Poorhouse in Embreeville in 1934, reportedly had lived in Marshallton during the early 1930s.

However, as noted in Catherine Quillman's *Between the Brandywines: A History of West Bradford*, stories about Simms' association with Booth "have become a bit overblown in decades of storytelling." In one newspaper account, Simms said that, on April 14, 1865--the date Lincoln was shot--he was working as an indentured servant on the Maryland farm of Mary Suratt who was later hanged for her part in the assassination. And he only knew Booth because the actor had

visited Suratt's farm several times. Although Simms was taken back to Washington for questioning, he was never charged with aiding Booth.

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, 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.

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.

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, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Program on Dowlin Forge

Susannah Brody will present a local history program on Dowlin Forge as part of the East Brandywine Historical Commission's lecture series at 3:30 PM on Sunday, April 19, at the East Brandywine Township building, 1214 Horseshoe Pike (Route 322 near Hopewell Road). A storyteller and historian, Brody will talk about and show slides of John Dowlin's properties, which straddled the Brandywine. Her presentation will help you envision just how important his forge was in the development of the area. No reservations required. Admission is free. All are welcome. For more information contact Carol Schmidt via carolsinex@gmail.com or 484 237-8071.

Baked ziti dinner

A baked ziti dinner will be held at Marshallton United Methodist Church from 4:30-7:30 PM on Saturday, April 18. There will be continuous seating. Menu includes ziti, bread, salad, drinks and dessert. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Proceeds to benefit the MUMC Youth who will be traveling to Bonafil, Mexico this summer on a mission project.

Annual Chamber dinner

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will have its 70th annual dinner at 5 PM on Thursday, April 30 at the Downingtown Country Club. Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year Awards will be presented at the dinner.

See www.dtrcc.com/Documents/2015%20Chamber%20Annual%20Dinner%20-%20Invitation.pdf for ticket information.

Old Caln Historical Society events

The Old Caln Historical Society is sponsoring these events:

A program on the Underground Railroad in Chester County will be given at 2 PM on Sunday, April 19 at the Caln Township Municipal Building. Christopher Desmond, director of the Friends Historical Library at both Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges, and well known writer and speaker on the Underground Railroad, will present the program. The program is free and parking is available. Please use the back door of the meeting room. For information call 610-384-8153.

Also, table space is available for the Historical Society's Craft/Antique/Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 9, from 9 AM-2 PM on the grounds of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. For information please call 610-384-9496 or 610-384-8153.

Senior Center's Spring Fling

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http://downingtownseniors.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22.

Trout Rodeo

The Brandywine Trout and Conservation Club 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.

Bike the Brandywine

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Where and What Is This?



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More than 40 people died here during 1918 flu epidemic

The worldwide influenza epidemic--described as the “greatest medical holocaust in history”--reached the Downingtown area in early October 1918, according to articles published that month in the *Downingtown Archive*.

The borough's schools were closed for several weeks, after over 300 students and six teachers came down with the disease. Churches, fire stations, and lodge rooms also were closed by the Downingtown Board of Health.

By mid-October 1918, the epidemic had subsided, according to the Board of Health, which reported that more than 1,500 area residents had caught the disease and over 40 of them had died from it.

One reason for the rapid decline of the lethality of the disease was because doctors got better at preventing pneumonia that developed after victims had contracted the flu virus.

Surprisingly, many of the dead were healthy adults in their 20s and 30s, whose bodies' immune systems were ravaged by the virus. About 28 percent of the U.S. population contracted the disease, and more than 500,000 Americans died from it.

What local residents were talking about 68 years ago

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

Five members of Downingtown's **Boy Scout Troop 2** reached the rank of Eagle. They were William Woodward, Joseph Eby, Rodgers Bender, Ronald Hogg and Gordon Carpenter. And promoted to First Class at Parents Night, held in the Boy Scout room at the Alert Fire Co., was Paul Detterline. Also, Scouts accepted into the troop were Pat Pattson, Joe and Jack Woodward, and James Senneff.

The **Glen Moore Improvement Society**, which was inactive during World War II, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Vice President Frank Henderson conducted the meeting, and Eleanor Bartol was elected treasurer, due to the death of William Davis.

Members of **Girl Scout Troop 10**, who won prizes for their costumes at a Halloween party held in the basement of Marshallton School, were Evelyn Bunting, Edith Albertson, Shirley Lamborn, Edith Smyers, Mary Brackbill and June Ellingsworth.

Gen. Hap Arnold, wartime commander of the U.S. Army Air Corps, presented the Legion of Merit award to **Col. Horace Shelmire** of Downingtown. Shelmire had been executive assistant to Gen. Arnold.

Employees of the **Collins and Aikman** mill in the Bondsville section of East Brandywine, who were given service pins at the firm's annual banquet, included: Fred Fulton, Earl Garrison and Bessie Warren, 20 years; and May Davis, Norman Devine, John Harple, Marion McFalls, Wesley Laird, Morton Myers, George Reber and Chester Pierce, 10 years.

The **DHS football team** lost a heartbreaker when it lost to West Chester 20-12. The Whippets ran a “sleeper” play that resulted in a 63-yard touchdown by DHS end Carmen DiPietro in the opening minute of the game, and the Papertowners made a sensational comeback effort in the fourth quarter. However, West Chester beat Downingtown for the first time since 1943.

The game was so important to West Chester that there was a huge pep rally on the night before the game. It involved more than 1,000 fans who marched through the town behind the

Warrior band, and rousing speeches were delivered by the superintendent of the West Chester school system and the sports editor of the *Daily Local News*.

West Chester scored two TDs in the first half, giving it a 13-6 lead at the intermission. The Warriors struck again in the opening minutes of the third quarter. But Downingtown quarterback Joe Capriotti put his team in scoring position, when his 89-yard punt return ended at the one-yard line. Fullback Paul Dowlin threw a short pass to the Whippet halfback Chuck Garwood to make the score 20-12 at the end of the third quarter. Downingtown rallied in the final stanza when Dan Barrow completed a 30 yard pass to DiPietro to the West Chester 12-yard line. But the rally fizzled and the home team held on for a win.

New Downingtown Library dedicated



Library officials shown, from left to right, at the new Downingtown Library's dedication ceremonies on April 17, were: front row, Scott Hastings and his wife, Debbie Hastings, and Beth Valocchi; second row, board president Deborah Miles, library director Karen Miller, Betsy Hinebaugh, Marcy Hessinger, Mary Holleran; back row, Mary Larsen, Dr. Mario Spoto, Jack Hines, Kathy Mascherino, Ron Dankanich, Carol D'Andrea, and Dan Burgess. The photo was taken by board member Nancy Rolfe. Other board members not in the photo were Francine Dague and Carolyn Marchesani.

It's the Trestle Bridge on the Downingtown-West Bradford border



Carol Nelms is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the site in the above photo as the Trestle Bridge, which spans above the Brandywine Creek and Route 322, along the Downingtown-West Bradford border. The photo was taken by Stacie Hancock of Downingtown.

According to the *Historic American Engineering Record*, the bridge was built in 1903-04 for the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR). Notable for its height, length and complex geometry, the bridge was part of the PRR's Philadelphia and Thorndale branch. The low-grade freight line was part of the Trenton Cut-Off, which circumvented heavy rail traffic going through Philadelphia during much of the 20th Century.

Between stone abutments, the bridge's length is 1,451 feet. The steel structure has both riveted deck girders and pin-connected trusses. Its tracks were removed in 1990. Now owned by the Norfolk Southern Railroad, the unused bridge has been left to slowly deteriorate since it would cost millions of dollars to tear down.

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

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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.

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, 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Annual Chamber dinner

The Downingtown-Thorndale Regional Chamber of Commerce will have its 70th annual dinner at 5 PM on Thursday, April 30 at the Downingtown Country Club. Dr. Mario Spoto will receive the Citizen of the Year award, and Citadel Federal Credit Union will be presented the Business of the Year award. Sharon Hegney of the Downingtown Country Club will receive the Merit Award of Recognition.

See www.dtrcc.com/Documents/2015%20Chamber%20Annual%20Dinner%20-%20Invitation.pdf for ticket information.

Pancake breakfast

The Knights of Columbus Council of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 340 Manor Ave., Downingtown, will have a pancake breakfast from 6:30 AM to noon on May 3 in the school cafeteria. Besides a wide variety of pancakes, the meal will include sausage, coffee, tea, juice and milk. Baked goods made by parishioners also will be on sale. Adults, \$6; children, 12 and under: \$3. Tickets sold at the door, but you can make a reservation by contacting John McCarraher at jrm227@verizon.net. Proceeds go to the Knights of Columbus Council's charitable activities.

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://downingtownseniors.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40:spring-fling&catid=27:spring-fling&Itemid=22.

Bike the Brandywine

Family event presented by the Downingtown Borough Parks & Rec Commission at Kerr Park, from 9 AM to noon Saturday, May 16. Activities include: bike consignment sale at 9 AM; bike safety tips and info from Downingtown Police Dept. at 10 AM; ride from Kerr Park to Johnsontown Park and back; 11 AM, music at the gazebo in Kerr Park. For more info, access:

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A Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races will be offered on Saturday, May 2 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown. Doors open at 6 PM. Races start after a viewing of the actual Kentucky Derby on TV. Cost: \$25 per person; limited number of tickets available for \$30 at the door. Includes beef and beer & soda. Cash bar. Adults over 21 only. Benefits Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee. To order tickets go to: www.dtownchristmas.com/Documents/NATR2015/TICKETS-HORSES%20FORM.pdf. For more info, see: www.dtownchristmas.com/.

Old Caln Historical Society events

The Old Caln Historical Society is sponsoring a Craft/Antique/Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 9, from 9 AM-2 PM on the grounds of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. For information or to reserve a table, please call 610-384-9496 or 610-384-8153.

Golf outing

The Alert Fire Co. of Downingtown will be host its second annual Golf Outing at the Downingtown Country Club on Monday, May 4. Golfer Registration Deadline is Saturday, April 26. Entry fee for each golfer is \$100. The Outing includes lunch starting at 11:30 AM, shotgun start at 1 PM, greens fee, cart, beverages on the course, awards dinner and various contests and door prizes. For more information and on-line registration, access: www.alertgolfouting.org.

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 150th," 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, 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

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: 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.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

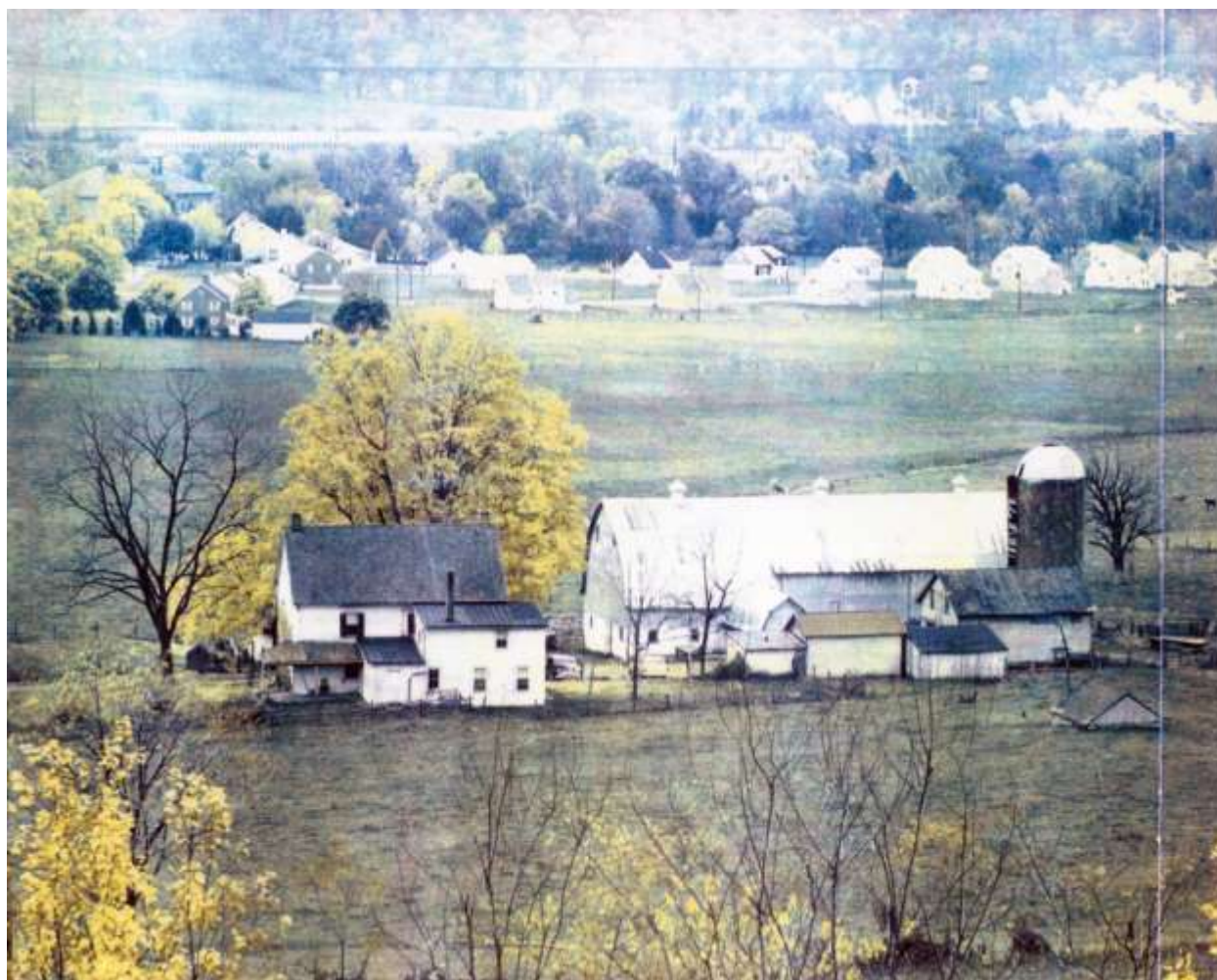
www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org

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

Vol. 6, No. 18

April 30, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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

What local people were talking about 52 years ago

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

The **Upper Uwchland Home and School League** decided that the planned Marsh Creek State Park should be abandoned because it was impractical, as well as a burden on taxpayers.

Downingtown National Bank opened a branch in Lionville. Miss Pennsylvania greeted those who came to the grand opening. A second branch, in the east end of the borough, was to be opened in several months.

Those who clipped a coupon from a local newspaper could buy 5 gallons of gas for a total of \$1.15 at the gas island at the **Downingtown Farmers Market**.

Following a welcoming greeting by Donna Katherina, these second graders recited poems at an assembly program at **East Ward School**: Gary Miller, Robbie Sarmento, Walter Brown, Gary Miles, Kevin Stevenson, Debbie Mercer, Robert Stine, Linda Graybill, Joyce Pechin and Theresa Cortlessa.

The **Downingtown Lions Club** celebrated its 35th anniversary. Robert Ash had been the first president, and 38 percent of the charter members were still active in the club. Those who offered recollections of the club's earlier days included: George Bousum, Ted Griffith, Bill Reed, Anthony Ricci, Ray Sheeler, Vinton Smedley, Ed Towson, Elton Weikel and Stan Walters.

Dian Marie Hamilton, from the Bradford Hills section of Downingtown, was crowned **Miss Chester County**. Hamilton, a junior at West Chester State College, won the talent competition. Anne Earnshaw, a DHS senior, was one of the four finalists.

Winners of the essay competition, sponsored by the **American Legion Auxiliary**, were JoAnn Petrella, St. Joseph's School; Ralph Emery, the Junior High; and June Williamson, DHS. Williamson also won the county-wide competition, and was chosen to attend Keystone Girls State, held at Shippensburg State College.

Ninth graders on the **Junior High baseball team** were Michael Baer, Richard Biondi, Dwight Bowen, Michael Bruno, Leonard Collier, Joseph Kirkner, William Kline, Wesley Marion, David Moore and Roger Styer. William Latoff was the manager, and the coaches were Hayden Leffler and Leonard Arbuckle.

Members of **Brownie Troop 247**, who were winners in the poster contest sponsored by the **Downingtown Woman's Club**, were Nancy Kohlhas, Sharon Charles, Kathy Watters, Turie Hayes, Cindy Mitman and Robin Mendenhall. The posters promoted the Woman's Club annual flower show.

Newly elected officers of the **Lionville School PTA** were Mrs. Richard Plank, president; Douglas Pagett, vice president; Mrs. John Krisch, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Williman, treasurer.

Members of the **Future Teachers of America Club** at DHS observed Teaching Career Month by observing teachers in the Downingtown School District's schools. Those who were assigned to observe at Lionville Elementary School were Isabelle Scarborough, Barbara Warner, Susie Martin, Sandy Koppenhaver, Bill Kennedy and Mary Ellen Crosby.

Elected to lead the Live Wire Circle at **Central Presbyterian Church** were Esther Whiteside, president; Mrs. H.W. Adams, vice president; Mrs. William Woodward, treasurer; and Mrs. Donald Page, secretary.

New officers of the **Downingtown Optimists Club** were Don Collier, president; Jack Stine, vice president; and Glenn Echkhoff, sergeant-at-arms.

Mrs. Ronald Geedey was elected president of the **Marshallton PTA**. Other officers were Mrs. Joseph Fell, vice president; Mrs. James Andrien, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Perdue, treasurer. Members of the auditing committee were Mrs. Earl Barwell, Mrs. Herbert Phillips and Mrs. John Griggs.

The **DHS Band Fathers** group raised funds for new band uniforms by having a Coatesville Choraliers concert.

St. Anthony's Lodge in Downingtown was offering veal cutlet dinners for just \$1.50.

The **West Pikeland PTA** elected the following officers: Mrs. Harley Fink, president; James McClung, vice president; Mrs. Eric Kern, recording secretary; Mrs. Charles Alfieri, treasurer; and Mrs. John Scheirer, corresponding secretary.

Boys and girls, between the ages of 7 and 10 could attend the day camp at the **YMCA's Camp Castle** in West Bradford for two weeks for \$40.

"Terrible defensive ball" was the main reason why the **DHS baseball team** lost to Boyertown 15-3, acknowledged Downingtown coach Charlie Forte. Eleven deadly errors enabled the Bears to stretch seven hits into 13 runs. The other two runs resulted from two bases-empty homers. The loss would have been worse if DHS pitchers George Murphy and Bill Anderson had not struck out 14 Boyertown batters.

News retrieved from December 1918 issues of the *Archive*

Noted below are news items, which were originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in December 1918.

Despite the fact that World War I had ended on November 11, 1918 when the victorious Allies signed an armistice with Germany, 45 of the 62 young men from the Downingtown area who were active members of the Home Guard agreed to continue drilling at the Minquas firehall.

Charles W. Havens & Sons, a Philadelphia textile manufacturer, bought a building on a 13-acre site on Wallace Avenue in Downingtown. The textile firm planned to move its two mills from Philadelphia to the borough site, where it would produce woolen yarns. The property had been occupied by the Rowe Motor Truck Manufacturing Co., until it recently relocated to Lancaster.

An ad for Howard Sides' pharmacy (forerunner of Raymond Greenleaf's drug store at the same site on West Lancaster Avenue in the borough) was offering a free box of candy to each child who came to the store between 8 AM and 10 AM on Christmas Day.

A Girls' Glee Club was formed at DHS. Those who were late for practice were fined 25 cents (nearly \$5 in today's economy). Officers of the club were Margaret Bray, president; Esther Ax, vice president; Anna Long, secretary; Olive Miller, treasurer; Mildred Barrett, librarian; and Christine Weis, pianist.

Brief, but important

After Jack Hines, retired West Bradford Township manager, read our article in last week's Hist-O-Gram about the Trestle Bridge, he advised us that the bridge is not located on the Downingtown-West Bradford border. It's on the East Caln-West Bradford border.

And we came across a clipping from the April 27, 1913 *Daily Local News* that noted five DHS runners—Charlie Way, who became an All-American and All-Pro halfback, Edgar Powell, Raymond Greenleaf and Howard Simmons, plus alternate Norman Brown—participated in a

one-mile relay race for high schoolers at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia. We haven't been able to determine how the Downingtown contingent made out in 1913, but that was the first year relay teams used batons at the Penn Relays.

We wouldn't be surprised if DHS did not have a real track team back then; just a bunch of fleet-footed guys from Downingtown who got together to compete in what now is the nation's oldest, largest track meet.

It's the Guthriesville School in East Brandywine



Paul Backenstose is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the Guthriesville School on Route 322 in East Brandywine. Built at a cost of \$2,000 in 1869, the two-story school had just one room on each floor, according to Barbara Paul's *A History of East Brandywine Township*, published by the township's Historical Commission in 1992. The township paid for construction of the first floor; the upper floor--initially used for civic purposes such as elections, meetings and lectures--was paid for via donations and subscriptions. In 1903, a two-year high school was established on the second floor, while grades 1-8 continued to be offered on the first floor. The bell and belfry were added in 1910. And after a well was dug there in 1912, water no longer had to be brought from homes in the village.

Elizabeth Funk, who was known as Mrs. Hadfield when she later taught English at DHS, was the high school's last principal when it closed in 1942. She had taught all the 10th grade subjects at Guthriesville High School, while all the ninth grade subjects were taught by another teacher, according to Linda Lammey Mento.

The building discontinued being used as an elementary school in 1961. Today, the building is part of the township headquarters complex. The first floor is a supplemental meeting room for smaller groups, and Boy Scout Troop 8 uses the second floor as a meeting room, according to township supervisor Jay Fisher.

Judy Orr Collier, who now lives in Florida, sent these recollections of when she attended the Guthriesville School in third, fourth and fifth grades:

I went to Guthriesville School for three years 1947-1950. As you walked in the front door, there was a cloak room for coats and boots. Half of the bottom floor was occupied by the third grade and the other half was used by the fourth grade, all taught by the same teacher. I cannot remember her name. The second floor was used by the fifth grade, with another teacher whose name I also do not remember. I think, as fifth graders, we were allowed to walk down to Bryant's luncheonette in the village for candy or whatever at lunch time.

What I remember the most is that there was NO indoor plumbing; just an outhouse out back, which in wintertime was quite an ordeal. My mother, Beatrice Orr, went to Harrisburg more than once trying to get indoor plumbing for Guthriesville School and for Hopewell School. Since I spent second grade in a one-room school without indoor plumbing in what is now the East Nantmeal Township Building when my family lived in Glenmoore before we moved to East Brandywine, I did not have indoor plumbing in school until I went to West Ward in Downingtown for sixth grade,

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, May 3. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on that day, catching up on the local gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Muzzy Run

The annual Muzzy Run will be held Saturday morning, May 2 on the Struble Trail in Downingtown. For details and to register, access: www.signup2raceusa.com/ccrs/muzzy/.

Nite at the Races

A Kentucky Derby Nite at the Races will be offered on Saturday, May 2 at St. Anthony's Lodge, 259 Church Street, Downingtown. Doors open at 6 PM. Races start after a viewing of the actual Kentucky Derby on TV. Cost: \$25 per person; limited number of tickets available for \$30 at the door. Includes beef and beer & soda. Cash bar. Adults over 21 only. Benefits Downingtown Good Neighbor Christmas Committee. To order tickets go to: www.dtownchristmas.com/Documents/NATR2015/TICKETS-HORSES%20FORM.pdf. For more info, see: www.dtownchristmas.com/.

Pancake breakfast

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Farmers Market re-opening

The Downingtown Farmers Market will re-open on Saturday, May 9 at a new site: behind the Dane Décor store on Washington Avenue. The market will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM. For more details, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

Running for Kling

The third annual Running for Kling 5K road race will be conducted at 10 AM Saturday, May 9 at DHS West on Manor Avenue in Downingtown. The event will honor Tracy Kling LaManna, who played on the DHS girls' basketball team, which won state championships in 1997 and 1998. She died at age 33 of lung cancer in October 2013. Proceeds will be donated to several lung cancer programs. For more details and to register, see: www.runningforkling.com/.

Bike the Brandywine

Family event presented by the Downingtown Borough Parks & Rec Commission at Kerr Park, from 9 AM to noon Saturday, May 16. Activities include: bike consignment sale at 9 AM; bike safety tips and info from Downingtown Police Dept. at 10 AM; ride from Kerr Park to Johnsontown Park and back; 11 AM, music at the gazebo in Kerr Park. For more info, access: www.downingtown.org/images/BiketheBrandywine%202015.jpg

Old Caln Historical Society events

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Bus trip to Washington, DC

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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. 19

May 7, 2015

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What local residents were talking about 36 years ago

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

Most Marshallton residents lacked enthusiasm for a proposal by the **West Bradford Township Historical Commission** to establish a historic district, which encompassed most of the village and some surrounding farmland.

West Pikeland's supervisors agreed not to incorporate the recently formed Town Watch group, and have it supervised by the township's police department.

Wallace Township gave \$7,000 to the **Glenmoore Fire Co.** The money was used to reduce the fire company's debt, which was reduced from \$68,000 to \$23,000 in about two years.

Cindy Gilbert was honored as firefighter of the year at the **Lionville Fire Company's** annual banquet. Also cited was Bob Holmes, who served in the fire company for 15 years.

Robbie McCann won **Cub Pack 152's** Pinewood Derby competition. Warner Soditus's car came in second, and Jason Judy's car took third.

New leaders at **Calvary Fellowship Church**, Exton, included: Chuck Roper, elder; Bob Stewart and Bill Taylor, deacons; Tom Bergmaier, Randy Junkins and Shirley Snyder, missionary committee; and Steve Foulk, Dick Gross and Ken Ryder, auditing committee.

Winners in the **Downingtown Senior Center's** Easter Parade hat competition were: Carmen Della Camera, funniest; Blanche Dawson, prettiest; and Clara Styer, most original.

DHS juniors, who had featured roles in their class's production of "Mash," included Jim Wychgel, Bruce Franklin, Kurt Thompson and Marsha Yeomans.

Starring in the operetta "The Trial of Alice in Wonderland" at **Old East Ward School** were Tina Watterson and Sam Means.

Recent **property** transfers included: 718 Brainerd Road, Uwchlan, \$92,500; 347 Mary St., Downingtown, \$34,000; 1304 Kerwood Lane, West Bradford, \$57,160; 141 Woodland Circle, East Caln, \$90,000; 3 Buckingham Drive, Upper Uwchlan, \$68,900; 13 Hillcrest Drive, Caln, \$49,740; 142 Brookfield Court, East Brandywine, \$55,000.

Installed as officers of the **Downingtown Jaycees** were: Bob Young, chairman; John Roberts, president; Bruce Norris, external vice president; Lamar Oberholtzer, internal vice president; Joe Darlington, treasurer; Lee Hawthorne, secretary; Russ Jones, chaplain; and Lewis McNaughton, state director. The Downingtown chapter was the first in the state to triple membership in a year.

Members of **Lionville Community Methodist Church**, who were involved in the expansion of the church's sacristy, included Robert French, Robert Thorne, Harry Boyanowski, Charles Koehler, Eugene Geyer and Rev. Fred Parkyn.

DHS teams had a successful week against West Chester East. Bonnie Bull had two firsts as the girls' track team beat the Vikings 91-41. Sherri Clayton's two hits, three runs and four RBI's led the girls' softball squad to a 15-4 win over the Vikes. And Shawn Urbine's victories in long distance running led the boys' track team to an 80-70 win over the Vikings. Also, 25,000 fans watched Larry Williams, Barry Boggs, Rickey Stonewall and George Hall of the DHS boys' track team come in second in the 440 meter relay at the **Penn Relays** held at Franklin Field. And Jenny Ward led the offense with three goals, as the DHS girls' lacrosse defeated Boyertown 7-3, and the boys' tennis team increased its record to 8-1 as the Whippets beat Boyertown, Henderson and Pottstown, all by identical 4-1 scores.

Lyman Styles, Elmer Geiger, William Hildebeitel and John Gillooly were elected to the vestry of **St. James Episcopal Church**, Downingtown.

Students who helped art teacher Connie Hall create a mosaic mural at **Uwchlan Hills School** included Christopher Ries, Bobby Kleppinger, Christopher White, Kristen Teitleman, Lynne Walton and Beth Hall.

It was the Fox farm in Downingtown, before the Route 30 Bypass was built



Pat Butler of Downingtown is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the Clara Fox Farm in the borough. Pat should know because he spent much of his youth living in one of the houses near the intersection of East Pennsylvania Avenue and Lake Drive, a short distance beyond the farmland in the photo. The photo was published with an article about urban sprawl by William Whyte in the January 1958 edition of *Fortune* magazine. A short time later, the farm buildings were razed, the Route 30 Bypass was constructed, and housing developments—initially Foxcroft and later Sunnybrook—took over the farmland.

Items published in *The Archive* in the winter of 1919

Here's what was going on during the winter months in the Downingtown area 86 years ago, according to *The Downingtown Archive*.

The family of **PFC Charles F. Moran**, received notice from the U.S. Army's adjutant general's office in Washington, DC that their son had posthumously received the French Croix de Guerre from Gen. Phillippe Petain, Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies. The medal's citation read: Moran "displayed great bravery by keeping his machine gun in action in spite of the violence of the bombardment. Forced to leave his position, he continued to fire until the

enemy was broken.” Moran was the first of five serviceman from the Downingtown area to have been killed in battle during World War I. The American Legion’s Downingtown post was named for him.

A student publication, to be known as ***The Cuckoo***, was to be introduced at the high school. It was to be composed of departments such as literary, editorial, alumni news, music, athletics and class notes. (Editor’s note: *The Cuckoo* soon evolved into what is now recognized as a traditional yearbook. The DHS yearbook’s title was changed to *Our Year* in 1955.)

Employees of Downingtown’s **Frank P. Miller Paper Co.** (known later as the Downingtown Paper Co. and Sonoco) received Christmas bonuses. The highest amount paid to one worker was \$106.

In the annual report for Downingtown’s **Visiting Nurse Association** for 1918, it was noted that 2,065 visits were made; five to twenty “baskets of nourishment” were distributed daily, usually by Boy Scouts; and 1,053 surgical dressings, used by nurses, were made by members of the association.

Elected as operations officers of the **Alert Fire Co.** were John Corcoran, chief; Wilmer Johnson, assistant chief; William Barrett, truck director; William Barrett Jr., assistant truck director; Frank Pawling, hoseman, Charles McCaughey and J.M. Murray, assistant hosemen; Edward Wagner, chemical pipeman; Howard Hoopes, assistant pipeman. The fire policemen were: W. B. Backenstose, Frank McCorkle, Joseph Moulder and George Crossley.

The **Downingtown Iron Works’** 85 employees returned to their jobs, following a strike. Despite the end of World War I, the company was still manufacturing boilers for the U.S. Navy.

Elected to the **Downingtown Library’s** board were Ellis Brown, Thomas Downing, Guyon Miller, Hunter Wills, Mrs. Frank Miller, Mrs. George Fisher and Mary Garrett. Hettie Zittle was the librarian.

An inspection of the new lavatories at the **Central School** (later known as West Ward School) on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown determined that there were more “closets” on the boys’ side than on the girls’ side.

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

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Free ads for Non-Profits.

Farmers Market re-opening

The Downingtown Farmers Market will re-open on Saturday, May 9 at a new site: behind the Dane Décor store on Washington Avenue. The market will be open from 9 AM to 1 PM. For more details, see: <http://growingrootspartners.com/downingtown-farmers-market>.

Running for Kling

The third annual Running for Kling 5K road race will be conducted at 10 AM Saturday, May 9 at DHS West on Manor Avenue in Downingtown. The event will honor Tracy Kling LaManna, who played on the DHS girls' basketball team, which won state championships in 1997 and 1998. She died at age 33 of lung cancer in October 2013. Proceeds will be donated to several lung cancer programs. For more details and to register, see: www.runningforkling.com/.

Cancer Society's Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society's annual Relay For Life will be held at DHS West, 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown, on Saturday, May 16, beginning at 10 AM. For more info on the event, see: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?sid=128433&type=fr_informational&pg=informational&fr_id=66303.

Bike the Brandywine

Family event presented by the Downingtown Borough Parks & Rec Commission at Kerr Park, from 9 AM to noon Saturday, May 16. Activities include: bike consignment sale at 9 AM; bike safety tips and info from Downingtown Police Dept. at 10 AM; ride from Kerr Park to Johnsontown Park and back; 11 AM, music at the gazebo in Kerr Park. For more info, access: www.downingtown.org/images/BikettheBrandywine%202015.jpg

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Old Caln Historical Society events

The Old Caln Historical Society is sponsoring a Craft/Antique/Flea Market to be held on Saturday, May 9, from 9 AM-2 PM on the grounds of the Caln Township Municipal Building, Municipal Drive, Thorndale. For information or to reserve a table, please call 610-384-9496 or 610-384-8153.

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 150th," 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, or call (610)873-7059.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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Vol. 6, No. 20

May 14, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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No dancing, no more prancing highlighted news published in *The Archive* 86 years ago

No school-sponsored dances and the auctioning of the Alert's horses were two of the topics covered by the *Downingtown Archive* in the spring of 1919.

The School Board bowed to a "pietist minority" in the borough, and shot down efforts by students' parents who wanted the ban against dances to be lifted so the high school could have prom.

And Downingtown's **Alert Fire Co.** announced that it was going to conduct an auction at the fire house on Downing Avenue. Items sold, including some things that were donated by members and supporters, in addition to firefighting equipment, were: a pair of gray horses ("Ped" and "Gib"), a dump wagon, two farm wagons, a jump-seat wagon, a 3-seated wagon, a 2-horse cart, a sleigh, a cultivator, an extension ladder, pigs, chickens, a wheelbarrow, a grindstone, a butchering outfit and a copper kettle. Proceeds from the auction were used to help pay for the new, \$10,000 Seagrave fire engine, which had been delivered in early May, but the total funds raised so far was about \$4,000 less than the purchase price.

The property, formerly occupied by the Cohansey Glass operation and briefly used by the Downingtown branch of the now-bankrupt Philadelphia Brass Works on Chestnut Street in the east end of the borough, was sold for \$50,000 to the **Eagle Smelting Co.**, a New York firm.

Medals were presented to Anna Long, valedictorian, and Mary Smedley, salutatorian at the **DHS commencement**. And John Francella, the first Italian-American boy to graduate from the high school, received cuff links and a stickpin with the high school's seal. Francella also was the leading scorer on the 14-9 DHS basketball team, and he went on to play basketball for Villanova. The senior class went on a two-day sight-seeing trip to Harrisburg and Gettysburg.

There were three **Boy Scout** troops in Downingtown, back then. Dr. Joseph Huggins was the district chairman, and Austin Moore was the secretary. Troop 1 was nearly four years old; Troops 2 and 3 were recently formed. Members of the three troops were invited to a summer camp at Icedale, which cost each boy \$4 per week to attend.

The **Downingtown Home and School League** was conducting a campaign to raise \$1,300 to equip the playgrounds at East Ward and West Ward Schools with swings, see-saws, and sliding boards. Soliciting funds so a Victrola record player could be purchased for both of those schools also was underway.

Luther Leaguers were building a tennis court behind **Messiah Lutheran Church** on West Lancaster Avenue.

The Philadelphia textile manufacturing firm, which bought a property on Wallace Avenue in the borough, was to be known as the **Downingtown Woolen Mill**. It was projected to have 150 employees, mostly "girls."

Local news items published in early November 1947

Noted below are news items, which were originally published in local papers in the early part of November 1947.

People could do some gambling and they could dance to the music of Chris Sanderson and the Pocopson Boys, but the major attraction at the Monte Carlo Night, sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club at the Alert fire hall, was an opportunity to watch one of those new-fangled **television sets** in operation.

Only 16 voters came to the polls to elect the following **Uwchlan Township** candidates: George Thompson, supervisor; Emmett Gordon, auditor; Edwin Smedley, school board; Horace Roberts, judge of elections; James Thackeray, election inspector; Russell Allison and Isabell Acker, justices of the peace.

A public sale was held at the dairy farm of **William Hannum** on Route 113, Downingtown. In addition to 17 head of Guernsey and Jersey cattle, items sold included a corn harvester, 300 bushels of hand-husked corn, 10 tons of baled hay and a DeLaval milking machine.

Details on how students from a small section of Caln Township, which had been annexed by the borough of Downingtown in June, would be absorbed into the Downingtown School District were resolved at a meeting between of the **Downingtown** and **Caln School Boards**.

Mothers of high school and junior high musicians organized a support group, whose officers were Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president; Mrs. Francis Helm, secretary; Mrs. Elmer Schrupf, treasurer; and Mrs. Thomas Deets, publicity chairman. The group's initial project was raising money to buy new **marching band uniforms**. The old band uniforms were to be sold. (*Editor's Note: We would love to add a set of those band uniforms to our archival collection*).

Also, proceeds from a "**corn game**," conducted at Andrew Brookover's Romansville farm, were to be donated to the marching band uniform fund. (*Editor's Note: Anyone know what a corn game was?*)

Officers elected to lead **Downingtown Methodist Church's** Golden Rule Bible Class were Helen Nelms, president; Eleanor Detterline, vice president; Arlene Hoskins, secretary; Mary Jane Detterline, treasurer; Diane Kline, publicity chairman; Betty Lou Hope and Joyce Scarborough, welfare co-chairmen; Virginia Brown and Amy Langham, ways and means; Patsy Fisher and Mabel Summers, hospitality and programs.

Prizes were awarded to these youngsters for the unique costumes they wore at the **Upper Uwchlan Home and School League's** Halloween party, held in the Masonic Hall in Byers: Eileen Mercer, prettiest; Janet Robinson, funniest; and Flora Lee Robinson, most original.

And winners in the costume competition at a Halloween party, sponsored by the Mothers Club of **Indiantown School** and held in the Glen Moore fire hall, included: Billy Rigg, Judy Reber, Ruth Ferrell, Leonard Canella, Merle Hannum and Joe Mason.

Also, members of the Friendship Club of **Central Presbyterian Church**, Downingtown, who won prizes for their costume at a Halloween party, were Mrs. George Nixdorf, funniest; Margaret Worth, most original; and Mrs. Newlin Moore, hardest-to-guess.

What local residents were talking about 68 years ago

Noted below are snippets of news found in the May 29, 1947 edition of *The Archive*.

Behind the superb pitching of Butch DiBernardi and Al Pizii's four hits, Downingtown's Glasstown team cracked Guthriesville 10-2 in the Community Baseball League. The Guthriesville squad held a benefit dance at the Glen Moore Fire Co. for "Whitey" Beam, who was hospitalized after he broke his leg in two places.

The 65-piece DHS band, under the baton of Ralph Lennox, played a concert, sponsored by the Downingtown Lions Club, which was broadcast on WDEL, a Wilmington radio station.

Nancy Jones and Terry DiBerardinis were the two contestants from the Downingtown area in the Miss Chester County competition. The contest was conducted in the Acorn building on Chestnut Street in the borough.

Mildred Bicking's shop, at 231 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, was selling the latest summer dresses, and Amos Miley, 101 Pennsylvania Ave., had a clock repair service.

Robert Miller, Herbie Lee and Ralph Miller of West Ward School were the winners in a marbles tournament.

Brief but important

1. We noted in the May 7 Hist-O-Gram that the **Where and What Is This?** photo of a farm site, which was first published in the April 30 Hist-O-Gram, had been identified as the Clara Fox farm. However, several people have informed us that the site also was known as the Griffith farm during the mid-20th Century. Perhaps the confusion is because the farm was leased to, or owned by, the Griffiths. If you have info that will help us solve this mystery, please send us the explanation via Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalociety.org.

2. And we mis-identified the art teacher, who helped students create a mosaic mural at Uwchlan Hills School in last week's Hist-O-Gram, as Connie Jones. We've been informed that the art teacher's correct name was Connie Hall and, following her wedding, she was known as Connie Hall-Sparr. We can blame that miscue on the original source, the *East Branch Citizen*, a rag that was notorious for those kind of mistakes.

It's at 331 Norwood Road in East Caln



Kim Collins is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the site in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as 331 Norwood Road in East Caln Township. The original part of the house was built circa 1750.

Scenes of fire at Wallace Avenue strip mall

You can see scenes of the devastating fire at the North Park strip mall on Wallace Avenue on Tuesday evening, May 12 via: <http://6abc.com/news/fire-breaks-out-at-downingtown-strip-mall/717565/>

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The Men's Flower Sale at Marshallton United Methodist Church's will continue through Saturday, May 23. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at (610) 696-5247.

Tour David Culp's Garden

You can visit the home of David Culp at 3:30 PM on Sunday, May 17, for a tour of his 2-acre garden where he designed the technique of layering. This free lecture-program is sponsored by the East Brandywine Township Historical Commission, and is available to the public. Culp is the author of *The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage*. His articles have appeared in *Martha Stewart Living*, *Country Living*, *Fine Gardening*, *Green Scene*, and many other publications. His 1790's farmhouse is at 1158 Osborne Rd., Downingtown (off Rt. 322). No RSVP's are required. For more information, send queries to: CarolSinex@gmail.com.

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Vol. 6, No. 21

May 21, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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Oil discovery here was one of the big stories in the *Downingtown Archive* 96 years ago

Here are some of the news items local residents read about in the *Downingtown Archive* in the summer of 1919:

- Oil was discovered in **Lyndell** by John Lewis, proprietor of the general store there. Skeptics in the neighborhood pointed out that there was an oil tank, with a capacity of about 100 gallons, in the cellar of Lewis's store, which was about 25 feet behind where the oil had been

discovered. Lewis insisted that the tank wasn't leaking. Despite those suspicions, nearby property owners were leasing their land, and many drilling rigs were brought into the area. Those who took a sample of the discovered oil said it had a "distinct kerosene odor" and "burns about as readily as artificially refined kerosene." Also, an "analysis discloses the presence of some lubrication oils, as well as kerosene." Experts, including an engineer from the U.S. Bureau of Mines, examined the oil and the discovery site, but their reports had not yet been made public.

- Members of the **Minquas Fire Co.** voted to buy a new, electric siren, to replace the present fire alarm system. They also voted to change their regular meeting night to the second Tuesday night of the month, from the second Monday, "to accommodate Mr. Lear, who desired to hold his weekly dances on Monday nights."

- The **Downingtown School District's** enrollment at the end of the 1918-19 school year was 795 pupils, 166 of whom were in the high school. There were 29 students received diplomas that year. About 80 of the pupils lived outside the borough, and their tuition was paid for by the township in which they lived. The district's faculty included eight high school teachers and 17 grade school teachers.

- A **Friends School** was being built next to the meeting house on East Lancaster Avenue. The stone building, which will have a 32-student capacity, was built by George Fisher

- The annual **Fourth of July** celebration started with a morning parade, which formed at Bradford Avenue and Church Street in Johnstontown and continued over the borough's streets. In the line of march were many of the local boys who served in the military during World War I, two bands, plus Civil War vets who were members of Downingtown's Hancock GAR Post. At 11 AM, the World War I vets played a baseball game against other locals on the field behind the Central School building on West Lancaster Avenue. And at noon, the returning soldiers were served a lunch on the lawn of the First Baptist Church. Each of them received a special medal, suspended on a green and white ribbon, as a recognition of the town's admiration and esteem for their sacrifices and service. Another event on the Fourth of July was the Brandywine Driving Association's series of five horse races, held at the race track at the intersection of Brandywine Avenue and Boot Road. The winners' purses totalled \$1,000.

- Italian residents Downingtown, who formed **St. Anthony's Lodge** in 1919, celebrated St. Anthony's Day on June 13, with a Mass at St. Joseph's Church and a parade led by a 24-piece band. The celebration ended in the evening with fireworks set off behind McGraw's coal yard.

- **Downingtown Paper Box Co.** was offering "girls" \$1.50 a day while learning to become press feeders. Following their training, flat bed press feeders were paid \$2.25 a day, while cylinder press feeders got \$3 a day.

- Circulation at the **Downingtown Library** increased from 13,424 in 1918 to 14,376 in 1919, according to the annual report of librarian Hattie Zittle. The number of books in the library's collection totaled 4,838, and 259 of them had been added in the past 12 months.

What local residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items published in local papers in early May 1963:

- With significantly increased enrollment due to new housing being built in the school district, the **Downingtown Elementary School Board** authorized the "post haste" construction of a 12-classroom addition to Lionville Elementary School, and the purchase of a 20-acre site in West Bradford, where an elementary school would be built.

But all that booming growth made it difficult for the 36-member **Joint High School Board** to decide which secondary school construction project should come first—a new junior high or an addition to the senior high school. Based on the recommendation of a study by a University of Pennsylvania survey team, the board had applied to the State Department of Public Instruction to build an addition to the DHS structure. However, representatives from Harrisburg were pushing for the new junior high.

- DHS students who received awards at the high school's **sports banquet** included: from the Downingtown Optimist Club—Eugene Williams, most valuable boy basketball player; Dianne Thompson, most valuable girl basketball player; from St. Anthony's Lodge—Bill Pollock, lineman of the year; and James Price, back of the year. Thompson also was named the outstanding girl athlete, and Edgar Donnon received the outstanding boy athlete award. Harry Stuhldreher, one of Notre Dame's legendary Four Horsemen, was the featured speaker.

- The **Ladies of St. Joseph's Church**, Downingtown, elected these officers: Mrs. Charles Snyder, president; Mrs. Norman Sendler, vice president; Mrs. William Sheridan, recording secretary; Mrs. Irma Templin, corresponding secretary; and Josephine Valentino, treasurer.

- The following leaders were elected at **Hopewell Methodist Church**, in East Brandywine: Howard Laird, chairman, board of stewards; Charles Davis, church school superintendent; Ralph Whitely treasurer; George Yost, treasurer; Mrs. George Krapf, commission on membership and evangelism; Arthur Kring, commission on education; Edward Plank, commission on stewardship and finance; and John Bonham, commission on social concerns.

- Elected as officers of the **Downingtown branch of the Junior Auxiliary** of the Chester County Hospital were Mrs. Francis Fennelly, president; Mrs. Thomas Jenkins, vice president; Mrs. Nello Caporale, recording secretary; Mrs. Clair Langham, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Glenn Echhoff, treasurer.

- **Lionville Brownies** who toured Hopewell Village were Leona Finkbiner, Sally Wallace, Christine and Janie Goodwin, Lynn Hayhurst, Susie Finch, Susie Pagett and Nancy Ruth Hoffman.

- Soloists Rick Carter and Steve Feters, trombone; Carl Shrader, trumpet; Gary Cornog and Linda Ink, saxophone; plus the flute duet of Jean Reeves and Dixie Bradbury; performed in the spring band concert at **Brandywine-Wallace School**.

- Caln supervisors said the old **Ross Paper Co. mill** on Bondsville Road was infested with rats and should be cleaned up. The mill had been abandoned five years earlier, following a "devastating" fire.

- Elected as officers of the **Future Nurses Club** at DHS were Anne Woodruff, president; Sandra DeMatteo, vice president; Jane Rigg, secretary; Verna Stevenson, treasurer; and Linda Davis, historian.

- Vocal soloists at the junior high's **spring concert** were Susan Myers and Eugene Martin. Band members who played solos were David Robbins, David Cory, Phil Barlow and David Seel.

It's at 541 Old Horseshoe Pike in E. Brandywine



Kate Hallman is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify the location of the site in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above as 541 Old Horseshoe Pike in East Brandywine Township. Kate recognized the property's location because it had been owned by her former colleague in the DHS West English Department, Nancy Robinson. Nancy her husband, Russell, restored the property's buildings over the 28 years they lived there, until she retired recently. Nancy says the farmhouse probably was built ca. 1800. And the cottage, which had been a cooperage and a blacksmith's shop, was built in 1782 by Samuel MacFarland. It also may have served as a toll house on the Downingtown-Ephrata-Harrisburg Turnpike. The cottage "was near collapse" in 1985, when the Robinsons bought the property. "When we restored it, we walled in the original blacksmith bellows, but did not destroy it. Apparently, as many as 11 people lived in that 893-square-foot structure back in the 1780s," said Nancy.

Our Wish List

We're adding a section to our Hist-O-Gram—the Wish List. It will note artifacts and printed materials we especially need for our Archival collection, and items the Historical Society needs to reach its goals. Obviously, we'd also love to have ANY artifact or printed material, which has a Downingtown connection, as well. We're starting our pursuit with a request for these items:

1. A copy of the DHS yearbook for the 1965-1970.
2. A digital camera which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts. That means we'll need pictures that include tiniest of details.

If you need more info about either of these requests, please send an email to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. And if you wish to bring any item to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

Absolutely final correction

Here's the absolutely final correction about the art teacher, who helped students create a mosaic mural at Uwchlan Hills School in 1979. In several recent Hist-O-Grams, we incorrectly identified her as Connie Hall. Her correct name was Connie **Jones** and, following her wedding, she was known as Connie **Jones**-Sparr. We apologize for the error.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Memorial Day Service

A Memorial Day service will be held at Marinelli Park on Chestnut Street in Downingtown at noon on Sunday, May 24.

Memorial Day Parade

Downingtown's Memorial Day Parade begins at 10 AM on Monday, May 25 at Beaver Creek Elementary School on West Pennsylvania Avenue and continues east on Pennsylvania Avenue to the Veterans Memorial at Kerr Park. For more information, contact Col. Paul Dougherty at 610-212-6607 or email colpauldougherty@gmail.com.

Memorial Day Parade

There will be a Memorial Day Parade in the village of Marshallton at 1:30 PM on Sunday, May 24.

Fine Arts Festival

The Downingtown Fine Arts Festival will be held in the 100 block of East Lancaster Avenue on from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, May 30 and from 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday May 31. The two-day festival will be put on by the

David Oleski Events and the Downingtown Main Street Assn., in partnership with the Victory Brewing Co. and the Borough of Downingtown. See www.downingtownfinearts.com/ for more details.

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The Men's Flower Sale at Marshallton United Methodist Church's will continue through Saturday, May 23. The church is located at 1282 W. Strasburg Road, Marshallton. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sale will feature large hanging baskets, annuals, geraniums, climbing mandevilles, perennials, vegetables, herbs, patio planters and more. Proceeds will help support local, regional, and global outreach. For more information, contact the church office at (610) 696-5247.

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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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

Vol. 6, No. 22

May 28, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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Philly newspaper article said borough had speed traps

Noted below are news items that were originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the autumn months of 1919.

- The *Archive* reported that an article in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* claimed the borough had instituted at least one “trap” in order to **end speeding** on Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown. The article said the Automobile Club of Philadelphia had warned motorists that those caught exceeding the borough’s 15-mile-per-hour speed limit could be fined as much as \$10, plus \$4.55 in court costs. When the Downingtown’s Burgess (mayor) Vinton Phillips and Police Chief Tommy Gray were shown the article, they noted that borough police officers didn’t make arrests for speeding, unless a car was going more than 24 miles an hour.

- \$333.80 in proceeds from the Firemen’s Festival in Guthriesville were given to Downingtown’s **Alert Fire Co.** The donation was “a recognition of past favors and as a gentle reminder that future assistance in case of fire will be very cordially appreciated,” according to residents of the village in East Brandywine. The Alerts demonstrated how their new Seagrave fire engine was operated at the festival.

- Incorporators of the new **Farmers’ Bank of Uwchland** were: C.D. Smedley, Stephen Moore, Frank March, Walter Dowlin, and Clarence Dorsey. They were elected by 76 stockholders from Uwchland, Byers, Lionville and Font.

- The first anniversary of the signing of the **Armistice**, which officially ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, was observed with a special program at the Downingtown Opera House on Brandywine Avenue. The program, which was conducted by the Patriotic Order of Sons of America (POSA), included a historic pageant put on by Downingtown school students who performed in front of a standing-room-only audience.

- Rules for the **new playgrounds** at East Ward and West Ward Schools in the borough included: the playground and equipment couldn’t be used on Sundays. And on Saturdays and holidays, the playground at East Ward was open only to girls, while the one at West Ward was limited to boys.

- Burgess Vinton Philips asked borough residents not to walk on the borough streets after midnight. His **request for cooperation**—not a formal curfew—was made in order to aid “our police department in their efforts to capture the robbers who have been operating in our town for some time past. There has been several plans to catch them, not only by our own police, but with the assistance of outside men, and they have been handicapped several times by many citizens acting as self-appointed police hunting around the back alleys and other places for robbers, and also shooting at anyone they saw either in back alleys or yards.”

- The recently established DHS Athletic Committee—comprised of Herbert Ash, Howard Baldwin and Hathaway Frain—hired Al Schneider, who had played for Carnegie Tech and Villanova, as the coach of the **DHS football team**. However, Schneider’s collegiate experience didn’t translate into many wins on the playing field. Worse yet, the team’s manager failed to have someone at the gate to collect admission fees when Downingtown faced Coatesville in a big home game played on the infield of the racetrack (at the intersection of Brandywine Avenue and Boot Road).

- Enrollment in the **Downingtown school system’s** elementary grades had grown to the point that the number of students in a classroom ranged from 45 to 57.

Why are these women smiling?



The smiling women in the photo (taken by Mike Dunn) above are: front row, Linda Lefko, left, and Marie Hill. Those in the back row are, left to right: Carol Grigson, Terry Gaul and Donna Capriotti. No, they didn't win a lottery. You'll find why they're smiling in next week's Hist-O-Gram.

What local people were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items, which were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in late May 1979.

- Plans were underway to re-locate the **state store** to the much-maligned Downing Center on East Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown. The state Liquor Control Board envisioned that liquor and wine sales, which totaled about \$800,000 in 1974 while the state store was located at 130 E. Lancaster Ave., would exceed one million dollars at the new, self-service location.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 509 N. Bailey Road, Caln, \$56,000; 82 Winding Way, East Caln, \$106,000; 1375 Glenside Ave., West Bradford, \$78,500; 348 Washington Ave., Downingtown, \$76,000; 218 Autumn Drive, Uwchlan, \$119,417; 50 Blakely Road, East Brandywine, \$91,340; 304 South Balderston Drive, West Whiteland, \$78,977.
- Ralph Bagnato, Jamie Bruton, David Matthews and Todd McQueen received their Webelos badge at a meeting of **Cub Pack 8**, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church.
- Among the winners of art awards at the DHS **Living Arts Weekend** competition were the one-artist shows of Linda Smith, paintings, and Joe DeMucci, ceramics.

- The SICO Foundation of Mount Joy, PA, awarded \$3,000, **four-year scholarships** to these DHS seniors: Annette DeRenzi, Mike Gable and Laurie Geschwindt.
- Officers of the **Industrial Arts Club** at DHS were Joseph Sciandra, president; Glenvar Harman, vice president; Denise Greenhalgh, recorder; Stephanie Bateman, secretary; Kenneth Klunk, treasurer; and Charles Hallem, sergeant-at-arms.
- The DHS **boys' track team** won the Ches-Mont League championship meet for the first time. First place winners for the Whippets were Drew Proctor, triple jump; Rick Stonewall, 100-yard dash; plus the 440-yard relay team comprised of Stonewall, Dave White, Ted Robinson and Reese Hunt. And although DHS girls' track coach Edie Hille was disappointed in how her team performed at Districts, Missy Murdock set a new school record in the triple jump, and Renee Gallman established a new mark in the 220-yard dash.

Local news in the spring of 1954

The following news was retrieved from issues of the *Downingtown Archive* published 61 years ago:

- Newly elected officers of the **Downingtown Chamber of Commerce** were Ray Sheeler, president; Newlin Moore, first vice president; and Vinton Smedley, treasurer.
- Officers of the **Downingtown Paper Co. Athletic Association** were Charles Sigle, president; James Summers, vice president; Earl Crisman, secretary; and George Meacham, treasurer.
- New officers of the **Glenmoore Improvement Society** included Roland Evans, president; Mrs. William Funk, vice president; Mrs. Richard Cadbury, secretary; and Herbert Pritchard, treasurer.
- Patience Kinloch and Herbert Lee were named the outstanding athletes at the DHS sports banquet.
- Officers elected to lead the **Downingtown Young Men's Association** were Allan Hughes, president; Joseph Travaglini, vice president; Morris Stevens, treasurer; and Bob Williams, secretary. The DYMA was considering buying the former Roosevelt Theatre on Brandywine Avenue and turning it into a youth center.
- New officers of the **St. Anthony's Lodge Auxiliary** were Jerry Marino, president; Theresa Smedley, vice president; Louise Bartelmo, secretary; and Adeline Capriotti, treasurer.
- Judy Hogan was crowned May Queen at the **Wallace Township School's May Day**. Her court included Jeanette Pritchard, Lillian Miller, Shirley Moore, Christa Edelen, and Debbie and Christine Harrison. Also, Fay Bousum was the empress at the **DHS May Day Festival**.
- New officers of the **DHS Parents Club** were Mrs. Raymond Schollenberger, president; Mrs. Clifford Orr, vice president; Mrs. Thomas Lee, secretary; and Mrs. Robert Piersol, treasurer.

It's located on Devereux Road in Glenmoore



Jan Lewis Bednarchik, who used to be the secretary of Wallace Township, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify location of the site in the above photo as the farmhouse on Devereux Road in Glenmoore. In 2008, it was part of the 606-acre Valhalla Brandywine resort, proposed by Albert Greenfield III.

Our Wish List

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

1. DHS yearbooks published between 1965 and 1970.
2. A digital camera (one that's more than a basic point-and-clicker) which we'll use to photograph donated artifacts. That means we'll need one that's capable of taking pictures, which include tiny details.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org. And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

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www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

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Garden Tour

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will host their Images of Spring Garden Tour from noon to 4 PM on Sunday, June 14. The tour will include a variety of 10 picturesque gardens in the Downingtown area. Tickets are on sale now at the library, at 122 Wallace Ave., Downingtown, for \$20, or for \$23 on the day of the tour. The tour is open to adults and children ages 10 and over. For more information, see: www.downingtownlibrary.org, or contact Carolyn Marchesani at: friendscm2015@gmail.com.

Fine Arts Festival

The Downingtown Fine Arts Festival will be held in the 100 block of East Lancaster Avenue on from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, May 30 and from 10 AM to 5 PM on Sunday May 31. The two-day festival will be put on by the David Oleski Events and the Downingtown Main Street Assn., in partnership with the Victory Brewing Co. and the Borough of Downingtown. See www.downingtownfinearts.com/ for more details.

Hope for Helm golf tournament

A two-man scramble golf tournament will be held on Saturday June 13 at the Honeybrook Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament will help Matt Helm and his family, as he recovers from a kayaking accident, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. For more details on the tournament, check out: www.hopeforhelm.com/#!/golftournament/c22d4

Program on companion dog

West Caln Historical Society's program 7 PM Tuesday, June 16 will feature Richard Pomerantz's talk about a cancer companion canine. It will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building., 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The programs are free and open to the public.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: 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

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June 4, 2015

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What local residents were talking about 52 years ago

Noted below are news items, which had been originally published in local newspapers in the latter part of May 1963:

- Although a new high school had been opened less than three years earlier, the **Downingtown Joint High School Board** voted to build an addition to DHS, which boosted the high school's student capacity to 1,115. Booming enrollment also forced the school board to plan for construction of a junior high school, next to Lionville Elementary School on Route 113, in 1967 or 1968. By increasing the high school's student capacity to 1,115 pupils, before starting the new junior high building, that enabled half of the district's ninth graders to attend the expanded high school while the other ninth graders stayed at the junior high on Manor Avenue in the borough. Also, the board agreed to accept a \$6,125 bid for 80 new marching band uniforms; the cost was to be evenly split between the Band Fathers organization and the school district. And Superintendent Raymond Baugher's annual salary was increased to \$15,000.
- **East Brandywine Baptist Church**, established in 1843, was celebrating its 120th anniversary. According to a church history, Rev. Thomas Griffith, pastor of Windsor Baptist Church in Upper Uwchlan, began holding preaching services on Sundays in the Guthriesville area in 1842. As a result, 48 people were baptized into Windsor Baptist Church that year. In February 1843, Joseph Guthrie, James Guie and Lewis Gray were chosen as deacons, and the church was organized by former members of Windsor Baptist.
- Student speakers at the **DHS commencement** were seniors Patricia Dague, Joan Klase, William Ash, Randy Reeve and William Pollock.
- Elected as trustees at **Marshallton Methodist Church** were John Cann, Nicholas Maropis, Robert Ellis, William Ludwick, Randall Yarnall, George Ekdahl, Harry Wickersham, Mrs. David Johnson and Robert Ludwick.
- Dr. Norman MacKenzie, chairman of Downingtown's Board of Health, outlined the benefits of **adding fluoride to the borough's water system** at a public meeting. However, local dentist Dr. Siegfried Dietrich claimed that many of his patients, who live in communities where the water supply was fluoridated, "have teeth that are worse than many from this community."
- The **DHS track team** won the Class B division of the District I track and field championships. Whippets who placed first included Clarence Wilkerson, mile run; Ed Donnon, pole vault; Jack Darby, javelin; and the mile relay team composed of Clark Bartell, Wilkerson, Bill Pollock and Sam Smith. Whippets who scored points at the PIAA state championships were: Donnon, third place in the pole vault; Wilkerson, fourth place in the mile run; and the mile relay team, fourth place.
- In its first interscholastic competition, the newly established **DHS varsity lacrosse team**, coached by Thelma Heller, lost to Phoenixville, but the Downingtown jayvee squad beat the Phantom junior varsity.
- Newly elected officers of the **Pickering Stickers** were Joy Henssler, president; Joan DiEnna, vice president; Donna Twaddell, secretary; Jacqueline West, song leader; and Katie Hallman, game leader.
- Third graders, who danced a Virginia Reel in a musical show with a western theme, performed at **Brandywine-Wallace School**, included: Robin Nelliuss, Peter Hickey, Pam Whiteman, Darlene Reber, Sharon Smith, Paul Givler, Debbie Alexander and Donna Fryberger. The saxophone duo of Sandy Lammey and Gary Cornog concluded the program by playing "Home on the Range."

- Cynthia Mumma was the May Queen in the May Procession at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**. Her attendants were Carol Kissh, Marlene DiLuigi, Joanne Mento, Alberta Dazio, Velenta Parker and Anne Marie Paccinelli. The queen's train was carried by Deborah Valentino, Christine Dailey, Diane Waska and Rene Bowman.
- These people were installed as officers of the **Marshallton PTA**: Mrs. Ronald Geedey, president; Mrs. Joseph Fell, vice president; Mrs. James Andrien, secretary; and Mrs. Harry Perdue, treasurer.
- Great Valley's baseball team's coach praised the performance of his pitcher, Paul Hurley, a sophomore who fanned seven Whippet batters as he helped the Patriots beat the **DHS baseball team** 7-6.
- Elected as officers of the Senior High group of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at **Hopewell Methodist Church** were Donna Rissel, president; Jill King, vice president; Carol Sinex, secretary; and Barry Piersol, treasurer.
- The **Downingtown Industrial Softball League** was applauded by Borough Council for raising \$3,500 so lights could be installed on the diamond at Kerr Park.
- Members of **Brownie Troop 83**, Downingtown, who took a trip on the Strasburg Railroad, were Diane Peterman, Josephine Morris, Michelle Guerrieri, Carla Justice, Carol Steidler, Anne DiBerardinis, Lena Stilwell, Kathy Windle, Mary Ann, Joan and Beverly Reutter, Rose Mascherino, Joyce Beam, Francene Gabel, Alexia Ziobro and Barbara Loftus.
- Officers elected to lead the **Lionville Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary** were Mrs. Harold Trego, president; Mrs. Chester Mull, vice president; Mrs. John Herr, secretary; and Mrs. John Emberger, treasurer.
- Members of the safety patrol from **East Ward School**, who enjoyed a trip to Washington, DC, sponsored by the Automobile Club of Chester County, were David Pollock, Mike McCardell, Susan Smith, Pamela Davis, Linda Stoner and Harriet Peoples.
- **DHS industrial arts students** who won awards at the Delaware Valley Industrial Arts Fair in Philadelphia were William Kennedy, furniture making; David Dunlap, jewelry making, model making and machine shop; Harry Griffith, wood turning and art metal; Bert Nordblum, block printing; and Charles Wertz, machine shop.

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We're looking for info on this site



Many of you may recognize this as the older part of the restaurant/banquet facility at the Downingtown Country Club, which was recently bought by former Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski and several partners. The Jaworski group has asked us for some historical information on the house in the photo above, as well as the rest of the country club property. Specifically, they're looking for details on when part of the property was owned by J. Gibson McIlvain, whose family owned the Downingtown Paper Co., and when it was part of the Daniel and Charles Tabas's Downingtown Motor Inn resort. We're also interested in details from when the house was connected with the Lowebrook dairy farm. Please send any info you may have on the property to: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org.

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They're smiling because they love to clip and paste



The women in the photo above: front row, Linda Lefko, left, and Marie Hill, and back row, left to right: Carol Grigson, Terry Gaul and Donna Capriotti are smiling because they spend several hours on Thursday afternoons clipping and pasting newspaper articles for our archival collection. Mysteriously, men aren't included in those sessions. However, men do participate in the Clip Joint sessions (See notice below) on the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

Clip joint will be open this Sunday

The Historical Society's Clip Joint will be open from 1-4 PM on Sunday, June 7. So if you want to spend a delightful afternoon on Sunday, catching up on the local gossip, as well as clipping and pasting newspaper articles, you're invited to come to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You're welcome to arrive and leave at your convenience.

It's at 1573 Camp Linden Road in West Bradford Twp.



Jack Law, chief of the West Bradford Fire Co., is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as part of the Trimbleville Historic District in West Bradford Township, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The farmhouse was part of a fording place over the Brandywine's West Branch, which some of the 12,000 British troops used to advance toward Chadds Ford and fight in the Battle of the Brandywine. The farmhouse also was the former Greenwood Boarding School in the early 19th Century. The building was sold to the Society for Ethical Culture of Philadelphia, which used it for many years as a summer camp for underprivileged children from Philadelphia. The house served as the Camp Linden's office and kitchen; bunkhouses were erected on the hill to the north.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Free movie

The East Ward Community Playground Committee will present a showing of Disney's: "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" at 8 PM on Saturday, June 6 at the East Ward School Playground, 435 Washington Ave., Downingtown. This event is FREE and will include popcorn, water and ice pops! Bring chairs and blankets. Donations to the East Ward Community Playground Project will be accepted.

Chester County Mac & Cheese Cook-Off

The Thorndale-Downingtown Rotary Club will have its annual Mac & Cheese Cook-Off at noon Sunday, June 7 at Kerr Park in Downingtown. Music by School of Rock. Tickets: Adults, \$10; Kids, 6-12, \$5. 10% of proceeds will be donated to Aidan's Heart. For more details, see: www.macncheesecookoff.com/about/.

St. Joe's Community Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Manor Avenue, Downingtown, will have its annual Community Festival from 6-10 PM on Tuesday, June 16 to Thursday, June 18 and from 6 -11 PM on Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20. Every Night is Family Night; ride all night for \$25. Live bands each night in the beer garden. Food booth located in front of the school building. Fireworks Friday night, June 19; rain date: Saturday, June 20.

Garden Tour

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Program on companion dogs

West Caln Historical Society's program 7 PM Tuesday, June 16 will feature Richard Pomerantz's talk about a cancer companion canine. It will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building., 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The programs are free and open to the public.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

You can gain access to the latest DARC brochure, listing all classes and activities, at: 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.

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June 11, 2015

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News in winter of 1919-1920 included discovery of bodies of two dead babies at Bicking paper mill

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* during the winter months of 1919-1920.

- The bodies of two dead babies were discovered in the same week, among the loads of scrap paper and paperboard delivered to the **Bicking Paper Mill No. 2** in the borough. The bodies of the infants—a boy and a girl—were mixed in with the recycled paper stock that was used in the production of paperboard at the plant. Deputy coroner Wilmer Johnson turned the bodies over to a local undertaker.

- Officials of the recently formed Downingtown **American Legion Post** were making plans for a post home in the borough. Members of a fundraising committee, appointed to oversee the solicitation of money for the Post home project, included Fred Howe, Wallace Pearson, Edward Powell and Harry Raudenbush.
- The **Frank Miller Paper Co.** distributed a total of \$15,000 in bonus pay to 175 employees. The highest amount given to one worker was \$157. The firm also established a life insurance program for employees, without a physical exam. The coverage ranged from \$500 for those who were employed 6-18 months to \$2,000 for those who worked at the mill for at least five years.
- After approving the purchase of six rubber coats and an additional pool table, members of the **Minquas Fire Co.** elected these leaders: Martin Binder, chief; engineers Frank Weiler, Dan Zittle, Albert Moore, Donald Page and William Moore; hosemen Frank Donnelly, Charles Bloom, Edgar Griffith, Earl Entekin, Russell Davis, Charles Gantt, Jesse Good, Copeland Nichols, Howard Logan and Parke Alexander; fire police officers George Taylor, John Nichols, Ralph Williams, Norman Rogers, Norman Chrisman and Joseph Smith.
- Downingtown taxidermist **Robert Riday's** ad in the *Archive* suggested that hunters should have those "nice birds and other game pieces" mounted and then give them as Christmas gifts.

Interesting news from 68 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in local papers in the latter part of November 1947.

- The Downingtown **American Legion Post** announced plans to buy a plot of land, which included a 150-foot frontage on Pennsylvania Avenue, across from the baseball diamond in Kerr Park. The land was owned by Chandler Roberts. Legion officials said they could afford the property because \$4,015 had been added to the Post's treasury, after splitting the proceeds from a recent fair, co-sponsored with the local VFW Post. Officers of the Post were Harlan Clavier, commander; Harry Elston, first vice commander; Lambert McGuckin, second vice commander; Joseph Miller, financial officer; Rev. David Stewart, chaplain; and Norman Holcombe, adjutant.
- The **Women's Auxiliary of St. Anthony's Lodge** and the **Downingtown Woman's Club** each donated \$25 to Mrs. Frank Lenhardt, president of the **DHS Band Mothers Club**. Contributions to the fund were used to buy new uniforms for the DHS marching band.
- Although the Whippets scored first, on a 60-yard scamper by Dan Barrow, the **DHS football team** lost to Pottstown 12-6 on Thanksgiving morning. It was the Trojans' fifth win in the 13-game series with Downingtown.
- Film star Claude Rains, who lived in West Bradford at the time, was one of the VIPs who attended a performance of a play written and directed by Charles Ax, DHS English teacher. The cast of the comedy—presented by the **Downingtown Young Men's Association** and performed in the auditorium of the Junior-Senior High—included: Marguerite Murray, Gertrude Hickey, Mylin Plank, Hathaway Frain, Richard Warren, James Mahan, Robert Romig, Robert Mitman, Alex Bareford, William Ash, Vinton Smedley, Mrs. John Fisher, Peter Short and George Ciarlone.
- Patty Bittle, Evelyn Bunting and Mary Brackbill were invested into **Girl Scout Troop 10** in Marshallton. And girls who completed their intermediate training so they could join Troop 55 were Peggy and Frances DiMatteo, Martha Newman, Jeanie Thompson and Verna Woodward.

Thanks for the computer, Dr. King



Dr. William King, secretary of the DHS Class of 1946, recently donated a Dell desktop computer to the Historical Society. We had casually mentioned to him that we were having problems with a computer, which had been used for several years by Immaculata University's library staff before we got it about five years ago. That old computer recently started having mini-crashes because it was overwhelmed by the thousands of data sets we were entering into our ever-growing Family Files in our Archives.

Well, we were shocked about two weeks ago when we received an email from Dr. King, which advised us that a Dell desktop computer had been ordered for us. The new unit is up and running at Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters.

Since most of you are too young to remember what Bill King looked like when he stocked shelves at Mittel's store on West Lancaster Avenue in Downingtown and made deliveries to

customers after school and on weekends while leading a busy life (mixed chorus, football, track, and French Club) at DHS, we retrieved this yearbook photo. He practiced dentistry for many years before retiring in Mountain Home, AR.

What area residents talked about in early June 1979

Noted below are snippets of news, which were retrieved from the *East Branch Citizen* in the first two weeks of June 1979.

- Plans for the revitalized **Good Neighbor Day** celebration on the Fourth of July in Downingtown were unveiled. The day's events began at 10 AM, when the Run For Life road race got underway at Kerr Park. Bud Bruton, chairman of the celebration, said participants had the option of running three, six or nine miles, over a three-mile course, laid out on borough streets. Proceeds from the race were donated to the Minquas, East Brandywine and Uwchlan ambulance or rescue squads. Following the race, there were games and bike races for kids in the park, under the supervision of Gail McCahon. And a canoe race down the Brandywine, sponsored by the Downingtown Rotary Club, was held at 1 PM. The day-long celebration ended with a fireworks display at the DHS football stadium.

- Uwchlan Township** supervisors decided to accept bids on an 8.7-acre tract at the intersection of Devon Drive and Whitford Road. They suspected that the land might be purchased by the Exton-Lionville YMCA. The land had been bought by the township for \$65,000 in 1973, with expectations of building a \$750,000 municipal headquarters there. However, the township found a more attractive, less expensive option for its municipal building on North Ship Road, the 11 acre Baird property.

- Downingtown Borough Council expressed reservations about the **mobile hot dog cart**, operated by Larry Priori on Lancaster Avenue. However, Borough Manager Don Greenleaf said the cart had met the same inspection criteria as restaurants or delicatessens in the borough did. Vince DiEuliis, president of Council, also said he didn't want to have problems with street vendors lining Lancaster Avenue and blocking store entrances, as was the case in Philadelphia. Eileen Schafer, who had written and taught the Food Manager's Certification course offered by the

Chester County Intermediate Unit, claimed that Priori had taken her course even though it was not required by the borough, which was exempt from the County's food handling rules. She also noted that, "I would have no qualms about purchasing food from either the food cart or Larry's Steak Shop because of the high standards of sanitation the owner demands."

- Most of the SRO crowd at a public hearing, especially those who owned property in Marshallton, let **West Bradford** officials know that they lacked enthusiasm for a proposal to establish a historic district in the township. David Davis, chairman of the historic committee, assured the crowd that the proposed ordinance wouldn't force property owners or affect routine maintenance to improve their homes. "It doesn't regulate the choice of paint, windows, doors, siding, roofing material, etc. It only regulates the sort of construction for which you need a building permit. Nor does new construction have to be a Colonial reproduction, added Davis.

- The new Town Watch operation in **West Pikeland** was working smoothly, according to William Jefferies, chief of the township's police force. The volunteers gave the township about 140 hours of additional protection each month, reported Jefferies.

- Behind the superb pitching of Lauri Carcella, the **DHS softball team** beat Boyertown 11-4 to gain second place in the Ches-Mont League. The Downingtown attack was led by Diane Stoner's three hits and four RBIs. And Carcella starred again when she threw hitless ball through the first six innings, as the Whippets beat Ridley Park 7-3 in the opening round of District I competition. Diane Repp bolstered Downingtown's offense with a three-run homer. The DHS girls were eliminated from the playoffs, when they lost to North Penn, 6-5. Whippets who were named to the All-Ches-Mont squad were Wendy McClure, Judy O'Connell, Janice Longacre, Debbie Hannum, Sherri Clayton and Carcella.

- Members of **Cub Pack 8**, sponsored by Hopewell Methodist Church, who earned badges, included Ralph Hlavek, Mickey Rusden, Charles Broschious, Jamie Bruton, Adam Ray, Scott Kirkpatrick and David Matthews.

- Recent **property transfers** included: 8 Arianna Dr., Uwchlan, \$101,410; 404 Jefferson Ave., Downingtown, \$43,900; 933 Sugars Bridge Rd., West Bradford, \$31,500; 308 Balderston Rd., West Whiteland, \$94,530; 1 Sussex Pl., East Brandywine, \$82,210.

- Speakers at the **DHS commencement** were Damian DiEuliis, Anne Kennedy, John Daghir and Anne Dowlin. Class president Gregory Schneck welcomed the 517 graduates. Other class officers were Donna Frame, vice president; Michael Anthony, secretary; and Christopher Lichok, treasurer.

Brief, but important

- An article in a January 1941 edition of the *Downingtown Archive* noted that G.O. Carlson of Thorndale bought a 25-acre tract from W. I. Pollock for \$25,000 on the west side of Manor Avenue in the borough. Initially, the plan was to build single homes there. Instead, Carlson donated the land to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and most of the property is now occupied by St. Joseph's Catholic Church and School, plus the parish's convent and rectory and the Downingtown Little League's baseball diamonds.

- The *Daily Local News* published a neat story about Jim Duca being honored for his 17 years' service as a crossing guard at East Ward School. If you missed it, you can read it via: www.dailylocal.com/general-news/20150608/downingtown-school-community-honors-crossing-guard.

- We also read that Camp Tweedale in the Oxford area has closed and is up for sale. We suspect that many women, who attended the Girl Scout camp as youngsters, have some interesting recollections about the camp. Please send them to: Info@downingtowntownareahistoricalsociety.org.

It's at 420-422 E. Lancaster Ave. in the borough



Paul Houle is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the site in the photo above as the Hunt Downing house at 420-422 East Lancaster Ave., which is part of the East Lancaster Avenue Historic District in Downingtown. It was built in 1802 by Hunt Downing, proprietor of the Gen. Washington Inn (now the Pook and Pook auction house) and part-owner of a stage coach line. He also was a quartermaster during the Whiskey Rebellion, helped create a military food commissary at the Inn during the American Revolution, and opened Chester County's first post office (the only one between Lancaster and Philadelphia) in 1796 in one of the Inn's rooms. There were many changes later in the 19th Century, when the building was converted into two residences. And after a Philadelphia architect supervised the removal of 40 paper-thin, smoky-colored glass panes from the house, they were placed in the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia.

High school volunteers wanted

The Historical Society is seeking local high school students who need to complete their community service project in order to graduate. Volunteers would come to Ashbridge House, our headquarters--next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in the Ashbridge Square Shopping Center on Route 30--on Sunday afternoons (1-4 PM) to help with filing and other office tasks. If you're interested, please respond via: Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org.

Our Wish List

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

- DHS **yearbooks** published between 1965 and 1970.
- A **flatbed scanner** that's capable of digitizing and depixelating slides, postcards and printed photos.

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

Info@downingtowntareahistoricalociety.org. And if you wish to bring ANY item that has a Downingtown connection to Ashbridge House, our 306-year-old headquarters on Route 30, next to the Chick-Fil-A restaurant, we're open 1-4 PM every Sunday afternoon.

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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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.downingtowntareahistoricalociety.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, Rahn Brackin and Donna Capriotti.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Centennial celebration

The Glen Moore Fire Co. will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Saturday, June 13. The celebration will start with a parade at 11 AM, followed by a housing and community party at the fire house at 1 PM. For more details, see: www.glenmoorefire.org/content/100th/.

St. Joe's Community Festival

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Manor Avenue, Downingtown, will have its annual Community Festival from 6-10 PM on Tuesday, June 16 to Thursday, June 18 and from 6 -11 PM on Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20. Every Night

is Family Night; ride all night for \$25. Live bands each night in the beer garden. Food booth located in front of the school building. Fireworks Friday night, June 19; rain date: Saturday, June 20.

Garden Tour

The Friends of the Downingtown Library will host their Images of Spring Garden Tour from noon to 4 PM on Sunday, June 14. The tour will include a variety of 10 picturesque gardens in the Downingtown area. Tickets are on sale now at the library, at 122 Wallace Ave., Downingtown, for \$20, or for \$23 on the day of the tour. The tour is open to adults and children ages 10 and over. For more information, see: www.downingtownlibrary.org, or contact Carolyn Marchesani at: friendscm2015@gmail.com.

Hope for Helm golf tournament

A two-man scramble golf tournament will be held on Saturday June 13 at the Honeybrook Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament will help Matt Helm and his family, as he recovers from a kayaking accident, which left him paralyzed from the waist down. For more details on the tournament, check out: www.hopeforhelm.com/#!/golftournament/c22d4

Program on companion dogs

West Caln Historical Society's program 7 PM Tuesday, June 16 will feature Richard Pomerantz's talk about a cancer companion canine. It will be held at the West Caln Municipal Building., 721 W. Kings Highway in Wagontown. The programs are free and open to the public.

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org, 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.

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.



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

Interesting local history, accessed from our archives

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

Vol. 6, No. 25

June 18, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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

What local residents were talking about 36 years ago

Noted below are news items which were originally published in the *East Branch Citizen* in the latter part of June in 1979.

- The **East Brandywine Fire Co.** announced it would activate its new medical assistance unit on July 1. The unit would include certified emergency technicians and first aid personnel who would help stabilize patients until an ambulance arrived.
- Kelly Walker and Matt Wagner were named the outstanding fifth graders at **Pickering Valley School**. They received plaques from Mrs. Howard Buzzard, president of the Home and School Association.
- The Linen Mart store at the **Downingtown Farmers' Market** on Route 30 in East Caln were selling king-size waterbeds for \$289.
- Newly installed officers of the **Downingtown Junior Woman's Club** included: Marcia McQueen, president; Kathy Deisinger, first vice president; JoAnn Ogborn, second vice president; Anne Taylor, recording secretary; and Betty Jefferis, treasurer.
- **DHS lacrosse players** Jeanne Minahan, Joy Branyan and Jenny Ward were named to the All-Ches-Mont League's first team.
- Recent **property transfers** included: 12 King St., Downingtown, \$22,500; 102 Gloucester Court, East Brandywine, \$54,951; 107 Aberdare Lane, Uwchlan, \$50,990; 1678 Susanne Way, West Bradford, \$84,250; 135 Denbigh Terrace, West Whiteland, \$47,600; 3202 Ray Road, Caln, \$60,550; 105 McIlvain Drive, East Caln, \$79,000.
- Volunteers who were working on a **Downingtown Historic Site Survey** and travelled to the National Archives in Washington, DC, to do research on East Caln's Census, included Peg Perpstra, Chris Ehlers, Ellen Hughes, Ellen Lennon, Pam Wilson, Charles Kupferschmidt, Frances Ash, Sheila Knotwell and Jane Davidson, borough historian. Also, the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission agreed to microfilm Downingtown borough records from the 1859-1945 period.
- Confirmed at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church**, Lionville, were Erica Abrams, David Carl Bittner, Wendy Ann Chikla, Deborah Ruth Edwin, Alexander Colin Gilfillan, Richard William Meier, Amy Lynn Parkhurst, Curtis Richard Stoudt, Ridgely Paul Werkheiser and Jeffrey Frank Zona.
- Members of the **Downingtown Little League** 10-year-old all-star team were Tony Farnum, Matt Wagner, Pete Karahalas, Brad Titus, Kris Goddard, David Lucerne, Bill Straub, Kevin McCool, Pete Moran, Scotty Davidson, Mike Gonda, Steve Doan, Bob Cumens and Joe McCahon.

Having problems opening your Hist-O-Gram?

If you've had problems opening your Hist-O-Grams recently, perhaps it's because you need to install the newest version of Adobe Reader. Val DiLuigi, the Historical Society's webmaster, suggests that you install: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/othereversions/>. And you can always access the latest Hist-O-Gram via: www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org. Also, you can access past editions of the weekly Hist-O-Grams by clicking on www.downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org/Histograms.html.

Local news items originally published 95 years ago

Here are several news items, which were originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* in the spring of 1920.

- The **International Specialty Manufacturing Co.** was a new business in Downingtown. The firm's 12 machines and 20 employees were going to produce 1,200 "Never-Slip" neckties daily. The company had a plant in Canada. The operation was located in a building, which originally was constructed by Theodore Griffith & Son for the Bell Telephone Co., at the corner of Green Street and Washington Avenue in the borough. The company's general manager was Robert Bone of Downingtown.
- **Casper Terwilliger** claimed that the new Visible gasoline pump, recently installed at the Brandywine Garage at Lancaster and Manor Avenues in Downingtown, made it "absolutely impossible to fool the buying public, as the buyer can see his gasoline measured out before it goes into his car."
- **William Stauffer**, who operated a store in Downingtown for 47 years, sold his store and its contents to its next-door neighbor, Griffith's Hardware, on East Lancaster Avenue in the borough. An archway was built between the two neighboring stores, creating a much larger hardware store.
- Local builder Harry Deets erected a plant on Brandywine Avenue, near the Reading Railroad station, in the borough for the **Downingtown Ice Manufacturing Co.** The firm expected to begin producing ice for local dealers early in the summer of 1920.
- A continued growing student enrollment forced the **Downingtown School Board** to increase the school tax by one mill in order to pay for the lease of a portable building, which could accommodate two additional classrooms, plus two more teachers. However, the school directors insisted that building a new school was "out of the question."

Interesting news in early December 1947

Here are some of the news items Downingtown area residents were reading 68 years ago.

- **Madame Laney**, a "gifted palmist and psychic medium," was offering "true advice on all affairs of life" in Thorndale. Better yet, her newspaper ad noted that the Short Line bus stopped at her front door, which was located at the corner of Fisherville Road and Route 30.
- Over 350 local people had their Thanksgiving dinner at the Odd Fellows Hall in Lionville. The dinner committee, comprised of members of the **Odd Fellows**, as well as **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in Lionville, included Harry Quay, Isabel Acker, Mrs. Samuel Supplee, Everett Wilson, Mrs. Edwin Smedley, Mrs. Harvey Happersett and Russell Allison. Also in Lionville, the first rural Junior Woman's Club in Chester County was founded via the sponsorship of the **Woman's Community Club of Uwchlan**.
- Lineman Gerald Lyons and running back Daniel Barrow received trophies for their outstanding play, based on the voting by opposing coaches, at the **DHS football** banquet.
- Newly-elected officers of the Women's Society of Christian Service of **Glen Moore Methodist Church** were: Mrs. P.W. Bare, president; Mrs. J.B. Matlack, vice president; Mrs. Grier Miller, treasurer; and Mrs. Darwin Garrett, secretary.
- Diners at the **Exton Lodge** could eat a multi-course, tenderloin steak dinner on a Sunday for just \$2.75.

Brief, but important

- An article in the February 20, 1941 edition of the *Downingtown Archive* noted that members of the **Alert Fire Co.** were particularly excited about the new fire station on West Pennsylvania Avenue in the borough which was to be dedicated on the weekend of June 20-21, 1941. In addition to protecting public property, some Alerts said at the time, that the new fire house would be a social center, with its banquet facility on the second floor. Better yet, they added, a planned roller skating rink and bowling alleys would make it a sports center, as well.
- Regarding the information about the **bodies of two dead babies** being found in a pile of recycled paper delivered to the Bicking Mill in Downingtown in one week in February 1920, Dan Lindley, an expert on Chester County cemeteries, provided us with information on two other tragic instances of where a body of an abandoned dead baby had been found in the Downingtown area in the early 20th Century. One baby's body was found in the recycled paper stock at the Shryock paper mill on Dorlan's Mill Road in Uwchlan Township in May 1916, and another was found in a "quarry hole" in East Caln in May 1906. Both were buried in Northwood Cemetery.
- Speaking of illusions, we botched up part of the June 11 Hist-O-Gram, when we listed the speakers for the **1979 DHS commencement**. Jeanne McClure Pennell, who now lives in Massachusetts, sent an email which diplomatically informed us that the speakers we cited were her classmates and they all had graduated from DHS in 1978, not in 1979. Although we shaved a year off those 1978 grads' actual ages, we owe them a flimsy explanation, as well. Let's just say a bunch of copies of the *East Branch Citizen*--supposedly organized by date, including a special DHS graduation supplement for 1978--had been misplaced in the stack of back issues from 1979. Gee, couldn't Desmond have checked the date, or come up with a better excuse than that?

Donor has ordered a flatbed scanner for us

An anonymous donor has ordered a flatbed scanner for the Historical Society. That wonderful gift will enable us to digitize and depixelate slides, postcards and printed photos in our archival collection.

Obviously, our Wish List, which notes some things the Historical Society especially needs to reach our goals, is working. However, we're still looking for DHS **yearbooks** published between 1965 and 1970.

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It's located in the Byers Station section of Upper Uwchlan Township



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar because he was the first person to correctly identify the building in the photo above as the former U.S. Graphite Company's processing plant in the Byers Station Historic District in Upper Uwchlan Township. The plant is located at the juncture of Byers and Eagle Farms Roads. Notable buildings in the Historic District include a variety of residences, a factory, a Masonic lodge (1894), and the former Byers Hotel (ca. 1874). The community grew around the Byers Station railroad station, after its opening in 1871, and continued after graphite was discovered in the area in 1875.

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Free ads for Non-Profits

Clean-Up Day

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Clean-up Day at Kerr Park from 9-11 AM on Saturday, June 27. Rain date will be 10 AM-Noon Sunday, June 28. For more info, send email via

downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com

Summer Jam

The first of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, June 26 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food. Crafts and music. For more info, see:

www.downingtownmainstreet.com/calendar.

Links for the Library

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

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Vol. 6, No. 26

June 25, 2015

Where and What Is This?



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What area residents were talking about 52 years ago

News items from local newspapers which caught people's attention in the early part of June 1963 are noted below.

- Jay Peck and Virginia Young were the king and queen of **Marshallton School's** May Day celebration. Chosen as princesses were Elaine Siter, Linda Bateman, Barbara Griggs, Kate Anderson, Carol Shank, Marybeth Grigson, Terry Smyers, Sharon Fry, Susan Orloski and Robbin Lewis.
- Chester County Judge Thomas Gawthrop ruled that **Uwchlan's zoning ordinance**, which prohibited the establishment of trailer parks in the township was unconstitutional.
- The lowest bid, \$306,786, to build the 14-room **Pickering Valley School** was accepted by the Pickering-Brandywine School Board.
- Members of the **Class of 1966 at DHS**, who were ninth graders at the time, elected these officers: Carolyn Patrizio, president; Cinda Davey, vice president; Linda Lammey, secretary; Linda Wheatley, treasurer; and Carol DeMatteo, student council member.
- Participants in the flag ceremony at **Brownie Troop 83's** fly-up exercise were Alexis Ziobro, Barbara Loftus, Linda Stillwell and Rose Mascherino.
- Elected as officers of the Downingtown's **Women of the Moose** chapter were Alice Zittle, senior regent; Dorothy Dawson, junior regent; Winifred Hallman, chaplain; Dorothy Robinson, junior graduate regent; Katherine Lammey, secretary; and Mrs. Evan Marsh, treasurer.
- Members of the **Brandywine-Wallace School's PTA** elected the following officers: Stephen Lucas, president; Harold Thompson, vice president; Doris Kerr, secretary; and Ruth Lammey, treasurer.
- Proceeds from an auction held at the Thomas Phipps barn in Upper Uwchlan were given to buy equipment for the three baseball teams in the Eagle area, sponsored by the **Uwchland Men's Club**.
- New members of **Fairview Presbyterian Church** were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sheldrake, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Frame, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hilton, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Miller, Mrs. Dorothy Ellis, and Mr. and Mrs. William Jasinsky and daughter Susan.
- Members of the Downingtown-Chester Valley **Future Farmers of America** chapter elected these officers: William Peppernick, president; William McClain, vice president; Fred Miley, secretary; Paul Detweiler, assistant secretary; Steve Walker, treasurer; James Horsey, assistant treasurer; Ricky Stubbs, reporter; James Smith, sentinel; and Gary Hoxter, chaplain.
- When W.P. Canby, president of Downingtown's Borough Council, opened a second hearing on **fluoridating the town's water supply**, he commented, "More public interest has been aroused on this issue than any other for a long time.
- DHS students who received **faculty awards for excellence** in subjects at a senior assembly included Randy Reeve, English, social studies and health-physical education; William Pollock, mathematics; William Ash, science; Linda Poole, language and music; Patricia Dague, commercial; Clifford Murdaugh, art; Richard Wheatley, agriculture; D-Anne Thompson, home economics; and Xandra Koppenhaver, health-physical education.
- The **Downingtown Lions Club** presented a \$500 addressing machine to Handicrafters Inc., a workshop for the "handicapped" in Thorndale.
- Elected as officers of the **Lionville School PTA** were Mrs. Richard Plank, president; Douglas Paget, vice president; Mrs. John Krisch, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Williman, treasurer.

- Diplomas were awarded to 32 girls and 28 boys who graduated from **St. Joseph's Catholic School**, Downingtown. Awards for having the highest average were presented to Marlene DiLuigi and Michael Terramin. And the American Legion Award winners were Joanne Mento and Michael Lyons.
- Newly elected officers of **Boy Scout Troop 82**, Downingtown, were William Keller, chairman; Donald Forbes, assistant chairman; John Getty, treasurer; and Gilbert Cox, secretary.
- Some 350 persons came to a twilight supper at **St. Paul's UCC Church** in Lionville. Mrs. Henry Weaver, chaired the affair. She was assisted by co-chair Mrs. William Peterman. Mrs. William Whitely was hostess; Mrs. Richard Faddis was dining room chair; and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Evans were in charge of tickets.
- Installed as officers of the Downingtown **VFW Post** were Stephen Bachkai, commander; Herbert Lambert, senior vice commander; Donald Forbes, junior vice commander; William Wilmot, quartermaster; Henry Thomas, chaplain; and trustees Harley Leavitt, Thomas Clark, Earl Parker, Theodore Jameson and Maurice Davis.
- Glenmoore Boy Scouts, guided by scoutmaster John Shrader, placed American flags at the gravesites of local **Civil War veterans** for Memorial Day. Twelve were interred at Glen Moor Methodist's cemetery, and 18 are at Fairview Presbyterian's cemetery.
- **West Bradford Fire Co.** announced plans to buy a new pumper, to augment the company's 1954 pumper and 1953 field piece.

Interesting local news 95 years ago

Noted below are news items originally published in the *Downingtown Archive* during the summer of 1920.

- Although the **Downingtown School Board** had considered, several months earlier, renting two portable classrooms to accommodate the school system's booming enrollment, the school directors were having second thoughts about that issue in August, when classes were to begin in less than 30 days.
- Burgess (mayor) Vinton Smedley suggested that **Borough Council** establish a Revisers' Committee to review all the borough ordinances and repeal those which were "unnecessary and antiquated." However, much of the Council's attention was focused on the town's streets at the time. Lancaster Avenue was loaded with pot holes because Council postponed fixing them, as it awaited the County and State to come through with a long-promised paving of the borough section of Route 30. A survey of vehicles travelling on the section of Route 30 between Coatesville and Downingtown over two days totaled 7,554. Before the main street was finally macadamized for the first time in 1921, the surface of Lancaster Avenue had been a combination of stone chips and oil. Maintenance of the borough streets was done with a steam roller and a mechanized street sweeper. And Council increased the pay of the borough street crew that summer—from \$90 a month to \$100.
- St. Anthony's Day was celebrated by "our Italian citizens" in June. The celebrations included a parade, band concerts and a fireworks display in the **Johnsontown** section of the borough.

- Mary Eppeheimer offered the valedictory address, and Olive Miller delivered the salutatory at the **commencement exercises** for 25 students who graduated from DHS in 1920.
- Downingtown's **American Legion Post** decided to put off building a permanent home and decided to invest the several hundred dollars it had raised into U.S. bonds, which were paying 4.5% interest.
- The Chester Valley branch of the **American Red Cross** had a dance *in the middle of* Route 30 in the Whitford area. Proceeds from the event—participants paid 10 cents for each dance—were given to the Community Nurse program.
- The **Downingtown Library's** sixth annual report noted that 336 new books had been purchased, and 126 were donated to the library's collection. And the circulation for the year was 15,635.

Brief, but important

- **DHS West football** coach Mike Milano was inducted into the Pennsylvania High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame on Saturday. You'll learn why he received that recognition when you access: www.dailylocal.com/sports/20150613/d-west-milano-gets-hall-call.
- While chomping on a delicious sausage and peppers sandwich at **St. Joseph's Community Carnival** last weekend, we realized that the Historical Society would love to add some of the neat t-shirts worn over the years by the Carnival's volunteer staff to its archival collection. By the way, we have a bunch of **Good Neighbor Day (GND) t-shirts** given to participants in the Run For Life road race, in our archives. However, since GND has been a major event on the Fourth of July in Downingtown for 36 years, we know there are many more of those GND t-shirts we'd love to add to our archival collection. In fact, we'd like to have ANY t-shirt, which has a Downingtown connection imprinted on it, for our archival collection. And we'd also love to have some photos of the Big Wheel races in years past, especially any which include Gail McCahon, who's been running the Big Wheel races on GND since 1980.
- The July 10, 1941 edition of the *Downingtown Archive* included a large PECO ad, which touted **air conditioners** that could be installed in a window. Apparently, that market died quickly with the onset of WW II later in 1941, when many American industries started switching to the production of equipment for the U.S. armed forces.
- And the June 10, 1920 issue of the *Archive* noted that the East End Tennis Club's courts were located somewhere on Washington Avenue in the borough. If you know exactly where the courts were located on Washington Avenue, please tell us via: Info@downingtownareahistoricalsociety.org.

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

It's at 26 South Village Avenue in Lionville



Russ Faller is a truly perceptive scholar for the second consecutive week because he correctly identified the house in the photo above as being located at 26 South Village Avenue in Lionville. In fact, the house is one of the 39 buildings in the Lionville Historic District.

Sandy Brannan recalls her weeks at Camp Tweedale

Sandy Snyder Brannan, a lifetime resident of Glenmoore and former archivist for the Wallace Township Historical Commission, was one of those who were saddened to learn that Camp Tweedale, the Girl Scout camp established in 1939 near Oxford in southern Chester County, recently closed.

Many adult women who had camped at the 108-acre facility when they were much younger, sent petitions and letters protesting the closure to the Girl Scouts' Eastern Pennsylvania Council, but they fell on deaf ears.

Brannan was a member of the Girl Scout Senior Troop 213 and Intermediate Troop 174 in Glenmoore in the 1950s. When she went to Tweedale in the mid-1950s, Girl Scouts from Chester County had to pay just \$35 for a two-week stay at the camp.

She remembers one occasion when Boy Scouts from nearby Camp Horseshoe canoed over to Tweedale, “and we made a meal for them.” One of the dishes they prepared for the boys was peach cobbler. After it was prepared, Brannan explained, it was placed in a large can and cooked over a camp fire.

Brannan also remembers keeping food cool and away from hungry raccoons while on long hikes while at the camp. They used a contraption comprised of one can filled with water, another can and cheese cloth. Those hikes also involved digging latrines at their campsite. “No time for modesty,” recalls Brannan.

Back at Tweedale, says Brannan, she and her camp mates loved singing “crazy Girl Scout songs” after meals in the mess hall. She also enjoyed swimming at camp, except for the time they found a black snake in a corner of the bathhouse while changing into their swim suits. However, Brannan’s swimming opportunities soon came to halt when she suffered a deep wound on her leg while using a hand ax to cut down tree limbs in the camp’s forest area. “That was really sad, because living in the country I never had a chance to swim in a beautiful pool. And I still have the scar on my leg,” she added”

Apparently, Brannan had not done much rowing in a boat back home in Glenmoore, either. So, when she was rowing a boat one time at camp and kept going in circles, a camp leader said, “Sandy, give the oars to someone else.”

Although about 60 years have passed since she spent two weeks at Tweedale, Brannan still has many great memories of her camping experiences there.

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, 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.

Free ads for Non-Profits

Good Neighbor Day Celebration

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

www.goodneighborday.com.

Clean-Up Day

The Downingtown Parks and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Clean-up Day at Kerr Park from 9-11 AM on Saturday, June 27. Rain date will be 10 AM-Noon Sunday, June 28. For more info, send email via: downingtownparksandrec@gmail.com

Summer Jam

The first of a series of three Summer Jams will be held from 5-9 PM on Friday, June 26 in the Mill Alley Pocket Park, along East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown. The event, sponsored by Kimberton Whole Foods, Synergema and the School of Rock, will include food. Crafts and music. For more info, see: www.downingtowndowntownmainstreet.com/calendar.

Chicken BBQ Dinner

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

Links for the Library

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

Brochure on DARC classes & activities

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

Joseph's People, Downingtown chapter

An ecumenical support mission to help unemployed or underemployed people. The group is entirely conducted by volunteers, and has been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets at 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, www.josephspeople.org 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.

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.